



HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5278 N HOPE RD.
HOPE, MI 48628
PASTOR – BILL CLELAND
PHONE – 989-689-3811
WEBSITE - <https://hopeumchopemi.org/>
April 2023

He Lives!

With Easter around the corner, I thought it was only fitting to look at the story behind a famous hymn that speaks of the wonderful truth that Easter shares to the world. That truth of course is that our Savior lives. Though it was foretold over seven hundred years before that this would come to pass from the prophet Isaiah, the glorious truth that our savior rose from the grave has brought shock and wonder for over 2000 years.

The famous hymn's opening line truly brings to light what all believers in Jesus Christ have said and continue to declare:

*I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near*

The story behind this song also brings joy to my heart because just as the song it is a testament of a believer trying to share that wonderful truth. In 1933, Alfred Ackley, a musician and preacher, wrote the famous hymn "He Lives." At the time, Ackley was challenged by a young student who was confused as to why Christians worshipped someone who had died centuries earlier.

In response, Ackley is quoted as saying, "He lives! I tell you. He is not dead but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before. I can prove it by my own experience, as well as the testimony of countless thousands." Fueled by the student's questions, Ackley wrote these popular lyrics. His refrain is joyous, reminding us all that

Jesus rose from the dead as promised and remains alive today in the heart of every believer.

Refrain:

*He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.*

What a wonderful song and even more wonderful truth? It is truly what the Gospel is all about, the hope that we should tell the world about, "He Lives." Let us pray that this very hope brings us strength and guidance as we live out his grace and truth so that the world may see Jesus Christ in us.

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6: 4,5

Randy

Announcements

Lent Schedule:

Friday April 7, 2023 Good Friday Service, 1:00 pm at Dale UMC.

Easter Sunday 4/9/2023 ~ Services as usual. 8:30 ~ 9:45 ~ 11:00 am. □

Bible Study ~ Tues. 10:00 am to Noon Hope UMC

Wed. 10:00 am to Noon Dale UMC

Easter Egg Hunt ~ Hope UMC ~ Easter Sunday right after church. If you would like to donate candy for the eggs, please drop it off at the church by April 2nd. Please give to Deb.

Choir Practice ~ Hope UMC Thursday evening 7:00 pm and Sunday morning 9:45 am.

Hope UMC April Pot-Luck lunch ~ will be April 16th ... a week late due to Easter.

Edenville UMC ~ is collecting for the North Midland Food Pantry, 3rd Sunday March 19.

Hope UMC ~ We will soon have **Food Distributions** at the church. We have submitted our application to be a distributing agent for the **East Michigan Food Bank**. Thank you

Deb for handling the paperwork. We have requested Saturday trucks but we will have to work into that position. Each truck will need about 15 volunteers to adequately distribute the \$30,000 to \$40,000 in food. All ages can help in some way. Each truck costs \$1,200.00. Currently they have a grant program available that we will participate in where the trucks are free. More on this as it develops. We are hoping for a March Pop-Up-Food Pantry so be ready to bless the community.

Ad Council Ad Council will meet April 19 at 7:00 pm, Charlie Russian is taking agenda items.

Central Bay District Bowling Party

At Crooked Creek Bowling Center, Saginaw – Sunday, April 16, 2023

We leave from church at 1 p.m. We will bowl for 2 hours with other Methodist Church Youth Groups in the district. Central Bay District will cover the cost of bowling including pizza and pop, shoes and balls. Everyone welcome. Bring your friends! All of them!

Let's put together the largest youth group attending so please let Brian Hock know the number you have coming by April 9th. It is going to be a hoot! Brian can be reached at (989) 205-2202

UMW women's group is having an "all you can eat" Spaghetti Dinner Wednesday April 26th 2023 4-7pm to support Missions. Take out will be available. Salad, drink, and dessert is included. \$9 for adults, kids 6-12 \$4.50, kids under 6 Free. There will also be a Bake Sale in the Social Hall during the dinner. There will be a sign-up sheet in Narthex for anyone who can make bake goods for the bake sale. See Laura Shedden about signing up for that. Hope to see you all there!

Cookbooks will be available for sale near the baked goods at \$10 each.

Hope UMC March Liturgist ~ Terri Horning

Hope UMC ~ Serving our Lord: ~ Greeters /Ushers ~ March 2023

3/26/23 Laura & Dale Shedden

Hope UMC April Liturgist ~ Jan Holzinger

4/2/2023 Greg & Shelly Brady 4/9/23 Diane Dice & Linda Wendt

4/15/2023 Jack & Lynsey Crego 4/23/23 Charlie & Reushan Russian

4/30/2023 Jan Holzinger

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3 Duff Sova
4 Bill Elmore
9 Kathy Arthur
10 Bob (Gomer) Pyle
12 Katie Terwella
15 Brian Hock
16 Jillian Brady
19 Dale Shedden
23 Phil Leigeb
24 Avery Crego
24 Roni Cassaday
27 Shelly Brady
27 Amanda Heatherington

MAY BIRTHDAYS

4 Allison Brady
7 Bruce Dundas
12 Judy Cassaday
15 Doug Fillmore
15 Lowell Thomas
15 Chris Leigeb
16 Cathy Smith
20 Charli Hock

May God richly bless each and every one of you.

**HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5278 N. HOPE RD.
HOPE, MI 48628**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

