

# 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.*

*February - March 2021*

**Pastor's Pondering** – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

**What Does the Lord Require of You?**



Micah was a prophet of God during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He was from a small rural town named Moresheth. Moresheth was about twenty miles southwest of Jerusalem in the foothills. We do not know very much about the life of Micah other than he was a contemporary of Isaiah, Amos, and Hosea. We think he may have been of humble background. We think this because of his prophetic utterances against the rulers of Jerusalem and Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. He is distressed at their greed and corruption (Micah 2:2).

He prophesied the destruction of Samaria. He was the first to prophesy the fall of Jerusalem (Mic. 3:19-20), "Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert all equity, who build Zion with blood and Jerusalem with wrong. Its heads give judgment for a bribe, its priests teach for hire, its prophets divine for money; yet they lean upon the Lord and say, 'Is not the Lord in the midst of us? No evil shall come upon us.' Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall

become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooded height."

I share this with you because, as a preacher, I have been praised for not being political in my sermons. I do this because I do not want to be partisan, not because politics and religion don't mix. One of the roles of the church is to be God's prophetic voice in the midst of a people "who do not know their right hand from their left..." (Jonah 4:11) Unfortunately, the church is broken into partisan factions and is in danger of losing its moral authority.

I write this, because the gospel readings of late have been about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. For most of us it will be the difficult task of loving the person next door or

the person sleeping next to us. But for some of us God calls us on to a larger stage. John Wesley expressed great moral courage when he took on caring for the poor. During his time in England food was scarce and expensive. He tells a story of a woman who had a dog, who after eating its fill of scraps found in the street would bring a bone home. This widow would then boil it to make a broth for her sustenance. Wesley's stance against liquor was because of his concern for the poor. He argued that grain prices increased because so much was used in the manufacture of liquor.

The church and the message of the church have broad implications in the public square of politics and economics. Just as God seeks the total transformation of our hearts, so God wants to bring about a total transformation of the public square. This is why Micah, under the inspiration of the spirit, penned these words: "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness (or steadfast love), and to walk humbly with your God." (Mic. 6:8) Simple words that strike directly at the heart of the public square.

My request is that we pray for our leadership to do exactly that. So that we would "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:24)



### Changes in Leadership for Three Rivers District

*[Ed. Note: This information is condensed from a 1/21/21 news release from the East Ohio Conference.]*

Bishop Tracy S. Malone announces the following appointments, made to ensure that the East Ohio Conference continues to be strategically staffed for both the sustainability of the Church and for the future of the Church. The appointments, made after prayerful discernment, are effective July 1:

- Rev. Edward Fashbaugh, II, appointed as director of Connectional Ministries
- Rev. Kelly Brown, appointed as superintendent of the Three Rivers District

#### Rev. Edward Fashbaugh, II – Director of Connectional Ministries

Rev. Edward Fashbaugh, II has served as superintendent of the Three Rivers District since July 1, 2019. At the time of his appointment to the Cabinet, he was pastor of Crossroads UMC in Canton, a church birthed from the merger of two churches he served: the former Church of the Savior UMC and the former St. Paul's UMC. He has also served North Canton Faith, Garfield Memorial, and Seville UMCs.

As director of Connectional Ministries, Fashbaugh will lead the Conference Council on Ministries.

"I have been a follower of Jesus since I was in the ninth grade, and all that I have ever wanted to do was serve Christ and His Church. By God's grace, over the years, I have been blessed to fulfill a calling that has resulted in many incredible experiences that brought me into contact with countless wonderful people. I am now called to serve the mission of Christ in a new way. I am humbled, and honored, that Bishop Malone has entrusted me to serve the local churches of the East Ohio Conference as we pursue our common mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," Fashbaugh shared.

Fashbaugh earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History Education from Grove City College (PA), and a Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). He and his wife Amy are the parents of an adult son and an adult daughter.

### Rev. Kelly Brown – Three Rivers District Superintendent

Rev. Kelly Brown is in his 10th year as director of Congregational Vitality. He previously served Mt. Vernon Gay Street, Sycamore, Smithville, New Philadelphia Otterbein, and Leroy UMCs in East Ohio and St. Paul UMC (now Eaton UMC) in the West Ohio Conference before being appointed to his current position. As superintendent of the Three Rivers District, he will succeed the Rev. Edward Fashbaugh, II, who is being appointed director of Connectional Ministries.

“I am filled with excitement for this new ministry opportunity. I greatly look forward to being in partnership with the clergy and laity of the Three Rivers District,” Brown said. “My first appointment was in Mount Vernon, so it will be nice to return to the district where my appointed ministry began. In my current role as director of Congregational Vitality, I have made many trips to the Three Rivers District. It will be nice to have the opportunity to plant ministry roots and continue the faithful work of so many in the district. I am thankful and humbled for this opportunity and am anxious to get started.”

An author and an International Coaching Federation associate coach, Brown has worked across the connection planning training events and leading workshops on many topics about church health and vitality. In East Ohio he developed learning cohorts for clergy and laity seeking to lead healthy and vital congregations, worked with the Vitality Resource team and the Cabinet to resource new and emerging work, developed the playbook to guide the work of the Board of Congregational Development, and co-led a team with Will Jones to develop a Conference-wide racial justice training for clergy.

Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Amy, are parents of a son and a daughter.



They had Honda automobiles in the Bible too...Acts 2:1 says they were all in one Accord. 😊

DID YOU KNOW THAT MOSES WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE?



IT'S IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THE ROAR OF MOSES'S TRIUMPH COULD BE HEARD ALL OVER ISRAEL.

**Quarantine has turned us all into dogs. We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told 'no' if we get too close to strangers. And we get really excited about car rides.**

**Serve!** ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

If you want to be important, wonderful.

If you want to be recognized, wonderful.

If you want to be great, wonderful.

But recognize that he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

That's a new definition of greatness.

And by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.

You don't have to have a college degree to serve.

You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.

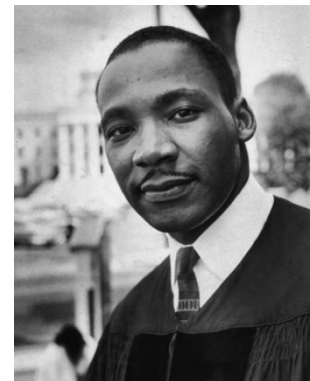
You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve.

You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve.

You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve.

You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by LOVE.

And you can be that servant.



## **If That Isn't Love** by Marsha Clayborne

When we think of Valentine's Day, we usually think of love. There are all kinds of love. We think of our family, our friends, our spouse, our pets, and even our church family. I want to submit this song written by Dottie Rambo and sung by Dottie and different artists. The love she expresses is the love for our savior Jesus Christ. I think that is the greatest love of all.

Happy Valentine's Day to you and your family. -- Marsha

### **If That Isn't Love** -- words by Dottie Rambo

He left the splendor of heaven  
Knowing His destiny  
Was the lonely hill of Golgotha  
There to lay down His life for me

And if that isn't love  
Then the ocean is dry  
There's no stars in the sky  
And the little sparrows can't fly  
Yeah, if that isn't love  
Then heaven's a myth  
There's no feeling like this  
If that isn't love

Even in death He remembered  
The thief hanging by His side  
Then he spoke of love and compassion  
And He took him to paradise

And if that isn't love  
Then the ocean is dry  
There's no stars in the sky  
And the little sparrows can't fly  
Yeah, if that isn't love  
Then heaven's a myth  
There's no feeling like this  
If that isn't love, It's got to be love

### **Hopewell Birthdays**

#### February

9 Shad Bevington  
11 Brad Coon  
11 Amy Yashnyk  
18 Leah Gourley  
20 Donna Lybarger

#### March

11 Sam Laymon  
13 Karolyn Smith  
14 Mike Cedoz  
14 Joanne Purcell  
18 Penelope Wells  
21 Audra Cubie

### **Follow Hopewell UMC**

...on the Web: [www.mvhopewellumc.org](http://www.mvhopewellumc.org)

...on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon)

**The oldest computer  
was owned by  
Adam and Eve.**

**It was an Apple  
with very  
limited memory.**

**Just 1 byte and  
everything crashed!**

## **GRIEF**

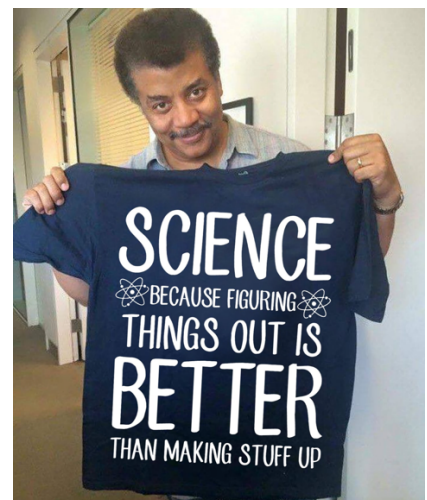
Grief never ends,  
But it changes.

It's a passage,  
Not a place to stay.

The sense of loss  
Must give way  
If we are to value  
The life that was lived

Grief is not a sign of weakness  
Nor lack of faith  
It is the price of love.

-A Chaplains Presence



**The Praying Hands** -- By J. Palmer Muntz, from *Ideals Magazine*; shared by Marsha Clayborne

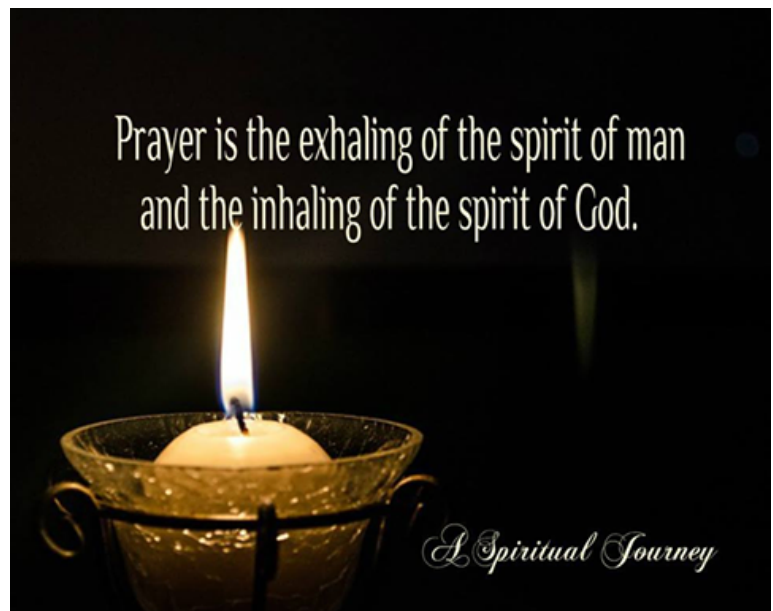
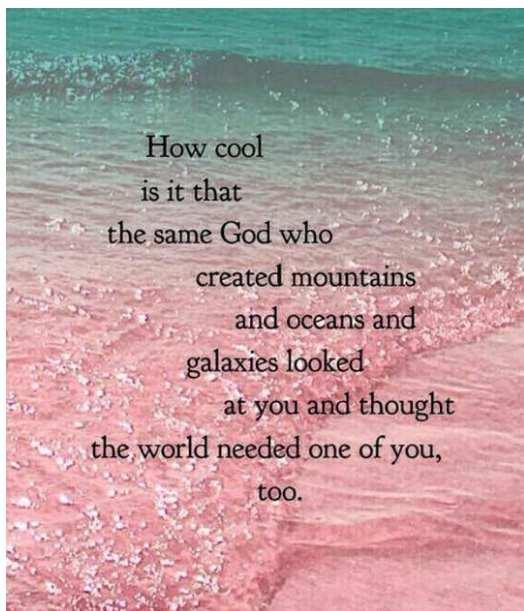
Along about 1490, two young friends, Albrecht Dürer and Franz Knigstein, were struggling young artists. Since both were very poor, they worked to support themselves while they studied art.

Work took too much of their time and advancement was slow. Finally, they reached an agreement: they would draw lots, and one of them would work to support both of them while the other would study art. Albrecht won and began to study art while Franz labored to support them both. They agreed that when Albrecht was successful, he would support Franz who would then study art.

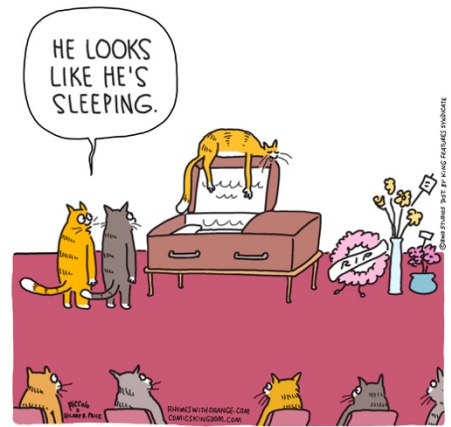
Albrecht went off to the cities of Europe to study. As the world now knows, he had not only talent, but genius. When he had attained success, he went back to keep his bargain with Franz. But Albrecht soon discovered the enormous price his friend had paid. For as Franz worked at hard manual labor to support his friend, his fingers had become stiff and twisted. His slender, sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer execute the delicate brush strokes necessary to fine painting. Though his artistic dreams could never be realized, he was not embittered, but rather, rejoiced in his friend's success.

One day Dürer came upon his friend unexpectedly and found him kneeling with his gnarled hands intertwined in prayer, quietly praying for the success of his friend although he himself could no longer be an artist. Albrecht Dürer, the great genius, hurriedly sketched the folded hands of his faithful friend and later completed a truly great masterpiece known as the *Praying Hands*.

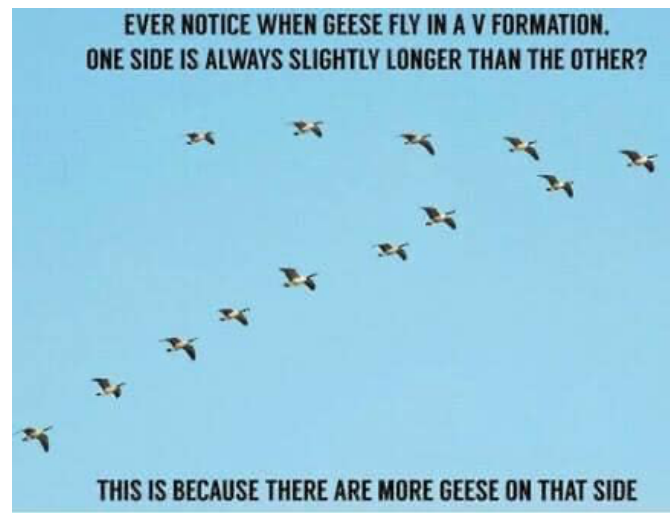
Today, art galleries everywhere feature Albrecht Dürer's works. But of them all, none holds the place in the hearts of people that *Praying Hands* does. It tells an eloquent story of love, sacrifice, labor and gratitude. And it has reminded multitudes the world around of how they also may find comfort, courage and strength.



◀ Jan 2021	February 2021						Mar 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> ~Nat'l Freedom Day	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day ~Candlemas	<b>3</b> ~The Day Music Died	<b>4</b> ~Thank a Mail Carrier Day	<b>5</b> ~Nat'l Shower with a Friend Day	<b>6</b> ~Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day	
<b>7</b> Super Bowl Sunday ~Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day	<b>8</b> ~Boy Scout Day	<b>9</b> ~Nat'l Pizza Day  B'day: Shad Bevington	<b>10</b> ~Umbrella Day	<b>11</b> ~Nat'l Inventors Day  B'day: Brad Coon B'day: Amy Yashniyk	<b>12</b> ~Abraham Lincoln's b'day ~Chinese New Year	<b>13</b> ~Get a Different Name Day	
<b>14</b> Valentine's Day ~Nat'l Organ Donor Day	<b>15</b> Presidents Day ~Susan B. Anthony Day	<b>16</b> ~Mardi Gras ~Do a Grouch a Favor Day	<b>17</b> Ash Wednesday ~Random Acts of Kindness Day	<b>18</b> ~Nat'l Battery Day  B'day: Leah Gourley	<b>19</b> ~Nat'l Chocolate Mint Day	<b>20</b> ~Cherry Pie Day ~Love Your Pet Day  B'day: Donna Lybarger	
<b>21</b> ~Card Reading Day	<b>22</b> ~George Washington's B'day ~Int'l World Thinking Day	<b>23</b> ~Tennis Day	<b>24</b> ~Nat'l Tortilla Chip Day	<b>25</b> ~Pistol Patent Day	<b>26</b> ~Nat'l Pistachio Day	<b>27</b> ~No Brainer Day	
<b>28</b> ~Nat'l Chili Day	~American Heart Month ~Black History Month ~National Bird Feeding Month ~National Weddings Month						



◀ Feb 2021	March 2021						Apr 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> ~Peace Corps Day ~Nat'l Pig Day	<b>2</b> ~Old Stuff Day	<b>3</b> ~Caregiver Appreciation Day	<b>4</b> ~Hug a GI Day	<b>5</b> ~World Day of Prayer ~Multiple Personality Day	<b>6</b> ~Nat'l Frozen Food Day	
<b>7</b> ~Nat'l Cereal Day	<b>8</b> Int'l. Women's Day	<b>9</b> ~Panic Day	<b>10</b> ~Middle Name Pride Day	<b>11</b> ~Johnny Appleseed Day  B'day: Sam Laymon	<b>12</b> ~Girl Scouts Day ~Plant a Flower Day	<b>13</b> ~Genealogy Day  B'day: Karolyn Smith	
<b>14</b> Daylight Saving Begins ~Nat'l Pi Day (3-14)  B'day: Mike Cedoz B'day: Joanne Purcell	<b>15</b> ~Ides of March ~Buzzards Day	<b>16</b> ~Everything You Do Is Right Day	<b>17</b> Saint Patrick's Day ~Corned Beef and Cabbage Day	<b>18</b> ~Awkward Moments Day  B'day: Penelope Wells	<b>19</b> ~Poultry Day	<b>20</b> Start of Spring (Spring Equinox) ~Extraterrestrial Abductions Day	
<b>21</b> ~World Poetry Day  B'day: Audra Cubie	<b>22</b> ~Nat'l Goof Off Day	<b>23</b> ~Nat'l Chip & Dip Day	<b>24</b> ~Nat'l Chocolate Covered Raisin Day	<b>25</b> ~Waffle Day	<b>26</b> ~Live Long and Prosper Day	<b>27</b> Earth Hour ~Nat'l "Joe" Day	
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday ~Weed Appreciation Day	<b>29</b> ~Smoke and Mirrors Day	<b>30</b> ~I Am in Control Day	<b>31</b> ~World Backup Day ~Nat'l Crayon Day	~National Celery/Frozen Food/Nutrition/Peanut Month ~Red Cross Month ~Irish American Month ~Music in Our Schools Month			



## Hopewell United Methodist Church

c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors

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In-person worship services and activities at Hopewell UMC are suspended until further notice. Virtual worship services are offered weekly via YouTube videos. Please contact Pastor Lee ([lee@cubie.us](mailto:lee@cubie.us) or 740-504-8601 if you would like to be added to the e-mail notification list. Or check the HUMC Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon](https://www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon)) on Saturday or Sunday for a link to the worship service.