

470 Winter Street Ext. Troy, NY 12180 (518) 283-1372 www.HOPELC.ORG

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.



Pas or's Page

"My little children," he said to them, "my time with you is almost gone. You will look for me, but where I am going you cannot follow. This is the same thing I said to the other Tribal Members and I now say to you." His followers lifted their heads up and looked into the face of the Wisdomkeeper [Jesus].

"I am giving you a new road to walk," he said. "In the same way I have loved you, you are to love each other. This kind of love will be the sign for all people that you are walking the road with me."

- First Native Version New Testament

On the political, cultural and societal stage of life in the U.S., we have witnessed the development of a great deal of anxiety and fear over these past few weeks. Change in general is difficult for most individuals and in particular if you don't agree with the changes. And in this past month there has been change after change after change. Regardless of your political position, the fact is that such levels of change can both create an overwhelming sense of angst and of fear.

It is during such times as these that we must turn to our faith to guide us, for we must remember to whom we belong. We must look through the eyes of Christ at our neighbor; to look at all that is happening with an eye towards mercy, kindness, compassion, justice and hope. It is a time of contemplation (or prayer), not a passive contemplation, but a contemplation of deep listening to God that leads to action. This will not be the same for everyone. The most important thing you can contribute during these times of upheaval is to do "what is yours to do." How is God calling you to action in these times? How is God calling you to use the gifts you have for the well-being of family, friends, neighbors, church, community and nation? It may mean being the best parent you can be, or the best teacher of faith, the best healer, the best listener, encourager, the best administrator and leader, etc. For some it may mean stepping into the political arena and fighting for the voiceless, demanding equity and justice for all, regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or status as a non-citizen. Each gift utilized matters—no matter the gift.

Jesus spoke truth to power by fully living into the gifts that his Father in heaven had bestowed upon him. As followers of Christ Jesus, we do the same by living faithfully and fulfilling on the gifts that Jesus through the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon us as his disciples.

May the peace and love of Christ be yours as we move into these uncertain times of change.

Yours in Christ.

Pastor Pamela



SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE





www.hopelc.org

February 1, 2025

GRATITUDE GIVING

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Dear Hope Family,

Those of us who call Hope Lutheran our church home are so fortunate to worship with a community of caring, generous, faith-filled sisters and brothers in Christ. We are a group of spirit-led, spirit-filled individuals who are willing to use our time, talents and resources in so many ways to keep Hope healthy, strong, running smoothly and the resources to share Christ's love with all in need.

Our involvement, of course, goes beyond everyday activities. We feed the hungry locally through our food drives and across the ELCA through our World Hunger contributions. We help at the Regional Food Bank, support the moms and children at St. Paul's Center. We offer meeting space for those who are experiencing grief, to give children the gift of music, or to celebrate their acting talents. Our Garden of Hope will soon be up and running again with, it is hoped, an even greater harvest to share.

Attached you will find both a Time and Talent Sheet as well as a Pledge Form. We rely on your generous giving of both your abilities and your resources for the continued well-being of our ministries, our worship celebrations, and our leadership. There are so many ways to serve and so much joy to share.

Please fill out both sheets and place them in the offering plate by the first week in March (Sunday, March 2nd). You may also give the T & T sheet to Pam Dodson and the Pledge Form to our Financial Secretary, Sandra Governor (pledges are confidential).

We are so blessed to want to joyfully share all that we have with our community and our world. We thank God for you and your support of all the ministries of Hope Lutheran. You are necessary and appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us on the Stewardship Committee if you have any questions.

Pastor Pamela Hoh, Council President Marilyn Dyer, Council VP Bonny Mounteer, Treasurer Greg Whitney, Pastor Elaine Berg

OUR CORE VALUES: FAITH - ACCEPTANCE - COMPASSION - GRATITUDE - LOVE

470 Winter Street Extension | Troy, NY 12180 | Ph: 518.283.1372



2025 TIME AND TALENT PLEDGE

We have many opportunities to share our God-given talents in the ministries led by Hope Lutheran Church and in the everyday running of the church. Your help is urgently needed, and everyone can play a part. Please read below all the ways you can offer stewardship and mark the ones you are able to commit to. Every effort will be made to accommodate your schedule and give you training if needed. Whether you are available every week or only occasionally, your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Name Prione #
Email
SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS
☐ The Altar Guild Member sets up and cleans up communion, checks and changes the altar candles, and changes the seasonal banners and the paraments/colors. He/she also acts as the Second Communion Assistant, distributing the second cup to communicants.
☐ The Greeter arrives by 9:30 and stands near the front door of the church to bid members and visitors a friendly hello and hand them a bulletin as they enter. Children are welcome to be greeters along with an adult helper.
☐ The Usher collects the offering and guides congregants up to take communion.
☐ The Assisting Minister's responsibilities include: lighting the altar candles before service begins, lighting the Advent candles during Advent, reading the First Lesson, the Psalm (usually read responsively with the congregation), and the Second Lesson. He/she also leads the congregation in the Apostles' Creed and the Prayers of the Church, and extinguishes the candles at the end of the service.
☐ The Communion Assistant distributes wine to communicants and bread and wine to the pastor.
☐ The Counters count up the week's offering collection and make the bank deposit. New counters will be trained by those familiar with the process.
☐ The Coffee Set-up Person makes things ready for coffee hour. Responsibilities include prepping snacks in the kitchen, then moving them to the table in the classroom next to the kitchen. (Note: This person is NOT responsible for bringing in snacks, but is welcome to do so.)
☐ The Goodie Brigade provides snacks for coffee hour. Marilyn Dyer sends out a schedule to those interested, and you can sign up for the date(s) when you can bring in a snack. Snacks can be homemade or store-bought.
PARISH NURSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
☐ Join the Home Visitation Team .
☐ Volunteer for the Red Cross Blood Drive by working at one and/or giving blood (two per year).



SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE



OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
\square St. Pauly Box helpers check the donation shed, making sure items are bagged and tied, and not blocking the door.
☐ Work Day volunteers come to one Saturday in spring and one in fall to do chores that keep our church in tip-top shape.
☐ Trinity Cemetery maintenance volunteers.
☐ Choir members and musicians provide music for worship.
☐ Vacation Bible School teachers volunteer daily Mon-Fri during the first full week of August.
☐ Northeast Regional Food Bank volunteers go on the first Saturday of each month to pack food for the hungry.
☐ Conserns-U / Doors of Hope volunteers bring donated food items to the food pantries for one-month periods.
☐ Holiday Food Basket Coordinators help organize food baskets at Easter and Christmas for St. Paul's Center.
GROUPS TO JOIN
☐ Prayers of Hope meets once a month to offer prayers of thanks and of supplication on behalf of our congregation and extended family.
☐ Hope's Hands meets monthly to create quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief and the St. Paul's Center. They also provide baptismal blankets and prayer shawls as appropriate.
☐ Hope Cares is an internal ministry to the Hope community offering transportation help and meals during times of ill health or crisis. Drivers and cooks are needed.
☐ Bible Study Group meets monthly.
☐ Book Group meets monthly.
COMMITTEES TO JOIN
☐ Property Committee is responsible for maintaining the building and grounds, including conducting or scheduling safety inspections and necessary repairs.
☐ Stewardship Committee organizes our annual stewardship campaign.
☐ Worship and Music Committee meets to help plan which worship settings are used and other details of the worship service.
☐ Social Action Committee coordinates our volunteer efforts with the Regional Food Bank, St. Paul's Center, and local food pantries.
☐ Healing Team coordinates the activities of the Parish Nurse, Prayers of Hope, Hope's Hands and Hope Cares.



SHARING THE GIFTS WE HAVE





Stewardship Treasure Pledge

For the 2025 - 2026 Fiscal Year

Trusting in God's grace and willingness to provide, I/we joyfully pledge to share the following gifts in support of the ministry at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church

		How Given? - Please check			
		Semi-			
	Amount	Weekly	Monthly	Monthly	Other
Regular Offering					
World Hunger					
		*	please detai	l below	
		Oth	er: Annually,	Quarterly, et	tc.
Name					
Address					
Phone					
YOUR COPY	Ways of Giving detailed on back (cash, check, EFT banking, on-line giving, QR code)				

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Regular Offering					
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		Other	: Annually,	Quarterly,	etc.
Name					
Address					
Phone					
CHURCH COPY			ollection b ecretary, S		ernor





470 Winter Street Ext. Troy, NY 12180

hopelc.org

WAYS OF GIVING

CASH If an annual statement is needed, please put cash

in envelope with name and address

CHECK Make payable to Hope Lutheran Church, Troy, NY

and either mail or place in Sunday collection

plate

EFT Simply Giving is a no-cost Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program that withdraws your

gift from your checking or savings account and deposits it directly into the congregation's bank account. Authorization forms are available on our Website. Paper copies are available at the office. Always place your signed & completed form in a sealed envelope marked "ATTN: Simply Giving" and give to the

Financial Secretary, Sandra Governor.

ON-LINE Donations may be made on Hope's website with

GIVING Credit Cards or Banking information.

QR CODE Use mobile phone scanner to access online

giving page





Hope's Grief Support Group

A small group of adults come together once a month to share stories, tips and advice for anyone who has suffered any type of loss.

The group is led by Camie Engel who has a degree in grief counseling and writes a monthly Grief article in the local "Our Towne" magazine.

See her latest article (on page 10) by clicking the link below

- https://ourtowne.net/past-issues

We are currently meeting the third Thursday of every month, starting at 6:30pm.

Contact Lois Batsios with any questions - Lois.Batsios@Gmail.com



The John Batsios Memorial Nursing Scholarship at HVCC

John's family - Tom, Lois and Athena - have started a scholarship in John's name at Hudson Valley Community College.

Since Johnnie was a travel RN after serving in the Army National Guard, this scholarship is for a student connected to the military and pursuing a degree in Nursing.

The first recipient of this scholarship has already paid it forward by creating his own scholarship fund for others in his neighborhood.

If you can help us keep this scholarship active, please use the link below and be sure to click on the dropdown arrow titled "Designation" and choose **John Batsios Nursing Scholarship.**

Thank you, The Batsios Family

Feel free to Email Lois with any questions - Lois.Batsios@Gmail.com









"Before I could hold him, before I could touch him, I read to him..."

Support Our Book Collection!

JAN 2212 - Feb 20th

(DATES

If you have questions, please contact Tola PRAHT

With your help, every family in the following NICU receives a BRAND-NEW book so that when their baby is born too sick or too small to hold or touch, they can still bond with them.

Albany Medical Center St. Peter's Hospital **Crouse Hospital** Stony Brook University Hospital Golisano Children's Hospital **UHS Wilson Medical Center Bellevue Women's Center** NY Presbyterian Stanley Morgan NY Presbyterian Weill Cornell John R. Oishei Children's Hospital Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital **North Shore Hospital** Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital Mount Sinai West Children's Hospital **Flushing Medical Center** Vassar Brothers Medical Center **HCH at NYU Langone** Cohen Children's Medical Center Lenox Hill Hospital NY Presbyterian Lower Manhattan **NYU Langone Brooklyn** The Joyce Stock Snuggery Special Care Unit

You can also donate a book through our Amazon Wishlist. You can choose to have it shipped directly to us at check out. Choose "this is a gift" to include a message.



www.projectcameronsstory.org

to learn more about our mission.

1



Project: Cameron's Story

We are pleased to be supporting Project: Cameron's Story, a 501 c(3) public, children's charity. PCS is a local organization that helps families with babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) bond with their little ones. Through the efforts of this foundation (with the help of people like you and I!) each family in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Albany Medical Center, St. Peter's Hospital, Stony Brook Hospital, Crouse Hospital (Syracuse), Golisano Children's Hospital, UHS Wilson Medical Center, Bellevue Women's Center, NY Presbyterian Stanley Morgan Hospital, NY Presbyterian Weill Cornell, John R. Oishei Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, North Shore Hospital, Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital, Mount Sinai West Children's Hospital, Flushing Medical Center, Vassar Medical Center, HCH at NYU Langone, Cohen Children's Medical Center, NY Presbyterian Lower Manhattan, Lenox Hill Hospital, NYU Langone Brooklyn, as well as the Joyce Stock Snuggery (Special Care Unit) at Glens Falls Hospital receives, upon admission, a book to read to their baby. Often these babies are so fragile that their parents are unable to touch or hold them. Project: Cameron's Story was named for Cameron Quartiers - an inspirational little boy who proved that this type of bonding can have a tremendous effect on a family's ability to bond in the most difficult of circumstances. Read more about Cameron's story as well as the foundation's mission at www.projectcameronsstory.org.

Attached to this letter, you will find a Scholastic/Book Outlet Book Order Form. If you would like to donate a brand new book to this wonderful cause, simply fill out the order form. Payment is due at the time of ordering. You can pay in cash (exact amount) or pay by check (make checks payable to "Project: Cameron's Story"). Return the order form and money to the contact person listed below. Each book is given a label telling the family in the NICU who, specifically, donated the book. If you choose to donate a book(s), please tell us what you'd like the label to read. This label will be placed inside the book before delivery to the NICU.

If you'd like to donate a book online, please see our book Wish List on Amazon. You can donate a book and have it shipped automatically to our foundation.

bonding time for families and their babies. Please, no overtly religious books or e-books. Book orders are due back no later than
Thanks so much for your generosity!
manife of main join join join join join join join jo

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Item #	Title	Price	Qty	Total
Book Outlet	The Tale of Peter Rabbit (Board Book)	\$4.00		
1712	Click Clack Goodnight (Paperback)	\$2.00		
Book Outlet	The Velveteen Rabbit (Paperback)	\$3.00		
7093	The Mitten (Paperback)	\$2.00		
40J3	Llama, Llama Red Pajama (Paperback)	\$2.00		
29X3	The Gingerbread Pup (Paperback)	\$2.00		
Book Outlet	Bread and Jam for Frances(Paperback)	\$2.00		
Book Outlet	Little Bear's Friend (Paperback)	\$2.00		
Book Outlet	Frog and Toad Book Set (Paperback)	3 books/\$6.00		
Book Outlet	Zack's Alligator Goes to School (Paperback)	\$2.00		
161295	Danny and the Dinosaur Go to Camp (Paperback)	10 books/\$20.00		
7J2	Board Book Classics Pack (Board Books)	6 Board Books/\$30.00		
7391	The Kissing Hand Book Set (Paperback)	5 books/\$10.00		
Book Outlet	Reina Ramos (Spanish Paperback)	\$3.00		
Book Outlet	Curious George Visits the Library (Spanish Paperback)	\$3.50		
148557	Corduroy (Spanish Board Book)	\$5.00		
Book Outlet	Curious George's Baseball Game (Spanish Paperback)	5 books for \$10.00		
		TOTALS		\$

If making a book donation, please check one of the payment methods below. Then follow the steps to complete your order.

□ To pay for your book donations by CASH or CHECK:
Select your books. Use order form (above).
Write the check out to "Project: Cameron's Story" or use exact cash & change. (You
may round up the change as a donation to PCS if you wish!)
Return order form and check/cash to book collection contact person.
On the book label, please list the donor as
(This can be your name, your child's name, your family's last name, etc.)
□ If you'd prefer to purchase books online using your credit/debit card:
Please go to our Amazon Wish List -
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/13Y2EVNBQ6M9G?ref_=wl_share
回旋發展
Choose a book or books form our Wish List
When you go to checkout, look for the option to "Ship to Project: Cameron's Story" and click it.
Be sure that you select "This is a Gift". This will allow you to send a message along with your
book donation. Please write the following: I am donating these books as a part of
(name of collection site - business name, school, organization). I would like the book label to say that
the book was donated by (This can be your name, your child's name, your family's last
name, etc.)



hello communityTM podcast: creating connection and community Catherine Jura, Host

The Power of Curiosity!

Creating connection and community can feel scary. But what about if we switch our focus from fear to curiosity? Research shows that when we are curious it is pretty hard to be afraid at the same time. Ellen Cosgrove brings the transformative power of curiosity alive in this month's podcast.

Ellen weaves her inspiring personal life--with her professional journey as a community builder and conflict resolution facilitator--to provide practical tips for creating connection and community.

Whether in Belfast, Ireland, Italy, NYC, or Albany, Ellen has some spell binding stories to listen to. She is funny, utterly fascinating, and very wise.

Ellen is the founder of her community building consultancy *Community in Context* and the innovative *Dinner and Dialogue* project. (www.communityincontext.com)

How to enjoy this podcast? Using the links or QR Code below you can either sit and watch the conversation or just listen while you are driving, walking, gardening, or relaxing. To find and share the podcast:

Link: https://www.youtube.com/@hellocommunity-tv8tv

Hope's website: https://www.hopelc.org/ (upper right corner)

hello community QR code



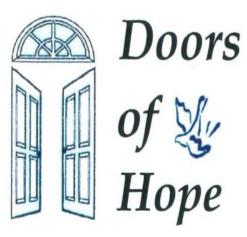
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The mission of *hello community*TM *podcast* is to bring stories of how to create connection and community building to all of us—especially to those feeling isolated and lonely. My prayer is that, together, we can support each other to lives of connection and community.

Till next time,

Catherine

1/15/25



Matthew 25:35

"For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
naked and you clothed me..."

Dear Friends & Nope Futheran,

Our thanks to all who contributed
food to our food partry. Your gifts
will be a blassing to those in need.

Sincerely, Naomi Boel





FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

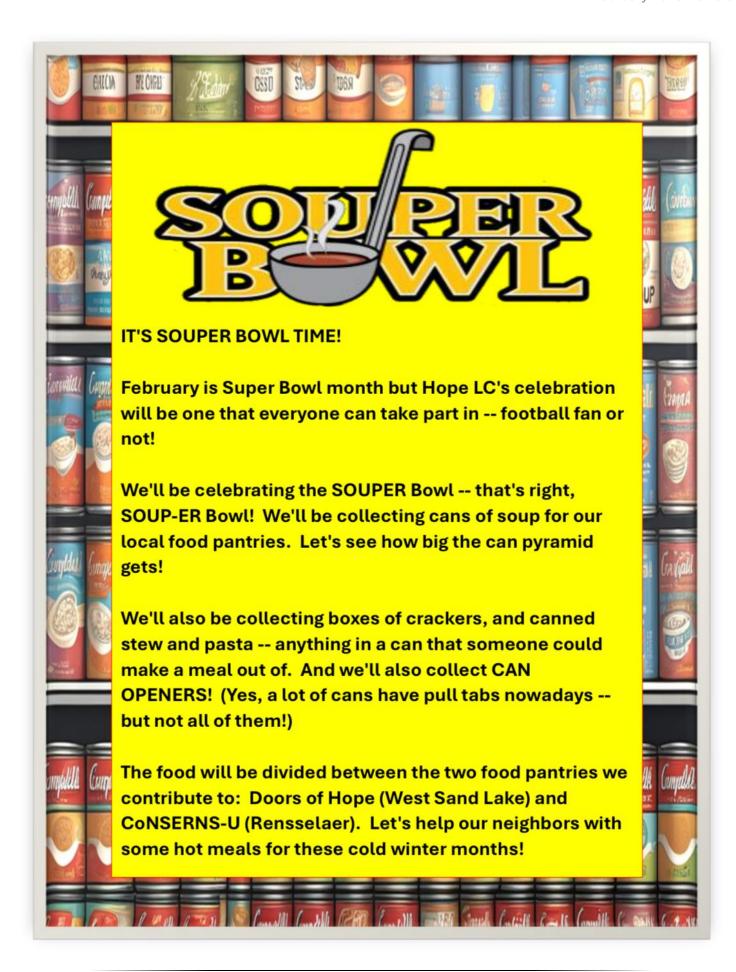
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
					Luke Morello	Parents/Sponsors for Baptisms
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Charmanka Gamage	Judy Cosgrove	Bill Cosgrove	Family of Ray Littlejohn, Jr.	Tyler Gray	Emily Filuta-Gray	George Gray
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Henry Gray	Iola Pratt	Wayne Palka	Marlies Palka	Chris Nash	Bob Nash	Denise and Bodie Rogers
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Carol Mizerak	Wayne Mizerak	Karen Maycock	Lois Whitney	Victoria Daley	Richard Daley	Mateo Daley
24	25	26	27	28		
Victoria Whitney	Jim Macris	Liz Macris	Kathy Zorian	Dawn Conville		

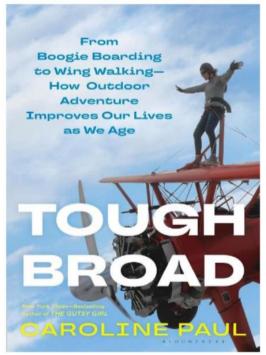
EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)











Hope Women's Book Group Reads "Tough Broad" in February 2025

Author Caroline Paul has always filled her life with adventure. Now in her late fifties, she expects this new stage of life to be every bit as invigorating and full of high adrenalin escapades as the last. But as she skateboards, paddles a SUP, or surfs in cold winter swell alongside many men her age, she sees fewer and fewer older women. Isn't the outdoors a vital elixir? Shouldn't adventure be something we pursue as we age?

Caroline dives deep into the research on aging, but also accompanies older women on bird-watching

outings, sea kayaking excursions, swim laps, and walks in the park, among other outdoor adventures, and begins to see her own future in a new and dazzling light. Combining scientific research, cultural studies, psychology, and personal stories, Tough Broad is a high-spirited call for women to embrace the outdoors, not back away from it, in their fifties, sixties, seventies and beyond.

The Hope Women's Book Group meets the 2nd Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Marillyn Dyer and Elaine Berg (47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144) The next meeting will be February 11, 2025.



Join our Gathering of Hope Fellowship Event Saturday, February 22nd at 6:00 PM

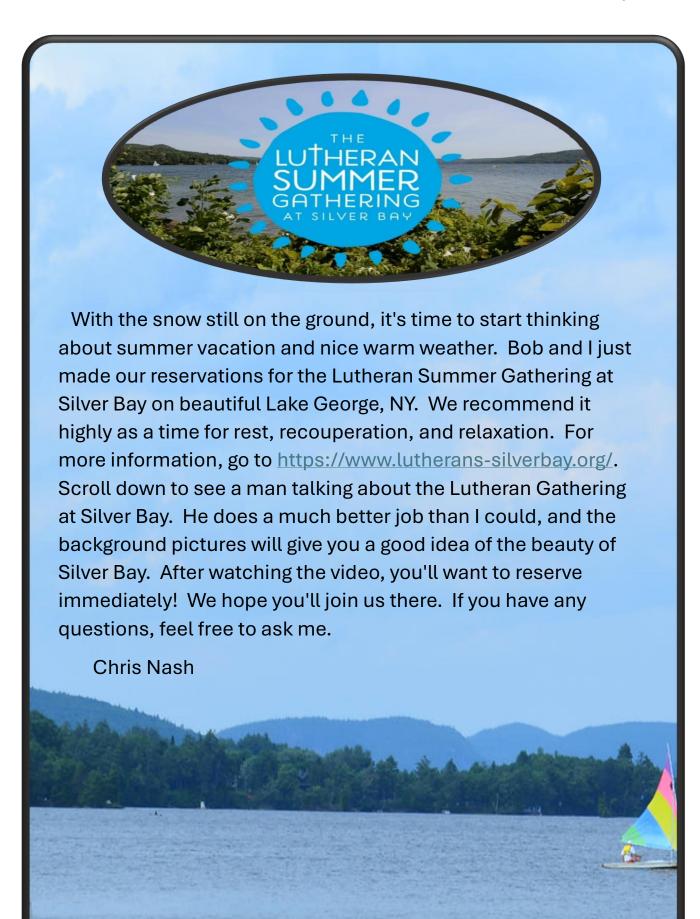
Cabaret Night with guests from our members and inbuilding folks.

Snacks will be served.

Looking for entertainers: vocals, instrumentals, skits, or read a poem.

There is a sign-up sheet on the big table in the Narthex.





Worship Volunteer Duties for February 2025

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Debbie F	Donna S	Marilyn D	Bonny M
Greeter	Nancy C	Pam D	Sandra G	Lois B
Usher	Pam D	Mike D	Cindy W	Lois B
Assisting Minister	Pam D	Cindy W	Chris N	Bonny M
Communion Assistant	Bonny M	Luis C	Chris N	Pam D
Snack Set-Up	Marilyn D	Susan C	Marilyn D	Susan C
Offering Counters	Pam D & Bonny M	Cindy W & Pam D	Nancy C & Anna-Lisa H	Pam D & Bonny M



News & Upcoming Events for February of 2025

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM. We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

1st: Red Cross Blood Drive at HLC; 8 AM - 12 PM; in the sanctuary.

2nd: Prayers of Hope Team meets in the small classroom following Worship Service.

4th: Beginner Tai Chi, 7 – 8 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Tuesday).

5th: Qigong, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).

5th: Advanced Tai Chi, 3 – 4 PM, in the sanctuary, (every Wednesday).

6th: Choir Rehearsal @ 6:15 PM in the small classroom, (every Thursday).

6th: Women's Thursday Bible Study @ 6:30 PM at Pr. Elaine Berg's home, (every Thursday).

11th: Women's Book Club @ 6:30 PM at Marilyn Dyer's home.

12th: Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the small classroom.

13th: (No Women's Bible Study - this week only.)

18th: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

19th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM, in the large classroom & via Zoom.

20th: Grief Support Group @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

21st: Hope's Dine-Out Group @ 6 PM; TBD.

22nd: Gathering of Hope Fellowship; Caberet Night @ 6 PM in the sanctuary; Talents Wanted.

22nd: Articles for March Newsletter Due – (needed earlier due to shorter month of Feb.).

