

# THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON



MARCH 2026

## Hope United Church of Christ

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Facebook Page: @hopeuccmacomb  
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## WORDS OF HOPE

*"I want to remind you to stir into flame the strength and boldness that is in you..." Timothy 1:6*

Lent requires that something in us be stirred up. The scriptures show us again and again, how Jesus questioned the way the religious laws were being interpreted by the authorities. Jesus' deepest desire was to have people encounter God's love and to be transformed. Jesus refused to be confined by the established religious laws of the day. During Lent, we remember that he also refused to be confined by death and soon we will once again celebrate the empty tomb.

Lent is a time for us to re-connect, reconsider and rekindle everything we have allowed to become sedentary in our faith life. We are called to re-engage with Jesus, to follow his example to reach beyond ourselves. We are called to allow God's love to do something new within us and through us. If we have become bored or apathetic, to search for ways to engage our faith and our church. If our hearts have hardened, to add some softener and a dose of grace. If we have become distant, to become connected. If we have become too busy, to make time. If we feel boxed in, to find ways to create space. If we have become discouraged, to embrace hope.

On the label of liquids, you may read these instructions: "Shake well before using." It is presumed that everything you need in the liquid is already in the bottle. But without shaking, the ingredients necessary to make the liquid effective will remain at the bottom, making the liquid at the top ineffective. Stirring up the ingredients from the bottom makes the entire liquid solution effective.



This is the season to disturb our attitudes and our long-held assumptions. After all that is exactly what Christ did! This is a season to re-evaluate what it means to be Christian. As a congregation we are called to examine, pray and create a faith-filled action plan. Together we will live and share Christ's vision. This is the season to stir up the gifts of faith that God has placed inside each of us. During Lent, we will explore this season of transformation. Together, we will embrace the reawakening of hope. I'm confident that we have the necessary ingredients within ourselves, within our church, to fully embrace the joy of resurrection!

Blessings,  
Pastor Meg

*Dear God, rekindle my faith each and every day. Allow me to use this season to stir up everything that I need to follow you. Amen.*



## ***What is Lent? Why do we observe it in 2026?***

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.

## Mark your calendar:

- Daylight Savings Begins - Sunday March 8th
- Palm Sunday & Egg-stravaganza! - March 29th
- Maundy Thursday Worship with Supper - April 2nd-  
*Supper @ 6pm & Worship @ 7pm*
- Good Friday Worship at noon - April 3rd
- Easter - April 5th
- Host Spring Meeting DMA - April 25th
- Mother's Day - May 10th
- Church Baseball Game - June 14th
- Father's Day - June 21st



## ZOOM STUDY!

### March Lenten Study



Lent is a time for self-examination. A time to more deeply connect to your faith. Our Lenten Series will be on the 4 Wednesdays in **March 4, 11, 18, and 25**. This study will only be available on Zoom. We **will meet from 7pm-8:15**. We will be using NOOMA, a series of short films by Rob Bell that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. No advance reading is necessary just come and join in the discussion. A zoom link will be sent out via email and will also be on our website.

## Dollars for Donuts

**On March 8<sup>th</sup>** we will host a **Dollars for Donuts** Coffee Hour. This is something we have never tried before. We are asking for generous donations to help fund two special events during Holy Week.

On **Palm Sunday** we will host our annual Petting Zoo, Egg Hunt and Breakfast. This event is always a special celebration to invite our friends and families to attend. Then on **Easter Sunday** we will add a trumpet player to our Easter Music. The sound of the trumpet during the hymns adds to the celebration! The cost for all these special activities adds up!

We are hoping to raise funds at our **Dollars for Donuts** Coffee Hour to help defray the cost of both of these special events.

Please speak to Pastor Meg or a Board Member if you would like to give a substantial gift to support these events.



## Hope Church Coffee Hour Fellowship

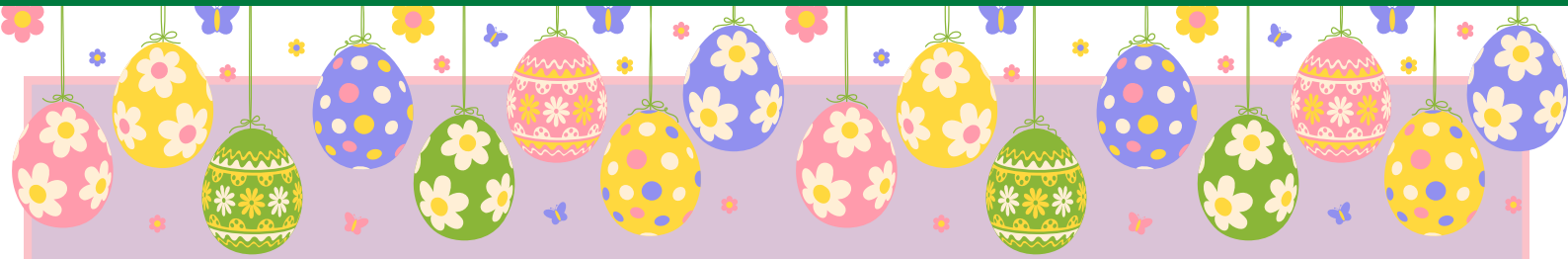


We are blessed to have a group of faithful coffee hour volunteers.

Each week coffee hour offers a time to meet new people and connect with church friends. The cost of the goodies is funded by donations. Please sign up to bring a sweet treat or a savory item. The sign-up sheet is on the welcome table. Let's keep a good thing going!

**A big THANK YOU to everyone who helps with Coffee Hour!**

# CHURCH NEWS



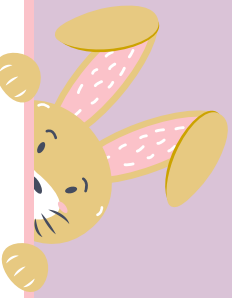
## PALM SUNDAY EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Join us following worship on **March 29th**, for the kid's eggstravaganza, a delightful Palm Sunday celebration for families with children of all ages!

We will host 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.



## Be Kind Bracelets

We have a new family attending Hope Church.

Steve and JoAnne and their youngest two children Jaxon and Carter.

A few weeks ago, during the children's message, Pastor Meg introduced the boys. Jaxon has some very rare medical conditions, and he will eventually lose his vision among other health concerns. In many ways he is a typical kid. He also loves to swim and do crafts. His brother Carter is a very active boy who loves playing outdoors on his trampoline.

Jaxon is making and selling bracelets for \$7.00 that say Be Kind and have braille on them.

He plans to use the funds he raises to purchase a braille computer.

Each of the children in Sunday School received a bracelet. If you would like to purchase a bracelet and help Jaxon reach his goal you can purchase one in the church office.

Please make sure you welcome the family and all of our visitors.

We are excited to be a welcoming church community.



## Chili Cook Off Winners



# CHURCH NEWS

## *Welcome New Church Members!*

Please join us in welcoming the new members of Hope UCC! We are thrilled to have them join us and appreciate the effort they have put into sharing a bit about themselves. Each person enriches our fellowship and helps us build deeper connections within our church. We believe that every individual brings unique gifts and experiences that can enhance our ministry and missions. We look forward to getting to know them and grow together in our faith.



**Beth & Lisa**

# CHURCH NEWS



Jesus entered Jerusalem soon before the beginning of Passover in a procession that embodied the values of the Realm of God. This procession was an alternative to the injustice of the Roman Empire.

Through the Palm Sunday Path, hundreds of thousands of Christians will process on Palm Sunday afternoon in 2026 in capital cities and other cities across the country. Jesus provoked and drew a contrast when he and his followers walked toward Jerusalem, and we will, too. We will process together, proclaiming God's values in contrast to the dominant politics of hate, greed, and injustice.

## Michigan Palm Sunday Path Information

- **What is the purpose of the Palm Sunday Path?** The Palm Sunday Path is based on the principles of Matthew 25: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. Just as Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly and peacefully on Palm Sunday, we will enter our capitol in Lansing proclaiming God's values in contrast to the dominant politics of hate, greed, and injustice.
- **When and where is the processional?** We will begin at Pilgrim Church: 125 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing at 3:00pm and march to the capitol. It is approximately one mile. We expect the entire event (marching and program to last 2-3 hours).
- **Who is invited to participate?** All those who believe in the power of equality, peace, and justice from all denominations, all races, all ethnicities, all sexual orientations, all gender identities, and all abilities. There are multiple states participating in this action.
- **What should I expect at this event?** You should expect radical hospitality! A processional that includes singing while carrying signs and palms. Please bring palms from your church services if you are able. At the capitol, expect a 45-minute program that includes music and fantastic speakers.

**If you are interested in attending, please speak to Pastor Meg for more information. We are working to coordinate a few carpools to help with transportation needs.**



## One Great Hour of Sharing: March 15th

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.

# CHURCH NEWS



## Holy Week- Then and Now



**Holy Week** is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter. We pay special attention to the last week of Jesus's life on earth.

**Palm Sunday** – We remember that Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. The people stood along the road and welcomed him by waving palm branches. The people called out hosanna which means, “pray, save us”! Jesus came as a peacemaker. He rode a humble donkey instead of a war horse.

**On Palm Sunday at Hope Church, we wave palm branches and sing during worship. We have a Petting Zoo so the children can see a real donkey and remember the story. We host a light breakfast and have an Egg Hunt for the children.**

**Maundy Thursday** (also called Holy Thursday) – Jesus and his disciples gathered to celebrate the Passover. The Passover Meal was a holy Jewish tradition. The scriptures tell of different events occurring at this meal. In all of the gospels Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples and instructed them to remember him when they shared this meal together. The disciple Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus knew that the disciples would be afraid, and that Peter would deny him. Jesus went and prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. He told his disciples to stay awake, but they fell asleep. The soldiers came with a crowd and arrested Jesus.

**At Hope Church on Maundy Thursday, we have a light supper and then we go into the sanctuary for worship. We retell the story of the Last Supper, we sing and we share in Holy Communion.**

**Good Friday** - Jesus was questioned by the authorities including Herod and then Pontius Pilate. The authorities insisted that he be crucified because Jesus would not deny that he was the Christ, the Son of God. The soldiers insulted and physically injured Jesus. They put a crown of thorns on his head. They placed a sign that said Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. Jesus was crucified on the cross. There were two robbers also being crucified. The gospels describe the final moments of Jesus. Some accounts say He said, “It is finished” and breathed his last breath. In the evening, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for Jesus's body so he could be buried. The tomb was cut from a rock, and a large stone was put in front of the entrance to the tomb. Why is it called Good Friday? Initially good meant holy, so it was Holy Friday. It is also called “Good” Friday because without the crucifixion there would be no resurrection.

**At Hope Church on Good Friday, we have a very somber worship service called the Service of Tenebrae from 12-1pm. We leave the sanctuary in silence.**

**Easter Sunday** - This is the day of Christ's resurrection! Each of the gospels tells a slightly different version of what happened that morning. In each account the women are told that Jesus is not there that he has risen. Each gospel tells of different encounters that his followers have with the Risen Christ. Through the power of the resurrection, we see that death is not the end. We celebrate that Christ lives!

**At Hope Church on Easter Sunday we have coffee hour from 9-10 am. Worship is at 10 am with magnificent music. We tell the story of Christ's resurrection on Easter morning. We share in Holy Communion. At the end of worship, we do a balloon release in the sanctuary.**

# CHURCH NEWS



## Please Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Do you enjoy seeing the flowers on the altar? Sign up to help make this possible. Flowers can commemorate any occasion or honor someone special.

You will find the sign-up sheets on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

**Each arrangement costs \$20,** and you are welcome to take them home after the service. Payments can be made online or in person.

## Time to order Easter Lilies and/or Tulips

**Plants are \$15.00 each.**

**Deadline to order is Sunday, March 22nd.**

Please indicate how many of each plant you would like.  
Place your form in the collection box with your cash/check.

You can also give the form to the office or mail it in.

### Easter Flower Order Form

IN HONOR OF:

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Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips: \_\_\_\_\_

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

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Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips: \_\_\_\_\_

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# CHURCH INFORMATION

## Follow us on Social Media

Hope Website	YouTube	Instagram	Facebook
			
<a href="http://www.hopeuccmi.com">www.hopeuccmi.com</a>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@hopeunitedchurchofchrist-c8235">@hopeunitedchurchofchrist-c8235</a>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/@HopeUCCmi">@HopeUCCmi</a>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/@HopeUCCmacomb">@HopeUCCmacomb</a>

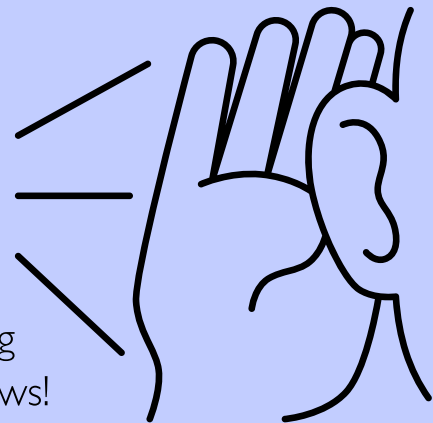
## Help Us Maintain Accurate Church Records

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!



## Hearing Assistance 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!





## We have Great Neighbors!



Thank you to Kaul Funeral Home for providing bagels and donuts for coffee hour and for giving our kitchen crew a week off! We look forward to the possibility of more collaborative moments in the future.  
We love our neighbors!



# HOPE FOOD PANTRY



On February 14th, 2026, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 196 families, which includes 667 individuals. We distributed 16,268 lbs. of food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products. Thanks to all our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and the Christian Mission & Witness committee, our recent food pantry distribution was a great success! 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!



Our next drive-thru pantry day will be:

**Saturday, March 14th**

from 10 am - 12 pm

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


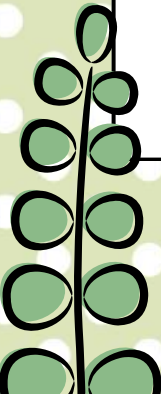



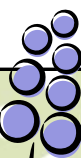


Please join us in thanking all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication!

We will gladly accept ALL food pantry donations. HOPE Food Pantry is open on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Hope Food Pantry will accept any donation. We are asking that this month donations should focus on these items:

Peanut Butter and Jelly / Canned Soup

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





## Lent Blessing Bags

You can still pick up your blessing bag in the church lobby to be filled with your Lenten monetary gifts. Each blessing bag is a reminder of compassion and generosity that binds us together, especially during this Lenten season of reflection and sacrifice.



This year the funds collected will go into Hope Church's Good Samaritan Fund. This fund helps our own community members who come to us for financial assistance while facing unexpected hardship.



The term comes from the biblical parable of the Good Samaritan, symbolizing compassion and generosity toward those in need. These funds typically help cover urgent expenses like medical bills, housing costs, or utilities, offering short-term support to people who might not otherwise have access to resources during a crisis.

Please return your blessing bag on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

## Holy Week- Help Wanted

During Holy Week we need a team to help make sure we have a faith filled week. Planning ahead makes all the difference to allow for stress free events! Please consider volunteering for one or two of these tasks. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Meg for more details. The time commitment will depend on the task. None of the tasks should prohibit you from being able to participate in worship.



### 3/29- Palm Sunday:

- Petting Zoo helpers
- Photographer
- Egg Hunt helpers
- Breakfast helpers
- Clean up helpers

### 4/2- Maundy Thursday:

- Dinner set up
- Dinner servers
- Dinner clean up
- Worship readers

### 4/3- Good Friday- TBA

### 4/5- Easter Sunday:

- Balloon fillers
- Coffee Hour helpers

# 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. 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.

**Carol**

**David**

**Chuck**

**Flaherty Family**

**John**

**Elaine**

**Susan**

**Steven**

**Earlene**

**Debbie**

**Ron**

**Angie**

**Kansier Family**

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



**Numerous ways exist to offer financial support to the church, and your contributions play a vital role in sustaining the ministries of Hope Church.**

## **To give Online:**

Visit the Hope UCC Website: [WWW.HOPEUCCMI.COM](http://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

# GROUPS AND MEETINGS

## Hope Fun Bunch

The Next Fun Bunch Gathering will be on March 16th at noon.  
Hope to see you there!



## Hope Sparkles Exercise Class

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

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

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



# COMMUNITY

PFLAG, which stands for Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, is a national advocacy organization that supports, educates, and advocates for LGBTQ+ individuals and their families.

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](http://PFLAGCT.org), complete the form, and mention Hope UCC. This will add you to our email list, ensuring you receive notifications about future meetings.

Thank you once again for your support of our chapter.  
May God bless you.  
Yvonne Tadajewski, President, PFLAG-CT

PFLAG-CT is sponsoring an LGBTQ+ exhibition at the Anton Art Center in June and is the lead sponsor! They are so honored to have been asked to be this year's sole sponsor for the June exhibit at this year's art show!

Please check it out and consider a donation!

<https://givebutter.com/A0vsbu>

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support the arts.



## Anton Art Center

125 Macomb Place  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

**Website** [www.theartcenter.org](http://www.theartcenter.org)

Mission: To provide access to experiences that enrich all people through creative expression.

Vision: To be the Center of creativity.

## A DRIVING NEED

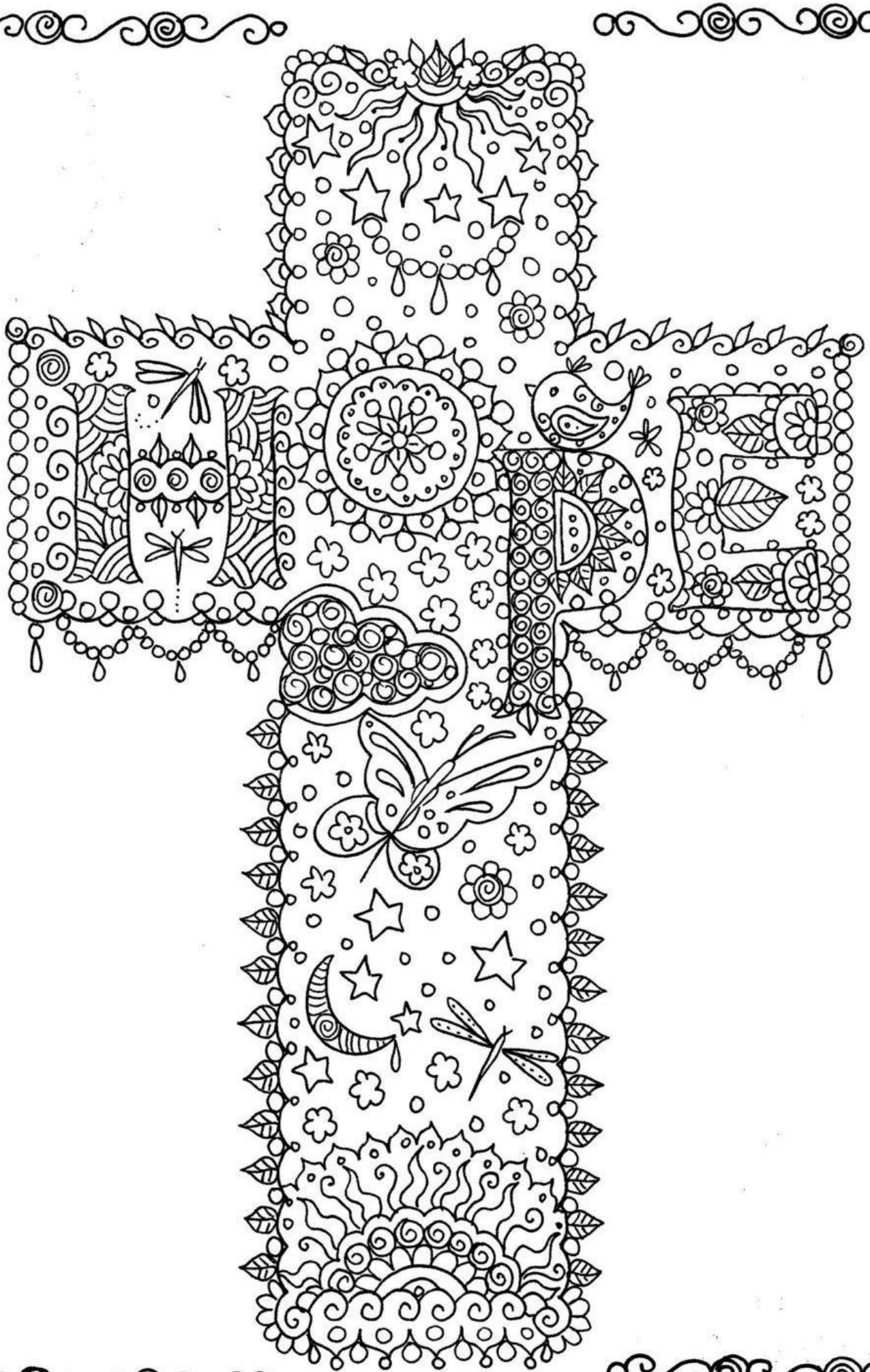
Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers 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](http://www.ivcinfo.org).]



# FAMILY PAGE



# BOTS MEETING MINUTES

## HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Meeting Minutes – February 10th, 2026

Present: Brad Lusk, Kirk Schoenherr, Nancy Burnham, Steve Nielson, Cynthia Greening  
Nancy Fay, Rick Cole, Terri Hillman, Jim Wilson, Pastor Meg

### AGENDA ITEM:

### MINUTES:

Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:02pm</li> </ul>
Congregation Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Additions to Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
Approval of Agenda (Motion to Approve)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nancy B / Cindy – Approved</li> </ul>
President's Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome everyone, Stay warm request that we meet in parlor after annual meeting to vote for officers</li> </ul>
January Minutes – Motion to Approve*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nancy B / Steve- Approved</li> </ul>
January Treasurer's Report – Motion and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steve / Nancy B. .. Discussion: Grounds upkeep / snow removal has been a big hit to our budget this year. CMWC made a large transfer into operating fund to help with electricity. Investment account doing well. (staying within budgeting allocations). Other than that no "unusuals". See Below.</li> </ul>
January Treasurer's Report – Vote to Approve*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved</li> </ul>
Unfinished Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
New Business:	
Safety Task force - Jim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Had our first meeting; will be meeting monthly. Beginning with evacuation routes, communications, locks and potentially adding an additional exit to the sanctuary.</li> </ul>
Organ discussion - Kirk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting March 1<sup>st</sup> to begin to develop a plan B for the eventuality that our organ fails</li> </ul>
Treasurer Announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terri will step down at end of next 2 yr term. If we were to entertain a paid replacement, we would need to have training dollars included in the 2027 budget. Hence the early announcement.</li> </ul>
Pastors Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notice a lot of visitors lately. Many of whom have joined online first. Kudos to technology. Please remember to greet new people. Feel free to invite people to coffee hour and/or invite them to join your table. Annual report is published and out. Lent is coming. Ash Wednesday a week from tomorrow. There will be a Lenten study on Zoom. PRC has a date set to meet. Will update on "grant" next time – working to streamline the proposal. We do need a few more people to serve on Spiritual Council. Pastor Meg would like a fund-raising coffee hour in early March to fund some Holy Week activity (eg Petting Zoo, Trumpeter for Easter). Kaul Funeral Home is supplying Coffee hour for the day of our annual meeting.</li> </ul>
Trustee Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cindy – Hope will host a National Day of Prayer put on by the Kiwanis group on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30-8:00 – more info coming.</li> </ul>
Motion to Approve Consent Agenda Items*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nancy B./Terri Hillman</li> </ul>
Motion to Adjourn*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nancy B/ Steve N. Approved</li> </ul>
Closing – Lords Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:50 pm</li> </ul>

# BOTS MEETING MINUTES



## Treasurer's Report

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

### Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for January 2026 were \$2,377 less than budget, perhaps related to inclement weather on Sunday, January 25th when in-person attendance at worship service was very low. We also received Special Offerings of \$205 for Christmas, \$120 for Energy, and \$180 for the Christmas Fund.
- Investment activity for the Operating Fund in January consisted of \$227 in interest on the bank Money Market Savings Account.
- January Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, was \$883 less than budget. Excluding a one-time per year transfer of \$1,200 from the Food Pantry account to the Operating Fund, Operating Income for January was \$2,083 less than budget.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for January 2026 were \$613 more than budget, primarily driven by Electricity and Grounds Upkeep costs, partially offset by lower Church Staff expense as well as other favorable timing differences.
- There was an Operating Fund loss (Income less Expense) of \$6,213 in January versus a budgeted loss of \$4,717 for the month.

SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS	January	Year to Date
Operating receipts	\$15,909	\$15,909
Operating expenses	22,122	22,122
Expenses over receipts)	(\$ 6,213)	(\$ 6,213)

### Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had Income of \$573 and Expense of \$1,601 for the month, leaving a balance of \$143,582. \$1,200 of the expense in the Food Pantry account was the result of the Christian Mission & Witness Committee approving a one-time per year transfer to offset electricity expense.

### Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future January offerings of \$470 were \$830 less than budget and Memorials were \$0 in January.

### Investments (Page 9):

- The securities account had a January gain of \$5,197 which was \$3,947 more than budget.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)	January	Year to Date
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excl. Investments)	(\$5,743)	(\$5,743)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	(\$1,028)	(\$1,028)
Total Cash Flow	(\$6,771)	(\$6,771)

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## 2026 Congregational Meeting

The Hope United Church of Christ Annual Meeting was held on February 22, 2026.

We reviewed the 2025 year, and the Annual Reports were accepted into the record.

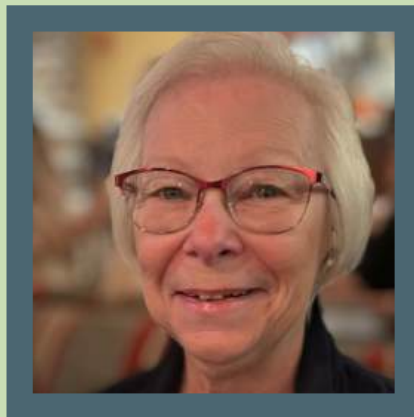
The 2026 Board of Trustees were elected by acclamation. We are thankful for these persons stepping up and serving as leaders of our church. If you have any suggestions for the health of our congregation, please bring your idea and comments to your trustees.

The Board Meetings are on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7pm. The BOTS meetings usually take place on zoom, and the link is available from any board member.

## 2026 Board of Trustees



Kirk Schoenherr - President



Nancy Burnham - Vice President



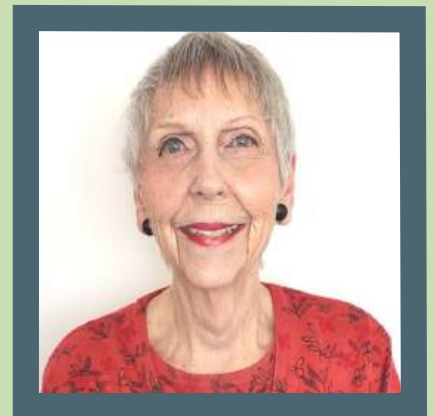
Terri Hillman - Treasurer



Jim Wilson - Secretary



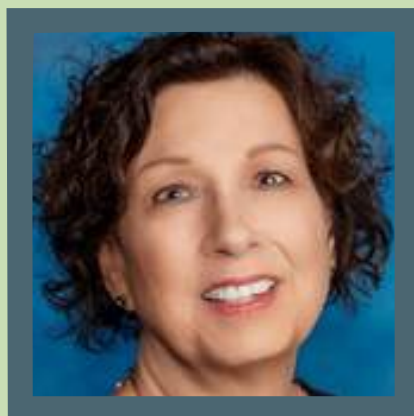
Rick Cole



Nancy Fay



Steve Nielson



Cynthia Greening



Brad Lusk



# MARCH 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship 10am <b>Holy Communion</b> Confirmation class 	<b>2</b> Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	<b>3</b> AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	<b>4</b> Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lent Zoom Study 7pm-8:15	<b>5</b> Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> AA 7-8:30pm
<b>8</b> Worship 10am <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> Confirmation class <b>Dollars 4 Donuts</b> 	<b>9</b> Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	<b>10</b> BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	<b>11</b> Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lent Zoom Study 7pm-8:15	<b>12</b> Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> FOOD PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm 
<b>15</b> Worship 10am <b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b> Confirmation class	<b>16</b> Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Hope Fun Bunch 12pm	<b>17</b> AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm 	<b>18</b> Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lent Zoom Study 7pm-8:15	<b>19</b> Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> AA 7-8:30pm
<b>22</b> Worship 10am Confirmation class	<b>23</b> Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	<b>24</b> PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	<b>25</b> Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm Lent Zoom Study 7pm-8:15	<b>26</b> Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> AA 7-8:30pm
<b>29</b> Worship 10am <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Egg-stravaganza!!</b> 	<b>30</b> Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	<b>31</b>				

## 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 / STEVE NIELSON  
 RICK COLE / CINDY GREENING

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 ADMIN. ASSISTANT: GAIL FELLMAN  
 MUSIC DIRECTOR: DEBORAH FRONTCAK  
 ORGANIST: PATRICK BAKER  
 ACCOMPANIST: DENISE KILDEA