

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

March 2024

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Dear Members of Hope,

You are invited to celebrate a Passover or Seder Meal on Sunday, March 24th at 5:00PM. Please RSVP. It is important to RSVP, as a place will be set for you and so I know how much food to prepare. I am hearing that people are not understanding what the Passover or Seder meal is all about and worried about the kind of food would be served. Would I ever serve you food you wouldn't like? I love feeding people, and I always serve good food! I understand you've had the ritual part of the Seder Meal in the past, but not celebrated a full meal. I thought I would explain what Passover is all about and how I celebrate the Passover Meal. In Exodus, chapter 12: "God said to Moses and Aaron while still in Egypt, "This month is to be the first month of the year for you. Address the whole community of Israel, tell them that on the tenth of this month, each man is to take a lamb for his family. Keep it penned until the fourteenth day of this month and then slaughter it at dusk. Take some of the blood and smear it on the two door posts and the lintel of the houses in which you will eat it. You are to eat the meat, roasted in the fire, that night, along with bread, made without yeast, and bitter herbs. And here is how you are to eat it: Be fully dressed with your sandals on and your stick in your hand. Eat in a hurry, it's the Passover to God. I will go through the land of Egypt on this night and strike down every first born in the land of Egypt, whether human or animal, and bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am God. The blood will serve as a sign on the houses where you live. When I see

the blood I will pass over you - no disaster will touch you when I strike the land of Egypt." By the Hebrew calendar Passover begins on the 14th day of Nissan which this year will be April 22 to 30. Jewish people gather in groups of family and friends to celebrate and remember God's gift of salvation, their deliverance from Egypt which allowed them to become a nation and live as God's people.

In preparation for the Passover celebration yeast is removed from the house for the entire week of Passover to remind the Jewish people that the ancient Jews did not have time to let the bread rise, it also removes the puffiness, or arrogance and pride from one's soul. The week is known as the feast of unleavened bread. Seder is the meal which is celebrated on one night, whichever night a family chooses, during the week. At the beginning of the meal the story of Passover is told and the ritual food is tasted to go along with the story. Here are the foods I use. Bitter herbs are a reminder of slavery and suffering, horseradish is usually used as the bitter herb. Just a tiny taste needs to be taken by dipping either the Matzos, unleavened bread or green herb into the horseradish. The green herbs are a reminder of God's promises of hope, I use either celery or lettuce. Haroset, also spelled with a C at the beginning, is an applesauce mixture with apples, honey and nuts added – it tastes very good. It represents the mortar used to bond bricks that built the pyramids, the work of the slaves in Egypt. An egg is tasted, representing spring and the circle of life. The shank bone of the lamb is blessed and there are toasts with wine or grape juice during the ritual. All the food eaten during the ritual is a reminder of life as a slave and God's protection and care in the midst of suffering, and God's saving act of Freedom. Passover lasts 7 days for those who live in Israel, 8 days for those who live outside of Israel. The first and last day of Passover are days of fasting, prayer and fasting from work is observed also.

I believe celebrating Passover helps us understand the roots of Eucharist (Holy Communion), and prepares us for holy week and Easter. When we celebrate Passover, it will not be kosher or exactly as the Jewish people celebrate, but we will pray, tell the story of the Passover and taste the symbolic foods. After remembering the lamb sacrificed for freedom from slavery, we will enjoy a full meal together. We will have lamb roast, another meat option and a nonmeat option for a main course, along with potatoes, salad and desert. Kosher food is food

officially blessed by a Rabbi and also combined in certain ways. We will talk about that at the dinner. We will end the evening with psalms of praise and blessings that are the closing of the Seder meal. Then we will celebrate Holy Communion together, remembering the last Passover meal Jesus had with his followers. In John's Gospel the last supper is not a Seder meal but, a final meal Jesus has with his followers. In John, Jesus dies just before Passover on the night the lambs are being slaughtered for Passover. Either way, the Passover celebration, Jesus death, and our celebration of Holy Communion are tied together in meaning and in history.

I have a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church to sign up to participate in a Seder or Passover meal at Hope. I will also need some help setting up and cooking. I believe it would be a wonderful learning experience for our Confirmation Candidates. I hope you will join me in celebrating and learning about God's loving history of salvation.

Blessings, Pastor Rhea



THE WOMEN OF HOPE will meet Saturday, March 9th at 9:00A. Our guest speaker, Josephine Dalton, AmeriCorps Member, will be talking about how natural disaster statistics are occurring more frequently and with greater intensity, meaning an increased likelihood of communities experiencing disasters and the negative effects that result from them. Research shows that older people tend to be less prepared for disasters and because of health conditions they are often more adversely affected when they do happen

CHOIR & TONE CHIME CHOIR

Choir meets for practice every Wednesday afternoon at **3:00pm**. Our tone chime people meet at **4:00P** on Wednesday following choir Everyone is welcome to participate.

In Loving Memory of

Elsie Patterson

From
Kurt & Laurie Heckman
Judy & Thomas Rudd
Leon & Linda Jones
James & Jill Hidingier
Vicki Finkstein
Terrie Frieden
Kenneth & Judy Kula
Dennis & Pat Casner
Marlene & Steven Lemont
Marcey Luxa
Leo Rigel
The Schmidt Family
Jim and Sharon Boardman

Cheryl Beachler

From
Rick & Betty Nelson

Kathy McBride

From
Gordon and Jean Stelling
Terry & Sandra Slinger
Harlene Stewart
Judy Toy
Leon & Linda Jones
Evelyn Neal
Dennis & Pat Casner
Jim and Sharon Boardman



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

Journeys Program hosted by Murdoch Funeral Homes (Wilson Ave.)

Every month Murdoch Funeral Homes on Wilson Ave. S. W. hosts a social group for bereaved individuals. This group is open to all community members and is free of cost.

Contact Amy Hart with questions: 319.364.1549

GET A TASTE FOR NUTRITION

MONDAY, MARCH 11TH – 2:30 pm

The Legacy Center at Murdoch-Linwood Mrach is National Nutrition Month and what better way to celebrate than to learn about ways to improve your nutrition! We will discuss how nutrition can better your health by making small lifestyle changes and also some strategies for cooking and shopping for one. Lauren from Heritage Area Agency on Aging will share some tips and tricks to help us feel good inside and out!

MEN OF HOPE

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



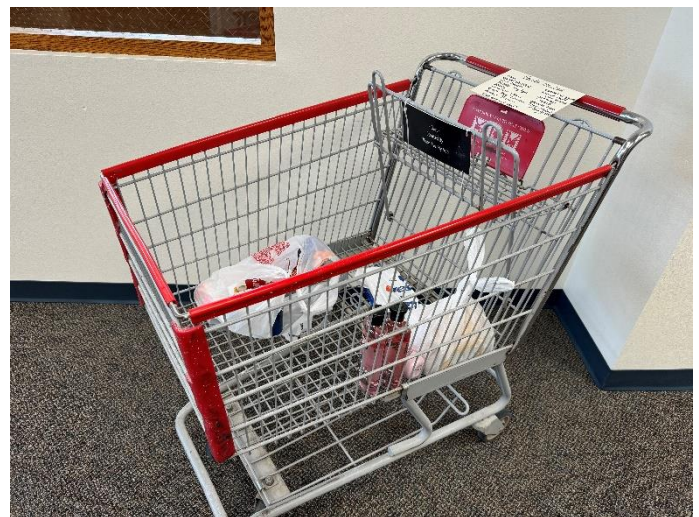
March Birthdays

March Birthdays

- 2 Logan Kuehl
- 4 Riley & Carson Mudd
- 9 Nina Rairdin
- 12 Deb Clark, Jace Chaplin
- 17 Betty Nelson
- 18 David Adams, Sonya Harris
- 19 Darrell Rairdin
- 22 Anjie Moser
- 29 JoAnn Eadie
- 30 Rick Schmidt
- 31 Victoria Evans

SPIRITED SENIORS

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



The Women of Hope are "Filling the Cart" for their service project through Easter! Please bring items for St. Vincent de Paul and help fill the grocery cart in the narthex.

Foods Needed

- tuna
 - canned chicken
 - chili beans
 - beans - any type
 - pasta
 - spaghetti sauce
 - & cheese
 - canned veggies
 - canned fruit (low sugar)
 - oatmeal
 - cereals
 - granola bars
 - rice - instant & long grain
 - canned beans - any
 - peanut butter
 - Kraft mac
- (Please -- No expired food)



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.

Flowers for Easter



This year we will be ordering Easter Flowers from Pierson's. Pricing is as follows (all flowers are in 6" pots):

Easter Lilies	\$16.00
Tulips red, pink or yellow	\$11.75
Hyacinth blue or pink	\$11.75
Azaleas red or pink	\$25.50
Begonia red, yellow, or pink	\$16.00

Easter is March 31st this year so orders much be placed by March 11th. Order forms are on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Church Directory UPDATES

Please make these changes to your current directory:

**Karen Pahl 319.389.4193
Sheila Hansen 319.396.3526**



**March 6, 13, 20
6:00 p.m.**

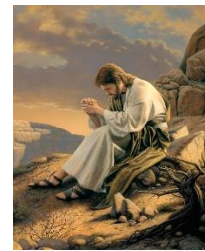
**Palm Sunday
March 24 9:00 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday
March 28 6:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday
March 29 6:00 p.m.**

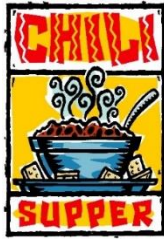
Easter Sunday March 31 at 9:00 a.m.

**Confirmation class is on
Wednesday at 6:00pm.
(unless otherwise noted)**



THE HOPE OF EASTER 10 Reflections from Our Daily Bread

On the table in the back of the sanctuary are booklets for Easter from Our Daily Bread. No matter what global or personal trial you face, there's victory in Jesus. Don't let this Easter be just another holiday. Make it personal and find hope for whatever you're facing. Please pick up a copy for you and perhaps a friend.



THE ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF and Silent Auction was a great success. Thanks to all who set up/cleaned up, donated to the Silent Auction, cooked chili and ate chili! Over \$1,200 was made for future projects of the church.



“1st Place” Jim Boardman, Jr.



“People’s Choice Award”

Sherri Fox



“2nd Place’ Pastor Rhea



"3rd" Place Sharon Boardman



Our distinguished judges!

