

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.*

December 2021 – January 2022

Pastor's Report for Hopewell UMC's Year ending June 2021-- Pastor Lee Cubie

I am blessed to minister alongside the people of Hopewell UMC. They are a compassionate, loving people, caring for one another and for their neighbors in the charge. We lost two beloved sisters this year, Bonnie Lawhon and Barb Butler. Our church rallied around the families bringing support and grace. When a third sister was involved in an accident shortly after the sudden death of Barb, you could almost hear the collective intake of breath at the shocking news. But we rallied around Beverly Lahmon, starting with the prayer chain led by Marsha Clayborn. Today Bev is with us, and we rejoice with her as she continues to heal. Our ministry to the families of Bonnie and Barb and our support of Bev is the gospel in action, love incarnate. This, to the praise of God.

The year from July 2020 through June 2021 had its challenges and its promises. The response to Covid-19 created social isolation for many of us. We were not able to meet for long stretches of time. This challenge created an opportunity to venture into an online presence. We approached this challenge by recording a weekly service, which included special music by friends and members of the church. To ensure that this was not a passive adventure we developed an email list which included over sixty unique addresses, as well as placing it on our church Facebook page.

Included with the recorded service was a weekly newsletter entitled Staying Connected. It included announcements, birthdays and anniversaries, prayer requests, and the ramblings of a local pastor. The newsletter also included daily readings from the Revised Common Lectionary pulled from Vanderbilt University's listing of the lectionary. To keep things light and irreverent we included a section entitled Laity Levity, which was comprised of cartoons relating to church humor.

When we began to meet in person again, we did so outdoors beside our church. Admittedly attendance was light, but we rejoiced in being able to meet together again. We are a country church surrounded by pasture and grain fields. The church overlooks a rolling valley. We were blessed to worship in God's cathedral with arching trees over our heads, holding a chorus of birds. We were surrounded by those who passed on before us and were constantly reminded of God's long history at Hopewell with some of our saints having been born under the reign of King George III.



God gave us a choice, to be dismayed or to choose hope. I am sorry to report we had three members and seven regular attendees elect to leave. Of those remaining some are still reluctant to join us in person. But our hope in God does not disappoint. As we journey into this new church year, we see our attendance growing with two new families in attendance.

To reflect, what we have just gone through is not unique to our time. We are part of God's transformative grace that rides triumphant through all forms of tribulation. Jeremiah, during the bitterest moment of the first covenant, reflects and testifies,

“Remember my affliction and my bitterness,
the wormwood and the gall!
My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind,
and therefore have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is thy faithfulness.
The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,
Therefore I will hope in him.”



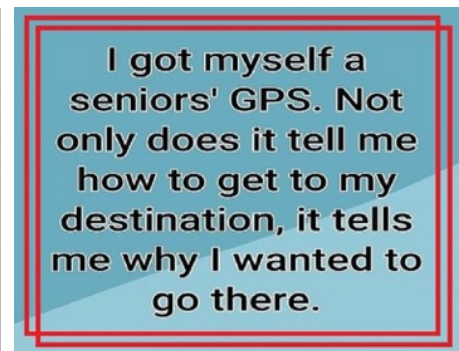
“Wreaths Across America” for Veterans in Hopewell Cemetery – by Donna Spinks

Save the date: **December 19, 2021**, for laying wreaths on graves of all the veterans at Hopewell Cemetery. **After church that day**, there will be a short introductory program for laying of nine ceremonial wreaths, one for each branch of the military and one for our local first responders and health care providers. Then each veteran buried at Hopewell will receive a wreath in Memory of their Service. We will not be decorating graves; instead, we will be celebrating their lives in our community. These 25 men and women lived in our community, they raised their children here, and several of them worshiped in our little church. Just look around at the stain glass windows and you will see their names and the names of their families.



We need volunteers to lay the wreaths, and if you are willing to volunteer, please contact me at the following e-mail address: donna@whiteoakfarms.com

We would like to thank Sally Wright, the owner of “Flowers For You” in Mount Vernon for donating the tripod stands to place the wreaths. And a **BIG** Thank You for those of you who so graciously donated money for the Wreaths. Your response was overwhelming, and we have a good start on the next year.



'Joy to the World': Accidental Christmas hymn -- *A UMC.org feature by Crystal Caviness, United Methodist Communications, published 12/2020*

"Joy to the World," found in The United Methodist Hymnal alongside "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" and "Away in a Manger," was not originally written to be a hymn, nor was it written about Christmas. Across the decades, United Methodist congregations have enthusiastically joined in as, "heaven and nature sing." What you may not know, however, is that the words to this hymn aren't about Christmas at all.

Lauded as the most published Christmas carol of the 20th century, the current rendition of the 300-year-old song comes to us from a popular 18th century hymn writer and a 19th century music teacher.



4 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

5 Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.

7 Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

8 Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

9 Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Psalm 98:4-9 KJV

A poem

The lyrics to "Joy to the World," first appeared in a book of poetry by English minister and writer Isaac Watts titled "The Psalms of David: Imitated in the language of the New Testament, and applied to the Christian state and worship," published in 1719.

Each poem in the long-titled volume is based on a psalm. "Joy to the World" was inspired by Psalm 98, specifically verses 4-9, which scholars say allude to the Second Coming of Christ.

From poem to song

More than 100 years later, an American composer named Lowell Mason was responsible for turning a poem about Jesus coming to Earth, not as a baby, but for the Second Coming, into a Christmas musical classic.

Mason was a talented musician and teacher who had the distinction of being the first music teacher in an American school, a precedent that set the stage for introducing music curriculum into the U.S. public schools. He also composed more than 1,600 hymn tunes. And when he discovered Watts' poem, "Joy to the World," he set its words to music.

The Watts-Wesley connection

Isaac Watts is credited with writing the lyrics to more than 750 hymns, including the classics "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." He also is said to have inspired Charles Wesley, according to historians. Wesley wrote more than 6,000 hymns during his life.

Mason was influenced by composers such as Handel, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, often using their works as the basis for his own compositions. Such is the case with "Joy to the World." The familiar melody that we sing today is also known as "Antioch," which Mason named for the choruses borrowed from Handel's "Messiah" ("Lift Up Your Head" and "Comfort Ye").

Good timing

In 1839, Mason published, "The Modern Psalmist: A Collection of Church Music...", a volume of hymns that included the version of "Joy to the World" we sing today. It is believed the "The Modern Psalmist" was published near Christmas, which jumpstarted the popularity of "Joy to the World" as a holiday favorite. It didn't seem to matter to those singing the infectious, uplifting tune that the words weren't about Jesus coming to earth as a baby.

No doubt, "Joy to the World's" path to stardom was circuitous. Three centuries later, however, United Methodist churches continue to "repeat the sounding joy" each Christmas.



A Kiko doe, which the Gourley's purchased from Bill Lawhon a few years ago, gave birth to quadruplet 'kids' on November 21. Everyone (Bill, the Gourley kids--and parents) is surprised, happy, and thankful for this rare blessing.

Hopewell Birthdays

December

- 3 Jessie Gourley
- 7 Joan Coon
- 7 Donna Spinks
- 7 Joe Beran
- 16 Theo Wells
- 17 Jack Laymon
- 19 Jeff Scott
- 29 Tobias Burt

January

- 4 DJ Johnson
- 5 Maryellen Aranda
- 8 Anneliese Scott
- 18 Joe Laymon
- 27 Stephanie Scott

Beginning about 1964, Bob Joseph's Aunt Mary Cryder (1926-2009) created an original Christmas poem each year. This poem is from 2004.

Some, checking workmanship
Of rough-hewn stable
Or judging quality of manger hay,
May not have even seen the Christ
Or worshipped Him that day.



'Twas there, of course, not here.
And then, of course, not now.
Priorities askew,
They did not bow.

In case of snow or ice...

On Sunday mornings, if a snow emergency is announced for Knox County, the church service cancellation policy is:

Level 1 – Church service will be held on the normal schedule. Use your judgment on whether to come to church. If you decide to travel, please use caution.

Level 2 or 3 – Worship service will be cancelled.

Follow Hopewell UMC

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

...on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon

Hopewell United Methodist Church Council Minutes – Bob Joseph, Recording Secretary

Church Council Chair Bill Lawhon called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM on October 3, 2021, in the church sanctuary.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Acting Co-treasurers Phyllis Gourley and Donna Spinks gave a financial report of results through 9/30/2021. In summary, the general funds balance is \$100,608.16, and the Building Maintenance/Improvement funds balance is \$42,448.32.

Pastor-Parish Relations: PPR members met with District Superintendent Kelly Brown, who shared information about a computer program for assisting church calculations for various purposes.

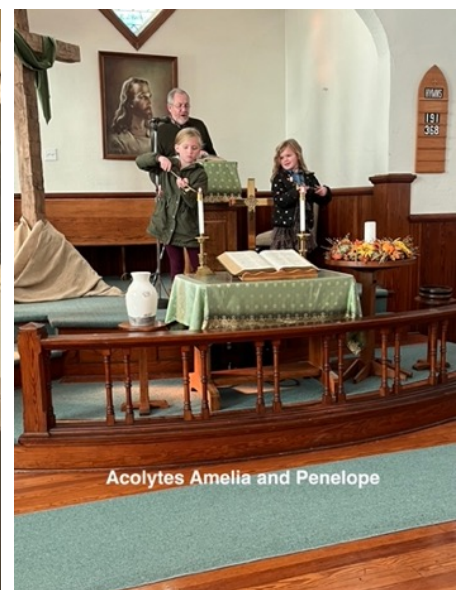
Trustees: Head Trustee Mickey Gourley is planning for work on the front door to be done before colder weather. As weather allows, a work day will be scheduled. Trees were damaged by wind recently, and he is working with neighboring property owner John Johnson to cleanup.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lee Cubie noted that he is gladly back in the pulpit and recording virtual services for the last two weeks. He believes the number of 'views' of the virtual services justifies his and Audra's efforts to continue producing them each week; the YouTube videos appear to be reaching people other than those who attend in the building. And the separate virtual services provide a more intimate experience than simply recording the live worship service.

New Business:

Cary Purcell moved (Mick Gourley seconded) to confirm Phyllis Gourley and Donna Spinks as co-treasurers of Hopewell United Methodist Church. Motion passed unanimously. This appointment is effective immediately, to replace Treasurer Barbara Butler (deceased). As a result of this motion, Bill Lawhon will remain on all accounts on which he is currently listed; Cary Purcell will remain on one account on which he is currently listed; Phyllis Gourley and Donna Spinks will be added to all accounts. Barbara Butler will be removed from all accounts.

Meeting was adjourned at 11 AM.



x ◀ Nov 2021		December 2021					Jan 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 ~Eat a Red Apple Day	2 ~Nat'l Fritters Day	3 ~Nat'l Roof Over Your Head Day B'day: Jesse Gourley	4 ~Wear Brown Shoes Day	
5 ~2 nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	6 ~Mitten Tree Day ~St. Nicholas Day	7 ~Pearl Harbor Day 1941 ~Letter Writing Day B'day: Joan Coon B'day: Donna Spinks B'day: Joe Beran	8 ~Nat'l Brownie Day	9 ~Nat'l Pastry Day ~Christmas Card Day	10 ~Nobel Prize Day ~Human Rights Day	11 ~Nat'l Noodle Ring Day	
12 ~ 3 rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	13 ~Violin Day ~Nat'l Ice Cream Day	14 ~Int'l Monkey Day ~Roast Chestnuts Day	15 ~Bill of Rights Day	16 ~Nat'l Chocolate Covered Anything Day B'day: Theo Wells	17 ~Nat'l Maple Syrup Day B'day: Jack Laymon	18 ~Bake Cookies Day	
19 ~4 th Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Jeff Scott	20 ~Go Caroling Day	21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice) ~Nat'l Flashlight Day	22 ~Nat'l Date Nut Bread Day	23 ~Festivus (for the rest of us)	24 ~Nat'l Egg Nog Day ~Nat'l Chocolate Day	25 Christmas	
26 ~Boxing Day (Canada) ~Candy Cane Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	27 ~Nat'l Fruitcake Day	28 ~Card Playing Day	29 ~Pepper Pot Day B'day: Tobias Burt	30 ~Bacon Day	31 ~New Year's Eve ~Make Up Your Mind Day		

Due to inflation and food price increases the 5 second rule has been extended to 10 seconds

January 2022						
◀ Dec 2021						Feb 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day Feast of the Epiphany
2 Feast of the Epiphany 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	3 Fruitcake Toss Day	4 -Trivia Day B'day: DJ Johnson	5 -National Bird Day B'day: Maryellen Aranda	6 -Bean Day	7 -Old Rock Day	8 -Bubble Bath Day B'day: Anneliese Scott
9 -Play God Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day	11 -Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day	12 -National Take the Stairs Day	13 -Make Your Dream Come True Day	14 -Dress Up Your Pet Day	15 -National Bagel Day
16 -National Nothing Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 Thesaurus Day B'day: Joe Laymon	19 -National Popcorn Day	20 -Penguin Awareness Day	21 -National Hugging Day	22 -National Blonde Brownie Day
23 -National Pie Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	24 Compliment Day	25 -Opposite Day	26 -Spouse's Day	27 -Punch the Clock Day B'day: Stephanie Scott	28 -National Kazoo Day	29 -National Puzzle Day
30 -National Inane Answer Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	31 Backward Day					

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 have resumed 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 Sunday for a link to the worship service.