

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!



APRIL
2021

“See, I Am Making All Things New”
(-The One seated on the Throne, Revelation 21)

Spring and Easter go hand in hand, and for great reason. The dormant, cold, lifeless season has passed, and new life is ready to burst forth! Unlike Christmas (December 25, mark your calendars), Easter does not take place on the same calendar day each year. Instead, it is formulated to be in sync with Spring and to land on a Sunday, after Passover. I always have trouble remembering the equation for figuring Easter’s date, so I thought I would share it with you, so you can remind me next year: Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that takes place on or after the spring equinox, unless that full moon takes place on a Sunday, in which case Easter will be the following Sunday. (That’s what happened this year, as Palm Sunday was the Paschal Full Moon/Passover.) Any wonder why I can’t ever seem to keep that memorized?

Anyway, as confusing as it may seem, there also seems to be great wisdom in aligning Spring and Easter so tightly. As we celebrate a season of God’s redemptive, restorative, and resurrecting power, we’d be reliant solely upon our imagination in hearing the gospel of Easter if it wasn’t for the colorful, inspiring, analogous backdrop of the Creator’s spring! The God of Life is at work all around us, from spring to salvation, making all things new!

This makes me wonder about the church and the season in which we find ourselves today. A fruit tree that has sat denuded through the winter will now change! It will grow. It will adapt to its surroundings. It will be the same tree, same place, same roots. But it will be new! New buds, new sprigs, new flowers, new fruit, new multiplication! As we re-open, after a very long winter, let us do so with new life in mind. May we take notice of how our surroundings have changed, that we might be ready to grow into new directions. May we come together as a church, not to appease our personal comforts, but to allow God to develop good fruit within us that may be shared with the world!

In an effort to explore how we might start doing new things in new ways, I am excited to re-launch Hope’s Youth and Children’s ministries. We have been dormant for some time. So, in the spirit of spring, we must first assess who we are and where we are growing. What better way, but by pizza?!

-If you are a young person (18 years of age or under), you are invited!

-If you are the parent or guardian of a young person, you are invited!

-If you have passion and/or vision for serving and supporting young person-focused ministries, you are invited!

On **Sunday April 25th, at 6pm, Reese Hall**, dinner is on us! We will gather, eat, talk, have fun, and explore the direction of Hope UMC’s future in this community. If you plan to be there, please let me know, so I can still probably order way too much pizza! If you have dietary restrictions, allergies, or just don’t like pizza, please don’t hesitate to let me know. I am glad to accommodate.

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Nate Starkey / 586.229.5767 / pastornatestarkey@gmail.com

MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



RE-OPENING PLAN: A fogger has been purchased to sanitize Reese Hall in between services. We will continue using masks, socially distance and take attendance in order to continue In Person services. Printed bulletins will begin soon!

PROPERTY – The trustee team has replaced our old overhead lights with LEDs in both the sanctuary and Reese Hall which will significantly reduce our electric costs. We are also initiating cleanup of the church property the first part of May. Plans will be communicated on the enhanced use of the property behind the church. We will need volunteers, so stay tuned.

OUTREACH – Please continue to “Send us your Selfies” to Sabrina English (email sphinx2299@aol.com). These will be added to the selfies already submitted and taken on Easter to compile an updated directory. We are still looking for “Caring Callers” to reach out to shut ins and those isolated due to the virus. Please contact Chris Edgerton or Mackenzie Morgan (emails chrisaka1976@gmail.com or mgm1420@outlook.com) if you are interested in helping which this ministry.

NEW LT MEMBER – Sandie Weiler has agreed to join the LT. Welcome Sandie!

Church Mortgage Update:

Hooray & Praise God! We paid off the church mortgage on March 1, when the balloon payment was due. On Palm Sunday, ZERO candy bars were given out after our services to celebrate this sweet accomplishment. Hope started with a \$800,000 Mortgage loan in February 2006. So we paid it off in 15 years! Through the last six years Project Hope, Project Hope 2.0 and Mortgage & Ministry Fund donations brought the balance down from \$427,700 to zero. Notre Dame Concession Fundraisers, Rummage Sale and Fish Fry Fundraisers along with 181 families making donations all made this possible. Many thanks and blessings for those contributions!



Church Mortgage Payment 3/1/2020

\$4,528.35 February Allocation from M&M Fund to Church Mortgage
 \$8,415.71 March Expense – Ministry Fund
 \$12,944.06 Payoff

Current Mortgage Balance = ZERO after the March 2020 Payment.



April

BIRTHDAYS

MICHAEL BOWDEN	4/02
SHERRY LEININGER	4/03
ADAM DeYOUNG	4/05
JIM MOLER	4/05
PHYLLIS SCHUELKE	4/05
BRUCE NURTON	4/05
MARTHA ROSSMAN	4/06
KATHY HARTING	4/07
DONNA TAELEMAN	4/07
ARDITH HIGLEY	4/08
ELIJAH SCHERBARTH	4/08
SCOTT OTIS	4/08
CANDY BUNNELL	4/08
BRANT CAMPANERO	4/08
STEVE GRUVER	4/09
RILEY HARRIS	4/09
BRITTANY UDELL	4/10
STEVEN ANDERS	4/10
VICKIE FLICK	4/11
GEORGE REID	4/11
CLARK MEAD	4/11
DEB STEMPLER	4/13
JEANEANE DEVENNEY	4/13
JANICE ROSS	4/13
COLIN MURPHY	4/14
VICKI ANDERS	4/14
DEAKON SCHMUCKER	4/15
GARY HERR	4/15
JASON BENTZER	4/16
MERIAN ACKLES	4/20
AUBREY GRUVER	4/21
LAURA PROCTOR	4/21
DAN ROSS	4/22
BOB KNIGHT	4/22
KIM MANSELL	4/22
SHERRY DANNENBERG	4/22
DAWSON SPEICHER	4/23
DAWN MARIE PROCTOR	4/24
ROCHELLE DOLDE	4/24
LINDA OBERLING	4/25
BILL McNIFF	4/27
CASSIDY FRENTZ	4/27
LUCAS FRENTZ	4/27
JANTHA CORP`	4/29
NICK MORTIMER	4/30



April

ANNIVERSARIES

GLENYCE & JASON BENTZER	4/04
DEB & TONY LANG	4/07
LOIS & KEITH MILLER	4/12
DEB & HARRY STEMPLER	4/13
PAM & GARY FISK	4/13
DEANA & JIM MOLER	4/13
MARY & DAVID HOIEN	4/14
LORA & MARTY SHUTTLEWORTH	4/16
WANDA & CHUCK ORTH	4/16
KRISTIN & BRAD WEGNER	4/17
JANET & BRAD STRYCKER	4/19
LINDA & JOE GIBBS	4/20
SUE & BRIAN BURKS	4/20
JUDY & GARY DENEMARK	4/24
CAROL & JOHN UDELL	4/26

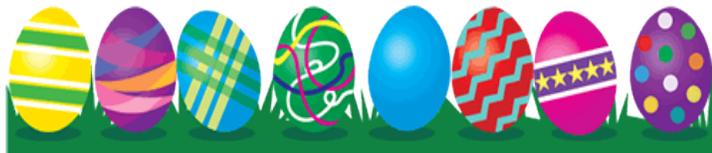


Hope's online **Prayer Chain** has faithfully continued during the pandemic. To have a prayer concern added, call **Melissa at Hope, 269-663-5321**, and leave your request on her answering machine. Or email your request to Marti Bartels, **mbbartels@aol.com**.

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.



CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of February Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 17,191
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-15,063</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 2,128

Year-to-date shortfall: \$-4,021

All February bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$51,166. Thank you for your continued support!

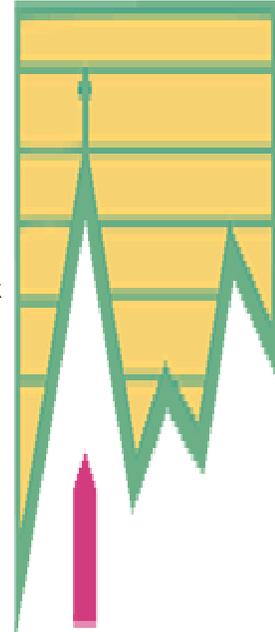
Mortgage & Mission Fund Update:

The Leadership Team designated that donations to the Mortgage & Mission Fund will be utilized using the following method beginning with March 2021 donations:

- * 10% of monthly total to Local, National and Global Missions
- * Next \$1,000 of monthly donations as an additional principal payment to the Parsonage Mortgage
- * Remaining monthly donations to a Capital Improvement Fund for larger church repairs, replacement, and renovation.

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

Regular Mortgage Payment is \$998.58 from the Ministry Fund.
 Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$160,791 after the March 2021 Payment.
 Our projected payoff date is May 2040.



Church
FINANCES

CRAFT NIGHT

Craft night is coming on Friday, April 9, from 6:30pm – 11pm in Building 1. Join us whenever you are available. Bring a friend and a current project that you are working on. We will be collecting personal care items for the Food Pantry, if you'd like to make a donation.



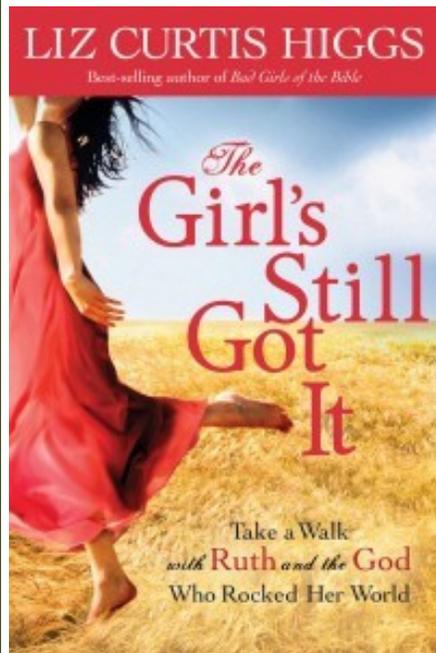
BRING YOUR CRAFTS

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.



MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



You are welcome to join the Women's Monday Night Bible Study. At 6:30PM on **Monday, April 19**, we will begin exploring Ruth by reading Liz Curtis Higgs' book, The Girl's Still Got It. This is a 12-week series. After reading a chapter each week, we will get together on Monday nights for discussion. If you would like a book, please contact Donna Mansell at 574-214-7521.

Keep our Service People in Prayer

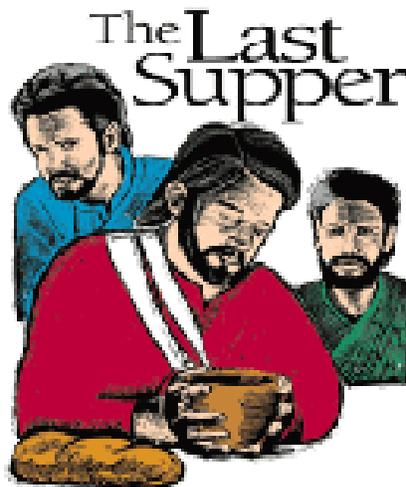
Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Matt Bowman, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chaput, Jonathan Ditsen, James Galloway, Justin Gerou, Dakota Kizer, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Josh Mamer, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.



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.

Tying together the Testaments

In most non-English-speaking nations, the holy day of Easter is known by a word derived from the Hebrew word for Passover: *Pesach*. In Greek, it's *Pasch*; in Latin, *Pascha*; in Spanish, *Pascua*; and in French, *Paques*.



Each spring, Jewish people observe the Passover festival to commemorate how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Christian observance of the Lord's Supper (the Eucharist, Holy Communion or the Lord's Table) originated with Jesus sharing the Passover Seder meal with his disciples the night Judas betrayed him. Jesus connected the exodus story with his own mission: becoming a "Paschal Lamb" to save his people from the slavery of sin and its consequences.

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.



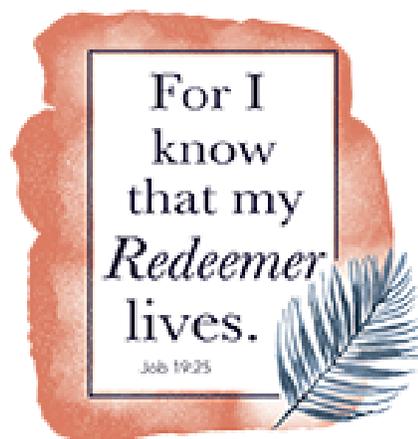
To my favorite UMC family,

Congratulations on paying off the church mortgage! This is an incredible accomplishment and I'm SO pleased for you!

No doubt Jeff is smiling on you all, too. He didn't like debt of any kind.

Sending you Spring wishes, Easter blessings and my love!

With hope in HIM,
Carin Reese



PICK/SHARE BOOK CLUB

We chose Copper Creek in Granger for lunch since they are open and have large tables where we could spread out, observe social distancing and share the books we had read.

Sherry reported on another lovely story My Heart Remembers written by Kim Vogel Sawyer. Three children lost their parents to a New York tenement fire. The oldest of the three was a girl named Maelle. But because of her short haircut and a police officer's misunderstanding, she goes forward in the story as Michael. The officer took the children to an orphanage after concluding that the parents of the three did perish in the fire. The orphanage separated children by gender and babies. So the older two stayed together and the baby was separated. After a turbulent time at the orphanage it was decided to put the family on an orphan train to Missouri. It is at that destination the children got separated. The book is then committed to how the children's lives uniquely evolved until they became young adults. Very interesting how it all turns out!

Shirley Andrews is currently reading the book recommended last month, The Women of Easter by Liz Curtis Higgs. She'll report next time. Sue had a broken leg and wasn't able to join us. And Pat is recovering from a knee replacement. Keep them in your prayers.

Bonnie shared The Hoosier originally published in 1882, by Edward Hoosier Schoolmaster as part of the based on life in the 1800's. He also sage describes that a Hoosier boy "... trade, loyal in love, generous to the in living, plain in speech merry upon est in all things..." She is currently romance books, The Noel Letters.



School Boy, a book of juvenile fiction Eggleston. He previously wrote The "Hoosier" series. The books were wrote historical books. A typical pas-will be manful in necessary fight, fair in poor, tender in the household, prudent occasion, simple in behavior, and hon-reading one of Richard Paul Evans's

Marti enjoyed reading a book Scarred for Life! Discovering abundant

It's a true story of getting burned over 87% of his body in a fiery motorcycle accident at the age of 16, Tim knows what it is to live his life scarred. He shares how through 45 years of living with the scars resulting from the accident he found complete freedom and abundant life through those very scars. A very inspiring read!

written by a local author, Tim Fletcher, life through understanding our scars.

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 reshelv it. You may also donate books there. 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 next meeting for the Pick/Share a Book club will be the **THIRD Thursday, April 15, 2021**. 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!**