



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 2026 NEWSLETTER



Holy Week Schedule

~ details on page 9 ~

NEW!
Co-Ed Bible Study

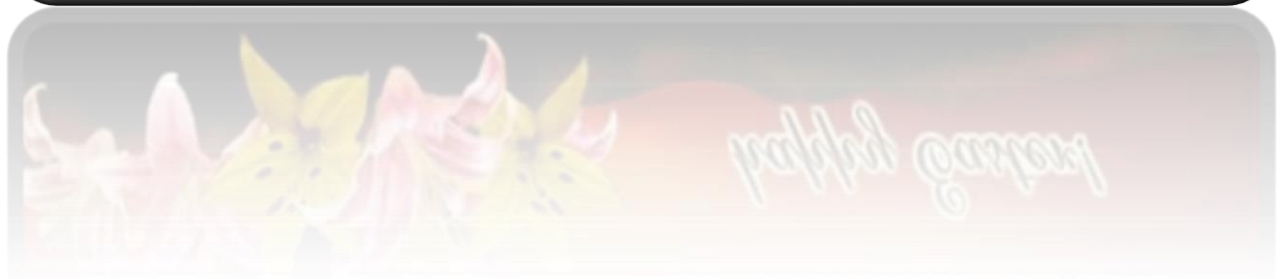
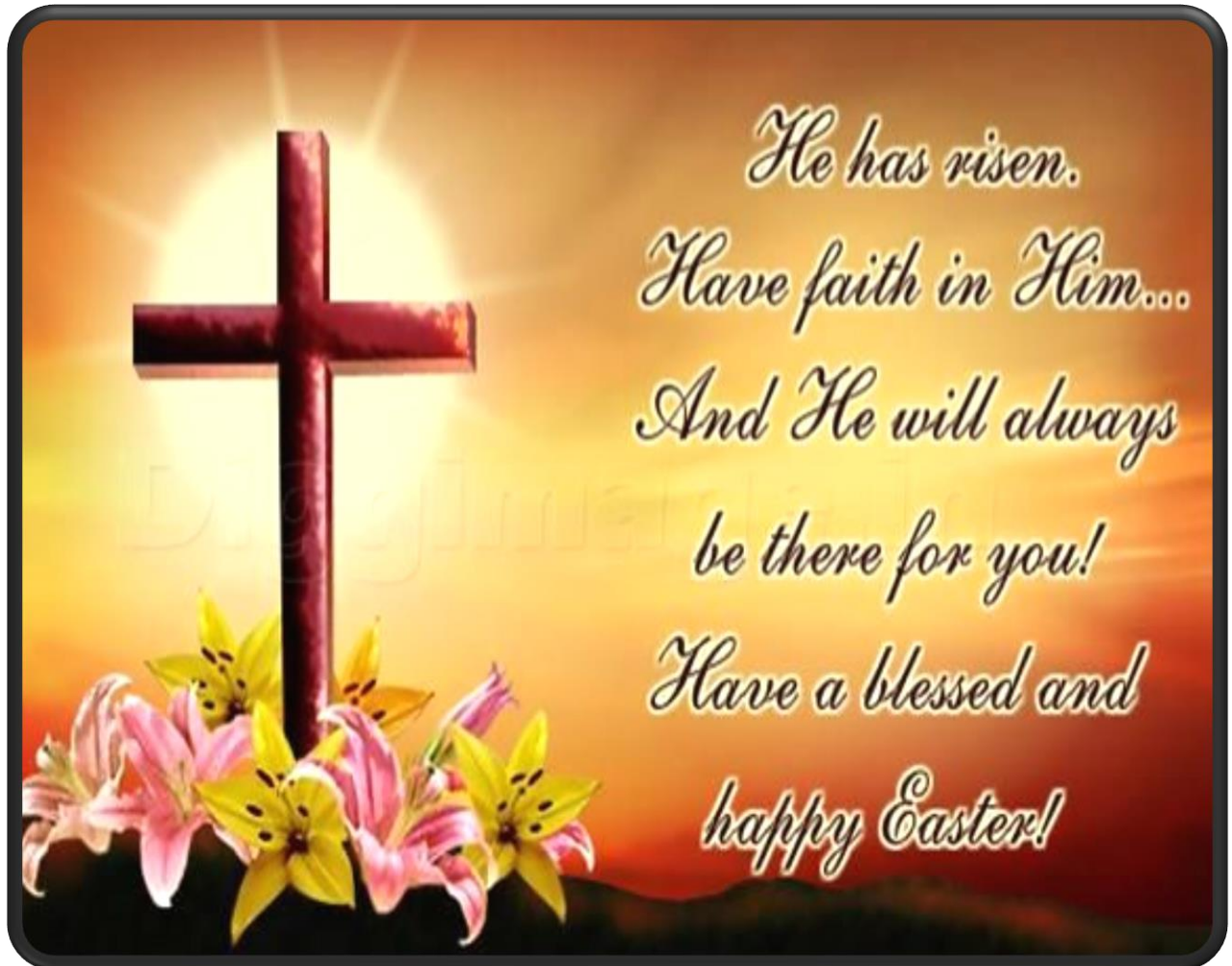
~ info. on page 11

Our Core Values



faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love

A Message from Our Pastor



HEALING MINISTRY TEAM &
HOPE'S HANDS OFFER
FINGER LABYRINTHS
FOR PERSONAL
PRAYER AND MEDITATION



Hope's Hands was offered the opportunity for a new project during Lent. Quilted Finger Labyrinths were made for home altars and personal prayer time. When walking labyrinths are not accessible, finger labyrinths are miniature labyrinth patterns that you trace with your finger instead of walking through a full-sized labyrinth. They are designed to provide a focused, meditative experience in a compact form. Use them as a guide at home for prayer, in offices during break moments, or during difficult personal moments.

Walking labyrinths should not be confused with a maze. They are not meant to confuse or frustrate you. The labyrinth is one of the oldest contemplative tools known to humankind for personal and spiritual growth. This ancient design has been found as far back as 3000 years in a variety of forms and cultures. Some of the cultures where labyrinths have been found are ancient Crete, France, Hopi Native Americans, Norway, India, and the British Isles.

Finger Labyrinths take many forms, using wood, ceramic, paper, or laminated printables, and often feature intricate designs like the classical or Chartres labyrinth. At Hope we offer them as quilted squares made by the Hope Hands team.

A sign-up sheet is available to indicate your interest in obtaining a finger labyrinth for yourself or as a gift. They will be available during the next few months. We ask for \$5.00 each to increase our supplies fund as we continue to make quilts and other items for the St. Paul's Center and Lutheran World Relief.



SISTER BETSY VAN DEUSEN, CSJ
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JENN HYDE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CoNSERNS-U

Date: 31/10/2020

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

CoNSERNS-U, a program of Catholic Charities Tri-County Services, is most grateful for our friends, benefactors, sponsors and patrons who support our mission of helping individual families meet their basic fundamental needs.

We thank you very much for your most generous donation of

Food,

Your kindness in these difficult times assists us in our commitment to help people meet the challenges of day to day living. Your thoughtfulness will enable us to continue our mission of serving those who come to our doors seeking help.

On behalf of the staff and clients of CoNSERNS-U, I again thank you for your gift to the food pantry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Doyle'.

Michael Doyle
Outreach Coordinator
CoNSERNS-U
P.O. Box 28
201 Academy St.
Rensselaer, New York 12144
mdoyle@ccalbany.org



Easter Food Baskets

Many hands made for light work as we packed food for festive Easter dinners! The food went to 15 "graduate" families of the St. Paul's Center, families that are now on their own and need some extra help. Each family got canned and boxed goods, eggs and egg coloring kits, and other items for a holiday dinner, including a \$50 Price Chopper gift card.

Thanks to all who helped! Pictured are Anna-Lisa Hafgren-Willis, Ja'net Malmstrom, Pam Dodson, Nora Guido, Diane Cornell, Donna St. John and Karen Covey. Thanks also to our photographer Dawn Weber (Diane's niece), who made a surprise appearance!

Many thanks to all who donated food items, with special thanks to Marilyn Dyer, Karen Hill and Rick Covey.

In a recent email, Jason from the St. Paul's Center, who delivers the food to the families, had this to say:

"The families are so happy and grateful, and I feel fortunate to be the one who gets to bring that joy to them. Your kindness lifts a huge weight off their shoulders. Knowing they don't have to worry about how they will provide a special holiday meal for their families brings them relief, comfort, and hope. Your support makes that possible. Thank you again for being such a blessing to our community."



Help save lives. Give blood.



**A big THANK YOU to the
28-donors who came to
our Blood Drive on
March 28th.**



**American
Red Cross**

And a special thank you to Kelly Jaeger for helping the American Red Cross workers by setting the sanctuary up for them, Jim Macris and Tonya Humphrey for checking donors in, and Sue Anthony for tending to donors at the snack table!





PRAYER CALENDAR

						April	2026
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Passover Begins	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Pastor Pamela Hoh	Resurrection Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Tom Batsios	Lois Batsios	Wayne Felt's Birthday	Last Day of Passover	Athena Batsios	Daniel Hoh	Joshua Hoh	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Monica Hoh	Lydia Calabro	Sebastian Schomer	Mark Schomer	Maeve Schomer	Dan Churchill	Ciji Churchill	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
Bailey Churchill	Harper Churchill	Arbor Day	Susan Clemente	Daniel Clemente	Luis Clemente	Emily Filuta-Gray	
27	28	29	30				
Tyler Gray	Henry Gray	George Gray	Nancy Clarkson				



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...

Wayne Felt ~ April 8th

Bonny Munteer ~ April 16th





470 Winter Street Ext. in Troy
www.HOPELC.ORG

Holy Week Schedule



All Services will be In-Person & Online

March 29th ~



Service at 10 AM

April 2nd ~



Service at 6 PM

April 3rd ~



Service at 6 PM

April 5th ~



Service at 10 AM

ATTENTION: HOPE(less) Un-OLYMPIC ATHLETES

Hope invites you to the next Gathering on Saturday, April 25, (starting time to be announced). We will host Hope's All Season Un-Olympics!! The committee is already planning events to test your (non) athletic ability. You might be encouraged to join the Rollator Walker Race, Curling (ribbon), the Balance Bean, the Try-athlon, or Hula Hooping! There will be a plethora of opportunities to laugh with others, at yourself and at the person who sits next to you at worship. There will be special events for parents and children alike! Food and drink appropriate to the theme will be offered as well as medals to display next to your 5th grade spelling bee prize. Come join us for an afternoon of fun! All events will be age appropriate!!!



For more information or to offer an idea, contact Marilyn Dyer (518.505.6434) or Pr. Elaine Berg (315.882.3732)

BOOK GROUP RESUMES MEETINGS ON APRIL 22

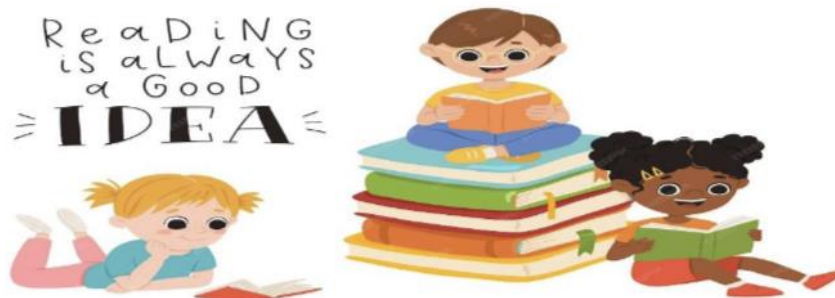
Hope's Women's Book Group will meet on April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Lisa Wingate's book *"Before We Were Yours,"* led by Gail Markert. Weather and Lent postponed this book's discussion. Readers are reminded to review the book.



Looking ahead: Chris Nash will lead discussion on May 27th. The book scheduled for May is *"Life Is So Good"* by George Dawson and Richard Glaubman

Amazon offers the following description of the book.

George Dawson, a slave's grandson who learned to read at age 98 and lived to the age of 103, reflects on his life and shares valuable lessons in living, as well as a fresh, firsthand view of America during the entire sweep of the twentieth century. Richard Glaubman captures Dawson's irresistible voice and view of the world, offering insights into humanity, history, hardships, and happiness. From segregation and civil rights, to the wars and the presidents, to defining moments in history, George Dawson's description of the last century inspires readers with the message: "Life is so good. I do believe it's getting better."



CO-ED
BIBLE STUDY
OFFERED
BEGINNING
WEEK OF
MAY 3RD



Pastor Elaine Berg

will offer a new Co-ed Bible Study beginning the week of May 3rd at noon on Tuesdays or Thursdays. A sign-up sheet is available to indicate your interest and the day you prefer. The group will meet in the Small Classroom. You are encouraged to bring a lunch and a friend to the classes. The discussions will include a variety of biblical translations and interpretations. You are encouraged to bring your own favorite Bible to share. Handouts with translations and questions for discussion will be available. (If anyone needs extra-large print, please indicate to Pastor Elaine.)

Pastor Elaine offers the first cycle with Paul's Letter to the Church in Philippi. This is often called Paul's happiest letter. Paul was obviously very fond of and proud of the church in Philippi. In spite of being in prison in either Rome or Ephesus, Paul's happiness in the letter is infectious. Before reading a dozen lines, the reader begins to feel the joy with the dance of words and the exclamations of delight and love expressed.





THE ANNUAL LUTHERAN SUMMER GATHERING AT SILVER BAY

Saturday, July 18 – Friday, July 24, 2026

The fun and relaxing weeklong vacation for spiritual and physical renewal on beautiful Lake George, NY

Have you started thinking about your summer vacation yet? Longing for time to rest and relax, maybe even recuperate? How about spending some time at one of the most beautiful places on earth? Why not give some thought to attending the Lutheran Summer Gathering at Silver Bay on beautiful Lake George? Think about just relaxing in the rocking chairs on the porch of the Inn or the Boathouse, chatting with family or new friends. If you feel more energetic, you can try kayaking, sailing, tennis, softball, crafts, archery, swimming, hiking, etc. There's even a climbing wall in the gym! Silver Bay provides a safe environment for your children, too, and childcare in the mornings during classes (for a small additional fee). There is also a program just for teens. Silver Bay is handicapped accessible. And you don't have to be a Lutheran – all are welcome!!

The Lutheran Summer Gathering offers many opportunities for worship and spiritual renewal: family Eucharist, morning matins, and evening vespers by the lake. The Silver Bay Association also has a vespers service in the chapel, with music by a string quartet. In addition to all of this, the Gathering offers engaging weekday morning courses to inspire, renew and expand your mind.

Be uplifted, find grounding, relax, have fun, engage the body, engage the mind, make new friends, play. It's your choice.

For more information about the gathering, visit <http://www.lutherans-silverbay.org>. For information about Silver Bay, visit <http://www.silverbay.org>.

Worship Volunteer Duties for April 2026

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

	2-Apr	3-Apr	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr
	Maundy T. 6:00pm	Good Fri. 6:00pm	Easter 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Donna S	Bonny M	Debbie F	Donna S	Bonny M	Donna S
Greeter	Sandra G	Cindy W	Elaine B	Marion D	Nancy D	Ja'net M
Usher	Bonny M	XXX	Bonny M	Marion D	Dickie D	Mike D
Assisting Minister	Pam D	Chris N	Chris N	Mike D	Pam D	Karen C
Comm. Assistant	Pam D	XXX	Chris N	Mike D	Pam D	Debbie F
Snack Set-Up	XXX	XXX	Maureen H	Susan C	Marilyn D	Susan C
Offering Counters	XXX	XXX	Bonny M & Marilyn D	Marion D & Diane C	Pam D & Anna-Lisa H	Cindy W & Pam D
Extra Readers	XXX	Cindy W & Sandra G	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL OF 2026

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

1st: Qigong with Pam Dodson @ 1:30 PM in the sanctuary; (every Wed.).

Advanced Tai Chi with Pam Dodson @ 3 PM in the sanctuary; (every Wed.).

2nd: Maundy Thursday Service @ 6 PM, in-person & online.

3rd: Good Friday Service @ 6 PM, in-person & online.

4th: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.

5th: Easter Sunday Service @ 10 AM, in-person & online.



8th: Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.

12th: Prayers of Hope Team meets in the small classroom following worship service.

15th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom.

16th: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.

21st: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

22nd: Women's Book Club Resumes @ 6:30 PM at the home of Pr. Elaine & Marilyn.

25th: Gathering Event: HOPE(less) Un-OLYMPIC ATHLETES in the large classroom.

26th: Annual Meeting following worship service; lunch provided.

Newsletter Articles Due to Tonya.

