



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

God Calls Us to Be Learners

As we begin the uncharted territory of the new school year, Being a retired educator, I thought I'd reflect on learning. We are called to be life-long learners. After all, faith is not a goal to be reached, not a destination at which we ever arrive, but a journey we take that lasts us our whole life. While there may be rest stops and detours along the way, for the most part, we are called to continue traveling that path, trusting that Christ walks with us along the way.

This journey of faith involves our whole self ("Love God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength"). It involves worship, prayer, and service, as we seek to experience and live out our faith. But we're also called to seek an understanding of our faith (as much as that can be attained), and that involves study. Whether we are 2 or 102, we are called to be learners, to put our brains to use for better understanding God's word and God's will for us.

We can learn in several different ways. One way we learn is for information. When we do this, we focus on facts. We delve into history and context, seeking to understand the author's objective and meaning. Learning for information is like a research project in which we are discovering knowledge about God. While this is a method of learning, but it's not the primary way God calls us to be learners.

The information we learn should lead to formation. That means the information is meant to take root in our hearts and help reshape us into followers of Christ.

Learning for formation helps us understand right from wrong, seek purpose and meaning, and look for how God is at work in our lives. This the purpose of attending bible study.

Learning this way allows the information we gather to form our thinking and acting. While this is an important step in the journey of faith, it's not the final one. The ultimate goal of learning is transformation. As the information forms us, we are changed from who we were to who God wants us to be. Paul says in Romans, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect." Through our learning, we are transformed as we grow from knowing about God to knowing and being known by God.

Let's keep our kids in our prayers this fall as they go about the task of learning but let's also challenge ourselves to be the best students we can be!

Randy

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH will be during the month of September. There will be envelopes available at the church for your convenience.

GREETERS AND USHERS list is enclosed. Please be at the church at 10:30 am to greet and you will also serve as the ushers for the day if physically able.

PASTOR'S CORNER

"To show love "Jesus style" at every intersection in life."

Office Hours will be Tuesday ~ Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Hope UMC.

Please call ahead in case we are out visiting.

Attendance

July 23, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 33,	Edenville UMC - 14,	Hope UMC – 42 = 89
July 30, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 35,	Edenville UMC - 14,	Hope UMC – 52 = 101
August 6, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 32,	Edenville UMC - 16,	Hope UMC – 59 = 107
August 13, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 33,	Edenville UMC - 13,	Hope UMC – 56 = 102
August 20, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 33,	Edenville UMC - 11,	Hope UMC – 56 = 100

TGIF ~ it be Friday Again... What a CRAZY week. Deb is on the mend!!! Gooder but not back to normal... We were in ER both Wednesday and Thursday mornings for her back and leg cramps (Sciatic Nerve pain). It was so bad, I'm thinking she don't love me no more. LOL Norco pain drugs are helping but, she has a long way to go...

Monday our Hope Youth Group under Jillian Brady's watch took off early in the morning and struck out for Cedar Point ~ Huron Ohio! She was assisted (driver wise) by Lynsey Crego, Brian Hock, Daniel Russell. Taking 15 or 16 young ladies on an adventure. I understand a great time was had by all. Thank you chaperones, you are brave souls.. All comments have been positive!!!

Thursdays Pop-Up Food distribution was AMAZING!!!! We had very little left over. 109 cars and well over 240 families served... It was one wild day... I just took about 20 gallons of milk to the North Midland Center, Floyd Andrick took a case of walnuts and a flat of strawberries there this morning as well. It was a warm sticky day yesterday, BUT, not wet!!! The need is great and **God is good!!!**

I'm done!!! Win lose or draw. My 20th and final Course of Study (Seminary Class) is complete! I submitted my final paper a few days early because we have appointments in Bad Axe on Monday. **At 10:34 am today 8/25**, when I hit the submit key it was all over. **Now I wait for my grade...**

Dill ~ actually FREE Dill, is a big Dill!!! From our Community Garden, we gave some away at yesterdays Pop-Up. Very Cool... Thank you Lori Childs for telling the lady!!! She was canning eggs. Go figure and no one had dill... **If you're canning and need dill** just come and pull it up (Knock the dirt off) and take it. First Come, first serve... **Please us it...**

Hope UMC ~ September 28th ~ 2 to 4 pm ~ truck will arrive noon-ish. THIS IS A CHANGE!

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.

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.**

I have officially bumped up our food for our distributions to 350 families. This is a big deal!!!

Community Garden ~ Its full... Grab some veggies if you like...

Announcements

Charge Conference ~

The SPRC zoom meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening, **October 24, 2023** at 7:00 pm. with the DS John Kasper. A formal meeting will be needed prior to discuss the pastor this will be held at Edenville... **Shelly Brady** will be contacting the other PPRC's in September.

If you are on the Pastor Parish committee for your church, ***you have been served***. I always wanted The PPRC or SPRC will have to meet prior to the October zoom meeting to discuss pastor's performance and evaluation. This year's joint evaluation meeting will be held at the **Edenville UMC**.

Our actual Charge Conference will be a group ~ Zone Charge Conference on October 29th, 6:00 pm, place to be announced.

Pastor Bill is in charge of Nominations **Committee** at all three churches, I assume that each church will take measures to make sure all committee slots are filled. I'll chat with each Ad Board chair as we get closer to October. An email was forwarded out to all last month, you are stuck with me again for another year ~ no new pastor, but the churches can opt for a single governance board. It is an option (basically the Ad Board completely operates with chair people for committees).

HOPE UMC Pot-Luck – is ~ September 10th... No one is signed up yet!!!

Hope UMC ~ Adopt-A-Highway ~ *Last week in September for our fall pick up. Dale Shedden.*

Let us continue praying for: Phyllis Miller, Michelle & Doug Fillmore, Lowell Thomas, and his family, Betty Foland, Jim Walters, Donna Atherton, Jackie Southwell and Tom & Betty Fillmore.

Send A Card “Let us lift those who need lifting”...

Phyllis Miller
c/o Meridian Acres
2915 N. Meridian Rd.
Sanford MI. 48657

Lowell Thomas
c/o “The Brook of Gladwin”
1201 W. Cedar Ave. Room 12
Gladwin MI 48624

Michelle Fillmore
528 Hull Rd.
Hope MI, 48628

Betty Fillmore
305 E. Chapel Lane
Midland MI, 48642

Jim Walters
1100 Dale Rd.
Beaverton MI 48612

Donna Atherton
728 Hayes Dr.
Beaverton MI, 48612

Jackson Crego
5304 N. Hope Rd.
Hope MI. 48628

Betty Folland
1073 E. Adams Rd
Hope MI. 48628

Jackie Southwell
4950 Townhall Rd.
Beaverton MI. 48612

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. I'll be at Emmaus Walk practice in Coleman Friday most of the day (8am to 3pm).

Have we had enough rain yet? ~ I'm thinking, some time to dry out would be appreciated...

Last night's storm was loud and well timed after the food distribution... *God is so good!*

For our farmers and our schools; Lord, please watch over and protect our farmers! As we see increased farm traffic on the roads, as we enter the wet fall season, we will soon see mud on the roads as well. This is just life in a rural area. Lord our prayer is that the non-farming community will remain vigilant while driving, that they take a deep breath and relax, or better yet just plan ahead and leave a little earlier than needed. The lives that we protect by slowing down a bit, could be our own. Additionally Lord, School has either started or will start very soon, those big yellow busses are a priority for us all. They transport precious cargo, they transport our future, and again we ask that you Lord, might calm people as they are driving. Life is not a race it is a journey, sadly a journey with people racing through every day, Lord we pray that people on the roads pay close attention while driving. There is no need to take unnecessary chances. The farmer pulling equipment from field to field, might not be able to see you! Lord, please calm people. The driver of the bus certainly sees you but it can't stop on a dime. Lord we continue to ask for your protection and grace in this word. I ask that you be with the other drivers that look at our farmers as obstacle or a burden that you would settle them down, that you might teach them to relax and not take chances that risk others, Lord we must share the road, we must be mindful of others and remain patient on the highways. It is in your Gracious and Holy name that we pray.

Amen

All three churches are collection for school supplies ~ and are due August 20 ~ but, school supplies are needed throughout the school year. **Let's be generous and take care of area children.** We had left over disinfectant wipes from yesterday's Pop-Up, Lynsey took 2 cases (48 containers) to Bullock Creek School and balance (38 containers) will go to Meridian Schools.

United Elf Attic Bazaar ~ Fall Craft Show ~ *How is that for a name!!* ~ **Mark your calendar** ~ Saturday December 2nd at the Dale UMC fellowship hall. Table rental \$25 ~ no competing tables ~ no major brands i.e. Tupperware, etc. ~ There will be food available through Dale UMC – Baked Potato Bar, Coffee & Water ~ All proceeds go to local families in need.

Contact **Donna Gower**, she is in charge ~ cell phone **989-737-8228** ~ Email address; dongow@midmichigancc.com

This is a great opportunity for all three churches to come together and support each other, and to care for local families in need, as we near the holidays.

Blessing To Each of You Always,

Pastor Bill 989-975-1500 or bcleland@comcast.net

Deb 989-975-1501 hopechurchsec@outlook.com

***May our Lord Bless and Protect
each of you!!***

Some food for thought

Christianity does not “Progress” with the times. If it did, it would be a false religion. Do not be deceived into thinking there is a progressive form of Christianity. It does not exist. It does not exist because the truth never changes. God’s word is the same yesterday today and forever. Amen

Christianity is about helping others and controlling yourself. When it becomes about controlling others and helping yourself, it isn’t Christianity...

Dill ~ actually FREE Dill ~ we have a row of dill in our community garden. If you’re canning and need dill just come and pull it up (Knock the dirt off) and take it. First Come, first serve...**Please use it...** (community garden is between the Hope UMC and the fire hall).

ADDITIONALLY

HOPE CHOIR will resume their ministry of music with practice beginning at 7:00 pm on September 14. If you can sing in the shower, with the radio, or if you are a seasoned veteran singer, **WE NEED YOU!!!!**

FROM KATIE DUTCHER

We lost Katie a few years ago. She wrote poetry about things she loved in her life.

Little Church with a big heart (Hope Methodist)

There’s a little white church that stands so tall
By the side of the road – it’s really quite small.
With a big bell up in the steeple
That on Sundays chimes to call all the people.
Sometimes people go in or go out
You often hear music or a child will shout.
Joys abounding, heartaches too
Taking much care as a church should do.
So come on in and bring your soul.
‘Cause saving them is its goal.
Worship and the peace of prayer
Is the reason this church is standing there.
In this little church with a big heart
Habits of worship soon will start.
Find happiness and leave your load
God is here in this church by the side on the road.

GREETERS AND USHERS FOR 2023 AND 2024 CHURCH YEAR

SEPTEMBER 2023

- 3 Charlie and Reushan Russian
- 10 Greg and Shelly Brady
- 17 Diane Dice and Linda Wendt
- 24 Lynsey and Jack Crego

NOVEMBER 2023

- 5 Gale and Randy Hock
- 12 Floyd Andricks and Terri Horning
- 19 Bob and Mary Lou Pyle
- 26 Clarence and Amanda Hetherington

JANUARY 2024

- 7 Diane Dice and Linda Wendt
- 14 Judy Cassaday and Betty Foland
- 21 Curt and Sonya Alexander
- 28 Bob and Karen Davis

MARCH 2024

- 3 Brian and Tami Hock
- 10 Pat Varner and Lois Devericks
- 17 Cory and Shane Wheeler
- 24 Laura and Dale Shedden

MAY 2024

- 7 Duff and Judy Sova
- 14 Randy and Gale Hock
- 21 Darlene Davis and Joyce Colvin
- 28 Clarence and Amanda Hetherington

JULY 2024

- 2 Joanne Lyon and Mary Ellen Smith
- 9 Lori and Elgin Childs
- 16 Kathy Arthur and Betty Fillmore
- 23 Laura and Dale Shedden
- 30 Daniel and Breezy Russell

OCTOBER 2023

- 1 Pat Varner and Lois Devericks
- 8 Bob and Karen Davis
- 15 Duff and Judy Sova
- 22 Laura and Dale Shedden
- 29 Jan Holzinger and Rita Hall

DECEMBER 2023

- 3 Lori and Elgin Childs
- 10 Darlene Davis and Joyce Colvin
- 17 Phil and Chris Leigeb
- 24 Joanne Lyon and Mary Ellen Smith
- 31 Floyd Andricks and Terri Horning

FEBRUARY 2024

- 4 Lynsey and Jack Crego
- 11 Daniel and Breezy Russell
- 18 Kathy Arthur and Betty Fillmore
- 25 John and Alyssa Fillmore and family

APRIL 2024

- 2 Greg and Shelly Brady
- 9 Diane Dice and Linda Wendt
- 16 Lynsey and Jack Crego
- 23 Charlie and Reushan Russian
- 30 Jan Holzinger and Rita Hall

JUNE 2024

- 4 Gale and Randy Hock
- 11 Bob and Mary Lou Pyle
- 18 Phil and Chris Leigeb
- 25 Mary Ellen Smith

AUGUST 2024

- 6 Cory and Shane Wheeler
- 13 Judy Cassaday and Betty Foland
- 20 Curt and Sonya Alexander
- 27 John and Alyssa Fillmore and family

The Sunday you are a greeter you will also serve as an usher if physically able.

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 Pyle
24 Collin Alexander
26 Megan Leuenberger
30 Cali Hock

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Gale Hock
9 Dave Leuenberger
12 Lori Childs
22 Courtney Fillmore
27 Scott Holzinger
30 Darlene Davis
30 Roger Trucks

May God richly bless all of you on these wonderful days of special recognition.

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED