

**2023**

Friends of Hope,

Greetings and Blessings to you in the name of the Risen Christ! I pray this month's newsletter finds you deeply rooted in the knowledge of God's Love, Grace, Forgiveness and Mercy. Though this news was officially announced on Sunday April 23, we do want to be certain it is shared across all of our platforms: Through the prayerful and dedicated work of our Conference's Appointive Cabinet (and, of course, the Holy Spirit), Bishop David Bard has appointed Rob Snodgrass to be the next Pastor at Hope UMC of Edwardsburg! Pastor Rob will start on July 1, making his first Sunday July 2, 2023.

Many of you may already know Rob and his wife Kathe, or perhaps their names sound familiar. Hope UMC is Rob's sending church, meaning he was a member here when he became a pastor, and Kathe has kept her membership here throughout their ministry! Rob has led worship and preached here at Hope several times in the past, as well as officiated weddings and funerals. Rob is familiar with Hope's history, and he is looking forward to partnering with you in serving God's Kingdom in the future.

I am also blessed to already know Rob, as a colleague and as a friend. He and I both attended the Methodist Theological School of Ohio for our Course of Study as Local Licensed Pastors, and shared classes on a few occasions. Those shared classes allowed us several opportunities over the years to have some pretty deep discussions around God, the scriptures, church leadership, hunting, preaching, fixing cars, raising kids, and growing the church. This appointment helps trust that God's Spirit was, and is, present and working in the United Methodist Church, our appointive process, our denominational connection, and the Gospel-centered future of Hope UMC.

Now, though there is some familiarity with Rob, not everyone knows him, and a lot has changed since he was a member here. July 1<sup>st</sup> will begin Rob's 11<sup>th</sup> year in pastoral leadership. I am certain he would agree that he has changed, and has been changed, over the years, especially in regard to his preaching style, approach to leadership, depth of faith and understanding, etc. Also, over those years, Hope UMC has experienced significant changes in vision, mission, direction, style, and congregational make-up.

So, I invite us all into a season of deep prayer and reflection, as we welcome Pastor Rob Snodgrass in the spirit of newness, freshness, and opportunity for Hope's future ministries! And may God richly bless Pastor Rob and his current congregation, as they now begin the difficult season of change and transition.

Thanks and Blessings,

*Pastor Nate Starkey*



Messy church is open to families of all shapes and sizes, and folks of all ages!

Join us May 21st at 6pm! We'll have dinner together, play together, then enjoy each other's talents in our first Messy Talent Show!



*Shut-in Outreach*

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.



Chair: Brandon DeYoung  
Vice Chair: Jack Rinehart  
Secretary: Sandie Weiler  
Finance Rep: Sabrina English  
Pastor Nate Starkey

Mike Morgan  
Ben Morgan  
Heidi Meadows  
Sharon Tafunai  
Shirley Andrews

## APRIL LT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Although finances for the first quarter of 2023 were somewhat reduced, total funding remained steady during the month of March, and fund balances in general remain stable.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** The church clean-up day was successful and another cleaning day has been scheduled for May 20, with a back-up date of June 3 in the event inclement weather interferes with outdoor maintenance.

**SPRC REPORT:** The next scheduled SPRC meeting is April 19, 2023. Immediately following that meeting, the SPRC and Leadership Team will meet with and interview a pastoral candidate.

**CARE NETWORK:** A volunteer coordinator is still being sought to spearhead our proposed Care Network. Sharon indicated that she has received positive comments relating to the launching of reaching out weekly to homebound individuals with signed letters from the congregation.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Nate reported that both the Easter egg hunt and the bounce house activity drew in many participants and were a great success. Pastor Nate is still seeking one or more individuals to prepare communion elements once a month. The need for help with soundboard for the second service remains. If you feel led to serve in either of these areas, or as a coordinator for the proposed care network, please communicate with Pastor Nate.



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 14 — Mother's Day  
May 21 — Ascension Day/Heritage Sunday  
May 28 — Pentecost





LOGAN BENTZER	5/01
SANDY FLEMING	5/02
JUDY MONTGOMERY	5/03
SHAREE LEIST	5/04
SHARON RADDE	5/04
JESSICA STEVENSON	5/04
MATTHEW ANDERS	5/04
SHEILA LEININGER	5/05
LINDA HARDEN	5/06
WILLIAM MILLER	5/06
CHARLENA MAPLES	5/07
ADRIENNE JACQUEZ	5/07
TRACEY BUNNELL	5/08
JANICE LEIST	5/08
BARB BROOMELL	5/08
AMY STARKEY	5/09
STEVEN STRONG	5/09
STACEY ROUCH	5/09
JEFFREY NOWICKI	5/10
CHARLIE DEW	5/10
TINA TROSPER	5/10
AMANDA TAFUNAI	5/13
SHELBY HARDIN	5/14
JAMES E BOWMAN	5/14
LARRY ACKELS	5/14
ERIC SCHUMAN	5/16
HANNAH LEIST	5/16
DAWN WEINGART	5/16
KALEB JOHNSON	5/17
BRITTANY GARVIN	5/18
NICHOLE DOHM	5/18
KEIFER BORN	5/21
TONY LEININGER	5/21
BECKY HAYDEN	5/25
KEVIN DUIS	5/28
LISA KRILL	5/28
SUE MORGAN	5/28
PAIGE MILLER	5/29
BILL FRIES	5/30
TONY LANG	5/30
MARTY EBY	5/30



WENDY & PETER EMMETT	5/03
STACEY & KEVIN ROUCH	5/07
JEANEANE & GREG DEVENNEY	5/10
SHAREE & STEVE LEIST	5/14
CAROL & JAMES BOWMAN	5/17
AGGIE & GARY BUSSEN	5/18
LYNN & BOB STRAKA	5/18
NICHOLE & ANDREW DOHM	5/18
GWEN & STEWART JUIP	5/18
ROBIN & KEVIN ENGLISH	5/19
SUE & JACK RINEHART	5/25
MIRANDA & BRAD ANDERSON	5/26
PAT & GARY HERR	5/31



### 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.



**MONDAY, MAY 29**

# FINANCES

## Current Hope Financial Information Month of March Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 15,775  
 Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-16,993  
 Shortfall for the Month: \$ -1,218

Monthly Budget = \$17,675

Shortfall YTD: -\$5,727

All March bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$89,991. Thank you for your continued support!

### March Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

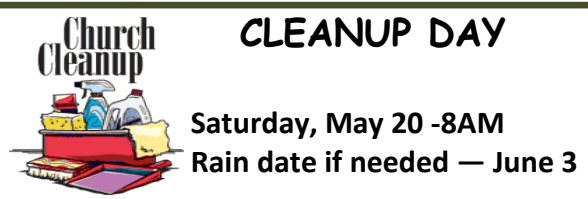
\$145.28 Missions  
 \$1,000.00 Parsonage Mortgage  
\$1,307.48 Capital Improvements  
 \$2,452.76 Total Donations

### Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund  
1.42 Extra Principal Payment – Mortgage Fund  
 \$1,000.00 Total Mortgage Payment

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$123,999 after the April 2023 Payment.

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



### *Prepare to be empowered*



Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this new-born community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."







A friend is someone special we've known awhile.  
That person who has shown they care about people.  
Someone who makes an effort to show compassion.  
One who often is first to show they care about us.

We look for that person who expresses our own thoughts.  
Someone we feel comfortable in talking to about things.  
A person who has some of the same interests as ours.  
That when we talk we feel a sense of peace and hope.

A friend is someone who will listen to what we say.  
They sense what we are feeling at that moment.  
Not always will they give answers about concerns.  
But they will give **their** thoughts about those concerns

A friend doesn't tell us what we should or shouldn't do.  
A friend brings peace into our heart by listening to us.  
We feel a special bond with a friend who cares about us;  
Who we are thankful to share our inner most thoughts with.

We all need someone in our lives or we would burst.  
The trials of today are too great for us to bear alone.  
We would soon explode without that special person.  
We most likely become a special friend to them also.

*Proverbs 17:17* A friend loves at all times.  
*Hebrews 13:5* I will never leave you or abandon you.  
Jesus is always there to help us with all our problems.  
If no one else, ask Jesus for help in your circumstance

My prayer is you either have or will find an earthly friend who will follow Christian beliefs in giving you Peace; also know you can converse with Jesus through prayer and He has promised to answer. He is always there!

—Deb and Tony Lang

## SPRC News/ Pastor search update



Hope has a new pastor appointment. Pastor Rob Snodgrass will begin his ministry at Hope UMC on July 2. Rob and his wife Kathe are currently serving the New Journey United Methodist church in Niles, Michigan. They attended Hope prior to Rob's call to ministry. We welcome them back and look forward to the gifts and abilities that he will bring to Hope as we continue to expand our ministry and footprint in the community.

We will have the opportunity to say thank you and good bye to Pastor Nate, Amy and their family on June 11. **WE WILL HAVE A CELEBRATION OF THEIR MINISTRY** with us after the second service that Sunday

We ask for your continued prayers for both families as they transition to their new lives and ministries.

Staff/Pastor Relations Committee



According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.



Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

**HOPE CHURCH & MISSION:**

Church Family / Future of Methodist Church

**LEADERSHIP TEAM + SPRC:**

Ben Morgan, Team member at Large  
 Brandon DeYoung, Chairperson  
 Heidi Meadows, Team member at Large  
 Jack Rinehart, Vice Chairperson  
 Mike Morgan, Trustee & SPRC  
 Pastor Nate Starkey  
 Sabrina English, Finance  
 Sandie Weiler, Secretary  
 Sharon Tafunai, Team member at Large  
 Shirley Andrews, Team member at Large

**SPRC:**

Bonnie Morgan / Diane Siefert / Jack Weiler / Sue Rinehart

**LIVING WITH CANCER:**

Brad Yoder  
 Brenda Miller  
 Brian Clark, cancer of the larynx (Sue Morgan)  
 Chelsie's mom, family, Grandpa John (cancer) and Grandma Betty April  
 Cindy Helvey, in Rehab Center (Virginia Helvey)  
 Cindy Workman  
 Crystal Maskwinski, diagnosed with cancer for 3rd time, started chemo. (Susie Edgerton)  
 David Leist, metastatic cancer (Janice Leist)  
 Don Burnette & Yvonne. Don has cancer and dementia (Robin English)  
 Ellen Evans (Robin English)  
 Jamie Horn  
 Jaycee Wendt  
 Jessica Hartwick, is diabetic and on dialysis, being tested for kidney transplant (Robin English)  
 John & Betty Westlake, (Tina)  
 Linda McClain  
 Mark Howell, cancer  
 Melana Horner, leukemia  
 Mike Moelbash, cancer in spine (Paula Kendall)  
 Mike Walton (Vicki Baker's family member)  
 Pam Knapp, surgery for liver and kidney cancer (Sue Morgan)  
 Rick Trosper had two more masses removed that are being tested. (Tina Trosper's brother)  
 Scott Dougall, friend of Sue Morgan  
 Tony and Ted Braun, Diana Graham's cousins  
 Trevor Claire  
 Vivian McClellan, brain cancer, PXA (McKenzie Morgan)  
 William Moore Jr.  
 Yung Fajardo, leukemia (Sharee Leist)

**LONGSTANDING:**

Bill Griffin, health  
 Chad, heart issues  
 Christine Love, health issues (Nancy Love's daughter)  
 Duis family  
 Edith English (Kevin's mom)  
 Elizabeth V. Mui (Geneva Weingart's foster parent)  
 Ethan Hart, 6-year-old, Type 1 diabetes (Colleen Harris's grandson)  
 Gary Herr is in Hospice  
 Gary Owens (Pat Owens)  
 Granny & Pops  
 Ida Bumpus, memory problems, falling (Robin English)  
 Ivan Bowman (Marti Bartels' brother)  
 Ivins family (Kelly Duis)  
 Jake Dibble (Kelly Duis)  
 Jessica Hartwick, diabetic & waiting for kidney transplant (Robin English)  
 Ken Proctor  
 Kevin Duis, an autistic boy  
 Kevin English, medical problems (Robin English)  
 Linda Morgan, health (Bernice Felmear)  
 Miao's family and village of Sichuan (Paula Kendall)  
 Nancy Love  
 President Jimmy Carter in hospice  
 Stephanie Harris, pain management  
 Teresa Neucks-Mills, MS & fibromyalgia (Tina)  
 Tina Trosper's dad, heart problems  
 Wilbur Schmidt, healing from stroke (Ann Gustafson)  
 Firemen & Policemen / Healthcare workers

**PASTORS & FAMILIES:**

Brenda Gordon  
 Evan Lash & Barbara Jackson  
 Matt & Cara Weiler  
 Nate & Amy Starkey  
 Rob & Kathe Snodgrass  
 Scott & Carrie Otis  
 Tom & Lisa Maxwell

**SERVING/SERVED IN MILITARY SERVICES:**

Joshua Adams, Charles Berry, Andrew Brower, Phil Bryden,  
 Sam Chaput, Jonathan Ditson James Galloway, Justin Gerou,  
 Shane Karkiewicz, Dakota Kizer, Andrea Long, Alyssa Malott,  
 Jay Moore, Brandon Morgan, Jessica Ramus, Jason Salter,  
 Dylan Smallwood, Jeff Starr, Tyler Wilson

**HOME BOUND:**

Merian Ackles, Sally Blunier, Norma Boone, Bob Fuller, Carl & Ardith Higley, Verlaine Hoffman, Tony & Deb Lang, Sherry Leininger, Sharon & Bob Morgan, Jan Read, Donna Taelman, Bev Torgeson, Cynthia Wade, Grace Werner, Ray White, Rochelle Dolde.

## May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall) 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:20pm Women's Bible Study (Reese Hall)	<b>2</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Spicy's 6:20pm Men's Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>3</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:20am Wednesday morning Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>4</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall)	<b>5</b> Office closed 6:00pm Craft Night (Reese Hall)	<b>6</b> 1:00pm Hope Band Practice (Reese Hall) 6:00pm Bingo Night
<b>7</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service	<b>8</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall) 6:20pm Women's Bible Study (Reese Hall)	<b>9</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Spicy's 6:20pm Men's Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>10</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:20am Wednesday morning Bible Study (Community Room) 6:20pm Leadership Team Meeting (Community Room)	<b>11</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall)	<b>12</b> Office closed 6:00pm Game Night (Reese Hall)	<b>13</b> 1:00pm Hope Band Practice (Reese Hall)
<b>14</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service Mother's Day 6:00pm Youth Group (Reese Hall)	<b>15</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall) 6:20pm Women's Bible Study (Reese Hall)	<b>16</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Spicy's 6:20pm Men's Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>17</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:20am Wednesday morning Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>18</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall)	<b>19</b> Office closed	<b>20</b> 1:00pm Hope Band Practice (Reese Hall) 6:00pm Reservation (Reese Hall)
<b>21</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service 12:20pm Reservation 6:00pm Messy Church (Reese Hall)	<b>22</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall) 6:20pm Women's Bible Study (Reese Hall)	<b>23</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Spicy's 6:20pm Men's Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>24</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:20am Wednesday morning Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>25</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall)	<b>26</b> Office closed	<b>27</b> 1:00pm Hope Band Practice (Reese Hall)
<b>28</b> 8:30am & 10:30am Service	<b>29</b> Memorial Day Memorial Day Parade Office Closed 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ (Reese Hall)	<b>30</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:00am Men's Breakfast @ Spicy's 6:20pm Men's Bible Study (Community Room)	<b>31</b> 8:30am - 2pm Office Hours 9:20am Wednesday morning Bible Study (Community Room)			