



*Hope*  
of Edwardsburg

*Invite. Connect. Grow. Serve.*

*We invite YOU to experience HOPE in Christ. There is a place for you here, to connect with people and God. Together we will grow in faith. Together we will serve as the hands and feet of Christ for the Glory of God!*



2024

**Lent has arrived, Hope.** Often the question I hear is, “what is Lent?” Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. That is the abbreviated and a true explanation of Lent, but I thought it would be good to dig a little deeper.

Lent starts the 40 days before Easter, but we do not count the Sundays because each Sunday is like a little Easter Sunday. It begins on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance in Jewish and Christian history. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose, and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear sackcloth to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. The sackcloth clothing is rough and scratchy. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness. The ashes come from our Palm Sunday service. On Palm we remember and celebrate when Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get the ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little oil. It's symbolic. This year our youth group burned and ground the ashes.

During the Ash Wednesday service the minister will make a small cross on your forehead by smudging the ashes. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' resurrection and forgiveness. It's a powerful, nonverbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus. When you are considering Lent. First remember that at Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended, and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Matthew 4:1-11 shares this, the Spirit sent Jesus into the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed for 40 days. During His time there He was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterward, He was ready to begin his ministry.

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose, or passion? It's easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter like some social media, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God. Lent is a great time to “repent” to return to God and refocus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40-day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart.

During the time of Lent you can fast, and some people have gone without food for 40 days. That's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes, or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or reality TV to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. Think about what do you need to let go of or “fast” from in order to focus on God. What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear, or do?

Some Christians take something on **for** Christ. You can collect food for the needy. You can commit to help a different stranger, coworker, or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God. Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God. Lent is a time to draw closer to God!

—Pastor Rob



### MORE ABOUT THE PRAYER CHAPEL

Plans for the Prayer Chapel at Hope UMC are moving forward.

Four of the stained-glass windows have been professionally resized to fit the building and will be incorporated into the structure. The steeple is currently under construction, and we are looking for interior furnishings. These furnishings will include four small church pews (benches), an altar table, and kneeling rail. Any help in securing these items will be most appreciated. A drawing of the proposed prayer chapel is posted in the hallway between the two buildings.

If you can stain, paint, frame, put up siding, have roofing skills, or are willing to help in any way, your support is welcome. Please contact Jack Weiler at 269.845.6556 or 269.699.7387 with any questions and to volunteer your time and skills.

### SAFETY TEAM



Volunteers are needed for the HUMC Safety Team. Team members will receive training in first aid and safety procedures. For more information call HUMC Secretary Melissa (269-663-5321) or Pastor Rob.

### The EDWARDSBURG FOOD PANTRY

has been part of Hope UMC's mission for many years. The pantry is currently in need of volunteers on a weekly or even once-a-month basis. Daytime hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 10-12:30; 1st and 3rd Tuesdays for one hour in the evening.



Also needed are people on call who can unload trucks or help with miscellaneous chores like breaking down boxes and taking out trash.

For more information or to volunteer, the pantry director Amy Heflin can be contacted at 269-228-6895 (prefers texts). The pantry is located at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 24832 US 12, Edwardsburg..



### COFFEE/ FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Hope UMC hosts a coffee and fellowship hour each Sunday at 9:30 AM in Reese Hall following the early worship service, providing an opportunity to meet and connect with visitors and friends, and enjoy snacks and drinks in a relaxed atmosphere.

What is one thing that makes our coffee fellowship a successful ministry? **THE VOLUNTEERS!!** You can team up with a friend and become a part of this ministry opportunity. Please contact Diana Graham, at 574.208.2259, or sign up on the bulletin board in Reese Hall.

### Edwardsburg Presbyterian Church

March 29—7 PM



*"Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit."*  
Luke 23:46

SHIP SHAPE 4 CHRIST  
MONDAY AND THURSDAY MORNINGS  
9-10AM



**MARCH 10**



DEB LANG	3/01
STEVE LEIST	3/02
SHARON MORGAN	3/02
MIRANDA ANDERSON	3/02
SPENCER BEEHLER	3/02
ERIC FRIES	3/03
PEGGY JENSEN	3/03
NANCY BOWMAN	3/04
JACK GOULD	3/05
LILA BLOUGH	3/05
DAVID GIRTON	3/06
CHANDLER SHEETS	3/07
AJ FROST	3/07
DAVID MORTIMER	3/10
TIM PELMEAR	3/12
MACKENZIE FLICK	3/13
NANCY MEAD	3/14
BOB MORGAN	3/16
TOM BLUNIER	3/21
PAULA RALPH	3/24
RONDA FAHEY	3/24
DEVON TRUEX JR.	3/25
MATT WEILER	3/26
SHAWNA LaPORTE	3/27
BRAD STRYCKER	3/28
SUSIE HENDRICKS	3/29



**Messy Church is open to families of all shapes and sizes, and folks of all ages!**

**Come join in on the fun!  
Sunday, March 24th 5-7pm**



CHARLENA & BRETT MAPLES	3/09
HEIDI & RYAN BENTZER	3/21



### 2023 MISSION UPDATES

**Thank you Hope** for your generosity during 2023. We shared our financial blessings with our community and our world in the following ways:

- \$1,221 Hope Emergency Fund
- \$4,065 Edwardsburg Food Pantry ( in addition to non-perishable food and supplies)
- \$50 Edwardsburg National Honor Society Operation Christmas
- \$ 600 Michiana Family Center
- \$1,080 School and Medical Assistance for 2 teens in Ethopia
- \$450 Annual Conference Offering to UMCOR
- \$600 UMCOR Readers to Leaders and where most needed

# FINANCES

## **CURRENT HOPE FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **Month of January Ministry Fund Summary**

Ministry Fund Donations: \$ 14,035  
 Ministry Fund Expenses: \$-25,949  
 Surplus for the Month: \$-11,914

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 20,053

All January bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$111,599. Our expenses exceeded our budget due to paying bills for insurance, Ministry Funds and Snow removal that cover multiple months of services. Thank you for your continued support!

### **January Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation:**

\$141.53 Missions  
 \$998.58 Parsonage Mortgage  
 \$1,020.00 Parsonage Mortgage Designated  
 \$375.17 Capital Improvements  
 \$2,535.28 Total Donations

### **Parsonage Mortgage Update:**

\$998.58 Regular Mortgage Payment - Mortgage Fund  
 \$1,020.00 Extra Principal Payment – Mortgage Fund

Current Parsonage Mortgage Balance = \$115,395 after the February 2024 Payment.

Our projected payoff date is April 2036, which is 49 months earlier than the original payoff date!

## **CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Small, individually wrapped candy to fit inside plastic eggs



# THANK YOU!



**SATURDAY  
MARCH 30  
2:00 PM**





## LEADERSHIP TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

The need for volunteers to populate a safety/first aid team as well as additional members on the technology team was noted at the February 21 LT meeting.

Plans for the Good Friday service at 7PM on March 29 at the Presbyterian Church and the annual Easter egg hunt at HUMC on March 30 at 2PM were reviewed.

Other discussion focused on Hope's financial position and presence on social media as well as the need for long range planning .

**During the season of Lent, there is a matching gift challenge for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry for up to 11,000.00!**

**Please see your weekly bulletin for more details!**



## SPECIAL DATES

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28, 2024*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*

## HOPE CHURCH & MISSION

Church Family

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bonnie Morgan, Chair  
 Mike Morgan, Vice Chair  
 Sabrina English, Sec'y; Finance  
 Pastor Rob Snodgrass  
 Ben Morgan, At Large  
 Heidi Meadows, At Large  
 Clarence Miller, At Large  
 Sharon Tafunai, At Large  
 Shirley Andrews, At Large  
 Mark Werner, At Large

### SPRC TEAM

Bonnie Morgan, Diane Seifert,  
 Jack Weiler, Sue Rinehart, Mike  
 Morgan

### PASTORS & FAMILIES

Brenda Gordon  
 Evan Lash & Barbara Jackson  
 Matt & Cara Weiler  
 Nate & Amy Starkey  
 Rob & Kathe Snodgrass  
 Scott & Carrie Otis  
 Tom & Lisa Maxwell

### HOME BOUND

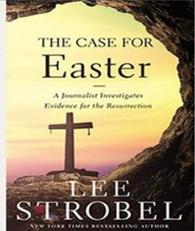
Merian Ackles, Sally Blunier,  
 Rochelle Dolde, Tony & Deb Lang,  
 Sherry Leininger, Sharon & Bob  
 Morgan, Jan Read, Donna Taelman,  
 Bev Torgeson, Cynthia Wade, Ray  
 White

### MILITARY

Alyssa Malott, Brandon Morgan

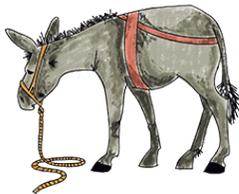


WOMEN'S  
*Bible Study*



Monday night Women's Bible Study will start a new 4 week series "The Case For Easter" By Lee Strobel Monday, March 11th @ 6:30

**Be the donkey**

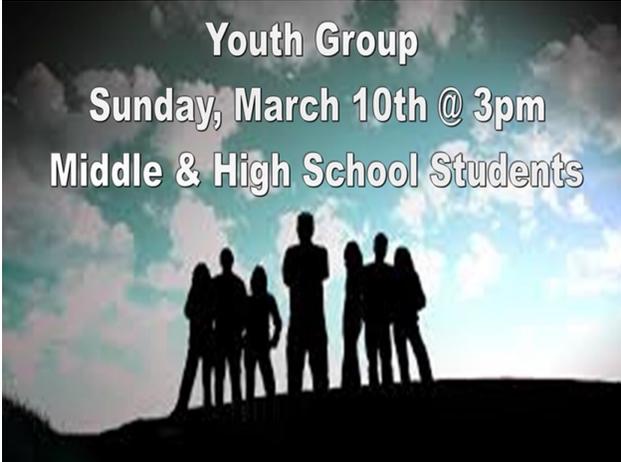


Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

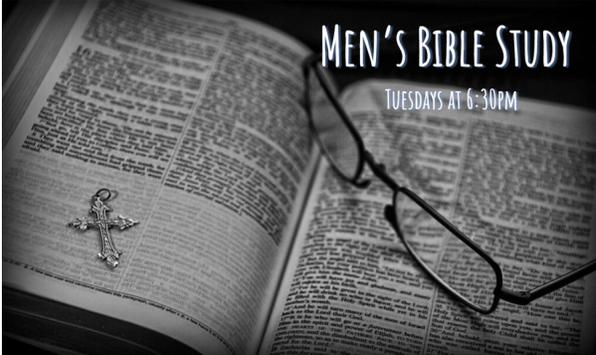
"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

**Youth Group**  
**Sunday, March 10th @ 3pm**  
**Middle & High School Students**



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**  
TUESDAYS AT 6:30PM



**DADS ARE A GIFT!**

**My Dad**

I loved my dad with all my heart growing up as a child. We'd sit on the back porch and talk about many things. I don't remember what we'd talk about but enjoyed. Sometimes we'd talk for 1/2 hour or more sitting there. It always was such a relaxing and fun time, just sharing.

When we moved from Indiana to Michigan dad had an accident and got his coat caught in a power take off shaft and broke his back. He was in the hospital several weeks and then released to come home with a back brace. He was blessed as my dad had no physical problems and was walking normally in 6 months, but the porch on our Michigan was not adaptable to sitting.

We talked once in a while, but it was never the same. As I was working and helping on the farm it didn't leave much time to talk, other than discussing farming chores.

Several years later dad had one of his three heart attacks. The doctors told dad to sit in a lounge chair and he could live 10 years or more. Dad tried this for several days and told me he couldn't just sit and do nothing. So I sat down with dad and we laid down some ground rules about what he could do and what I'd do.

About 5 years later while cutting wood, dad had his third heart attack. He looked over at me and fell backwards. I jumped over to him and grabbed him in my arms as he took his last breath. I lifted him on the tractor and brought him to the house and told mom what happened.

To this day I still miss my dad and the talks we'd have. The one thing that does give me some peace with all this happening in my life is my choice to talk to my Heavenly father whenever I want or need Him. The Bible gives us the hope we will see our earthly father again and until then we can lean on Him for everything.

Lean on God when in need; He says He'll give you peace. Talk to each other and help lift each others' Spirit.

—Deb and Tony Lang

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Office closed 6:00pm Craft Night	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Reservation 12-4
<b>3</b> 9:30am & 10:30am Service	<b>4</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 Piano tuning 9:30- 10 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>6</b> Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	<b>7</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>8</b> Office closed	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30am & 10:30am Service 3:00pm Youth Group	<b>11</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>13</b> Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting	<b>14</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>15</b> Office closed	<b>16</b> 10:00am Reservation 10am - 7pm
<b>17</b> 9:30am & 10:30am Service	<b>18</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>20</b> Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	<b>21</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>22</b> Office closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am & 10:30am Service 12:00pm Messy Church 5-7pm	<b>25</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:30pm Band Practice 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>27</b> Office Hours 9:00-2:00 9:30am Wednesday morning Bible Study	<b>28</b> Office Hours 9:00- 2:00 5:00pm Music Practice	<b>29</b> Good Friday service Presby Church 7pm Office closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30am & 10:30am Service Easter						