



The Hope Church Beacon



April 2024

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

35127 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48035

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Facebook Public Page: facebook.com/hopeuccmacomb

YouTube: Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township

WORDS OF HOPE

Is Easter more to us than beautiful worship, Easter baskets, and dinner with family? Does the promise of Easter guide us through the other 364 days of the year? Or is it lost in our rear-view mirror as we drive home after church on Easter Sunday? Doubt is a part of faith. We cannot fully comprehend, and what we don't know often causes us to hesitate.

The disciples were no different. That first Easter morning, they were in hiding, hoping the authorities would not arrest them. The women acted with courage, and they headed to the tomb to make sure Jesus was properly buried. When they encountered the empty tomb, they quickly left. All except Mary, who meets Jesus but does not recognize him at first. The women tell the men, but only two are bold enough to go to the tomb themselves. Then, over a course of hours and days, Jesus appears to his frightened and confused disciples. Even with their testimony, Thomas struggles to believe until he is face-to-face with Jesus. The disciples are overwhelmed, and they do not know how to respond. So, Jesus remained with them for 40 days before he ascended to be with God. If it was hard for those closest to Jesus to come to grips with the resurrection and its message, then I think we can take comfort when we struggle to wrap our minds around the resurrection.

The season of Lent is now over, and we are now entering the church season of Easter. Easter Sunday begins a 7-week celebration of the resurrection. We will spend the next 50 days preparing our hearts and minds focusing on the good news of God's love revealed on Easter. We are called to respond to the promise of Easter and to the resurrection by letting go of those attitudes and actions that, like the boulder at the tomb, would confine us. We are challenged to see in new ways, think in new ways, and respond in new ways. Now is the time to rejoice that hope is reborn in this season. Please join us as, together, we find the way to embrace our own new beginnings.

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Meg

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING BOOK STUDY

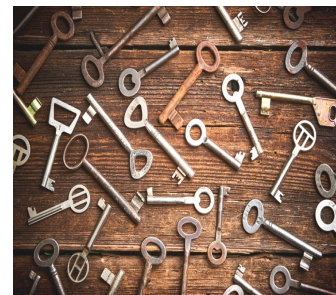
We will gather in-person and on Zoom for a 3-week Book Study. **Wednesdays, April 17th, 24th, and May 1st, at 7 p.m. via Zoom, and Thursdays, April 18th, 25th, and May 2nd, 10:30 a.m. in-person.**

We will be using the book written by Nadia Bolz-Weber, entitled Accidental Saints. Rev. Nadia uses some “colorful language” and speaks about how God uses imperfect people to share the faith! Pastor Meg will have a few copies of the book at church. You can purchase the book on Amazon or at a local bookstore. This will be a fun and faith-filled read.

SERMON SERIES


Easter Sunday is not the end of the story it is the beginning...The Easter Season is a time of celebrating all the ways in which resurrection is possible in our lives. There are times in our lives when we feel stuck. What keeps us locked up inside? What holds us back from the joy of life? What binds us, keeping us from the fullness of who God created us to be?

The ultimate message is this: no matter how broken you feel inside, or how dead your life dreams may feel, or how stuck you may feel God is making a way for you! Easter kicks off our “Resurrection Stories” series with the *Story of all Stories* and the reason why there is always hope. Can you find new life when everything feels lifeless? Can light shine in what feels like a dark tomb? Yes. Yes. Yes!



We will explore the power of Resurrection over the next few weeks in worship. Join us for powerful testimonies of courage, kindness, strength, and overcoming — Resurrection Stories — from those who have found “resurrection” in their lives. It might just inspire you to **unlock** your own rising up!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

 Do you know what this comma means? Are you interested in finding out? Have you been attending for a while, and you would like to know more about what it means to be a member? Would you like to become more involved, but you don't know where to begin? Do you have questions about what the UCC is all about? Come and join in the conversation with Pastor Meg, and then decide if it feels like a good fit and a good time for you to become a member.

Join in the conversation on Sunday, April 26th, and May 5th. We will meet in the parlor following worship. Grab some refreshments and come join us. Plan on attending both weeks if possible. Please call the church office or let Pastor Meg know if you can attend. Wherever you are on your life journey, you are welcome here!



Sing into Spring

Joyful music for spring, ranging from classical (both sacred and secular) to popular genres!

**Sunday, April 14th
3:00 PM**

**Hope United Church of Christ
35127 Garfield Rd.
Clinton Twp.**

The concert is free and all are welcome

The Motor City Chorale is a 501.c.3 charitable organization and a Michigan Nonprofit. For more information, please visit our website (motorcitychorale.com) or scan the QR code.



SCAN ME

THANK YOU!

Thank you in advance to all who have joined together to help with all the Holy Week worship services and special events. From breakfast to balloons, bunnies, and donkeys, choirs, and scripture. From somber reflections to joyous celebrations, it takes many people working together to make this a truly meaningful season. After Easter, we will share a summary of all the events that have helped make this Lent and Easter a season of hope! Thank you to all who have shared their time and talents.

HAPPENINGS DURING LENT!

Palm Sunday 2024



Guest Speaker



Ashley Lewis is a Member in Discernment for the UCC.

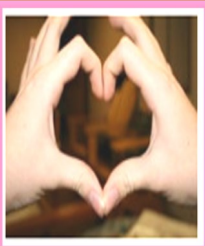


HAPPENINGS DURING LENT! (cont.)

Palm Sunday 2024



SAVE THE DATE!!!



Camp Caring is our one Day Mission and Fun Camp for children ages 4 thru 5th grade. We can use older youth to serve as helpers. This Day Camp has been popular with our kids and their friends. It is also a good way to get your grandchildren involved without having to make a huge time commitment. We do mission projects in the morning and add in recreation in the afternoon. The time is from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This summer's dates are Wednesday, July 24th,
and Tuesday, August 13th.

HOPE CHURCH INFO

We Are the Church!



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

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

We are the church together!

HEARING ASSISTANCE NOW OFFERED AT HOPE UCC

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

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



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



*** Blood Pressure Screening ***

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

All info is kept confidential.



Coffee Hour

Looking forward for volunteers to assist with coffee hour set up and clean up for April, May, and June. 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 March 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.

- ⇒ April 7 - Daisy Katz, Jane White, & Denise Barc
- ⇒ April 14 - Chrissy Lusk, Carissa Biskner, & Janet Brown
- ⇒ April 21 - Help Needed!
- ⇒ April 28 - Help Needed!

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





Monthly Report From HOPE Food Pantry...

On March 9, 2024, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 340 individuals, which includes 121 families. We distributed 9,894 pounds of food, and cleaning supplies.

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
Keith Bynes
Rick Cole
Nancy Fay
Pam Flaherty
Jonathan Gartin
Denise & Jennifer Geml
Austin Gill
The Hazelton Family
Fran Hollins
Chris House
Kent House
Noel Karrer

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

Susan Rogers
Lori Sarnowski
Bernie Smith
Pam Steffens
John Tacconelli
Kim Walker
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, April 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.

April Item donations are for 2 IN 1 SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER.

Thank you for always remembering the Hope Food Pantry!

Our continued success is because of you...



Trees

By JOYCE KILMER

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.



The above poem, in addition to being beautiful, is my introduction to my guest speaker from Davey Tree. He is Christian Mortimer, an arborist who is full of tree knowledge. We will meet him on April 21st, after service.

Our CMWC members hope to see you there. I hear there will be gifts available to our attendees.

Best Regards,
Karen Miller

Earth Day Facts



It was 53 years ago on April 22, 1970 that we first started hearing about Earth Day.

Gaylord Nelson organized a “teach in” on college campuses.

A weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams was chosen to maximize the greatest participation of students.

Because of the Earth Day push Congress passed the nations Environmental Laws which includes National Environmental Education Act, Occupational Safety & Health Act, Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

In 1990 Earth Day went global. Mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries to bring the fight for the environment.

In 2020 Earth Day marked 50 years of environmental activism. Despite taking place during a pandemic Earth Day included more than 100 million people across 192 countries.

How has Earth Day changed you?

New Species Found in Deep-Sea Mining Zone



Biologists have discovered more than 5,000 new species of marine life in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone (CCZ), an untouched seabed in the Pacific Ocean spanning nearly 2 million square miles between Hawaii and Mexico. Remarkably, approximately 90 percent of the species are entirely new to science. In a paper published in the journal *Current Biology*, scientists provided the first list of CCZ species, although most of them have not yet been named or described. The checklist focuses on multicellular animals dwelling on the ocean floor.

This research is crucial for assessing the potential consequences of deep-sea mining in the CCZ. The seafloor is rich with cobalt, manganese, nickel, copper and zinc-minerals that are critical for renewable energy technologies. Already, 31 exploration contracts have been awarded to several mining companies. Excavation in the CCZ has not yet begun, and scientists, activists and governments have urged caution until researchers are able to evaluate and better understand the impact that mining would have on this unique marine ecosystem.

www.michiganhealthyliving.com

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!

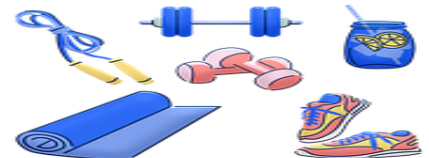
This is an ongoing class: Every Monday from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and every Wednesday from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Our instructor, Linda Hohf from the Arthritis Foundation, is very knowledgeable of our joint and muscle pain and plans our exercise programs accordingly.

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!



Linda Hohf and Marge Lentz



GROUPS AND MEETINGS (cont.)

Senior Fellowship



We had a good time at our meeting on March 19th. Even though it was a cold day with snow flurries, it was warm in our fellowship hall. We began with a prayer by Nancy Fay, remembering those who are ill: Jean Frank, Linda Smith, and Ken and Su Hess. Also, we gave thanks for the food that we received.

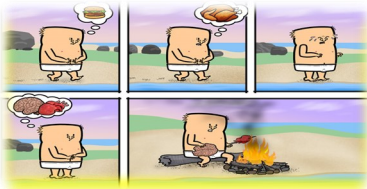
For lunch last month, we had Jet's pizza. We also had salad, desserts, and snacks. After lunch, we had a meeting; we sang "God Bless America", and then we said the Pledge of Allegiance. Joe Holland read the minutes and treasurer's report from the February meeting. We decided that for our lunch next month, we will have food from El Charro's.

We enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, dominos, and cards.

We are looking for new members. If you are a senior, we hope you will join us on April 15 at 12:00 p.m. We are offering a "free lunch" to anyone who comes for the first time. So, if you like Mexican food, a chance to visit with friends, and to make new friends, we invite you for a "Free Lunch!"

To All Who Plan on Attending, please let one of the officers know.

Blessings to all, Ida Eckert



**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 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
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

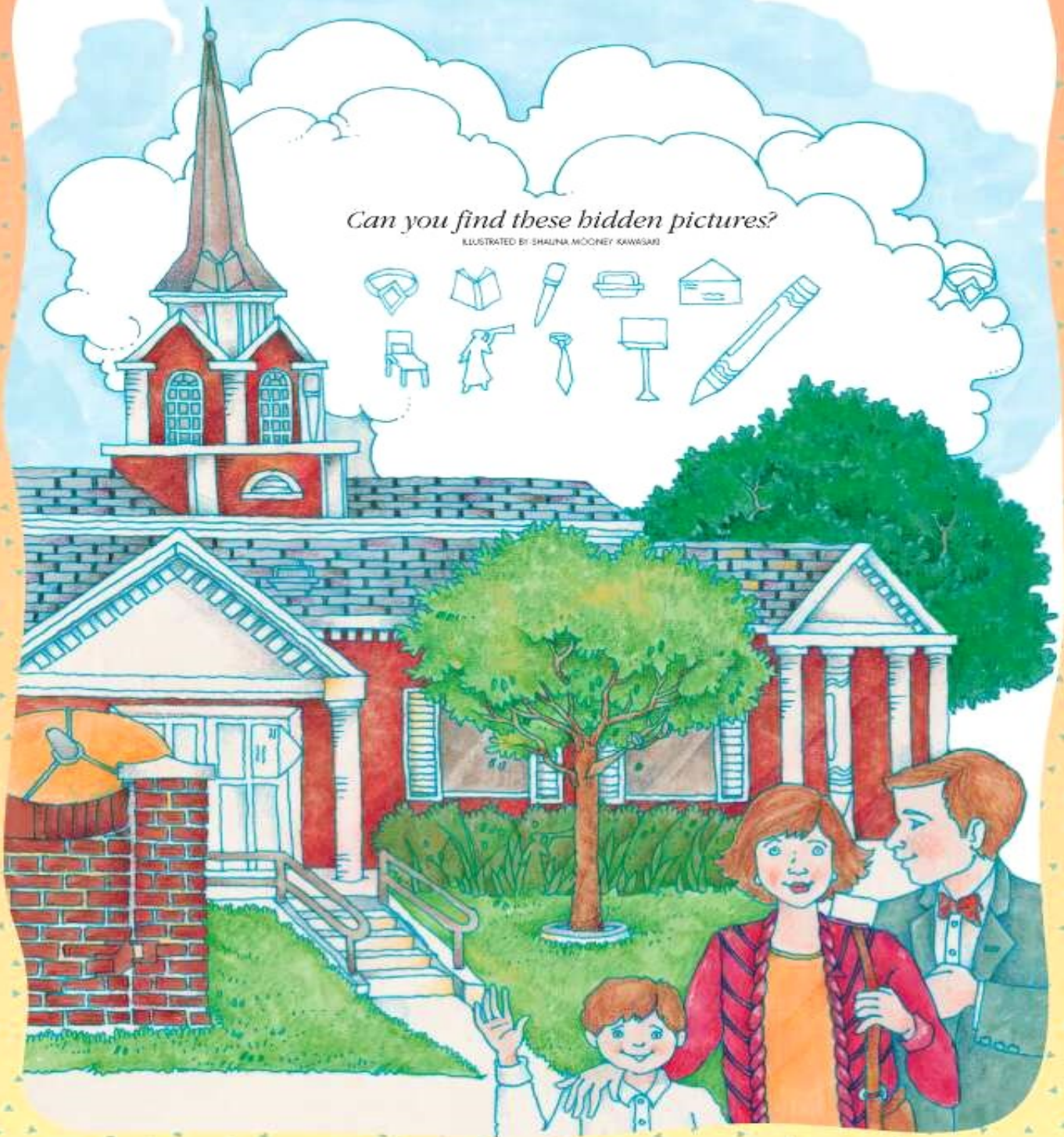
**More than ever, we need to work together
to help HOPE CHURCH thrive!**

FAMILY PAGE

Search with Love!

Can you find these hidden pictures?

ILLUSTRATED BY SHALINA MOONEY KAWASAKI



COMMUNITY

Lorenzo Cultural Center presents **Freedom Confirmed**, a program series focused on the Lincoln presidency, Feb. 12 – April 27

Wednesday, February 07, 2024 10:00 AM



Freedom Confirmed at the Lorenzo Cultural Center

Lorenzo Cultural Center presents Freedom Confirmed, a program series focused on the Lincoln presidency, Feb. 12 – April 27

Series includes special one-day exhibit from the True Black History Museum

The Lorenzo Cultural Center, located on Macomb Community College's Center Campus, presents **Freedom Confirmed**, a program series focused on Abraham Lincoln's role in the Civil War and key events that shaped American democracy and freedoms, **Feb. 12 through April 27**. Presented in partnership with the Detroit Historical Society, the program series includes exhibits, artifacts and more than 20 presentations to inspire and educate visitors. A special one-day travelling collection from the True Black History Museum will be presented on Feb. 24.

"Freedom Confirmed focuses on a critical period of American history that shines a light on issues that are still important today" said William Wood, director of cultural affairs and community engagement, Macomb Community College.



Phone: (586) 757-5551

25650 Kelly Rd., Roseville, MI 48066

USE YOUR PRACTICAL SKILLS TO HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED!
Volunteers are greatly needed to help frail, older and disabled adults in our community with:

***MINOR HOME REPAIRS
INDOOR / OUTDOOR
CHORES & BASIC
HOUSEKEEPING***

For a frail older adult or a person with disabilities, simple tasks like dusting & vacuuming, changing light bulbs or raking leaves can be impossible. Many minor home repairs are often well beyond their abilities, and far too expensive for them to purchase professionally. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program helps our older and disabled neighbors with such tasks so they can remain safe and independent in their own homes. If you can help weekly, monthly or even just a couple times a year, please call us today. The time you give will make a real difference in someone's life.

Call (586) 757-5551.

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

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.





Lilies/Tulips

In Honor of

In Memory of

The Townsend Family/Sara & Marc Columbo/Lori Steffens & David Durneg/Eleanor Gurich - from Pamela Steffens.

My dear Hope Church Swifties, "Charlie, My Love." - from Susan Nurmi.

The Hope Church Family - from Pastor Meg.

Christian, Balian, & Gabriel Legoas - from grandma Meg.

Georgia Betts Shaver - from Sharon Betts.



Alger & Helen Steffens/Thomas Steffens/Ann, Al, & Anthony Stieber - from Pamela Steffens.

George & Eileen McCuen/Harold & Marge Badger/Don & Karen Watson - from Larry McCuen.

Husband, David Parson's - from Linda Parsons.

Bertha & Fred Kansier - from Shirley Kirby.

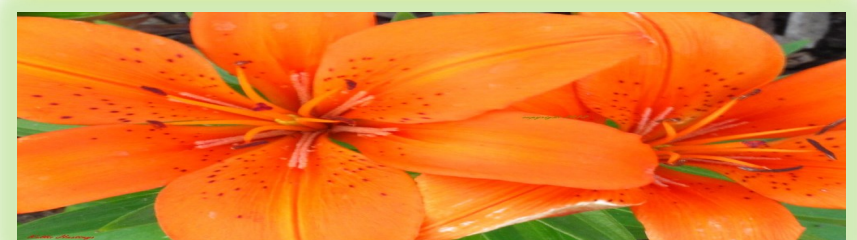
Leo Lasecki, Emma & Anton Ricardi, Don Ricardi, Alma Goll, & Kaye Smith - from Donna Lasecki.

Judy Cole & Ruth Anderson - from Joe Holland.

Glenn Troutman - from Carol Troutman.

Clara & Otto Heussner - from The Eckert Family.

James Taillie, & Sue Robinson - from Pastor Meg.



Hope United Church of Christ
Synopsis of Board Meeting
March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Pastor Meg led us in prayer.

Those in attendance: Steve Nielson, Terri Hillman, Kirk Schoenherr, Lori Sarnowski, Nancy Burnham, Linda Parsons, Linda Rehm, Jerry Rogers, and Nancy Fay (she could hear only due to technical issues with her access to the meeting).

Congregational Comments: Steve – None

Additions to the Agenda: Steve – None

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Nancy Burnham with a second by Linda Rehm. Motion carried.

President's Remarks: Steve Nielson – I would like to start off by welcoming Nancy Burnham, Kirk Schoenherr, Nancy Fay and officially Terri Hillman. Look forward to working with them in our new Board of Trustees.

The Motor City Chorale is coming in April to Hope Church. Spread the word. The date is Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 pm. The Welcoming Committee will do an After Glow.

Approval of the February Meeting Minutes- Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Nancy Burnham. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Reports for February 2024 - Motion was made by Linda Parsons with a second by Kirk Schoenherr to approve the report for February. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly offerings for February 2024 were \$2,134 more than the amount budgeted and \$4,759 more than the amount received for February 2023. There were four Sundays in both years. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$742 less than the amount budgeted but \$1,270 (\$141 per week) more than the same period in 2023. We also received Special Offerings in the amount of \$205 for Energy and \$340 for Our Church's Wider Mission.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$3.55 in interest to the Money Market Account.
- Year to date Operating Income is \$1,023 less than the amount budgeted but \$812 more than 2023.

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

- Total Expenses for February 2024 were \$1,145 more than the amount budgeted and \$5,004 more than the Expenses for February 2023. The variance in Expense year over year is mainly driven by a large increase in Grounds Upkeep related to salt and snow removal, an increase in electricity cost, and the presence of an administrative assistant in full capacity in February of 2024. Year to date Expenses were \$995 less than budgeted but \$7,640 more than the same period in 2023.
- There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$1,757 in February 2024 versus a loss of \$1,850 in February 2023.

• SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$19,069	\$34,493
Operating expenses	<u>(20,826)</u>	<u>(39,845)</u>
Excess of receipts over expenses		
(Expenses over receipts)	<u>(\$ 1,757)</u>	<u>(\$ 5,352)</u>

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$730 and expenses of \$1,767 for the month, leaving a balance of \$95,944.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in February 2024 were \$615 less than the amount budgeted and \$400 less than the amount received for February 2023. We have received Memorials of \$710 year to date.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a gain of \$9,178 in February as compared to a loss of \$6,514 for the same period in 2023. Year to date 2024 the Securities account has a gain of \$11,345 versus a gain of \$8,137 for the 2023

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$ 307)	(\$ 2,812)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	(1,038)	(551)
Total Cash Flow	<u>(\$ 1,345)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,363)</u>

New Business

Hot Water Review – Steve Nielson: After it was brought to Board’s attention that the water in restrooms was not hot, Steve approached Norm Nenninger. He jumped into task to rectify the situation. He had not been using the recirculating pump as it would be running constantly. He has now turned on the recirculating pump and also opened the mixing valve on each sink which are adjustable to prevent scalding. Norm recommends we purchase a timer at the cost of \$30 to \$50 to connect to the recirculating pump so it would not have to be on continuously.

Board Representative for Welcome Committee – Steve Nielson: Last year Ida Eckert was Board Rep with Nancy Burnham and Cindy Johnson. Jane White has volunteered to be on Committee and Jan Nenninger will be asked. We will approach individuals in church to chair specific functions. Only May and August need monthly functions. April has the Motor City Chorale, June has Jimmy John’s baseball, July has hot dog bar-be-que, September has church picnic, October has Trunk or Treat and November has Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner. Nancy Burnham volunteered to be Board Representative.

Review or Preview of Holy Week – Pastor Meg The Lenten book study continues on Monday evenings thru April 1, 2024. The book study is being done on zoom.

Palm Sunday – Worship Service, Palms, Petting Zoo including a donkey, Easter Bunny, Egg Hunt, and Breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

Maundy Thursday - Soup and bread meal at 6:00 pm. Hands on Service at 7:00 pm. Kyle McKuen will help hang fabric on cross.

Good Friday – Service at 1:00 pm with Rev Pat Thompson as well as Pastor Meg officiating.

Saturday prior to Easter Sunday – Balloons being delivered, and church set up at 1:00 pm.

Easter Sunday – March 31st – Coffee Hour at 9 am of Donuts, bagels, juice, and coffee.

Pastor’s Report:

Worship: We are right in the middle of Lent. This year’s Ash Wednesday worship included a dinner for Valentine’s Day that was geared for all ages. Deborah has helped us add some more contemporary music to worship. We hosted Ashley Lewis, a Member in Discernment on 3/10 and g- 1ave her the opportunity to preach. Our Holy Week worship will be similar to previous years.

Pastoral Care: We have a grief group that is meeting regularly for the next few weeks. I meet with individuals in need of support during difficult times.

Church Business: We published the annual report and submitted all the required data for the Conference and National offices of the UCC. I have interviewed 1 candidate, and the HR Committee interviewed an excellent candidate. After Easter we hope to extend a job offer to one of the candidates.

Spiritual Council: We are waiting for the proof book from the church directory company. I plan on offering a new member class in late April. The Lenten Book Study is meeting weekly on zoom. We are studying the parables of Jesus. I also hope to offer a spring book study in April based on the book Accidental Saints by Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber. This study will be offered both in person and via zoom on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

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

Christian Education: 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 co-chair the Committee on Ministry. In February I participated in the Ordination of Roslyn Bouier. I also coordinated the Ecclesiastical Council for Anthony Carter of Shrine of the Black Madonna/ UCC. The ordination of Dr. Selma Massey is scheduled for May 19th at GPCC.

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

Additional Information - Pastor Meg: Pastor Meg also said a Thank You to all for being on the Board of Trustees. The prior Board tended to be a very quiet Board. She wants to encourage us to all speak up and give input. Make our voices heard. Commit to participation. She wants a little more feed-back this year.

After Easter the position of Christian Education Director is hoped to be filled.

Pastor Meg also would like to see two additional members added to the Spiritual Council Committee. Currently there are five members and could have up to nine members. They meet once a month generally in the daytime. This Committee gives input to worship, music committee, Maundy Thursday meal, hands-on-tasks, help membership and do things that benefit the worship services and the membership.

Also, according to our Bi-Laws, we need to have a Christian Education Committee and should have at least four members. We need to get this Committee back into operation now that the acute Covid crisis is over. Pastor Meg would meet with them.

Be the Church Surveys will be reviewed and update to come.

Consent Agenda Items – Steve received reports from the Technology Committee and the Property Committee. Motion was made by Terri Hillman with a second by Lori Sarnowski 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.

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

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

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.



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

APRIL 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	2 AA 7 - 8pm	3 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	4 Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	5	6 AA 7 - 8:30pm
7 Worship 10 am Holy Communion Blood Pressure Screening	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 Mackey's Memorial Services AA 7 - 8:30pm
14 Worship 10am Motor City Chorale 3pm	15 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Seniors Mtg. 12pm	16 AA 7 - 8pm	17 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Spring Book Study 7pm via Zoom	18 Spring Book Study 10:30am in-person Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	19	20 AA 7 - 8:30pm
21 Worship 10am Davey Tree Presentation During Coffee Hour	22 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Earth Day 	23 Grief Group Wrap-Up 10:30am AA 7 - 8pm	24 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Spring Book Study 7pm via Zoom	25 Spring Book Study 10:30am in-person Bells 6pm Choir 7:30pm	26	27 AA 7 - 8:30pm
28 Worship 10 am	29 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	30 PFLAG 6 - 8pm AA 7 - 8pm				

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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