

### **OCTOBER 2025**



### THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON

#### **Hope United Church of Christ**

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### WORDS OF HOPE











#### **Be Like Trees**

As autumn begins our attention is drawn to trees as we notice the leaves begin to change. As I reflect on how to live out my faith during these complex times, I increasingly turn to our call found within the scripture to be like trees! (Psalm 1) We are encouraged to be deeply rooted in the living waters of Christ (John 4), knit together as fellow members of the family of God (Ephesians 2).

What if our witness in the world was like that of trees? Trees which offer life-giving oxygen to the world, along with beauty, shade, fruit, protection, and places to play?

Trees are rooted in one location and make their environment better by their very presence. Having deep roots allows trees to develop wide branches. These branches reach out and touch the branches of neighboring other trees. Trees provide a connection from the smallest insect to the most majestic bird. Trees offer these life-giving gifts to **all** around them, not only to their particular kind.

God calls us to be people who offer life to the world, rooted in Christ rather than fear or despair. We are called to be attentive to our location and always discerning how we might be like trees. What if we too offered life-giving breath, gifts, comfort, and sustenance to those around us like each tree does? Imagine if we honored each other's roots and sought to grow connections rather than demarcating lines of division. Remember the words, "by their fruit you shall know them" (Matt 7). May the Spirit send a holy wind so the leaves of our heart might contribute to the healing of our relationships and our communities and beyond. May we, by God's grace, bear the fruit of the Spirit in our world. Let us be like trees!

Blessings, Pastor Meg

# Mark your calendar:

- 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 Sunday October 26th
- All Saints Remembrance Sunday November 2nd
- Hope Thanksgiving & Holy Communion November 16th
- Hanging of the Greens Sunday November 30th
- Motor City Chorale Concert Friday December 5th 7pm
- Christmas Pageant Sunday December 14th
- Christmas Eve Worship Wednesday December 24th 6:30pm
- Epiphany Celebration January 4th



Follow us on Social Media

# Monday Night Bible Study

Hope Church is hosting a Fall Bible Study. This is a hybrid discussion both in-person at Hope and via Zoom, September 22nd through November 17th at 7pm.

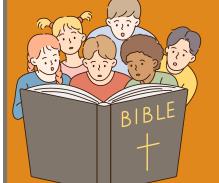
Join Rev. Pat Thompson and Pastor Meg for our study of the Psalms. Psalms have been a source of great comfort for many people across the ages. The book we will use is: "Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. It is available for purchase at church or on amazon.



## **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.



### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



# 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<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **Congregational Meeting**

A Congregational Meeting for Hope United Church of Christ is scheduled for **Sunday, October 26th, immediately following the worship service.** 

The main purpose of this gathering is to vote on the proposed budget for 2026.

Please note that this meeting will be in-person only.

All members in good standing are encouraged to participate and cast their votes. A copy of the proposed budget will be available for review prior to the meeting.

We need you to attend so that we have a quorum.

Thank you for being an active part of Hope Church!



Last year we advertised Trunk or Treat on Facebook, and we were not expecting such a huge response. This time we want to make sure we have plenty of candy and we can offer our neighbors a positive experience.

Trunk or Treat will be on Saturday October 25th beginning at 2pm and ending by 4pm

#### Here is How You Can Help:

1.Sign up to pass out candy from your car- We need at least 25 cars. Sign up sheets are at the church or you may call the church office.

2.If you cannot attend please donate candy to help support those who are passing out candu.

3. Volunteer to help at the event!

(If you are passing out candy, please arrive by 1:40.)

This event is a safe way to make sure the children in our community have fun!

Please invite your family and friends.





### Neighbors in Need Offering on October 5th 2025

Gifts to Neighbors in Need (NIN) support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

# SAVE the DATE: Annual Church-Wide Thanksgiving Potluck - November 16th

Please join us following worship for a time of fellowship and food. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church in the Lobby beginning in November. Pastor Meg and Jim will provide the meat, and you are asked to bring a dish to pass. We have more details as the date gets closer.



### **KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**



Did you know you can support Hope Church just by shopping at Kroger? It's simple! All you need is a Kroger rewards card and an email address. Just visit <a href="kroger.com">kroger.com</a>, sign in or create an account, and link your card to Hope Church using our number: HS995. Then, every time you shop and swipe your card, a portion of your purchase goes to our operating fund—at no extra cost to you!

Thanks for helping support our ministry!

### Help Us Maintain Up-to-Date Church Records

Have you moved recently or gotten a new phone number or email address? We'd love to stay in touch, so if any of your contact info has changed, just give the church office a quick heads-up. That way, we can make sure you don't miss out on any updates, events, or important news!



### <u>Hearing Assistance is Offered at Hope UCC</u>



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 looking for volunteers to help with setup, cleanup, and providing treats for our weekly fellowship time. If you are interested, please use the sign-up sheets located in the narthex to choose an available time slot. Please note that there are two separate sign-up sheets: one for providing treats and another for hosting, which includes setup and cleanup.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped in September 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.

### 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 "GIVE" to 1-586-571-9003

The site will respond with a link which you can use to route your donation to a specific fund.

You will be directed to our secure payment processing website 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

### **Seeking Offering Counters**

We are in search of reliable volunteers to assist with counting weekly offerings. This important role demands \*attention to detail\* and a strong commitment to \*confidentiality\*. Training will be provided, and scheduling is flexible. If you're interested, please reach out to Lori for more information.

Your Giving Statement will reflect the total donation.

Questions? Contact Lori

### **GROUPS AND MEETINGS**

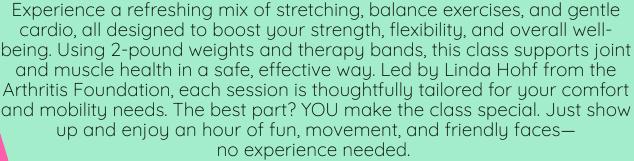
# Hope Sparkles Exercise Class

Join us for fun, fitness, and friendship!



Mondays: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wednesdays: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Only \$1 per class



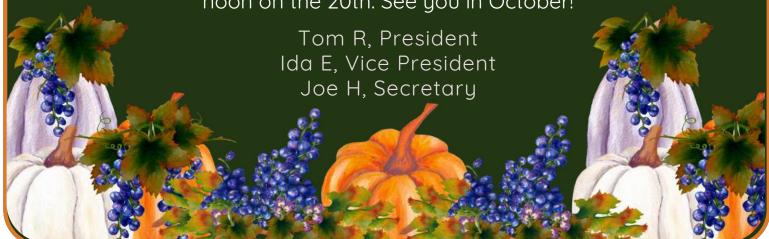
Come as you are, move at your own pace, and leave feeling great!



# Hope Fun Bunch

On the 15th of September the Seniors gathered in fellowship hall for an afternoon of Christian fellowship. There were 13 members attending the afternoon festivities. Thanks to the Church's weekend service we had our fill of leftovers. Two of our members are recovering from surgery. Get Well cards were signed by members and sent to Carol Brzoska and Carol Reeser. Hope to see you in attendance next month. In October we will have a potluck luncheon. Lunch will be served at 12

In October we will have a potluck luncheon. Lunch will be served at 12 noon on the 20th. See you in October!



### HOPE FOOD PANTRY



On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 163 families, including 589 individuals. We distributed 12,877 lbs. of food and cleaning supplies.

Thanks to all our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and the Christian Mission & Witness committee, our recent food pantry distribution was a great success!

We will gladly accept ALL food pantry donations.

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

Our next drive-thru pantry day will be:



Saturday,
October 11th
from 10 am - 12 pm



Volunteer service hours are 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Want to volunteer? Sign up in the Narthex or contact the Christian Mission and Witness Committee. We've got packing and unloading events all month—bring your family or gather a group to staff one. It's a great way to serve together!

Please join us in thanking all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication!



Hope Food Pantry will accept any donation.

We are asking that this month donations should focus on these items:

**Peanut Butter & Jelly** 

[please note that these should be a single serving and not bulk size]

### **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 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















PFLAG



Many older and disabled adults in our community find themselves faced with a variety of basic chores, yardwork & minor repairs. For those who are frail or handicapped, have no family nearby, and are living on very low incomes, these tasks -- which most of us handle routinely -- are overwhelming and impossible to manage.

If you can rake leaves, put up storm windows, fix a leaky faucet or handle any other routine chores or minor home repairs, we need to hear from you. Even if you have just a few hours to spare, you can help a desperate neighbor remain in their own home a little longer. Work is arranged entirely around your schedule and near your home or office. Your gift of time will make a real difference in someone's life!

For more information call the Interfaith Volunteer

Caregivers at (586) 757-5551 or visit www.ivcinfo.org.

# DONATE DONATE DONATE GENTLY WORN SHOWN SHO DONATE SHOES

We accept New and Gently **Used Adult and Children's Shoes** 

All the money raised helps support Key Club, a student-led organization in our local high schools.

NO HOL

**Key Club provides members with** opportunities to serve their communities through various projects, like food and clothing drives, park clean-ups, and supporting literacy programs. Members participate in hands-on service activities, develop leadership skills, and engage in community activism with peers.



Help keep shoes out of landfills and on the feet of people in countries around the world. Sending lightly used shoes to countries like Haiti and Guatemala where the are refurbished and available inexpensively to people in those countries.

For more information Contact: Linda-Ann Heldt, Kiwanis Key Club Advisor 586-491-0720 KidsAtPlayPMI@gmail.com

Facebook: CollectingShoesforCharity

#### **COMMUNITY**

### What's Hygge?

#### Here's What You Need to Know to Create a Cozy Vegan Home

We all need a little extra comfort right now, especially as we head into the colder months. <u>Hygge</u> (pronounced "HEW-guh") is a Danish word that roughly translates to a feeling of coziness, contentment, and simplicity. It's often associated with plush blankets, roaring fireplaces, and warm food enjoyed indoors while the weather outside is cold and harsh. This fall, support your mental health by creating a hygge-inspired home while keeping animals' well-being in mind, too. Here's how to bring hygge into your home while being kind to animals:

#### **Chunky Throw Blankets and Pillows**

While hygge is really more about your mindset (slowing down, spending high-quality time with loved ones, and appreciating the simple things), a few decor additions can help you create a cozier home environment. Surrounding yourself with fabrics that no animals were harmed for can enhance this soothing feeling, since you'll be reminded of your compassionate choice every time you use that throw blanket or pillow. Help protect sheep, cows, foxes, coyotes, and other animals used for fashion and home goods by avoiding wool, silk, fur, leather, suede, and down.

#### **Comfort Food**

The phrase "comfort food" can bring to mind many different dishes, but most of them are probably warm, filling ones that bring back memories. This can be very personal, so make whatever dishes help you feel the most comforted. Family recipes can easily be veganized by using vegan milk, butter, meat, cheese, eggs, and sweeteners.

#### **Warm Drinks**

In the winter months, having a warm drink can be a nice way to start or end your days. If you are of legal drinking age and choose to enjoy an alcoholic beverage, check to make sure it's vegan and always drink responsibly. Warm tea lattes and hot chocolate are great nonalcoholic options.

#### **Detox From Technology**

The age of information can be overwhelming, especially when the world seems more chaotic than usual. Set aside some time each day to step away from the distractions of your phone or TV. Here are some simple things you can do instead of endlessly scrolling through social media:

- Curl up with a good book.
- Go for a nature walk with your dog (and bundle them up in a warm coat, too).
- Knit a hat or sweater with vegan yarn.
- Indulge in your favorite self-care

#### **Bee-Free Candles**

Why should you choose vegan soy wax candles? Because bees work hard and are exploited and often killed for beeswax, a material that they use to build their honeycombs. Plus, soy wax is clean and safe, unlike paraffin wax.

#### Cozy Clothing

Whether you're heading out into the brisk weather or curling up in front of the fireplace, cozy clothing can feel like a big hug. Just stay away from animal-derived materials, because there's no excuse for torturing and killing someone to steal their wool, fur, feathers, or skin.



May God's Love Shine Through Youl



### 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.

The Family of Jerry

Carol

**David** 

Chuck

Flaherty Family

**Bruce** 

**Elaine** 

Angie

**Earlene** 

Debbie

Joe

Kathy

Carol

Jim

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 Minuets**

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST- SEPTEMBER 02, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

7:22pm All Trustees in Attendance:

OPENING PRAYER

Led by Pastor Meg.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMENTS

None Present

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Move Jerry Rogers Memorial under new business

\*MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Terri, Second by Cindy to approve agenda – motion carried

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

1 Request to move October meeting to October 7th to have time to approve budget in time for congregational meeting

2 Need more volunteers for church picnic, Sept 14th

APPROVAL JULY MEETING MINUTES\*MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion to Approve by N. Burnham second by N. Fay - motion carried

APPROVAL JULY TREASURERS REPORT\*MOTION TO ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT Motion by Nancy Fay to approve, second by Jim -motion carried

#### 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 \$22,842 is \$567 more than the budgeted loss for this time of the year.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS: Operating receipts

July Year to Date \$130,735 \$11,963 \$18.825 \$153,377

Operating expenses 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) (\$ 17,026) (\$6,317)Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts) 37 (1.258)Total Cash Flow (\$6,280)(\$ 18,284)



### **BOTS Meeting Minuets**

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### Church Rental:

We did have a second prospective renter for \$1200 month. No New Updates. Prospective renters are not being responsive; we are assuming they are no longer interested.

We would like to prepare a motion for the next congregational meeting that outlines and preapproves the parameters within which we can negotiate a lease:

While we believe our approved motion at the last congregational meeting gives us broad latitude to negotiate, the prospective lease at the time was much higher and in the spirit of transparency and managing expectations, We would like to be able to negotiate to:

- A) Fair Market Value (\$1200 Currently per our Realtor)
- B) Preferably 1-year initial lease term but negotiable
- C) Space usage: While this has already been fleshed-out we may need to negotiate this also
- D) We would insist on a reference letter from prospective lessee.

#### Church Picinic Kirk/Pastor Meg – Sept 14th after service

- Sign-up sheets are up. Need more volunteers
- Will use paper plates.
- Terri will pick up Chicken. Note to Look at Schots next year

#### Executive Session

- Move to Exec Session: Motion by Nancy B. Second by Jim Motion Carried
- Session concluded after a few minutes

#### Motor City Corale: Pastor Meg

- Motion to Invite MCC on December 5<sup>th</sup>. By Jim, Seconded by Nancy B. Motion Carried
- We need help/ Volunteers to coordinate an afterglow event

#### Picture Donation: Pastor Meg

Motion by Rick to accept picture donation from Cindy. Second by Carrisa – Motion Carried Proposed 2026 Budget: Terri Hillman

- Last budget proposal was \$1200 to the red.
- · Assuming no rental Terri suggests:
  - Use endowment funds to cover parking lot contingencies and use previously earmarked contingency funds of \$7k to cover budget shortfall
  - o Increase investment income budgeted by \$5k which is appropriate given history
  - These two actions combined close the budget shortfall,

#### Jerry Rogers Memorial

Will discuss timing options with family and work with other groups which might be affected by the timing of this event.

#### PASTORS REPORT

- No written report this month. Some Highlights covered in previous topics
- · Confirmation class coming in Septmeber with up to 6 kids or more
- · Bible Study this month with Pat Thompson
- · Kicking off Sunday School Soon
- New Member class in October

#### CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

\*MOTION TO ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

Motion to accept by Nancy, Second by Cindy – Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT\*MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Nancy, second by Rick - Motion Carried

CLOSED WITH LORD'S PRAYER



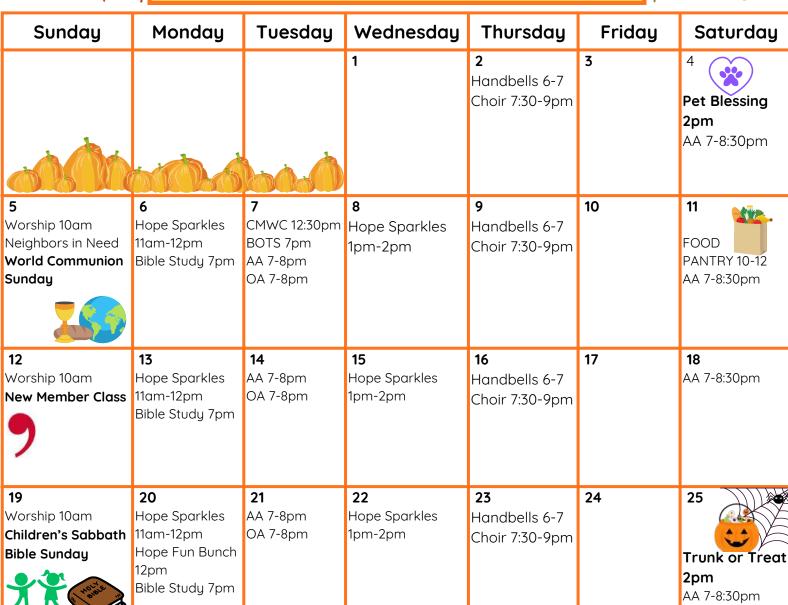




### CTOBER 2025









Worship 10am

Meeting

Congregational

27

Hope Sparkles

Bible Study 7pm

11am-12pm

28 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm

OA 7-8pm

Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm

30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm





#### 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