

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!

Have Ye Fruit?



Fall is my favorite. I love the changing leaves, the smell of autumn, wearing hooded sweatshirts, country drives with the windows down, and so many other things related to the temperature dropping. I also have a deep appreciation for the season as it relates to the harvest. This is the time of year when we shift from planting to gathering; when we reap the fruit of our past labors.

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” (Malachi 3:10)

This season of gathering also gives us the opportunity to review our harvest. We take notice of the numbers, the qualities, and the beauty of what we’ve gained from the seeds planted in seasons past. This assessment brings us to a place of gratitude, appreciation, and reflection. We appreciate how we are blessed by others; their love and support allow us to do what we do for the farm. We give thanks to God; the harvest is of God alone; no human has the capacity to take a seed to fruit. We can only sow and nurture alongside the miraculous work God is doing in our presence. What we can control are the actions we take going forward. Reviewing our harvest and assessing our own roles in that harvest, what changes can be made now that the next season will be more plentiful?

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:15-20)

Are people coming to desire God in their lives because of our actions? Are people discovering the Christ in themselves and in others by way of the grace we reflect in world. If not, what changes can God lead us through, that we may serve and see a Kingdom harvest?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

Have Ye Fruit!?

In Christ’s Love, *Pastor Nate Starkey*

Join the Hope UMC Team
For the Annual CROP Walk
Sunday, Oct. 3rd, 1:30 Registration
Contact Leigh Goyings for Details
(269) 591-1334
Feed your neighbors. Safe water to drink. Help for refugees.



CROP WALK: “One United Walk”

The world news nowadays seems like Biblical times: war, floods, droughts, pestilence, even a plague of locusts. Walking together, Christians in Cass County are battling these problems with the annual CROP Walk that will be held Sunday, Oct. 3rd, registration at 1:30, walk at 2:00 PM. The event raises funds for local food pantries in the county, as well as for worldwide projects. CWS programs combat hunger and poverty by establishing sustainable farming practices, providing sanitation and clean water, and allowing people the opportunity to earn a living.

For example, in Indonesia cisterns and irrigation systems enabled people to plant beyond their short rainy season. In 2020 several African countries experienced devastating loss of crops to locusts, with CWS stepping in to provide seeds to replant. Other programs address needs of the homeless and refugees displaced due to violence and natural disasters, such as in Haiti and Afghanistan. Despite a recent 7.2 magnitude earthquake, reports show that the strengthened homes and schools built with CWS support in Haiti--following the 2010 earthquake and 2016 hurricane--remain standing.

Walkers from around the county will gather in Cassopolis at the Council On Aging track, 60525 Decatur Road, to learn more about CWS programs and raise funds for them. Last year 65 walkers earned \$8,884.84, with 25% of funds staying in Cass County. Because of the pandemic, walkers were scattered in four locations in 2020. This year event organizers are planning “One United Walk” at the COA track. For more information or to obtain sponsorship forms, contact eighlay@aol.com or call (269) 663-6815.

The Leadership Team (LT) met this month and voted to make donations on behalf of the church towards **UMCOR** Hurricane Ida relief, Haiti Earthquake relief and Michigan Flooding relief. The LT also made a donation to the Edwardsburg Food Pantry to help them initiate their “Donation Station” program that will create small “sheds” at local churches where individuals in need can get food 24/7.

Pastor Nate and the LT will be expanding the **Hope “Care Team”** to call, write, and or visit with Hope UMC shut-ins. Pastor Nate discussed the creation of the **“Time to Talk”** series about inclusion and what that will mean for the UMC and Hope in the near future. The LT decided to start the meetings on October 3 at 6PM with a meal.

The LT increased **health and safety measures** during church due to rising local COVID numbers. Pastor Nate then discussed inviting new members to the **LT and SPRC** next year.

Discussions were had about preparation for the church Charge Conference to be held on October 21. Once again, due to COVID, only the LT, SPRC, and Finance Committees will be present at **Charge Conference** this year.

The LT concluded by postponing the **Hope Camping Weekend** until 2022 and directing the Business Manager to contract with a computer professional to review our computer needs and current system with the eye for long-term improvement.

Craft Night Friday, October 1

Craft night is coming on Friday, Oct 1, 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 donate.

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 Marner, Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Jason Salter, Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and Tyler Wilson.



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



JANICE & DAN ROSS	10/01
PAT & GARY OWENS	10/02
VICKIE & RON FLICAK	10/02
DACIA & ED KIRKLAND	10/02
TIFFANY & TONY MANFRED	10/04
KATHY & CHARLIE DEW	10/05
DIANE SEIFERT & MARTY EBY	10/07
JULIE & ROBERT J. BYRD	10/12
SHERRY & DOUG SAYLES	10/12
ANNA & TONY LEININGER	10/13
DONELDA & JOHN LOHR	10/15
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	10/23
DEBBIE & JOHN EUANS	10/28



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.





Miracles or ????

When I was in the eighth grade my dad asked me to ride on our 3 bottom mounted plow to add weight to allow the plow to plow deeper. After several rounds I moved my hands and got my right thumb caught in a swivel bracket and broke it at the joint. The doctor who set it said my thumb had a good chance it would be stiff. Upon taking the cast off the doctor asked if I could move my thumb and as I tried it was a little stiff but quickly began full motion.

I was 16 and driving a tractor and chopping brush in a field dad wanted to clear for farming. Mom and dad were working in one corner clearing it. As I glanced back at the chopper something flew up and hit me in my eye. I wear contacts and it broke the contact which flew out of my eye and I still felt like something was in my eye so I stopped by Mom and told her what happened and she didn't see anything. About an hour later we broke to come to the house for lunch and I told Mom it still felt like something was in my eye. This was a Sunday and Mom called our eye doctor and he was home and said to meet him in his office. Upon checking the eye he found a small piece of metal embedded in the eye which he was able to remove with a tool. He told Mom that I probably, because of the blow to the eye, my sight in that eye would probably decrease over 6 months to being blind. I had a checkup six months later and had not lost any sight and the doctor said all was ok and would remain that way. He asked to print this article in the eye doctor paper to witness how that contact absorbed the blow and I didn't lose sight.

Just having finished raking hay about 7 miles from home. I had a tricycle front end tractor. As I got in high gear I took my eyes off the road. When I looked up there was a electric pole staring at me right in front of the tractor. I jerked to the left and missed hitting the front but the back tire hit the pole and flipped the tractor throwing me to the ground. I remember crawling on the ground as the tractor was flipping completely upside down. I got up and went over to the tractor and shut it off as it was still running. I didn't have even a scratch or bruise. I walked to a friends and called home. Dad was very upset but was grateful I wasn't hurt.

I wanted to bread some chicken so I poured some cooking oil into a pan on the stove and proceeded to heat it up. Just as I thought it was hot enough it burst into flames. The pan (never had tried this before) was 2/3 full. I grabbed the handle of the pan and carefully started to carry it outside. I walked through the kitchen, opened the door, walked through the back porch, opened the back porch door and went down 3 steps with flames coming from the pan and not spilling a drop or catching anything else on fire and dumped out the grease.

I was working a 12 hour (4:00pm to 4:00am) night shift in late fall. I was living alone, so I turned the heat down to 60 degrees and slept in a lounge chair in between farming as well and used an electric heater for warmth to sleep. One night (for no reason) I awoke just as the cord burst into flames. I jumped out of the chair, unplugged the heater and the flames immediately went out--no damage to anything except the heater.

During fall harvest in 2019 I was headed back home from a doctor visit on us 12--a busy highway--approaching a field where they were harvesting corn. The roadway was clear and just as I was approaching that area a cloud of dust (from a tractor and grain truck--which I saw neither) were creating I was traveling about 62 mph and slowed to about 50 and figured I would proceed as I hadn't seen anyone on the road. Just as I entered the dust patch, which I couldn't see two feet in front of the car, there appeared the large semi grain truck. My mind raced as I thought there is no way to stop and miss hitting the rear of the trailer and being killed. I jerked the car to the left by instinct, but with about two feet I should not miss hitting the trailer. The next moment the car (with a hard top) came out of the dust cloud was at the front of the semi and I was looking up to see the fright on the semi driver's face at seeing a car he obviously did not see in the dust either. The other miracle ??? I was in the passing lane on a busy highway and glanced ahead, as I tried to comprehend what had just happened with no accident, there were no other cars on the road in my passing lane for the next 1 mile.

Recently I had been experiencing pain and a growth under my right rib cage. A normal yearly doctor visit confirmed the growth of some sort and a CT scan was scheduled. The night before the CT scan I said "God, I know you could heal this and remove the knot, swelling and pain". Side note--I'm on heavy pain meds for my back so if I still felt pain it must be serious. With my hand on the growth I no longer finished my prayer sentence than I felt the swelling going down and this pain go away. The next day the CT scan confirmed nothing was there.

Jesus performed many miracles ??? written in the Bible while He was on this earth, But that wasn't the end of His earthly miracles ??? and He still is doing them. Read about the documented Bible miracles and believe He will still perform them today. ---
Love, Deb and Tony Lang



CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of August Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 19,120
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-15,996</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 3,124

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 20,431

Year-to-date surplus: \$34,290

All August bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$89,477. Thank you for your continued support!

August Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$456.65 Missions
\$1,000.00 Parsonage Mortgage Extra Principal Payment
\$900.00 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage Paydown
<u>\$3,109.85</u> Capital Improvements
\$5,466.50 Total August Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Ministry Fund
\$100.00 Rental donations
<u>\$1,900.00</u> Extra Principal Payment from the Mortgage Fund
\$2,998.58 Total Payment

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$147,692 after the September 2021 Payment.

Our projected payoff date is July 2038, which is 22 months earlier than the original payoff date!

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.

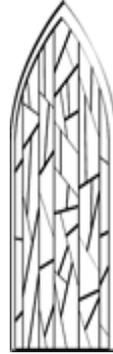


Saturday, October 9th
8am-12pm

Lunch will be provided
Come whenever you are available!

Clean up days are the 2nd Saturday of each month

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



The stained glass windows recently installed in the HUMC sanctuary were purchased as part of the former 1892 Methodist Church building located on Edwardsburg's Church Street. The windows were imported from Chicago at a cost of \$325 including freight. The names of the original donors are embossed or painted on the windows.

One window was donated in memory of Levi and George Aldrich. Levi Aldrich was a local doctor who owned a farm at the intersection of Runkle and Conrad Roads. George Aldrich lived in Edwardsburg; his home still stands at the corner of Lake and Church Streets. It's currently the home of Barbara and Scott Mackling.

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.





Are You Able?

HELPFUL HANDS NEEDED!!!

Are you Handy? Do you want to be helpful but may not be too handy?

Either way, **WE NEED YOU!**

For some years now, the church has had some challenges getting day to day repairs/improvements made at the church. Thanks to a few dedicated souls, necessary work has been getting done. However, people get busy and sometimes get tired. As a result, we need more people!

Can you paint?

Can you change a light bulb?

Can you clean and organize things?

Can you make some basic (and not so basic) home repairs?

You are exactly who we are looking for!

Want to know more? We will gather at 9:45AM on Sunday, October 17 to talk about it.

That's: **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 at 9:45AM (between services) in Building 1.**

Can't make it? Call Jim Weingart at 574-266-6410 or email jdweingart@comcast.net for more information.

WE NEED YOU!!!!!!"



mobile food pantry

Tuesday, October 12th 3-5pm
Here in the Hope parking lot
Volunteers welcome!

Messy CHURCH 2.0

Next Messy Church Sunday, October 24th 6-7:30pm

Campbell

"Because he works from home. That's why we never see God in person."