



Dear Friends of Hope United Methodist Church,

It is with an abundance of emotion that I share with you this news: Through the prayerful discernment processes of our Bishop and the Michigan Conference Appointive Cabinet, Bishop David Bard has appointed me to serve the St. Ignace United Methodist Church and community starting July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023.

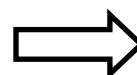
I hold these emotions close, and share them with you, because they are all real. I cannot rank them or put them in any certain order because they tend to rotate in and out of the leading position.

I am nervous. Especially for our children, I am nervous. That they will be starting over again, making new friends again, at a new school, a new church, a new town. It's so difficult, especially on them. Will you pray for them? For us?

I am excited. For the opportunity to see an entirely new-to-me portion of Christ's Kingdom at work in this world, and to walk with them in service, and explore new ways to share God's grace, I am excited. Will you pray for them? For us?

I am grateful. For the immeasurable amount of love and grace my family and I have received from you since arriving at Hope, for the relationships that we have formed, for the new and old and amazing ways we have expressed the gospel together, for the times of worship we have shared, for Christ's Holy Communion, for Messy Church, and our young people, and our musicians, and for your passion for being authentically welcoming to anyone who comes in the door, I am grateful. I will pray for you. You will remain in our prayers.

I am heart broken. For the connections that will be lost, for the evangelical momentum I won't get to see continue, for the friends my family and I will be leaving, and for all the other things that could have been, I am heartbroken. Will you pray for me? For us?



I am enthusiastic. I am certain that Hope is in a good position to survive and thrive a change in leadership. I am positive the staff and volunteers at Hope are capable, willing, and wanting to continue to grow, teach, serve, and lead the church into the future. I trust our Bishop, Cabinet, SPRC and Lead Team will work diligently to find Hope's next spiritual leader, and that that person will be very different from me in all the right ways, and exactly like me in our shared enthusiasm for sharing Christ with the world in creative ways. For all these things, I am enthusiastic. Will you join me in praying over them all?

I am at Peace. One of the greatest gifts I've received in Christ, second only to salvation itself, is a peace that surpasses my own understanding. Beyond all circumstance, beyond all desire, and beyond all these emotions, peace reigns in my heart. I am excited and happy and sad and uncertain and enthusiastic and anxious and heart broken and grateful and upset and determined and hopeful and scared, but above all, I have peace. I pray that same peace will reign, throughout these future changes, in my heart, in my family's hearts, and in yours. Will you pray that with me?

**The Wesley Covenant Prayer:**

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,  
Praised for you or criticized for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.  
And now, O wonderful and holy God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
you are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

As always, it is my blessing and privilege to discuss any or all of this with you. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

In God's Peace,  
*Pastor Nate Starkey*



## ***JANUARY LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS***

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The LT reviewed and approved the proposed 2023 Budget provided by Dawn. Pastor Nate indicated that the Hope Emergency Fund had received donations from Christmas giving prior to Christmas despite the inclement weather affecting attendance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In addition, \$500.00 was transferred from the Mission Fund into the Hope Emergency Fund.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Nominations were accepted and approved as follows: Brandon DeYoung will serve as Chairperson, with Jack Rinehart serving as Vice Chairperson. Sandie Weiler will continue serving as Secretary and Sabrina English as Finance Representative.

**GENERAL REPORT:** Members of the LT expressed their visions for the coming year which include increased community outreach, how to better care for our members and congregation, and how to secure more volunteerism. In addition, it was voted to contain LT Meetings to no more than 1-1/2 hours in length, and to add unresolved issues to the Agenda for the following month's meeting. Additional members are needed to round out the SPRC and it was determined that SPRC should meet at least on a quarterly basis. The LT is still seeking 2-3 additional members. Please consider serving on this team as an opportunity to provide your suggestions, visions, and hope for growth for your church and the community.



## **Family Game Night**

Friday February 10th, at 6pm

All are welcome!

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

### ***Going out of our way***

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.



TOM REA	2/01
JOYCE WARD	2/02
LYDIA GOULD	2/03
JUSTIN ROSS	2/03
NANCY PLATZ	2/04
BREENA MAPLES	2/05
FLORENCE GORDON	2/05
JENNIFER SCHMUCKER	2/05
CHUCK ORTH	2/05
KELLY MORTIMER	2/05
MARY CATHLEEN JONES	2/06
BENTLEY CARLYLE	2/07
PATTY JOHNSON	2/09
NORMA BOONE	2/10
SAMUEL DeYOUNG	2/10
JASON UDELL	2/10
KELLY DUIS	2/13
BETTY BRADY	2/13
JILL KAYNER	2/15
SUE BURKS	2/17
CAITLIN WYANT	2/17
CALIANA MANFRED	2/18
CHASE MANFRED	2/18
JON BLOUGH	2/18
BERNICE PELMEAR	2/20
LEXI-RAE HOWELL	2/21
SANDY RYDER	2/23
ERIC TROSPER	2/24
BRONWYN TAFUNAI	2/25
HEAVEN GRISSINGER	2/26



**February 22**



DELLA & DENNIS HOLDREAD	2/04
SHARON & JAMES SNYDER	2/20
MARJ & TOM REA	2/23
SUSIE & DAVE HENDRICKS	2/28



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.



### 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 in the office of the information that has been published in prior newsletters and June's Time to Talk.

# FINANCES

## CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Month of December Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 41,064
Transfer from Steeple Fund per Church Conf:	\$ 3,216
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-15,733</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 28,548

Year to Date **Surplus:** \$8,970

All December bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$95,718. Thank you for your continued support!

### December Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$152.28 Missions
\$998.58 Parsonage Mortgage
<u>\$371.90 Capital Improvements</u>
\$1,522.76 Total Donations

### Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$125,778 after the January 2023 Payment.

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

### CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for "Behold, the Lamb of God," this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus' Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).

Here is the information regarding the **2023 Budget** and comparisons to prior financial information. A detailed copy of the 2023 Budget is available for your review. Contact Dawn Weingart 259-663-5321x6 or stop by the office to pick up a copy.

<u>Fund</u>	2023 Budget	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Ministry	\$ 212,103.00	\$230,480.00	\$195,134.36
Capital Improvement	\$ 11,000.00	\$ -	\$ 52,589.00
Mortgage & Mission	\$ 21,883.00	\$ 21,762.50	\$ 20,320.73
Total	\$ 244,986.00	\$252,242.50	\$268,044.09

## AMAZON SMILE

Amazon will be closing the Amazon Smile program effective February 20, 2023. Your purchases can still help Hope through February 20. To do so, go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select that you are supporting Hope United Methodist Church of Edwardsburg. Thank you for your support of Hope through this website.

## Edwardsburg Museum Thank You

Below is an excerpt from the note we received from The Edwardsburg Museum:

"On behalf of the Edwardsburg Museum Board of Directors, "Thank You" to Hope UMC for the extremely generous gift of the stained - glass window given to the museum, that was an original window of the old red brick church located on Church Street in the village of Edwardsburg.

We truly appreciate this very precious gift, and it should be ready to be on display when we open next Spring. Please come to see it."

## Keep our Service People in Prayer



Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Andre Brower, Phil Bryden, Sam Chaput, 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.

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.



**Youth Group**

February 12th at 6pm

Middle and High school students

**FAT SUNDAY LUNCH!**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

11:45AM, AFTER SECOND SERVICE



**AshWednesday**



## The Human Heart

As I am 79 years old I look back on my life and reflect all the times of trouble and joy I've had. I accepted Christ into my heart and life at age 47 on April 3 at 1:00pm in my Boss's (President;s) office sharing the message with a vendor of ours who had called me many times to ask the question if I were a Christian. I'm thankful he was persistent and shared Christ that April day.

Prior to that April day I would sing in my heart the song "Just a closer walk with thee". I often felt close to Jesus in my heart, but I still felt distant. My human heart would say that I needed to do this or that and that is what I would do. My human heart would question things as to why they happened like the death of my dad in my early 20's or the suicide of my grandfather or my losing jobs because of consolidations and things like this.

After that April day my human heart found a peace that I was saved and would someday walk through the gates of Heaven. Since then I have struggled (two back surgeries, two wrist surgeries and many illnesses), but still find myself asking why and in my human heart I want healing now. As time passes I have found that my human heart doesn't have all the answers.

When I look back at the times I struggled, I see that Jesus helped me through even though I didn't think so at the time. Still in my human heart I want Heaven here on this earth but reality, which the Bible tells us, Heaven is where we will be when this earthly life is over.

I have learned to use my experiences, both good and bad, to help others either find Jesus or to strengthen their faith. Jesus tells us to witness to help others and to rely on Him to carry us along in this earthly life.

In your human heart may you find someone, or rely on Jesus to share your good times and the bad times and may your reward be the gift of Heaven. See you there.

—Deb and Tony Lang

Ash Wednesday  
February 22  
Good Friday  
April 7

40 days  
OF LENT



Messy church is open to all ages!

Join us February 26th at 6pm! We'll have dinner together, play together, then split into groups for discussions and fun!



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer