




470 Winter Street Ext.
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 283-1372
www.HOPELC.ORG

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER



**Important Upcoming
Dates at Hope LC**
~ info. on page 2 ~

**Our Garden
of Hope Begins**
*~ details & pics
on pgs. 5 & 6 ~*

**ELCA
50th Anniversary
of World Hunger**
*~ see flyer
on pg. 15 ~*

Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*

A Word from
The Pastor

Happy Easter!

Spring will soon be upon us as we celebrate creation anew. For Easter reminds us of how precious we are to God; how precious all of creation is to God in that God would send his only son that we would have this joyous newness of life more abundantly. Scripture teaches that as inheritors of God's creation, we are called to be generous and faithful stewards of it. During the month of April, as we continue our journey through Easter, each Sunday we will explore what it means to be a generous and faithful people of God's creation.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians 5:22-23, we learn of the nine Fruits of the Spirit. "...*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **generosity**, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*"

As followers of Christ Jesus, we endeavor to grow in all these areas for the sake of the well-being of the church and in order to faithfully share the good news of Jesus Christ with our neighbors through the church's various ministries. One key Fruit of the Spirit is generosity. Generosity is a key means of supporting the church financially. In Luke 8:1-3, we see that even Jesus had to be supported financially in order to do the ministry to which his Father had called him.

Soon afterwards [Jesus] went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources (Luke 8:1-3, NRSV).

What a faithful example and witness these women were in their generosity! Journey with me this April as we discover the joy and excitement of being a generous giver for the proclamation of God's word and the growth of God's kingdom in our church, our neighborhoods, and our communities.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Pamela



From the Desk of:

Bonny Munteer, Council President

Dear Members of HLC,

It's been another busy year at our church! We are approaching Spring with lots of new ideas and projects planned. Our committees are active and busy.

We've had a meaningful Lenten season with our (delicious) soup/suppers and interesting devotionals with Pastor Pamela and looking forward to a beautiful and joyous Easter Sunday. We have welcomed some new members over the last several months; This brings us joy and hope that our church is going in the right direction, as we continue to plan for the future.

I want to thank everyone who contributes their time, effort & talents keeping our church 'business' running smoothly and allowing us to come together in worship every week! We need many to carry out these tasks, such as: feeding the hungry through our time spent at the Regional Food Bank and providing food baskets at Holiday time, and Hope's Kitchen meals. We would love to have more people on committees such as the Altar Guild, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants, Property Committee, Worship and Music Committee ... these are just a few examples of what we provide and are urging members to join and help out with. We enjoy each other's company as well as accomplishing what needs to get done.

We will be holding our Stewardship Campaign starting on Sunday, April 7th and the next two Sundays, during worship service, leading up to the Annual Member Meeting on Sunday, April 28, where we will summarize our accomplishments throughout the year and plan for the new Fiscal Year. During the next few weeks, you will be given a Time & Talent form to fill out as well as a Pledge form. We hope you will take the time to fill them out and put in the Collection Basket – Pam Dodson will get the Time and Talent sheet and Sandra Governor will get the Pledge forms. These are kept confidential. Our church could not continue with our current ministries without your help and contributions.

Thank you all for your participation and leadership in keeping these committees and ministries active and productive. Part of 2 Corinthians 9 *Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver....*

Blessings to all,

Bonny Munteer
Council President



HEALING TEAM NEWS

HOPE ON WHEELS

Hope on Wheels is a vital service of the Hope Healing Team. Now is an opportunity for you to add your own gifts to assist members of our community when they are ill or in need of at home care. This care might be an occasional meal, a ride to a doctor's appointment or a friendly visit, or phone call or a "I'm thinking of you" card. To participate all you need to do is to give your name to Sue Anthony, Parish Nurse (1.518.788.4349 or santhony@nycap.rr.com or Pastor Elaine Berg, (1.315.882.3732 or me312@aol.com) Healing Team Coordinator.

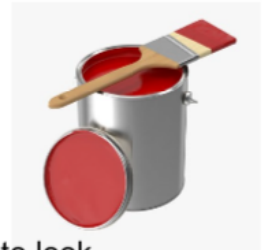


PROPERTY UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR

There are a number of projects that need to be addressed in and around the church.

These include:

- ◆ **Getting a piece of plexiglass to cover the altar** so that the top is square. The design of the altar (for those of you that have not examined it closely) has a cut out at each end which prevents the altar frontal from hanging properly. This has been an ongoing problem for years, and while not important to our spiritual life, it would go a long way to making the altar coverings hang nicely and make the altar guild's life a LOT easier. The plexiglass would also prevent any wine or grape juice spills from ruining the wood.
- ◆ **Painting the small classroom.** After the construction of the new closet, the sheetrock was spackled, but not painted. The paint, tray and roller are in the classroom. We just need someone to wield them. There is enough paint for all the walls. The trim does not have to be done.
- ◆ There is a bookshelf in that classroom closet that needs to have the books removed (they can be put on the table(s) in the classroom until Pastor has a chance to look through them). Then the bookshelf need to come out of the closet and put elsewhere in the classroom (temporarily) until a new home can be found for it.
- ◆ There are **two 36" metal shelving units** that need to be assembled for the closet in the small classroom.
- ◆ **THE GRASS WILL BE GROWING!** Mike Daus is setting up a mowing schedule. The weekly mowing is divided between 2 people so you either do the back half of the church or the front half. Takes a couple of hours. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex next week or let him know you will participate at 518-248-5916 or dausme@yahoo.com.
- ◆ We have learned that the blacktop surface of the parking lot will last longer if we can prevent weeds from growing up through the cracks. There is a "natural" weed killer made of 1 c salt, 1 gal vinegar and 1 TBL Dawn dish soap that is terrific at keeping weeds at bay. Anytime you see a weed, you zap it with the killer and (if it's sunny) it will be dead within hours. I have a large spray container that will hold at least 3 gallons of vinegar that I will fill and leave in the shed with the lawnmower. Hopefully, our lawn mowing team will also be able to do some zapping when they're there to mow! This would be great for the sidewalk too!



If you are willing to undertake any of these "missions" please contact me at dyermm48@gmail.com or text me at 518-505-6434. Can't do phone calls from the office so these two methods of contact are best. Hopefully, we can get all of these taken care of in the next few months.

THANKS in advance for your willingness to serve!

Marilyn Dyer, Property Chair

GARDEN OF HOPE – IT BEGINS!

Once the snow melts, you will see that behind the clothing shed there is now the beginning of our raised bed garden!.

A good friend, Aaron St. Onge of St Onge Landscaping, came by on Friday, March 22nd to remove the top layer of grass, grade the very bumpy soil, put down weed barrier, and spread 4" of pea gravel. He was able to get us 105 bags of the proper bedding soil for ONLY \$18 a bag (now retailing for \$39 each!).

Next up, building the beds (scheduled for beginning of April) and buying the fencing, fence posts, corner 4x4s, and a gate. Then we can start cool weather veggie seeds and get ready for late spring planting. There is a two foot border on the outside of the fence in which we will be able to plant more pollinator plants!

I am writing a grant application for funds to cover expenses above and beyond what we have left in the CLI grant.

Thanks to Pastor Pamela, Greg Whitney, Elaine Berg, Bonny Munteer and Catherine Jura who have spearheaded the Garden of Hope project. As you know, we hope to have a bountiful crop to share with the congregation and the two food pantries we support. As indigenous author Robin Wall Kimmerer says in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*: "The more something is shared the greater its value becomes."

We're on our way!!! Pray for good summer gardening weather with just enough rain and lots of sun!

Marilyn D.



The beginning of Hope's Garden ...



A Study Curriculum on Civic Life and Faith

Session 4: What are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?

This session is special because our beloved pastor, Pastor Pamela, was the presenter of this video. It is nice to have someone with her sensitivity to the lay life and to the lives of diverse cultures part of the leadership in this nation-wide ELCA study of how civic life and faith intertwine.

Central to our understanding of God is that (S)He is present everywhere and requires of us to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly” with God. Since God is present in all, ought not we, as people of faith, be likewise present as ambassadors of God and His/Her ways. Civic participation isn’t only involvement in government or politics but includes the full range of public life, including service to the community.

Briefly, the 13 states were first brought together under the Articles of Confederation but this document granted little power for enforcement and there was no unity. Policies and currency were different from one state to another. The 1787 Constitution, ratified by a vote of the people (primarily white males) changed all that with the institution of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches with powers of enforcement. Though imperfect (only white male voters, tolerance of slavery, and poor justice to indigenous people) it established an unprecedented form of government ratified “by the people”. A series of amendments expanded who was allowed to be part of the ‘consent of the governed’. This included the end of slavery and the institution of voting rights for women and people of color.

The well-known phrase ‘separation of church and state’ was never included in the Constitution. Instead, the Constitution forbade the establishment of a ‘State’ religion and it gave permission (with some limitations) of religion in whatever form each person sees fit. The constitution never said that religious convictions and politics should flow in separate streams. It is expected that people should use their personal compass to guide their civic service. For some, that compass is called their conscience, for people of faith, their conscience is influenced by their understanding of the Bible and what it tells us about what God expects of us.

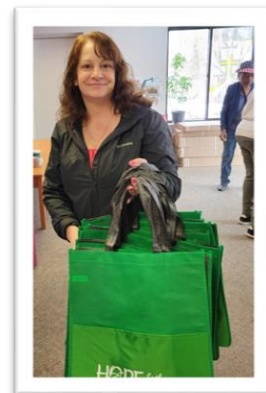
Take time to reflect. If God is everywhere present and active, doesn’t it make sense that people of faith are called to likewise be present and active in the same realm? Is it possible to love our neighbor, have hope for creation, and do justice if we do not have civic and political participation? What are you called to do?

Easter Food Baskets

Easter arrived a little early this year for fifteen families, thanks to the generosity of our Hope congregation. We were able to supply two shopping bags full of food to "graduates" of St. Paul's Center, a homeless shelter for women with children. The bags contained food for Easter dinner, a Price Chopper gift card, eggs and coloring kits, and, of course, some Easter candy for the kids!

Jason from the St. Paul Center picked up the bags and told us that he loves calling the families to tell them that Easter dinner is on the way. It's a wonderful Easter surprise for them!

Special thanks to Marilyn Dyer for providing 30 dozen eggs and coloring kits, and to Karen Hill for bringing in 30 cans each of corn and green beans! And thanks to Nora Guido, Cindy Winter, Tonya Humphrey, Anna-Lisa Hafgren-Willis, Karen Hill, Pastor Pamela Hoh and Dickie and Pam Dodson for packing the bags.





ELCA World Hunger 50th Anniversary

*Jesus said to them,
“...You give them something to eat.”
Matthew 14:16*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

In keeping with this year’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, your Upstate NY Synod’s Hunger Justice Team invites you and your congregation to participate in “**Loaves and Fishes**,” inspired by Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the 5000 with only five loaves and two small fish (*Matthew 14:17-20*).

Your contribution of \$500 or more will provide long-term solutions to ending hunger by establishing fish farms and irrigation systems in communities living with food insecurity.

Fish Farm

It starts with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish such as tilapia. Soon the pond can provide the community with a longtime supply of fish, rich in vitamins, minerals and protein.

Irrigation System

Many farmers around the world rely on rainwater to nourish their crops. When the rain doesn’t fall, an entire community can be vulnerable to drought and hunger. Irrigation systems, coupled with training and maintenance, can help vulnerable farmers and their families become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and give them the tools to protect their water supply.

Bring your donation and tally sheet to the hunger table at the synod assembly. Make checks payable to Upstate NY Synod.

Thank your in advance for your generosity! Your gift, combined with others, will provide food for today and hope for tomorrow.



5/11/24



Doors of Hope

Matthew 25:35
"For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
naked and you clothed me..."

Dear Friends @ Hope Lutheran,
We thank you for your donation
(2/29/24) of "ladies products" to
Doors of Hope Food Pantry. How
nice to be able to supply to the
needy some necessary (and sometimes
expensive) products to those least able to
afford them. We appreciate your thought-
fulness.

Sincerely,
Naomi Boel

April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Lucas Boyer	2 Lisa Boyer	3 Dan Churchill	4 Ciji Churchill	5 Harper Churchill	6 Bailey Churchill	7 Judy Cosgrove
8 Bill Cosgrove	9 Tyler Gray	10 Emily Filuta-Gray	11 Henry Gray	12 Chamanka Gamage	13 Luke Morello	14 Gerd Rieker
15 Judy Rieker	16 Diane Middleton	17 Linda Hunter	18 Cynthia Winter	19 Diane Cornell	20 Steve Radzminski	21 Susan Radzminski
22 Greg Whitney	23 Lois Whitney	24 Victoria Whitney	25 Kevin Willis	26 Anna-Lisa Hafgren-Willis	27 Eleanor Mueller-Smith	28 Janis Zipkin
29 Dale Zipkin	30 Maureen Hoffman					

EACH WEEK WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SSUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES.





Rensselaer County number: **(518) 270-2888**

City of Troy, NY number: **(518) 279-7313**

Paint Recycling Event

Saturday, April 6 9am-1pm
at Hudson Valley Community College



Open to all Rensselaer County residents

Registration Required:

<https://circular.eco/event/rensselaer-paint-recycling-event>

Paint must be in original labeled container

****No cracked or leaking containers****

Accepted Materials:

- ▶ urethanes
- ▶ oil-based and latex-based paints
- ▶ acrylic paint
- ▶ varnishes, shellacs and lacquers
- ▶ primers
- ▶ clear coatings

Not Accepted:

- ▶ spray paints, marine and auto paints
- ▶ household hazardous waste
- ▶ electronics
- ▶ paint thinner
- ▶ driveway sealers



GreenSheen

Eco-Friendly Paint

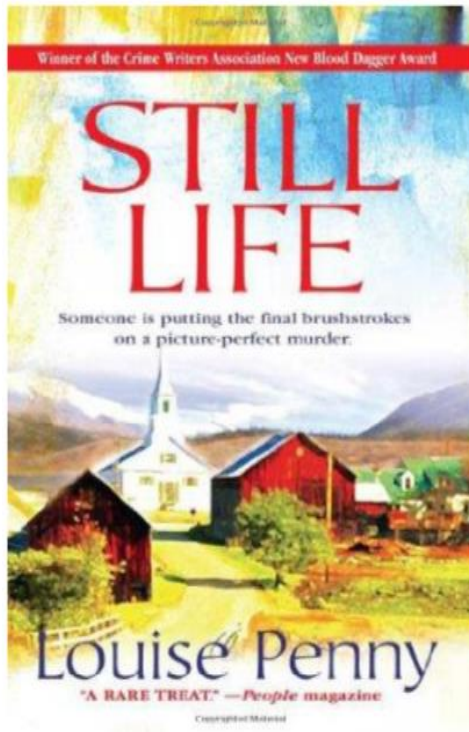


Hudson Valley Community
College, Parking Lot B
North Drive Entrance

BLESSING OF QUILTS

Hope's Helping Hands has busy hands. In addition to the microwave cozies available for purchase, they have made prayer shawls for the newly baptized and quilts for the St. Paul's Center. On Sunday April 7th the quilts for the St. Paul's Center will grace our altar rail. Pastor Pamela will give a blessing prayer for them and then they will be taken to the Center to be shared with the women and children who reside there. Please take a moment to thank Donna Littlejohn, Ja'net Malmstrom and Nancy Clarkson who put hours of love, laughter and prayer into each quilt. P.S. If you are interested in joining this group, we meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon in the small classroom.





HOPE BOOK GROUP READS STILL LIFE BY LOUISE PENNY

Winner of the New Blood Dagger, Arthur Ellis, Barry, Anthony, and Dilys awards.

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache

smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter.

The Hope Book Group will meet on Tuesday, April 16 at the home of Marilyn Dyer, 47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144 at 7:00 p.m. (use the 12144 for g.p.s.) or call Pr. Elaine Berg for directions 315.882.3732. Books are selected each month for the next month per the group's interest. If you are an avid reader, you are encouraged to join for lively discussion and tasty snacks.





JULY 13-19, 2024

**PLANNING YOUR
summer?**

**RELAX AND ENJOY AN
ADIRONDACK SABBATH!**

**A WEEK TO UNPLUG
REST AND RECHARGE
TO PLAY AND TO PRAY
HANG OUT WITH FAMILY AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

**AT THE BEACH, ON THE WATER, HIKING A MOUNTAIN
OR
SITTING ON THE PORCH IN A ROCKING CHAIR READING
OR GAZING AT THE LAKE.**

**THERE ARE GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES,
CLASSES AND WORSHIP WHICH CHALLENGE AND
INSPIRE.**

**YOU CAN SING AND MAKE SMORES AROUND A
CAMPFIRE OR LEARN TO WEAVE, WATERCOLOR,
MAKE JEWELRY OR STAINED GLASS.**

**THIS GATHERING OFFERS IT ALL....
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

LUTHERANS-SILVERBAY.ORG

Worship Volunteer Duties for April of 2024

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	7-Apr	14-Apr	21-Apr	28-Apr
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Susan R	Bonny M	Debbie F	Marilyn D
Greeter	Lois B	Cindy W	Pam D	Marlies P
Usher	Lois B	Marion D	Athena B	Pam D (+ candles)
Assisting Minister	Susan R	Mike D	Athena B	Sandra G
Communion Assistant	Marilyn D	Mike D	Pam D	Chris N
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Marilyn D	Susan C	Marilyn D	Susan C
Offering Counters	Susan R & Pam D	Marion D & Cindy W	Pam D & Bonny M	Pam D & Cindy W



Upcoming Events for April of 2024

We will have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We will also continue to stream our services on our website, YouTube page, and Facebook page.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

- ✦ 4th: Assemble Garden Beds; 11 AM to 3 PM; in the large classroom & sanctuary.
- ✦ 6th: Hope's Kitchen Clean-Up @ 10 AM at Cornerstone Community Church in Lansingburgh.
- ✦ 7th: First Stewardship Campaign during 10 AM Worship Service.
- ✦ 7th: Blessing of the Quilts @ 10 AM; in the sanctuary.
- ✦ 7th: Hope's 2024/2025 Budget following Worship Service.
- ✦ 10th: April Ministerium; 9 AM – 12:30 PM; in the large classroom.
- ✦ 12th: Hope's Dine-Out Dinner Group - TBD.
- ✦ 13th: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at the RFB in Latham.
- ✦ 14th: Second Stewardship Campaign during 10 AM Worship Service.
- ✦ 14th: Hope's Prayer Team meets in the small classroom following Worship Service.
- ✦ 16th: Hope's Hands meet at 10 AM in the small classroom.
- ✦ 16th: Book Club @ 7 PM; Marilyn Dyer's home.
- ✦ 17th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.
- ✦ 21st: Third Stewardship Campaign during 10 AM Worship Service.
- ✦ 24th: Wednesday Bible Study @ Noon returns; in the large classroom & via Zoom.
- ✦ 25th: Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.
- ✦ 28th: Hope's 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship Service.

