

# Words of Hope

### **APRIL 2019**

### **Hope United Methodist Church**

## From Sarah, with love...

Being a pastor is a wonderful job. in fact, I believe it is the best job in the world. And being a pastor is hard. If a pastor ever tells you, "it was a crazy day," believe her; she's not talking about deadlines or a presentation or office politics, she's talking about ministering to folks in iail, facing death, or a hideous plumbing issue. The job is difficult for another almost equally inexplicable reason-the pressure involved with the work is grueling. This pressure, or pull? Or squeeze, comes of being one body, the result of living with opposing limbs that seemingly work only to wrench each other apart. The Church is a very large tent, or a mansion, to get biblical with it, with many rooms and these rooms, well, do not always see eye to eye. The longer I work in the Church, the more profound this "unity" becomes. Within the body we genuinely disagree and some parts of us are, in my humble opinion, totally bananas. Even so, we are connected.

This conflict is honest, and glorious to behold and I accept it, though at times it feels precisely like saying, "yes, I agree to being pulled apart at the seams for the rest of my life." And comparing. It feels like I spend much of my life comparing myself, our church to all those "other" churches. You know, the bigger ones.

And so I feel the incessant drive to grow and thrive and be successful. Success always looks like exactly what I do not have: rock bands, book deals, stadiums or warehouses of people, podcasts, money. It makes me not want to look at anyone's church website again, ever. I know Hope Church wants and needs to be vital and vitality means more people, more people who know the love of God, more people

touched by the gospel, more people working for good in the world, and underneath it all it feels like more, more, more when all I want to do is simplify.

The job and my effectiveness in it require success. I get it; who doesn't want to save souls or help people and yet my soul is yearning for peace and calm. I am not peaceful and calm as I clamor for more, more, more.

Can we share the good news of the love Jesus and not build a mega church to go with it? How do we sustain ourselves in ministry and remain authentic to the ministry of Jesus?

What the planet needs is for more and more people to commit themselves to what Naomi Klein calls, "managed degrowth." I think Jesus calls for this, too. We have, to paraphrase Naomi Klein again, "a system that fetishizes growth above all else regardless of the human or ecological consequences, while failing to place value on those things we cherish above all—a decent standard of living, a future hope, and relationships with one another."

I do know that my soul, my heart of hearts wants less and less and I know my soul is waiting for the rest of me to get on board (just how many tank tops do I need?). My soul, this part that is actually the heart of my job, is delighted with what I have: my perfect parsonage, my adorable dogs, my books, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy episodes on Netflix, delicious food, walks in the evening, hymns every Sunday, the challenges of caring for a congregation, and yes, some cute clothes. all these things sheer gift and grace from God, and in the presence of all of this abundance I cannot I dare not narrow my eyes and expect or require any more. The joy is mine! The kind of prosperity I have from this kind of joy is not dependent upon its growth.

So, I do not understand the lights and sounds of churches with multiplication pastors when the cry of the planet, the very body of God, is for us, for all of us, to consume less.

We envision a different future, a future built upon co-operation and repentance and joy. We envision a future that springs from death. For freedom Christ has made us free.

So, What does freedom look like? And what would it mean for our community of faith to grow?

**April 7th** "Radical Healing" Luke 4:38-41 We will have a healing service and communion on this day. Join us and bring your friends and enemies

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



New church office hours beginning on April 1st:

Monday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm

> Tuesday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Wednesday Noon - 5:00pm

Check out our website at: HopeMethodistChurch.com

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/hopeumcduluth

### Memorials

In memory of Patricia Eng given by: Tom & Pam Eng Don & Jean Eng Catharine Larsen Helen Stellmaker Linda Rolland Pete & Barb Bergman Roger & Susan Pearson Rob & Linda Pugliese Pauline Swanfeld Mary Bowker Marian McCall Donna Manns Jack & Phyllis Carlson Rob & Mary West Doug & Meredith Kuehl Todd Johnson

# Events and Small Groups

Men's Breakfast: Wednesdays, 8:00 am, Mt. Royal Caribou Coffee.

Worship at Pines III—Tuesday, April 2nd at 2:00pm

There will be one more Information/Listening session regarding the potential child care center at Hope on April 7th following worship.

Hope's prayer group will resume its regular monthly meetings beginning on May 1st at 5:45pm and will continue meeting the <u>first</u> <u>Wednesday of the month at 5:45pm</u>. We are always delighted to have more "prayer power!"

**Page Turners** will meet on April 10th at 10:00am in the Mathison Room. The book for this month is *"Still Me"* by JoJo Moyes. The book for May 8th is *"Sulfur Springs"* by William Kent Krueger. Contact Anna Allison at 343-5643 for more information.

Hope Quilters Next meeting is April 25th @ 9:30 am to prepare for the FABRIC/YARN SALE on Sat. May 4th

Finance Team meeting date/time has not been set and will be announced...

North Country Quilters will meet on April 26th at 10:00AM

#### May Newsletter Deadline: Monday April 22nd

**Wednesdays in Lent:** Contemplative, prayerful services are offered every Wednesday evening between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week (March 13, 20, 27, **April 3 and 10**) at 5:30 p.m. A light soup supper is also offered at 6:00 p.m. Come for one, the other, or both, to nurture your Lenten season spiritually, relationally and physically.

The Enews is a weekly email sent with updated calendar, opportunities, and prayer list. A printed copy goes out to those who do not use email. Just let the office know if you want it sent to you!

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

Martin Luther

### HOSPITALITY/TEAMS

### Hospitality

As you know we have added more fruit for our fellowship gathering. We must thank Dick Scheibe for this as he has been gracious to help with this added expense. Also, please be sure to thank the fellowship serving ladies. They are so helpful in coming to do this.

Once again, we are going to try our Coffee Cart before Church. When you come on Sunday mornings, you will be able to get a cup of coffee before worship.

Please let me know what you think of this.

Thank you very much!

Bev





#### **CHUM Dinner THANK YOU'S**

Every time I do the CHUM dinner, I ask for help: with prep, with cooking, and with clean up. People always seem to help with prep and cooking, but, not with clean up! This year, I am especially grateful to Celeste Daw and Sue Beeman for coming forward the next day to clean up the whole thing! What amazing ladies! ~Bev

### Easter Breakfast

Our traditional Easter Breakfast will be served between the two Easter Worship Services, beginning at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. The menu includes scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, French toast sticks, mixed fruit, muffins and beverages. Donations to cover the cost of food will be appreciated. **ALSO WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOUR** 

FAVORITE BATCH OF MUFFINS! Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!



### Finance

DIDJA KNOW we, Hope UMC, have been very fortunate over the years to have been able to respond to a variety of situations that were, to say the least, unexpected or unplanned. I recall one such event that caused great concern. While we had planned well for the addition of our elevator, we were caught totally unaware,., and unprepared... to deal with the news that the ceiling area had taken on a great deal of water due to a roof leak and the insulation was totally saturated to the point that there was fear of it collapsing. How best to proceed was soon the major topic of discussion. Folks in leadership roles got together, learned what needed to be done, talked over options and put plans together for the rest of the congregation to consider, discuss and finally approve. We moved forward together.

**DIDJA KNOW** that in some ways we are in a similar situation. With the news of University Nursery School terminating its lease, we find that we were unprepared for the changes it brought. How best to proceed is again the question. Fortunately folks in leadership roles have worked together to talk about options and plans for the rest of the congregation to consider before deciding how to proceed. Plans have not been completed, but it is proper that the congregation hear more details and ask questions about what comes next.

**<u>DIDJA KNOW</u>** that wo more listening sessions will be held soon to clarify and expand plans. We encourage members and friends to participate so all of us have full information about what needs to be done and how it will be done in a timely and well managed way. Again we will move forward together.

For your Finance Team Pete Bergman, Chair

### The Living Endowment Fund

The Living Endowment Fund received a gift in memory of Pat Eng from Bob and Hiroko Williams and also from Karyl and Donald Cogswell. The principle from these gifts will not be touched but the dividends and capital gains are used each month for the support of the missions of Hope United Methodist Church.

### Holy Week 2019

### Palm Sunday, April 14

Join the disciples in celebrating Jesus. We remember and hear again the call to follow the way of Jesus.

"let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high that the broken heart is the healed heart." ~Puritan Prayer

#### Maundy Thursday, Thursday April 18 Worship 6pm

Gather with the disciples to eat with Jesus before his crucifixion. The title for this day, Maundy Thursday, recalls the new commandment (*mandatam novum* in Latin) in John 13:34. This worship experience will have a light meal and communion.

### Good Friday, Friday, April 19th

#### Worship 6pm

Witness with the disciples the death of Jesus.

### **Holy Saturday**

Spend this day in Sabbath: rest and reflect. Pray for our church and our world. Teach me to hear in silence, to listen and to understand, in quiet communion with you.



Easter Sunday Early Morning Service 8 am

**Easter Breakfast 8:45 am** Celebrate and eat with friends!



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Easter Worship Service 10 am

The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death. Christ is our light! Christ the Lord is Risen today, Alleluia!

#### MISSIONS & MORE

### **Missions/Outreach News**

Missions activities have been somewhat low key during the month of March, but we have great news to share!

In the fall of 2018, Pastor Sarah took note of some homeless folks regularly seen around West Duluth Super One and offered a ride to one of them. Her experience prompted a call for more mission activity to help the homeless -> notably, our Blessing Bag campaign. Later, Brad Mackinaw carried that campaign with him to the Twin Cities when he was there for job training. While on a bike ride along the MN river, he discovered a homeless encampment and brought supplies to them – tent and sleeping bags. He also encountered an athletic team from Lakeville High School, the members of which were very impressed with the campaign. He accomplished his mission goal AND spawned a new ministry through those students at Lakeville HS, prompting a thank you letter from the coach. In the wake of this successful Blessing Bag introduction, I discovered a MN Conference program of "micro grants" for congregations and filled out an application to extend and fund this activity for the next year. Around March 1, we received word that we have been awarded a \$2500 grant! We will plan carefully and begin our 2019 Blessing Bag campaign this fall with sturdier bags, and a lot of wool socks!

In March, the AD Council approved our proposal to go ahead with planning for a new Care Team at Hope, utilizing the experience of congregation members who have been visiting members all along. Watch for more news about this endeavor!

As rummage sales pick up in the spring, don't forget to look for pristine infant and toddler clothing for the Bethany Crisis Nursery. Also, planning will get underway for our next CHUM dinner soon. In April, we will resume our scheduled monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month, April 9, at 4:30 PM. We will discuss our ongoing Missions and new plans.

Blessings, Nancy Sivertson

### EASTER OFFERING

As has been the case is years past, Hope UMC will be receiving a special Easter Offering. This is an opportunity to support our Missions and Outreach efforts. We are blessed that we have the resources to help others who are less fortunate than us or who have come upon hard times and are alone, homeless or unable to care for themselves and their families. It has been recommended that our Easter Offering will be shared equally between the **Union Gospel Mission** and the **Loaves and Fishes Program**.

We have supported each of these programs before and we know that our gifts are greatly appreciated and well used. Your generous support is appreciated.

Easter Offering envelopes are included in this newsletter and will be available in the pews



#### HOPE STAFF

 Pastor:
 Rev. Sarah Lawton
 Custod

 Church Office:
 Beth Kaiser office@hopeumcmn.org
 Accompare

 Music Director:
 Elizabeth Raihala, liz@raihala.net
 Kid's Q

 Nursery Attendants:
 Ella Karki, Cassidy Kelley

Custodian: Matt Johnson Accompanist: Diane Nast Kid's Quest: Anita Rixe

### CHUM UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Friday, April 12, Bishop Brian N. Prior, Diocese of MN (Episcopal Church)

"Growing into the Beloved Community—How is Duluth Doing?" St. Paul's Episcopal Church; 1710 East Superior St.

- 3:30pm Fellowship, 4:00—5:30pm What are the benchmarks for the beloved Community?
- 5:30pm, Vegetarian dinner provided
- 6:00—7:00pm, Keynote: What Bishop Prior has learned in calling the church to the Beloved Community Please register at: https://bit.ly/2W1Ykrd

#### Sunday, April 14, CHUM Church at Peace Church, 1111 North 11th Avenue East

- Worship: 4:30pm
- Light Supper following service

#### Saturday, April 20 Mental Health Awareness Concert at NorShor Theatre

- Doors open at 6:00pm
- Concert at 7:00pm featuring: Them Coulee Boys, Dead Horses, Three Altos, and Else Lee in the Mezzanine



#### Saturday, May 4 Bon Voyage Caribbean Cruise High Tea

Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church; 4831 Grand Ave.

- 1:00-3:00pm. Great food, silent auction, cruse wear encouraged!
- Tickets: \$20
- Call Jenn Conboy to purchase (218) 624-2264; proceeds benefit Steve O'Neil Apartments

#### Saturday, May 4, Walk A Mile in These Shoes

Leif Erickson Park: A fundraiser for CHUM and awareness event for our community to learn about Poverty, hunger, and homelessness in Duluth.

- When you arrive at Leif Erickson Park (13th Ave. E. and London Rd.), you'll receive a card with a real-life Scenario of a person experiencing homelessness. You will role-play this person as you navigate local resources and experience the harsh realities that CHUM clients go through.
- We hope to challenge your assumptions so you will gain a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding homelessness. By the end, you may feel tired, frustrated, hungry, or confused, but this is the reality for so many who suffer silently in our community.
- Afterwards, we will gather around a bonfire for a soup lunch and informal conversation about poverty, hunger, homelessness in Duluth. Team and individual fundraising awards will be presented at noon.
- Sign up as individuals or teams on CHUM website.

#### Volunteer Opportunities:

- Drivers to pick up Head Start kids—using your vehicle, pick up four children from Myers-Wilkins School and bring them home to the Steve O'Neil Apartments, M-F, 11:15-11:45. We'll provide booster seats. Contact Lee Stuart.
- Food Shelf Packers and Interviewers—Register Food Shelf clients and help them shop for food for their households. 2-4 hour shifts, Wednesdays or Fridays. Contact Scott Van Daele.
- Data entry and office help—Contact Gracia Swensen
- Often, we have a need for groups to tackle a large project. This might be painting, cleaning, shredding documents, sorting and organizing donations, special event set-up or take-down. Contact Ellen Altman.

# Kid's Korner

It's April and spring is finally here. Thank you, God.

Cold, snowy March Sundays were not good for our attendance. The children and teachers had a great time on the days they were able to attend. The lessons are still centered around the Family theme. We are learning the importance of families in our lives. Families are just as important now as they were in Bible days. Thank you, God, for families. In March we talked about Observing Lent with our families with Stories of the Lost, Forgiving Father, and Two Debtors. We then started lessons in preparation for Easter with The Last Supper and In the Garden. April will bring beautiful Easter lessons as we learn about Peter, Jesus entering Jerusalem, the Resurrection, and Feeding the Sheep.

On Easter Sunday we will not have a regular class session because of all the other things going on. We will do as in previous years by sharing the glorious Easter story with all children in attendance before the second worship service. All children will then receive special treat bags. What a wonderful day to celebrate.

Plans are in progress for the upcoming intergenerational end of year celebration. We will again provide a delicious lunch, fun and games and of course our ever popular cake walk. Please remember this celebration is for the entire congregation, not just the children. Robyn Christianson has some great ideas for fun for all. She has always done a great job of planning games for that special day. We could always use suggestions about any other things we could do to make things even more fun.

We will again offer a summer session of Kids' Quest beginning on June 9. That means we will take a couple of Sundays off between sessions just to give a little break and regroup.

Special Dates to Remember:

- April 14 Palm Sunday
- April 21 Easter Sunday
- May 19 Last day of school year session
- May 19 End of year celebration
- June 9. Summer session begins

Thank you, God, for all our Kids' Quest teachers and students.

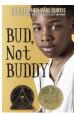
~Anita

### Page Flippers Book Club

Page flippers is a book club for children and youth. We will be meet on **Wednesday**, April 17th from 6–7 pm.

Our book for this month is "Bud, Not Buddy" by Christopher Paul Curtis. Everyone is welcome!

Check out our FB page for all current book listings<u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> duluthpageflippers/



If you have any questions please contact Lori Amundson at lamundson@hotmail.com or call at 612

-756-3077.

### **Evening Book Club**

Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:30pm to discuss the book, "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng. Future book selections will be chosen at that meeting, so please bring your recommendations! The Evening Book Club usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Hope, 6:30pm. If the venue changes, we will notify the office, so if you plan to join us for the first time, please check with the office by 2:00 on Tuesday. New Members always welcome!

### **Hope Quilters**

Hope Quilters will meet at 9:30 am on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the FABRIC/YARN SALE on Sat. May 4th Tables are available for rent if you or someone you know would like to sell their own. Since the Hope Quilters rely on donations this is a fund raiser for purchasing supplies as needed. Applications are available in the church office and contact Sue Beeman (728-2406) if you have questions.

A quilt was given to Jennifer, our Administrative Assistant , as a "Thank You" for all she has done for us. She will be missed. A fond "Hello" and "Thank You" to Beth who will take on the added responsibilities.



Two quilts were delivered to Harbor House by the Missions Committee.

### HOPE ACTIVITIES

#### HOPE GARDENS

Spring is here and it's time to think about our beautiful Hope gardens.



The gardens at Hope Church will need some tender loving care and someone to be responsible for organizing it as Sue Beeman is stepping down. Sue, along with Celeste Daw will finish putting in the Butterfly Garden.

There have also been some inquiries about doing a plant sale. This can be a good fundraiser. If anyone is interested in organizing this, please call the office.



### HOPE KITCHEN

The Kitchen Committee, (Bev Merritt, Sue Beeman, and Mary West), wants to extend its gratitude to all those who have been helping with Sunday coffee, funerals, CHUM dinners and special events. The Easter breakfast will be coming up, organized by Pete and Barb Bergman.

Our small, but mighty, (and somewhat tired,) Kitchen Committee really needs new members! Please consider joining us to help with all of the activities taking place at Hope! If you are interested, please contact Sue

Beeman. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



#### ... from Jennifer

Having served Hope Church as one of your Administrative Assistants the past twenty-nine months has been a wonderful experience of learning and growing! Having grown up United Methodist with a UM ordained parent, and having served nearly four years in the Federated Church of Morris that is both UMC and UCC aligned, it was a homecoming of sorts for me. I greatly appreciate having gained the perspective of being at that "front desk," and realize even more just what I appreciate about the best church secretaries, as well as the reality that no one ever does every aspect of the position (or any other one, I'm sure) with equal perfection. Most of all I will cherish getting to know some remarkable people of great commitment, deep faith, and a desire to live life as God calls.

I am also leaving the pastoral position with the Duluth Congregational Church, having accepted a three-quarter time interim pastorate with a United Church of Christ congregation in northern Illinois for a minimum one-year commitment. I expect to supplement that position with consulting, or work with a nearby organic CSA (community-supported agriculture) farm, or whatever else I may find. It is a rather scary step of faith to leave something settled for something temporary, but it is time I stopped encouraging churches to be courageous and trust God and start doing so in a bigger way myself!

Thank you for all your support. Thank you for your patience and understanding as I learned new skills -- and in the areas I never really mastered! I know you will extend the same kindness to Beth as she learns the areas I have been covering. And I leave you with blessing. Hope is in a challenging season, with many major changes in a short timeframe. From where I have sat, with the eyes of a seasoned pastor specializing in working with churches in transition times, I know there is anxiety, uncertainty, even frustration, anger and fear at times. These are some of the ways we respond in transition times. But I also know Hope has some incredibly gifted and faithful leaders and members. I know you have been through multiple seasons of change. And I know God loves you, and deeply desires to deepen your faith and maturity through this season, and to reach out to your neighborhood and the community of Duluth through the church called Hope. If God can nudge me, like Abraham and Sarah, to leave what is sure for what is not, I know God can nudge you into a new kind of future -- and will go there with you, all the way! I hold you in God's Light . ~ Jennifer

### CHURCH CALENDAR

# **April 2019**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00pm Dollar Dinner	2 <b>10:00am—noon</b> Parents & Pals <b>2:00pm</b> Pines Worship	<i>3</i> 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Caribou Coffee) 10:00am—noon PPP 5:30pm Worship Service 6:00pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Alanon	4 9:00am-2pm Painters 10:30am Yoga for Parkinson's 12:00pm Gentle Yoga 1:30pm Exercise	5	6
7 10:00am Worship 11:00am Information / Listening session re: potential childcare center 11:15 am Worship Mtg. 3:00pm Grace Korean	8 5:00pm Dollar Dinner	9 10:00am—noon Parents & Pals 1:30pm Memory Café (Age Well) 4:30pm Missions and Outreach	<ul> <li>10</li> <li>8:00am Men's Breakfast (Caribou Coffee)</li> <li>10:00am Page Turners</li> <li>10:00am—noon Parents &amp; Pals</li> <li>5:30pm Worship Service</li> <li>6:00pm Soup Supper</li> <li>6:30pm Choir</li> <li>7:00pm Alanon</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> 9:00am-2pm Painters 10:30am Yoga for Parkinson's 12:00pm Gentle Yoga 1:30pm Exercise	12	13
14 10:00am Worship 11:15am SPRC Mtg. 3:00 pm Grace Korean	15 5:00pm Dollar Dinner	16 10:00am—noon Parents & Pals 6:30pm Evening Book Club	<ul> <li><i>17</i></li> <li>8:00am Men's Breakfast (Caribou Coffee)</li> <li>10:00am—noon Parents &amp; Pals</li> <li>6:00pm Page Flippers</li> <li>6:30pm Choir</li> <li>7:00pm Alanon</li> </ul>	<ul> <li><i>18</i></li> <li>9:00am-2pm Painters</li> <li>10:30am Yoga for Parkinson's</li> <li>12:00pm Gentle Yoga</li> <li>1:30pm Exercise</li> <li>6:00pm Maundy Thursday worship</li> </ul>	19 6:00pm Good Friday	20 9:30am Easter breakfast set up
21 8:00 am Easter Worship 8:45 am Easter Breakfast 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Grace Korean	22 5:00pm Dollar Dinner (last one!)	23 10:00am—noon Parents & Pals	24 8:00am Men's Breakfast (Caribou Coffee) 10:00am—noon Parents & Pals 5:00pm Ad Council 6:30pm Choir 7:00pm Alanon	25 9:00am-2pm Painters 9:30am-12:30pm Hope Quilters 10:30am Yoga for Parkinson's 12:00pm Gentle Yoga 1:30pm Exercise	worship 26 10:00am NCQ	27
28 10:00am Worship 3:00 pm Grace Korean	29	30 10:00am—noon Parents & Pals				

#### **Hope United Methodist Church**

301 W. St. Marie Street Duluth, MN 55803

Phone: 218-724-2266 Email: office@hopeumcmn.org NEW Office Hours: Mon, Thurs, Fri ~ 9:00am - 2:00pm Tues ~ 9:00am—1:00pm Wed ~ 12:00pm—5:00pm

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### With God's grace, we care for the soul for a lifetime and beyond.

