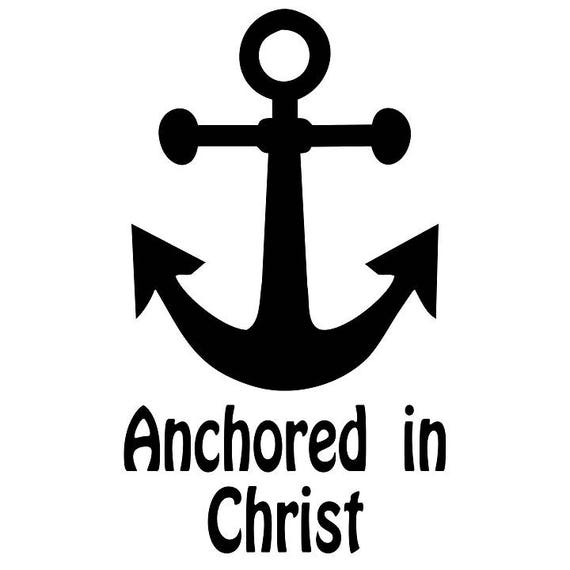
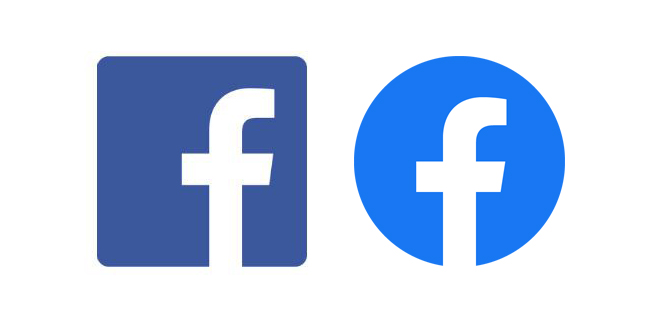
***Hope Anchor  
for January 2025***



**211 Elton Adelphia Road  
Freehold NJ 07728**

 ***Growing in Faith, Love and Service***

[www.youtube.com/hopefreehold](http://www.youtube.com/hopefreehold) [www.facebook.com/hopefreehold](http://www.facebook.com/hopefreehold)

[www.instagram.com/hopefreehold](http://www.instagram.com/hopefreehold)  [www.hopefreehold.org](http://www.hopefreehold.org)

***We Can Make a Difference***

**New Year’s Resolutions**

A few years ago, author, innovation consultant, and speaker Stephen Shapiro, with the help of Opinion Research Corporation of Princeton, New Jersey, offered the following interesting statistics concerning New Year’s resolutions. (My conclusions follow in **bold** lettering):

• Forty-five percent of (North) Americans usually set New Year’s Resolutions; seventeen percent infrequently set resolutions; thirty-eight percent never set resolutions.

**Conclusion: 62% set resolutions versus 38% who do not. In which camp are you?**

• Eight percent are always successful in achieving their resolutions; nineteen percent achieve their resolutions every other year; forty-nine percent have infrequent success; twenty-four percent (one in four) never succeed and have failed on every resolution every year.

**Conclusion: 73% “infrequently” or “never” achieve their resolutions. Ouch!**

• Forty-seven percent set resolutions related to self-improvement or education.

• Thirty-eight percent set resolutions related to weight.

• Thirty-four percent set resolutions related to money.

• Thirty-one percent set resolutions related to relationships.

**Conclusion: Many, if not most, resolutions have to do with personal, individualistic, goals.**

• The younger you are, the more likely you are to achieve your resolutions (thirty-nine percent of those in their twenties achieve their resolutions every year or every other year, while less than fifteen percent of those over fifty achieve their resolutions every year or every other year).

**Conclusion: At my age, I shouldn’t even bother setting resolutions! How about you?**

• The less happy you are, the more likely you are to set New Year’s resolutions (this is especially true for those who set money-related resolutions: forty-one percent are not happy; thirty-four percent are moderately happy; twenty-five percent are happy).

**Conclusion: Happiness, or a lack thereof, is a key determining factor in setting resolutions.**

*However…*

• There is actually no correlation between happiness and resolution setting success.

**Conclusion: Counterintuitive as it may seem, people who actually achieve their resolutions are, in the end, no happier than those who either do not set resolutions at all, or who are unsuccessful in achieving them.**

Something to keep in mind. As someone once said, “At each New Year it is common to make new resolutions, but in the life of the individual, *each day* is the beginning of a New Year, if he/she will only make it so. A mere date on the calendar is no more a divider of time than a particular grain of sand divides the desert."

**Final conclusion: Seeking positive change in your life is a good thing, for sure. But hoping to achieve this primarily or only by setting New Year’s Resolutions is probably not the best way to go.**

Instead, scripture has some pretty good guidance and/or suggestions:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he (she) is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Isaiah 43:18-19** - “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

**Revelation 21:5** - And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**Ephesians 4:22-24** - To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Perhaps we would be better served by spending *less time* setting New Year’s Resolutions and spending *more time* reading and listening to what God’s Word has to say about living new and more fulfilling lives.

Happy New Year!

**Pastor Ed**

**

***Don’t forget to sign the“NEW” 2025 Hope Covenant!!***

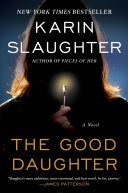
**Next meeting is Saturday, January 11 @ 9:30am**



**Saturday, January 11 @ 9am in Hope’s kitchen**

 **Help us “un”decorate!  
Saturday, January 11 @ 5pm   
 *Bring soup or chili to share!***

Our Next **BOOK CLUB** meeting will be: **Sunday, January 19th *at 10am*** in the ***Kitchen*** and we will be discussing….



***Join our online link for the most up to date information!***  
[**My Meetings**](https://bookclubs.com/hope-book-club/meetings) **-** *🡨 (Control + right click)*

Next outreach meal is -  
***Friday, January 24***

Please use this link to sign up –

[Hope Lutheran Church: January 24 Outreach Meal](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48A8AB23A0FFC52-53531910-january#/)  
We are looking to prepare to serve 140 plates!  
The links for the main course (chili) and for the noodles to go with are here.  
They are also included within the comments of the sign up – but this is easier!! Please double the chili recipe!!!  
[5-Ingredient Chili - Gimme Some Oven](https://www.gimmesomeoven.com/5-ingredient-easy-chili-recipe/#tasty-recipes-65592)

[Wide Egg Noodles - Manischewitz](https://manischewitz.com/products/wide-egg-noodles/)



***We are currently taking book donations for this wonderful cause!! From now until the beginning of May!!! Stop by anytime to drop off donations!***



***Updated Winter “Wish List”***

Men and Women Thermal Sets  
Gloves  
Hats  
Coats  
Shoes  
Hot Hands   
Hot Feet  
Crackers w PB or Cheese  
Soft Granola Bars  
Flats of Water

***Donations can be dropped off at EHAP 41 Throckmorton Street – Tuesday – Thursday from 10am until 2pm***

***If you have any questions please contact   
Joan @ 848-459-6215***

******

***NEW 2025 Offering Envelopes are here!! PLEASE grab your box over the next few weeks when you are here!***



I do not know where to begin when it comes to THANKING everyone who helped us with our GIVING TREE this year! First, our biggest thank you goes to Freehold Area Open Door’s Advocacy Director and Member of Hope, **Erika Woods** for coordinating what I am sure is complete chaos to get us wish lists in a timely manner. Second, to the **Women of Hope** who coordinated this tree annually! A special shout out to **Cindy Lynch** who stored all of these gifts at her HOME as they came in and meticulously kept track of it all. To **Zinke** and **Andrew McGeady** who so generously gifted us their Thrivent VISA card to fulfill the wish lists of SEVEN additional children. To **John** and **Joan Drager** who also so generously gifted us their Thrivent VISA to enable us to purchase and gift off of the Open Door waiting list.  
Because of all these things, and each of you opening your hearts with generosity, Hope was able to help DOUBLE the amount of children that we have helped in years past. Typically, we commit to between 40-50 families, this year we were able to help a grand total of **91 children**.

***I can’t put into words how happy this makes me for our community in need but all I can say is….***   
**THANK YOU!!!**

***Dear Hope,***

Happy New Year! As we step into January and embrace the promise of new beginnings, we want to take a moment to reflect on and celebrate the joy-filled season we just experienced together.

Our Christmas celebrations were truly remarkable, and it was all thanks to you. Your dedication and participation brought the season's spirit to life in so many beautiful ways. Whether through the heartfelt performances in the Christmas pageant, the harmonies of the Christmas choir, or the joyful voices that brought cheer during caroling at the Manor and Monmouth Crossing, your contributions shone brightly.

To all who took part in organizing, volunteering, singing, acting, or simply attending, your efforts and presence created a sense of unity and love that reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you for making these moments so special and memorable for everyone involved.

We are excited to continue our faith journey as we turn the page to a new year. Worship services are in full swing, and we look forward to gathering with you each week to praise, pray, and grow as a congregation. Your involvement and enthusiasm inspire us all to deepen our connection with God and one another. Youth group starts again on January 4th, and we will continue exploring our faith in the context of life!

Additionally, in this new year, let’s remember to talk to Josh about National Honor Society hours and confirmation volunteer hours. These opportunities are fantastic ways for our youth to grow in service and faith while giving back to the community.

May this year bring blessings, hope, and joy to each of you. Let us continue to share Christ’s love within our congregation and beyond.

***With gratitude and love in Christ,  
Josh Renik-Staudinger,  
Director of Faith Formation and Music Ministries***

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***December’s Giving (so far!)***

***Online - $ 2,018.93  
Worship - $ 20,455***

***TOTAL MONTHLY OFFERING = $ 22,473.93***

**Amount needed each month to reach budget = $15,000**

***WE MADE IT!!!!!***

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**We are in the process of setting up another online giving platform for those of you interested!!!**

**HOPE GROWS HERE!**

**SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE:**

As we end the calendar year, it is a good time to reflect on how well the Hope family contributes to sharing their financial resources. The Hope Congregation continues to contribute toward God’s message about helping others to thrive and grow. Your continued generosity defines the message that “HOPE GROWS HERE” by providing assistance beyond our physical boundaries:

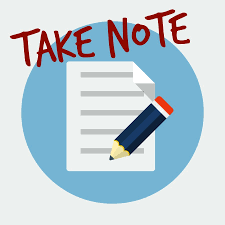
* Council at their October meeting approved two donations ($ 2,000 each) from our “Undesignated Benevolence”to **support recovery efforts** in North Carolina via Lutheran Disaster Relief and to support relief efforts by World Disaster Relief.
* **A donation was made to World Eye Care** honoring a family member of our Hope family who was recently lost to retinoblastoma.
* **Crop Walk** As we have for many decades Hope again fielded a “walking Team” and contributed financially to this ongoing effort to curb hunger and reduce food insecurities in our local communities.
* **Hurricane Helene** disaster relief. Deb Crawford (who recently relocated to North Carolina) was provided with disaster relief supplies donated by the Hope congregation. The recipients appreciated the efforts!
* **Lutheran Disaster Response**. Though summer is here with many of us enjoying life many areas are suffering with no break or let-up. At the August Council meeting we decided / motioned a $2,000 donation to the Lutheran Disaster Response for their efforts in Gaza and Ukraine. As we all know, these areas are in the midst of a human tragedy.
  + We provided funds ($5,000) to assist with the mission provided by Edna Williams **(Mary Jane Enrichment Center).** As many of you know the center had a fire and was destroyed. Ms. Edna has already started the process of restarting this mission that Hope has supported for many years.
  + Provided three youngsters with funds to attend **Bear Creek Camp** this summer. Both Bear Creek and Crossroads provided summer camping experiences for youth that may not be able to participate due to financial issues.
  + **End of year donation (2023) from the remaining Social Ministry budget (Community Projects budget) to the Advocacy Program ($3,000).** These funds will go directly to client needs coordinated by Erika Wood. These needs include utility bills, bus tickets and housing needs.
* **Hope Christian School**. After the creation of Hope Lutheran Church, our next longest ministry is our Hope Christian School that has served generations of youngsters since Hope was founded in 1967. The school and the teaching staff, with the established curriculum, prepare our youngsters to migrate directly into a learning environment along with having a spiritual starting point in a Christian life.
* **Community Projects** included donations to the following start-up Congregations:
* Christus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camden NJ and
* Santa Isabel Lutheran Church in Elizabeth NJ.
* **Community Projects** included donations to the “180 Turning Live Around” organization of Monmouth County to overcome domestic violence and sexual assault.
* **Undesignated Benevolence (for emergency situations).** This year included donations to the following emergency situations:
* Lutheran World Relief to support Ukrainian relief.
* Lutheran World Relief providing direct support to earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.
* Lutheran Disaster Response for flooding and fire situations.
* Lutheran Disaster Response for the devasting fires in Maui Hawaii.
  + **Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program (EHAP**). This is another long-running ministry at Hope that provides support to those most in need in our community. For close to 20 years **Emergency Housing** has been supported by seven houses of worship that are part of the Freehold Clergy Association. This program has moved from a “housing” program toward a “meal” program providing additional weekday meals to the community. The housing program for the 2023>24 winter season was suspended because of having no funds made available to support the program along with a lack of volunteers in some houses of worship***.* The Advocacy Program** includes many areas of support to those most in need, including securing transitional and permanent housing along with assisting in securing employment and government benefits. They also coordinate with medical and mental health agencies for counseling, medication management, detox and substance abuse treatment and medical care.
* **Education** that includes Vacation Bible School (VBS) that started in 1967 with sixty-seven students! We also conduct Sunday School each week.
  + **Open Door** This is another long-term ministry that supports those who have food needs in our community. Food stuffs are provided with no questions asked a few times a week.
  + **St Peters Outreach Meals** Each of the churches that are part of the Freehold Clergy Association take turns during the year to prepare and serve meals at St Peters in Freehold Borough. This has become an incredibly significant community project and again supplies those in need that suffer from food shortages.
* **Facilities Usage**. Almost every night our facility is used as a meeting place for those in need. Whether 12 Step or other similar needs there is always a meeting place. Though Deb Crawford has left us physically, she continues to conduct Yoga on Tuesday evenings remotely from North Carolina!

***Bill Unger, for the Congregation Council***

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**We take lots of pictures at our events and post them on our website and social medias to show our community how we help others and what we offer as a Church Family. If you do NOT want your picture taken and posted please let Josh know by sending an email requesting not to have any of your pics posted to** [**hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com**](mailto:hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com)



***\*~\* The crazy uneven sidewalks have been leveled and sealed to completion! Phase 2 was completed over the Winter Break. Please still walk safely, but it will be much easier to do so!  
\*~\* Due to consecutive 3rd Monday holidays, the Council will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month for January (1/13) and February (2/10)***

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**HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST**

***Edward Rader,*** grandfather of ***Ashley Verdino*** and  
***Michelle Miele*** could use prayers for health and healing;

***Gerry Bergh;*** ***Bill*** and ***Janice Seifert;*** ***Joey Livingston;*** ***Corn Family*** friend, ***Shannon Fourney;*** ***Somodi Family Friends,***  the ***Hullett Family,*** could use prayers; ***Colin Alaia,*** family friend of the ***McGeady Family***; ***Jennifer,*** family friend of ***Brenda and Dennis Johnson;*** ***Charles Sona;*** ***Steve Weiss’*** cousin, ***Brian Menavier;*** ***Ryan McAuly,*** ***Kless Family*** nephew; ***Courtney Volk;*** ***Kaitlin Kropa;*** ***Wayne Kless’*** sister, ***Jacqueline White;*** ***Justine Brozyna,*** friend of the ***Corn Family;*** ***Kuehn Family Friend,*** ***Deena Harmon;*** ***Deloris Laub;*** ***Dolores O’Brien;*** ***Gary Rosenberg;*** ***Willy*** and ***Marilyn Wolter***, ***Cindy Lynch’s*** mother and father*;* ***Margaret Holen;*** ***Erin Bereheiko;*** ***Jim Mulligan*** ; ***Dani Hulsart***  family friend of the ***Donmoyer Family*** ; ***Pam Renouff***;

***Those serving as first responders and in the armed services.***

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **President** | Bill Unger |
| **Vice President** | Sarah Kozak |
| **Secretary** | Michelle Miele |
| **Education** | Jessica Somodi |
| **Financial Secretary** | Sue Hu |
|  |  |
| **Open Door Alternate** | Pat Fensham |
| **Architecture Team** | Brian McMillin |
| **Architecture Team** | Matthew Malanuk |
|  | Matthew Sprunger |
|  | Dave Peters |
|  | Steve Weiss |
|  |  |
|  | **NON COUNCIL MEMBERS** |
|  | **HOLDING POSITION/S** |
| **Treasurer** | Mike Della Rosa |
| **Open Door** | Rebekah Heilman |
| **Worship** | Jackie Peters |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Assisting*** | ***Altar*** | ***Counting*** |
| ***Jan 5*** | Rebekah H | Rebekah H | Ungers |
| ***Jan 12*** | Debbie U | Rachel R | Fenshams |
| ***Jan 19*** | Sue H | Pat F | Della Rosas |
| ***Jan 26*** | Ken B | Christine H | Della Rosas |
| ***Feb 2*** | Steve W | Diane K | Ungers |
| ***Feb 9*** | John D | Sue D | Fenshams |
| ***Feb 16*** | Dave P | Barbara T | Della Rosas |
| ***Feb 23*** | Tom T | Debbie U | Weiss/Tyrrell |
| ***March 2*** | Bill U | Rebekah H | Ungers |
| ***March 9*** | Rita C | Rachel R | Fenshams |
| ***March 16*** | Rebekah H | Pat F | Della Rosas |
| ***March 23*** | Debbie U | Christine H | Weiss/Tyrrell |
| ***March 30*** | Sue H | Sue D | Ungers |

***Traditional Acolytes – Cara S and Melody B  
Contemporary Acolytes – Hedin Girls, Joey M and Ryan S***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Ushers 9am*** | ***Ushers 11am*** |
| ***Jan 5*** | Matt M | Matt S |
| ***Jan 12*** | Mark | Chuck M |
| ***Jan 19*** | Ken B | John S |
| ***Jan 26*** | Bill U | Rebekah H |
| ***Feb 2*** | Matt M | Matt S |
| ***Feb 9*** | Mark | Chuck M |
| ***Feb 16*** | Ken B | John S |
| ***Feb 23*** | Bill U | Rebekah H |
| ***March 2*** | Matt M | Matt S |
| ***March 9*** | Mark | Chuck M |
| ***March 16*** | Ken B | John S |
| ***March 23*** | Bill U | Rebekah H |
| ***March 30*** |  |  |

***Please feel free to step in if you are present during one  
of the Sundays where nobody is scheduled!!   
Thank you!!***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| January | | | | Snowflake Images – Browse 5,271,975 ... | | | |
| 17,975 Happy New Year 2025 Stock Photos ... | | | | 2025 | | | |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** | |
|  |  |  | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | |
|  |  |  | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p - Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | 12p – Counseling | |
| **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | | **9** | **10** | **11** | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemp |  | 7p – Yoga Zoom  ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step 7p – Stamp Club | | 5p - Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | ***9a – GOM 930a – WOH***  12p - Counseling ***5p-“un”decorating*** | |
| **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | | **16** | **17** | **18** | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemp 630p - Confirm | ***7p – Council Meeting*** | 7p – Yoga Zoom  ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p - Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | 12p – Counseling | |
| **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | | **23** | **24** | **25** | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth  ***Book Club Meets*** 11a – Contemp |  | 7p – Yoga Zoom  ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p - Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | ***OUTREACH MEAL***  7p – 12 Step | 12p – Counseling | |
| **26** | **27** | **28** | **29** | | **30** | **31** |  | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemp 630p - Confirm |  | 7p – Yoga Zoom  ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p - Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step |  | |

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