

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

*20220 Hopewell Road
Mount Vernon, OH 43050*

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

October - November 2020

Pastor's Report 2020 – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

[Editor's note: This "Pastor's Ponderings" is Pastor Lee's annual report to Three Rivers District about the Hopewell United Methodist Church.]

Once again it is my privilege to report on the body of Christ at Hopewell UMC. This is now my fifth year living with this charge. It has been an ever-present reminder of God's grace in my own life. I give thanks to God for the honor of serving the families that have been called by God into our loving fellowship.

Last year I reported that we took in nine new members, this year I report we brought in two new members by transfer. Last year I reported on numerous projects taken on and completed. This year, as it began, looked to be a time of consolidation of last year's growth. But God provided different opportunities and growth in an entirely new direction. March 8th was our last in person worship service until July 12th when we started worshipping in God's cathedral on the east side of the church. The roof over our heads was made up of trees that only God planted. The carpet of grass that we walked on and sat on was also provided by God. And though it threatened to rain, thereby cancelling our worship service, God gave us mercy and clear skies. Witnessing this worship were the graves of the saints, buried on the east side, so that when the trumpet is blown, and God fills creation with his unmistakable loving presence, they would stand up facing the fulfillment of their hope, Jesus Christ our righteousness. All of this reminds me of God's steadfast love.

We are now worshipping inside. And of this writing, we have worshipped inside the sanctuary God provided through faithful saints who went before us, the first two Sundays of September. Our attendance for those two Sundays was 20 and 21, a good start and an opportunity to encourage others to come and join with us.

As I reported above, that I thought we would be consolidating 2019's gains but God wanted to open new doors for us. That door was Covid-19, a plague of biblical proportions. Like the plagues we read about in the Old Testament, this plague is no different. Whether it is a plague that comes upon us as God sends his rain and sun upon us, or a plague sent as judgement, it is a call to reevaluate our response to God's call. Covid-19 exposes our weakness. Just as disease ravaged first century Palestine exposing man's weakness, it also exposed God's strength and steadfast love in the life of Jesus Christ.

At Hopewell, Covid-19 exposed our weakness to be able to safely worship in person. But God, in his manifold grace, opened up a door to minister on-line. This has truly been a blessing. It forced us to gather as an electronic outdoor church with YouTube and Facebook being the streets and fields John Wesley preached in. John Wesley, in preaching outdoors, emulated Jesus' example of

beating the hedgerows to bring the gospel to a broken and needy mankind. Our attendance average, while meeting in the church, was around thirty, our attendance from Palm Sunday through June 28th averaged over 100! This is a miracle! I cannot take credit for it. I am not that charismatic or slick. This is a work of God. I hope it encourages all of us to reach out and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Going forward, God has given Hopewell an opportunity for the hard work of spreading the gospel. Every person who watched on-line is somehow connected to Hopewell. God has given us an opportunity to develop and grow these relationships. Now is the time. Now is the season of God's grace. Now is the time to "Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things. Give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings."

My Old Country Church --by Marsha Clayborne (first published in the HUMC centennial cookbook, 2016)

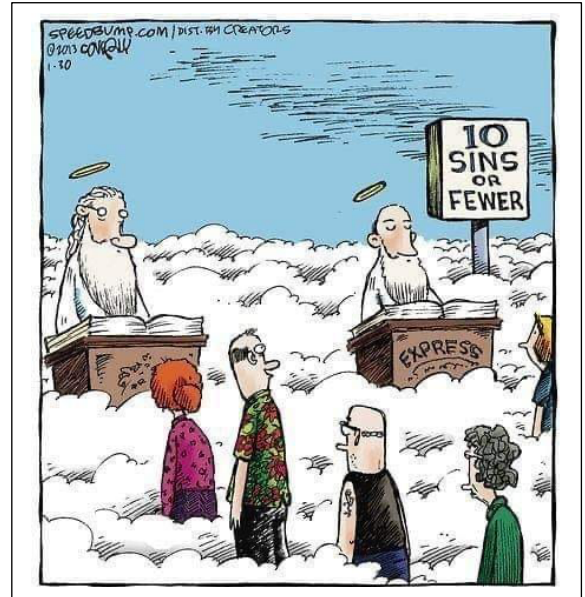
Down Hopewell Road sits an Old Country Church
in a field by itself, trimmed in white.

Friends gather each Sunday to Worship and Pray
knowing God is our strength and our Light.

The colored glass windows, a sign of the past,
remember the names left behind,
A church that stood still many years ago
has a heart and a soul hard to find.

This Old Country Church I now call my home
is waiting for you and for me.

Our spirit will always be here evermore
to continue His Son's legacy.



We can't always
choose the music
life plays for us,
but we can choose
how we dance to it



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Three Rivers to Hold District-Wide Conference *(adapted from the Three Rivers District newsletter)*
 Save the date of **October 20** for a district-wide conference to be held via ZOOM at **7 PM**. There will be five locations, all gathering at the same time, for viewing the charge conference and participating in local church business. The pastor and one or two church leaders from each church need to be present at their assigned locations in order to constitute a quorum for an official charge conference. *All church members can watch the conference from their personal devices.* More details about the arrangements will follow in early October.

Prayer Chain -- Marsha Clayborne

The prayer chain is a way for people to share their joys or concerns within the congregation. Here is how it works: If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call Pastor Lee or Marsha Clayborne, and they will call the next person on the list. When you call someone and no one answers, be sure to put on their voicemail who is in need of prayer and call the next person on the list, and so forth. Thank you.

A few changes have been made to the chain, so be sure you see who is after you on the list. If you know anyone that wants to be added to the list, please contact me.

Pastor Lee Cubie	740-504-8601
Marsha Clayborne	740-501-5841
Jean Riley	740-392-6171
Joan Coon & Eleanor Doup	740-397-1810
Barb Butler	740-397-7424
Bev Lahmon	740-397-2906
Bitsi Gourley	740-975-0995
Julie Britton	937-243-5672
Bob & Linda Joseph	614-565-1102
Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe	740-397-5515
Ellen Kaiser	740-392-3607
Cary & Joanne Purcell	614-570-7809
Cheryl McCracken	740-397-8207
Bill Lawhon	614-309-4356

Follow Hopewell UMC

...on the Web: www.mvhopewellumc.org

...on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon

Church Council Meeting – October 11

HUMC Council Chair Bill Lawhon has called a meeting of the council for **Sunday, October 11**, after the worship service ends at 10:30 AM. The business of the church will be discussed, including committee reports and preparation for the church conference. All members of the council (noted elsewhere in the newsletter) are encouraged to attend.

Hopewell Birthdays

October

- 1 Broden Burt
- 5 Shirley Hughes
- 7 Jade Laymon
- 8 Ellie Purcell
- 15 Silas Burt
- 17 Pete Lawhon
- 18 Bev Lahmon
- 19 Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
- 21 Aubrey Purcell
- 22 Elaine Farie

November

- 2 Sara Lawhon
- 10 Wendy Cedoz
- 15 Sherry Cornwell
- 18 Amelia Wells
- 22 Gary Hughes
- 23 David Holl
- 24 Todd Wells
- 29 Bob Joseph

Our Methodist Heritage: Philip William Otterbein (1726-1813) – by Joe Iovino, UMC.org, United Methodist Communications, May 15, 2018.

When we think about United Methodist history, well-known names like John Wesley, Charles Wesley and Francis Asbury come to mind. Others, whose names may be less familiar, are also important.

For example, you may not know much about Philip William Otterbein, an important figure in our shared history. He is a founder of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, one of the predecessor denominations of our United Methodist Church.

Otterbein was a contemporary of the Wesleys and a friend of Asbury. He and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ ministered to German speakers in America at the same time the Methodist movement was growing among English speakers.

These 10 facts serve as a brief overview of Otterbein's life and ministry. They also highlight the connections between two historic church movements that nearly 200 years later would become part of The United Methodist Church.

1. He was born in Germany and later came to America.

On June 3, 1726, Philip William Otterbein was born to John Daniel and Henrietta Otterbein, in Dillenburg, Nassau, Germany. His father was a pastor and teacher.

After completing his education, Otterbein was ordained in the German Reformed Church. Three years later, he accepted an invitation to go to America, where the 26-year-old became the pastor of the German Reformed congregation in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Otterbein served German-speaking congregations throughout his life but was conversant in English.

2. All of his siblings either became pastors or married pastors.

His mother Henrietta gave birth to ten children, three of whom died in infancy. Otterbein and all five of his surviving brothers became ministers, and their only sister married a pastor.

One of his brothers was also well known. George Godfrey Otterbein wrote several religious books, some of which Otterbein used in his churches in America.

3. He preferred the name William.

While his full name is Philip William Otterbein, his family called him by his middle name. As an adult, he signed his name William Otterbein.

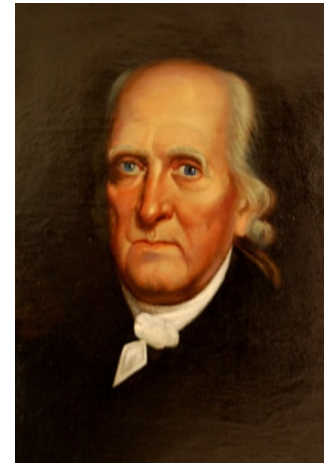
4. His words inspired the name of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Otterbein attended a Mennonite meeting held in the barn of a man named Isaac Long in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. After hearing Martin Boehm's sermon, Otterbein approached the Mennonite preacher, shook his hand and said, "Wir sind Brüder" (We are brethren/brothers). From that time on, the two men shared a close working relationship.

When the groups Otterbein and Boehm were leading came together in 1800, they adopted the name United Brethren in Christ, inspired by Otterbein's greeting. Boehm and Otterbein served together as the first two superintendents the United Brethren in Christ.

5. Francis Asbury may have convinced Otterbein to move to Baltimore.

When invited to pastor the German Evangelical Reformed Church in Baltimore, Maryland, Otterbein initially declined. At the urging of the outgoing pastor Benedict Schwope, Francis Asbury wrote to the German pastor whom he had never met. Several months after Asbury's letter, Otterbein accepted the call.



Philip William Otterbein is founder of one of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church. Photo by Jay Rollins, [United Methodist Archives and History](#).

6. Otterbein and Asbury sometimes held bilingual outreach events.

When Otterbein moved to Baltimore, he and Asbury became close friends. At times, the two leaders would bring together some of their preachers for bilingual evangelistic gatherings. The Methodists preached in English and the United Brethren in German.

7. Otterbein participated in the conference that formed the Methodist Episcopal Church.

On Christmas Eve 1784, the Methodist preachers in America met at Lovely Lane Chapel to begin a 10-day conference that would become known as the Christmas Conference. In addition to forming the Methodist Episcopal Church, another of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, Francis Asbury was ordained a deacon, an elder, and elected and consecrated a bishop on three consecutive days. At the invitation of Asbury, Otterbein participated in the ordination of his friend and colleague.

8. A Methodist assisted Otterbein when he ordained the first United Brethren Church preachers.

Similarly, when the United Brethren's Miami Conference (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky) asked Otterbein to ordain more pastors, William Ryland, a Methodist Episcopal elder, assisted. On October 2, 1813, Otterbein laid hands on three men, the first ordained in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

9. Methodists interrupted annual conference to memorialize Otterbein.

Philip William Otterbein died on November 17, 1813, just a few weeks after those ordinations. Several months later, a session of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was adjourned to Otterbein's church where Francis Asbury led a memorial service for his friend. "Forty years have I known the retiring modesty of this man of God," Asbury wrote in his journal, "towering majestic above his fellows in learning, wisdom, and grace, yet seeking to be known only of God and the people of God."

Otterbein is buried on the site of the church he served for nearly 40 years, which was soon after renamed The Otterbein Church, and later became The Old Otterbein United Methodist Church.

10. Toward the end of his life, Otterbein destroyed his sermons and other papers.

Little of Otterbein's work survives today. Shortly before his death, he is said to have burned his sermons and other writings in a show of modesty.

His only known surviving sermon, "The Salvation-Bringing Incarnation and Glorious Victory of Jesus Christ over the Devil and Death," was preached in 1760 and published in 1763. The sermon was lost to history until 1962 when Arthur C. Core of United Theological Seminary found a reference to it in the Library of Congress.

Church Leadership and Committees for 2021 (Proposed)

Pastor Lee has provided the following list of church committees, including the names of members nominated for 2021. Voting on the nominations will occur at the Church Conference meeting on October 20.

Church Council

Purpose: Plan and implement a program of Nurture, Outreach, Witness, and Resources. Annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the Church.

Nurture—attention to individuals and families of all ages.

Outreach—attention to local and larger community.

Witness—strengthening evangelistic efforts sharing Christian experience and expression of faith.

<u>Current Members:</u> Chair	Bill Lawhon
Lay Leader	Joanne Purcell
PPR	Jade Layman
Finance	Barb Butler
Church Treasurer	Barb Butler
Trustee	Mickey Gourley
Lay Member to	
Annual Conference	Cary Purcell

Board of Trustees

Purpose: To provide vigilant and comprehensive stewardship of the church's physical property. To review the adequacy of property, liability and crime insurance coverage for the church property and operations. With the consent of the pastor, grant outside entities to use church facilities, where appropriate. To receive and administer all bequests and trusts in conformity with paragraphs 2532-2552, inclusive, the Book of Discipline of the UMC. To provide annual board of Trustee's report to the Charge Conference, in accordance with paragraph 2550 of the Book of Discipline of the UMC.

Composition: More than three, but less than ten members. There shall be 1,2,3-year class rotation, and the board shall meet within thirty days of the new year to elect a chair, vice chair and secretary.

		Term (years)
<u>Current membership:</u>	Chair	Mickey Gourley 2
	Vice Chair	John Wolfe 2
	Secretary	Bill Lawhon 3
		Julie Britton 1
		Carey Purcell 1

Committee on Pastor Parish Relations

Purpose: To confer with and counsel the pastor on matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry; relations with the congregation; conditions that may impede the effectiveness of ministry, and to interpret the nature and function of the ministry. To confer/consult with the pastor pertaining to the use of gifts, and priorities for demands and effectiveness of the mission/ministry of the congregation.

To confer with the pastor should it be evident that the best interests of the church and pastor will be served by a change of pastors.

The committee is responsible for keeping themselves informed of the personnel matters involving church activities.

		Term (years)
<u>Current Membership:</u>	Chair	Jade Layman 2
		Linda Joseph 2
		Barb Butler 1
		Erika Wolfe 1
		Phyllis Gourley 1
	Lay Leader	Joanne Purcell ex officio
Lay Leader to Annual Conference	Cary Purcell ex officio	

Committee on Finance

Purpose: Two persons to count offerings (this is to protect the reputation of those counting, they cannot be from the same family), funds to be deposited promptly and recorded by financial secretary.

Committee shall make provisions for annual audit of financial records. It is recommended that the audit is an outside agency.

Committee shall recommend to church council depositories for church funds deposited in the name of the church; contributions designated for specific purpose shall not be used for any other purpose; any appropriations outside, or changes in approved budget must be approved by church council.

Committee shall report to church council all designated funds separate from the current expense budget.

<u>Current Membership:</u>	Chair/Treasurer	Barb Butler
	Church Council Chair	Bill Lawhon
	Lay Leader	Joanne Purcell
	PPR Chair	Jade Layman
	Trustee Rep.	Mickey Gourley

Lay Member to Annual Conference	Cary Purcell
Members at Large:	Dave Holl Phyllis Gourley
Pastor	Lee Cubie

The church treasurer shall disburse all money as per church’s budget and other costs as Church Council may determine and shall make detailed reports on disbursements to Church Council.

Committee on Lay Leadership/Nomination Committee

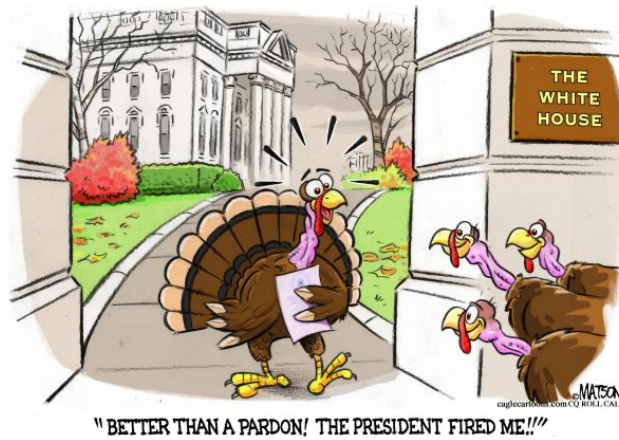
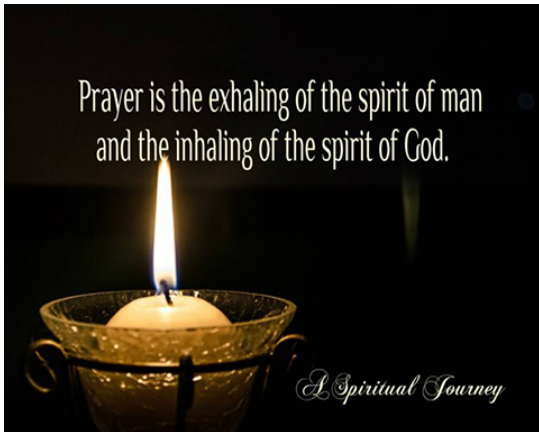
Purpose: To identify, develop, evaluate and monitor leadership of the congregation, discerning the spiritual gifts (abilities) of the congregation.

The committee will recommend to Charge Conference individuals to serve as officers.

The Committee will guide the development and training of spiritual leaders; will recruit, nurture, and support spiritual leaders and will assess changing leadership needs in the church.

		Term (years)	
<u>Current Membership:</u>	Pastor/Chair	Lee Cubie	
	Lay Leader	Joanne Purcell	ex officio
		Linda Joseph	3
		Phyllis Gourley	2
		Marsh Clayborne	2
		Erika Wolfe	1

[The above committee descriptions come from the Book of Discipline as compiled by Don Russell. For a full list of the committees, their purposes, other responsibilities, and composition, see the HUMC Web site: <http://mvhopewellumc.org/proposed-humc-committee-membership-for-2021/>]

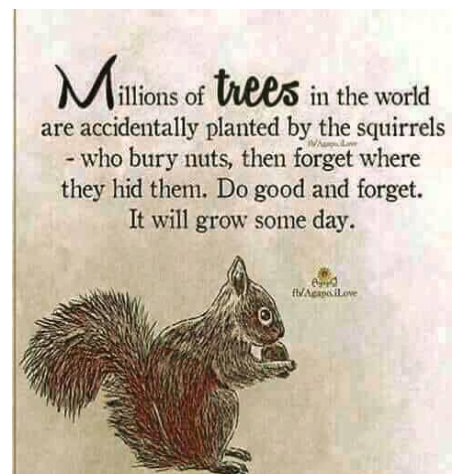


I'm not turning my clock back an hour on Nov. 1 because seriously none of us need an extra hour of 2020.

Thanks-giving
 Thanks to **Pastor Lee and Audra** for their weekly production of a virtual worship service, and more recently a live service. They are helping us in “Staying Connected.”
 Thanks to water contractor **Michael Jessup**, a Hopewell Road neighbor (<https://www.rwjessupandsons.com>), who replaced the failed water pump and storage tank...and donated the water pump, saving the church much \$\$.
 Thanks to the **HUMC trustees** for maintaining our beloved church building during these unusual times.

October 2020						
◀ Sep 2020						Nov 2020 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Diabetes Month National Pizza Month American Pharmacist Month Computer Learning Month Cookie Month	Oct 11-17 Fire Prevention Month			1 International Coffee Day B'day: Broden Burt	2 Name Your Car Day World Smile Day	3 Virus Appreciation Day
4 National Golf Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	5 World Teachers Day B'day: Shirley Hughes	6 Come and Take It Day	7 National Kale Day Bald and Free Day B'day: Jade Laymon	8 American Tag Touch Day B'day: Ellie Purcell	9 Curious Events Day Fire Prevention Day	10 National Angel Food Cake Day
11 It's My Party Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Refreshments 10:30 Church Council meeting	12 Columbus Day	13 International Skeptics Day	14 National Dessert Day Emergency Nurses Day	15 White Cane Safety Day B'day: Silas Burt	16 Bosses Day Dictionary Day	17 National Pasta Day Sweetest Day B'day: Pete Lawhon
18 No Beard Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Bev Lahmon	19 Evaluate Your Life Day B'day: Erikca Kanuckel-Wolfe	20 Brandied Fruit Day 7PM Church Conference (virtual/on-line)	21 Count Your Buttons Day B'day: Aubrey Purcell	22 National Nut Day B'day: Elaine Farie	23 National Mole Day	24 Make a Difference Day
25 International Artist Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	26 National Mincemeat Day	27 Black Cat Day Navy Day	28 Plush Animal Lover's Day	29 National Frankenstein Day	30 National Candy Corn Day	31 Halloween Carve a Pumpkin Day

Hygenesis 20:20



November 2020						
◀ Oct 2020						Dec 2020 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Time ends 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	2 All Souls Day Book Lovers Day B'day: Sara Lawhon	3 Election Day Sandwich Day	4 Use Your Common Sense Day	5 Guy Fawkes Day Men Make Dinner Day	6 National Nacho Day	7 Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day
8 Cook Something Bold Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	9 Chaos Never Dies Day	10 USMC Day B'day: Wendy Cedoz	11 Veteran's Day	12 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day	13 Sadie Hawkins Day Caregiver Appreciation Day	14 World Diabetes Day Operating Room Nurses Day
15 America Recycles Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Sherry Cornwell	16 National Fast Food Day	17 Homemade Bread Day	18 Occult Day B'day: Amelia Wells	19 Great American Smokeout	20 Absurdity Day	21 National Adoption Day
22 Go for a Ride Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Gary Hughes	23 National Cashew Day Eat a Cranberry Day B'day: David Holl	24 Evolution Day B'day: Todd Wells	25 National Parfait Day	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday Buy Nothing Day	28 Red Planet Day
29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Bob Joseph	30 Stay at Home Because You Are Well Day	Aviation History Month National Adoption Awareness Month National Epilepsy Month Peanut Butter Lovers Month Nov 1 – 7 Game and Puzzle Week				



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