



# HOPE GOOD NEWS

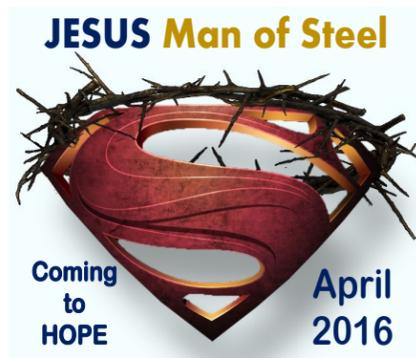
## April 2016

### From Pastor Jeff's Desk . . .

HOW can it be April and we aren't discussing Easter? Ever wonder why the date moves around. At the heart of the matter lies a very simple explanation. Easter is a movable feast because the earliest believers in the church wished to keep the observance of Easter correlated to the Jewish Passover. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened after the Passover, so followers wanted Easter to always be celebrated after the Passover. And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year.

NOW - Here are some things are on my radar for the month of APRIL.

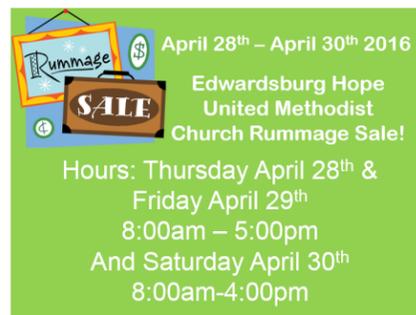
*Sermon Series*



Sometimes the world gives us modern parables like Star Wars and Superman! This is a chance to offer a common image and share a relevant Christian message for today. His story begins thousands of years ago, yet He still is going strong in the lives of millions of people today. Come and explore how he can strengthen your life.  
**REMEMBER TO INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH THIS MONTH!**



We had lots of fun at our last Family Movie Night. So back by popular demand, we are presenting our second fun night. Come and be prepared to spend a night laughing and enjoying with everyone. Invite the families with kids because this is definitely a kid friendly movie!



Don't miss the chance to clean out your closets, garage and attic. AND come and find the treasures others have donated. ALSO why not bring a neighbor to see our church and have some fun! Guys, we can always use boy's toys and guy's stuff for the sale.

Leadership Team  
 Monthly Report to Congregation  
 March 2016

If you missed it in the bulletin, here is the report for Project Hope donations.  
 Thank you all for your continued support.

**Project Hope Fund  
 Monthly Distribution  
 February 2016**

Available funds 02/29/2016	
Designated Memorial Funds	\$ 547.50
Monthly Contributions	<u>\$ 7,471.00</u>
	<u>\$ 8,018.50</u>

The total was distributed to the following funds:

Grow Strong Faith Filled Families	\$ 0.00
Transition in Pastoral Leadership	\$ 658.72
Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities	\$ 6,557.93
Local, Conference & Global Missions	<u>\$ 801.85</u>

Total distributed \$ 8,018.50

**The Leadership Team met on Thursday March 3rd<sup>th</sup> and dealt with a number of items which included the following:**

- The February distribution of Project Hope funds allocated to manage our Mortgage Responsibilities was increased from its normal \$5,250 to include one half of the closing costs of our new mortgage with Chemical Bank.
  - A payment of \$2,500 was authorized to the Edwardsburg Emergency fund from the Local, Conference & Global Missions fund.
  - An extensive report on our parsonage was presented by Sandy Ryder. This report was prepared by the Property Team headed by Kirk Wagner along with Pastor Jeff and Sandy. It detailed the many things we need to consider as we progress through our Pastoral Transition plan and consider the needs and wants of a new pastor. A few additional details were requested. There was no further action taken at this time.
- Sandy also presented a report on the status of a number of items that have been in storage for quite some time. Items included were the bells and stained class windows from our previous church buildings. Bill Macumber was commissioned to gather input from the congregation through notices in the weekly bulletin and present recommendations to the Leadership Team at our May meeting.

Leadership Team  
Monthly Report to Congregation  
March 2016 Continued...



- A request has been received from the buyer of God's Wearhouse property for an extension of the review period agreed to in the original contract. The request was for an additional 180 days to allow time to get final approvals etc. That amount of time was beyond the terms of the original contract. The Leadership Team felt that additional conditions were needed. A motion was approved to authorize Keith Russell to sign an agreement that was for an additional 90 Days and request the buyer to put an additional \$1,000 on deposit as earnest money. (Further update on activity since the LT Meeting is included in this report)  
Pastor Jeff presented an update to the Leadership Team on recent discussions he has had with potential candidates for our new pastor.

#### God's Wearhouse Update:

- I presented Jeff Brown, Gold Star Realty, the recommendations of the leadership team and ask for clarification on the disposition of the additional \$1,000 of earnest money we requested. At this time I am awaiting a response from him on this matter.  
In addition, I believe that Chris Frenz and Sandy Ryder recently updated you on other activity in the community in regards to the Dollar General project. I'm sorry to inform you that the Village BZA meeting that was scheduled to review and discuss this project had to be canceled since the buyer was not prepared. I plan to keep in closer contact with Jeff Brown and the Village and update you as things progress.



**Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**  
**In the sanctuary**  
**Popcorn and drinks**  
**provided.**  
**Bring your own candy.**

This event is open to everyone so please feel free to take some postcard invitations from the *Welcome Center* and hand out to your friends and family.

## Pick/Share a Book Club

The book club members met at HUMC at 11:30 a.m. and decided to drive to Golden Egg restaurant in Elkhart. We were pleased to have Lorraine Bylsma join us.

While we waited for our orders, Gwen shared her sketch book. She's following a blog called "Bible Art Journaling." She shared her sketches and she can't wait to purchase a Bible with wide enough margins to draw on. A couple Bibles were suggested: The Inspiration Bible (ESB version) and the New Living Bible that already has pictures in it. We are hoping that there will be enough interest to have a journaling class at HUMC.

After eating our lunch, we had a good discussion about the book we all read, The Shack by Wm. Paul Young.



We all had difficulty accepting the three characters representing the trinity because they are nothing like the images

we are accustomed to.

Another concept we discussed was the statement that Jesus made in a discussion with Mack about all the different kinds of religions. Mack asked, "Does that mean that all roads lead to you?" And Jesus answered, "Not at all, most roads don't lead anywhere. What it does mean is that I will travel any road to find you." That contradicts the belief

that people must be saved to go to heaven.

Jesus also said, "Remember, the people who know me are the ones who are free to live and love without any agenda."

We finally concluded that the book was basically a story about a dream that Mack, the main character, had while he was in a coma. Although there are some confusing details that occur after he awakens that support the reality of the dream.

Gwen shared information from an August 30, 2011 YouTube interview of the author. He states that the book, The Shack, was written as a way to create a unique gift for his children to help them understand him. A movie is to be released soon and we look forward to comparing it with the book.



The next book we are going to read and share is also written by Wm. Paul Young,

Crossroads. Contact Gwen if you would like a copy to read. Or, if you have already read it, come share your ideas. March 16 at 11:30 a.m. will be our next meeting. Come and enjoy our fellowship and love of reading.



**Month of February Financial Summary**

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 27,087  
 February Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 19,523  
 February Ministry Fund Expenses: \$ -20,106  
 February -Shortfall \$ -583



**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 Marnier, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Matt Rentfrow, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.



**Faith with Feet**

will hold their monthly meeting on Sunday, April 17, 2016 in the Building 1 Community Room. This month we will go over progress on our local projects and continue planning the Family Mission Camp in June.

Faith with Feet is a group dedicated to service through building and repair work for those in need. If you want to know more, please contact Jim Weingart at 574-266-6410 or [jdweingart@comcast.net](mailto:jdweingart@comcast.net).

**Everyone is welcome regardless of your skill level!**



**Let go/Let God**

After the hurt is mended.  
 After the hang-up is conquered.  
 After the habit is broken.  
 The heart can begin to heal.

Hurts can bring new friends.  
 Hang-ups changed offer solutions.  
 Habits broken bring new freedoms.  
 The heart reflects a fresh glow.

Hurts used can help others heal.  
 Hang-ups conquered give life hope.  
 Habits stopped open new doors.  
 The heart reaches out to others.

Hurts were even felt by Jesus.  
 Hang-ups Jesus gave us His promises.  
 Habits Jesus commanded to be changed.  
 Jesus's heart was filled with compassion.

Are you hurting physically or spiritually?  
 Is there a hang-up you can't give up?  
 Does your habit control your whole life?  
 Jesus will give you a new heart--ASK!!

Deb and I want to help with your hurt hang-up or habit--Just ask. 269 641-5612.



**Sunday May 22**  
**4pm-6pm**  
**Here at HOPE in Building 2**

Crafts Family Games Celebration Food

**What is it?**  
**It's a way for children and their adults to have fun, eat and explore their values together.**  
**Who is it for?**  
**It's for everyone in the community (especially those who might not**



**Ladies' Craft Night**

Our next Craft Night will be on

**Friday, April 1st**  
**from 6pm - Midnight.**

Work on your latest project and be inspired by what is happening around you. Friends are always welcome. Please bring a snack to share and your own beverage. If you want to participate, we'll be collecting items for Edwardsburg Food Pantry.



**THE BI-ANNUAL  
EDWARDSBURG HOPE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
RUMMAGE SALE!!!**

It is time again for the Hope UMC bi-annual rummage sale!! This sale has become a destination sale for treasure hunters, as it is the largest church rummage sale in the area. The sale will be held on Thursday-4/28 & Friday 4/29 from 8AM to 5PM and Saturday 4/30 8AM - 4PM.

We will begin taking donations of sellable items (clothes, shoes, household goods, furniture, books, toys, electronics, antiques and collectables to name a few) on Sunday, April 24 during morning services, Monday night, and Tuesday/Wednesday all day the week of the sale.

Other events are also being planned for during the sale like a car wash, bake sale, and lunch being served. Don't miss this sale!!

Hope UMC is located at 69941 Elkhart Road, Edwardsburg at May Street. For questions or more information you can contact Kelly Long at 574.370.8580 or [ski5doo@frontier.com](mailto:ski5doo@frontier.com).



**Quarterly Giving Summaries**

Thank you for your generous giving this year. We will be distributing giving summaries at the end of each quarter.

Our goal will be to distribute some statements electronically. If you would NOT like your giving statement sent to your email address, please contact Dawn Weingart at the church office.

Now would be a great time to make sure that Crystal has your current email address. If you want to add it as a way to contact us, please complete a connection card and turn it in.

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
69941 ELKHART RD. PO BOX 624  
EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112-0624



**Hope UMC**

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[www.hope-umc.us](http://www.hope-umc.us)

Sunday Services  
8:00 Worship  
9:30 Sunday School  
9:30 Praise & Word Service,  
11:00 Worship  
Pastor Jeff Reese

**Knock, Knock**

It was 1964. I was 18, out of school and on my own. My girlfriend and I had moved from a small village to what I believed then to be a "big city" called Benton Harbor. Neither of us had a job waiting, so I thought. We moved into a place called the Eleanor Club, a place where girls would live while working and going to college. I had a little in my savings account which I earned from working in a canning factory back home. My girlfriend got a job first then enrolled in Lake Michigan College. She helped me when I went in for job interviews. For some reason I couldn't let go of the thought of working in a restaurant. Maybe it was the thought that my older sister worked at one during high school and did well. I just knew I needed a job. I kept calling Holly's in downtown Benton Harbor and they finally hired me. I loved my job. I had great customers, decent hours and spending money. I had freedom, freedom to go shopping, go out to eat, freedom to date, which I frequently did. I was my own boss, so I thought. I met Bob, my now husband of fifty years at Holly's. He eventually got an apartment kitty-corner to where I lived, How cool was that? In the summer of '65 my brother and sister-in-law had me over for supper at their apartment in St. Joseph. I had no care, so of course they had to pick me up. Afterwards we sat and conversed. That is where the knocking all began. They showed me in the Bible where I was a sinner, lost and in need of a Savior. I had to my knowledge never read scripture or seen it in a way that touched my heart. I bowed my head and that day became a bonafied born-again Christian. The Spirit had knocked at the door of my heart and I opened it. Thank you Jesus. That Sunday I made in public before the congregation that I received Christ. When it came time for Baptism the Pastor asked us to recite our favorite Bible verse. What? I didn't know any Bible verse! My girlfriend, for some reason bought me a white leather Bible with my name embossed in gold letters. She wasn't even a Christian. I picked out a verse, Revelation 3:20. Behold I stand at the door and knock...you look up the verse. To this day that verse has become so real. The song lyrics "Who at my door is standing" brings tears to my eyes. I wonder how many times he's knocked at the door of your heart. Let him in and you'll know what true love, joy and peace are all about.



Bonnie Knight

