



MARCH 2025



THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON

Hope United Church of Christ

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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



“I know that it is well with your soul.” 3 John 1:2

How is it with your soul today? What a meaningful way of asking someone how they are doing. Perhaps, we would get a more honest answer instead of the obligatory response of, “I’m fine”, if we asked this question instead of how are you. Certainly, during these winter months and during a time of uneasiness our souls have gotten a workout.

John Wesley used the question *how is it with your soul* two centuries ago when he developed a new way for Christians to support each other in the faith. His followers met in “class meetings,” which we now call small groups. The groups focused on the spiritual disciplines of prayer, support, study and accountability. It was the 18th century version of a small support group.

It was also a profound way to help people grow in their relationship with God. Imagine if you asked yourself or someone close to you, “How is it with your soul?” We measure our lives in all kinds of ways- the hours we work, the salary we earn, the success of our children, the home we live in, the time we spend exercising. Corporations and other organizations focus on “best practices” or “quality control” to measure their success.

But how do we assess the *most* important relationship of our lives, our relationship with God? John Wesley’s question based on the scripture from the Third Letter of John, is a good place to start.

During this season of Lent, ask yourself, how is it with my soul today? Your mind may be filled with lists of things to do or problems to solve. Your heart may be overflowing with joy or breaking with sadness and grief. *But how is it with your soul?* Whatever the day may bring or has brought, how are you experiencing God in this time?

How can you deepen this soul-searching experience? You might find that reading a Lenten daily devotion or listen to music reminds you of God’s love. I invite you to join us for worship or our Lenten study. Plan to attend our Celebrating Your Life Workshop. You can contribute to your Lenten Blessing Bag or in our Removing the Clutter Project.

This season is the perfect time to commit to worshipping or serving others. Please pray for Hope Church and for those in need. Take time during the 40 days of Lent, this season of preparation, to reflect on the state of your soul.

So, I ask, “*How is it with your soul this day?*”

Blessings, Pastor Meg

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 Friday, March 28th at 1pm, and 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.

Confirmation Celebration

March 23rd is Confirmation Sunday.

Confirmation is a holy time when a young person after completing an intensive study makes the decision to join the church. They are confirming the promises that were made at their baptism. Please plan on attending and supporting our 2025 confirmands.



CHURCH NEWS



Ash Wednesday will be on March 5th.
We will host an Ash Wednesday Service and Refreshments at 10am.
Walk in prayer and Ashes available from 4:30- 6:30 that evening.

HOPE ANNUAL Chili Cook-Off Rescheduled!!



March 16th following worship.

Bring your famous chili in a crockpot. (no soups) Bring your tastebuds and join the fun!

We need at least 10 chilis to taste.

We will be awarding prizes for the top winners.

NEW Sign up Sheet in the Lobby.

Motor City Chorale Evening Spring Concert

The Motor City Chorale Spring Concert returns to Hope United Church of Christ on **Sunday, March 28th at 7:30pm**. This highly anticipated event features diverse choral music, including classical and contemporary pieces. The concert promises to be memorable for all music lovers.

Event details will be available closer to the performance date. Celebrate spring with the uplifting sounds of the Motor City Chorale!

CHURCH NEWS

Lenten Book Study:

“You Can't Ask That!: 50 Taboo Questions about the Bible, Jesus, and Christianity”

The Lenten Book Study will begin on **March 12th**. We will do a hybrid study. That means we will be in-person and on Zoom at **7pm on Wednesday evenings**. Please note if attending in-person or online when signing up. Also, if enough people are interested, we can consider a **Tuesday morning in-person group at 10:30 am**.

There are sign up sheets on the welcome table or call the church office. See flyer for more information. The books cost \$12.00



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



What is Lent? Why do we observe it in 2025?

Lent is a special season in the church! Lent is a time to prepare for Easter. The liturgical color for Lent is purple.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. It lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays. Lent ends at sunset the night before Easter Sunday. Sundays are considered “little Easters”.

The ashes for Ash Wednesday are from the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. Why do we do Ashes, isn't that a Roman Catholic tradition? Protestants used ashes too. We use the ashes as a tangible reminder of our own mortality and a call to repent from those things that separate us from God. Starting on Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, we acknowledge our dependence upon God and God's unending love for us.

The word “Lent” comes from an Old English word *lencten*, which refers to there being more hours of daylight and the season of spring. Lent is not mentioned in the Bible. However, it is a biblical tradition to have a time of preparation before every important religious celebration.

Lent is a time to examine our thoughts, feelings and actions to help us to find ways to grow in our faith. Lent is a time to renew our commitment to God.

During Lent, we remember the life of Jesus. We remember that Jesus taught us to love and forgive one another.

Some people give things up during Lent, like sweets or a favorite activity as a way of honoring God. It is also a time of letting go of behaviors that have taken on too much importance. Examples might be spending too much time on social media or behaviors that impact us negatively like gossiping.

The early church taught that giving up something was a way to recall the great sacrifice that Christ made for all people. More recently people add on extra activities, like reading their Bible, participating in a study or finding additional ways to help people. Adding an intentional spiritual practice is a healthy way of growing and following the teachings of Jesus.

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



Ash Wednesday - March 5th



Daylight Savings Time - Spring Forward - March 9th



Confirmation Sunday - March 23rd



Palm Sunday Worship & Egg-stravaganza! - April 13th

Maundy-Thursdays with Soup Supper - April 17th



Good Friday Worship at noon - April 18th




Easter Sunday - April 20th



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



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 has given 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!!

HOPE FOOD PANTRY

On February 8th, 2025, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 189 families, which includes 585 individuals. We distributed 14,054 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, March 8th
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



HELP US RAISE SOME DOUGH! Mark your calendar for Friday, March 28, 4-8 PM, at Panera Bread Bakery & Cafe at 14121 Hall Rd., Shelby Twp. Bring a hard copy of the flyer below or a digital copy of the flyer to the restaurant on that day. Show the flyer to the team member taking your order, and HOPE Food Pantry will earn 25% of your net purchase. Online orders placed all day at our event cafe will count toward our total sales. Phone orders will also count between 4-8 PM. If you are ordering by phone or online, use this code (**FUND4U**) at panerabread.com, in the Panera app, or at the kiosk in-cafe. Hard copies of the flyer will be available at the church. You may also make copies in black and white to give to your friends, relatives, and neighbors. This is a "family event". So come and help us **RAISE SOME DOUGH!**



We're raising dough!

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - HOPE FOOD PANTRY

**March 28, 2025
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
14121 Hall Road, Shelby Township, MI**

Use code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.

Online orders placed all day at your event cafe will count toward your total sales.

25%

OF NET SALES
WILL BE
DONATED*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe to ensure your organization gets a portion of the net sales.

Panera
FUNDRAISING

CHRISTIAN MISSION & WITNESS

The CMWC is still 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 also looking for 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.

Lent Blessing Bags



Pick up your blessing bag March 9th in the church lobby to be filled with your monetary gifts.

Please return them on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

"Warrior Hearts" will receive our blessing bag giving this year. Warriors Heart offers canine therapy to assist veterans struggling with mental health issues



Five Ways Warriors Heart's K-9 Program Helps Warriors Heal

1. Gives warriors a sense of "hope and healing" during their 42-day in-patient treatment—they can see a "future" by being trained to adopt a service dog to take home.
2. Gives warriors a sense of purpose by caring for a service dog—who is often a rescue dog with wounds, so they are healing each other.
3. Provides warriors with daily physical activity and a routine—that replaces bad habits with good habits, major part of recovery.
4. Gives warriors comfort during difficult times: Warriors Heart's K9s are custom trained based on the individual's needs to mitigate PTS symptoms, panic attacks, Tourette's Syndrome ticks, seizures, nightmares, social anxieties, dissociation, lower-level anxieties and more.
5. Provides life-saving companionship when the warrior leaves treatment, especially for those who may be living in isolation—K9 therapy and training also continues when they go home.

For more information here is their website: Warriorsheart.com

HOPE GIVING

ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING



BE THE LIGHT

*You're here to be light, bringing out the
God-colors in the world. Matthew 5:14 (MSG)*

ucc.org/oghs

One Great Hour of Sharing: March 30th

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul.

When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Attention Hope Church:

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.

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

reminder:

*Not all growth
is visible.*



**Your Giving Statement
will reflect the total donation.
Questions? Contact Lori Sarnowski**

CHURCH NEWS

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.



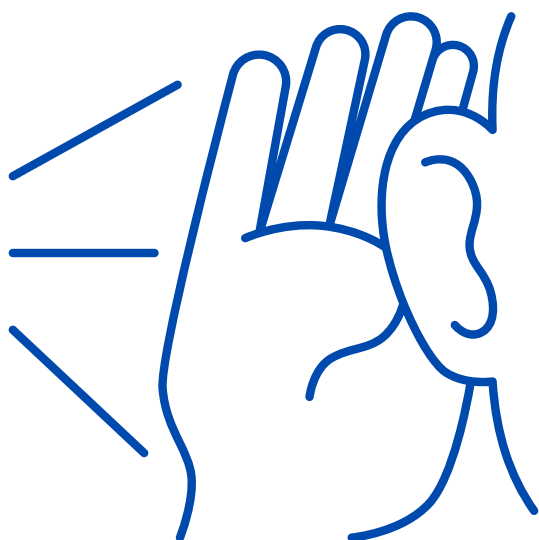
Hearing Assistance is Offered at Hope UCC

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!



GROUPS AND MEETINGS

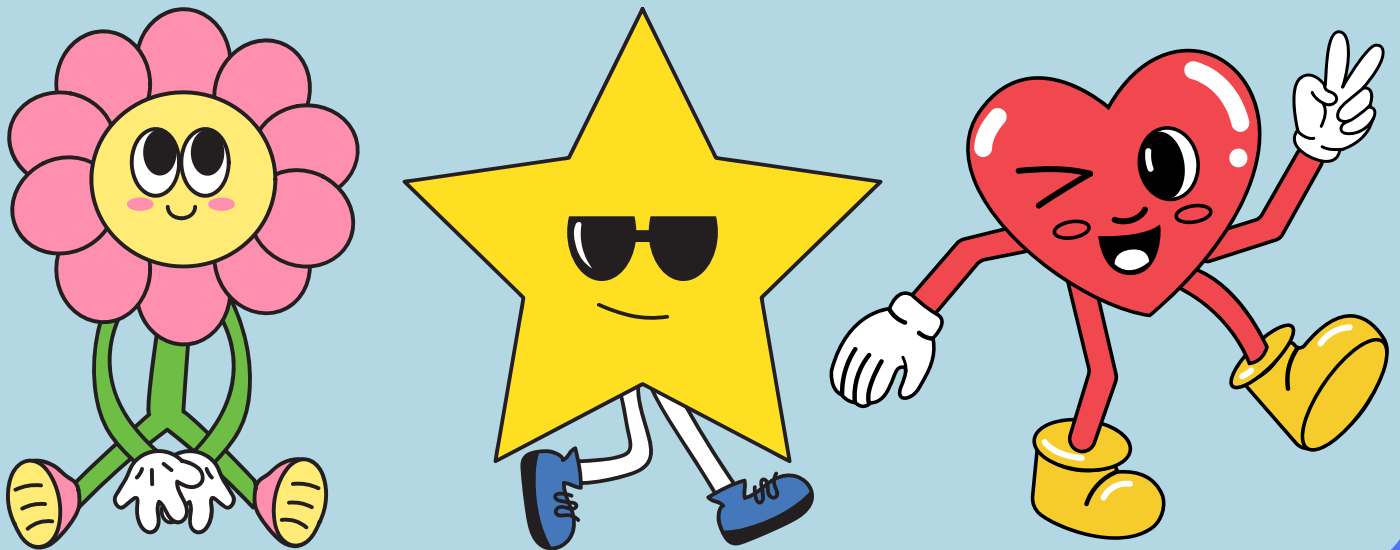
Hope Fun Bunch

February brought more weather challenges that prevented us from meeting. The Next Fun Bunch Gathering will be on March 17th at noon. Hope to see you there!

Tom R, President

Ida E, Vice President

Joe H, Secretary



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 Hofh 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.



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 Tadjewski, President, PFLAG-CT



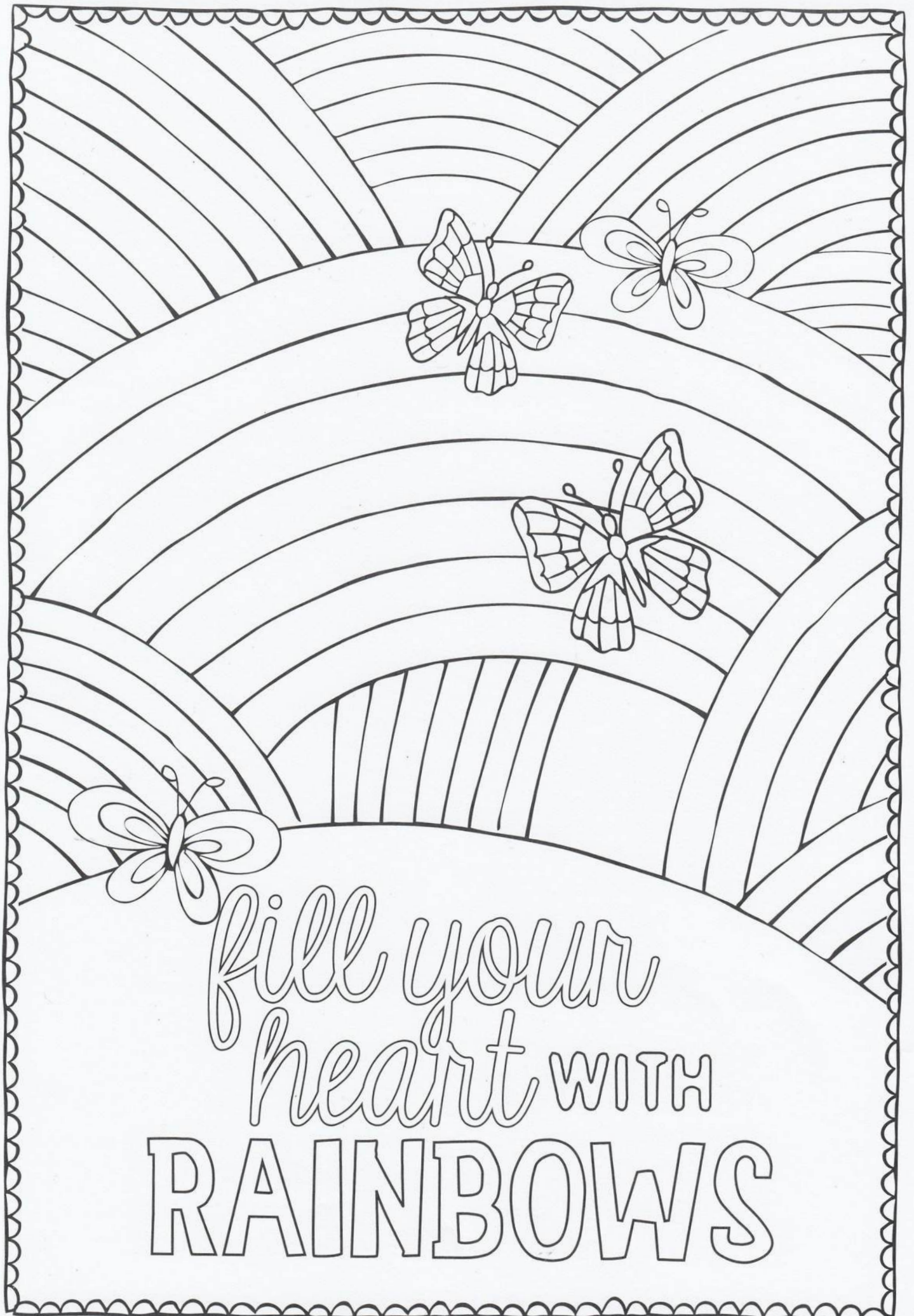
A Driving Need



Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program is in need of volunteers who can provide transportation in the local area. We especially need drivers who are available during daytime business hours – mornings and afternoons. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you, and we call you with specific appointments that meet these criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year will make a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551.

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

FAMILY PAGE



fill your
heart WITH
RAINBOWS

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.

Lori

Greening Family

Emmons Family

Nancy

Cindy

Linda Smith's Family

Jerry and Shannon

Carol

Harvey Family

Robinson Family

Sue

Kristen

Nancy

Jean

Sue

Carol

Idyle Family

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.

BOTS Meeting Minutes

Hope United Church of Christ
Synopsis of Board Meeting
February 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Steve Nielson. Pastor Meg led us in prayer.

Those in attendance: Pastor Meg, Steve Nielson, Lori Sarnowski, Terri Hillman, Kirk Schoenherr, Linda Parsons, Linda Rehm and Nany Fay. Absent: Jerry Rogers and Nancy Burnham.

[Congregational Comments](#) – Steve Nielson – None

[Additions to the Agenda](#) – Steve Nielson – None

[Approval of Agenda](#) – Motion to approve the agenda was made by Terri Hillman with a second by Nancy Fay. Motion carried.

[President's Remarks](#) – Steve Nielson – It has been a very successful year of 2024 both with events and financially. Thank you to the current Board for all of their support. It was a great shower for Baby Jesus. I wish the new board success.

[Approval of the January Meeting Minutes](#) – Motion was made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Kirk Schoenherr to approve the January meeting minutes. Motion Carried.

[Treasurer's Reports for January 2025](#) – Terri Hillman – Motion was made by Linda Rehm with a second by Kirk Schoenherr to approve the January Report. Motion Carried.

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for January 2025 were \$25 more than the amount budgeted and \$901 (\$225 per week) more than the amount received for January 2024. There were four January Sundays in both years. We also received Special Offerings of \$1,160 for Energy (including a \$600 stipend from The Emergency Food Assistance Program to partially offset expenses of running the Food Pantry) and \$20 for the Christmas Fund.
- The only Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$30.74 in interest to the Money Market Account at First State Bank.
- Year to date Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, is \$786 more than the amount budgeted and \$1,951 more than 2024.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for January 2025 were \$118 less than the amount budgeted but \$1,471 more than the Expenses for January 2024. The year-over-year Expense difference was primarily due to increased Grounds Upkeep costs for more snow removal and salting in 2025.
- There was a loss (Income less Expense) of \$3,115 in January 2025 versus a loss of \$3,595 in January 2024.



BOTS Meeting Minutes

• SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating receipts	\$17,376	\$17,376
Operating expenses	<u>20,491</u>	<u>20,491</u>
Excess of receipts over expenses		
(Expenses over receipts)	<u>(\$ 3,115)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,115)</u>

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had income of \$1,835 and expense of \$1,549 for the month, leaving a balance of \$102,522.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future offerings received in January 2025 were \$1,255 which was \$320 less than the amount budgeted but \$385 more than the amount received for January 2024. We received Memorials of \$1,427 in January.

Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a January gain of \$7,771 compared to a gain of \$2,167 for January 2024.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)

	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$ 434)	(\$ 434)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	<u>287</u>	<u>287</u>
Total Cash Flow	<u>(\$ 147)</u>	<u>(\$ 147)</u>

Painting Improvements
Civil Engineering

New Business

Annual Meeting Update – Steve Nielson: The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 11:15 am in Fellowship Hall and will be in-person only. We will need two people to sign in members. Linda Rehm volunteered and Steve will get one other person from the Congregation. Pastor Meg requested that Nancy Fay lead us in song if there was a need due to a vote having to take place due to additional candidates from the floor. Steve will request Gail to make sign-in sheets and have ballots available if they are needed.

Housing Resolution – Terri Hillman: Linda Parsons had noticed it was not part of the January Board Meeting as had been done in the past. She had noticed its absence when typing the January minutes and comparing them to the prior January minutes. There is no change for 2025. Therefore, the Board decided it will be revisited at the time the Budget for the following year is being prepared unless the Pastor needed it addressed earlier.

Insurance Update – Steve Nielson: Hartford Insurance requires all vendors who provide services at Hope Church to have Worker's Compensation Insurance. Hartford informed us not to allow our current company on our property without having a Worker's Compensation Policy. Due to an ice storm coming, we had a different Snow Removal Company provide salting services as they had a Worker's Compensation Policy and our current provider did not. Our current provider subsequently got a Worker's Compensation Policy and will now be charging us \$25 more per month to help him pay for his policy.



BOTS Meeting Minutes

We also have need for an organ repair and organ repair people are normally sole-proprietors and carry liability insurance but do not carry Worker's Compensation on themselves. Pastor Meg suggested we contact the UCC Legal Department and see what they have to say about this situation. A motion was made to ask our organ repair man to come and diagnose the problem with the organ and give us an estimate for the repair and we are aware that we may have to assume any penalty from Hartford Insurance Company to get this estimate. The motion was made by Lori Sarnowski with a second by Nancy Fay. Motion carried.

Monthly Events Update – Steve Nielson: Next Sunday, February 16th, will be the Chili Cookoff. Steve Nielson's family is in charge this year.

We have secured the date of Friday, March 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm for the Motor City Chorale to perform their Spring Concert here. We may possibly ask the Choir to again be the hosts since they did such a great job with the Christmas Concert.

Lenten Season Update – Pastor Meg: A study of the Book "You Can't Ask That!: 50 Taboo Questions about the Bible, Jesus, and Christianity". Copies of the book will be available for purchase at \$12 each and Hope Church will start a hybrid book study both on zoom and in person on March 12th for five consecutive Wednesdays at 7 pm. The other study for Lent will be the planning of one's own Memorial Service.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, we will have a petting zoo and a Breakfast if at all possible.

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

Worship: January and February worship services are based on the early stories of Jesus ministry. Lent does not begin until much later this year. Ash Wednesday will be on March 5th. I was delighted to give LaToya Young an opportunity to preach in January.

Pastoral Care: I continue to meet with people as needed for spiritual guidance and support. This month we have had several people with surgery and medical needs. I am available to offer support as family's navigate medical issues. My ministry extends outside our Hope Church congregation, and I am honored to help families memorialize their loved ones.

Church Business: We completed the 2024 Annual Report, and we are working on the required report for Michigan Conference with all of Hope Church's statistical information.

Spiritual Council: The group met in January to discuss the Advent and Christmas season and to prepare for Lent. We are thrilled to receive new members and regular visitors. We had a new member class on February 9th and I will be meeting with individuals in the coming days. We need to promote our Hope Ambassador opportunities.

Pastor Relations should meet in the spring.

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 in either March or April. Confirmation is scheduled for Tessa and Casey on March 23rd. 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.



BOTS Meeting Minutes

DMA & Conference Upcoming Involvement: The Committee on Ministry is working to help Members in Discernment navigate the process to seek Ordination.

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 – Steve received reports from the Property Committee and the Spiritual Council for the month of January. Motion was made by Kirk Schoenherr with a second by Linda Parsons to accept these reports as submitted. Motion carried.

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

*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 made by Linda Rehm with a second by Kirk Schoenherr to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

PENDING BOT'S APPROVAL



MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 AA 7-8:30pm
2 Worship 10am	3 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	4 CMWC 12:30pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	5 Ash Wednesday Service 10am Evening Ashes 4:30-6:30pm Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	6 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	7	8 FOOD PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm
9 Worship 10am Holy Communion <i>Spring Forward</i>	10 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	11 BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	12 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lenten Book Study 7pm	13 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	14	15 AA 7-8:30pm
16 Worship 10am Chili Cook-Off	17 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Hope Fun Bunch 12pm	18 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	19 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lenten Book Study 7pm	20 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	21	22 AA 7-8:30pm Linda Smith Memorial 11am
23 Worship 10am Confirmation Sunday	24 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	25 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	26 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lenten Book Study 7pm	27 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	28 Celebrating Life Workshop 1pm Panera Bread Fundraiser 4-8pm Motor City Chorale Concert 7:30pm	29 AA 7-8:30pm
30 Worship 10am One Great Hour of Sharing	31 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm					

THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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