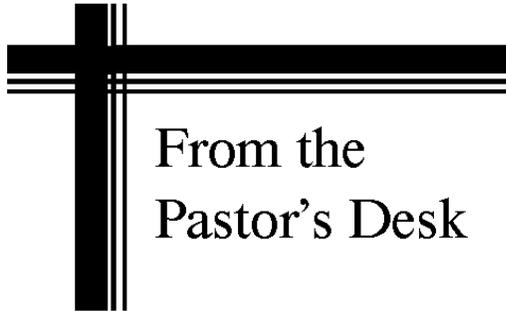


# HOPE GOOD NEWS

## December 2018



### From the Pastor's Desk

**Another Christmas, just like the others, only this one is different.** Though I can't change Christmas past or Christmas future, I can work on Christmas present. What can I do to make this the most meaningful Christmas of my life?

**First,** I need to think of the **who?** Who gets top billing in our Christmas celebrations? Santa Claus or Jesus? Too often, the two morph together into a magical Santa Claus deity that comes just to grant our wishes.

This is not the God we see in Jesus. Jesus was not the messiah most people were expecting and hoping for. He resisted the world's obsessions with wealth, pleasure, power, and recognition. He identified with the weak and powerless, the widow and the orphan. He did not condemn but defended the sinner. Jesus was the embodiment of God's values and priorities.

**Second,** I need to think about the **what.** What is Christmas really about? Christmas is about a miracle. Miracles don't just happen – they are born through labors of pain. A miracle is a unique event in the world that God does through people like you and me. You are God's means to change the world.

**Third,** I need to focus on the **where and when?** My prayer is that Hope Church might be your where and when. Your participation in any or all of the following events can make a huge difference in your Christmas experience.

Cookie Walk: Thursday December 6 (3-5pm)  
Stuff-a-bus: December 7 (4-8 pm), 8 (9-Noon)  
Basket Packing: Sunday December 16 6pm  
Family Nativity Festival: December 19-21 5-7pm  
Blended Service: Sunday before Christmas 9:30AM  
Christmas Eve Candle Light Services: December 24 at 4PM and 7PM  
Ugly Sweater Contest: Sunday December 30 @ both services



**Personal Challenge: do all you can to make this the most meaningful Christmas of your life.** Merry Christmas, Pastor Scott

Christmas Cards for Church Attendees and Members begins December 2nd.

Simply put the name of the recipient on the envelope and drop them off at the table near the music room.



### Current Hope Financial Information Month of October Ministry Fund Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 28,387

October Ministry Fund Donations: \$16,206  
 October Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-27,151  
 October Shortfall: \$-10,945



#### Year to Date Shortfall after transfers \$ -18,168

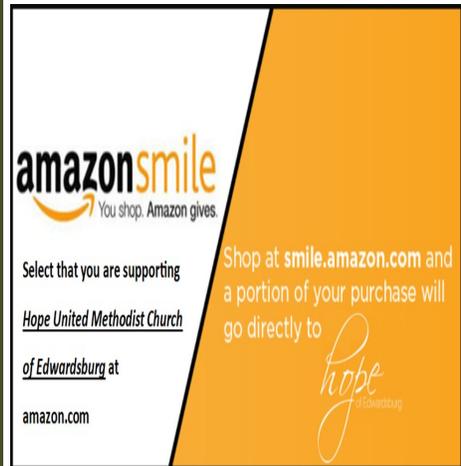
Obviously, our expenses have exceeded our donations for the year. However, the balance in our Ministry Fund is still at a healthy level. All October expenses have been paid.

#### Mortgage Payment Update:

##### Mortgage Payment Sources:

Extra Principal Payment from New Building Fund	\$28,912.50
Extra Principal Payment from undesignated Memorials	\$585.00
Project Hope Allocation from Regular Giving	<u>\$5,010.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,507.50</b>

Current Mortgage Balance = \$184,842 after the November 2018 Payment



#### Year End Donations:

Here are the ways that your donation can still be included in your 2019 donation statement, per the IRS:

- \* Put your donation in the last **Sunday offering** of the year, which is December 30.
- \* Drop off your donation in the **church office** on December 31 between 8:30am and 2pm.
- \* Make sure that your donation via **the mail** is post marked on or before December 31 and sent to P O Box 624, Edwardsburg MI 49112.

#### 2019 Giving envelopes & Electronic giving options

If you would like a package of pre-numbered **weekly giving envelopes** for 2019, please request them on the back of your connection card in the weekly bulletin. You may also contact the office at 269-663-5321 x 6 and leave a message for Dawn. The envelopes will be distributed during December.

If you would like to make your donation to Hope automatic, please sign up for **Electronic Giving**. Donations come out automatically from your checking account, debit card or credit card weekly or monthly. You can set up your own secure account through our website: <http://www.hope-umc.us> by clicking on the green Online Giving button. If you need some help getting setup, Dawn would be happy to help you at 269-663-5321 x6 between 9:00 and 2:00 on Monday and Wednesday.



TANNER LEININGER	12/01
CHRIS EDGERTON	12/03
WENDELL LEIST	12/04
MARGARET HERMAN	12/05
ROBERT J BYRD	12/06
IAN MANSELL	12/06
JANET STRYCKER	12/06
DANA GEORGE	12/07
BRODY WEAVER	12/08
ALICE PONTIUS	12/08
ANDREW DOHM	12/08
ROB SNODGRASS	12/09
JULIE BYRD	12/09
TOM HARRIS	12/09
BONNIE MORGAN	12/10
SHARON TAFUNAI	12/11
THOMAS GREEN	12/11
ANN GUSTAFSON	12/13
CARRIE MINNIX	12/14
BRENDA SHAFER	12/15
CINDY CARMEN	12/15
BILL DOLDE	12/16
DJ BUSSEN	12/18
DON MANSELL	12/18
MORGAN ANDERSON	12/19
DIANE SEIFERT	12/19
MARTI BARTELS	12/20
MAKENZIE MORGAN	12/20
LARRY BOWMAN	12/21
BONNIE KNIGHT	12/22
EVIE TAFUNAI	12/23
MARJ REA	12/23
DeSHEA BLUNIER	12/24
WENDY HILL	12/24
MARIE KOENIGSHOF	12/24
GAYLA SIMMONS	12/24
LANCE STEVENSON	12/25
GARY DENEMARK	12/25
STEPHANIE CLINE	12/26
KIRIN MOLER	12/27
SUSAN MOLER	12/28
ALEX EDGERTON	12/29
MICHAEL STRAKA	12/29
TONY KOONTZ	12/30
KELLY ENDRES	12/31
KEVIN ENGLISH	12/31



ARDITH & CARL HIGLEY	12/21
DeSHEA & TOM BLUNIER	12/22
SHERRY & ROGER MAHNESMITH	12/29
LAURA & JON BLOUGH	12/30

### 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, Bob Fuller, Adah Goodhand, Sherry Leininger, Bob and Beth Mann.

## Youth Group



**Sundays 6pm-7:30pm**

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades @ Pastor Scotts house

For details call Scott: 616-307-9765

Or Carrie: 616-307-8870

### Keep our Service People in Prayer

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



HONORING Our  
ARMED FORCES

# Family Nativity Festival

5:00-7:00PM  
December 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

This is an exciting event that encourages everyone to come show off their own nativity set to the public. They will be displayed here for three nights. If interested in participating please sign up on your connection card.



**We are very excited for this new event! We ask that anyone in the congregation who has a nativity set please sign up to bring it for display. This is open to the community as well. If you know that your neighbor has a really neat nativity set, we'd love you to invite them to show it off as well. We encourage those who have a set on display to hang around during the event to share with visitors about your nativity set. Where it came from, how long its been in the family. Don't fret if you are unable to be here. You can write a few words down and we will place it with your nativity set. When visitors arrive, they will get to walk through the church and admire all the displayed nativity sets while listening to soft music of the season. There will be warm refreshments available and Charlie Brown's Christmas movie playing in the sanctuary. There will be activities for the kids and a photo booth manger for families to dress up and get their picture taken. Please join us for this very memorable holiday event!**



2018  
*Christmas*  
OFFERING

*The offerings collected tonight will be divided equally between the following:*



UMCOR and Global Ministries are addressing the global refugee and migration contexts guided by four principles: the right to stay and flourish in one's country of origin; safe passage for those with no viable alternative but to leave; welcoming and belonging, a process wherein migrants, refugees, and receiving communities work together to meet the needs of new arrivals; and support for the returned to help them reintegrate with dignity into their home countries after deportation.



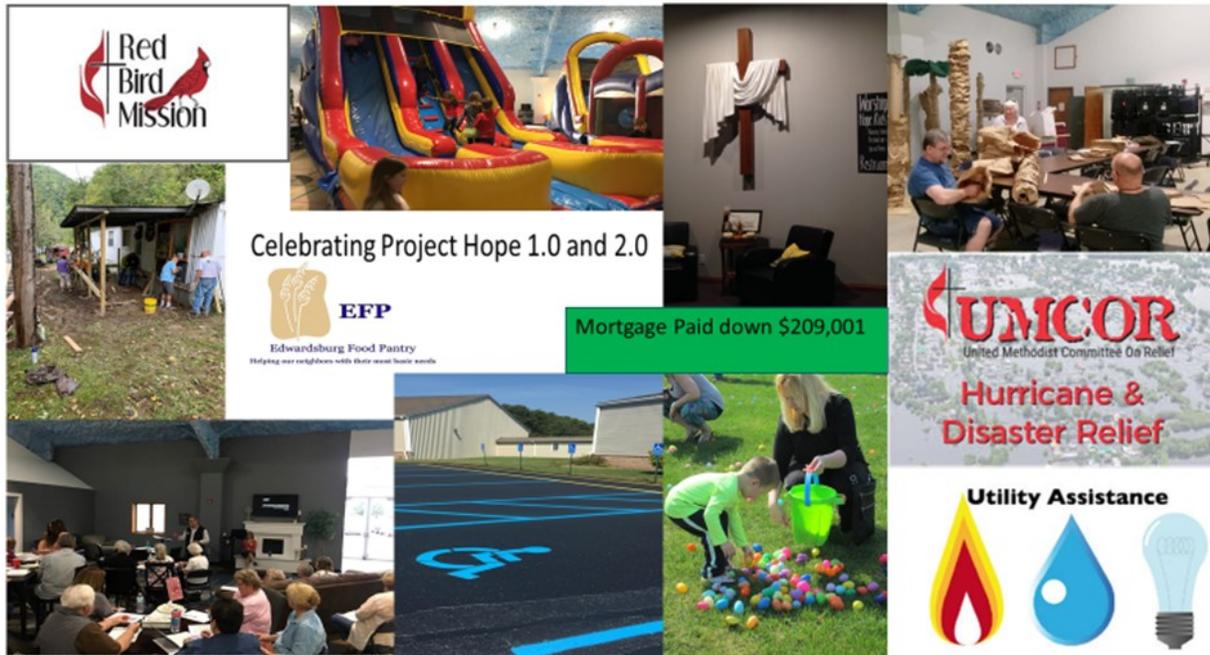
At no charge, foster parents and county social workers can get new or gently used children's clothing, shoes, baby care items, small plush toys, new underwear and socks from the church's "clothing closet," which is open to foster families in Cass and St. Joseph counties in Michigan.



**Christmas Basket Packing  
Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm  
at Our Lady of the Lake  
Church on US 12  
Basket distribution will be  
Monday December 17<sup>th</sup>  
1-6pm.  
Volunteers needed for both  
events.**

## PROJECT HOPE 2.0 IS WRAPPING UP!

Thank you so much for your sacrificial giving to Project Hope 1.0 and Project Hope 2.0 over the last 4 years. You have generously given \$418,000 through October 2018. Here are some highlights!



### Here is what's still on going related to Project Hope:

**Small Group Funds** will be utilized as we hope to start more new groups in 2019.

**Pastoral Transition Funds** are designated and therefore can only be used by Hope Church for transitional purposes. Here's how your leadership team approved in July as the best way to deploy the funds:

#### 2018 - 2019 Transition Plan Summary – approved by Leadership Team July 2018

	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Building 1 Upgrades (Paint, Entry, Lighting, Carpet, TV, Pictures)	\$16,000
Reese Hall Upgrades (Paint, Flooring, TV, Pictures)	\$6,500
Contemporary Service (Furniture, Sound, Light)	\$21,000
Ministry Fund Support	\$17,500
Fresh Expressions	\$10,500
Worship Leader	<u>\$8,500</u>
Total	<u>\$80,000</u>

## TWO HANDS



As a baby, human hands lifted us into their arms.  
They fed our little tummies with much nourishment.  
A small tap on the back often gave us comfort.  
Crying souls were surely comforted by their touch.

A hand held while walking expressed true love.  
A hand reaching around the back showed caring.  
Two hands hugging shared many feelings together.  
The shake of a hand confirmed a life's friendship.

The work two hands produced expressed their skills.  
Gifts made by these hands would give much pleasure.  
Food cooked to perfection came from two hands.  
Caring for others was a purpose of these two hands.

We use our hands to reach out to others in need.  
Our hands grasping a crying child offered peace.  
We plant a seed to harvest so others may have food.  
We lift our hands in praise giving thanks and glory.

Our hands are clasped in offering a desired prayer;  
Sometimes for our needs, sometimes for other's needs.  
Our two hands represent our faith, a prayer to answer.  
Words come through these hands awaiting an answer.

Jesus stretched out His hands on the cross just for us.  
He used His hands in healing the sick and the lame.  
His hands supplied food when there was not enough.  
Miracles were performed by His touch to show His Love.

What will WE do with these two hands God has made?  
Will we use them to further His Heavenly Kingdom?  
Are we willing to show Love with our own two hands?  
Will we greet Jesus someday, our hand in His hand?

As Christmas approaches, use your hands to show someone you care. *Deb and Tony Lang.*

## Christmas Gifts Needed for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry kids



Toys for Tots brings in toys for children under 12 years. The Food Pantry services 122 kids between the ages of 13 and 17. **We would like to collect items for this age range.**

Please leave unwrapped gifts under our trees.

Suggested gifts: Nike Elite socks, Sports accessories, make-up and bath kits, hand held games.

Gift Cards are a great gift for this age group. Please do not leave gift cards under the tree. Gift cards in the amount of \$5 or \$10 can be placed in the offering baskets. We will be collecting gifts through **December 16th.**

## WITHIN THE WALLS

There's an advertisement on TV that I've come to love. It's brought to us by Hobby Lobby. You've probably seen it.

A girl, about 9 or 10 years old, gets off her school bus, runs up the long driveway and dashes through the front door of her family's farmhouse. As she nears her bedroom door, she drops her backpack. There's something more important WITHIN THE WALLS of her space.



Her mother curiously and patiently watches her day after day, saying nothing. In fact, there are no words between the two during the whole viewing. Once in a while as the girl enters her "secret" place you can see a glimpse of material. What is she making?

As the cameras roll you can spot sheep out in the meadow grazing on the luscious green grass. Within a small structure a lamb is seen being sheared, then left alone. The girl is watching from her bedroom window. Now is the time, the time to unveil her secret. The viewers wait in anticipation.

The coast is clear. She grabs her masterpiece, flies out of her bedroom, through the house and straight to the stable where she gently drapes the small warm quilt across the back of the gentle creature. Her mother watches, clothed in pride, her eyes nearly in tears.

Can you see the picture — the picture of love?

As the advertisement comes to a close the words "CHRISTMAS is what you make of it" flashes across the screen. I had seen this ad a couple of times before and thought it was cute, but for some reason, in a split second I was touched. My eyes were opened. You see, the lamb represents JESUS and the lamb represents love. The girl gave of her time and talent. PURE love. Touching, isn't it?

I want to do more for the LAMB, like giving and serving. What's going on WITHIN YOUR WALLS (your heart)?

By Bonnie Knight

### Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

Will begin a new series January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019, **The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi** by Kathie Lee Gifford. This is a 6 week DVD study. Anyone interested, please contact Donna Mansell so she can order you a book.



**Hope's M&M's**

<b>Mortgage</b>	<b>Missions</b>
<b>90%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Of what is given to M&amp;M's will go to pay off the mortgage</b>	<b>Of what is given to M&amp;M's will go towards missions.</b>

**CRAFT NIGHT**  
**Friday, December 7**



Craft night is coming on Friday, December 7, from 6PM - Mid-night. Join us whenever you're available.

Bring a project, a beverage and a snack to share. Friends are always welcome. We're collecting items for Stuff-a-Bus, if anyone would like to donate.

**What's next**  
**Mortgage & Missions (M&Ms)**

Our goal to pay off the Mortgage by the end of Project Hope has not occurred. However, we have driven the balance down to \$184,842 as of the end of November, which is impressive. We're starting this new fund to channel our sacrificial giving towards the M&M fund.

We're putting 10% of giving to the M&M fund towards local, national and international missions. This allows us to continue to answer the call to reach out to those in need.

The remaining 90% will go toward paying the Mortgage. The M&M fund will continue until the Mortgage is paid off. Our current payoff date is March 31, 2022. We can reach that sooner by making extra payments on the Mortgage.

**Sunday January 20th**  
**11:30am**

*Hope* **Soup Cook-Off**  
of Edwardsburg

**FREE TO TASTE**

**FREE TO ENTER**

**Clothing and Winter Outer-wear Drive for Eagle Lake School**

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED!**

THIS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND WILL  
 KEEPS LOTS OF KIDS WARM THIS WINTER!

**THANK YOU!**



## Q & A FROM OCTOBER CHURCH CONFERENCE



Q: When can I start giving to the M&M fund?

A: At any time. Just indicate M&M fund on your check or giving envelope.

Q: Are there any pledge cards for the M&M fund?

A: No. We'll let you know the progress that we're making on both Missions and Mortgage in the newsletter to keep you informed. Weekly giving will be noted on the back of the weekly bulletin.

Q: I give electronically what will happen to my Project Hope donations in January?

A: You will be receiving a letter from the church that will allow you to indicate if you want your former Project Hope 2.0 giving to go to the Mortgage & Missions. Please return that letter to Dawn Weingart at Hope.

Q: How do the updates in Reese Hall and moving the Second service to that room impact Coffee Hour and Sunday School classes?

A: We are planning on keeping Coffee Hour in the same location and time. We will try it out and then adjust as needed. For Sunday School, we'll make sure that everyone has a place to meet. We want to make this a successful transition that will work for everyone. Your flexibility and feedback will be critical to our success.

Q: Will the Girl Scouts, Boy Scout and others still be allowed to utilize Reese Hall?

A: Yes, we are hoping that the improvements will make the Reese Hall even more versatile.

Q: Why are we paying for renovations when the Mortgage fund or Ministry Fund has been short in the past?

A: Hope's goal is to try to balance immediate and long-term goals for the church. Utilizing the Pastoral Transition funds to Transition Hope Church to our next phase of growth is a natural extension of Project Hope. Project Hope was established to fulfill Hope's mission to Invite, connect, grow strong faith-filled families who serve Christ in Edwardsburg, Michiana and the world. We believe that these projects will transition Hope Church into a new phase of growth. Our consultant shared with us in May that our current worship space is neither traditional nor modern. Our plan is to improve the environment for both worship spaces. This will enable all of us to grow in our connection to Christ and each other.

Part of the transitional funds (see the listing on page 5) are also being used to for the immediate goals for supporting the Ministry Fund and Fresh Expression outreaches.

Q: When will any updates be made to Building 1?

A: The entry area was updated this fall. Our best estimate is that the rest of the updates will be done during 2019.

Q: Are we still going to complete the next building?

A: Right now, that project is on the back burner. Our intention was always to pay off the current mortgage before moving forward with the next phase. The LT is really focused on completing this before moving on to the next phase. We need to determine what's next for Hope after the current projects are completed.

Let me know what questions you want answered in January's newsletter. It could be about funding, the LT or any area that you have questions about Hope. We want to keep everyone informed. Give Dawn a call at 269-663-5321x6 or email her at dawn.weingart@hope-umc.us.



*Hope*  
of Edwardsburg

**Friday December 7th 4-8pm and  
Saturday December 8th 9am-Noon  
at the Edwardsburg Dollar General**

**To benefit the Edwardsburg Food Pantry**

All donations stay in Edwardsburg/Union. The most needed items include cereal, shelf milk, canned fruit, pancake mix, syrup, pudding, jello, spaghetti sauce, canned tomatoes, beef stew and muffin mix.

Toys, gift cards (for older kids), toiletries and monetary donations are also needed.

# Inflatable Extravaganza!



December 26th-29th  
10:00am-2:00pm  
Pre-K through 8th grade.  
**SOCKS REQUIRED**



**Special Youth Group Bounce Time: Friday December 28th 7-9pm**