

Hope United Church of Christ

35127 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI, 48035

Church Office: (586) 296-8760 Email: hopeucc4@gmail.com Website: Hopeuccmi.com

Facebook Public Page: @hopeuccmacomb

YouTube: Hope United Church of Christ - Clinton Township



WORDS OF HOPE





As a new school year begins, I am keenly aware of the young people in my life and for that matter, all of God's children. As I observe the events around the world it causes me to take a deep breath. We want the next generation to witness the love of God.

This makes me profoundly thankful for the church, in particular for the United Church of Christ and the priorities the church holds. I am grateful that we are ready to respond with open arms to any child of God that comes through our doors. We are welcoming. There is no test, there is no requirement to receive Holy Communion. We trust that the sacrament is a holy mystery and that those who receive it will be open to knowing Christ. This is not true for all denominations.

The same is true with Baptism. All parents are welcome to ask to have their child baptized. As pastor, I meet with each family letting them know the benefits of raising their child in the faith. We plant seeds of faith and strive to nurture those seeds. We value our youngest members. We offer Christian Education that teaches both Bible stories and Christian values, always supported by the message that God loves you! As a church we are committed to the spectrum of our membership. Our seniors are an active and dynamic group within our church.

We celebrate people as they are! Sexual orientation is not a barrier for wanting to follow Christ and to know the love of God. We value being a safe and welcoming church. The UCC has a proud history of speaking out on social issues. We believe in the power of peace. We support justice for immigrants. We seek to address racial inequality and seek ways to create unity. We seek to do our part to leave God's creation in a healthy way.

Here at Hope Church we serve those in need through our food pantry along with a variety of missions programs. The UCC states; "to care is to do". We support UCC special offerings that provide aid through several local, national and global ministries. At Hope Church, we open our doors to community support groups like AA, PFLAG and OA. We recognize that on life's journey there are times when we need an encouraging word.

I celebrate and am grateful that the UCC, and in particular Hope Church, is committed to embracing all of God's children. Let us strive to be a joyful place of worship, growth and service in Christ's name.

Feeling blessed, Pastor Meg

Mark your calendar:

Sunday School Kick Off - September 7th

Annual Church Picnic - September 14th

Confirmation Kick Off - September 28th

Pet Blessing - Saturday October 4th 2pm

World Communion - Sunday October 5th

New Member Class - October 12th Following Worship

Bible Sunday/Children's Sabbath - October 19th

Trunk or Treat - Saturday October 25th 2pm

Congregational Meeting - October 26th



Hope Website	YouTube	Instagram	Facebook
回双回	回發液回		回数数回
蘇隆福	200	SERVICE	發送所認
壓變依		35,000,000	281 PAN
■89304		国際政府教	
www.hopeuccmi.com	@hopeunitedchurchofchrist-c8235	@HopeUCCmi	@HopeUCCmacomb

Follow us on Social Media

Annual Hope UCC Picnic

Join us for the Hope Church Picnic! Celebrate the start of our fall schedule. Sunday, September 14th, right after worship.

Come enjoy delicious food fellowship and fun. The church will provide fried chicken and beverages. A freewill offering will be taken to help cover chicken costs.

Please bring a dish to share, along with a serving utensil, based on the list provided below. Add your name to the poster in the narthex so that we know you are planning to attend. Feel free to bring outdoor chairs if you like.

From outdoor games to lemonade to friendly conversations there is something fun for everyone!

If you have questions, please contact the church office.

We hope to see you there!



- A E Dessert
- F J Vegetable
- K O Salad (potato or pasta)
- P T Fruit
- U Z Snacks

Sunday School Begins

We are excited to kick off the new Christian Education year of 2025/2026 on Sunday September 7th! This autumn, our initial plan is to have two groups and expand further as the year progresses. High School students will be invited to assist in classrooms. Parents will need to complete an updated Sunday School Registration Form.

Bible Sunday

The church is committed to the tradition of giving young learners a Bible from their church family. We typically give bibles to children in the 3rd grade and above so that we can encourage them to grow in their faith. Please contact Pastor Meg or the church office if you have an interested child in your family who would like to receive a Bible on Sunday, October 19th. We want to make sure to recognize each recipient in a special way on that Sunday during worship.



Children's Sabbath

Children's Sabbath is a wonderful day in the church! This year it happens on Sunday, October 19th. We will celebrate the children in our congregation and lift up the needs of children across the globe. If you are interested in participating please see Pastor Meg.





on September 28th!
Confirmation class is designed to enhance the faith and understanding of young individuals. It's an enriching journey encompassing education, spiritual growth, discussions, community service, and personal reflection. If you have a Middle School/High School aged student who is interested in learning about confirmation, please reach out to Pastor Meg.

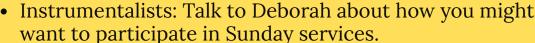


Hope Music Ministry Opportunities

The Music Ministry of Hope Church is always looking for more members!

Rehearsals are on Thursdays with our new season beginning Sept 4. Bell Choir rehearses at 6pm. And the Adult Choir rehearses at 7:30pm

New Singers, Ringers, and Instrumentalists are welcome!



- Singers: No need to have a trained voice! And reading music is NOT a requirement. But you do need to be able to match pitch. Set up a meeting with Deborah now!
- Ringers: Reading music is NOT a requirement! Talk to Deborah if you are interested.

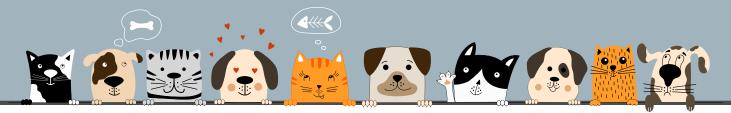






Blessing of the Pets

On **Saturday October 4th at 2 p.m.**, join us and bring your friends for a delightful celebration honoring the pets in our lives. All animals and humans are invited to this short worship gathering. If you don't have pets at home, feel free to bring stuffed animals for blessings! For shy pets, their favorite toy can be brought in for blessings instead. Please keep your pets secured for their safety. Refreshments will be provided for both humans and animals attending. Bring along your goldfish, dogs, cats, hamsters, horses, and any other beloved creatures to join in the festivities.



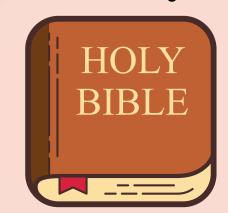


Trunk or Treat

Hope Church will host our annual Halloween event, Trunk or Treat on **Saturday**, **October 25th at 2pm**. Children dress up in costumes and trick or treat in the parking lot going from car to car. Adults are encouraged to decorate their cars and bring candy to pass out. This event happens rain or shine. Bring your kids, grandkids, and neighbors to this fun and safe event!

Monday Night Bible Study

Beginning on September 22nd through
November 17th @ 7pm Hope Church will
host a Bible study. This will be a hybrid
discussion both in-person at Hope and via
Zoom. The Study will be led by Rev. Pat
Thompson and Pastor Meg. Study books will
be available in early September.
We will begin by studying the Psalms which
have been a source of great comfort for
people across the ages.



Are You Interested in Church Membership?

Do you know what this comma means? Are you interested in finding out? Have you been attending for a while, and you would like to know more about what it means to be a member? Would you like to become more involved, but you don't know where to begin? Do you have questions about what the UCC is all about?

Come and join in conversation with Pastor Meg on **Sunday October 12**th after worship and decide if it feels like a good fit and a good time for you to become a church member. Wherever you are on your life journey you are welcome here!

Please Help Us Keep Updated Church Records

Have you recently relocated? Do you have a new phone number or email address? Please share your updated information with the church office so we can keep you properly informed!





Thank you to the property committee and all the volunteers who helped to clean up our church garden and flower beds.

They all look so wonderful!

Hearing Assistance is Offered at Hope UCC



Are you having trouble hearing Pastor Meg's sermon?

Do you feel the choir could sing a bit louder?

We're here to help! Our assistive listening system is designed to enhance your experience. We've installed an advanced system that can transmit sound directly to your hearing aids via your smartphone or through a special receiver we can provide. Additionally, we offer earphones for those who do not use hearing aids. Don't miss out on the wonderful messages of God's good news!

Come and join us for Coffee Hour!

We are in need of volunteers to help organize and tidy up the refreshment area, as well as provide treats for our weekly fellowship time. If you're interested, please refer to the sign-up sheets located in the narthex for available time slots.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in August with Coffee Hour!



Flowers for the Altar

Sign up for altar flowers to commemorate a special occasion or pay tribute to someone dear. You can find the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Each arrangement costs just \$20, and you can take them home after the service. Payments can be made either online through our website or in person.



Dear Friends and Fellow Givers,

As the Trustees continue to prepare a budget for 2026, and in the face of rising costs, I've become aware of an opportunity to help close a portion of our shortfall that should be pretty painless:

Like an increasing number of fellow givers, we donate online. We love the convenience. We love not having to remember to write a check each week or hunt for the envelope box. And we really love the extra miles we accumulate on our credit card that help defray the cost of bringing the kids home on the holidays or even taking a vacation ourselves.

For those of you who give online, you know that there's an administrative fee of 2.5% charged by the bank for using their system to manage online donations. For example, using round numbers, if I donate \$100, the bank will deduct \$2.50 from that and deposit \$97.50 in the Church's account. I've tended to rationalize that 97.5% of something is heck of a lot better than 100% of nothing; so, for a long time, I ignored the \$2.5% processing fee. That is until I realized how many donations are actually being made online and how much money is being collected by the bank from those donated funds, and which never make it to Hope's account.

We've changed our behavior. We now check the box that adds 2.5% to our donation and makes the ensuing funds to Hope, 2.5% greater. I'd like to ask you to join us in this behavior. It's a small sacrifice for those of us who take advantage of online giving and its benefits, and together it actually adds up to be a significant upside to our budget.

Thanks in advance for your thoughtful consideration!

Warm regards, Jim



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM



Please consider participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. It's easy...all you need to participate is an email address and a Kroger rewards card. Then just shop at any Kroger store, swipe your rewards card, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Hope Church Operating Account. If you have access to a computer, you may enroll in the program by entering http://www.kroger.com into your browser - this is our Kroger number (HS995). If you haven't signed up, please consider doing so.

GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Hope Sparkles Exercise Class

This fitness class offers a delightful blend of stretching, balance exercises, and gentle cardio, incorporating 2-pound weights and therapy bands to enhance strength and flexibility. Participants can look forward to many health benefits.

Classes are scheduled for:

Mondays: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesdays: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Led by Linda Hohf from the Arthritis Foundation, the workouts are
customized to cater to joint and muscle needs.
What truly distinguishes this exercise class is YOU. All you need to do

is SHOW UP for an hour filled with fun and fitness alongside friends!

The emphasis on participant engagement ensures an enjoyable experience, with a modest fee of only \$1 per class.

As we commemorate a decade of meeting and moving together, we cherish the friendships and health journeys we've cultivated. Here's to many more years of fitness and joy!

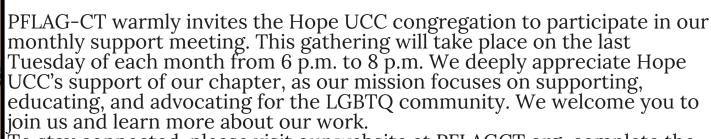


Hope Fun Bunch

Summer is fading fast as Sept. is just around the corner. The Fun Bunch showed up on the thin side last month. Even at that, nine of us sat around the table enjoying one another's company. This type of gathering is what the group is all about. Yes we had the usual Potluck Luncheon with ice cream. Denise Barc offered the blessing. Audrey Moore read some humorous antidotes from the community paper. Before we knew it the afternoon was gone.

Our next gathering will be Sept. 15th at noon.

COMMUNITY

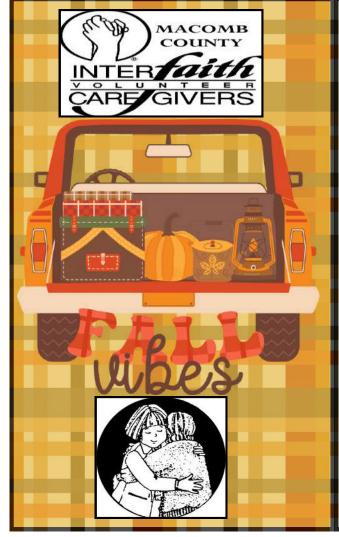


To stay connected, please visit our website at PFLAGCT.org, complete the form, and mention Hope UCC. This will add you to our email list, ensuring you receive notifications about future meetings.

For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to me at yvonnetad@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



WHAT IS THE INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS PROGRAM?

PFLAG

The IVC program is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to provide volunteer support for the older and disabled adults in our community who need just a little extra help to get by at home. Our volunteers:

- drive people to doctor's appointments and other essential errands,
- visit and call lonely and isolated individuals,
- stay with ill relatives so that their family caregivers can have a break,
- perform minor home repairs, yardwork, and housekeeping,
- help our struggling neighbors with a variety of other tasks that enable them to stay at home.

OUR MISSION:

We work with congregations, community groups, and concerned individuals to further our dual goals:

- 1. to respond to the ever-growing needs of older and physically challenged adults living in our communities who struggle daily to maintain their independence at home.
- 2. to provide meaningful opportunities for volunteers of all ages and abilities to enrich their lives and live out their faith by helping others.

Please contact us at <u>outreach@ivcinfo.org</u> or call 586-757-5551 if you have any questions.



On August 9th, 2025, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 165 families, including 545 individuals. We distributed 13,365 lbs. of food 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 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, September 13th 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 items:

Dish Soap / Shampoo-Conditioner 2 in 1

[please note that these should be a single serving or individual size]

COMMUNITY

Cider Mills

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Cider mills are one of the amazing attractions our great state has to offer. Our area is lucky to have a variety of cider mills open for you to visit and enjoy!

Blakes Orchard & Cider Mill

17985 Armada Center Road, Armada, MI (586) 784-5343 | blakefarms.com

Big Red Orchard & Cider Mill

4900 32 Mile Road, Washington Township, MI | (586) 752-7888 bigredorchard.com

Yates Cider Mill

1950 E. Avon Road, Rochester Hills, MI (248) 651-8300 | yatescidermill.com

Goodison Cider Mill

4295 Orion Road, Rochester, MI (248) 652-8450 | goodisoncidermill.com

Westview Orchards

65075 Van Dyke Avenue, Washington, MI (586) 752-3123 westvieworchards.com

Hy's Cider Mill,

6350 37 Mile Road, Bruce Township, MI (810) 798-3611 | hyscidermill.com

Stoney Creek Orchard & Cider Mill

2961 W. 32 Mile Road, Romeo, MI (586) 752-2453 | stonycreekorchard.com

Verellen Orchards & Cider Mill

63260 Van Dyke Avenue, Washington, MI (586) 752–2989 | verellenorchards.com

Fall Events & Festivals

September

Aug. 28-1, Novi Michigan State Fair michiganstatefairllc.com

Aug. 29-1, Royal Oak Arts, Beats & Eats artsbeatseats.com Aug. 29-1, Detroit

Detroit Jazz Festival

detroitjazzfest.org

Aug. 30-1, Romeo
Romeo Peach Festival
romeopeachfestival.com

5-6, Silver Lake **Apple & BBQ Festival**applebbqfestival.com

5-7, Rochester

Art & Apples Festival
festivalnet.com/10088/
Rochester-Michigan/ArtShows/Art-Apples-Festival

5-7, Paw Paw
Wine and Harvest
Festival
wineandharvestfestival.com

5-7, Plymouth
Plymouth Fall Festival
plymouthfallfestival.com

11-14, Troy **Troy Family Daze**troyfamilydaze.org

14, Center Line Center Line Beer Festival

centerlinefestival.org/ events/beer-fest

19-21, Ferndale
DIY Street Fair
ferndalediy.com

20, Detroit
RADwood at Cars at
the Station
radwood.com

26-28, Clinton
Clinton Fall Festival

26-28, South Lyon
Pumpkinfest
southlyonpumpkinfest.com

October

3-5, Pontiac American Speed Festival

m1concourse.com/ american-speed-festival

4-5, New Boston Huron Township Applefest

hurontownshipapplefest.com

12, Center Line
Center Line
Halloween Town
centerlinefestival.org/
events/halloween-town

25, Detroit

Detroit Fall

Beer Festival

mibeer.com/Events/
detroit-fall-beer-festival

November

7-9, Novi Snowmobile USA Show

14-16, Novi Motor City Comic Con Fall Edition

21-23, Rochester
Festival of Trees
downtownrochestermi.com/
festival-of-trees

Nov. 20-Dec. 24, Detroit 6-10 p.m., Wed.-Sun. Wayne County LightFest waynecountymi.gov/ Parks-Recreation/Special-Events-and-Programs/

Wayne-County-Lightfest

FAMILY PAGE



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

HOPE CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Prayer is at the heart of our connection with God. As a congregation, we join together in prayer during worship and carry that spirit into our daily lives. If you would like to add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please reach out to the church office.

In our church lobby, you'll find a special prayer sculpture — a space where you're invited to write down your prayer requests and hang them as a symbol of shared faith and hope. As we lift these needs before God, we are reminded of His loving presence among us.

Please keep those on our Prayer List in your hearts. Reach out with a phone call, a card, or a kind note and continue to hold them in your thoughts & prayers.

Jerry and Shannon

Carol

David

Chuck

Flaherty Family

Bruce

Elaine

Angie

Earlene

Debbie

Joe

Kathy

Carol

LaToya's Parents

Rick and Millie

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 several ways to provide financial support to the church, and your contributions are essential in supporting 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.

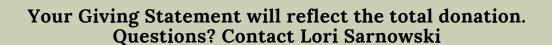
[For instance, to give \$10 text "10 HUCCF" to 45777]

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



BOTS UPDATES

The BOTS will meet again in September.
Included below is the financial report as submitted to the board of trustees from July 2025.

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

Statement of Operations - Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for July 2025 were \$4,740 less than budget, but year to date Weekly Offerings were \$2,645 more than budget. We received Special Offerings of \$460 for Energy in July.
- Investment activity for the Operating Fund consisted of \$120 in interest to the Money Market Savings Account at First State Bank. The account continues to pay an annual percentage rate of 4.0% in 2025.
- July Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, was \$4,442 less than budget but year
 to date Operating Income was \$4,440 more than the amount budgeted.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for July 2025 were \$1,008 less than budget, primarily driven by favorable timing of
 various Administrative expenses, partially offset by higher than budgeted Electricity and Water/Sewage/Refuse costs.
 Year to date Expenses were \$5,008 more than budget, driven by various timing differences as well as higher Church Life,
 Grounds Upkeep, Water/Sewage/Refuse, Insurance, and On-Line Donation costs.
- There was an Operating Fund loss (Income less Expense) of \$6,862 in July versus a budgeted loss of \$3,428 for the
 month. Year to date the Operating Fund loss of \$22,642 is \$567 more than the budgeted loss for this time of the year.

•	SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:	July	Year to Date
	Operating receipts	\$11,963	\$130,735
	Operating expenses	18,825	153,377
	Excess of receipts over expenses (Expenses over receipts)	(\$ 6,862)	(\$ 22,642)

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

Dedicated Accounts had income of \$303 and expense of \$266 for the month, leaving a balance of \$100,977.

Building Fund (Page 9):

Hope for the Future July offerings were \$545 which was \$1,030 less than the amount budgeted and year to date offerings were \$8,800 which was \$1,875 less than budget. We have received Memorials year to date of \$6,416, however, which is \$3,441 more than budget.

Investments (Page 9):

 The securities account had a July gain of \$4,570. Year to date the securities account had a gain of \$23,780 which was \$17,947 more than budget.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)	July	Year to Date
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excluding Investments)	(\$ 6,317)	(\$ 17,026)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	37	(1,258)
Total Cash Flow	(\$ 6,280)	(\$ 18,284)



SEPTEMBER 2025



THE LEADERSHIP OF HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT: KIRK SCHOENHERR

VICE PRESIDENT: NANCY BURNHAM

TREASURER: TERRI HILLMAN SECRETARY: JIM WILSON

NANCY FAY / BRAD LUSK / RICK COLE CARISSA SPEAR / CINDY GREENING

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: REV. MEG WILSON

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: GAIL FELLMAN

MUSIC DIRECTOR: DEBORAH FRONTCZAK

ORGANIST: PATRICK BAKER

ACCOMPANIST: DENISE KILDEA