

# Hope *Home News*

March 2023  
Vol. L No. 3

4131 Lehigh Drive, P.O. Box 1030  
Cherryville, PA 18035  
610-767-7203

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



HopeCherryville

## GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR...

By the time you read this you will know that I have made the decision to retire from full-time ministry and will be leaving Hope at the end of August 2023. And I am sure that – like me – you feel conflicting emotions. And I would guess part of the reason we feel that way is that most of us do not like change.

That got me to thinking - why is change so hard for us? Maybe we could blame it on our history. If you think about it - until the past few generations, most people's lives stayed very much the same from beginning to end. People grew up where their parents had grown up, did the work their parents had done, believed and knew the things previous generations had believed and known. Change, when it came, was generally an abnormality and a danger.

But these days, the world is different. Major change happens moment to moment – economically, environmentally, sociologically, politically, and organizationally – even in the church. When an organizational change – like what is happening here at Hope - is first proposed, most people immediately want to know three things:

- What does this change mean to me?
- Why is it happening?
- What will it look like when the change has been made?

We gather this information intuitively, to begin to assess the level of risk and difficulty involved in the change. And I'm sure that – like me – you are wondering those very same questions. While I cannot answer them all I can assure you that over the next 6 months we will be working to answer those questions.

However, maybe the question we should be asking is: What is **not** changing? And that is a much

easier question to answer. What is not changing at Hope is our incredible worship filled with lively music, faithful assisting ministers, fantastic choirs and instrumental music and Joe's drums. What is not changing is our adult and children's educational programs – Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Adult Sunday School. They stand on solid ground with a dedicated team of teachers and leaders. What is not changing is the many organizations Hope has that bring fellowship, service and devotional opportunities to members. What is not changing is our council and committee leadership – people who have committed themselves to transitioning this congregation through this time.

I know that this change feels sudden to you all and that, because I have been in a process of discernment, I have had the opportunity to sit with it for a longer period of time. I do not expect you all to be as accepting of the change from the first moment you heard it – but I know that after months of thought and questioning, your mindset will begin to shift.

So here is what I can offer – permission to be worried, to hesitate, to ask questions, to want to know the impact on you, even to be sad or anxious. I will be available to listen, to hold your hand, to pray with you, to encourage you, to be present with you. Because the truth is no one really loves change. It can be exhausting and make us uncomfortable. But change is necessary and a healthy part of life, especially life in the church.

In the months ahead please know that we are in this together – that God has us – that the Spirit is working through us – that we will see this through together.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jami

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS—February 2023**

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- ◆ Council accepted with regret the resignation of Laurie Christman as our Communications Specialist. Laurie also works at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod office, and they have added an extra day to her work week which led her to the decision to resign. The Mutual Ministry Committee will be working on advertising this position and setting up interviews.
- ◆ Coffee with the Council is scheduled for Sunday, March 12 at 9:15 a.m. in Kuntz Hall. This is an opportunity for members to share refreshments and chat with council members and share joys and concerns. Please make time to join them.
- ◆ Proceeds from the Valentine Dinner for the youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering was \$4,390.00.
- ◆ Council is looking to put together a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Team to begin working on it for next year. If there is someone who would be interested in serving as a church historian and people who like to plan events, please speak to Pastor Jami or a council member.
- ◆ A new computer for the main office was approved and the current computer there will be moved to the Youth/Confirmation office as that computer has crashed.
- ◆ Sunday School children are preparing to have a special Palm Sunday activity in Kuntz Hall and participate in a Palm Sunday procession at the 10:30 a.m. church service on April 2.
- ◆ The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly will be held June 1 through the 3 at Kalahari Resort. Hope will need to send three delegates (one male, one female and the third can be either male or female). If you are interested in representing Hope please speak to Pastor Jami.

## **SPONSORSHIPS**

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There are still sponsorships available for 2023. **Flowers**, **Bulletins**, and **The Press** can be sponsored in memory/honor/celebration of a loved one or occasion. You'll find signup sheets and payment envelopes on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up on the appropriate sheet, fill out an envelope, and enclose the correct payment. Flowers are \$30, bulletins are \$8.50, and The Press is \$6.00. Please be sure to turn in the envelope before your requested Sunday so that your message will be received in time for printing.



## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, March 1**  
7:00 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, March 5**  
8:00 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship

**Wednesday, March 8**  
7:00 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, March 12**  
8:00 a.m. Communion  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Communion

**Wednesday, March 15**  
7:00 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, March 19**  
8:00 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship

**Wednesday, March 22**  
7:00 p.m. Worship

**Sunday, March 26**  
8:00 a.m. Communion  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Communion

**Wednesday, March 29**  
7:00 p.m. Worship

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held in Kuntz Hall  
at 10 a.m. Thursdays,  
March 2, 16, 23 & 30  
(not March 9)



In addition Bible Study will  
still be offered via Zoom.  
Call the office for  
more information.

## WELCA

Tuesday,  
March 14  
10:00 a.m.  
Kuntz Hall

Women of the **ELCA** 

## HOPE'S FRIENDSHIP DANCE

Monday,  
March 20  
7—9 p.m.  
(Set-up begins at 6:00)



## SOUP GROUP and DELIVERY

Wednesday,  
March 1  
9 a.m.



## STORY WEAVERS

Tuesday,  
March 21  
10 a.m.  
lunch at



**COPLAY EATERY**  
- since 2021 -

## KUNTZ HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL

Visit Hope's website: [hopecherryville.org](http://hopecherryville.org) for the *Church Use Policy* and the *Facility Rental Form*. If you have any questions, call the church office, 610-767-7203.

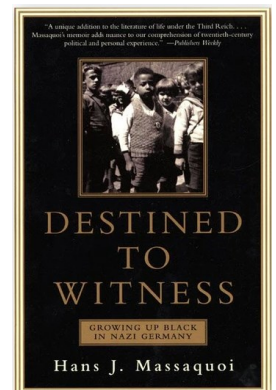
## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

March 1,  
6:00 p.m.  
Hanson Hall

## BOOK BUDDIES

We will meet March 27 at 1 and 7 to discuss the book, *Destined to Witness*. Cost of the book is \$15.

***Destined to Witness*** is a story of the unexpected. In *Destined to Witness*, Hans Massaquoi has crafted a beautifully rendered memoir -- an astonishing true tale of how he came of age as a black child in Nazi Germany. The son of a prominent African and a German nurse, Hans remained behind with his mother when Hitler came to power, due to concerns about his fragile health, after his father returned to Liberia. Like other German boys, Hans went to school; like other German boys, he swiftly fell under the Fuhrer's spell. So he was crushed to learn that, as a black child, he was ineligible for the Hitler Youth. His path to a secondary education and an eventual profession was blocked. He now lived in fear that, at any moment, he might hear the Gestapo banging on the door -- or Allied bombs falling on his home. Ironic, moving, and deeply human, Massaquoi's account of this lonely struggle for survival brims with courage and intelligence.



## EASTER FLOWER SALE

Please complete the form below selecting the plant, the quantity, foil option and return form to the church with the appropriate payment by **Sunday, March 5 ~ NO Orders will be accepted after the deadline.**



### Plant Options

- 6" Potted Easter Bulbs - \$9.00 per pot
- 6" Single Stem Lilies - \$12.19 per pot
- 6" Mums (White / Yellow / Pink) - \$11.40 per pot
- 4.5" Potted Easter Bulbs - \$5.00 per pot

**\*ALL potted plants have the option to add foil of Green or Gold for an additional \$1.00, Please select which color foil or write No\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Easter Plant	Quantity	Foil (Add \$1): Gold or Green	Total Cost
6" Potted Easter Bulbs \$9.00 per pot			
6" Single Stem Lilies \$12.19			
4.5" Potted Easter Bulbs \$5.00			
6" Mums \$11.40 <i>*Please select the color mums you would like</i>	White _____ Yellow _____ Pink _____		
<b>Grand Totals:</b>			

## YOUTH GROUP

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Youth group would like to thank everyone who participated in our Valentines dinner that was held on February 11. We all had a great time and appreciate all of your support. A special thank you to David Zeigler, Shelbey Ziegler, Kurt Zimmerman, Jeremy Zimmerman and Joe Neupauer for providing our musical entertainment for the night, and of course all our adults and youth who helped plan, organize and run the event. From all our gracious supporters we were able to profit close to \$4,400, our largest profit to date for this event. Thank you!



**Youth Gathering News:** Every 3 years the ELCA hosts a Youth Gathering for our high school students. This is an exciting opportunity for our young members to experience being around other people their age while embracing and growing in their faith. Over the years Hope Lutheran has been lucky enough to send around 20 youth to each Gathering. Our youth members and adult leaders work hard during our time together to raise funds so our students can attend at a minimum cost to the family. Our group typically budgets around \$1,500 per person to go on this trip. It is through the generous support of you, our church family, that we have been able to send so many young people to this life-changing event. Our youth are the future of our church and we appreciate your commitment and generosity towards helping to grow our youth programs. We hope and pray that our loving congregation will continue to show their support for our young people in our future endeavors.



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, March 26  
10:30 a.m.



**Sunday School** (cradle roll – 6<sup>th</sup> grade) will be participating in the Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. on April 2. Parents we will ask your child to stay with our group from 9:15 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. We will take everyone to the sanctuary for the beginning of worship. You will be able to pick up your child in the narthex after the opening hymn.



## LEVEL I & LEVEL II CONFIRMATION

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There will be a mini-retreat on Saturday, March 11 from 9-12 in Kuntz Hall. Students must be present for the entire time or make-up the entire content. No late drop-offs or early pick-ups on that day. If you are unable to attend please see Jenn for your make-up work.

**Level II Only** - We are asking you to stay after the mini-retreat on that day to make-up missed Sunday School work. Lunch will be provided for you on this day. Thank you!

## ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF 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

## **SEEKING PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**

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Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville is accepting applications for a Part-time Communications Specialist to oversee all aspects of media and standard communication for the church. The primary responsibilities include creating the church's communications (written and electronic) including, but not limited to newsletters, brochures, fliers, web postings, and mass emails. The successful candidate will work with the church's paid staff as well as volunteers to gather the information needed to perform the position. Qualifications: An Associate's degree in a related field or equivalent experience is preferred. Experience in a variety of software packages related to publishing is expected and the ability to work independently with members of the congregation and within the policies of the church.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume and 3 references. For full consideration, please submit these materials along with the Hope Church application form by March 10, 2023 to Hope Lutheran Church, 4131 Lehigh Drive, PO Box 1030, Cherryville, PA 18035 or to [office@hopecherryville.org](mailto:office@hopecherryville.org). Application is available at [www.hopecherryville.org](http://www.hopecherryville.org) under Church Forms. Full job description is available upon request. For additional information please contact the church via email or at 610-767-7203.

## **THANKS . . .**

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Dear Congregation & Council,

Thank you very much for the year-end bonus. It is an honor and a privilege to serve the congregation at Hope and to lead your music. On this side of the pandemic, new opportunities and challenges have emerged. It is exciting to see the new energy and talents appear. The new year has so many possibilities.

Thanks again.

David Ziegler,

Director of Music

Hello Pastor Jamie,

I wanted to reach out and say thank you so much for the scholarship this year. It has helped me so much with school supplies and I truly appreciate it. I am so close to being done with pharmacy school and am very excited to go on my clinical rotations next year. I can't wait to see where my pharmacy career takes me! I hope you are doing well in the new year!

Sincerely,

Carlie Small

Thank you for the scholarship check for spring semester. I will use it for my book purchase. I am studying for my OPT doctorate at Cedar Crest College.

Thank you,

Ashley Hildebrand

Hope Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you for granting me the scholarship money. I will be finishing my sophomore year in the spring, studying Health and Physical Education with a minor in Exercise Science. With your help, I will be able to make a difference in the lives of swimmers and other athletes of all ages. Thank you for helping me pursue my passion.

Blessings,

Tommy Nichols

*(Continued on page 7)*

## **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.

### **THANKS . . .** *(Continued from page 6)*

Thank you for permitting the Indianland Garden Club to use your church for our meetings. Please accept our donation.

Sincerely,

The Indianland Garden Club

Dear Friends of Bear Creek Camp,

It's been an incredible year here at camp as we've continued forward into living out the ministry and mission of Bear Creek Camp. You are an important part of an entire community of supporters that have carried this organization into the next phase of our work together. Only together can we continued to answer the call of helping individuals and communities explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation. . .

Everything we do a camp throughout the year is building towards opportunities where genuine community and authentic human connections happen. Whether facilities projects, summer staff salaries, food purchases, or camperships – every resource we steward is moving us towards living into our share mission. With your generous support throughout this past year and prayerfully continuing into the future, I look forward to further building the BCC community and welcoming all to experience the power of God within this place.

Thank you once again for your support this year and being our friend!

Sincerely,

Collin Grooms

Bear Creek Camp Executive Director

## FAREWELL—PARTIALLY

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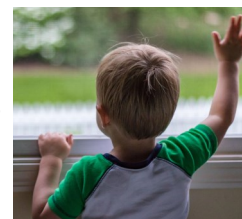
Most of you already know that I will be leaving the position of Communications Specialist officially on March 1. Rodney and I are not, however, leaving Hope.

A little over four years ago I believe the Holy Spirit brought me to the staff of Hope. Support staff hours were cut at my full-time job for the Lutheran Synod. I would be losing one day a week. Just before that actually happened Hope put out a call for a Communications Specialist and you know what happened next.

Now Bishop deForest and the Synod Council have made the decision to add back those hours, bringing me back to a five day work week for that position. That would make it difficult for me to give the necessary time to the staff at Hope without taking time away from my family and my other activities. So it is not without some grief that I submitted my resignation.

My time working for you at Hope has always been a joy (well almost always), but it has also been a learning experience, especially through the covid pandemic. I was always proud to say to folks from other congregations, “yes we always had services at Hope without compromising the health of our members and we did it in a creative and very fun way”.

So I leave the staff of Hope Church but I’m not leaving the “family” of Hope Church. Hopefully you’ll have to put up with me for quite some time. I am looking forward to finding ways I can volunteer.



Laurie Christman

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN TURKEY

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Recovery following the deadly earthquake that struck Turkey is still on going. LWR is coordinating a response — and it is your compassion and generosity that will reach children, women and men with emergency care. You are a godsend to families in desperate need. Your generous gift to our emergency response fund will deliver critically needed urgent support through resources like water, medical care, temporary shelter and critically needed care and supplies for families who lost their homes.. Thank you for sharing your God-given spirit of love when it is needed most.



Please see the link for more information and to make a donation: [lwr.org/help/turkey](https://lwr.org/help/turkey). You can also use an envelope from the church pew and mark it “LWR –Turkey”

## INDIANLAND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

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The next annual meeting for the association will be held on Sunday, March 5 at St. Paul’s UCC, Indianland, with the audit at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.



# NEPA Synod Green Team

e-newsletter #4, Winter 2023

Welcome to our newsletter! We present to you this collection of prayers, tips and ideas on caring for God's creation, book reviews, news about and from notable places within the synod, advocacy opportunities, and inspirational stories of good work being done on our territory. Any questions or comments on this newsletter would be appreciated ± please send them to [pwmetzloff@gmail.com](mailto:pwmetzloff@gmail.com). Please feel free to share this with anyone who would be interested!



ELCA Logo in sassafras leaves.  
Created by Pastor Inge Williams at Friedens Lutheran Church, Shartlesville on October 13, 2021

## A Prayer for Winter in Pennsylvania

by Pastor Carl D. Shankweiler

Dear God, it is cold! Winter is no joke; it can truly be dangerous because of low temperatures, ice and snow, darkness, and foul moods. No wonder many people head south to await spring. Even polls show winter to be the least favorite time of year.

So please help us remain positive about this helpful season, a season that plays its own important role in the natural world here in the Northeast. Apart from the beauty of snow and the enjoyment winter provides to those of us who do like to ski and skate, these cold days can help control plant disease and weeds, provide a period of dormancy that assists plants in their burst of springtime growth, and enable trees to shed old leaves that, when decomposed, provide nutrients for new and renewed life.

Winter: it is part of a cycle that counts on their being a winter.

Yet we do recognize the additional struggle that winter can create for people who are at risk of falling, who are unable to meet the increased costs of utilities, who become depressed by the greater darkness and their own limited mobility, and who mourn the temporary loss of friends and relatives who travel to warmer places. Help all people who are negatively affected by winter to have the stamina and resources to flourish; and help those of us with time, ability, and resources to assist those who are in a more difficult fight for happiness and even survival.

May we be able to sing with joy "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow," knowing that snow melts, birds return, the world will turn green again, and the outdoors will be appreciated a new because we did experience this challenging but important season. In the name of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate in winter. Amen!

To see the entire NEPS Green Team Newsletter including **Green Tips**, **Book Reviews**, and **Notable Places** visit: [neps.org](http://neps.org) and go to the Green Team Page.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY - JANUARY 31, 2023**

	Regular	Building	Memorial	Scholarship	Memorial Garden
Balance Beginning of Year	\$252,235.16	\$148,738.04	\$167,705.65	\$ 94,136.96	\$ 5,907.23
Income - January	34,068.13	2,749.88	(295.06)	(2,026.66)	100.39
Expenses - January	31,088.78	99.00	-	1,800.00	-
Net Income	2,979.35	2,650.88	(295.06)	(3,826.66)	100.39
Net Special Appeals	27.25				
Balance End of January	\$255,241.76	\$151,388.92	\$167,410.59	\$ 90,310.30	\$ 6,007.62

**SUMMARY:**

Income exceeded expenses in the Regular Fund for the month of January by \$2,979.35, giving us a current balance in the Regular Fund of \$255,241.76.

Last year the net income for the same period was \$1,373.26 with a balance of \$247,666.45.

*\*\* 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>
April	Monday, March 20	Thursday, March 23

*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 March 2023 issue of *Synod News* is available online.

Visit <http://nepasynod.org>

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

