

# 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 2023*

**Pastor's Ponderings** -- Reverend Dr. Mearle Griffith [Deep appreciation is extended to Rev. Dr. Griffith who, before his retirement, prepared this four-part series on Grace.]

### **Sanctifying grace: Grace perfecting us**

In two previous newsletters, I have discussed two of the three aspects of grace, our church's doctrinal understanding. This issue is our conversation about Sanctifying Grace.

John Wesley's understanding of grace moves beyond forgiveness and acceptance of our identity as beloved children of God. God's goal for humanity is the complete restoration of the divine image and the conformity of all creation to the image of Jesus Christ. Sanctification (from *sanctus*, holy) denotes the process by which the believer is made holy and whole in response to justification.

*The Book of Discipline* states: "We hold that the wonder of God's acceptance and pardon do not end God's saving work, which continues to nurture our growth in grace. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are enabled to increase in the knowledge and love of God and in love for our neighbor." If prevenient grace is the porch of the house of grace and justifying grace is the doorway, *sanctifying grace* represents the rooms in the expansive dwelling of God's presence with and purposes for humanity.



John Wesley

Wesley, who founded the Methodist Church, affirmed that God's grace seeks nothing less than a new creation in the likeness of Jesus Christ. Sanctifying grace is God's freely given presence and power to restore the fullness of God's image in which we are created. Wesley talked about sanctification in terms of Christian perfection by which he means entire "holiness of heart and life."

In a sermon entitled "[Christian Perfection](#)," Wesley declared that Christian perfection does not imply Christians are exempt from ignorance, making mistakes, infirmities or being tempted. He affirmed perfection as another term for holiness. Sanctification, then, is the continuing process of being made perfect in love and of removing the desire to sin.

As *The Book of Discipline* affirms, "While the grace of God is undivided, it precedes salvation as 'prevenient grace,' continues in 'justifying grace,' and is brought to fruition in 'sanctifying grace.'" God's unmerited favor is before us, is present with us and is ever working to restore the divine image and transform the entire cosmos into God's reign in Jesus Christ.

In the next newsletter I will offer to give a few thoughts on the practical application of this "Grace Upon Grace" document, entitled "Growing in Grace".

**Pastor-Parish Relations update** – *Jade Laymon, PPR chair*

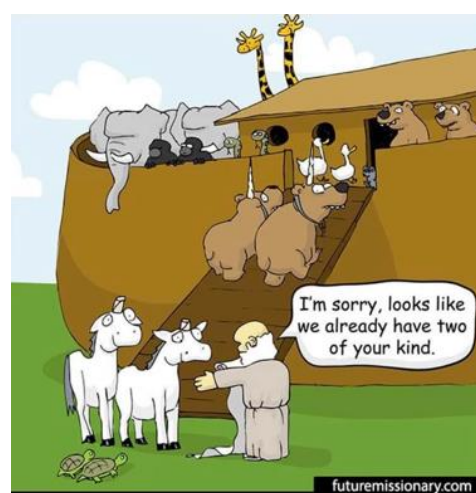
The search for a pastor continues, and the district superintendent is keeping me updated. We have been graced with services by Bitsi Gourley, Vicki Simmerman Needham, Jeffrey Scott, Rev. Bob Alexander, and Rev. Kelly Brown (district superintendent), and this week will be Lee Cubie. We would like to extend a special ‘Thank You’ to each of them for helping with the services and to the congregation as we go through this process.

From left: Bitsi Gourley, Vicki Simmerman Needham, and Jeff Scott have served in the pulpit.



Rev. Dr. Griffith presented bibles from the congregation to Hopewell’s high school graduates.

Proudly holding their bibles are Lily Helser (left) and Leah Gourley. Not pictured is graduate Jack Laymon.



How unicorns went extinct



## Stuff the Backpacks...with school supplies



Let's send school kids 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 the end of August** will be donated to a local school for students with needs. Cash donations, for the purchase of school supplies, are also gladly accepted. This year's supplies will be delivered again to Dan Emmett School, where they were so urgently needed and graciously received last year.

Thank you for supporting the future graduates in our community.

**Circuit Riders in Early American Methodism** -- *By Dr. Robert Simpson for the Global Commission on Archives and History for United Methodist Church [Ed. Note: It is certain that circuit riders served the 'Hopewell society,' formed in about 1832. This article outlines the travels and travails of preachers in those early years.]*

John Wesley's Methodist plan of multiple meeting places, called circuits, required an itinerating force of preachers. A circuit was made up of two or more local churches (sometimes referred to as societies) in early Methodism. In American Methodism circuits were sometimes referred to as a "charge." A pastor would be appointed to the charge by his bishop. During the course of a year he was expected to visit each church on the charge at least once, and possibly start some new ones. At the end of a year the pastors met with the bishop at annual conference, where they would often be appointed to new charges. A charge containing only one church was called a station. The traveling preachers responsible for caring for these societies, or local churches and stations, became known as circuit-riders, or sometimes saddlebag preachers. They traveled light, carrying their belongings and books in their saddlebags. Ranging far and wide through villages and wilderness, they preached daily or more often at any site available be it a log cabin, the local court house, a meeting house, or an outdoor forest setting. Unlike the pastors of settled denominations, these itinerating preachers were constantly on the move. Their assignment was often so large it might take them 5 or 6 weeks to cover the territory.

Francis Asbury (1745 - 1816), the founding bishop of American Methodism, set the pace. He traveled 270,000 miles and preached 16,000 sermons as he traveled the circuits. Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) described the life of the circuit- rider. He wrote in his Autobiography: "A Methodist preacher, when he felt that God had called him to preach, instead of hunting up a college or Biblical Institute, hunted up a hardy



pony, and some traveling apparatus, and with his library always at hand, namely, a Bible, Hymn book, and Discipline, he started, and with a text that never wore out nor grew stale, he cried, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.' In this way he went through storms of wind, hail, snow, and rain; climbed hills and mountains, traversed valleys, plunged through swamps, swollen streams, lay out all night, wet, weary, and hungry, held his horse by the bridle all night, or tied him to a limb, slept with his saddle blanket for a bed, his saddle-bags for a pillow. Often he slept in dirty cabins, ate roasting ears for bread, drank butter-milk for coffee; took deer or bear meat, or wild turkey, for breakfast, dinner, and supper. This was old-fashioned Methodist preacher fare and fortune."

Not only did the preacher face physical hardship, but often he endured persecution. Freeborn Garrettson (1752-1827) wrote of his experience: "I was pursued by the wicked, knocked down, and left almost dead on the highway, my face scarred and bleeding and then imprisoned." No wonder most of these preachers died before their careers had hardly begun. Of those who died up to 1847, nearly half were less than 30 years old. Many were too worn out to travel.

What did they earn? Not much in dollars. Bishop Asbury expressed their reward when he recruited Jesse Lee, "I am going to enlist Brother Lee. What bounty? Grace here and glory hereafter, if he is faithful, will be given."

### Meet a Member: *Donna Spinks*

Donna Lawhon Spinks grew up in Phillips County, Arkansas, near the Mississippi River and southeast of Little Rock. After graduation from Central High School, she was steered by her parents toward becoming a nurse, so off she went in 1966 to Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis, TN. Squeamish about some aspects of nursing duties, but eventually facing her qualms, Donna completed her nurses training, and in 1969 embarked on a 47-year career serving in the field. Among her early roles: orthopedic nurse, medical teaching, evening charge nurse (for about five years, when her leadership abilities were recognized), evening supervisor and administrative assistant to the Vice President of Nursing. In her 'spare time' she became a non-traditional student picking up courses to earn her bachelor's degree. And encouraged by her nursing superior, she applied for—and earned—a master's degree in health care administration. Among her memorable and significant accomplishments were being the nursing member of the team that introduced a hospital computer system for inpatient processing; and researching and setting up a unit for diabetic rehabilitation. (Among her memorable hospital encounters: She was present in the Memphis hospital when Elvis Presley was brought in at his death.)



*Donna Lawhon "...with the first cardiac defibrillator on the medical unit I was working on. It was a big deal at that time!" (1971)*

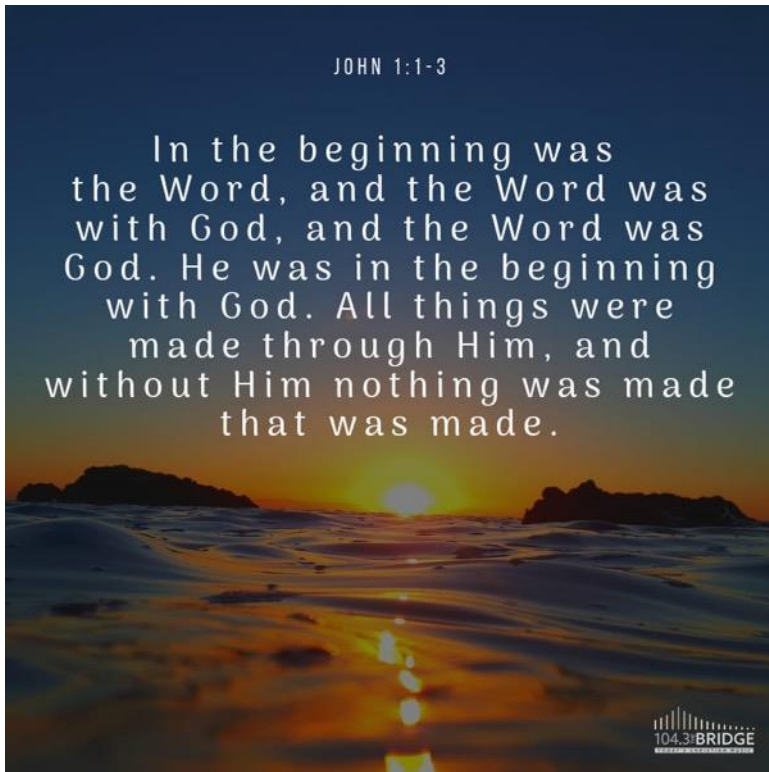
In 1993, Donna married Robert W. (Bobby) Spinks, a retired postal worker born and raised in Arkansas, and they moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, where they built a house. Nurse Spinks went to work at the VA hospital and started up an ambulatory surgery unit with a 75-patient capacity.

After Bobby died in 1999, the family encouraged Donna to move to Ohio, and in 2001 she built a house in 'Lawhonville,' just east of Hopewell UMC. Her career of service continued for another 12 years, teaching nursing at Central Ohio Technical College.



Asked about her walk with Jesus, Donna says she was baptized in the Southern Baptist Church as a highschooler. As a student in nursing school, she went to different churches and the hospital chapel, especially recalling the faith influence of a wonderful chaplain at Methodist Hospital—he later officiated at Donna and Bobby's wedding. Yes, there were some times 'away from the church,' but on moving to Ohio, she attended the Presbyterian church first. About a dozen years ago, she began attending Hopewell, bringing Jean Campbell (Bonnie Lawhon's mother) ...and they joined the church together on August 2, 2015.

About her career, Donna says, "Nursing was good to me. I was good at what I did. I couldn't have done anything else." About Hopewell church, where she serves in MANY ways, including co-treasurer with Phyllis Gourley, she adds, "I like this church...the way people help each other."



### John Wesley Sermons – from ResourceUMC.org

John Wesley (1703-1791) founded Methodism in 1738 [285 years ago!]. A prolific writer, he printed several volumes of his sermons during his lifetime. The published sermons either were rewritten from ones that he had preached or were written specifically for print.

You may view his sermons by number, title, or scriptural reference at

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/topics/history/john-wesley-sermons%20>

As an example, Wesley preached about grace—and wrote against predestination—in sermon 128.

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/sermon-128-free-grace>

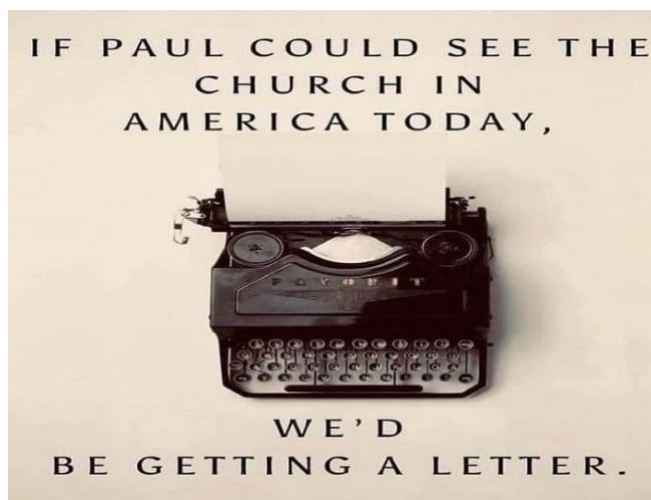
### Hopewell Birthdays

#### August

1	Mick Gourley
11	Bob Cornwell
15	Gina Lawhon
16	Linda Joseph
17	Jody Vance
18	Irma Newland
22	Inge Lawhon
27	Wayne Clayborne
30	Bill Lawhon
31	Seth Lawhon
31	Harold Britton

#### September

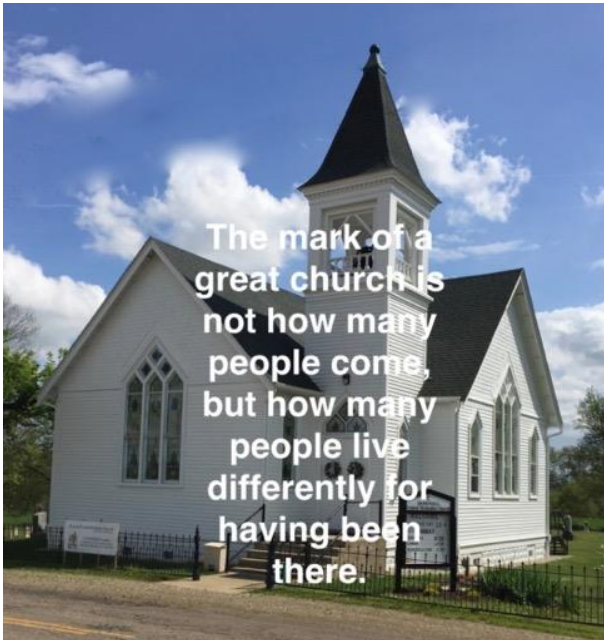
4	Natalie Gourley
5	Virginia Skinner
5	Bill Spitzer
7	Corby Coon
8	Julie Britton
9	Ashlynn Scott
11	Aidan Scott
14	Ron Skinner
14	Cheryl McCracken
15	Jessica Hartney
15	Ryanne Kanuckel-Wolfe
18	Bob Kaiser
18	Laurie Wright
22	Cary Purcell
24	Eleanor Doup
24	Marsha Clayborne



August 2023							Sep 2023 ▶
◀ Jul 2023	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> -World Lung Cancer Day B'day: <b>Mick Gourley</b>	<b>2</b> -Nat'l Coloring Book Day	<b>3</b> -Nat'l Watermelon Day	<b>4</b> -Int'l Beer Day	<b>5</b> -Nat'l Work Like a Dog Day
<b>6</b> -American Family Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	<b>7</b> -Nat'l Lighthouse Day	<b>8</b> -Int'l Cat Day	<b>9</b> -Nat'l Book Lovers Day	<b>10</b> -Lazy Day	<b>11</b> -Nat'l Son & Daughter Day B'day: <b>Bob Cornwell</b>	<b>12</b> -Nat'l Garage Sale Day	
<b>13</b> -Left-Handers Day 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	<b>14</b> -Nat'l Financial Awareness Day	<b>15</b> -Nat'l Back to School Prep Day B'day: <b>Gina Lawhon</b>	<b>16</b> -Tell a Joke Day B'day: <b>Linda Joseph</b>	<b>17</b> -Nat'l Non-Profit Day B'day: <b>Jody Vance</b>	<b>18</b> -Nat'l Couples Day B'day: <b>Irma Newland</b>	<b>19</b> -Nat'l Potato Day	
<b>20</b> -Nat'l Radio Day 9:30 Worship	<b>21</b> -Senior Citizens Day	<b>22</b> -Nat'l Tooth Fairy Day B'day: <b>Inge Lawhon</b>	<b>23</b> -Cheap Flight Day	<b>24</b> -Nat'l Waffle Day	<b>25</b> -Nat'l Secondhand Wardrobe Day	<b>26</b> -Women's Equality Day	
<b>27</b> -Nat'l Just Because Day 9:30 Worship B'day: <b>Wayne Clayborne</b>	<b>28</b> -Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day	<b>29</b> -Int'l Day Against Nuclear Tests	<b>30</b> -College Colors Day B'day: <b>Bill Lawhon</b>	<b>31</b> -World Distance Learning Day B'day: <b>Seth Lawhon</b> B'day: <b>Harold Britton</b>	-National Golf Month -National Picnic Month -National Eye Exam Month -Fishing Month		

September 2023							Oct 2023 ▶
◀ Aug 2023	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-Nat'l Hispanic Heritage Month -Suicide Prevention Month -Preparedness Month -Library Card Sign-up Month						<b>1</b> -Nat'l Food Bank Day	<b>2</b> -World Beard Day  OSU @Indiana
<b>3</b> -Nat'l Skyscraper Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	<b>4</b> Labor Day  B'day: Natalie Gourley	<b>5</b> -Telephone Tuesday  B'day: Virginia Skinner B'day: Bill Spitzer	<b>6</b> -Fight Procrastination Day	<b>7</b> -Nat'l Salami Day  B'day: Corby Coon	<b>8</b> -Int'l Literacy Day  B'day: Julie Britton	<b>9</b> -Int'l Sudoku Day  B'day: Ashlyn Scott OSU vs Youngstown State	
<b>10</b> -Grandparents Day 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments	<b>11</b> -Nat'l Make Your Bed Day  B'day: Aiden Scott	<b>12</b> -Nat'l Day of Encouragement	<b>13</b> -Nat'l Bald Is Beautiful Day	<b>14</b> -Nat'l School Picture Day  B'day: Ron Skinner B'day: Cheryl McCracken	<b>15</b> -Nat'l POW/MIA Recognition Day  B'day: Jessica Hartney B'day: Rylanne Kanuckel-Wolfe	<b>16</b> -Oktoberfest  OSU vs W. KY	
<b>17</b> -Int'l Country Music Day 9:30 Worship	<b>18</b> -Nat'l First Love Day  B'day: Bob Kaiser B'day: Laurie Wright	<b>19</b> -Talk Like a Pirate Day	<b>20</b> -Nat'l Pepperoni Pizza Day	<b>21</b> -World Gratitude Day	<b>22</b> -World Car-Free Day  B'day: Cary Purcell	<b>23</b> Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox)  OSU @Notre Dame	
<b>24</b> -Gold Star Mothers Day 9:30 Worship  B'day: Eleanor Doup B'day: Marsha Clayborne	<b>25</b> -Nat'l One-Hit Wonder Day	<b>26</b> -Johnny Appleseed Day	<b>27</b> -World Tourism Day	<b>28</b> -Ask a Stupid Question Day	<b>29</b> -Nat'l Coffee Day	<b>30</b> -Nat'l Ghost Hunting Day  OSU bye	

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10 years ago



Hopewell youth enjoyed a Sunday potluck lunch in June 2013