



**Words from Pastor
Sandra Jones**

The Cross of Christ: Where God Meets Us

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is central to the Christian's sacred story.

The miraculous story of creation, the ethical teachings of Jesus, the glory of the resurrected Christ, or the action of God in human history make no sense without this solemn sacrifice as its centerpiece.

Interpretations of the crucifixion of Jesus range from Jesus' blood washing away our sins, to Jesus--the fearless prophet who stood with humility and courage for truth against the powers of a great empire, to a cosmic battle between God and Satan for the souls of human beings.

Yet for each of us, there comes a time in our lives that no matter what the theological metaphor or the spiritual interpretation may be, the meaning of the cross must be, finally, a personal one. The cross outside Jerusalem was meant to have some connection with the cross in our own experience and the cross at the heart of life.

There are biblical narratives, church celebrations, and events in our own lives that play down the dark side of life and invite us to focus on strength, courage, beauty, and peace; and Lord knows, we need that.

During the Triduum, the great three days of Holy Week, we meditate on the complexity of evil in the world and the questions posed by life's pains and disappointments. For these are the conditions and questions that lead us to look for something or someone outside ourselves to make sense of our existence. On Good Friday, we look for a savior and find him dying on a cross and discover once again, it is here that God meets us.

Consider your own times of struggle – the problems, chronic conditions, and fears that you face. Consider the larger issues that affect our communities – poverty, addiction, lack of work or housing, a longing for meaning and purpose. Consider the world's pain – pandemics and disease, the inequities of health care, hunger in a world where there is enough food for all, civil unrest and justice denied, racism, hatred, and discrimination against those who have been cast off.



These are the sins – the brokenness -- for which Christ died. They remain our crosses to bear and to lift up in the wilderness. They are the places in our lives where God meets us as the dying and rising Christ.

Episcopal priest, Reid Isaac writes:

Meditating on the cross is meditating on the mystery by which good and evil are eternally mixed in the world. We are signed with the cross in our baptism and called to take up our cross daily and follow him. If we stay with the suffering of the innocent in this world, refusing to protect ourselves by denial or running away, when it comes our own time, we will discover we have a companion in our suffering. We have become brothers and sisters of the one whose cross was a victory, and out of whose death life came.¹

My friends in Christ, hear God's Word of promise for you in this holy season. May the Holy Spirit guide you daily to survey the wondrous cross and give you the strength and commitment to take it up and lift it high, 'til all the world knows the love of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Sandra K. Jones

¹Reid Isaac, *Conversations with the Crucified* (New York: Seabury Press, New York, 1982).



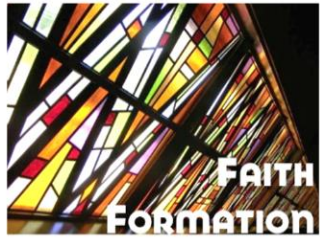
Thank You

Dear Good Hope family,

Gracie and I want to thank our current youth group and their leaders for our Valentine/college goodie box and cards. As we both, will be finishing up our spring semester at Clarion, it was very appreciated.

Just an update on us; Grace will finish up her externship soon, and will be graduating in June with her Master Degree in Speech-Language Pathology (MS-SLP) and I will be completing my junior yr. in Communications with a concentration in Digital Media. The love and support from our congregation has always meant the world to us. We are pursuing our dreams with your love by our side.

*Love,
Gracie and Korey*



Faith Formation

Youth Easter Party
 April 8
 10:00am-12:00pm

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Sunday, April 9, 2023

Sunday School
 Sunday, 9:15am

Sunday School

Sunday School is every Sunday 9:15-10:15am. Elementary Sunday School will meet in the classroom across from the nursery. Confirmation Class will meet in the conference room. Adult Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall. ***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER MORNING, APRIL 9, 2023,***

Youth of All Ages

April 8, 10:00am to 12:00pm: All ages Easter Party at Good Hope. There will be games, crafts, lessons, and food! *All youth of all ages welcome along with friends and community youth!*

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class + Ruth Circle = Birthday Party Kits for Community Services of Venango County!

We all know the need for household food among the people of our communities is increasing. When food costs are high, people don't often have enough money to buy things for a celebration – like a birthday. To help brighten a special day, the Confirmation Class of Good Hope shopped, assembled, and delivered 15 Birthday Party Kits to the Oil City food bank site of Community Services of Venango County. Now they can help families with a birthday celebrate in style!

What's in a Birthday Party Kit? Lots of good stuff: a cake mix, frosting, candles, small plates, colorful birthday napkins, and a birthday card all provided in a cake pan with a lid. Just add water, egg, and oil and the party begins!

Hazel, Heidi, and Raegan appreciate the financial support of the Ruth Circle, a donor who provided the cake pans, and delivery help by their grandmas, Beth Orris and Debbie Best. Oh yeah, Pastor Mike and Pastor Jones helped, too!





**Holy Week and
Easter Schedule**

Holy Week / Easter Schedule

Sunday, April 2

Palm/Passion Sunday
10:30am at Good Hope

11:00am at Zion

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Worship at Good Hope
6:15pm Soup Supper
7:00pm worship (**starting in the
Fellowship Hall**)

Friday, April 7

Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Zion
Sundown, 7:50pm

Saturday, April 8

*Easter Vigil at St. John's Episcopal,
Franklin, PA*
Sundown, 7:41pm

Sunday, April 9

Sunrise Service at Good Hope
Sunrise, 6:50am (breakfast to follow)

Easter Festival Worship
10:30am at Good Hope
11:00am at Zion

Venango Chorus



**Venango Chorus
Concert April 23
First Presbyterian**

Venango Chorus will be holding their spring concert, "Rebirth," on Sunday, April 23, 2023. Concert will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church, 215 East Bissell Avenue, Oil City, at 7:00pm.

The concert will be featuring music of the Earth and growth. Featured music includes *Frostiana – The Road Not Taken* by Randall Thompson, *Thinking To Myself* by Rex and Kelley Mitchell, and *What A Wonderful World* – first recorded by Louis Armstrong.

A free will offering will be accepted and there will be a reception in the fellowship hall following the concert.



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 26, 2023

Advanced Care Planning

Program: Education on what advanced directives are, helping guide patients in choosing medical decisions based on their values, beliefs and wishes, and help guide them in their treatment plans.

With Stephanie Brackbill, RN from UPMC-NW



Stephanie Brackbill is the Palliative Care Nurse Navigator for UPMC Northwest. She has been in nursing approximately 8 years. Her job is to provide support for patients and families facing difficult diagnosis, chronic illnesses, uncontrolled symptoms, help with advanced care planning and also address end of life issues. Stephanie is a strong advocate for patients and families and sits on the hospital's ethics committee. As part of the ethics committee, they strive to promote advanced care planning not only to those who are in the hospital but to the community as well.

Worship: 11:30am

Luncheon: 12:15pm – Hosted by Jim & Maribeth Masquelier

Program: 12:50pm to 1:30pm

Invite a friend and RSVP by calling the Good Hope office (814-676-9122) or email at officegoodhope@gmail.com

Reservations Due: Monday, April 24, 2023



Lutherlyn Campaign

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING LUTHERLYN'S BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- Since 1948 Lutherlyn has been providing ministry to youth, families and adults from the congregations and communities of Western PA and beyond. As an outdoor ministry of the Northwestern & Southwestern PA Synods of the ELCA, more than 200 congregations and 15,000 people benefit from ministry opportunities at Lutherlyn each year.
- Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to make a difference. Summer campers live in Christian Community at camp and are sent home to shine with the light of Christ.
- Lutherlyn is 660 secluded acres nestled in the woods of beautiful western Pennsylvania with 5 core areas of ministry: summer camp, retreats/events, equestrian programs, environmental education, and adventure programs.
- A week of camp at Lutherlyn builds confidence in kids. Their experience provides them with a sense of independence and inner strength that cannot be replicated in many other experiences.
- Kids make new friends when they attend a week of camp at Lutherlyn. Campers are welcomed into an intentional Christian community where they are accepted and loved just as they are.
- Lutherlyn is encouraging and training leaders for the church. Over the past 75 years, many of the Lutherlyn summer staff have gone on to ordained ministry or serve in leadership roles in their congregations.
- The goal of Lutherlyn's **Building for the Future** Capital Campaign is \$2.5 million to cover the expense of some much needed improvements around camp. Both Good Hope and Zion Councils have agreed to have our congregations participate in this capital campaign. Good Hope's 3-year goal is \$10,000 and Zion's 3-year goal is \$5,000.
- Over the course of the coming weeks details about the campaign will be presented. See Sue Fisher (Zion) or Andy Godinich (Good Hope) to learn more!



Zion Worship
Indoors – 11:00am

Worship Volunteers – April

Lectors:

4/2 – Yvonne Paranick
4/9 – David Mayer
4/16 – Nancy Wigren
4/23 – Allison McNamara
4/30 – Karen Horn

Ushers:

Edie Bickart
Jan Ruditis

Altar Care:

Yvonne Paranick, JoAnn Beary

Communion Assistant:

Yvonne Paranick

Birthdays

06/	JoAnn Beary	16/	Ted Kiser
	Beth Hazlett	23/	Bradly Johnson
09/	Frank Gercie	26/	Oliver Gibson
11/	JoAnn Kiser	27/	Edie Bickart

Financial Report - February

<i>Actual receipts</i>	\$3,766.00
<i>Budgeted receipts</i>	\$6,752.08
<i>Actual expenditures</i>	\$5,360.21

Zion Notes

Thrivent Choice Dollars have been received from Jim Seeley. Zion thanks him for this contribution.

During the month of February, under the leadership of David Mayer and Rick Sabousky, our ushers, along with the entire Zion congregation, raised \$540 for the purchase of chicks through Heifer International.

A memorial in memory of Alma Ruth Thurau Carlson Lindberg has been received from William and Cheryl Thurau and Alex and Lauren Thurau

To follow up on the February activity, Sue Fisher and Gretchen Gibbs, ushers for the month of March, are spearheading the Camp Lutherlyn Campaign Improvements project, with thoughtful presentations each week. We thank all who are participating in these outreach projects.

Thrivent

In 2022 Zion received \$905 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. We are proud to help support the important work you do and hope, together, we can do even more in 2023!

Don't forget, you have access to a variety of resources and programs to help you in the communities you serve.



Community Meals

April 12

April 26

Coffee Break

Thursdays @ 9:30am

CMC Updates

We started the season off right with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake meal! Over 250 people were served with many staying for seconds and even thirds! Everything went smoothly, music was lively, tables looked festive, and volunteers were wonderful as usual! Thank you all!!

Community Meals are doing well. We have seen an uptick in people attending which was to be expected.

Coffee Break continues Thursday mornings from 9:30am to 10:30am. Please feel free to join us!

We are looking forward to nice weather and calmer times as we settle into our twice monthly meals. (Thanksgiving and Shrove Tuesday seemed very close together this year!) If you have any ideas for new projects or would like to help with any of our ongoing projects, please let Joyce know at 724-699-0861. We are always looking for ways to help our community.

*Serving All For His Sake,
Joyce Frenz and the Community Ministry Committee*



Mission Committee

Game Day

We had a very successful first Game Day on Sunday, March 19, 2023. Sixteen people from both congregations came together and played many games. 4 Star Pizza delivered two tasty pies to refuel the players and there were many snacks and drinks to share.

We look forward to growing our Game Day over the years and we hope you will join us next time for fun and fellowship!





**Stephen and Becky
Thorson Visit
April 16 at worship**

Steve and Becky Thorson will be joining Good Hope for a Sunday School presentation and a Temple Talk on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Stephen and Becky Thorson have been missionaries sent by the World Mission Prayer League (a Lutheran mission) to the United Mission to Nepal in the country of Mt. Everest for 39 years. Becky is now very busy as the full-time Personnel Director at the WMPL Home Office in Minneapolis, MN. Stephen no longer works as a pediatrician after leaving Nepal. He continues to teach two courses of theology in Nepal every Fall (by Zoom for the two years due to COVID). In the Spring, he has taught theology at Bethany Global University (a mission school).

In 2021 and 2022, they were able to return to Nepal for 2-3 months and plan on doing so every year. Past Nepali language projects include Bibles for the Nepal Bible Society, an adapted Bible dictionary, SS materials, a Nepali Bible concordance, and Luther's Small Catechism. Steve wrote most of the topical articles for an original New Testament Commentary in Nepali. The later English version as The Applied New Testament Commentary and The Applied Old Testament Commentary have been translated into many languages. In December 2015, Stephen's book about C.S. Lewis, Joy and Poetic Imagination (Winged Lion), is now available in a Kindle version on Amazon. Becky, a licensed clinical counselor, taught English and social sciences to nursing students, taught at a Bible school, and ended up being the expatriate personnel director for UMN. Their son and daughter grew up in Nepal, and they have 3 grandchildren.



Save the Date

Save the Date

There will be a celebration of Pastor Jones' ministry to be held Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Good Hope Lutheran.

The celebration will start at 2:00pm in the sanctuary with worship. There will be a reception after the service in the Fellowship Hall with hors d'oeuvres and a program. Please watch the newsletter and bulletins for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mike.



County Lent & Easter Events

County Wide Palm Sunday Service

The Venango County Christian Ministerium is sponsoring a county wide Palm Sunday Service on April 2, 2023, at 5:00pm. The service will be held at the New Life Family Worship Center, 100 East Atlantic Avenue, Franklin. The offering will benefit the Life Center of Franklin. Featured speaker will be Dr. Pastor Lora Adams-King.

The Good Friday Laymen's Service

Join men of all ages April 7, 2023, for the 56th Good Friday Laymen's Service. Breakfast will start at 6:00am at the Oil City K of C Hall and dismiss next door to the Grace United Methodist church for the 7:00am worship service. Breakfast tickets available at Friedhaber's, Somers Dentistry, Scott Walters and Lou Slautterback, and at the K of C door.

AED/CPR Course

Good Hope will be hosting the second AED/CPR course on Wednesday April 19, 2023, at 6:00pm. The class is sponsored by Community Ambulance Service with Jeff Hollidge, Instructor.

- 2-year Certification
- \$25.00 fee/participant

Please register through the Good Hope office at least one week prior to the class.

Quilters of Hope

The Quilters of Hope will be meeting Tuesdays, 10:00am to 2:30pm. Please bring a lunch and join us! No sewing experience is needed.

Hope Circle

Hope Circle meeting will be April 13, 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall at Good Hope. Devotions: Jan, Leader: Buffy Heisey, Hostess: Anna Ausel. Lesson: "Jesus is Trustworthy," pgs. 28-37 SOL.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, April 12, 7:00pm at the Friedhaber residence. The lesson leader will be Linda Vogt.



AED/CPR Class April 19



Quilters of Hope Tuesdays @ 10:00am

Circle Schedules

Ruth: April 12
Hope: April 13



Good Hope Worship
Indoors – 10:30am

REMINDER

*If you cannot serve, you
are responsible to find a
replacement*



Summer Worship

April Birthdays / Anniversaries

02/ Patrick Gavin	16/ Reed Milner
Kira Bedow	18/ Ally Young
07/ Frank Lewis	21/ Jonas Bedow
James Smith	26/ Doug & Sarah Suhr
08/ Holden Stahl	Cheryl Butler
09/ Dennis Butler	Scott Stahl
11/ Thomas Mohney	28/ Daniel Vogan
13/ Linda Black	Marla Hickman
Thomas Friedhaber	Evan Zacherl
15/ Ted Rossino	

Worship Volunteers

Ushers:

Frank Lewis
Andy Godinich

Counters:

4/4 – Melodye Neely
4/11 – Linda Campbell
4/18 – Chérie Wessell
4/25 – Linda Vogt

Communion Assistants:

4/2 & 4/9 – Margie Hart AA, Chuck Schultz, Debbie Biltz
4/16 & 4/23 – Jeff Clark AA, Bill Exley, Beth Orris
4/30 – Chérie Wessell AA, Joyce Frenz, Katie Parsh

Lectors:

4/2 – Dennis Yarian
4/9 – Linda Vogt
4/16 – Katie Parsh
4/23 – Tom Neely
4/30 – Marcia Hoffman

Altar Guild:

Melodye Neely
Sharon McDowell

Summer Worship

We are looking for volunteers to help set up for our outdoor summer worship at Good Hope. Beginning in June, worship will move outdoors in the lower parking lot at 9:30am. We would like at least two people per Sunday to volunteer to help set up chairs and other worship needs. There will be a sign up chart in the Narthex, please sign up for any Sundays you would be willing to help. Set-up time will be 9:00am.

April

Sunday

2 Palm/Passion

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:15am
* Worship @GH-
10:30am
* Sr. Choir @GH-
after worship
* Worship @Z-11am
*County-wide Palm
Sunday/Franklin, PA-
5pm

9 Easter

* Sunrise Service
@GH-6:50am
* Easter Festival
Worship @GH-
10:30am
* Easter Festival
Worship @Z-11am

16 Easter 2

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:15am
* Worship @GH-
10:30am
* Sr. Choir @GH-
after worship
* Worship @Z-11am

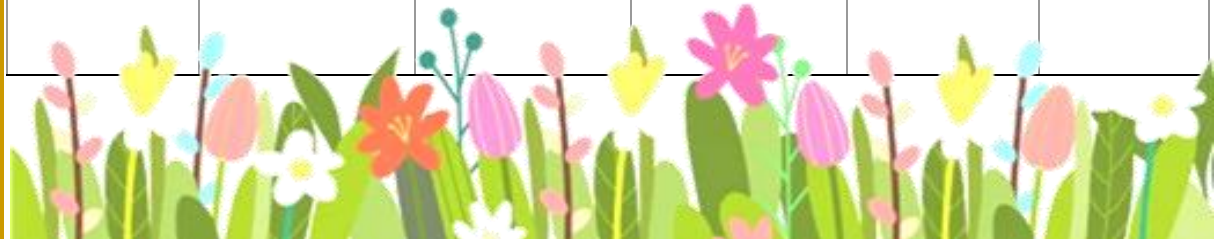
23 Easter 3

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:15am
* Worship @GH-
10:30am
* Sr. Choir @GH-
after worship
* Worship @Z-11am

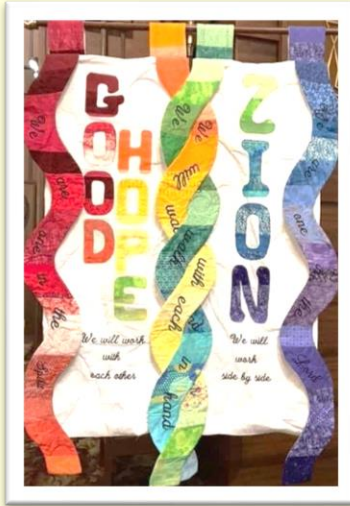
30 Easter 4

* Sunday Sch. @GH
9:15am
* Worship @GH-
10:30am
* Sr. Choir @GH-
after worship
* Worship @Z-11am

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Kosker Starlight Ball Dinner @GH-5pm
3 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	4 Quilters @GH- 10am	5	6 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Soup Supper /Maundy Thursday Worship @ GH- 6:15pm	7 <i>Good Friday</i> Good Friday Laymen's Breakfast @K of C-6am Good Friday Tenebrae Service @Z- 7:50pm	8 All Ages Youth Easter Party @GH- 10am-12pm Easter Vigil @St. John's/Frank lin, PA- 7:41pm
10 OFFICE CLOSED Venango Chorus @GH- 7pm	11 Quilters @GH- 10am Worship Mtg. @GH-10pm Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-6pm	12 Staff Mtg. @GH- 9:15am Ruth Circle @Friedhabers- 7pm	13 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Hope Circle- @GH-10am	14	15
17 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm	18 Quilters @GH- 10am CMC @GH- 10:30am Council Mtg. @Z-6pm	19 CPR/AED Class @GH-6pm	20 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Council Mtg. @GH-7pm	21	22
24 Venango Youth Choir @GH-3:45pm	25 Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z-4:30pm-6pm	26 Worship on Wednesday (WOW) @GH- 11:30am	27 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	28	29



*** Stay & Play Schedule – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3pm to 8pm & the 3rd Saturday of the month 11am to 3pm @ Zion**



Pastor On Call-April

Pastor Sandra Jones

Cell: 814-516-4002
Home: 814-589-1638
prskjones@gmail.com

Good Hope Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday
8:30am-2:30pm

814-676-9122
officegoodhope@gmail.com

Staff

Good Hope

Lead Pastor
Sandra Jones
814-516-4002

Associate Pastor
J. Michael Parsh
814-572-1189

Director CMC/Outreach
Joyce Frenz
724-699-0861

GH Music Dir.
Beth Orris

GH Preschool Dir.
Marcy Amero
814-758-0353

Treasurer
Tom Neely

**GH Organist/Communications
Mgr. /Office Admin.**
Kristen Criado
814-676-9122

Grounds Super.
Bruce Dodd

Zion

Secretary
Jan Ruditis
814-676-9115

Property
Jesse Gibson

Custodian
Alex Dulaney

Organist
Cheryl Bailey

Stay & Play Mgr.
Jaimee Cohen
814-516-1063
stayandplay3@gmail.com

Stay & Play Asst. Mgr.
Dustin Harrison

Church Councils

GH President
Sandra Zacherl

GH Vice President
Tom Friedhaber

GH Worship
Debbie Best

GH Mission
Charles Schultz

GH Finance
Ashlee Goodman

GH Faith Formation
Margie Hart

GH Property
Scott Graham

GH Treasurer
Tom Neely

GH Secretary
Linda Vogt

Z President
Yvonne Paranick

Z Vice President
Nancy Wigren

Z Secretary
Jan Ruditis

Z Financial Sec.
Nancy Wigren

Z Treasurer
Sue Fisher

Z Council Members
Allison McNamara
Diane D'Olympio



Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry
 800 Moran Street
 Oil City, PA 16301

Herald of
Hope/Lutheran Light
Good News Letter
April 2023
Serving all in the manner
of Jesus



Worship Schedule
Good Hope – Indoors – 10:30am
Zion – Indoors – 11:00am

Recorded service will be posted on Monday afternoon on our website.
www.goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org/worship-together

Newsletter

Hard copies of the newsletter are available at the church.
 To submit news or articles, please email to:
officegoodhope@gmail.com
Deadline: the 15th of the month