



# The Hope Reporter

## ***Avent and Christmas at Hope Our Dear Christ Enters In***



In any given year, approximately 131 million Americans travel home to visit family and friends. For many of them, going home means get-togethers, extra food and cookies, and gift exchanges. Unfortunately, many times in the hustle and bustle of home life, the spiritual blessings of Advent and Christmas can get buried in all the trappings of the season. What if our goal this year was to simply let our dear Christ enter into our homes and into our lives? And if we did that, how does his entry into the world speak into, and even change, our approach to this season?

Join us here at Hope during the Sundays of Advent for a special sermon and Bible study series for Advent and Christmas as we look at what happens when Christ enters in and makes our hearts his home! Here is what you can expect over the next month and leading through Christmas Day:

**November 30<sup>th</sup> – Family Tree** – Jesus enters into a unique family tree that demonstrates to us how blessed we are to be a part of the family tree of God because of him.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> – Home Hurts** – In this broken world, our homes are not immune from hurt. But Jesus enters in to comfort and heal us when we encounter pain and suffering.

**December 14<sup>th</sup> – Baby Names** – We contemplate the name *Jesus*, which was given to him when he was born. It's a reminder to us of his reason for entering into our world: He came to save us.

**December 21<sup>st</sup> – Company Comes** – We prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, just as we get ready when company comes to our homes.

**Christmas Eve – Great Joy** – Our dear Christ enters in and makes his home with us in this world by being born in a manger. With great joy we welcome him into our lives and remember that he has come to prepare a home for us in heaven.

**Christmas Day – In Our Hearts** – We, like Mary, ponder the events of Christmas day and treasure them in our hearts. We make room in our hearts, homes, and lives for the presence of the Christ Child as we welcome him.

Join us this Advent and Christmas as we prepare our hearts for the arrival of our Lord and Savior Jesus! Invite your friends and family for our **Sunday services at 8:30am and 10:30am**, and bring them along to our **Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5pm and 7pm** and to our **Christmas Day service at 9:30am**. God's blessings to you during this wonderful time of year, and God's peace to you and you prepare for our dear Christ to enter into your life!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Pastor James

# Hope Reporter



## Happy Birthday

Llonda Bins-Lohman 1  
Giselle Apostle 7  
Jim Wapshott 7  
Loretta Hand 13  
Tracey Spradling 15  
Sherrie Schallhorn 18

Susan Montague 21  
Carl Koelsch 23  
Roxanne Kerley 28  
Kyle Burrier 30  
Sandy Murren 31

## Happy Anniversary to...

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Ed & Kathy Mathisen 1     | 52 Years |
| Alex & Christine Molina 8 |          |
| David & Judy Mennicke 14  | 26 Years |
| George & Barb Smith 21    | 26 Years |
| Larry & Roxanne Kerley 28 | 40 Years |



## Weekly Bible Studies

- **Sunday Adult Bible Study** - During Adult Bible class between services throughout Advent, we are going to be taking a deeper dive into our Advent "Our Dear Christ Enters In" each week. Join us as we grow together as People of Hope in Bible class! In December, Adult Bible Study will meet December 7 & 21.
- **Children's Sunday School Classes** meet between services. Preschool-Kindergarten meet in the Fellowship Hall; 1<sup>st</sup> and up meet in Pastor's office. In December, Sunday School will meet December 7 & 21.
- **Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies**—Wednesday Women's & Men's Bible Studies meet each Wednesday at 10 am. The men are working through the CPH book *Myth or Faith? Cleaning up Common Misconceptions about Christianity*. The women are working through a book called *Strong and Courageous: Studying God's Promises in Joshua* by Donna Snow. In December, the groups will meet December 3, 10 & 17.
- **Wednesday in the Word Dinner and Bible Study**—will resume on Wednesday, January 7, 2026! We will have varied meals each week beginning at 5:45 pm. Bible Study begins at 6:30 pm. Questions? Please see Leslie (321-507-0587) or Jackie (515-556-6359) with questions.

## December 14 Congregational Meeting

A regular Congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 14 at 9:35 a.m. (between services) in which the proposed 2026 Annual Budget and Plan of Ministry will be presented for discussion and will be put to a vote. Additionally, the proposed Sabbatical Policy to be added to the Constitution and Bylaws will be voted on. A copy of the proposed Sabbatical Policy was made available on November 30 and is available in the Narthex if you would like to review it ahead of the meeting and vote.



## Advent Soup Suppers

We will be having our yearly soup suppers for Advent! We'll be offering soup, bread, salad, dessert and drinks. Dates are Wednesdays, Dec 3, 10 & 17. Supper will begin at 6 p.m. and run until 6:45. Advent Service will begin at 7 p.m. Paper signups for these meals are placed on the Narthex table. Please see Leslie (321-507-0587) or Jackie (515-556-6359) with questions.

# December 2025



## Advent Midweek – All About Mary



Each year during Advent at Hope, we have a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and worship as we move ever closer to Christmas Day. This year is no different, and we want to make sure you join us!

Each Wednesday, beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will gather together for a soup supper in our Fellowship Hall at 6pm. When we've finished eating, we'll join together in our Sanctuary for a time of prayer and worship. As we have the last couple of years, we will follow the service **Holden Evening Prayer**, which is led by Pastor James. This year, our messages are going to focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we'll introduce Mary and we'll explore what the Bible tells us about who she is, who she is not, and, most importantly, who her Son is.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**, we'll learn about Mary's husband, Joseph and how Jesus was raised and taught by him. We'll also talk about why Joseph's lineage is so important for us to understand.

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** for our final Midweek Advent Service, we'll dive into Mary's song, the Magnificat and we'll talk about all those divine reversals she sings about and how they point us to Jesus.

Join us at Hope on Wednesday evenings starting **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** for a time of food, fellowship, and worship as we learn all about Mary!



## Women's & Men's Bible Breakfast

Our Women's and Men's Bible Breakfast groups will meet next on December 20 at 9 a.m. at Grills, 6075 North US 1, Melbourne, FL. This is a chance for a light devotion together and some good fellowship. All are invited! There will be signup sheets in the Narthex. Women may contact Cathy Chase at 321-505-1223 with questions. Men may contact Jim Gillard at 612-209-3858.

## Mah Jongg with Kathy Mathisen



Our Mah Jongg group meets Tuesdays, 1-3 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. If interested, please let Kathy Mathisen know at 321-345-4770.



## Crochet Crew

Crochet Crew will be meeting on December 4 & 18 at 10 am to crochet and enjoy fellowship. If you have any questions or want to learn, please call Rachel Stutsman at 701-471-4751 for more information.

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## Hope Walks

All are welcome to walk with us at Wickham Park on Saturday mornings at 7am. Assemble just inside the main Parkway entrance. We walk clockwise, so if you are late, start walking counter clockwise to find us. Provide your phone number to Cathy Chase (321-505-1223) to receive text updates.



## Hope Travelers - Disney Christmas Decorations!

Our Hope Travelers group will next be going to Disney World to look at Christmas decorations throughout the resorts, Disney Springs, and around the parks. The group will leave at 8am from the church and return at 6pm. Costs will include lunch on the Boardwalk and if you would like to purchase any additional snacks or souvenirs (no park tickets are needed). If you have questions or plan to join the group for this festive trip, be sure to contact Leslie Heumann (321) 507-0587 or [ljheumann@gmail.com](mailto:ljheumann@gmail.com). Be sure to wear comfy shoes! We look forward to having you join us!

## Christmas Caroling for Shut-Ins

Come join our Hope carolers this coming Sunday, Dec. 7th! A light lunch will be provided at Hope around 1 p.m. and then we will set out from Hope to arrive at Greenwood Place, 2680 Croton Rd., by 1:45 p.m. We may have a second destination, but those details are still being worked out. Everyone is welcome to join in for a time of fellowship and spreading good cheer in our community!



Baker's Blessings will be taking a break for December. Look for a new sign-up in January.



## Baker's Blessings

## Gifts from the Heart Christmas Shop

A great big "thank you" to all who contributed to this wonderful program! We collected a total of 81 gifts-11 with a Thrivent Card and 70 from our Hope Family! The Christmas Shop provides parents from Family Promise of Brevard, Community of Hope, and Neighbor Up Brevard (DOCK) with affordable gift shopping experiences for their children. All donations are greatly appreciated and bring Hope to our Melbourne community!



Gifts from the Heart  
Christmas Shop



## Guardian ad Litem Angel Tree

You are reminded that the Friends of Children of Brevard angel tree gifts are due at church on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd. If you have concerns, please contact Nancy Roberts at [nlr7clover@gmail.com](mailto:nlr7clover@gmail.com) or 804-513-5375.



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## December Ministry of the Month

**Home of Grace-** Faith based addiction recovery for over 50 years, the Home of Grace has served as a beacon of hope for those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction. Their highly effective, yet greatly affordable program has helped tens of thousands of men and women find freedom from their addiction. It is a Christ-centered recovery since 1965 the Home of Grace, a nationally known addiction recovery program, has helped tens of thousands of individuals battle various types of addiction. In operation since 1965, we have used hands-on experience to build an addiction recovery program filled with success stories.

## Operation Christmas Child



I am blown away at our participation with OCC this year. We beat our goal of 100 boxes with 116 boxes sent to children in need all over the world. We had 54 physical boxes and 62 online boxes made (32 of these were purchased using Thrivent funds). Thank you to all who helped make this magic possible for children who would otherwise not see a Christmas gift on Christmas morning.



## Food on the First-BLAST

This month BLAST is especially in need of pasta, canned fruit, fruit cups, snack items, chili, and Jelly. As always any non-perishable non-expired food items are appreciated and useful. Should you have any questions, Please speak to Nancy Sutter at 321-537-2717.

## Hope for the Homeless-Providence Connects



Thank you for your continued support of Providence Connects. October and November were paired together. The first Thrivent card purchased a total of 90 pairs of men's underwear as there was an extreme clearance for sizes small, 2xl and 3xl. A total of \$280 worth of 15 packs of 6 count boxers for \$39 and 107 men's and women's deodorants were purchased for a total of \$228.23. In addition, there were 3 XL body wash bottles, 3 toothbrush kits, 10 combs and 4 hair scrunchies donated by 4 Hope members. The card was used to purchase 55 lightweight fleece blankets for the homeless population of Melbourne the be distributed via Providence Connects- previously known as Daily Bread. A total of \$232.10 was used for the 55 blankets. There were 2 hours spent making a list, shopping, sorting and dropping off items to the designated drop-off warehouse. In addition, there were 10 packages of 10 count hand warmers, 1 xl box of Band-Aid and 4 deodorants donated by 3 Hope members.



## The Sharing Center Thanksgiving Baskets

This year we broke Hope's record by supplying 40 Thanksgiving dinners to families in need. Thank you so much for your support in helping these families enjoy a holiday meal.

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## Shoes and Socks for Sherwood!

our community.

**Sherwood Shoes/Socks**-Thank you to everyone who donated socks to help supply Sherwood with shoes and socks. With the help of Thrivent cards, we were able to purchase 57 pairs of shoes and 8 packs of socks. It is always a blessing to be able to help the youngest of

## Hope Lutheran Church

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**Striving to be people of HOPE in our Community.**

**Carrying the HOPE of Jesus to our community by growing together through worship, education, service and fellowship.**



Worship

Worship is very important to us here at Hope. It's a time where we can gather together as followers of Jesus and come into contact with our God, who loves us and forgives us. When we come together in worship, we pray, praise and give thanks to God for His grace delivered to us through His Word and Sacraments.



Education

In order to be people of Hope in our community, we believe it is vital for each of us to grow in our understanding of the God who loves and forgives us through Jesus. This is why Hope provides a variety of educational opportunities as you continue to explore the faith we share. Go to [www.hopebrevard.org](http://www.hopebrevard.org) to get plugged in!



Service

Serving our community has been a part of Hope's mission since we were planted as a church in 2005. This legacy continues still today as the first 11% of our budget every year is dedicated to our outreach ministry. Through this ministry of service, Hope provides many opportunities for our members to reach into our community with the Hope of Jesus.



Fellowship

We all appreciate when we have a friend or two to walk alongside us as we experience the joys and sorrows that we encounter along life's way. Through our times of fellowship at Hope, we deepen the relationships we have with one another and learn how we might best bear one another's burdens.