HOPE GOOD NEWS
September 2016

From Pastor Jeff's Desk . . .

Twenty-four months ago I remember reading the materials I was receiving from the Leadership Team with regard to the new vision, new way of doing church and the new way of funding church we called Project Hope. I was preparing sermons for the upcoming year highlighting the life cycle of the church as it pertained to Hope UMC. Project Hope was the new vision to see how we would launch into a new life cycle of vision and growth and begin a process that allows for future growth and vision. It was so exciting to dream about what God was doing through us.

These last twenty-four months have focused on the vision to add staff and grow strong families, to fund mission at a greater level, to see our mortgage reaching an amount we can pay off, and a new pastoral candidate offering new energy and excitement.

Now it has taken quite a while for this project and these plans to get rolling. There have been great discussions, guidelines and practices to be reviewed, prayers, discernment and new systems implemented. We have invested our time and dollars carefully and with the faith that God would bless. Well now, the time is coming quickly where the blessings of your labor and gifts will no longer be expectations or dreams. What I was only able to dream about two years ago will be celebrated as we enter this final four months of 2016!

To each and every one of you, thank you for your efforts and gifts - you will see just how God blessed the work He began with Project Hope!

Pastor Jeff

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
An introduction to Hope
Sunday, September 18
12:30PM

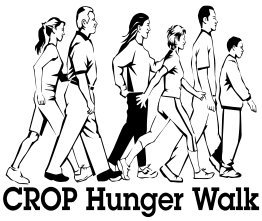
This is a time to meet the Pastor and some of our staff and engage in casual conversation. We will talk about this church, our vision , what we do in the community and what we can offer to you and your family.

Please call to register (walk-ins welcome) and let us know if you need child care or have special dietary needs.
269-663-5321

CROP WALK TO HELP THE HUNGRY

The annual Church World Service CROP Walk will be held at the COA walking track in Cassopolis on Sunday, October 2, registration at 1:30, the walk at 2:00.

Leigh Goyings is chairing this event for Hope; you can see her at church or call 663-8018 to get a sponsor form and join our Hope team. On a beautiful fall day, join Christians from around the county on a walk to raise funds.



Here are some ways your money can make a **BIG** difference for people in need: One fourth of the funds stays right here in Cass County to provide funding for food pantries, including our own Edwardsburg Pantry. The rest of the funds provide food and safe water nationally and internationally.

Having walked with caring people for over 20 years, Leigh said, "This is one of the easiest and enjoyable fundraisers I've ever participated in!"

Make us worthy, Lord,
To serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world
Who live and die in poverty and pain. Give them today –
Through our hands – and through our Walk – their daily bread;
And through our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen

Come Help Celebrate
Shirley's 80th Birthday

Saturday, September 17, 2016
2:00-5:00PM
Hope United Methodist Church
69941 Elkhart Road
Edwardsburg MI 49112

Faith with Feet News!

September Meeting: The monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, September 18 at 6:30PM in the Building 1 Community Room. This month we will be planning out the rest of 2016 and starting Mission Planning for 2017. ***Please join us!***

New Leadership: Marty Eby and Jack Rinehart are now heading up the group! If you have questions about what we do or need assistance, contact Marty at martyeby@hotmail.com or 574-276-7855, or Jack at jrrinehart@hotmail.com or 269-845-0233.

Crystal Springs Camp Work Project: We will be working to finish the construction of the doors on the tabernacle. If you would like to help, contact either Jack or Marty. We'll be starting soon!

Faith with Feet is a SERVICE WORKING GROUP that does construction/repairs for those in need AND does mission work throughout the U.S. and abroad.
Want to know more?

Contact: Marty Eby at martyeby@hotmail.com or 574-276-7855, or Jack Rinehart at jrrinehart@hotmail.com or 269-845-0233.That is all for this month. *Let me know if you have questions. God Bless, Jim Weingart*

574-361-3483 (Cell)/ 574-245-4875 (work)

FISH FRY UPDATE

Thank you to all who worked so diligently at the Fish Fry. This was the largest one yet! We served **522** people Friday August 12.

After expenses, **$1,992.95** was earned for Project Hope. Thank you for all your hard work!

Another move ahead for the Maxwell family!

Adriana Maxwell will be teaching second grade at Transformation Academy in Shanghai, China. This non-profit, bilingual, Chinese private school exists to transform lives and train servant leaders through high quality education in a loving environment.

Her flight to Shanghai is Friday, August 26.
The school year is September 1 to June 30.

We appreciate you lifting her up as she makes final preparations, leaves her family, adjusts to the Chinese culture, and teaches.

August 14th Messy Church was a great success!

Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help and thank you to all who attended!

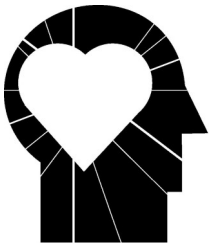
- We had 77 in attendance
- 60% were new attendees!
- We ate walking tacos and root beer floats, played toilet paper dodgeball and discussed our Shield of Faith

Our Next Messy Church will be
Sunday November 13th 4pm-6pm
Theme: Strength
Dinner: Pasta Bar

Messy Church is for everyone in the community (especially those who might not normally attend church) to have fun, eat and explore their values together.

Craft Night – Friday, September 2

Craft night is coming on Friday, September 2, from 6pm - Midnight. Come 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 donations for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry, if anyone would like to make a donation.



TESTIMONY

Our lives are filled with daily activities.
Some days we struggle just to get through.
Others seem a breeze to live in comfort.
Do we pause to think--What happened today?

Along the way stories are formed each day.
Some are difficult to absorb in our heart.
Others events we cherish deep into our heart.
Do we take the time--remembering this day?

God has planned this day for our good.
Some we ask, "How can this be for my good?"'
While others we embrace joyfully for our good.
God's path or ours--Which path did we choose?

This day **LOVE** abounds in the heart of God.
His Son died to witness that LOVE for each of us.
The Holy Spirit offers that LOVE to everyone.
That LOVE give us free will to accept or decline?

Through this day we can show God's LOVE.
Others can be lifted up by our actions this day.
Or we can withhold what God asks us to share.
Our heart was shown today--What was seen?

Everything that happened today is our testimony.
Telling others our life's trials can help spread LOVE.
God asks us to testify about His LOVE for all.
This day passed--How did we show LOVE this day?

Would you write a testimony about how God has touched your life? Deb and I would LOVE to read your story.

Deb and Tony Lang.

Month of July Financial Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: $ 27,087

July Ministry Fund Donations:	22,675
July Ministry Fund Expenses:	$ -20,649
July - Surplus	$ 2,026

Birthdays & Anniversaries

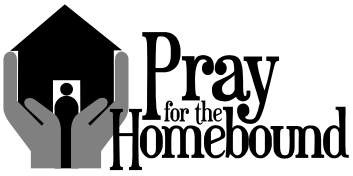
KIM & DON MANSELL	9/01
SUSAN & JAMES TOTH	9/02
CAROL & PHIL PETERS	9/04
CARIN & JEFF REESE	9/06
LISA & JAMES KRILL	9/10
SHIRLEY & MAX MASTEN	9/10
LYDIA & JACK GOULD	9/12
RHODA & DON WESTFALL	9/13
NETTIE & KEITH RUSSELL	9/15
JILL & STEVE KAYNER	9/15
LURENA & DAVID WILFERT	9/15
NATALIE & CHRIS FRENTZ	9/16
SHIRLEY & MONTE MARBACH	9/17
JANICE & WENDELL LEIST	9/18
POLLY (BOTT) & RODNEY RIENKS	9/19
SANDRA & LARRY ACKELS	9/26
SANDIE & JACK WEILER	9/29
SARA & STEPHAN CLAIRDAY	9/30

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.

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, Marjorie Green, Pat Harris, Sherry Leininger, Arvilla Pontius, Gene Proctor.

JEANIE GARDNER	9/01
KATIE FAHEY	9/02
BRIAN DELL	9/02
SANDIE WEILER	9/03
AMY HARRIS	9/03
ADALEIGH BLUNIER	9/04
PETER EMMETT	9/08
VERLAINE HOFFMAN	9/08
WILFRED GEROU	9/09
KEVIN ROUCH	9/09
BILLY GRISSINGER	9/10
CAROL BOWMAN	9/10
DEANA MOLER	9/10
JIM RALPH	9/11
DALE WESTFALL	9/11
DON WESTFALL	9/11
BRAD WEGNER	9/12
RYAN ACKELS	9/12
BILL DAVIS	9/12
SHIRLEY ANDREWS	9/12
RHODA WESTFALL	9/13
DAVE HERMAN	9/15
ED GARDNER	9/16
JOE SCHMIDTENDORFF	9/16
BILL MURRAY	9/17
LAURA BLOUGH	9/17
HARRY STEMPLE	9/18
MARK WERNER	9/19
AMBER WILLIAMSON	9/19
KATHY DEW	9/20
CARL HIGLEY	9/20
NICKI FLEMING	9/20
BILL FAHEY	9/21
DON SOALES	9/21
SHARON BURGER	9/23
JILL BLOUGH	9/24
CAROL BROUGH	9/24
MARILYN SCHMIDTENDORFF	9/25
CADEN MANFRED	9/25
CAROL SOALES	9/26
JEFF REESE	9/26
LUKE STEVENSON	9/26
ROBIN ENGLISH	9/28
PETER EMMETT	9/28
KATIE HENDRICKS	9/29
MIKE GORDON	9/30
VERN WARD	9/30

Leadership Team
Monthly Report to Congregation
August 2016

Project Hope Fund Monthly Distribution
July 2016

Available funds 07/31/2016	
Monthly Contributions	$ 8,917.00
The total was distributed to the following funds:	
Grow Strong Faith Filled Families	$ 0.00
Transition in Pastoral Leadership	$ 2,775.30
Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities	$ 5,250.00
Local, Conference & Global Missions	$ 891.70
Total distributed	**$ 8.917.00**

Thank you all for your continued support of Project Hope.

The Leadership Team met on Thursday August 4 and dealt with these items:

Approval was given for the CROP walk fundraiser to be promoted within the church in the same way it was done last year.

It was reported that official approval to support the Notre Dame Fundraiser was given through an email vote prior to the meeting.

Plans were made and approved for the Project Hope 2.0 campaign which you will be hearing more about in the coming weeks.

Teams were assigned within the LT to work on the 2017 Ministry Team budget as was done last year. This proved to be valuable in expediting the approval process of the 2017 budgets by the LT.

Training packets and final arrangements were reviewed for the Leadership Training event planned for August 12 and 13. Thanks go out to Chris Frentz for hosting this event at his home.

Second interviews will be scheduled for our two current candidates for a new pastor. All members of the leadership team will be included in these interviews.

An update was provided on the status of the Dollar General / God's Wearhouse sale. The buyer is working with the MDOT to finalized the access drives to M62. hey anticipate closing the sale by the end of September or early October.

Growing Strong Faith Filled Families Fund changes:

As you may have seen in our monthly PH Fund distribution, new contributions to this fund were stopped at the beginning of this year. It was felt at that time that the balance in the fund was sufficient to cover the anticipated expenses for 2016.

With Gwen Parks' recent retirement, Tiffany Manfred assumed her responsibilities along with her current responsibilities. Her salary has since been paid from the Ministry Fund. Expenses involved with Growing Strong Faith Filled Families (GSFFF) will be paid from the GSFFF fund within Project Hope for the remainder of the year.

This project, which was a part of the original dream that Jeff refers to in his report, will become a part of the Ministry Fund and will be included in their 2017 budget and will no longer be a part of Project Hope.

In the event that there is a balance left at year end, the LT approved the distribution of the balance according to the current distribution being used for Special Gift Allocations to Project Hope. RE: Local, Conference & Global Mission 10%; Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities 30% and Transition in Pastoral Leadership 60%).

Current Project Hope Campaign –

As we approach the end of the two-year campaign which began in January of 2015 and as we look to the future, we wanted to touch base with those who have so generously supported this project.

We wanted to thank those who have contributed but did not pledge and thank those who have met or exceeded their pledged amounts.

We also wanted to communicate with those who may have fallen behind in meeting their commitment. We understand that things change and there may be misunderstandings and errors on how contributions were applied. We needed help in making sure our records were correct and reflect people's current circumstances. So we ask you for help in doing this.

We are new at this process and worked with our mentors at Cornerstone using a system similar to what they used. We know that this is all new to all of you as well. If you may have taken offense to the letters, please understand our intentions were only to make sure we have accurate information that reflects how you want your contributions applied.

WELCOME MARY PLASTERER to ShipShape 4 Christ!

Mary is a certified Group Fitness Instructor and personal trainer. She has a B.S. degree in Health Science and M.B.A. Mary holds special certifications in Pilates, Indoor Cycling, Senior Fitness/ Silver Sneakers and Aqua Exercise.

Ship Shape 4 Christ is excited to have Mary come teach classes on Monday mornings @ 9:30AM here in Building 2 for September. They will be doing an overall body conditioning class. She would be happy to add on more times and classes if there is an interest.

Classes are a $5 donation for each hour session. Everyone is invited to come exercise with Ship Shape 4 Christ.
Mondays @ 9:30AM — Overall body conditioning w/Mary
Thursdays 9:30AM —Bands

Contact Marti Bartels 269-699-5304 or Mary Plasterer 574-848-6612

Dawn Proctor was "caught being a good citizen" Sunday July 21. She was nominated to receive this award, as she is a wonderful young lady that never hesitates to help out in any way she can. Congratulations, Dawn!

SEEDS OF HOPE

If someone had told me as a teenager that I would be a Sunday School teacher one day, I probably would have laughed. Being shy and naïve was part of my being. It wasn't until my sister-in-law asked me to help in Pioneer Girls that I opened up and became a leader. But then we moved and I became a pew sitter.

Two years later we moved again and soon I was helping in the children's department with my husband. The door was open. I was learning as I was helping. In the late 90's I had my own class. This was a challenge. Since our church was new, there was no money for crafts, items for games and Sunday School materials. God gave me the ability to think up craft projects, games and insight to create lessons from the Bible. All things worked together (Romans 8:28). Here is one of the examples I'm talking about.

One Sunday after our lesson learning to grow in God's love and then playing a game, the children planted a sunflower seed in a plastic container filled with potting soil. We then attached a picture of a sunflower and this poem:

GROWING

Today we planted sunflower seeds, then we watered them with love.
We prayed over them that they will grow to a wonderful world above.
Put them in the sunshine and watch the seedlings grow.
When they outgrow the pot you have, to the garden they must go.
May Jesus be your sunshine, your water and your food.
By letting Him guide you daily, for whatever He does is GOOD!!

Sunshine – Proverbs 4:18 Water – Matthew 5:6 Food – Mark 4:13-20

You see, a seed was planted when I was asked to help. A seed was planted when I began teaching and seeds were planted when the parents of those precious children heard what we had learned.

I may never know what child or parent went on to accept and serve Christ, but I do know that SEEDS of HOPE were planted in me.

Bonnie Knight