

The View

FROM
HOPE RIDGE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH



Volume 70

February/March 2015

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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR BETH: JOIN THE LENTEN “I AM” STUDY



February 18, 2015 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

Lent is a season in the Christian calendar year that is set aside to reflect and deepen our walk with God. These 40 days (not counting Sundays) are a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. This year, Lent begins on February 18, Ash Wednesday, and concludes on Easter, April 5. Historically it has been a time of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts. Throughout the ages it has also served as a time of penance by all Christians.

This Lent, we will be doing a seven-week worship and study series that will help us find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, “Who do you say I am?”

From the Upper Room Website, www.thegodwecanknow.com:

Jesus’ “I Am” statements not only grab our imagination by revealing more about His purpose, they also shape our own Christian identity and connect us to the God of Moses, the Great I Am. Significant—yet ordinary—images of bread, light, shepherd, vine, and more give us insightful ways to experience Jesus anew and to discover a God who is close and wants to be known!

The DVD, filmed on location in the Holy Land, allows us to travel with Pastor Rob Fuquay and actually see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing His identity, and in what context He spoke each “I Am.” For instance, Jesus said “I am the bread of life” after feeding the multitude and “I am the resurrection” before raising Lazarus. The gospel comes to life as we move from the Judean wilderness to the Galilean hills and into the heart of Jerusalem in this fast-paced, interactive video journey that helps us find meaning in Jesus’ teachings.

Think about joining a small group to reflect and grow during this Lent.
Days and times listed on page 3.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Beth

WELCOME: **“Welcoming others into a relationship...**

INTERESTED IN JOINING HOPE RIDGE CHURCH? COME TO THE “INTRODUCTIONS” LUNCH!

This informational meeting over lunch will be held after worship on **Sun, Feb 15** about 11:45am in the Conference Room. Pastor Beth will answer any questions you may have about Hope Ridge and the next new member class coming up. Please RSVP to the church office or by Connection Card.



HOLY BAPTISM FOR ANY AGE will be offered on **Easter Sunday, April 5.**

If you are interested, Pastor Beth invites you to attend one of the two preparation classes that will be offered: **Sat, March 21, 8:30-10:30am** or **Mon, March 23, 6:30-8:30pm**. RSVP on a Sunday Connection Card or in the Sign-Up book at the Info Desk.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE: “GRAVITY” for grades 6-12

Youth Group meets 1st and 3rd Sundays from 5-7pm in the Youth Room. March 6-8 is a fun District Youth Retreat at Camp Asbury. See Pastor Beth for details and let her know by Feb 15 if you want to go.

The 2015 East Ohio Conference Methodist summer camps for kids entering grades 1-12 can now be viewed at EOCsummercamps.org. There are many ways to pay so it is affordable to all. Payment plans are available, as well as sibling discounts and camperships through our church and district. See Pastor Beth for details. Plan now for a fun summer ahead!

March Concerts at Painesville United Methodist Church On the Square

CADENCE, Sunday, March 1, 2015 @ 4pm

Cadence, Canada's premiere vocal group, is an a cappella jazz ensemble from Toronto that has been wowing audiences across the country and around the world for nearly 15 years. The members of Cadence bring an infectious energy and uncanny verve to every song they sing. They feature a hypnotic blend of complex harmonies, intricate arrangements, vocal dexterity, and just plain fun. On-stage antics and audience participation are par for the course at any Cadence show, but so is a mesmerizing display of musical genius. What these boys can do with their voices needs to be heard to be believed. Freewill offering.

WILLOUGHBY FINE ART ASSOCIATION CHORUS, Sunday, March 22, 2015 @ 4pm

The Fine Arts Association Community Chorus will present their annual concert of major classical choral works. Under the direction of Phyllis Speirs, the Fine Arts choir is an inspirational way to prepare for Holy Week. Freewill offering.

WORSHIP: So that they can worship God,...

Sermon topic for February 1, 8, and 15

Reading the Bible for All Its Worth

Understanding the Bible isn't for the few, the gifted, the scholarly. The Bible is accessible. It's meant to be read and comprehended by everyone. A few essential insights into the Bible can clear up a lot of misconceptions and help you grasp the meaning of Scripture and its application to your life.

Lenten Worship Sermon Series

Sundays, February 22-April 5

"Who do you say that I am?" - Jesus asks in *Matthew 16:15*.

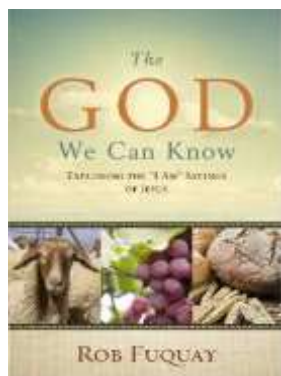
This Lent, look forward to learning *The God We Can Know— Exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus*. Sermons and small group studies (see below for days and times) beginning **Feb 16. Sign up today!**

- February 18: Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm in the Chapel.
- March 1: 10:30am Family Worship with Communion, and Scout Sunday.
- March 29: Palm Sunday Services — 8:30am in Chapel and
- 10:30 am in the Worship and Family Life Center (WFLC).
- April 2: 6pm Pot Luck; 7pm Maundy Thursday Service in the WFLC with Communion.
- April 3: Good Friday Daytime Prayer Event; 7pm Good Friday Service.
- April 5, Easter Sunday: 2 services — 8:30am in Chapel with Communion and
- 10:30am Family Worship in WFLC without Communion.
- April 12: Sunday Worship with Communion at 8:30am and 10:30am.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP STUDY FOR LENT 2015

Check your calendars! All the small groups start the week of February 16, and conclude by April 3 (before Easter) and are using the same new study:

The God We Can Know: Exploring the "I Am" Statements of Jesus, video series and study.



Mondays, 7-8:30pm (Men's Group): Led by Pastor Jon Wilterdink.

Tuesdays, 1-2:30pm (Women's Group): Led by Sue Nahumck.

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm (Women's Group): Led by TBD/Pastor Beth

Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30pm: Led by Maggie Gruss @ Central YMCA and bring a lunch.

Fridays, 6:30 - 8pm (Dinner, Childcare, Adult & Children's small group provided): Led by Pastor Beth Wilterdink @ Hope Ridge.

Sign up on a Connection Card or contact the church office. Spaces will fill up quickly. Sign-up today!

NURTURE: Be Nurtured by the Holy Spirit and one another,...

JOIN A SMALL GROUP STUDY FOR LENT 2015—see page 3.



The UMW Daytime Circle will soon be sending Valentines to our college students and military personnel who are away. Please submit names and addresses to the church office by Sun, Feb 8, of those young adults who would appreciate a little surprise from the church.

The UMW Daytime Circle (formerly the Morning Circle) has changed its time! They will still meet on the first Wednesday of each month, but now will usually meet for lunch, then an activity. Check the bulletin announcements, or see Sue Patterson and Diana Trubiani for current activities.

HOPE RIDGE BOOK CLUB MEETING Monday, February 23, is to read *The Water is Wide* by Pat Conroy. Based on Pat Conroy's experiences teaching elementary school for a year on South Carolina's Daufuskie Island, *The Water Is Wide* is a revealing portrait of the inequalities of the American education system and a powerful story of the children that changed one man's life forever. **The March book to read is *Murder at the Maple Festival* by Paul A. Newman.** Local author, Paul A. Newman was the director of the Geauga County Maple Festival for more than 30 years. He was an Army Ranger in Vietnam, after which he earned a Master's degree at Case Western Reserve University and law degree from Cleveland State. He has written four novels and travels extensively.



CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT:

Saturday, March 28, 10am-noon

Children from the community and our church are invited for this fun, annual tradition!

Wrapped candy donations will be accepted throughout the month of March.

A Hope Ridge Church Building Fun Fact Quiz

1. How many of our doors exit to the outside?
2. How many fire extinguishers do we have?
3. How many bathrooms and toilets?
4. How many organizations paid for usage of Hope Ridge space in 2014?
5. How many furnaces and HVAC (air conditioning) units do we have?
6. How many hot water tanks?
7. How many sinks?
8. What is the square footage of the building?
9. What is the square footage of the parking lot?
10. What is the "parsonage"?
11. Who are the Trustees?

ANSWERS and Trustee facts:

1. **15 doors**—Trustees open up and lock up after church and when other groups forget to check.
2. **21 extinguishers**—Trustees monitor all the fire systems and coordinate annual inspections.
3. **10 bathrooms and 19 toilets**—Trustees fix leaks and broken seats.
4. **41 groups**—Trustees coordinate the calendar with different groups and make sure they are welcomed.
5. **8 units**—Trustees make sure the building is as warm and as cool as it should be.
6. **2 big and 1 little**—Trustees keep our water up to temperature.
7. **20 sinks**—Trustees keep the drips from dripping and the pipes from freezing.
8. **34,000 sq ft**—Trustees keep all the flooring, carpet and walls in good repair personally, and hire the folks to clean and repair what they cannot.
9. **78,000 sq ft**—Trustees maintain the parking lot asphalt, lines, lights, signs, plowing, etc.
10. The trustees keeps the parsonage, a.k.a. the Pastor's home owned by the church, in good repair.
11. **Thank the Trustees (listed on page 7) for all their great work! :)**

SEND: **and be sent out to serve others in Christ's name."**



**HOPE RIDGE IS HOSTING
A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**
Sunday, February 8 from 11am-3pm in the Music Room.
To make an appointment to donate blood, go to
www.redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

FEBRUARY DONATIONS FOR HOPE CHEST OF PAINESVILLE: new or gently used, clean bedding (sheets/blankets/comforters) to support Hope Chest in Painesville. Please label all items with the correct size (twin, double, queen, king). Also to be collected this month are boy's belts and children's books. Please bring them to the red wagon by the kitchen.

IN MARCH, HOPE RIDGE WILL BE COLLECTING CANDY for our annual children's Easter Egg Hunt, March 28. Please bring bags of wrapped candy to the donation box in the narthex, or take some plastic eggs home, fill them and bring them back to church the following Sunday in March. Details coming.

Note: This is a reprint of the January 2015 Update from the Connection Team, for those who may have miss it:

Fellow Parishioners,
Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We feel excitement with **all the activity at Hope Ridge. Upward Basketball is in full swing, the children's worship service is off** to a great start, and our praise team has expanded. All of this would not be possible without you.

This past fall we had a very successful stewardship and capital campaign. Eighty-seven members committed a total of \$320,253 to the 2015 General Fund. Seventy-eight members committed a total of \$370,484 to the Opening New Opportunities campaign. Your First Fruits offerings through December 31st totaled \$125,320, 34% of your three-year commitments!

Ed Root of the Finance Team negotiated an interest rate reduction on our debt. Combining this rate reduction with your generous gifts, we have freed \$33,000 from debt payments to support church programs.

Also, we fully paid our 2014 Conference Apportionments one month early. We so impressed Reverend Sondra Snode, our Western Reserve District Superintendent, our East Ohio Conference agreed **to continue subsidizing Pastor Jon Wilterdink's salary.**

Again, thank you for supporting your church above and beyond your regular and special giving. Financially, we are in much better shape than this time two years ago. Thank you again for your prayers, time, talent, and stewardship.

To God be the Glory,
Your "Opening New Opportunities" Connection Team
Larry & Judy Fritinger
Gordon & Diane Hanford
Bill & Sue Nahumck
Bob & Carol Snyderwine
Pastor Beth Wilterdink



News Around the Church—Finance

NOVEMBER 2014 Report of Our Financial Support of the Hope Ridge Community & Ministries

Summary: Our General Fund offering in November was \$2,332 over our needs.
Year-to-date we remain slightly ahead of our needs based on your generosity.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2014 Year-To-Date</u>	
Nov Operating Expense Needs	\$31,426	YTD Operating Expense Needs	\$321,106
Nov Apportionment Needs	<u>2,633</u>	YTD Apportionment Needs	<u>28,963</u>
Total Offering Needs	<u>\$34,059</u>	Total Offering Needs	<u>\$350,069</u>
Offerings Nov 1-30, 2014	\$36,391	YTD Offerings thru Nov 30	\$361,271

DECEMBER 2014 Report of Our Financial Support of the Hope Ridge Community & Ministries

Summary: Our General Fund offering in December was \$3,567 over our needs.
This year we finished ahead of our needs based on your generosity. Thank you!

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2014 Year-To-Date</u>	
Dec Operating Expense Needs	\$32,366	YTD Operating Expense Needs	\$353,472
Dec Apportionment Needs	<u>2,633</u>	YTD Apportionment Needs	<u>31,596</u>
Total Offering Needs	<u>\$34,999</u>	Total Offering Needs	<u>\$385,068</u>
Offerings December 1-31, 2014	\$38,566	YTD Offerings thru Dec 31	\$399,837

At the time of this printing, January 2015 offering totals were not yet available.
They will be included in the next edition of *The View* newsletter.



Keep bringing in your newspapers and cardboard to our Abitibi Paper Retriever dumpsters in the Hope Ridge parking lot. It keeps paper out of the landfill and provides extra funds to our church. They also take bagged shredded paper, magazines, junk mail (remove your address), phonebooks, and catalogs.

Hope Ridge Celebrations



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Shana Kahila
- 5 Ben Cudzillo
Joe Kallay
- 6 Molly Murphy
- 10 Janine Zampini
- 11 Derek Bittinger
Lorie Simer
- 13 Tim Egensperger
Gary McConnell
- 19 Michael Meunier
Gillian Mowry
- 22 Laurie Smith
Tammy Thayer
- 23 Michael Zampini
- 27 Gary Darr
Leah Ferencak
- 28 Susan Agnew

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Don Sotka
- 3 Bob DeGraff
Becky Parker
Luca Zampini
- 4 Carri Smonko
- 9 Claire Kovell
Cole Kovell
Chris Finan
Mark Noviski
Sue Patterson
Lucas Sadler
- 11 Brent Moll
- 12 Sophie Hurn
- 15 Ross Beebe
Kayleigh Bittinger
- 17 Betsy Newman
- 18 Charlie Hart
- 20 Traci Simmons
- 21 Judie Elgin
Megan Kohler
- 22 Gail Lowe
Jason Meunier
- 23 Leah Bauer
- 24 Jessie Duncan
- 25 Karen Bauer
David Goodban
- 26 Gary Baptie
Ed Root
- 27 Doug Kinsey
- 28 Michelle Kaplan
Ed Lowe
- 29 Kathryn Fellenstein
Maggie O'Reilly
Rick Pottenger
- 30 Landon Fellenstein
Chris Trubiani
- 31 Jack Butler
Annaliese Davis
Mercedes Snell

FEBRUARY Wedding Anniversaries

- 14 Ken and Jennifer
Eshler



MARCH Wedding Anniversaries

- 5 Norm & Kay Wheelock
- 22 Kim & Eva Thomas
- 26 Ted & Linda Daly
- 31 Joe Bova & Kathy
Tripepi-Bova

*If I have missed your special day,
please e-mail
hopeoffice@hoperidge.com
to let me know. Thanks! ~Lori*

Trustees from page 4
Fred Dingeldein, chair.
Linda Daly
Ted Daly
Gail Lowe
Keith Nagy
Tony Rodriguez
Kathy Root
Bob Zahn
Maureen Zahn
Dennis Meek, hon.

Open Preschool
Registration
has begun for the
2015-2016 school year
and will continue thru spring at
the Hope Ridge Preschool
until classes are filled. For
more information,
contact Alice Griffith,
Director, at 440-639-8817.
Tell a friend!

*HOPE RIDGE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH*

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*Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Pastor
pastorbeth@hoperidge.com
Rev. Jan Wilterdink, Pastor
pastorjan@hoperidge.com*

*OFFICE HOURS
Monday—Thursday: 9am–3pm
Friday: 9am–noon*



SPRING IS COMING SOON, AND MAY BRING TORNADOS AND FLOODING, AND THE WESTERN RESERVE DISTRICT OF THE EAST OHIO CONFERENCE, EARLY RESPONSE DISASTER TEAM (ERDT) IS READY!

Did you know...

- ◆ That one phone call to the W/R District Office will activate the Disaster Team for a natural emergency in your area.
- ◆ That the Team has put together a fully equipped disaster trailer to respond within 24 hours to your natural disaster.
- ◆ That the Disaster trailer is being supported by the District Missions Committee, donations of equipment and funds from several of the District Churches and individual Disaster Team members.
- ◆ That the Team has over seventy (70) UMCOR certified Trained Team members and twenty (20) active members ready to move.
- ◆ That the Disaster Team recently went to Warren, Michigan, for a week to assist in a serious flood.
- ◆ That the Team has also responded to many of our local and State emergencies, also responded to New Jersey to assist with re-construction from Hurricane Sandy.
- ◆ That the Team still relies on District Churches and Missions Committees for financial support of **the Team's activities and travels.**
- ◆ That several members of the Team have taken training and in the process of setting up a Spiritual Disaster Care Team.
- ◆ That the Team meets at the Chardon United Methodist Church on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm and all are welcome.
- ◆ That we have openings and training for additional new members. Call the District office for more information 440-352-1094.

Thanks from The ERDT Officers and Team of the Western Reserve District!