



APRIL

2023

We invite YOU to experience HOPE in Christ. There is a place for you here, to connect with people and God. Together we will grow in faith. Together we will serve as the hands and feet of Christ for the Glory of God!

The Prayer of Faith

James 5: 13-16 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

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

As we enter into this Easter Season, let us do so with a renewed spirit and a revitalized hope for all that is possible when we faithfully place our trust in The One who was raised from death to life!

In this time of renewal, we are looking to approach Hope's Prayer Chain and Care Network in a new light. We are hoping that a few minor changes will inspire some new people to participate while also having a positive impact on those of you who are already participating.

For the Prayer Chain, we first want to invite everyone to participate in praying for those who are in need. If you aren't already signed up for our Prayer Chain updates, please contact the church office so we can add you to the distribution list. We usually send out updates twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays (Thank You Marti!). The minor change we are trying out in this new season is this: Our email updates will no longer contain the entire list of names and concerns, but instead will only contain our most recent, (hopefully) short-term additions. Our prayer list for long term concerns, such as chronic illnesses, pastors, and the home bound, will appear at the end of each monthly newsletter. If you are wanting to actively join in our prayer chain (and we hope you are!), we ask that you remove this long term list from the newsletter and add it to your current prayer routine. And then, when the updates come out during the week, take time in that moment to pray for those newly added concerns. If those who appear on our recent additions throughout the month need to become long term prayer concerns, the list in the newsletter will be updated accordingly.

For our Care Network, we are hoping to find one person within our active congregation to be our team coordinator. The Hope Care Network represents the process by which our prayer concerns become tangible ways in which we can take action by reaching out to, connecting with, and helping and serving those who are in need. The Care Network Coordinator does not need to be the doing the actual outreach, but simply the one who oversees the flow by which our love for one another turns from prayer to action. We have a detailed structure for this network, a large and active prayer chain, and multiple people willing to help with the outreach side of things. We are looking for one person to help coordinate these efforts, and we are willing to adjust structure to match the gifts of that person. If that person might be you, please let us know. If you have someone in mind for that role, encourage them to consider serving the church in this very special way.

God has called us for this purpose; we are blessed to be a blessing!

Sincerely,

Pastor Nate Starkey

586.229.5767

pastornatestarkey@gmail.com

Christ Is Risen!
CHRIST
IS RISEN
INDEED *Alleluia*



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Chair: Brandon
DeYoung

bde7young@gmail.com

Jack Rinehart, Vice
Chair; Sandie Weiler, /
Sec'y; Sabrina English,
Finance Rep.; Pastor
Nate Starkey, Mike
Morgan, Heidi Meadows,
Sharon Tafunai,
Ben Morgan, Shirley
Andrews

MARCH LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SPRC: Sue Rinehart, as SPRC Representative, shared an update on the current search for a pastor. She anticipates receiving contact from the District Superintendent within the next few weeks with a suggested candidate for a meet and greet with the SPRC and LT.

FINANCE: Dawn Weingart provided Hope UMC income/expense/budget information with copies for LT review. Year-To-Date Finances are stable.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Mike Morgan reported that an exhaust pipe on the attic furnace over the kitchen in Building 2 had been repaired. An issue with the dryer in the parsonage has been addressed and resolved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Brandon and Rene DeYoung have volunteered to attend Annual Conference in June. The LT motioned to approve their attendance; the motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Kaylen Starkey will be attending Annual Conference with Pastor Nate as a teen representative with voting privileges.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION: The Prayer Request list was discussed, with suggestions for updating and revising. Volunteers are needed for preparation of the Communion elements on a monthly or rotation basis, as well as a volunteer to facilitate the sound system weekly for the service in Reese Hall. An all-church cleaning day is scheduled for March 25, commencing at 8:00 a.m. with lunch to be provided.



*Shut-in
Outreach*

SHUT-IN SIGN-IN

The Leadership Team is trying to open up more communication with our Shut-Ins. Each Sunday there will be two sheets for you to sign your name and/or jot a short note. We will send these out on Monday with a copy of the newsletter and a copy of Sunday's bulletin. Please take a moment to connect with someone you may not have seen for a while and be a blessing by signing your name.



SPRING BREAK BOUNCE HOUSE BASH!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH
10AM-12PM AND 1PM-3PM

IN REESE HALL



MICHAEL BOWDEN	4/02
SHERRY LEININGER	4/03
ADAM DeYOUNG	4/05
JIM MOLER	4/05
PHYLLIS SCHUELKE	4/05
BRUCE NURTON	4/05
MARTHA ROSSMAN	4/06
KATHY HARTING	4/07
DONNA Taelman	4/07
ARDITH HIGLEY	4/08
ELIJAH SCHERBARTH	4/08
CANDY BUNNELL	4/08
BRANT CAMPANERO	4/08
STEVE GRUVER	4/09
RILEY HARRIS	4/09
BRITTANY UDELL	4/10
STEVEN ANDERS	4/10
VICKIE FLICK	4/11
GEORGE REID	4/11
CLARK MEAD	4/11
DEB STEMPLER	4/13
JANICE ROSS	4/13
COLIN MURPHY	4/14
VICKI ANDERS	4/14
DEAKON SCHMUCKER	4/15
GARY HERR	4/15
JASON BENTZER	4/16
MERIAN ACKLES	4/20
AUBREY GRUVER	4/21
LAURA PROCTOR	4/21
DAN ROSS	4/22
KIM MANSELL	4/22
SHERRY DANNENBERG	4/22
DAWSON SPEICHER	4/23
DAWN PROCTOR	4/24
ROCHELLE DOLDE	4/24
LINDA OBERLING	4/25
CASSIDY FRENTZ	4/27
LUCAS FRENTZ	4/27
JANTHA CORP	4/29
NICK MORTIMER	4/30



GLENYCE & JASON BENTZER	4/04
DEB & TONY LANG	4/07
DEB & HARRY STEMPLER	4/13
PAM & GARY FISK	4/13
DEANA & JIM MOLER	4/11
LAURA & MARTY SHUTTLEWORTH	4/16
WANDA & CHUCK ORTH	4/16
KRISTIN & BRAD WEGNER	4/17
JANET & BRAD STRYCKER	4/19
SUE & BRIAN BURKS	4/20
JUDY & GARY DENEMARK	4/24
CAROL & JOHN UDELL	4/26

Ecumenical Good Friday Service April 7th, 7:30pm at Hope.



FINANCE QUESTIONS?????

If you have a question about 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.

FEBRUARY MINISTRY FUND SUMMARY



Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 14,111

Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-14,187

Shortfall for the Month: \$ -76

Monthly Budget = \$17,675

Shortfall YTD: -\$4,509

All February bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$91,209. Thank you for your continued support!

February Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$139.28 Missions

\$998.58 Parsonage Mortgage

\$254.90 Capital Improvements

\$1,392.76 Total Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$124,581 after the March 2023 Payment.

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



APRIL 2-8



Prayer requests can be made during the week by emailing Marti Bartels at mbbar-tels@aol.com, or the church office

at hopeumc2@hope-umc.us. Sign up today to be added as a participant in Hope's Prayer Chain.

Easter Egg Hunt



April 8th at
2pm

Volunteers
and
donations needed!



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.



WHY DO WE PRAY

If God's will is always going to be done regardless.
Are our prayers really heard and acted upon by God?
Does He hear them and listen to our requests, we ask?
Should we pray not knowing God's will is for our prayer.

When we raise up a child and we buy presents for them.
Do we choose presents that we think they will like?
Or have we listened to their requests for certain gifts?
We should listen to their requests before we give a gift..

We need to build a relationship with one another.
That way we can know what their likes and dislikes are.
Now we can present them a gift that they will appreciate.
We have formed a bonding relationship with that person.

A prayer is a conversation with Jesus and seeking Him.
As humans we talk about what is important in our life.
Jesus cherishes these talks and will help us grow in faith.
We learn to have a hope in these talks that Jesus cares.

As we mature in life we look back on times we prayed.
Sometimes we see good in an unanswered prayer.
We are joyful when our prayers are answered as asked.
But either way we are growing to find God's will for us.

My prayer for you is that you will continue to pray no matter how previous prayers were answered and seek God's will for your life. He has much good planned for your life if you get to know Him and fellowship with Him.

—Deb and Tony Lang



Messy church is open to all ages!

Join us April 23rd at 6pm! We'll have dinner together, play together, then split into groups for discussions and fun!



FINAL EXAM

A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?" Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, "I'm cramming for my finals."

—Florence Littauer, *Women's Devotional Bible*



Family Game Night

Friday April 14th, at 6pm

All are welcome!

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



April 16th
at 6pm



Middle and
High school
students

DEATH DOESN'T WIN



In the final hours of 2021, a wildfire near Boulder, Colorado, destroyed 1,000 homes, including one belonging to Pastor Bill Stephens. His family, out of town at the time, lost all their possessions. After months of feeling buried in debris, insurance paperwork and mourning, Stephens decided that Easter 2022 would mark a fresh start.

During worship that morning, the pastor shared a photo of vibrant daffodils emerging on his charred property. Burned remnants were visible in the background, just as Easter's backdrop includes the pain and death of Good Friday. But the empty tomb in Easter's foreground means death won't win, reminded Stephens. Even when earthly life "isn't all daffodils," we have hope and eternal life through Jesus.

Easter reveals that God will "give us the joy, and it's going to be in the heart of pain that we go through as well," added the pastor. "And that just makes me draw closer to God."



Craft night

Friday April 7th at 6pm

Bring a current project and a snack to share if you'd like

VIBRANT BELIEF

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body.



They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

—Madeleine L'Engle
The Rock That Is Higher

HOW JESUS SAYS YOUR NAME

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

