



Greetings people of Hope,

Winter has arrived in full force, at least for a few days. I, unlike my wife Kathe, do enjoy winter fun outside. I enjoy ice fishing and snowmobiling. Kathe likes a hot cup of coffee and a good book. I find that there are days that it is even too cold for me to enjoy the great outdoors in God's wonderful creation.

I find myself wondering how people lived without all the comforts that we have in this modern age. How did they really stay warm in weather like this? How did they travel from point A to point B and back? How did the circuit riders travel from church to church?

So, when I get a bit of the winter blues, I start to count the many blessings that I take for granted. I encourage you to count your blessings when you get the winter blues, or anytime you get the blues. Thank God in these times for what God has given to you.

Hope, we need each other all the time. We are a family — God's family. I encourage you to reach out to each other, maybe just to say hi. A couple weeks ago I spoke about Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy declaring loneliness a new public health epidemic in the United States. He said, "More than just a bad feeling, loneliness is a corrosive condition with grave consequences. Social disconnection puts us at increased risk for depression, anxiety, and suicide, as well as heightening our risk for stress-related physical ailments like heart disease, stroke, and dementia."

Friends, let us be sure that we care for each other and fight loneliness together as disciples of Jesus.

God Bless, Pastor Rob

The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.
—Corrie ten Boom



JANUARY LT HIGHLIGHTS—2024 LT Board

Chairperson: Bonnie Morgan
 Vice Chairperson: Mike Morgan
 Finance Representative: Sabrina English
 Secretary: Sabrina English


Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary were voted on by the board members.

FINANCES: Finances are good again for December; funds received exceeded expenses for the month of December by \$26,667.64. The year’s receipts exceeded expenses by \$27,791.11. 2023 receipts were 7% more than the amount budgeted . This was the first time this has happened since Dawn has been doing finances.

PRAYER CHAPEL: Jack Weiler presented plans for a prayer chapel. The Chapel would be placed between the two buildings. The project is currently priced out between \$4,900-6,000 but could change due to prices going up since last fall when plans were first started. There are also a couple grants that we may qualify for that could be used for this project to make it nicer if we would like. Jack has been authorized for up to \$8,000 for materials for the chapel.

FIRST RESPONDERS TEAM: Discussion was held to get members of the certified or recertified in first aid, CPR and AED usage.

PASTOR’S NOTES: What is the Main Thing? The Main thing is our Missions and Ministry to make Disciples in Christ.



THANK YOU to all who participated in the Christmas Card Exchange this past season. We raised almost **\$170 for UMCOR.**

We plan to continue this ministry at the end of this year. Blessings to all for your support and participation.



Youth Group
Sunday, February 11th @ 3pm
Middle & High School Students



LENT
 40 Days of Renewal

**CURRENT HOPE
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION**



Month of December Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 43,416
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-16,748</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 26,668

Year to Date Surplus: \$27,794

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 18,745

All December bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$123,512. Thank you for your continued support!

December Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:

\$226.28 Missions
\$998.58 Parsonage Mortgage
<u>\$1,137.92</u> Capital Improvements
\$2,362.78 Total Donations

Parsonage Mortgage Update:

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund
\$400.00 Extra Principal Payment – Ministry Fund

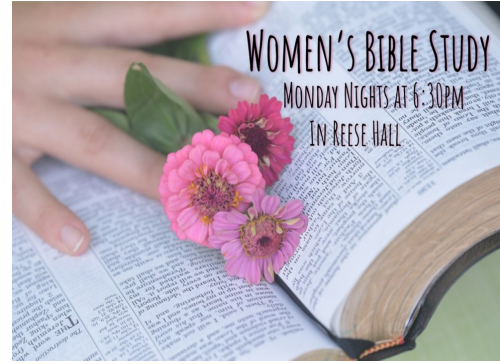
Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$117,021 after the January 2024 Payment.

Our projected payoff date is May 2036, which is 4 years earlier than the original payoff date!

2023 Giving Statements

Thank you for your generosity to Hope during 2023.

This has allowed us to continue our ministry during 2023 and beyond. Your annual giving statements have been emailed and printed. If you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact Dawn Weingart at 269-663-5321 x 6.



COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP HOUR



Hope UMC hosts a coffee and fellowship hour each Sunday at 9:30 AM in Reese Hall following the early worship service, providing an opportunity to meet and connect with visitors and friends, and enjoy snacks and drinks in a relaxed atmosphere.

What is one thing that makes our coffee fellowship a successful ministry? **THE VOLUNTEERS!!** You can team up with a friend and become a part of this ministry opportunity. Please contact Diana Graham, at 574.208.2259, or sign up on the bulletin board in Reese Hall.





TOM REA	2/01
JOYCE WARD	2/02
LYDIA GOULD	2/03
JUSTIN ROSS	2/03
NANCY PLATZ	2/04
BREENA MAPLES	2/05
FLORENCE GORDON	2/05
CHUCK ORTH	2/05
KELLY MORTIMER	2/05
MARY CATHLEEN JONES	2/06
PATTY JOHNSON	2/09
SAMUEL DeYOUNG	2/10
JASON UDELL	2/10
KELLY DUIS	2/13
JILL KAYNER	2/15
SUE BURKS	2/17
CAITLIN WYANT	2/17
CALIANA MANFRED	2/18
CHASE MANFRED	2/18
JON BLOUGH	2/18
BERNICE PELMEAR	2/20
SANDY RYDER	2/23
ERIC TROSPER	2/24
BRONWYN TAFUNAI	2/25



DELLA & DENNIS HOLDREAD	2/04
SHARYN & JAMES SNYDER	2/20
MARJ & TOM REA	2/23
SUSIE & DAVE HENDRICKS	2/28



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th 7pm @ HOPE

CROSS OF ASHES — On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."



A LITTLE COMMUNITY SANCTUARY

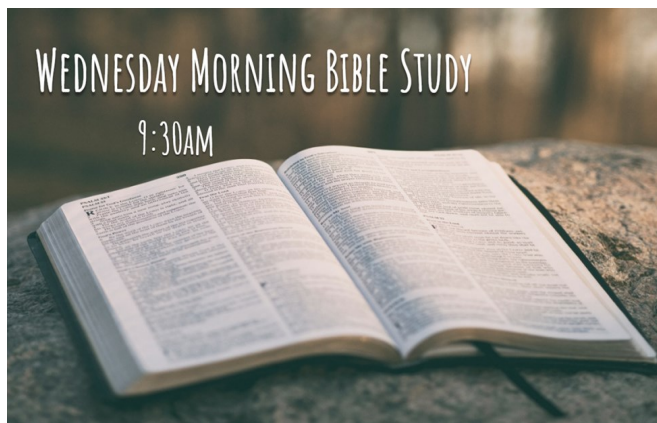
“Be Joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Wanda Orth has long envisioned a prayer chapel; a place of solace and prayer, open and available 24/7. Jack Weiler envisioned incorporating the remaining stained-glass windows from the old uptown church into a little chapel. Jack began to develop the idea in his head, and soon transferred his vision to the drawing board. Learning of Wanda’s passion and enthusiasm for an accessible prayer chapel and her previously established funding for such a project, their respective visions began to take shape.

Plans are for the chapel to be located in the open space between the two current buildings. The structure will integrate four to seven stained glass windows, will be approximately 12 feet long and 10 feet wide, with a 5x8 front porch entry, and a six-foot steeple.

The goal is to commence the project in early April (weather permitting) with a projected finish of four to six weeks. This will only become a reality with volunteers willing to commit their time and skills to help follow this vision to completion.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3



Messy Church is open to families of all shapes and sizes, and folks of all ages!

**Come join in on the fun!
Sunday, February 25th @ 6pm!**



GOD-SHAPED HOLE

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That’s an apt visual for what it’s like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.” And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God’s Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full,” says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!



LOVE, more than a word

Love, the desire to hold someone close.
That special feeling shouting in the heart.
A relationship living deep within our body.
The joining of two hearts for eternal fellowship.

Love, giving us hope our dreams are real.
The gift of offering others that same hope.
Freely accepted and freely given for all to share.
Giving life to our soul with peace and joy.

Love, not looking at faults or physical traits.
Putting aside all differences, showing compassion.
Bringing encouragement, desire and caring to all.
Giving of our lives so others may experience theirs.

Love, wrapping arms around someone in silence.
Sharing a hope with a special grip that talks.
Gazing into their eyes, emitting true hope emotion.
Letting someone know someone truly loves them.

Love, yelling at the top of your lungs, "I love you".
Speaking words that give comfort, peace and hope.
Willing to sacrifice yourself for another's happiness.
Telling others how much you care about their lives.

Love, obeying God's commands and giving Him joy.
Grafting your heart with Jesus, showing His Love.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son....that we may have eternal life.

May you look at your life and be thankful for the times someone showed you love and may you pass on that love to others your life touches.

Our love to you all, Deb and Tony Lang

HOPE CHURCH & MISSION

Church Family

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bonnie Morgan, Chair
Mike Morgan, Vice Chair
Sabrina English, Sec'y; Finance
Pastor Rob Snodgrass
Ben Morgan, At Large
Heidi Meadows, At Large
Clarence Miller, At Large
Sharon Tafunai, At Large
Shirley Andrews, At Large
Mark Werner, At Large

SPRC TEAM

Bonnie Morgan, Diane Seifert,
Jack Weiler, Sue Rinehart, Mike Morgan

PASTORS & FAMILIES

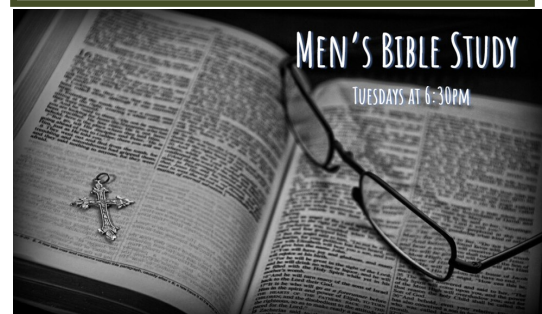
Brenda Gordon
Evan Lash & Barbara Jackson
Matt & Cara Weiler
Nate & Amy Starkey
Rob & Kathe Snodgrass
Scott & Carrie Otis
Tom & Lisa Maxwell

HOME BOUND

Merian Ackles, Sally Blunier,
Rochelle Dolde, Tony & Deb Lang,
Sherry Leininger, Sharon & Bob Morgan,
Jan Read, Donna Taelman, Bev Torgeson,
Cynthia Wade, Ray White

MILITARY

Alyssa Malott, Brandon Morgan



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ 5:00pm Music Practice	2 Office closed	3
4 8:30am & 10:30am Service	5 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	6 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	7 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	8 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:00am Ship Shape 4 Christ 5:00pm Music Practice	9 Office closed	10
11 8:30am & 10:30am Service 3:00pm Youth Group	12 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	13 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	15 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:00pm Music Practice	16 Office closed	17
18 8:30am & 10:30am Service	19 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	20 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	21 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting	22 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:00pm Music Practice	23 Office closed	24 1:00pm Reservation
25 8:30am & 10:30am Service 6:00pm Messy Church	26 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	27 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	28 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	29 Office Hours 9:00-2:00 5:00pm Music Practice		

