



*Greetings Church!*

It's time for a pastoral moment of honesty: I don't really like devotionals. Well, let me rephrase that: Though I have found many devotionals to be well written, faith building, and thought provoking, I have never completed a devotional according to the schedule for which it was designed. Most of them, though, I don't finish at all. I am certain some of the problem here is my attention span and ever-changing schedule which bars me from completion, but mostly that I haven't found one that fully embraces the energy and motivation to change the world I receive from the Scriptures.

Why do devotionals all feel like you should be in your robe, at dawn, watching the sunrise, pondering the book's offering of wisdom while both hands grip a steaming cup of your favorite hot beverage? Don't get me wrong, I do have a deep appreciation for them; they possess great tidbits of scriptural wisdom and insight. The problem I have is that they also seem to have this effect on us, calling us to remain in that position, rather than to go out and put that new thing into action.

For instance, it is very good for us to know that in faith we receive the armor of God...

*"<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:13-17)*

It is truly a blessing to know in your heart that you have been graciously given these great gifts. But, now reimagine yourself in the first, devotional scenario, except instead of your house robe and slippers, you're wearing the full armor of God! It seems a bit ridiculous, doesn't it?! These great implements of protection weren't designed for our cuddly back porch moments, they were designed for battle; to protect you from harm while you protect others from harm! We've been given all the tools we need to go out into the world, seeking justice and freeing the oppressed, and yet we receive it in the comforts of home as a side dish to our brunch.

Perhaps it's not the devotional at all in which I have found my frustrations, but the mode of delivery and consumption, and the consumer's lack of response.

**Why** are there people suffering in this country while 65% of our adults claim to be Christian, and therefore possess this very same armor? Has the devotional model played a part in creating a larger model of inaction?

**What** should we be doing with all this armor? To what works should we really be devoted?

*In Christ's Peace,*

*Pastor Nate Starkey*

## JUNE LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Leadership



**Financial Report:** The budget finished in the black this month and donations have increased somewhat. Cleaning service has been reduced from 2 times per week to once a week, cutting that expense by half. The parsonage mortgage will be paid from the Mortgage and Missions fund rather than the Ministry fund.

**Outreach/Missions:** Rene DeYoung has assumed the position of Event Coordinator. A Kid's Corner, Sunday School activities, and Monday afternoon summer play dates are a few of the events she has organized and helped to launch so far. She was instrumental in coordinating the Memorial Day Parade participation representing Hope UMC, as well as the recent community picnic. The LT voted to endorse support for Michiana Family Center as a new mission field, in addition to the continuing support of the Edwardsburg Food Pantry.

**Pastor's Report:** The Sunday morning messages for the next few weeks will address Stewardship. The next Time To Talk meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. to further explain The Ministry Fund and Mortgage and Missions Fund, as well as present the vision for the church. Mike Morgan represented Hope UMC at the 2022 Annual Conference and will share his experience and takeaway with the congregation at an upcoming Sunday morning service. Livestreaming and You Tube will now focus on the Modern Service and determine response and views.

**Trustee's Report:** It was agreed to accept the bid from Duck Heating and Cooling regarding new furnace installation. Discussion took place regarding roof replacement for Reese Hall. The manufacturer will be contacted with respect to the condition of the shingles.

Hope's online Prayer Chain has faithfully continued during the pandemic. To have a prayer concern added call **Melissa at Hope, 269-663-5321**,

*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*

and leave your request on her answering machine. Or email your request to Marti Bartels, [mbbartels@aol.com](mailto:mbbartels@aol.com).

### SHUT-IN PRAYERS



#### Our Shut-ins

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.

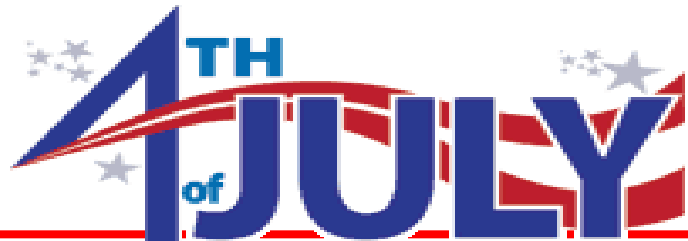
Please remember these people in prayer: Bob Fuller, Ardith & Carl Higley, Verlaine Hoffman, Sherry Leininger, Grace Werner, Ray and Nourma White.



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
SAM STARKEY	7/07
SCOTT GIPSON	7/08
TED MANSELL	7/08
GENE MONTGOMERY	7/08
NATALIE FRENTZ	7/11
SHIRLEY FARKAS	7/12
DACIA KIRKLAND	7/13
PAULA KENDALL	7/13
BIILL HILL	7/13
PENNY CREAGER	7/13
LEIGH GOYINGS	7/13
DELANEY PETERS	7/15
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
LINDA MASTEN	7/25
CONNOR SPICHER	7/25
JIM CHAPMAN	7/25
JACOB ISAIAH LAWSON	7/25
SAMANTHA ANDERSON	7/25
De MARCA HOWELL	7/27
ELAINE RICHARDSON	7/27
GARY BUSSEN	7/28
BRANTLEY FROST	7/29
COREY SHEETS	7/29
NICOLE SCHROEDER	7/29
ABIGAIL LaPORTE	7/30
NETTIE RUSSELL	7/30
TAFU TAFUNAI	7/31



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
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 UMC**  
**SUMMER PLAY DAYS**  
**1-2pm**

**June 20 and 27<sup>th</sup>, July 11, 18 and 25<sup>th</sup>, August 8, 15 and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

# FINANCES

## CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Month of May Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 17,053
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-18,144</u>
Shortfall for the Month:	\$ -1,091

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 19,207

All May bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$67,573. Thank you for your continued support!

### May Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$422.33 Missions
\$1,147.16 Parsonage Mortgage Extra Principal Payment
\$850.00 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage Paydown
<u>\$3,378.85 Capital Improvements</u>
\$5,798.34 Total Donations

### Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment for June – Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$129,802 after the June 2022 Payment. Our projected payoff date is August 2036, which is 45 months earlier than the original payoff date!



## Craft Night Friday, July 1

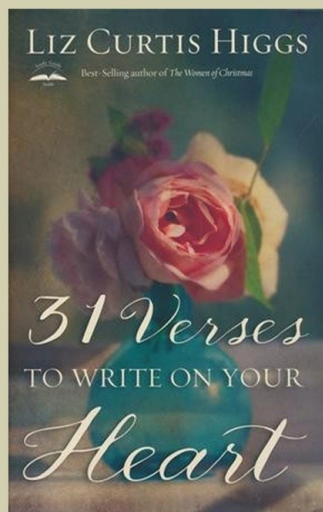
Craft night is coming on Friday, July 1, from 6:00pm – Midnight in Reese Hall. Join us whenever you are available. Bring a friend and a current project that you are working on. We'll be collecting personal care items for the food pantry.



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

The Monday night women's bible study group will begin  
 A new 8-week book study,  
**"31 Verses to Write on Your Heart"**  
 by Liz Curtis Higgs  
 on Monday July 11th @ 6:30.

If you would like more  
 information, please contact  
**Donna Mansell**



## **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.

**Keep our Service People in Prayer**



Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chaput, Jon-

athan 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.

**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](https://smile.amazon.com) and select that you are supporting Hope United Methodist Church of Edwardsburg.

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.

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