



2025

## August Reflections: A Season of Preparation and Purpose From the Pastor's Desk – Hope of Edwardsburg

Dear Church Family,

As we turn the page to August, I'm reminded that we are stepping into a season of **preparation**—not just for the return of school routines or cooler weather hopefully, but for a renewed focus on God's calling for us as His people.

In the Global Methodist Church, we are a connection of congregations committed to **Scriptural truth, Spirit-filled living, and missional engagement**. August gives us space to realign our hearts with those priorities. It is a month for spiritual inventory: What is God calling me to this fall? Where can I grow? Whom is God asking me to serve?

John Wesley once said, **"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth."**

That's our vision as a church—not just to be busy, but to be **holy and missional**, surrendered fully to Christ and active in our community.

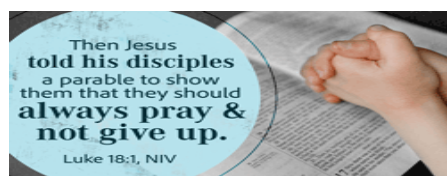
Let August be a time of:

- **Praying with purpose** – seeking the Spirit's leading for what's ahead.
- **Recommitting to holiness** – choosing integrity, purity, and Christlikeness daily.
- **Preparing for harvest**—inviting, investing, and serving as the new season begins.

As your pastor, I'm excited about what's coming: opportunities for deeper discipleship, outreach, and fellowship. Thank you for walking this journey with us in the Spirit of Hope and unity. May our hearts be fully available to the movement of God.

Let's be a church that continues to grow in grace, stand firm in truth, and move forward in love.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Rob**  
Hope of Edwardsburg



**Messy Church**  
Messy Church is open to families of all shapes and sizes, and folks of all ages!  
Come join in on the fun!  
Sunday, August 24th 5-7pm!





## CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Month of June Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 20,919  
 Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-15,899  
 Surplus for the Month: \$ 5,020

Year to date shortfall after transfers: \$ -9,096

Ministry Fund Monthly Budget amount:  
 \$ 19,874

All June bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$109,822. Thank you for your continued support!

### June Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation

\$135.57 Missions  
 \$962.80 Parsonage Mortgage  
\$257.28 Capital Improvements  
 \$1,355.65 Total Donations

Mortgage & Mission Monthly Budget amount:  
 \$3,871

Mortgage Balance after payment due August 1 is \$191,478.

**SUMMER**   
**OFFICE HOURS**  
 Monday - Thursday  
 9am - noon

### FINANCE QUESTIONS?????

If you have a question about how the church finances work, please contact Melissa at 269-663-5321 extension 9. We also have summaries of the information that has been published in prior newsletters in the office.



**Tuesday, August 12th 3-4pm**  
**Here in the Hope parking lot**  
**Volunteers Needed! Please arrive at 2:30pm**

### What is a Mobile Food Pantry?

Mobile Food Pantries are like farmers markets on wheels that provide supplemental groceries—including produce, protein, dairy, grains and more—to anyone in need at no charge. The food distributions are run in partnership with local agencies like churches, schools and community centers.

### How do food banks get food to distribute?

At the Feeding America West Michigan food bank, we gather food from a variety of sources, such as farmers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, the USDA and food drives. We also purchase food to fill in any gaps in donations.

### Why do companies have so much surplus food?

Food waste occurs at every stage of the food system—from the farm to the dinner table. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, up to 40 percent of food produced in the U.S. is wasted. Reasons for food waste include bumper crops, package misprints, storage and transportation issues, imperfect aesthetics and over ordering. While much of the food waste occurs during production, 58 percent occurs at consumption (in homes or restaurants), according to the World Resources Institute.

The food system in the United States aims to produce just the right amount of food, based on historical purchasing trends. This means if something suddenly stops selling well, there's surplus. This showed up in reverse early in the COVID-19 pandemic, when so many people began rushing the stores to purchase shelf-stable food. The food system hadn't expected so many sales at once and didn't have warehouses full of extra waiting in reserve, so the shelves went bare.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

BILL STACK	8/02
LUCAS FLICK	8/03
MOLLY ADAMS	8/05
KELLY KLEIN	8/05
SUE TOTH	8/06
EMILY WILFERT	8/07
JOSH UDELL	8/10
JAN READ	8/11
RON FLICK	8/12
SHERRIE MAHNESMITH	8/13
JAN FRIES	8/13
LURENA WILFERT	8/14
ANGELINA MARIA FISK	8/15
CRYSTAL MILLER	8/18
NICK FOLKERS	8/23
BAILEY MILLER	8/25
JENNIFER WYANT	8/25
CHRIS FRENTZ	8/26
KAY McNIFF	8/26
JACKIE BOONE	8/27
SANDI TURPEL	8/27
DAVID HENDRICKS	8/28



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

CAITLIN & NATE EYESTONE	8/01
JOYCE & DALE WESTFALL	8/02
MICHELE & GREG BLACK	8/09
RONDA & BILL FAHEY	8/10
PATTY & JEFF D JOHNSON	8/15
JAN & BILL FRIES	8/25
KATHE & ROB SNODGRASS	8/25

### LT HIGHLIGHTS

Items discussed at the  
July 9 LT meeting:



- # Digital marketing/outreach program
- # Plans for Hope's website update
- # Possible accommodations for Village Hybrid school's enrollment growth
- # Contemporary service modifications



### Why Christian community is key

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible! A *family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.





**Tuesday, August 12th 3-4pm**  
**Here in the Hope parking lot**  
**Volunteers Needed! Please arrive at 2:30pm**

We gather and distribute over **23 million meals'** worth of food annually to about 800 partners across West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula – covering 40 of Michigan's 83 counties.

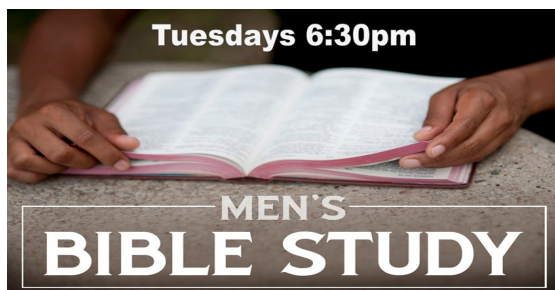
**Around 30 cars line up at Hope hours before distribution begins!**

**We support our church's food pantry, why should we support you?**

We're happy you support your local food pantry. They may be one of our partners! When you support the food bank, you're helping many food pantries and meal programs stretch their program funds and access a variety of food in the exact quantity they need. No other organization in our region is equipped to gather and distribute the volume of food that we do. We appreciate every dollar donated and gifts are always used efficiently: 98% goes directly to hunger-relief programs.

**What donations does the food bank need the most?**

Both monetary and food donations are important forms of support for the food bank. At Feeding America West Michigan, [for every \\$10 donated, 50 meals are provided](#) to those experiencing hunger. If you are interested in donating food items, check out our [list of most-needed items](#) on our website.



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR:

Mobile food pantry (Aug 12/2:30-4PM)  
 Coffee Hour (set up/donate goodies)  
 Trunk or Treat (October)  
 CROP Walk (October)  
 Stuff-A-Bus (December)

For more info or to volunteer, see Pastor Rob or Bonnie Morgan.

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." **Luke 6:38***



**Shawl**  
 MINISTRY

**3rd Thursday of every month**  
**10AM Reese Hall**

## August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office closed 6:00pm Euchre Night 6-8pm Reese Hall	2
3 8:30am & 10:30am Service	4 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	5 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	6 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	7 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	8 Office closed	9
10 8:30am & 10:30am Service	11 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	12 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 3:00pm Mobile Food Pantry 3-4pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	13 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting	14 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	15 Office closed	16
17 8:30am & 10:30am Service	18 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	19 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	20 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	21 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	22 Office closed	23 1:00pm Reservation
24 8:30am & 10:30am Service 5:00pm Messy Church 5-7pm	25 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	26 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	27 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	28 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 9:00am Summer office hours 9am- 12pm 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	29 Office closed	30
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