

Dear Church Family,

We have just come through the joy of Easter celebrating of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The empty tomb has been declared. The victory has been won. Christ is risen!

But now comes an important question: What does it mean to live on the other side of the resurrection? Because Easter is not just a day we celebrate. It is a reality we are called to live into. In John 11:25, Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life.”* That truth is not only about eternity. It is about transformation right now.

We believe that salvation is not only about forgiveness, but also is about new life in Christ. Through grace, God not only pardons us, but begins to change us. We call this sanctifying grace, the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit shaping us into the image of Christ. So, May becomes a season of living out what Easter has declared.

- Sin no longer has dominion over us
- Death no longer defines us
- And our lives are no longer our own

The early church didn’t simply celebrate the resurrection, they were transformed by it. Faith is not meant to remain inside the walls of the church. It is meant to be lived in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our community. This month I want to challenge you with a simple question:

Where is God calling you to live out your faith more intentionally?

Maybe it’s:

- Reaching out to someone who needs encouragement
- Serving in a new way
- Reconciling a broken relationship
- Sharing your testimony with someone who needs hope

Resurrection faith moves us outward. Church, you are **loved**. You are **called**. And you are **sent**. Live as people who know the tomb is empty. Live as people who know Jesus is alive. Live as people who carry hope into a world that desperately needs it.

My prayer for you this month is simple:

That you would walk closely with Christ, grow deeply in your faith, and boldly live out the Gospel in every area of your life.

In Christ’s strong and saving name,

Pastor Rob



HOMEMADE WITH LOVE

Mother's Day Luncheon
Saturday, May 9 — 11:30AM

INGREDIENTS: Favorite recipe to share with attendees. Can be ANYTHING you want to make—salad, main course, dessert, bread, treat, casserole. Drinks will be provided.

DIRECTIONS: Please bring a copy of your recipe so we can share that as well as your favorite dish. Recipe cards will be available.

SERVING SIZE: Please provide your name and how many will be attending including yourself.

Name _____

attending _____

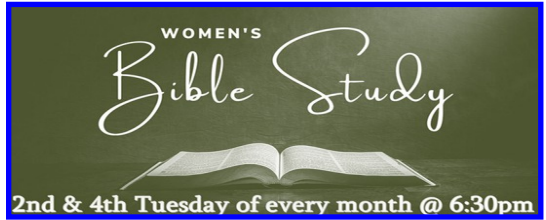
Phone # _____

Please RSVP by Sunday, May 3. Return form to Sharon Tafunai or text her at 269.228.0894. We hope to see you and sample your dish!

IN ADDITION TO BRINGING YOUR RECIPE TO THE MOTHERS DAY LUNCHEON.....please bring in something you have either made or received that is homemade and means a lot to you. This can be ANYTHING.....a card, a quilt, an afghan, a ceramic piece.....anything homemade by you or received by you OR you can just share a story about something you made or received that has been homemade with love.



Ship Shape 4 Christ
Monday & Thursday Mornings 9:00am



LOVE A PARADE?

WILLING TO HELP?

The annual Edwardsburg **Memorial Day Parade** is coming up. Hope is looking for a volunteer or a team to **gather** information on the parade, **share** that info with the Hope family and **enlist** parade walkers. Talk to Clancy Miller(2nd service praise band) if interested in heading it up and he can give you info on who to contact.

FYI: The Village Hybrid school is interested in renewing their rental agreement with Hope.



Take a moment as you enter church on Sunday to send a greeting to one of our homebound friends. Those notes sent on to them are a true blessing.

Sally Blunier, Kathy Fuller, Bill Griffin, Tony & Deb Lang, Sherry Leininger, George & Charlotte Lootens, Sharon & Bob Morgan, Sharon Radde, Tom & Marj Rea, Jan Read,.Bev Torgeson, Cynthia Wade, Ray White



MAY BIRTHDAYS

LOGAN BENTZER	5/01
JUDY MONTGOMERY	5/03
SHAREE LEIST	5/04
SHARON RADDE	5/04
MATTHEW ANDERS	5/04
LINDA HARDIN	5/06
WILLIAM MILLER	5/06
CHARLENA MAPLES	5/07
JANICE LEIST	5/08
AMY STARKEY	5/09
STACEY ROUCH	5/09
JEFFREY NOWICKI	5/10
CHARLIE DEW	5/10
TINA TROSPER	5/10
SHELBY HARDIN	5/14
JAMES E BOWMAN	5/14
LARRY ACKELS	5/14
HANNAH LEIST	5/16
KALEB JOHNSON	5/17
NICHOLE DOHM	5/18
TONY LEININGER	5/21
KEVIN DUIS	5/28
LISA KRILL	5/28
SUE MORGAN	5/28
PAIGE MILLER	5/29
BILL FRIES	5/30
TONY LANG	5/30



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

STACEY & KEVIN ROUCH	5/07
SHAREE & STEVE LEIST	5/14
CAROL & JAMES BOWMAN	5/17
LYNN & BOB STRAKA	5/18
NICHOLE & ANDREW DOHM	5/18



Month of March Ministry Fund Summary

Ministry Fund Donations:	\$ 18,688.51
Ministry Fund Expenses:	<u>\$-16,903.97</u>
Surplus for the Month:	\$ 1,784.54

Year to date shortfall = \$ -7,952.24

Monthly Budget amount: \$ 18,541.92

All March bills have been paid. Our Ministry Fund balance is \$90,494.58.

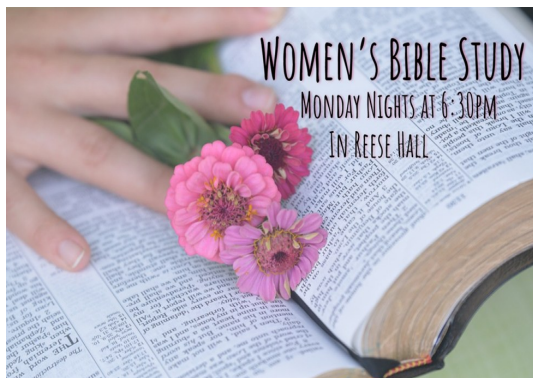
Thank you for your continued support!

March Mortgage & Mission Fund Allocation

\$ 185.45	Missions
\$ 962.80	Parsonage Mortgage
<u>\$ 706.25</u>	Capital Improvements
\$ 1,854.50	Total Donations

Mortgage & Mission Monthly Budget amount:
\$3,481.25

Mortgage balance after payment due March 1 is
\$187,076.37





Sharon, Tafu,
Harper

Samoa is a volcanic island nation located in the South Pacific; its total land area is approximately 1,100 square miles and consists of 9 islands. Samoa's 2025-26 population is a little over 220,000 and is predominantly Polynesian and Christian.



Why the geography lesson, you ask? The answer is, while Samoa is a considerable distance from Hope of Edwardsburg, the Hope family has a close connection to this tropical nation through the Tafunai family.

Sharon (Stillson) Tafunai grew up in Edwardsburg attending the Adamsville UMC. After graduation from Edwardsburg High School and a year at Olivet College, Sharon learned of a program called Youth Volunteer Exchange, a service program organized through the United Methodist Church. While the original plan was to involve countries all over the world, the only countries that had bought into the plan were England and then-Western Samoa. Sharon chose to go to Samoa where she travelled to Methodist villages on the main islands of Upolu and Savaii teaching Sunday School songs.

When her initial commitment was over, she returned to Michiana continuing her college work at IUSB. A year later Sharon was invited to return to Samoa to visit a family she'd befriended during her volunteer experience. Returning to Samoa for the third time in 1981, she got a teaching job in a Methodist school. She then met and married Tafu, a seminary student and pastor. The newlyweds lived at the seminary where Tafu was studying; the compound was called Piula which translates into English as "Beulah". Sharon worked in the seminary library with an Australian librarian organizing and classifying theological materials. After Tafu's graduation the couple moved to another Methodist compound/headquarters returning to the U. S. in 1991.

By now the young family had expanded to include two daughters, Amanda and Evie. And a third daughter, Bronwyn, completed the family after their return to Michigan. Tafu worked for Dean and Wanda Clark in their Elkhart-based business, Woodshed, Inc. Sharon's working life included the library at Southwestern Michigan Library and secretary at Westminster Presbyterian Church in South Bend. Both have been actively involved in their church – Tafu as liturgist, supplying the pulpit in pastoral absences, filling needs for help with funeral meals, fish fries and wherever else needed. Sharon has played piano and organ at Adamsville and Hope; has accompanied, sang with and directed various vocal groups, taught Sunday School, was involved in Vacation Bible School as well as Sunday evening youth activities and is currently a member of the Hope Leadership Team.

Their three daughters, all EHS graduates, have gone on to a variety of occupations and provided Tafu and Sharon with four granddaughters. Amanda, a University of Michigan graduate, has worked in the communications field in Saudi Arabia for over a decade. Evie, a graduate of Mars Hill University and the University of Southern Alabama, is a nurse practitioner in Panama City Beach FL and the mother of 12-year old Lila, an energetic volleyball player, and 6-year old Maila. Youngest daughter Bronnie lives in Edwardsburg; she works in South Bend as the activities director for Wellbrooke Senior Living Center. She is the mother of 11-year old Remington, a 5th grader at Edwardsburg Intermediate School, and kindergartner Harper, 6 years old.

Sharon and Tafu personify Hope's mission in serving as the hands and feet of Christ wherever they have lived. Hope is fortunate to include the Tafunais as part of our congregation.



SUNSHINE

When the sun shines we just feel bright and cheerful.
 We have (most of the time) a certain joy in our heart.
 In the morning it seems easier to get out of bed.
 The sun not only warms our skin, but also our hearts.

On a cloudy day I find myself hard to get motivated.
 Sometimes after breakfast I find myself taking a nap.
 I just have to struggle to get around and do something.
 Many cloudy days I feel more tired at the end of the day.

God made everything when He made creation for all.
 When He created the earth He thought of all of us.
 God wanted everything to be for our good and rest.
 On all days He put the Holy Spirit into believers' hearts.

He knew how we would feel each day and night.
 He knows our bodies need activity and also rest.
 The Holy Spirit helps us enjoy the beautiful sunshine.
 And helps a change when we awake to a cloudy day.

Sometimes on a sunny day I find myself not praying.
 I get more busy and lose track of time in the busyness.
 On cloudy days I find myself napping and losing track.
 All my days (sunny or cloudy) can detract my thoughts.

God created all the days and nights for us to enjoy.
 But He created us to have fellowship with Him.
 He knew our struggles with sunshine or cloudy days.
 We all have different struggles with each type of day.

I find myself (at 83, finally learning) setting prayer time.
 Some days I am upset with how the day went for me.
 Other days I find myself calm and at peace with the day.
 Really try to fellowship with God whether sun or clouds.

God knows my heart as He does everyone's and He listens to us as we express our joys and our sorrows.
 He is a forgiving God when we miss a day of fellowship.
 His **LOVE** for us doesn't change on any of these days.

God knows how each day affects each one of us.
 He wants us to tell Him the good days and the bad.
 He will celebrate with us all the joy and good times.
 He will give us comfort on those days we struggle.

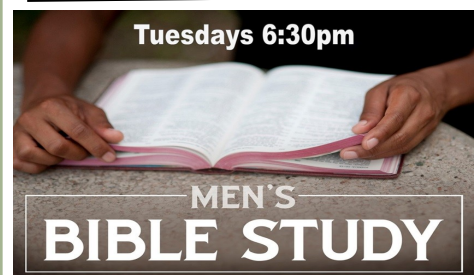
So whether a sunny or cloudy day you are living today take time to share it with God and if it's a bad day be sure to share it with God also and ask the Holy Spirit for help.
Tony and Deb Lang



*Grateful for
 those who gave
 all*

We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



COMBINED SERVICE
SUNDAY, MAY 3RD @ 10:30 IN REESE HALL

Prayer Shawl Ministry
3rd Thursday of every month
10am Reese Hall



**NATIONAL DAY
 OF PRAYER**

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Puzzle!

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verse given for help.

Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A _____
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B _____
Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24)	___ C _____
John the disciple (Matthew 4:21)	___ D _____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	___ E _____
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6)	G _____
Jezreel (Hosea 1:4)	H _____
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	I _____
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	J _____
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	___ K _____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	___ L _____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	M _____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	___ N _____
Jesse (Matthew 1:5)	O _____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	___ P _____
Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24)	R _____
Isaac (Genesis 21:3)	S _____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	___ T _____
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	___ U _____
Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)	___ V _____
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	___ Y _____
James (Matthew 4:21)	Z _____

Answers: A: Joash; B: Obed; C: Joseph; D: John the Baptist; E: John the Baptist; G: Lo-Ruhamah; H: Jezreel; I: Esau; J: David; K: Jacob; L: Samuel; M: Gershom; N: Samuel; O: Jesse; P: Gershom; R: Joseph; S: Isaac; T: John the Baptist; U: Jonathan; V: Solomon; Y: Jesus; Z: James.



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



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Reservation Sanctuary & RH	2 Reservation Sanctuary & RH
3 One combined service 10:30 Reese Hall	4 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Monday Bible Study	5 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	6 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	7 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm	8	9 10:00am Reservation Sanctuary 11:30am Mothers Day Event
10 8:30am & 10:30am Service Mother's Day	11 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Monday Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Tuesday Bible Study	12 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	13 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm 6:30pm Leadership Team Meeting	14 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm	15	16
17 8:30am & 10:30am Service	18 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Monday Bible Study	19 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	20 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	21 Hybrid School Day Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm	22 Hybrid School Day	23 10:00am Reservation RH
24 8:30am & 10:30am Service 5:00pm Messy Church 5-7pm	25 Memorial Day Parade Office Closed 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 6:30pm Women's Tuesday Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Monday Bible Study	26 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	27 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 5:30pm Band Practice 5:30pm	28 Office Hours 9am- 12pm 9:00am Ship Shape for Christ Exercise 5:00pm Music Practice 5-6pm	29	30
31 8:30am & 10:30am Service						