

# Hope *Home News*

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[hopecherryville.org](http://hopecherryville.org)



## GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

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During this pandemic we are spending time with people in very different ways - if at all. Since face-to-face contact is limited for many of us, we are relying on phone calls, text messages, Facebook, Instagram and other social media. It makes me realize how important personal interactions with others is in my life – and how much I miss it. But it also makes me realize that people say things in texts and social media that I don't ever think they would say in person. I need people in my life who bring out the best in me which led me to asking these questions:

- Do you know anyone who brings you down regularly in any ways?
- Which people in your life have the most positive effects on you?

A while ago I read this quote by a man named Jim Rohn: “You must constantly ask yourself these questions: Who am I around? What are they doing to me? What have they got me reading? What have they got me saying? Where do they have me going? What do they have me thinking? And most important, what do they have me becoming? Then ask yourself the big question: Is that okay?”

Sometimes it may seem awkward trying to analyze the effect that our friends and acquaintances have on us. At times it can seem to be too judgmental a thing to do - too harsh an exercise. But all of us have experienced watching other people being brought down by the people they choose to hang around with – in person or on social media - and it could be useful sometimes if we were to take a step back from our own situations and try to look at them objectively. How are the people in my life affecting me? And if the answer to that question is "poorly" - then what do I need to do to fix the situation to make it healthy once more?

Sometimes I've been around people who have brought me down in significant way - and it's taken me far too long to recognize what was happening and find other people who would affect me more positively to spend time with. Jesus is a great example for me as I ponder these situations. He knew how to draw boundaries around himself to keep his priorities in order and relationships healthy. He never put people down but called them to something more than they might know they are. This Lenten season I am reflecting on the statement: “It's not what you give up for Lent – it's who you are becoming.

What do the people in your life have you becoming? If you spend another ten years with the same people - where will you be ten years from now? If the answer is that you'll be a more compassionate, more caring, more giving person, more like Jesus - then you're probably around people who are good for you. If your answer is that you'll be wealthy enough to be financially independent and completely out of debt - and still a caring and compassionate person - then that's great, too.

But if your answer is something less than you are now - if you don't like the answer that you see - then you'll want to consider changing the people you're with. After all, not everyone we meet is destined to be our best friend. Let Jesus guide your way as you become the person Jesus calls you to be.

Blessings,

Pastor Jami

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—February 2021

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- \* Hope will be offering “live” mid-week Lenten services in our parking lot each Wednesday during Lent. Participants will be asked to tune into 106.5FM to hear the service and sing along. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer throughout the season. The theme for Lenten services is Characteristics of Disciples.
- \* The Youth will be holding a clothing Drive throughout the Lenten Season. They distributed bags encouraging each member to put one item of clothing in it each day during Lent. A storage container will be in the parking lot beginning Easter Sunday, April 4, through Friday, April 9.
- \* Altronics Security has installed security cameras in the interior and on the exterior areas of the building. There are 8 cameras situated on the outside of the building, covering the entire facility, and 6 cameras inside the building, placed in strategic locations to capture the entrances to the offices and sanctuary and Kuntz Hall.
- \* Council made the decision to match the donations members made as a Thank You to Becky’s Drive In. On March 20 we will have been worshiping at Becky’s for one year! When all donations arrive, we will present the check to them. Look for an update on the exact amount. Many thanks to all who made a contribution.
- \* Council received Thank You cards from a number of our college students who received scholarships. They are: Elizabeth Moore, Carlie Small, Ashley Hildebrand, Kaitlyn Graver and Shaye Kerper.
- \* The financial report for January was positive with members continuing to give generously to our ministries. A copy of the report is always posted on the large bulletin board outside the office. If you are interested in reviewing it and cannot get to the church, please contact the church office for one.

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

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Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Hope Lutheran relies on your regular contributions. We appreciate the efforts of the congregation members to make consistent offerings throughout the year—especially during inclement weather conditions. To assist you, we provide a convenient electronic giving option for setting up recurring contributions. Visit the church website at [www.hopecherryville.org](http://www.hopecherryville.org) and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Saturday, March 6**

6:30 p.m.

Becky’s Drive-In

**Sunday, March 7**

9:00 a.m.

Church Parking Lot

**Wednesday, March 10**

7:00 p.m.

Church Parking Lot

**Saturday, March 13**

6:30 p.m.

Becky’s Drive-In

**Sunday, March 14**

9:00 a.m.

Church Parking Lot

**Wednesday, March 17**

7:00 p.m.

Church Parking Lot

**Saturday, March 20**

7:30 p.m.

Becky’s Drive-In

**Sunday, March 21**

9:00 a.m.

Church Parking Lot

**Wednesday, March 24**

7:00 p.m.

Church Parking Lot

**Saturday, March 27**

7:30 p.m.

Becky’s Drive-In

**Sunday, March 28**

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m.

Church Parking Lot

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who helped support us during the Valentine's Dinner Drive-thru! We heard many compliments and want to extend our sincerest gratitude for giving this new process a chance. We pray that we can have our sit down dinner next year!



Youth Group will be selling pies in time for Easter! Please be on the lookout in the bulletin and on our website for more information.



### March event

The youth group will be bowling at the Rose Bowl in Allentown on March 13 at 1:30 pm (bowling will begin at 2 pm). Please email Ally at [alock-ard313@gmail.com](mailto:alock-ard313@gmail.com) by March 6 to reserve your spot. This is for anyone in grades 6th - 12th. Kids will need to be dropped off and picked up at Rose Bowl. Anyone 18 years and older wishing to stay for the event will need to have clearances.



### 40 DAYS – 40 ITEM CHALLENGE

Youth Group will be hosting their next clothing drive April 4 - 9. This clothing drive is in conjunction with Pastor Jami's 40 Days of Giving in which you take one piece of clothing out of your closet everyday for the 40 days of Lent. We will have youth available to unload your car during that week, days and times will be posted closer to the drop-off week. We ask that you do not drop off any items to the church before April 4.

### Clothing Drive



### SUNDAY SCHOOL PACKETS

Sunday School is still going strong! Don't forget to pick up packets for grades cradle roll - 6th and watch the online lesson videos. All packets can be picked up before each service at either Becky's Drive-in on Saturday evening or at Church on Sunday morning. Please note, there will be no packet pick up for the Easter Services.



### PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

We need Sunday School students willing to participate in our Palm Sunday Service - singing, dancing and playing homemade instruments. Details will be emailed to those on our Sunday School Communication list. Information will also be shared in the online videos. If you have any questions, please email:

[sundayschool@hopecherryville.org](mailto:sundayschool@hopecherryville.org)

With deepest sympathy we announce the following members who have entered eternal life:



**Grace Knappenberger**—January 30

**Martha Woodring**—February 19

Please keep in your prayers:

**Terry Ritter** and family, upon the death of her father on February 1

**Jenna and Jason Frey** and family, upon the death of their father on February 16

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

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We still have five opportunities to join in worship, prayer, and reflection during Lent.

We will be gathering each Wednesday in our parking lot at 7:00 p.m. for mid-week Lenten services, including Maundy Thursday, April 1. The services will be “live” and we will be using a favorite liturgy, Holden Evening Prayer. Participants will tune into FM 106.5 as we share our lives and faith during Lent.

The theme is “**Characteristics of Disciples.**” We will focus on the unique attributes of the people who follow Jesus – disciples like you and me. Each week we will explore - and experience - seven characteristics of  
*(Continued on page 5)*

## THANK YOU . . .

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Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. It is an honor and privilege serving as your treasurer. I have been very blessed with the kindness and support from the staff and members of Hope throughout the years. Thank you and blessings to everyone in the New Year.

Sincerely,  
Trudy Mertz

Church council,

Thank you for the monetary Christmas gift, it was truly appreciated. Thank you also for your support of the youth group and my leadership.

Many blessings,  
Ally Lockard

Thank you so much for the scholarship check. I will use it towards my books. I will be ordering the books this week. I really appreciate your kindness.

Thank you,  
Ashley Hildebrand  
Moravian College 2022

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for the scholarship! This year is like no other! But as you know school and college is hard enough as is, and this scholarship really allows me to worry less about the cost of school, like buying books or supplies and allows me to focus more in my studies. Again, thank you so very much for taking weight off my shoulders and allowing me to pursue a successful future.

Regards and God Bless,

Shaye A. Kerper

P.S. If this year keeps going the way it is, PJ's wish of me becoming a pastor might come true.

Thank you so much for awarding me the generous academic scholarship from the church. I am continuing my education at Muhlenberg College next semester, as a Biology major, and German and Public Health double minor on the pre-medicine track. The funds will help me not only with textbooks and tuition, but also with internship and medical school application costs. It means so much to be supported by the church on this journey!

Sincerely,  
Katelyn Graver

## **MID WEEK LENTEN SERVICES** (Continued from page 4)

discipleship:

Wednesday, March 3 – Disciples Are Prayerful

Wednesday, March 10 – Disciples Are Filled With Gratitude

Wednesday, March 17 – Disciples Are Obedient

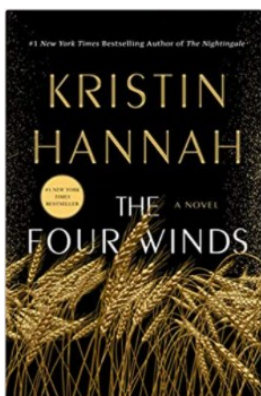
Wednesday, March 24 – Disciples Are Transformed

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday – Disciples Serve Others

Let us come together in faith – for that is what disciples do. Let us not let this pandemic daunt our lives – for that is what disciples do.

## **BOOK BUDDIES**

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The next book club book is *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah . We will meet, via Zoom, on Tuesday, March 23 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The cost of the book is \$17.39.

**Synopsis:** *The Four Winds* is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, *The Four Winds* is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation. From the number-one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone*

comes a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

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Bible Study with Pastor Jami, via Zoom is held on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87605892517?pwd=WFdsZmFBMnNDRVB1N1JiIT1ZiNmdTQT09>

Meeting ID: 876 0589 2517/Passcode: 440965.

Call the office for more information.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

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AJ Szwast will be leading discussions from the Augsburg Adult Bible Studies titled “Love for One Another”, by Susie Gamelin. Class is via Zoom, with a start time around 10:30 am.

Join Zoom Meeting ~ Meeting ID: 792 8777 6107 ~ Passcode: AdultA

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79287776107?pwd=ckFBQnl3dldyMHlyZW1UUTB5MVRGQT09>

## **WORSHIP SERVICE AVAILABLE ONLINE**

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If you can't make it to worship on a Saturday night or Sunday morning, you can still view the Becky's Drive-In service on our website: [hopecherryville.org](http://hopecherryville.org). Worship services are usually posted to our website early the following week.

## **Good News for Seniors Over 70-1/2— A Tax-Free Gift With Your IRA Rollover**

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Are your required minimum IRA withdrawals greater than you need, or care to receive? Would you like to reduce the taxable income from your IRA?

The IRA charitable rollover is a terrific way to make a tax-free gift to Hope Lutheran Church ministries. Your gift from your IRA can satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution without increasing your Federal income taxes. Although you don't get an income tax charitable deduction for the gift, you don't pay taxes on your IRA withdrawal. In effect, the IRA charitable rollover is a tax-reducing and tax-free way to make a gift.

If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can tell your IRA administrator to transfer your gift directly from your Traditional or Roth IRA account to Hope Lutheran. We can put your gift to use right away in providing financial support to our ministries throughout the Church.

Consider these important requirements to make an IRA charitable rollover:

- You must be 70-1/2 or older when the gift is made.
- The gift must come from a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA account. Other retirement accounts such as 401(k) or 403(b) Plans are not eligible.
- The gift check must come directly from your IRA administrator to Hope Lutheran.
- Total IRA charitable rollover gifts in any one year cannot exceed \$100,000.
- The IRA rollover gift can count toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you have not already taken your RMD for the year you make your gift.
- The gift from your IRA will be excluded from your taxable income.
- The gift from your IRA will not be available as an income tax charitable deduction.

If you are interested in making such a gift or if you just want more information, please contact your IRA administrator, tax preparer or the Church Treasurer.

## **HOPE FOR OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUES**

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We continue to assist the Northern Lehigh and Northampton School Districts in their fight against hunger. Their programs provide breakfast on school days and lunch on weekends for their students in need. Full stomachs lead to students being on task more often, can increase math test scores, possibly increase reading test scores, and increase attendance.

Food items can be dropped off at any service or in the church during office hours. Please remember due to allergies within the school all donations should be peanut and nut free.

Some suggested items:

Pop Tarts	Mini-Cereal Boxes	Fruit Snacks	Breakfast Bars
Teddy Grahams	Gold Fish Crackers	Pretzels	Cheez-its
Graham Crackers	Granola Bars	Shelf-stable Yogurt	Trail mix
Shelf-stable milk	Mac-n-cheese	Canned soups/stews/pastas	

## **HOPE COMMUNITY CUPBOARD**

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Our outdoor Community Cupboard is still serving as a response to our neighbors who are living with food insecurity, especially for those not comfortable asking for assistance. It is kept stocked with non-perishable/shelf stable food through donations from members. If you would like to donate, please contact the church office.

## **VACCINE HELPERS:**

We have volunteers available to help any of our members find and register online for Covid-19 vaccinations. If you would like assistance, please contact the Church Office at 610-767-7203, and you will be connected with a volunteer

If you are a computer genius, or just a great internet surfer, and have some time to help others—consider being a vaccine helper. Call the church office to get details.

## **SHARE - A - MEAL**

Are you aware that Hope church has had a meal sharing ministry for many years? The program has been somewhat inactive lately, but plans are now underway to reactivate it.

When an individual or a family has a medical, surgical, or injury set back, it can become difficult to prepare nutritional meals. This is when other church members can help. Meals that are free of charge will be provided 2-3 times per week over approximately 2-3 week time span, Share - a - Meal is not designed to provide long term nutritional assistance, but to give time for recovery.

We are seeking volunteers to join this important ministry. Volunteers will be asked to make and deliver one meal. The meal that you prepare can be anything from a soup to a pasta type meal to a casserole to a meat ,potato, and vegetable type meal. Your choice, maybe your specialty! The committee will provide details regarding special diet, food allergies, and family size, etc. How often you will be called upon to share a meal will be dependent on; how many volunteers can be enlisted (many hands make light the work) and how many families will request some help (Pastor Jami will also help us identify needs).

Of course, there are still many COVID restrictions in place. We will maintain strict COVID regulations according to what is in place at the time.

If you would like more information about Share - a - Meal, please contact Sharyn Kratzer at 610-261-1277 or 484-553-9271or [sakgram@rcn.com](mailto:sakgram@rcn.com). Share - A - meal is a separate program from the soup kitchen.

Please return the form below to the church office or to Sharyn Kratzer if you are willing to be a volunteer.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Thank you,  
Sharyn



*Share  
A  
Meal*

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### **SHARE - A - MEAL Volunteer**

I would like to volunteer to provide meals when necessary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Return to church office or Sharyn Kratzer.

## Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible Thrivent members the power to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funds each year. Members are invited to direct Choice Dollars® among thousands of enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more. You have until March 31, 2021 to direct your Choice Dollars.

## EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS AT OUR CHURCH

In the February newsletter there were pictures from two Eagle Scout\* projects that benefitted Hope Church. Here is another project.

### FLOWER GARDEN

Ryan Beegle planned the flower garden on the Route 248 side of our building and then supervised and worked along side of other scouts, friends, and parents to complete the site..



\***Eagle Scout** is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the BSA program. Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges and an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. The Scout must also go through a lengthy review process. Only about four percent of Scouts achieve this rank.



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER 31, 2020

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$161,499.08	\$146,206.85	\$143,349.81	\$ 95,238.49	\$ (2,061.92)
Income - December	55,058.54	10,821.89	8,871.55	7,071.94	-
Income - Jan.-Nov.	339,265.65	32,251.01	14,748.04	2,404.55	-
Total Income	394,324.19	43,072.90	23,619.59	9,476.49	-
Expenses - December	30,629.96	3,652.25	12.62	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	338,336.58	28,499.48	28.95	5,600.00	435.00
Total Expenses	368,966.54	32,151.73	41.57	5,600.00	435.00
Net Income	25,357.65	10,921.17	23,578.02	3,876.49	(435.00)
Net Special Appeals	1,704.97				
Balance End of December	\$188,561.70	\$157,128.02	\$166,927.83	\$ 99,114.98	\$ (2,496.92)

### SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of December by \$24,428.58, and for the year 2020, income exceeded expenses by \$25,357.65, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$188,561.70. Last year the net income for the same period was \$56,791.09 with a balance of \$161,499.08.

*\*\* The current income statement is posted in the narthex. \*\**

### NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

All committees, groups and persons submitting content for the church newsletter should follow the schedule listed below. Articles may be edited so we do not exceed Post Office guidelines. Please email your articles to Laurie Christman ([communications@hopecherryville.org](mailto:communications@hopecherryville.org)). Thank you.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Article Deadline</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
March	Monday, February 15	Thursday, February 25 AM

*Please let the office know if you need to update your delivery method of the Hope Home News. The paper copy contains the news that fits on six pages. The digital version may run longer.*

### SYNOD NEWS

The Februaryy 2021 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2021-2.pdf>

**HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251**

