Words of Hope

Hope United Methodist Church April, May & June 2025 April 1, 2025



"Only you know, Lord." One of the most honest replies in the Bible is spoken by Ezekiel in response to God's question, "Can these dry bones live?" You probably know the story, but if not, I invite you to find your Bible and turn to Ezekiel 37. This narrative is among the most evocative in the Bible. In a vision, Ezekiel is taken to a valley filled with dry, dead bones. It must have reflected precisely how he and his people felt, bereft of their homeland, security, temple, and, as some may have thought, even their God. They were nothing but dry bones.

God asks, "Can these dry bones live?" I might have replied, "Uh, no." (How galling for God to pose this question in such a place of death.) Ezekiel could have responded, "Yes, of course," overlooking his pain and loss. Instead, he was honest and humble, stating, "Only you know, God." Ezekiel's answer resonates with me as a "Good Enough" response, particularly for those living in the In-Between times.

In *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, Bowler and Richie have helped me grapple with what it means to live in these In-Between times. Sometimes, we await joy with hope. I eagerly anticipate the arrival of Spring, but it's not here yet. I anxiously await the last college our daughter applied to for a response (and for her decision!). We all long for the glory and hope of Easter, but as I write, we are still in Lent. And, truthfully, Easter will not magically make all our dreams come true. Simply put, we aren't there yet!

There are other seasons of waiting that are painful, where hope is more elusive. Some individuals find ourselves in the in-between time between diagnosis and treatment. Others must walk with our parents through declining health and memory. Some may even seriously contemplate our own mortality for the first time. And many of us gaze with dread – much like Ezekiel – at the unraveling of our society. What will remain of who we are? Can these dry bones live? Hope is tricky sometimes

Bowler writes, "Too much hope, and you are, frankly, delusional. Too little hope, and you will drown in despair. So, how do we have hope when our reality looks so hopeless?" [Good Enough, 221]

Sometimes, all we should do is all we can do: lean into God. "Only you know, Lord. Only you." And that, too, is a kind of hope to say there may be a way that I cannot see, and there is a God whose presence, in this moment, I may not feel. And that God is not done yet – not with me nor God's world.

"Prophesy to these bones!" the Lord commanded to Ezekiel. And then again, "Prophesy to the breath!" After we have leaned into God in honest prayer and listening, it will be time to speak and act. Bowler and Richie write again, "The restoration of Israel doesn't come without the participation of her people. This isn't about standing passively by while they watch God work... The people of God will work alongside God to restore the land." [Good Enough, 222]

Do you see a strand unraveling from the tapestry of your life, your family, or our world? Do not be afraid to speak out or to move to reweave what has been pulled apart. Do so with patience, persistence, and always with kindness. But join the work that God is doing to bring renewal and growth even in the darkest moments. For a gardener's most important work is often done in the dark and the cold before any sign of life ever shows itself.

Do you hear a rattle? Might you feel the slightest breeze on your face? Can these dry bones live? God knows. Believe me. God knows.

Holy Week - April 13-20, 2025

2025 Holy Week

Good Enough:

Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

April 13 - Palm Sunday

You are a group project. Chancel Choir Cantata - *Not My Will, But Yours: Reflections on the Sacrifice of Christ* by Lloyd Larson

April 17 - Maundy Thursday - Communion service at 7:00 pm You are blessed. Regardless.

April 18 - Good Friday - service at 7:00 pm Chancel Choir - TENEBRAE: A Service of Darkness by Hal H. Hopson

April 20 - Easter Sunday - services at 8:30 and 10:00 am A Good Enough Faith



Celebrate Easter with Music at Hope

As we look toward Holy Week this year, be sure to plan to hear the Chancel Choir all three times we sing. On Palm Sunday the Choir will offer "Not My Will, But Yours" by Lloyd Larson. On Good Friday, several offerings during our "Tenebrae – Service of Darkness". And of course, Easter Sunday, we will sing to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at both services.

This new work for Palm Sunday is brought to us by American composer Lloyd Larson as a creative telling of the passion story. It happens between the Hosannas of Palm Sunday and the Hallelujahs of Easter Sunday. Culminating in the moment that Jesus embraces the will of his Heavenly Father saying, "Not my will, but Yours".

The Service of Tenebrae has a long history dating to the eighth century. From Latin, the word *Tenebrae* means "darkness" and commemorates the final hours of our Lord's life on earth as he suffered death upon the cross. Originally encompassing Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, this week our service will be observed on Good Friday. The candles are extinguished one by one to symbolize the fading loyalty of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The gradual darkening of the church portrays the diminishing light of the world as Christ was departing from it. One needs to be prepared for the "strepitus" or "loud noise" which symbolizes the earthquake after Christ's death in the darkness near the end of the service.

For Easter, the choir & bells will be joined by a brass quintet, organ, & piano as we celebrate the resurrection. We will truly make a joyful noise!



April 2 -- Kelli Reinhardt - Make Mental Health Matter

Kelli Melissa Reinhardt, is the founder of Make Mental Health Matter. Her education led her to focus on mental health, believing that by tackling underlying issues, lives could truly be saved. She is dedicated to spreading knowledge, as education saves lives and equips people to better help _{Scan for Supper Sign-Ups}

themselves and others. You may also sign up for the Mental Health First Aid Class to be held April 26, beginning at 9:00 am.

April 9 -- Centus Counseling Center - Psychological Trauma

Psychological trauma is defined as an emotional response to a distressing event that disrupts one's sense of security. However, anything that leaves one feeling overwhelmed or isolated can result in trauma. Counselors from Centus Counseling Center will discuss types and symptoms of trauma, as well as effective treatments and coping strategies.



Celebrating Easter at Hope

HOPE EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 12

9:30 am Light Brunch in Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Egg Hunt and fishing in our Salvation Pond

Please bring a brunch item and one dozen candy/coin/toy filled eggs per child If you have any questions, contact Kate Stapleton



Palm Sunday Parade

All kids are invited to participate in the Palm Parade on Sunday, April 13 at 10:00 am

When you arrive at church, meet Miss Kate outside the Sanctuary to get palms and instructions.



Easter Lilies designate in Honor or in Memory of a loved one

place your order by Sunday, April 13

drop envelop and \$20.00 in the wooden box in the Narthex

contact Trudy Garred with questions at 720.389.9558 or trudygarred@comcast.net

Easter Living Cross Sunday, April 20

Charlie Ledbetter will be available to take your photo in front of our living cross on Easter morning before and after both Worship services at 8:30 and 10:00 am.

We need your help creating the Living Cross. Please plan to bring flowers to add to the frame before you go into worship.



Upcoming Events and Activities



AfterWORD: Sunday's Online Conversations about Message continue at 7:00 p.m. Every week we will gather to go deeper in an informal discussion about the previous Sundays' scripture readings and messages. We will affirm. We will question. We will encourage. All to deepen our faith and become the persons God created us to be. To join, click here and complete the registration form. You will receive the Zoom link

via email the first time you register and every week we meet as a reminder. Or email Pastor Jeff at pastor.jeff@hope-umc.org, for more information.

UPCOMING DATES FOR AfterWORD:

April 7, 14, 21, 28 -- May 5, 12, 19, 26 -- June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Help Plan Our First Responder Block Party

Please join our committee to plan a summer Block Party in honor of our local first responders. Let's work together to have an event filled with food, music, fun and appreciation. Join our Zoom planning meeting on Thursday, April 3 at 6:00 pm. Click here to join. Can't attend, but want to help? Email Melissa Trujillo at mtrujillo313@gmail.com.



Library

Come Alive Spirituality will begin - Knowing Who We Are: The Wesleyan Way of Grace; What we believe, What we do, and Why on April 6. The book can be ordered on Amazon for \$17.96. All are welcome to join us at 8:45 am on Sundays in L3 or via Zoom.

2025 Hope Scholarships

Charles Herbel Scholarship for Math, Science or Engineering **Clayton Hill IV Scholarship** for Music

Mary Beth Oursler Scholarship for Elementary or Secondary Education

Walter Hyler Scholarship for Visual Arts, Sculpture, Clay, Painting, etc.

applications for this year are due, Sunday, April 13, 2025



scan the QR code to access the application for each scholarship

Youth News - Everyone in Grades 6th to 12th is always Welcome



Youth Family Meal

April 13 5:30-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall "Green Faith" by Green Team Open to all youth families for food and fellowship.



Sundays at 8:30 a.m. - L-27 Wake Up!

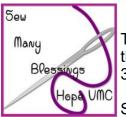
All youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to join us for our weekly youth group.

We will conclude on May 18 and resume at the end of September.



Join us for the 2025 Youth Retreat at our church from June 2 to June 5. We hope many youth and their friends will participate. The retreat starts at 1:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday, with a sleepover on Wednesday starting at 5:30 pm, and ends at 9:00 am on Thursday. Look for more details, including the theme, schedule, and how to register, in Hope Happenings, Youth Communication, and via email in early April.

Upcoming Events and Activities (continued)



Sew Many Blessings

This team sews layettes for Project C.U.R.E. and meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Contact Barbara Herbel Hendrick at 303.549.4412 if you would like to join this sewing team on:

April 16 - May 21 - will break for summer

Sewing skills are not required to help with this important mission project.

During March, 80 layettes (320 diapers and pins, 160 baby gowns, 160 blankets, 160 washcloths, 80 hoodies, and 80 tote bags) were delivered to Project C.U.R.E. Several projects are in progress.



Mental Health First Aid Class

Saturday, April 26, 2025 9:00 am - 3:30 pm - Fellowship Hall

Kelli Reinhardt, facilitator

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

\$47 per participant. Registration is limited and closes Wednesday, April 23. <u>Click here to register.</u> Must be 18 years or older. You will need to complete the 2 hour pre-work before the class.

Contact Mary Edet with questions at marykfarr11@gmail.com or 303.775.3926.



Hope United Women in Faith

All women are invited to join us for our meeting on the last Sunday of the month after Worship beginning at 11:30 am to focus on mission projects. Meeting dates this quarter: April 27, May 25, and June 29.

We will have a potluck lunch. Spouses are welcome to join us.

FREE PAINT RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, May 10 | 9 am-1 pm | Hope UMC Parking Lot

Scan code or visit this link for details: circular.eco/event/GV2025

ACCEPTED latex paint oil paint stain shellac lacquer sealer varnish urethane textured coatings NOT ACCEPTED aerosol (spray paint) paint thinner solvents cleaning agents drywall mud roof tar adhesives driveway sealers



Unlimited 5-gallon or smaller containers

GreenSheen

Eco-Friendly Paint

Upcoming Events and Activities (continued)



Blood Drive

Saturday, May 31, 2025, 8:30 - noon Hope United Methodist Church 5101 S. Dayton St, Greenwood Village

To schedule an appointment visit donors.vitalant.org & use drive code E025 or call Lulu Hendrickson at 303.770.2260.



Graduation Sunday

On May 25, we will celebrate our high school, college, and graduate school graduates. There will also be a scholarship award ceremony.

Confirmation Sunday

Join us on June 8, when we will celebrate our Confirmands and Pentecost.



Vacation Bible School - June 16-20



Our theme is Road Trip! Please be on the look-out for signups coming in May. We will be looking for snack and decoration donations as well as volunteers.

If you can volunteer and help us out during the week, please let Kate (kate.stapleton@hope-umc.org) know your availability and interests. We will be looking for adults and youth to help in our 6 age groups every day and, also, we need help in our 5 rotations. If you help in the rotations, you are not the lead teacher but would be helping the teacher with activities. Rotation choices are: Art, Games, Music, Science and Storytelling. Our kids' groups are from 3 years old through 5th grade.

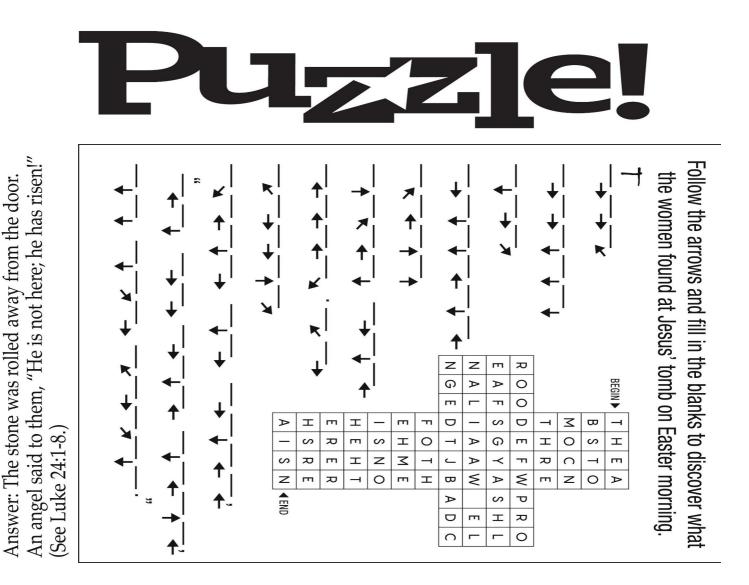
We are very excited to announce that our kid number has increased about 20% from last year. With that, our need for volunteers also grows. Thank you for considering sharing your time!

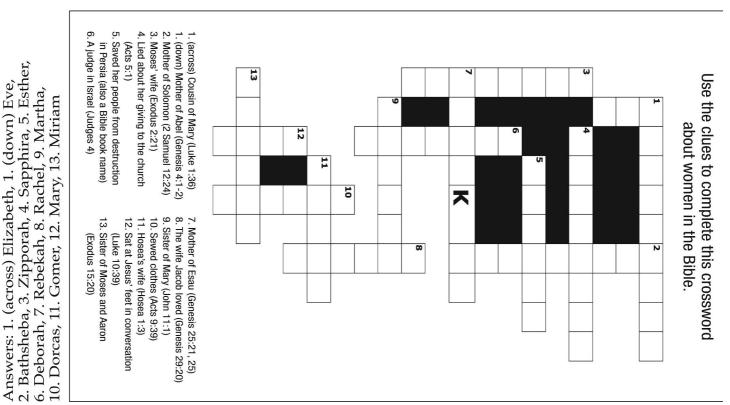
The Lord your God is with your wherever you go. –Joshua 1:9



Starting Point April 27 - May 25 - June 22

Do you enjoy connecting with other people? Want to learn about getting more involved at Hope? Interested in membership, or just curious about who we are and what we're about? Register to join us for one of our meetings in the Library from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. STARTING POINT is a conversation with inquirers, pastors, and lay leaders about the ministries of Hope UMC.





Pictures from January, February, and March



United Women in Faith met on Sunday, February 23. After the potluck lunch, they made blankets for their first mission project.















Aurora Interfaith was delighted to receive the blankets.

mission projects and fellowship.



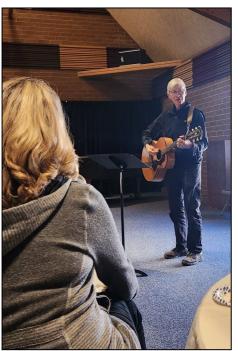


Thank you to all who helped make them. Please plan to join us for our monthly

Pictures from January, February, and March (continued)



United Women in Faith hosted a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, January 23. Clyde Oakley did an amazing job entertaining everyone with songs and thoughts on values and obsessions. We all had a great time and the food was wonderful!







Our March 9, Youth Family Meal was followed by a guest speaker and discussion on being inclusive Christians.

Pictures from January, February, and March (continued)



On Saturday, March 8, Cathy Fort Leyland, spiritual director and author of *Whispered Wisdom* facilitated a powerful day focusing on communicating with God and to lean in and listen for the voice of the One who calls us beloved.



Hope children line up for their procession down to Children's Message. During Lent, the kids have been bringing in items that help them learn about our theme, Good Enough.





During Sunday School, children learned about Hannah praying to have a baby. Her prayers resulted in her son Samuel. The kids then did a number of crafts with Hannah and Samuel.









Hope PDO and Preschool just finished priority registration for the coming 2025-2026 school year! We are excited to be nearly full, but still have limited space available for most age groups. If you or families you know are looking for an awesome preschool program for ages 1-Junior K, give us a call at 303.741.1073 for more information.

Registration is open for Hope Preschool summer camps. PDO is hosting weekly summer camps for children ages 3-6 years old. Choose the week of 6/2, 6/9, 7/7 and/or 7/28. Camp runs from Monday - Thursday each week, from 9:00 am-noon. Cost is \$200/week. Space is filling up, so sign-up today!

Glam Dance also has weekly summer dance camps open for preschoolers, age 2+, during the weeks of 5/27, 6/23 and/or 7/14. Sign up today!



QUESTIONS/CONTACT: SARA LOWE, HOPE PRESCHOOL OFFICE (303) 741 - 1073 SARA.LOWE@HOPE-UMC.ORG



Endowment News

Hope UMC hosted a "Will Power" workshop on March 1, 2025, sponsored by the Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation. The workshop featured attorney Charles Miller discussing the importance of having a will as well as several practical and cost saving strategies for making your loved ones fully aware of your intentions for your estate. Linda Coughlin Brooks made a presentation of "Passages," Hope's workbook for planning how to outline your wishes about burial/cremation, memorial service/ funeral, and other related matters. Mary Jane Harmony discussed Hope's Memorial Garden and Charlie Ledbetter outlined the activities of our Endowment Fund.



Photo of attendees



Kristi Kinnison, Methodists Helping Methodist Foundation Ex. Director, Charlie Miller, Attorney at Law, Pastor Jeff, Linda Coughlin Brooks, and Mary Jane Harmony

Gifts to our endowment strengthen our heritage for future generations. One way to perpetuate your support for Hope UMC is to make contributions to its endowment fund as part of your estate or financial planning.

Our endowment fund is permanent; we only use the interest or earnings to further Hope's mission and purpose. The principal is never spent. Our endowment serves Hope in perpetuity.

If you would like more information about this exciting part of our ministry, please contact Charlie Ledbetter, Endowment Chair.

Opportunities to Serve at Hope United Methodist Church

Volunteers are needed each week to help support our Worship service. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents with the congregation.

- The Tech Room needs volunteers to help with sound, slides, and live streaming related tasks. A commitment of even one Sunday a month is appreciated. Training will be provided. Please contact Ron Sauer at rbsauer@aol.com or <u>click on this link to sign-up</u> or technology@hopeumc.org if you are willing to help.
- Liturgists are needed to lead the Call to Worship and read the scripture during the service. Please contact Jane Uylaki at juylaki6@gmail.com if you can assist with these important parts of our service. <u>Click here to sign-up</u>
- Ushers help people find a seat and collect the offering. To sign-up, contact John Tripp at jtripp@du.edu
- Greeters meet and greet worshippers and are the first face of Hope UMC. Let Norm Bledsoe know if you are willing to serve at nbledsoe@msn.com
- Communion Stewards are responsible for buying, preparing, and serving the bread and cup. <u>Click here for directions and to sign-up</u>



Hope UMC's Small Groups

Discipleship Opportunities

Bible Basics Come Alive Spirituality Class Sundays from 8:50-9:50 am - Room L1 Sundays from 8:45-9:45 am - Room L3 & Zoom Please join us for our wonderful, thought-provoking, The Come Alive Spirituality Class offers an and educational discussions. Each class is opportunity for lively conversations, sharing, independent of the others, so you can just drop in learning, and Christian Fellowship. For information, and enjoy the discussion any week. All are contact Jane Harmony please Mary at welcome! If interested, please contact Hal Wright at 303.638.3889. 303.662.9674. Journey in Prayer Wednesdays - 10:00-11:00 am Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study via Zoom Thursdays - 7:30-9:00 am at The Perfect Landing Restaurant The women's Bible study invites you to join us as we study and pray. This group comes together to All men who are interested are welcome to join. learn from a variety of books. To receive the Zoom Please contact Dan Graham at 303.898.0881 or meeting link contact Cinda Deats degraham@att.net for more information. at CindaLee@deats.org.

Music Ministry

You are welcome to join any of our Music Ministry Teams.

Hope Chancel Choir Thursday - 7:30-9:00 pm Practice in the Sanctuary

For inquiries and more information, please contact Larry Meerdink at 303.807.8299 or larry.meerdink@hopeumc.org. The choir will be singing until the end of June.

Hope Chancel Bells Thursday - 6:30-7:30 pm Practice in the Sanctuary

If you would like to participate in this fun loving group, please contact Craig Laumann at lau48560@gmail.com. The ability to read music is a plus. Bells will be playing until May 18.

Red Sea Sunday - 11:15 a.m.-12:30 pm Practice in the Sanctuary

No auditions necessary - just come, make music and help lead worship once a month. Guitar lessons will be offered from 12:30-1:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Anne Rowland, at anne@annerowland.com or 303.525.3848. We will break after May 11.

Mission & Fellowship

Hope United Women in Faith Meetings will be the last Sunday of the month after Worship

Join Hope UWF as we actively focus on doing mission projects at our meetings. For more information contact Suzanne Swafford at suzswafford@gmail.com.

Hope Ladies Bridge 2nd Friday of the month - 10:00 am Fellowship Hall

Information about each month's game can be found in Hope Happenings. Call or e-mail Pam Hermon for details and reservations at 303.741.4412 or hermon3@msn.com.

Updates and additional information will be available weekly in Hope Happenings and posted on the website. The "Jo like beg Jes We ing lov

Hope UMC Worship Service

Sundays at 10:00 am in-person and live stream on YouTube If you have trouble using one of the live stream links, go to YouTube and search for Hope United Methodist Church Denver

Hope UMC 2025 Church Council

Council Chair Pam Casner

Secretary Jan Petro

Trustee Chair Chris Brooks

Finance Chair Neill Kipp

SPRC Chair Patti Ord

Lay Leaders Linda Brooks Jodi Senter

Lay Members to Annual Conference Jane Uylaki Clyde Oakley

Ministry Design Committee Melissa Trujillo

United Women in Faith President Suzanne Swafford

Worship Design Committee Stacey Hilzer

Church Council Members At-Large Class of 2025 Stacey Hilzer Chris Brooks Paul Ternlund Class of 2026

Pam Casner Mel Nelson **Class of 2027** Carol Davenport Collin Vugrin

Clergy Rev. Jeff Rainwater

Rev. Haeil Park

Contact the Church

Hope United Methodist Church 5101 S. Dayton St. Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Hope's Office Hours Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday by appointment only

Church phone number 303.779.1040

Allison Eckert, Director of Operations & Logistics allison.eckert@hope-umc.org

Stay Informed & Connected

Sign-up online to receive the most up-to-date information about Hope UMC as well as in-depth information about Hope's Ministries and opportunities for you to partner with Hope to live into our mission of "transforming the world by making disciples" can be accessed through:

Hope Happenings, Wednesday weekly email Words of Hope, quarterly newsletter <u>hopechangeslives.org</u>, website

Information to Share?

To share information and updates about Hope UMC events and activities, submit articles and announcements to Wendy D. Wall, Director of Communications, at wendy.wall@hope-umc.org

Hope Happenings, due Tuesdays by noon Words of Hope, articles due June 15 website pages, updated as needed

Wendy D. Wall, Director of Communications Words of Hope Editor



Connect With Our Hope UMC Staff

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Anne Rowland	Director of Red Sea Youth Band	anne@annerowland.com
Scott Senter	Director of Worship Technology	technology@hope-umc.org
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