



Greetings Church, and Happy Holidays!

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus, as we prepare ourselves, our church, and our homes to once again celebrate the season of His birth! *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6*

How do you prepare for this season? And, when? Is the hanging of lights and decorating the house a one day event for you? Or, is it also a season of building up to the big day? For the Starkey House, it's a little bit of both. It is usually one day of lights, and a separate day of decorations. Those events usually take place just after Thanksgiving, and almost never happen on the same day.

This season seems to be taking a different shape. Our kids started playing Christmas music while we were carving pumpkins for Halloween! (we didn't fight it at all!) And, as I am writing this just a few days before Thanksgiving, I can say that our Christmas Tree is up and lit, and the house will have lights as soon as this weather breaks! I feel like there is something special in the air this Advent/Christmas season. Perhaps it's just snow, but I like to think it's something more!

As you start to prepare for this season, in whatever special way you do, I pray it invites a season of reflection on how powerful a thing God did for humankind, when he became human-kind. While we can never fully fathom the enormity of all that is Jesus' birth, we are blessed in understanding that it means there is hope in this world; that, as mixed-up and messed-up this world may sometimes seem, Christ was born so that we may be re-born in his Spirit. That means that You are also a living representative of hope in this world! You've already been given the greatest Christmas gift.

May we look forward to this season of sharing that gift with the world!

In the Peace of Christ,
Pastor Nate Starkey



NOVEMBER LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



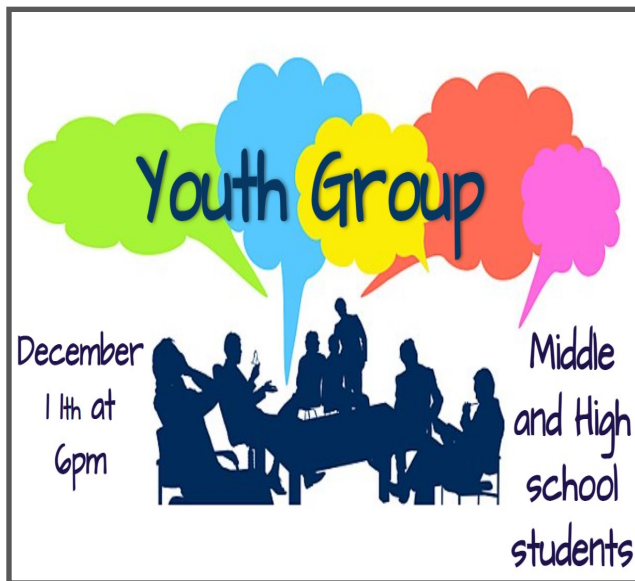
FINANCIAL REPORT: Expenses incurred during the past month were larger than normal with the re-roofing of Reese Hall and the installation of two new furnaces. The proposed Budget for 2023 was presented, reviewed and approved. As approved at the recent Charge Conference, the Steeple Fund CD will be cashed out and moved into the Ministry Fund.

The LT moved to transfer a portion of the Mission Funds into Hope's Emergency Fund to support and assist with local needs, considering the upcoming winter season. The LT voted to designate the Christmas Eve offering to support Hope's Emergency Fund for local families in need.

The LT agreed to support Michiana Family Center with their Christmas Tree Project. Christmas Trees in both buildings will contain tags with names provided by Michiana Family Center to select for the purchase of gifts. Stuff-A-Bus is scheduled for December 3. All donations will be directed to the Edwardsburg Food Pantry. Donations of toys, hats and mittens may be placed around Hope's Christmas trees which will be directed to the Edwardsburg Food Pantry for Christmas distribution.

GENERAL REPORT: The stained-glass windows are currently available for purchase by congregants for the sum of \$250 each. Remaining windows will be advertised for public sale after May 1, 2023. Proceeds from the sale of the windows will be directed to the Ministry Fund.

Four positions are available on the LT. Please contact Pastor Nate or any team member with questions or to express your interest in joining the team. The LT will not meet in December, but will recommence in January, 2023.





TANNER LEININGER	12/01
CHRIS EDGERTON	12/03
WENDELL LEIST	12/04
ALICE PONTIUS	12/06
JANET STRYCKER	12/06
ROBERT J BYRD	12/06
IAN MANSELL	12/06
DANA GEORGE	12/07
BRODY WEAVER	12/08
KEIRA MAE DAVIS	12/08
ANDREW DOHM	12/08
ROB SNODGRASS	12/09
JULIE BYRD	12/09
TOM HARRIS	12/09
BONNIE MORGAN	12/10
THOMAS GREEN	12/11
SHARON TAFUNAI	12/11
ANN GUSTAFSON	12/13
CARRIE MINIX	12/14
BRENDA SHAFER	12/15
CINDY CARMEN	12/15
DJ BUSSEN	12/23
DON MANSELL	12/18
MORGAN ANDERSON	12/19
DIANE SEIFERT	12/19
MARTI BARTELS	12/20
MACKENZIE MORGAN	12/20
LARRY BOWMAN	12/21
MARJE REA	12/23
EVIE TAFUNAI	12/23
WENDY HILL	12/24
GAYLA SIMMONS	12/24
GARY DENEMARK	12/25
STEPHANIE CLINE	12/26
KIRIN MOLER	12/27
ADAM FUGATE	12/27
SUSAN MOLER	12/28
ALEX EDGERTON	12/29
MIKE STRAKA	12/29
KEVIN ENGLISH	12/31



ARDITH & CARL HIGLEY	12/21
SHERRY & ROGER MAHNESMITH	12/29
LAURA & JON BLOUGH	12/30



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 and Ray White.



Family Game Night

Friday December 9th, at 6pm

All are welcome!

Bring a game or a snack to share if you'd like!

FINANCES

CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Month of October Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 16,308
 Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-16,670
 Surplus for the Month: \$ -362

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$21,464

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 18,208

All October bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$64,952. Thank you for your continued support!

October Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$277.28 Missions
 \$998.58 Parsonage Mortgage
\$1,496.90 Capital Improvements
 \$2772.76 Total Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$126,939 after the November 2022 Payment.
 Our projected payoff date is August 2036, which is **45 months earlier** than the original payoff date!

Year End Donations

Here are the ways that your donation to Hope can still be included on your 2022 donation statement, per the IRS:

Set up your online gift to be received by Friday, December 30.

Make sure that your donation is **post-marked on or before December 31** and send it to P O Box 624, Edwardsburg, MI 49112



Christmas Eve Offering

Our Christmas Eve offering will be for the Hope Emergency Fund. We use this fund to help community members with gasoline, utilities, and personal care items. This fund is managed by the church and helps community members.

2022 Giving Envelopes & Electronic Giving Options:

If you would like a package of pre-numbered weekly giving envelopes for 2023, please leave a message at 269-663-5321 x 6. Envelopes will be available to be picked up mid- December.

If you would like to make your donation to Hope Automatically, here are several options.

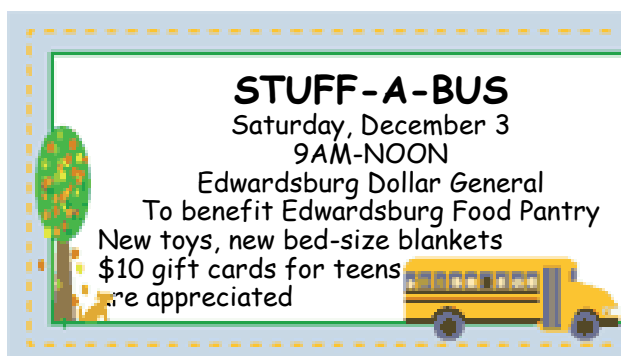
Set up an automatic payment from your checking account to Hope using your online banking account.

Sign up for Electronic Giving through our website: <http://www.hope-umc.us/> . Click on the green online giving button to go to the secure website to set up giving from your bank account, debit card or credit card. If you need any assistance getting this set-up, Dawn will be happy to help you. Contact her at 269-663-5321 x 6.

Snowbirds

Please leave a message for Melissa in the office at 269-663-5321x9 and let us know when you're headed south and when you're planning on returning. We can send you our monthly newsletter, if you'd like. It's also available online at our website. You can also worship with us by viewing the livestream or youtube recording or listening to the audio under the sermons tab.

<https://www.hope-umc.us/>



Keep our Service People in Prayer



Joshua Adams,
Charles Berry,
Andre Brower, Phil
Bryden, Sam Cha-
put, Jonathan Dit-
son, James Gallo-

way, Justin Gerou, Dakota Kizer,
Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott, Josh
Marner, Jay Moore, Brandon Mor-
gan, Jessica Ramus, Jason Salter,
Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, and
Tyler Wilson.