

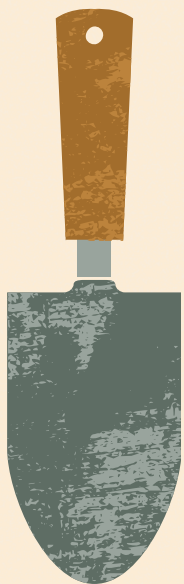


**APRIL
2026**



A Season of Growth

**Hope Lutheran Church
Newsletter**



New to Hope? You're Welcome Here

Something for Everyone

At Hope, there's a place for you to grow, connect, and serve—no matter your age or stage of life. From kids and youth to adults and families, our ministries are designed to help you build relationships, deepen your faith, and find community. Whether you're looking to learn, serve, or simply get connected, you'll find opportunities to take your next step at Hope.

Worship With Us Saturday

5:30 PM – Contemporary Worship

Sunday School

9:45–10:45 AM

For kids, youth, and adults

Sunday

8:30 AM – Traditional Worship

11:00 AM – Traditional Worship

All Sunday services are livestreamed.

Explore Ministries at Hope

- **Kids & Youth** – Safe, engaging environments where faith grows from an early age
- **Adults & Small Groups** – Opportunities to connect, study, and grow together
- **Music & Worship** – Use your gifts to lead and serve in worship
- **Care Ministry** – Walk alongside others and offer support in meaningful ways
- **Outreach** – Serve our community and share Christ's love beyond our walls

Learn More About Hope

Call

919-554-8109

Email

office@hopelutheranwf.org

Website

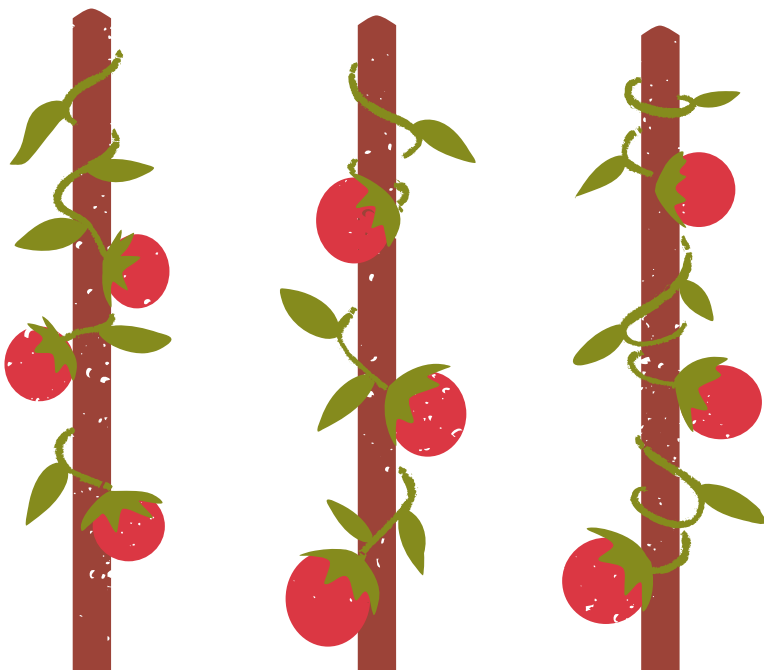
hopelutheranwf.org

Visit

Hope Lutheran Church

3525 Rogers Road

Wake Forest, NC



March at Hope – A Look Back



March was full of life at Hope, and we are so thankful for all the ways our church came together. From events and retreats to service projects and time spent in community, it was a month filled with connection, growth, and joy. Take a look through the photos below to see just a glimpse of what God is doing in and through our church. We are excited for all that is ahead in April and the many opportunities to continue growing, serving, and connecting together.

Pastor Letter

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Hosea 6:1-3

“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

Growing up in South Florida with its many storms and rains blown off the coast, rain was an almost daily reality. From the simple view of a child, I often only saw this as a bummer. Less play, less fun, just miserable rain. My mom, being something of a green thumb, taught me the old phrase, “April showers bring may flowers” meaning that the showers, however much a bummer they might feel to a child, would ultimately bring something good. The earth poured into would eventually erupt into something truly beautiful.

As I write, my heart goes out to the many people at Hope suffering in numerous ways. Cancer treatments, deaths, abiding sicknesses, relationships that never seem to reconcile, worry about the country, our world, our children, and so many other things. The showers are real, the sky often looks covered with clouds, and one cannot help but wonder what good will come of it. One of our inheritances from the Reformation is the simple truth that it is appropriate and good to call things what they truly are. We are experiencing evils, trials, suffering, and pains, and those rains seem to just pour and pour.

It is also appropriate to recognize that the creator God, our very Father is the master of taking the flood of downpouring rain and making it nourishing to our soul. He is the great smith who can make the raging fires into something that burns away the dross and reveals the gold of our faith. God is the one who takes the blood of Jesus Christ dripping into the earth and raises up a harvest of resurrection upon which we live and depend.

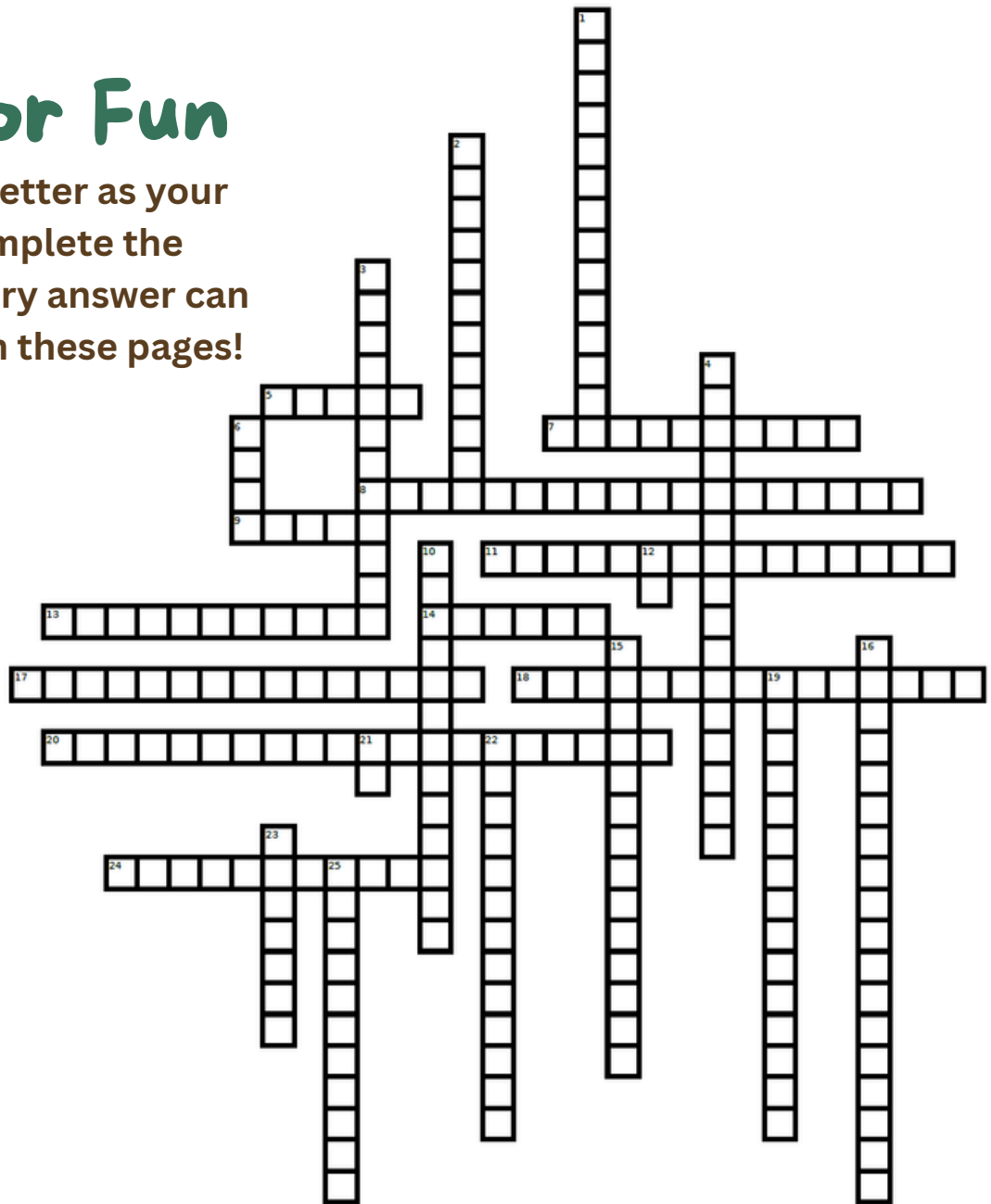
Knowing that truth about God, that he can raise up flowers from these painful showers, doesn't make it easy. As Christ's body, we should step into that rain with one another and hold each other to share the warmth we have. We should pray, for the relief that only God the Holy Spirit can offer. We should say gentle words of promise to each other, as we wait for the flowers of May.

If you need someone who will weep, pray, and wait with you, we are here.

Waiting for the flowers to bloom,
Pastor Devin

Just For Fun

Use this newsletter as your guide to complete the crossword—every answer can be found within these pages!



Down:

1. Small group hosting the craft fair event
2. Fundraising event for youth
3. Care ministry for members going through difficult times
4. Lunch packing outreach
6. Book studied in BREW Bible Study
10. Event to explore serving opportunities
15. Emails sent by Pastor Mike Lutz
16. Location of Friday Night on White
19. Hands-on service small group
21. Time Sunday School meets
22. Worship support team
23. Tool used to access information quickly
25. Location of Club 45 event

Across:

5. Month and year of the newsletter
7. What supports ministry at Hope
8. Name of the church
9. Book of the Bible quoted in the pastor letter
11. New music opportunity for students
13. Small group for ages 25-35
14. Overnight youth event
17. Outdoor fellowship event for 8 years and up
18. Theme of the April newsletter
20. New music ministry group
24. Theme of VBS 2026

News & Updates

Daily Devotions

Start your day rooted in God's Word with daily devotions from Pastor Mike Lutz, delivered straight to your email. These short, encouraging messages are a simple way to stay connected in faith each day and build a consistent rhythm of Scripture and reflection.

Whether you are beginning a new habit or continuing one, this is an easy and meaningful way to stay grounded throughout the week. Sign up to begin receiving daily devotions and stay connected in God's Word. Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org



Because of Your Generosity

Because of your generosity, ministry is happening every day at Hope. Each weekend, hundreds gather for worship, growing in faith through God's Word and music, while throughout the week children, students, and adults continue to learn and connect through Sunday School, youth ministry, and Wednesday Night Alive. This impact is made possible not only through financial gifts, but also through the dedication of so many who serve across our ministries. When you give, you are supporting worship, discipleship, outreach, and the many ways Hope connects with our community.

Questions? kfaris@hopelutheranwf.org

New Website Launch

We are excited to share our new website with you and invite you to take some time to explore. This update allows us to share more about life at Hope with clearer information, improved navigation, and a more user-friendly experience. We know that change can take a little getting used to, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to fine-tune things. If you notice a typo, broken link, or anything that does not seem quite right, please send the details so we can take a look. Questions? bevans@hopelutheranwf.org



Friday Night on White: Volunteers Needed

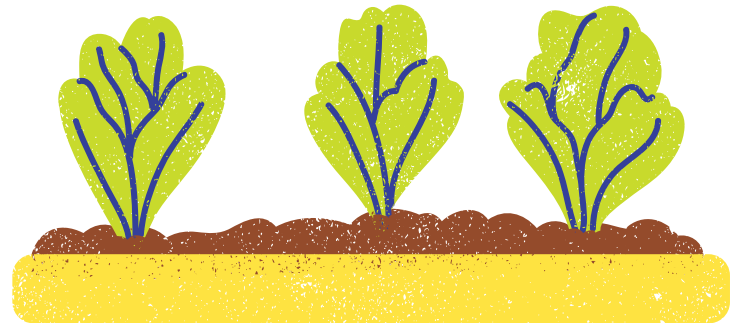
We're looking for volunteers to help at our Hope booth each month from April–September. Help hand out water, connect with the community, and assist with set-up and take-down.

- Second Friday of any Month: April - September
- Downtown Wake Forest

Want to help? Have Questions?
wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Thank You for the Cozy Coupe Donation

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the generous donation of Cozy Coupes to our Little Blessings program. These will bring so much joy to our children and add even more fun to their daily playtime. We are incredibly grateful for the kindness and support shown to this ministry, and your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of the kids we serve.



Protecting Against Scams

We want to encourage everyone to stay alert, as scams targeting churches and their members continue to happen. Pastors and staff at Hope will never ask for money, gift cards, or financial assistance through text messages or personal emails, and all giving should only happen through official Hope channels. Scammers often take advantage of kindness and urgency, so if you receive a message that seems unusual, it is best not to respond. If you are ever unsure, please reach out to the church office.

Questions? office@hopelutheranwf.org

Grow in Faith This Season

Sunday School at Hope

Spring is a season of growth—and there's no better time to take the next step in your faith. Sunday School at Hope is a place for all ages to grow deeper in God's Word, build meaningful relationships, and stay rooted in a Christ-centered community.



Sundays
9:45–10:45 AM
Between services



Something for Every Age **Kids (Birth–5th Grade)**

A fun, engaging environment where kids learn about God through Bible stories, music, and hands-on activities—building a strong foundation of faith.

Youth (6th–12th Grade)

A space to ask questions, grow in understanding, and connect with peers while exploring God's Word in real and relevant ways.

Adults

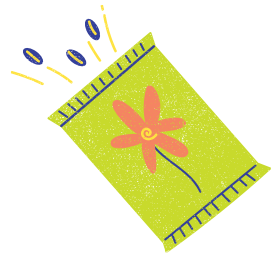
Discussion-based groups designed to help you dig deeper into Scripture, grow in your faith, and connect with others in all stages of life.

Come Grow With Us

You're always welcome. Whether you've been at Hope for years or are just getting started, Sunday School is an easy and meaningful way to get connected.

Vacation Bible School

2026: Road Trip USA



Get ready for an unforgettable week of faith, fun, and adventure! This Hope-created VBS experience is designed just for our community—combining meaningful faith moments with high-energy fun. Kids (and volunteers!) will hit the road as we explore God’s love in creative, engaging ways all week long.

Dates & Times

June 22–26, 2026

Day Session: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Evening Session: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Who Can Attend & Serve?

- Kids: Age 4 (by Aug. 31, 2026 & potty trained) through rising 5th grade
- Volunteers: Rising 6th grade through adult

VBS is for everyone—whether you’re attending or helping lead the fun!



Ready to Join the Journey?



What Makes This VBS Special

- Designed and created by Hope—a one-of-a-kind experience you won’t find anywhere else
- High-energy music and worship
- Interactive Bible stories
- Games, crafts, and hands-on activities
- A welcoming environment where every child belongs

Each day is a new stop on the journey—full of discovery, laughter, and learning.

Be Part of What Makes VBS Possible

Each year, VBS welcomes 500+ kids—and it takes a strong team to make it all happen. We’re looking for 150+ volunteers across both sessions to help create a safe, fun, and faith-filled experience.

Whether you love leading, organizing, cheering kids on, or working behind the scenes—there’s a place for you to serve and make a difference.



Club 45: Partee Shack Night

Club 45 is heading to Partee Shack on 5/1 at 6:30 PM for a night of extreme mini golf and time together. This event is for 4th and 5th grade students and is a great opportunity to build friendships and have fun outside of Sunday mornings. Plan to meet at Partee Shack, 6231 Triangle Plantation Dr, and be ready for a fun and active evening. Be sure to sign up early so we can plan accordingly.

Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



High School Lock-In

High school students are invited to the Lock-In on 5/1 starting at 8 PM through 8 AM on 5/2 at Hope in the Youth Center. Bring a sleeping bag or blanket and a pillow, and get ready for a night of games, movies, and time to hang out with friends. We will stay up late playing games before transitioning into movies and time to rest. If you need to leave early, you are still welcome to come for as long as you can, just reach out ahead of time. Students may not drive after 9 PM without parent approval. Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org



Youth Praise Band

High school students are invited to be part of a new Youth Praise Band at Hope, meeting on Tuesdays from 5–6:15 PM in the Sanctuary. We are especially looking for a keyboardist, but all instruments and skill levels are welcome. This is a great opportunity to use your musical gifts, grow in confidence, and be part of leading worship together. Whether you have been playing for years or are just getting started, there is a place for you. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org

High School & BREW: Carowinds Trip

High school students and BREW young adults are invited to a full day at Carowinds on 4/11 from 8 AM–8 PM. We will meet at Hope in the Youth Center and travel together for a day filled with rides, fun, and time to connect. This is a great opportunity to build friendships and enjoy time together outside of regular programming. Be sure to sign up early to reserve your spot and get all trip details.

Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org



BREW Bible Study

BREW Bible Study meets on Saturdays from 6:45–8 PM at Hope in the Youth Center throughout April. This group is a space for college-age young adults to gather, grow in faith, and build community together. This season, the group is walking through Ruth while sharing a meal each week, and everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. Whether you have been coming for a while or are thinking about joining for the first time, there is always a place for you. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org.

BREW: Museum of Life and Science

BREW is heading to the Museum of Life and Science on 4/25 from 12–2 PM in Durham for an afternoon of exploring and spending time together. This event is for college-age young adults and is a great chance to connect, try something different, and enjoy time as a group. Plan to meet at the museum, and keep in mind that the cost may decrease if more people sign up. Be sure to register early so we can plan accordingly. Questions? mnicotera@hopelutheranwf.org



Dice & Delights: Women's Bunco Night

Join us on 4/23 from 6:30–9 PM at Hope. This is a fun and relaxed evening filled with laughter, connection, and a little friendly competition. Whether you have played Bunco before or it is your first time, you are invited to come and enjoy time together. Sign up to reserve your spot and get ready for a great night.



Connections Interest & Planning Meeting

Looking to grow in your faith and build meaningful friendships? Connections is a small group for ages 25–35 focused on Bible study, service, and community, and this interest meeting on 4/10 from 7–8 PM at Hope in Room 300 is a chance to get involved from the start. Come meet others and help shape what this group will look like moving forward. Whether you are new or just looking to get more connected, you are invited to be part of it. Questions? 919-279-3800

Fix-It Fellowship Small Group

A new small group is forming at Hope called Fix-It Fellowship, meeting monthly at Hope with dates shared after sign-up. This group focuses on caring for our church buildings through simple, hands-on projects like changing light bulbs, painting, small repairs, and general upkeep. There are opportunities for all skill levels, so no experience is needed to be part of it. If you enjoy working with your hands or want to help care for the place we call home, this is a great way to get involved. Questions? wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Part of Worship

Instrumental Ensemble

Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Hope's Music Ministry is excited to expand by forming a new Instrumental Ensemble. This group is open to proficient musicians in 9th grade through adults who have a fully functional instrument and a desire to serve in worship. Rehearsals will take place throughout the church year as this ensemble shares their musical gifts during services. Whether you play brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, guitar, piano, or organ, if you have an instrument tucked away, now is a great time to dust it off and consider joining. Questions?
rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org

Music Ministry: Tech Team

Hope's Music Ministry is launching a Sound Tech Team and inviting individuals ages 17 and up to consider serving. If you have an interest in electronics, audio, streaming, or simply wish you had joined the tech team years ago, this may be a meaningful way to serve. Volunteers will assist with running the soundboard and streaming program during Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship services. Training sessions will be provided and are required for all team members. This ministry plays an important role in sharing the Word of Christ both in person and online with those who cannot attend worship. Questions?
rvarner@hopelutheranwf.org

Volunteer Fair

Join us for the Volunteer Fair on April 25–26 in the Children's Center. This is a relaxed, welcoming opportunity to explore how you can get involved in worship at Hope. It takes a whole team to make worship happen each weekend, and every role—both seen and behind the scenes—helps create a meaningful experience for our church family.

Plan to Stop By

- April 25-26
- Stop by after services or during Sunday School
- Enjoy coffee and snacks
- Learn about different volunteer roles
- Ask questions and meet team members
- Explore simple ways to get connected

Most Needed Right Now

We have a few areas where help is especially needed right now:

- **Altar Care** – Sunday 11:00 AM service
- **Children's Church** – Sunday 8:30 AM & Saturday service
- **AV** – Saturday service
- **Ushers** – All services

There are many other opportunities available as well—these are simply a few places where you can jump in and make an immediate impact.

Come see where you might want to get involved—we'd love to have you be part of what makes worship happen each week. Questions?
office@hopelutheranwf.org

Caring for Others

Mobile Food Ministry

Join Mobile Food Ministry for two upcoming opportunities to serve our community on 4/29 at 1 PM in Wake Forest and 5/3 at 1 PM in Raleigh.

Volunteers are needed for cooking, packing, delivering, and clean-up, and each role helps make a meaningful impact. These are hands-on opportunities to care for others and serve alongside others from Hope. You can choose one date or serve at both, and full details will be provided after registration. Questions? gismay@afcurgentcare.com



Granola Bar Collection

Brown Bag Ministry is collecting granola bars to include in lunch bags for those in need, with a collection focus on 4/18 and drop-off available anytime prior at Hope in the Café donation bin. This simple donation helps provide meals and care to members of our local community. You can drop off items as you are able, making it an easy way to support this outreach. Thank you for helping care for others in a meaningful way. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is part of our Care Ministry, supporting families during times of loss by providing food and serving at funeral receptions at Hope. This ministry allows grieving families to focus on what matters most while knowing their church family is walking alongside them. Volunteers help prepare, serve, and clean up meals as needs arise, offering care in a quiet and meaningful way. If you feel called to serve in this ministry, we invite you to join the Helping Hands group on Realm or reach out to learn more. Questions? pjay0826@gmail.com

Brown Bag:

Lunch Packing & Distribution

Join Brown Bag Ministry on 4/18 to help pack and distribute lunches for those in need in our local community. We will gather at Hope in the Café area, with full details and timing provided after registration. This is a hands-on opportunity to serve, connect with others, and make a meaningful difference through a simple act of care. Sign up to be part of this outreach and help share hope in a tangible way. Questions? kapernan@gmail.com



Plan Ahead

Hope Yard Sale – Donations & Event The Event:

- Sale Day: 5/16
- 8 AM–12 PM
- At Hope

Donations:

Cleaning out your closets? Donate your items and support our middle school youth trip.

- Drop-off starts 5/9 after services
- 5/10 before and after services
- 5/11–5/13, 9 AM–3 PM
- Clothes, furniture, books, electronics, and more are welcome.

Questions?

wspottiswood@hopelutheranwf.org

Stitches of Hope Craft Fair

Save the date for the Stitches of Hope Craft Fair on 5/16–5/17 at Hope, taking place before and after services. This special event will feature handmade items created with care and purpose, offering a meaningful way to support and connect. Plan to stop by and explore what will be available as more details are shared in the coming weeks. This is a great opportunity to be part of something creative and impactful within our church community. Questions? mikiwolff6@gmail.com



Sportsman Outing

Join us for the Sportsman Outing on 5/30 from 9:30 AM–2:30 PM at Mike Meehan's Farm. This event is open to ages 8 and up, and all youth must have a parent or legal guardian present. Lunch will be provided, and all participants are required to attend a safety briefing before participating. If you are interested in carpooling, we will coordinate a group meeting at Hope ahead of time, so be sure to reach out. This is a great opportunity to spend time outdoors, connect with others, and enjoy the day together. Questions?

tedbachman@mindspring.com

Just For Fun



QR Codes for Easy Access

Hope Website:



Office Email:



Events Page:



Giving Form:



Worship Info:



Sermons:



Ministries:



Sunday School:



Prayer List:



How to Use QR Codes

To help make registration and event information easier to access, you'll see QR codes throughout this month's highlights. You can scan a QR code by simply opening your phone's camera and pointing it at the code—your phone will automatically pull up the link for you. If you're reading the digital PDF version of the newsletter, the QR codes are also clickable and will take you directly to the linked information. We hope this makes connecting with events, registrations, and ministry opportunities at Hope even easier and more convenient.