



The Hope Herald

Hope Lutheran Church Newsletter

www.hopeonbluerock.org

August 2025

STORIES OF HOPE

STRONGER

Lana Albright

As a youth Lana sang in the choir and was active in the youth group. She was confirmed in a conservative Christian



church here in Cincinnati. As a young adult, she stopped going to church because she was uncomfortable with its beliefs. Then, as an adult, she tried attending a couple of other churches of the same denomination, but she continued to be disheartened by their strict ideas and began visiting churches of different denominations.

Hope Lutheran Church was near her home, so she decided to check out a worship service there. She found a friendly, caring atmosphere. It also allowed for more freedom of thought and worship. She felt that her faith became stronger, and she was better focused.

Since joining Hope, Lana has continued to engage more deeply with the community. During her membership at Hope, she has grown more deeply in her faith though joining the choir, attending and teaching Bible Study and serving on the church council. Lana's son was baptized at Hope, and her husband also attends. "I finally found what I was looking for," she shared, "a welcoming place to worship God with welcoming people."

Joy Ivins

Hope Lutheran Church has Inspired Worship every Sunday morning at 10 am. - in person and online @ www.hopeonbluerock.org. Click on Facebook or Youtube at the bottom of the home page. All persons are invited to attend.



Wrap up the summer with a joyful celebration for the whole community! Join us for an afternoon packed with **FREE food, fun, and fellowship** for all ages.

Highlights include:

🐾 Miniature Horse Petting 🎤 Karaoke 🧩 Giant Jenga 🎯 Corn Hole 🎲 Board & Card Games 💰 Split the Pot (*proceeds to benefit SON Ministries Food Pantry*) 🌮 Walking Tacos & Snacks 🍧 Refreshing Snow Cones

Let's make this a day to remember! Everyone at Hope is encouraged to attend — bring friends, family, and your community spirit. Volunteers and donations will be needed, so stay tuned for sign-up details coming soon.

Pr. Christie

PR. CHRISTIE'S CORNER

Journeying with Jesus

"[Jesus said] Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road." – Luke 10:3-4



When I was a kid, we played a game where we would sit in a circle and say, "I'm going on a trip and I'm taking ____." As we went around the circle, we would go in the order of the alphabet. So, the first person might be taking apples on their trip, the second person might take a baboon, the third person might take candy, and so on. When it was your turn, you had to recite the things that the people before you were taking, and then say what you were taking. This of course got more challenging as the game went along and we got closer to the letter Z. We always ended up with quite a crazy assortment of items to take on our journey!

I've been thinking about this game because, as I write this, I am packing and getting ready to depart for a vacation. It's always a process, trying to think of all the things I might need on my trip, all the things that need to be done before I leave, and the things that might need to be taken care of by someone else while I'm gone. I've been slow-packing for about a week now... setting things aside as I do a load of laundry, ordering refills on my prescriptions, buying dog food so the dog-sitters (thanks Judy and Butch!) will have everything they need to take care of Shadow.

With all this preparation in mind, it's always amazing to me that Jesus sent his followers out on a long trip and told them not to take anything with them (Luke 10:1-11). Why would Jesus say that? What would it matter if the disciples packed up some belongings to take along with them?

First of all, the admonition to pack nothing indicates a sense of urgency for the mission. There is no time for slow-packing or even a hurried moment of stuffing a few things into a bag. The mission is to bring healing and peace to the households, to announce that the kingdom of God is now here on earth, and to recruit new followers. This cannot wait because – Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem to be

crucified. There is no time for packing lists or for being weighed down on the journey by heavy bags.

Secondly, by taking nothing with them, Jesus's followers must rely upon the hospitality of strangers – and ultimately, they must have extreme faith that God will provide everything they need.

We too are followers of Jesus sent on a mission to bring healing and to spread the good news of Christ. While this may not mean that we all pack less for our end-of-summer trips, there is a message for us as we consider our faith journeys.

Perhaps we want to add more of a sense of urgency as we work toward spreading the love of Christ in the world. Maybe we serve at church or in other ministries more frequently or with more excitement, or we tell friends and strangers about our faith with a renewed sense of passion. Why? Because we are sharing the BEST news ever – Jesus brings healing and love to all!

And secondly for us, whether we take stuff with us as we serve and share or whether we don't – maybe it's about the faith that we put into this work and into our journeys. Are we trusting that God is providing everything we need in our lives? Are we journeying with courageous vulnerability?

As we journey forth to love and serve our neighbors, our faith is essential. Though we may not be able to heal everything or fix other people's problems, we know that God will provide us with the right words to say, the healing moments of silence, the hugs of compassion, and the resources we need to show Christ's love to everyone we meet.

May God bless you upon your journeys, today and always,
Pastor Christie

WORDS OF WISDOM

Just close your eyes and open your heart and feel worries depart. Just yield yourself to the Father above and let Him hold you secure in His love, for He hears every prayer and answers each one. When we pray in His name, "Thy will be done," and the burdens that seemed too heavy to bear are lifted away on the wings of prayer.



Helen Steiner Rice

AUGUST THANK YOU'S & NEWS

NEW MEMBERS AT HOPE

On June 20 Hope received 3 new members and a child by baptism.

Jeffrey and Maureen Eller



Jeffrey and Maureen have been married 53 years. They have two daughters; who are both a gift from God. They cherish the time spent with them. **Erin**, the oldest blessed them with three grandchildren, three grand dogs and two grand cats.

Jeffrey was a Paramedic/Firefighter for the City of Cincinnati and a few smaller communities for 25+ years. When he

retired he was a Professor of Emergency Medicine at U.C.

Maureen worked in various jobs including Cincinnati Bell after high school until she left on maternity leave. She stayed home and raised her daughters until the oldest was ready for elementary school. She was offered a position as a rental agent for a 216 unit apartment complex, then worked at Three Rivers School District as a Receptionist/Secretary in their Board Office, at the College of Mount St. Joseph for reduced tuition benefits (where all four received degrees), and last in a part-time position at Ivy Tech Community College.

They have both been busy volunteering too. **Jeffrey** is a Founding Member of RAPTOR Inc. where injured birds are housed when they cannot be released due to injuries. He also volunteered for the Hamilton County Parks, maintaining the birds used for educational programs. **Maureen** volunteered at her daughter's elementary school and for Think Smart Stay Safe where they offered topics such as: gun safety, bullying, sexual on-line predators and that telling is not being a tattletale.

During their married-life they have been gardeners, and made pottery - selling their products at fairs and art shows. They are both exercise fanatics and spend a lot of time at the gym or walking/biking on the trail at Miami Whitewater Park.

During their marriage they have traveled extensively around the U.S. on a motorcycle. They have also traveled in Europe but prefer to stay in the U.S. **The Ellers**

1188 South Branch Road, Harrison, Oh 45230

812-290-9563 (Jeffrey)

812-655-3983 (Maureen)

mdeller1948@gmail.com
jeffreyjeller@gmail.com

(Maureen)
(Jeffrey)

Meet Brianna Dooley and Declan Dooley-Ayers.

Hi, I'm **Brianna Dooley**. I have one son that is 5 years old named **Declan Patrick**. I have 5 brothers and 1 sister. I take care of my father. I started at the church because my son, after my mother passed away, said he had questions about God and Jesus and not being very religious myself I said, well I don't really have the answers. Then I said but I know who can answer them for us. So we began walking to church every Sunday. From the minute we walked into Hope we knew we had found our place.



Brianna Dooley



Here is **Declan** as he was baptized by **Pastor Christie**, on June 20, surrounded by family and his sponsors, **Tyler and Madison Bowles**.

4759 Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247

briidooley12@gmail.com

513-692-5966



A special thank you to Mark Davis for sharing his wonderful voice in song at our worship on June 20 in celebration of his parents, **Nan and Ray Davis's** 65th anniversary. It is always a treat to have him sing when he is back in town visiting them.

MORE AUGUST NEWS

A **Happy Birthday** to our former organist for his 95th birthday on July 1st. Here he is at one of his birthday celebrations on July 3rd surrounded by family and friends.



He retired from Hope in January 2025 after 14 years of musical service at our church.

Hope was blessed to have him share his talent!

A heartfelt thank you to all who volunteered to prepare food or helped at the funeral meal for **Barbara Falk**. The people of Hope are always so generous in providing food for those occasions!.

WE REMEMBER

On July 5th a Celebration of Life was held for another long time Hope member, **Barbara Falk**, who at 89 years old, had struggled with cancer for decades. Although she had been living in a nursing facility for the last several years, she was involved at Hope by the computer, prayer chain, and telephone to keep up with Hope's activities. Preceded in death by her pastor husband, **Rev. William Falk**, she was always a positive influence and good source of biblical knowledge as well as an accomplished violinist with the Cincinnati Civic Orchestra.



Our sincere condolences to her family and many friends!

Much thanks to Judy Royse who sprays the plentiful weeds around our church grounds in this terribly hot weather to keep it looking well kept!

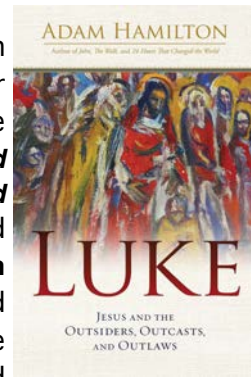
Thank you to all who donated food for the **Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women** on Sunday, July 20, and those who served the meal that evening to 40 women who were very appreciative. **Special thanks to the Outreach Committee** for arranging the event.



Here are the persons who traveled to the center to serve: **Linda McBride, Ruth, Kara, and Rachel Williams, Juanita and Steve Huss, Dave McBride and our Pastor Christie** who took the picture.

JOIN PASTOR FOR BIBLE STUDY Thursdays 1 p.m.

Join Hope's Bible Study group on the gospel of Luke. As our companion in this study, we are using the book **Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws** by pastor and bestselling author **Adam Hamilton**. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.



Bible Study will return on Thursdays at 1p.m. starting **August 7th** to finish their study of Luke and is available on zoom as well as in-person. Drop in any week as your schedule allows for sessions of fun, fellowship, and sharing God's word together! Contact Pastor Christie if you have any questions.

Pastor Christie

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT PAGE 6 FOR THE LIST OF ITEMS HOPE RECYCLES TO HELP OTHERS AND AS WELL AS THE ENVIRONMENT.

AND EVEN MORE NEWS

AWESOME AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

6 Gary Millard 28 Jerry Ivins
8 Eric Kelbley 30 Eva McMasters
9 Doris Heybruch
11 Cheryl Rospert
 John Simpson
21 Su York
25 Adam Williams
26 Parker Beagle



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

All men of Hope Lutheran are invited to the **HOPE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH** at the Red Squirrel restaurant on Monday, July 28, 2025 (7/28/2025), at 12:00 noon. We will once again enjoy the fellowship, conversation, good food and a relaxing break from the summer heat. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

More details: Dave McBride;
DMcincy@outlook.com; 513-316-4004 (text, voice)

(For August they will meet on August 25.)

WHOO

Attention ladies!! All are invited to a **pool party on August 21st at 6 pm at the home of Debbie Schrader**. A pool and hot tub are available for you. Swimming is optional, but in the summer heat even dipping your toes in the water is a relief! **Just bring your own adult beverage and an appetizer to share with others.** Don't miss this chance to join in this fellowship event with the women of Hope!



Debbie Schrader's address is 5675 River Road,
Fairfield, OH 45214 812-212-5239

SON MINISTRIES

The food pantry housed at Groesbeck Church continues to be busy distributing edible items and personal care to those in need in our area. The totals for June are 158 households with 364 adults and 186 children for a grand total of 550 persons.



For August SON is again requesting donations of ravioli or pasta.

In the Narthex bins at Hope marked SON, we collect food and personal care items plus paper grocery and plastic bags for distribution.

Hi Partners,



We hope you are staying safe in this heat!

It is almost back to school time and SON Ministries will be at the NWLSD Health & Safety Fair on August 6 at Taylor Elementary School. This event lets us tell our community families that we are here for them with fliers and mac and cheese. We work closely with NWLSD especially on our holiday events with help from the high school sport teams; plus other projects with the Girl Scouts and the Butler Tech students. We hope these are our future volunteers!

Our August collection items would be cans of ravioli or pastas. Thank you so very much and take care.

Jo Dossenback, SON Ministries

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Hello All:

I invite you to take a list of the shut ins and those folks who could use a card. There are also cards available for you to take, please take any you like. It's surprising how much a little note can mean to folks. There are also a few stamps as well. The Shut in list can be found in the narthex on the counter.



Thanks for supporting anyone you may know who are not on our list.

**Peace and love we send to you,
Carmen Hasdorff and Bea Zimmer**

GET CONNECTED TO HOPE!

Ever want more information about what is 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

A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up!

If you have any changes for Hope's Instant Church Directory, please send info to Jerry Ivins at jivins1@mac.com to keep our directory updated.

HOPE DIRECTORY APP

FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE

For directions go to the app store and download the Instant Church Directory and follow their directions.



**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.

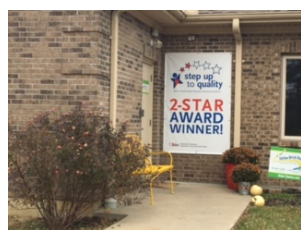
Please join today!

HOPE'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 Wiley'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 Blue Dental Program

-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** for Matthew 25



-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

Also paper and cardboard (clean and not greasy or wet) in blue recycle bin

Drink cans and bottles (empty and rinsed) in the green bin in the Fellowship Hall

Adult and children's books in the Book Nook

ELCA DISASTER RELIEF

US Flooding Recovery

Lutheran Disaster Response is on the ground, beginning to serve communities that have been devastated by recent flooding.



100% of the donations designated as "Flood Relief" will go to these communities.

To donate, please [Click Here](#) or send donations to the Southern Ohio Synod (designated for Flood Relief) and we will forward on your behalf.

SOME HUMOR FOR YOU!



I have been made the official director of McDonald/s Farm. Am I the CIEIO?

What do you call a cow that been knighted?
Sir Loin

If a cantalope is tossed into a lake, does it become a watermelon?

What do you call a bear with no teeth?
a gummy bear

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
Bugs Bunny

Did you know felines don't bite?
They just catnip.

HOPE'S BOTTOM LINE



June 2025

General Fund

Total	MONTH	YTD
Beginning Balance	\$ 65,230.63	\$ 52,356.91
Revenues	\$ 11,435.13	\$ 122,373.45
Expenses	\$ 21,348.79	\$ 119,413.39
Transfers In	\$ 00.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 55,316.97	\$ 55,316.97

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 47,812.90	\$ 47,810.94
Transfers In	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 36.40	\$ 38.46
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 47,849.30	\$ 47,849.30

Wilma Hoffman Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,670.56	\$ 1,655.66
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 5.59	\$ 20.49
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,676.15	\$ 1,676.15

Mission Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,707.24	\$ 4665.25
Transfers In	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 15.74	\$ 57.73
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 4,722.98	\$ 4,227.98

John Simpson, Treasurer

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



♦The Hope Congregation Church Council did not meet in the month of July.

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH.

ARTICLES MAY BE EMAILED TO

joyceivins@icloud.com or anytime before that date.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

William Arthur Ward

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Thanks to SoloTotoCoyote 02-07-2014
MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT

BEAUTIFUL FEET

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15, NIV). Such beauty has nothing to do with the feet being clean, newly pedicured, elegantly clad. They may be the dusty feet of aid workers bringing food to drought-stricken areas, or the muddy shoes of those rushing disaster relief to flood zones. They may be the swollen feet of a dedicated nurse after a 12-hour hospital shift, or the tired feet of a parent pacing with a baby at 3 a.m.



In the upper room before Jesus' arrest, he declared his disciples' dirty feet beautiful by touching and washing them lovingly, preparing them to go out yet again with his good news for all. And on the cross, Jesus' own feet — nail-pierced — were beautiful.

After Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, many mourners who paid their respects noticed his shoes. Instead of new, well-polished “dress shoes,” the scuffed items clearly had walked countless steps. They were the sturdy boots of a worker, a pilgrim, a travel companion on the road of life, the journey of faith. They were the shoes — the feet — of a disciple of Christ willing to go wherever needed to bring the good news of God's love. How beautiful!

—Heidi Hyland Mann



SHINE FOR Jesus



This easy and colorful craft helps kids remember that Jesus is their light—no matter where they go!

What you need:

- Clear plastic cup
- Battery tea lights
- Tissue paper squares (pre-cut)
- Glue stick
- Markers (optional)
- Stickers (optional)



What you do:

1. Use the glue stick to press colorful tissue paper squares around the outside of the cup.
2. Add a simple phrase like "Jesus is my Light" or use fun stickers to decorate.
3. Turn on the tea light and place it inside the cup.
4. Turn off the lights and let your lantern glow!

The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

— Psalm 27:1, NIV



PUZZLE

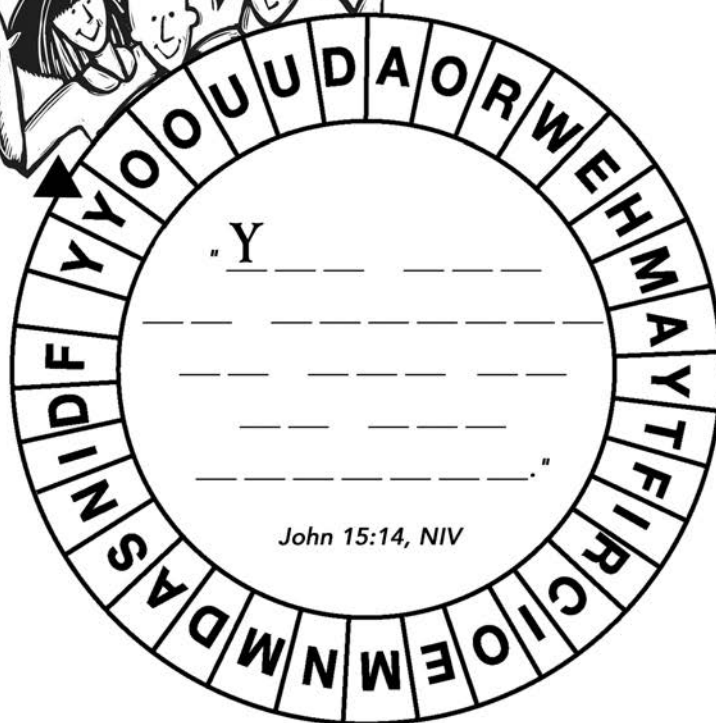


WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below.



Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV

August 2025

July 2025							August 2025							September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5					1	2					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30			
								31												

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27		28		29		30		31		1		2	
Pastor on Vacation										7:00AM Pastor's Day Off			
10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream		10:00AM SON @ GMC 12:00PM Men's Fellowship Group 6:00PM Praise Band				10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC		1:00PM NO Bible Study					
3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream		10:00AM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band		1:00PM SAS stewardship committee meeting		10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC		8:00AM Lifeline Hall rental 1:00PM Bible Study		7:00AM Pastor's Day Off 6:00PM Praise Band @ Schweinfest			
10		11		12		13		14		15		16	
10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream		10:00AM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band		5:00PM Griefshare 2025 Reunion Gathering		10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC		1:00PM Bible Study 2:30PM SAS Zoom Meeting 6:30PM Council Meeting in person		7:00AM Pastor's Day Off			
17		18		19		20		21		22		23	
10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream		10:00AM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band				10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC		1:00PM Bible Study 6:00PM WHOO@ Debbie Schrader's		7:00AM Pastor's Day Off			
24		25		26		27		28		29		30	
10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream		10:00AM SON @ GMC 12:00PM Men's Fellowship Group 6:00PM Praise Band				10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC		1:00PM Bible Study		7:00AM Pastor's Day Off		10:00AM Setup for Community Bash	
31		1		2		3		4		5		6	
10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream		SON CLOSED 6:00PM Praise Band				10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC		1:00PM Bible Study		7:00AM Pastor's Day Off			

The Hope Herald
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Pastor Christie Beckmann
4695 Blue Rock Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45247-3571
513-923-3370
office@hopeonbluerock.org
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:	Bruce Bair
Altar Care:	Ruth Oehler
Prayer Chain:	Carmen Hasdorff
Web Site:	Pastor Christie Jerry Ivins
Facebook:	Mary Bryant
Kitchen Manager	Karen Schneider
Worship Assistants:	Nan Davis Jerry Ivins Ruth Oehler Joy Ivins

HOPE HERALD STAFF:

Editor:	Joy Ivins
Clip Art:	Jerry Ivins

