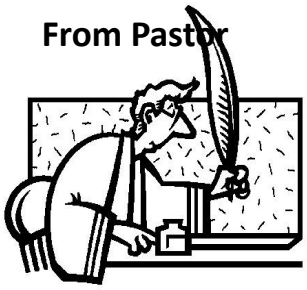
HOPE GOOD NEWS
October 2017



Jesus describes the Kingdom of God like a farmer going out to sow seeds. That's our job. **Billy Graham** states that *every church in America wants to bring in a harvest but few are willing to sow seeds*. The reason Hope Church exists is to sow the seeds of God's love outside ourselves. Our mission is making disciples for the transformation of the world. It's all about invitation. Our very call is *"loving people"* into a growing relationship with Christ. We can't just love people who come to us, our purpose is to love people who have no church.

How can we do that? The same way Jesus did, through **Servant Evangelism**. Servant evangelism is a simple, straightforward approach to sharing God's love in simple, practical ways like washing windshields, handing out water and giving away light bulbs. Some brave souls have even cleaned public toilets to show God's love.

When we sow seeds…

- Pre-Christian people will begin to open their hearts to God's love. Even if they have no desire to connect with our church or any other, they will be one step closer to the God of the universe. Human nature always points the emotional compass inward. Jesus said, "Go, therefore and make disciples… and lo, I am with you always." God is with us in an immediate sense as we carry His love.
- The church will be redefined to the community. The church in general has taken a lot of blows over the last few years, especially in the wake of scandals involving sex and money. Society has falsely painted the church as beggars always on the verge of going out of business or hucksters always looking to get something for nothing. Church has been seen as a "Come in and join us" kind of place, not a community of people out to make a difference.

There are no strings attached. Outreach often leads to growth as a side benefit, but we would lose our integrity if growth was our reason for serving. We aren't giving to get anything. We must serve for the sake of our own spiritual health. As we go about loving people, God may attach a string of some sort to those actions. He seems to create a tie between the person we serve and Himself. If you want your life to make a difference, here is your chance. Mother Teresa says, "**Small things done with great love will change the world."**

Help us show God's love in a practical way!

Our first great Servant Evangelism event this fall will be **Trunk or Treat.** Yes, we've done it before but we are working on **Trunk or Treat** on steroids.

Trunk or Treat is a safe and convenient alternative to traditional, door-to-door trick-or-treating on or around Halloween. During **Trunk or Treat**, people park their cars in a parking lot, and the children come around and trick-or-treat from the trunks of the cars or trucks. **The Trunk or Treat** area is roped off allowing the children to roam freely. For extra fun, you can dress up for Halloween and decorate the trunks of your car or truck. There will be prizes for best costume and best trunk.

On Sunday, October 29, Hope will host a **Trunk or Treat** from **3:00 pm** in our church parking lot. We will need at least **20 trunks**, but the more the better. We are also looking for some **helpers** to direct traffic. If interested in participating either indicate it on your Connection Card at one of our services or contact **Carrie Otis** **at** **(616) 307-8870**.

How can you participate?

- By signing up to be a trunk or truck in **Trunk or Treat**.
- By bringing your extra candy to church to share with others. (Our goal is 500 kids, so we need you to participate one way or another.)
- By showing up to direct traffic or just as greeters and answer questions.
- By praying that in one day God's love will be seen by our unchurched friends and neighbors.

See you at Trunk or Treat, Pastor Scott

Church Conference will be October 23, 2017 at 7:00PM SPRC meets at 6:30PM

Craft Night – Friday, Oct 6

Craft night is coming on Friday, Oct 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 for the Crop Walk, if anyone would like to make a donation.

Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief Update

During September 2017, Hope is sending $2,340 to UMCOR for Disaster Relief. The leadership team approved sending $1,500 from our Project Hope 2.0 Missions Fund. An additional $840 designated donations were given. 00% of UMCOR donations go to the project. UMCOR takes no administrative costs or fees from these donations.

HURRICANE RELIEF

FIELD TRIP!

On **Sunday, October 15** the Sunday night student youth group (**6th-12th grades**) will be going on a field trip to Amazing Acres, .

Lunch will be provided at the church after 2nd service for those students attending.

Parents will need to sign a **permission slip** for each child going. Permission slips are at the Welcome Center in the main building.

You will need to **pick up** your child from the church at 3:00PM.

OCTOBER birthdays

JOYCE PROCTOR	10/01
ALISON STRYCKER	10/01
MACY STEVENSON	10/03
TERRI GIPSON	10/03
MELANIE REID	10/05
CHAD REID	10/05
BARRY OBERLING	10/06
GENEVA WEINGART	10/07
JERROLD R. JONES	10/07
DALE BLUNIER	10/07
PAT STOVER	10/07
CAROL UDELL	10/08
JULIA SHEETS	10/08
DAMION CORP	10/08
RYAN HILL	10/09
DEBBIE DITSON	10/09
JAMES SNYDER	10/09
JACK WEILER	10/09
PAT OWENS	10/10
BARBARA LANE	10/10
BRENDA MORTIMER	10/11
BRIAN BURKS	10/12
CAMDEN ANDERSON	10/13
CARSON MANFRED	10/14
JANE MAHIEU	10/14
MICHAEL HARTING	10/14
POLLY RIENKS (BOTT)	10/15
DAVID HOIEN	10/16
KIRISTIN WEGNER	10/16
MELLODY BUZALSKI	10/17
SUE RINEHART	10/17
JOHN UDELL	10/18
SHIRLEY MASTEN	10/18
CAMRYN CLAIRDAY	10/20
TERESA STEVENSON	10/21
VICKIE BAKER	10/21
SANDRA ACKELS	10/22
CLIFF WILLIAMSON	10/23
WENDY EMMETT	10/23
CHEYNE MASTEN	10/23
MICHELE BLACK	10/24
REBECCA REA	10/26
EUNICE KAUFMAN	10/27
DELLA HOLDREAD	10/27
SARA CLAIRDAY	10/28
PATRICIA HARRIS	10/28
BEN MORGAN	10/29
KEVIN MARLING	10/30
TIFFANY MANFRED	10/31
TOM HEBRON	10/31

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

JANICE & DAN ROSS	10/01
PAT & GARY OWENS	10/02
DACIA & ED KIRKLAND	10/02
VICKIE & RON FLICK	10/02
TIFFANY & TONY MANFRED	10/04
KATHY & CHARLIE DEW	10/05
DIANE SEIFERT & MARTY EBY	10/07
SHERRY & DOUG SAYLES	10/12
JULIE & ROBT. J BYRD	10/12
DONALDA & JOHN LOHR	10/15
GERRY & DICK BAUGHER	10/17
ASHLEY & RANDY JOHNSON	10/18
PAM & JIM CHAPMAN	10/19
MELANIE & GEORGE REID	10/20
KATHY & BOB FULLER	10/20
SUE & MIKE MORGAN	10/21
PHYLLIS & LARRY BANGHART	10/22
MARY ANN & BILL DAVIS	10/23
DEBBIE & JOHN EUANS	10/28

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, Pat Harris, 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 Marner, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Matt Rentfrow, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.

Longing for Home?

Home is that place where the people we love can be found. It is safe and comfortable. It might be your family, your small group, people you work with. It is people who care. When we are in need we long for home.

10/1 What is Family?
I will look at three wrong views and one biblical view of family. The Bible's view of real family is relationship + commitment + communication + God. Then I will talk about the providence of God when it comes to who is in my family; both my nuclear family and my church family. The twelve disciples were the first Christian Family.

10/8 Call Me at Midnight
Commitment is everything in family. Viewing relationships through the lens of covenant commitment is the most foundational principle of growing a great family.

10/15 The Incredibles
This is about making the most of our families by viewing real families as a living unit where each person's gifts are recognized, celebrated and employed.

10/22 People of the Table
Rituals pay huge dividends in family. The first Christian Family was centered on four important rituals that are essential to developing great families.

10/29 Those Who Rise
Suffering can build or break families. Great families allow the suffering of life to produce perseverance, character and hope.

Parking Lot Repair and Sealing is Complete

Kudos to all involved in the repair and resealing of Hope's parking lot in September. It definitely makes our building entrance look fresh. Designated Funds from Project Hope 2.0 Capital Improvements, God's Wearhouse Sale, Memorials and a few other designated funds made this project possible. Thank you for your contributions to Project Hope 2.0! We hope to use more Project Hope donations to "freshen up" Hope.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

IS THIS A CORN FIELD?

A seed is planted. What will it grow?
A Faith must be given; it will produce.
A Promise from God; a root will be formed.
A sprout will come with tending and care.

It will grow and fill with fruit as days pass by.
Pollination will take place when timing is right.
The weight of the fruit will test the vine's strength.
Nurturing the plant helps assure it for good.

As days pass by the hope maturing will occur.
If properly receiving the water and care it needs.
A good harvest is had and people are fed Manna.
Curing the crop is the final stage to be done.

Sit back and look at the field finished and gleaned.
Admire the Love that produced such a sight as this.
Was the harvest of corn or the saving of a lost soul?
God works His hand in both with Mercy and Grace.

When we plant a seed, please use Love and Care.
Whether corn or a soul, pray God's watering help.
May they both land on good soil, sprout and grow.
Jesus is our vine. We are His branches to the world.
May many be fed whether by corn or by His Word.

I hope you see the blessings in seeds that you plant with loving care and nurturing. May your SPIRIT grow each day. *Deb and Tony Lang*

ng.

FINANCES

Month of August Financial Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: $ 30,657

Aug. Ministry Fund Donations: $ 16,956
August Ministry Fund Expenses: $-24,410
August Shortfall: $ -7,454

Thank you, Tiffany Manfred, for all of your hard work here at Hope for the past few years as our Spiritual Growth Co-ordinator. We would like to congratulate you on your new journey working as a substitute teacher for the Edwardsburg Schools.

You will be missed during the week and we feel blessed that you and your family will continue to worship with us on Sunday mornings!

Carrie Otis will fill in for Tiffany on a volunteer basis for now.

PICK/SHARE A BOOK CLUB

Just a reminder, this is **NOT** a book study group, it's a share a book group. And we are asking **everyone** to share with us.

Please make a list of any holiday books that you like to read with your family. We would like to pull a variety of books from Hope's library and put them on a special shelf for anyone to enjoy for the upcoming holidays:

Christmas
and New Year's.

You may pin your suggestions on the bulletin board with a magnet above the turn-in box, or give it to Marti Bartels. We'll hunt for the books and place them together for everyone to see.

We hope you can join us at 11:30 for our next meeting at Hope UMC, Wednesday October 18, 2017.

Leadership Team
Monthly Report to Congregation
September 2017

Project Hope Fund
Monthly Distribution
July 2017

Available funds 8/31/2017		
Annual Fish Fry Profits		$ 1,581.85
Monthly Contributions	$ 4,961.00	
Total		$ 6,542.85
The total was distributed to the following funds:		
Developing Small Groups		$ 159.28
Capital Improvements	$ 159.28	
Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities		$ 5,570.00
Local, Conference & Global Missions		$ 654.29
Total distributed		$ 6,542.85

The Leadership Team met on Thursday Sept 7 and dealt with these items:

*Donna Mansell, Finance Liaison, reported that Dawn Weingart, Business Manager is continuing her investigations to our best options to invest the proceeds from the sale of the parsonage. Her recommendations will be presented at our October meeting.

*Authorization was confirmed for a contribution of $1,500 to be made to UMCOR for hurricane relief. Donna Mansell will confirm with Dawn that the check has been sent.

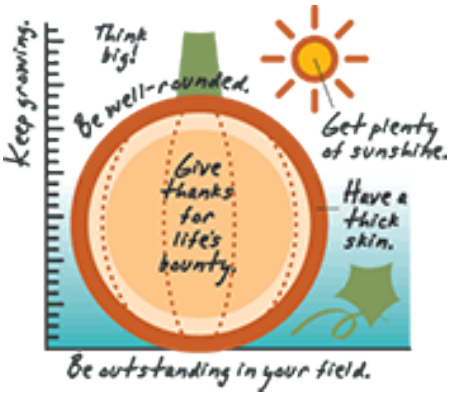
*Brant Campanaro, Property Liaison, presented the recommendation from the Ministry Team for the parking lot improvements. Unanimous approval was given to have A-1 Asphalt Inc. do the work for a total cost of $16,812.00.

*Unanimous approval was given to the proposal presented by Donna Mansell that the following funds be used to pay for the parking lot improvement:

Ministry Fund	$ 4,000
Project Hope Fund – Capital Improvement	$ 3,000
Sale of God's Wearhouse	$10,000
	$17,000

2018 Budget work has begun…...the 2018 proposed budget will be presented at our next meeting in October.

The nomination Team will identify and present to the LT their recommendation for new members for the LT beginning in 2018. These recommendations will be presented at our October meeting and then presented to the congregation prior to our Church Conference scheduled for October 23!

ADVICE FROM A PUMPKIN

Be well-rounded.
Get plenty of sunshine.
Give thanks for life's bounty.
Have a thick skin.
Keep growing.
Be outstanding in your field.
Think big! —Ilan Shamir