

THE HOPE CHURCH BEACON



APRIL 2026

Hope United Church of Christ

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WORDS OF HOPE

 Easter Sunday is more than baskets and bunnies; it's a day to celebrate our belief that anything is possible with God. Once we see Jesus for who He is — the Risen Son of God, we are changed.

We read about the transforming power in those who witnessed the appearance of Jesus on that first Easter. Jesus interacted with his followers, sharing meals with them and allowing them to touch the scars in his hands. The men and women who saw Jesus after the resurrection could never go back to the way things were before that day. They were inspired to share the stories that we read in the gospels. They spent the rest of their lives spreading the message of Jesus. They created communities of believers who would share the good news and serve others.

We too desire to be like those early followers; to have our lives transformed by the deep knowledge of God's love that we experience on Easter morning. My "go to scripture" is found in Roman's chapter 8 verse 39. "neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Easter is the ultimate example that nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's unending love.

As a teen, I had a poster in my room that said, "You can fly but that cocoon has got to go!" Cocoons and tombs are initially places of darkness and isolation. However, within that space transformation begins and that results in new life! When we find the courage and claim our faith then we can embrace our new beginnings through Christ.

This Easter Sunday, let us be people whose words and actions demonstrate our desire to once again be transformed. Let us be people whose lives reflect the good news. Let us join together to rejoice in the gift of new life! Let us join our voices together saying the familiar refrain "He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!" 

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Meg

Mark your calendar:

- Maundy Thursday Worship with Supper - April 2nd
Supper at 6pm & Worship at 7pm
- Good Friday Worship at noon - April 3rd
- Easter Celebration - April 5th - (Coffee Hour 9am)
- Motor City Chorale Spring Concert - April 19th 3pm
- Host Spring Meeting DMA - April 25th
- Mother's Day - May 10th
- Church Baseball Game - June 14th at 1pm
- Father's Day - June 21st

Motor City Chorale Spring Concert

“Music Through the Century Vol. 2”

Join us for the return of the Motor City Chorale Spring Concert at Hope United Church of Christ on **Sunday, April 19, at 3 PM.**

This event showcases a variety of choral music, blending classical and contemporary selections. The concert is sure to be a memorable experience for all music enthusiasts, and a free-will offering will be available for those who wish to support this fantastic group.

Celebrate the arrival of spring with the inspiring melodies of the Motor City Chorale!

CHURCH NEWS

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.



Hope Church Coffee Hour Fellowship



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



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!



Coffee Hour Gang!! St. Patrick's Day fun!

2026 YARD SALE

Your Board of Trustees is considering a fund-raising opportunity, and we are reaching out to see if any of our members are interested in participating. We are proposing a Church Wide Yard Sale. The date is not selected as we are trying to determine if there is any interest.

Here is the basic outline:

- The yard sale would be a one-day event, to probably take place inside Fellowship Hall.
- You would bring your items and price your items. Each family would have a table. You would stay and sell your items. There would be no cost to you to participate. We would not include clothing.
- All proceeds would benefit the church. After the event you may take remaining items home, or we could arrange to have an organization pick up any left-over items to benefit their organization.



After Easter we will have a signup sheet on the welcome table where you can indicate if you might be interested in joining in the fun and supporting our church! We will let you know the results of our inquiry.



Thank you to everyone who has agreed to participate in all the events during Holy Week!

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are Holy days full of emotion and deep faith. Hope Church has developed meaningful traditions which allow us to come together to experience the beauty of this season. We have created a variety of opportunities to help people connect to the story of our faith.

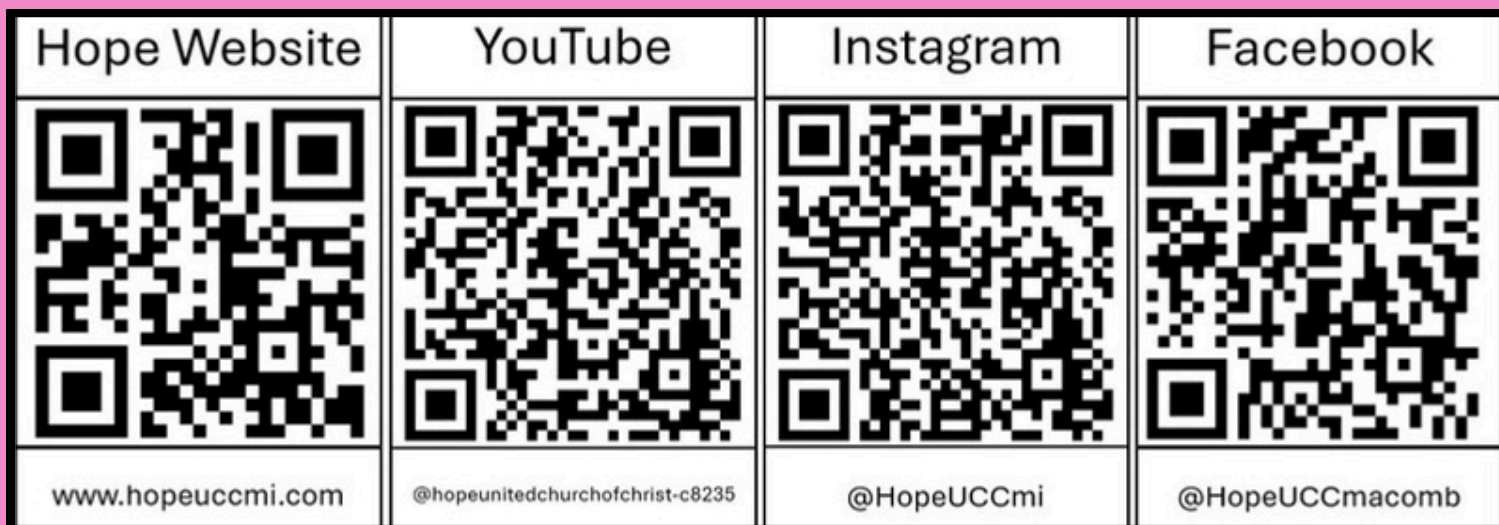
These events require several people to volunteer their time and effort.

The Board and staff appreciate our committed team who unites to make all the worship services and meals come together!

THANK YOU!

CHURCH INFORMATION

Follow us on Social Media



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!



Please Sign Up for Altar Flowers

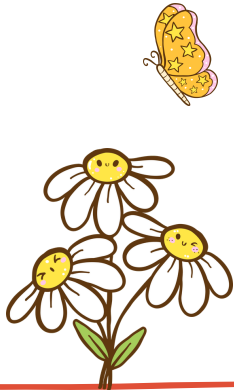
Do you enjoy seeing the flowers on the altar? Sign up to help make this possible. Flowers can commemorate any occasion or honor someone special. You will find the sign-up sheets on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

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



HOPE FOOD PANTRY

On March 14th 2026, we held a drive-thru distribution day. We served 185 families, which includes 774 individuals. We distributed 16,376 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!



OUR NEXT DRIVE-THRU
PANTRY DAY WILL BE:

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

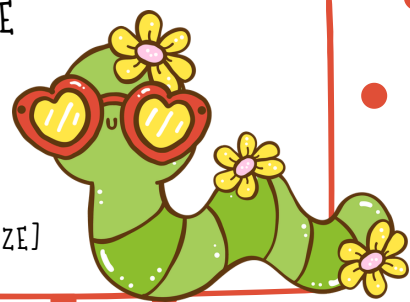
PLEASE JOIN US IN THANKING ALL THE VOLUNTEERS
FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!!



HOPE FOOD PANTRY WILL ACCEPT ANY DONATION. WE
ARE ASKING THAT THIS MONTH DONATIONS SHOULD
FOCUS ON THESE ITEMS:

BODY SOAP / FACE AND BODY WIPES

[PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE SHOULD BE A SINGLE SERVING AND NOT BULK SIZE]





Lent Blessing Bags

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

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.



April 22nd

In honor of Earth Day lets take time to think about our impact on the earth. There are plenty of small ways you can make a big difference for the environment. **Here are some easy ways to get started:**

- Plant trees with family or friends.
- Adopt a road or park and pick up litter.
- Create your own wrapping paper or gift bags out of magazines, scrap cloth or newspaper.
- Build a compost bin. Keep a smaller one in your kitchen for easy disposal of food scraps.
- Review your previous water, gas and electric bills. Motivate your family to use fewer of these resources and track the savings together.
- Plant a garden. Even a small container garden can help save on trips to the store.
- Join a CSA — Community-Supported Agriculture — to purchase fruits and vegetables from local farmers and reduce emissions used to transport produce.



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 have questions or concerns about this program, please call Susan Winters. If you haven't signed up, please consider doing so.

CHURCH NEWS



2026 Camp Talahi

Hope Church will have more information available on the welcome table soon 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 06/16 - 06/18:** Come help us wake camp from its winter slumber and get it ready for our ON-SITE camps this upcoming summer! We need a little help making sure all of our buildings and outdoor areas are camper ready! This is a free weekend for anyone of any age and any skill set to come and help out!
- **06/28 - 07/03:** CIT Camp (grades 9-11) Being a counselor-in-training (CIT) is a leadership opportunity for high school students.
- **07/05 - 07/09:** Transgender and Gender Diverse High School Camp (grades 9-12)
- **07/05 - 07/07:** Transgender and Gender Diverse Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)
- **07/12 - 07/14:** Mini Camp (grades K-2nd)
- **07/12 - 07/17:** Junior Camp (Grades 3-5)
- **07/17 - 07/19:** Young Adults Camp (Ages 18-50)
- **07/17 - 07/19:** Family Camp
- **07/19 - 07/24:** Jr. High Camp (Grades 6-8)
- **07/19 - 07/24:** Sr. High Camp (Grades 9-11)

2026 Scholarships:

To ensure Camp Talahi remains accessible to everyone, we offer several financial assistance options supported by our generous donor community. Please review the scholarship opportunities at camptalahi.org to help reduce your registration costs.

How to Claim: Before registering, please email hello@camptalahi.org or text (406) 855-4317 to receive your unique coupon code.

GROUPS AND MEETINGS

Hope Fun Bunch

Here it is March, three months into 2026, and our Seniors just met for the first time. The stormy weather has kept us from gathering. Looks like the weather is changing into Spring... In March, 10 of the faithful enjoyed the afternoon together. A big thanks to Greg for making soup for the gang. I have heard nothing but praises for Greg the Cook. Looks like we will be hoping for more in the future. Next month we look forward to coneys for lunch. We are looking forward to seeing all on April 20th at noon. Come on out Seniors for an afternoon of fun with the "Bunch".

Submitted by Tom R.



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.



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Hope Church Prayer List

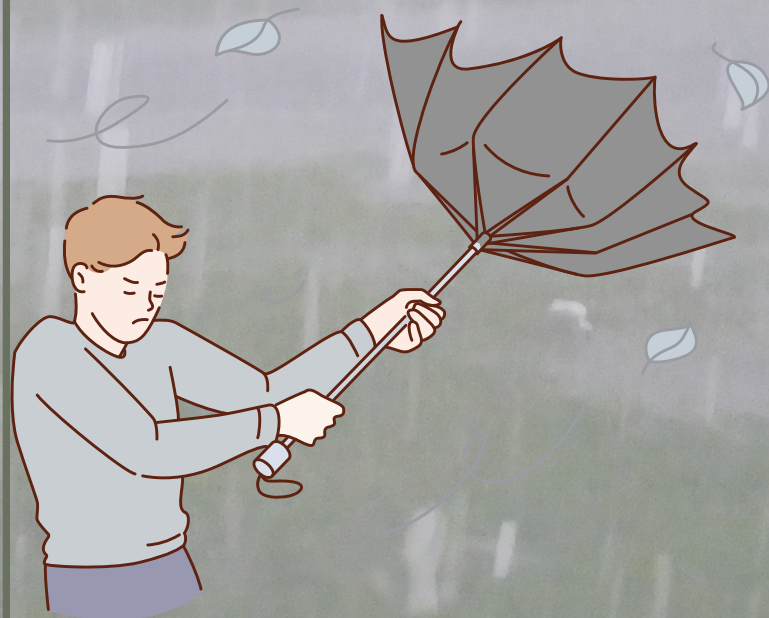
Prayer is at the heart of our connection with God. As a congregation, we join together in prayer during worship and carry that spirit into our daily lives. If you would like to add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please reach out to the church office.

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.

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.

Carol
David
Chuck
Jean
Flaherty Family
John
Elaine
Susan W
Susan S
Steven
Earlene
Ron
Angie
Kansier Family



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
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

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

FAMILY PAGE



**This is the day
that the lord
has made.**

**Let us rejoice
and be glad in it!
Psalm 118:24**



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, 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 Tadjewski, President, PFLAG-CT



**THEREFORE IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,
HE IS A NEW CREATION.
THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY;
BEHOLD, THE NEW HAS COME.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 ESV**

BOTS MEETING MINUTES

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOARD OF TRUSTEES – **Minutes 3/10/26**

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

CALL TO ORDER	7:04pm
OPENING PRAYER	Pastor Meg
CONGREGATIONAL COMMENTS	None
ADDITIONS TO AGENDA	None
APPROVAL OF AGEND- <i>*MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA</i>	Nancy B / Steve N. Approved
PRESIDENTS REMARKS	None
APPROVAL FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES <i>*MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES</i>	Jim/ Rick - Approved
APPROVAL FEBRUARY TREASURERS REPORT <i>*MOTION TO ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT</i>	Steve / Nancy B. Treasurer's Report Below On dedicated accounts – there was a pass-through account name from last year that will be changed. Report Accepted
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
NEW BUSINESS Rental Update	Renter is in default on lease. Sending a termination notice to renter Working on estimate of utilities for renters
Holy Week Update	Article in Beacon – Help Wanted – Holy Week is a Labor-intensive week. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need someone to coordinate breakfast for Palm Sunday 2) Help with Egg Hunt. Petting Zoo. Photographer 3) Light dinner on Maundy Thursday 4) Good Friday need readers for service of Tenebrae 5) Easter Sunday need help filling balloons for Balloon release. Coffee hour at 9am before worship.
Dollar for Donuts Update	MADE ALMOST \$800. May collect more this week <u>To</u> cover the cost for Petting Zoo on Palm Sunday and Trumpeter on Easter.
Yard Sale	September? Idea to have a find-raiser like a rummage sale but basically sell things from home and proceeds donated to church. Unsold items given to volunteers of America. Article for Beacon.

BOTS MEETING MINUTES

Door Locks

We have requested and received a price quote to have the exterior doors re-keyed for \$740. That quote included the replacing five of the locks with dummy cylinders so they would not be accessible from the outside. Four of the doors (main entrance, Sunday school entrance, exterior storage room and Utility Room) would re-keyed with a common key. At the same time, we requested and received a quote for a Keyless Entry for the main entrance of \$3,170. This would be unlocked using a proximity card (20 included in quote)

Motion to approve Keyless entry and re-keying activities not to exceed 3170+740= \$3910 ~ \$4000 Nancy B./ Rick. Approved

PASTORS REPORT

- 1) Still trying to figure out options on how to implement the Mitten Grant we have or whether we should postpone until next year.
- 2) Really helpful to have Julia Crumb helping on Sunday School while Kristin M was out.
- 3) Confirmation class making great progress on curriculum
- 4) DMA Spring Meeting on April 25th AT HOPE

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

These items are not for discussion. They are for review purposes only. The 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 TO ADJOURN*

CLOSE WITH LORD'S PRAYER

CINDY/ NANCY B/ - APPROVED

MOTION: Nancy B/ Steve B. Approved 8:05pm

BOTS MEETING MINUTES

Treasurer's Report

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

Statement of Operations – Income (Page 3):

- Weekly Offerings for February 2026 were \$1,303 more than budget but year to date Weekly Offerings were \$1,074 less than budget. We also received Special Offerings of \$125 for Christmas, \$205 for Energy, and \$185 for Our Church's Wider Mission.
- Investment activity for the Operating Fund in February consisted of \$205 in interest on the bank Money Market Savings Account.
- February Operating Income, comprised of Weekly Offerings plus other Income accounts, was \$870 more than budget but year to date Operating Income was \$13 less than budget. Excluding the one-time transfer of \$1,200 from the Food Pantry to the Operating Fund in January to partially offset 2026 electricity cost, year to date Operating Income would be approximately \$1,150 less than budget.

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

- Total Operating Fund Expenses for February 2026 were \$4,057 more than budget, primarily driven by Grounds Upkeep cost due to particularly inclement weather, furnace repairs and other timing differences. Year to date Operating Fund Expenses were \$4,670 more than budget due to the same costs as well as timing of other expenses.
- There was an Operating Fund loss (Income less Expense) of \$7,539 in February versus a budgeted loss of \$4,353 for the month. Year to date, the Operating Fund loss was \$13,753 versus a budgeted loss of \$9,070.

• SYNOPSIS OF OPERATIONS:

	February	Year to Date
Operating receipts	\$17,587	\$33,496
Operating expenses	25,126	47,249
(Expenses over receipts)	(\$ 7,539)	(\$13,753)

Dedicated Accounts (Page 7):

- Dedicated Accounts had Income of \$656 and Expense of \$818 for the month, leaving a balance of \$143,420.

Building Fund (Page 9):

- Hope for the Future February offerings of \$1,235 were \$35 more than budget and year to date offerings were \$1,705 which were \$795 less than budget. Memorials were \$30 in February and year to date.

Investments (Page 9):







- The securities account had a February loss of \$128 which was \$1,122 less than budget but year to date the securities account had a gain of \$5,070 which was \$2,570 more than budget.

Synopsis of Cash Flow (Income less Expense)	February	YEAR TO DATE
Budgeted Accounts (Operating plus Building excl. Investments)	(\$ 6,274)	(\$12,017)
Non-Budgeted Accounts (Dedicated Accounts)	(162)	(1,190)
Total Cash Flow	(\$ 6,436)	(\$13,207)



APRIL 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	2 Maundy Thursday Supper 6pm Worship 7pm 	3 Good Friday Worship 12pm 	4 AA 7-8:30pm
5 [Coffee Hour Before] Easter Worship 10am HAPPY EASTER 	6 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	7 AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	8 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	9 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	10	11  FOOD PANTRY 10-12 AA 7-8:30pm
12 Worship 10am	13 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	14 BOTS 7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	15 Hope Sparkles 1pm-2pm	16 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	17	18 AA 7-8:30pm
19 Worship 10am Confirmation class MotorCity Chorale Spring Concert 3pm 	20 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm Hope Fun Bunch 12pm	21 Mulvey North Condo 6-7pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	22 Hope Sparkles Party 12pm-3pm 	23 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7:30-9pm	24	25 DMA Spring Meeting AA 7-8:30pm
26 Worship 10am	27 Hope Sparkles 11am-12pm	28 PFLAG 6-8pm AA 7-8pm OA 7-8pm	29 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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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