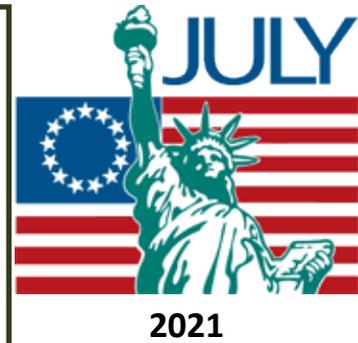


Hope
of Edwardsburg
Invite. Connect. Grow. Serve.

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!



Friends of Hope,

What a year it has been! July marks the start of my second year as Pastor here at Hope of Edwardsburg. As strange and unexpected as the last year has been in the world, you have been a tremendous blessing in stability, grace, generosity, service, and the desire to be together in worship and fellowship. You, church, are deeply blessed with an array of people willing to offer their unique talents, treasures, and hearts with the world for the good of God's Kingdom. I am proud to be your pastor, because I love you, I am proud of you, and I am excited to be witness to the blessed future God' holds for us.

And, I am especially excited, as we lift all COVID restrictions, to begin worshiping together in Building One! (8:30 service); to see you smiles; to hear your voices! As crazy as the year has been, I thank you for your constant and continued prayers, grace, understanding, and flexibility. Your willingness to be temporarily uncomfortable for the good of our most vulnerable members of our community speaks volumes to your collective heart and passion to see God's love shared in the world.

On a side note: Summer is officially here. It's hot. School is out, and so are the lightning bugs. July is finally here, and with it, my favorite holiday! It is finally time to properly celebrate the liberty, ingenuity, and perseverance of our country's truest innovators of the 1770's! That's right! Get the fireworks ready, because Sunday July 18, is National Ice Cream Day! Did you know that ice cream is your pastor's favorite food group?

In God's Grace,

Pastor Nate Starkey





“Art” You Ready for this - August 7, 2021

Edwardsburg’s first annual Art Fair. Please join us on August 7, 2021 at the Edwardsburg American Legion 25980 US HWY 12, in Edwardsburg, MI from 9am-3pm.

The Fair will feature over 30 vendors displaying their finest arts and crafts: paintings, jewelry, candles and more will be up for sale. Food and beverage will be available for purchase.



CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of May Ministry Fund Summary

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Ministry Fund Donations: | \$ 16,523 |
| PPP Grant | \$ 27,442 |
| Ministry Fund Expenses: | <u>\$-17,531</u> |
| Surplus for the Month: | \$26,434 |

Year-to-date surplus: \$21,764

The PPP Grant is recorded in May of 2021, since that is when the PPP Loan issued in 2021 was forgiven by the SBA. All May bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$76,951. Thank you for your continued support!



Craft Night – Friday, July 2

Craft night is coming on Friday, July 2, from 6:00pm – Midnight in Reese Hall.

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.

May Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$498.15 Missions
 \$1,000.00 Parsonage Mortgage Extra Principal Payment
 \$600.00 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage Paydown
\$3,483.35 Capital Improvements
 \$5,581.50 Total May Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Ministry Fund
\$1,600.00 Extra Principal Payment from the Mortgage Fund
 \$2,598.58 Total Payment

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$154,601 after the June 2021 Payment. Our projected payoff date is June 2039.

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.



JULY Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| ZACHARY STRYCKER | 7/02 |
| PAIGE MOLER | 7/03 |
| LYNN STRAKA | 7/03 |
| GEORGE LOOTENS SR. | 7/04 |
| GEORGE LOOTENS JR. | 7/04 |
| KATHY FULLER | 7/05 |
| LAURA SHEETS | 7/05 |
| TOMMY HARRIS | 7/06 |
| SCOTT GIPSON | 7/06 |
| SAM STARKEY | 7/07 |
| DICK BAUGHER | 7/07 |
| TED MANSELL | 7/08 |
| GENE MONTGOMERY | 7/08 |
| NATALIE FRENTZ | 7/11 |
| SHIRLEY FARKAS | 7/12 |
| DACIA KIRKLAND | 7/13 |
| PAULA KENDALL | 7/13 |
| BILL HILL | 7/13 |
| PENNY CREAGER | 7/13 |
| LEIGH GOYINGS | 7/13 |
| DELANEY PETERS | 7/15 |
| SAM BROOMELL | 7/16 |
| BEVERLY PROCTOR | 7/17 |
| ROGER MAHNESMITH | 7/18 |
| AUSTIN CLINE | 7/18 |
| SABRINA ENGLISH | 7/19 |
| BILL GRIFFIN | 7/19 |
| CARL BURGER | 7/19 |
| TOM REA JR. | 7/21 |
| BRIAN WEAVER | 7/21 |
| BILL REED | 7/23 |
| NANCY TURNER | 7/23 |
| JEFF D JOHNSON | 7/24 |
| KIM BURGER | 7/24 |
| SANDY MYERS | 7/24 |
| NANCY VIRGIL | 7/24 |
| LINDA MASTEN | 7/25 |
| CONNOR SPICHER | 7/25 |
| JUDY COROS | 7/25 |
| JIM CHAPMAN | 7/25 |
| JACOB LAWSON | 7/25 |
| SAMANTHA ANDERSON | 7/25 |
| DE MARCA HOWELL | 7/27 |
| ELAINE RICHARDSON | 7/27 |
| GARY BUSSEN | 7/28 |
| NICOLE SCHROEDER | 7/29 |
| BRANTLEY FROST | 7/29 |
| COREY SHEETS | 7/29 |
| ABIGAIL LaPORTE | 7/30 |
| NETTIE RUSSELL | 7/30 |
| TAFU TAFUNAI | 7/31 |



JULY Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| GAYLA SIMMONS & JOHN DALRYMPLE | 7/01 |
| JACKIE & DAN BOONE | 7/02 |
| JO & BILL MACUMBER | 7/02 |
| MARGIE & DAVE HERMAN | 7/03 |
| PAULA & JIM RALPH | 7/06 |
| NANCY & JEFF VIRGIL | 7/06 |
| CHARLOTTE & GEORGE LOOTENS SR. | 7/08 |
| MARGE & JIM HANSON | 7/09 |
| PENNY & ERIC FRIES | 7/11 |
| DONNA & TED MANSELL | 7/12 |
| LEIGH GOYINGS & DALE BLUNIER | 7/15 |
| ROSE & BRIAN WEAVER | 7/16 |
| TERRI & SCOTT GIPSON | 7/18 |
| SHARON & TAFU TAFUNAI | 7/19 |
| SUSIE & CHRIS EDGERTON | 7/22 |
| KAREN & BILL REED | 7/28 |



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, and Grace Werner.



Keep our Service People in Prayer



Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chaput, Jonathan Ditson, James Galloway, Justin Gerou, Dakota Kizer, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Josh

Merner, 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.



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.

my struggles with earthly life

I recently struggled with whether God even cared about me. I spent about six weeks with almost everything going wrong. I would fall, the vehicle wouldn't run, my wife fell and more. I even skipped church one Sunday as I didn't feel God's love.

At Sunday school I would sit there and do little participation. Every day something (I thought bad) would happen to me. Most days I would curse God and not see Him anywhere. I felt all alone and just wanted to crawl into a hole and hide.

There seemed no end to my troubles as they began to mount. How could I believe the promises in the Bible with these problems? I kept asking myself (Does God love me?) I don't see any love. Every day I got up (broken contact lens, etc) with heart aches.

Every day I forced myself out of bed expecting something bad. Back ache, leg pain and more where is my savior now? No one knew I was struggling during this time except Who-God. I finally said, " God, kill me and send me to hell or heaven." I just wanted all these troubles to end somehow and now.

As I asked God to kill me, my heart began to change. He spoke to me through a gentleman in a Bible study class. He said sometimes we struggle with difficult times for protection. Something worse might happen if we didn't have our troubles. He didn't realize it at the time that he was speaking to me.

As days passed I began to soften my heart and look for good. When I fell I didn't get hurt, insurance paid for the contact etc. I would sit in church and listen to God speaking with His words. In Bible study classes I would share some stories of my struggles.

Since, I heard a sermon that God gives us free will to choose. We can accept bad and allow our hearts to anger and harden. Or we can seek God, accept that we live in a fallen world and live. Though tears may fall there still is someone who cares for me.

In Matthew Chapter 11 even John wondered if Jesus was true. The Psalms speak of broken hearts opening their frustrations. There is also good news that God still heals, cares and loves us. I am thankful for my Savior and thankful He heard me and healed.

If you may be struggling with lost hope don't let your heart droop. If you are at a happy time, embrace it and give glory to your heart & God
No matter where your heart is know the love of God will bring joy'
Trust that God has good plans for you and wants to give them to you.

My prayer for you whether in a high, low, or an in-between place:
Keep your heart focused on the Holy Spirit that lives in you and wants to keep you from harm that may lead you astray.

—Tony and Deb Lang



Next
church
CLEAN UP

Saturday, July 10

8am-?

Lunch will be provided
Come whenever you are available!

Clean up days are the 2nd Saturday of each month

THANK YOU to

**PAPA'S PIZZA and
the RINEHART FAMILY**

**for providing
PIZZA for
May's Messy Church**

IT WAS TERRIFIC!!!

