



## A Season for Everything

*There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heaven: a time for giving birth, a time for dying, a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted, a time for killing and a time for healing, a time for tearing down and a time for building up, a time for crying and a time for laughing, a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones, a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces, a time for searching and a time for losing, a time for keeping and a time for throwing away, a time for tearing and a time for repairing, a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking, a time for loving and a time for hating, a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)*

In this season of what seems like relentless change, we often find ourselves growing anxious and weary. And just when we feel like we have regained our footing, the reactions of others to these persistent shifts emerge. The whole world seems to be changing (and reacting harshly to that change) right before our eyes... and change is difficult. Uncertainty about what the future might hold causes us all anxiety. It is our human nature when we are comfortable, to avoid any change that might create discomfort. And yet change surrounds us; it is everywhere, all the time.

I used to think that change was the only constant in life, but something that by definition is different all the time cannot be called a constant! God is the only constant. In our ever-changing life, in this ever-changing universe, upon these ever-shifting sands of time, and even in our ever-changing church: God is constant. And what's more? What's even better? God is the only constant in this world, and it is by God's own design! God made it that way, for a reason...for you!

Is the world around you changing, evolving, revolving, devolving, spinning out of control? Is there anxiety, or even fear, welling up within you because of the changes that seem to be surrounding you? Well, the only true medicine for fear caused by change is comfort caused by constant! And **that** is why God created this universe in which God is the only constant; that you might find refuge in Him, and Him alone. You are **that** well-loved! This universe was created with you, and your well-being, in mind!

*"For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed." (Malachi 3:6)*

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)*

*"Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow." (James 1:17)*

Yes, this was all a long and not-so-subtle tactic to ease you in to the next change taking place here at Hope: We are excited to announce that starting **Sunday October 4**, we will begin holding

**INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES!**





## INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays, 8:00AM and 10:30AM, in Reese Hall (Bldg#2)

Here are a few notes to help us all know what to expect as we enter in to this next season of change. Our protocols are in place to prevent/reduce the potential spread of disease which is significantly more harmful to those who have compromised immune systems. We ask for everyone's cooperation in following the protocols as a caring act of love toward the most vulnerable folks within our church and community.

-Please allow one of our hosts to lead you to and from your seats, before and after the service. Our volunteers and staff have worked hard to prepare the space, intentionally arranging seat clusters to allow for the most possible people while maintaining distance. Please sit only with those with whom you already live and/or travel. Wear a mask.

-*"...a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces"*. In this season, we ask that you refrain embracing. Please avoid handshakes, hugs, and hi-fives. Please be conscious of limiting hand-to-hand surface contact. We will clean all chairs and most common surfaces before, between, and after services, but your efforts in this area help significantly.

-Children are welcome to attend. We ask their adults to stay with their children and try to limit their travel within the building. Also consider bringing a bag of quiet comforts, like coloring books, soft toys, etc.

-This will not feel like 'normal' yet, but we will try to incorporate some elements to get close to it. While we will not be participating in corporate/congregational singing, we hope to have musicians sharing familiar melodies to carry us through the more prayerful portions of our worship service. The 8AM service will be a traditional style, with mostly piano music. The 10:30AM service will have a more modern feel.

-If you are willing and able to help with this effort in any way, we are in need of volunteers to help with seating and dismissing people, as well as folks to help with clean-up between services.

-Like all of life, this is a participate-at-your-own-risk event. We will try to our greatest abilities to provide a clean and safe worship space. If you are uncomfortable or unable to join us physically, we will continue to cast the live service audio to the parking lot on 88.3fm, you may call and listen to the message at any point in the week at (269) 215-0027. You may also watch the message on video at our website and Facebook pages. If Edwardsburg Schools stop in-person activities, if there is significant uptick in our area's case numbers, or if positive cases arise within our congregation, we will go back to online worship services until further notice.

-I am sure there is more. Wear a mask. Smile with your eyes. Love one another well. God's grace is amazing, and yours is essential, in doing this well.

Lastly, a huge **"THANK YOU!!!"** to our **staff**, our **leadership team**, our **volunteers**, and to **YOU**, for all of your thought, prayer, preparation, and work! **Way to go Church!**

All my Love, Pastor Nate Starkey

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ALISON STRYCKER	10/01
JOYCE PROCTOR	10/01
TERRI GIPSON	10/03
MACY STEVENSON	10/03
CHAD REID	10/05
MELANIE REID	10/05
BARRY OBERLING	10/06
GENEVA WEINGART	10/07
DALE BLUNIER	10/07
JERROLD R JONES	10/07
PAT STOVER	10/07
DAMION CORP	10/08
CAROL UDELL	10/08
JULIA SHEETS	10/08
RYAN HILL	10/09
JACK WEILER	10/09
JAMES SNYDER	10/09
DEBBY DITSON	10/09
VINCE DUIS	10/10
PAT OWENS	10/10
BARBARA LANE	10/10
BRENDA MORTIMER	10/11
BRIAN BURKS	10/12
CAMDEN ANDERSON	10/13
CARSON MANFRED	10/14
JANE MAHIEU	10/14
SUSIE EDGERTON	10/14
POLLY RIENKS (BOTT)	10/15
KRISTEN WEGNER	10/16
EVAN KNISS	10/16
DAVID HOIEN	10/16
SUE RINEHART	10/17
MELANIE BUZALSKI	10/17
SHIRLEY MASTEN	10/18
JOHN UDELL	10/18
CAMRYN CLAIRDAY	10/20
VICKI BAKER	10/21
TERESA STEVENSON	10/21
CLIFF WILLIAMSON	10/22
SANDY ACKELS	10/22
CHEYENNE MASTEN	10/23
WENDY EMMETT	10/23
MICHELE BLACK	10/24
BRISTOL BORN	10/24
TRAVIS STRONG	10/27
DELLA HOLDREAD	10/27
SARA CLAIRDAY	10/28
BEN MORGAN	10/29
KEVIN MARLING	10/30
TIFFANY MANFRED	10/31
TOM HEBRON	10/31



JANICE & DAN ROSS	10/01
PAT & GARY OWENS	10/02
DACIA & ED KIRKLAND	10/02
VICKIE & RON FLICK	10/02
TIFFANY & TONY MANFRED	10/04
KATHY & CHARLIE DEW	10/05
DIANE SEIFERT & MARTY EBY	10/07
SHERRY & DOUG SAYLES	10/12
JULIE & ROBERT R BYRD	10/12
DONELDA & JOHN LOHR	10/12
GERRY & DICK BAUGHER	10/17
KELLY & VINCE DUIS	10/17
ASHLEY & RANDY JOHNSON	10/18
PAM & JIM CHAPMAN	10/19
MELANIE & GEORGE REID	10/20
KATHY & BOB FULLER	10/20
SUE & MIKE MORGAN	10/21
PHYLLIS & LARRY BANGHART	10/22
MARY ANN & BILL DAVIS II	10/23
DEBBIE & JOHN EUANS	10/28

### SHUT-IN PRAYERS

Those Hope members listed below are restricted home or nursing facility. The term shut-in reflects that their condition war-



Pray  
for the  
Homebound

rants "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.

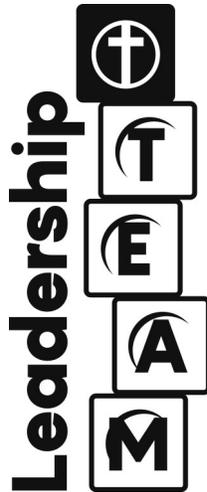
Please remember these people in prayer: Bob Fuller, John Helvey, Ardith & Carl Higley, Sherry Leininger, Beth Mann, Grace Werner, and Beverly Torgeson.

### Keep our Service People in Prayer



### REMEMBER OUR MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

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



## SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

\*We will pay off the sanctuary mortgage in March 2021. This will be done to avoid refinancing this commercial loan which would be necessary next year. We will utilize the remaining balances in the Pastoral Transition and God's Warehouse Funds as well as a portion from the Ministry Fund. These adjustments will be reflected in the 2021 Budget.

\*Beginning October 4 services will be held indoors in Reese Hall. First service will begin at 8AM; second service will start at 10:30 and will be held either indoors or outdoors - depending on weather conditions. Services will still be available on 88.3 FM radio for those choosing to remain in their vehicles and available on Facebook.

The additional time between services allows for any necessary cleaning and sanitation. We anticipate moving 1<sup>st</sup> Service back to Building 1 after October pending any further COVID restrictions on group gatherings.

\*Church Conference is scheduled from Sunday, November 15 @ 5pm. The conference will be held in Reese Hall with Superintendent Dwayne Bagley attending in person or via ZOOM. The finalized 2021 budget will be presented at this time.

\*It was decided that \$1,000 would be provided from the Missions Fund to purchase Double Matching Meijer Gift Cards during their September Simply Give Program. These cards will be utilized by the Edwardsburg Food Pantry to purchase items for the upcoming Holiday Season.

\*It was determined that Hope will not participate in Trunks 'n Treats this year due to concerns on group gatherings.

\*Amy Starkey has been instrumental in maintaining and updating our website and Facebook. Amy has been hired part time as our Media Coordinator starting in September.



**CRAFT NIGHT**  
**Friday, October 2**

Craft night is coming on Friday, October 2, from 6PM- Midnight in the Sanctuary. Join us whenever you're available. We will be social distancing with separated tables and masks. Bring a project, a beverage, and your own snack. Friends are always welcome. We're collecting Beef Stew and Hygiene Products for the Food Pantry, if anyone would like to donate.

## FINANCE QUESTIONS ???

If you have a question about how the church finances work, please contact Dawn Weingart at extension 6 or Pastor Nate at extension 8 at 269-663-5321. We also have summaries of the information that has been published in prior newsletters in the office.



## Current Hope Financial Information

### Month of August

#### Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 17,343

Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-14,239

Surplus for the Month: \$ 3,104

Year to Date Surplus \$ 12,285

All August bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is at a healthy level at \$43,789. Thank you for your continued support!

#### Church Mortgage Update:

September M&M Allocation: \$5,619.60 from M&M Giving

Current Mortgage Balance = \$67,223 after the September 2020 Payment.

**We are planning on paying off the church mortgage when the balloon payment is due 3/1/2021!**

We will continue to use 90% of giving to the Mortgage & Mission fund for the regular church mortgage payments in the meantime. See the Leadership Team summary for more information about our payoff plan. Thank your giving to Project Hope and the Mortgage & Missions Funds which make this possible.

#### Parsonage Mortgage Update:

Regular Mortgage Payment is \$998.58 from the Ministry Fund.

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$163,599 after the September 2020 Payment.

Our projected payoff date is May 2040.



## CROP Hunger Walk

### CROP HUNGER WALK 2020

Providing A Lifeline for All God's Children

This year's Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk will be held Sunday, October 4, 2020, from 1-2 PM. We all know how important this fundraiser is for battling world hunger, but reading the mission statement can help us realize the impact this Christian group has around the planet and at home:

***We are a faith based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.***

CWS programs include creating sustainable farming practices, providing access to clean water, and responding to natural disasters. In response to 2019 hurricanes, hygiene supplies, cleaning buckets, and blankets were handed out to 73,000 families. Each year 25% of the funds raised go directly to Cass County food pantries. To put that in numbers, the **Edwardsburg Food Pantry served 344 households** in 2019, offering twice monthly food baskets for a total of **17,000 visits**.

This year's walk will be a bit different. Local routes are planned in four locations across the county. People from Edwardsburg should meet at the Presbyterian Church from 1-2. All walkers are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Sponsors are encouraged to donate online if possible at [www.crophungerwalk.org/dowagiacmi](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/dowagiacmi). For more information on donating or signing up to walk, contact Leigh Goyings at 269-591-1334. Join with us in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year.

## PICK/SHARE BOOK CLUB

September's meeting was held at Hope in the sanctuary where we could spread out and observe social distancing. We ordered sandwiches on line from Subway. It's a quick way to get your order. They were ready by the time we picked them up.

Our author friend Melinda was unable to join us. We are hoping that she will keep us updated on books that she is currently writing and illustrating.

Sherry  
Silken Thread by  
It's mostly a his-  
with a little bit of  
does a good job  
through three  
how they saw the  
war and what life



enjoyed reading A

Kim Vogel Sawyer.  
romance. The author  
of telling a story  
main characters and  
world after the civil  
was like for south-  
erners. Sherry is donating the book to our church library.  
Marti read Somewhere Safe with Someone  
Good by Jan Karon. Jan develops her charming relatable  
hometown characters with Father Tim Kavanaugh trying  
to enjoy his retirement in Mitford. As you read the book  
you will be inspired by his complex situations, humorous  
musings and heartfelt prayers. We could all use a Father  
Tim in our town.

She also was loaned a fascinating book, Having  
Our Say: the Delaney Sisters' First One Hundred Years.

Amy Hill Hearsh was a reporter for the New York Times  
who luckily was able to convince these two fantastic wom-  
en to tell their amazing life history. They were two civil  
right pioneers who were born in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to a  
former slave.

The book became a movie of the same title and is availa-  
ble at Amazon.

Carole has been doing a Bible study on the Book  
of Signs: 31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse by  
David Jeremiah. He is an author of over 40 Christian  
themed books. His analysis of scripture, the book of Rev-  
elation and its predictions are contrasted to current hap-  
penings today.

Sue brought in a tote of a collection of books to  
donate to our library. We'll be sorting them out to put on  
our shelves or donate to Better World Books. Thank you  
SO much Sue! She also reported on and donated the  
book Saffire by Sigmund Brouwer. The main character  
Holt, a member of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, was  
brought to the Panama Canal about 1909. You get a good  
picture of historical characters like Teddy Roosevelt. Saf-  
fire's character needed help to investigate her mother's  
disappearance. Holt gets neck-deep in sabotage, political  
corruption, racism, conspiracies and collusions. It's a fas-  
cinating mystery.

Our "On your honor" check out system contin-  
ues: choosing a book, reading it, then returning it to the  
book drop box by the Community Room door. We will  
reshelf it. You may also donate books there.

The next meeting for the Pick/Share a Book club  
will be Thursday October 8. Join us at 11:30AM at Hope  
to decide what or where to eat. You may pick a book of  
your own to share or just come to lunch for fellowship and  
interesting conversation. Hope to see you there.

## SONG OF LOVE

It is a heart that beats with tenderness  
and joy.

For it is you, my love, that keeps its  
beating alive.

Your face so beautiful and full of color  
and glow.

Your eyes shine like silver with gentle-  
ness inside,

Your smile reflects greetings that beckon a gentle kiss.

Your nose reflects the glow of the new morning sun.

Even your arms seem to long to wrap around my body.  
To hold your body next to mine, there is no measure.  
A waist I wish to wrap my arms around and never let go.  
With legs that encompass my own keeping them warm.  
And feet so soft like cotton to snuggle around at night.

The heart that shouts love with every beat it takes.  
Encompassed with the spirit that produces this love.  
As I sneak a glance at you, it sometimes skips a beat.  
With thoughts of your heart lying next to mine.  
It sends my mind into a trance with golden rainbows  
And shivers of love run all through my quivering body.

Away from you, I long to return at the day's end of toil.  
To hold you next to my body is in my every thought.  
My heart rejoices as we cuddle away the evening night.  
Peace comes about my spirit with my sleep so close.  
The love that burns within cools my flesh for the night.

Words that express how much "I love you" written here.  
You cleanse my heart and spirit and make them anew.  
Each day is a memory to cherish all on its own.  
Each filled with the beauty you behold for me each day.  
Today I will sing the song of love and fill the air with you.  
Always awaiting the moment of return to see your face.  
And feel our arms embracing each other in eternal love.  
I give you my heart and spirit, my love, forever and ever.

May you have this kind of love for one another  
and for Jesus our brother and God our father.

Our love to you all, Deb and Tony Lang

### A SINGULAR FOCUS

When we try to focus on too many things at once, some-  
times we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their  
house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only  
one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly.  
Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed  
while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get  
"worried and distracted by many things," we may lose  
sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came  
to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees  
and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said.  
'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ  
Jesus . . . The only thing that counts is faith working  
through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill  
your days, remember to choose rightly — by choos-  
ing love.

