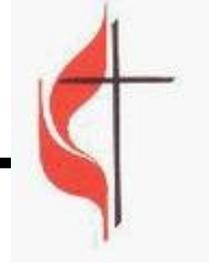
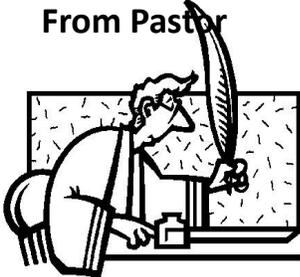


HOPE GOOD NEWS

February 2018



From Pastor



Each of us has a role to play and every role is important.

There is no small service to God, it all matters. Every ministry matters, because we are all dependent on each other to function. Mother Teresa once said, *“Holy living consists in doing God’s work with a smile.”* Jesus taught that spiritual maturity is never an end in itself. Maturity is for ministry! We grow up in order to give out.

Every Christ-follower has a ministry. You were created to *add* life on earth, not just take from it. God wants you to give something back. It is called your *“ministry.”* When most people hear *“ministry,”* they think of pastors, priests, and professional clergy, but God says every member of His family is a minister. In the Bible, the words *servant* and *minister* are synonyms as are *serve* and *ministry*. If you are a Christian, you are a minister, and when you’re serving you’re ministering.

It is not enough to keep learning more and more. We must act on what we know and practice what we claim to believe. The mature follower of Jesus stops asking, *“Who’s going to meet my needs?”* and starts asking, *“Whose needs can I meet?”* Do you ever ask that question? If you aren’t serving, you’re just existing, because life is meant for ministry.

If you don’t make your unique contribution to the Body of Christ, it won’t be made. If you only serve when it’s convenient for you, you’re not a real servant. Real servants do what’s needed, even when it’s inconvenient. Are you available to God anytime? Can He mess up your plans without you becoming resentful? Servants finish their tasks, fulfill their responsibilities, keep their promises, and complete their commitments.

Servants think about their work; not what others are doing. They don’t compare, criticize, or compete with other servants or ministries. They’re too busy doing the work God has given them. Any time spent criticizing others is time that could be spent ministering.

I often observe a few tired and faithful servants doing a great deal of work while others just go their way hardly even realizing that there are tasks that need to be done. Where do you serve?

You can become involved by doing the following:

1. Ask God to show you where you can make a contribution and then talk this over with me and I will help you find a place to serve.
2. Look around and see who is working on some unnoticed task and offer to help. You may have to offer more than once because some volunteers will hardly be able to believe their ears.
3. Go on a thank you hunt to find people serving and give them a word of gratitude.

There is so much joy in serving that I want you to join with the others who have uncovered the secret benefits of giving their lives away in ministry!

Pastor Scott



CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of December Financial Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 30,657

December Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 21,932

December Ministry Fund Expenses: \$ -24,788

December Shortfall: \$ -2,856

Thank you for your faithful giving during 2017. All bills for 2017 have been paid. This includes paying **100%** of our 2017 Ministry Shares (formerly known as Apportionments) which totaled \$40,361.

December Project Hope Donations Allocation

\$ 827 Mission Support

\$1,245 Small Groups

\$1,245 Capital Improvements

\$5,010 Mortgage

\$8,457 Total Project Hope 2.0 Donations

2017 Giving Statements

Annual Giving Statements were emailed, printed and distributed mid-January. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact the office at 269-663-5321 x 6 and leave a message for Dawn.



**Camp Sunday
February 11th**

Dan from Crystal Springs will be here to talk about the different options for summer camps. He is bringing down the pedal cars for the kids to play with too!

**CRAFT NIGHT
Friday, February 2**



Craft night is coming on Friday, February 2, from 6PM- Midnight. Bring your favorite project and be inspired by the work that others are crafting. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. Friends are always welcome.

We're collecting funds and items for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry, if anyone would like to make a donation.



**Coming Home
Servant Evangelism Project**

Thank you to everyone that helped fill bags and also those who came out on Friday after the Coming Home game to help distribute the 100 "Winter Survival" bags to the community.

What a great way to show the town that Hope cares.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

FEBRUARY 14



TOM REA	2/01
JOYCE WARD	2/02
LYDIA GOULD	2/03
JUSTIN ROSS	2/03
NANCY LOOTENS	2/04
BREENA MAPLES	2/05
KELLY MORTIMER	2/05
FLORENCE GORDON	2/05
CHUCK ORTH	2/05
MARY CATHLEEN JONES	2/06
BENTLEY CARLYLE	2/07
JORGE MORTIMER	2/08
PATTY JOHNSON	2/09
SAMUEL DeYOUNG	2/10
NORMA BOONE	2/10
JASON UDELL	2/10
KELLY DUIS	2/13
BARBARA A MORGAN	2/13
BETTY BRADY	2/13
JILL GARDNER KAYNER	2/15
BUTCH BARTELS	2/15
MIKE BOWMAN	2/16
SUE BURKS	2/17
CAITLIN WYANT	2/17
CALIANA MANFRED	2/18
CHASE MANFRED	2/18
JON BLOUGH	2/18
BERNICE PELMEAR	2/20
ERIC NORMAN	2/24
BRONWYN TAFUNAI	2/25
HEAVEN GRISSINGER	2/26
SANDY RYDER	2/26



NANCY & LAMAR STUMP	2/03
DELLA & DENNIS HOLDREAD	2/04
SHARYN & JAMES SNYDER	2/21
MARJE & TOM REA	2/23
SUSIE & DAVID HENDRICKS	2/28

SHUT-IN PRAYERS

Those Hope members listed below are restricted to home or nursing facility. The term shut-in reflects that their condition warrants "shut inside" or not able to leave the home on a regular basis. Should you have additional people to add to the list please call



the church at 269-663-5321 Ext. 2.

Please remember these people in prayer: John Berg, Betty Crowel, Bob Fuller, Adah Goodhand, Sherry Leininger, Gene Proctor.

Keep our Service People in Prayer

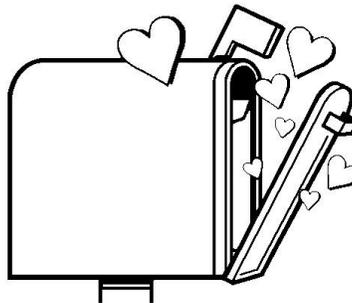
Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Matt Bowman, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chaput, Dean Karl Clark, Jonathan Ditson, James Galloway, Justin Gerou, Dakota Kizer, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Josh Mamer, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Matt Rentfrow, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.



Christmas Eve Offering



Thank you for your generous Christmas Eve Donations. Heifer International is receiving \$504 to support their mission to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. The remaining \$504 will be used in our Benevolence Fund to help local families with counseling, utility assistance and gasoline vouchers.



JEFF & CARIN
3592 Windsor Woods Dr.
Wayland, MI 49348

LEADERSHIP TEAM –January, 2018



The meeting was started with Pastor Scott asking if any had found their word for the year. Some shared their word and scripture that went with it.

Pastor Scott presented a report on his and the staff’s plans for upcoming events. He also distributed an updated wedding policy for input.

The positions for the Leadership Team were approved:
 Chairperson/Pastor Parish Team Liaison: Bonnie Morgan
 Vice Chair:

Property Team Liaison: Jim Ralph

Finance Team Liaison: Sabrina English

Members at Large: Brant Campanaro, Corey Sheets, Diane Seifert, Bill Fahey, one opening

Lay Member to Annual Conference/Secretary: Marti Bartels

Pastor Scott Otis -non voting

The teams are:

Finance-Sabrina English, Diane Seifert, opening

Property- Jim Ralph, Brant Campanaro, Corey Sheets

Pastor Parish- Bonnie Morgan, Bill Fahey, Marti Bartels

The LT approved using Memorial funds to pay for the new furnace. **THANK YOU** to Ted Mansell for installing it.

Approved the distribution of Project Hope 2.0 funds:

Local, Conference & Global Mission	10%	\$ 957.00*
Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities	58%	\$5010.00
Developing small Groups	16%	\$1245.00
Capital Improvements	16%	<u>\$1245.00</u>
		Balance \$8457.00

*LCGM has extra to make up for November 2017 shortage

DECEMBER 31 UGLY SWEATER CONTEST WINNERS



10AM service: JOHN LAMIE



8:30 service:
 SUSIE EDGERTON

When **GOD** is in control

Today when I don't feel like getting out or bed.

Yesterday when I slide to work on the icy roads.

When I met a stranger at the drive up window.

The day my dad died in my arms in the woods.

As I started school; found it hard to make friends.

When I was the last one picked to be on a team.

After school doing farm chores, milking, feeding.

When my grandpa hung himself in my uncle's garage.

As I studied to get good grades in college for a job.

A teacher, a bus driver who always found wrong.

A job that ended with the company consolidation.

When I got my thumb broken by the plow swivel.

The day I joined the Army service for my country.

My first car accident and the bruises it brought.

My first back surgery and the difficult recovery.

Life's daily pains and troubles, many bring on tears.

My first love and OH!! how my heart leaped in joy.

Baby nieces and nephews curling up on my lap.

My daughter giving me a huge hug and a soft kiss

The joy in my dad of my first new John Deere tractor

At 47, the day I married Deb and started a new life

At 49 when I accepted Jesus into my mind and heart.

Lasting friends I've made over these many (74) years.

A conversation with Jesus at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Every day through the good days and the bad days.

Sharing my burdens and celebrating my joyous moments.

Lifting me up when I get tired and feeling in a bad mood.

Giving me HOPE when all hope seemed distant and lost.

Offering me free will to choose life or death for eternity.

I chose life and the promise of a heavenly eternal joy.

Eternity with no heartache, pain, no sorrow, no troubles.

Jesus, may I sit at your table and share with you?

Even though it doesn't seem that God is still in control

when life's trials come, we need to keep Faith in the

promise that God will turn it all into good for us and

cherish the blessings He gives.

—Deb and Tony Lang.

“Though our feelings come and go,
God's love for us does not.”

C. S. Lewis



Bi-Annual Rummage Sale

It is the year for "The Largest Church Rummage Sale in the Area!!". This is the year for us to do it again!! In the past several years, Hope's rummage sale has grown to be by far the largest in the area. In 2016, we literally completely filled Reese Hall with awesome donations and raised thousands of dollars for the church.

A confirmed date in April or May will be coming shortly. Please mark your calendars and start your spring cleaning with the sale in mind. We can sell just about anything from clothes, furniture, books, decorations, tools, electronics (no older large TVs please), crafts, and bikes.

The sale will be set up starting on the Sunday before the sale, when donations can start to be dropped off, through Wednesday. Selling will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If we get enough response, we will also have a bake sale, which is a favorite of our shoppers.

Stay tuned for more info and make plans to donate and shop!!

PICK/SHARE BOOK CLUB, January 2018

Two of us met at LaPlace in Edwardsburg for lunch and shared a chicken salad croissant which was delicious. We hope that the holiday book display in the hallway was enjoyed by our reading friends in December and January. We're happy that small books were taken as gifts from the specially labeled baskets. Remember, our checkout system is the "honor system." No need to write down or check out the books. Just return them to the book box by the Community Room.

Bonnie read White Christmas Pie by Wanda E Brunstetter. Step into Amish Country for this holiday romance. Will Henderson and Karen Yoder are looking for answers. Add a desperate father searching for his son, and you have all the ingredients for an inspirational romance. Bonnie also read Capital Gains: Smart Things I learned Doing Stupid Stuff by Chip Gaines. It's the honest and often humorous account of Chip's personal journey, in both business and in life. There's a chance you will find something you need in the book too. Ask Bonnie if you can borrow it.

Marti finished reading Bad Girls of the Bible, by Liz Curtis Higgs. Monday night Bible study is beginning Higgs' book in January. They will surely enjoy Liz's insights to well-known women of the Bible. Another book by Higgs is The Women of Christmas. It presents a fresh look at Mary, Elizabeth and Anna, women of the Christmas season.



Just a gentle reminder that donated books need historically well-known authors or biographies. They appear to be especially appropriate for teen or pre-teens.

to be current within a decade, unless they are There were two more books that were donated to

The One Year Book of Devotions for Kids 2 is a collection of stories designed for kids, but can be used easily by the whole family. Bible Humor Top Seven Lists with Jokes, One-liners, Riddles, Ecclesiastical Guffaws, and Other Scripture Snickers by Dave Veerman and Rich Anderson. If you aren't careful, you may learn a few things about the Bible as you laugh your way through the puns, stories, etc.

Another book that will hold teen, as well as adult, interest is Thin Places, by Bob Laurent. It is a well written adventure with two teenager heroes. The setting is South Bend with many references to local sites in our community. Laurent was teaching pastor at Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana and is now a full time free-lance writer. "Thin places" is a Celtic term for a spot where the distance between heaven and earth collapses. Most thin places are homes where God is loved, and those are all over our world.

We hope you can join us at 11:30 for our **next meeting** at Hope UMC, **Wednesday February 15, 2018**. We'd love to share with you, too.

INFLATABLE EXTRAVAGANZA!

Many thanks to all our volunteers! We could not have had such a successful event without you!



We saw an average of over 100 kids everyday of our 6 day event!

Family Bingo Night



Sunday March 4th



6:00pm-8:00pm

Here at *Hope* of Edwardsburg





Congratulations to Bill Fahey for winning 1st place in our Soup Cook Off on January 14!

Bill won with his recipe for “Easy Crock Pot Jalapeno Poppers Chicken Soup”.

Bill has shared his winning recipe with us, here it is...

Ingredients:

- 3 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 2 Tablespoons of Taco Seasoning
- 2 fresh Jalapenos seeded and chopped
- ¼ of an onion, chopped
- 2 cans of white great northern beans
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup of water (or chicken stock)
- ½ lb of bacon (save 3 pieces for toppings)
- 1 8oz container of cream cheese
- 1 fresh jalapeno chopped and reserved for topping



Instructions:

- Place the chicken in the bottom of the crock pot.
- Sprinkle salt, pepper, and taco seasoning on top.
- Pour in jalapenos, onions, beans, soup, and water.
- Stir and combine.
- Cook on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours.
- Remove chicken and shred. Add chicken back to crockpot.
- Cube up the cream cheese and stir in the crock pot and allow to melt.
- Meanwhile fry up your bacon and chop.
- Stir in most of the bacon (leaving some for topping).
- Time to eat! Serve with some fun toppings like cheddar cheese, more jalapenos, and more bacon!

Prep Time: 10 minutes

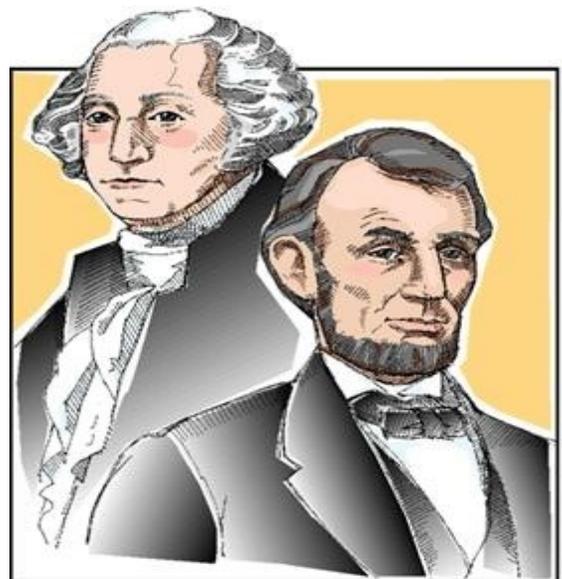
Cook Time: 6 hours

THIS WILL BE SWEET!



FEBRUARY 11TH WILL BE OUR NEXT
SERVANT EVANGELISM PROJECT!

MORE DETAILS TO COME...



PRESIDENTS' DAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

