



Hope United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2020

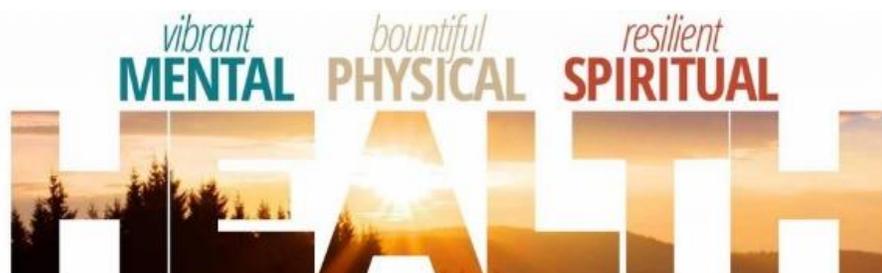
Dear Church Family,

Please join us when you can via your computer or phone so that we remain connected during this extended time while we are meeting together in person. You are all in our prayers and I encourage you to contact me (610-609-6703) or the church office (610-446-3351) if you need to talk or if you need assistance. We are a Family in Christ together and we are currently assessing ways in which to come together for vital worship and mission in the weeks to come.

This is a time for creativity and the Lord is opening ways for us to be in a place to witness Christ's love to our community and to respond to needs. It is important that we learn to pause and give priority time to discussing the needs that are perceived in the community around us and how we are called and enabled to respond. The goal is to keep attentive to what God is showing us about how we can serve the community and lift up the love of Christ. Where is the Lord showing you a need in our community right now? Please share your thoughts!

As many others have said, and I agree, there will not be a return to normalcy on the other side of this pandemic, but a new reality that we in the church must be poised to respond to by sharing a fresh wave of God's Spirit and direction for a hurting world. More people will be reached with livestreaming and fellowship made possible through zoom and other media for folks who have been hoping to connect but were unable to do so. There are needs that demand a loving and generous response and there is affirmation of a loving Lord who calls us to find solace and a new beginning in God's great grace and love. Now is the time to focus on God's healing touch and how we can be a part of that for our world.

Blessings in
Christ,
Pastor Mary Jane

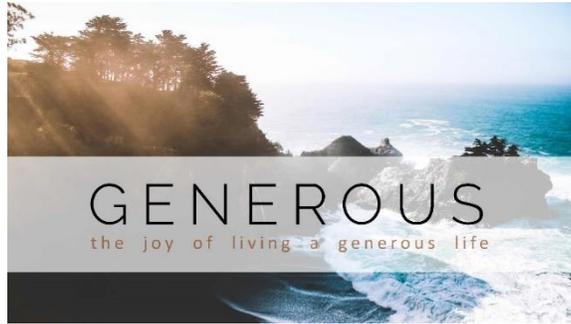


WORSHIP THEMES FOR NOVEMBER SUNDAYS

(Daylight savings time ends)

November 1 – All Saints Day – Holy Communion. You may want to (carefully) have a candle (wick or electric) to light as you remember your loved ones who have “gone on ahead.”

New series begins: **“A Generous Life”** - “Born to Be Generous”



November 8 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
“Grounded in Gratitude”

November 15 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost - Pastor Brenda preaching
“Revealed Through Prayer”

November 22 – Christ the King Sunday / Commitment Sunday
Sealed by Faith”



November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
Incarnation” series begins, “Presidents and Kings”

HOPE AND UNION CONTINUE TO WORSHIP AND SERVE TOGETHER:

Look for the **PODCAST FOR EACH SUNDAY** in your Email or on Facebook. This is a 20-25 minute audio worship that features Pastor Brenda and myself with prayer, scripture, and message. We also have some musical offerings in the podcast and are thankful for this way to share the message! Please share this on Facebook so that we can witness to a broader audience.



Join us for a **ZOOM Meeting each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.** So, please check that out. We are thankful to our Music Director, Yuki, and Organist/Pianist Jose for providing music for our ZOOM Worship and to Ann Eves, Music Director at Hope and organist Karen Karosas. Thank you, too, to Matt Kirby for helping us to organize these times of online worship as well as the podcasts.

Thank you, Church Family, for sending in your weekly offering to support the Lord's ministry here at Union during these weeks. Your support means a great deal.

Here is the contact information for the ZOOM Worship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81672113179>

Dial in: 646 558 8656 US (New York) (There may be a cost to dial in.)

Meeting ID: 816 7211 3179

CHURCH CHAT: We decided that it would be fun and a great way to fellowship to have a time to get together with no agenda but to greet one another, encourage one another, and just enjoy saying hi. So, please join us for these Church Chat times on **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.** Here is the link and number to join.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8652811554>

Dial in: 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 865 2811 5541



Church Family, please note that those who have email will receive these in Hope email Updates each week as well. This is included here to assist those who do not get the emails. Blessings to all!

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

From Pastor Brenda

Pumpkin Poem

Dear Jesus, open my mind so I can learn about you.
Take all my sin and forgive the wrong things that I do.
Open my eyes so Your love I will see.
I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose at what You've given me.
Open my ears so Your Word I will hear.
Open my mouth to tell others You're near.
Let your light shine in all I say and do! Amen



SUNDAY SCHOOL



ZOOM meeting - "Sunday School" for our children and youth of all ages.

It is a ½ hour time slot each week on Sundays from 4:30 – 5 p.m. There are video stories, songs, crafts and fun. Classes are for preschool, elementary, and youth. Help is needed, though, from our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends to help make this happen.

All children and youth are welcome!
Topic: Sunday School

Time: **Every week on Sunday at 04:30 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

The Link to Join Zoom Sunday School Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85642915933?pwd=Ulk0aFJEcWJYQINoWmV5NIhHdnM1UT09>

Meeting ID: 856 4291 5933

Passcode: 538708

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



The Sunflower. (10/14/2020) (Shared on Laity Sunday on ZOOM)

I love sunflowers.
I love them for their bigness.
I love them for their seeds—
All dried and salted and tasted in my mouth.
I love them because they are heliotropic.
And I truly love the word heliotropic—
When I say it,
It fills my head with comprehension
And my hands with five festive syllables.
Heliotropic!
It's a grand word to speak aloud.

But what does it mean?
Sunflowers are heliotropic
Because they follow the sun.
They turn the fullness of their faces
To the east, to the west—
And even up to the noon o'clock hour
When the sun hovers over
And gives them every moment of its divine intention.

We sometimes do the same—
We sometimes stand at attention
To receive the full ablution
Of the beauty and warmth of sun at high noon.
We collect its Vitamin D—penetrating every bit of unshrouded light.
It pummels and pierces our skin exposure
And tinges the very marrow of our Souls—if we let it.

But is there a down-side?
What might leap out at us
To create a tripping-stone,
A barrier to our very being?
What denies us
And does its best to try to discourage us—
To give us so much pause that we wither away?

The answer lies
In our going back to the field of sunflowers—
All of them thriving in the brightness of community
Beneath their shining star.

Dare we ask what sunflowers do
When the radiance turns aside and hides itself
Behind a lingering cloud,
Under a blanket of dreariness,
Below a brooding sky?
Sunflowers automatically understand their option,
Their need, their only choice for Hope.

You see,
When darkness covers over them,
They find their life in mutual Encouragement—
Endeavoring, one by one, to find each other.
They seek the sun's great glory light in companionship.
Face to face, they share their own stored energy,
Brought up from the wells of necessity,
Giving—freely--one from, and one to, another.

So, whenever we are facing the shadows,
Let us look to the sunflower for the lesson.
Let us be encouraged to find Hope
As we turn ourselves toward the sun,
Especially our own Son, Jesus Christ—
But when necessary,
No matter what darkness descends,
Let us also choose to lounge in the Light of reciprocity—
To experience the fullness of God in the glow
That emanates one from, and one to, another.

Our own communal energy
Will restore us each day
Through every profound act
Of love for neighbor.
Our holy engagement will become the beacon of Hope
That never ebbs, never dies,
And forever insists that no one
Will ever stand alone. Amen.

By Bunnie Bryant



PRAYER Requests

Al Evans
Pat and Michael Cutillo
Doris Peabody
Family of Richard Ameisen
Family of Harold Peabody
Mern, Sandy's friend
Those affected by the pandemic

Dorothy Wolfe
Ann Manzi
Tanya Long
Family of Rev. Jim McIntire
Popky Family, Mike's father passed
Many others
A fair and safe Election



This is what we do each an every day as we honor our Lord and bring our prayers before Him.

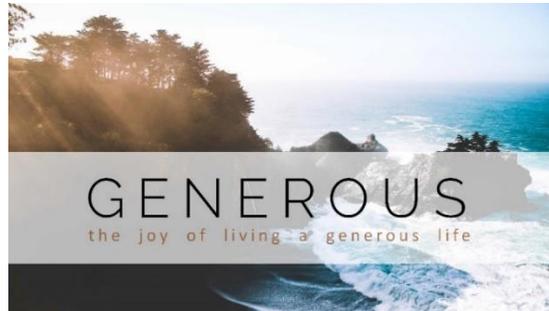


The Power of Intention

Research is beginning to demonstrate the truth of what your mother and grandmother may have told you. What you focus on is what you tend to experience. When our minds are filled with positive thoughts, we are more likely to have positive experiences, while negativity toward everything breeds negative experiences. Here are four positive thoughts for beginning each day that can lead to better health when you say them out loud and pause to think what they mean for you. "I am well." "I have all that I need and more." "I am grateful for all that I have." "I live in joy." Give them a try and see what happens in your life.

NEW TUESDAY EVENING STUDIES COMING UP...

“A Generous Life” Study will begin on Tuesday, November 3 at 7 p.m. and this study will continue for four weeks each Tuesday through November 24. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this study. It gives us a chance to connect from your own space and to talk about how God is calling us to live a generous life. This month we are called to a life of gratitude, prayer, and faith. We truly hope that you will join us.



Use the link below to access the study.

Topic: “A Generous Life” Study

Time: This is a recurring meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85342885989?pwd=ejdLQXR3SEZ6U0lk3NOaFlyUGE3UT09>

Meeting ID: 853 4288 5989

Passcode: 602157

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

ADVENT STUDY



Coming up in December... Please join us for an Advent Study, also to be held on Tuesday evenings: Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22. This is a study by UM Pastor Adam Hamilton entitled “**Incarnation.**” Don’t miss it on zoom in December on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. We will consider the names of Jesus. The above link will also get you into this study!

Helping Ministries Continue...

Hope Food Bank continues to serve folks who are facing food insecurity each month on the third Saturday of the month from 1-3 p.m. The generosity of our members and friends has even meant that others in areas known as "food deserts" nearby were able to receive from Hope's supply. Excellent ministry for our Lord! Here is the latest from Coordinator Sally:

Dear Friends,

Over the next two months, our food bank expects requests for assistance to far exceed those of the past few months. We may see over 70 families on our November and December distribution days, which is twice our pre-pandemic number. We can use your help in providing for those in need. Our door will be open to accept donations for the next two Saturdays; November 7th, and November 14th. A volunteer will be at the church from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for contactless drop-off. I've included our wish list of items at the end of this message.

We will continue to accept monetary donations by:

1. Mail a check made payable to Hope UMC Food Bank to the church. Please mark FOOD BANK on the envelope.

2. Donate by PayPal hopeumcfoodbank19083@gmail.com Thank you for your generous support of our program. Sally

WISH LIST*

dry pasta
hearty soup-as-a-meal
pancake mix
jelly
cornbread mix
tooth brushes
feminine hygiene products
deodorant

pasta sauce
mac and cheese
rice/rice side dishes
canned fruit
stuffing mix
clothes detergent
body wash
*no glass jars

canned pasta
cereal (hot and cold)
peanut butter
canned tuna and chicken
tooth paste
dish detergent
shampoo
*no out of date food

