

BE THE CHURCH
Protect the environment.
Care for the poor.
Forgive often.
Reject Racism.
Share your gifts and resources.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity.
Love God.
Enjoy this life.

The Hope Church Beacon



January 2024

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

35127 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035

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

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WORDS OF HOPE

"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

On the first day of 2024, we begin by wishing each other a "Happy New Year!" But as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us.

We need to listen to what God told Joshua about 3,400 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the Promised Land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement.

A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will our relationships stay strong? Will our income continue to be enough? Will our children thrive? Will the divisions in our country improve? Will there be an act of violence or some natural disaster that impacts us?

As your pastor, I pray for answers to many questions. How can we share the message of God's love? How will we grow the church? How will we support each other? How can we meet our financial needs? How will we change with the times and honor our traditions? How can we welcome the strange? How will we encourage our children and youth? How can we involve more people in ministry? How will we serve our community and those in need?

The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in the coming year is not left to chance. God is with us, and God's promise to Joshua was to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise to his disciples and to us, over 2000 years later.

So as a new year brings so many questions, so many challenges, and so many possibilities. Together, we remember Christ's words, "I am with you always."

That's the reason we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!" Hope United Church of Christ is ready to embrace a new year. I look forward to seeing what God will have us do, to serve, to grow, and to love.

Blessings in this New Year!

Pastor Meg

THANK YOU!

I am beyond thankful for all of you who helped and participated in the 2023 Advent and Christmas Season. Beginning with our Thanksgiving potluck and then supporting the Motor City Chorale concert, to the Hanging of the Greens, we began Advent with high energy! The weekly music provided by the choirs and the readings by our liturgists continued to tell the story. The families that lit each Advent candle and the Sunday school teachers who shared the nativity with our children kept us full of anticipation.

We rejoiced at all the children, and their families, and volunteers who participated in the Christmas Pageant to help celebrate the season with joy. The Seniors gathered to celebrate, Hope Sparkles encouraged each other with a Christmas party, and Star the Lamb visited from the stable in Bethlehem. We took time to acknowledge those who needed a word of hope at our Blue Christmas service.

Our staff worked with extra commitment to make everything just perfect! We collected socks in our reverse Advent bags to help keep people warm and dry. We remembered those in need through our toy collection, and we fed the hungry through our food pantry. The church looked exquisite, filled with more poinsettias than we have seen in years!

The church looked exquisite, filled with more poinsettias than we have seen in years! On Christmas Eve, we welcomed the  holy family, and we shared in communion and 

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

YOU MIGHT BE A WINNER!

2023 Annual Reports Due!

The Board of Trustees will announce the date of the 2024 Congregational Meeting following their next board meeting. The meeting will be held in February. This means that all chairpersons and group leaders need to submit their annual reports by January 21st.

There will be a prize for the first committee chair that gets their report into the office!

CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, January 28th, Following Worship.



Bring your favorite **chili** in a crock pot to share. We will vote on the top 2 chilis.

Bread and desserts will be provided.

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 should have submitted their finished work by January 31st.

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) or Rick Cole (colercole@wowway.com).

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR NEEDED

We are continuing our search for a Christian Education Director. 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.

GRIEF GROUP OF HOPE

Grief and Loss Group here at Hope Church Beginning January 24th



Does your heart ache? Do you have waves of sadness that wash over you?

If you have experienced death or the loss of a relationship, it can be very helpful to share with other people coping with grief.

Grief and loss are complicated feelings to manage. Whether it was 8 years ago or just recently, grief is a journey.

This group will meet in person on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the church parlor. We will meet for 8 weeks, beginning Wednesday, January 24th, and ending February 28th.

Registration is required, so please sign up by contacting the church office.

If there are some requests, we can consider hosting an additional evening version of this group.

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.

Christmas Poinsettia Altar Plants

By:

- ◆ Sarah, Erin, & Quinn
- ◆ Carl & Elaine Frank
- ◆ Pamela Steffens
- ◆ Shirley Kirby
- ◆ Sue Nurmi & Joe DiGiovanni

In Honor Of:

- Jim & Meg Wilson
- Jean Frank, and Elaine Frank
- Dr. Janell & Rick Townsend, and Laina & Troy Townsend
- Nancy Hornfisher
- Our Hope Church Family

By:

- ◆ Sarah, Erin, & Quinn
- ◆ Rick Cole
- ◆ Jerry & Shannon Rogers
- ◆ Carl & Elaine Frank
- ◆ Joe Holland
- ◆ The McCuen Families
- ◆ Ed & Sue Rogers
- ◆ Susan Winters
- ◆ Pamela Steffens
- ◆ Carol Troutman
- ◆ Shirley Kirby
- ◆ The Lusk Family
- ◆ Terri Hillman
- ◆ Ed & Ida Eckert
- ◆ The Eckert Family
- ◆ Heather Horan
- ◆ The Anderson Family
- ◆ Nancy Fay

In Loving Memory Of:

- Our loving grandparents and our uncle Jim Taillie
- Judy Cole
- Katie Rogers
- Sy & Carol Syerson, Pat Frank, and Shirley Brinkman
- Ruth Anderson, Larry Frohreif, Rosella Ranisin, George Anderson, and Judy Cole
- George & Eileen McCuen, Harold & Marge Badger, and Don & Karen Watson
- Innocent people who died in the Ukraine and Russian war.
- Louis & Gene Winters, Carl Jurcak, and Suzanne Writz
- Alger & Helen Steffens, Thomas W. Steffens, Ann Steffens Stieber, and Janet Dolland
- Glenn Troutman, Parents, and Siblings
- Mrs. Bertha Kansier & Mr. Fred Kansier
- John Brown
- Lorene Stallons
- Ginny Bannasch
- Clara & Otto Heussner
- Jeffrey Zech
- Our dearly departed loved-ones.
- The Harold Skubick, Family, The William Thomas Fay Family, and The Charles Schinning Family

Thank you to Moehring Woods Florist, Bruce and Pam Anderson, for supplying us with such beautiful plants!

Caring for your Poinsettia

- ~Keep the temperature consistent—between 60 and 68 F during the day and 10 degrees cooler at night.
- ~Group plants on water-filled trays full of pebbles to help increase humidity levels.
- ~Place near sunlight, but not in direct sunlight. Do not let a poinsettia touch cold window panes.
- ~Avoid drafts. The plants are sensitive to drafts and changes in temperature.
- ~Don't drown the roots. Wait until the soil surface dries out before watering. Best to remove the decorative foil wrapper or poke holes to allow for drainage.
- ~Cut back plants. Come mid-March, cut back by half to encourage new shoots. The plants also can be placed outside in the spring after the risk of frost has passed.
- ~Bring poinsettias back in mid-September to early October to force them to bloom again.

Coffee Hour



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

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

- * January 7 - Help Needed!
- * January 14 - Help Needed!
- * January 21 - Help Needed!
- * January 28 - Help Needed!

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 December 9, 2023, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 129 households, which included 383 individuals. 10,568 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.

Rick Cole
Nancy Fay
Stasi Gartin
Tessa Gartin
Denise Geml
Jennifer Geml
Cindy Greening
Jessica Hazelton
Terri Hillman

Kent House
Daisy Katz
Colleen Kaul
Brad Lusk
Chrissy Lusk
Sam Lusk
Cindy Malinowski
Karen Miller
Mylie Nielson
Steve Nielson

Susan Nurmi
Ed Rogers
Sue Rogers
Bernadine Smith
Pam Steffens
John Tacconelli
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, January 13th 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.

January's Item is DETERGENT.

Thank you for always remembering the Hope Food Pantry!

Our continued success is because of you...



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

On December 6th, six huge industrial-sized bags filled with toys were delivered to the Fraser Library. Your generosity will light up many little faces this Christmas season. Big, big THANKS for your wonderful support.

Christmas Blessings,
Karen Miller

Home-DIY Giants Fail Boreal Forest in Canada

The country's two largest home-improvement chains are showing no love for some of the world's last intact primary forests. Home Depot and Lowe's have been under escalating pressure to report on the impact of their wood sourcing on primary forests in the Canadian boreal and to come up with specific plans to mitigate the resulting effects on climate, biodiversity, and human rights. Yet a recent report by Lowe's does little to change the status quo, and as for Home Depot—crickets. The company remains stubbornly silent even though nearly two-thirds of its shareholders passed a resolution last year demanding that it address its unsustainable wood-sourcing practices. "Lowe's made a small effort but still has miles to go," says Shelley Vinyard, NRDC

boreal corporate campaign manager. "Home Depot hasn't even bothered."

Home Depot's current sourcing policy dates all the way back to 1999 and fails to prevent sourcing from some of the world's most critical at-risk forest regions, including the old-growth forests of Canada's boreal. Home to hundreds of Indigenous communities and providing habitat for scores of wildlife species, the boreal forest in Canada also stores twice as much carbon as the world's oil reserves. "We'll continue to ratchet up the pressure on companies like Home Depot and Lowe's to take meaningful, measurable action to eliminate the destruction and degradation of these irreplaceable forests in their supply chains," says Vinyard.



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 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 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 the first week of January. We will resume classes starting on Monday, January 8, 2024.



Senior Fellowship



We had our annual Christmas luncheon on December 11th, at the Gazebo. There were 33 members and guests. Pastor Meg led us in prayer, and we all enjoyed a lovely meal. And after our dessert, Nancy Fay let us in Christmas Carols. As we went home, we had the spirit of Christmas in our hearts. We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and has a Healthy Happy 2024!

We missed our President, Tom Reeser, who was in the hospital. We are happy to report that he was able to come home a few days before Christmas, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

I would like to thank Joe Holland, Secretary-Treasurer, for collecting the money and keeping track of how many would be joining us for this lovely luncheon.

Remember, our next meeting will be on the third Monday, January 15th, at 12:00. Hope to see everyone for an afternoon of food, games, cards, and fellowship.

Blessings, Ida Eckert.



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

GROUPS AND MEETINGS (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 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!**

COMMUNITY



Hi,

Our school is collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Detroit. It is a great way to support the children & families. We will have a collection bin in the Narthex until June.

Thank you for your support!

Delilah, Amelia, & Arya Hazelton



Phone: (586) 757-5551
25650 Kelly Rd., Roseville, MI 48066

HAVE CAR, WILL TRAVEL? VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

All our "snowbirds" are heading South for the Winter! Won't you please help fill in for them? Many of our regular drivers take a couple months off this time of year, but the need for transportation does not lessen. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program needs drivers who can provide rides for our older and disabled neighbors so that they can get to doctor appointments and essential errands. Just a couple hours of your time can make a huge difference in someone's life. You pick your own area & your own times. Drive as often or as little as you like in the comfort of your own car. Even one more ride a year might get someone to an appointment that could save their life! **Daytime drivers especially needed!** Please call IVC today at (586) 757-5551 for more information.

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

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



JANUARY 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 No Hope Sparkles <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 AA 7 - 8pm	3 No Hope Sparkles	4 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	5	6 AA 7 - 8:30pm
7 Epiphany Worship 10 am	8 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	9 CMWC 12:30pm BOTS 7pm AA 7 - 8pm	10 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	11 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	12	13 Food Pantry 10am - 12pm AA 7 - 8:30pm
14 Worship 10am	15 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm Seniors Mtg. 12pm	16 AA 7 - 8pm	17 Hope Sparkles 1pm - 2pm	18 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	19	20 AA 7 - 8:30pm
21 Worship 10am	22 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	23 AA 7 - 8pm	24 Grief Group 10:30 p.m. Hope Sparkles	25 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	26	27 AA 7 - 8:30pm
28 Worship 10 am Chili Cook-Off	29 Hope Sparkles 11am - 12pm	30 PFLAG 6 - 8pm AA 7 - 8pm	31 Hope Sparkles 1pm -2pm			

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

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

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