

March 2021

HOPE-filled Words



Hope Church

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One of my favorite authors is Frederick Buechner. While he trained as a pastor, he never served a church. He wrote, taught or lectured. He wrote several novels but what I love more are his reflections. I recently picked up again, after having loaned them and not receiving them back a set of three books, *Whistling in the Dark: a doubter's dictionary*. *Peculiar Treasures: a Biblical who's who* and *Wishful Thinking: a Seeker's ABC*. Each of these short books is filled with short reflections. I was reflecting on one of the short writings in *Wishful Thinking: a Seeker's ABC* the other day, it's titled—Children.

When the disciples, overeager as ever, ask Jesus who was the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus pulled a child out of the crowd and said the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven were people like this (Matthew 18:1-4). Two thousand years of homiletic sentimentalizing to the contrary notwithstanding, Jesus was not playing Captain Kangaroo. He was saying that the people who get into Heaven are people who, like children, don't worry about it too much. They are people who, like children, live with their hands open more than their fists clenched. They are people who, like children, are so relatively unburdened by preconceptions that if somebody says there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, they are perfectly willing to go take a look for themselves.

Children aren't necessarily better than other people. Like the child in 'The Emperor's New Clothes,' they are just apt to be better at telling the difference between a put-up job and the real thing.

These words struck me as we continue on our journey of life. How often do we need to be like children. Willing to live with our hands open to receive the goodness that exists. To be free from the preconceptions of race, culture, age, gender, class. To be able to step out in faith and see the truth, name it, and move forward.

As we enter this month of March I invite us to live with these words—and think about the story from Matthew 18. The disciples did not expect Jesus to choose a child, they expected him to choose one of them, yet it was a child who was the example. Help us learn to trust in all we do—knowing that we all have a child within us.

Pastor Carol

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Hope Family Prayer Concerns

Each week the bulletin contains a list of people for whom prayers have been requested. We want everyone to be aware of these special prayer requests, and invite you to pray for these people. You may not recognize their names or know their needs, but God does. You are welcome to submit requests for prayers by contacting the church office.

Current Health & Other Concerns

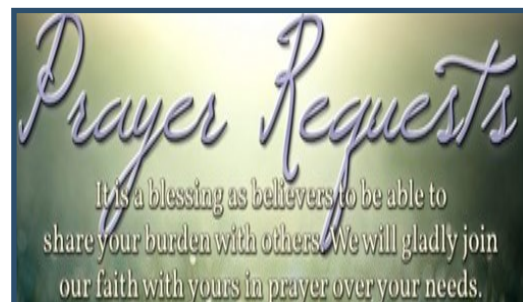
Betty Blair; Christine Campbell, Caden Clancy, Todd Cussons, Rev. John Ferris; Shirley Hodgson; Robin Leineke; Robin McCalden; Mike Porter, Beverly S.; Dick Turner, Jenny Walburn; Keith Yott

Benjamin Hilcrofft, Great Nephew of Rosemary Collins: Craig VanHorn, Nephew of Bea Reed
Long-Term Health Concerns

Ray Bracero; Judy Cappiello, Mark Cappiello; Gordan Collins; Vinnie Correale; Carol Craig; Loretta Findley; John Foote; Kristin Galea; Blaine Hall; Keith and Ruth Jordan; Ken & Jenny Martineau and family; Lois Patterson; Christine Raniszewski; Carole Roberts; Todd Shively; Lisa Spencer, Sue Witzman,

Our Homebound and Those in Care Facilities

Raelyn Cole, Sydney Gargagliano; Linda Johnston, Estelle Kneisel;
Lorraine Miller; Estelle Torrey; Charlene Welsch



Lent 2022 - Table Service

Flint Mission Zone Joint Program

Worship Services

March 2 - Joint Ash Wednesday Service; Calvary UMC at 6:30 pm
Bethel, Calvary & Hope UMC

March 6 - Genesis 25:29-34

March 13 - Luke 9:12-17 Pastor Greg Timmons Preaching

March 20 - Mark 2:23-28

March 27 - Numbers 11:4-20 Rev. Jeremy Peters

April 3 - Luke 10:38-42

April 10 - Luke 19:1-10, 28-40

April 14 - Joint Holy Thursday Service; Hope UMC hosts all churches at 7:00 pm

April 15 - Joint Good Friday Service; Court St. UMC hosts all churches at Noon

Zone Lenten Book Study

Praying with the Church by Scot McKnight – a book study spiritual practices 1 hour study

By Zoom - the link will be given to all who ask.

Wednesday at Noon lead by Pastor Tommy McDoniel & Rev. Jeremy Peters

Wednesday at 6:30 pm lead by Pastor Greg Timmons & Rev. Carol

If you are interested please let me know and I will order books this week. (you do not need a book to participate) Both studies will be using the same material, Come to whichever class will work for you.

Zone Mission Projects

Food giveaway at Hope (date to be determined)

South Flint Soup Kitchen - Ongoing

