

Hope
of Edwardsburg

Invite. Connect. Grow. Serve.

We invite YOU to experience HOPE in Christ. There is a place for you here, to connect with people and God. Together we will grow in faith. Together we will serve as the hands and feet of Christ for the Glory of God!



Holy Transitions

“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)

With the birth of our Lord came a great shift, a Holy Transition, in power. The scriptures had promised a new king, so the people looked to the kingdoms, to royalty. The prophets spoke of God sending a Savior, so the people looked to the skies, to heaven. But in God’s blueprints for His Kingdom (on earth as it is in heaven) one’s earthly powers, possessions, and authorities do not equate to one’s role in God’s plan, and God has shown this to us from the beginning. As we gaze upon the glamorous, stare at the stars, lust for luxury, build our cities to the skies, God’s plan begins with the most humble of servants, a teenage virgin, giving birth in the worst of conditions, an open barn, to the most vulnerable of humans, a newborn child. And that is where it starts! That Holy Transition of Power, God’s plan for his kingdom, is for us to find his Christ in the most unexpected places. When the world tells us greatness is in money and economy and power, God reveals His true greatness from the opposite side of the spectrum.

When was your last “Jesus Moment”? Has it been awhile? Or, perhaps, have you never had a moment you’d describe in such a way? Where were you looking? And, how did you approach? God’s greatest blessings are in service to others. And God’s most personal moments are with those who approach him humbly. God reveals himself through the poor, to the poor in spirit. Always has. Always will.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. (Matthew 5:1-11)

Looking forward, Hope UMC will remain closed to in-person gatherings. We hope that you will join us for worship Live on Zoom, on Sundays at 10am, by clicking the link on our website. Or, you can continue to receive our weekly messages through Facebook, YouTube, Sermon-by-Phone, and our website. There is quite a difference between what the world sees as a blessing and what God calls a blessing. I am confident that, no matter what circumstances unfold in the year to come, God is calling us to be humble and generous vessels of God’s Spirit in all we do.

As always, I welcome your feedback and I invite you to schedule a time that we may talk about any questions or concerns of any sort you may have, or just a time to get to know each other a little better. Please don’t hesitate to call, text, or email me.

May your New Year be blessed in unexpected ways by the Holy One!

Pastor Nate Starkey
586.229.5767
pastornatestarkey@gmail.com



CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

* Month of November Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 14,516
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-14,964</u>
Shortfall for the Month:	\$ -448

Year to Date Surplus \$ 11,802

All November bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund is \$43,307. Thank you for your continued support!

* Church Mortgage Update:

November M&M Allocation:	\$3,522.60 from M&M Giving
November Transfers:	\$980.00 from Memorials
November Transfers:	- \$503.62 from Building Rental & Pastoral Transition Balance
Total Paid in December	\$5,006.22

Current Mortgage Balance = \$25,335 after the December 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 required regular church mortgage payments in the meantime. Thank your giving to Project Hope and the Mortgage & Missions Funds which will make this possible.

* Parsonage Mortgage Update:

Regular Mortgage Payment is \$998.58 from the Ministry Fund.
 Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$162,210 after the December 2020 Payment.
 Our projected payoff date is May 2040.

* IRA Information

You can save on Federal and State taxes by directly contributing a portion of your IRA distribution to HOPE. Please contact Dawn @ 269-663-5321 x6 for more information.

* 2021 Giving Envelopes & Electronic Giving Options:

If you would like a package of pre-numbered weekly giving envelopes for 2021, please leave a message at 269-663-5321 x 6. We have mailed the initial ones out the last week of December.

If you would like to make your donation to Hope automatically, here are several options.

- Set up an automatic payment from your checking account to Hope using your online banking account.

Sign up for Electronic Giving through our website: <http://www.hope-umc.us/> . Click on the green online giving button to go to the secure website to set up giving from your bank account, debit card or credit card. If you need any assistance getting this set-up, Dawn would be happy to help you. Contact her at 269-663-5321 x 6. Thank you for helping share the good news of Jesus!

January BIRTHDAYS

COHEN AHRENS	01/01
KEITH RUSSELL	01/01
CYNTHIA WADE	01/02
PENNY FRIES	01/05
KAYLEN STARKEY	01/06
DYLAN SPICHER	01/07
SHEILA GEROU	01/07
LISA SCHMIDT	01/08
JOE FAHEY	01/09
GARY OWENS	01/10
JACKIE BIGGS	01/11
JUDY DENEMARK	01/12
CARLEE BURGER	01/13
CAROL PETERS	01/14
MICHELLE GRUVER	01/15
ALLYAH ANDERSON	01/16
PAM CHAPMAN	01/16
NANCY HOFFMAN	01/16
TONY MANFRED	01/16
CONNIE HEBRON	01/17
TRENT BERLIN	01/17
MICHELE GORDON	01/18
JESSIE (KAY)GILBERT	01/18
ISABELLE EDGERTON	01/19
MARGE HANSON	01/19
DANIEL BOONE	01/19
DAVION SCHMUCKER	01/19
COURTNEY HARTING	01/20
LEIGH ANN HARTING	01/20
EMILY BUSSEN	01/20
BOB FULLER	01/20
RENE DeYOUNG	01/20
BAILEY WEAVER	01/21
CARLEIGH WANKE	01/21
SHERRY SAYLES	01/21
CARIN REESE	01/23
AL ROSEBUSH	01/23
PHYLLIS BANGHART	01/24
PAT HERR	01/27
ANNA REA	01/27
LISA STRONG	01/27
ZACK SCHMUCKER	01/27
DEBRA PURVIS	01/29
ZOEY ROUCH	01/30
LOUISE BARNUM	01/31
GLENYCE BENTZER	01/31

January ANNIVERSARIES

BONNIE & BOB KNIGHT	01/20
LAURA & COREY SHEETS	01/27
MARGE & BRUCE NURTON	01/28



Hope's online Prayer Chain has faithfully continued during the pandemic. To have a prayer concern added call **Melissa at Hope, 269-663-5321**, and leave your request on her answering machine. Or email your request to Marti Bartels, **mbbartels@aol.com**.

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.



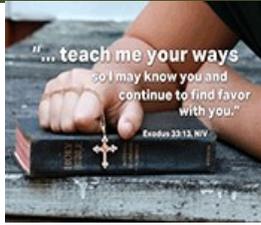
Please remember these people in prayer: Bob Fuller, Ardith & Carl Higley, Verlaine Hoffman. Sherry Leininger, Beth Mann, Bev Torgeson and Grace Werner.

CRAFT NIGHT Friday, January 1



Virtual Craft night is coming on Friday, January 1, from 7pm – 10pm. Contact Dawn Weingart at jdweingart@comcast.net to get the link to our meeting. Join us whenever you're available.





A GUIDE TO ETERNITY

The book of life's words can seem complex at times. While other times the scriptures seem so simple. Pain and death from its pages are shared with the reader. Joy and love will also appear within the words written.

How it all started is spoken into existence by a word. A flood had to come to cleanse the earth to start anew. Kings came and passed trying to lead people to hope. A Savior king was born bringing the Hope of eternal life.

A father's love started the fellowship with human man. His heart was hurt by sin from those He had formed. Willingly He gave His Son to heal **all** the wounds. Offering all free will to accept His word for eternal life.

He is working now to prepare a place for all believers. His Son will come again and cleanse this earth. All believers will rise up and join Him in the air. We will sit at a table and share bread and wine.

In believing while on this earth we can have peace. For His love and compassion are with us forever. Though our body will die, our Spirit will live forever. Today look up and thank our creator for creating us.

May you daily read God's words and experience the love, compassion and guidance written for everyone.

—Deb and Tony Lang



Keep our Service People in Prayer

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.

To keep the list of service people accurate, would you please notify Melissa in the Hope office or Shirley Andrews if your listed loved one is no longer serving. OR if a name should be added, let us know. Thanks.

FINANCE QUESTIONS ???

If you have a question about the 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.

Amazon Smile

If you are already shopping on Amazon, you can support Hope. Using Amazon Smile will donate a portion of your purchase to our church! All you need to do is go to smile.amazon.com and select that you are supporting Hope United Methodist Church of Edwardsburg.

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

Bible Quiz

Where did the child Jesus and his parents flee for safety?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Syria
- C. Rome
- D. Egypt

Answer: D (See Matthew 2:13.)

STUFF-A-BUS 2020



Thank you to everyone who supported Stuff-A-Bus this year! Even with only one day of collection and safety measures during the pandemic, we raised a total of \$2,452.22 for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry.

Many gift certificates, toys, blankets and groceries were collected also, to distribute at Christmas and during the new year.

A special thanks to Zimmie's who collected about half of our donations. Thanks also to Edwardsburg Public Schools for the use of their bus, Dollar General for space in their parking lot and to our awesome volunteers who made this all possible.



Santa joins HUMC volunteers at Zimmie's.



Pastor Nate Starkey family braves the weather for Stuff-A-Bus



HUMC receptionist Melissa Debroka and sons



Corey Sheets family promotes Stuff-A-Bus

PICK/SHARE BOOK CLUB

November, 2020

We are observing safety guidelines for COVID, so please wear a mask and practice social distancing when you use the library at church. Call the office at 269-663-5321 to be sure someone is in the office to let you in.

The Community Room at Hope is where we met for November's meeting so we could spread out, observe social distancing and share the books we had read. Afterwards we spent some time sorting and shelving books from the return box. Several more books have been donated anonymously. Thank you very much whoever was so generous.

Sherry read The Christmas Courtship by Emma Miller. The book is an easy but enjoyable Love Inspired read set in Amish country. Coming from a scandal in her Amish community. Phoebe Miller moved to her cousin's farm in Delaware hoping for forgiveness and a second chance. Sherry also read Waiting for Summer's Return by Kim Vogel Sawyer. Kim is an exceptional storyteller who is sure to please fans of historical fiction. Her attention to detail and love of God shine through. This book is set on the Kansas prairie where Summer Steadman has lost her husband and children to illness. Her life is blessed as she decides to settle in the small Mennonite community and meets a widower who needs someone to teach his young son. We have several more books by Sawyer in our library: A Silken Thread, In Every Heartbeat, My Heart Remembers, and Where Willow Grows.

Bonnie found a fascinating book Sparkles by Lois Webster about the 1800's history of Diamond Lake, Welch. She enjoyed learning how the area settlers went through. If you are interested, she will be glad to share the book with you.



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Marti shared a book written by her niece Beth Bowman Russell, Woman in the Mirror.

It's a Bible study for women who struggle with the image you see when you look in the mirror. Beth was homecoming queen at Findlay High, top ranked singles tennis player, played the piano skillfully; but in her mind, she was never perfect enough. She became anorexic in her college years, wasting away to 85 pounds. This book compares the lies we tell ourselves with the truth in the Bible. This would be an encouraging book as a Bible study for any woman who dislikes what she sees in the mirror.

Our "On your honor" check out system continues: choosing a book, reading it, and returning it to the book drop box in the Community Room. We will reshelve it. You may also donate books there.

The next meeting for the Pick/Share a Book club will be the **SECOND THURSDAY, January 14** due to the church being closed until January. Join us at 11:30AM at Hope to decide what or where to eat. You may pick a book of your own or just come to share fellowship and interesting conversation.

Hope to see you then!

