



The Hope Church Beacon



August 2023

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

35127 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Church Office (586) 296-8760
Email: HopeUCC4@gmail.com

Website: Hopeuccmi.com
Facebook Public Page: @hopeuccmacomb
YouTube: Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township

WORDS OF HOPE

We have had a few baptisms of babies and children this summer, and more will come in the upcoming months. We all want the next generation to enjoy a peaceful and compassionate world.

When I think of these new believers, it makes me profoundly thankful for the United Church of Christ and the priorities the church holds. I am grateful that we are ready to respond with open arms to any child of God that comes through our doors. There is no test; there is no requirement to receive Holy Communion. We trust that the sacrament is a holy mystery and that those who receive it will come to know Christ.

The same is true with Baptism. All parents are welcome to ask to have their child baptized. As pastor, I meet with the family, and we speak about the benefits of raising their child in the church. We plant the seeds of faith and pray that the family will nurture those seeds.

We value our youngest members. We offer Christian Education that teaches both Bible stories and Christian values. We continually share the message of God's love. We will be introducing our new Christian Education Director in the next few weeks. On the other end of the spectrum, our seniors are an active and dynamic group within our church. We offer support and encouragement as people face the unique joys and challenges of maturity.

The UCC has a proud history of speaking out on social issues. We seek to address the wrongs of racism and oppression and strive for unity. We value being a safe and welcoming church for all people.

We serve those in need through our food pantry, blood drives, and other mission programs. The UCC states, "To care is to do". The UCC provides aid through several local, national, and global ministries.

We care about the planet. We do not value profits over protection. We work to recycle, reduce, and reuse within the church. We are mindful of our individual and communal responsibilities.

We offer a safe space within the community. We open our doors to groups like AA, PFLAG, and OA. We recognize that on life's journey, there are people within our community who need an encouraging word.

Finally, we celebrate diversity. We don't need to share the exact same opinions. We are each in a different place on our journey. God created us to be thinking and caring people, not identical robots. We treat each other with respect and kindness, and we work together to serve others.

I celebrate that within the UCC, we are continually seeking to become the people God is calling us to be. The General Synod of the UCC met this summer, new leaders were elected, and there were lively discussions about how to help the church thrive. Let us celebrate those things we do well and look for ways to move forward in Jesus' name.

Pastor Meg

UPCOMING EVENTS!!

2023 Camp Caring

Friendly Reminder: Our final Camp Caring event for this year is on Thursday, August 10th, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration ends on August 6, 2023. For more information, our Flyer is on page 18 and registration form is on page 19 of this newsletter.

Camp Caring Update

Our July Camp Caring was a tremendous success thanks to the volunteers and children. We had 16 children participate. They began the day by learning and acting out the story of the Good Samaritan. Then they spent the morning doing projects like assembling goodie bags to take to the firefighters. They made puzzles for children in the hospital, decorated tissue boxes for homebound members, and made birdfeeders to help God's feathered friends. After lunch, they went to the Fraser Fire Department to deliver their goodies, and they got a tour of the building and had a lesson on fire safety. After their mission was complete, they enjoyed bouncing at the trampoline park. Just to reiterate (see above), we will have another day of **Camp Caring on August 10th**. Children ages 4 to 12 are encouraged to register for this day of faith and fun. This is a great event for grandkids and neighbors to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Cont.)!!

Coming Soon!!!
Save the Dates!

~Universal Church Directories~

The Pictorial Directory for the Church Family Album is reserved for Monday, October 17th, and Tuesday, October 18th, 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This fun event includes a free 8x10 and a free directory for participants. This is a great way to invite families back into the church and to celebrate the families that are already here. Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors.

More information to come...

~Annual Church Picnic~

Our Annual Church Picnic will be on September 17th at the church following worship. Sign-up sheets will soon be posted.

HOPE CHURCH INFO

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

Pastor Meg is inviting children and teens to read the Call to Worship. If you have a young person in your family who would like to participate in worship, please contact the church office. Pastor Meg will write the material at your child's reading level. The children do not need to be church members.

We also need teens or adults to read the scripture each week. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please reach out to Pastor Meg or the church office. We are the church together!



Dear Church,

If you are approached by someone asking for financial assistance, please refer the individual to seek out Pastor Meg or contact the church office. We have a variety of options to help people in need. We want everyone to feel comfortable and welcomed at Hope, and the best way to do that is to make sure we are coordinating resources.

Thank you for your understanding.

HEARING ASSISTANCE NOW OFFERED AT HOPE UCC

Can't quite hear Pastor Meg's sermon? Think the choir just doesn't sing loud enough?
We can help!

We can accommodate you with our assistive listening system! We have installed a complex system that can transmit directly to your hearing aids through your own smartphone or with a special receiver we can lend you. We also have earphones for those without hearing aids.



Make sure you can hear God's wonderful good news!



*** Blood Pressure Screening ***

**Every Month - 1st Sunday of the
Month.**

All info is kept confidential.

~Sermon Series~

Beginning August 13th. As we begin to draw our summer worship to a close, Pastor Meg will begin a sermon series on challenging feelings. Just because we are Christians does not mean we are immune to life's challenges. We will be exploring ways to manage these difficulties through the lens of our faith.

Christian Education News

We will soon be introducing Brie Garbin as our part-time Christian Education Director.

We will welcome her as our newest staff member this month (August).

HOPE CHURCH INFO (cont.)

~PERTINENT INFO~

If you are required to take an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your IRA, you may want to consider doing your contributions to church by a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) directly from your IRA account to Hope Church. The check from your IRA account needs to be made payable to Hope Church to qualify. The amount you do by QCD will not be taxable on your tax return. The check MUST clear the IRA account before the end of the year to qualify for a 2023 contribution. Therefore, it is recommended to do this by November 15th to be sure it clears. Be sure to tell your tax preparer about this transaction so it is recorded correctly on your tax return.

After you have the check sent, you should give the church a detailed listing of where the money should be applied (for example, how much to Weekly offerings, how much to Hope to the Future, how much to the Easter offering, how much to the Christmas offering, and all the other various envelopes in your box).

If you have any questions, you can contact me, as I have done this myself.

Thank you, Linda Parsons

~Medical Equipment & Other Donations~

If you have medical equipment you would like to donate, you are welcome to post a note on one of the church bulletin boards. You can also check with your local Senior Program in your community.

Hope Church does not have the need or the room to store medical equipment. It would be a shame not to put these items into the hands of people who need them.

Also, we don't typically need craft supplies and don't have room to store odds and ends. If we have a specific need, we will ask for items.

As you can imagine, over the years, we begin to amass more things than we can use.

Thanks for your cooperation!



Coffee Hour

Looking forward for volunteers to assist with coffee hour set up and clean up for August, September, and October.

It is best if there are two every Sunday. If you would like to help make coffee hour possible, please sign up via the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the Hope Church bulletin board.

A special *THANK YOU* to everyone who has helped in July with Coffee Hour!

I also want to Thank everyone who signed up and will sign up for August to make our coffee hour a success.

- ◇ August 6 - Help Wanted!
- ◇ August 13 - Jane White & Pamela Steffens
- ◇ August 20 - Help Needed!
- ◇ August 27 - Help Needed!

***PEANUT ALLERGIES* - Due to a recent peanut allergy incident, please label any coffee hour goodies that contain or may contain any form of nuts.**

Again, a BIG THANK YOU to all the willing helpers!

God Bless,
Carol Troutman



HOPE CHURCH INFO (cont.)



Baptismal News



We celebrated Baptisms:

July 21, 2023

Son: Mason Neal Yousif was baptized

Parents: Evan and Lauren Yousif

Grandparent: Susan Baronet

July 23, 2023

Daughter: Sunday Cherubim Twomey was baptized

Mother: Tuesday Androsian

Godparents: Brian & Brittney Androsian and Made-line Freeman

***If you're interested in Baptism, please reach out to**

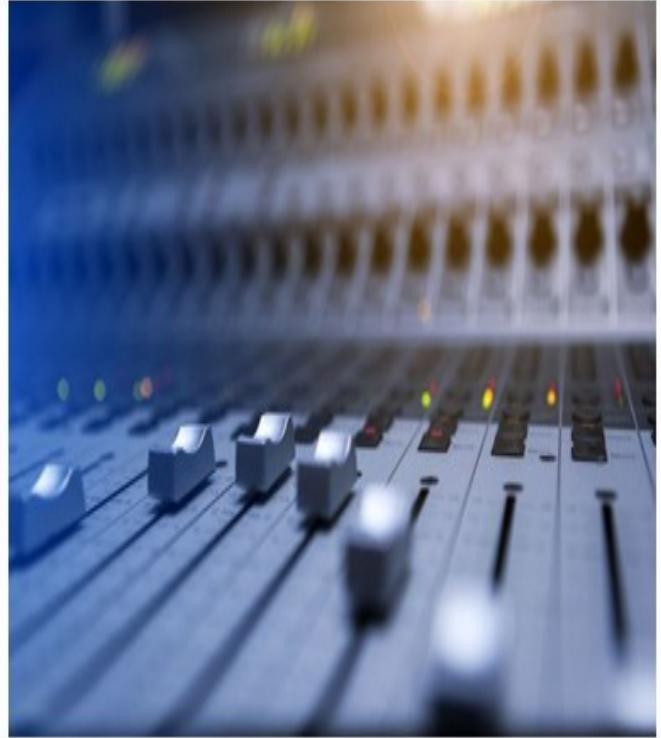
Congratulations on your Graduation!

Logan Clifford, son of Steve Clifford and grandson of Joyce Clifford, graduated from L'Anse Creuse High School Central in the class of 2023. He plans to attend a trade school as a heavy machine operator.

Congratulations Logan!!!

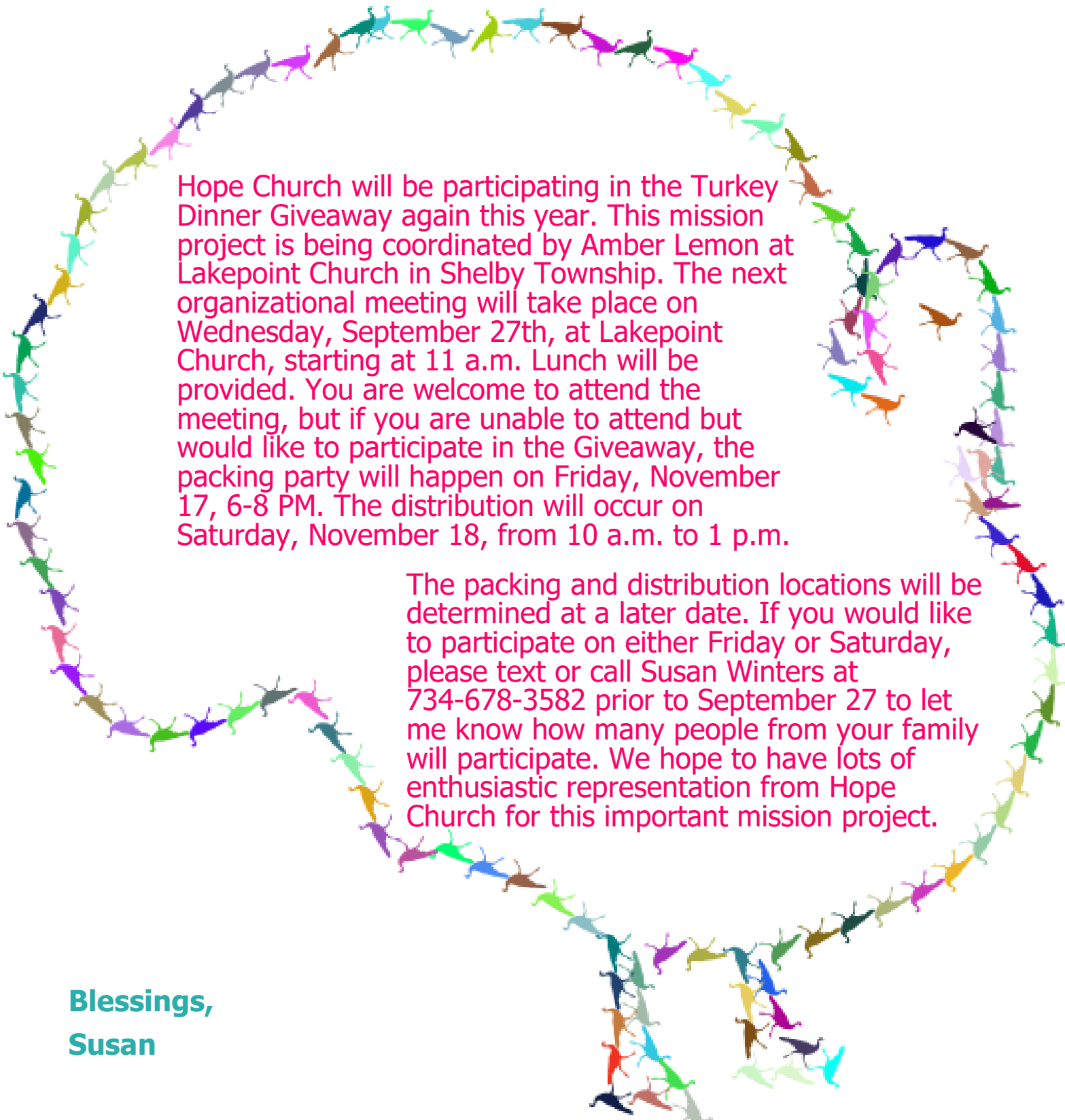
DON'T WAIT

We really
Need your help on
Sound & Video ...
ASAP



We'll give you all the
training you need to be
a key part of Hope's
online ministry.
Call Jim or Norm.

Turkey Dinner Giveaway!



Hope Church will be participating in the Turkey Dinner Giveaway again this year. This mission project is being coordinated by Amber Lemon at Lakepoint Church in Shelby Township. The next organizational meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 27th, at Lakepoint Church, starting at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided. You are welcome to attend the meeting, but if you are unable to attend but would like to participate in the Giveaway, the packing party will happen on Friday, November 17, 6-8 PM. The distribution will occur on Saturday, November 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The packing and distribution locations will be determined at a later date. If you would like to participate on either Friday or Saturday, please text or call Susan Winters at 734-678-3582 prior to September 27 to let me know how many people from your family will participate. We hope to have lots of enthusiastic representation from Hope Church for this important mission project.

**Blessings,
Susan**

Sustainable Grocery Shopping



There are many ways to be environmentally responsible when shopping for food. Here are a few tips:

Bring Reusable Shopping Bags

Americans use approximately 100 billion single-use plastic bags each year, which accumulate in landfills and waterways and never truly decompose. Some states have banned decomposable bags, but many still permit them. Come prepared to the grocery store with reusable bags to reduce the use of single-use plastics.

Shop the Perimeter

Food packaging and containers make up 23 percent of landfill waste. Shop around the perimeter of the store as much as possible to find the freshest, healthiest foods with the least amount of packaging, such as produce, bulk items, dairy, fresh fish, and meat. Bulk items like nuts, dry beans, coffee, tea, and grains can be purchased in exactly the amount needed with no packaging.

Plan Ahead

The average American wastes about 21 percent of the food they buy, which equates to about \$1,800 a year. To avoid overbuying and shrink the carbon footprint of multiple shopping trips, plan meals a week (or month) ahead and come with a shopping list organized by the sections or aisles of the store.

Shop Local and In Season

Local produce has a drastically smaller carbon footprint than fruits and vegetables that must travel long distances by truck, airplane, or ship. Buying local, in-season produce reduces waste because the produce is fresher when purchased and will not spoil as quickly at home. If the family's diet includes meat, choose pasture-raised, grass-fed products from farmers that practice regenerative organic agriculture, which improves the quality of the land and maintains local ecosystems.

Read Labels

Choose foods that were produced with the environment in mind, looking for the following labels, seals, and certifications.

- ⇒ **USDA Organic**
- ⇒ **Biodynamic (BDA)** for food produced without chemical pesticides or herbicides, using organic, non-GMO seeds
- ⇒ **Non-GMO Project Verified** for foods that were not genetically engineered
- ⇒ **FAIRTRADE Mark** and **Fair Trade Certified** for food producers committed to reasonable wages and the safe, fair treatment of workers
- ⇒ **Climate Neutral Certified** for food manufacturers committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions
- ⇒ **Safe Catch** for sustainably caught fish
- ⇒ **Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC)** and **Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP)** for sustainably farmed seafood

Karen Miller/CMWC

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS (cont)



PETS FOR VETS, INC.

P.O. Box 10860
Wilmington, NC 28404
301-956-3837
www.petsforvets.com

June 23, 2023

Susan Winters
Hope United Church of Christ
35127 Garfield Road
Clinton TWP, MI 48035

Dear Hope United Church of Christ,

You are a bridge builder! Many brave troops return home with scars – both seen and unseen - that make it difficult to transition back to civilian life. At the same time, millions of wonderful animals wait in shelters for a forever home. Pets for Vets, Inc. is the bridge that brings them together.

Your donation is a concrete way to show your support for Veterans who could benefit from having a custom trained working animal, at no cost to the Veteran. Each Veteran-pet match receives all of the necessary equipment for them to start their new life together. Your support helps ensure they have everything they need.

In addition to making matches, we have assisted several previous Veteran-pet matches with veterinary and medical care. Currently, your donation makes a difference by enabling us to continue to work with and provide additional support to our Veterans during Covid-19.

Thank you for your donation of \$578 received by Pets for Vets on June 5, 2023. Your support does make a difference. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution.

With kind regards,

Jean Jackson

j.jackson@petsforvets.com

Thank you for your donation to help our veterans as they return to civilian life.

Pets for Vets, Inc., tax ID 27-1250302, is exempt from income taxes under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). As such, donations to the organization are generally tax deductible. Please retain this acknowledgement letter to support any deduction amount you might claim.
CFC#89476

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS (cont.)



To help reduce the nearly 43 percent of people who are food insecure in southeast Michigan, **Focus: HOPE** is increasing its effort to expand the monthly food program for seniors. Unlike many food programs that provide one-time meals, this program focuses on supplementing senior pantries with items like milk, cereal, and canned goods that can be used throughout the entire month.

Seniors age 60 and older living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb or Washtenaw counties can apply for the monthly Food for Seniors Program by calling 313-494-4600, emailing food@focushope.edu or filling out the form at: <https://bit.ly/3D8YFzI>

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM

Please consider participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. It's easy...all you need to participate is an email address and a Kroger rewards card. Then just shop at any Kroger store, swipe your rewards card, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the **Hope Church Operating Account**.

If you have access to a computer, you may enroll in the program by entering <http://www.kroger.com> into your browser and follow this path....Savings & Rewards....Kroger Community Rewards....I am a Customer....Account Summary....Community Rewards....our Kroger number (**HS995**). If you have questions or concerns about this program, please call Susan Winters. If you haven't signed up, please consider doing so.



CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS (cont.)



Monthly Report From HOPE Food Pantry...

On July 8th, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served **280** individuals, which includes **91** families. **6,400** lbs. of food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products were distributed!

This pantry distribution day would not have been a success without the generous support of our donors, volunteers, and your Christian Mission & Witness Committee members.

Please join us in thanking the following volunteers for their hard work and dedication for their work on this mission project.

Denise & Mike Barc
Carissa Biskner
Keith Bynes
Rick Cole
Nancy Fay
Makenzie Gartin
Denise & Jennifer Geml
Terri Hillman
Chris House

Kent House
Daisy Katz
Opal Lulek
The Lusk Family
Cindy Malinowski
Karen Miller
Steve Nielson
Susan Nurmi
Tom Reeser
Sue & Ed Rogers

Lori Sarnowski
Pamela Steffens
John Tacconelli
Jane White
Susan Winters
Jon Zalewski



HOPE Food Pantry is open the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our next drive-thru pantry distribution volunteer service day will be
Saturday, August 12th from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Volunteer service hours are 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering it is helpful to sign up or contact a member of the Christian Mission and Witness Committee.

There is also a sign up sheet posted on the table in the Narthex.

**We have packing and unloading parties all month long!
Have your family or group staff an event!**



Hope Food Pantry distributes a Hygiene Kit to each client every quarter.

To fill the kits we are in need of the following donations:

- *Bar Soap
- *Toothpaste
- *Toothbrushes
- *Shampoo (2in1 shampoo/conditioner)

Please check expiration dates on food donations!

Thank you for your continued support of Hope Food Pantry!

GROUPS AND MEETINGS

WELCOME TO HOPE SPARKLES EXERCISE CLASS

This class combines Stretching Exercises, Working on our Balance, and Low-Impact Cardiovascular Exercised. We use 2-pound weights, provided by the Church, for Strength Training Exercises. We use Therapy Bands, provided by our instructor, for Stretching Exercises. The results are a much HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER LIFESTYLE FOR YOU!

This is an ongoing class - every Monday from 11am -12noon and every Wednesday from 1pm - 2pm. Our instructor, Linda Hohf from the Arthritis Foundation, is very knowledgeable of our joint and muscle pain and plans our exercise programs accordingly.

The cost is \$1 per person, per class.

What makes this Exercise Class Special is “YOU.” All you have to do is “SHOW UP” FOR AN HOUR OF FUN AND FITNESS WITH FRIENDS!



Linda Hohf and Marge Lentz

You're Invited

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

You're Invited

On July 17th, at noon, we met for fun, food, and fellowship. We had coney dogs, chips, and cookies. After lunch, we had a brief meeting, said the "Pledge of Allegiance," and sang "God Bless America". Joe gave the Treasurers and Secretary Reports. After the meeting, we enjoyed games of cards and dominoes.

Our next meeting is on August 21st at 12:00 PM, and we will have pizza for lunch. If you plan on attending, please let one of the officers know so we will know how much pizza to order. Hope to see everyone, and new members are always welcome. If you have a favorite board game, bring it, and we will play something new.

Ida Eckert



Officers for this year are: Tom Reeser, President; Ida Eckert, Vice-president; and Joe Holland, Secretary-Treasurer.

HOPE GIVING



There are several ways to give!

The church is in a season of growth. We need your support to keep our ministry thriving.

ONLINE: VISIT THE HOPE UCC WEBSITE –WWW.HOPEUCCMI.COM
SELECT “GIVE A GIFT” TAB AND THEN “GIVE A GIFT HERE”

CELL PHONE: Text “HUCCF” to 45777. The site will respond with a link which you can use to route your donation to a specific fund.

If you would like to donate to the “General Fund” you can simply text: “Gift Amount” followed by “HUCCF” to 45777. For instance, to give \$10 text “10 HUCCF” to 45777.

In both cases, you will be directed to our secure payment processing center where you will be able to easily walk through the steps to register and/or direct your donation.

(Hint – if using the text method, save this phone number in your “Contacts” list to make it easier to access.)

IN-PERSON:

We have a donation box in the sanctuary.

You can mail your gift to the church office.

You can drop it off from 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m. M - F

Your Giving Statement will reflect the total donation. Questions? Contact Lori Sarnowski



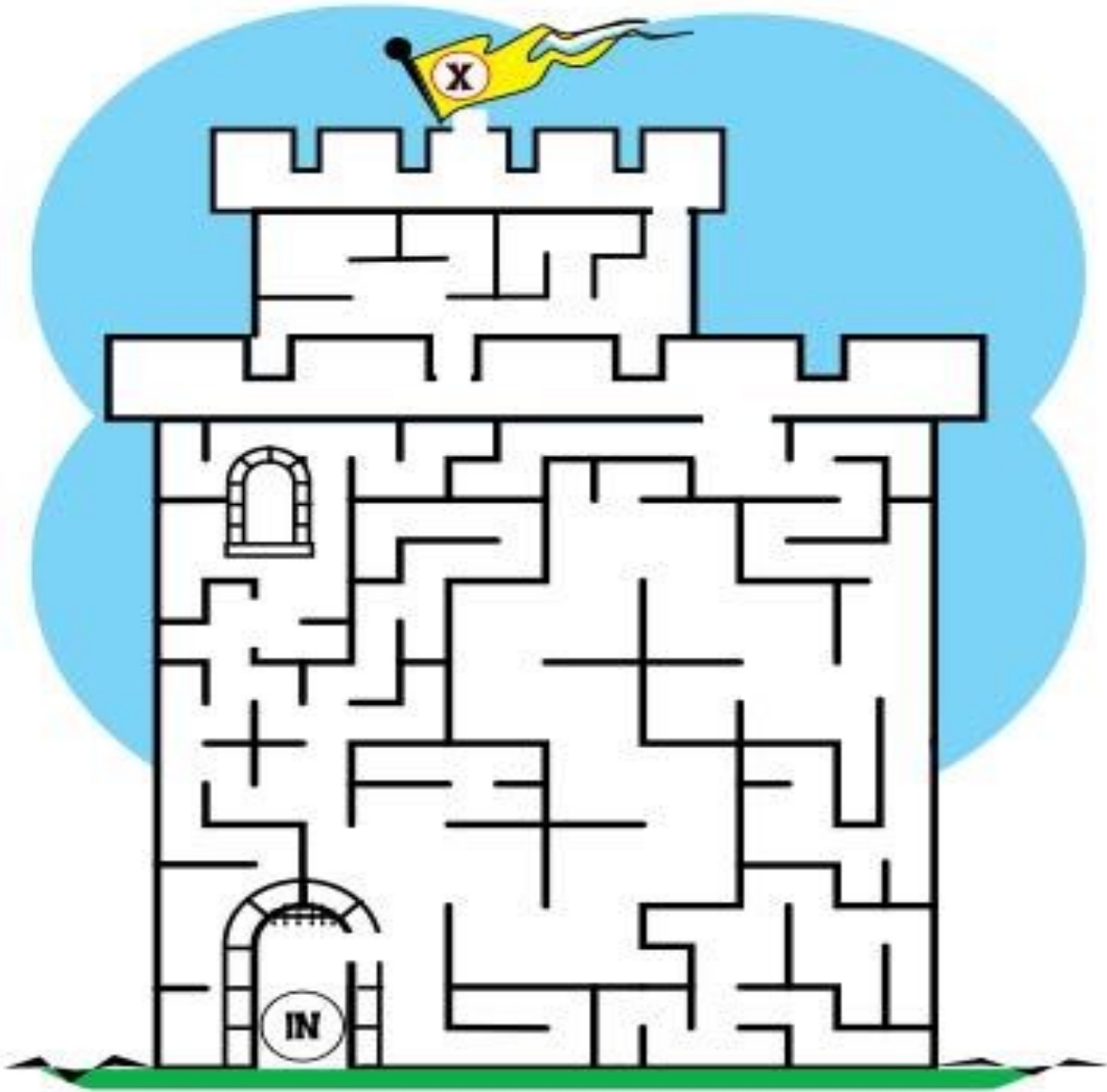
**More than ever, we need to work together
to help HOPE CHURCH thrive!**

FAMILY PAGE

Can You Find Your Way To The Top?

Walls of Jericho Maze

Find your way through the maze from the entry at bottom to the flag on top.



Copyright © 2014 SundaySchoolZone.com

All Rights Reserved. Free to duplicate for church or home use. Visit <http://www.SundaySchoolZone.com>.

FAMILY MINISTRIES



HOPE CHURCH

2023 CAMP CARING

Serving others day camp

Ages 4 - 12 years

Thursday, August 10th

(For younger kids, there is a half-day option.)

9:30: Registration

Faith time

Service projects

Lunch

Field Trip to deliver service projects - drivers needed

Fun: games and fun activity at outside location – details pending

Faith: Bible story & worship

Serving: making projects and delivering them

Requirements: No cost! Bring a friend. Must be signed up.

Registration ends August 6, 2023.

Sneakers (not sandals or crocs)

Parent drivers needed for field trip time. Parents need to have updated Hope Church volunteer forms.

**Questions: Call Hope United Church of Christ 586-296-8760
hopeucc4@gmail.com**

FAMILY MINISTRIES (cont.)

Hope United Church of Christ

Invites you to join us for

2023 CAMP CARING



Thurs., August 10th

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Drop off at Hope Church. Pick up at Fun Activity (details pending). *There is no cost for this day of camp. Please bring your friends. Registration for August due by Aug 6th*
Lunch and snacks provided.

Ages: 4 – 12 years; 1/2 day option for younger children ~
Volunteers Needed (must have updated form).

HOPE United Church of Christ-35127 Garfield Rd., Clinton Twp., 48035

Please direct questions to: Hope Church 586-269-8760 or hopeucc4@gmail.com

Date of Camp: **August 10th**

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone No. _____ e-mail _____

Child(ren) _____ Age: _____ Grade Entering in Fall: _____

Please list any special needs/allergies (foods) any of your children have; include child's name: _____

In case we cannot reach the adult listed above in an Emergency, please contact:

Name: _____ Phone No.: _____

Relationship to Child: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Enrollment by availability.

Call to 2023 Michigan Conference Annual Meeting

The Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023, at the Plymouth United Church of Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It will be a perfect venue for us to connect in person and celebrate the covenant that makes us stronger together.

A block of rooms will be available at the Drury Inn nearby. If you are planning on arriving Friday and staying over at the Drury, a casual mixer will be held there Friday evening. It will be an enjoyable way to reconnect with other colleagues before the meeting on Saturday.

I hope you will join us!

In God's enlivening love,

Rev. Dr. Diane Baker



St. Malacy's



Crafting Event

LOVE TO CRAFT??

COME SHOW YOUR BEAUTIFUL UNIQUE CRAFTS AT THE WOMEN of ST MALACY CRAFT SHOW

14115 14 Mile Rd, Sterling Hgts.

Saturday, November 4, 2023 9:30am-4pm

8x6 space includes 1-8ft table & 2 chairs for \$40

Raffles, food, free admission for shoppers

For More Info Contact:

Carol Pavlick g6droptop@yahoo.com

Sharon Grix ssgrix@aol.com



COMMUNITY (cont.)

The Veterans have asked that we stop collecting books.

We thank you for your contributions, but we are no longer able to find organizations that can collect them. We may resume in the future if we can find an organization, but for now, the program has ended.

Thank you for your generosity!



25650 Kelly Road, Roseville, MI 48066
(586)757-5551
www.ivcinfo.org



REACH OUT IN FAITH

Thousands of older and disabled adults in our community struggle daily to get by. For these individuals a little extra help can make it possible for them to remain safe and independent in their own homes.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program matches volunteers with frail, home-bound and isolated neighbors who need assistance. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you, and how you would like to serve. You can be matched with the same person for regular visits, or just be on a list for occasional rides and chores. Volunteers are needed to help with:

- ◇ *Transportation for appointments and essential errands.*
- ◇ *Simple chores, yard work or home repairs.*
- ◇ *Help with housekeeping or meal preparation.*
- ◇ *Friendly visits or supportive phone calls,*
- ◇ *Respite breaks for full-time family caregivers,*
- ◇ *And other support that can help a frail, older or disabled neighbor.*

We also need volunteers who can provide support in our office, assist with special events, or serve on our various committees. Call us at (586) 757-5551 for more info.

[Learn more about our work at www.ivcinfo.org.]

COMMUNITY (cont.)



PFLAG-CT cordially invites the congregation of Hope UCC to join in the monthly support meeting. The meeting will be the last Tuesday of the month. Hope has been so good to the chapter, and our mission is to support, educate and advocate for the LGBTQ community. We want to give you the opportunity to join us and see what we're all about. You can go to our website, PFLAGCT.org, fill out the form and reference Hope UCC on there. This will put you on our email list

and you'll get notification of the meetings. You can email me directly to have the Zoom link sent back to you.

My email is yvonnetaad@wowway.com, and again, please reference Hope UCC. Thank you again for your support for our chapter, stay safe and healthy, and God bless you.

Yvonne Tadajewski, President, PFLAG-CT

We are in need of volunteers to help with our PFLAG-CT booth at an Upcoming Event:



***August 26th Macomb County Pride to celebrate Pride in self and our Community in downtown Mount Clemens.**

Please email pflag.ct@gmail.com if you can volunteer a few hours of your time to help with the booth at one/both of the Events listed above.

Thank you for your consideration,



Hope United Church of Christ
Synopsis of Board Meeting
June 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Pastor Meg led us in prayer.

Those in attendance: Pastor Meg Wilson, Steve Nielson, Rick Cole, Terri Hillman, Ida Eckert, Nancy Michelson, Lori Sarnowski, Linda Parsons, Jerry Rogers, Jim Wilson, and Linda Rehm.

Congregational Comments: Steve - None

Additions to the Agenda: None

Approval of Agenda: **Motion:** To approve the agenda as presented was made by Rick Cole with a second by Lori Sarnowski. Motion carried.

President's Remarks: Steve - He read a card of appreciation from Calley for the flowers received from the Board for Administrative Professional Day.

Approval of the June Meeting Minutes: **Motion** was made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Ida Eckert to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report Last Month: Motion was made by Linda Parsons with a second by Jim Wilson to approve the report. Motion Carried.

The following items summarize the financial results for the month of May:

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly offerings for June 2023 were \$1,871 more than the amount budgeted and \$1,980 more than the amount received for June 2022. There were four Sundays in both years. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$5,959 (\$213 per week) more than the same period in 2022. We also received Special Offerings of \$150 for Easter, \$100 for Energy, \$120 for Church Growth, and \$35 for Other – Father's Day. Year to date total Operating Income of \$110,161 is \$6,920 more than the same period in 2022.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$4.90 in interest to the Money Market Account.

Statement of Operations – Expense (Pages 4-6):

- Total Expenses for June 2023 were \$2,287 less than the amount budgeted but \$1,262 more than the expense for June 2022. Year to date expenses were \$9,086 higher than the same period in 2022. There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$2,697 for the month compared to a loss of \$4,260 for June of last year.

• SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$17,806	\$110,161
Operating expenses	<u>20,503</u>	<u>124,646</u>
Excess of receipts over expenses (Expenses over receipts)	<u>(\$2,697)</u>	<u>(\$14,485)</u>

Building Fund (Page 9):

Hope for the Future offerings received in June 2023 were \$700 more than the amount budgeted and \$505 more than the amount received for June 2022. Year to date Hope for the Future offerings were \$390 less than the same period in 2022. We have received Memorials of \$765 year to date.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a gain of \$9,919 in June as compared to a loss of \$16,150 for the same period in 2022. Year to date the securities account has a gain of \$25,676 compared to a loss of \$52,183 for the same period last year.

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

Dedicated Accounts had income of \$1,566 and expense of \$167 for the month, leaving a balance of \$90,863.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)

Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)

June Year to Date
(\$947) (\$11,617)

Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)

1,399 11,425

Total Cash Flow

\$452 (\$192)

Unfinished Business

Civil Engineering
Painting Improvements

New Business

Internet Service Update: Jim - He reported that the signal promised is not getting effectively to the sound desk. We may need a different connection or pay WOW to increase bandwidth. We are getting reasonable speed in the office but low speed (about 14 mb/sec) for streaming. We need at least 20 mb/sec for streaming. We will see what kind of remarks we receive from viewers over the next several weeks and review them. Right now, there are a lot of unknowns.

Hot Dog Picnic Update – Pastor Meg: Sunday, July 23, 2023, following worship which will be “Christmas in July”. It is being put on by CMW Committee as a thank you for all Hope Church does to support their programs, in particular the Food Pantry.

Annual Church Picnic Date?—Pastor Meg: She requested a date of Sunday, September 17, 2023, following worship. This is a couple weeks after the Labor Day Holiday. A motion was made by Ida Eckert to accept that date, with a second by Linda Rehm. Motion carried. There is a committee headed by Ida Eckert for the Picnic. The meat and beverages will be provided by the church, with a free will offering to help offset the cost. There will be a list posted by each family’s last initial for the type of dish to be brought in by each family for passing around. There will be a bounce house and other games, with Steve organizing the Adult games such as balloon and egg toss, corn hole, etc. The balloon and egg toss games will not be done if the entire picnic must be indoors because of the weather.

HR Update for Christian Education Director, Pastor Meg: The promising candidate mentioned at the June Board meeting had good references and seemed very interested in the position. Hopefully, she can start by August 1, 2023. She has wisdom, creativity, and understands social media. She will be working with Kristin and Jordan with the goal of reaching two age groups. This will be an incentive for families if there is more separation of ages and a Youth Group. Steve is excited about the prospect. Hopefully, she will be introduced at the next Board meeting.

First Review of the 2024 Budget: Terri: The board discussed the initial presentation. There will be a meeting by Pastor Meg, Terri, and Steve to go over it more closely, and it will again be presented to the Board next month with any of their suggestions incorporated. It has been suggested to have a Stewardship Campaign with a goal of raising a certain amount of money needed using a “Thermometer” to forecast where we are in our goal to have a balanced budget presented to the Congregation.

Photo Directory: Pastor Meg: The dates at Hope Church are October 17 and October 18, 2023. There is no cost to church members to have photos done. The company does all the local churches, so if these dates don’t work for someone, they can make arrangements to get the photo done at a different church. The church member’s photo will be in the correct church directory. Each family will receive an 8 x 10 photo as well as being listed in the directory. Pets are allowed in the photos. We will receive a listing of other church dates at a later time.

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Meg:

Worship: We will have baptisms in July. We will also enjoy a Christmas in July Service. I appreciated the team effort that allowed Jim and I to be off on 7/2. I’m looking for a summer sermon series to prepare for August.

Pastoral Care: I continue to meet with people as needed for spiritual guidance and support. I am considering beginning a grief group. I am looking for a co-facilitator. A grief group works best if it has 10 participants. I have several weddings in the upcoming months, so I am doing the meetings required for wedding preparations. I did a funeral for a member of the community. Whenever possible, I try to meet the needs of families in crisis.

Church Business: Calley continues to update systems and find ways to make the office more efficient.

Spiritual Council: We will be promoting a new pictorial directory. The dates for photos are October 17th and 18th. I am thankful to Carol Troutman, who does a great job coordinating Coffee Hour. We have a family attending with a child who has a peanut allergy. We need to label all items with any nuts served at coffee hour.

Christian Education: We are having Sunday School for most weeks this summer. We are looking for volunteers to teach. We have 17 children attending this month’s Camp Caring. I am planning a youth event for July 26th and then again on August 24th. The details are pending. I will be reaching out to potential Confirmands to begin the Confirmation Process for this year.

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: The church and ministry committee meets during the summer months, but the DMA Linking Board does not.

Community Outreach: I am hosting an event for choir members and young/new members of the church at my home. The event is called Beers and Hymns and is led by Rev. Greg Larson. It is a family-friendly, casual evening to help build relationships with this portion of the congregation. If the event is a success, I will host another one and make it church-wide later in the summer.

Consent Agenda Items – Steve received the Technology Committee and the Property Committee Reports. **Motion** made by Ida Eckert with a second by Lori Sarnowski to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

These items are not for discussion. They are for review purposes only. Board will accept them as presented. If, however discussion is needed, a trustee can make a motion to remove them from the consent agenda for further discussion.

*MOTION TO ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEM
COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS
SPIRITUAL COUNCIL
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
CHRISTIAN MISSION AND WITNESS COMMITTEE
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
PROPERTY COMMITTEE
HR COMMITTEE
PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MUSIC COMMITTEE

Adjournment: Motion by Linda Rehm with a second by Jerry Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer



Six Month Financial Summary

A summary of the 2023 financial results for January through June follows:

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Income:		
Regular Offerings	\$101,510	\$8,475
Special Offerings	4,975	765
Church Life Activities	1,768	
Other Receipts/Investment Account	<u>1,908</u>	<u>25,675</u>
Total Income	<u>\$110,161</u>	<u>\$34,915</u>
Expenses:		
Mission and Witness Council	\$ 2,692	
Spiritual Council	4,967	
Christian Education Council	1,069	
Church Life	1,506	
Pastoral Services – Wilson	39,043	
Church Staff	26,899	
Church Property	30,827	
Technology	1,279	
Insurance	8,540	
Public Relations	210	
Administration and Other	7,349	
Equipment Acquisitions	265	
Contingency Funds	0	
Garfield Building Costs	<u> </u>	<u>6,371</u>
Total Expenses	<u>124,646</u>	<u>6,371</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$14,485)</u>	<u>\$28,544</u>

The Operating Fund had a loss of \$14,485 for the first six months of 2023. This compares to a loss of \$12,319 for the first six months of 2022. Total Operating Income of \$110,161 was \$6,920 more than the same period last year. Total Operating Fund Expenses of \$124,646 were \$9,086 more than the same period last year.

Operating Fund Regular Offerings of \$101,510 were \$6,174 (\$237 per week) more than the same period of last year. In the first six months of 2023, we also received Special Offerings of \$1,285 for Easter, \$305 for Christmas, \$1,580 for Energy, \$75 for Other (primarily Mother's & Father's Days), and \$495 for Church Growth. Mission Offerings for the period included OCWM - \$530, One Great Hour of Sharing - \$495, and Christmas Fund - \$210.

In the first six months of 2023, the Building Fund had total Net Income of \$28,544. Hope for the Future (Regular) Offerings of \$8,475 were \$390 less than the amount received for the same period last year. 2023 Special Offerings of \$765 were \$1,660 less than the same period in 2022. There was a June 2023 year-to-date Investment Account gain of \$25,675 versus a loss of \$52,018 during the first half of 2022. Building Fund expenses were \$6,371 which was \$3,871 higher than the same period in 2022.

During the first half of 2023, Dedicated Accounts received \$18,136 (Good Samaritan \$615, Blessing Bags – Pets for Vets \$578, Senior Youth Group \$355, Food Pantry \$12,928, Special Gifts to Church School \$474, Ukraine Relief \$230, and Women of Hope \$2,956) and had expenses of \$6,712 (Good Samaritan \$857, Blessing Bags – Pets for Vets \$578, Senior Youth Group \$142, Food Pantry \$4,297, Special Gifts to Church School \$718, and Ukraine Relief \$120).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Terri Hillman, Treasurer



August 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Spiritual Council Mtg. 1pm AA 7 - 8pm	2 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	3	4	5 AA 7 - 8:30pm
6 Worship 10am	7 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	8 CMWC 12:30pm BOTS 7pm AA 7 - 8pm	9 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	10 Camp Caring 9:30am - 4:30pm	11	12 Food Pantry 10am - 12pm AA 7 - 8:30pm
13 Worship 10am	14 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	15 AA 7 - 8pm	16 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	17	18	19 AA 7 - 8:30pm
20 Worship 10am	21 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm Seniors Mtg 12pm	22 AA 7-8pm	23 Hope Sparkles 1pm -2pm	24	25	26 AA 7 - 8:30pm
27 Worship 10am	28 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	29 PFLAG 6 - 8pm AA 7 - 8pm	30 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	31		

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Meg Wilson, Pastor & Editor ~ Calley Garvin, Publisher & Editor
Church Office (586) 296-8760

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CLERGY MEMBERS & ADMIN

President - Steve Nielson
Vice-President - Rick Cole
Secretary - Linda Parsons
Treasurer - Terri Hillman

Nancy Michelson
Ida Eckert
Linda Rehm
Jerry Rogers
Lori Sarnowski
Jim Wilson

Rev. Meg Wilson
Administrative Assistant: Calley Garvin
Organist: Patrick Baker
Accompanist: Denise Kildea
Music Director: Deborah Frontczak