



HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5278 N HOPE RD.

HOPE, MI 48628

PASTOR – BILL CLELAND

PHONE – 989-689-3811

WEBSITE - <https://hopeumchopemi.org/>

December 2023

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley penned eighteen Christmas songs, but he was never happy with simply painting the picture of the manger scene. In this hymn, he begins by alluding to scriptural prophecies of Christ. Moving on to personal application, he continues: Christ is not only the "desire of every nation"; He is the "joy of every longing heart." He is not only the child born with the "government... on his shoulders" (Isaiah 9:6); He is "born to reign in us forever."

Such personal application was a hallmark of the Wesleys' ministry. Charles and his brother John challenged the staid Anglican traditions of their time. The church of their day had great scholarship; its theology was orthodox. Christians sang hymns straight from Scripture.

But the Wesleys seemed to ask, "Does this mean anything to you? Is the biblical story about long-ago events or about what is going on in your life?" They urged people to meet Christ personally and to include Him in every part of their lives—even their hymn singing.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Randy and Gale

PASTOR'S CORNER

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hope ~ Edenville ~ Dale

Today is ~ Tuesday – November 28, 2023

This Sunday ~ December 3, 2023 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

Website: www.hopeumchopemi.org

"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

Nov. 5, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 29,	Edenville UMC - 14,	Hope UMC – 49 = 92
Nov. 12, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 30,	Edenville UMC - 13,	Hope UMC – 46 = 89
Nov. 19, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 36,	Edenville UMC - 11,	Hope UMC – 44 = 91
Nov. 26, 2023 ~	Dale UMC - 32,	Edenville UMC - 12,	Hope UMC – 47 = 91

Another apology ~ I saw a post on Facebook that stated ***"I think being an adult is telling yourself every week that next week will be better, less hectic"*** for the rest of your life... LOL

My heavens where has this year gone, Sunday is December 3rd and the first Sunday of Advent...

Last week as we approached Thanksgiving We had Courtney Fillmore's funeral on Wednesday Morning at the Midland First church with about 170 people in attendance with an dinner at the American Legion Hall in Midland... Then we were off to Charlevoix to my Daughter Nicki's for Thanksgiving, then back to Hope to get some rest on Friday... The twins with their 5 year old cousin Lizzy Lou make enough noise as a small army...

We have been in prayer for Bruce Dundas who was in the Hospital in Florida. I got the text early this morning that Bruce passed away about 5:30 am this morning. I don't know any details beyond that of his becoming another angel of the Lord... Bruce and I had a great visit a summer ago when I first got to Hope UMC... He was an amazing man and a talented musician. Continued prayers for his family please...

November is busy enough on its own but in the past two weeks we had Jim Walter from Dale UMC passed away, then Courtney Fillmore, now Bruce Dundas both from Hope UMC.

Next Tuesday (December 5th) Deb has her appointment with the U of M transplant team in Ann Arbor... Please keep Deb in your prayers, I often feel like I'm driving Miss Daisy, taking her to all of her appointments, she's getting weaker and weaker with time. Between the funerals, getting ready for the Craft show at the Dale UMC this coming Saturday and Debs appointments, I'm about meet myself coming and going. Through all of this God is so good! He brings us through everything always. Not always with the outcome that we want, but his love is faithful always.

With all the running we might not be where you might expect us to be, but were on it and moving.

December 10th is the Hope UMC Potluck after church. YUM

December 17th ~ Hope UMC Christmas Program during our Sunday Service.

Christmas Eve December 24 ~ will be a busy one ~ Sunday morning will be services as usual!

Christmas Eve Services ~ Afternoon and Evening ~ **Dale UMC** 4 to 5 pm. in the daylight. Then at 7:00 pm ~ we'll have a candle light service at Edenville UMC 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

Why the change for Christmas Eve? This is all on ME! Many people don't like to drive at night. So why not a late afternoon service before supper while it's still daylight out. The sun sets at 5:05 pm on Christmas Eve. Many people have a large Christmas Eve meal with family so two additional services later in the day was propose in an effort to reach people where they are at. **SO**

Sunday ~ December 24 services as usual	Dale UMC	8:30 am to 9:30 am
	Edenville UMC	9:45 am to 10:45 am
	Hope UMC	11:00 am to 12:00 noon
Afternoon	Dale UMC	4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Evening	Edenville UMC	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

December 28th ~ 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm ~ Truck will arrive at 10:00am (5th Thursday) **Free**.

Helpers ~ please try to arrive after the truck arrives for set up, Truck should arrive at 10:00am ~ then set up, the Give-Away will start by 12:00 noon or before. **Helpers** - 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. We will again line up lanes 1 through 7 but, Lane one will be nearest Hull Road side of our lot. This will assist registration as they direct cars where to line up...

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

Announcements

HOPE UMC Pot-Luck – is ~ December 10th...

Hope UMC ~ Sunday School Christmas Program will be ~ December 17 at 11:00 during Service.

Hope UMC is collecting Hats, Mittens and scarves. Place in Red Tub in Narthex.

HOPE UMW meets on December 13 at 10:00 am to pack **Love Boxes**. Please sign the sign up sheet in the Narthex for the item you plan to bring. A meeting will follow.

Let us continue praying for: Phyllis Miller, Michelle & Doug Fillmore, Lowell Thomas, Marylou Pyle, Rita Hall, Betty Foland, Jim Walters, Donna Atherton, Jackie Southwell, Tom & Betty Fillmore, Courtney Fillmore family all need our prayers, to be in our thoughts ~ & all would love a visit or a card.

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

Donna Atherton
728 Hayes Dr.
Beaverton MI, 48612

Betty Foland
1073 E. Adams Rd
Hope MI. 48628

Jackie Southwell
4950 Townhall Rd.
Beaverton MI. 48612

Mary Lou Pyle
706 Shaffer Rd.
Hope MI. 48628

Rita Hall ~ 1802 E. Hull Rd. ~ Hope MI. 48628

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

“Don’t shine so that others can see you. Shine, so that through you, others can see Him.” –
C.S. Lewis

If everything around seems dark, look again, you may be the light. – **Rumi**

To be an atheist, I would have to believe... Nothing produced everything,Non-life produced life, ... Randomness produced precision, ...chaos produced order. I simply do not have that much faith...

“Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy” **C.S. Lewis** Mere Christianity

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...

Mabel was a "blind, deaf, disease-ridden and cancerous" old lady of 89 whom the Christian writer Tom Schmidt once met in a convalescent home. He asked her what she thought about as her body was ravaged by disease and the long days passed, and her response was striking: "I think about Jesus," she said. "I think about how good he's been to me. He's been awfully good to me in my life, you know... I'm one of those kind who's mostly satisfied."

Mabel is an inspiring example of someone who, though physically blind, could see spiritual truths with 20/20 vision. But when we read the gospels we find that Jesus' disciples – perhaps like us – were rather slow to develop in this area.

Why?

1. The disciples didn't see clearly that Jesus had to die, or why. Mark 10:33-34 finds Jesus explaining to his disciples – again – that he had come to die. If we or those we care for are to develop 20/20 spiritual vision we and they need to develop a clear understanding of the cross and its necessity. For Jesus came "to give his life as a ransom for many" (verse 45).

2. The disciples didn't understand that following Jesus was about service, not status. Mark 10:35-37 tells us how James and John, two of Jesus' friends, seek the top spots in the kingdom he is ushering in. But Jesus makes it clear that "whoever wishes to be first... must be slave of all" (verse 44). It's all about service, and sacrifice – not status. By contrast, the blind man, Bartimaeus, first encountered begging by the roadside, has clear spiritual sight.

3. The blind man saw clearly who Jesus is. He calls Jesus "Son of David" (verse 47) – a hugely significant Messianic title. When people referred to Jesus as the Son of David, they meant that he was the long-awaited Deliverer, the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Bartimaeus had clearly grasped that.

4. The blind man saw clearly what he needed from Jesus. And so he calls out: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (verse 47). At the heart of 20/20 spiritual vision is the ability to see clearly what we most need – mercy, forgiveness and grace. Bartimaeus was granted his physical sight (verse 52) as a testament to his spiritual sight .

As a result, we are told, he "followed Jesus on the way" – not only the physical road but the path of discipleship. So how is your spiritual vision? How is your understanding of the cross? How much is your faith about what you can get out of it – or about how you can serve? Do you see clearly who Jesus is and what you most need?

Let's make a resolution in this year 2024 to work on our 20/20 spiritual vision and walk the road of Christ with our "eyes" wide open.

Blessings, dear Hope family, and Happy New Year!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Carolyn Trudgen
12 Ryan Holzinger
18 Heather Leuenberger
25 **JESUS**
27 Wes LaCourt
28 John Mickle

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

20 Meko Price
24 Curt Alexander
26 Joanne Lyon

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Duff and Judy Sova

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Dave and Caryn Leuenberger

May God richly bless each and every one of you.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED