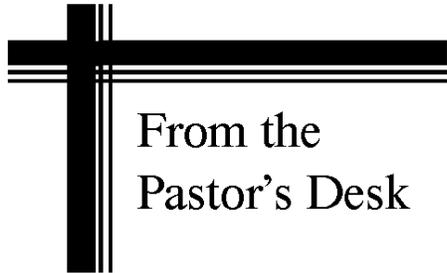


HOPE GOOD NEWS

February 2019



From the Pastor's Desk

In **Matthew 25**, Jesus tells a parable about the opportunities all of us are granted in life.

The kingdom of God will be like a man going on a journey who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

To one he gave five bags of gold, - a talent of gold was worth about 20 years of work for the average day laborer in this culture-to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability.

The man who received the five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. By "putting his money to work," we are to understand that he went and traded his wealth for other things of appreciating value. He did this because he knew that was what his master was expecting of him; he had been given the money to manage. "So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more." The second servant managed the money entrusted to him as the first servant had. "But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money."



Using Your *Talents*

After a long time, the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more." "Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your master's happiness!"

The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more." Come and share your master's happiness!

The third servant begins to explain why he buried his money, he subtly blames the master. This is what irresponsible people do.

His master replied, "you wicked, lazy servant!" *Wicked* here can also be translated *worthless*, and I think that's a better translation.

Everybody gets an uneven amount of opportunity, and everybody's held accountable for what they do with it. Everybody has the privilege, everybody has the responsibility, to somehow, someday give an account for what

I believe Hope is a five-talent church. Prayerfully, every day we are using our talents to reach for the future. It is challenging, sometimes frightening and sometimes exciting. Please pray for your Leadership Team as together we lean into God's future. I personally want to one day hear "well done good and faithful servant." I also desperately want that for our church.

And the question for you is this: What are you going to do with what you have?

Pastor Scott

JANUARY LEADERSHIP TEAM

2019 members: Marti Bartels, Jackie Boone, Brant Campanaro, Sabrina English, Bonnie Morgan, Pastor Scott Otis, Jim Ralph, Diane Seifert, Corey Sheets



There is one spot to be filled. We hope to fill this vacancy after the January 26 leadership team training session.

As previously decided, the last of the contributions to Project Hope and those to M&M will be split 90% to pay down the mortgage and 10% to missions.

The Bell Tower committee spoke to the LT in November. If anyone has questions about the bell tower, contact Tom Rea. The Leadership Team's focus is to get the mortgage paid off.

Pastor Scott went over past and upcoming events including the move of second service to Reese Hall on February 3 and his trip to Israel in February.

The next Leadership meeting is February 14.

Contemporary Services Begin In Reese Hall

On February 3 we will be holding our first service in Reese Hall! Some things that we need for the service are in place, while others are in process.

WHAT TO EXPECT: A relaxed, joyful time of worship sitting in chairs around tables. At your table you can take notes and drink coffee. It is also an opportunity to get to know others as you worship.

THE DRESS CODE: Please wear whatever is comfortable to you. Again, we want you to relax and decompress from your busy week.

WILL THE SERVICE BE DIFFERENT THAN IT WAS IN THE SANCTUARY? We will sing great music, have uplifting messages and a time to pray just like always. We will also be having weekly communion in new ways.

HOW TO HELP: This new service will require great hospitality. Can you serve on our new hospitality team? If so, please let us know on your connection card.

PRAY: We need prayer partners to pray for the band members, the technology team, the hospitality team and all those who will attend.

See you February 3! Pastor Scott





TOM REA	2/01
JOYCE WARD	2/02
LYDIA GOULD	2/03
JUSTIN ROSS	2/03
NANCY LOOTENS	2/04
BREENA MAPLES	2/05
KELLY MORTIMER	2/05
FLORENCE GORDON	2/05
CHUCK ORTH	2/05
MARY KATHLEEN JONES	2/06
BENTLEY CARLYLE	2/07
PATTY JOHNSON	2/09
SAMUEL DeYOUNG	2/10
NORMA BOONE	2/10
JASON UDELL	2/10
KELLY DUIS	2/13
BARBARA ANN MORGAN	2/13
BETTY BRADY	2/13
JILL GARDNER KAYNER	2/15
MIKE BOWMAN	2/16
SUE BURKS	2/17
CAITLIN WYANT	2/17
CALIANA MANFRED	2/18
CHASE MANFRED	2/18
JON BLOUGH	2/18
BERNICE PELMEAR	2/20
ERIC TROSPER	2/24
BRONWYN TAFUNAI	2/25
HEAVEN GRISSINGER	2/26
SANDY RYDER	2/26



DELLA & DENNIS HOLDREAD	2/04
SHARYN & JAMES SNYDER	2/21
MARJE & TOM REA	2/23
SUSIE & DAVID HENDRICKS	2/28

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, Bob Fuller, Sherry Leininger and Beth Mann.



**Friday February 8th
6:00PM
Reese Hall**

Weather Related Closings

If there is a weather emergency in Cass County, all functions will be canceled. If the Edwardsburg Public Schools are closed, the church office is closed and all evening activities are canceled. Hope will put all weather closings on WSBT, WNDU, Fox 28, the Hope website and Facebook.

**CRAFT NIGHT
Friday, February 1**

Craft night is coming on Friday, February 1, from 6pm - Midnight. 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 the Humane Society, if anyone would like to donate.



HOPE GROWTH GROUPS FORMING

Short-term (6 week) Growth Group will be starting in March. Groups will study the book, *“Soul Shift: The Measure of a Life Transformed”* by Steve DeNeff and David Drury. The book can be purchased at Amazon.com. This study will go along with Pastor Scott’s message series.

While attending church every week is good for you – both spiritually **and physically** – it shouldn’t be your only interaction with believers on a weekly basis. Being a Christ-follower is best experienced as part of a community.

Here are a few reasons why you might want to join a growth group:

In a growth group, you are noticed

Although most churches try to ensure that every member feels valued, this isn’t always possible when people interact once a week. When you’re part of a growth group, people know your name, care about you, and are willing and able to support you when it’s needed most.



Growth groups give you an extended family

Some of us live hundreds of miles from our families. Others have no families at all. Being part of a growth group that meets weekly gives you the same loyalty and support that you would receive from family.

Growth groups allow you to search and ask questions

No one has all of the answers to questions about God, Christianity, and our spiritual journey – not even pastors. A growth group gives you the ability to ask hard questions in a safe environment – and seek the answers together.

Growth groups improve your attitude

When you have people that pray for you every week (or maybe even every day), text you periodically, and truly care about your life, it’s hard not to walk around with a smile on your face.

Truly, there are many benefits of growth groups – for each member, the church as a whole, our community, and our world.

To lead or be part of a new group sign up on your Connect Card or contact Carrie Otis at 616.307.8870.

PASSION

The gift of Jesus is the greatest gift for us.
For a father to give up his only son for us.
To offer man the precious gift of eternal life.
Let our hearts and lives reflect the celebration.

Grant us the desire to search your word to us.
And give us the strength to endure the trials.
That our life may become more like Jesus.
And maintain a faith that stimulates our growth.

Let me see no other as greater or lesser than me.
That I may be able to offer compassion to all.
And give the gift of God's love to everyone, always.
With the attitude to work for the service of God.

Help me to start each and every day in God's word.
And pray for God's will to be done in my life.
That I may be willing to follow His calling in my life.
And express Commitment to God's word in my life.

May I offer everything I have to anyone in need.
And not to withhold anything for worldly desires.
But give from the heart that all may improve their lives.
For the Lord gave to me, let me give with generosity.

Strengthen my faith that I may witness to others.
And offer the message of salvation to lost souls.
And the encouragement to the saved soul to endure.
By spreading God's message through evangelism.

May my heart be open to hearing God's message.
May my soul be longing for the golden road in Heaven.
Reaching out to shake the hand of Jesus some day.
Hearing those precious words, "Well done, good servant".

Our prayer you have this passion in your heart.
Deb and Tony Lang

Join Us for a
St. PADDY'S day

POTLUCK!

Sunday, March 17th

11:30am

Please bring your favorite St Paddy's Day dish to share!
Drinks provided.



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Edwardsburg MI 49112
www.hope-umc.us

CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of December Ministry Fund Summary

Monthly Ministry Donation Goal: \$ 28,387

December Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 27,387
December Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-25,468</u>
December Shortfall:	\$ - 1,905

Year to Date Shortfall after transfers \$ -16,482

Obviously, our expenses have exceeded our donations for the year. However, the balance in our Ministry Fund is still at a healthy level. All our 2018 bills have been paid. This includes paying **100%** of our 2018 Ministry Shares to the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church which totaled \$40,350.

Mortgage Payment Update:

Mortgage Payment Sources:

December Project Hope + M&M Allocation from Regular Giving=\$7,894.28

Current Mortgage Balance=\$173,254.91 after the January 2019 payment. Our projected payoff date is now a month earlier, **February 2022!**

2018 Year End Statements:

Thank you for your financial support of the Ministries at Hope. The 2018 statements were emailed, printed and distributed mid-January. If you have any questions regarding your statement please contact the office at 269-663-5321 x6 and leave a message for Dawn.



February

Congratulations to the winners of our Annual Soup Cook Off!

1st Place: Sherry Sayles with "Crack Chicken Noodle Soup"

2nd Place: Leigh Goyings with "Dale's Chili"

3rd Place: Donelda Lohr with "Zuppa Tuscana"



All 3 winning recipes can be found on the Hope website:

www.hope-umc.us



1st Place: CRACK CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

Ingredients

- 3 cups cooked shredded or chopped chicken breast (You can also use rotisserie chicken)
 - 1 (10.5 oz.) can condensed chicken soup
 - 6 cups low-sodium chicken stock
 - 1 cup whole milk
 - 1/2 cup chopped celery
 - 2 medium carrots, sliced
 - 1 (1 oz.) packet Ranch dressing mix
 - 1 cup crumbled bacon
 - 1 1/2 cups shredded mild cheddar cheese
 - 1/2 cup cream cheese, softened
- 8 oz. Thin Spaghetti or Angel Hair - uncooked



Instructions

1. Combine chicken, condensed soup, chicken stock, milk, cream cheese, carrots, celery, ranch dressing mix, and crumbled bacon in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat and bring to a boil.
2. Turn down heat to medium-low and simmer for 20 - 25 minutes. add noodles and cheese and simmer until noodles are fully cooked.

Top with extra crumbled bacon if desired

4. ENJOY!!