



HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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HOPE, MI 48628
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May 2023

We were blessed to have Rev. John Kasper, DS, as our speaker this past Sunday and his message reminded me of this story

Debbie's two daughters were in high school when she experienced severe flu-like symptoms. Debbie visited her family doctor, who told her the flu bug had passed her by. Instead, she had been touched by the "love bug" and was now pregnant.

The birth of Tommy, a healthy, beautiful son, was an event for celebration, and as time went by, it seemed as though every day brought another reason to celebrate the gift of Tommy's life. He was sweet, thoughtful, fun-loving and a joy to be around.

One day when Tommy was about five years old, he and Debbie were driving to the neighborhood mall. As is the way with children, out of nowhere, Tommy asked, "Mom, how old were you when I was born?" "Thirty-six, Tommy. Why?" Debbie asked, wondering what his little mind was contemplating. "What a shame!" Tommy responded. "What do you mean?" Debbie inquired, more than a little puzzled. Looking at her with love-filled eyes, Tommy said, "Just think of all those years we didn't know each other." Alice Collins (From Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul)

I wonder if this is how Jesus feels when years go by in a person's life and they haven't come to know him, I mean really know him. I think about all the opportunities afforded to each of us throughout our lives and yet for many there is

a distance between them and God. That distance doesn't need to be there and certainly God yearns for the closeness of parent and child in its most beautiful form.

This year marks 30 years that my Mom has been with Jesus. She and I were close and I thank God for that. As we think about our moms in this month of May, let us not forget that our Creator Mother/Father knew us from the beginning of time and sewed us together cell by cell with complete unconditional love. That God sent Jesus Christ into the world to save us from all that was keeping us apart from God and that His sacrifice and our belief in His resurrection assures us that we will be reunited with pure love in the appointed time.

I would like to wish Gale, all of the wonderful ladies I know, and those I don't know a Happy Mother's Day!

Grace and Peace!

Randy

We are back from hot Florida so it feels good to have this cool weather!!

From the desk of Pastor Bill:

Attendance

April 2, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 16, Edenville UMC - 13, Hope UMC - 54 = 83

April 7, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 45, Good Friday Service 1:00 pm

April 9, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 23, Edenville UMC - 15, Hope UMC - 100* = 138

April 16, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 17, Edenville UMC - 16, Hope UMC - 55 = 88

April 23, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 28, Edenville UMC - 12, Hope UMC - 63 = 103

Wednesdays Spaghetti dinner was a success! Thank you Greg Brady for amazing control of the Kitchen ~ the pasta and sauce was just like mama made... LOL, everything was great. The UMW made about \$1,000.00 for missions between the Bake sale and Dinner. We all got to see Doug & Michelle Fillmore, what a great opportunity for fellowship.

Adopt-A-Highway ~ tomorrow morning at 9:30 am ~ Traffic Master Dale Shedden is again in charge of collecting America's trash on M-30 (at least for 2 or 3 miles). After the clean-up we will come back to church for a snack.

Great News ~ I finished and submitted my last assignment for Ethics yesterday, woohoo!!! **I am on a 10 week break from classes!** My final class (#20) is July 17 thru August 31... I see the light!

Announcements

Bible Study ~ ~ Tuesday's at Hope UMC ~10 am. to 12 noon. Conference Room.

~ Wednesday's at Dale UMC, Fellowship Hall ~ 10 to 12.

We will be taking a summer break ~ in our bible studies – we will announce this soon.

Bible Study Group wants to invite any and all of our church family, to grab your bible and join us for great fellowship, a wonderful time of study as we search the scriptures for answers. Join us wont you? ***Some of the simplest questions allow for deep & spiritual discovery...***

May Pot-Luck ~ will be on May 21st ... delayed by Mother's Day ~ ***Lynsey Crego and Deb Cleland.***

May 17th is the next UMW meeting ~ at the church. At 3:00 pm.

Hope UMC Pop-Up Food Distribution ~ Will be May 26 at 2:00 p.m. Plan to arrive at 1:00 to help setup. Last week's distribution was an exciting time for the Hope UMC as we distributed food to over 100 families.

Hope UMC ~ Adopt-A-Highway ~ Saturday April 29, groups are much like last year, times will be announced in the near future... If you're like me and you like a heads up, the summer pick-up dates is July 15 – 23, the fall pick up is September 23rd – Oct. 1st ...

Youth Rummage Sale ~ May 19th & 20th ~ please support our youth, tell your friends. We will be taking donations for the sale, items can be dropped off on Sunday the 14th of May and after...

Let us continue praying for: Phyllis Miller, Michelle & Doug Fillmore, Lowell & Jane Thomas, Betty Folland, Jim Walters and Tom & Betty Fillmore, **Betty is in Brittany Manor.**

We visited with Tom and Betty last evening (4/27) Tom will receive meals on wheels starting today 4/28, he wanted me to thank everyone who reach out in their time of need. Love you all!!!

It's time to start making some summer plans ~ Deb and I will be inviting those who enjoy the warmer weather by a fire in the evening. Along with this we love to grill on the Blackstone (actually Deb likes the fact that I cook on the griddle). Every other Saturday evening we plan on having a cook-out/pot-luck something at the parsonage. Bring a bag of chips or a small dish of something and join us. We need time to visit and fellowship and just enjoy each other's company. You will be hearing more on this as our weather gets a little more predictable...

Lord, help me to completely empty me of all of me, so that I may be filled with all of you, Lord.

Blessing to each of you Always,

Pastor Bill

John 21:17-18 NIV

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Bill Page
3 Alexandra Heatherington
4 Jackson Crego
12 Greg Brady
19 Reushan Russian

21 **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO** Bill and Charlotte Elmore

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