



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.

December 2024 Newsletter



Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*

**Hope Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Service**

7:00 PM

In-Person & Online

A Message from Our Pastor

On December 1st, we enter the season of Advent. A time of waiting and preparation for the birth of the Christ Child into our midst. Now most people, myself included, become enthralled at the birth of a child. There's something about seeing this new life that puts us at ease, that fills us with joy even in the most tumultuous of times. I've heard otherwise seriously minded and mature adults revert to this strangely incomprehensible language of baby babble when engaging with this new life. But the entry of the Christ Child into our midst is not just about the lovely birth of a sweet and adorable infant into our midst; though I'm sure Jesus was sweet and adorable as an infant. But the birthing of this child into our midst means so much more. For Jesus' birth is the in-breaking of God into our world. A God who loves us so much that they are willing to experience and walk beside us in our suffering and pain. Through the birth of the Christ child, God enters our world in order to show us a new reality. A reality where justice reigns, where our sins are washed away, and where mercy and compassion are the norm. A reality where we experience God's love, and thus in response to such love, are able to open our hearts to loving and accepting all peoples. Where the other becomes one with me and I am one with the other. In South Africa there is a term for this type of unity, "Ubuntu." It is a Zulu word, though it is embraced by most African tribes. I saw a perfect expression of this concept on Facebook.

CHANGING THE GAME

"An anthropologist proposed a game to children in an African tribe.

He put a basket of fruit near a tree and told the children whoever got there first won the sweet fruits.

When he told them to run, they all took each other's hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats.

When he asked them why they had run together like that, as one could have had all the fruits for himself, they said: 'Ubuntu, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?'

Ubuntu in their civilization means: (I am because we are).

That tribe knows the secret of happiness that has been lost in many societies which consider themselves civilized."

— National Geographic

May your hearts be filled with the love and joy of Christ this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

Ubuntu!
Pastor Pamela

Time for an Update

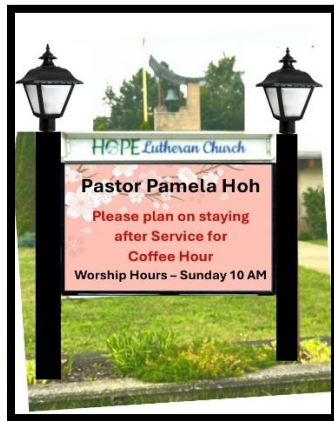
As you have gotten out of your car and walked up to the church, you have gone past this sign for years.



Ensign, (the company that did our road sign), has offered to donate the signboard with a new LED signboard (less minimal costs). The council has agreed to accept this donation. First, we have to go to the Town of North Greenbush and request an area variance.

Greg Whitney will be going to a zoning board meeting either in December or January to seek approval.

If approved, the look of the sign will be significantly different. Here are a couple of different examples of things we can do with it. The signboard will be able to be changed by Tonya from inside.



If approved by the town, the projected change will be early Spring.

This sign will have a completely different purpose than the road sign.

Questions can be directed to Greg Whitney.

about



hello community™ podcast:
creating connection and community

Catherine Jura, Host

Two new podcasts!

Just say Yes! started at five years old for interior designer Lynn Underhill. An astounding story of yes's that took Lynn from painting murals to designing a two-apartment complex for the Ronald McDonald Family Retreat in Lake George, New York. Her story is one of "yes's" that opened doors; doors that eventually needed to be closed; and doors of connection and community that have lasted decades. Lest this sound like an easy path, Lynn did most of her growth after her husband died unexpectedly leaving her to raise a three and a five-year-old son. A gripping story!

Creating connection takes work but it is made easier in a community that values it. *Three Generations of Community* follows the Peters family through their experiences of modern day *Scouts*. Told by 8-year-old Sam and 10 year-old Lucas, along with their parents Sue and Justin Owens (previous *Scouts* and now leaders), you will hear a lot about the fun and scary aspects of "fitting in"--no matter your age. Whether you have children looking for new adventures--or are an adult wanting to grow in connection and community with young people--the *Scouts* may be for you.

New to how to enjoy a podcast? The podcast is both video and audio: you can pull up the link/QR Code/Hope website below and either sit and watch the conversation or just listen while you are driving, walking, gardening, or relaxing.

The mission of *hello community™ podcast* is to bring stories of how to create connection and community building to all of us—but especially to those feeling isolated and lonely. Right now, there are three ways to find and share the podcast:

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/@hellocommunity-tv8tv>

Hope's website: <https://www.hopelc.org/> (upper right corner)

hello community QR code



QR Code

My prayer is that, together, we can support each other to lives of social connection and community.

Till next time,

Catherine



December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Pastor Pamela Hoh
2 Daniel Hoh	3 Joshua Hoh	4 Monica Hoh	5 Pam Dodson	6 Dickie Dodson	7 Mary Schmitt	8 Matt Schmit
9 Lucas Schmitt	10 Lisa Rogers	11 Jim Freehart	12 Jake Freehart	13 Cyndy Rogers	14 Emily Gray	15 Tyler Gray
16 George Gray	17 Henry Gray	18 Charlie Huff	19 Rachel Carey	20 Lynda Seiling	21 Dawn Conville	22 Samantha Carey
23 Kathy Zorian	24 Those without homes	25 ★	26 Boxing Day - Those who serve others	27 Edith Easterling	28 Iola Pratt	29 Children at risk
30 Karen Hill	31 Reflect and Recommit					



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.)



Thursday Bible Study - Short Stories by Jesus

The Thursday Women's Bible Study Group will begin a new study on December 5th at 6:30 p.m. We will discover the parables of Jesus as interpreted by Jewish Professor of New Testament, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus* looks at the words of Jesus through the eyes of his contemporary community guiding us to see and hear them in new ways. The new study, held at the home of Pr. Elaine Berg and Marilyn Dyer (47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144) will begin on Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm. For information or to join the class, contact Pr. Elaine via phone, text or email (315.882.3732 or meb312@aol.com)

Christmas Food Baskets

for St. Paul's Center Families

**Advent is here and Christmas is coming soon!
Once again, we at Hope LC will be preparing Christmas
food baskets for 15 families who have recently moved out
of the St. Paul's Center. We need your help!**

**There is a poster in the narthex listing the items
needed. Please sign-up for whatever you can provide, and take
a Post-It note for each item to remind you when you're shopping.**

**We will pack the food on Thursday morning, Dec. 19th, at 10:30am in the
large classroom. If you are available to help out for about a half-hour,
please let Pam Dodson know at (518) 701-4628.**

**Each family will also receive a grocery store gift card, purchased with
church funds, so they'll be able to buy turkeys, fresh produce and whatever
else they need for a nice Christmas dinner. Please help us make Christmas
special for these families who have recently moved from the homeless
shelter into new homes.**

***"Every year, the families are overjoyed and truly grateful. Thank you all so
much for all that you do!" – Jason, St. Paul's Center***



December Gathering of Hope on 12/22/24



CAROLING

Gathering of Hope will celebrate the tradition of Christmas Caroling after worship on Sunday, Dec. 22. A Soup and Bread luncheon will be provided by the Gathering of Hope Committee led by Marion Daus. Carolers will sing in the parking lot with accompaniment provided by Greg Whitney. A group will meet at the church on Saturday, December 21 to make soup. You are encouraged to join the Hope Cooking crew to assist. A sign-up sheet for the caroling will be available on the Narthex table. To join the cooks or to join the caroling you may text or email Marion Daus at 518.248.5914 or mjd12198@gmail.com.



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CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight
SERVICE

In-Person & Online

7:00 PM

Come Celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ

Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ

**Wishing You All
a Blessed & Merry
Christmas this
December 25th, 2024**

No Service Today

Worship Volunteer Duties for December 2024

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

	1-Dec	8-Dec	15-Dec	22-Dec	24-Dec	29-Dec
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Christmas Eve 7pm	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Maureen H	Donna S	Susan R	Bonny M	Marilyn D	Maureen H
Greeter	Cindy W	Lois B	Marlies P	Ja'net M	Elaine B	Marion D
Usher	Chamanka G	Pam D	Athena B	Marilyn D	Janis Z	Mike D
Assisting Minister	Bonny M	Cindy W	Athena B	Bonny M	Chris N	Janis Z
Communion Assistant	Bonny M	Lois B	Debbie F	Chris N	Chris N	Donna S
Snack Set-Up / Clean-Up	Marilyn D	Charlie H	Charlie H	Susan C	(no snack)	Marilyn D
Offering Counters	Bonny M & Cindy W	Pam D & Cindy W	Charlie H & Susan R	Bonny M & Marilyn D	(will be counted 12/29)	Marion D & Maureen H



News & Upcoming Events for December of 2024

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:** Payers of Hope Team meets in the small classroom following Worship Service.
- 3rd:** Beginner Tai Chi, 7 – 8 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Tuesday).
- 4th:** Wednesday Bible Study, 12 – 1:15 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom, (every Wed.).
- 4th:** Qigong, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).
- 4th:** Advanced Tai Chi, 3 – 4 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).
- 5th:** Women's Thursday Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine Berg's home, (every Thursday).
- 5th:** Choir Rehearsal @ 6:15 PM in the sanctuary, (every Thursday).
- 7th:** Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.
- 10th:** Women's Book Club @ 7 PM at Marilyn Dyer's home.
- 13th:** Hope's Dine-Out Group @ 6 PM for those who RSVP'd.
- 17th:** Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.
- 18th:** Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom.
- 19th:** Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.
- 19th:** Christmas Food Basket Packing for St. Paul's Families @ 10:30 AM in the large classroom.
- 22nd:** Gathering of Hope Event; Christmas Caroling in the parking lot following Worship Service.
- 23rd – 31st:** No Tai Chi, Qigong, Bible Studies, or Choir Rehearsal.
- 24th:** Christmas Eve Worship Service @ 7 PM, in the sanctuary & online.
- 25th:** Christ is Born ~ Merry Christmas (no service today).

