

LOOKING AHEAD

Hope for Salem Workdays

8 am March 4, 18

Painting Party

1:30 pm March 4

Confirmation Sundays

9:00 am May 21st, 11:00 am June 11th

HOLY WEEK

April 2
Palm Sunday

April 6
Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:00

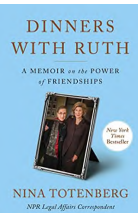
April 7
Good Friday Worship, noon & 7:00

April 9
Easter Sunday



Hope is a
Stephen Ministry
Congregation.

BOOK GROUP



Hope's Book Group will meet at 2:00 pm March 16th to discuss "Dinners with Ruth" by Nina Totenberg. Contact Joy Gibbs or Margaret Bretzloff with questions.



CHIDESTER LECTURE

March 18—19, Sylvania UCC will host Dr Randall Balmer as part of their Chidester Lecture series. Dr Balmer will speak on "Saving Faith: the Perils of Christian Nationalism and the Promise of Prophetic Christianity."

SUNDAYS IN LENT: Stories of Love

As continue in Lent, our readings from Matthew turn to Jesus' parables that begin with "The Kingdom is like . . ." Each of the parables breaks open the nature of the kingdom and the depth of God's love. They aren't love stories but they are stories that help us see and experience God's love.



March 5	A Story of Justice	Matthew 20:1-16
March 12	A Story of Worth	Matthew 22:1-14
March 19	A Story of Choices	Matthew 25:1-13
March 26	A Story of When	Matthew 25:31-46
April 2	A Story of Palms	Matthew 21:1-17

LENTEN MEALS & DEVOTIONS

During Lent, we will again offer soups to-go for pick-up on Sundays. We'll have an RSVP the Sunday before with the type of soups offered. Lenten devotions for children, teens, and adults will also be available.



CONGREGATION APPROVES 2023 BUDGET

On February 19, Hope members gathered to review and approve the 2023 budget.

Copies of the 2022 Annual Report are available in the office. The report includes recaps of the year from Pastor Kevin, Pastor Kristin, and Gail Mowry along with detailed financial information.

EASTER EGG HUNT: APRIL 9TH

We will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter, Sunday, April 9, 2023. It will be at 10:30 am. 4-year-olds and younger will be searching for eggs in the Nest while 5-year-olds and older will be searching for their eggs in the DIT opening area. All are welcome!



We are asking for individually wrapped, fun sized candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be a box for these donations located outside the Nest. Please have donations here by Palm Sunday, April 2. Thank you in advance for any contributions.



SUNDAY MORNING FAITH DISCUSSIONS

Confirmation and High school youth are invited to join Sunday mornings at 10am in the Nest for informal faith discussions with Pastor Kristin. Youth have created a list of faith topics they want to discuss, and we'll pick one to discuss each week. We will also have a few service activities. Contact Pastor Kristin or just join in the Nest (we'll move upstairs if we have a big group).



SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9 a.m. Contemporary Service | 10:10 a.m. Spiritual Development | 11 a.m. Traditional Service

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BACKPACKS OF HOPE

A huge thank you for your continued support for Backpacks of Hope as we provide healthy, child-friendly food for families at Old Orchard who need extra support. We continue to especially need boxes of cereal, jars of peanut butter, cans of tuna fish, and cans of soup or pasta. In addition for spring break, we will be sending home extra items like – boxes of pasta or rice sides, tuna helper, instant mashed potatoes, cereal bars, and pop tarts. Extra items can also be dropped off on the white shelves by March 31.



**SAVE THE DATE:
VBS, JUNE 19–23**

Ready for some fun with the ultimate hero team? Join us for a week of VBS where our children will become heroes who learn to strive for the things that bring peace and build each other up. We are looking for any, and all, volunteers! If you are interested, please reach out to Pam Ferrara today at pferrara@hopetoleado.net.

June 20-24, 2022

9am – 12:00pm

Preschool – 4th grade

5th grade – adult are invited to volunteer!

SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT OLD ORCHARD ELEMENTARY

On Sunday, March 12 at 10am, we will be writing/decorating notes to encourage students at Old Orchard during state testing later in the month. A positive, encouraging word or affirmation can help give students a boost of confidence before their tests. The goal is for each student to receive an encouraging note and a healthy snack every day they have a test. Join us in the Nest on March 12 to write or decorate notes. All supplies will be provided. If you want to take notes home to complete, contact Pastor Kristin (pastorkristin@hopetoleado.net). Thanks to Kara Erd for the Thrivent grant to purchase snacks!



FIRST COMMUNION



We are excited for another class of First Communion students. They received their Bibles during worship this past Sunday, February 26, 2023, and begin classes and Wednesday, March 1st at 6:30 pm. If you missed signing your child up for First Communion, it's not too late. Contact the office today! And please keep this group of students in your prayers!

INTERNET SAFETY FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

April 30th at 10 am and at Noon, Pastor Chuck will offer a seminar on internet safety. Pastor Chuck Campbell's years spent working with organizations to prevent and stop human trafficking has led to a new presentation on internet safety. This is primarily for the parents, grandparents, and guardians not the children or youth themselves. More details will be available soon.

HOPE FOR SALEM: UPDATE

Our team of volunteers is continuing construction of our Salem house throughout this winter. The next major step is final approval of our plans. After we receive our building permit, we will be able to hire outside contractors to start the work that requires licensed professionals (ie heating ducts and rough electrical wiring). Your ongoing prayers are appreciated for the safety of our team and continued progress. If you desire to join our team, please contact the church office, or Roger on his cell phone 419-202-3779. Our next workdays are March 4th & 18th.

