

# 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 2022*

**Pastor's Ponderings** -- *Pastor Lee Cubie*

### **Stewardship**



The bible describes man as being God's steward. The first depiction of man in the scriptures includes his role of being a steward. "And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and *have dominion* over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'" (Gen. 1:28) Taken with Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein..." man in being given dominion is being made steward over creation, ownership is still God's.

What does it mean to be a steward? A steward is a manager of assets. Jesus in his parable of the talents makes this clear. There three servants were given stewardship or management over sizable portions of money. The first two servants turned out to be wise stewards, in that they took their responsibility seriously. They invested and watched over their investments so that when the owner came back, they were each able to say that they doubled the owner's investment. The third did not. He proved to be a poor steward for he did not attempt to steward the talent given him.

Instead, he buried it and went about his own life doing as he pleased. In this parable we begin to see the traits of a good steward.

In Luke 12:45-46 we read about another bad steward. We read, "But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the

maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful.” Here we see that the bad steward uses his stewardship for his own pleasure. Since we are all stewards of God’s creation, even our own lives, these parables about good and bad stewards act as a warning as to how we are to live our lives.

In Luke 16:19-31 we are introduced to a bad steward. This is the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus, whose name comes from *El azarus*, meaning ‘God saves’, is a poor man. The rich man is exactly that, rich. In fact, according to the parable he is exceedingly rich. He wears the finest clothes, eats the finest foods, and lives in the finest home. The rich man could change Lazarus’ life, but he does not. Instead, Lazarus spends his days at the gate to the man’s house hoping for the food that fell to the floor during this man’s feasting. This goes on for some time until Lazarus, covered in sores and wearing rags, dies. The rich man also dies and is buried. Here their fates switch, with Lazarus at feast with Abraham and the rich man in torment. So why did the rich man end up in torment?

We do not know much about either Lazarus or the rich man except one was very poor and the other very wealthy. The rich man was probably generous with friends and family. Probably went to church and may have given alms in the temple. So why is he in torment, and Lazarus, who while he was alive was seen to be despised by God for his poverty and uncleanness, is with Abraham. I think the hint is in the meaning of Lazarus’ name which means God saves. In Proverbs 19:17 we are told, “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deeds.” The rich man, whom God made steward of much wealth and was able to help Lazarus, did not, and so, he was repaid for his deeds. He did not act as God’s agent of grace to Lazarus.

This story highlights how serious God is about our stewardship. It also highlights God’s greatest interest, our stewardship of people. This stewardship takes all kinds of forms from sharing the physical bounty God has given us to the spiritual bounty God has given us. Peter speaks to this in 1 Peter 4:10-11 where we are taught, “As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as *good stewards* of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

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**Quotable Quotes** – *from a collection of favorites shared by Chris Cordle, PhD, a friend of Hopewell Church*

“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.” – *Dwight Eisenhower*

“Don’t take the limits of your own field of vision for the limits of the world.” – *Unknown*

“In the end you can only control two things, your effort and your attitude.” – *Unknown*

**“Stuff the Backpack” Report** – *Donna Spinks*



Thank you, Hopewell, for the fantastic response to the drive for school supplies. Mick, Phyllis, and Donna delivered your donations to the Dan Emmett elementary school on August 29. We had back packs, numerous composition books, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, note cards, highlighters, disinfection wipes, boxes of Kleenex, hand sanitizer, scissors, and other items that I have forgotten. The school secretary extended thanks on behalf of the teachers and students and told us that we had made a difference for some of the students, and that they really appreciated our efforts.

**Be Ready for the Christmas Auction** – *Marsha Clayborne*

Our Christmas auction will be the first part of December. Please note that everyone should start getting their stuff (treasures) together. Thank you.



## Wreaths Across America...including Hopewell – Donna Spinks



Just a reminder that we will be gearing up for Wreaths Across America in October. We have 25 Veterans to honor with a wreath the second week of December. Each wreath is \$10, and our check must be sent by the second week of November. We have some donations left over from last year but will need to meet our goal of \$250 by the deadline. Last year was our first year, and it was such a big success. I hope we can continue to honor our veterans with this program.

## Why I am United Methodist -- Blake Lasater, First United Methodist Church of Eureka Springs, AR



Because we see flowers where others see weeds.

It's all about grace and seeing people as children of God; it's not about "us" and "them", and a God that needs defending, but a world that needs to be loved.

It is about open hearts, open minds, and open doors, and though we are not perfect we are on that road to perfection.

We hold as our mentors Good Samaritans and Prodigal sons, faithful prostitutes and generous widows, unclean lepers and thieves on a cross. We realize we are all that strange mixture of Saint and sinner.

It's never about being right but always about doing right. Our mission is not to defend the church but simply to do all the good

we can, to all the people we can, in all the ways we can, as long as we can.

We see flowers where others see weeds, because we figured out long ago that we were weeds that someone watered with grace and love.

In a world that sees only weeds to be pulled, I am thankful for a church filled with God's grace that sees things in a different light.



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

You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.  
– humorist Sam Levenson

## Hopewell Birthdays

### October

- 5 Shirley Hughes
- 7 Jade Laymon
- 17 Pete Lawhon
- 18 Bev Lahmon
- 19 Erica Wolfe
- 22 Elaine Farie

### November

- 2 Sara Lawhon
- 4 Barb Spitzer
- 9 Vicki Needham
- 10 Wendy Cedoz
- 15 Sherry Cornwell
- 15 Steve Pottmeyer
- 18 Amelia Wells
- 22 Gary Hughes
- 24 Todd Wells
- 29 Bob Joseph

**The Nature, Design, and General Rules of Our United Societies\*** - This excerpt from *The Book of Discipline* is the first of a two-part series about our Methodist roots. About 1832 this country church was organized as the 'Hopewell Society' and included a 'class leader' and 'class members', terms used in early Methodism, as described below. The second part of the series will elaborate on Wesley's three ways for class members to show 'evidence of their desire for salvation.'

In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to Mr. Wesley, in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together, which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on Thursday in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them, and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.



This was the rise of the **United Society**, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society is no other than "a company of men having the *form* and seeking the *power* of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation."

That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each society is divided into smaller companies, called **classes**, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a class, one of whom is styled the **leader**. It is his duty:

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least, in order: (1) to inquire how their souls prosper; (2) to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require; (3) to receive what they are willing to give toward the relief of the preachers, church, and poor.
2. To meet the ministers and the stewards of the society once a week, in order: (1) to inform the minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly and will not be reproved; (2) to pay the stewards what they have received of their several classes in the week preceding.

There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies: "a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits.

It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

*First:* By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced.

*Secondly:* By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men.

*Thirdly:* By attending upon all the ordinances of God.

\*From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*- 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. To read ahead:

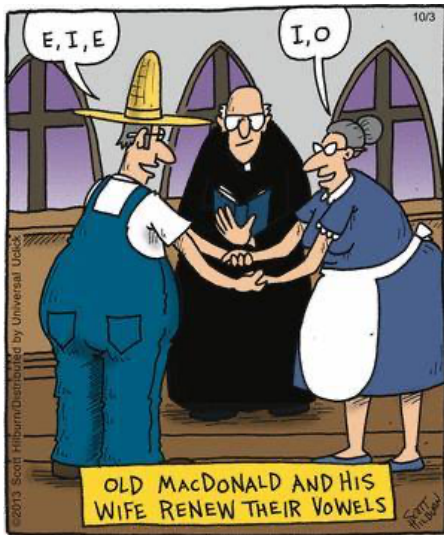
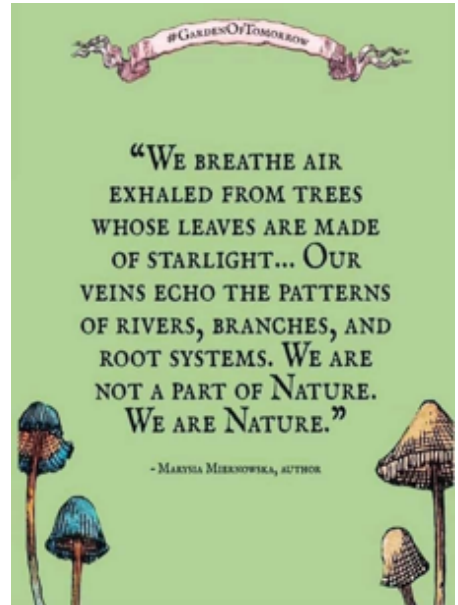
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-general-rules-of-the-methodist-church>



Adam receives a bell-ringing lesson from Grandpa Bill.



"CAN WE GET A REFUND IF THE SERMON ISN'T THAT GOOD?"



Clearly, Jesus was here



◀ Sep 2022		<b>October 2022</b>					Nov 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						<b>1</b> ~Model T Day	
<b>2</b> ~4-H Week (2→8) 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	<b>3</b> ~Child Health Day	<b>4</b> ~Dick Tracy Day	<b>5</b> ~Get Funky Day  B'day- Shirley Hughes	<b>6</b> ~Mad Hatter Day ~Nat'l Noodle Day	<b>7</b> ~Nat'l Forgiveness Day  B'day- Jade Laymon	<b>8</b> ~Nat'l Pierogy Day	
<b>9</b> ~Clergy Appreciation Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	<b>10</b> Columbus Day ~Nat'l Kick Butt Day	<b>11</b> ~Int'l Face Your Fears Day	<b>12</b> ~Nat'l Fossil Day	<b>13</b> ~Silly Sayings Day	<b>14</b> ~World Egg Day	<b>15</b> ~Int'l Day of Rural Women	
<b>16</b> ~Dictionary Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	<b>17</b> ~Nat'l Boss Day  B'day- Pete Lawhon	<b>18</b> ~Meatloaf Appreciation Day  B'day- Bev Lahmon	<b>19</b> ~World Statistics Day  B'day- Erica Kanuckel-Wolfe	<b>20</b> ~Conflict Resolution Day	<b>21</b> ~Mammography Day	<b>22</b> ~Make a Difference Day  B'day- Elaine Farie	
<b>23</b> ~Mother-in-Law Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	<b>24</b> ~United Nations Day	<b>25</b> ~World Pasta Day	<b>26</b> ~Howl at the Moon Night	<b>27</b> ~Cranky Co-workers Day	<b>28</b> ~Childcare Superhero Day	<b>29</b> ~Nat'l Hermit Day	
<b>30</b> ~Checklist Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	<b>31</b> Halloween ~UNICEF Day	~Apple Month ~Class Reunion Month ~Financial Planning Month ~National Pork Month; Nat'l Protect Your Hearing Month; Nat'l Toilet Tank Repair Month; Pizza Month					

◀ Oct 2022	<b>November 2022</b>						Dec 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<b>1</b> ~All Saints' Day ~Nat'l Sports Fan Day	<b>2</b> ~Int'l Stress Awareness Day  B'day- Sara Lawhon	<b>3</b> ~Cliché Day	<b>4</b> ~Fountain Pen Day  B'day- Barb Spitzer	<b>5</b> ~Firewood Day	
<b>6</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall back) 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	<b>7</b> ~Fill Our Staplers Day	<b>8</b> Election Day ~X-ray Day	<b>9</b> ~World Freedom Day  B'day- Vicki Needham	<b>10</b> ~Sesame Street Day  B'day- Wendy Cedoz	<b>11</b> Veterans Day	<b>12</b> ~World Pneumonia Day	
<b>13</b> ~Sandwich Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/refreshments	<b>14</b> ~Loosen Up, Lighten Up Day	<b>15</b> ~America Recycles Day  B'day- Sherry Cornwell B'day- Steve Pottmeyer	<b>16</b> ~Teddy Bear Day	<b>17</b> ~Great American Smokeout	<b>18</b> ~Mickey Mouse Day  B'day- Amelia Wells	<b>19</b> ~Rocky and Bullwinkle Day	
<b>20</b> ~Name Your Computer Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship <b>SRBoys 30<sup>th</sup> Home Concert</b>	<b>21</b> ~World Hello Day	<b>22</b> ~Humane Society Day  B'day- Gary Hughes	<b>23</b> ~Nat'l Jukebox Day	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Day  B'day- Todd Wells	<b>25</b> ~Black Friday ~Flossing Day	<b>26</b> ~Small Business Saturday	
<b>27</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent ~Slinky Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	<b>28</b> ~Cyber Monday	<b>29</b> ~Giving Tuesday ~Square Dancing Day  B'day- Bob Joseph	<b>30</b> ~Nat'l Mason Jar Day	~Adopt-a-Turkey Month ~American Diabetes Month ~Nat'l Alzheimer's/COPD/Healthy Skin/Pet Cancer Month ~Nat'l Memoir Writing Month ~Nat'l Scholarship Month			

**Hopewell United Methodist Church**  
c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors  
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**Hopewell made more inviting...**

When the siding on Hopewell Church showed obvious signs of weathering, the church trustees thoroughly researched options for restoring the exterior beauty of the church. They chose—and Cedoz Construction applied—cement board (Hardie board) that will last for many years while retaining the original lap siding appearance. The scalloped siding above the main windows was still in good shape for repainting. Thanks to the trustees and to Cedoz Construction (Mike Cedoz) for keeping our little country church beautiful and welcoming.