



**Hopkins &
South Monterey**
United Methodist Churches

**February/
March 2022**

THE VOICE



Greetings in Mid-Winter, Church Family!



Post-Christmas winter is already a hard time for many. The holidays have passed, the daylight is short, the days are chilly, the snow keeps us inside and away from each other, we get sick, and there is just less going on. And yet still, on top of all that normal blech, we still have COVID-19 which has felt like a never-ending Mid-winter in a lot of ways. None of us ever thought we would still be figuring out how to keep moving with COVID as a significant concern. In the beginning of the pandemic we talked about the pandemic as something that would end and we would go back to the same normal. This has left us asking the question for a long time, "Are We There Yet?"¹ Can we get back to the normal yet?

Unfortunately, the more we learn about COVID-19 and experience the pandemic, the more clear it has become that we are likely to continue living with a form of COVID-19 (similar to the flu), that more variants will come, and that returning exactly to how things were before just won't be. No matter what happens with the virus, we have changed, our communities have changed, we can't be the same as before. That is hard to think about and a hard reality to face when most of us have been getting through this pandemic by holding onto the hope for the familiar and normal to come back just as it was. That hope is not unfounded, there is so much hope that we are finding and will find in the future. There is much that is familiar and normal. It just won't all be exactly the same. We can find hope in practicing resilience. Merriam-Webster defines resilience as "the ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens." Another definition of resilience is "the ability of something to return to its original shape after it has been pulled, stretched, pressed, or bent."¹ Readjusting our expectations and finding ways to grieve the normal and familiar that we have lost and celebrate the normal

and familiar that we have found again or created anew, is what resilience is all about. Resilience helps us cope with the hard times and find well-being in the midst of it. There are many areas involved in our well-being: physical, emotional/mental, environmental, financial, occupational, social, intellectual, and of course, Spiritual. Our well-being comes down to how we care for ourselves and each other as family, friends, and community.

Here are some tips for how to practice resiliency and find well-being: ~Name how you are feeling, ~Show grace to yourself when stressed, ~Be kind to others, ~Keep connected, ~Mourn what you have to give up, ~Engage in physical activity, ~Practice mindful & meditative prayer, ~Do not overdose on news and social media, ~Discern what a new normal can look like and create a schedule for yourself, ~Reach out to others and make a difference in their day.

As Bishop Laurie Haller concludes in her recent letter encouraging resilience: "Are we there yet? No, but we're getting there. The first step is caring for ourselves. By God's grace and by walking beside each other (masked, of course!), we can become resilient and create a new normal for our world."¹

Blessings, *Pastor Kelsey*

Has this season been extra hard on you? Are you struggling with doubts or questions about God, our faith or the church? Could you just use a listening ear or a friendly chat?

Pastor Kelsey would love to meet with you.

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 11am-6pm

Come to the office or invite her for a home visit.

By Appointment when possible or for other times.

Phone (Calls or Texts): 248-613-0366

1. Thanks to Bishop Laurie Haller (from Michigan) for sharing her words and wisdom on Resilience:
<https://www.lauriehaller.org/are-we-there-yet/>

Use whatever gift you have
received to serve others. 1 Peter 4:10



Re-Entry Kits

Through the efforts of UMW, the generosity of our congregation and a \$500 grant from our district, the first 20 re-entry kits were delivered to the Allegan County Jail on Tuesday January 18. Each kit contains a variety of personal care items plus either a pair of socks or gloves, a small treat and a card with the church and Pastor Kelsey's number on it and a message from UMW. Thank you to all who gave and made this ministry possible, the officer I delivered them to was so grateful for the gift. We should also have enough money to do at least 20 to 40 more kits as needed.

Men's Kit



Women's Kit



FOOD PANTRY

Souper Bowl Collection!

We are, once again, collecting cans of soup for the food pantry. We will collect through Sunday, February 13th. Bring your donations into the sanctuary for all to see the progress.

While any donation is welcome, in speaking to Pastor Linda, she said the soups they give out most often are tomato, chicken noodle soup, cream of mushroom and cream of chicken. She also said that they currently have LOTS of macaroni and cheese.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Faced with a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can help.

Open A.A. meetings Mondays & Fridays 7-8pm.
303 E. Elm St. Wayland

Sign is on the entrance door of the North Wing of Wayland Christian Reformed Church.

LOOSE CHANGE

In February, loose change will support 2 different local events. Since we have a 3rd grader in our congregation, **Feb. 6 & 13** collections will support the Mackinac trip for our local 3rd graders. The funds will be used to help reduce the cost for all students. The collection from **Feb. 20 & 27** will support Worship Wednesday meals and materials.

March's loose change will go towards our Ministry Shares.

Online Giving

Tithe.ly is a secure way to give online from your computer or phone that gives you the ability to give to the offering via credit/debit card from anywhere. You can give once or set up a giving schedule. It is easy to navigate and gives you one less thing to have to remember when trying to get out the door Sunday morning.

Go to: <http://hopkinsumchurch.org/give/> to learn about and give through tithe.ly!

Worship Wednesday!



Every 4th Wednesday, at 5:30pm we will start with a small snack, share in a short lesson, an activity or game or two, and close with a simple meal together. We hope parents will stick around and take part with their children.

You can look at lesson options & sign up to lead or help with one in HUM Hall (you pick the theme and date you would like to help make happen).

We will be following a Superhero theme to take us through the year: Sometimes super heroes do great things. Other times it's the little things that make them super. Big and small things add up to a life that honors God and allows us to do some super things for others. Courage, commitment, loyalty, and honor. These are some of the virtues that the heroes of old possessed. By following their example, and putting our trust in God, we can live heroic lives ourselves.

We will need help providing and serving food each time. Watch for sign up sheets. Your help would be appreciated.



THANK YOU

Thank you South Monterey Church for remembering me at Christmas. The money went for a good cause. Blessings, Reva.

Thank you to all those who donated food and helped to make our first Worship Wednesday happen! It is exciting to try something new together.

Thank you to the whole church family for the generous Christmas gift and lovely words of affirmation that Sunday it was given.

Thank you also to all those who gave Brennen and I cards and/or gifts. We feel the love and care! ♥ Pastor Kelsey

Christmas Elves, thank you for the fun of 12 days of Christmas! A new joy everyday. Reva Daniel

Thank you to my church family who are supporting my family and me through my health challenges. We are not out of the woods yet, with the final procedure being heart surgery. Your food, prayers, thoughts, cards, visits, etc. have been a source of great joy to me. Hopefully I will see you in person, in church by April. That's my goal and I hope I can stick to it. Love to all. Alys

Thank you to the congregations of Hopkins and South Monterey UMCs. Your Christmas gifts were much appreciated. I plan to use them toward the purchase of a kayak. I think of them as gifts that keep on giving. Thank you so much! Mitzi

Thank you to Mike, Mel and Vern for clearing the sidewalks and doorways on the day of our first big snow! We appreciate you all!!

I just want to thank everyone responsible for the 12 Days of Christmas goodies. I just loved seeing them every day. (Mitzi - I know you put a lot of the candy in there. I will blame you when I weigh 200 lbs.) :D Thanks for thinking of me. Juanita

Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am at South Monterey UMC

11am at Hopkins UMC

4th Wednesdays of the month

Worship Wednesdays for kids & families
5:30pm, dinner together at 6:30pm.

Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2 this year. We will be journeying through the 40 days as a church family and we look forward to the joy of Easter. With COVID fluctuating so much, we have few concrete plans yet, so keep an eye out for more details as we get closer for services and other gatherings.

Little Caesars Pizza Kits

The UMW will be doing a new fundraiser of Little Caesars Pizza Kits running from Mid-February to Mid-March. It will all be online, but we will have a computer set up at coffee fellowship to help get orders in. \$6 per kit comes to the church. Get your freezers cleared out and ready!

Being Brave Ministries

Being Brave continues to work on making these projects happen: school supplies for Foster kids/families, re-entry kits (with UMW), etc. Let us know if you are interested in being part of this work and keep an ear out for how you can contribute to these projects!

Save the Date

We will have a chance to celebrate the life of Lori Knuth on Sunday, May 15th from noon - 4pm. The memorial gathering will take place at Barn 1888. Watch for more details in the April/May newsletter.

Mailboxes

We are, once again, using the church mailboxes located in HUM Hall. Please remember to stop in before or after church to check your mailbox. Some of you have Christmas cards waiting for you. You are welcome to use the mailboxes. Keep in mind that the person's mailbox is above the divider that has their name clip on it.

Worship Volunteers

FEBRUARY

Feb. Greeters: Jim & Sandy Ringler

February 6

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Melanie Velderman

Coffee Fellowship - Becks and Juanita Curtis

Communion Server- Mary Howard

February 13

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Mary Howard

Coffee Fellowship - Jim & Sandy Ringler

February 20

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Vern Kraft

Coffee Fellowship - Vern & Judy Kraft

February 27

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Judy Beck

Coffee Fellowship - Kristine Brinkhuis & Mary Howard

MARCH

March Greeters: Bob & Judy Beck

March 6

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Mitzi Crowe

Coffee Fellowship - Mitzi Crowe & Jane Kaule

Communion server- Judy Beck

March 13

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Mandi Edgell

Coffee Fellowship - D. Lemmer, A. DeVries &
M. Velderman

March 20

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Melanie Velderman

Coffee Fellowship - Becks and Juanita Curtis

March 27

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier

Coffee Fellowship - Vern & Judy Kraft

APRIL

April Greeters: Juanita Curtis & Mary Howard

April 3

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Vern Kraft

Coffee Fellowship - Jim & Sandy Ringler

Communion Server - Mitzi Crowe

Happy Birthday to You



February Birthdays

12 - Debbie Lemmer

24 - Earl Collier

17 - Kristan Goodenough

26 - Elias Davies

March Birthdays

1 - Reva Daniel

15 - Jim Tew

3 - Deb Lovley

22 - Mike Ballard

9 - Ruby Lewis

26 - Willow Mack

Wade Goodenough

29 - Presley Lewis



March Anniversaries

1 - Mike & Deb Lovley

5 - Vern & Judy Kraft

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb. 5 - Vendor Sale at Piki's 10am-2pm

Mid-Feb to Mid-March: Little Caesars Kits Sale
(Online or computer at coffee fellowship)

Feb. 23 - Worship Wednesday, 5:30-7pm
HUM Hall

Mar 2 - Ash Wednesday & Start of Lent
Service at HUMC at 6pm

Mar 5 - Vendor Sale at Piki's 10am-2pm

Apr 17 - Easter Sunday

May 15 - Lori Knuth's Memorial