



The Hope Church Beacon

November 2023



HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Email: hopeucc4@gmail.com

Website: Hopeuccmi.com

Facebook Public Page: [@hopeuccmacomb](https://www.facebook.com/hopeuccmacomb)

YouTube: [Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

WORDS OF HOPE

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! - Revelation 22:20 (NRSV)

*I know we have some *Hamilton* superfans in our congregation. It is not your mother's musical of *Oklahoma* or *My Fair Lady*. It is a musical for a new generation. I must confess, I read a guide to the musical, which helped me understand the subtle details.*

*Spoiler alert: at the very end of the musical *Hamilton*, the newly deceased Eliza Hamilton, having been reunited with her son and husband, faces the audience. Her eyes grow wide, she gasps loudly in delight, and the house goes dark. Curtain.*

Much has been made of that gasp. What did she see or understand? Was it God? Or did she see the audience sitting there and realize the work she had done to preserve her husband's legacy would live on? Or was it something else? The creator, Lin Manuel Miranda's not telling, and of course that's part of the point.

There is a line in the hymn "I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry" that always makes me tear up. At the end, after the hymn has taken us through the stages of a human lifetime marked by God's constant presence, it says, "As the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."

To think that no matter what I've done or haven't done, no matter what I've learned or failed to learn, there is still more. No matter what I've lived through and no matter what finally ends my life, there will be one last new thing. At my death, whether it comes when I'm old and ready or young and unprepared, at that final moment, my eyes will widen in delight. This gives me a huge sense of relief.

In November, we remember the saints in our lives at our All-Saints Day celebration. When we gather at our Thanksgiving tables, we will remember those who are no longer present for our holidays. We will grieve. We will feel the sting of loss, whether it was years ago or just weeks ago.

May we be comforted knowing that those we mourn have already been greeted with just one more surprise! I long for it. Not for death, I'd like to live to a ripe old age. I long for the surprise.

Prayer

For the promise of the beautiful gasp, O God, we thank you. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Meg

HOPE UCC CHURCH STAFF UPDATE!

WELCOME!!!



Hello, my name is Colleen Ontko. I would like to introduce myself to everyone here at Hope UCC. To share a little bit about myself, I have been married for twenty years. My husband's name is John; we have three boys, and we live in the Howell area.

I received my bachelor's degree from William Tyndale in psychology and my completed master's degree from Assumption University in Windsor, Canada.

I have worked in religious education for over 8 years. It's been a great experience working with families and helping them grow in their faith together.

I look forward to getting to know everyone here and am happy to be a part of the team at Hope UCC.

Special Events Line-Up



- ⇒ *Each Sunday: Spirit-filled worship at 10 a.m.*
- ⇒ *11/5: CMWC Toy Box Drive begins.*
- ⇒ *11/12: All Saints Day & Our Church Wider Mission.*
- ⇒ *11/19: Church potluck following worship.*
- ⇒ *11/23: Happy Thanksgiving!*
- ⇒ *12/1: Christmas Musical with the Motor City Chorale at 7:30 p.m.*
- ⇒ *12/3: Hanging of Greens/Pizza Lunch*
- ⇒ *12/17: Christmas Pageant during worship (Rehearsal 12/16)/Blue Christmas Service at 4 p.m.*
- ⇒ *12/24: Christmas Eve/Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.*
- ⇒ *12/25: Merry Christmas!*



Please listen to the announcements at church and see the Beacon and Blasts for all the information. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS.** Call or email the church for information or if you have questions.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

GET EXCITED AT HOPE CHURCH!

Sunday School

We have officially begun the 2023/24 Sunday School Year. We have a group for preschool through 1st grade and then 2nd - 5th grade. We now have a class for middle school youth. Parents are asked to ensure that an updated Sunday School Registration Form has been completed. We are excited to expand our programs for children and youth.



2023 All Saints Day will be held on Sunday, November 12th, during our morning worship. Please join us as we remember those members and friends of Hope Church who we have lost in the last twelve months.

This service is a time of remembrance and comfort.

Please contact Pastor Meg if you have any questions.

November 19th: Church-Wide Thanksgiving Potluck

Please join us following worship for a time of fellowship and food.

The sign-up sheet is at the church in the Narthex. Pastor Meg and Jim will provide the meat, and you are asked to bring a dish to pass.

A-F Dessert

G-R Side dish

S-Z Vegetable



Please join us in giving thanks for all our blessings.

Be The -Church TODAY!

What does it mean to be the church? This banner is an excellent summary of what the UCC suggests is the role of the church in today's world.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. **Reject Racism.**

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

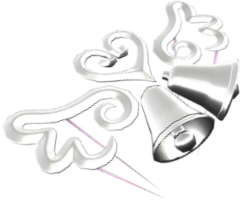


The Board of Trustees is working on using this template to help us find ways to embrace being the church and create opportunities for people to put their faith into action.

We are kicking off the Be the Church Campaign with a coloring contest for creative people of all ages. Coloring is a great way to manage stress and let your creative spirit soar. Everyone is welcome to take a coloring sheet and submit their finished work on December 30th. We will display our master pieces after the Christmas season.

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS (cont.)

A Christmas Musical with Motor City Chorale



Are you ready for Christmas???

Perhaps some Christmas Music will get you in the spirit.



Hope Church is proud to have the MOTOR CITY CHORALE join us on December 1, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

This performance will be a mix of hymns, church-like music, and the fun stuff we hear on the radio.

There is no charge for the performance; however, we will collect a Free Will Offering.

Please come and enjoy this concert and join in the Spirit of Christmas!!



from the front
of the choir

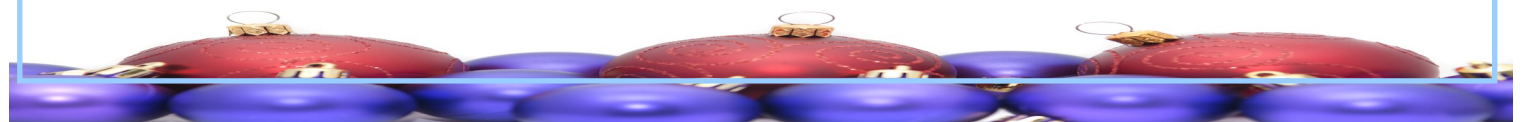


Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 17th, and the BIG PRACTICE is SATURDAY, December 16th, at 10 a.m.

The details for this year's annual pageant are still being decided. We do know it will include the telling of the events at the nativity. We need participants of all ages to help tell the story of the birth of our Savior. We can use anyone, from toddlers to mature adults and everyone in between.

There will be speaking parts and walk-on parts, so everyone can participate at their comfort level. Please make it a priority to be involved in this year's pageant.



HOPE CHURCH INFO

WE ARE THE CHURCH!

We need teens or adults to serve as liturgists by reading the scripture each week. If you would be willing to serve in this capacity, please reach out to Pastor Meg and sign up at the Welcome Table.

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 are the church together!

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.



HOPE CHURCH INFO (cont.)



Coffee Hour

Looking forward for volunteers to assist with coffee hour set up and clean up for November, December, and January. 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 on the round table in the Narthex.

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

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

- * November 5 - Cindy Greening
- * November 12 - Cindy Barc, Daisy Katz, & Susan Nurmi
- * November 19 - Thanksgiving Potluck
- * November 26 - Chrissy Lusk & Carissa Biskner!

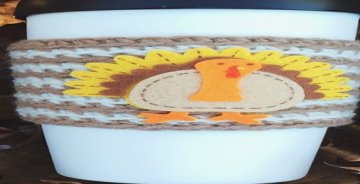
PEANUT ALLERGIES

Due to peanut allergies, 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

CROCHET
TURKEY DAY
COFFEE CUP
COZIE



CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

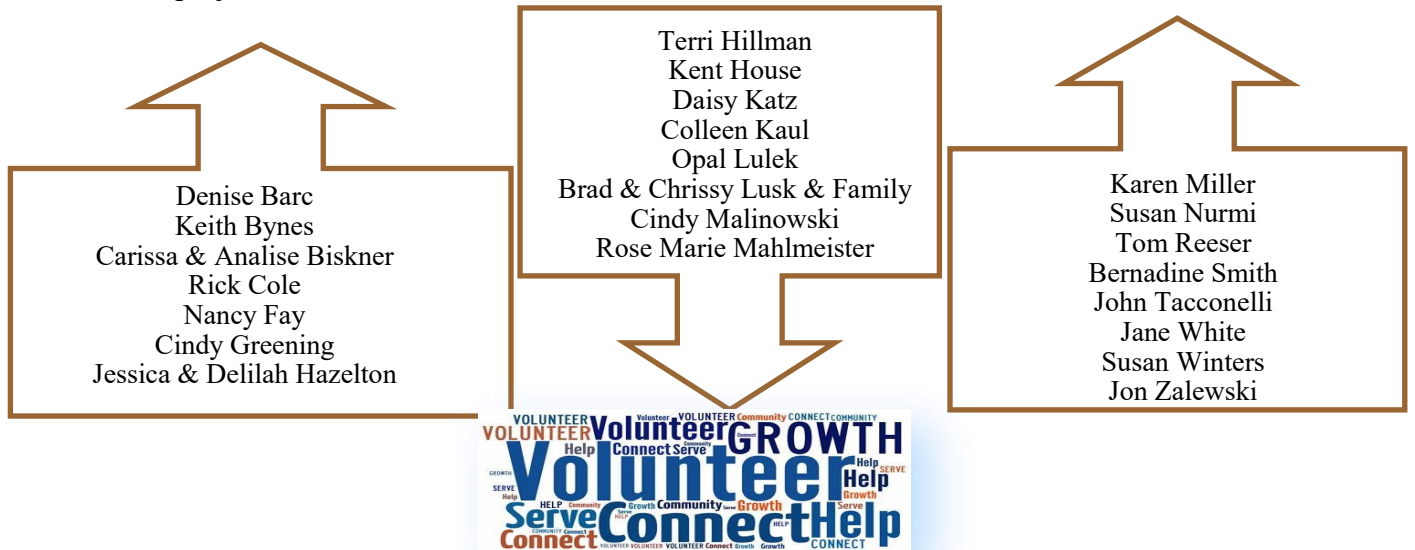


Monthly Report From HOPE Food Pantry...

On October 14, 2023, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 114 households, which included 358 individuals. 9,416 pounds 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.



HOPE Food Pantry is open the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our next drive-thru pantry distribution volunteer service day will be
Saturday, November 11th 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.

We are looking to focus on 1 item per month.

November's Item is DETERGENT.

Thank you for always remembering the Hope Food Pantry!

Our continued success is because of you...





Help Needed!!!

The Christian Mission and Witness Committee needs YOUR HELP. We do a bottle and can return at Meijer's on Hall Rd. and Hayes every MONDAY morning between 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. You would be assisting a CM&WC member. The cans and bottles come from a generous supporter of our Food Pantry. If you can help us out one or more times a month, that would be GREAT. If interested, call Karen Miller at 586-246-9567.

Toy Box Collection

Believe it or not, Christmas will soon be here. As in previous years, we will be collecting toys for our Toy Box project. This year, we will be supporting the Fraser Public Library with our toy collection. Our start date is Sunday, November 5th, and our end date is December 3rd. The Toy Box will be set up in the Narthex at Hope Church. Thank you in advance for your generosity and the chance to make many faces smile this Christmas.



Karen Miller/CM&WC

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS (cont.)



We believe that God is Still Speaking to the United Church of Christ (UCC) and calling us to exciting new paths of ministry locally, nationally, and internationally. Our **General Ministries** support covenant relationships between leaders, local churches, and the church international through communications that range from simple conversations to social media presence. **Local Church Ministries** help local congregations through focus on pastor and leadership development and support. **Wider Church Ministries** is perhaps best known for its disaster ministries, but it also assists congregations who strive to be inclusive whether multicultural/multiracial, open, and affirming, global, or accessible to all. The vision of **Justice and Witness Ministries** is of a more just, peaceful, and compassionate world that honors all of God's creation. It provides leadership training to help share, pursue, and achieve that vision.

On November 12, 2023, we will have an opportunity to make gifts to **Our Church's Wider Mission** which supports the ministries above as well as a full range of UCC missions across Michigan, the country, and around the globe.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR OFFERING TO "OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION" ON NOVEMBER 12, 2023.

Turkey Dinner Giveaway

Hope Church will be participating in the Turkey Dinner Giveaway again this year. This mission project includes about a dozen churches in Macomb and Wayne counties.

We need to know if you and your family are interested in participating in the packing party or the distribution day, Friday, November 17, 6-8 PM, and Saturday, November 18, 10 AM-1 PM.

The packing and distribution locations are as follows:

Total Sports
4501 Production Drive
Harrison Twp., MI 48045

Fitzgerald Recreation Center
4355 East Nine Mile Road
Warren, MI 48091



Please let Susan Winters know ASAP if your family is interested in participating at one of these locations. Susan may be reached at smwinters812@aol.com or [734-678-3582](tel:734-678-3582). Please let us know how many in your family will participate.

Registration will start soon, and we don't want anyone to be disappointed because there is not room for their family to participate.

Blessings,
Susan Winters

green living

Understanding Light Pollution

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND ACHIEVABLE REMEDIES

by Sheryl DeVore



At Montana’s Medicine Rock State Park, visitors have a rare opportunity to look up at the night sky and see an awe-inspiring display of planets and constellations, as well as the Milky Way, our spiral-shaped galaxy that contains about 100 billion stars, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It is a magnificent sight, but those of us that live in or near cities with artificial lights beaming out of buildings and cascading over parking lots and highways may never get the pleasure.

“Because of light pollution, up to 80 percent of people living in North America are unable to see the Milky Way where they live,” says Sabre Moore, executive director of the Carter County Museum, in Ekalaka, Montana. “Medicine Rock State Park is designated as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary, and the Carter County Museum has committed to safeguarding it in perpetuity”.

The park’s sanctuary certification was issued by nonprofit the International Dark-Sky Association, based in Tucson, Arizona, with a grassroots network throughout the world. The organization offers five dark-sky designations based on stringent outdoor lighting standards and relies on the help of community stakeholders, such as Moore, who serves as a volunteer dark-sky preservation advocate. At Medicine Rock, she helps host sky-parties for people to enjoy the celestial show and learn about the negative impacts of light pollution.

Threats Posed by Artificial Lighting

The skies around cities are hundreds, if not thousands, of times brighter than they were 200 years ago, according to 2017 research published in *Science Advances*. In addition to robbing us of the Earth’s nocturnal skyscape, outdoor illumination negatively affects many plants and animals, including humans. Human-made lighting threatens approximately 30 percent of nocturnal vertebrates and 60 percent of nocturnal invertebrates, and it “is increasingly suspected of affecting human health,” writes scientist Christopher Kyba, lead author of the report.

The mechanisms by which these life forms are affected vary. For example, when birds migrate, they fly into buildings that are lit up at night. Scientists estimate that at least 100 million bird deaths in the United States annually are related to light pollution. “Bobcats and bats rely on the cover of darkness for their survival and are also being affected,” says Moore, adding that artificial light interrupts human circadian rhythms, thereby affecting our REM [rapid eye movement] sleep, which is vital for our well-being. The flight patterns of night-active insects are disrupted by outdoor lighting, which partially explains their declining numbers worldwide.

A Simple Switch Saves Turtles

It is possible to reduce these negative impacts, as the Sea Turtle Conservancy has proven. By getting people to modify the positioning and types of lights used in buildings along Florida and Texas beaches, the nonprofit has been able to rescue loggerheads, leatherbacks and green sea turtles from the brink of extinction.

Female turtles have evolved to instinctively lay their eggs on the beach, allowing the hatchlings to emerge at night and head toward the light of the horizon into sea. Humans, however, have interrupted this natural course with artificial light emanating from the windows of high-rise condominiums, garden spotlights and outdoor

Karen Miller/CMWE

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 at 734-678-3582. If you haven't signed up, please consider doing so.



GROUPS AND MEETINGS

WELCOME TO HOPE SPARKLES EXERCISE CLASS

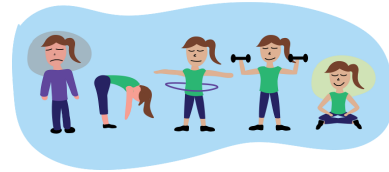
This class combines Stretching Exercises, Working on our Balance, and Low-Impact Cardiovascular Exercises. We use 2-pound weights, provided by the Church, for Strength Training Exercises. We use Therapy Bands, provided by our instructor, for Stretching Exercises. The results are a much HEALTHIER AND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

This is an ongoing class - every Monday from 11 a.m. -12 p.m. and every Wednesday from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. 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



Senior Fellowship



Our Senior group met on the 16th of October at noon for lunch. The lunch consisted of pizza and a variety of food brought by members. After which, we held a business meeting and discussed the annual Christmas luncheon.

We sponsor a Senior Christmas Luncheon at the Gazebo (31104 Mound Rd., Warren, 48092). The luncheon will be held on the 11th of December (2nd Monday in December). We should start arriving at 11:30 a.m. The cost of a reservation will be \$25 per person. Joe Holland will start taking the money by November 5th.

KEEP THE DATE OPEN!!

-Tom Reeser

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

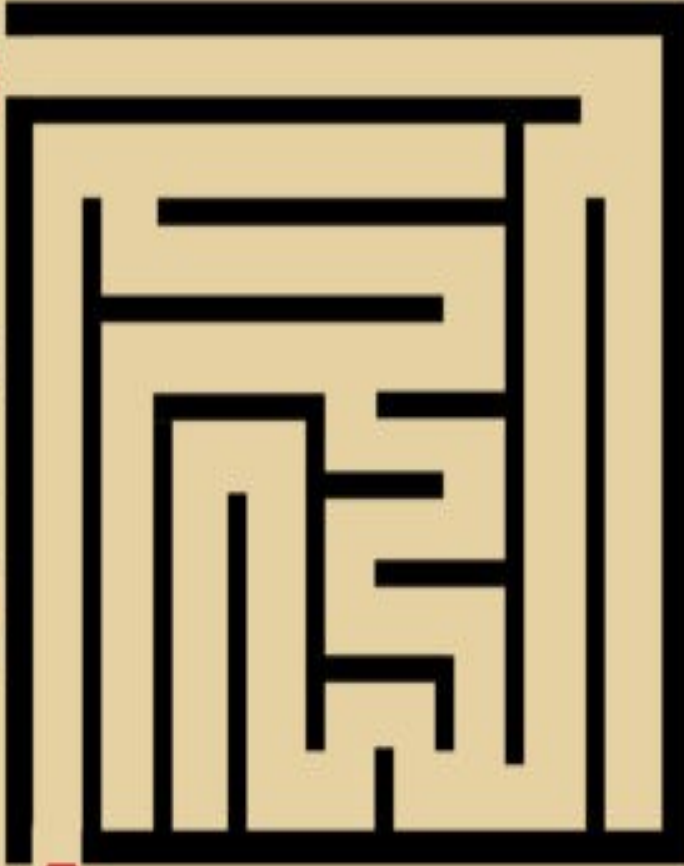
**More than ever, we need to work together
to help HOPE CHURCH thrive!**

FAMILY PAGE

Various Activities to Enjoy While Eating Thanksgiving Dinner!!



TURKEY MAZE



WORD SEARCH

NOVEMBERH FALL
 VSUAMERICA JOE
 KHLTKPDWAMP SA
 SATHANKSSIIRV
 TRKJFEASTLPIE
 HVTURKEYPYUQS
 UESNIPWXICMBD
 RSDVETOKLBPWT
 STDINNERGLKYH
 DHOMDPMZRVIZO
 AYTASTYQIBNCM
 YFQLAUTUMNGME

NOVEMBER
 FALL
 EAT
 AMERICA
 LEAVES
 HARVEST
 FAMILY
 THANKS
 PIE
 FEAST
 TURKEY
 THURSDAY
 PUMPKIN
 PILGRIM
 FRIENDS
 DINNER
 TASTY
 HOME
 AUTUMN

FILL IN THE BUBBLE

Fill in the missing letters for each Thanksgiving-related word

FOO BALL

ARVEST

FAMILY

FRIENDS

TURKEY

ALL

THURSDAY

PILGRIM

Put the missing letters above in order in the bubbles below to spell another Thanksgiving word.



WORD MATCH

Match the word on the left with its counterpart on the right.

MASHED POTATOES

FOOT

PILGRIMS

HARVEST

GIVE

PUMPKIN

CRANBERRY

SAUCE

INDIANS

GRAVY

PIE

THANKS

BALL

MOON

WHILEHEWASMAPPIING.COM

COMMUNITY



Phone: (586) 757-5551

25650 Kelly Rd., Roseville, MI 48066



A DRIVING NEED

Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program is in need of volunteers who can provide transportation in the local area. We especially need drivers who are available during daytime business hours – mornings and afternoons. 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 we call you with specific appointments that meet these criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year will make a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551.

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

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 Hts.

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



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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 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. 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

HELP WANTED!!!

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.

Hope United Church of Christ
Synopsis of Board Meeting
October 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Steve led us in prayer due to the absence of Pastor Meg.

Those in attendance: Steve Nielson, Rick Cole, Terri Hillman, Ida Eckert, Nancy Michelson, Lori Sarnowski, Linda Parsons, and Linda Rehm

Congregational Comments – Steve – None

Additions to the Agenda – Steve – Three additional reports to send to congregation for the proposed budget.

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as presented with the one addition was made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Linda Rehm. Motion carried.

President’s Remarks – Steve – Remind everyone to work on “How to Be the Church”. The meeting next month will be at church at 6 pm. Dinner first followed by the meeting and discussion of our ideas on “How to Be the Church”.

Approval of the September Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Nancy Michelson with a second by Ida Eckert to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report Last Month – Motion was made by Linda Parsons with a second by Lori Sarnowski to approve the report. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly offerings for September 2023 were \$2,112 less than the amount budgeted but \$2,707 more than the amount received for September 2022. There were four Sundays in both years. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$1,942 less than the amount budgeted but \$8,755 (\$214 per week) more than the same period in 2022. Year to date total Operating Income of \$156,621 is \$10,318 more than the same period in 2022.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$4.74 in interest to the Money Market Account.

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

- Total Expenses for September 2023 were \$691 less than the amount budgeted but \$1,571 more than the expense for September 2022. Year to date expenses were \$5,995 less than budgeted but \$12,809 higher than the same period in 2022. There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$6,964 for the month compared to a loss of \$8,646 for September of last year.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$14,999	\$156,621
Operating expenses	<u>(21,963)</u>	<u>(179,663)</u>
Excess of receipts over expenses		
(Expenses over receipts)	<u>(\$ 6,964)</u>	<u>(\$ 23,042)</u>

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$5,563 and expense of \$428 for the month, leaving a balance of \$93,024.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in September 2023 were \$75 less than the amount budgeted but \$185 more than the amount received for September 2022. Year to date Hope for the Future offerings were \$645 less than the amount budgeted and \$300 less than the same period in 2022. We have received Memorials of \$925 year to date.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a loss of \$9,522 in September as compared to a loss of \$18,975 for the same period in 2022. Year to date the securities account has a gain of \$19,180 compared to a loss of \$63,253 for the same period last year.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$5,639)	(\$17,029)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	<u>5,134</u>	<u>13,585</u>
Total Cash Flow	<u>(\$ 505)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,444)</u>

Unfinished Business

Painting Improvements
Civil Engineering

New Business

Update of CEC Director – Pastor Meg: This was tabled due to the absence of Pastor Meg for a family emergency.

Three Additional Reports to send for the Budget Meeting on October 29th – Steve: We will have copies available on the 15th at church. We will have Callie email these items to the regular email recipients of the Beacon. Also have Callie mail the regular mail recipients of the Beacon. Steve will attach a short paragraph regarding the Parking Lot to the budget pages. Motion was made to approve these reports going to the Congregation by Linda Parsons and seconded by Nancy Michelson. Motion Carried.

Update regarding the parking lot – Steve: The Parking Lot Committee approved Hutch Paving and the amount of the parking lot repair cost. The Committee recommends giving the deposit to secure cost. The Committee was given a verbal guarantee of the price by Hutch Paving that price would remain the same if done next spring providing deposit is made. At the October 29th meeting in addition to finalizing the 2024 budget we will ask congregation to approve the Parking Lot Contract cost, approve the giving of the deposit and if all is approved, establish a Task Force for Fund Raising. It is hoped to begin the project next May.

Update for Trunk and Treat – Steve: Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 2 to 3 pm. There will be a Photo Booth and water and juice boxes will be available.

Pastor’s Report - Pastor Meg: No report was received or reviewed due to Pastor Meg having a family emergency.

Consent Agenda Items – Steve received only the Christian Mission and Witness Committee Report. **Motion** made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Ida Eckert to accept the report 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 Rick Cole to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. [Motion carried.](#)

Meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer

Nine Month Financial Summary

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

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>
Income:		
Regular Offerings	\$144,903	\$12,830
Special Offerings	6,065	925
Church Life Activities	2,654	
Other Receipts/Investment Account	2,999	19,180
Total Income	\$156,621	\$32,935
Expenses:		
Mission and Witness Council	\$ 5,062	
Spiritual Council	5,671	
Christian Education Council	1,703	
Church Life	2,436	
Pastoral Services – Wilson	58,528	
Church Staff	40,526	
Church Property	39,241	
Technology	1,676	
Insurance	12,314	
Public Relations	315	
Administration and Other	11,926	
Equipment Acquisitions	265	
Contingency Funds	0	
Total Expenses	179,663	7,741
Garfield Building Costs		7,741
Total Expenses	179,663	7,741
Net Income (Loss)	(\$23,042)	\$25,194

The Operating Fund had a loss of \$23,042 for the first nine months of 2023. This compares to a loss of \$20,550 for the first nine months of 2022. Total Operating Income of \$156,621 was \$10,318 more than the same period last year. Total Operating Fund Expenses of \$179,663 were \$12,810 more than the same period last year.

Operating Fund Regular Offerings of \$144,903 were \$8,628 (\$221 per week) more than the same period of last year. In the first nine months of 2023, we also received Special Offerings of \$1,285 for Easter, \$355 for Christmas, \$2,240 for Energy, \$75 for Other (primarily Mother's & Father's Days), and \$525 for Church Growth. Mission Offerings for the period included OCWM - \$555, One Great Hour of Sharing - \$495, Neighbors In Need - \$30, Christmas Fund - \$260, and C.U.E/Olivet - \$245.

In the first nine months of 2023, the Building Fund had total Income of \$32,935. Hope for the Future (Regular) Offerings of \$12,830 were \$300 less than the amount received for the same period last year. 2023 Special Offerings of \$925 were \$2,545 less than the same period in 2022. There was a September 2023 year-to-date Investment Account gain of \$19,180 versus a loss of \$63,253 during the first nine months of 2022. Building Fund expenses were \$7,741 which was \$2,151 higher than the same period in 2022.

During the first nine months of 2023, Dedicated Accounts received \$24,953 (Good Samaritan \$645, Blessing Bags – Pets for Vets \$578, Senior Youth Group \$355, Food Pantry \$19,525, Special Gifts to Church School \$574, Ukraine Relief \$320, and Women of Hope \$2,956) and had expenses of \$11,369 (Good Samaritan \$1,108, Blessing Bags – Pets for Vets \$578, Senior Youth Group \$142, MCREST \$200, Food Pantry \$7,003, Special Gifts to Church School \$1,545, Ukraine Relief \$320, and Women of Hope \$473).

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

Terri Hillman, Treasurer



NOVEMBER 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm Church Photos 3-8p.m.	2 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	3	4 AA 7 - 8:30pm
5 Worship 10 am CMWC Toy Box Drive Begins	6 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	7 CMWC 12:30pm AA 7 - 8pm	8 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	9 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	10 Veterans Day observed	11 Food Pantry 10am - 12pm AA 7 - 8:30pm Veterans Day
12 Worship 10am All Saints Day Church Wider Mission	13 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	14 BOTS 7pm AA 7 - 8pm	15 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	16 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	17	18 AA 7 - 8:30pm
19 Worship 10am Church Potluck after worship	20 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm Seniors Mtg 12pm	21 AA 7-8pm	22 Hope Sparkles 1pm -2pm	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25 AA 7 - 8:30pm
26 Worship 10am	27 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	28 PFLAG 6 - 8pm AA 7 - 8pm	29 Hope Sparkles 1pm -2pm	30 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm		

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Meg Wilson, Pastor & Editor ~ Calley Garvin, Publisher & Editor
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