



The Hope Church Beacon



March 2024

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

35127 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035

Church Office: (586) 296-8760

Email: hopeucc4@gmail.com

Website: Hopeuccmi.com

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

YouTube: Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township

WORDS OF HOPE

“*Hosanna*”, “*Hosanna*” is the cry associated with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The word *Hosanna* in Hebrew translates as “O Save Us Now!” The people crowded along the road, laying down cloaks and palm branches. I imagine the crowds were filled with excitement; after all, Jesus brought a message of hope. Hope for a new world order that would end oppression. Hope for peace, not violence, to rule the land. Hope that those in need would receive compassion. Jesus was the one who performed miracles. Jesus, who preached about loving Yahweh and loving each other, was riding in on a donkey. Their very souls longed to be saved by the One who offered them the Kingdom of God. The crowds had no way of knowing how the week would unfold. They had no way of knowing the promise found in the empty tomb.

Here we are in 2024, and we join our voices in shouting *Hosanna*, both as words of praise and as we see our world in turmoil and filled with division, and we cry out, “*Save Us Now!*”

We have an advantage that the crowds along the dusty roads did not have. *We know* how the events of the week will unfold. *We know* the tomb is empty. *We know* the promise of the resurrection. Easter shows us that new life is a gift from God. Transformation is possible. Death is not the final word. New beginnings are constantly being revealed through God’s amazing love. *We know* that hope is reborn because of Easter.

My friends, it is important that we walk through Holy Week together because it gives us a deeper appreciation of Easter. On the day of the resurrection, we will stand in the sanctuary to sing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

We will be transformed from the shouts of *Hosanna* on Palm Sunday to the shouts of *Alleluia* on Easter. We will rejoice in the joyous good news that cannot be compromised by the turmoil in our world. We rejoice that the promises of new life were not contained in the tomb. Please come and join us as we release balloons and unite our voices, saying, “Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!” *Alleluia!*

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Meg



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, 3/24, KIDS EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Families with Children of all ages!—Come and celebrate Palm Sunday!

During Sunday School - We will begin with a Petting Zoo that will include a donkey to help us remember the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem.

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for all ages. The children will receive a bag to collect eggs and then the eggs can be turned in at a prize table for a special Easter prize. And.....there will be a visit from the Easter Bunny!

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 3/28

6 p.m. Soup and Bread Supper; Worship Service at 7 p.m. in sanctuary.

GOOD FRIDAY, 3/29

1:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae
with Rev. Meg Wilson

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION, 3/31

9 am - Special Easter Coffee Hour with donuts, bagels, juice etc.

(NOTE—this is BEFORE worship)

10 am - Family Worship

Come celebrate the resurrection, the story of our faith, with uplifting music and Holy Communion!



2024 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE

The Congregational Meeting was held on February 25, 2024.

We thanked our outgoing Board of Trustee members, Rick Cole, Ida Eckert, Nancy Michelson, and Jim Wilson, for their faithful service. The congregation elected Nancy Burnham, Nancy Fay, Kirk Schoenherr, and Terri Hillman to serve as the newest members of the BOTS.

Following the general meeting, the new board met and, among themselves elected the Executive Board. Steve Nielson will serve as President, Nancy Burnham will serve as Vice President, Terri Hillman will serve as Treasurer, and Linda Parson will serve as Secretary.

The congregation voted to approve two motions brought by the Parking Lot Task Force to fund the upcoming parking lot repairs. It was decided that the funds will come from our savings and investment accounts.

"Be the Church" surveys were distributed to gather input from the congregation on new ways to embrace our mission as followers of Christ.

Thank you to all who participated and all who faithfully serve our congregation!

2024 BE THE CHURCH SURVEY

At the Annual Meeting, you received a copy of a survey entitled "Be the Church". As we continue our journey together as a church community, we are embracing the United Church of Christ's "Be the Church" motto. This motto encompasses a set of values and principles that guide us in our mission to serve one another and make a positive impact in our community. In order to better understand the interests and priorities of our congregation, we need you to participate in this survey. Your input will help us identify areas where we can collectively embody the values of the "Be the Church" motto and work together to create meaningful opportunities.

There are hard copies of the survey at the church for you to fill out and place in the large box in the lobby. For the first 3 weeks of the month of March, the survey will be attached to the weekly email blast.

You can fill it out and print it, or send an emailed copy to the church office at hopeucc4@gmail.com. In the email subject, note SURVEY.

We will be collecting your responses and sharing any ideas with the Board of Trustees so that we can begin to find new ways to Be the Church.

Thank you for your participation!

2024 Photo Directory

The Spiritual Council Committee has completed the design of the photo directory. We are waiting to receive the draft from the Universal Church Directory. Once we approve the draft, the company should have our directories to us by late April. We look forward to having this new resource!

Easter Lilies/Tulips

PLANTS are \$10 each.

Deadline to order is SUNDAY, MARCH 17th.

Please indicate how many of each plant you would like. Place this order form in the collection box with your cash/check. You can also mail it in to 35127 Garfield Rd., Clinton Township, MI 48038, email the office at hopeucc4@gmail.com, or place in the brown box outside the church doors.

IN HONOR OF:

Lilies _____ Tulips _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Lilies _____ Tulips _____

Placed by & Phone No. _____

2024 CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS



1st Place Winner: Laura Ambro



2nd Place Winner: Delilah Hazelton



3rd Place Winner: Tessa Gartin

Laura Ambro



Delilah Hazelton

Tessa Gartin



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 March, April, and May. 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 February with Coffee Hour!

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

- ◆ March 3 - Denise & Kathryn Kildea
- ◆ March 10 - Chrissy Lusk & Janet Brown
- ◆ March 17 - Jesse McCorkle & Danielle Sisman
- ◆ March 24 - Palm Sunday Breakfast
- ◆ March 31 - Easter Sunday: Coffee Hour is at 9am

PEANUT ALLERGIES

Due to peanut allergies, please label any coffee hour goodies that contain or may contain any form of nuts.

As always, a BIG THANK YOU to all the willing helpers!

God Bless,
Carol Troutman



CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS



Monthly Report From HOPE Food Pantry...

On February 10, 2024, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 123 families, which includes 376 individuals. We distributed 9,660 pounds of food, and cleaning supplies were distributed.

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

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

Denise & Mike Barc
The Biskner Family
Justin Bultz
Keith Bynes
Louis Childers
Rick Cole
Nancy Fay
Pam Flaherty
Mackenzie Gartin
Jessica Hazelton
Terri Hillman
Heather Horan
Chris House
Kent House

Daisy Katz
Marty Lulek
The Lusk Family
Rose Marie Mahlmeister
Cindy Malinowski
Karen Miller
Norm Nenninger
Steve Nielson
Susan Nurmi
Linda Rehm

Tom Reeser
Bernie Smith
Pam Steffens
Jane White
Susan Winters
Jon Zalewski



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

March Item donations is for DETERGENT.

**Thank you for always remembering the Hope Food Pantry!
Our continued success is because of you...**





OGHS

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world.
Matthew 5:14-15 (MSG)

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine..."

If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five.

Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message - our light is on a light stand, for all to see - shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously.

Share the light by giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on March 10, 2024.

BLESSING BAGS

Covenant House Michigan (CHM)

This year, the CM&WC has distributed blessing bags for donations to help support Covenant House Michigan. Covenant House Michigan (CHM) provides shelter and hope to young people ages 18-24 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. There are two locations in Michigan: Detroit and Grand Rapids. They provide youth shelter, educational and vocational programs, and support services to help them find their path to meaningful and successful adulthood. All of their services are free.

CM&WC

Part-Time Help Wanted!

Need the help of a Spanish speaking person. CMMC needs help to create signs in Spanish for those clients who have started attending our Pantry drive thru

If interested give Karen Miller a call at 586.246.9567

Embrace the Winding Road



*L*ife's transitions can feel like a broken bead necklace, with scattered pieces of ourselves waiting to be restrung. When we pack up our lives to move into a new home or organize neglected drawers, we may stir up clouds of bittersweet memories. Watching our kids leave the nest, we might wonder where the time has gone. As a new self struggles to emerge from the chrysalis, our hormones might take us on a rollercoaster ride before unveiling breathtaking wings.

At times, we have one foot on shifting sand and the other in midair, waiting to connect to solid ground. Inspirational author Neale Donald Walsch says, "Life begins at the end of your comfort zone" -wise words for those of us that are halfway across the rickety swinging bridge of change.

Breaking our own rules can gift us with a brand of freedom that we've only imagined. Seasoned travelers and weekend adventurers might agree that setting aside plans and maps invites unforeseen magic. Ordering something we cannot pronounce on the menu, turning left instead of right or revisiting an old dream might be a wonderful decision.

When we take our hands off the wheel and float into possibility, the universe smiles and nudges our secret longing for something new, something harmonically aligned with our own unique frequency. Meeting life in the moment, wherever we happen to be, can be a challenging but rewarding spiritual discipline.

When we take a deep breath and turn the page, life deepens in color and gets more interesting. When we resist the well-meaning way that has been carved out for us and choose to go off the beaten path despite the uncertainty ahead, we will meet ourselves more deeply, no matter what happens. Perhaps this is the meaning behind it all-the magical door we seek. Honoring the sanctity of change is the key to fulfillment.

Marlaina Donato is an author, visionary painter and composer.
Connect at JaguarFlower.art.

Karen Miller, CM&WC

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS (cont.)

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

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Exercise classes will resume
starting on Monday,
March 4, 2024.

Linda Hohf and Marge Lentz



GROUPS AND MEETINGS (cont.)



Senior



The Senior gang met this year for the first time on the 19th of February. Our January gathering was cancelled due to the wintery day. However, sixteen members enjoyed coney dogs along with an afternoon of cards and games in February.

Susan Nurmi was welcomed as a new member of the group. If you find yourself looking for something new in your life, come join us. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be on March 18th at noon. If you are looking for more group information, talk with Tom Reeser, Ida Eckert, or Joe Holland.

See you in March!

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, 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

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

Color Me With Love!

Bible Brain Teasers

Jesus Dies and Rises Up

Jesus Is Alive!

(John 20)

At the empty tomb, Mary Magdalene talked to a man. She thought he was a gardener. But then she saw that the man was really Jesus! He had risen from the dead and was alive again!

Color the picture using the code. Cut it out and tape it up so you can be reminded of this wonderful truth!

1 = green

3 = blue

5 = pink

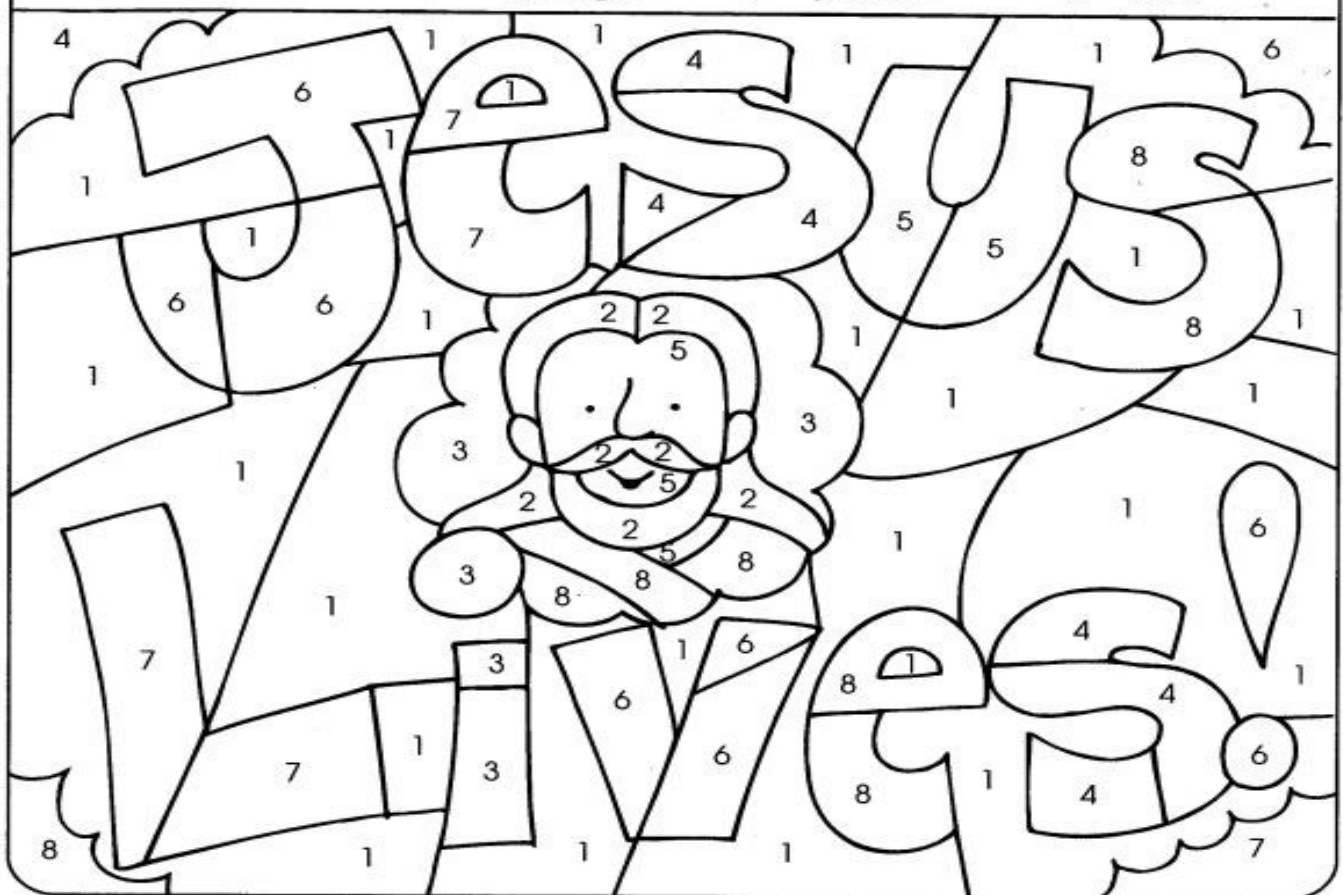
7 = purple

2 = brown

4 = orange

6 = yellow

8 = red



HOLY WEEK

2024 What is Holy Week for Families?

Holy Week is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter. We pay special attention to the last week of Jesus life on earth.

Palm Sunday – We remember that Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. The people stood along the road and welcomed him by waving palm branches. The people called out *hosanna* which means, “pray, save us”! Jesus came as a peacemaker. He rode a humble donkey instead of a war horse.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the specific events are explained in each of the gospels. Jesus was teaching and denouncing practices that were unfair and ungodly in the temple. In the Gospel of Matthew & Mark, a woman anointed Jesus with perfume to symbolically prepare him for burial. We also know that Judas agreed to betray Jesus. The Roman leaders were making plans to end the life of Jesus because they saw him as a threat to Roman. Jesus predicted that he would be killed.

Maundy Thursday (also called Holy Thursday) – Jesus and his 12 disciples gathered to celebrate the Passover. The Passover Meal was a holy Jewish tradition. The scriptures tell of different events occurring at this meal. In two of the gospels, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples as a symbol of serving others. In all of the gospels Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples and instructed them to remember him when they shared this meal together. We call this meal Holy Communion. The disciple Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus knew that the disciples would be afraid, and that Peter would deny him.

Jesus went and prayed for himself and for his disciples and for all people in garden of Gethsemane. He told his disciples to stay awake, but they fell asleep. Soldiers, followed by a crowd came and arrested Jesus.

Good Friday- Jesus was questioned by the authorities including Herod and then Pontius Pilate. The authorities insisted that he be crucified because Jesus would not deny that he was the Christ, the Son of God. The soldiers insulted and physically injured Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on his head. They placed a sign that said Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. Jesus was crucified (nailed on a cross). There were two robbers also being crucified. The gospels describe the final moments of Jesus. Some accounts say He said, “It is finished” and breathed his last breath. In the evening, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus body so he could be buried. The tomb was cut from a rock and a large stone was put in front of the entrance to the tomb.

Why is called Good Friday? Initially *good* meant *holy*, so it was Holy Friday. It is also called “Good” Friday because without the crucifixion there would be no resurrection.

Holy Saturday- guards watched the tomb.

Easter Sunday- This is the day of Christ’s resurrection! Each of the gospels tells a slightly different version of what happened that morning. All of the stories agree that women went to the tomb (*John says only Mary Magdalene initially*) to prepare his body but when they arrived the giant stone had been moved and Jesus body was no longer there. In each account the women are told that Jesus is not there that he has risen. Each gospel tells of different encounters that Jesus followers have with the Risen Christ. The disciples and others to whom he appeared are astonished.

Why do we call Him, Jesus sometimes and other times Christ? Jesus is his name. Christ is a title. Christ and Messiah mean the same thing God’s “Anointed One”. Jesus was not seeking to be a political ruler or a military leader. Jesus is the Messiah who comes to heal the brokenness of our relationship with God and God’s people. The word gospel means good news. Christ is the Good News that sets people free from all that separates them from God. Christ called for the end of oppression for all people. Through the power of the resurrection, we see that death is not the end. We celebrate that Christ lives!

COMMUNITY



Hi,

Our school is still 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



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.]

Please join us for our upcoming **Community Enrichment Meeting** at St. Hubert Church Fr. Borowski Activity Center. 38775 Prentiss St., Harrison Twp., MI 48045

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 from 10am-12pm.

Speaker, **Shannon McIntosh** of the Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union.

Learn about Spotting Scams.

Free of Charge - All are welcome! Please call 586-757-5551 or email us at outreach@ivcinfo.org to RSVP.

Light Refreshments and Door prizes!

Camp Talahi Registration Open Now!



Camp Talahi has held a special place in the hearts of young people positively impacted by attending camp. This camp is connected to the Michigan Conference of the UCC. This summer there are several opportunities for youth and families at camp. There are camps for children ages kindergarten through senior high. There are camps for gender diverse youth and an opportunity for youth to serve as Counselors in training.

There is also a family camp and a young adults' camp. The 2024 summer schedule is available online at camptalahi.org and we have hard copies at the church. Camper scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance from Camp Talahi and Hope Church has some funds for campers. Every year members of the camp community donate specifically to camper scholarships to ensure that camp remains affordable and accessible to all campers.

Camp Talahi had a generous gift given to them this year to give out \$100 to each new camper to Camp Talahi. If you have a brand-new camper that has never been to camp before,

please email camptalah@gmail.com or text 406-855-4317 to get the coupon code before you register. Please contact Pastor Meg if you will be requesting financial support from Hope UCC.



Hope United Church of Christ
Synopsis of Board Meeting
February 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 was made by Linda Rehm with a second by Ida Eckert. Motion carried.

President’s Remarks: Steve – Last meeting with current Board. Thanks to Jim, Ida, Nancy & Rick for all they have done. He also mentioned that he thought the new Board should contemplate having Quarterly meetings in person for the coming year. Jim mentioned that he had told any applicants running for the new Board that the Board Meetings were all on zoom other than two during the year. This will need to be discussed with the new Board.

Approval of the January Meeting Minutes- Due to no one receiving the minutes until Wednesday, February 14th by email from Steve Nielson, approval of these minutes was done by email from each of the Board Members that attended the February 13, 2024 zoom meeting. Total approval of the January minutes was received by email from each member.

Treasurer’s Reports for January 2024 - Motion was made by Jim Wilson with a second by Linda Parsons to approve the report for January. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly offerings for January 2024 were \$2,876 less than the amount budgeted and \$3,488 less than the amount received for January 2023. There were four Sundays in 2024 and five Sundays in 2023.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$4.04 in interest to the Money Market Account.

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

- Total Expenses for January 2024 were \$2,140 less than the amount budgeted and \$363 less than the expense for January 2023. There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$3,595 in January 2024 versus a gain of \$326 in January 2023.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$15,425	\$15,425
Operating expenses	(19,020)	(19,020)
Excess of receipts over expenses		
(Expenses over receipts)	<u>(\$ 3,595)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,595)</u>

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$659 and expenses of \$172 for the month, leaving a balance of \$96,982.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in January 2024 were \$705 less than the amount budgeted and \$415 less than the amount received for January 2023. We have received Memorials of \$220 year to date.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a gain of \$2,167 in January as compared to a gain of \$14,651 for the same period in 2023.

<u>Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$ 2,505)	(\$ 2,505)
Total Cash Flow	<u>(\$ 2,019)</u>	<u>(\$ 2,019)</u>

Unfinished Business

Painting Improvements
Civil Engineering

New Business

Annual Meeting Update – Steve Nielson: Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 11:15 am in Fellowship Hall. Jim Wilson will be asked to introduce the candidates. If there are no other candidates from the floor, he suggests we approve the four candidates by acclamation. He will move in that direction with the congregation.

Human Resources Committee Update – Rick Cole: For the position of Christian Education Director, one excellent candidate has been interviewed in person. There are two more candidates that will be interviewed by phone first and then possibly in person. It is hoped to finalize someone by the 1st of March who would then start immediately. Rick anticipates a good result.

CMWC Committee Update – Rick Cole: The committee is requesting a church debit or credit card for additional purchases from Gleaners and Macomb Food Program so that members did not have to pay for additional items personally and then be reimbursed. A card would simplify things for the Committee. These additional purchases would come directly off the line item of the Food Pantry on the Financial Reports. It was decided that a debit card would be recommended since that is the type of card that has been issued to other staff of Hope Church. Rick Cole made the motion to issue a church debit card in the name of Cindy Malinowski, the head of the Committee, for additional purchases for the Food Pantry with a second by Lori Sarnowski. Motion carried.

How to be the Church Update – Pastor Meg: We are moving forward with a survey by the Congregation. It will be a multiple choice of three items with space being left for a persons own ideas. This survey will be presented at the Annual Meeting. There will be a box made available in the lobby of the church to put the Survey. There will also be the possibility of using an online Survey Monkey. Hope to have a turn-around of a couple weeks.

Lenten Season Update – Pastor Meg: Tomorrow there will be a Valentines Day Dinner and Ash Wednesday service. The dinner will start at 6:30 pm and the service will begin at around 7 pm. It will be a family friendly evening.

Starting Sunday, February 18, 2024 we will stop singing the Alleluia.

Beginning Monday evening, February 19, 2024, we will start a book series of "Short Stories of Jesus" that will run weekly on Monday evenings thru March 18, 2024. It is not a huge commitment. Books will be available this Sunday to purchase at \$10 each. The book study will be done on zoom.

Holy Week - There will be the Petting Zoo on Palm Sunday, March 24th, with breakfast and the Easter Bunny that day as well. Then there will be Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Services.

After Lent there will be another short book study during the months of April and May.

[Pastor's Report - Pastor Meg:](#)

Worship: This year Lent begins very early. The weekly worship services will reflect the season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday worship will included a dinner for Valentine's Day and a Ash Wednesday service that is geared towards people of all ages.

Pastoral Care: I continue to meet with people as needed for spiritual guidance and support. I have recently visited our members in care facilities. In March, I will take communion to home bound members. I started a grief group which will meet for the next few weeks. We are using resources from Understanding Your Grief from the Center of Loss and Life Transition.

Church Business: Calley has reached her one-year anniversary in her position as our office administrator. This month she compiled the annual church report which is a large task. There are several additional tasks related to preparing for Lent and Easter. I have been involved in screening candidates that have applied for the CEC position.

Spiritual Council: The group met with Daniel, the representative from the church directory company, to put together the new church photo directory. There is a spiritual Council report included for 2/24.

Pastor Relations: This group met in February. We will meet again this spring. The purpose of the committee is to help strength the relationship with the congregation and the pastor. The committee also serves as a sounding board for the pastor.

Christian Education: I am still preparing lesson plans and gathering supplies. Jordan and Kristin are faithful teachers. We are interviewing candidates for the CEC position. Confirmation classes have begun, and I am looking forward to guiding the girls on this journey. On Palm Sunday, 3/24 we will host the petting zoo and breakfast.

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: Rev. Dr. Diane Baker and I have agreed to co-chair the Committee on Ministry. In January, Nancy Fay and I attended the Ecclesiastical Council of Dr. Selma Massey and in February I will take part in the Ordination of Roslyn Bouier. The pandemic created delays so currently the COM is working diligently to move candidates along in their process.

Community Outreach: We continue to see visitors with some frequency. We need to find ways to make visitors feel welcome.

Christian Education: I am still preparing lesson plans and gathering supplies. Jordan and Kristin are faithful teachers. We are advertising for a new person to fill this position. Unfortunately, the person we had hired was not a good fit.

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: I have stepped down from the DMA Linking so that I can give more time to the Committee on Ministry. Rev. Dr. Diane Baker and I have agreed to co-chair this group. The work of COM is very important, as we work to ensure the health and vitality of the UCC.

Community Outreach: Both AA and PFLAG sent us Christmas greetings. The food pantry continues to be a valuable way of reaching out to our neighbors in need. The updated website allows visitors to find us and learn about our church.

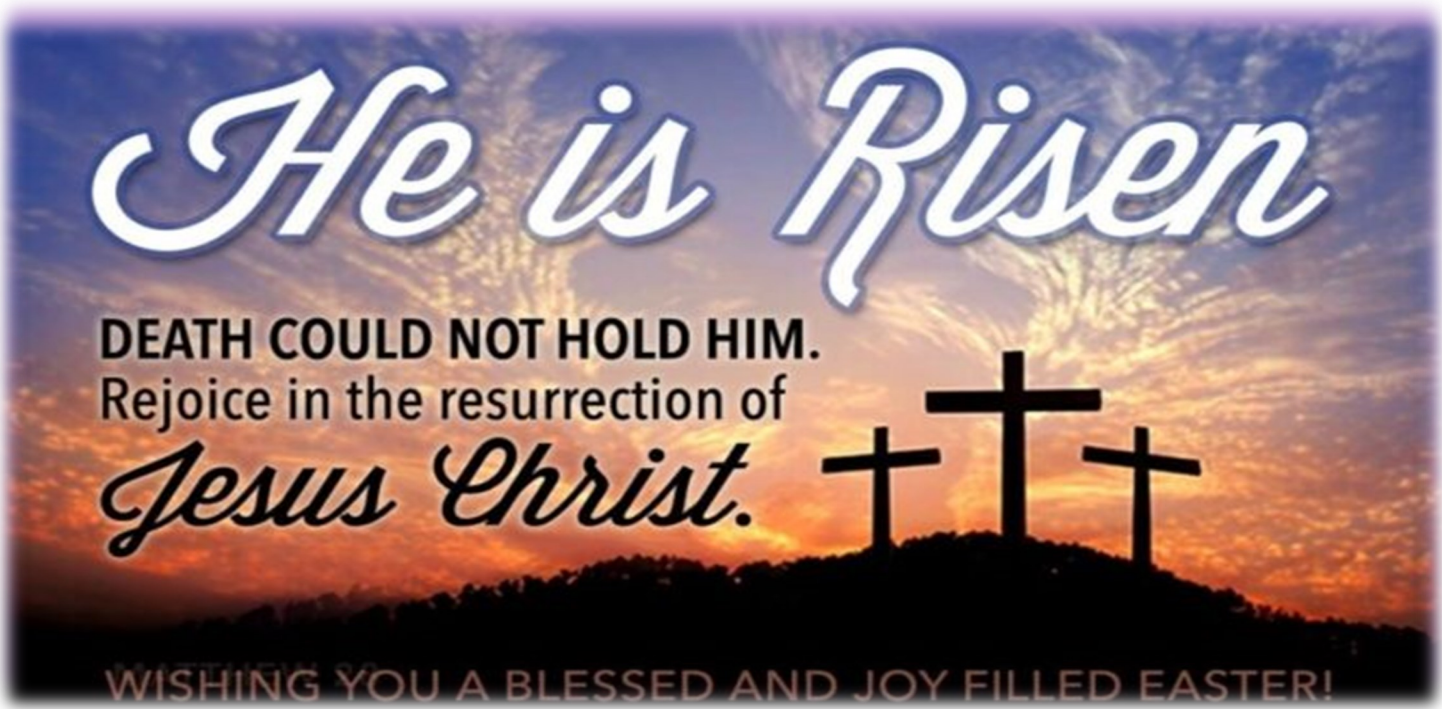
Consent Agenda Items: — Steve received reports from the Spiritual Council, Christian Mission and Witness Committee, the Technology Committee, and the Property Committee. Pastor Meg mentioned that the Spiritual Council would be getting back the draft of the church directory about March 1st. Then it would be 3 to 4 weeks for final corrections, and we should have the directory by the end of April. Motion was made by Jim Wilson with a second by Ida Eckert to accept these reports as submitted. Motion carried.

These items are not for discussion. They are for review purposes only. The Board will accept them as presented. If, however, a 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

Adjournment: Motion by Nancy Michelson with a second by Ida Eckert to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. **Motion carried.**

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer





MARCH 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 AA 7 - 8:30pm
3 Worship 10 am Holy Communion Blood Pressure Screening	4 Hope Sparkles Resumes 11am-12pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom at 7pm	5 CMWC 12:30pm AA 7 - 8pm	6 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	7 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	8	9 Food Pantry 10am - 12pm AA 7 - 8:30pm
10 Worship 10am One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering	11 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom at 7pm	12 BOTS 7pm AA 7 - 8pm	13 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	14 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	15	16 AA 7 - 8:30pm
17 Worship 10am Easter Lilies & Tulips Order Deadline <i>St. Patrick's</i>	18 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Seniors Mtg. 12pm Lenten Book Study via Zoom at 7pm	19 AA 7 - 8pm	20 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	21 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	22	23 AA 7 - 8:30pm
24 Worship 10 am Palm Sunday Breakfast/Petting Zoo/Egg Hunt	25 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	26 PFLAG 6 - 8pm	27 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	28 Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner at 6pm/7pm Worship Service Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	29 Good Friday Service 1pm 	30 AA 7 - 8:30pm
31 Coffee Hour 9am Worship 10 am 						

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: Nancy Burnham
Secretary: Linda Parsons
Treasurer: Terri Hillman

Nancy Fay
Linda Rehm
Jerry Rogers

Lori Sarnowski
Kirk Schoenherr

CHURCH STAFF

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