



JANUARY 2025



THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON

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

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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YOUTUBE: HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - CLINTON TOWNSHIP



WORDS OF HOPE



Are you ready for a new year? Ready or not 2025 is here! What will this new year bring? And how will we navigate our way through it? I want to remind you (and me) that our loving God will lead us, now as always. Just as God did in the Exodus. Just as God did for the magi, who were led by a light by the star of Bethlehem to the place where the new king was born.

So, God will do this for us. But not always in quite so literal and tangible a way. More often, God shows us the way by sending us different kinds of light bulb moments or epiphanies. We may find clarity through scripture or worship maybe in prayer or through other people. It is Christ the light of the world who shows us the way!

When we lose our way in life, as we all do from time to time, we can turn to our faith to help guide us. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously put it, "*Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.*" We can take the first step, trusting that God will continue to shine a light on our path, and show us the way.

What will this new year bring for you and me, for our church? We cannot absolutely know but we are eager to see how God will guide us. And for that I am forever grateful. May the light of our loving God bless you this year and lead us all along the way.

Epiphany Blessings,
Pastor Meg

CHURCH NEWS

AMBASSADOR FOR HOPE- JOB DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this designated role is to have at least two people each week to serve as friendly greeters. We want to make sure that visitors and our members feel welcome at Hope. We would try to have 8 people serving in this official capacity. Ambassadors would sign up for a week each month but also be available as needed.

Weekly responsibility:

- *Be at church by 9:45.
- *Wear a nametag with yellow ambassador sticker
- *Watch for newcomers and introduce yourself. Answer questions and invite them to sit with you.
- *During worship scan the sanctuary looking for new faces.
- *During the blessing song walk out and stand near Pastor Meg.
- *Introduce yourself to new people.
- *Give them the current thanks for Poppin' bag.
- *Invite them to coffee hour and go with them if possible. Sit with them and find a table with other members you can introduce them to.
- *Offer a tour of the church building.
- *Make sure Pastor Meg is aware of their presence.
- *Offer them a visitor's clipboard to leave us their contact information.
- *If there are no visitors go into coffee hour and look for people seated by themselves invite them to join another table or sit with them.

CHURCH NEWS



BABY SHOWER for JESUS!

We are having a Baby Shower for Jesus on **Sunday January 12th** following worship in Fellowship Hall. We will have a light lunch, play some games and have some fellowship. We ask that you bring a new baby item, unwrapped, as a donation for the Macomb Foster Closet. The Macomb Foster Closet will use our donation items to help families in need. We will have a list of items that are needed to help you with ideas. Please sign up in the lobby to let us know you are planning to attend



CHURCH NEWS

Thank You for Being the Church!

I am beyond thankful for all of you who helped and participated in the 2024 Advent and Christmas Season. Beginning with our Thanksgiving potluck and then our choir hosting the afterglow following the Motor City Chorale concert to the Hanging of the Greens we began Advent with high energy! The weekly music provided by the choirs and the readings by our liturgists continued to tell our story. The families that lit the Advent candles and the Sunday school teachers who shared the nativity with our children kept us full of anticipation. We rejoiced at all the children and their families and volunteers who participated in the Christmas Pageant to help celebrate the season with joy. We enjoyed our visit with Santa and all the support for Wrap-it-up and the baked goods sale. Each week we enjoyed food and fellowship with our delightful spread at coffee hour. The Seniors, Hope Fun Bunch, gathered to celebrate, and Hope Sparkles encouraged each other with a party. We took time to acknowledge those who needed a word of hope at our Blue Christmas service. Our staff worked extra hard to make sure everything was just perfect! We collected socks in our reverse Advent bags to help keep people warm and dry. We remembered those in need through our toy collection and we fed our neighbors through our food pantry. We welcomed new members into our church family. The church looked exquisite, filled with the poinsettias you purchased. On Christmas Eve we shared in communion and sang Silent Night. Together we remembered our story, we reflected on its meaning, and we responded to God's call in our lives. We were actively being the church!

CHURCH NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Epiphany - Baby Shower for JESUS - January 12th

Chili Cook Off - February 9th

Congregational Meeting - following worship - Feb 23rd

Ash Wednesday - March 5th

Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward - March 9th

Come and join us for Coffee Hour!



Whether you have a love for coffee, enjoy baking, or simply take pleasure in serving others, we would greatly appreciate your help.

We are looking for volunteers to help with organizing and cleaning up the coffee area, as well as providing refreshments for our weekly coffee hour fellowship.

If you're interested, please check the sign-up sheet in the narthex for more information and available time slots.

**A special THANK YOU
to everyone who helped
in December 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.



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
			
www.hopeuccmi.com	@hopeunitedchurchofchrist-c8235	@HopeUCCmi	@HopeUCCmacomb

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



Poinsettia Plant Dedications

Terri Hillman	Memory of William Hillman
Kenneth Peck	Memory of Debra Peck
The Eckert Family	Memory of Clara & Otto Heussner
The Fay Family	Memory of Harold & Elona Spuluck
Shirly Kirby	
Kevin, Denise, Kathryn, & Sean	Honor of Carol Troutman
Linda Parsons	Memory of Husband David Parsons
Sarah, Erin & Quinn	Honor of our parents Rev. Meg and Jim Wilson
Pamela Steffens	Honor of Elenore Gurich
	Honor of Daisy, Denise, Susan, Jane
	Honor of The Townsend Family
	Honor of Lori Steffens and David Durney
	Memory of Alger & Helen Steffens
	Memory of Thomas Steffens and Ann Steffens Stieber and Anthony Stieber
The Lusk Family	Memory of Grandma Josephine Cafagna
	Memory of Papa John Brown
Susan Winters	Memory of Louis & Gene Winters
	Memory of Carl Jurcak
The Anderson Family	Honor of Rev. Meg Wilson
	Memory of our Dearly Departed Loved Ones

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



HOPE GIVING



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

***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.

Questions? Contact Lori

HOPE FOOD PANTRY

On December 14th, we held a drive-thru distribution day.

We served 177 Households with 382 individuals.

We distributed 13,695 lbs. of food, hygiene, and cleaning supplies.

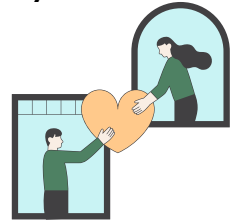
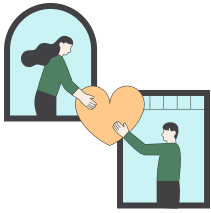
The success of this pantry distribution day was made possible thanks to the generous contributions from our donors, the hard work of our volunteers, and the dedication of your Christian Mission & Witness Committee members.

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, January 11th
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!

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

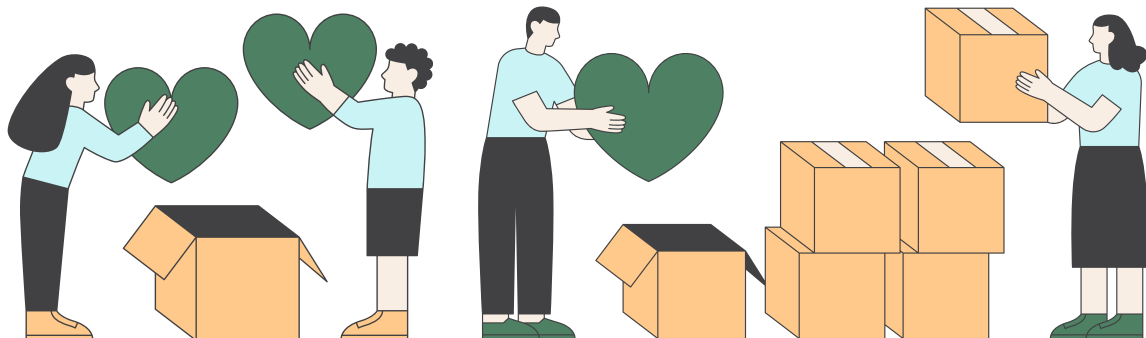
Hope Food Pantry also distributes a Hygiene Kit every quarter.

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]



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

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

TOYS

A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Generosity!

We are excited to share that we donated 200 toys, in various shapes and sizes, and delivered them to the Fraser Library as part of their annual toy drive. The staff at the Fraser Library expressed their deep appreciation for your kindness and support. Your thoughtful donation helped to brighten the lives of many families and ensure that the children had a special gift to unwrap this year.

Thank you once again for your incredible generosity and for making a positive impact in our community. We are truly grateful for your contribution!



THE VALUE OF RECYCLING

Recycling ...

- Conserves resources and protects the environment
- Can reduce carbon emissions compared to extracting virgin materials
- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators
- Creates jobs and generates local and state tax revenues
- Is most beneficial when people "recycle right," so first make sure you check what can and cannot go in the bin



HOW YOU CAN HELP



In stores:

- Shop for products made with recycled materials
- Buy items with less packaging
- Bring your own bags
- Buy only what you need



At home:

- Ask to be removed from paper mailing lists
- Don't throw away anything that can be reused or repaired
- Donate unwanted electronics
- Print on both sides of paper and use recycled paper
- Compost food scraps and yard waste

Submitted by Karen Miller



Almost 50% of all UK households have access to a plastic pot, tub and tray kerbside collection scheme



20,000 two litre drinks bottles or 120,000 carrier bags weighs 1 tonne



Recycled plastics bottle can enjoy a new life as park benches, seating or tables



It takes 75% less energy to make a plastic bottle from recycled plastic compared with using 'virgin' materials

Recycling just 1 plastic bottle saves enough energy to power a 60W light bulb for 6 hours

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

The CMWC is looking for people who might be interested in some pantry-related activities at times other than pantry day.

1. We need people to help pack boxes in-between pantry days. There is some lifting needed, 35lbs boxes. If you cannot lift, you could help fill boxes with dry goods which doesn't require lifting. The time commitment for this task would be 1 - 1.5 hours per packing party once a month.

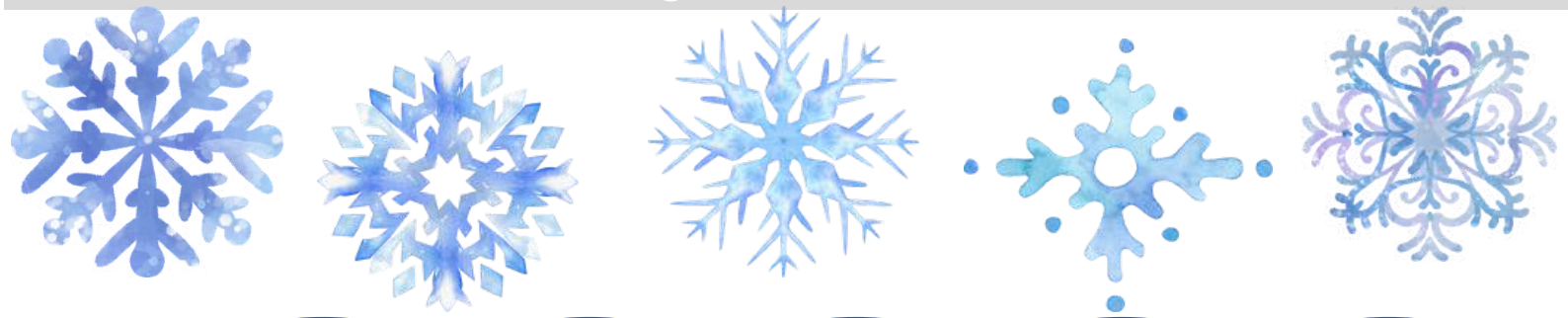
2. We need folks to help us with bottle returns once a month on Monday mornings at 9:30 am. The time commitment for this task would be 1-1 1/2 hours. There is some lifting needed to take the bags of bottles out of the trailer, and put them in a shopping cart. Can't lift? No problem. Someone will help you. The \$\$ we receive from the returnables goes to support our food pantry.

3. We need some men/young adults to help unload food from a vehicle and bring it in to the church on the Friday before pantry and on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. The time commitment for this task varies depending upon traffic and waiting time at Gleaners or Macomb Food Bank.

4. The CMWC is looking for up to 4 people to join our committee. You know about our work with the pantry. We support other outreach projects as well. The time commitment for membership on the Committee is a 2-hour meeting once a month on the Tuesday before pantry. Additional time will be needed if you wish to participate in any of our outreach projects.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping out with one of these opportunities...helping those in need.

Please call for details.



Interested In Serving Your Church?

The Board of Trustees are looking for people to run for election to the Board. We have a few vacancies to fill. To serve on the Board, it is a two-year commitment. You must also be a member of the church for a minimum of two years.

If you have a desire to become more active and to learn more about the church this is a great way to fulfill your desire. Please reach out and we will make sure your name is on the "ballot" for the February election.



GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Hope Fun Bunch

The Senior Fun Bunch finished the 2024 year with their annual Christmas Party. Thirty-two people attended the event enjoying holiday festivities and good food. After having our fill the group sang Christmas carols. A special thanks to Joe Holland for organizing the holiday outing.

We wish all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
See everyone in January of 2025.

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

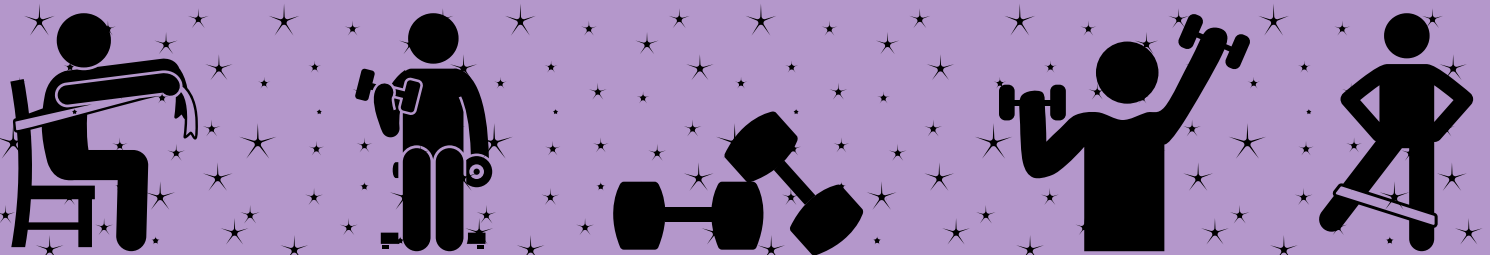
HOPE SPARKLES EXERCISE CLASS

This class takes a comprehensive approach to fitness, blending stretching routines, balance enhancement exercises, and gentle cardiovascular activities. We incorporate 2-pound weights, provided by the church, for strength-building workouts. For flexibility training, we use therapy bands supplied by our instructor. The result of participating in these sessions is a notable enhancement in overall health and well-being.

Classes are held regularly every Monday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Our instructor, Linda Hohf from the Arthritis Foundation, has a remarkable understanding of our joint and muscle requirements, customizing our workouts to meet these needs effectively. What truly makes this Exercise Class unique is "YOU." All you need to do is "SHOW UP" for an hour of enjoyment and fitness alongside friends!

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

**There will be NO CLASS on 1/1.
We will begin fresh on January 6th.**



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, 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 yvonnetaad@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



**HAVE CAR,
WILL TRAVEL?**



VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED!

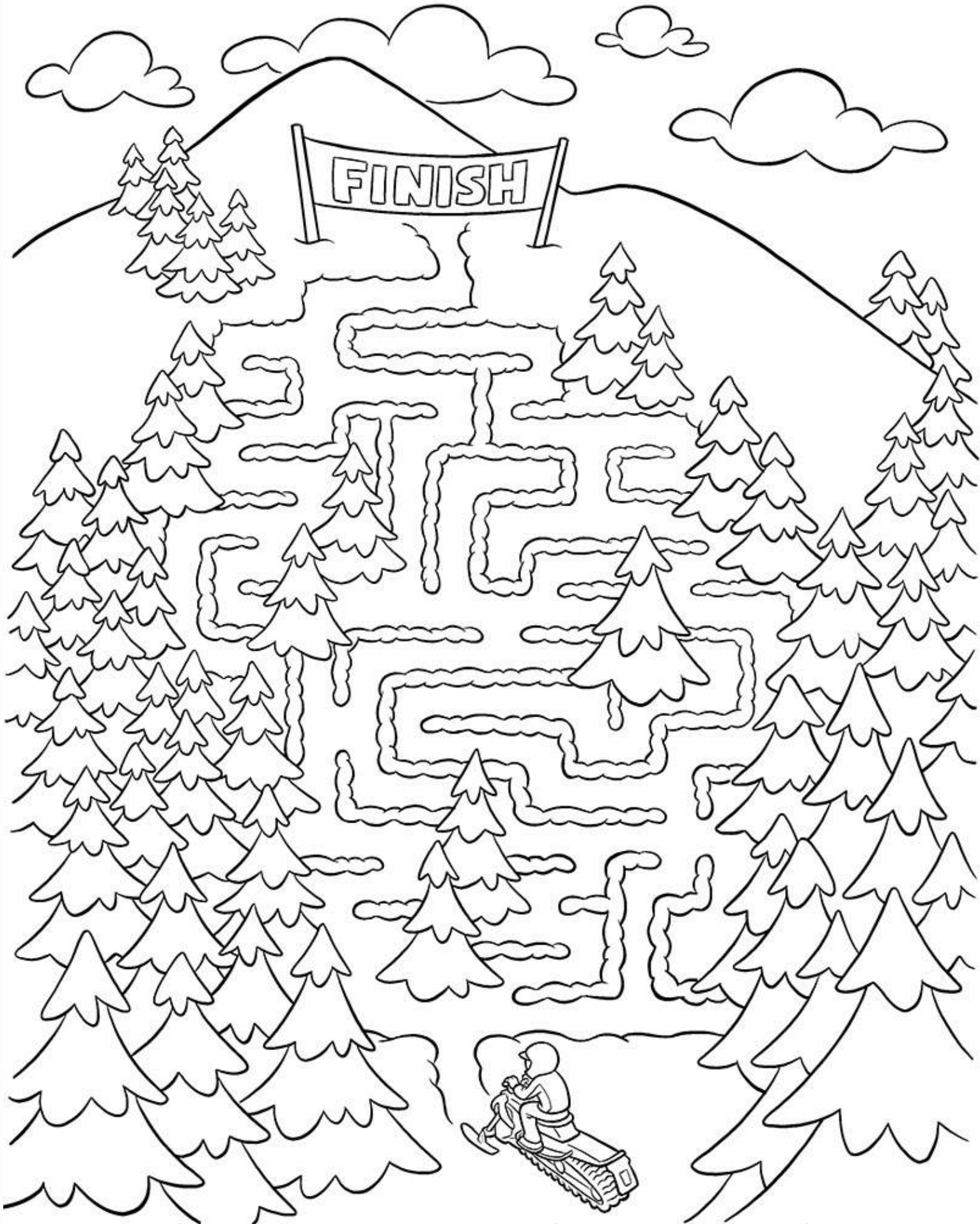
All our "snowbirds" are heading South for the Winter! Won't you please help fill in for them? Many of our regular drivers take a couple months off this time of year, but the need for transportation does not lessen. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program needs drivers who can provide rides for our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

Daytime drivers especially needed!

Please call IVC today at (586) 757-5551 for more information.

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

FAMILY PAGE



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.

the Hess Family

Lori & Al

Jerry & Shannon

Jean

Sue

Carol









Flaherty Family

John

Elaine

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.

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	3	4 AA 7-8:30pm
5 Worship 10am Communion Sunday 	6 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	7 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	8 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	9 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	10	11 FOOD  PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm
12 Worship 10am Baby Shower for Jesus 	13 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	14 CMWC 12:30pm BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	15 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	16 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	17	18 AA 7-8:30pm
19 Worship 10am	20 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Hope Fun Bunch 12pm	21 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	22 5 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	23 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	24	25 AA 7-8:30pm
26 Worship 10am	27 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	28 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	29 5 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	31	

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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