

# Whisperings

## WHAT'S INSIDE



- A word from Pastor Scott**  
pages 1-2
- 'Out & about'**  
page 3
- Sermon series**  
page 3
- Hope news**  
page 4
- Meetings & events**  
page 5
- Planting in Hope Meadow**  
page 6
- Hope preschool**  
pages 7-9
- CityGate Ephrata**  
page 10
- Community news & outreach**  
page 11
- Hope Meadow report**  
page 12
- Clyde's nature note**  
page 13

## ■ ■ ■ A Word from Pastor Scott How Are You Doing?

Greetings Friends,

In the evening, we enjoy taking our dogs Piper and Finnegan for a walk around the neighborhood. As the temperature rises and the days become longer, people are outside walking their dogs as well. Whenever I see someone, I say, "How are you doing?" To which their response is "I'm doing good." If they are adventurous, they will turn the question back on me: "and you?" Then the ball is back in my court to respond. I usually say, "I'm doing good," and walk away from the interaction. Sometimes I wonder when we exchange our normal pleasantries, if we would actually tell the other person how we are really doing. Would the person take notice and engage us with a genuine conversation or be too shocked to probe any further and walk away?

We all do this to be courteous to our neighbor. What would happen if a stranger asked us how we are doing, and we would say what's actually on our heart? "Well, now that you asked, I'm going through a rough time right now. My father is dealing with pancreatic cancer and the prognosis isn't good. I could really use some prayer." Several years ago, I was waiting patiently at my daughter Mia's guitar lesson.

■ ■ ■ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

### HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 738-3774

[www.hopeumcephrata.org](http://www.hopeumcephrata.org) ■ [hopeumc@ptd.net](mailto:hopeumc@ptd.net)

[www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata](http://www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata)

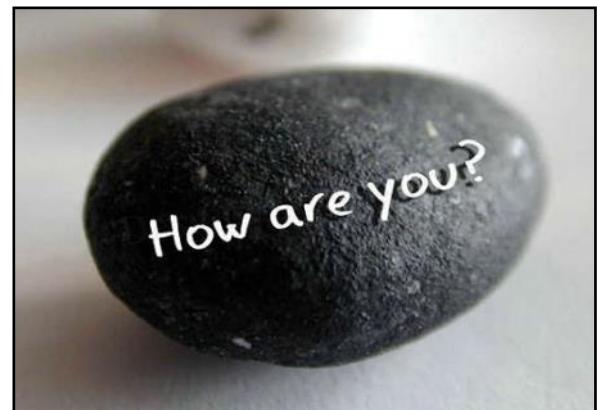
Join us Sundays for 10 a.m. worship ■ 11:15 a.m. Sunday school

## A Word from Pastor Scott ■ ■ ■

A mother asked me how I was doing, and my response was, "Well, I'm a little tired right now. It's been a long day." We then engaged in genuine dialogue and empathy for one another. This type of dialog can spill over into the church as well. If we really desire to know how people are doing or if we wish to share with our friends what is truly on our mind and heart, then we will go the extra mile beyond the typical pleasantries of 'okay' or 'fine.'

Too often in the church we come to worship with our masks that scream to the world everything is fine when the opposite is actually true. We put on our 'Sunday Best' when inside our anxiety is raging. Part of our vision is to "Restore hope into people's hearts," and I think a big component of that vision is to be ambassadors of hope and love in our neighborhood. True love is being real with each other, taking off the mask and sharing our feelings. I love the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:15 where he tells us to "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep." In other words, don't just say, "I'm fine." Laugh when they are experiencing the highs of life and cry when they are enduring great trials.

Every now and then, I enjoy reading satirical articles from a group called the Babylon Bee. What follows is their article. The article is not referring to a real place, but it is quite sarcastic. I believe it makes an important point about the need for us to be real with one another. I hope you enjoy it.



**Report: Every Single Person At Church Doing 'Fine'** July 12, 2016—ERIE, PA—The results of Pastor Mike's informal survey are in every single member of Bayfront Methodist Church is doing either "fine," "good," or "real good." When the pastor pressed for details, members responded with some combination of, "No really, I'm doing great," or else, "Yeah, things are good, things are good." The survey was conducted as the pastor faithfully stood at the doors of the church after the Sunday service, shaking the hands of each churchgoer as they left and asking how they were doing. "It's really quite spectacular," the pastor told reporters Monday. "You would think, given the state of our fallen world, that at least one person would be going through a crisis or battling some kind of indwelling sin that they need help with. But not at this church—we're all doing fine it seems. Praise the Lord!" Prayer requests for the week included several reports of distant friends and family that were struggling with sin, but nobody in the church reported needing prayer for themselves. "Prayer? Me?" one congregant said to Pastor Mike, a puzzled expression on her face. "No. I mean, you can pray for me generally, but really I'm not in much need of anything right now. I'm doing awesome, really." She was later spotted at a coffee shop, bawling her eyes out over some personal struggle, according to sources. Reporters then asked Pastor Mike how he was doing. "Who, me? Oh yeah, I'm doing just fine," he confirmed.

Enjoy the summer!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott". A thin, light-colored line extends from the end of the signature towards the bottom right corner of the page.

Pastor Scott

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

We are now offering the opportunity to sponsor altar flowers to commemorate a special occasion or heartfelt remembrance. Cost is \$35. A signup poster is in the lobby outside the Sanctuary or see Sandy Muckle. **Upcoming available dates:** June 13, 20, and 27; July 4, 18, and 25; Aug. 8, 15, and 22.

## **TO BETTER PLAN OUR CALENDAR**

To make the running of the church office more efficient, please fill out the yellow forms on the Administrative Assistant's desk to schedule any upcoming meetings and events. Thank you.

## **WHISPERINGS**

Copies of the Whisperings monthly newsletter can be found in the front lobby and the church office.

## **SUMMER BREAK**

We've combined this issue of the Whisperings to include July and August. If needed, a summer supplemental will be published. Stay tuned!

## **■ ■ ■ Out and About**

Pastor Scott believes, "Opportunity is everywhere for true mission and evangelism." His faith and spirit is guiding him to get 'out and about' in the community. Each month we will highlight some of his most recent or upcoming ministries.

- Met with Ephrata / Akron Ministerium president Pastor Duane Metzler and Carrie Kurtz from the Lancaster Re-Entry Coalition to talk about the Coalition's planned mentor group for people returning to their community after incarceration. Kurtz also reported a retired pastor from the Lancaster prison system is willing to help kickstart the group. Pastor Metzler has also agreed to be on board.

If you would like to suggest a future 'Out and About' segment, please contact Pastor Scott at [hopeumcpastorscott@gmail.com](mailto:hopeumcpastorscott@gmail.com).

## **■ ■ ■ Sermon Series**

### **"GPS-God's Positioning System"**

**June 6 - Where Are You?** (Genesis 3:1-13)

**June 13 - Who's In You?** (Colossians 1:21-27)

**June 20 - Are We Welcoming God's Spirit?** (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)

**June 27 - Are We Seated In Heavenly Places?** (Ephesians 2:1-7)

Worship services are broadcast live on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata](https://www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata) and archived on our YouTube channel: [www.tinyurl.com/Hope-YouTube](https://www.tinyurl.com/Hope-YouTube).



## ***Starry Nights @ Hope***

We are looking for VBS volunteers to help one evening a month in June, July, and August. Dates to be determined. If interested, please fill out the survey in the lobby. Thank you!

## **HOPE UMC STAFF & OFFICE HOURS**

**Pastor:** Rev. Scott Dorn ● **Administrative Assistant:** Barbara Graham

**Director of Music:** Lisa Helock ● **Organist:** Dave Luck

**Sexton:** Doreen Deamer

**Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

## **HELPERS NEEDED FOR HOPE MINISTRY**

We are looking for volunteers to help with Children's Church on Sunday mornings along with the Children's Moment. Children's Church volunteers would help on alternate Sundays on ZOOM. To sign up or to learn more, see Pastor Scott or contact the church office.

## **MOTHER'S DAY GIVING TO EASS**

Our special Mother's Day Giving to Ephrata Area Social Services totaled \$455.00.

## **ORGAN DONATION**

As of May 28, Hope Church has received **\$28,236.50** for the new organ. Thank you!

## **ONE GREAT YEAR OF SHARING 2021**

Each Sunday, Hope Church will be collecting for One Great Year of Sharing, with **Water Street Mission** as this year's designee. A donation jar can be found in the Sanctuary. So far we've collected **\$270.00**.

## **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**



In early May we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week at Hope Preschool. Many thanks to our preschool staff for all their hard work and willingness to embrace change during extended COVID-19 safety mandates throughout the 2020-2021 school year.



## **ATTENTION: GRADUATES!**

Is there a graduate in your life who you'd like to honor? Submit their information to the church office by **Friday, June 11**. We would like to honor those graduating from high school, vocational school, college, graduate school, or postgraduate school. **Please send us the following info:** graduate's name, school, degree, and their future plans. Thank you!

## **June & July**

Father's Day

June 20

Independence Day

July 4

## **August**

Newsletter Deadline

Aug. 15

## **Monthly Events**

Holy Communion

June 6, July 4, and Aug. 1

First Sunday Giving

for Assistance Fund

June 6, July 4, and Aug. 1

Fifth Sunday Giving

Good Samaritan Services

Aug. 29

## **Weekly Events**

Women's Book  
& Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 a.m.  
through June 10

## **STUDY SCHEDULES**

Men of Hope will not meet in June, July, and August. The Women's Book & Bible Study will take the second half of June, and all of July and August off. The Wide Awake and Elective Sunday School classes will also not meet in June, July, and August. They all plan to gather again in September.

## **Church Administration Meetings**

(All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless specified)

- Monday, June 7 - Homes of Hope 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 15 - Leadership Board
- Monday, July 5 - Homes of Hope 7 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 2 - Homes of Hope 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 17 - Leadership Board

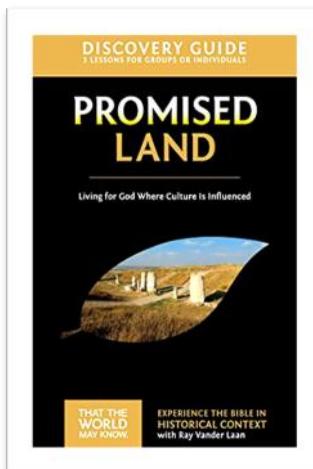
## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL SEEKERS**

Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m.

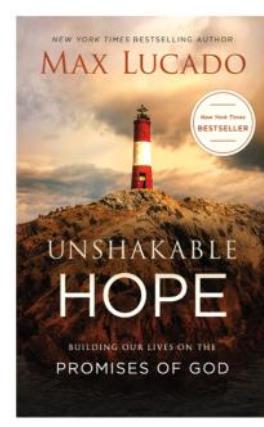
■ Bruce Tucker

**Promised Land**

by Ray Vander Laan



The Seekers class led by Bruce Tucker will continue through the summer. Study material TBA and all are welcome to attend.



## **WOMEN'S BOOK & BIBLE STUDY**

Thursdays at 10 a.m.  
through June 10

■ Room 221

**Unshakable Hope**  
by Max Lucado

# **Help plant a Native Pollinator Meadow at Hope Church**

We will be planting all-native Pennsylvania pollinator landscaping plugs along the Warwick to Ephrata Rail Trail in the meadow at Hope United Methodist Church. Please bring your favorite gardening tools (spade, hat, gloves, sunscreen, etc.). Plug holes are already drilled and ready for plants.

A limited number of spades will be available to borrow. Event will end at 1:00PM or when all plugs are planted. No registration required; just meet us in the parking lot at the back of the church. All are Welcome!



**3474 Rothsville Road  
Ephrata PA 17522**

**June 5, 2021**  
**Saturday - 9:00AM**

**Rain Date: June 12, 2021**

[www.hopeumcephrata.org](http://www.hopeumcephrata.org)

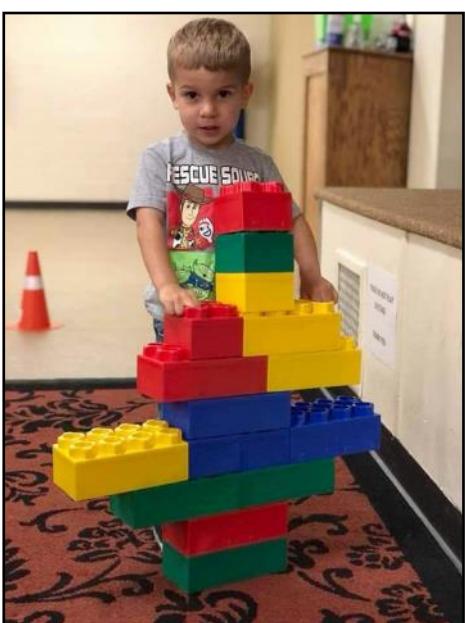
[www.facebook.com/HopeMeadowEphrata](https://www.facebook.com/HopeMeadowEphrata)

# PRE-K GRAD 2021



On three consecutive nights (May 24, 25, and 26) Hope preschool held their Pre-Kindergarten graduation ceremonies. Congratulations, everyone!







# HOPE PRESCHOOL

Greetings from Hope Preschool,

May was a whirlwind for everyone at the preschool. From field trips to family parties and finally graduation it has been a busy month, to say the least. Our three Pre-K classes enjoyed a field trip to Brecknock Orchard and it turned out to be a beautiful day. They were taken on a wagon ride through the orchard, planted a flower to bring home, and made a pinwheel craft. They were also treated to a fruit slushy and pretzels for a snack. Afterward, they had a picnic lunch and played on the playground.

Each of our classes had End of the Year parties. We held them outside and parents could attend. One class had a dog theme party with many dog-related activities, another class had a Spring theme party with planting flowers and making bird feeders, and another class had a Cinco de Mayo party that was a lot of fun!

Graduation was held on three separate nights this year to allow for COVID-19 restrictions. The programs were also live streamed on the preschool Facebook page for those who were unable to attend. After the event, families enjoyed refreshments in Fellowship Hall. The official last day for our Pre-K classes and MDO was Wednesday, May 26. The Preschool class will end on Wednesday, June 2.

We were able to register enough children to run three classes for one session of Summer Camp this year. The session will run on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 29 through July 22. This is our first year offering a Kindergarten Readiness Program and we are excited about the response we received.

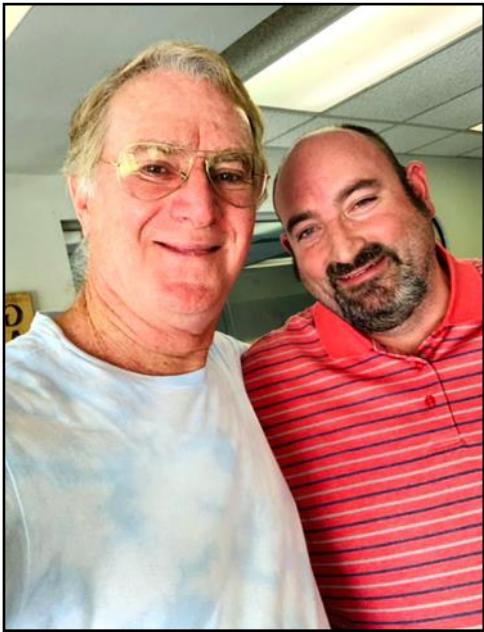
Over the summer all Hope Preschool staff will focus on preparing for the new curriculum that was implemented and will begin in September. It is mapped out to incorporate the same themes into each classroom and age group and to ensure that each child, no matter which teacher they have, is being offered the same opportunities to learn and grow so that we can send them all off to school with a firm educational foundation.

Many blessings from everyone at the preschool and thank you to the Hope congregation for your continued support all year long!

**Shannon Brown**  
**Director**

## LATE BREAKING NEWS

On Wednesday, May 26, the Trustees approved the use of Hope Church for upcoming Hispanic worship services. Collaborating with Angel Perez, worship would take place when the building is not being used for regular church activities. Times and dates to come. Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS) will also make use of our Fellowship Hall on a monthly basis for orientation and group evaluation meetings. To learn more about KPETS, visit: [www.kpets.org](http://www.kpets.org).



## CITYGATE (EPHRATA)

Our Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20 and Great Commandment in John 13:34-35 is making disciples and loving God and our neighbor. We do this through letting our light shine in our community. Through simple one-on-one conversations, we can build relationships and share the love of Christ with our neighbor. Every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m., we have a divine opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus at CityGate on Main Street in Ephrata, an outreach center offering coffee and fellowship. All walks of life enter the building and are searching for meaning and purpose in their lives. Every week Pastor Scott meets new people who are searching for God's love in a practical way. CityGate's mission is to release the Kingdom of God through prayer, serving, and training. We are challenged to get out of our pews and share the love of Christ with our neighbor. Sometimes we are fearful to be around people who may be different than us, but if we can take that leap of faith and are willing to just be ourselves, we can represent Jesus Christ and demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel. If interested, Pastor Scott would be willing to take you with him on Wednesdays.



# **Community Help, Volunteering & Employment**

Employment and volunteer opportunities, plus information about organizations that provide meals, groceries, clothing, and more can be found in the church lobby.

- **Blessings of Hope Food Boxes** (717) 733-8833
- **Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS)** (717) 733-0345
- **Ephrata Community Meals** (717) 733-9608
- **Lancaster County Office of Aging** (717) 299-7979
- **Meals on Wheels** (717) 733-4846
- **Peter's Porch** (717) 859-2100
- **Water Street Mission** (717) 393-7709

## *Thank you notes ...*

I would like to thank Hope Church for all the birthday cards and prayers I received.

■ **Larry Bickhart**

I received a nice card from Hope Church for my 93rd birthday.  
Thank you, Lay Committee.

■ **Kay Hoefner**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hope United Methodist Church community for all their support during my time serving as Director of Family Ministries. You truly are a family and welcomed me into service there in a way I will cherish always. I feel humbled and blessed to have been a part of ministry at Hope. I pray for God to continue to grow and develop this church that it may bear fruit pleasing to His eye.

■ **Morgan Pummer**

I live nearby and often walk the Ephrata Rail-Trail. I've been meaning to write for a while to thank you for the gift of Hope Meadow to folks using the trail. It was so beautiful and peaceful last year during the pandemic and I'm looking forward to enjoying this summer on the trail. Thank you for all the hard work. God bless.

■ **Andrea Sleek, Ephrata resident**

## **EASS DONATIONS**

We are currently collecting canned and boxed food along with paper products for Ephrata Area Social Services (EASS). Please place your donations under the coat rack in the lobby. Items can be dropped off after worship on Sundays or when the church office is open (Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) Thank you for your continued support of EASS and the work they do for our local community.

## **GOOD SAMARITAN**

Donations of feminine hygiene and paper products along with laundry detergent for Good Samaritan Services are still being accepted. A box for all drop-offs is located in the church lobby underneath the visitor table.

**There are several families in our Ephrata neighborhoods who would benefit greatly from your donations to Good Samaritan and EASS. Please consider giving to one or both as this is a great community outreach opportunity for Hope Church!**

## **HOW CAN WE HELP?**

Do you or someone you know have a need for some financial assistance during this time? We can help! Please notify the Hope Church office at (717) 738-3774 or contact Jerry Gerhart at (717) 733-2331.



Closeups of Golden Alexander flowers.

## ■ ■ ■ Hope Meadow Report

# Golden Alexanders in Hope Meadow

Hope Meadow had an exciting yellow flower bloom this spring: Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)! The Golden Alexander is a native plant to Pennsylvania and is one of the host plants for Black Swallowtail butterflies and is part of the carrot family. The native seed mix that we planted in 2019 contained Golden Alexander seeds, but we did not see them boom last year. The seeds require cold stratification to germinate, meaning they need to “feel” the cold and hot cycles of our winter before they can grow into a plant. The plant will germinate the first year but will not flower until the second year. You can skip the wait and buy this plant as a seedling at many native plant nurseries. The Alexanders are short-lived but can bloom from April to August. The ones in the meadow are starting to go to seed, but we may see more plants that bloom in series all summer long. The plant generally prefers wet soil but is tolerant of dry soils and full sun to partly sunny.

The way to distinguish this plant from other yellow flowers is to look at the leaves and flower clusters. The leaves are divided into threes, twice in the upper leaves and divided once in the lower leaves. The flowers are clustered into a flat-topped flower head, as shown in the photos. The seeds will add an attractive purple color to the meadow.

The Golden Alexander could be confused with the non-native Field Mustard (*Brassica rapa*) or the non-native Garden Yellowrocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*). Garden Yellowrocket is what is often seen in early spring along the roadsides in Lancaster.

■ ■ ■ CAMMY FREED

## Some Beautiful Neotropicals

On a sunny day last May, I parked my pickup truck along a Lancaster County country road to enjoy the beauties of nature. As I looked down through sun-splashed tree foliage on a wooded slope to the Conestoga River, I saw a sudden, airborne flash of orange and black zip cross the river and perch on a bare twig over the water. It was a lovely male Baltimore oriole just arrived from Central America where he spent the winter. What a handsome bird among the sun-drenched leaves, over the clear, running water!

Baltimore orioles, scarlet tanagers, and rose-breasted grosbeaks are similarly sized, neotropical birds that spend winters in Central and South America, but nest in the eastern United States, including here in Lancaster County. Males of these bird species are brightly colored and lovely, which allows them to attract mates for rearing offspring. Their mates are also pretty, but plainly feathered, which camouflages them from predators' eyes, which is especially important when those birds are raising young.

These strikingly beautiful, neotropical birds eat protein-packed invertebrates, and feed them to their three to four young in each nursery. Each of these pretty species has its own niche, which reduces competition for food and nesting sites.



A male scarlet tanager.

Male Baltimore orioles are orange and black, while their mates are light brown on top and pale orange underneath. These males sing delightfully clear whistles. Their mates are famous for building deep, pouch-like cradles that sway in the wind on the tips of tree twigs over country roads and creeks in meadows.

Male scarlet tanagers are red with black wings and tails, but their mates are mostly green, which blends them in among foliage in woodland treetops where they build their nurseries and feed on invertebrates. Though red male tanagers are still hard to spot high in the treetops where they utter hoarse notes of song.

Rose-breasted grosbeak males are black on top, white below, and have a blotch of red on each of their chests. Females, however, are brown streaked, which camouflages them. Males sing lovely notes, and this species builds its cradles in shrubs and low in trees along woodland edges, a niche that orioles and tanagers don't use. Each kind of life has its own place, which allows them all to live with reduced competition for the basics of life.

These few neotropical birds are more of God's intriguing beauties that we see here in summer when they raise their young. The whole world, and universe, is filled with such beauties and intrigues, far more than we can imagine or experience in a lifetime. But it is that abundance of miracles that help us realize that God is present!

- Check out Clyde's new nature blog: [natureswondersbyclyde.blogspot.com](http://natureswondersbyclyde.blogspot.com). Each short story is like taking a walk with your very own park naturalist.