

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 2023 - January 2024

Pastor's Ponderings – Pastor Lee Cubie (an 'editor's favorite' reprised from April-May 2018.)

What Kind of Church?

What kind of church did God seek to establish when he sent his only begotten Son into the world? What kind of church was Jesus seeking to establish when he confronted the money changers in the temple? What kind of church was Jesus seeking to establish when he was praying to his Father in heaven? What kind of church was Jesus seeking to establish when he healed the leper, the lame, and the deaf, mute, and blind? What kind of church was Jesus seeking to establish when he went from town-to-town teaching in their synagogues?

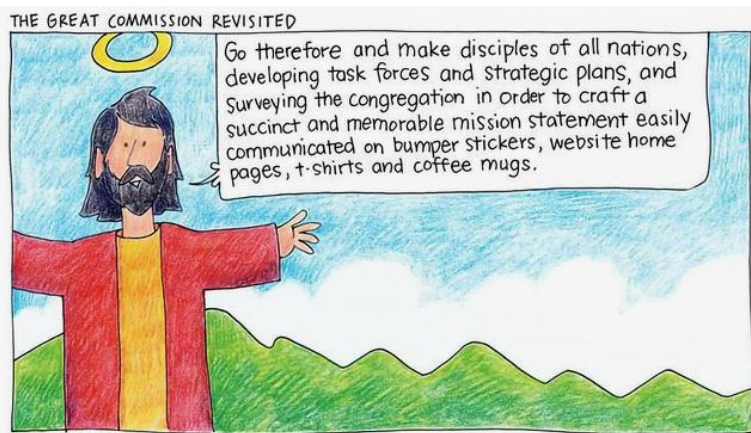


I said, "Take up your cross and follow me."
You gave up potato chips for Lent.

What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he allowed Judas to leave the upper room to betray him? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he allowed himself to be captured? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he allowed himself to be struck by his tormenters? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he allowed himself to be interrogated by the high priest, by Herod, by Pontius Pilate? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he allowed himself to be forced to carry his cross? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he allowed himself to be stripped and nailed to a tree? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he breathed his last? Can you tell me?

What kind of church was his Father establishing when he tore the curtain in two in the Holy of Holies, when he shook the ground and split the rocks, when he darkened the sky, when he opened the graves and resurrected the dead? What kind of church was the Father establishing when he resurrected his Son? Can you tell me? Is it the church we find in the world today?

What kind of church were the Father and the Son establishing when they sent the Holy Spirit into the upper room when the disciples



had gathered to pray? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he struck Paul off of his horse and blinded his eyes? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when he had Ananias risk his life to heal Paul? What kind of church was Jesus establishing when Paul was stoned, in peril from wild animals, floods, and storms? What kind of church are you seeking today?

What kind of church was God establishing in his creation? Are you ready to be that church today?

Wreaths Across America at Hopewell Cemetery – Donna Spinks

After the worship service on December 17 there was a short 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 was followed by laying of wreaths on the graves of 25 veterans in Hopewell cemetery.



This year, special recognition was given to the late Eleanor Sawyer, a Women's Army Corps veteran of WW II.

Eleanor Lillian "Ellie" (Heipertz) Sawyer (23 Mar 1919 - 01 Jun 2018) joined the Women's Army Corp at age 22 and served from 1941-1944. She was a member of the Motor Transport and served overseas for 2½ years in England and France. Memories that she shared were hearing the planes above dropping the bombs. She did not like to hear planes above throughout her life. One of the highlights of her service was that she was assigned to drive General Dwight Eisenhower while serving in France.

Ellie married the love of her life, Robert Sawyer, a World War II Navy veteran. She and Robert were together for more than 65 years, and both are buried at the Veterans Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction. She spent her last years at Colorado Veterans Community in Rifle, Colorado, and was still organizing shuffleboard tournaments and group outings at age 98 and 99.

Ellie Sawyer was the mother of our own Nancy Gore.



Little Johnny asked his grandpa how old he was. Grandpa answered, "39 and holding." Johnny thought for a moment and then said, "And how old will you be if you let go?"
—shared by Julie Britton

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East and West Ohio Conferences Combine – by *The Offices of Communications from the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference, January 24, 2024*



A special-called session of the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) Jurisdictional Conference of The United Methodist Church was held on Tuesday, January 23 “for the sole purpose of approving new episcopal areas for episcopal assignments to be effective September 1, 2024.”

Delegates to this special-called NCJ Jurisdictional Conference voted to form two new episcopal areas, one to include the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference, and one to include the Northern Illinois Conference and the Wisconsin Conference. The two conferences in each new episcopal area will share one bishop.

By the action of the special session, the North Central Jurisdiction will transition from nine to seven episcopal areas. The North Central Jurisdiction Committee on the Episcopacy assigns the bishops to the episcopal areas and all assignments will be announced at the NCJ Jurisdictional Conference July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The new episcopal areas and the bishop assignments to each of the seven episcopal areas will be effective September 1.

Executive staff leaders and members of the Committee on the Episcopacy in both the East Ohio Conference and the West Ohio Conference have been engaged in strategic conversations to explore the sharing of an episcopal leader since the NCJ Committee on the Episcopacy proposed the possibility during the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference.

“I and Bishop Palmer convened a leadership team that has been working to identify the key administrative matters that need to be addressed and to examine the best practices of other episcopal areas where shared episcopal leadership has worked well. This work will continue as we prepare the conferences for this transition,” said Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference [Hopewell’s current conference].

“I am confident the people of the East and West Ohio Conferences are well suited to be served by one bishop with a single eye to living the mission of ‘making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,’” said Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, resident bishop of the West Ohio Conference.



Hopewell Birthdays

February

- 9 Shad Bevington
- 11 Brad Coon
- 11 Amy Yashnyk
- 13 Paul Helser
- 14 Karen Steinmetz
- 18 Leah Gourley

March

- 11 Sam Laymon
- 14 Joanne Purcell
- 18 Penelope Wells
- 21 Audra Cubie

Church Council Meeting Review – summarized from Donna Spinks's Council minutes of 1/7/2024

The Hopewell UM Church Council met after the worship service on January 7. The meeting was called to order by Mickey Gourley with seven members present.

Old Business:

Copies of the 2024 budget, approved by the Council in October 2023, were given to all members present.[...and included in this newsletter.]

New Business:

1. The Committee welcomed Dave Douglas as the incoming Treasurer for the church. Dave will be added to the list of signatures allowing access to the banking account at The Peoples Bank in Gambier. The Church will pay for Dave to attend an OSU Extension class on the use of Quicken financial software , which will be installed on his personal computer to aid in his duties as Treasurer. Phyllis Gourley will remain as Finance Chair.
2. The Council will meet at least quarterly for discussion of business regarding the Church operation. The next Council meeting will be scheduled for May of 2024. Mickey Gourley will assume leadership of Council meetings when the Council Chair (Cary Purcell) is out of town/unavailable.
3. The Church will order a current copy of The United Methodist Book of Discipline for use by the Council. [*Ed. Note: An on-line copy is also available at [https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions.](https://www.cokesbury.com/book-of-discipline-book-of-resolutions-free-versions)]*
4. The Church will donate \$150 each to the Winter Sanctuary of Mount Vernon and to Knox Recovery as part of our ongoing Community Support efforts.
5. Bitsi Gourley will proceed with organizing a winter Bible Study, and the Church will pay for the books required. A TV and DVR will be placed in the Church (at no cost).
6. The Church will commit to Wreaths Across America for December 2024 by January 16 in order to receive a better price for the number of wreaths we will require.
7. The Barnabas Project for college students will be moved to the second week of April instead of the end of February due to Spring Break issues with the students.
8. Phyllis Gourley and Donna Spinks were confirmed as Secretary/Social Secretary for the Church. This position will provide organizing and distribution of our guidelines for community services.
9. Donna Spinks provided a year-end financial report for the Church. At this time, we remain in a financially positive position (income vs. debts). A quarterly report will be provided to the congregation via newsletter.

Discussion:

1. District reorganization (from 10 to four districts) for the East Ohio Conference was discussed. Pastor Lee Cubie noted that Hopewell UMC, formerly part of Three Rivers District, is now in the West Plains District and will be receiving information regarding a new district superintendent this month.
2. Pastor Lee expressed his gratitude to the Council and the Congregation for their continued support to him.

The meeting was adjourned after a prayer of support and guidance by Pastor Lee.

[Complete minutes are available from Donna Spinks, donna@whiteoakfarms.com.]

Community Gifts/Actions for Hopewell United Methodist Church 2023 – Donna Spinks/Phyllis Gourley

In January of 2022, the congregation of Hopewell devised guidelines for the year regarding our contributions to the community and to our friends and family in the church.

In 2023 we completed many of our goals, including the following:

January 2023

- Flowers for Gary Hughes - Hospital
- Meals to Julie Britton (x 3) - Hip Surgery

February 2023

- Barnabas Project for 6 college students
 - Aidan Scott
 - Emma Laymon
 - Macy Helser
 - Seth Lawhon
 - Jessie Gourley
 - Gina Lawhon

March 2023

- Scioto Ridge Boys Concert
- Flowers for Jade Laymon – Foot Surgery

April 2023

- Easter Lilies, Sunrise Service with Brunch

May 2023

- Flowers for Julie Britton– Hospital
- Bibles for Graduating Seniors - Jack Laymon, Lillie Helser, Leah Gourley
- Flags for Veterans placed – Memorial Day

August 2023

- Flowers for Linda Joseph – Surgery
- Love Offering for Burke family.
- Memorial for Cary Purcell's Mother – Helen to Notre Dame
- School Supplies for Dan Emmett Elementary School

October 2023

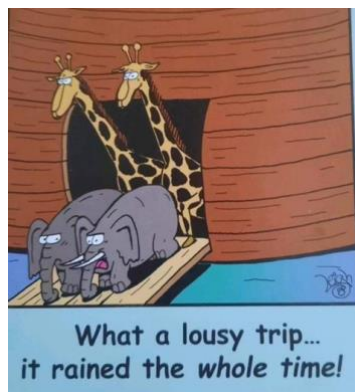
- Surprise birthday party for Bev Lahmon

November 2023

- Placed flags for Veterans Day
- Donation to Knox Recovery
- Donation to Winter Sanctuary

December 2023

- Wreaths Across America Dec 17, 2023
- Trim-a-tree at church with silent auction and potluck Dec 10, 2023 (\$1,004 received)
- Christmas Eve Service



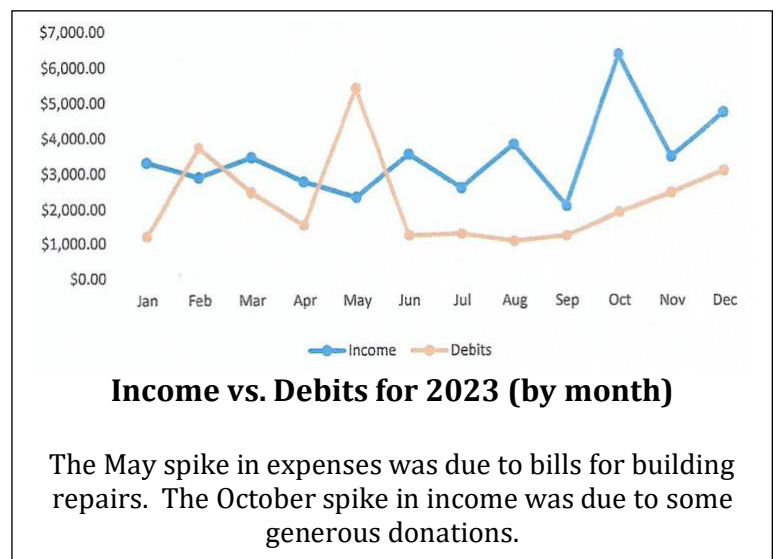
Budget for Hopewell 2024 – shared by Donna Spinks; approved by Council in Sep 2023

		Expenses
Bills and Utilities	Electric	\$750.00
	Gas	\$1,500.00
	Cosby Heating and Cooling	\$200.00
	On Site Sanitation	\$700.00
	Water	\$150.00
Annual Audit		125.00
Special Programs	Bibles for Seniors	\$75.00
	Donations	\$750.00
	Flowers	\$250.00
	Pastor Christmas gift	\$150.00
Apportionments		\$6,000.00
Piano/Music	Weekly pianist	\$2,600.00
	Piano tuning	\$150.00
Church Supplies		\$500.00
Church Cleaning		\$800.00
Safe Deposit Box		\$17.50
Pastor Expenses	Pastor Sub	\$1,000.00
	Pastor Salary	\$15,320.00
	Pastor Expenses	\$1,500.00
Taxes		\$36.00
Worker's Comp		\$127.00
Church Insurance		\$1,500.00
Budget for 2024		\$34,225.50



Year End Financial Report Jan 2023-Dec 2023

Operating Funds	
Checking Account	\$39,138.47
General Savings Account	\$5,050.48
General Fund CD	\$47,817.26
General Fund CD	\$26,733.91
Sub-Total	\$11,8740.12
Building Funds	
Building Fund CD	\$5,871.16
Building Fund Savings	\$15,209.08
Sub-Total	\$21,080.24
Total Finances	\$139,820.36



Trim-a-Tree/Potluck – December 6



Above: Buyers survey the many auction items before placing their bids.

Below: The attendees were entertained by the patter and humor of the auctioneer, and they generously bid over \$1000 in the auction.



Auctioneer Mick Gourley (Santa hat) was assisted by ringmen Mickey Gourley (right) and Adam.



Many people reject Jesus
because of bad experiences
with religious people.

But here's the thing...Jesus had
bad experiences with religious
people, too.

In fact, they killed him.

People will let you down.

Jesus won't.



February 2024

◀ Jan 2024

Mar 2024 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 -Nat'l Dark Chocolate Day	2 Groundhog Day -Play Your Ukelele Day	3 -Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
4 -Stuffed Mushroom Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	5 -Nat'l Weatherpersons Day	6 -Lame Duck Day	7 -Send a Card to a Friend Day	8 -Laugh and Get Rich Day	9 -Bagel and Lox Day B'day: Shad Bevington	10 -Umbrella Day
11 Super Bowl -Make a Friend Day 9:30 Worship/Refreshments B'day: Amy Yashnyk B'day: Brad Coon	12 -Darwin Day	13 Shrove Tuesday -World Radio Day B'day: Paul Heiser	14 Ash Wednesday -Library Lovers Day -Lincoln's birthday B'day: Karen Steinmetz	15 -Gumdrop Day	16 -Do a Grouch a Favor Day	17 -Random Act of Kindness Day
18 -Battery Day 9:30 Worship B'day: Leah Gourley	19 Presidents Day	20 -Nat'l Cherry Pie Day	21 -Nat'l Sticky Bun Day	22 -Be Humble Day Washington's Birthday	23 -Int'l Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day	24 -World Sword Swallowers Day
25 -Nat'l Clam Chowder Day 9:30 Worship	26 -Pistachio Day	27 -No Brainer Day	28 -Public Sleeping Day	29 -Leap Day	American Heart Month Nat'l Cancer Prevention Month Nat'l Cherry Month Nat'l Bird Feeding Month Nat'l Weddings Month	

March 2024							Apr 2024 ▶
◀ Feb 2024	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 -World Compliment Day	2 -Old Stuff Day
3 -I Want You to Be Happy Day 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	4 -March Forth and Do Something Day	5 -Cinco de Marcho	6 -Dentists Day	7 -Alexander Graham Bell Day	8 Int'l. Women's Day -Proofreading Day	9 -Nat'l Barbie Day	
10 DST Begins -Int'l Wig Day 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	11 -Oatmeal Nut Waffle Day B'day: Sam Laymon	12 -Alfred Hitchcock Day	13 -Jewel Day	14 -Pi Day B'day: Joanne Purcell	15 -Everything You Think Is Wrong Day	16 -Everything You Think Is Right Day	
17 St Patrick's Day -Submarine Day 9:30 Worship	18 -Awkward Moments Day B'day: Penelope Wells	19 Start of Spring -Let's Laugh Day	20 -Proposal Day	21 -Common Courtesy Day B'day: Audra Cubie	22 -Int'l Goof Off Day	23 -Puppy Day	
24 Palm Sunday -Chocolate Covered Raisins Day 9:30 Worship	25 Earth Hour -Eat a Waffle Day	26 -Make Up Your Own Holiday Day	27 -Spanish Paella Day	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday -Smoke and Mirrors Day	30 -Take a Walk in the Park Day	
31 Easter -Bunson Burner Day 7 AM Sunrise service 8 AM Breakfast 9 AM Worship	International Ideas Month Nat'l Caffeine Awareness Month Nat'l Celery Month Nat'l Frozen Food Month						

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



Please note: If you wish to discontinue receiving the Hopewell newsletter by mail or electronically, please contact the editors at 614-565-1102 or rjoseph4@columbus.rr.com.