



# The Hope Church Beacon



December 2023

## HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

YouTube: Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township

### WORDS OF HOPE

Dear Friends,

This scripture from Isaiah 9:2 sets the tone for the Advent season. *Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of the darkest shadows.*"

During Advent, we prepare our hearts to welcome the Prince of Peace. We also prepare our homes, our shopping lists, and all the details that have become Christmas traditions. Which one of the classic Christmas movies do you like to watch?



After watching lots of Christmas movies, I'm pretty much convinced that hope is the reoccurring theme in these holiday favorites. The main character usually has lost hope, but by the end of the movie, they find hope, and the true meaning of Christmas is revealed. In "The Grinch That Stole Christmas," the Grinch, having been hurt and disappointed by others, sinks into a life of negativity and anger. He decides to take away the Who's joy at Christmas by removing their gifts and decorations. On Christmas morning, the Grinch realizes that he hasn't stopped Christmas from coming to Whoville. He comes to the realization that maybe

Christmas is more than all the trappings. Maybe God is bigger than Target or Amazon. Maybe Christmas means something more...

Cindy Lou, who serves as a messenger to the Grinch, is a modern-day Angel Gabriel. When the Grinch discovers Cindy Lou on top of the sleigh, she tells him that no one should be alone at Christmas. He is able to let go of the last traces of negativity. The Grinch uses his strength and energy to literally turn the sleigh and his life around.

My prayer for all of us as we prepare to celebrate Christmas is that, like the Grinch, we may embrace the good news that Christmas means "something more." That we might let go of our hurts and use our energy to bring hope.

As we prepare for the *Way of the Lord*, may you find ways to connect with God and share the good news with others! May your heart be filled with "something more" this season.

*Advent Blessings,*

*Pastor Meg*

# HOLIDAY FESTIVITY SCHEDULE

- 
- \* Spirit-filled worship at 10 a.m. most Sundays this month, with the below exceptions.
  - \* 12/1: Christmas Musical with the Motor City Chorale at 7:30 p.m.
  - \* 12/3: Hanging of Greens/Pizza Lunch after worship.
  - \* 12/16: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal at 10 a.m.
  - \* 12/17: Christmas Pageant during worship.
  - \* 12/17: Blue Christmas Service at 4 p.m.
  - \* 12/24: Christmas Eve/Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.
  - \* 12/25: Merry Christmas!
  - \* 12/31: New Year's Worship.





# 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.

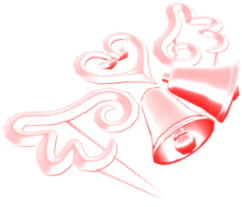


The Board of Trustees is working on using this template to help us find ways to embrace being the church and create opportunities for people to put their faith into action.

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.

HELP NEEDED!!!

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEEDED



We need to fill three seats on the Hope Board of Trustees (BOTS). We are looking for your input, and we want you to join!

The monthly board meetings are normally held via Zoom meetings and will continue that way until further notice. A two-year commitment is needed for this seat. Being on the BOTS is a great way to learn more about Hope UCC and to support the future of Hope Church. We have a very dynamic and fun group of members on the BOTS who need and welcome new members. If you are interested in running for this seat, please respond to Jim Wilson ([wilson.james40@gmail.com](mailto:wilson.james40@gmail.com)) or Rick Cole ([colercole@wowway.com](mailto:colercole@wowway.com)).

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration!

## HOPE CHURCH INFO

The Christian Education Director we hired did not work out, so we are continuing our search. The right candidate should have an educational background and some understanding of Christian education. The position is part-time, about 10 hours a week, with occasional extra hours for special events.

We need a CE director for two main reasons. First, to take lesson plans and Sunday school coordination off our pastor's plate, and secondly, and most importantly, to grow our programs for children and youth. We are committed to making Hope Church a place that encourages families to grow in their faith and gives kids safe and fun opportunities.

The church does not hire church members for staff positions, but we are requesting that you share this job opportunity with your friends and family. You could even post it on social media. We know the right person is out there, but we need your help promoting the position.

# HOPE CHURCH INFO (cont.)

## 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.



## Coffee Hour

Looking forward for volunteers to assist with coffee hour set up and clean up for December, January, and February. 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 November with Coffee Hour!**

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

- \* December 3 - Kathryn & Denise Kildea
- \* December 10 - Pamela Steffens & Daisy Katz
- \* December 17 - Chrissy Lusk, Janet Brown, & Carissa Biskner
- \* December 24 - Help Needed!
- \* December 31 - Denise Barc, Daisy Katz, & Sue Nurmi

### **\*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





# CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS



## Monthly Report From HOPE Food Pantry...

On November 11, 2023, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 140 households, which included 448 individuals. 11,907 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.

Keith Bynes  
Rick Cole  
Nancy Fay  
Cindy Greening  
Terri Hillman  
Chris House  
Kent House  
Daisy Katz

Colleen Kaul  
Marty Lulek  
Opal Lulek  
Cindy Malinowski  
Rose Marie Mahlmeister  
Karen Miller  
Steve Nielson  
Susan Nurmi  
Tom Reeser

Bernadine Smith  
Pam Steffens  
Jane White  
Susan Winters  
Jon Zalewski



HOPE Food Pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Our next drive-thru pantry distribution volunteer service day will be  
**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** 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.***

**December's Item is DETERGENT.**

**Thank you for always remembering the Hope Food Pantry!**

**Our continued success is because of you...**



*The holidays are upon us, and we would like to thank each and every one of you for your support this past year. Whether you are a volunteer, a monetary contributor, a shopper, a participant in one of our various projects, or a spiritual supporter, we APPRECIATE YOU.*

*These Projects Happened In 2023:*

- ⊗ *Blessing Bags*
- ⊗ *McRest*
- ⊗ *Toy Box*
- ⊗ *Reverse Advent Boxes*
- ⊗ *Blood Drive*
- ⊗ *Wrap It Up*
- ⊗ *Bake Sale*
- ⊗ *Christmas Bazaar*
- ⊗ *And the ever-present PANTRY.*

*Your generosity makes our outreach real for many, many people.*

*We, the Christian Mission and Witness Committee, Susan W., Cindy M., Terri H., Pam S., and Karen M., are Wishing you the Merriest, Most Joyous, and Blessed Christmas.*

# THANK YOU!

# Savor the Present Moment

## HOW TO ADD MINDFULNESS TO MEALTIME

Excerpts from Veronica Hinke



**T**here is a sharp difference between grabbing a fast-food burger at the drive-through and paying full attention to a home-prepared meal. For many of us, busy schedules and harried lifestyles get in the way of a more introspective dining experience. Mindful eating—the practice of slowing down, appreciating the present moment and becoming consciously aware of the ingredients, flavors, aromas and textures that we consume—can be a worthwhile meditative endeavor.

“If we’re mindful of what we eat, when we eat and how we eat, we are supporting the vibrancy of what our bodies are so capable of”

says Dr. Carrie Demers, medical director at the Himalayan Institute, in Honesdale, Pennsylvania.

“Studies show that when people stop to sit down and chew their food carefully, they not only eat less, but they actually get more enjoyment out of their meal. Food tastes better when we are actually present with it.”

“When we slow down, we become more aware,” says Shawngela Pierce of Seek Within You, who leads spiritual retreats in Sedona, Arizona.

“Sometimes people eat out of habit, but when we become more mindful, we start to notice patterns that, once understood, can help us harness a whole new way of eating and living.”

## Four Aspects of Mindful Eating

- ◇ **RIGHT FOOD:** Eat fresh, whole foods that are easy to digest and give energy. We need mindfulness to notice which foods support us and which cause indigestion, mucus, or fatigue.
- ◇ **RIGHT TIME:** Our bodies naturally digest better in the daytime and when we feel hunger. Stop eating at least three hours prior to bedtime. We need mindfulness to notice the difference in digestion between eating ice cream at 3 p.m. and at 11 p.m.
- ◇ **RIGHT QUANTITY:** Eat just the right amount of food—enough to feel satisfied and fuel the day’s activities, but not so much that we feel lethargic or sleepy. Mindfulness helps us notice our hunger and fullness, as well as how we feel after we eat.
- ◇ **RIGHT ATTITUDE OR ENVIRONMENT:** Sit down in a peaceful place, ideally with people we like, rather than eating while driving working, or walking. Don’t eat when stressed or angry. If we are upset, it is better to take a moment to mindfully breathe and calm the nervous system before eating. The goal is to welcome the food with gratitude and openness.

*Karen Miller/CMWC*

## 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](mailto: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.



## CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS (cont.)

# Toy Box Collection

Believe it or not, Christmas will soon be here. As in previous years, we collect toys for our Toy Box project. This year, are supporting the Fraser Public Library with our toy collection. Our start date was Sunday, November 5th, and our end date is December 3rd. The Toy Boxes are 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*

## 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 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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  
There will be no exercise classes for Christmas week. We will resume class on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



## GROUPS AND MEETINGS (cont.)

# Senior Fellowship



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 is \$25 per person. See Joe Holland, who started taking the money on November 5th for payment regarding your reservation(s)..

KEEP THE DATE OPEN!!

-Tom Reeser

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



**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](http://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 [yvonneta@wowway.com](mailto:yvonneta@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 Tadjewski, President, PFLAG-CT

# 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](http://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

Merry Christmas! Color Me With Love!





# COMMUNITY



Phone: (586) 757-5551

25650 Kelly Rd., Roseville, MI 48066



## 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, homebound 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](http://www.ivcinfo.org).]**



## & Donations

We are in need of donations of food and toiletry items, as well as small gifts to deliver to dozens of our homebound seniors and disabled adults in need during this holiday season!

Please give us a call at 586 757 5551 or email [outreach@ivcinfo.org](mailto:outreach@ivcinfo.org) if you or your group/church/business is interested in donating any of the items below or providing a monetary donation as a sponsor to help us purchase these items:

Most requested food items:	Most requested toiletry items:	Ideas for gifts:
Canned Tuna, Chicken and Other Meats	Dishwashing Liquid	Socks
Canned Fruits & Vegetables	Laundry Detergent	Gloves
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Toilet Paper	Hats
Hot & Cold Cereals	Paper Towel	Slippers with grips on bottom
Pasta & Canned Sauce	Soap	Scarves
Packaged Cookies & Crackers	Toothpaste	Candy/treats
Pudding, Gelatin & Fruit Cups	Shampoo	Deck of cards
Microwavable Meals	Any other toiletries	Anything else you can think of!
Rice, Noodle & Potato Packets		
Soups & Ramen		
Protein Drinks ("Ensure" Type)		
Other non-perishable items, in smaller sizes and non-glass containers		

# Medical Equipment

Are you in need of medical equipment or know of someone who is? If so, The Kiwanis Club of Shelby Golden K is a nonprofit, reputable charitable organization that assists seniors and veterans in the community with **FREE** medical supplies that they may not be able to afford. The equipment is donated to this organization, either new or slightly used (refurbished). Seniors and veterans can utilize the items for as long as needed. This organization also accepts donations of medical supplies.



Please contact Rich Morian at 248-821-1496, Mike Tow at 586-531-1034, or Lou Trotto at 586-703-4026 if you are a senior or veteran in need or know of someone who is in need.

Cindy Greening

Hope United Church of Christ  
Synopsis of Board Meeting  
November 14, 2023

Guests prior to meeting – Tony Fortunato and Kirk Schoenherr – They led us through the process of a brainstorming session about what it means “To Be The Church”. They left after this session and prior to our actual Board of Trustees Meeting. Steve thanked them for leading this session.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Pastor Meg led us in prayer.

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

Congregational Comments – Steve – None

Additions to the Agenda – Steve – None

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as presented with the one addition was made by Jim Wilson with a second by Rick Cole. Motion carried.

President’s Remarks – Steve – Reminded everyone of Christmas Concert on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 7:30 pm by the Motor City Chorale at Hope Church. There is no charge to attend the performance but there will be a free-will offering. Steve has fliers about this event.

Approval of the October Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Linda Rehm to approve the October meeting minutes. Motion Carried

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

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly offerings for October 2023 were \$3,083 more than the amount budgeted and \$3,131 more than the amount received for October 2022. There were five Sundays in both years. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$1,142 more than the amount budgeted and \$11,885 (\$258 per week) more than the same period in 2022. Year to date total Operating Income of \$177,904 is \$14,402 more than the same period in 2022.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$5.23 in interest to the Money Market Account.

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

- Total Expenses for October 2023 were \$822 more than the amount budgeted and \$3,305 more than the expense for October 2022. Year to date expenses were \$5,173 less than budgeted but \$16,115 higher than the same period in 2022. There was a gain (Income less Expense) of \$2,668 for the month compared to a gain of \$1,889 for October of last year.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:</li> </ul>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>October</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>Year to Date</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Operating receipts</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$21,283</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$177,904</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Operating expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">( 18,615)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">( 198,278)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Excess of receipts over expenses</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">(Expenses over receipts)</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>\$2,668</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>(\$20,374)</u></td> </tr> </table>		<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	Operating receipts	\$21,283	\$177,904	Operating expenses	( 18,615)	( 198,278)	Excess of receipts over expenses			(Expenses over receipts)	<u>\$2,668</u>	<u>(\$20,374)</u>
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Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$725 and expense of \$415 for the month, leaving a balance of \$93,334.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in October 2023 were \$370 more than the amount budgeted and \$30 more than the amount received for October 2022. Year to date Hope for the Future offerings were \$275 less than the amount budgeted and \$270 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 \$5,608 in October as compared to a gain of \$9,985 for the same period in 2022. Year to date the securities account has a gain of \$13,573 compared to a loss of \$53,268 for the same period last year.

**Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)**

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	\$4,088	(\$12,941)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	<u>310</u>	<u>13,895</u>
Total Cash Flow	<u>(\$4,398)</u>	<u>\$ 954</u>

**Unfinished Business**

Painting Improvements  
Civil Engineering

**New Business**

**How to be the Church – Pastor Meg:** This session took place prior to our meeting.

**Nominating Committee – Steve:** Four will be coming off (three have served six years, and one does not want to rerun). Jim Wilson will head the Committee and Nancy Michelson will assist. Our bylaws state Board Members should be a church member for two years. Terri Hillman will run for the Board.

**Advent Season Update – Pastor Meg:** Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, December 3, 2023, after church service. Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday so there will be regular church service at 10 am and Candlelight Service at 6:30 pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. On New Year’s Eve, December 31, 2023, there will be regular church service at 10 am. Also, the Christmas Concert is on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 7:30 pm.

**Potluck Dinner Update – Pastor Meg:** Dinner at Hope after church on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Need someone (other than a choir member) to pick up chicken from Oakridge at 11 am. Linda Rehm will pick up the 80 pieces of chicken.

**HR Update – Pastor Meg:** Nancy Burnham reported the latest reviews of Patrick & Deborah. They are both happy with us. Calley’s review will be after she has had a year of employment with us.

**Pastor’s Report - Pastor Meg:**

**Worship:** In October, we celebrated Children’s Sabbath and World Communion Sunday. We celebrated All Saints Day on 11/12 and will now move to Thanksgiving and then into Advent.

**Pastoral Care:** I continue to meet with people as needed for spiritual guidance and support.

**Church Business:** Calley is busy with all the materials that are prepared for this time of year. After the first of the year, she will begin to work on annual reports.

**Spiritual Council:** We will be meeting with the consultants for the photo directory in the next few weeks to put together the final product. We moved the name tag holder, and we want to encourage people to wear their name tags.

**Christian Education:** We are in a time of transition. We will continue with Sunday School and preparing for a Christmas Pageant. Confirmation will begin in January.

**DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement.** My work on Church and Ministry continues. We are currently holding Ecclesiastical Councils to help prepare ministers for ordination.

**Community Outreach:** We hope that the Christmas Concert will be a way for us to invite the community to come to Hope. I am speaking at Dignity Funeral Home’s annual memorial service. This has the potential to reach several hundred families.

**Consent Agenda Items** – Steve received reports from Christian Mission and Witness Committee (September and October Reports), Technology Committee, Property Committee and HR Committee. Motion was made by Ida Eckert with a second by Jerry Rogers to accept these 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   | STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE        |
| COMMITTEE/COUNCIL REPORTS               | INVESTMENT COMMITTEE         |
| SPIRITUAL COUNCIL                       | PROPERTY COMMITTEE           |
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE           | HR COMMITTEE                 |
| CHRISTIAN MISSION AND WITNESS COMMITTEE | PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE |
| TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE                    | MUSIC COMMITTEE              |

**Adjournment:** Motion by Linda Rehm with a second by Nancy Michelson to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.  
Motion carried.

Meeting was closed with The Lord’s Prayer



# DECEMBER 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					Motor City Chorale Christmas Musical 7:30pm	AA 7 - 8:30pm
3 Worship 10 am Pizza Lunch Hanging of Greens Toy Box Drive Ends	4 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	5 CMWC 12:30pm  AA 7 - 8pm	6  Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	7  Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	8	9 Food Pantry 10am - 12pm  Wedding AA 7 - 8:30pm
10 Worship 10am	11 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	12  BOTS 7pm AA 7 - 8pm	13  Hope Sparkles Christmas Party 1pm - 3:30pm	14  Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	15	16 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal  AA 7 - 8:30pm
17 Worship 10am Christmas Pageant Blue Christmas Service 4pm	18 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm  Seniors Mtg 12pm	19  AA 7-8pm	20  Hope Sparkles 1pm -2pm	21  Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	22	23  AA 7 - 8:30pm
24 Worship 6:30pm	25 No Hope Sparkles  	26 PFLAG 6 - 8pm  AA 7 - 8pm	27 No Hope Sparkles	28  Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	29	30  AA 7 - 8:30pm
31 Worship 10am New Years Eve						

## 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

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Organist: Patrick Baker  
Accompanist: Denise Kildea