

April 16th 2024 Pastoral Letter

Dear Members and Friends of Hope Community Church Lakeland,

Greetings to you as we are in post Easter-time heading toward Pentecost. We are focusing on the Book of James under the title “Practicing Resurrection”. We have had a great season of Advent and Lent and we are grateful for God’s continuing faithfulness and presence with us as a church in these globally challenging times.

I want to update you on what is going on at Hope. This past weekend, we had an unfortunate and unforeseen accident that has significantly impacted us as a church. A large semi truck making a delivery to the grocery store next door to us backed into our power source for two of our three buildings. We are taking the appropriate steps to remedy this, but it may be short term or longer term. We continue to have power in our office and small meeting space at 5129 US HWY 98 North, but our thrift store and worship center has none at present. Beginning this Sunday April 21st we will worship at the 5129 office and meeting space until we can restore power to the other areas. We began here during Hurricane Irma in 2017 and we will make the temporary accommodations for worship and other ministry as we are able.

I want to thank you for your participation and support of the worship, ministry and mission of this congregation and beyond. I ask you to faithfully continue that and to ask you if you can “go the extra mile” in the days, weeks or even months ahead as it will be very helpful as we continue to respond to the many opportunities and challenges in front of us. We will try to keep you updated as progress is made.

Please continue in this season of grace, gratitude, giving and thanksgiving to give faithfully to the ministry of Hope Community Church not only in your finances, but in your willingness to meet the great opportunities before us through your time, talent and passion for Christ and His mission through the church and you. Please continue to pray for Hope Community Church, our staff and elders, and for one another. There is great strength released in the prayers of God’s people. May we enter this season expecting Jesus Christ to meet us again today as he came 2000 years ago. As we move toward Pentecost, may we rely on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

May the God of Peace bring us peace in these challenging times.

Together in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Bryan Burton Senior Pastor of Hope Community Church Lakeland