

HOPE GOOD NEWS

July 2017

And so, we begin...

After the land sat fallow, after a time of wondering, after waiting on the Spirit we begin together. God lead us to Edwardsburg to give, to love, and to share life.

The start matters in a race. Start too slow and you will never reach your goal. Start too fast and you will find yourself panting on the sidelines. This race is not for trophies or even a participation medal. It is our life together.

Clearly an effective race requires other runners to push you, pit crews to offer refreshments and crowds, oh, the crowd matters, too. I am a runner...mostly a slow runner, but I run. In my first marathon (a 26.2 race of insanity) I hit the wall. It was mile 24, and I was done. When the race began I set off to run 26.2 miles, not 24. I kept moving, one painful step after another. Then I saw it, a sign by some unassuming spectator that read, *"Today, you are my hero."* I wondered, are you talking to me? I mean what kind of hero walks when the steps begin to hurt? I started to weep. That race represented my life. It was such a long run but I knew I couldn't even be my own hero if I didn't get it in gear. So, I began to jog, then run. I almost gave up again at mile 25.75 and there was another sign the read, *"Remember you paid for this."* I **HAD** paid indeed, \$100.00 to enter the race, \$300.00 for equipment and hours upon hours of preparation and pain. I completed the race that for 30 years I never thought I could run. When I crossed the finish line I vowed *never again*. Sixty minutes later I asked, *"When is the next race?"*

When I said I was going to run a marathon almost everyone I knew asked, *"Why?"* I had no answer then and still don't know today. All I know for sure is I must keep running until I complete the race set out before me. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, "In a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize. Run in such a way as to get the prize...do it to get a crown that will last forever.

As we begin our race together, as pastor and parishioner, my only question is *will you run this race with me?* Join me by...

1. **Praying** for me for my wife, Carrie, and for Hope Church. We need God's power, ours isn't enough.
2. Faithfully **attending** services each Sunday. We need each other.
3. **Serving** on a team at Hope.
4. **Digging** into God's Word and **seeking** God's direction for your life.
5. (And this is the hardest of all) **trusting** me.
6. **Join me**...because this race is just beginning and it is too important to miss.

And so, we begin with everything we need— super wife, amazing staff, wise leaders and a God who never leaves or forsakes us. Where does this all end? Who knows? But it will be exciting to go there together.

Your servant and brother in Christ,

Pastor Scott
(616) 307-9765



Pastor Scott and Carrie

FROM THE REESE FAMILY . . .

Looking out on all your faces Saturday was one of the most Spirit-filled sights I have ever experienced. Painted across the audience was a visual representation of the love and faithfulness that God has shown us through the community of Edwardsburg. Thank you all for welcoming us into your hearts, loving us, and forever being a part of who I am. The people of Hope United Methodist Church have changed my life, each one of you has left a mark and will be forever loved. Thank you for being my friends, my loved ones, and my family. ~Casey Reese



Above: The Tony and Shelly Frost family. Baby Brantley and dad Tony were baptized on Sunday, May 28.

Our words for the party you all gave us are **OVERWHELMED BY LOVE!** Seeing all your loving faces was heart-filling. It was difficult for us not to talk and touch each of you, but we absolutely **LOVED** being in your midst!

Thank you to everyone who worked to make the event very special and to all of you who attended. If you weren't there, know that we missed you.

We plan on checking in with you occasionally. There's a lot more faithful work our God has for the people of Hope to complete. Thank you for your love and faithfulness. You are an unforgettable church family!

Always together in Christ - Carin and Jeff



VOLUNTEERS are needed for the Mega Camp in August. We are looking for 1 head coach for Soccer and 1 teacher for young builders (LEGOS).

We need a lot of people to be crew leaders; you will either be an assistant coach or teacher's aide depending on the activities of the day. **MEGA KIDS CAMP** is for children Kindergarten-5th grade. **MEGA KIDS CAMP** will run the 1st three Sundays in August from 2-5pm. We ask that all volunteers be here from 1:30-5:30 for set up and clean up.

August 6 activities are Soccer, Young Builders or Martial Arts. August 13 activities are Football, Cheer or Painting. August 20 activities are Basketball, Dance or Cooking. 2-3 volunteers are also needed for snack duty. No experience is necessary!

We are also looking for crew leaders to help Corey Sheets at the **MEGA PRESCHOOL CAMP**. Kids will be introduced to all the daily activities above plus games, crafts and more! **MEGA PRESCHOOL CAMP** is for ages 3-5.

Please contact Tiffany Manfred @ 269-663-5321 Ext. 7 or tiffany.manfred@hope-umc.us



Birthdays & Anniversaries

ZACHARY STRYCKER	7/02
PAIGE MOLER	7/03
LYNN STRAKA	7/03
GEORGE LOOTENS SR	7/04
GEORGE LOOTENS JR	7/04
KATHY FULLER	7/05
LAURA SHEETS	7/05
TOMMY HARRIS	7/06
DICK BAUGHER	7/07
SCOTT GIPSON	7/08
TED MANSELL	7/08
CLARA BREITKREITZ	7/09
NATALIE FRENTZ	7/11
SHIRLEY FARKAS	7/12
NANCY STUMP	7/12
PAULA KENDALL	7/13
LEIGH GOYINGS	7/13
PENELOPE CREAGER	7/13
BILL HILL	7/13
DACIA KIRKLAND	7/13
DELANEY PETERS	7/15
SAM BROOMELL	7/16
JUDY CHRISTNER	7/16
CASIMIR SMITH	7/17
ARVILLA PONTIUS	7/18
JOHN A WARD SR	7/18
ROGER MAHNSMITH	7/18
AUSTIN CLINE	7/18
CARL BURGER	7/19
BILL GRIFFIN	7/19
SABRINA ENGLISH	7/19
BRIAN WEAVER	7/21
TOM REA JR.	7/21
BILL REED	7/23
NANCY TURNER	7/23
KIM BURGER	7/24
SANDY MYERS	7/24
JEFF D JOHNSON	7/24
NANCY VIRGIL	7/24
JUDY COROS	7/25
JIM CHAPMAN	7/25
LINDA MASTEN	7/25
ELAINE RICHARDSON	7/27
GARY BUSSEN	7/28
BRANTLEY FROST	7/29
COREY SHEETS	7/29
NETTIE RUSSELL	7/30
ABIGAIL LaPORTE	7/30
TAFU TAFUNAI	7/31

ROCHELLE & BILL DOLDE	7/02
JO & BILL MACUMBER	7/02
JACKIE & DANIEL BOONE	7/02
MARGI & DAVE HERMAN	7/03
PAULA & JIM RALPH	7/06
NANCY & JEFF VIRGIL	7/06
CHARLOTTE & GEORGE LOOTENS SR	7/08
MARGE & JIM HANSON	7/09
PENNY & ERIC FRIES	7/11
DONNA & TED MANSELL	7/12
ROSE & BRIAN WEAVER	7/16
TERRI & SCOTT GIPSON	7/18
SHARON & TAFU TAFUNAI	7/19
KAREN & BILL REED	7/28
MARTI & BUTCH BARTELS	7/29
DOROTHY & KEN BISHOP	7/30

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: Nick & Barbara Armstrong, John Berg, Carol Brough, Betty Crowel, Bob Fuller, Adah

Goodhand, Pat Harris, Sherry Leininger, Arvilla Pontius, 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, Alyssa Larson, Kara Larson, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Josh Marnar, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Matt Rentfrow, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.





You haven't finished your life story. What will you do with the blank pages? The choices you make today will lead you one way or another—but when you know who to trust, you'll always be headed in the *Divine Direction*. In this series, people will learn how to seek God's will for their lives and how He cares more about who they are than what they do.

July 2 Let Go	How to find God's leading in your life? Maybe you just need to let go.
July 9 God Cares About You	Many of us are not great decision makers. Sometimes we make a permanent decision based on temporary emotions. A lot of times we end up making decisions that we will regret. We want to do God's will for our lives. We need to let Him guide our steps.
July 16 Wisdom to Discern	How do we grow in our decision making when we don't know the future? We can make our own plans but God is the one who determines our steps. All we can do is to be faithful in our next step.
July 23 Trust the Process	God's process: The Spirit's prompting, certain uncertainty, Predictable resistance, uncommon confidence. Our plan for the future is to obey God - step by step.
July 30 Faith to Start	We do not have to have the faith to finish. We need to have the faith to start.

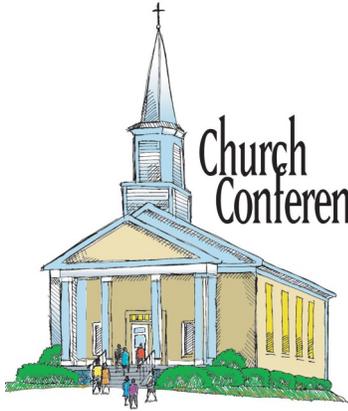
MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

**THURSDAY
JULY 13TH
3-5PM**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
HERE IN THE HOPE PARKING LOT TO HELP UNLOAD THE TRUCK AND DISTRIBUTE FRESH PRODUCE TO THE EDWARDSBURG FOOD PANTRY CLIENTS. PLEASE ARRIVE AT 2:30PM.

Ladies Craft Night
July 7, 2017 6PM-Midnight

Bring your favorite project and be inspired by the work that others are crafting.
Please bring a beverage and snack to share. Friends are always welcome.



Church Conference
Sunday July 9 at 9:45am
Subject: Sale of Parsonage

Why sell the parsonage?

As we began the process of planning for Jeff's retirement, the Property Team along with the Property Liaison from the LT did an extensive evaluation of the parsonage. It became apparent at that time that the parsonage fell short of meeting the minimum requirements as defined in the United Methodist Church Discipline. It was determined then that if a new pastor was to occupy our parsonage, it would require extensive remodeling - perhaps to the point that replacing it would be more cost effective for the future.

Our new Pastor, Scott Otis, has chosen to own his own home and the church will be providing him with a housing allowance to allow for that. The Leadership Team does not feel that we want to get into the rental business and with the current healthy real estate market, they have made the decision to sell the parsonage now.

The United Methodist Church Discipline is very clear about how this process is to be handled. The first step is to get the congregation's approval. That requires scheduling a Church Conference so that the LT can present the plan and ask for the congregation's approval. This Church Conference is scheduled for **SUNDAY JULY 9 AT 9:45AM.**

The church discipline is also very clear on how the proceeds from this sale can be used. You will hear more about this at the meeting. **Please plan to attend so you can be part of this important decision.**

FREE MESSY CHURCH
Sunday July 9th
4pm-6pm

Noah's Ark
 Games Crafts
 Food Family

The rain is coming, you may get wet!

FINANCES

Month of May Financial Summary
 Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 30,657

May Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 19,862
May Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$ -22,962</u>
May Shortfall:	\$ -3,100

June 30 Statements
 Statements showing donations to Hope UMC through June 30, 2017, will be distributed in July. We are planning on distributing as many email statements as possible. If you would **NOT** like a statement emailed to you, please contact or leave a message for Dawn Weingart at 269-663-5321 and a paper statement will be created for you.



Leadership Team Monthly Report to Congregation June 2017

Project Hope Fund Monthly Distribution May 2017

Available funds 5/31/2017

Special Gifts Designated to Project Hope	\$ 50.00
Monthly Contributions	<u>\$ 5,535.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,585.00</u>

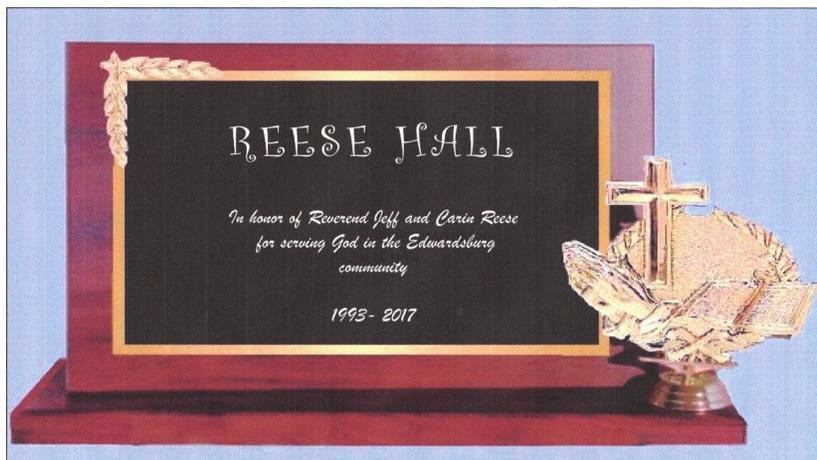
The total was distributed to the following funds:

Developing Small Groups	\$ 0.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 0.00
Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities	\$ 5,210.00
Local, Conference & Global Missions	<u>\$ 375.00</u>
Total distributed	<u>\$ 5,585.00</u>

The Leadership Team met on Thursday June 8 and dealt with these items:

- *Judy Denmark joined Marti Bartels in updating the LT on the recent Annual Conference.
- *Chris Frenz reported on the status of the Nominating Team that is forming to recruit candidates to become members of the Leadership Team.
 - Changes will be made to balance the recruits between our two services
 - Pastor Scott will be added to the team as Co-Chair in July
- *Bonnie Morgan and Sandy Ryder updated everyone on the plans for Jeff's party.
 - Bonnie Morgan made a motion to rename Bldg #2 to 'Reese Hall' – unanimous approval by all present
- *Brant Campanaro gave a report from the Parsonage Task Force Team.
 - Motion made and approved to list the parsonage as soon as possible
 - Motion made and approved to hold a Church Conference on Sunday July 9 at 9:45am in the sanctuary between services to obtain approval to proceed with the sale

Building #2 Renamed



Reverend Jeff and Carin Reese were welcomed by approximately 300 people at an open house in their honor on June 17, 2017. At this time the Leadership Team announced that Building #2 will be renamed 'Reese Hall' honoring Jeff and Carin for serving God in the Edwardsburg Community for the past 24 years.

The announcement was a highlight of an outstanding day for all as everyone had a part in the recognition and tribute to the Reese family.



WORDS

A word can be spoken softly or forced. Sometimes they will fall onto deaf ears. Others may offer peace, comfort and help. While some stir up anger, hurt and pain.

Was thought put into speaking those words? Did we choose the right time for the words? Were we considerate of the receiving person? Was a hidden meaning in the spoken words?

The response from a word can open a door!! Our spoken word can harden a person's heart. Love can be given by emitting just one word!! Hate could fester in the soul from a word.

Some words are harsh and are needed to say. Some harsh words should never ever be said. All words evoke some type of human emotion. Choosing words is a valuable use of Wisdom.

A word can cut sharply all the way to the bone. Or it may bring on gigantic laughter and joy. Expressions can give comfort by a single word. Words can open a dangerous wound or memory.

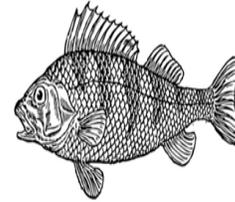
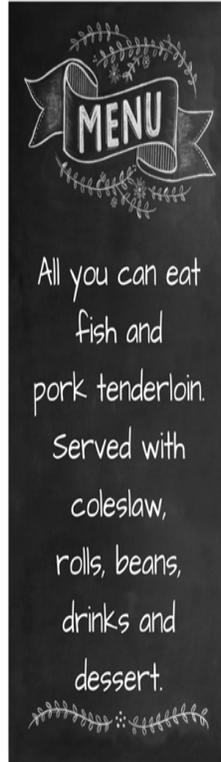
Silent words can talk volumes by our actions. A soft touch can speak more than a word; The "LOOK" can speak many different words. In many ways we speak many meaningful words.

A lion roars, the words resound aloud noise. A baby cries, softening words can quiet. Spoken or not, words have a voice of effect. Our heart is exposed by words we expose!

Where to find the proper words for all? Jesus left us His words to guide our words. All words are good words, spoken or not. When they are God's precious words!!!!

May your words offer Jesus's help, comfort and peace in a world filled with doubt..
Deb and Tony Lang

JOIN US FOR

Dan's Fish Fry


5-8pm

Prices:**Adults: \$10.00****Under 13: \$6.00**

Kids 5 and under eat free

 Friday
August
11th

Hope UMC
69941 Elkhart Rd
Edwardsburg MI 49112
269-663-5321



HOPE OF EDWARDSBURG MEGA CAMP



SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

MEGA PRESCHOOL CAMP

AUGUST 6TH, 13TH AND 20TH

2:00PM-5:00PM



MEGA KIDS CAMP

AUGUST 6 2:00PM-5:00PM

SOCCER, YOUNG BUILDERS OR MARTIAL ARTS



AUGUST 13 2:00PM-5:00PM

FOOTBALL, CHEER OR PAINTING

AUGUST 20 2:00PM-5:00PM

BASKETBALL, DANCE OR COOKING



REGISTER ONLINE @ WWW.HOPE-UMC.US
OR CALL 269-663-5321 EXTENSION 9