

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

January 2024

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torn, and would like to stay looking back at the babe in the manger, the innocence of a baby, the singing of angels, the beautiful Christmas Carols . . . but the wise men followed a star to bring gifts to Jesus. and we must turn our faces to the future also taking a journey, from the sentimental into mission. It's time to discern our spiritual gifts and then decide how we will share our gifts as individuals and as a faith community in order to bring light to those we meet in our day to day lives and to help shine more light into The world.



Blessing for the New Year, Pastor Rhea

Dear members of Hope,

How was your Christmas? I hope it was everything you hoped it would be, sprinkled with fun and maybe a few misadventures you will laugh about in the future. I had one of those memory making misadventures this year. First you need to know



that krumkake, (this is a picture of it, if you don't know what it is – a Norwegian waffle cookie - is a favorite in my family, and I'm the one who makes it. When I go to my brother's on Christmas, Gianni and Louie meet me at the door and take it out of my hands. Forget the presents and cookies, they go for the krumkake. Christmas morning, before I left for church, I put all the cookies and krumkake on the cupboard, ready to take to my brother's. When I came home, the cookies were still there, but Sushi, my largest dog, had taken the krumkake off the cupboard, torn open the plastic bags, and all the dogs had feasted. All were left were tiny crumbs that Daisy, my Chihuahua was working on, and boy was her stomach bloated! When I make krumkake, there are always some that don't turn out right, that I share with the dogs, especially Sushi, she loves them. Sushi has been pointing at those bags of krumkake, with her nose, then looking at me – as if to say, "I want some." But she hasn't helped herself to anything on the cupboard since she was a puppy. I don't know what got into her this year, but the temptation was too much for her. Like my nephews, forget the cookies, all she wanted was krumkake. So I had to make more krumkake before I went to my brother's Christmas day. I couldn't show up without it!

Now it is January, it is time to treasure our memories and put to use our new gifts as we move from December into January, from Christmas into Epiphany. The word Epiphany means manifestation. God shows forth, reveals, discloses and enlightens how Jesus is at work in the world. The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus who had two faces, one looking back into the past and one looking forward into the future. Maybe we too are



January Birthdays

2	Dillon DeFord
3	Marlys Halberg
5	Matt Richeson
6	Leon Jones
10	Kylie DeFord
11	Doug Bramow
26	Kay Luther
29	Jocelyn Stastny
31	Bev Weitnauer

MEN OF HOPE

The Men of Hope will meet on Saturday, December 9th at 8:30 for breakfast and meeting. All men are welcome and invited to come.

Confirmation class will resume on Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30.



Pastor Rhea's Thursday morning Bible Study will return on Thursday, January 18th at 11:00am. They will not meet on the 2nd Thursdays of the month as Pastor has Conference meetings.

SPIRITED SENIORS

Spirited Seniors meets every Wednesday at noon for lunch and cards. Bring your own lunch (unless Jim says not to!)

CHOIR & TONE CHIME CHOIR

Choir meets for practice every Wednesday afternoon at 3:00pm. We also have started a tone chime choir that everyone is welcome to participate in. Practice for chimes is on Wednesday also, at 4:00P.

Journeys:

Journey's is a social group that meets monthly at the Legacy Center at Murdoch-Linwood to provide support to those in the community who have experienced the loss of someone they love. The monthly programs vary from carts to selfcare tips, seminars and presentations by community experts. It is a safe space to tell your story and try new things. All are welcome. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 2:30P. There is a brochure on the kiosk in the church entry way.

HOPE NOW HAS an outdoor food/toiletry box that is open to the public. This box is outside by the sign. You are welcome to put items in the box (things that won't freeze) and you are also welcome to take anything you might be in need of. Suggested items would be boxed things like mac/cheese, hamburger helper, Knorr noodle mixes, food cups.

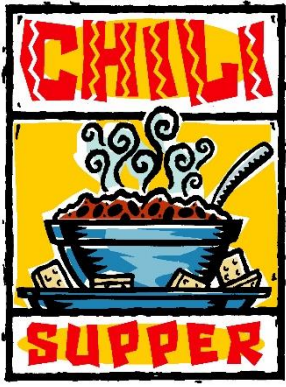


THE MITTEN TREE Thank you to all who donated to this years Mitten Tree **THANK YOU TO ALL** who donated to our Mitten Tree this year. They will be delivered when the kids return to school after Christmas Break.

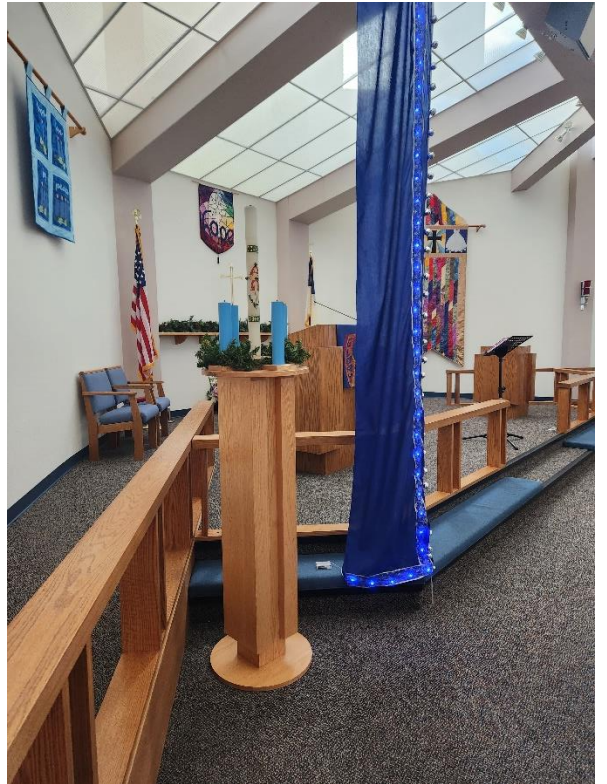
PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR TIME AND TALENT SHEETS! Did you know that without your "talents and time" many of the daily things that go on at Hope would not get done! Hope only has 5 paid employees on staff but we have **LOTS** of volunteers. Please remember to fill out your Time and Talent sheets so that when needed projects come up, we know who might be willing to do them. Thanks.



HOPES GIVING TREE was once again a success. We were able to provide gifts and toys to a family including a ham dinner! The items for the care center were also delivered. Thanks to all who donated, Shane Dyson and Sherri Fox for delivering and Debbie Walderbach for organizing the event.



THE ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF and Silent Auction will be held on Sunday, February 18th. Time to start thinking about your “winning” recipe and any items that you would like to donate for the Silent Auction.



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

