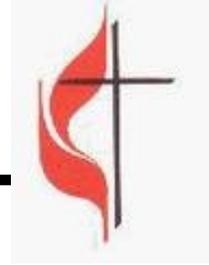


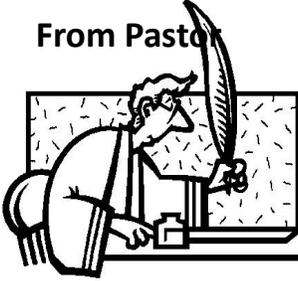
HOPE GOOD NEWS

January 2018



From Pastor

It is great to launch 2018 together at Hope Church.



My prayer is that 2018 will be a year of growth. Growth in love, growth in numbers of worshipers and most of all growth in personal and corporate devotion to Jesus.

Someone asked me not long ago, "Why don't most believers grow in maturity in Christ?" I want to share some positive solutions. But, first, let me give you a couple of common reasons people don't grow.

They don't examine the direction of their lives on a regular basis. God told the ancient Jews to never skip over this important practice. "Let us look closely at our ways and examine them and then return to the Lord." (Lamentations 3:40) Maybe you have recently had a check-up at the doctor's office. When have you given yourself a spiritual check-up?

They don't feed on God's Word on a regular basis. Once again, all of what we need to thrive spiritually is already in the Bible. "People need more than bread for their life; real life comes by feeding on every word of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3) How many meals have you missed this week? How many days have you gone without reading the Bible?

They don't apply and practice what they learn. Anyone who listens to the Word and takes no action is like someone who looks in the mirror...and goes off and immediately forgets it. But anyone who ...puts it into practice will be blessed. (James 1:23-25) I'm reminded of a story I heard about an overweight man who bought a book on diet and exercise and memorized major portions of it. But he never put one idea into practice. Guess what happened. Nothing. Study without service leads to arrogance.

They don't pass on to others that they may know Christ. I like the way the Message paraphrase says 1 Peter 2:9 "...you are God's instruments to do his work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night and day difference he made for you."

They don't take full advantage of opportunities set before them. "Redeem the time because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:16) Time is precious, but it's one thing we all have exactly the same amount of. We are the ones who decide how to use it.

If you only took out the trash once per month, what would your house smell like? That's what happens to us when we do not have a plan for spiritual growth. Sin stagnates in us and every part of our life is affected.

As we grow we will live out our mission, "to make disciples for the transformation of the world." To make disciples requires that we are disciples. Do any of these "don'ts" apply to you? Will you make Hope a spiritually strong place by doing your own check-up and begin to take some initiative for your own growth? There are many ways you can initiate growth. You can:

- pick up your Bible and begin
- make a commitment to come to church regularly
- develop a stronger prayer life
- start tithing
- join or create a small group

What's the next step for you? Don't lose time.

-Scott





Dear Hope Family-

This Christmas we received more cards than ever! And many of you signed fabric that Marita, Sabrina and Robin made into a beautiful quilt for us. We feel very loved through these special efforts. Thank you!

Since Jeff had surgery (Dec. 18) to get a feeding tube, he's gained about five very-needed pounds. We're pleased with how this is progressing and now we're on to solve the chronic sinus problem he's had since late Aug.

Our family of six gathered to celebrate Christmas with homemade gifts. The best gift though is being together.

We thank you for your thoughtfulness and prayers. Our hearts are with you always. We wish you God's comfort and peace in 2018.

~Carin and Jeff

Stuff A Bus Thank You!

THANK YOU to all who supported Stuff a Bus in December by donating and collecting items! Thirty-five volunteers helped collect items. We stuffed half the bus with food and toys for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry Christmas Distribution in just one evening! We were able to raise a grand total of \$ 4,953.61 for the Food Pantry. This includes \$2,720 from the matching dollars through the Meijer Simply Give program.



Special thanks to Zimmie's, Fireside, Edwardsburg Marathon, Dollar General and Papa's Pizza for allowing us to collect donations at their businesses. Thanks also to Niles Community Credit Union for letting us use their parking lot and Edwardsburg schools for providing the bus!



KEITH RUSSELL	01/01
COHEN AHRENS	01/01
CYNTHIA WADE	01/02
EDI MURRAY	01/04
MARIA MARTINEZ	01/05
PENNY FRIES	01/05
MAX MASTEN	01/05
SHEILA GEROU	01/07
LISA SCHMIDT	01/08
JOE FAHEY	01/09
GARY OWENS	01/10
JACKIE BIGGS	01/11
JULIE HARTIN	01/12
JUDY DENEMARK	01/12
CARLEE BURGER	01/13
CAROL PETERS	01/14
MICHELLE GRUVER	01/15
PAM CHAPMAN	01/16
NANCY HOFFMAN	01/16
TONY MANFRED	01/16
TRENT BERLIN	01/17
CONNIE HEBRON	01/17
MICHELE GORDON	01/18
JESSIE (KAY) GILBERT	01/18
ISABELLE HIGLEY	01/19
MARGE HANSON	01/19
DAVION SCHMUCKER	01/19
KEN BISHOP	01/19
DAN BOONE	01/19
COURTNEY HARTING	01/20
LEIGH ANN HARTING	01/20
EMILY BUSSEN	01/20
BOB FULLER	01/20
RENE DeYOUNG	01/20
BAILEY WEAVER	01/21
CARLEIGH WANKE	01/21
SHERRY SAYLES	01/21
CARIN REESE	01/23
AL ROSEBUSH	01/23
PHYLLIS BANGHART	01/24
ZACK SCHMUCKER	01/25
ANNA REA	01/27
LISA STRONG	01/27
DEBRA PURVIS	01/29
BETTY SERAFINO	01/29
ZOEY ROUCH	01/30
LOUISE BARNUM	01/31
GLENYCE BENTZER	01/31



BETTY & CARMEN SERAFINO	01/02
BONNIE & BOB KNIGHT	01/20
LAURA & COREY SHEETS	01/27
MARGE & BRUCE NURTON	01/28

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.

FINANCES

Month of November Financial Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 30,657

November Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 26,919

November Ministry Fund Expenses: \$ -28,707

November Shortfall: \$ -1,788

Keep our Service People in Prayer



HONORING Our ARMED FORCES

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.

2018 GIVING ENVELOPES/ ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS



If you would like a package of pre-numbered weekly giving envelopes for 2018, please request them on the back of your connection card in the

weekly bulletin. You may also contact the office at 269-663-5321 x 6 and leave a message for Dawn.

If you would like to make your donation to Hope automatic, please sign up for **Electronic Giving**. Donations come out automatically from your checking account, debit card or credit card weekly or monthly. You can set up your own secure account through our website: <http://www.hope-umc.us> by clicking on the green Online Giving button.

If you need some help getting set up, Dawn would be happy to help you at 269-663-5321 x6 between 9:00 and 2:00 on Monday and Wednesday.

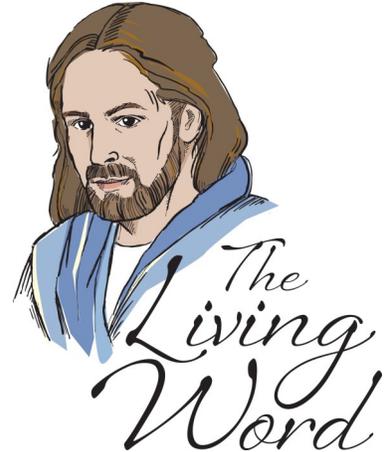
CRAFT NIGHT

Craft night is coming on Friday, January 6, 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.



DID YOU SEE JESUS TODAY?



When I awoke, opened my eyes, turned on the light.
 When I got dressed with the clothes He gave me.
 When I looked outside and saw the bright sunlight.
 When I looked at my wife's face and saw His Love.
 When I opened the door and heard the birds sing.
 When I sat down and prepared breakfast for today.
 When I stepped out and felt the warmth of the sun.
 When I headed off to work and saw the beautiful sky.
 When I did God's labor and accomplished His task.
 When I awaited Sunday morning to ready my Spirit.
 When I arrived at church and greeted God's people.
 When I heard God's word and let it into my heart.
 When I fellowshiped at lunch with friends He gave.
 When I sat down for supper and ate Jesus's food.
 When I relaxed in my chair and read God's words.
 When I reflected on this day, my Faith was renewed.
 When I kissed my wife goodnight and felt His Peace.
 When I heard His voice as I prepared for evening rest.
 When I lay down my head to rest and feel His Grace.
 When I sleep He gives me new strength for a new day.
 When I've missed so much He wanted me to see,
 He still Loves me.
 When I've not done all He wanted me to do,
 He still Loves me.
 When I waiver from His path and follow my own,
 He still Loves me.
 When I was gently guided back on God's path,
 He still Loves me.
 When I awake again may my heart seek Jesus.
 May all I say and do, be done for Jesus my Lord.

Our prayer is you, too, will see Jesus today.

Genesis 1 vs 31
 Deb and Tony Lang