



2023

Happy New Year, Friends of Hope!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
(1 Peter 1:3)

Though the weather outside was frightful, I trust that through it all you and your loved ones found a way to have a delightful Christmas. Now, after celebrating the birth of hope, we turn our attention to living in that hope.

Though the past year has had its share of difficulties and challenges, we have been given reason to continue on this path laid before us. You continue to be a welcoming, loving, sincere, God-praising Church! Your generosity has been a blessing to countless people, both locally and world-wide. Messy Church has experienced dynamic growth, realizing an average monthly attendance of over 40 people! Our fledgling Youth Group launched and experienced a bit of growth! And, we welcomed some new members, and we have a few more folks in the wings. Looking forward to membership and baptism in the near future! The future is promising when we place our hope in Christ!

"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." (Prov. 23:18)

"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." (Rom. 15:13)

May you and your loved ones have a blessed new year!

May we resolve to remain in constant prayer and to commit to the actions unveiled, for the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation the world!

May the Lord continue to shape you, guide you, feed you, and forgive you, and may you find yourself grounded in the Hope of Christ!

Pastor Nate Starkey

586.229.5767

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FINANCES

Current Hope Financial Information

Month of November Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 14,429
Ministry Fund Transfers:	\$ 1,785
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-13,995</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 2,219

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$19,578

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 18,208

All November bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$67,171. Thank you for your continued support!

November Mortgage & Mission

Fund Allocation

\$118.85 Missions
\$998.58 Designated Donation to Parsonage Mortgage
<u>\$701.02 Capital Improvements</u>
\$1,888.45 Total Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$126,352 after the December 2022 Payment.

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



Messy church is open to all ages!

Join us January 22nd at 6pm! We'll have dinner together, play together, then split into groups for discussions and fun!



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. Thanks.



COHEN AHRENS	1/01
CYNTHIA WADE	1/02
PENNY FRIES	1/05
KAYLEN STARKEY	1/06
SHEILA GEROU	1/07
DYLAN SPICHER	1/07
LISA SCHMIDT	1/08
JOE FAHEY	1/09
GARY OWENS	1/10
JACKIE BIGGS	1/11
JULIE HARTIN	1/12
JUDY DENEMARK	1/12
CARLEE BURGER	1/13
CAROL PETERS	1/14
ALLYAH ANDERSON	1/16
TONY MANFRED	1/16
PAM CHAPMAN	1/16
NANCY HOFFMAN	1/16
CONNIE HEBRON	1/17
TRENT BERLIN	1/17
MICHELE GORDON	1/18
JESSIE (KAY) GILBERT	1/18
ISABELLE EDGERTON	1/19
DAN BOONE	1/19
MARGE HANSON	1/19
DAVION SCHMUCKER	1/19
COURTNEY HARTING	1/20
LEIGH ANN HARTING	1/20
BOB FULLER	1/20
RENE DeYOUNG	1/20
EMILY BUSSEN	1/20
BAILEY WEAVER	1/21
CARLEIGH WANKE	1/21
SHERRY SAYLES	1/21
CARIN REESE	1/23
ZACH SCHMUCKER	1/25
PAT HERR	1/27
ANNA REA	1/27
LISA STRONG	1/27
DEBRA PURVIS	1/29
ZOEY ROUCH	1/30
LOUISE BARNUM	1/31
GLENyce BENTZER	1/31



LAURA & COREY SHEETS	1/27
MARGE & BRUCE NURTON	1/28
JUDY & GENE MONTGOMERY	1/29



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 of the information that has been published in prior newsletters in the office.





IT ALL STARTS ANEW

So the New Year starts and we make new goals.
Some are repeats and some continuation of old ones.
Most of our goals for 2023 are centered on good.

Sometimes we are glad the old year has passed.

Jesus gives us the opportunity to start anew, too.
When we screw up and mess up our lives He gives
Us the chance to repent and ask forgiveness and just
As the old year is forgotten, so our mistakes are forgotten.

So all that said, how are we going to ask amends for
2022 and how are we going to change in 2023?
We are expected to change and grow with repentance
And forgiveness and seek a clean heart and mind.

Jesus has given each one of us gifts that will help others.
They also help us to grow in seeking His will for us.
So in our new start in 2023 let's all make it our goal to
Use our gift(s) to help ourselves and others in love.

Look forward with enthusiasm to reaching out to others
In the new year and helping make lives happier for all.
Ask Jesus to help and change one life at a time today.
The joy will be in your heart as well as those touched.

My prayer is that we all can start anew in 2023 in
our lives and we can help others start anew in their
lives and seek Jesus's love in our heart for this goal.

—Deb and Tony Lang

Proof of Light

On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world?

As preacher George Buttrick said, "It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy' is joyous. If a man were to say, 'It is not joyous to me,' he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself."



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 and select that you are supporting Hope United Methodist Church of Edwardsburg.



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