

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.*

August - September 2021

Pastor's Pondering – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

Theophany



Theophany is a word that bible scholars use to describe certain events in the bible. It comes from two Greek words: *theos* meaning god and *phainein* meaning to show. Put together in the Greek we have the word theophaneia. When translated into Latin we get the word theophany which we borrow for our English word.

In the Old Testament the most famous theophany is found in Exodus chapter three. This records Moses' first encounter with God appearing in the burning bush. In the exchange between Moses and God we learn the name that God gives himself, *I AM WHO I AM*. Moses is then informed to say to the people of Israel, *I AM* sent me as his authority to lead the people.

There are other theophanies in the Old Testament, each telling us who God is. For Abraham and Jacob, who after his encounter with God is named Israel, God is revealed as one who promises and keeps his promises. He promises both Abraham and Jacob numerous descendants, more than can be numbered. He promises to make a great nation of them. He promises them prosperity and safety. As we read their stories, we learn that God kept his promises. We also learn that God promises Abraham that, "...by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." (Gen. 12:3b)

Christians understand that blessing to be Jesus. Colossians 2:9 teaches us, "...in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily..." That makes Jesus the greatest theophany in the scriptures. What can we learn about God in the person of Jesus? We learn that God loves us. God wants to heal us and make us prosper. God wants to protect us and deliver us from all evil. We learn that God is the good shepherd. God welcomes the children into his presence. God welcomes the worst sinners into a loving relationship. We learn that God is our loving father and that we are his children. We learn all of this from the teachings of Jesus. We learn this from the healing miracles of Jesus. We learn this from how he looks upon us "as sheep without a shepherd." We learn this from his arrest and crucifixion. These are comforting descriptions of God.



Of the many theophanies in the gospels there are some when looked at don't give us the warm fuzzies. These are the theophanies of Jesus calming the storm, and Jesus walking on water and of Jesus feeding the multitudes. These theophanies teach us less about who God is and more about who Jesus is.

The first, Jesus calming the storm, brings us back to the creation account, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." (Gen. 1:1-2) The calming of the sea by Jesus and the next miracle in Mark 5 is reminiscent of verse three of Genesis 1 when God says, "Let there be light." In Mark 5 we see light coming into the man possessed of a great darkness represented by demon possession. This theophany teaches us that God through Jesus can make us new again.

The next theophany of Jesus combines two events, the feeding of the multitude and walking on water. The feeding of the five thousand and Jesus walking on the water are the only miracle stories repeated in all four gospels, thereby meriting a closer study. The giving of bread is seen as a divine attribute in the Old Testament. The Exodus story of the giving of the manna is a case in point, the manna being seen as heavenly bread. The second theophany of Jesus walking on water is a bit more complex. We have two references to walking on water in the Old Testament that I can find. One is found in Psalm 89:9-10 which are part of a hymn of praise for God for subduing the destructive forces against creation. It reads, "Thou dost rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, thou stillest them. Thou dost crush Rahab like a carcass, thou didst scatter thy enemies with thy mighty arm." The raging sea and Rahab are one in the same. The crushing of Rahab is walking on water during a storm that is then quieted when Jesus enters into the disciple's boat.

To further understand the theophany of Jesus walking on water we need to open up to Job 9. Job 9:1-12 describes the strength of God in a most terrifying way. It is part of an answer by Job to his friend after his friend argues that God will not reject a righteous man. We read, "Truly I know this is so: but how can a man be just before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength—who has hardened himself, and succeeded?—he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger; who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; who commands the sun, and does not rise; who seals up the stars; who alone stretched out the heavens, and trampled the waves of the sea; (or trampled the back of the sea dragon) who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; who does great things without number. Lo, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. Behold, he snatches away; who can hinder him? Who will say to him, 'What doest thou?'"

The theophany of Jesus is not telling us anything new about God. The theophany of Jesus calming the storm, of Jesus walking on the stormy sea, and of Jesus feeding the multitudes is telling us something about Jesus. Jesus is the divine celestial warrior, Jesus is the one who made order out of chaos, Jesus is the one who has the fate of mankind in his hand. It is Jesus who removes mountains in his anger. It is Jesus who seals up the stars. It is Jesus who commands the sun not to rise in the morning. It is Jesus who opens his hand to feed and who closes his hand to snatch away. This is not a warm fuzzy Jesus. This is a Jesus who commands, and who would dare disobey. This is the answer to the question the disciples ask in Mark 4:41, "Who is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

This is a picture of Jesus that we suppress. It makes us uncomfortable. It does not allow for our excuses. It commands a very high respect. It teaches us that he does not wink at our indiscretions. Our indiscretion is what moves him in his anger to overturn mountains when Jesus climbed up Mount Golgotha with his cross and was raised up for the world to see. When his cross shuddered into place he

shook the foundation of the world. When he hung on his cross, he sealed up the stars and caused the sun not to shine. When he drew his last breath, he tore the curtain in the temple in two, taking away man's ability to argue his righteousness before God and unleashed upon all manner of wickedness the final judgement.

This is Jesus, who is both the good shepherd and the divine cosmic warrior. What is your response? Moses and Joshua both offer a choice to the people. They could choose life, or they could choose death. Jesus gives us the same choice. What will you choose?

Meet the New District Superintendent – based on information from East Ohio Conference Web site



Rev. Kelly Brown is superintendent of the Three Rivers District [following the appointment of Dr. Edwin Fashbaugh to director of Connectional Ministries, East Ohio Conference]. He brings a variety of gifts and experiences to this position as he has previously served the East Ohio Conference as director of Congregational Vitality, as a member of the Conference New Church Start team, as a Church Growth with Integrity consultant, as a member of the Conference Board of Camps and Retreat Ministries, and on many district committees.

Brown's involvement with the East Ohio Conference began at a young age when he attended Camp Wanake. As a teen, he served on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM). Then as a young adult he returned to Camp Wanake as a member of the staff.

He previously served East Ohio Conference pastorates at Gay Street United Methodist Church, Sycamore/Smithville UMCs, New Philadelphia Otterbein UMC, and Leroy UMC. He also served St. Paul UMC in the West Ohio Conference and taught at Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

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



That there's a 'highway to hell' and a 'stairway to heaven' says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers. --Unknown

Greatest man in history named **Jesus**, Had **no servants**, yet they called Him **Master**. Had **no degree**, yet they called Him **Teacher**. Had **no medicines**, yet they call Him **Healer**. He had **no army**, yet kings **feared Him**. He won **no military battles**, yet He **conquered** the world. He committed **no crime** yet they **crucified Him**. He was **buried** in a tomb, yet **He lives today**. Share if you believe.

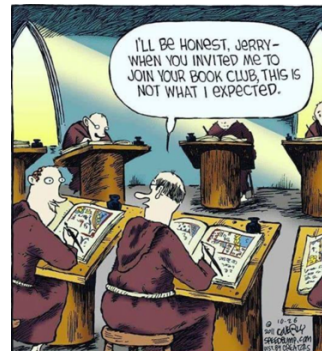
“Wreaths Across America” for Veterans in Hopewell Cemetery – by Donna Spinks

In researching the 275(+/-) graves at Hopewell Cemetery, I have found 25 documented veterans buried there: 3 from the War of 1812, 1 from the Spanish-American War, 9 from the Civil War, 6 from World War II, 3 from the Korean War, and 3 from the Viet Nam War.

I am proposing that we, as a church family, recognize and honor our veterans by joining the Wreaths Across America program this year and honor our veterans who rest in Hopewell Cemetery. The head of the ROTC program at the Career Center (Chris Salvucci) tells me that the Career Center sponsors wreaths for the veterans at Mound View Cemetery, and a delivery is made every year to the Career Center. He also told me that our 25 wreaths could be delivered with the Career Center’s delivery, and the cost would be minimal. To receive our wreaths, we would have to join the program and commit to a payment of \$15.00 per wreath for a total of \$375.00. Several of our members that I have spoken to like this idea and are willing to step up and support the cost. **How About You?**



Please feel free to contact me by e-mail or phone to provide input and/or a commitment to this program for our veterans: donna@whiteoakfarms.com or text messages via cell phone at 740-501-8616. [For more about the nationwide program, see www.wreathscrossamerica.com.]



Every family has secrets until a Sunday School teacher asks a group of kids if they have any prayer requests.



Hopewell Family Photos – at the 2021 Knox County Fair



Congratulations to Jack Laymon, Knox Co. Fair King!



Natalie Gourley parades her 4-H goat in the show ring.



Leah Gourley presents her 4-H goat to the judge.

What We Can Learn from Geese—shared by Julie Britton

Fact 1: As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift draft for the bird following. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds a greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

Lesson 1: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they’re going quicker and more easily because they are traveling on the strength of one another.



Fact 2: Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson 2: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stay in formation and be willing to accept help when we need it and give help when it is needed.

Fact 3: When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies in the point position.

Lesson 3: Geese instinctively share the task of leadership and do not resent the leader.

Fact 4: The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson 4: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging and not something else.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, is wounded, or is shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to earth to help and protect it. They stay with their disabled companion until it is able to fly again or dies. They then launch out on their own or with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson 5: If we have as much sense as geese, we too will stand by one another in difficult times and help the one who has dropped out to regain his place in the formation.

Stuff the Backpack...with school supplies

Let’s send school kids—our Hopewell students and others in the community—back to their classrooms with some of the supplies they’ll need for academic success. Supplies (e.g., backpacks, pens, paper, crayons, rulers, staplers, sticky notes, ...) that are deposited in a box in the Sunday school room **by August 22** will be divided and shared with as many students as possible. Thank you for supporting our future graduates.

Follow Hopewell UMC

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

...on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon

Hopewell Birthdays

August

- 1 Mick Gourley, Sr.
- 4 Danielle Kanuckel
- 11 Bob Cornwell
- 15 Gina Lawhon
- 16 Linda Joseph
- 18 Irma Newland
- 24 Mick Kanuckel
- 27 Wayne Clayborne
- 30 John Johnson
- 30 Bill Lawhon
- 31 Seth Lawhon

September

- 2 George Ander
- 4 Natalie Gourley
- 5 Virginia Skinner
- 7 Corby Coon
- 8 Julie Britton
- 14 Cheryl McCracken
- 14 Ron Skinner
- 15 Jessica Hartney
- 15 Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe
- 18 Jean Riley
- 18 Bob Kaiser
- 20 Dorothy Ander
- 22 Cary Purcell
- 23 Kathy Kanuckel
- 24 Eleanor Doup
- 24 Marsha Clayborne
- 24 Amelia Kanuckel

◀ Jul 2021		August 2021					Sep 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 ~Friendship Day ~Sisters Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion B'day: Mick Gourley, Sr.	2 ~Nat'l Ice Cream Sandwich Day	3 ~Nat'l Watermelon Day ~Grab Some Nuts Day	4 ~US Coast Guard Day ~Nat'l Chocolate Chip Cookie Day B'day: Danielle Kanuckel	5 ~Nat'l Underwear Day ~Work Like a Dog Day	6 ~Wiggle Your Toes Day	7 ~Campfire Day ~Int'l Beer Day ~Nat'l Clown Day	
8 ~Int'l Cat Day ~Middle Child's Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	9 ~Book Lover's Day	10 ~Lazy Day ~Nat'l S'mores Day	11 ~Presidential Joke Day B'day: Bob Cornwell	12 ~Perseid Meteor Shower peak day ~World Elephant Day	13 ~Blame Someone Else Day ~Left Hander's Day	14 ~V-J Day 1945	
15 ~Relaxation Day ~Feast of the Assumption 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Gina Lawhon	16 ~Nat'l Tell a Joke Day B'day: Linda Joseph	17 ~Nat'l Thriftshop Day	18 ~Bad Poetry Day ~World Daffodil Day B'day: Irma Newland	19 ~Aviation Day ~Nat'l Potato Day	20 ~Nat'l Radio Day ~World Mosquito Day	21 ~Sr. Citizens Day ~Nat'l Honey Bee Awareness Day	
22 ~Be an Angel Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Mick Kanuckel	23 ~Ride the Wind Day	24 ~Vesuvius Day	25 ~Kiss and Make Up Day	26 ~Nat'l Dog Day ~Women's Equality Day	27 ~Just Because Day B'day: Wayne Clayborne	28 ~Stuffed Green Bell Peppers Day	
29 ~Int'l Bat Night ~More Herbs/Less Salt Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	30 ~Frankenstein Day B'day: John Johnson B'day: Bill Lawhon	31 ~Nat'l Eat Outside Day ~Nat'l Trail Mix Day B'day: Seth Lawhon	~Family Fun Month ~International Pirate Month ~National Golf Month ~National Picnic Month ~Water Quality Month				

◀ Aug 2021	September 2021					Oct 2021 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ~Nat'l Cherry Popover Month	2 ~Thursday B'day: George Ander	3 ~Skyscraper Day	4 ~Int'l Bacon Day ~Nat'l Tailgating Day B'day: Natalie Gourley
5 ~Cheese Pizza Day ~Be Late for Something Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion B'day: Virginia Skinner	6 Labor Day ~Rosh Hashanah ~Read a Book Day	7 ~Nat'l Salami Day B'day: Corby Coon	8 ~Int'l Literacy Day ~Pardon Day B'day: Julie Britton	9 ~Teddy Bear Day	10 ~Swap Ideas Day ~Sewing Machine Day	11 Patriot Day ~911 Remembrance
12 ~Grandparents Day ~Nat'l Pet Memorial Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	13 ~Nat'l Peanut Day ~Fortune Cookie Day	14 ~Nat'l Cream-filled Donut Day B'day: Cheryl McCracken B'day: Ron Skinner	15 ~Yom Kippur ~Felt Hat Day B'day: Jessica Hartney B'day: Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe	16 ~Mayflower Day ~American Legion Day	17 ~Citizenship Day ~Constitution Day	18 ~Octoberfest ~Nat'l Cheeseburger Day B'day: Jean Riley B'day: Bob Kaiser
19 ~Nat'l Dance Day ~Int'l Talk Like a Pirate Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	20 ~Nat'l Pepperoni Pizza Day ~Nat'l Punch Day B'day: Dorothy Ander	21 ~Int'l Peace Day ~Miniature Golf Day	22 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox) B'day: Cary Purcell	23 ~Checkers Day ~Dogs in Politics Day	24 ~Native American Day B'day: Eleanor Doup B'day: Marsha Clayborne B'day: Amelia Kanuckel	25 ~Int'l Rabbit Day ~Nat'l Comic Book Day
26 ~Johnny Appleseed Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	27 ~Crush a Can Day	28 ~Nat'l Good Neighbor Day	29 ~Confucius Day	30 ~National Mud Pack Day	~Baby Safety Month ~Happy Cat Month ~National Piano Month ~National Sewing Month ~Whole Grains Month	

Hopewell United Methodist Church

c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors
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In-person worship services and some activities at Hopewell UMC have resumed on Sundays at 9:30 AM, with prevailing safety precautions in place. Virtual worship services continue to be offered weekly via YouTube videos. Please contact Pastor Lee (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) on Saturday or Sunday for a link to the worship service.