

Hope *Home News*

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hopecherryville.org



GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

Well...I am writing for the February newsletter, and I thought, with Valentine's Day in February, what could be a better topic than love?! Actually... I was inspired to write about love when I read the following quote from the artist, Marc Chagall: "In our life, there is a single color, as on an artist's palette, which provides the meaning of art and life. It is the color of love."

I never really thought about love being a color – but I have often thought that if we want to provide meaning in our lives - then we must learn to love - and to love unconditionally. That certainly was the model Jesus used in his life and ministry. He loved those who were the in crowd and those who were the outcasts. He loved the sinners - and he loved the people who didn't think they were sinners. He loved the healthy - and the sick. He loved the rich - and the poor. He loved the people that you and I often have a hard time even liking.

A seminary professor of mine once said something like this in a lecture: Only when we learn how to love unconditionally can we truly feel the sense of completion that is already within ourselves - but that we keep repressed under the layers of fear and control and feelings of inadequacy. He went on to say this is one of the many secrets of life - when we learn to love unconditionally, we no longer need to fear, and we no longer need to protect ourselves. When unconditional love becomes a true way of life - all the time - then our lives will be so filled with that one color that we'll find that other colors no longer matter.

It is paradoxical but true – we finally learn to *accept love* from others when we've learned to

give love ourselves. We learn to *feel good about ourselves* when we spend more time *making others feel good about themselves*. We *feel the most peace* when we do our best to *help others find peace* - without controlling or dominating them. And the key in all these situations is to do what we do with love and caring.

I have a friend who always used to feel sorry for herself because there wasn't enough love in her life - because love had somehow passed her by. What she thought was love, though, was actually dependence. She felt that her life had no meaning because she didn't have that "one love" - the romantic love that we're taught is so important in our lives. But that's not what brings meaning to us. The love that brings meaning is the love that we give and share, the love between friends and even enemies, the giving of ourselves and our feelings with others who need to feel love.

Most of the people who give their love unconditionally don't even need to use the word "love." It's clear in their actions, in their self-reliance, in their gaze, in their way of being. And when we learn to paint our lives with that color, what a beautiful mixture of colors we'll receive in return as each person shares their own colors of love with us. Happy painting!

Blessings,
Pastor Jami



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—January 2022

- ◆ Because of Covid19 and the inability to secure a chef for their annual Valentine dinner, the youth will be having a soup and sandwich sale on February 13. Orders will be taken after services, with a youth group member or online. They plan to be back with a dynamic Valentine dinner in 2023!
- ◆ Despite all the ups and downs of the past year and the changes in worship services and meetings in the building, Hope stayed “in the black” for 2021. Income was down for the year, but expenses were as well. Thank you to all of our members who financially supported our ministry in 2021.
- ◆ Council would remind members that it is not too late to return your Generosity card to the office indicating your financial commitment for 2022. Extra cards are available in the narthex.
- ◆ Council officers were elected at the January meeting. The new officers are:
 - President – Tom Nichols
 - Vice President – Kim Roth
 - Secretary – Tim Moore
 - Treasurer – Trudy Mertz
 - Financial Secretary – Deb Gardner
- ◆ Council Committee assignments were selected at the January meeting. The council liaisons to Hope’s standing committees are:
 - Christian Education – Kim Roth, Allison Lockard
 - Evangelism – Lori Kerper
 - Finance – Doug Daniel, Tim Moore
 - Property – Tom Nichols, Glenn Wampole, Kim Belletti
 - Mutual Ministry - TBD
 - Social Ministry – Cindy Kocher
 - Stewardship – Doug Daniel
 - Worship and Music – Kim Belletti, Annette Frazza
 - Youth Ministry – Megan Smith, Allison Lockard, Mikayla Ninos



WORSHIP SERVICE AVAILABLE ONLINE

If you aren’t able to join us in person at either worship service Sunday morning, you can still view the service on our website: hopecherryville.org. Worship services are usually posted to our website early the following week.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday,
February 6**

8:00 a.m.
in Sanctuary

9:15 a.m.
Sunday School

10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary

**Sunday,
February 13
Communion**

8:00 a.m.
in Sanctuary

9:15 a.m.
Sunday School

10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary

**Sunday,
February 20**

8:00 a.m.
in Sanctuary

9:15 a.m.
Sunday School

10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary

**Sunday,
February 27
Communion**

8:00 a.m.
in Sanctuary

9:15 a.m.
Sunday School

10:30 a.m.
in Sanctuary



YOUTH

Our next **youth leader meeting** is on February 6 at 2 p.m. via zoom.

SOUP and SANDWICH SALE

for pick up on **February 13** after services.

Thompson's sandwiches are \$5
(turkey, ham & cheese or roast beef).

Homemade individual soups are \$4
(lobster bisque, cheesy bacon potato or gluten free vegetable).

Meal Combos are \$10
(choice of sandwich and soup, chips, pickle, cookie).

Online order requests can be made thru **February 2** by clicking
the link provided in Connections of Hope and the direct youth
group email.



Orders & payment will also be taken after each service on
January 30.

Proceeds benefit youth attending the Nation Youth Gathering.

Email youthgroup@hopecherryville.org with any questions.
(replacing Valentine's Day dinner this year)



Sunday School is now on the **Remind App!** These are for text messaging updates related to Sunday School, grades Cradle Roll—6th. If you did not receive a Remind App Communication, please email: sunday-school@hopecherryville.org to be added to the list.

2021 SUNDAY SCHOOL STATEMENTS to be used for income tax purposes will be given only to those who request them. Please contact Nancy Creyer at 610-767-8942 (leave message) and provide your name, your child's name and phone number. Statements will be completed in January of 2021.

SAVE THE DATE . . .

. . . July 11-15 Vacation Bible School

"Food Truck Party"

from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

Bible School is open to all children ages 3 (and potty trained)
to children completing 6th grade in 2022.

So get your appetites ready to swallow the good news!



Soup Group

and

Delivery

Wednesday,
February 2
9:00 a.m.



STORYWEAVERS

Tuesday, February 15
10:00 a.m.
with
Lunch:
Noon at Coplay Eatery.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will be held in
Kuntz Hall at 10:00 a.m.
every Thursday.

Please remember masks
are required.

In addition Bible Study will
still be offered via Zoom to
our members who are unable to gather in per-
son. Call the office for more information.



WOMEN OF FAITH

Monday, February 21

6:00 p.m.



Start saving your loose change for our "noisy" offering on

Sunday, February 13.

Everything collected will go to hunger-relief charities across the country.

Youth members will be in the narthex after each service
to collect your coins.

BOOK BUDDIES

Our next read is *Wish You Were Here*, by Jodi Picoult.

We will meet on Wednesday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (your choice) by Zoom. Books are available in the church office; the cost of a book is \$18.

An Amazon Best Book of December 2021:

As pandemic lit descends upon us, it's impossible to not read as if we're watching a horror movie: No, don't open that door! And Picoult's latest, the timely and thought-provoking *Wish You Were Here*, is no exception. Diana O'Toole seems to have it all: she's on the cusp of a huge professional coup, her surgical resident boyfriend is about to propose, and she's all set to take off on a romantic 30th birthday trip to the Galapagos. Then, the pandemic hits. Diana is suddenly stranded, alone, on her dream vacation. And all of her goals and milestones suddenly feel not so urgent. *Wish You Were Here* surprised me, in a good way. Based on a true story of a traveler stranded on a remote island, *Wish You Were Here* is an early and triumphant addition to books trying to make sense of life in 2020, and beyond.

—Sarah Gelman, Amazon Editor



SPONSORSHIPS



Altar flowers, bulletin, and press sponsorships are back. The sponsorship charts are located on the bulletin board in the narthex. Write your name and message next to your desired date, take and complete an envelope, enclose the appropriate payment and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office.



ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

Thank you for all you do to support our mission throughout the year. As you look forward to a new year, please consider additional giving to your church. For your convenience, we offer electronic giving options for one-time gifts and recurring contributions. Visit the church website at www.hopecherryville.org and locate the Online Giving page.

Online Giving

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

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.

THANK YOU'S

Hope Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your gift to Bear Creek Camp! Because of your congregation, campers will be able to continue to enjoy the faith and fun here at camp. We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and we hope to see you soon here at BCC!

Charissa

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 year.

Thank you and blessings to everyone in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Trudy Mertz

Dear family at Hope,

Thank you all for the thoughts, prayers, and cards after the loss of our mother, Shirley. There is a wonderful, thoughtful family at Hope.

Thank you,

Lorrie and Kari Graver

Council,

Thank you very much for the Christmas gift. It will be reinvested into the music program to keep our singing alive during these Pandemic times. Hope is a special place to worship and I'm glad to work with staff who are creative, imaginative, loving and caring. Thank you for the gift.

David Ziegler



Council and Members of Hope,

Many, many thanks for the generous Christmas gift. Again, this year I have earmarked it for the Phoebe Ministries Clinical Pastoral Care Fund. I am so grateful to pay it forward to a deserving organization. And – I so appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Merry Christmas

PJ

Dear Church Council,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas Gift! I am looking forward to a Happy New Year for all of us!

With warm regards,

Lance

(Continued on page 7)

THANK YOU'S (Continued from page 6)

Congregational Council,

Thank you for the generous gift this Christmas. Your Kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly and deeply appreciated!

Happy New Year's blessings to All!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sommers

Dear Church council,

Thank you for the monetary gift at Christmas. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Looking forward to 2022, another year of being Hope's financial secretary.

Deb Gardner

Financial Secretary

Dear Council and Hope Members,

Thank you so much for remembering me with such a generous gift at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. May you all enjoy a healthy and happy new year.

Blessings,

Laurie Christman

The final new member class took place on January 23.
Reception of new members will take place:

Sunday, January 30 at both services.

Please try and be present that Sunday to welcome our new family of Hope members.



**New
Members of
Our
Church
Family**

COVID TESTS AVAILABLE FROM GOVERNMENT

Go to: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>

or call: 1-800-232-0233

To place your order for **free** at-home COVID-19 tests

Residential households in the U.S. can order one set of 4 free at-home tests from USPS.com. Here's what you need to know about your order:

Limit of one order per residential address

One order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests

Orders will ship free starting in late January



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are in need of additional greeters and ushers. If you are interested in volunteering for either group or if you would like more information regarding duties, please contact the church office office@hopecherryville.org or 610-767-7203. For volunteers, please specify for which service you prefer to be scheduled.



FOOD BANK NEEDS

The Northampton Food Bank would appreciate donations of the following goods for distribution:

Applesauce	Canned vegetables	Pork and beans
Soup (canned and dried-Ramen noodles, Lipton)	Canned pasta	Canned tomatoes
Canned potatoes (white or yams)	Canned meats	Beef stew
Hamburger, Tuna & Chicken Helper	Tuna & Salmon	Macaroni & Cheese
Pasta (any kind-macaroni, noodles, etc.)	Spaghetti	Pudding
Jello	Cereal	Rice (and rice mixes)
Dried Potatoes (stuffing, scalloped, mashed, etc.)	Pancake mix	Pancake syrup
Crackers (prefer those in stack packs)	Personal Hygiene items	Evaporated milk
Baby food	Baby formula	Baby diapers
Baby personal hygiene	Cleaning items	Laundry items

Items donated must be unopened and unexpired, except for diapers, Depends, cleaning items, non-food items. You can bring your donations to a church service, or drop them at the church during office hours.

HOPE FOR OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUES

As the school year progresses we are still collecting for 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	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - DECEMBER 31, 2021

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$188,561.70	\$157,128.02	\$166,927.83	\$ 99,114.98	\$ (2,496.92)
Income - December	55,980.56	291.07	(206.46)	(2,483.57)	-
Income - Jan.-Nov.	375,959.48	51,657.96	24,605.84	15,277.16	2,000.00
Total Income	431,940.04	51,949.03	24,399.38	12,793.59	2,000.00
Expenses - December	31,883.12	165.06	14.50	-	-
Expenses - Jan.-Nov.	342,128.43	20,159.70	3,592.20	4,600.00	-
Total Expenses	374,011.55	20,324.76	3,606.70	4,600.00	-
Net Income	57,928.49	31,624.27	20,792.68	8,193.59	2,000.00
Net Special Appeals	(215.00)				
Balance End of December	\$246,275.19	\$188,752.29	\$187,720.51	\$107,308.57	\$ (496.92)

SUMMARY:

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of December by \$24,097.44, and for the year 2021, income exceeded expenses by \$57,928.49, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$246,275.19. Last year the net income for the same period was \$25,357.65 with a balance of \$188,561.70.

Note: The 2021 Regular Fund Total Income includes PPP Loan Forgiveness of \$36,872.23.

*** 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). Thank you.

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Article Deadline</u>	<u>Collation Date</u>
March	Monday, February 14	Thursday, February 24

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 February 2022 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org/documents/synod-news/synod-news-2022-2.pdf>

HOSPITAL CODE FOR HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH CHERRYVILLE: 251

