



HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5278 N HOPE RD.
HOPE, MI 48628
PASTOR – BILL CLELAND
PHONE – 989-689-3811
WEBSITE - <https://hopeumchopemi.org/>
January 2024

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 kinds 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.

1. 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.

2. 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 UMC family, and Happy New Year!!

Randy

PASTOR'S CORNER

This is a message Pastor Bill sent me last night when I asked for information about Deb.

Randy,

I thought I lost her last night. She came back from a colonoscopy and had trouble breathing, she was shaking. Later we learned that she had aspirated while under. They didn't catch it and it went into her left lung causing major issues. Her sugar They did dialysis in her room until 11:00 pm. A crash team worked on her for hours and took her to ICU. Today she was absolutely stable, back to herself.

Prayers were answered. Randy, it is the only thing I can say. Prayers and thanks to God for send his son Jesus to get us through these tragic times and for providing comfort to all.

Pastor Bill

As a church family we need to soak them in prayer and thanks for these times when Jesus was there to guide the medical community with the right processes to keep our precious Deb alive and progressing towards the transplant procedure. Thank you God and Thank you Jesus.

BRUCE DUNDAS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Bruce Dundas a nearly lifelong member of the Hope United Methodist Church passed away in Florida in December. Bruce was born in 1932 and passed in 2023.

Visitation and funeral will be held at the Hope UMC. Visitation will be January 10, 2024 from 3 – 7 and January 11, 2024 from 10:00 – 11:00 am. Service will be at 11:00 am.

Bruce will be honored with a military salute following the service.

Lunch will be provided after the service by the Hope UMW.

Hope UMC ~ January Pop-Up-Food Pantry ~ is Thursday ~ January 24th ~ from 12 to 2 pm. the truck will arrive at 10:0 pm.

Helpers ~ please try to arrive after the truck arrives for set up, Arrive 10:00 to 12:00 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.

As the days get shorter and cooler we have made the time earlier as well to reflect that change. **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.all, winter and spring come with available hot coffee and soups to get us through. We need to dress accordingly. The coldest I have worked was -4 on a windy day...



WHEN: Wednesday January 31, 2024

4:00pm - 7:00pm

WHERE: Hope United Methodist Church

5278 N. Hope Road

Hope, MI 48628

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10.00 Adult \$5.00 Children 12 and under

Includes soup, salad, roll, beverage, & dessert.

DINE IN OR TAKE AWAY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

20 Meko Price
24 Curt Alexander
26 Joanne Lyon

ANNIVERSARY

2 Dave & Caryn Leuenberger

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 Betty Fillmore
8 Charlotte Elmore
13 Judy Page
18 Wendy LaCourt
19 Sonya Alexander
22 Haley Doede
23 James Crook
23 Randy Arthur
23 Dan Holsinger
24 Terri Horning
27 Pat Varner

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