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We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Red Cross Blood Drive
at Hope LC**

~ Flyer on page 6 ~

Gathering of Hope Event

~ Details on page 9 ~

Our Core Values



*faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love*

A Message from Our Pastor

A few days ago sitting in the solarium, I saw what at first, I thought were grass clippings being blown around in the air. But then I realized that they didn't really seem to be blowing willy, nilly. Those supposed clippings had agency; in other words, they seemed to be moving on their own volition. Finally, one of these grass clippings landed on one of our pollinator plants, allowing me to get a closer look, I saw that what I had thought were clippings were in fact dragonflies. A whole swarm of them. In the five years I've served here as Pastor for Hope, I have never seen even one dragonfly on the property, but now here was a whole swarm.

Now some might call me superstitious, but I don't think so. For here is where my indigenous blood makes itself known, as my first thought was, what could it mean. Like both my African and native American ancestors, I believe God speaks to us in a variety of ways, and one of those ways is through nature herself. So, what might God be telling us through these beautiful messengers of creation. Here's what I found.

"Dragonflies often symbolize transformation, adaptability, and the ability to see beyond illusions. They are also associated with change, new beginnings, and the deeper meaning of life. In various cultures, dragonflies are seen as messengers, representing the soul, the afterlife, and the connection between the physical and spiritual worlds."

- **Native American Symbolism:**
In some Native American traditions, dragonflies symbolize swiftness, activity, and pure water, representing hope, infinite possibilities, and the stripping away of negativity.
- **Seeing a Dragonfly:**
Encountering a dragonfly can be a reminder to reconnect with oneself, trust one's intuition, and find the answers within.
- **Japanese Art:**
In Japan, dragonflies are featured in art and poetry, symbolizing transformation and adaptability.

There are so many symbolic connections in this paragraph to our present day reality that I could do a whole sermon on them. But I will not. Instead, I will say this, we are certainly as a nation going through a transformation, while at the same time learning to see beyond the illusions that are being perpetrated around us. I invite you to think about the beautiful dragonfly and what this part of God's creation has to teach us. Perhaps God is trying to remind us of something important as we face these chaotic days. The promise of resurrection and renewal; the promise of hope and joy!

Pastor Pamela





A big Thank You to Bob Crowley for taking on the job of painting the panels on the church. The lovely blue has really enhanced the appearance of our property. We have such good folks who pull together to make our church home welcoming!



Food Drive and Bake Sale

We had a warm, beautiful July day for our latest drive-thru food drive and bake sale, and the day was a great success. We collected 66 bags and boxes of food, for a total of over 650 pounds!

Proceeds from two full tables of baked goods and miscellaneous contributions totalled an even \$1000. The food and cash were divided between the two food pantries we support -- Doors of Hope (West Sand Lake) and CoNSERNS-U (Rensselaer). The pantries were both most grateful for the donations and our continued support.

Many, many thanks to all who participated! It truly "takes a village" and many in our congregation contributed toward making this event successful. Thanks to the organizers, especially Peggy and Ja'net. Thanks to the tent putter-uppers, who have dealt with our frustrating tents for the last time! Thanks to the wonderful bakers, especially Marilyn, who filled up an entire table with her yummy creations! Thanks to all who helped out on the day of the sale, and to those who cleaned up afterward.

And thanks to those who stopped by and supported our efforts with a bag of food or a bake sale purchase. Together, we are helping our neighbors!

- Pam Dodson





hello community® podcast:

Exciting news: the podcast is now on the top three platforms with many new features

Hello,

Over a year ago Greg, myself, and an amazing group of guests, taped seven episodes of *hello community*®. The mission of the podcast is to bring God’s comfort to those experiencing the current epidemic of loneliness and isolation. To support and encourage podcast viewers/listeners, guests share their heartfelt stories of building connection and community.

When it became clear that not only Hope members but the wider community--were both viewing/listening to the podcasts as well as being inspired by them--we started an eight-month journey to give the podcast all the features it needed to be on the top podcast platforms--and ultimately reach more people.

Since June, we have re-released five of those original podcasts (with two more to go) in their new format on the top three platforms: YouTube podcasts, as well as Spotify and Apple. So, what makes this recent iteration of the podcast new?

- stunning, fun, and eye-catching graphics for both the podcast and each episode
- “show notes” for each episode which include a carefully crafted episode summary (one of the main reasons a person decides to view/listen), biography of the guest and host, timestamp (for watching sections of an episode), transcript, and books as well as on-line resources for building connection and community
- Tree Link: a beautiful landing page where you will find the links to all the platforms the episodes are currently on. <https://lnk.bio/hellocommunity>
- QR Code: a short cut to the Link Tree



- YouTube “Shorts” are similar to a movie trailer but only 30 secs. to several minutes long. Each episode has 2-4 shorts and the intent is to entice potential viewers/listeners to the full-length podcast
- SEO and Social Media Kit: Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is a complicated, lengthy process (that is involved in almost every decision we make) that ultimately allows potential viewers/listeners to find *hello community*® among the millions of podcasts that are available. “Engagement” is one of the ways to be “ranked” higher by Search Engines and help the podcast be found. Each podcast guest is offered an on-line Social Media Kit so they can help increase engagement by promoting their own episode with family, friends, and colleagues.

Those are the highlights of over 400 hours of commitment by Greg, Kira, and myself to bring *hello community*® to as many people as possible. If you would also like to help us in creating a world of connection and community, please share the episodes with friends, family and colleagues. Thank you!

Till next time,
Catherine



AUGUST PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 <i>Tonya Humphrey</i>	2 <i>Shane Pucci</i>	3 <i>Charlie Huff</i>
4 <i>Zina Huff</i>	5 <i>Victoria Dooley</i>	6 <i>Richard Dooley</i>	7 <i>Mateo Dooley</i>	8 <i>Denise Rogers</i>	9 <i>Marilyn Dyer</i>	10 <i>Bodie Rogers</i>
11 <i>Ken Newberry</i>	12 <i>Dr. Becca Ehrlich</i>	13 <i>Will Platnick</i>	14 <i>Theo Ehrlich-Platnick</i>	15 <i>Susan Radzminsk</i>	16 <i>Kathy Zorian</i>	17 <i>Lisa Rogers</i>
18 <i>Jake Freeheart</i>	19 <i>Jim Freeheart</i>	20 <i>Cyndy Rogers</i>	21 <i>Bishop Lee Miller II</i>	22 <i>Rev. Imani Olear</i>	23 <i>Pr. Aileen Robbins</i>	24 <i>Julie Grindle</i>
25 <i>Pr. Lisa Frauens</i>	26 <i>Rachel Sosebee</i>	27 <i>Chris George</i>	28 <i>Pr. Lowell Chilton</i>	29 <i>Kori Tomelden</i>	30 <i>Jennifer Genovese</i>	31 <i>UNYS Synod Council</i>



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)

CALENDAR UPDATE INFORMATION: There are new names at the end of the August Calendar. For your information, they are Bishop Lee Miller II and members of the Upstate New York Synod Staff. These are people who support congregations and rostered leaders. You are encouraged to pray with gratitude for their continuing support of the ministry of Hope Lutheran Church and Pastor Pamela Hoh.

A festive banner with a light blue background. At the top, there are colorful bunting flags in shades of orange, yellow, pink, and blue. Below the flags are several strings of colorful stars and dots in blue, pink, yellow, and orange. The text "August Birthdays" is written in a large, bold, teal font with a slight shadow effect. The background is decorated with scattered stars and dots in various colors.

August Birthdays

We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday ...

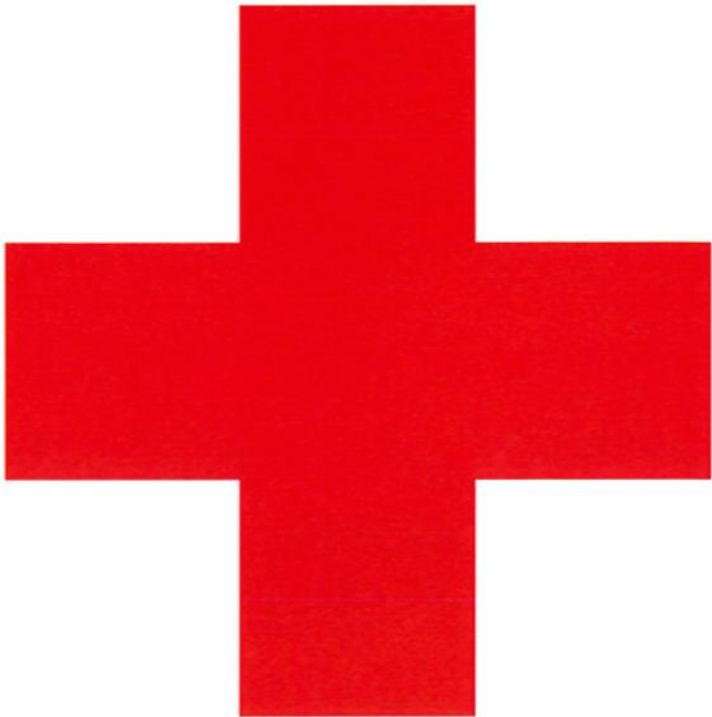
A close-up photograph of a cupcake. The cupcake is in a pink and white polka-dot liner. It has a swirl of white frosting on top, decorated with colorful sprinkles and star-shaped decorations. A single lit candle is on top, with a bright flame. The cupcake is set against a background that transitions from blue at the top to pink at the bottom. There are some small, colorful confetti pieces scattered on the surface in front of the cupcake.

Marilyn Dyer ~ August 9th

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Hope Lutheran Church
470 Winter Street Ext., Troy, NY 12180
Sanctuary

Saturday, August 23, 2025
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To schedule your appointment,
please call 1-800-RED CROSS, visit
www.redcrossblood.org, or,
download the free Blood Donor App.
Use sponsor keyword: hopelutheran



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass

**Give Aug 1 to 28 for \$15 e gift card & successful
donations get A1C testing. Terms: rcblood.org/Test**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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HOPE'S GATHERING GOES BACK TO SCHOOL ON AUGUST 23RD

Hope's Gathering returns to its regular fourth Saturday meeting on August 23rd beginning at 6:00 p.m. The theme this month is Back to School. Food for the evening will be comfort food your parent or grandparent served on sick days or just when you needed a special smell greeting you at the door. (A sign-up sheet for food, attendees and set-up, clean-up crews will be available)

In addition to the conversation and food, we will ask you to choose teams (like you may have done in primary school classes) for our evening game: Are You Smarter Than a Fifth-Grader?

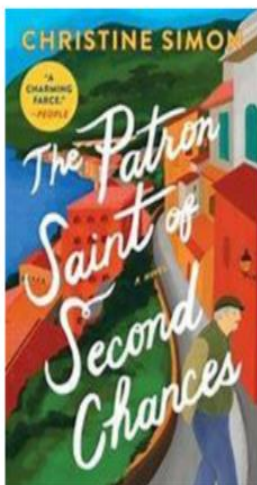
What do you remember from your school days: Friends? Favorite teachers? Principals, coaches, nurses, secretaries, custodians, classroom assistants? Classes you loved or wished were over? Cafeteria food or lunch boxes? Sports games, proms, music events?

We encourage you to bring plenty of stories, pictures, yearbooks, awards or school jackets to share.

We also will post a list of items teachers usually purchase at their own expense for their classrooms. We will share what we gather with the teachers at Belltop School. Contact Pr. Elaine Berg or Marion Daus for information.

Looking Ahead: *September 27th will feature an opportunity to share information about your family history, DNA or ancestry family tree (computers will be available to assist if you have not yet explored those who shared their genetic information with you).*





HOPE WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP READS

THE PATRON SAINT OF SECOND CHOICES

BY CHRISTINA SIMON

The Hope Women's Book Group will meet on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m. with discussion led by Sandra Governor. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Pr. Elaine Berg for information (315.882.3732 or meb312@aol.com).

Amazon offers the following comments on this funny and heartwarming book: *The Patron Saint of Plumbing is not answering Nino Speranza's prayers. Without expensive repairs to the pipes, the water board will cut off Speranza's crumbling Italian village. All 212 inhabitants will be forced to leave. In a desperate bid to find the money to save his hometown, he starts a rumor that Italian heart-throb Dante Rinaldi is coming to town to film his next movie.*

Soon, the place is teeming with fans, and everyone wants to be involved: Speranza's assistant has a screenplay, and the butcher will invest - if Speranza can find roles for each of his fifteen enormous sons. Even the priest is on board. It seems the only way to give their beloved town a second chance is to actually make a movie. What could possibly go wrong?



**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**
Citizen Preparedness Corps



SIGN UP FOR A FREE CLASS TO LEARN ABOUT PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. **The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program** teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to normal conditions. This training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit.

WHERE: Schodack Town Hall
265 Schuurman Road
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

WHEN: Tuesday, September 2, 2025
6:30PM

REGISTER:
*Registration is required
to attend the event.*
To register visit
www.prepare.ny.gov or
scan the QR code



**THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
GOVERNOR HOCHUL IN CONJUNCTION WITH:**



and the Castleton Boat Club

Worship Volunteer Duties for August 2025

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	3-Aug	10-Aug	17-Aug	24-Aug	31-Aug
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Marilyn D	Debbie F	Bonny M	Donna S	Susan R
Greeter	Peggy F	Diane C	Anna-Lisa H	Nancy C	Marion D
Usher	Peggy F	Cindy W	Dickie D	Janis Z	Marion D
Assisting Minister	Luis C	Sandra G	Pam D	Karen C	Jim M
Comm. Assistant	Luis C	Bonny M (+ candles)	Pam D	Debbie F	Janis Z (+ candles)
Snack Set-Up	Susan C	Charlie H	Marilyn D	Susan C	???
Offering Counters	Nancy C & Bonny M	Cindy W & Charlie H	Anna-Lisa H & Pam D	Pam D & Bonny M	Marion D & Pam D



Upcoming Events for August of 2025

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.

We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

2nd: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.

3rd: Prayers of Hope meets in the small classroom following worship service.

7th: Pastor Pamela's Enneagram Workshop @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

10th: Luncheon for Mike Daus following worship service.

14th: Pastor Pamela's Enneagram Workshop @ 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

16th: Memorial Service for Liz Macris

19th: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

20th: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom & via Zoom.

21st: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.

22nd: Hope's Dine-Out Dinner Group @ 6 PM for those who RSVP'd.

23rd: Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 AM – 12 PM, in the sanctuary. Register online.

23rd: Hope's Gathering Event ~ Back to School Memories @ 6 PM in the sanctuary.

26th: Newsletter Articles Due.

27th: Women's Book Club @ 6:30 PM at Marilyn Dyer's home.

