

Words From Pastor Mike Parsh

Greetings in the name of the Risen Christ,

Over the years I have learned that children have a lot more insight than we think. For example, here is conversation that author Margaret Donaldson shared in one of her books¹:

Callum (age 4): Is God everywhere?

Mother: Yes, dear.

Callum: Is he in this room?

Mother: Yes, he is.

Callum: Is he in my mug?

Mother (growing uneasy): Er-yes.

Callum (clapping his hand over his mug): Got him!

The trait that means “God is everywhere” is called omnipresence. It is one of those mysteries that, on the one hand, makes God worthy of being God and, on the other hand, can drive us mortals crazy.

From our human point of view, it is simply impossible for any one being to be everywhere at once. Our first inclination may be to reject the idea outright. After all, if we can't experience it or even imagine it, how can it be? Then we remember that just a century ago no one would have believed tales of the internet, the microwave oven, or supersonic flight. I have my doubts that we will ever fully understand all of the mysteries of God. It would take thousands of lifetimes to possibly come close to unlocking all the mysteries of God. Even then we would probably still have a lot to learn.

If we try to explain the mysteries of God in a scientific way, we may find some answers but then again, we may not. I once read an article about a study that discovered the following.

There seems to be a level of matter in the ultra-sub-atomic realm where particles that moved in a lab in California seem to affect particles everywhere else on the planet. At some level we can't see or control, everything seems to be connected to everything else. At the risk of reasoning just a bit too much into something I really don't fully understand, God may just be



present in the layer of stuff at the core of all of reality. In plain terms, science may be extremely close to "discovering" the omnipresence of God in the basic stuff of the whole earth.

If this discovery becomes big news, religious people everywhere need to stand up and shout "I told you so!" But the truth is, we won't believe it because we see it in some scientific journal - we believe it because we believe in God. That belief calls us to accept a whole group of things as truth, even though we cannot prove them or even fully understand them. Generations have called this part of the mystery of faith.

God is larger than anything we can comprehend in worldly terms. We cannot capture God by holding our hand over the cup, yet we can trust that God is everywhere, a wonderful unseen presence guiding our lives and showering us with love, peace and strength in those rough patches of our lives.

So, as we enter into the season of Pentecost at the end of the month, maybe we need to take some time to look at how the spirit of God is at work in our lives - even if we can only see the Spirit at work when we reflect back. The Spirit sometimes moves in unseen ways.

*Blessings,
Pastor Mike*

¹Donaldson, *Human Minds: An Exploration*



On this Memorial Day, we pray for all members of the military, especially those who died in service to others. May we honor them by loving and caring for all those they have left behind. Give them strength and strengthen our commitment to caring for those who mourn their loss. Amen.

Good Hope Congregational Semi-annual Meeting



Good Hope will hold its semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, May 19, 2024, after worship. All members are invited to attend.

The meeting will focus on staff and committee reports. There will be informational packets available for pickup on Sunday, May 5, in the Narthex.

Education and Worship

Adult Study

War and Peace in Christian Perspective

There are a multitude of views expressed concerning war within the vast Christian community. We will explore some of these views through our consideration of war in three categories—Holy War, Pacifism, and Just War.

Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15 - 7:00pm to 8:30pm, led by Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Jones, Bishop Emeritus. Our discussion will be held in the Fellowship Hall of Good Hope.

Please sign up by April 29

Zoom access will be made available

Summer Worship

Starting June 2, 2024, we will be starting our summer worship schedule.



Good Hope will be meeting outside in the lower parking lot and worship will start at 9:30am.

- We would like to have volunteers to help set up each Sunday in June, July, and August. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex starting May 5. Please sign up for a Sunday or two if you are able!

Zion will be meeting inside, and worship will start at 11:00am.

Zion Lutheran Church

Worship Volunteers

Usher:
Yvonne Paranick

Altar Care:
Yvonne Paranick

Communion Assistant:
Allison McNamara

Lectors:

- May 5 – David Mayer
- May 12 – Nancy Wigren
- May 19 – Allison McNamara
- May 26 – JoAnn Beary

March 2024 Financial Information

<i>Actual receipts</i>	\$5,876.00
<i>Budgeted receipts</i>	\$6,363.66
<i>Actual expenditures</i>	\$4,774.43

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 5, Zion will hold a specially called Congregational meeting after worship. All members are invited to attend.



May Birthdays/Anniversaries

06/ Jennifer McPherson
Janice Levi

07/ Danyel (Gibson) Musser

11/ Michelle Gibson

18/ Allison McNamara

23/ Becky McElhatten

24/ Betty Hogue

26/ Shea Johnson

Thank You

Dear Women of the Church,

We thank you for your generous gift in memory of our sister in Christ, Suzette Nellis. The gift of the personal alarms, shared at the Remembrance Day walk and prayer service, were appreciated by so many women and girls from our congregations and the community.

Together we honored Suzette's life and helped people to be aware and more Vigilant toward their own safety. We are grateful for your partnership in ministry.



Sincerely,
Pr. Sandra Jones, Pr. Mike Parsh, Jennifer Friedhaber, Jan Ruditis, Kristen Criado – Event planning Committee
Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry

Community Ministry Committee

Happy Spring!! It's so nice to see green grass and flowers blooming!

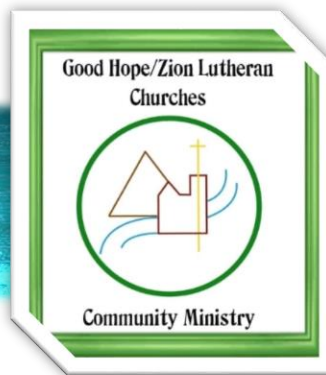
We at Community Ministry are busy as ever. We continue our **Free Community Meals** - the second and last Tuesdays of the month. We have tried some new meals, some were great, others need some work, but all were appreciated by the recipients and isn't that what matters?

Coffee Break attendance has levelled off with a consistent 10-12 attendees. Some regulars have moved, some have been dealing with health issues, and our group homes who visit are dependent on staff so they come when they can.

Loads of Love - bundles of quarters distributed at local laundromats - is going well. It is always appreciated when they are distributed. We agreed to distribute them for 6 months to see how our budget holds out. We are now in our fourth month and are holding steady for now. We can always use quarters if you have them laying around!

We are looking at providing a **Woman's Night** the end of April, where the woman attending the community meal will receive a little gift of personal care items. We will also have a small selection of clothing for them to choose from. We had Men's night in February, and it went very well.

Lastly, we are starting a new project. In the fall, Yvonne Paranick created a survey to determine exactly what is needed most for



the community. One of the items that everyone agreed on was paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels and tissues. The committee has started collecting toilet paper to start and distributed it on the first meal day in April. It went well and we will continue to have it available once a month.

Donations to the **Paper Product Project (PPP)** can be given to Community Ministry Committee or to one of our committee members. We are purchasing by the case to get the best price.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at 724-699-0861. I am always happy to get input and hear new ideas!

Joyce Frenz, DCM

Treasurer :

- Linda Campbell

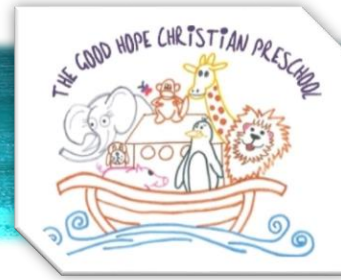
CMC Members :

- Debbie Best, Ron Vogt, Judy Clark, Jan Ruditis, Nancy Wigren, Allison McNamara

Good Hope Preschool

The preschool program is coming to an end for this school year. We had a wonderful year with the children. It is always amazing to see how much they learn in our short time together. Our end of the year program will be held on Tuesday, May 21st at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. We will follow that with our end of the year family picnic on Wednesday, May 22.

As always, we would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the preschool program. With the rising costs of materials, your generous donations from the donation bulletin board during the summer helped us do lots of activities, crafts and science experiments with the children. We also had several families participate in the scholarship fund this year. Your donations to the scholarship



fund made it possible for children to attend preschool when they might not have had the chance.

At this time there are still openings in both our toddler time and preschool classes. If you know someone that would be interesting in enrolling their child, please have them call the church office or email me at ghpdirector2@gmail.com.

Have a wonderful summer!!!!

In Memorium

Our brother in Christ, Thomas G. Bickel, died Thursday, March 28, 2024, at UPMC Northwest in Seneca after an extended illness.

Tom was born January 24, 1941, in Dempseytown. He graduated from Oil City High School. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1963 and in 1965 joined the IBM Field Engineering Division in Arlington, VA. In 1968 he returned to Dempseytown and went to work at Joy Mining Machinery.

Surviving are his wife, Lois, one daughter and one granddaughter. Also surviving are a brother, sister-in-law, nieces and nephew, three stepsons and their wives,



Step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

A service was held on March 30 in the Morrison Funeral Home officiated by Rev. J. Michael Parsh. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association of the Oakland Twp. Volunteer Fire Department.



7TH ANNUAL SUMMER AUCTION

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO OUR SHARED
MINISTRY COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM (CMC)**

**We are looking for home baked
goodies and homemade items for
our 7th Annual Auction.**

**We ask that all items be handmade –
no commercial items.**



goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org/2024-auction

**TO DONATE ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION, PLEASE CONTACT ANY MEMBER
OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE –
TODD HART, LINDA VOGT, DEBBIE WELLS.**

AUGUST 4 – AFTER WORSHIP

VENANGO YOUTH CHOIR

MAY 6, 2024

A Trip
Around
The
USA



Join the Venango Youth Choir as they
present their 2024 Spring Performance



Free Admission

6:30pm

Fellowship Hall

**Reception to follow*



@ Good Hope Lutheran Church
800 Moran Street * Oil City, PA 16301

Women of the Church

Quilters of Hope

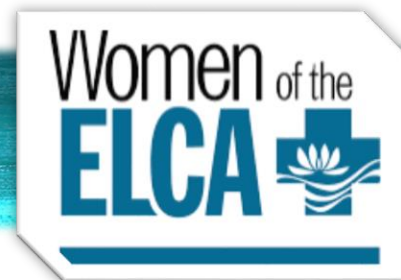
The Quilters of Hope meet Tuesdays, 10:00am to 2:30pm. Work continues on quilts for Lutheran World Relief and quilts for our high school seniors. No sewing experience is needed. Please bring a lunch and join us!

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, May 7, 7:00pm at the Wells residence. Study Leader will be Judy Clark.

Hope Circle

Hope Circle will meet on Thursday, May 9, 10:00am in the conference room at Good Hope. Lesson leader is Pastor Mike, devotions are Carolynn, hostesses are Buffy and Bev. Lesson is Chapter 7, pages 112-122.



Coffee Hour

The Hope Circle will be hosting a coffee hour after worship on Sunday, May 5. Join us for food and fellowship!

Circles

If anyone is interested in finding out more information about the women's circles, please contact Jan Schultz for Hope Circle or Linda Vogt for Ruth Circle.

Upcoming Events

Senior Recognition

Sunday, June 2 we will be celebrating our graduating seniors. The Quilters of Hope will be presenting the seniors with handmade quilts.

Worship on Wednesday (WOW)

Our next WOW will be held on Wednesday, June 19. The program will be presented by Victoria McGraw, and it will be *Safety Tips and Self-Defense For Seniors*.



Combined Worship and Picnic

The Good Hope/Zion Lutheran Ministry combined worship and picnic will be held at Morrison Park on Sunday, June 23. More information will be shared in the June newsletter.

Good Hope Lutheran Church

Worship Volunteers

Ushers :

Ron Vogt
Bill Exley

Altar Guild :

Margie and Todd Hart

Acolytes :

- May 5 – Reed Milner
- May 12 – Ben Parsh
- May 19 – Hazel Kosker
- May 26 – Heidi Kosker

Lectors :

- May 5 – Susie Hlawati
- May 12 – Joyce Frenz
- May 19 – Marcia Hoffman
- May 26 – Pam Pfertsh

Communion Assistants :

- May 5 – Beth Orris AA
Linda Vogt
Susie Hlawati
- May 12 & 19 – Janet Switzer AA
Ralph Jones
Andy Godinich
- May 26 – Margie Hart AA
Gary Switzer
Katie Parsh

Counters :

- May 7 – Debbie Best
- May 13 – Linda Campbell
- May 21 – Chérie Wessell
- May 28 – Linda Vogt





Office Hours

- Monday thru Thursday
8:30am to 2:30pm
- 814-676-9122
officegoodhope@gmail.com

May Birthdays/Anniversaries

- 02/ Earl Stoltenburg, Jr.
Erin York
Eric Clark
- 04/ Allison Altman
- 05/ Ronald Tarr
- 06/ Jacob Switzer
- 09/ Kelly & Cris McFarland
Ron & Linda Vogt
- 13/ Mindi McDowell
Rhonda McElhaney
- 16/ George & Debbie Biltz
- 18/ Tara Milner
- 19/ Joan McElhatten
- 20/ Susan Miller
Noah Gavin
Todd Hart
- 23/ Gary & Janet Switzer
- 24/ Susen Rossino
Sam & Jane Pagliari
Pr. Mike & Katie Parsh
- 25/ Bob & Jaqueline Blöse

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Staff Mtg. @GH-9:15am Property Mtg. @GH-7pm Adult Study @GH-7pm	2 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	3	4
5 <i>Easter 6</i> Sunday School @GH-9am Worship @GH- 10:15am <i>Coffee Hour @GH</i> Sunday School @Z- 11am Worship @Z- 11:45am <i>Congregational Mtg.</i> <i>after Worship</i>	6 Venango Youth Choir @GH- 3:45pm Venango Youth Choir Concert @GH-6:30pm	7 Quilters @GH- 10am Worship Mtg. @GH-4pm Ruth Circle @Wells-7pm	8 Adult Study @GH-7pm	9 <i>Ascension Day</i> Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Hope Circle @GH-10am	10 Venango Youth Choir Trip	11
12 <i>Easter 7</i> Sunday School @GH-9am Worship @GH- 10:15am Worship @Z- 11:45am	13	14 Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z- 4:30pm	15 Adult Study @GH-7pm	16 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am Council Mtg. @GH-7pm	17	18
19 <i>Pentecost</i> Sunday School @GH-9am Worship @GH- 10:15am <i>Congregational Mtg.</i> <i>after Worship</i> Social Time/Lunch @Z-11am Worship @Z- 11:45am	20 Stay & Play Task Force @Z-6pm	21 Quilters @GH- 10am Council Mtg. @Z-6:30pm	22	23 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	24	25
26 <i>Holy Trinity</i> Sunday School @GH-9am Worship @GH- 10:15am Worship @Z- 11:45am	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED 	28 Quilters @GH- 10am Community Meal @Z- 4:30pm	29	30 Coffee Break @Z-9:30am	31	

* *Stay & Play Schedule* – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3pm to 8pm & the 3rd Saturday of the month
11am to 5pm @ Zion

Good Hope / Zion Lutheran Ministry

Good Hope

Pastor :

Rev. J. Michael Parsh
Cell : 814-572-1189
Home : 814-670-0887
pastormparsh@gmail.com

Treasurer :
Tom Neely

Music Director :
Beth Orris

CMC Director :
Joyce Frenz
724-699-0861

Grounds Super. :
Bruce Dodd

GH Preschool Director :
Marcy Amero
ghpdirector2@gmail.com

*Organist/ Communications
Manager / Office Administrator :*
Kristen Criado
814-676-9122
officegoodhope@gmail.com

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 : Jen Godinich
GH Mission : Todd Hart

GH Finance : Judy Tarr
GH Faith Formation : Margie Hart

GH Property : Scott Graham
GH Treasurer : Tom Neely

GH Secretary :
Linda Vogt

Z President : Yvonne Paranick
Z Vice President : Leigh Ann Pikna

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



Worship Schedule

- Good Hope – 10:15am
- Zion – 11:45am

Recorded service replay will be posted by Monday afternoon on our website:

- goodhopezionlutheranoilcity.org/worship-together

Newsletter

To submit news or articles, please email to:
 • officegoodhope@gmail.com
 Deadline

- The 15th of the month