



APRIL

2022

*Greetings to You, Friends of Hope, and blessings to you, in the name of Our Lord!*

I love April. The fullness of this transitional season of Spring plays out before our eyes in April. From dormant to thriving, from cold to warm, from dead to alive, April exemplifies God's creative genius in nature and in spirit. Easter, this year falling right in the middle of April, seems only to amplify the glory of the changes taking place within us and around us in this Holy Season. It makes me think of the Gospel of John, packed full of wondrous reminders of the transitional journey we are all on, from life to death to new life in Christ.

*John 5:24* "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

*John 11:25* "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live..."

*John 16:22* "So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

*John 3:16* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

As marvelous as nature is at showing off God's plan for making all things new, I am especially excited about seeing those same promising signs throughout the church in this season. Our worship and fellowship throughout April will take us through the complete transition of Jesus and ourselves from life to death to new life. From the end of Lent and into Holy Week we will reflect on Jesus' suffering and death, while embracing our own earthly mortality.

Then, as we celebrate Easter and Jesus' life in defeating Death, we will embrace the new life we have been given in Christ, a grace sufficient for covering all our sins. May the church, this April, be as filled as nature itself, with signs of new life!

Vibrant with Hope, in Christ alone!

*Pastor Nate Starkey*

Christ Is Risen!  
CHRIST  
IS RISEN  
INDEED *Alleluia*

## MARCH LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Offering has increased for the month although year-to-date giving is still down somewhat. The LT voted unanimously to donate \$500.00 from \$1,400.00 current undesignated funds from missions fund to Ukraine Relief, reserving remainder for other potential disaster relief in the future.

**OUTREACH/MISSIONS:** The decision to again postpone General Conference to 2024 was recently announced. Pastor Nate indicated that Bishops and Conferences would be petitioning **General Conference** to allow each conference to make their decisions relative to separation now. Regarding inclusivity discussions, the next scheduled Time To Talk is set for March 27, 2022, from 2PM to 4PM, to be followed by Small discussion groups on April 14, from 6PM to 8PM.

**An Easter Egg Hunt** is scheduled for 2PM on Saturday, April 16, 2022, in the church yard. Donations of wrapped candy and small trinkets to stuff into Easter Eggs will be accepted and appreciated.

It was suggested that HOPE UMC be represented in the **Edwardsburg Memorial Day Parade** with cards and treats to be handed out by participants.

**Coffee Time** will commence in Reese Hall on March 27, 2022 following the 8:30 Service.

Chris Edgerton and Mike Morgan volunteered to represent Hope UMC at **Annual Conference** scheduled for June 1 through June 4, 2022, at Grand Traverse Resort.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** Dynamic will be retained to check and service all heating units in both buildings. **Clean-Up** days will resume commencing March 26, 2022, from 8AM to Noon, with lunch provided. It is anticipated that the existing accumulation of mulch will be spread on the trails behind the church that day.



This note is to express our gratitude and thanks for the prayers, support, texts, cards, gifts, and kindnesses extended to us over the past few months of Jack's illness and surgeries. The concern and reassurance from church friends and family during a most challenging time was so uplifting. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness and for God's grace and healing.

Sincerely,

Jack and Sandie Weiler



### CRAFT NIGHT

**Friday, April 1**

No kidding! Craft night is coming on Friday, April 1, from 6PM–Midnight in Reese Hall. Join us whenever you are available. Bring a friend and a current project that you are working on.

If you'd like to help prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt, we'll be stuffing Easter Eggs. We will be collecting individually wrapped candy or toys to fill the Easter Eggs.



### 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.

## \$10,000 Matching Gift

All donations to the Edwardsburg Food Pantry (EFP) received between now and April 17, 2022 will be part of our \$10,000 Matching Gift Campaign. Checks must be made payable to the EFP and can be mailed to:

Edwardsburg Food Pantry  
24832 US Highway 12  
Edwardsburg, MI 49112

If \$10,000 is donated during Lent, then the amount will become \$20,000. Help serve our community and feed those in need.

**DOUBLE YOUR  
IMPACT** **DOUBLE YOUR  
GOOD!**





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 Taelman	4/07
ARDITH HIGLEY	4/08
ELIJAH SCHERBARTH	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 STEMPLE	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
KIM MANSELL	4/22
SHERRY DANNENBERG	4/22
DAWSON SPEICHER	4/23
DAWN PROCTOR	4/24
ROCHELLE DOLDE	4/24
LINDA OBERLING	4/25
CASSIDY FRENTZ	4/27
LUCAS FRENTZ	4/27
JANTHA CORP	4/29
NICK MORTIMER	4/30



GLENYCE & JASON BENTZER	4/04
DEB & TONY LANG	4/07
LOIS & KEITH MILLER	4/12
DEB & HARRY STEMPLE	4/13
PAM & GARY FISK	4/13
DEANA & JIM MOLER	4/11
MARY & DAVID HOIEN	4/14
LAURA & MARTY SHUTTLEWORTH	4/16
CHUCK & WANDA ORTH	4/16
KRISTIN & BRAD WEGNER	4/17
JANET & BRAD STRYCKER	4/19
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, Grace Werner, Ray and Nourma White.





## Current Hope Financial Information

### Month of February Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 14,627
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-14,327</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 300

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 19,207

All February bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$77,276. Thank you for your continued support!

### February Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$542.01 Missions
\$1,000.00 Parsonage Mortgage Extra Principal Payment
\$600.00 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage Paydown
\$3,878.09 Capital Improvements
\$6,020.10 Total Donations

### Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Ministry Fund
\$100.00 Rental to Mortgage Payment
<u>\$1,600.00</u> Extra Principal Payment from the Mortgage Fund
\$2,698.58 Total Payment

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$135,182 after the March 2022 Payment.

Our projected payoff date is **February 2037**, which is 39 months earlier than the original payoff date!

## WANT TO DONATE TO THE FOOD PANTRY?

### THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE CURRENTLY NEED



Toilet Paper  
Laundry Soap  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Razors  
Baby Wipes



**We need you** to make the return of our Easter Egg Hunt successful! Join in the fun!!

Invite your neighbors, friends, classmates to the hunt – pick up a postcard or flyer. Now through **April 10** - bring in small individually wrapped candy or toys that will fit in Easter Eggs.

**ASAP** – contact Dawn Weingart (574-50-9521) to let her know how you can help. We are looking for —

Egg Stuffers, Egg “Hiders”, Local store donations for the baskets requestors, Greeters, 4 Kid Corallers, Announcer, Bunny Mascot, Photographer, Water Hosts/Hostesses, Clean Up & Reset for Church Crew

**Sundays March 26 - April 10** between 9:30am – 10:30am Building 1 Music Room meet with old and new friends while stuffing eggs.

**Friday April 1**, 6pm-Midnight Join us during Craft Night to stuff even more eggs.

### Saturday April 16 –

12:30PM set up and hide eggs  
1:30 pm Greeters & Hostesses ready  
1:30-2:00 Guests arrive  
2:00 Hunt starts  
2:45 Clean up & reset for Easter Services







## SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Summer is coming! Hope is providing scholarships that cover half of the cost of one of our Michigan United Methodist Camps (up to \$200 per youth camper).

For camp information, go to [umcamping.org/overview/](http://umcamping.org/overview/). Call the office 269-663-5321 and Melissa will assist you with the scholarship information. Reserve a spot for your kiddo today! Early bird prices end at the end of April!



## MISSIONS Offerings

### Mission Moments

The \$593.64 offering from Ash Wednesday's Ecumenical service at Hope was collected for the Edwardsburg **Food Pantry** and qualifies for their Lenten matching challenge.

Hope has donated \$500 to the International Disaster Fund of United Methodist Committee on Relief (**UMCOR**) to support their ongoing aid to the Ukrainian people and refugees. The funds were allocated by Hope's Leadership Team and came from the Mortgage & Mission Fund.

Hope UMC was recognized by the conference for paying 100% of our 2021 **Ministry Shares**. Hope has paid 100% of our Ministry Shares each year since Hope UMC was created in 1997 through the merger of Adamsville and Edwardsburg United Methodist Churches.



To participate in the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ is to live already in his kingdom. This is the essence of the Christian message, the heart of the Good News, and it is why the cross has become the chief Christian symbol.

A cross of all things — a guillotine, a gallows — but the cross at the same time as the crossroads of eternity and time, as the place where such a mighty heart was broken that the healing power of God himself could flow through it into a sick and broken world. It was for this reason that of all the possible words they could have used to describe the day of his death, the word they settled on was "good." *Good Friday.*



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



## JOY



Joy is having that feeling of happiness down deep inside.  
 It is that precious thought that lifts the spirit in our heart.

Perhaps a memory from the past that eludes great joy.  
 Or something just happening before our eyes giving joy.

Joy can be something we give to others to lift their day.  
 It may be a spark of hope placed down inside a heart.  
 A word or a look to another that gives a cherished smile.  
 A handshake or a hug given with special heartfelt feeling

A child that runs and jumps into our arms and hugs us.  
 That special card someone gives us with special thought  
 A friend who calls just to say "Hi" and thought of you.  
 Love expressed by a family member in a special way.

Joy can come from a scripture that touches our heart.  
 Reading or hearing that God loves us where we are.  
 Knowing Jesus cares for us always should give us joy.  
 The Holy Spirit lives in us to give each one that joy.

The joy of knowing our eternal home is in Heaven  
 This earthly life's joys can't compare to what will be.  
 Our heart should explode with that joy of eternal life.  
 Today's golden memories should carry us to tomorrow.  
 For we know greater joy is yet to come to all believers.

May each one of you seek some joy for today  
 not only for yourself but that of others and spread  
 the eternal joy we all will share someday in Heaven.

See you at the table of joy, *Deb and Tony Lang*



**APRIL 10**