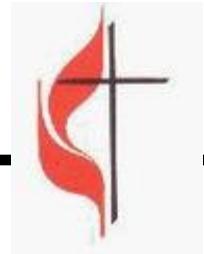


HOPE GOOD NEWS

July 2016



From Pastor Jeff's Desk . . .

On June 19, the Leadership Team presented the extension of the timeline for our pastoral transition. We will continue to work with and search for candidates with a new plan to hire by the end of this year. With that in mind, I have asked the Leadership Team and now each one of you to pray and be open to the Spirit's movement in and through this process. I am offering a prayer covenant for all of us to focus on in July. Use the Scripture (remember we are to eat it and discover the sweetness) and meditate on God's message for us.

Galatians 5:25

Message Interpretation

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

As apprentices of Jesus, we desire to grow closer to God and become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is how God directs us, motivates us and confirms in us that we are cooperating with God's plan for us. For the month of July, make time to pray and also to listen:

Each day, talk with God about hearing His still small voice and becoming sensitive to promptings from the Spirit that He's placed inside you.

Each day, begin asking Him to reveal His plan for the pastoral transition and your part.

Each day, in prayer confirm to God that you know HE knows who is coming. And that we will begin to make time to listen expectantly for His faithfulness to unfold.

Each day, all the while asking for more strength and resolve to be obedient to His guidance as we see His constant, loving interest in the details of our life together.

Let me know what you are seeing, hearing, or feeling that would be God's movement that we can then jump into!

JULY should be a very exciting month!

Pastor Jeff



VBS SPORTS CAMP

July 10 - Soccer

July 17 - Basketball

July 24 - Football or Cheerleading



Please join us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of

Larry and Nancy Bowman

Saturday, July 9, 2016, 2 to 5 p.m.

Hope United Methodist Church

69941 Elkhart Rd, Edwardsburg, MI 49112



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Mega Sports Camp

VBS is almost here! If you haven't heard yet we are trying out a new VBS concept. We will host a Mega Sports Camp called Breaking Free. We want to give kids the chance to learn more about sports, discover character-building concepts, and have a whole lot of fun.

EACH of 3 SUNDAYS from 5:30-8:30PM we will host 1 sport for the kids to learn about. **July 10** is Soccer, **July 17** is Basketball and **July 24** is Football or Cheerleading. Mega Sports Camp is for anyone who wants to have fun and play in a positive and encouraging environment that pumps up their confidence and self-esteem.

Interested in helping or just need some more information?

Call Tiffany Manfred at 269-663-5321.

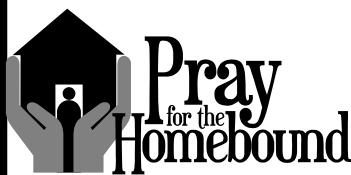
Birthdays & Anniversaries

LYNN STRAKA	7/03
ZACHARY STRYCKER	7/02
PAIGE MOLER	7/03
GEORGE LOOTENS JR.	7/04
GEORGE LOOTENS SR.	7/04
LAURA SHEETS	7/05
KATHY FULLER	7/05
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
BILL HILL	7/13
DACIA KIRKLAND	7/13
DELANEY PETERS	7/15
PENNY CREAGER	7/13
LEIGH GOYINGS	7/13
SAM BROOME	7/16
JUDY CHRISTNER	7/16
CASIMIR SMITH	7/17
MARJORIE GREEN	7/17
ROGER MAHNESMITH	7/18
JOHN A WARD SR.	7/18
ARVILLA PONTIUS 7/18/1916	
AUSTIN CLINE	7/18
BILL GRIFFIN	7/19
SABRINA ENGLISH	7/19
CARL BURGER	7/19
TOM REA JR.	7/21
BRIAN WEAVER	7/21
NANCY TURNER	7/23
KIM BURGER	7/24
SANDY MYERS	7/24
NANCY VIRGIL	7/24
JEFF D. JOHNSON	7/24
LINDA MASTEN	7/25
JUDY COROS	7/25
JIM CHAPMAN	7/25
ELAINE RICHARDSON	7/27
GARY BUSSEN	7/28
COREY SHEETS	7/29
NETTIE RUSSELL	7/30
TAFU TAFUNAI	7/31

ROCHELLE & BILL DOLDE	7/02
JO & BILL MACUMBER	7/02
JACKIE & DAN BOONE	7/02
MARGI & DAVE HERMAN	7/03
NANCY & JEFF VIRGIL	7/06
PAULA & JIM RALPH	7/06
CHARLOTTE & GEO. 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
EDI & BILL MURRAY	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.



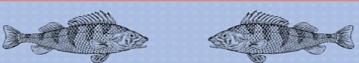
Please remember these people in prayer: John Berg, Carol Brough, Betty Crowel, Bob Fuller, Adah Goodhand, Marjorie Green, Pat Harris, Sherry Leininger, Arvilla Pontius, Norma Snyder.

Keep our Service People in Prayer



Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Matt Bowman, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chapat, Dean Karl Clark, Jonathan Ditson, James Galloway, Justin Gerou, Dakota Kizer, Alyssa Larson, Kara Larson, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Josh Marner, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Matt Rentfrow, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.

Dan's Fish Fry



Prices:
Adults: \$10
Under 13: \$6
5 and under FREE
Discount for Pre-Sale
269-663-5321

Friday
August 12th
5pm-8pm

Hope United Methodist Church
69941 Elkhart Rd , Edwardsburg

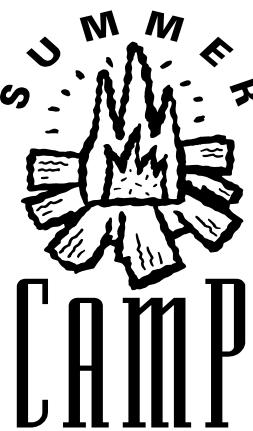
ALL YOU CAN EAT
Fish, Pork tenderloin,
coleslaw, rolls, beans,
drinks and dessert

SEEVOUTHERE!
Find out more :
www.hope-umc.us
Facebook, Instagram
and Twitter
#hopeintehburg

2016 SUMMER CAMP has started. Project Hope and all of its supporters enabled 18 campers, affiliated with Hope, to receive scholarships and attend camp at Crystal Springs. What a blessing to be a part of. These campers will make memories that will last a lifetime.

Hope also assisted in the transportation of 6 students, who attend the Edwardsburg Middle School, to attend camp at Crystal Springs for the first time with scholarships from outside sources.

Thank you to everyone who supports Project Hope which allows us to be a vital part of this awesome community!



Month of May Financial Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 27,087

May Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 24,899
May Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$ -20,463</u>
May - Surplus	\$ 4,436



ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING?

The cell phone is ringing.
The computer is calling.
The remote I can't find.
A picture is in my mind.

I scurry to try to keep up.
Texting is what I do best.
Conversation leaves me in doubt.
Spell check assures no mistakes.

Work supplies me with my needs.
Friends help me with my deeds.
Transportation seems fleeting away.
Extra circular offers me my play.

Breakfast seldom allows time.
Lunch is squeezed into am and pm.
Dinner slips out of a crock pot.
The snack finishes off the busy day.

Life is all about what happens today.
Morning preparations always the same.
The day is a big rush simply flying by.
Evening arrives - much too soon for bed.

Going through the motions what I do best.
Seeking friends as I travel a crooked road.
Running here and there trying to survive.
At day's end have I accomplished anything?

Someone knocked at my door!!
A voice spoke quietly about a path.
A minute or two is all that it asked.
Choices we make-How about you??

If you want help focusing on Jesus
Deb and I will discuss with you.

Our LOVE, Tony and Deb Lang

Free Messy Church Free

Sunday August 14th



4pm-6pm

**Dinner: Walking Tacos
and Root Beer Floats**



Hope United Methodist Church

69941 Elkhart Rd, Edwardsburg MI 49112

Crafts Family Games Celebration Food

This is a community event for everyone! It's a great way for children and their adults to have fun, eat and explore their values together.



Visit us on the web:

www.hope-umc.us

Or call: 269-663-5321



**Leadership Team
Monthly Report to Congregation
June 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
May 2016**

Available funds 05/31/2016

Rummage Sale	\$ 4,319.16
Monthly Contributions	\$ <u>8,441.30</u>
	\$ <u>12,760.46</u>

The total was distributed to the following funds:

Grow Strong Faith Filled Families	\$ 0.00
Transition in Pastoral Leadership	\$ 4,938.66
Manage our Mortgage Responsibilities	\$ 6,545.75
Local, Conference & Global Missions	\$ <u>1,276.05</u>

Total distributed	\$ <u>12,760.46</u>
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The Leadership Team met on Thursday June 2 and dealt with the following items :

- An update on the Leadership Training scheduled for August 12 and 13 was presented. Plans are to hold the training session at the home of Chris Frentz.

Keith and Pastor Jeff presented a report from their visit with Ken Nash on May 16. A lengthy discussion followed and the consensus was to continue with our current transition plan but revise the time table. The motion was made that Chris and Keith would make a presentation to the congregation before the end of June. A summary of that presentation and the revised plan follows below.

Summary of the Presentation to Congregation, June 2016

The last time we talked with you was on Sunday January 31. At that time, we laid out a pastoral transition plan that had some specific goals and time frames. We're here this morning to update you on what's been happening.

One thing that became very clear to us was that the Pastoral Transition Plan had two distinct parts: First, developing the Leadership Team to provide the stability, structure and leadership necessary to lead our congregation through this transition. The other, of course, being the actual selection and hiring of the new pastor.

The Leadership Team development continues to grow as we address the many challenges that we have faced during the last 1 ½ years. We feel very blessed and thank God for His guidance for each individual on that team. The last big step as part of this new governance model is setting up training for both existing members that haven't gone through prior training and for new members to get up to speed on all the ways this governance model works. This training is set up for a weekend in August with Alex Fernandez from Cornerstone leading some of the sessions.

We also learned there are no guidelines or procedures for hiring a direct hire who will become the next pastor for HUMC. This is a whole new concept that has only been used in a few churches in the Kalamazoo District. One of those is Cornerstone Church in Grand Rapids. Ken Nash, who has worked with us over the last several years has been successful with this approach in getting pastors for the multiple sites that they have started in that area. He has provided us with support, guidance and prayer.

We have identified 12 people during the last 5 months that we felt were potential candidates. Four of those were not interested after the initial contact for a variety of reasons. Jeff had interaction with the remaining 8 of which 4 stated they were taking other positions. Jeff did interviews with the remaining candidates and then Jeff, Keith and Chris interviewed 2 of them via Skype. A couple of these candidates have potential and are still under consideration. We also continue to explore new candidates with Jeff having made several more contacts last week at the district conference.

Despite our optimism and progress, we need to take more time and patience to listen to the spirit's guidance so that we ensure that we select the proper leader for HUMC. We are here today to report to you that we were overly optimistic about the amount of time it would take to make all of this happen. We had good intentions, but it's obvious that there is not going to be a new hire in place July 1 as we originally planned.

As this became obvious to the Leadership Team and we struggled with what to do, we had some really good discussions. Some of the memorable comments that came from those discussions were:

Maybe we should remember who is in control here – not us for sure!

It was pointed out by one member of the team reminding us that perhaps we need to get out of the boat and trust that God will make it happen. Keep focused on Him instead of trying to make things happen ourselves.

We must be patient waiting on the Holy Spirit to lead us. We will know when we have found the right person.

We would meet again with Ken Nash and discuss the options further.

Most of us are aware of the impact that God has had on Pastor Jeff while he is driving or sitting waiting for trains to cross the tracks. Driving is very important part of Jeff's daily / weekly devotion time with God. A lot of what has happened in the past while he is on the road between here and Kalamazoo or Grand Rapids etc. Well, I'm here to tell you that it is still happening. On May 16 Jeff and I made a trip to Cornerstone to meet with Ken Nash to discuss some of our frustrations with where we were at and what was next. Well it was obvious a short while into the trip that we had another person riding with us in the back seat. The Holy Spirit. Through His leading a lot of things came out and became clearer to us. What was being revealed to us was what the next step needed to be. It is awesome to see God's plan kick in when people are listening and acting upon His guidance. The meeting at Cornerstone and our Leadership Team discussion confirmed our next step. So, today we would like to present to you an updated plan that we believe is much more realistic!

Here is the revised plan:

- The projected date to have a new hire in place is: January 1, 2017
- Jeff will not be submitting a letter to the conference asking to be moved in July 2017 as originally thought.
- He will remain with Hope until July of 2018 and should be able to retire shortly after that. This will relieve him of the need to go somewhere else for a short assignment prior to retiring.
- Our Project Hope Pastoral Transition Fund should have a full year's salary by January 1 2017 according to the original plan.

We ask that you continue to contribute to Project Hope as having these funds available will assist us in ensuring that this transition is financially successful. If this goes as planned, we will be paying for 2 pastors for the course of a year.

In the meantime, we **MUST** work on getting some relief for Jeff's preaching schedule. The LT is looking at a number of options at this time. As we consider our plans we keep focused on Philippians 1:6 "He who began the good work here at HUMC will be faithful to complete it!"

We ask that you keep Pastor Jeff and his family in your prayers and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us all as we move into this transition to a new pastor. We know that God has a plan for HUMC; He had one all along. We must be patient and listen for Him to lead us through it. We need to be united for this transition and for the new pastor.

God Bless you all.

PICK/SERVE A BOOK CLUB

JUNE 15, 2016

Four book club members met and decided to go to Thyme of Grace restaurant on Mishawaka Avenue in Mishawaka. We enjoyed the original recipes and decadent desserts. They were SO delicious!

Carole Rehmann shared Danielle Stewart's book, Flowers in the Snow, available in paperback and as an e-book. It's a story told by "Betty" in conversational style starting from the eyes of a child into



the voice of a woman. She lived and survived growing up in the South during the 1960's. She tells a story of racial divide, prejudice, misunderstandings and hatred. It's also a story of unconditional love, growth, forgiveness and acceptance. Flowers in the Snow deals with tough subjects that are still an issue today. Danielle Stewart writes with grace and heart. You'll wonder if things were really that bad and answer is yes, and for some it still is. Carole admires the courage it took for anyone to take a stand against injustice. It's a great story and an amazing lesson in the power of love and acceptance. She suggests that you read Flowers in the Snow with an open mind and an open heart. It's a beautiful story.

Melinda Priebe plans to send copies of the book she is writing, Trapped Inside: Time of Turbulence, to the book club for suggestions or opinions before she publishes it. She was also happy to report that her friend Mathias who was in a coma last month has recovered completely. He had been run over by a car and had severe head injuries.

Marti suggested reading three books, possibly as Bible studies: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World and Having a Mary Spirit by Joanna Weaver and Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. All three books have study guides in the back for further discussion. She had read the book Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World with a Bible study group and wants to read Having a Mary Spirit because its theme is about allowing God to change us from the inside out.

Gwen is continuing to read If by Mark Patterson. She has also been very busy reorganizing her office and life as she retires from Hope. She plans to spend the month of July visiting her daughter Melinda in Ohio. We'll look forward to her return in August!

Pat Herr shared the book Is Heaven for Real? by Patrick Doucette. It is available on Amazon as an e-book as well as paperback. It is a collection of personal interviews describing individual reports of near-death experiences. One story that impressed her was about a young deep sea diver who was an unbeliever. He was stung by a jellyfish and almost died. Through his experience he became personal friends with God.

Just a reminder, our check out system for books has been simplified to be an "honor" system. If you borrow a book you will not need to sign it out, but be responsible for returning it to the book box in the hallway, not back on the shelf. Also, if you bring books to donate, place them on Tiffany Manfred's desk in her office.

We have decided to take a break for the month of July since Carole will be on a cruise in Alaska and Gwen will be in Ohio. We'll meet again August 17 at 11:30 at Hope. We'd love to have more people join us to share their summer readings and experiences.

FORTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO

Forty seven years ago the story began. Forty seven years ago the news came. I don't know what my father was doing when the car pulled up in front of our house in Keeler, Michigan that September of 1969. He was probably in the kitchen cooking because he saw the military car from the dining room window. I can almost hear my dad's heart beating rapidly and see inward tears as the man approached the door.

The Viet Nam War was on. It had been for some time. My brother Ron had been drafted right out of high school. The only way he could have avoided the war was to further his education with his scholarship to an in-state university. Because there was no money, he had to go to war.

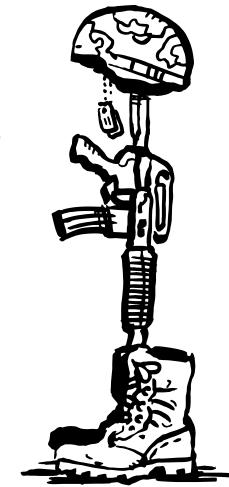
My brother was a popular guy in high school, not because of money or wrong doings, but because of his personality, hard work and his achievements in sports. Someone recently told me that the last time he saw Ron was when he came home after boot camp for a short break. The man thanked him for his service and my brother's comment was "We all have to do our part."

It's funny how people think that just because they care about someone that that person will live to be old with family members trailing, because that is what I thought when I received a phone call at my husband's and my house in Cassopolis telling me my brother had been killed. I'm glad I wasn't alone.

There followed 11 days of many tears before the funeral and many more after. Even today when I think of him my heart hurts. Never in my life did I tell him I loved him. We now tell our children and grandchildren. It's very important. After the service we went to Bob's sister's house to celebrate our daughter's first birthday. Tears of grief, tears of joy.

Although the journey has been long, there will be a joyful reunion in Heaven one day when I can finally tell my brother how much he was missed and that "I love him". You see, 47 years ago he accepted Christ as his savior over there in what soldiers to this day call "Hell on earth". Ron won't be in Heaven because he was "popular" or "good" but because he made the decision for salvation.

The Bible says in I Thessalonians 5:18 to give thanks in all things. . . I wish Ron could have had a wife and family, but I'm not God. I didn't know what was best for his life. We all have to go at some time. He just got there early. Oh, by the way, his birthday is July 5. When you walk the hall between Building 1 and 2, pause to say a silent "Happy Birthday" to a great guy who died for our freedom.



By Bonnie Knight

June 30 Statements

Statements showing donations to Hope UMC through June 30, 2016, will be distributed in July. We are planning on distributing as many of these statements as possible through email. If you would **NOT** like a statement emailed to you, please contact Dawn Weingart 269-663-5321 and a paper statement will be created instead.

If you would like to add your email information to our list or verify that we have your current email, please fill out a connections card with your current email or contact the office at 269-663-5321x0.





Craft Night Friday, July 1

Craft night is coming on **Friday, July 1**, 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.

PHOTOS FROM FAMILY CAMP AT CRYSTAL SPRINGS CAMP





A Special Reminder

CHRISTMAS EVE candlelight services will be held at Hope UMC at

7 and 11 p.m. December 24th. These services last about one hour.

Share the experience with and bring a guest or guest family!

