



The Hope Herald

Hope Lutheran Church Newsletter

www.hopeonbluerock.org

January 2024

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP



Coming to Hope!

Mondays 4-6 p.m.

January 29 – April 2

I am very excited to announce that Hope will begin hosting our first Griefshare Support Group beginning January 29. Griefshare is a nationally-recognized program that provides resources for churches to host these 13-week, Christian-based sessions for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Here's a little more about Griefshare:

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. At each weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus you'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process.

ALL are welcome. This program is designed to care for Hope's members and for our larger community, so please share this information with anyone you know who may benefit. The cost is only \$20 to cover the cost of a workbook; everything else is free of charge. Registration information will be available soon. Contact Pastor Christie with questions, or visit <https://www.griefshare.org/> -

Pastor Christie

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for February 4 directly after the worship service for the purpose of reviewing annual reports. All members, please plan to attend.



BLESSING OF THE PAJAMAS

Sunday January. 21 during worship

On January 21, Hope will host our first ever "blessing of the pajamas Sunday." This idea was suggested by **Cora Leppert**, and I am excited about this



wonderful opportunity to continue to engage our children in worship. ALL are invited to wear pajamas on January 21 to church. We will bless our PJ's during worship and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship time together. - **Pastor Christie**

FIRST COMMUNION OPPORTUNITY

Calling all parents/grandparents of children in the first grade or older who have not yet taken their First Communion. If you would like to have your child(ren) participate in First Communion classes this winter or spring, please reach out to me and



let me know. Thanks! - **Pastor Christie**

(317) 828-5949 pastor@hopeonbluerock.org

OFFERING ENVELOPES AND ONLINE GIVING

Need a box of offering envelopes for the new year? The boxes are now available on the counter in the Narthex. Please take a box if you need one. If you prefer online giving, check out Hope's website at finance@hopeonbluerock.org for information on how to set up reoccurring gifts, make honorary or memorial donations, and more!



Generosity Committee



Happy New Year!

PR. CHRISTIE'S CORNER

All Things New

Behold, I am making all things new – Isaiah 43:18



Some nights before I go to sleep, I pray the Ignatian Examen. The Examen is a spiritual practice (created by St. Ignatius) that is designed to be prayed at night. When we pray the Examen, we think back through our entire day, and we thank God for ALL of it... not just the amazing, wonderful things, but the painful moments, and even the moments filled with small, mundane things. After we thank God for each element of our day, we then think back through those moments, and we notice when we felt closest to God and when we felt more distant from God. We end the prayer by setting an intention for the next day.

When I do this, I often find a sense of renewal. I can close out the chapter of this day. I can let go of all the fears and mistakes. I can forgive and ask for forgiveness, ready to move into the next day with a purpose that is focused on God's will for my life.

As we close out 2023 and look toward a new year – I wonder, what if we pray the Ignatian Examen for the whole year? What if we look back at everything that has happened this past year? Can we find the gratitude in every moment? Can we identify times when we felt closest to God? Can we set an intention for 2024, to allow God to create and renew all things within us?

God is indeed making all things new. Sometimes it doesn't feel that way. Sometimes we must work hard to find that newness, the joy, the gratitude, the renewal that God brings to us each day. What better time to seek that than in the new year?

Pastor and author Rob Bell writes: *"The world is fractured, broken; parts are lying scattered all over the place—and it brings God pleasure to bring it all back together in unity. In Christ."* Bell continues on to note that God is indeed making all things new: *"Your broken heart? All things. Poverty? All things. Abuse? All things... Fractured relationships? All*

things. All things. All things. All things." Bell asks, *"What would it look like to live like this is true?"*¹⁴

What WOULD it look like, if we live into 2024 with the full knowledge that God is making all things new? What if we thank God for each and every moment of 2023, identifying the moments when we felt closest to God? What if we set an intention for the new year to seek more of those moments of closeness, more of those moments of renewal? What if we pledge to live in such a way in 2024 that others can see the newness of Christ alive in us?

**May God bless and keep you in this new year,
Pastor Christie**

¹⁴ Bell, Rob. *What Is the Bible?: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*. HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

BIBLE STUDY – Teach us to Pray

Thursdays 1 p.m.

Join for fun, fellowship and sharing God's word together! In the month of January, we will finish our study of the book *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Adam Hamilton. We will then begin some additional study on prayer. Bible study meets Thursdays at 1p.m., and is available on zoom as well as in-person. Contact Pastor Christie if you have any questions or are interested in joining via zoom. We look forward to having you join us in the new year!



Pr. Christie

NAME TAGS

As we continue to welcome new visitors each week, all Hope members and regulars are encouraged to once again begin wearing their name tags. Your name tag should be in your mailbox in the Hope narthex, and if you are unable to find it, please contact **Mary Bryant** mabryant@cinci.rr.com and a new one will be made for you.



Outreach Team

The world is all caught up in what offends everyone. We should be worried about what offends God.

JANUARY THANK YOU'S AND NEWS

Amelia Terbruggen did an excellent job walking the crown and pillow down the aisle to the altar on Christ the King Sunday.



Ruth Oehler

Here is a picture of **Avery with Boaz Williams** and **Elliot Sheppard** lighting the Altar candles. Hope is so thankful to our children

willing to volunteer in our worship services.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for the delicious treats after the "Hanging of the Greens" service on December 3. It also allows the attendees to spend some quality additional time together.



Here are the Christmas decorations placed at our outdoor entrance to celebrate the season by Hope's decorator **Judy Royse**. Thanks as always, **Judy!**



Thank you to all the worship leaders for the thoughtful Christmas gifts! I am so grateful for your tireless efforts of volunteering your time to enhance our worship services. I love and appreciate all of you.

Karen Schweinfest

Thank you Ruth Oehler for your tireless efforts to decorate our sanctuary and order the poinsettias for our Christmas celebrations. **Our appreciation to Dave McBride** for helping transport the



flowers to Hope.

Thank you to all of the members of Hope for your outstanding efforts in preparing and participating in our Advent and Christmas worship services. A special thank you to our soloists, **Josh Campbell, Kimberly Arany, and Eva McMasters**, who shared their vocal talent to enrich our praise. We are so fortunate as a church to have such volunteer talent in addition to our music director, **Karen Schweinfest**, and organist, **Dale Renner**, who is often accompanied by his wife **Martha** with her flute, and our **Praise Band**. Then there is **Eva's** flute duet with **Martha, Kim's** violin and **Jake Byrne's** guitar at times with the Praise Band. And last, but not least, **thank you to our dear Pastor Christie** for all she does!

Joy Ivins, Worship Chair

CAROL'S TREE AT HOPE

Many thanks to all who donated hats, gloves and mittens to decorate Carol's tree and to those who gifted socks and underwear for the SON collection to help prepare neighborhood children for the cold weather.



Thank you to the following names for helping to decorate the church at the "Hanging of the Greens" service: **Linda and Dave McBride, Becky Lister, Bea Zimmer, Lois Hollingsworth, Bonnie Leonhardt,, Kara and Boaz Williams, Butch Royse, Nan Davis, Sue Kelbley, Miranda Sheppard, Pat Speeg, Carmen Hasdorff and Jeanne Fuller**. **Thank you to all saying yes to help with the service.**

Ruth Oehler

Thank you to Karen and Mike Schweinfest for hosting the December council meeting at their home. **Also thanks for providing the meal with Sue Millard**. What a nice way to end the council year!

A special thank you to Karen Schneider for her ability to compose such beautiful prayers for our worship services!

Dear Pastor Christie and Hope Church,

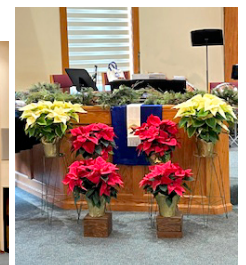
We want to thank you for your support of Nate's Toy Box by being a drop-off location.... The efforts by so many truly displays the gift of God's love. The donations received provide for families in the Northwest Local School District area...This demonstrates what can be done when a community work together to provide "a hand up" for those who have fallen on hard times.

The year you helped Nate's Toy box provide a Christmas for 247 families and 697 children in the NWLSD area. Some of the remaining toys not distributed on our regular distribution days have been passed to other social services....

God has given us his direction and we thank you ..

Gary and Pam Schroeder, Nate's Toy Box

In case you missed our Christmas Eve worship service at Hope, here are a few pictures. The beautiful bulletin cover was designed by our own **Ron Thatcher**. **Thank you so much Ron!**



MORE NEWS AND THANK YOU'S
VOCE RISES TO THE OCCASION

What a delightful evening of songs when the community group presented their winter concert, "A Decade of Holiday Joy!" on December 17 in Harrison OH. Several Hope members are members of the



chorus: our own Pastor Christie, Ray Davis, Lucinda Hardin Phil Hollingsworth, and their and our director, Karen Schweinfest.

What a way to start the holiday season!



Thank you for the Christmas presents!

Thank you all for such wonderful and thoughtful Christmas gifts: a custom t-shirt that says "I Love My Shadow" and features a photo of my fabulous Schnoodle, Shadow; as well as gift certificates to the Aronoff, Nada, and Tags. These gifts will be put to excellent use. I am so thankful for all of you every day. YOU are the best gift of all!



Love, Pastor Christie

SON MINISTRIES

January/February

Happy New Year 2024!



We hope you had blessed holidays! The holiday events at SON Ministries were attended by 279 families for Thanksgiving and 290 families/711 kids for Christmas. Your generosity touched many in need!

We are grateful for the 46+ individual volunteers who helped make these distributions possible and the groups: Nate's Toy Box, Chaos, MOPS, NW Women's Club, Colerain Police Department, and our supporting Churches. Thank you!

Given our abundant amount of food boxes left, SON donated 100 boxes to Matthew 25 for the Tennessee tornado families.

As you may know, in addition to food items, we supply toiletries quarterly to our families. We also provide birthday bags to children ages 0-18 which include cake, icing, candles, cupcake holders, plates and napkins. If you want to contribute, we will be collecting in January – toothpaste, cake, icing and canned tuna or chicken.

Jo Dossenbach, Director, SON Ministries

CONFIRMATION CHRISTMAS PARTY



On December 17, our confirmation students and families enjoyed a fun Christmas party together. We played games, made cookies, and learned about how the

gospels of Matthew and Luke feature slightly different stories of Jesus' birth.

Thank you to parents - Kara Williams and Miranda & David Sheppard – for helping to make our party a success. –



Pastor Christie

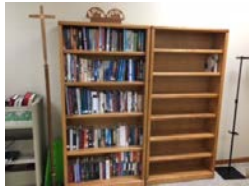
JOYFUL JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Bonnie Leonhardt	19. Alita Simpson
	Regina Wendel	22 Mary Beth Taylor
3	Cooper Krieg	25 Steve Hamilton
4	Jacob Darnell	26 Debbie Schrader
8	Samantha Burkhardt	27 Kyla Darnell
10	Connie Terbrueggen	30 Kurt Glardon
11	Erika Leppert	
	Joseph Sheppard	
14	Pat Hester	
17	Paula Lundy	
	Cora Leppert	



DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR "BOOK NOOK" FOR ALL ADULTS

The Book Nook now has a second bookcase for the growing number of books. There are numerous categories of books available for loan in the "Book Nook" located inside the left door of the Fellowship Hall. There are also books that men might find interesting. Be sure to check them out for a little relaxing quiet time!



DOES SOMEONE NEED A LIFT?

All occasion cards are available for many different holidays and situations to show the friend or family member you care. **The card assortment was moved to the coatroom above the mailboxes.** And the beautiful prayer shawls in the Narthex/Lobby, so loving made, are ready to put a warm smile on someone's face.



GET CONNECTED TO HOPE!

Ever want more information what happening at Hope? There are many ways to get connected to Hope's activities. Check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hopeonbluerock> - and be sure to like us and check in! Also check Hope's website regularly <https://www.hopeonbluerock.org> for information on events, ways to make donations, a handy up-to-date Google calendar, photo albums, and much more!



Pastor Christie

HOPE'S NURSERY IS OPEN

Don't forget that Kayla Terbrueggen is available during worship to care for Hope's youngest children if parents wish to take advantage of her services. It is a safe place with toys and activity.



WOMEN HELPING OTHERS AND OURSELVES



The ladies of WHOO had their annual Christmas party on December, and we had so much fun. Unfortunately, we were missing some of our members due to illnesses. We missed them and hope they are



feeling better. **Judy Royse** made cake mugs for our dessert and table decorations. They were all wrapped individually and tasted great. **Lana Albright** had 2 games that really stumped us all, and **Alita Simpson** got everyone some wonderful prizes. Of course, everyone outdid themselves with the food. Lots of fun for all.



Kathy Mushaben

Editor's Note: The group will next meet on January 25th at 6pm. **Thank you, Pastor Christie, for playing photographer!**

HOW TO JOIN ZOOM EVENTS

For the majority of our zoom meetings, the instructions for joining on zoom are the same. See below for instructions, and contact Pastor Christie with questions or difficulties. In the occasional case that the zoom link is different, instructions will be noted with the event publicity.



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

I was addicted to the hokey pokey, but I turned myself around!!



HOPE'S BOTTOM LINE

November 2023



General Fund

Total	MONTH	YTD
Beginning Balance	\$ 6,788.97	\$ 22,843.59
Revenues	\$ 13,265.75	\$ 170,297.20
Expenses	\$ 17,208.01	\$ 216,116.08
Transfers In	\$ 100.00	\$ 25,922.00
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 2,946.71	\$ 2,946.71

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance	\$10,058.70	\$10,057.86
Transfers In	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$.04	\$.88
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total	\$10,058.74	\$10,058.74

Wilma Hoffman Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,006.59	\$ 17,696.79
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$.17	\$ 9.97
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 15,700.00
Ending Balance	\$ 2,006.76	\$ 2,006.76

Mission Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,399.70	\$ 14,388.56
Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$.36	\$ 11.50
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 4,400.06	\$ 4,400.06

Capital One CD

Beginning Balance	\$ 54,340.43	\$ 53,111.79
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 219.01	\$ 1,447.65
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 54,559.44	\$ 54,559.44

Chris Arany, Treasurer

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

December 13, 2023

Council met at the home of Karen and Mike Schweinfest with Sue Millard and the Schweinfests hosting.

◆Chris Arany, Treasurer: Income so far this year is \$182,842.20 with expenses of \$215,499.45.

◆Lana Albright, Spiritual Life: 12 members were moved from membership for various reasons.

◆Joy Ivins, Worship/Music: The Hanging to the Green service went well. A reminder to council about the Lessons and Carols Brunch on December 31 after the service.

◆Eric Leppert, Christian Education: The children will perform a reenactment of the Christmas story on December 17 during worship.

◆Becky Lister/Linda McBride, Outreach: The 2 Thrivent Financial grants totaling \$500 purchased gifts for Little Brothers of the Elderly. They are sending Christmas

cards to persons who attended Hope this past year informing them of our Christmas services.

◆Becky Lister and Linder McBride resigned as Outreach Co Chairs.

◆Bonnie Long, Generosity: The Time and Talent sheets are being tabulated by Jerry Ivins.

◆Karen Schweinfest, Fellowship: The committee hosted a reception after "The Hanging of the Greens."

◆The Lessons and Carol's Service and Brunch on December 31st will be in the Fellowship Hall.

◆Pastor Christie: "Christmas Eve services at 10am and 5 pm.

◆She announced the installation of Hope Council members will be on January 14 during the worship service.

◆A vote was needed by council to fill open positions.

◆The council voted to approve Alita Simpson as Recording Secretary and to retain Bonnie Long as Generosity chair.

◆Sue Millard, President: requested annual reports from the committee chairs by January 15.

◆There was a motion to add Ruth Oehler to the 2024 Audit Committee for a 3 year term.

◆The council 2024 members now has an opening for Outreach Chair.

◆The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

◆The next meeting will be January 18th by Zoom.

From the minutes of Debbie Schrader, Council Secretary



ARTICLES FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE HOPE HERALD ARE REQUESTED BY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST

ARTICLES MAY BE EMAILED TO

joyceivins@icloud.com or anytime before that date.

HOPE DIRECTORY APP

FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE Directions are on the church counter or check for Instant Church Directory.



**Changes are continuously made. New pictures are requested. If you have changed your email address, you will need to re-enroll. It will not recognize the new email address for confidentiality purposes.*

Please contact Jerry Ivins for any changes.

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**. Please join today! Hope has received **\$232.76** to date for the 2023 Community awards.

HOPE'S CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

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

Digital donations may be submitted at www.hopeonbluerock.org Click on "Giving" and then click on "Online Giving" and choose how you wish to donate - either by ChurchTrac or PayPal. For questions email Ron Long at finance@hopeonbluerock.org



YELLOW BRICK ROAD CHILD CARE



We are proud of Kayla Willey's 2 Star award rating for her child care facility!

Need childcare? Call 513-601-2596 or send an email to the address below: yellowbrickroadchildcare@gmail.com

PRAYER CHAIN INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a prayer chain request: Complete this online form <https://www.hopeonbluerock.org/prayer-requests/>, or send an email to prayer@hopeonbluerock.org, or call Pastor Christie 317-828-5949 (cell) 513-923-3370 (church office)

Interested in receiving prayer chain emails?



Email prayer@hopeonbluerock.org with your contact information and we will get you added to the list.

DON'T FORGET OUR NARTHEX BINS!

- 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
- Pill bottles that are **cleaned and without labels**
- Eye glasses for the Lyon's Club
- New or gently used Books for Side-by-Side Ministry
- Men's & Women's Clothing for Franciscan Sisters of the Poor



SOME HUMOR FOR YOU

From goodhousekeeping.com

Why do birds fly south for New Year's Eve?

It's too far to walk.



Knock Knock. Who's there? Radio.

Radio who? Radio not, it's a new year.

What should people never eat on New Year's Eve?

Fire crackers

Last year, I was able to keep all of my New Year's resolutions...

tucked away in a journal on my bookshelf.

What do snowmen like to do on New Year's Eve?

Chill out!

Why should you put your new calendar in the freezer?

To start off the new year in a cool way.

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = ___ Father
- 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = ___ the
- 12 + 12 = ___ blessing
- 2 - 1 = ___ Praise
- 7 + 7 = ___ has
- 11 + 11 = ___ every
- 13 + 13 = ___ Christ
- 8 + 8 = ___ us
- 10 + 10 = ___ realms
- 8 + 9 = ___ in
- 5 + 5 = ___ Lord
- 10 + 11 = ___ with

- 10 + 15 = ___ in
- 10 - 5 = ___ God
- 6 - 3 = ___ to
- 12 - 6 = ___ and
- 6 + 6 = ___ Christ
- 18 - 9 = ___ our
- 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = ___ be
- 7 + 6 = ___ who
- 2 + 2 = ___ the
- 10 + 5 = ___ blessed
- 4 + 4 = ___ of
- 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

