

HOPE HIGHLIGHTS

November 2024

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Dear Members of Hope,

November is the month that begins with All Saints Day and ends with Thanksgiving. We begin by being thankful for those who have come before us, who have been witnesses or companions with us in life and end the month by being grateful for the blessings in our lives. Blessing has several meanings. It can be a prayer that asks for divine protection or a pray of thanks for God's help. A blessing can also be the act of giving approval to someone; "I give you my blessing to . . ." A blessing can be something that provides happiness or does some good for a person; "That person is a blessing in my life." A blessing can be another word for a prayer before a meal. And a blessing is used in worship rituals, we usually ask God to bless us before we leave worship. The most traditional blessing is the Old Testament blessing, "May the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look on you with favor and grant you peace." You may have noticed I like to sign letters with the sentiment of wishing blessings on who ever will read the letter. Blessing is a very versatile word. Since November begins and ends in blessings, let's use this month to be more aware of the blessings we receive, thank people who are blessings in our lives, and try to be a blessing to others. If you wish, count your blessings this month (as the song says) and see what your tally is by the end of the month. Most of us have our phones in our hands or pockets all

the time, use your note app, to keep track of blessings. You might be surprised at how blessed you are. When the month comes to the end, have a wonderful Thanksgiving with people who are a blessing in your life!

Blessings, Pastor Rhea

CONFIRMATION

In the month of December confirmation class changes. Instead of class Confirmation students will be assisting with and participating in the 6:00 Advent Services on Wednesday evenings. Please come at 5:45 to prepare, and you may leave after the service is concluded and everything cleaned up. Thanks, Pastor Rhea



ADVENT SERVICES

Advent begins on Sunday December 1st this year. Wednesday evening Advent Services will be held on December 4, 11, 18 at 6:00P.

, CHOIR & TONE CHIME CHOIR

Choir meets for practice every Wednesday afternoon at **3:00pm**. **Tone Chime Choir has begun again! We meet every Wednesday at 4:00P.** Everyone is welcome to participate.

MEN OF HOPE

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

SPIRITED SENIORS

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

WOMEN OF HOPE: Our Guest Speaker for the Women of Hope Meeting on November 9th will be Al Pierson. He will be telling us about the Shakespeare Garden at Ellis Park and the plans they have for that area.

CONFIRMATION

Every Wednesday (unless otherwise noted) at 5:30P. There will be no confirmation the day before Thanksgiving (November 27).

If you weren't involved last year but would like to be this year, please contact Pastor Rhea.



Pastor Rhea's Thursday morning Bible Study will meet November 21 this month. Due to holidays and meetings this is the only one in November.



November Birthdays:

07 Will Williamson
8 Mary Paxton-Wright
16 Kaye Ross
23 Joyce Hopfensperger
25 Bill Dougherty
26 Tom Hopfensperger, Gale Pierce
28 Terry Slinger
30 Sheila Hansen

If your birthday is in November, and not listed, please call the church office.

55+ WILL BE GOING TO KALONA on Tuesday, November 5th. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 and make our way to the Tequila Grill for lunch at 11:30 (125 4th St. Kalona). The Grill only takes cash or checks. We'll follow up with a little shopping!



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 and you are also welcome to take anything you might be in need of. Individual servings of food (i.e. soups, canned pasta, canned/pouch meat, peanut butter, crackers, granola bars etc.) seems to be what people are taking.

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BLESSING OF THE QUILTS



Every year we have the Blessing of the Quilts. Our Quilters work long and hard all year round to make a variety of quilts that are donated to other non-profits. They meet once a month on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00. All are welcome to join.



**Confirmation is NOT all about
Reading the Bible!**

