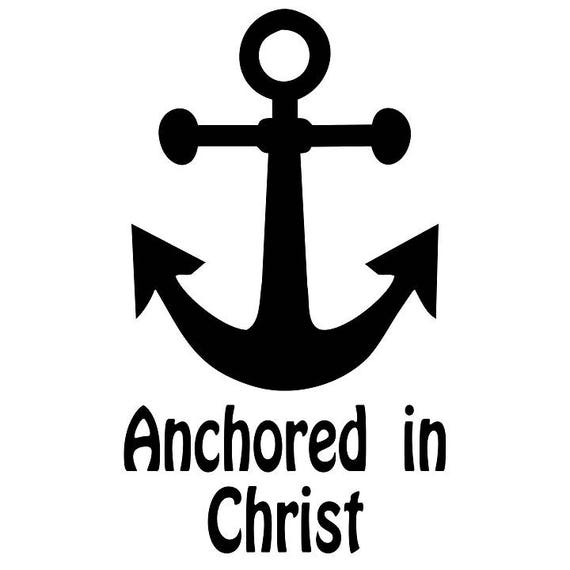
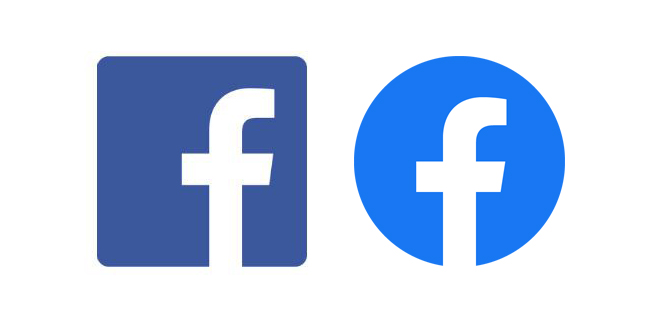
***Hope Anchor  
for June 2025***

A card with text and a green square

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**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***

A logo with a tree and text

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***www.hopefreehold.org/hopegrowshere***



**Sunday, June 22nd after 930am Worship - *in person and Zoom***



Sunday, June 1 – Traditional  
Sunday, June 8 – Contemporary ***Confirmation!***Sunday, June 15 – Traditional  
Sunday, June 22 – Contemporary ***Baptism/New Member***Sunday, June 29 - TraditionalSunday, July 6 – Traditional  
Sunday, July 13 – Traditional  
Sunday, July 20 – Contemporary Sunday, July 27 – Traditional

Sunday, August 3 – Traditional  
Sunday, August 10 – Traditional   
Sunday, August 17 – Traditional  
Sunday, August 24 – Contemporary ***New Member***   
Sunday, August 31 – Traditional

***Sunday, September 7 – RALLY DAY!!!  
Back to TWO services and Sunday School/Youth Resume***

***Are You Drawing or Building?***

There’s an amusing story that comes from General Stonewall Jackson's famous valley campaign during the Civil War. You see, Jackson's army found itself on one side of a river when it needed to be on the other side. After first telling his engineers to plan and build a bridge so the army could cross, he next summoned his wagon master to tell him that it was urgent that the troops and supplies be able to get across the river as soon as possible. So the wagon master took it upon himself to start gathering all the logs, rocks and fence rails he could find. And hearing nothing from the engineers, he then went about building a bridge on his own. Long before daylight, General Jackson was approached and told by his wagon master that all the wagons and artillery had safely crossed the river. General Jackson then asked, "But where are my engineers and what are they doing?" And the wagon master simply replied that they were still in their tent drawing up plans for a bridge…

Soon after my arrival, we began thinking and talking about a possible building expansion project here at Hope. Even then, nearly every square inch of our facility was being used, and not just on Sunday. And that has certainly not changed. Between church activities, Hope Christian School, and all the community groups that meet here throughout the week, about the only time when nothing is going on is perhaps on Sunday afternoons. And sometimes not even that is true!

Now don’t get me wrong, this is actually a wonderful problem to have. Many churches would *love* to be in our shoes. Instead, these churches often have little or nothing taking place in

their buildings, except on Sunday mornings. So we are somewhat unique in that respect.

And certainly blessed.

However, this fall I will have been here at Hope for eight years. And here we are still “talking” about expanding our building. Covid certainly put things on hold for at least a couple of those years. So that explains some of the delay. But I nevertheless wonder if, like Stonewall Jackson’s engineers, we’re still stuck merely drawing up plans. And crunching numbers. Then revisiting and tweaking them some more. Instead of going ahead and actually building something.

Maybe it’s high time we just put our best thoughts together, stop second-guessing ourselves, and go ahead and make some final decisions. Then act on them.

***Pastor Ed***

***May 28, 2025*** ***Council Minutes***  
Those present were as follows Michelle, Matt M, Pat, Bill, Sue, Sarah, Steve, Dave, Pastor Ed, Josh, and Mike D.

**Devotions**: Steve began the meeting with devotions. He read from Psalm 16.

**Approval of Minutes:** Council meeting minutes of April 21st, 2025 (previously distributed).

Dave asked for an addition of “A summary of what data we have and what we have discussed so far needs to be created for us to move forward” to the architectural update in Old Business

Remove Judy’s April report.

Bill makes a motion to accept the minutes with the 2 changes, Dave second. Motion carried.

**Hope Christian School Report:** Judy Canfield shared her May and June Newsletter virtually.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mike Della Rosa (Current report circulated May 14th).

The $200,000 CD that the council voted for (4/21) is not reflected in this report. This will be in next month’s.

If a council member will not be taking on the role of treasurer, the congregation will need to vote on a non-council member during the annual meeting. Mike will continue as treasurer for another year if asked.

Mike brings up the conflict of the Counting teams being related/married. He suggests members of council should be tasked. Dave, Matt, Michelle, and Sarah volunteered to join the team. Mike will reach out to the other teams and work on a schedule including training.

**Pastor’s Report**: Pastor Kropa shared his report via email (5/28) and handed out copies.

Our attendance is about 75% of pre-covid numbers, which seems to be similar to other congregations numbers.

We’ve had quite a few baptisms, with some parents joining the congregation as well.

The Congregation Faith Formation course was cancelled, Josh will be starting a self study with Chelle Huth.

Pastor will be away for July 20 and 27, Angelo Ranaudo will be filling in.

At the end of his report, Pastor suggests that we try to ‘free up’ some funds for a potential debt service.

I suggest that we free up additional money for potential debt service in the coming year by doing the following:

*Undesignated Benevolence;* ($20,000) back to the previous year’s amount ($6,000) resulting in +$14,000

*Community Projects;* (have only spent $200 this year) = +$6,000 once again eliminate *FWH Reserve Funding*; = +$35,000

TOTAL = $55,000

Added to the current projected ‘Budget Surplus’ of $37,082 results in an overall total of $92,082

With the council changes, that number is changed to $88,082.

**Old Business:**

Dave shared his recent summary of the Building Options and cost analysis we have done over the past several years. This will be revisited and discussed further during a special council meeting dedicated to the cause.

\*\*Add parking lot costs

\*\*Account for negative income if we move the classes from the fellowship hall (larger classrooms hold more students).

\*\*Potential double count of FWH fund in ‘construction options’ slides

**25-26 draft budget**. Changes from the most recent version from the finance committee. (.3a)

Undesignated Benevolence: Change from $20,000 to $10,000

Community Projects: from $6000 to 0

FWH: from $35,000 to 0

Bill makes a motion to accept the above changes to the spending plan, and present the 25-26 spending plan to the congregation. Dave second. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

*Congregation request:* The men’s and women’s handicap bathroom doors open in different directions, should it be the same way? Can we add a shelf for the toileting supplies that the school needs so the hook on the door is open for users? Matt M will reach out to Judy/Tom K for info.

***Council will have a special Building meeting on Wednesday, June 25.***

Sarah and Pat will be revisiting the staff handbook, this can be added to the next agenda.

**Adjournment -** Meeting adjourned at 9:05

**Next Meeting:** Congregation Meeting June 22

**Special Building Meeting:** June 25

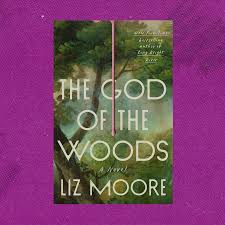
**Next Council Meeting** July 21st. Devotions: Pat.

**Next meeting is Saturday June 7th @ 9:30am in Hope’s kitchen**



**Saturday, June 14th @ 9am   
in Hope’s kitchen**

Our Next **BOOK CLUB** meeting will be: **Sunday, September 21st *at 10am*** in the ***Kitchen*** and we will be discussing….



  
Join us **Sunday, June 8** to   
celebrate our Confirmands!!!



Join us on Fathers’ Day for some donuts and a craft for all our dads!   
 **Sunday, June 15**

Annual Blue Claws Game is **Thursday, June 19**!!! Don’t forget to sign up!!! ***RSVPs due by JUNE 6***!

**A flyer with images of people and a game

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

A ticket for a sports event

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Hope Church Council Needs You

and The Reasons to Join

# This June, Council will have the lowest number of members in quite a long time. Currently at eleven. With Michelle and Matt (Sprunger) having maxed out after completing their second 3-year term we must say goodbye to them (maybe just for the time being!). I’d like to thank them for their contributions to Hope and the many projects they assisted with.

Joining our church council can be a deeply rewarding experience that offers numerous benefits both personally and spiritually. It allows individuals to contribute to the governance and the direction of the Hope Lutheran church community, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. The following summary explores the many reasons why one should consider joining the Hope church council.

## **Utilize Your Skills and Expertise**

Many individuals possess unique skills and expertise that can be highly beneficial to the Hope church council. Whether it is fiscal management, event planning, marketing, or community outreach, these skills can help the council operate more effectively and achieve its goals. Joining a council allows one to apply their talents in meaningful ways that contribute to our church’s success.

One of the primary advantages of joining a church council is the opportunity to use the skills we all have but may not be utilizing. Many of us are retired and during those working years we developed expansive skills that could lead us and Hope even further.

## **Deepen Your Faith**

Participating in church council activities can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of one’s faith. By engaging in discussions about spiritual matters, working towards the betterment of the church, one can cultivate a more profound connection to their beliefs and spiritual practices.

## **Serve God and the Community**

Being part of a church council is an excellent way to serve both God and the community. It provides a platform to contribute to the church’s mission and outreach efforts, helping to support various programs and initiatives that aim to assist those in need. This service can be a fulfilling expression of one’s faith and commitment to living out religious values. This also acts as a great display of faith for you and your family.

## **Foster a Sense of Belonging**

Joining a church council can foster a keen sense of belonging and connection within the church community. Council members often become more deeply involved in church activities and events, creating a network of support and friendship. This sense of belonging can enhance one’s overall well-being and provide a supportive environment for spiritual growth.

## **Impact Church Decisions**

Church council plays a crucial role in shaping the direction and policies of the church. By being a part of the council, individuals have the opportunity to voice their opinions, offer suggestions, and vote on important matters. This involvement ensures that the church’s decisions reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of its congregation.

## **Support Church Growth**

Being a part of a church council enables one to actively participate in initiatives aimed at growing the congregation and enhancing church facilities. Council members can help develop strategies for attracting new members, improving church services, and maintaining the physical aspects of the church. These contributions are vital for the continued vitality and growth of the church community.

# Conclusion

Joining a church council is a decision that can lead to numerous personal, spiritual, and community benefits. It offers a chance to grow as a leader, deepen one’s faith, engage with the community, and make meaningful contributions to the church’s mission. For those who are enthusiastic about their faith and eager to serve, becoming a member of a church council is a rewarding and impactful way to make a difference. Also remember you will not be working alone but part of a dynamic team!

In April there will be copies of each of the council positions for your review and consideration.

**WE NEED YOU! HOPE GROWS HERE!**

***Bill Unger, For the Hope Congregation Council***

***A poster with a cartoon of a person sitting in a chair

Description automatically generated***

***A list of food items

AI-generated content may be incorrect.***

***Dear Youth and Families,***

Summer is almost here, and we have some exciting Sundays and events lined up for June! From special worship services to volunteer opportunities for service and connection, there’s something for everyone. Check out what’s going on this month — we’d love to see you!

***Pentecost & Confirmation – June 8 @ 10 AM (Contemporary Service)***We are celebrating Pentecost Sunday and honoring our amazing confirmands during a special contemporary service. It will be a joyful morning as we lift these young people and their faith journey. Don’t miss this exciting milestone!

***Coin Drive Wrap-Up – June 8***Thank you to everyone who participated in the **Hope Grows Here Coin Drive!** The collection will wrap up on Pentecost Sunday. Every coin collected helps support our service ministries—your generosity has truly made a difference!

***Donuts with Dad – Father’s Day, June 15 (after service)***We’ll be celebrating all the dads and father figures right after the service with donuts and fellowship. A sweet way to say thanks and enjoy some time together—hope to see you there!

***Welcoming a New Family & Congregation Meeting – June 22***This Sunday, we will celebrate a baptism and joyfully welcome a new family into our church community! As their children become members through baptism, the family has chosen to officially join Hope. We’re thrilled to walk alongside them on their faith journey.  Additionally, please plan to stay after the service for our Congregation Meeting. Your presence and participation are always valued as we share updates and look ahead together. Please note that we will hold a special service for new members coming later this summer!

***Sandwich Making – June 25 @ 6 PM***We’re back at it! Last month, we made **220 sandwiches** for St. Peter’s Lunch Program—and we’re only getting more efficient and faster. It’s incredible to see what we can accomplish together, and this ministry continues to bless so many in our community. Let’s keep the momentum going!

***Summer Choir***Choir will continue throughout the summer on weeks when there is no contemporary service, unless otherwise noted. If you’ve been feeling the pull to sing, this is your invitation—just sing! 🎶 No pressure, no auditions, just joyful voices coming together. I am always happy to help anyone with music as well!

***Technology Help Still Needed***We’re still seeking volunteers to assist with PowerPoint, video, and other technical aspects during services. It’s easier than you think, and I’m happy to guide you through everything. Both youth and adults are welcome—your help makes a significant difference in how we worship together!

***VBS Volunteers Needed – August 11–15***We’re starting to look for volunteers to assist with Vacation Bible School, which will be held this year from August 11–15. Last year was a tremendous success, and we’re eager to build on that momentum. If you’re interested in helping—whether it’s leading a group, organizing supplies, or lending a hand wherever needed—please don't hesitate to reach out! Additionally, if you are interested in signing your child up, the form is available on the narthex table and the website!

Just a quick heads-up: I’ll be away from July 1 to 8, so please plan accordingly if you have any questions, scheduling needs, or require support. Upon my return, I’ll be excited to keep things going strong into the rest of summer! Thank you for continuing to support our youth, ministries, and one another. If you have any questions or your child is interested in volunteering, don’t hesitate to reach out.

***With Blessings,  
Josh Renik-Staudinger***

***A green plant growing out of dirt

AI-generated content may be incorrect.***

**HOPE GROWS HERE!**

**GENEROSITY**

There is a very strong connection between being generous and using that generosity to assist others in need.

Generosity **extends beyond the mere act of giving material possessions; it encompasses the sharing of time, knowledge, compassion, and love**. The impact of generosity is profound, transforming both the giver and the receiver in life-affirming ways.

Generosity exhibits itself in various forms:

* **Material Giving**: Donating money, food, clothes, or other resources to those in need is the most common form of generosity.
* **Time:** Volunteering time for community service, helping friends and family, or mentoring someone can be one of the most valuable gifts.
* **Knowledge**: Sharing knowledge and expertise can empower others and foster growth and innovation.
* **Emotional Support**: Offering a listening ear, providing encouragement, or simply being there for someone in times of need.

Generosity can be cultivated through planned practices and a shift in mindset.

* **Mindful Living**: Practicing mindfulness helps individuals become more aware of their abundance and the needs of others, fostering a natural inclination towards generosity.
* **Gratitude:** Developing a habit of gratitude for what one has can inspire a desire to share and give back.
* **Community Engagement:** Being actively involved in community activities and causes can provide opportunities to practice and witness generosity, reinforcing its importance.
* **Educating and Leading by Example:** Teaching children and young adults the value of generosity through education and by setting examples can cultivate a culture of giving in future generations.

**In conclusion: Generosity is more than an act**; it is a way of life that enriches the giver, the receiver, and society as a whole. By embracing the essence of generosity and overcoming its challenges, we can create a world rooted in kindness, empathy, and shared prosperity. The ripple effect of one generous act can inspire countless others, creating a legacy of giving that transcends generations. Let us all strive to be generous, not only in our deeds but in our hearts, for in giving, we truly receive.

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

**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)

A child sitting in grass with a tent

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**We can use volunteers also! Please see Josh for registration and to sign up to volunteer if you can!!** [**Hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com**](mailto:Hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com)



**Our week for the Work Release Program is August 18 – August 22 – Please sign up if you’d like to provide lunch!**[**Hope Lutheran Church: Work Release Program Lunches**](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48A8AB23A0FFC52-55515897-work#/)

**HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST**

***Bob Robinson*** could use our prayers…

***Cindy Lynch*** grieving the loss of her father; ***Ashley Rosenberg;*** ***Gerry Bergh;*** ***Alyssa Manco,*** friend of the ***Somodi Family;*** ***Joan Drager;*** ***Ruth Furco,*** ***Jackson Behn’s*** Gigi; ***Kaitlin Kropa;*** ***Unger Family***  former work friend, ***Larry Qualter;*** ***Verdino Girls’*** Grandpa, ***Edward Rader;* *Erika Woods;***  ***Bill*** and ***Janice Seifert;* *Colin Alaia,*** family friend of the ***McGeady Family*; *Jennifer,*** family friend of ***Brenda and Dennis Johnson;* *Charles Sona;* *Ryan McAuly,* *Kless Family*** nephew; ***Courtney Volk;* *Deloris Laub;* *Dolores O’Brien;* *Marilyn Wolter*, *Cindy Lynch’s*** mother*;* ***Margaret Holen;* *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*** |
| ***June 1*** | Debbie U | Diane | Fenshams |
| ***June 8*** | Sue H | Debbie | Della Rosas |
| ***June 15*** | John D | Christine | Weiss/Tyrrell |
| ***June 22*** | Steve W | Rachel | Ungers |
| ***June 29*** | Ken B | Pat | Fenshams |
| ***July 6*** | Dave P | Sue |  |
| ***July 13*** | Tom T | Rebekah |  |
| ***July 20*** | Bill U | Barbara |  |
| ***July 27*** | Rita C | Debbie |  |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ***Ushers 930am*** |
| ***June 1*** | Matt M & Mark |
| ***June 8*** | Ken & Bill |
| ***June 15*** | Matt S & John S |
| ***June 22*** | Chuck M & Dave P |
| ***July 29*** | Chris F & Diane K |
| ***July 6*** | Ken & Steve W |
| ***July 13*** | Matt M & Mark |
| ***July 20*** | Ken & Bill |
| ***July 27*** | Matt S & John S |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June | | | |  | | | |
|  | | | | 2025 | | | |
| ***Sunday*** | ***Monday*** | ***Tuesday*** | ***Wednesday*** | | ***Thursday*** | ***Friday*** | ***Saturday*** | |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | | **5** | **6** | **7** | |
|  |  |  |  | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step | 7p – 12 Step   ***HCS Last Day*** | ***930a – WOH*** 12p - Counseling | |
| **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | | **12** | **13** | **14** | |
| 930a – Worship  ***Confirmation!!!*** | 530p – WW Group   ***Summer Camp   Starts*** | 7p – Zoom Yoga ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step | 7p – 12 Step | ***9am - GOM*** 12p - Counseling | |
| **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | | **19** | **20** | **21** | |
| ***FATHERS’ DAY***  930a – Worship  ***Donuts w Dad*** | 530p – WW Group | 7p – Zoom Yoga | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step  ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | 12p - Counseling | |
| **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | | **26** | **27** | **28** | |
| 930a – Worship ***Congregation Mtng*** | 530p – WW Group | 7p – Zoom Yoga ***730p - Choir*** | ***6p - Sandwiches*** 7p – 12 Step | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step | 7p – 12 Step | 12p - Counseling | |
| **29** | **30** |  |  | |  |  |  | |
| 930a - Worship | 530p – WW Group |  |  | |  |  |  | |

***~~A calendar with yellow text

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