



Greetings and Blessings to you, Friends of Hope UMC, in the name of our Risen Savior, Christ Jesus!

In worship, over the last few weeks, we have been exploring the Abundant Life: the gifts God abundantly pours out on the faithful in the forms of Love, Forgiveness, Joy, Peace, Hope, and Faith. I hope this time has helped us all better understand these heavenly resources to which we have been give access, even when they don't make sense to our worldly understandings or circumstances.

But now the questions become: "What do we do with these great gifts?" I propose, the same as Jesus did, that we move mountains! *"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."* (Matthew 17:20-21)

And, "with whom shall we share these great gifts?" Well, the scriptures give us some pretty clear guidance here, as well: *"²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."* (James 1:27)

And, "Could the sharing of these gifts result in the sharing of the Gospel?" The answer here is simply, "Yes!"

Throughout June we will embark on a new sermon series entitled "Moving Mountains: Exploring the Power of Faith and its Real-World Impact". What I am especially excited to announce is that we will lead into this series, on Sunday June 5th, with our friend and guest preacher, James Solarek. James and his wife, Aisling, founded and operate the Michiana Family Center, a local organization that *"collaborates with our community to provide support for our families, especially those experiencing Foster Care. MFC supports families by offering Mentors to middle and high school students, Support Groups for parents, and Care Teams for the entire family. Did you know? There are over 1,300 children in Foster Care in Michiana. Statistically, over half of these young people will not graduate from high school and only 3% of them will go on to graduate from college. Simply put, Foster families are struggling today due to a lack of support. For more information about how you can be involved, please visit www.michianafamilycenter.org as "Together we champion families!"* (James Solarek)

I hope our time with James will open our eyes to the needs of our community and our opportunity to fill those needs out of the abundance of God's blessings. Please prayerfully consider the ways we could partner with Michiana Family Center in a future of Mountain moving.

In God's Abundant Grace,
Pastor Nate Starkey

MAY LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Financial Report: As giving remains somewhat diminished over previous years, the LT discussed methods of paring expenses and suggested contributors consider redirecting a portion of their offering to ministry funds from which basic expenses are covered. The LT unanimously agreed to move the mortgage payment to the Mortgage and Missions Fund, and to suspend making the extra principal payments commencing with the next payment due. Other cost-cutting measures were discussed.

Outreach/Missions: Several persons attended the May 1 Inclusivity/ Separation discussion group, and expressed interest in continuing the talks moving forward. Discussion ensued regarding the need for more family-oriented activities including a game and movie night which may be attractive to younger families. Brandon DeYoung expounded on his proposal for a Children's Corner in 2nd service utilizing furnishings already available from classrooms. It has already been successfully incorporated into the Modern Service in Reese Hall.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate introduced a proposed staff position for a Children, Youth Ministry and Event Coordinator. He indicated that the position has existed previously, and would be beneficial in planning, organizing, and coordinating the structure for Sunday worship, Sunday School and community-oriented events.

Trustee's Report: Mike Morgan received quotes from two of the three Heating and Cooling Companies regarding the furnaces in both buildings. In the interest of supporting local businesses, it was suggested that he contact Sam's Heating and Cooling in Edwardsburg, for an additional comparison quote.

WANT TO DONATE TO THE FOOD PANTRY? THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE CURRENTLY NEED



Toilet Paper
Laundry Soap
Shampoo
Conditioner
Razors
Baby Wipes

Craft Night
Friday, June 3

Craft night is coming on Friday, June 3 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.



DIANA GRAHAM	6/01
GWEN JUIP	6/02
KELLY LONG	6/02
JENNIFER KENDALL	6/03
STEPHANIE KOONTZ	6/03
JEFF HUFFMAN	6/04
LUCAS BENTZER	6/04
JULIE STACK	6/05
DEE VANDEVEIRE	6/05
MARITA ENGLISH	6/06
SUE KOONTZ	6/06
CAMERON OSWALT	6/07
BRENDA GORDON	6/07
SABRINA MANSELL	6/07
CRISTOPHER WEINGART	6/08
AMBER JOHNSON	6/08
HEATHER SCHMIDTENDORFF	6/09
JOYCE WESTFALL	6/10
MANDY FLICK	6/11
AUSTIN LEE WILLIAMSON	6/12
BOB STRAKA	6/12
MARGE NURTON	6/16
ASHLEY SCHUMAN	6/17
SHIRLEY BEHRMAN	6/17
CONNOR WYANT	6/17
AGGIE BUSSEN	6/18
LILA ANN BENTZER	6/18
ETHAN MANSELL	6/19
JIM WEINGART	6/19
BARBARA WESTFALL	6/19
COLLEEN HARRIS	6/20
ROGER FLEMING	6/21
JOHN LOHR	6/21
ETHAN KLEIN	6/22
MEGHAN CLAIRDAY	6/22
MEGAN ANDERSON	6/23
CODY GARVIN	6/23
KATHE J SNODGRASS	6/23
SHEILA WEAVER	6/24
SYLVIA TAEMLAN	6/24
SARAH MANSELL	6/24
RYAN DEW	6/25
CASEY REESE STRONG	6/25
ROBERT RICHARDSON	6/25
ERIN BURKS	6/26
MATT FLICK	6/27
AMBER COWLEY	6/27
AMBER MILLER	6/27
BRADEN GRIMAN	6/27
JO MACUMBER	6/28
SALLY BLUNIER	6/30



COLLEEN & TOM HARRIS	6/10
CRYSTAL & WILLIAM MILLER	6/10
NANCY & LARRY BOWMAN	6/11
MANDY & MATT FLICK	6/15
KAREN & DEVON TRUEX JR	6/15
MICHELLE & STEVE GRUVER	6/17
SANDY & ROGER FLEMING	6/21
PEGGY & BILLY JENSEN	6/23
NANCY & CLARK MEAD	6/25
SHARON & BOB MORGAN	6/30



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.



"I will pour out my Spirit on all people."

Joel 2:28, NIV



Pentecost Sunday
June 5

FINANCES

CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of April Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 12,913

Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-15,022

Shortfall for the Month: \$ -2,108

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 19,207

All April bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$68,664. **Thank you** for your continued support!

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.

More than 150 years ago, **Memorial Day** took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.

By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.



April Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$383.59 Missions

\$1,000.00 Parsonage Mortgage Extra Principal Payment

\$550.00 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage Paydown

\$2,452.26 Capital Improvements

\$4,385.85 Total Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Ministry Fund

\$300.00 Extra Principal Payment from the Rental Fund

\$1,550.00 Extra Principal Payment from the Mortgage Fund

\$2,848.58 Total Payment

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$130,363 after the May 2022 Payment.

Our projected payoff date is August 2036, which is 45 months earlier than the original payoff date!





Please join us walking in the annual Edwardsburg Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 30. Step-off is at 11:00AM; we will gather at 10:30AM in the Edwardsburg Middle

School parking lot. Please enter from the south entrance near the High School.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Keep our Service People in Prayer



Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chapput, Jonathan Ditson, James Gallo-

way, 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.

SPECIAL DATES

- Pentecost, *June 5, 2022*
 - Trinity Sunday, *June 12, 2022*
 - Flag Day, *June 14, 2022*
 - Father's Day, *June 19, 2022*
- First day of summer, *June 21, 2022*





The Holy Spirit

When we believe the Holy Spirit enters our heart,
This Spirit lives there with Jesus and God to guide us.
Jesus said He will be our helper and friend forever.
We can ask for concerns through this Holy Spirit.

With prayer we can have a conversation with our Lord.
We have the promise they will be heard and answered.
The answers will be aligned with the will of God for us.
Whether we choose to follow those answers is our choice.

When we suffer heart ache or pain and ask relief and none comes, many times our faith will falter and doubt.
We may not see any good coming from this ache.
Our heart becomes burdened with this unending pain.

We ask, "How can this be God's will for my life today?"
We have asked for help, but none seems to have come.
The suffering goes on and on with no relief in sight.
Our promised prayer seems to have gone unanswered.

Through this suffering we continue each day and night.
Others may see this struggle as we persevere each day.
Our faith weakens as doubt sets in our heart each day.
We fail to see that others are strengthened by our faith

Though we question the good that this could bring us we need to ask for help in getting us through these tough times and continue to give us direction in doing God's will for our lives so that we may help others.

We need to hang onto the Hope that a new body awaits.
And a new home free of guilt, pain and grief is prepared.
Our answers to prayers are God's will for our daily lives.
And He has prepared His path for our best life for to-day.

So whatever we are going through, seek the Holy Spirit.
Ask of His help to get us through each day and night.
And continue in faith that we are being cared for by the Holy Spirit, Jesus and our father God each and every day.

My Hope is that each one of us believers can grasp that faith each day and hold it to help others and ourselves see good in our lives. *Deb and Tony Lang*

Puzzle!

Find the names of these fathers and sons from the Old Testament.

ADAM REUBEN
CAIN DAN
ABEL ASHER
SETH JUDAH
NOAH LEVI
HAM GAD
SHEM NAFTALI
JAPHETH SIMEON
ELKONAH ISSACHAR
SAMUEL ZEBULIN
AARON BENJAMIN
NADAB JOSEPH
HUR MANASSEH
CALEB EPHRAIM
ABRAHAM SAIL
ISMAEL JONATHAN
ISAAC DAVID
ESAU SOLOMON
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Note: A completed puzzle is in a file called puzzleb_0622 on this month's CD and on the website, www.NewsletterNewsletter.com.


**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**
JUNE 19