

THE HOPE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM HOPE METHODIST CHURCH

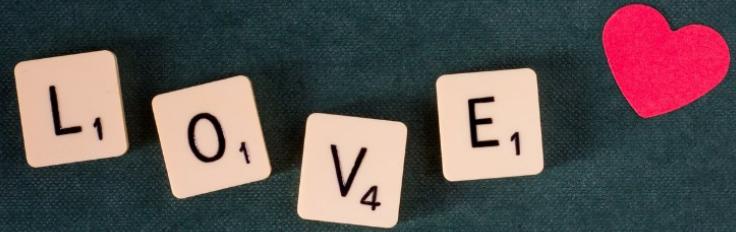
A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARSHALL

I have a heart full of gratitude as I look across the various ministries and the daily life of our congregation; I am continually moved by the dedication you show. Whether it is in the quiet acts of hospitality, the diligent maintenance of our sanctuary, or the outreach into our community in the name of Jesus, your labor for the Kingdom does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do to make the name of Christ known here in Hope.

As we continue to grow together, it is vital that we ground our activity in Scripture. In Deuteronomy 13:4, we find the fundamental blueprint for our service to God: *"You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him."*

This verse reminds us that service is not a series of disconnected tasks, but a natural overflow of "holding fast" to God. Our service is an act of worship--a physical manifestation of our commitment to follow His voice above all others.

However, the Bible is clear that the posture of our hearts matters just as much as the performance of our hands. We are not called to serve out of a sense of grim obligation or heavy-laden duty. Instead, Psalm 100:2 commands us to *"Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"* True biblical service is characterized by joy. It is the glad response of a heart that has been rescued from the "pit" and placed upon the "rock. When we serve with gladness, our work becomes a song of praise that draws others toward the light of Christ.



Finally, we must remember that the engine of our service is not our own willpower, but the love of Christ working through us. The Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 5:13: *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."* Because Christ has set us free from the burden of striving, we are now free to serve one another without an agenda. Our primary motive is not recognition or personal fulfillment, but a selfless love that seeks the good of our neighbor.

May we continue to serve him with faithful hearts, glad spirits, and a love that reflects the very heart of the Savior.

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Regular Sunday Services 9:45am- Sunday School 10:50- Worship 5pm- Sunday Supper	 8-9am- Yoga 5:30pm- Bible Recap	3	4 8-9am- Yoga 10- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30- HMC Kids & Youth	5	6 6:30am- Men's Book Study OFFICE CLOSED	7
8	9 8-9am- Yoga 5:30pm- Bible Recap	10 10am- Bible Recap 5:30-7pm- Handbells	11 8-9am- Yoga 10- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30- HMC Kids & Youth	12	13 6:30am- Men's Book Study OFFICE CLOSED	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 9am-Noon- Threads of Faith
15 12:15pm- Ad. Board meeting	 8-9am- Yoga 5:30pm- Bible Recap	17 10am- Bible Recap 5:30-7pm- Handbells	18 8-9am- Yoga 10- Class Meeting 5-5:45pm- Pancake Supper 6pm- Ash Wed. Service	19	20 6:30am- Men's Book Study OFFICE CLOSED	21
22	23 8-9am- Yoga 5:30pm- Bible Recap 6- Companions	24 10am- Bible Recap 5:30-7pm- Handbells	25 8-9am- Yoga 10- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30- HMC Kids & Youth	26	27 6:30am- Men's Book Study OFFICE CLOSED	28

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

AT HMC & IN HOPE

SUNDAY SUPPER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
5PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL
CELEBRATING LOVE
& ANNIVERSARIES



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

10 ALICIA McDOWELL
SUSAN MONROE
12 LYNN MONTGOMERY
13 MARILOU LEWIS
15 SHARON GRANT
17 JIM HERMAN
21 WESLEY PRICE
ADAM & JESSICA BEAVER ANN.
25 DENA WIGGS
27 KEITH MCGHEE
28 WENDELL ELLEDGE
MARSHALL ALMARODE

Wednesday, February 18, our Youth will host their annual Pancake Supper before our Ash Wednesday Service! Please join us for an incredible evening-- kick off the Season of Lent with us and help our Youth fundraise for their Summer Mission Trip!

5-5:45pm- *Pancake Supper in Fellowship Hall*

6pm- *Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary*

CHILDREN'S NEWS

SNOW DAY FUN FOR OUR HMC KIDS



February Mission Project

OUR
MISSION

Children and youth will be collecting items for
Hope Connexion.
Socks, Individual snack foods, peanut butter, tuna
packs, spam, etc. please bring to Rose's office

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Let us take the work out of supper!

Ash Wednesday: February 18, 2026

Time: 5:00-5:45pm

Regular & Blueberry Pancakes

Sausage, Milk & Orange Juice

will be served

Donations accepted and all proceeds go
towards the youth Mission Trip to Hill Country,
TX. in June 2026

SERVICE OF ASHES AT 6PM IN SANCTUARY



Generate Conference

Dallas, TX

February 20-22, 2026

Contact Rose for more information



Mission Trip 2026

June 7-13, 2026

Hill Country in Texas above San Antonio
to do flood relief work

Mission Trip Bake Sale

Sunday, March 29, 2026

before & after SS and after service if we
have items left.

You may place orders for Banana
Pudding, 3-layer carrot cake, or cake
pops?

Let us know if there is something special you would like!



LOCAL SCHOOL NEEDS

FOR CLINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



We were recently made aware of some urgent needs for Clinton Primary Campus in Hope. Please see the list and contribute if you are able!

You may leave your donations in the Fellowship Hall on the brown shelves---be sure to place items on the side labelled for Clinton Primary. Thank you so much for always being willing to help the children in our community!

FOOD NEEDS:

JUICE BOXES, MICROWAVEABLE SINGLE-SERVE MEALS, SINGLE-SERVINGS OF CRACKERS, SINGLE-SERVINGS OF PEANUT BUTTER, SINGLE-SERVINGS OF BREAKFAST ITEMS, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CRACKER SANDWICHES, AND INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACK ITEMS, BREAKFAST ITEMS (TOASTER PASTRIES, SMALL INDIVIDUAL BOXES OF CEREAL, ETC.) GRANOLA BARS AND THE LIKE

CLOTHING NEEDS:

BOY'S SIZES 6-12 JOGGING/ATHLETIC PANTS AND/OR JEANS

DESPARATE NEED!!!! BOYS & GIRLS SHOES- BOY'S SIZES YOUTH 8 TO MEN'S 10 & GIRL'S SIZES YOUTH 6 TO WOMEN'S 9--GENTLY USED OR NEW

LIGHT FROM THE WORD

“REPRESENTING GOD”

**“JUDAH BECAME GOD’S
SANCTUARY, ISRAEL HIS
DOMINION.” -PSALM 114:2**

PSALM 114:1-8

**PRAY THAT
YOUR LOCAL
CHURCH WILL
BE GOD’S
SANCTUARY
FOR THE
WORLD.**



We rub our eyes each Sunday morning and prepare to go to church. Those of us who are pastors look over our sermon notes or brush up on the news to see whether there is anything we should include in the morning's prayers. Laypeople think of the service ahead, hoping that certain songs will be sung, wondering what texts will be preached, what nuggets of wisdom might be shared, or whether this is a Communion Sunday. This is the ordinary stuff of Sundays, the joyous rhythm and blessed routine of the people of God.

But we must never forget that the people of God are more than just ordinary. The psalmist reminds us that God's people are his sanctuary and his dominion. In the New Testament, Peter reminded us that we are "being built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5), a house where God the Holy Spirit lives. We are his people, those with whom God himself is pleased to dwell. Where we go, God goes. The things we say represent God to a waiting and hopeless world. The things we do represent God to a world in need of his presence.

In a very real sense, we house God and display him to the world. This honor is not to be taken lightly, but to be entered into with reverence, soberness, and deep reflection.

OUTREACH

MISSIONS OF HMC

If you would like to be involved with any of the community ministries @ HMC, please check out this list and to speak to those listed to find out how you can serve with us!

Outreach Committee organizes many of these events-- see Cathryn Looney to ask about being part of Outreach!

Bookcase Project- Members build small bookcases and we fill with books for 1st grade elementary students at Clinton Primary in Hope. Contact Marlon Ward for more info.

Socks for Veterans- Around Veteran's Day, we collect white, men's crew socks and deliver them to the VA Hospital in Little Rock for hospitalized veterans. Contact Rose Gagnon or Cathryn Looney for more info.

Jean Drive for local schools- We collect jeans in sizes appropriate for elementary students at Clinton Primary.

Sweatshirt Drive for local schools- We collect hats, scarves, and sweatshirts in all sizes to give to local organizations and schools in Hempstead County.

Undie Sunday- We collected underwear for boys and girls at Clinton Primary School.

Blankets for Hope in Action- We collect blankets to take to Hope in Action so that during the colder months, they have those to give to the homeless.

Food Drive for local school pantries- We collect non-perishable, individually packaged snack items for HAPS and Clinton Primary to have on-hand for students, especially during testing season.

Food Drive for Hope in Action- Hope in Action is a local charity that serves the homeless with food, sometimes money, and housing.

Feed the Bobcats- Members cook and serve a meal in the fellowship hall to the Bobcat football team before a game on a Friday night. Contact Don Still to get involved!

Valentines for Heather Manor residents- We deliver small treat bags with lotions for nursing home residents.

Jail Ministry- We collect socks & candy bar and deliver to local inmates.

The CALL- We are big supporters of The CALL in Hempstead County. The CALL is a Christian, foster organization across the state of Arkansas. Members cook and deliver to local foster families (including those in our church), we raise money for The CALL, and collect items that foster families can use. Contact Marlon Ward for information.

Operation Christmas Child- We operate a room on site for the purpose of storing supplies/gifts to stuff into these shoeboxes each year. We have packing parties for members (including youth and children) to help stuff the boxes with presents to mail. Jim & Deb Herman head this effort.

Charitable Christian Clinic- A local charity that sees patients who cannot afford to see a primary physician for illnesses. They also give them discounted rates on medicines. The Clinic is open 2 days a month and all staff members are volunteers. We feed the workers twice a year. The Youth group helps with this too.

Threads of Faith- A sewing group that meets @ HMC on the 2nd Saturday of each month. They make items such as Angel Cradles, given to St. Michael's hospital for babies born into heaven.

This is a short list and does not include everything our church members help with! If you have an idea of needed outreach in Hope, please contact Cathryn Looney!

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JOIN US EACH SUNDAY!
9:45- SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:50- TRADITIONAL WORSHIP



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Recently, a local school held their awards assembly and we received the following messages from parents who attended (all names redacted for privacy):

“...Just wanted to thank y'all for what a good job you did with [your students and classes]. The Kindergarten class at SH had their first honor roll assembly today and every student who went to HMCP had all A's for the 1st and 2nd 9 weeks! Good job y'all and thank you for making our babies smart!”

“I just left an awards assembly at Spring Hill for the 1st and 2nd 9 weeks and [all 3 students] in [my child's] class who also went to HMCP had all A's for both 9 weeks. The other HMCP kiddos are in a different class so I didn't get to see them, but I am super proud of these 3! Thank you again for helping prepare them! Kindergarten moves FAST!”

Our teachers do a wonderful job and our preschool makes a difference! We love hearing such good things about our students once they move on from us!

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will be Friday, March 6. More info to come! Please spread the word!

We will have Valentine's Day parties on Thursday, February 12 and a Winter Break following from February 13-16. After that, we will be looking forward to Spring Break from March 23-27! This school year has flown by and been such a good one! Thank you for the prayers & support!

ENJOY THESE SNOW DAY PICTURES OF OUR KIDS!!

