

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 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.]

Growing in grace

This is my final discussion of "Grace Upon Grace" and an attempt to give some practical application for persons seeking to understand the special emphasis of our faith tradition.

Grace involves both gift and response. Our identity as sons and daughters of God is God's gift to us. Living in the world as redeemed children of God is our gift to God. Justifying grace reconciles us to God, incorporates us into the body of Christ and sets us on the journey toward wholeness. Sanctifying grace continuously forms us in the likeness of Christ and sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts, our actions, and our relationships.

Wesley affirmed that God's grace is universally present in all and irresistible in none. Although God's presence and power to create, forgive, reconcile, and transform are universally and persistently present, we can resist God's gracious presence and work in us and the world. The freedom to say "no" to the invitation to be reconciled and transformed remains. Contrary to the Calvinists of his time, Wesley affirmed that we can lose our responsiveness to grace and thereby "backslide" or shut ourselves off from God's grace. Still, God's grace remains steadfast, ever blessing, sustaining, and beckoning us toward wholeness and salvation.

In other words, we grow in Christlikeness as we open our lives to God's presence and power at work in us and the world. Growing in grace and discipleship cannot be done within our own strength. The One who invites us on the journey toward the fullness of grace accompanies us and supplies our needs. The God who liberates us and gives us a new future enables us to live toward that new creation by providing means by which we can grow in grace.

The early Methodists devoted themselves to pursuing holiness of heart and life by practicing the "General Rules for the United Societies." Continuation in the societies required that the members demonstrate their desire for salvation, "First, by doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind. ... Secondly, by doing good: by being merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, ... Thirdly, by attending upon all the ordinances of God" (*The Book of Discipline 2012*, 78-79).

The Methodists gathered in small groups of classes and bands to "watch over one another in love," to support one another in growing in grace by avoiding evil, doing good, and practicing "means of grace." These means of grace are named in the General Rules:

- The public worship of God
- The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded

- The supper of the Lord
- Family and private prayer
- Searching the scriptures
- Fasting or abstinence

Additionally, John Wesley identified "Christian conferencing" or Christian conversation, as well as acts of mercy and compassion, as means of growing in grace. All of these are gifts by which we grow in friendship with Christ. Through them, we express our devotion and open our lives to the presence and power of God to transform us and the world. They become means by which we are nourished in grace and grow in love for God and neighbor.

Stuff the Backpacks: Results –Donna Spinks



composition books, folders, disinfecting wipes, Kleenex, backpacks, etc.

At the end of August, I took the school supplies to Dan Emmett Elementary School. Thanks to the congregation for filling **six bags full of supplies**. The school representatives expressed their gratitude to the church and said the supplies will all be utilized. Plenty of pencils, glue sticks, crayons, paper and



Wreaths Across America at Hopewell Cemetery – Donna Spinks

For the third year Hopewell United Methodist Church will participate in the Wreaths Across America program by laying wreaths to honor the military veterans who rest in Hopewell Cemetery. Each veteran who is buried at Hopewell will receive a wreath in memory of their service. We will not be *decorating graves*, instead we will be *celebrating the lives* of the 25 men and women who lived in our community, raised their children here, and (several of whom) worshiped in our little church.

On December 17 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. This year, special recognition will be given to Nancy Gore's mother, the late Eleanor Sawyer, a Women's Army Corps veteran of WW II.

Twenty-five (25) wreaths will cost us \$250...\$10 each. Please donate to the Wreaths Across America Program by writing a check to 'Hopewell UMC' and putting 'Wreaths' in the memo line. Deadline for donations is November 15. And 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. And plan to participate in laying of the wreaths on December 17. [For more about the nationwide program, see www.wreathscrossamerica.org.]



"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." —C. S. Lewis, from quotes compiled by Dr. Chris Cordle, a friend of Bob/Linda Joseph and HUMC.

Firefighter Sam Laymon

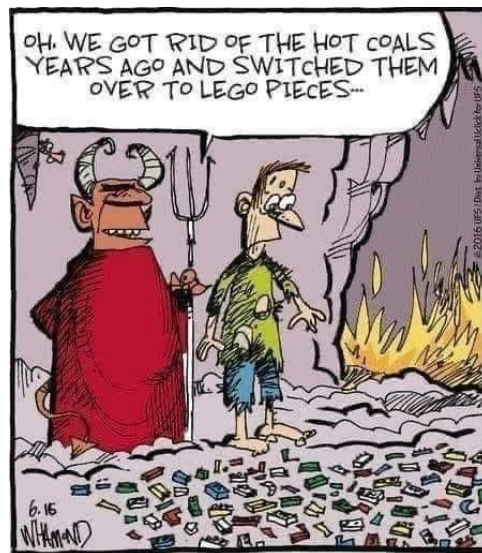
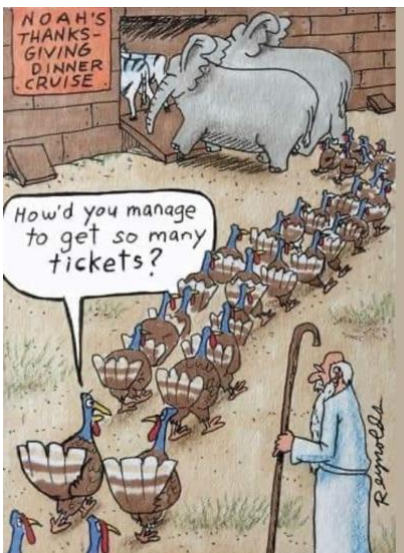
Sam Laymon completed training with the Columbus Division of Fire Class 117 in September...and became a third-generation firefighter in the Laymon family. In addition Sam was elected by his peers to receive the Bradin O’Keefe “Not an Ordinary Man” Award, given to the recruit who shares the same determination, compassion, and leadership as Firefighter O’Keefe. Congratulations, Sam (and the Laymon family). May God be with you and protect you and your dad, Josh, as you serve the community.



Josh Laymon pins on son Sam Laymon’s firefighter’s badge at the class graduation



The Laymon family -- Joe, Jade, Sam, Josh, and Jack. (Not present, Emma)



Churches are not museums that display perfect people.

They are hospitals where the wounded, hurt, injured and broken find healing.



Welcome Back, Pastor Lee!

Summoning renewed energy, Pastor Lee Cubie has applied—and the bishop has re-appointed him—to serve the Hopewell congregation once again. Pastor Lee’s biblical knowledge, imaginative Youth Yaks, and genuine caring for this church are legendary, and we welcome his return.

“Fisher of men” Lee Cubie presented this Youth Yak in costume—August 31, 2014, in his first year at HUMC.

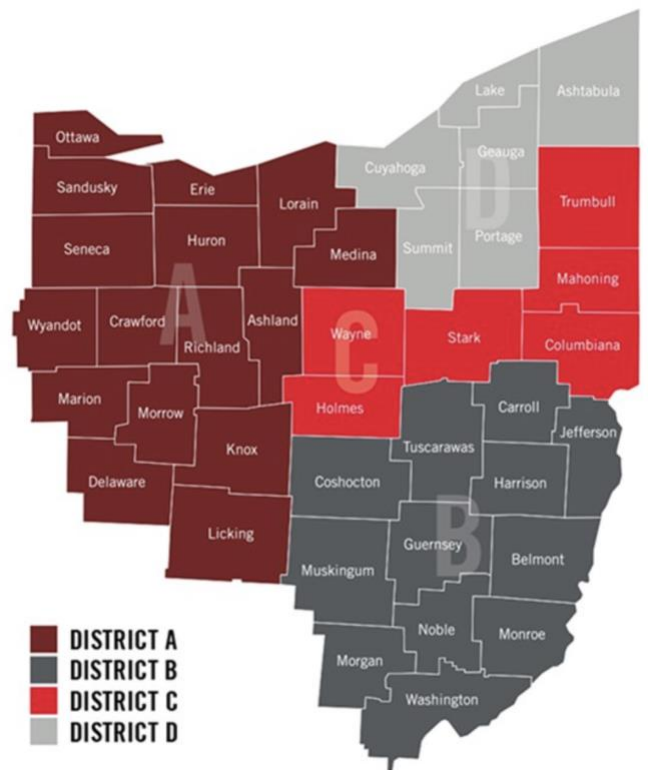


Conference Changes Coming

On 1/1/2024, East Ohio Conference (EOC) of the United Methodist Church is reorganizing to reduce the number of districts from 10 to four. Currently a member of Three Rivers District, Hopewell UMC will become a part of a larger district currently designated ‘A’ on this EOC map.

In a recent message, EOC Bishop Tracy Malone notes:

“We continue to be confident that by reducing the number of districts, remapping the areas of each district, creating a new district leadership structure, and deploying superintendency teams to each district, we will strengthen, support and further the resourcing of pastors, local churches, and faith communities. This restructuring of the districts will also help us provide greater stewardship and alignment of resources. Having four districts instead of 10 will allow for us to re-direct more attention to the local church, provide greater flexibility with resources, generate more opportunity for creative ministries and the possibility for starting fresh expressions and new faith communities.”



District superintendents will be named by October 25, and information on district structure, leadership, office locations, staffing, and more will follow.



History of Hymns: "We Gather Together" – by C. Michael Hawn, distinguished professor of church music at Perkins School of Theology. He is also director of the seminary's sacred music program. Excerpted from UMC Discipleship Ministries, November 2013.

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.* -- United Methodist Hymnal #131

In many American hymnals, "We gather together" appears as a Thanksgiving hymn. Perhaps this is because of the opening line and the general idea that God is with us regardless of our circumstances. However, the hymn speaks more about God's providence throughout the trials of life. The story behind this hymn clarifies its text.

This hymn is a late sixteenth-century expression of celebration of freedom by The Netherlands from Spanish oppression. Like many older hymns, it finds its way to us through a circuitous route. Although listed as an anonymous hymn, some sources indicate that Adrianus Valerious (c. 1575-1625), known for his poems on the Dutch War of Independence from the perspective of a peasant, authored the original text in Dutch. Since making a living as a poet was not possible, Valerious had a prosperous career as the Toll and Customs Controller for Veere, eventually being promoted to Tax Collections and finally appointed to the City Council.

The hymn gained recognition in the United States when it found its way into the hymnal of the Methodist-Episcopal Church in 1935. The popularity increased during World War II when singers connected "the wicked oppressing" to Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. More recently, the "We Gather Together" was featured at the Funeral Mass for Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in 1994.

[The unabridged history by Dr. Hawn can be found at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-we-gather-together1>.]

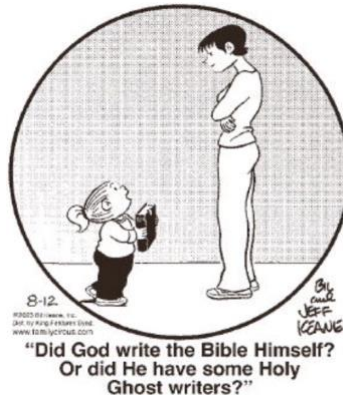
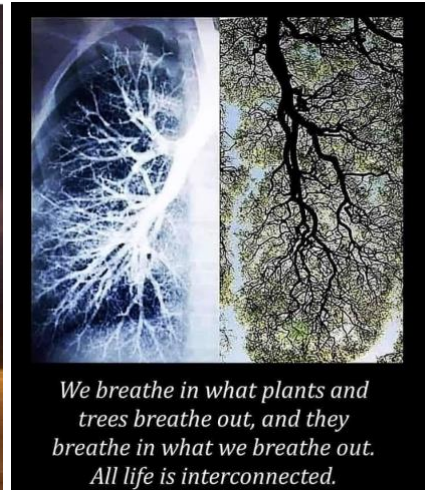
Hopewell Birthdays

October

- 5 Shirley Hughes
- 7 Jade Laymon
- 17 Pete Lawhon
- 18 Beverly Lahmon
- 19 Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
- 22 Elaine Farie

November

- 2 Sarah Lawhon
- 4 Barb Spitzer
- 6 Mo Helser
- 9 Vicki Needham
- 10 Wendy Cedoz
- 15 Sherri Cornwell
- 15 Steve Pottmeyer
- 18 Amelia Wells
- 22 Gary Hughes
- 24 Todd Wells
- 29 Bob Joseph



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October 2023

◀ Sep 2023

Nov 2023 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 -Nat'l Homemade Cookies Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	2 -Nat'l Name Your Car Day	3 -World Temperance Day	4 -World Space Week	5 -World Teachers' Day B'day: Shirley Hughes	6 -Nat'l Body Language Day	7 -Nat'l Frappe Day B'day: Jade Laymon OSU vs Maryland
8 -Nat'l Depression Screening Day 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments	9 Columbus Day Native Americans' Day	10 -World Homeless Day	11 -Nat'l Emergency Nurses' Day	12 -Farmers Day	13 -World Egg Day	14 -Nat'l Fossil Day OSU @Purdue
15 -Nat'l Grouch Day 9:30 Worship	16 -Nat'l Train Your Brain Day	17 -Nat'l Pasta Day B'day: Pete Lawhon	18 -Global Dignity Day B'day: Beverly Laymon	19 -Nat'l New Friends Day B'day: Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe	20 - Nat'l Mammography Day	21 -National Apple Day OSU vs Penn St.
22 -Nat'l Nut Day 9:30 Worship B'day: Elaine Farie	23 -Nat'l Paralegal Day	24 -United Nations Day	25 -Nat'l Art Day	26 -Nat'l I Care About You Day	27 -Nat'l Mentoring Day	28 -Nat'l Make a Difference Day OSU @Wisconsin
29 -Internet Day 9:30 Worship	30 -Nat'l Candy Corn Day	31 Halloween	-Breast Cancer Awareness Month -National Book Month -National Dental Hygiene Month -Bullying Prevention Month -Physical Therapy Month			

November 2023							Dec 2023 ▶
◀ Oct 2023	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 -All Saints' Day	2 -Nat'l Men Make Dinner Day B'day: Sarah Lawhon	3 -Nat'l Homemaker Day	4 -Nat'l Candy Day B'day: Barb Spitzer OSU @Rutgers
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	6 -Nat'l Nachos Day B'day: Mo Helser	7 Election Day	8 -Nat'l STEM/STEAM Day	9 -World Adoption Day B'day: Vicki Needham	10 -Marine Corps B'Day B'day: Wendy Cedoz	11 Veterans Day	OSU vs Mich. St.
12 -World Pneumonia Day 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments	13 -World Kindness Day	14 -Nat'l Pickle Day	15 -Nat'l Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day B'day: Sherri Cornwell B'day: Steve Pottmeyer	16 -Great American Smokeout	17 -Nat'l Take a Hike Day	18 -Nat'l Princess Day B'day: Amelia Wells	OSU vs. Minn.
19 -World Toilet Day 9:30 Worship	20 -Future Teachers of America Day	21 -Nat'l Stuffing Day	22 -Go for a Ride Day B'day: Gary Hughes	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 -Buy Nothing Day B'day: Todd Wells	25 -Small Business Saturday	OSU @Michigan
26 -Nat'l Family Health History Day 9:30 Worship	27 -Cyber Monday	28 -Giving Tuesday	29 - Nat'l Mason Jar Day B'day: Bob Joseph	30 -Nat'l Personal Space Day	-Native American Heritage Month -American Diabetes Month -November (Men's Health Awareness) -Military Family Month -National Adoption Month		

Hopewell United Methodist Church
c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors
12511 Thomas Road
Monroeville, OH 44847

