

August 2024

THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON



HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Words of Hope

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matthew 7: 14, 16).

Fireflies, also known as lightning bugs, are in the family of winged beetles and are known for their use of bioluminescence to attract mates or prey. August evenings in Michigan are lit up with the dance of the firefly!

Since their lights are easily observed after dark when I was little, my friends and I spent many evenings running through the yard scooping up these tiny creatures. We then placed them in our ready-made mason jars, complete with a few holes in the lid and grass inside. I would place the jar in my bedroom and pretend it was a nightlight. But if the firefly was not released shortly, they and their light would die.

All types of light have a purpose. Historically fireplaces provided light, heat, and a place for cooking, oil lamps illuminated dark rooms for reading, streetlights gave light for travelers, and finally electricity made it possible for light to appear with the flip of a switch.

Fireflies have a purpose for lighting up, and according to Jesus so do we. Hypocrisy (pretending to be something I am not) and legalism (paying more attention to the letter of the law than the spirit), and unhealthy choices will dim my light. Loving everyone unconditionally, accepting others and being hospitable allows our light to radiate a warm glow. When it does, others will be attracted to the Christ we serve.

Unfortunately, not everyone will be drawn to our lights even when we let them shine effectively. We are not responsible for others' response; we only can control our own light. So, let God fuel your light so it shines vibrantly! When you see the dance of the firefly let it serve as a prayer reminding you to act in a way that allows others to see your light and perhaps, they will praise God too!

Blessings of Light,
Pastor Meg



CHURCH NEWS

Gather for Grub, Gratitude and Games

We are excited to invite you and your friends and neighbors to come to

**Hope United Church of Christ
on Wednesday evenings
from 6-8:30PM**

For an AuGust Event:

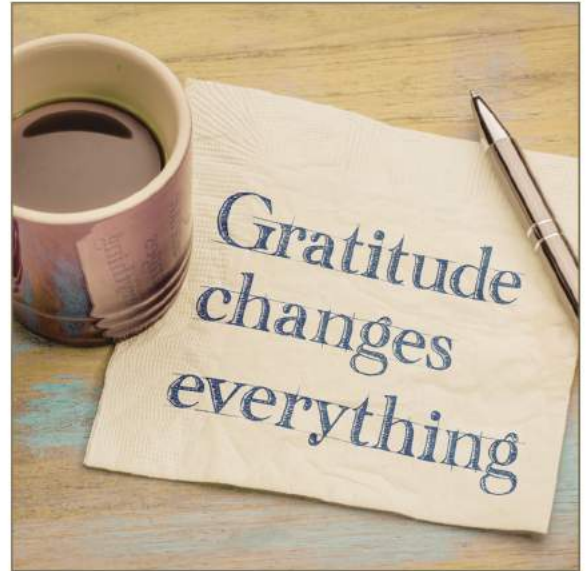
We are putting the emphasis on the G in AuGust.



This gathering is open to all in our community. We would ask that all church members planning to attend sign up in the lobby so we can begin to have a head count. If you are not a church member please call (586)-296-8760 to save your seat.

**There is nothing to bring
and no cost at all.**

Help us spread the word!



We will **G**ather for **G**rub,
Gratitude and **G**ames!
**August 7th, 14th,
21st, & 28th.**

Please join us for a summertime supper, a time to share what we are grateful for and a chance to play games. We would like people of all ages to join, so grab your group & gather with us.



HOPE CHURCH INFORMATION

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 is 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.

CHURCH NEWS

Worship and Church Picnic on September 15th

Come join us for lively worship including blessing of the backpacks for students and teachers and stay for the church picnic. We will picnic at the church rain or shine! The church will provide the main course and members can sign up to bring side dishes and desserts.



FUN: Bounce house and slide and picnic with outdoor games for all ages!



Blessing of the Backpacks- September 15th

Hope Church wants to encourage our students and teachers to have a great school year.



We want to send you into the new year with lots of prayers and blessings. Invite your friends and all the teachers you know to church on Sunday, September 15th for a backpack and briefcase blessing during worship. Bring your backpack and get a tag. The tag will remind you that God is with you throughout the day and the entire school year.

Handbell and Choir Rehearsals

Resume on Thursday September 5th

See Deborah for Details



Summer Reading Log

Please remember to return your summer reading log at the end of August. Your completed reading sheet will earn you a cool reward.



COFFEE HOUR



Join us for a new summer tradition: DIY Coffee Hour!

We are seeking volunteers to set out the coffee and refreshments each week for this fellowship opportunity. Whether you're a pro or just love coffee, you are welcome to volunteer. Let's gather, connect, and let the Holy Spirit work through us all as we sip our coffee. See you there!

If you are interested in volunteering, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex for details and openings.

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

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

Has Your Address Changed?

Has Your Phone # Changed?

Please contact the church office at

586-296-8760

or email us at hopeucc4@gmail.com

if you have updates regarding

your address or phone number



Camp Caring's July 2024 session was a day dedicated to making a difference in the community through heartfelt projects. On July 24th, campers came together to create items aimed at bringing comfort and joy to those in need.

They crafted special tissue box covers for hospital and rehab center patients visited by Pastor Meg, aiming to brighten their days with reminders of community support during recovery. Color-your-own puzzles were decorated with care for children at the local hospital, offering them a comforting distraction during their stay. Additionally, decorated placemats were prepared for residents in community apartments, intended to bring smiles during birthday celebrations. Camp Caring also assembled birthday kits for families facing financial challenges, ensuring every child can enjoy a special celebration despite hardships. Next was a visit to Pineridge Retirement Community, where our campers brought smiles to the residents. This intergenerational fellowship warmed everyone's hearts.

After eating a delicious pizza lunch, we wrapped up our day with thrilling adventures at Top Flight Trampoline Park, where laughter and excitement filled the air.

We're grateful to everyone who made this day possible. Together, we're building a community where caring and compassion thrive. Stay tuned next month for more updates on Camp Caring.

Our final gathering is on Thursday, August 15th—don't miss out!



UPCOMING EVENTS



HOPE CHURCH 2024 CAMP CARING

Serving others day camp

Thursday August 15

Ages 4- 12 years

(For younger kids, there is a half-day option.)

9:30am - Registration

Faith time/Service projects

Lunch Field Trip to deliver service projects - drivers needed

Fun: games and fun activity at outside location—details pending

Faith: Bible story & worship

Serving: making projects and delivering them .

No cost! Bring a friend. Sign up is needed.

Registration form must be completed for each participant

Sneakers (not sandals or crocs)

Parent drivers needed for field trip time and will need to have an up-to-date Hope Church volunteer form.

Questions: Call Hope United Church of Christ

586-296-8760 hopeucc4@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



Hope United Church of Christ

Invites you to join us for

2024 CAMP CARING

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday August 15

Drop off at Hope Church. Pick up at Fun Activity (details pending).

There is no cost for this day of camp.

Please bring your friends.

Registration by August 4

Lunch and snacks provided.

Ages: 4 – 12 years; ½ day option for younger children ~

Volunteers Needed (must have updated form).

HOPE United Church of Christ-

35127 Garfield Rd., Clinton Twp., MI, 48035

Please direct questions to: Hope Church 586-269-8760 or hopeucc4@gmail.com

Dates attending: August 15th

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone No. _____

e-mail. _____

Child(ren) Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade Entering in Fall: _____

Please list any special needs/allergies (foods) any of your children have; include child's name: _____

In case we cannot reach the adult listed above in an Emergency, please contact:

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Enrollment by availability.

BE THE CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS

During the spring the church participated a survey based on the United Church of Christ statement about how to Be the Church. We were looking for input about new ways to empower our members to actively be the church. The Board of Trustees is committed to finding ways to live out this mission. We are beginning with our community meals on Wednesdays in August. We wanted to share the most popular responses from the congregation.

For each survey topic the responses are listed in order starting with the most popular responses. Any comments that were given are listed as well.

1. Reject Racism

- Invite Guest speakers to share their experiences and perspectives
- Develop a relationship with an UCC African American Church
- Organize workshops and discussions around race issues within the congregation



2. Protect the Environment

- Organize community clean-up events in local parks and waterways (wear vest/shirts saying Hope Church)
- Implement sustainable practices within the church, such as recycling programs and energy-efficient lighting (maps to recycle centers/plant bee/butterfly garden)
- Advocate for environmental policies at the local and nations levels, engage in letter writing campaigns and rallies



3. Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources

- Explore creating a community garden
- Host community meals to benefit those who need food and socialization opportunities
- Provide support and resources for mental health and respite care for caregivers



4. Embrace Diversity

- Participate in local interfaith events
- Explore becoming an official Open and Affirming congregation
- Host cultural events and celebrations to honor the diversity within our congregation and community



BE THE CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS

5. Fight for the Powerless

- Provide programs/tutoring for children and youth in need
- Explore ways to support victims of domestic violence (McCrest/Turning point/Compassionate pregnancy)
- Explore participating in a prison/halfway house ministry (Donations/Financial contributions)



6. Care for the poor

- Collect items needed for families in crisis (Host Baby Shower)
- Learn about local issues like water shut offs or housing needs and local residents are impacted (Grants/FEMA; partner with another organization)
- Participate with another church in hosting a refugee family in relocating to our area

7. Forgive Often

- Organize community discussions and worship services around themes of forgiveness and restoration
- Offer support group for those struggling with the issue of forgiveness and past abuse/trauma
- Host book study and workshop around the issues of forgiveness



8. Love God

- Explore different forms of worship and spiritual expression to connect with God
- Offer retreats or special events to deepen understanding and faith (men's/women's encounter; bible study; Christian music service)
- Deepen spiritual practices within congregation by exploring different ways to pray



9. Enjoy this Life

- Create opportunities for members to share their hobbies and interests that bring them joy (Men's group; hobbies, build camaraderie)
- Organize social events and outings to build community and connection (Food trucks; Ice Cream socials)
- Organize physical fitness opportunities and health challenges to promote wellness



HOPE FOOD PANTRY

On July 13th, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 362 individuals, which includes 116 families. We distributed 9484 lbs. of food, cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

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.

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

**Saturday, August 10th
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.

**August Item donations are focused on
Toilet Paper**

Thank you for always remembering the Hope Food Pantry!

Our continued success is because of you!

We welcome all donations for the Food pantry!

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS



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 haven't signed up, please consider doing so.

HOT DOG PICNIC

Summertime fun with friends!

Following Sunday worship, we will skip coffee hour and instead have a hotdog picnic. We will have meat and veggie dogs, chips, drinks and ice-cream treats. The July hotdog picnic was sponsored by your Board of Trustees and was such fun! The August picnic will be hosted by the Christian-Mission and Witness Committee.

Come join us for worship and stay for a hotdog on August 18th.



GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Senior Fellowship

In July the seniors took a field trip to Stonefield Apartments. The complex caters to senior assisted living. We toured single bedroom and double bedroom units. Also there are lounges, theater, and exercise rooms on the floors. The floor plans are available for viewing on Stonefield's website.

Eleven of us enjoyed lunch at Stonefield's dining room. Lunch consisted of tuna croissant, macaroni salad, fruit bowl and cake. After lunch we toured the ADA accessible apartment then returned to the lunch hall to talk about what we experienced.

A special thanks to Ida for organizing the outing.

Remember the Seniors meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. If your looking for an activity and good company come join us next month.

Officers: Tom R, President; Ida E, Vice-President; Joe H, Secretary-Treasurer

HOPE SPARKLES EXCERCISE CLASS

This class offers a holistic approach to fitness, integrating stretching routines, balance enhancement exercises, and gentle cardiovascular workouts. We utilize 2-pound weights, supplied by the church, to engage in strength-building exercises. For flexibility training, we utilize therapy bands, provided by our instructor.

The cumulative outcome of these sessions is a significant improvement in overall health and well-being.

Scheduled regularly, the class meets every Monday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. our instructor is from the Arthritis Foundation, and demonstrates an exceptional understanding of our joint and muscle needs, tailoring our workouts to address them effectively.

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!

The cost is \$1 per person, per class.



COMMUNITY



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.

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



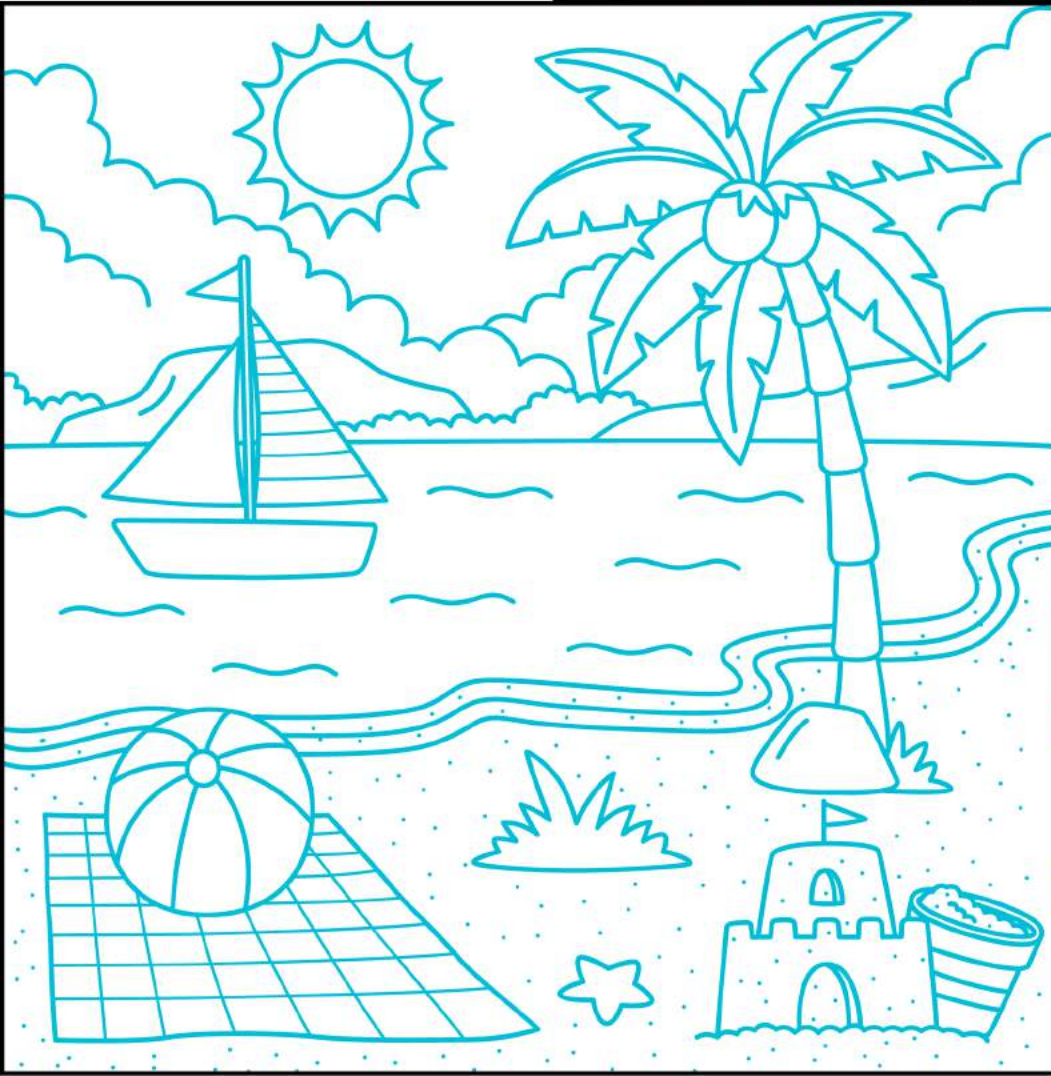
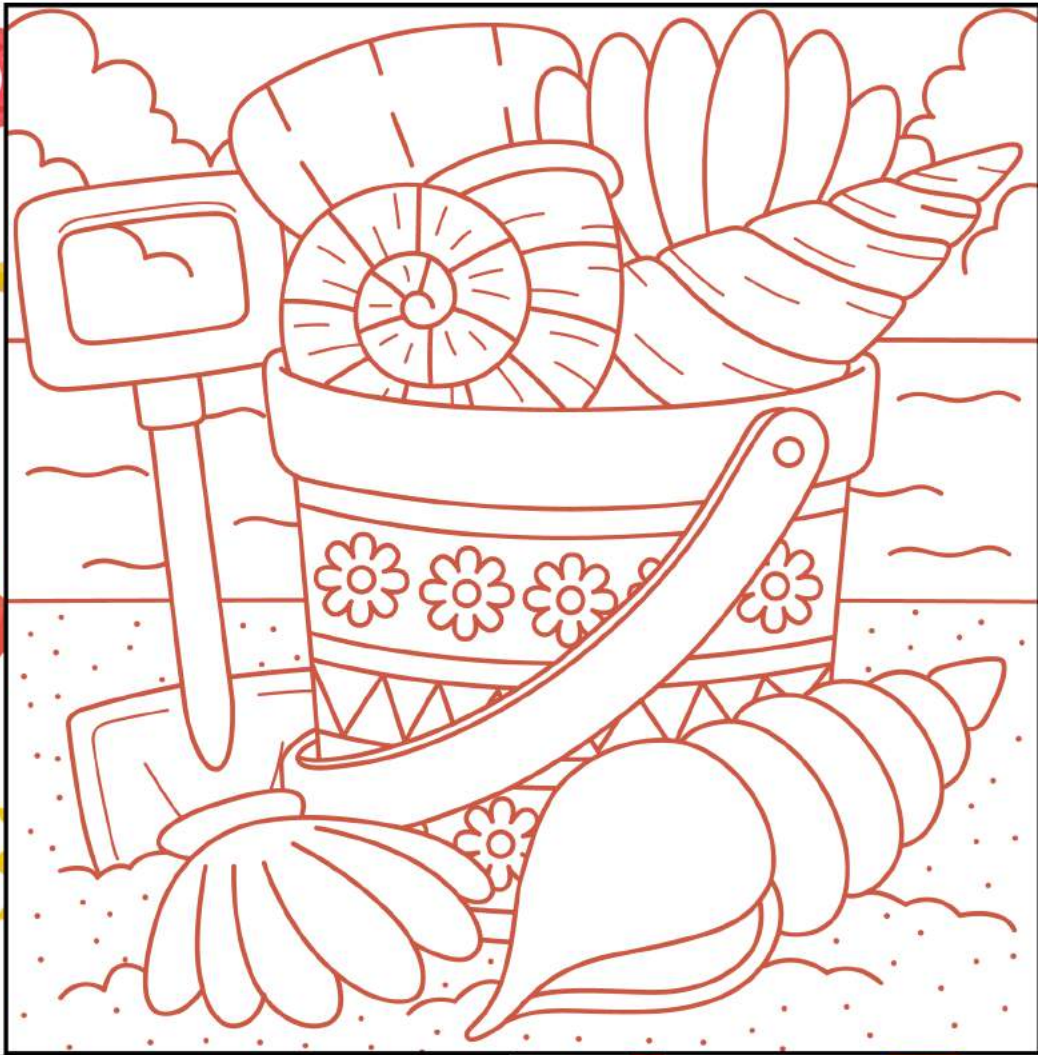
Reach Out in Faith



HAVE CAR, WILL TRAVEL? VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!
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.]
25650 Kelly Rd., Roseville, MI 48066

Save the Date! Our 22nd Annual IVC Golf Outing will be held this year on Friday, September, 27th at Cracklewood Golf Club in Macomb Township, MI! We are looking for golfers, sponsors, volunteers, donations and more for this wonderful event! Interested in more information or would like to register to participate, sponsor, volunteer, or donate items? Give our office a call!



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

HOPE CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Ken & Su
Lori & Al
Larry
Jerry & Shannon
Polzin Family
Flaherty Family
John
Elaine
Carrow Family
Joyce
Audrey

Our congregation knows that prayer is our tool for connecting to God. Together, we pray in worship, and we pray at home. **You may contact the church office to remove or add a name.** We also have a prayer sculpture in the church lobby, and you are welcome to write a prayer request and hang it on the sculpture. When we lift our concerns in prayer, we will surely know the presence of the Lord.

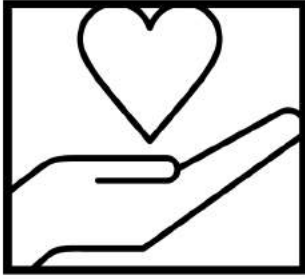
Please remember those on our Prayer List ... With a phone call, card, or note, and keep them in your Thoughts & Prayers.

God Bless!

We offer a special prayer for those who keep their concerns and needs to themselves, hoping that everyone finds the strength, courage, and patience to navigate their personal challenges.



HOPE GIVING



Several ways to support the church financially are available, and your contribution is vital for promoting the Church's ongoing ministries.

To give Online: Visit the Hope UCC Website
WWW.HOPEUCCMI.COM

Select the "GIVE A GIFT" tab and then "GIVE A GIFT HERE"

To give from your 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.)

To give In-Person: We have a donation box in the sanctuary.

You can mail your gift to the church office.

You can also drop it off from 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m. M - F



Your Giving Statement will reflect the total donation.



Six Month Financial Summary

A summary of the 2024 financial results for January through June follows:

	Operating Fund	Building Fund
Income:		
Regular Offerings	\$102,350	\$ 8,574
Special Offerings	5,147	4,685
Church Life Activities	2,806	
Other Receipts/Investment Account	<u>1,866</u>	<u>26,624</u>
Total Income	<u>\$112,169</u>	<u>\$ 39,883</u>
Expenses:		
Mission and Witness Council	\$ 3,612	
Spiritual Council	3,711	
Christian Education Council	1,048	
Church Life	2,835	
Pastoral Services – Wilson	40,376	
Church Staff	28,049	
Church Property	25,979	
Technology	390	
Insurance	5,943	
Public Relations	210	
Administration and Other	8,484	
Equipment Acquisitions	0	
Contingency Funds	0	
Garfield Building Costs		<u>2,870</u>
Total Expenses	<u>120,637</u>	<u>2,870</u>
Net Income (Loss)*	<u>(\$ 8,468)</u>	<u>\$ 37,013</u>

The Operating Fund had a loss of \$8,468 for the first six months of 2024. This compares to a loss of \$14,485 for the first six months of 2023. Total Operating Income of \$112,169 was \$2,009 more than the same period last year. Total Operating Fund Expenses of \$120,637 (adjusted for interfund transfer) were \$4,009 less than the same period last year.

Operating Fund Regular Offerings of \$102,350 were \$841 (\$28 per week) more than the same period of last year. In the first six months of 2024, we also received Special Offerings of \$1,732 for Easter, \$10 for Christmas, \$1,425 for Energy, \$630 for Church Growth and \$115 in Other Offerings. Mission Offerings for the period included OCWM - \$490, One Great Hour of Sharing - \$735, and Christmas Fund - \$10.

In the first quarter of 2024, the Building Fund had total Income (adjusted for interfund transfer) of \$39,883. Hope for the Future (Regular) Offerings of \$8,574 were \$99 more than the amount received for the same period last year. 2024 Special Offerings of \$4,685 were \$3,920 more than the same period in 2023. There was a March 2024 year-to-date Investment account gain of \$26,624 versus a gain of \$25,676 during the first six months of 2023. Building Fund expenses were \$2,870 which was \$3,501 lower than the same period in 2023 when Engineering and Township fees were paid to begin the parking lot repair project.

During the first six months of 2024, Dedicated Accounts received \$7,116 (Good Samaritan \$425, Blessing Bags – Covenant House \$760, CMWC Projects \$2,172, Food Pantry \$2,267, Special Gifts to Church School \$150, Ukraine Relief \$200, UCC Assoc Grants \$500 and a \$642 transfer to combine Endowment Funds) and had expenses of \$10,817 (Good Samaritan \$607, Blessing Bags – Covenant House \$760, Food Pantry \$5,475, Special Gifts to Church School \$1,050, Ukraine Relief \$200, and Endowment Funds transfer to combine line items plus purchase of new office computer \$2,725).

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

Terri Hillman, Treasurer

* NOTE: In keeping with direction approved at Hope UCC's February 2024 Annual Meeting, a transfer of \$79,238 was made in March from the First State Bank Savings account to the Money Market fund in the Charles Schwab Investment account. Those funds appear in the financial statements as offsetting Expense in the Operating Fund and Income in the Building Fund (Interfund Transfers). The analysis above excludes those entries so that reasonable comparisons can be made to 2023 figures.

BOTS Meeting Minutes

Hope United Church of Christ Synopsis of Board Meeting July 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Pastor Meg led us in prayer.

Those in attendance: Pastor Meg, Steve Nielson, Nancy Burnham, Terri Hillman, Lori Sarnowski, Kirk Schoenherr, Linda Parsons, Linda Rehm and Nancy Fay. Absent: Jerry Rogers. Guest: Jim Wilson to give Computer Update.

Congregational Comments – Steve – None

Additions to the Agenda – Steve – Computer Update by guest, Jim Wilson

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Linda Parsons with a second by Nancy Fay. Motion carried.

President's Remarks – Steve: He informed Board he will be out of town from August 2nd to August 14, 2024. Nancy Burnham will fill in for him at the Board Meeting on August 13, 2024.

Approval of the June Meeting Minutes – Motion by Kirk Schoenherr with a second by Nancy Burnham to approve the June minutes. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report for June 2024 – Motion was made by Linda Parsons with a second by Nancy Burnham to approve the report for June. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for June 2024 were \$9,427 more than the amount budgeted and \$9,556 more than the amount received for June 2023. There were five Sundays in 2024 but only four Sundays 2023. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$471 less than the amount budgeted but \$812 (\$28 per week) more than the same period in 2023. We also received Special Offerings of \$210 for Energy and \$120 for Church Growth.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$0.38 in interest to the Money Market Account.
- Year to date Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, is \$980 more than the amount budgeted and \$2,009 more than 2023.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for June 2024 were \$381 less than the amount budgeted but \$1,754 more than the Expenses for June 2023. Year to date Expenses were \$7,165 less than budgeted and \$4,009 less than the same period in 2023. Year to date favorability to Expense budget is primarily driven by open staff positions, a Workers' Comp refund, and lower heating cost, partially offset by higher electricity, office supplies, and administrative expenses.
- There was Income (Income less Expense) of \$5,288 in June 2024 versus a loss of \$2,697 in June 2023.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	June	Year to Date*
Operating receipts	\$27,545	\$112,169
Operating expenses (as adjusted)	(22,257)	(120,637)
Excess of receipts over expenses		
(Expenses over receipts)	<u>\$ 5,288</u>	<u>(\$ 8,468)</u>

BOTS Meeting Minutes

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$1,569 and expense of \$531 for the month, leaving a balance of \$92,794.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in June 2024 were \$6,154 which was \$5,104 more than the amount budgeted and \$4,404 more than the amount received for June 2023. We have received Memorials of \$1,485 year to date.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a June gain of \$5,535 compared to a gain of \$9,919 for June 2023. Year to date 2024, the Securities account, adjusted for the interfund transfer*, has a gain of \$26,624 versus a gain of \$25,676 for the 2023.

<u>Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to Date*</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	\$10,067	\$ 1,922
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	<u>1,039</u>	<u>(3,702)</u>
Total Cash Flow	<u>\$11,106</u>	<u>(\$ 1,780)</u>

* NOTE: In keeping with direction approved at the Annual Meeting in February, \$79,238 was transferred from the bank Savings account to the Money Market fund in the Charles Schwab investment account in March. Those funds appear in the financial reports as year to date offsetting expense in the Operating Fund and income in the Building Fund and are excluded from this analysis so that reasonable comparisons can be made to 2023 figures.

Unfinished Business

Painting Improvements

Civil Engineering

New Business

Computer Update – Jim Wilson: Purchased the new office computer at amount approved by Board. It is doing great, and Gail is getting all the software up and working. Deborah needs access to a computer for the Music Ministry. Jim was able to get a refurbished one at a cost of \$65.00, \$20 for wireless and \$20 for keyboard and mouse. We now have 10 licenses for Microsoft Office available. This is a good basic computer and should serve Deborah's needs well. Steve thanked Jim for the Update and Jim left the zoom meeting.

How to be the Church – Pastor Meg: Results of the Survey will be published in the August Beacon. It is important that the congregation see the results and how others responded.

Racism will be addressed in the future.

Community Dinners will be each Wednesday evening in August starting at 6 pm. "Gather, Grub, Gratitude and Games". We will advertise on-line. The meals will be very simple, have a camp type song, limited message and games. No offering will be taken. Will discuss with Christian Mission & Witness Committee to see if we can give a hand-out to the Food Pantry Clients this Saturday, July 13, 2024. Food Pantry Clients should be invited. Nancy Burnham and Cindy Johnson will help with the meals.

The other item from survey to be started soon will be the Community Garden. A spot has been selected and the Grant money has been received. We will at least get the ground tilled now. Not sure if anything will be planted this summer or if we will wait till next year to actually plant.

Board Sponsored Hot Dog Picnic/Coffee Hour – Steve: Sunday, July 21, 2024. Pastor Meg will not be in attendance. Nancy Burnham will get the food purchased. There will be hot dogs, veggie dogs, bags of chips, lemonade, bottled water, iced tea and ice cream sandwiches. Condiments for the hot dogs. Nancy Fay, Linda Parsons and Terri Hillman will help with set up. Linda Rehm and Kirk Schoenherr will assist with cleanup. Lori Sarnowski will help if she can. Steve Nielson will do the grilling and get others to help as needed.

BOTS Meeting Minutes

Parking Lot and Grounds Update – Steve: Hopefully this will be the last update. Parking lot is done. All lines painted, etc. Norm has been out during rains and very pleased with how the water drains, runs down side of building and to the basin. Working just the way it is supposed to. A couple of the sprinkler lines were broken. USA Sprinkler Service came out and repaired. The sprinkler system is up and running. Brandon from Hutch Paving said the cost of repairs would be covered by them or the Excavation Company. We have only received the normal sprinkler startup bill from USA Sprinkler Service. Hutch Paving directly contacted USA telling them to invoice Hutch Paving for the repair cost. They have pulled up the black plastic and filled in gravel ditch. Regraded and sprayed new grass-seed and it is starting to look green. Norm had one little concern regarding flat drain where water goes in at concave sewer and there could be some erosion. If any issue, Brandon will take care of it and repair it. It is part of our guarantee. The next thing we should hear about the parking lot will be from Terri that the final invoice has been paid. Linda Parsons, who is part of the Investment Committee, confirmed that there is plenty of time to get the money together to pay Hutch Paving timely from when we actually receive the final invoice.

Adopt a Flower – Pastor Meg: The flower beds in front of the church need some weeding. Also, some dirt needs to be laid near the storage shed and plant some hostas. She suggested we reach out to Karen McCuen who is a Master Gardener and see what she suggests. Norm did some spraying of weeds. We might encourage a worknight to remulch. Nancy Fay suggested we contact a Boy Scout troop to lift bags of mulch and spread mulch. There would be a cost per bag of mulch.

In addition to the Pastor's Report which follows, Pastor Meg mentioned that Gail is doing great with the new program "Canva". She is creating great things. The July Beacon was done on this new program.

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

Worship: June worship was full of celebrations. July 7 we did a Independence Day Theme worship. We will do Christmas in July on July 28th. August will include guys and gals of the Old Testament in a sermon series.

Pastoral Care: I continue to meet with individuals in need of support during difficult times. We have several people dealing with health issues.

Church Business: Gail is a great addition to the staff.

Spiritual Council: Met on Monday, June 17th.

Pastor Relations: This group will meet over the summer when we can gather the committee members.

Christian Education: Confirmation class is trying to figure out a summer schedule. We began our summer Sunday School schedule in June. Camp Caring will be held once in July on 7/24 and once in August on 8/13. I initiated a summer reading program to encourage our kids to read over vacation. There is also a scripture verse included to learn each week. There will be a celebration and prizes for those who participate.

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: June 23rd, I participated in the ordination of Kristen Metcalf.

Kristen has preached at Hope on several occasions. She will be the pastor at Salem UCC in Farmington, MI.
Community Outreach: We need to make a deliberate effort to include people at coffee hour by changing the seating. Our Wednesday night program will invite members of the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Meg Wilson

BOTS Meeting Minutes

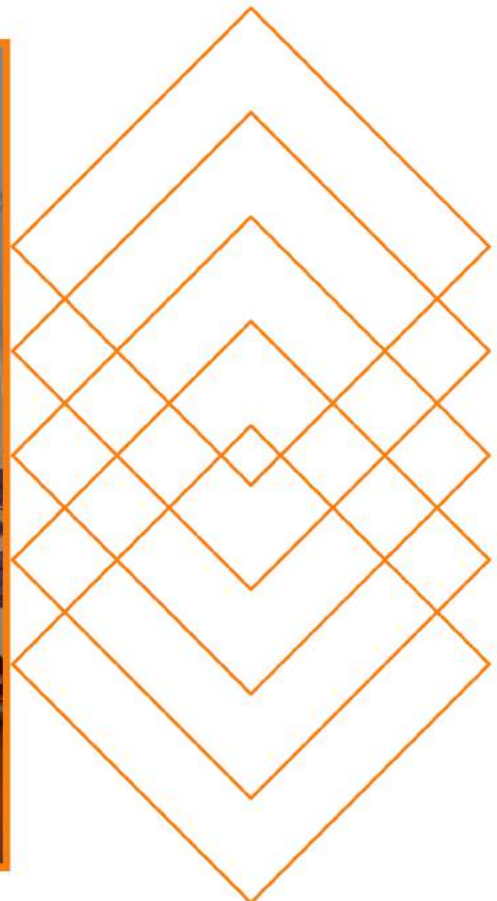
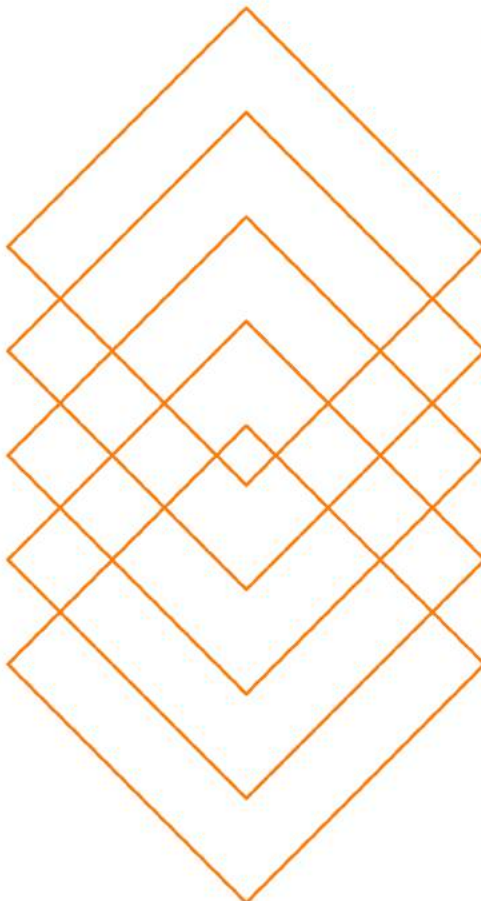
Consent Agenda Items – Steve only received a report from the Technology Committee/New Computer Update. Motion was made by Linda Rehm with a second by Nancy Burnham to accept this report as submitted. Motion carried.

These items are not for discussion. They are for review purposes only. Board will accept them as presented. If, however discussion is needed, a trustee can make a motion to remove them from the consent agenda for further discussion.

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

Adjournment: Motion by Terri Hillman with a second by Nancy Burnham to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer



AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 AA 7-8:30pm
4 Worship 10am Communion Sunday	5 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	6 CMWC 12:30pm AA 7-8pm	7 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Gather Grub Gratitude & Games 6-8:30pm	8	9	10  FOOD PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm
11 Worship 10am	12 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	13 BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm	14 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Gather Grub Gratitude & Games 6-8:30pm	15 Camp Caring 	16	17 AA 7-8:30pm
18 Worship 10am Hot Dog Picnic 	19 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm SRS Meeting 12pm	20 AA 7-8pm	21 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Gather Grub Gratitude & Games 6-8:30pm	22	23	24 AA 7-8:30pm
25 Worship 10am	26 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	27 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm	28 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Gather Grub Gratitude & Games 6-8:30pm	29	30	31 AA 7-8:30pm

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Meg Wilson, Pastor & Editor / Gail Fellman, Publisher & Editor
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