



HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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August 2023

How are things with your soul today?

As we are in the midst of a normal summer of some heat, an article about ice cream seemed appropriate. This is not my story and the author is unknown.

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant. My 6-year-old son had asked if he could say Grace. As we bowed our heads, he said “God is good, God is great, thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert, and liberty and justice for all, AMEN”.

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark “that’s what’s wrong with this country...kids today don’t even know how to pray, asking God for ice cream. Why I never...!”

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me “Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?” As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly NOT mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, “I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer.” “Really?” my son asked. “Cross my heart” the man said.

Then, in a ‘stage whisper’ the man added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing) “Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes.”

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of our meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember for the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae, and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman.

With a big smile he told her “Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already.” Randy

PASTOR’S CORNER

June 25, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 31, Edenville UMC - 15, Hope UMC – 64 = 110 **Take a look at Attendance up from last year.** Below is for last July ~ 2022

July 2, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 40, Edenville UMC - 15, Hope UMC – 36 = 91
July 3, 2022 ~ Dale UMC - 24, Edenville UMC - 18, Hope UMC – 47 = 89

July 9, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 30, Edenville UMC - 13, Hope UMC – 54 = 97
July 10, 2022 ~ Dale UMC - 23, Edenville UMC - 15, Hope UMC – 42 = 80

July 16, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 27, Edenville UMC - 6, Hope UMC – 58 = 91
July 17, 2022 ~ Dale UMC - 25, Edenville UMC - 14, Hope UMC – 42 = 81

July 23, 2023 ~ Dale UMC - 33, Edenville UMC - 14, Hope UMC – 42 = 89
July 24, 2022 ~ Dale UMC - 21, Edenville UMC - 15, Hope UMC – 40 = 76

TGIF! ~ July 28, Yesterdays Food distribution was nuts!!! A good nuts though, we ran out of food! How amazing is that!!! I just took the leftovers to the North Midland Center on Shearer and all I dropped off was 2 bales of rice (about 40 bags), 2 cases of Walnuts (48 bags) and a box of Vegetable broth... This was literally nothing! Yesterday was HOT, Muggy and a tad miserable we had 97 cars go through (steadily rising every month) close as we can figure at this time is we had just over 200 families served. Eighty Seven (87) new (first time) visitors yesterday. We distributed 21,770 pounds of food, or just over \$50,000.00 almost 11 tons of food. Thank you Duff Sova for unloading us and helping us with clean-up. Again we had amazing help as always. Thank you all, you are amazing!!!

I am in my 3rd week of my Seminary COS Class Bible IV #421 through the end of August. So almost half way through. This has taken me nearly 9 years in Completing the 20 courses! **WooHoo**

Hope UMC ~ August Pop-Up-Food Pantry ~ is Thursday ~ August 24th ~ from 4 to 6 pm. the truck will arrive at 1:30 pm... Future distributions will be earlier, and even earlier yet in November & December.

Helpers ~ please try to arrive after the truck arrives for set up, Arrive 1:30 to 2:00 pm. Please park in the Fire Hall parking area, East side only. **Please Don’t Block**

Doors. West side of Hall is parking for firefighters **ONLY!** ~ **Those picking up food** will be entering the parking lot from Hull Rd ~ Registration is done prior to lining up in the parking lot.

August 24th ~ from 4 to 6 pm. helpers please arrive around 2:00 pm Free

September 28th ~ 2 to 4 pm ~ truck will arrive noon-ish. (4th Thursday) **Free.**
Earlier Time.

October 26th ~ 2 to 4 pm ~ truck will arrive noon-ish. (4th Thursday) **Free.** *Earlier Time.*

Recognizing time change ~ shorter days and cooler weather... Moved to AM distribution...

November 30th ~ 10 am to 12 Noon ~ Truck will arrive at 8:30am (5th Thursday) **Free.** am time.

December 28th ~ 10 am to 12 noon ~ Truck will arrive at 8:30 am. (5th Thursday) **Free.** am time.

As the days get shorter and cooler we have made the time earlier as well to reflect that change. I will be contacting the school to see if the NHS students can help during the school year for community service points. **Winter pop-up distributions** could possibly go to Saturdays (11 to 1pm) if we choose. Few people travel in the winter and it would give us a change of pace. I personally like the week days as long as our help will be available... Staying consistent on Thursdays will keep attendance up...

I'm a diehard food distribution guy, why? Because people eat every day all year long! The need is possibly greater through the winter months with higher utility costs. I plan to schedule Pop-Ups through ~ winter and spring. We'll get wet and cold and we will second guess why we are even doing this.

The answer is because it is necessary and that we are called by God to care for the needy... What I have heard is we need to stay consistent and keep doing them through the winter.

Fall, winter and spring come with available hot coffee and soups (I haven't told Deb) to get us through. We need to dress accordingly. The coldest I have worked was -4 on a windy day...

Community Garden ~ is growing like a bad weed, amazing to see what a couple splashes of warm rain can do... Thank you Lord... Check it out if you get a chance. *The Community Garden now has a painted rock snake... Lets get creative and watch him grow... check him out amongst the flowers...*

Announcements

Prayers for our Farmers ~ I see from posts on Facebook that many of my Huron County Farmer friends have begun to harvest of wheat and other grains. We need to lift up prayers for our neighbors and farmers for the next several months,

especially during harvest time. As we share the roads with those competing to get crops off before inclement weather. We will soon see headlights in the fields late into the night. And as the farmers exit the fields onto the blacktop leaving mud, this mixed with rain is dangerous, please be cautious and understanding, it is the nature of farming. Remain prayerful that a bountiful harvest is brought in. Be prayerful that a satisfactory price is received for their labor and commitment. I've spent well over 35 years in retail, my feeling has always been if our farmers do well, we will all do well. In so many ways they are our life's blood. From the food we eat to the strength of our local economy, the farmer carries a heavy burden. ***Let us always be in prayer!*** Let us always be understanding and respectful...

Hope UMC ~ Adopt-A-Highway ~ Mid to late September for the Fall pick up.

Hope UMC ~ VBS ~ STARTS MONDAY ~ July 31, August 1 & 2 ~ 6 to 8 pm. **Our Theme** *"Twists and Turns: Following Jesus changes the game!"* Psalm 25:4 *Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths.* An online registration will be available before hand as well as sign-up the first night. Craft stations, Bible Lesson Station, Game Stations, and More. The older students will sand Crosses, Tie-dye T-shirts, and have a Bonfire with Pastor. We will also have music and snacks for all... This year's VBS is being ran in part by Jillian Brady and Allison Goodwin and our church family. Much is still coming together, we haven't done VBS in a few years. Please help when asked!!!

Pot-Luck - Cook-Out Style ~ is planned for August 13th... Right after church!!! Bring a dish to pass ~ summer salads, bake beans, chips you get the idea... We'll us our fine disposable plates and plastic cutlery again to safe on clean-up. We'll eat outside again and will need a couple guys to carry the table up and back down after we eat, (thank you fellas). Greg Brady will again be cooking outside and grilling the burgers and hot dogs, so we'll be ready to eat when we get out of church at 12 noon. **Regular Pot-lucks will start up again on September 10th...**

Let us continue praying for: Phyllis Miller, Michelle & Doug Fillmore, Lowell & Jane Thomas, Betty Folland, Jim Walters and Tom & Betty Fillmore, Betty continues with more back pain.

Surgery Information as we know it at the moment!

Bob Pyle ~ had his surgery 7/12 ~ He is recuperating at home. Wonder if he's a good patient?

Jackson Crego ~ had surgery Thursday 7/27 to repair a football injury, I think...

Mid-Michigan Emmaus ~ walk scheduled for September 21 through 24th in Coleman... Very close if any guys are interested, it is an amazing Spirit filled weekend! The Lady's walk will be the next weekend Sept 28 thru Oct 1st. If interested please contact me.

August is Fair Month ~ Midland County Fair I believe 13 thru 19 Fun, Fun!!!
Then the focus turns to back to school, Farm Harvests, and then prepping for winter. *I think I'm rushing it a bit!*

Blessing To Each of You Always,

Pastor Bill 989-975-1500 pastorofcrosses@outlook.com or cleland@comcast.net

Deb 989-975-1501 hopechurchsec@outlook.com

May our Lord Bless and Protect each of you!!

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

Oh, & lord please help me through this last Seminary class. Thank You!!!

OTHER NEWS

Sign project: Our church is in the first year of raising money to upgrade the sign in the front yard. Currently, our sign is changed manually by Deb on a regular basis. The Trustees have started the project of upgrading to a totally digital sign which can be changed using today's technology of computers and smart phones. The new sign will fit within the frame of the current sign and will be able to be modern and easily changed. To date there has been approximately 10% of the funds raised and we need to keep this project in mind.

New Treasurer: Curt Alexander has submitted his resignation as the Treasurer for many years and will be stepping down no later than September 30. We have been blessed to have John Fillmore step in as the Treasurer and when fully trained, will assume the role. Thank you Curt, for keeping the books straight for all of these years. Your work is greatly appreciated by the congregation and the Ad Council over the years.

Choir: Do you sing in the shower? Can you hum a tune? Do you like to sing? The choir will start practicing the week after Labor Day and as the Uncle Sam poster says: **WE NEED YOU!!** Join us for inspiration and fun.

Youth Group: The Hope Youth Group has raised over \$2,000 through their Yard Sale and in August will be making the trip to Cedar Point for their efforts. Thank you Pastor Bill and Deb, Jillian Brady, Brian Hock and Lynsey Crego for your fantastic leadership and for re-implementing the Hope UMC youth group.

Sunday School: We have been having Sunday School all summer and Linda Wendt has been a blessing sent from heaven for our little people. We will continue through the fall season and kids will be dismissed after "Children's Moments" during the church service.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4 Linda Wendt
5 Amber Leuenberger
6 Donna Maxwell
11 Roseann Poag
25 Tami Hock
28 Laura Shedden

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Clarence Hetherington
3 Phyllis Miller
7 Judy Sova
9 JoLynn Adams
10 Randy Hock
10 Shirley Edmonds
20 Tiffany Crawford
20 Shedel Poole
24 Collin Alexander
26 Megan Leuenberger
30 Cali Hock

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

23 John and Melanie Mickle
25 Randy and Gale Hock

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARY

1 Tom and Betty Fillmore

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