



The Hope Herald

Hope Lutheran Church Newsletter

www.hopeonbluerock.org

February 2021

WELCOME HOME AND WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

In-Person & Livestream Worship

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

One Service with Blended Music and Liturgical Styles



Join us in-person or virtually for Sunday morning worship! We want everyone to be safe!

For in-person worship, we continue to wear masks and observe 6' social distancing. We have modified our practices for singing, communion, offering collection, and many other worship practices to make the environment as safe as possible.

Please continue to monitor Ohio and Hamilton county advisories for attending public events, and we invite you to worship with us virtually at home if that feels most safe and comfortable for you. Also, please worship via livestream rather than attending in-person if you are feeling ill, if you currently are positive for COVID-19, or if you have been exposed to the virus within the past 14 days.



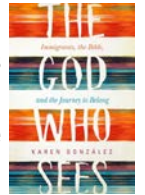
Visit hopeonbluerock.org for information on how to view livestream or recorded worship videos, Safe Worship Practices, and more. If you have questions or concerns, or wish to have a weekly worship packet mailed to you, contact Pastor Christie.

Pr. Christie



BOOK CLUB

Beginning February 1st, Book Club is back! Our new featured read is 'The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong' by Karen González. Each week we will engage in heartfelt discussion and faithful contemplation. Please join us weekly on Monday evenings at 7:15 pm via Zoom.



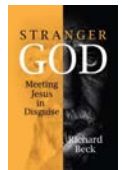
"With this stunning debut, **Karen González** makes her mark as one of the most talented storytellers of faith in a generation. The skill with which she weaves together personal narrative and biblical text, intimate detail, and sociopolitical analysis is as impressive as it is seamless. Every single page of this beautiful, timely book pulses with prophetic truth. It left me changed in all the best ways." - Rachel Held Evans



Peace, **K.C. Kless**, Evangelism Chair

BIBLE STUDY 1pm Thursdays

We will resume our study of the book Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise by Richard Beck. You do not have to own a copy of the book or read ahead in order to join the Bible Study. Each session, we read an excerpt from the book so that everyone can follow along. Even if you're unable to read the book or participate in the study on a regular basis, please join whenever you can. We are currently meeting virtually only; check email for regular updates on when we might be able to resume in-person attendance.



To join virtually:

Join via zoom on computer or smart phone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3178285949?pwd=YSS1QzNScVIMZzlkMkZpMTlmVINLUT09>

Call in via telephone: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 317 828 5949

Passcode: 4695

BLESS THIS MESS!

When my kids were young, I can remember walking into their bedrooms and thinking, “What a mess! What happened here? And how will we ever clean all this?” I still think that sometimes, like when I walked into the kitchen after hosting Christmas dinner, or the other morning when a coffee mug seemed to explode its contents all over my car. I’m guessing you can probably relate to walking into a room or somewhere and having the thought, “What a mess!”



Maybe you’ve also felt that way in your mind – those days when you feel scattered, like you can’t concentrate on anything, or days when you have so much to do you can’t decide where to start. I know I’ve often felt like my mind was feeling “messy.”

How about spiritually? Have you looked at your heart and your spiritual life and thought, “What a mess! What happened here, and how can I ever clean all this?”

Life is messy. Every time I would work with my kids to get a room clean, inevitably it would soon be dirty again. Every time I wash my dishes, more dishes soon seem to appear. The same happens with our mental and spiritual health: sometimes we get things all cleaned and shiny, and other times we feel pretty smudgy.



The good news is – while you may have only yourself to rely on when it

comes to getting grape jelly stains out of the carpet – cleaning up our spiritual lives is not something we must do on our own. In fact, spiritual cleaning is something we cannot possibly do all our own. We need a professional for that cleaning job: we need God.

Lent is often a time when we allow ourselves to dwell in the wilderness, when we allow ourselves to ponder the messiness of life. This year for Lent, we’ll be examining a series of weekly devotionals

called, “Bless This Mess.” We will incorporate the theme into worship and Bible studies as well. As we prepare for Lent, I invite you join us for all the Lenten opportunities we have to offer, and to consider other ways in which you might ask God to “Bless This Mess” in your life.

*Here’s what’s happening for Lent:

Ash Wednesday: February 17, 7pm – Worship In-Person at Hope & Livestream

Cincinnati Conference Midweek Worship: Wednesdays, February 24 – March 24. Join ELCA congregations across the Greater Cincinnati area as we participate in worship and discussion groups together. Worship services will be virtual, and we are working on an option to show these virtual worship services in the sanctuary if you prefer to be in-person with people. More information coming soon!



Sundays during Lent – Worship at 10am, In-Person & Livestream, as we explore the themes of wilderness, messiness, and peace through it all.

Thursday Lenten Bible Study: 1pm In-person and virtual – On the Thursdays of Lent, we will continue to explore “**Bless This Mess,**” as well as scripture and other themes on our Lenten journey.

Maundy Thursday: April 1, 7pm – Worship In-Person at Hope & Livestream

Good Friday: April 2, 7pm – Worship In-Person at Hope & Livestream

**Please note that all in-person activities are dependent upon our safety and on everyone being healthy enough to perform our worship duties. We will continue to keep you posted, as the COVID situation continues to change.*

Pastor Christie

HOPE’S CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

To donate to Hope: Checks may be mailed or brought to church, **4695 Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247**

Digital donations may be submitted via Paypal at <https://www.hopeonbluerock.org/giving/>. For questions email Ron Long at finance@hopeonbluerock.org



HOPE IS PRAYING FOR RAIN, BUT FAITH IS BRINGING AN UMBRELLA! Unknown

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

For those who were unable to view the Christmas Eve service at Hope, here are a few pictures from our youth's hilarious version of the Christmas story.



Isaac Williams began the story with cues to enhance the telling.

Sam Kless spoke of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem



and their problems finding lodging. He shared his pictures of their trip and their warm stable complete with shining star.



Adam and Rachel Williams portrayed shepherds watching their young lamb (brother **Boaz**) while their mother **Kara** continued reading the story.

And Angel **Ruthie Williams** appeared to tell the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring your good news of great joy." She also related what Christmas means to her.



More shepherds, **Jake and Aaron Byrne**, (with father **Brian** reading) made haste to see what had been told to them."

Here are **Cora, Colleen and Chris Leppert** portraying the scene the shepherds found in Bethlehem while



mother **Erica** completed the reading of this blessed event.



Jake offered a prayer and then **Jake and Aaron** played "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" to end this joyous occasion.



Thank you to **Erica Leppert** for arranging this delightful program with our wonderful **Hope** youth!

FEBRUARY THANK YOUS AND NEWS

Thank you to **Carmen Hasdorff and Barb Mack** for mailing out the bulletins and information to all of our members who do not have computer access.

Thank you to **Judy Royse** who organizes the bulletins for **Mary Beth Taylor** to copy for Sunday services.

Thank you to **Jerry Ivins** for transforming all of the council year end reports to produce the Hope Annual Report.

LOVE YOURSELF YOGA!

Please join us for our February series: "Love Yourself Yoga" via Zoom.



Classes offered:
Tuesdays at 7:15 pm
Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Classes are open to beginners, experienced yogis, and not just members of Hope Lutheran, but also to friends, neighbors, relatives, etc.

K.C. will adjust and offer options to suit the students in the class, so please join us.

To receive the Zoom link or ask questions, email K.C. yoga_with_kc@icloud.com

K.C. Kless

SON MINISTRIES

The December report includes a total of **104** families (220 adults and 124 children) for a grand total of **344** persons who were served their monthly food allotment.



For the holidays **549 Christmas food boxes were distributed to 213 families.** (The number of boxes are given according to the number of persons in a family.)

Nate's Toy Box passed out gifts to 286 families with a total of 785 children. Each family and child also received a \$15 gift card.

BROWN PAPER GROCERY BAGS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!

HOPE INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY



Everyone is asked to check the information in their Hope Directory for any updates that need to be corrected in the listing for your family. **New pictures are also welcome!!**

Please text changes/pictures to 513-604-2639 or email to jerryivins1@mac.com to keep you listing current. Thanks so much!

FANTASTIC FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3	Tavia Pennington	20	Sam Kless
7	Kim Arany	21	Jaelyn Reid
	Khalil Small	23	Gabrielle Buccino
8	Ben Gundrum	25	Donny Swiecki
	Ruth Oehler		Lois Hollingsworth
10	Emma Sheppard	28	Katelyn Hunt
11	Sue Millard		James Thompson
14	Raegan Beneker		
	Mary Bryant		
16	Saige Sparks		
17	Judy Royse		
18	Hannah Gabbard		
19	Karen Schneider		

FEBRUARY



HOW TO EARN BOX TOPS MADE EASY

Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as



you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your school's

Box Tops earnings online.

Karen Schneider

DO YOU SHOP WITH AMAZONsmile?

It works just like Amazon (Amazon Prime) does...except you use AMAZONsmile at this site:

www.smile.amazon.com



It will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Hope Lutheran Church.

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

1. Visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com
2. Sign in to your online account, or create an account.
3. Find and select Hope Lutheran and click "Enroll."



Hope's 5 digit number is 80286.

The Narthex counter bins are still accepting:

- Used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and floss containers for UC Dental
- Food and personal care donations for SON Ministries
- Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Religious materials for Love Packages
- Boxtops for Education for schools
- Lids and caps for Buddy benches
- Eye glasses for the Lyon's Club
- Pill Bottles for Matthew 25



Hope is **NOT** accepting clothing for the First Lutheran Church clothing room due to Covid 19.

HOPES BOTTOM LINE DECEMBER 2020



General Fund

Total	MONTH	YTD
Beginning Balance	\$ 33,666.50	\$ 62,454.51
Revenues	\$ 13,644.56	\$157,781.26
Expenses	\$ 19,641.14	\$204,920.66
Transfers In	\$ 19,801.00	\$ 33,660.81
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,505.00
Ending Balance	\$ 47,470.92	\$ 47,470.92

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance	\$16,592.31	\$16,174.13
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 1805.00
Interest	\$.14	\$ 8.13
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,394.81
Total	\$16,592.45	\$16,592.45

Mission Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 32,235.54	\$ 16,210.99
Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 17,900.00
Interest	\$ 10.74	\$ 107.29
Disbursements	\$ 17,900.00	\$ 19,872.00
Ending Balance	\$ 14,346.28	\$ 14,346.28

Wilma Hoffman Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 19,322.40	\$ 19,250.83
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 6.30	\$ 77.87
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 19,328.70	\$ 19,328.70

Capital One CD

Beginning Balance	\$ 52,415.67	\$ 51,639.88
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 21.43	\$ 797.22
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 52,437.10	\$ 52,437.10

Val Schneider, Treasurer



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

January, 2020 by Zoom

◆**Ron Long, Financial Secretary:** Offering envelopes are in church mailboxes with year end statements. We are discontinuing Vanco for automatic donations and will use Church Trac.

◆**Chris Arany, Treasurer:** **Donations for the year were down \$15,554 vs expenses.**

◆**Carmen Hasdorff, Spiritual Life:** She and **Barb Mack** are sending info about Sunday services to 18 persons who are without computers.

◆**Mike Schweinfest, Worship:** The Committee voted to spend \$175 from their budget to connect the organ directly to the sound board.

◆5 ELCA area churches will provide recorded and live Lenten services. Hope will house an Ash Wednesday. "Bless This Mess" will be the Lenten

theme.

◆Council moved to return to live services on January 24 at 10 am.

◆**Erica Leppert, Christian Education:** After Hope has returned for a few weeks of live services, Sunday School will resume in the Fellowship Hall to allow for social distancing with parents determining the time.

◆**K.C. Kless, Evangelism:** He continues to lead the Book Club and provide yoga classes. (See this newsletter for details.)

◆**Danica Chaney, Stewardship:** Hope will have an apparel sale once each quarter.

◆**Karen Schweinfest, Fellowship:** A Virtual Coffee Hour may be organized.

◆**Pastor Christie:** The average in-person attendance last year was 63 due to Covid. The online viewing attendance was 210.

◆Hope has 2 facility rental requests. Council will ok if they clean up before they leave and have no more than 25 people in attendance.

◆**Jen Byrne, President:** All of the reports have been received for the 2020 Annual Report.

◆There are plans to resurrect the Congregational Vitality Team.

From the minutes of Debbie Schrader, Council Secretary

FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE HOPE HERALD, ARTICLES ARE REQUESTED BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST. ARTICLES MAY BE EMAILED TO joyceivins@icloud.com anytime on or before that date.



A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.

Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M=1, N=2, O=3, ... A=15, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15												1	2	3											

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 15 13 3 9 2 21 1 15 2

22 19 25 23 26 26 19 18 7 3 1 19 3 2 19.

SECOND CLUE: 22 19 11 15 7 8 19 2 18 23 2 21

7 22 19 19 4 23 2 8 22 19 18 19 7 19 6 8

11 22 19 2 21 3 18 17 15 26 26 19 18 22 23 1.

THIRD CLUE: 15 7 15 16 15 16 13 22 19 11 15 7

20 3 9 2 18 20 26 3 15 8 23 2 21 23 2 15

16 15 7 25 19 8 23 2 8 22 19 2 23 26 19 6 23 10 19 6.

Who is this person? _____

Answer: Moses



February 2021

January 2021							February 2021							March 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				

Hope Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:00 PM Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Virtual Book Study 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 7:15 PM New Year Yoga (zoom) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 4:30 PM SON @ GUMC 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Bible Study (virtual & in-person) 5:30 PM New Year Yoga (Zoom) 	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:00 PM Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Virtual Book Study 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 7:15 PM New Year Yoga (zoom) 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting 4:30 PM SON @ GUMC 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Bible Study (virtual & in-person) 5:30 PM New Year Yoga (Zoom) 7:00 PM Council Meeting Zoom 	<p>12</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:00 PM Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Virtual Book Study 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 7:15 PM New Year Yoga (zoom) 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:30 PM SON @ GUMC 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Bible Study (virtual & in-person) 5:30 PM New Year Yoga (Zoom) 	<p>19</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15 AM HOLD: Hughes Baby Shower
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:00 PM Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Virtual Book Study 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 7:15 PM New Year Yoga (zoom) 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:30 PM SON @ GUMC 7:00 PM Virtual Lenten Mid-week Worship 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Bible Study (virtual & in-person) 5:30 PM New Year Yoga (Zoom) 6:30 PM WHOO Women/Fellowship Hall 	<p>26</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:00 PM Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 PM Praise Band 7:15 PM Virtual Book Study 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 7:15 PM New Year Yoga (zoom) 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Pastor's Office Hours 10:00 AM SON @ GUMC 4:30 PM SON @ GUMC 7:00 PM Virtual Lenten Mid-week Worship 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Bible Study (virtual & in-person) 5:30 PM New Year Yoga (Zoom) 	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>6</p>

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Hope Lutheran Church
Pastor Christie Beckmann
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www.hopeonbluerock.org



OUR MISSION

We are anchored in faith and saved by God's grace. Led by the Holy Spirit, it is our purpose to invite all to know hope, love, and peace through Jesus Christ.



Pastor:	Christie Beckmann
Choir Director:	Karen Schweinfest
Organist:	Dale Renner
Altar Care:	Ruth Oehler
Prayer Chain:	Barb Mack
Web Site:	Pastor Christie Jerry Ivins
Facebook:	Mary Bryant
Kitchen Manager	Karen Schneider

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