



2022



Friends of Hope, Greetings in Christ to you!

What are you looking forward to? Are you looking forward at all? What do you see there? Are you excited for the future? I am, and I hope you are, too.

Sometimes, when we find ourselves wondering about the future, we tend to get stuck there... in a good way. When we see the possibilities of the path we are on, it is easy to linger there in that place of hope and peace and unity and growth. I do. That is what I see (because that is what God has promised), and I like it there; it's gonna be so good!

But, so often, when we are blessed to catch these hope-filled glimpses of our future, when we lock in on that distant moment alone, we tend to look past the path that gets us there. It's easy to do; I do it all the time. The truth is that God has a great plan for us, as individuals, as a church, as a community in Christ, as God's Kingdom, and though that place we are going is going to be great, God also knows all the space between here and there; the space we tend to overlook.

In the last few months at Hope UMC, we have been focusing on the path that takes us there; the steps we need to take in faith and in community to one day arrive at the place God has promised. The primary way in which we see ourselves getting there is through intentional opportunities for relationship development. Worship connects us to God and to each other in Christ, and (hopefully) it sparks an energy and desire to do all the things we say and pray and sing. It is our path then, to give you space to continue in connection. We are especially excited about a few events on our immediate horizon in which our relationships with God and with each other may be nurtured:

Messy Church! Messy Church is open to all, it's usually at 6PM on the 4th Sunday of each month, and has been an absolute blessing in the way of deepening our connections. Our next one will be on August 28 and will include a lot of pies in face(s), probably some important hair color voting, and we are especially excited to make it our **End of Summer Bash!** There will be extra games, treats, and fun as we encourage our children and youth in the school year to come. See more on this in the pages that follow. **And, Wear Your Tie-Dyed Messy Church Shirts!**

Youth Group! To give our young people of Hope a safe and open space to explore their faith, their questions, and their feelings about life and God and the world, and to build on the momentum that Messy Church has initiated, we are deeply blessed to be launching our Youth Group in September! Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers are all invited, and they are invited to bring a friend! We will meet at 6PM on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and each meeting will have a different topic and faithful focus. Please let us know if you or your children plan to be there, or if you would like to help make this successful!

¹⁰ ***This is what the LORD says:*** "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:10-13)

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Nate Starkey



NOTES FROM THE LT MEETING

The Hope Leadership Team (LT) met on July 13, 2022. The finance committee reported that income was again short of expenses this month. The LT agreed that the church needs to expand our outreach efforts but wants to ensure that our goal is to “make disciples” and not just fill seats.

The LT discussed several new outreach initiatives but decided to begin by expanding **Messy Church** by inviting the entire congregation. The LT also decided to change the monthly “Craft Night” to the monthly “**Craft and Game Night**” and to be sure to invite the entire congregation as well as anyone in the community who would like to come out, play games or do a craft and share snacks with new friends.

At the recommendation of Pastor Nate, the LT decided that it would be good to create a “**ministry**” night at a local establishment as a way to spread the word of God to those who may never come to church. Pastor Nate will work on finding a location and setting up a night. The LT also agreed to start an educational program starting with the **Jr. and Sr. high kids**. A meeting will be held on August 14 after 2nd service to form a plan along with interested parents and kids.

Pastor Nate reported nine (9) pastoral care calls/visits over the previous week. He will start reporting his monthly activities at each meeting. He also reported that guest preachers have been lined up for August while he is away on sabbatical and that, based on the timing of his meeting with the District Superintendent, our Charge Conference will likely be in September this year.

The Trustees reported that the AC unit/Furnace at the parsonage has been replaced due to the failure of the AC unit. The sprinkler system is fixed at the parsonage. It was noted that the fence at the parsonage needed to be repaired and painted. Bids are starting to be collected for the repair/replacement of the south facing roof of Reese Hall. The next LT meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2022

Youth Group

Informational meeting August 14th after second service

Tell us what you'd like from your youth programming!

Open to all middle and high school youth and their adults

Anyone interested in volunteering with our youth, please contact Rene DeYoung or Jim Weingart



BILL STACK	8/02
LUCAS FLICK	8/03
LOIS MILLER	8/05
KELLY KLEIN	8/05
HAYLIE STEVENSON	8/05
MOLLY ADAMS	8/05
SUE TOTH	8/06
EMILY WILFERT	8/07
ALEXANDER MILLER	8/08
JOSH UDELL	8/10
LINKIN BORN	8/10
JAN READ	8/11
RON FLICK	8/12
KAREN REED	8/12
SHERRIE MAHNESMITH	8/13
JAN FRIES	8/13
TIKI TALJAARD	8/13
LURENA WILFERT	8/14
ANGELINA MARIA FISK	8/15
VIRGINIA HELVEY	8/17
APRIL SCHMIDT	8/17
MARY HOIEN	8/17
CRYSTAL MILLER	8/18
BEV STOOPS	8/19
KAELYNN SMITH	8/19
KAYE SMITH	8/19
ROBERTA MAZAREK	8/23
JENNIFER WYANT	8/25
BAILEY MILLER	8/25
SCARLETT DIAZ	8/26
CHRIS FRENTZ	8/26
MADISON GIPSON	8/26
MEGAN GIPSON	8/26
KAY McNIFF	8/26
JACKIE BOONE	8/27
SANDI TURPEL	8/27
DAVID HENDRICKS	8/28
MARIE GRUVER	8/29
GRACE WERNER	8/31
COLBY GARVIN	8/31



CAITLIN & NATE EYESTONE	8/01
JOYCE & DALE WESTFALL	8/02
RENE & BRANDON DeYOUNG	8/05
MICHELE & GREG BLACK	8/09
RONDA & BILL FAHEY	8/10
PATTY & JEFF D JOHNSON	8/15
KELLY & BILL LONG	8/19
SUE & TONY KOONTZ	8/20
AMBER & CLIFF WILLIAMSON	8/20
PENNY & MARK WERNER	8/21
JAN & BILL FRIES	8/25
KATHE & ROB SNODGRASS	8/25
WENDY & BILL HILL	8/25



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.

FINANCES

Month of June Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 13,106
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-16,067</u>
Shortfall for the Month:	\$ -2,960

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 18,208

All June bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$64,613. Thank you for your continued support!

June Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation

\$209.85 Missions
\$1,900.00 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage
<u>\$1,888.60</u> Capital Improvements
\$3,998.45 Total Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$129,225 after the July 2022 Payment.

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

CELEBRATION OF LIFE



The life of **Jerry Love** will be celebrated on Friday, August 19 at Hope UMC. Visitation with Jerry's family will begin at 10AM followed by military honors at 11:00 after which we will move indoors where Pastor Nate will continue the celebration. Friends and family are invited to join the family for lunch in Reese Hall—a fitting finale to our tribute to Jerry who organized so many successful fish fries in that space!



Did you miss the June Time to Talk?

We had a great chance to discuss how the church finances work and discuss our vision for Hope's Future. Handouts are available in the office if you missed picking up one at church.



thank you

Thank you to the Hope congregation for your acknowledgment of my years at the organ and piano.

It was a most fulfilling way to serve. The practice of annually recognizing a young musician begins a great tradition. Thanks for doing that.

I do need to point out that I was not the only person at a keyboard over the years. Others who shared their talents are Jan Fries, Sharon Tafunai, Dee Vandeveire and Sandie Weiler. Thanks, ladies.

Sincerely, Shirley Andrews



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.

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.



Messy church is now open to all!

Join us August 28th at 6pm to wrap up the summer
We'll eat dinner together, throw pies together, and
spend time playing and growing together in
fellowship!



LIFE LESSONS

"Before they call, I will answer, while they are still speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24 NIV.

Can you recall times when you were searching for something, some one or some answer? Maybe you had thought about this for some time and thought it may never come to happen and dismissed the thought?

Have you ever had a conversation with someone and said some things that you didn't even think you would say? Or had someone say to you something you didn't expect to hear from that person?

Maybe you've been having a family discussion or a family get together and thought it was just that, only to find out later, perhaps years, that something you said or did made an impression that helped someone?

God loves us so much He cares about each of us and prepares our path before we even get on the road. God has always been active in our lives and prepares the way for the Holy Spirit to live in us for others, as well as ourselves to have peace and joy in our lives.

Know that God is working every moment of every day to make our lives and those of others we may touch filled with hope and a peace that lasts forever

Deb and Tony Lang

Issue an invitation!



**There's
Room
for
YOU!**

When I enter that beautiful city

And the saints all around me appear,

I hope that someone will tell me:

It was you who invited me here.

-Carrie K Butcher

Nuptial LOLs

When Outreach magazine asked pastors for their most embarrassing mistakes during wedding ceremonies, the responses took the cake. Hundreds of clergy 'fessed up about dropping rings, using the wrong names and even driving to the wrong venue. Have a laugh at these "I do" don'ts!

- I asked the groom if he promised to leave his wife and cleave to all others. Before I could correct it, he said, "I do."
- Due to a bulletin typo, the Bible reading from 1 John was listed as John 4:16-19. In those verses, Jesus tells the woman at the well, "...for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband."
- I accidentally read, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and money and be united to his wife."
- While praying, I meant to say, "Lord, please bless this marriage." The word *message* started to come out instead, and I tried to stop it. Unfortunately, the result was "Lord, please bless this mess."
- I asked the groom, "Do you take this wedded woman to be your wife?"