



APRIL 2025



THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON

Hope United Church of Christ

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Website: Hopeuccmi.com

Facebook Public Page: @hopeuccmacomb

YouTube: Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township



WORDS OF HOPE



Easter is a time of joy and renewal. The first followers of Jesus saw their darkest days replaced with the miracle of hope and eternal life. Christians today take time for self-examination and reflection as we journey through the season of Lent. As a community of believers, we are ready to emerge from the darkness of the cocoon and to fully experience those first rays of resurrection light on Easter morning.

The following prayer was composed by the Rev. Michaela Youngson

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

Join us here at Hope as together we seek to be renewed and refreshed by the promises of Easter. Take the journey from the shouts of hosanna on Palm Sunday to the somber Passover meal on Maundy Thursday followed by the grief of Good Friday. Allow the events of Holy Week to help you more fully appreciate the singing of Alleluia on Easter morning! Together we will remember and rejoice!

Blessings, Pastor Meg

**Our schedule of Holy Week services is printed in the pages of this newsletter.*

CHURCH NEWS

Celebrating Your Life Workshops

Have you thought about how you would like to have others celebrate your life when you have passed? It may seem like a depressing topic but in reality, it is an opportunity for you to share your love and what is important to you. This exercise is good to think about at any age. This workshop will include elements not necessarily covered by a preplanned memorial with a funeral home. When you have completed the paperwork, you can keep a copy with your records and a copy can be filed at church. These workshops will last approximately 2 hours and will include refreshments and a brief worship component.

We will host one on Tuesday, April 1st at 10am, and Sunday, May 18th following worship.

Please call the church office or sign up on the sheet on the welcome table. Friends are welcome to attend.

2025 Removing the Clutter Challenge!

During the 40 days of Lent why not go through the tangible process of removing the clutter that fills your closets and cupboards. Each day remove an item that you no longer need and place what can be donated in the bag provided. At the end of the 40 days donate what you collected to a charity that can distribute the items.

As you go through the process of de-cluttering, make it a Spiritual Practice to remove the clutter; those thoughts and feelings from your heart and mind that make it difficult to have room for God.



CHURCH NEWS

PALM SUNDAY EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Join us following worship on April 13th,

for the kids eggstravaganza, a delightful Palm Sunday celebration for families with children of all ages!

Kick off the festivities with a special Sunday School featuring a Petting Zoo, complete with a donkey to help us relive the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Excitement will fill the air as children participate in an Easter Egg Hunt, where they can collect eggs in a provided bag and exchange them at the prize table for a special Easter surprise. And don't miss the visit from the Easter Bunny! This event promises fun, joy, and cherished memories for everyone.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Palm Sunday Worship & Egg-stravaganza! - April 13th
- Maundy-Thursday Soup Supper - April 17th 6pm
- Maundy-Thursday Worship - April 17th 7pm
- Good Friday Worship - April 18th Noon
- Easter Sunday - April 20th
- Mothers Day - May 11th
- Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido @ Coffee hour - June 1st
- Pentecost Birthday Celebration - June 8th
- Fathers Day - June 15th
- Red Cross Blood Drive - June 19th



CHURCH NEWS

Confirmand Casey

Hi, my name is Casey! People who don't know me well might think I'm shy at first, but once I get comfortable, I never stop talking! I love spending time with my friends, having long conversations, and sharing lots of laughs. Cheerleading and gymnastics are two of my biggest passions, and I also really enjoy school, especially math, because no matter where you are in the world, it always stays the same.

I don't have a set career path in mind yet, but I enjoy exploring different options and learning new things every day. In fact, I've been keeping up a nearly 400-day streak of learning Spanish on Duolingo! My family loves to travel, and my favorite vacation was to the Outer Banks.

At church, I love the welcoming and positive atmosphere. I enjoy helping others through acts of service and having meaningful conversations with people. One Bible verse that means a lot to me is Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." It reminds me to keep moving forward and embrace new opportunities.

I'm excited to continue learning, growing, and being involved in my church and community!



Confirmand Tessa

Hi, my name is Tessa, and I'm in 7th grade! I love playing softball, especially as a pitcher on my team, and spending time outside playing sports with my brother. Social Studies and Science are my favorite subjects in school, and in the future, I hope to study Agriculture so I can become a cattle rancher. I really enjoy country music, and one of my biggest bucket list goals is to visit Oklahoma someday!

At church, I love seeing how happy and welcoming everyone is, whether it's during Sunday school or coffee hour. I hope to get more involved by helping with the food pantry and Sunday school classes. One of my favorite Bible verses is Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

A fun fact about me is that my birthday is on New Year's Eve, and my favorite color is purple! I love hanging out with my friends, playing sports, and being part of a great community.

CHURCH NEWS



Ash Wednesday - Ashes for Everyone

2025 Chili Cook Off Winners




1st Place: Stasi G. / 2nd Place: Denise B. / 3rd Place: Jim W.



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day

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

Are you interested in ordering altar flowers for a special occasion?

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.

Time to order EASTER LILIES and/or TULIPS
Plants are \$10.00 each.

Deadline to order is Sunday, April 6th.

Please indicate how many of each plant you would like.
Place your form in the collection box with your cash/check.
You can also place the form in the office or mail it in.

Easter Flower Order Form

IN HONOR OF:

Lilies: _____ Tulips: _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Lilies: _____ Tulips: _____

Placed by: _____
Phone #: _____

Flowers are provided by Bruce & Pam Anderson, owners of Moehring Woods Florist, 313 882-9732.

CHURCH NEWS

Hope Website



www.hopeuccmi.com

YouTube



@hopeunitedchurchofchrist-c8235

Instagram



@HopeUCCmi

Facebook



@HopeUCCmacomb

Come and join us for Coffee Hour!



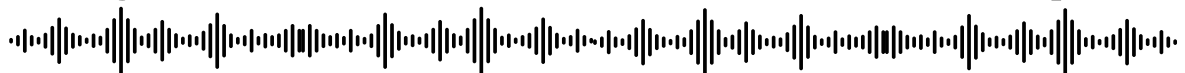
Whether you have a love for coffee, enjoy baking, or simply take pleasure in serving others, we would greatly appreciate your help.

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 February with Coffee Hour!

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!

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!



CHURCH NEWS



2025 Camp Talahi

Hope Church will have more information available on the welcome table and you can find out more at their website camptalahi.org

Here is the camp schedule. (all camps are the grade your camper has just completed)

Volunteer Work Days JUNE 17, 18, 19 DURING STAFF WEEK Join us during staff week as we unpack our belongings, set up camp, and prepare for the arrival of our 2025 campers! Overnight volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Daytime volunteers under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

June 22-27: CIT Camp (grades 9-11) Being a counselor-in-training (CIT) is a leadership opportunity for high school students.

June 29 - July 1: Transgender and Gender Diverse Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

June 29-July 3: Transgender and Gender Diverse High School Camp (grades 9-12)

July 6-8: Mini Camp (grades K-2nd)

July 6-11: Junior Camp (Grades 3-5)

July 11-13: Young Adults Camp

July 11-13: Family Camp

July 13-18: Jr. High Camp (Grades 6-8)

July 20-25: Sr. High Camp (Grades 9-11)

2025 Scholarships!!

The Camp had a generous gift given to us this year to give out \$100 to each new camper to Camp Talahi. If you have a brand new camper that has never been to camp before, please email camptalahi@gmail.com or text 406-855-4317 to get the coupon code before you register. This same donor will give a scholarship to any returning camper that brings along a brand new camper to camp this summer. So if you are a returning camper and bring a brand new camper that has never been to Talahi before you will also get \$100 scholarship off your registration fee. Email or text to get this code as well. The gift will be \$50 for every brand new Mini Camper or returning Mini Camper bringing a brand new camper! This scholarship is limited to a total of \$5,000 so register today!!

Lent Blessing Bags

Please return your blessing bags
on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

"Warrior Heart" will receive our blessing bag giving this year. Warriors Heart offers canine therapy and service dogs to assist veterans struggling with mental health issues, PTSD and addiction.

How do Service Dogs Help with Recovery From PTSD Or Addiction?

The dogs that we assign at Warriors Heart are specifically trained to be service dogs. They have been conditioned to be attuned to their handler's needs. As they learn the individual personality of their partner warrior in our program, they become better at providing much-needed support during the recovery process. Service Dog training continues for the life of the animal and strengthens as the team continues to work together.

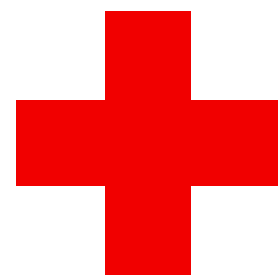
Here are some ways service dogs provide support:

- Smell oncoming episodes of anxiety. All humans give off nearly imperceptible signals when they experience stress, and the Service Dog can often begin to detect the chemical reactions going on within the body associated with anxiety. The dog can be trained to continually touch its handler at the very beginning stages of anxiety.
- Reorient and "ground" the handler to a safe environment when struggling with PTSD episodes. Sometimes, all a PTSD victim needs is a presence to guide them back to reality. Service dogs can intervene and refocus their handlers in times of stress.
- Remind the handler to perform her or his daily routines
- Reduce fear associated with meeting new people or social settings
- Assist handler in creating a safe personal space
- Serve as a buffer to calm handler and reduce feelings of emotional distress in crowded places

For more information here is their website: Warriorshheart.com

Hope UCC will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on June 19th.

Please consider donating blood to help those in need. Appointments can be scheduled through the Red Cross website. We encourage everyone who is able to participate, as each donation has the potential to save multiple lives.



Thank you to everyone that helped to "Raise some Dough" during the Panera Bread fundraiser. Your kindness and generosity are appreciated!



HOPE FOOD PANTRY



On March 8th, 2025, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 190 families, which includes 581 individuals. We distributed 13,490 lbs. 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 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, APRIL 12TH
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 this item:

Toilet Paper

[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!**



April 22nd is

EARTH DAY

Offer Shelter!

Hanging a birdhouse in your yard is an easy way to help protect the birds in your neighborhood on chilly days. What's the best place to put it? "Safety should be the main priority," says Robyn Shepherd of the National Audubon Society. "Place birdhouses away from windows to avoid collisions, and out of reach of animals like squirrels and raccoons." It's also smart to keep it near greenery where birds can hide. If you buy a new birdhouse, avoid models with a perch, she says. "Perches make it easier for predators to access the house."

Create a Bird-Friendly Community:

Healthy Birds will be better equipped to face the challenges of a warming world. Commit to creating safe spaces for birds in your home and community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing birdbaths, and converting lawns and gardens to native plants. School grounds, parks, vacant lots, and common areas can all be "bird-scaped," too.

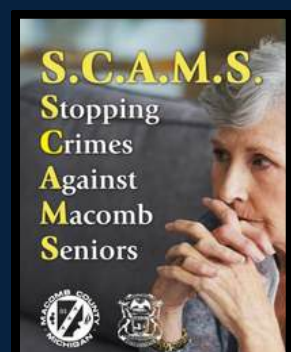


Submitted by Karen M.

Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido

will be here at Hope UCC to speak
at coffee hour on June 1st.

Join us for an informative session as Prosecutor Lucido shares insights into fraud protection and scams. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy what is certain to be a educational event.



GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Hope Fun Bunch

Here it is March, the first time the Seniors have been together since December. The winter has stopped the group from gathering in January as well as February. We were 20 strong with 3 new members joining the "Fun Bunch". During our business meeting the group voted on their yearly charity contribution to an organization. This year we gave \$300 dollars to Big Family of Michigan. This non-profit organization helps children waiting to be adopted. To read more about the group go on any device you have, phone or computer, bigfamilyofmi.org. The Fun Bunch meets the 3rd Monday of the month (April 21 @12 noon). Next month we are having coney dogs cost \$5 dollars. Our members are charged a \$5 dollar dues once yearly.

Tom R, President / Ida E, Vice President / Joe H, Secretary



HOPE SPARKLES EXERCISE CLASS

This class focuses on fitness through a combination of stretching routines, balance exercises, and gentle cardiovascular activities. We use 2-pound weights provided by the church for strength-building workouts, along with therapy bands supplied by our instructor for flexibility training.

Participants can look forward to improvements in their overall health and well-being from these sessions.

Classes are held regularly on Mondays from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Our instructor, Linda Hohf from the Arthritis Foundation, possesses an exceptional understanding of our joint and muscle needs, tailoring our workouts accordingly.

What truly sets this Exercise Class apart is "YOU." All you have to do is "SHOW UP" for an hour of fun and fitness with friends!

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



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 yvonneta@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!



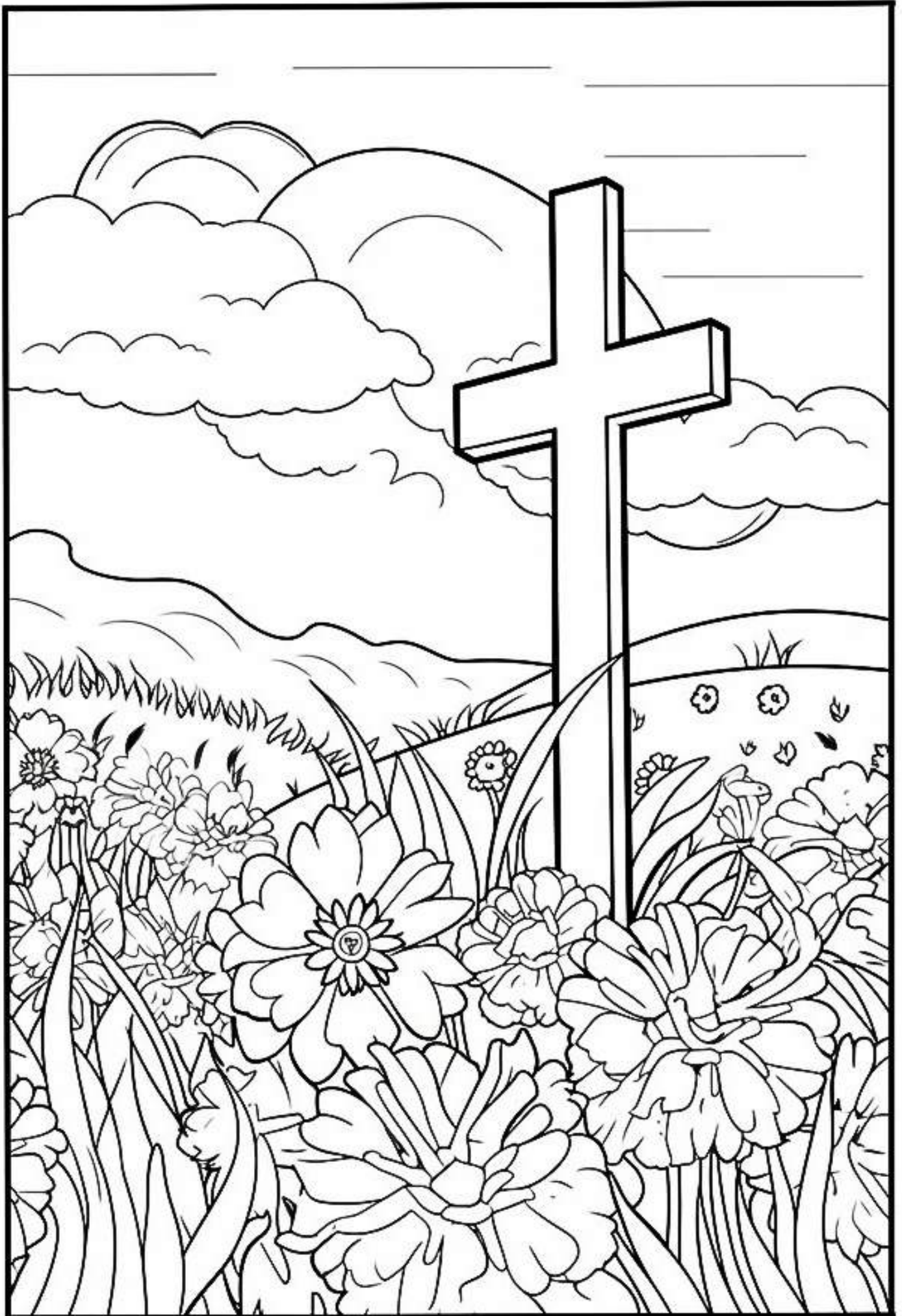
Volunteers are greatly needed to help frail, older and disabled adults in our community with: **MINOR HOME REPAIRS, INDOOR / OUTDOOR CHORES, & BASIC HOUSEKEEPING.** For a frail older adult or a person with disabilities, simple tasks like dusting & vacuuming, changing light bulbs or raking leaves can be impossible. Many minor home repairs are often well beyond their abilities, and far too expensive for them to purchase professionally.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program helps our older and disabled neighbors with such tasks so they can remain safe and independent in their own homes. If you can help weekly, monthly or even just a couple times a year, please call us today. The time you give will make a real difference in someone's life.

Call (586) 757-5551.

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

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.

Emmons Family

Nancy

Smith Family

Jerry and Shannon

Sue

Nancy B

Carol

Flaherty Family

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.

HOPE GIVING

There are many avenues to provide financial support to the church, and your contributions are vital in advancing the 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 S.**

CHURCH NEWS

2025 Board of Trustees



Kirk Schoenherr - President



Nancy Burnham - Vice President



Terri Hillman - Treasurer



Jim Wilson - Secretary



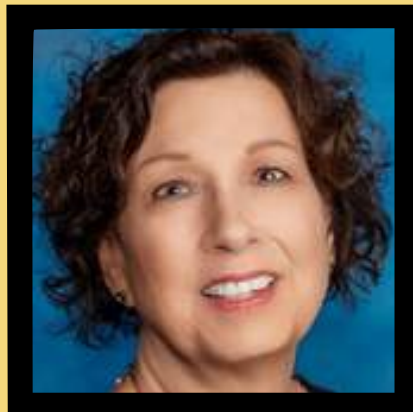
Rick Cole



Nancy Fay



Carissa Spear



Cynthia Greening



Brad Lusk

BOTS Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2025 Board of Trustees Hope United Church of Christ

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Kirk Schoenherr. Pastor Meg led us in prayer.

Those in attendance Brad Lusk, Carissa Spear, Cynthia Greening, Kirk Schoenherr, Pastor Meg, Rick Cole, Nancy Fay, Terri Hillman, Jim Wilson Absent: Nancy Burnham,

Congregational Comments – None

Additions to the Agenda – None

Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick with a second by Cindy. Motion carried.

President's Remarks – Kirk Schoenherr – welcome everyone new and experienced veterans. Please be patient 😊. Go around room and get a quick overview of what people have done for employment and special interests or skill sets:

- Cindy: retired – executive project manager. Has held roles as secretary and president in other organizations
- Carissa: McLaren Healthcare – analyzes data, problem solving
- Terri, retired finance and accounting, CPA. Certified auditor. Investor relations at a public utility.
- Jim: Marketing and Technology
- Brad: working in sales leading a team covering SW Michigan.
- Rick: Industrial sales and engineering. Sales and Marketing
- Nancy Fay: Teacher for many years. Started her own company at 50YO. Selling odds and ends and has been on almost every committee in UCC
- Kirk: Retired. GM at Taco Bell. Broad HR background and broad team leadership. Main interest is helping people.
- Pastor Meg: Counseling and working in agencies that served families in crisis. Has worked for a Church in some capacity since she was 20. Passion for children and youth

Approval of the February Meeting Minutes – Motion was made by Jim with a second by Rick to approve the February meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Reports for February 2025 – Terri Hillman – Motion was made by Nancy F with a second by Rick to approve the February report. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for February 2025 were \$2,795 less than the amount budgeted and \$3,928 (\$336 per week) less than the amount received for February 2024. There were four February Sundays in both years, but there was no in-person worship service on February 16, 2025, due to inclement weather. Year to date Weekly Offerings were \$2,770 less than budget and \$3,028 less than the same period in 2024. We also received Special Offerings of \$189 for Energy, \$170 for Our Church's Wider Mission, and \$50 for One Great Hour of Sharing.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$52.97 in interest to the Money Market Savings Account at First State Bank. That account paid an annual percentage rate of 3.83% in February of 2025 versus a rate of 0.05% in 2024. \$20,000 was transferred from Checking to Savings in February to take advantage of the increased 2025 interest rate. The interest rate and account balances will be monitored monthly to determine if working capital

BOTS Meeting Minutes

needs will allow additional funds to be transferred to Savings.

- Year to date Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, is \$2,441 less than the amount budgeted and \$2,193 less than 2024.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for February 2025 were \$3,610 more than the amount budgeted and \$2,758 more than the Expenses for February 2024. Year to date Expenses were \$3,492 more than budget and \$4,230 more than 2024. The year-to-date variances to budget and 2024 were caused primarily by higher Grounds Upkeep cost due to inclement weather in 2025, higher electricity cost, a 2024 premium audit adjustment for Workers Compensation billed in 2025, timing of Technology purchases of new headphones for the soundboard and a new webcam, and additional expenses for Christian Education as more children consistently attend services.
- There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$8,659 in February 2025 versus a loss of \$1,757 in February 2024.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$14,925	\$32,300
Operating expenses	<u>23,584</u>	<u>44,075</u>
Excess of receipts over expenses (Expenses over receipts)	<u><u>(\$ 8,659)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$11,775)</u></u>

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$1,467 and expense of \$3,392 for the month, leaving a balance of \$100,597.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in February were \$855 which was \$720 less than the amount budgeted and \$105 less than the amount received for February 2024. Hope for the Future year to date offerings were \$2,110 which was \$1,040 less than budget but \$280 more than the same period in 2024. We have received Memorials of \$1,737 year to date.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a February loss of \$1,935 compared to a gain of \$9,178 for February 2024.

<u>Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$7,494)	(\$7,928)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	<u>(\$1,925)</u>	<u>(\$1,639)</u>
Total Cash Flow	<u><u>(\$9,419)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$9,567)</u></u>

- Meg mentions that there is a timing issue on purchasing supplies for various programs as we purchase goods in advance of programming.
- Also a corrected journal entry was made to reconcile the 2024 annual accounts.
- Terri commented that some of those who make donations direct from 401k accounts may be timing withdrawals due to market volatility

Long discussion on the next pledge campaign. Discussion around the importance of having commitments that we can use to budget around. Suggestion that perhaps a good approach would be to ask for a minimum commitment.

Unfinished Business – Kirk Schoenherr

- Painting Improvements .. we need to think about painting in the sanctuary. The property committee is planning on some activity near the sound-board together with drywall around window.

BOTS Meeting Minutes

New Business

2. Organ Update – Kirk – Organ is working. Repairs have been made, but not all the repairs could be made. Parts may no longer be available. There are multiple issues. Agreed to think about this for a month and then form a task force to dive into options.
3. Monthly Events Update – Kirk –
 - Chilli cook off is on 3/16 following worship.
 - On 3/28 there is a Panera bread fund raiser for CMWC from 4-8pm and Motor City Chorale at 7pm
 - Also on 3/28, Celebrating your life workshop at 1:00pm
4. Installation of New Board – Kirk – requesting 3/30 tentatively
5. Funding for Musicians for Easter Service – Pastor Meg – Need/Would like a trumpeter for Easter / Christmas services – prices is estimated to be \$250 for one rehearsal and a service performance. Funding Options:
 - A couple of places where we could get \$50-\$100 from budgets
 - Appeal from pulpit to folks who are profoundly moved by the musicMotion made to have Pastor Meg make appeal from pulpit (motion Jim / support Carissa) Motion Carried
6. Lenten Season Update:
 - Lenten book series – First Hybrid meeting for Book Study Tomorrow. In Parlor and on Zoom
 - Celebrating your life workshop – how do you want 1) your memorial service celebrated and 2) your legacy to be.
 - Palm Sunday, Petting Zoo, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter
 - Cleanup for coffee hour is an issue – let's put out a sign up sheet for cleanup – Carissa, circle back with Gail

Pastor's Report - Pastor Meg:

Worship: We have entered the season of Lent. Our Ash Wednesday service was in-person and on-line and ashes were available in the late afternoon. On March 23rd we will confirm Casey Lusk and Tessa Gartin. During Lent we will follow the traditional style of Lent and then Holy Week.

Pastoral Care: I continue to meet with people as needed for spiritual guidance and support. The last few weeks we had several people coping with medical issues and grief. I am excited to have meeting with visitors and get to know them and to share information about our church.

Church Business: We have completed the Annual Meeting. We are currently work to complete the Michigan Conference's required report. Gail created a new church brochure and continues to update our informational materials.

Spiritual Council: We will meet again to prepare for Holy Week. We also have at least 2 people who are interested in joining the church. We need to promote our Hope Ambassador opportunities. The Lenten Series will begin this Wednesday.

Pastor Relations: We will meet after Easter.

Christian Education: I am still preparing lesson plans and gathering supplies. Jordan and Kristin are faithful teachers. My goal is to have the new Christian Education Committee meet after Easter. We have seen an increase in weekly attendance in our Sunday School. Another goal is to kick-off a youth group for middle school students beginning in the summer or fall of 2025.

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: The Committee on Ministry is working to help Members in Discernment navigate the process to seek Ordination. We will be having a Conference wide Training Session in late March.

BOTS Meeting Minutes

Community Outreach: AA, PFLAG and OA meet at church on a regular schedule. Our exercise group is greatly appreciated by members of our community and is a great outreach ministry. The food pantry continues to be a valuable way of reaching out to our neighbors in need. The updated website is our most valuable tool for visitors to find us and learn about our church.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Meg Wilson*

Consent Agenda Items – Motion was made by Cindy with a second by Terri to accept these reports as submitted. Motion carried.

These items are for review purposes only. If, however discussion is needed, a trustee can make a motion to remove them from the consent agenda for further discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

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 made by Jim with a second by Nancy to adjourn the meeting at ~8:30 pm. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

PENDING BOT'S APPROVAL



APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	2 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lenten Book Study 7pm	3 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	4	5 AA 7-8:30pm
6 Worship 10am	7 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	8 CMWC 12:30pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	9 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lenten Book Study 7pm	10 Celebrate Your Life Workshop 10am Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	11	12  FOOD PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm
13 Worship 10am Palm Sunday Egg-Stravaganza! 	14 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	15 BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	16 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	17 Maundy- Thursday Supper 6 pm Worship 7 pm 	18 Good Friday Service Noon 	19 AA 7-8:30pm
20 Worship 10am Easter Sunday 	21 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Hope Fun Bunch 12pm	22 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	23 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	24 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	25	26 AA 7-8:30pm Wedding
27 Worship 10am	28 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	29 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	30 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm			

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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