

November 2024

# THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON



## HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

35127 GARFIELD ROAD, CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI, 48035

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EMAIL: HOPEUCC4@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE: HOPEUCCMI.COM

FACEBOOK PUBLIC PAGE: @HOPEUCCMACOMB

YOUTUBE: HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - CLINTON TOWNSHIP

## Words of Hope

***Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.***  
**1 Chronicles 16:34**

This election season has put a strain on all of us. The physician and researcher Hans Seyle, who extensively studied the negative effects of stress on humans, concluded that the best antidote to stress is gratitude. With the Thanksgiving holiday quickly approaching, the month of November offers us a time to focus on gratitude.

As the seasons change, we take time to pause and observe God's creation. We notice the landscape dancing with color and before the first snowflakes we are filled with awe. Our gratitude for God's world all around us brings healing and rejuvenates our souls.

Here at Hope Church, I am filled with gratitude. We are committed to reaching out to those in need. We continue to feed more and more families through our food pantry. We are grateful to be able to offer Hope to our community through our numerous giving opportunities.

This fall, we have been intentional about inviting people to gather together. We gave thanks for our pets at our Blessing of the Animals. We celebrated World Communion Sunday with Christians around the globe. We welcomed our neighbors and friends at Trunk or Treat. We gave Bibles to children on Children's Sabbath, and we recognized how God is working among us on Laity Sunday. Our confirmands are hard at work and our children's ministry is growing. On November 17th we will welcome Rev Dr. Lillian Daniel to worship and afterwards we will host a church potluck lunch.

Beginning in Advent we have a host of events and worship services to help us prepare to welcome *Emmanuel* "God with us" as we count down to Christmas. There are numerous ways to be involved and details in this issue of the Beacon. We are already at work planning programs and worship for 2025!

I am thankful for this congregation and the commitment of so many to share hope within the congregation and beyond our walls. I invite you to join with me, letting go of the stress and embracing an attitude of gratitude.

*Thankfully,*  
Pastor Meg






# 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!**

Hope Website	YouTube	Instagram	Facebook
			
<a href="http://www.hopeuccmi.com">www.hopeuccmi.com</a>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8235">@hopeunitedchurchofchrist-c8235</a>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/HopeUCCmi">@HopeUCCmi</a>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/HopeUCCmacomb">@HopeUCCmacomb</a>

## 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!**



# CHURCH NEWS

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**All Saints Remembrance - November 10th**

**Rev. Lillian Daniel Preaching - November 17th**

**Hope Thanksgiving Lunch - November 17th**

**Motown Soup Sale - November 17th**

**Hanging of the Greens - December 1st**

**Motor City Choral Christmas Concert - December 6th**

**Christmas Pageant / Wrap It Up - December 15th**

**Christmas Eve Worship - December 24th 6:30pm**

**Epiphany Celebration - January 5th**



## Be the Heart of Hope UCC: Join Our Kitchen Team!

Looking for a fun, rewarding way to get involved at Hope United Church of Christ? This is it! We're building a Kitchen Team that's right at the center of our church events, and we're looking for volunteers to join us and help make everything come to life. Whether you want to lead as Kitchen Manager or be a part of the action as a Kitchen Team Member, this is your chance to be where it all happens!

### **The Kitchen Volunteers will:**

- Help with food prep, serving, and clean-up at church gatherings.
- Work with a fun team and enjoy the fellowship that comes with it.
- Be part of all of our major events – this is where the excitement is!

### **The Kitchen Manager will:**

- You'll be the lead in the kitchen, ensuring food safety protocols are followed, managing supplies, and leading the team.
- You get to shine as a leader while building great experience in organizing and overseeing operations.
- We'll provide the training and cover the cost for your Food Management Certification.

If you've been looking for the perfect place to volunteer, this is it! Whether you're leading as Kitchen Manager or volunteering with the team, you'll be part of something exciting, fun, and essential to our community.

**Ready to jump in? Contact us today to learn more about this opportunity!**



# CHURCH NEWS

## DO YOU HAVE A CHURCH KEY?

Dear Church Members,


As stewards of our cherished place of worship, it is crucial that we maintain an accurate inventory of all building keys. This not only ensures the security of our church but also helps us manage access responsibly. It has come to our attention that the building keys have not been inventoried in recent years.

We kindly request that **all persons** who currently possess a key to any part of the church facility submit their key information to the office by **December 1st**. There will be a form to fill out giving us the information needed to help us update our records. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the church office.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Blessings,

Gail Fellman - Hope Church Administrative Assistant



In the event that you encounter an individual seeking assistance, we kindly request that they are directed to contact Pastor Meg or reach out to the church office during regular business hours. At Hope, we provide a range of support services for those requiring assistance. Our primary objective is to cultivate an environment where everyone feels safe, secure, valued, and embraced. This objective is best achieved through the coordinated allocation of resources. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Thank you.

**Has Your Address Changed?**

**Has Your Phone # Changed?**

**Please contact the church office at**

**586-296-8760**

**or email us at [hopeucc4@gmail.com](mailto:hopeucc4@gmail.com)**

**if you have updates regarding  
your address or phone number**

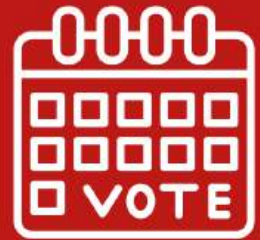


# CHURCH NEWS



**Reminder that November  
5th is Election Day!**

**Every Vote Counts!**



**Daylight Savings Time Ends  
on Sunday November 3rd.  
Remember to set your clocks  
back one hour before bed on  
Saturday night.**

## **All Saints Remembrance**

On **November 10th** we will celebrate All Saints Day during worship. This is a time to remember the saints that have passed on during the last year from our congregation as well as your loved ones. It is a moment to reflect on their legacy and find solace in the community of faith. If you have someone who has passed in the last 12 months that you would like us to include please contact Pastor Meg or the Church office with the details.



# CHURCH NEWS



## Guest Preacher

On **November 17th**, Reverend Lillian Daniel, the Michigan UCC Conference Minister, will deliver a sermon at Hope UCC. This is a wonderful opportunity for learning and fostering connections through discipleship. Let's extend a warm welcome and show her our sincere hospitality and gratitude.

## **You're invited to a Thanksgiving Lunch on November 17th!**

Join us after worship for a festive gathering filled with delicious Potluck dishes and great company to share them with.

The sign-up sheet is on the church Narthex table.

Pastor Meg and Jim will provide the meat, and you are asked to bring a dish to pass as follows:

**A-J Side Dish**

**K-Z Dessert**

We look forward to celebrating together!



## **MoTown Soup is coming to Hope!**



Following worship on **November 17th** volunteers from Motown Soup will be selling and taking orders for their holiday gifts.

Need A Gift Idea? Looking for something different? Something for that person who has everything? Don't worry, let Motown Soup help.

You will be able to choose from their soup and other mixes on that day. So plan on doing some Christmas shopping and supporting this community group.

Motown Soup has generously supported our very own food pantry with a donation from their proceeds. Motown Soup is a 100% volunteer organization and 100% of all profits go to feed the hungry and homeless in Michigan. Their soup, baking mixes and dips are great and easy to prepare with things you already have in your pantry. Let Motown Soup help you finish your shopping and we will help them in their mission to feed the hungry.



# CHURCH NEWS



## *Hanging of the Greens*

We have a tradition at Hope Church of working together to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.

On December 1st following worship, we will enjoy a pizza lunch and then decorate the church.

We need people of all ages and abilities to help with this project. This is one of those times when the expression "many hands makes light work" is very true!

This event helps us all get in the spirit.

Please plan on joining in the fun and serving your church!



Hope Church is thrilled to welcome the

MOTOR CITY CHORALE

**on December 6th, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.**

This performance will feature a delightful blend of hymns, uplifting Christmas music, and popular tunes you hear on the radio. While there is no admission fee, we will be accepting a Free Will Offering.

***Join us for this festive concert  
and embrace the Spirit of Christmas!***





# CHURCH NEWS

## Christmas Pageant December 15th

The Hope UCC Christmas Pageant is in the air!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15th, with the final rehearsal scheduled for Saturday, December 14th, at 10 a.m.

If you're interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Meg. We can't wait to share the story of Jesus with everyone!



# Wrap it up!



Back by popular demand, we're holding the Wrap-It-Up event again this year. The event will take place on Sunday, December 15 right after the Christmas Pageant. Our talented wrappers will be available to wrap your gifts for free. (Although, a free-will donation is always appreciated.) We'll also be having our bake sale and boutique items for sale. Rumor has it that Santa Claus will be in Clinton Township that same day. He will be stopping by Hope UCC from 11am to 1pm in our parlor. All children and young at heart are welcome to visit Santa to let him know what you would like to have for Christmas. We hope to see you there.



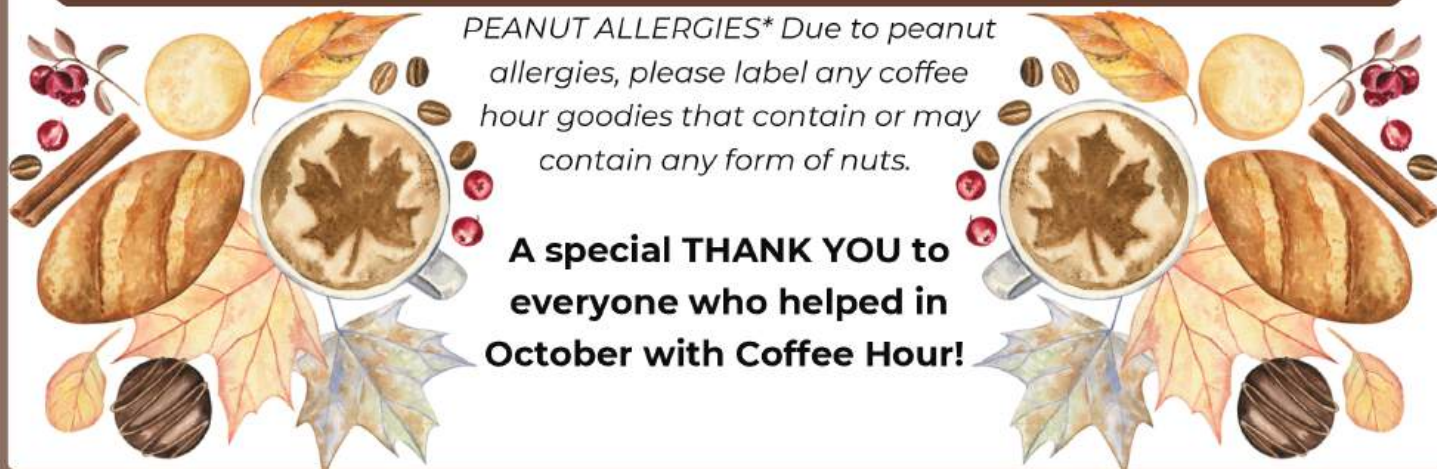
# CHURCH NEWS

## Come and join us for Coffee Hour!

We are seeking volunteers to assist with setting up and tidying the coffee and refreshments each week for our coffee hour fellowship.

Whether you're passionate about coffee, baking, or simply enjoy serving others, we need you to volunteer.

If you're interested, please take a look at the sign-up sheet in the narthex for additional details and available time slots.



*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 October with Coffee Hour!**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THAT SPECIAL DAY?



To sign up, please register on the bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall.

The cost is \$20 per arrangement.

Payments may be made either online or in person.



# GROUPS AND MEETINGS



Our Church's Wider Mission is the name we use to describe the work we do as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church – through our Conferences, national ministries, and UCC-related institutions. Our Church's Wider Mission is also the name we give to the financial support given by UCC members and congregations that makes this broader mission possible. In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that, although the congregation is the fundamental unit of mission, mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race, and national border. In Christ, we are invited to be transformed and to work with God to make a more peaceful, just, and loving world. The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a church that believes that our Still Speaking God invites us to be bold, to think creatively, and to be innovative in our ministries.

Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission benefit the full range of the UCC missions across the country and around the globe.

Please remember to make your gift to  
Our Church's Wider Mission on November 10, 2024.

## HOPE SPARKLES EXERCISE 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. Linda Hohf, our instructor from the Arthritis Foundation, 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.





# HOPE FOOD PANTRY

On October 12th, we organized a drive-thru distribution day. We had the privilege of serving 650 individuals, which includes 189 families.

We distributed 14,512 pounds of food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products. The success of this pantry distribution day was made possible thanks to the generous contributions from our donors, the hard work of our volunteers, and the dedication of your Christian Mission & Witness Committee members.

We will welcome ANY donations for the Food pantry!

**HOPE Food Pantry is open the 2nd Saturday of each month.**

**Our next drive-thru pantry distribution volunteer service day will be:**

**Saturday, November 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!

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

**Please join us in thanking all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication on this mission project!**



Hope Food Pantry also distributes a Hygiene Kit every quarter.

**We are asking that donations for the hygiene kits focus on these 3 most requested items:**

**Toilet Paper / Laundry Detergent / Dish Soap**

*[please note that these should be single servings, individual size]*





# CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

**Do you recall the magic of Christmas morning during your childhood?**

The joy of finding a brand new toy waiting for you under the Christmas tree was truly unforgettable! This year, let's spread that joy to others by participating in our toy donation drive.

**Toy donation boxes will be available beginning  
Sunday, November 3rd.**

**The final day for donations will be  
Sunday, December 1st.**

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that every child experiences the joy of receiving a gift this holiday season.

For more information, please reach out to Karen Miller.



Reverse Advent Bags will be available for pick up starting on  
**Sunday December 1st.**

More details to come soon.  
See CMWC members for details.



## **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.**



# CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

## FRAUD PREVENTION

### AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

Protect yourself, don't share:

- SSN
- Credit/Debit Card numbers
- PIN #'s
- Passwords

-Other personal information

**For cases of identity theft:**

- Contact your local police.
- Contact your financial institution immediately.
- Contact Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 1-877-438-4338 or [identitytheft.gov](http://identitytheft.gov)
- Contact credit bureaus.
  - Equifax 1-888-378-4329
  - Experian 1-888-397-3742
  - TransUnion 1-800-680-7289



### ELDER ABUSE

**EXAMPLES OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION:**

- Theft of money or property often by a family member, caregiver, or in-home helper.
- Tax and debt collection scam.
- Scams by telemarketers, mail offers or door-to-door salespersons.
- Lottery and sweepstakes scams.
- Charity scams.
- Grandparent/imposter scams.
- Computer or internet scams.



**NATIONAL ELDER FRAUD HOTLINE:**

Call 1-833-372-8311 or Scan to Learn More:



### PHISHING ATTACK

- Do not open any message that comes from an unfamiliar source.
- Do not call the phone number that the caller or spoof website provides you.
- Do not click on links
- Delete email/text that ask for personal information
- If you're concerned about your account or need to reach an organization that you do business with use the contact information on a statement or back of credit/debit card.
- If you receive an email that looks like friends/family asking for money, CALL them to verify that the email truly came from them.



### ROMANCE SCAMS

A romance scam is when a new love interest says they love you, but they just want your money.

**Warning Signs:**

- Being overly complimentary and flirtatious.
- Showering you with affection and overwhelming you with texts, emails, and phone calls.
- Suggesting or insisting that you keep the "relationship" a secret.
- Pressuring or hurrying you to share your private financial information and being pushy or nosy about your finances.



### ACCOUNT TAKEOVER (ATO)

Account takeover (ATO) is a cybercrime in which someone accesses another person's online account by obtaining their sign-on credentials.

**Best practices for both businesses and individuals:**

- Use multiple passwords
- Adjust account settings to limit login attempts.
- Use VPNs to increase privacy & security online
- Install antivirus software on computers/devices
- Regularly monitor financial accounts.



\*\*\*\*

### GRANDPARENT SCAMS

Fraudsters exploit the trust and love between grandparents and their grandchild. They often pose as a grandchild or other family member in distress, claiming to be stranded in a foreign location or facing legal trouble.

**Red Flags:**

- Urgency of request
- Secrecy
- Using fear tactics to get you to make quick, impulsive decisions.



Submitted by  
Karen Miller



# CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

## → How to Avoid Cell Phone Scams

Gone are the days when we answered the phone every time it rang without knowing who was calling. Now hackers have gotten highly sophisticated in using cell phones to trick and scam users, often to the tune of thousands of dollars. The New York Times has included a number of articles just on this subject recently.

Here are some tips to stay safe on your cell phone:

- Try to keep your contacts list up to date so when the phone rings, your caller ID tells you who is calling so you can decide whether to answer it.
  - If the caller is NOT in your contacts list, don't answer it. If it's an important call, they will leave a message, and you can decide whether to call back. Be aware that some scammers create caller IDs that look legitimate but really aren't.
  - NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, give out social security numbers, Medicare numbers, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, etc., to PEOPLE WHO CALL YOU.
  - If you do end up on a call with a stranger, hang up immediately if they start the call by asking "Can you hear me?" or want you to press a number to speak with a representative.
  - No legitimate business, bank or government agency, including law enforcement, the IRS, the court, phone carriers and utilities, will ask you to pay a bill specifically with gift cards, wire transfer/Western Union, payment apps or cryptocurrency. They also will not call to ask for sensitive information like your social security number, driver's license ID or other account numbers.
- If you do receive a stressful call and are unsure of what to do, STOP, hang up, and touch base with a friend, a family member, a financial advisor, a church friend or the like.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, typical types of scams include:

Impersonator scams pretending to be a family member, a government agency, law enforcement, court official, love interest.

Debt relief and credit repair scams offering to lower your interest rate.

Investment scams guaranteeing big profits.

Charity scams asking for donations.

Extended car warranties scams from hackers who might know the make and model of your car to sound legitimate.

Free trial scams that end up billing you until you figure out how to cancel.

Loan scams with an upfront fee.

Lottery/prize scams where you're asked to pay taxes or fees to receive your "prize."

From the FTC: Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. While you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

**Just Hang Up - you do not need to speak to them or even be polite.**



# GROUPS AND MEETINGS

## Hope Fun Bunch

The Senior Fun Bunch met at noon on the 21st of October. We welcomed a new member Vicki and an old member we have not seen for a while Jackie. We enjoyed a Jimmy John's lunch thanks to Marge Lentz for handling the details. Then we met for an organizational meeting and an afternoon of fellowship. Christmas is just around the corner; so if you are looking for a project we are suggesting Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. See below for details.

Our Christmas luncheon is just around the corner. Wow! The event will be held **Monday Dec. 9th** It will be held at The Gazebo, the same location as last year, located at the corner of 13 mile and Mound Rd. The price of the tickets are \$25 dollars per person. Arrival time is 11:30 am with lunch beginning at 12 noon, look for the sign up sheet on the table at church.

*Officers: Tom Reeser, President;  
Ida Eckert, Vice-President;  
Joe Holland, Secretary-Treasurer*

## Fun Bunch Christmas Project Information



The Fun Bunch has chosen as a group to participate in **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes. Christmas is just around the corner; so if you are looking for a project we are suggesting Samaritan's Purse. There will be information in the lobby for the shoe box project. Think about making a child smile Christmas Day.

**Every box must include \$10 cash for processing.**

**If you have questions  
see Carol Troutman or Carol Reeser.**

**Must be at church by November 18th at noon  
to be taken to the drop off location !**

**The Official Website ([www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org))**





# COMMUNITY

PFLAG-CT warmly invites the Hope UCC congregation to participate in our monthly support meeting. This gathering will take place on the last Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We deeply appreciate Hope UCC's support of our chapter, as our mission focuses on supporting, educating, and advocating for the LGBTQ community. We welcome you to join us and learn more about our work. To stay connected, please visit our website at [PFLAGCT.org](http://PFLAGCT.org), complete the form, and mention Hope UCC. This will add you to our email list, ensuring you receive notifications about future meetings. For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to me at [yvonetad@wowway.com](mailto:yvonetad@wowway.com), and remember to mention Hope UCC.

Thank you once again for your support of our chapter. Stay safe and healthy, and may God bless you.

Yvonne Tadajewski, President, PFLAG-CT



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 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 us at (586) 757-5551,  
or visit [www.ivcinfo.org](http://www.ivcinfo.org) to learn more.**



# HOPE GIVING



**There are various ways to provide financial support to the church, and your donations are essential in advancing the continuous ministries of Hope Church.**

**To give Online:** Visit the Hope UCC Website  
[WWW.HOPEUCCMI.COM](http://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. Questions?  
Contact Lori Sarnowski

THANKFUL



# HOPE REPORTINGS

## Nine Month Financial Summary

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

	Operating Fund	Building Fund
Income:		
Regular Offerings	\$150,813	\$ 11,954
Special Offerings	6,367	6,225
Church Life Activities	3,691	
Other Receipts/Investment Account	2,535	41,914
Total Income	<u>\$163,406</u>	<u>\$ 60,093</u>
Expenses:		
Mission and Witness Council	\$ 5,144	
Spiritual Council	4,342	
Christian Education Council	1,920	
Church Life	4,270	
Pastoral Services – Wilson	60,392	
Church Staff	42,683	
Church Property	36,663	
Technology	881	
Insurance	10,018	
Public Relations	339	
Administration and Other	13,578	
Equipment Acquisitions	0	
Contingency Funds	0	107,456
Garfield Building Costs	0	
Total Expenses	<u>180,230</u>	<u>107,456</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$ 16,824)</u>	<u>(\$ 47,363)</u>

The Operating Fund had a loss of \$16,824 for the first nine months of 2024, compared to a loss of \$23,042 for the same period of 2023. Total Operating Income of \$163,406 was \$6,785 more than the same period last year. Total Operating Fund Expenses of \$180,230 were \$567 more than 2023.

In the first nine months of 2024, we received Special Offerings of \$1,732 for Easter, \$10 for Christmas, \$2,105 for Energy, \$680 for Church Growth and \$140 in Other Offerings. Mission Offerings for the period included OCWM - \$540, One Great Hour of Sharing - \$765, Christmas Fund - \$10, and CUE/Olivet \$385.

Year to date September 2024, the Building Fund had total Income of \$60,093, including a \$41,914 gain on the Investment account. Invoices totaling \$107,456 were paid in 2024 for the parking lot repair which was completed in July.

During the first three quarters of 2024, Dedicated Accounts received \$12,924 (Good Samaritan \$455, Blessing Bags – Covenant House \$760, CMWC Projects \$2,172, Food Pantry \$7,945, Special Gifts to Church School \$250, Ukraine Relief \$200, UCC Assoc Grants \$500 and a \$642 transfer to combine Endowment Funds) and had expenses of \$12,285 (Good Samaritan \$843, Blessing Bags – Covenant House \$760, Food Pantry \$6,354, Special Gifts to Church School \$1,050, Ukraine Relief \$200, UCC Metro Association Grants - \$353 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



# FAMILY PAGE



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| 5                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 2                                                                                   | 5                                                                                   | 7                                                                                   | 8                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 6                                                                                   | 6                                                                                    | 8                                                                                     | 4                                                                                     | 7                                                                                     | 4                                                                                     | 10                                                                                    | 5                                                                                     |
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# REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

## HOPE CHURCH PRAYER LIST

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.

Ken & Su

Lori & Al

Larry

Jerry & Shannon

Jean

Sue

Carol

Flaherty Family

John

Elaine

Joyce

Audrey

*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.*



# BOTS Meeting Minutes

## Hope United Church of Christ Synopsis of Board Meeting October 8, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Pastor Meg led us in prayer. Those in attendance: Pastor Meg, Steve Nielson, Nancy Burnham, Terri Hillman, Kirk Schoenherr, Linda Parsons, Linda Rehm, Lori Sarnowski and Nancy Fay. Absent: Jerry Rogers. Guest during New Business – Matt Skubik.

**Congregational Comments** – Steve Nielson – None

**Additions to the Agenda** – Steve Nielson – Sunshine Person to be presented by Nancy Fay. This idea will go to Spritual Council first.

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

**President's Remarks** – Steve Nielson: Keep in the back of your mind a person for leading the Nominating Committee. We will need five people for the Board next year.

**Approval of the September Meeting Minutes** – Motion by Linda Rehm with a second by Nancy Burnham to approve the September minutes. Motion Carried.

**Treasurer's Report for September 2024** – Motion was made by Nancy Burnham with a second by Kirk Schoenherr to approve the report for September. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for September 2024 were \$3,019 more than the amount budgeted and \$6,131 more than the amount received for September 2023. There were four September Sundays in 2023 and five Sundays in 2024. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$453 more than the amount budgeted and \$5,795 (\$135 per week) more than the same period in 2023. We also received Special Offerings of \$100 for Energy and \$355 for C.U.E/Olivet in September.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$0.45 in interest to the Money Market Account.
- Year to date Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, is \$2,005 more than the amount budgeted and \$6,785 more than 2023.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for September 2024 were \$2,042 more than the amount budgeted and \$3,313 more than the Expenses for September 2023. Year to date Expenses were \$9,226 less than budgeted but \$567 more than the same period in 2023. Year to date favorability to the Expense budget is primarily driven by the open Christian Education Director position and associated Christian Education costs, as well as lower heating cost. That favorability is partially offset by higher electricity and grounds upkeep costs, office supplies and administrative expenses, and cost associated with increased church life activities.
- There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$4,054 in September 2024 versus a loss of \$6,964 September 2023.





# BOTS Meeting Minutes

• SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$21,221	\$163,406
Operating expenses	( 25,275)	( 180,230)
Excess of receipts over expenses		
(Expenses over receipts)	<u>(\$ 4,054)</u>	<u>(\$ 16,824)</u>

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$888 and expense of \$671 for the month, leaving a balance of \$97,134.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in September 2024 were \$1,545 which was \$145 more than the amount budgeted and \$220 more than the amount received for September 2023. We have received Memorials of \$3,025 year to date. Final invoices for the parking lot repair were paid in July bringing the total paid in 2024 for the repair to \$107,456.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a September gain of \$4,806 compared to a loss of \$9,522 for September 2023. Year to date 2024, the securities account had a gain of \$41,914 versus a gain of \$19,180 for the 2023.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$ 1,799)	(\$106,101)	Non-Budgeted
Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	217	639	Total Cash Flow
	<u>(\$ 1,582)</u>	<u>(\$105,462)</u>	

## Unfinished Business

### Painting Improvements

### Civil Engineering

### New Business

Update for Trunk and Treat – Pastor Meg: October 19th at 4 p.m. This is a little earlier date so as not to compete with schools or the community. Could use a couple people to help with set-up and tear-down. There will be Snoopy themed inflatables. There will be a photo opp. Will take place rain or shine. It will be advertised on church sign as well as on our Facebook page.

Matt Skubik from Religious Real Estate – Pastor Meg: He joined our meeting on zoom with potential building rental options.

Final Approval 2025 Budget – Terri Hillman: She presented the final draft of the 2025 Proposed Budget.

After a short discussion, there was a motion to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget to be presented to the Congregation at the October 27th Budget Congregational Meeting by Nancy Burham with a second by Kirk Schoenherr. Motion carried.

Gail will send out an email to the Congregation as an attachment. She will print 25 hard copies including a cover letter. Pastor Meg will announce in church starting this coming Sunday.

How to Be the Church – Pastor Meg: Hope to have a small vegetable garden in the spring. Would like to have a Baby Shower to help families who might need some financial assistance. She suggests we do this on





# BOTS Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2025 to have enough time to publicize. Christian Mission & Witness will be involved with Terri Hillman as liaison.

CEC Committee – Pastor Meg: We need to get this restarted. She has approached some individuals. At the November Board Meeting she will bring back names to have approved.

[Pastor's Report - Pastor Meg for September 2024:](#)

Worship: Last Sunday we celebrated World Communion Sunday. We have enjoyed having our choirs and band back in worship.

Church Business: Gail has proven to be an excellent addition to the staff. The new format of the Beacon is getting lots of positive feedback.

Spiritual Council: We met in September. See attached report.

Pastor Relations: This group met on October 13th after worship. See report

Christian Education: We have 2 separate Sunday school classes. We would like to start a group for older elementary /middle school students. We are rebuilding the Christian Education Committee. We hope to have our first CEC meeting in November. Our Confirmation scheduling has been challenging but we are meeting weekly.

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: I will be participating in the Ordination of Anthony Carter on October 20th. We will welcome Rev. Lillian Daniel on November 17th. She will preach on that date.

Community Outreach: We have several upcoming events to encourage the community to check us out. We are welcoming visitors each week. 10/19- Trunk or Treat.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Meg Wilson*

[Consent Agenda Items – Steve Nielson:](#) He received reports from Spiritual Council, Christian Mission and Witness Committee, Technology Committee, Property Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee. *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 8:37 p.m.  
Motion carried.

Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer

\*\*\*PENDING BOT'S APPROVAL\*\*\*





# FAMILY PAGE







# NOVEMBER 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 AA 7-8:30pm
3 Worship 10am <b>Communion Sunday</b>  <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b> 	4 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	5 <b>Election Day</b> CMWC 12:30pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	6 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	7 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	8	9  FOOD PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm
10 Worship 10am <b>All Saints Remembrance</b> 	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	12 BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	13 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	14 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	15	16 AA 7-8:30pm
17 Worship 10am <b>Rev. Lillian Daniel Preaching Thanksgiving Lunch</b> 	18 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Hope Fun Bunch 12pm	19 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	20 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	21 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	22	23 AA 7-8:30pm
24 Worship 10am	25 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	26 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	27 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	28 AA 8am-8pm 	29	30

## THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Rev. Meg Wilson, Pastor & Editor / Gail Fellman, Publisher & Editor  
Church Office: (586)-296-8760



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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 VICE PRESIDENT: NANCY BURNHAM  
 SECRETARY: LINDA PARSONS  
 TREASURER: TERRI HILLMAN

NANCY FAY / LINDA REHM /  
 JERRY ROGERS / LORI SARNOWSKI /  
 KIRK SCHOENHERR

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 ADMIN. ASSISTANT: GAIL FELLMAN  
 MUSIC DIRECTOR: DEBORAH FRONTCAK  
 ORGANIST: PATRICK BAKER  
 ACCOMPANIST: DENISE KILDEA