

# THE VIEW from



# Hope Ridge

## United Methodist Church

Make & Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ

Volume 87

Winter 2019-2020

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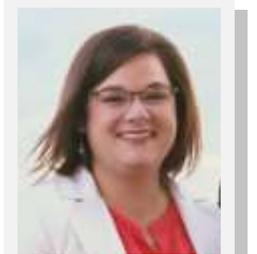
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**Mark Seyfried,  
Lay Leader**

## 2019 Lay Leader and Pastor's Report

During 2019, Hope Ridge has continued to seek growth and opportunities to serve in Concord Township. We began our year with a leadership summit which we used to spring board committee planning goals for the year. Each of the teams and committees were responsible for creating goals that aligned with the overall mission of Hope Ridge to drive all teams to a singular goal.



**Rev. Beth  
Wilterdink**

In trying to fulfill our mission of making disciples the Administrative Council drove conversations and planning sessions utilizing the book *Shift 2.0- Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry* as inspiration for driving goal-setting and transformation within our church.

Here are a few of the ways that we have addressed the shifts:

### Shift 1: From Fellowship to Hospitality

- Hope Ridge has greeters at the front door to direct visitors the first time they visit and has coached them on engagement of new guests entering the building.
- After the first visit, we reach out with a letter and invite them to Coffee with the Pastor and follow-through with the visit by Pastor Beth.
- As congregants have missed a series of worship services, we have a team that reaches out to the families to check-in and ensure that everything they aren't in need of some form of pastoral care.
- We offer nursery and children's programming from birth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade to allow for families to be fully engaged in worship.

### Shift 2: From Worship as an Event to Worship as a Lifestyle

- We formed a creative worship team this year, and have been working on creating worship that connects with people's lives, is participatory, flows without distractions, and includes metaphors and visual reminders of the connection to the gospel. From the use of candles to drive smells, lighting for visual imagery, honey sticks for tastes we work to create an emersion experience for those coming to worship and experience God.

### Shift 3: From Membership to Discipleship

- We offer Following Jesus, as a class to begin to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and to provide an introduction to Hope Ridge for those that would like to become members.
- Hope Ridge continues to offer small affinity group studies as well as traditional small groups that we refer to as “Life Groups”. Groups range from short term groups focused around Lent, Advent or a sermon series, to longer term small groups that meet weekly throughout the year to study together.
- We have developed a large group/ small group children’s worship program called “Ridge Kids” for our children in pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade to experience worship tailored to them.
- Developed small group curriculum for youth to participate in during Sunday school for 3-4<sup>th</sup> graders and a separate one for 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> graders to grow deeper spiritually and in their understanding of the gospel.
- We have also built a Sunday School program for our high schoolers that have covered topics such as evangelizing in schools, Gideon, The book of Revelation and Spiritual Gifts.
- To supplement the Sunday morning program we have grown a youth group program that is for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders that have relevant studies to their lives. This year we have been blessed with a growing youth group that allows us to tailor studies for both 6-7<sup>th</sup> graders and 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade to discuss how God works in each of their lives.
- We have improved attendance tracking software and have identified that approximately 1/3 of the church in attendance on Sunday mornings are participating in a small group of some kind throughout the week.

### Shift 4: From “Serve Us” to Service

- Our congregation looks for opportunities to work in the community, not just in the church. Members of our congregation serve at Hope Chest, Project Hope for the Homeless, Painesville City Schools and Riverside Local School District to build relationship within the community that we serve. We also have members of our congregation that work with Leadership Lake County and serve on the ADAMS Board Lake County as well as serving on the board for the Lake County YMCA.
- We encourage our small groups to find service projects in the community to build their internal community and bridges to the community.
- During mission moments in worship we take the opportunity to share where our church members are actively making a difference in the community. This allows for members of the congregation to hear where the church is having a positive impact in the community and used as an opportunity for people looking for places to get involved to be introduced to a contact.
- For the past 5 years we have partnered with other churches in the community to send our youth on mission trips throughout the US. From the first year of 2 students and growing the participation to 15 teens and adults combined going to Cabot, VT, to serve and grow together. They have been an example of how short term missions can make a difference in the world today.

### Shift 5: From Survival Mentality to Generosity

- Hope Ridge continues to offer Financial Peace University as a means to help people get out of debt and become intentional about their finances and giving.
- Hope Ridge looks for ways to give in the community by supporting ministries and people beyond our church that are able to impact communities that we are not able to minister to directly.
- The Finance and Trustee teams see themselves as stewards of the finances, and seek ways to give a tithe (100% apportionment), plus missions (UMCOR, Project Hope, Hope Chest, OhioGuidestone) giving outside of the walls of the church to the greater United Methodist Church.

Breaking down the walls of the church, our body has representatives that have passionately served at Project Hope for the Homeless and Hope Chest. These are not one-time projects, we provide ongoing support to Project Hope with a rotating team that provides meals once a month for them. We have also developed connections with OhioGuidestone and the Lake County Community Network that has led to grief ministry, support for job seekers and our Christmas Giving Tree as examples. Also, building upon our community connection, we host Upward Basketball for K5 and 1st grade students to learn both about the basics of basketball and the gospel story of Jesus through practice devotions.

Members of our congregation have graciously created space for the community through Cars and Coffee, along with Trunk or Treat which unites many different organizations in our community. We are glad to make connections in our community through Concord Days Booth for Missions, Preschool Connections, Yoga, AA, Cub Scouts, Men's Basketball, VBS, Red Cross Blood Drive, Medicare 101 offerings and serve as a polling station for Concord Township.

Those members that know Christ, continue to dive deeper in their faith through the introduction of topics in our sermon series that touch on various parts of their lives. We are also connecting the Sunday worship with Life Groups that meet throughout the week, to bring about time to focus on discipleship and deepening our walk with Christ. We have also started a Wesley Accountability Group to allow group members to grow more Christ-like in their daily lives. To help drive this, we have added a part-time Director of Discipleship, Shelly Thompson, who has continued to emphasize our Path of Discipleship, and ways to connect our spiritual gifts to serving.

*This year-end summary was written as a response to the Annual Charge Conference question: "Explain how the church is fulfilling its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Review the current year and how you plan to meet your congregational goals for the upcoming years. What specific goals relate to your mission field?"*

*Every year we, as staff and lay church members, reflect, re-evaluate, and re-position Hope Ridge UMC to further our mission, which is printed in large letters on the wall above the doors as we leave the WFLC to go into the community and beyond:*





Pick up a paper copy of the new winter "Because Life is Better Together" booklet !

Published by our Director of Discipleship Shelly Thompson, this handy booklet lets you know of every study and small group nurture class offered or coming up here at Hope Ridge. Here are some of the pages...

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH NURTURE**

Ridge Kids | 10:15-11:30 am sunday | no class 12/29/19 Hope Ridge offers Ridge Kids Sunday School every Sunday except FIRST Sundays when they are invited to attend Family Worship in the WFLC. Children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend to go on a weekly adventure through the Bible with "Deep Blue" curriculum.

Bible Explorers (3rd & 4th grade) | 9:15-10:15 am First Sunday of the month

A small group study for children in THIRD and FOURTH grade called Bible Explorers will meet the first Sunday of the month in the music room. This study teaches kids how to use and explore their new Adventure Bible. Led by Linda Kallay & Diana Trubiani.

Bible Adventurers (5th & 6th grade) | 9:15-10:15 am 2nd & 4th Sundays

A small group study for children in FIFTH and SIXTH grade called Bible Adventurers will meet in the library. This study for preteens challenges kids to dive a little deeper into their Adventure Bible using the "Be Bold" curriculum. This class is very hands-on and uses a lot of sensory materials to enhance the lessons. Parents are welcome to attend. Led by Tish Davis & Jeff Barresford.

Confirmation (7th grade & up) | 9:15 am 2nd & 4th Sundays | see schedule for more details  
Your Faith. Your Commitment. God's Call. Led by Yvonne Olyer & Rich Fellenstein.

High School Sunday School (8th-12th grade) | 9:15 Sunday

Grab your doughnuts and coffee and meet up with this group in the youth room for a study called "Weird" now through the end of the year. In January, they will begin a study in Ephesians by Mark Driscoll called "Who Do You Think You Are". Led by Mark Seyfried.

Youth group (6th-12th grade) | 6-7:30 pm 1st & 3rd Sundays

Come for games, snacks, fun bible studies, missions, and community events! Please refer to the Youth Group calendar for more details. Led by Pastor Beth, Dana Gisser, and Mark Seyfried.

Youth mission trip (6th-12th grade) | 6-8 pm last Sunday of the month | PUMC Circle Room

Meetings are November through May on the last Sunday of the month at PUMC. Led by Pastor Jan Yandell in the Circle Room from 6-8 pm. Come join us to plan this annual June trip for grades 6-12. Next meeting is January 26, 2020.

## ADULT NURTURE

Adult Sunday School | 9:30-10:15 am Sunday | Ongoing

Join this group as they gather to follow the lectionary, sermon series, and Advent & Lent studies. Led by Dana Gisser.

Grief Share| 12:30-2:30 pm Sunday| Jan. 5, 2020 - March 29, 2020

Built around a 13-week video curriculum, GriefShare will walk alongside you to help you face the challenges of grief, and move from mourning to joy. Led by Linda Kallay and Diana Trubiani in the conference room. \$20 registration fee for workbook.

Storyline | 6-7:30 pm | 2nd and 4th Sundays | Sept 8-Dec 22, 2019

Read through major stories of the Bible, identify the theological themes and concepts these stories represent, and discuss the connection between your story and the biblical story. Geared toward Young Adults. Led by Jon Wilterdink.

Men's Study | 7 pm Monday | ongoing Note: No class Dec 9, 23, & 30. Weekly class resumes Jan 6.

Meet in the library for a men's study led by Bob Degraff.

Next up... Engaging and thought-provoking, "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus" tells a powerful story of the clash between Islam and Christianity in one man's heart—and of the peace he eventually found in Jesus.

Christian Clowder Women's Group| 1-2:30 pm Tuesday | Note: No class Dec 24 & 31

Gather in the conference room for fellowship, sermon series, Advent and Lent studies. This group also focuses on "The Least Coin" ministry that supports current needs and events at Hope Ridge and out in the community. Led by Sue Nahumuck.

Gentle Yoga | 9-10:30 am Wednesdays | Note: No Class Dec 18, 25 and Jan 1

Faith and fitness! Join Melissa Hopper in the Youth Room as she leads you through a gentle yoga session with a Christian emphasis. Free- will donations accepted. Drop-ins welcome!

Following Jesus | 11:30-1:00 pm Sunday | Feb 2,9,16, 23, 2020

An intro to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the church, ends with an invitation to take a step in discipleship. Led by Pastor Beth in the library.

Financial Peace University 7—9 pm Tuesdays Feb 4-Mar 3

This 9 week study by Dave Ramsey will help you eliminate debt and save, spend, and give to meet your goals! Led by Jordan Kittler and Bob Rader in the Library. Register at FPU.com, materials required.

Pastor's life group | 6-7:30 pm Wednesday| ongoing

We'll be joining the "Deepening Our Faith Despite Our Doubts" group for the 7-week study.

Led by Pastor Beth and Sue Patterson at the parsonage

Jeannie's Life Group | 7 pm Wednesday | no class 12/25/19, 1/1/20

This Life Group meets weekly at Hope Ridge in the Library for fellowship and follows the sermon series and participates in Advent and Lent studies.

Deepening Our Faith Despite Our Doubts| 6:00 pm Wednesday |Jan 8- Feb 19 (7-weeks)

If you have doubts, questions, and ask what gets in the way of our faith- this group is for you. We'll read "Searching for Sunday", written by Rachel Held Evans, a woman whose journey of faith led to a deeper, stronger faith. We are deep believers, with big questions, and want to grow with one another as we question and doubt. Join Bill White and Pastor Beth for discussion, laughter, and connection. "Searching for Sunday" is available on Hoopla, through the library, or you can purchase a copy.

Mom's Parenting Class | 9-10:30 am Next class Jan 16, then resume 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

Meet up with this group of moms to share, laugh, and learn with a video study and discussion on current parenting topics. Coffee and childcare provided. Drop-ins are welcome! Led by Melissa Hopper.

Covenant Group | 10 am first Saturdays of the month |Ongoing

The mission of a Covenant Discipleship group is to develop leaders in discipleship who help the church to faithfully live out its mission with Christ in the world through mission and ministry. This class is for folks that are confident on where they are on their own walk, or folks looking to be challenged to stretch their journey of faith. This group will establish individual goals to be done on a regular basis in the areas of compassion, justice, worship and devotion. The participants will decide if these are daily, monthly or weekly goals and the members will report on successes and challenges as the group will hold each other accountable. Led by Harry Fishleigh.

## EVENTS COMING UP...

Christmas Carol Sing-along| Following 10:30 worship | Sun, Dec 8  
Please join us after worship for a light lunch and to sing Christmas Carols. A great time to invite, pick up and bring someone who may not get out much but may enjoy this fun gathering. All ages welcome.

Youth Christmas Party| 6-8 pm | Sun, Dec 8  
Come to the Parsonage for the Youth Christmas Party!  
Bring a \$5 White Elephant gift and a snack or dessert to share.

Confirmation Field Trip| 5:30 pm dinner, 7:30 pm Temple| Friday, Dec 13  
Children registered for the current confirmation class will be gathering with their mentors for dinner followed by a service at Temple Am Shalom.

Parent's Day Out| 4-7 pm | Saturday, December 14, 2019  
Enjoy a few hours to get some Christmas shopping and wrapping done without the kiddos! Drop the kids off at Hope Ridge for fun, games, snacks. Must RSVP by Wed. December 11 to confirm a spot.

Children's Christmas Pageant | 10:30 am worship| Sunday, December 15  
Ridge Kids present "A Not So Silent Night" during 10:30 worship. Stay after the performance for a light lunch of hotdogs & chips and fellowship

Christmas Eve worship services | 2:30, 4:30, 8:30 pm | Tues, Dec 24  
Join us at 2:30 & 4:30 pm for family services with music led by the Praise Team and candlelight. Come to 8:30 pm worship for traditional carols and a candlelight service with the Hope Ridge Choir.

No Ridge Kids | Sunday, December 29, 2019 Please join us as a family in 8:45 or 10:30 am worship on this day. Nursery care will be available.

Youth Family Bowling Night| Sunday, December 29, 2019 Save the date and join us as a family for a fun evening of bowling! More details soon.

Craft Afternoon|9 am-6 pm | Saturday, January 11 & February 8, 2020  
Come to Hope Ridge for an open day of crafting! \$25 fee that includes lunch. Hosted by Melissa Hopper. Email melissahopper99@gmail.com to register.

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Asbury| 6:30 pm arrive 2/7/20 | Noon depart 2/9/20  
This retreat is scheduled for kids registered for the current confirmation class. See Yvonne Olyer for more details. dodivein@gmail.com

Parent's Night Out| Friday, February 14, 2020 Save the date...More details to come!

Ash Wednesday service| 7 pm in the chapel | Wednesday, February 26, 2020

# HOPE RIDGE FINANCES

## OCTOBER 2019

Summary: Our General Fund offering of \$29,184 in October was **\$3,633 less** than our monthly offering needs.  
 Overall for the year, our General Fund offering of \$322,687 was **\$17,480 less** than our operating needs.  
 We made our full monthly apportionment payment in October.  
 We expect to meet our full 2019 apportionment commitment.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2019 Year-To-Date</u>	
<b>Oct Operating Expense Needs</b>	\$29,477	<b>YTD Operating Needs</b>	\$306,767
<b>Oct Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>3,340</u>	<b>YTD Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>33,400</u>
<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$32,817</u>	<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$340,167</u>
<b>Oct Offering</b>	\$29,184	<b>YTD Offerings thru Oct</b>	\$322,687

## NOVEMBER 2019

Summary: Our General Fund offering of \$29,219 in November was **\$3,598 less** than our monthly offering needs.  
 Overall for the year, our General Fund offering of \$351,908 was **\$21,075 less** than our operating needs.  
 We made our full monthly apportionment payment in April.

<u>Monthly</u>		<u>2019 Year-To-Date</u>	
<b>Nov Operating Expense Needs</b>	\$29,477	<b>YTD Operating Needs</b>	\$336,243
<b>Nov Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>3,340</u>	<b>YTD Apportionment Needs</b>	<u>36,740</u>
<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$32,817</u>	<b>Total Offering Needs</b>	<u>\$372,983</u>
<b>November Offering</b>	\$29,219	<b>YTD Offerings thru Nov</b>	\$351,908

+++++

WE ACHIEVED A 2019 STRATEGIC GOAL!  
 CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

The Hope Ridge UMC Finance Team had a strategic plan goal of making  
 THREE additional payments on our church mortgage loan this year.

Each loan payment is \$9,055, for a total goal of \$27,165.

As of November 30, 2019, donors have contributed \$28,133  
 toward our additional loan payments! Well done!

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Come to our welcoming backdrop and take your photo for this Christmas season!  
[#HopeRidgeUMC](#)

