# April 2025 NEWSLETTER

At Hope Palm Desert our vision is to share the free and unmerited love of God in Christ Jesus.







24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD...





#### **OBSERVATIONS FROM THE DECK**

#### by Pr. Tom Grevlos (Interim Senior Pastor)

Throughout our married life, Jeanne and I have greatly enjoyed seeing stage plays. Whether at the local High School, Off/On Broadway, or on London's West End, we have enjoyed the musicals and dramas on stage. I caught the bug when seeing "Give 'Em Hell Harry" at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis while in High School. Jeanne performed in and choreographed numerous High School musicals.

What I have appreciated about attending a stage play is how you are drawn in to the drama, as if you were on the stage! The energy and pathos of a good story well-told creates a riveting theatre experience.

My personal favorite? Les Misérables!

The Passion Week of Jesus is the most important drama of our lives. From Palm Sunday through Good Friday to the Resurrection Day that changed everything, there is no more important week for us to not only observe, but experience!

Like a great dramatic story, we are encouraged to be active participants in the events of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, the betrayal, denial, and crucifixion of Jesus on a cross, and the empty tomb signaling the resurrection of Jesus. What drama! What a journey we are invited to experience!

Please refer to our schedule for Holy Week. Whether you are in town or elsewhere, I hope and pray that experience every worship drama that leads us through this Holy Week. This is the most important dramatic story in the history of humankind. You are invited to jump on the stage and walk with Jesus through the whole week. Invite a friend and share the experience!

Peace + Gratitude,

Pr. 7om Grevlos



**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please resubmit names by email to <a href="michael@hopepd.org">michael@hopepd.org</a> by the 1st of the month; otherwise Hope will assume the person is feeling better and the name will be removed from the list. Any questions please contact <a href="mailto:gabe@hopepd.org">gabe@hopepd.org</a>

## Please Pray For....

Linda Brake, Barboza Family, Wendy Clark, Marilyn Dichsen, Carolyn Gottleib, Grace Fillmore, Susan Hayward, The Hoover Family, Bob Leach, Nancy Leach, Carole Olsen, Race Stanley, Hilary & Bruce Smith, Gail Springer, John Wilson, Dana Zahler

#### **Hope Legacy Committee**



Travelling this summer?
Have you updated your will?
Don't forget to include Hope Lutheran Church
Palm Desert!

For more information contact: Gabe at gabe@hopepd.org

#### **WEDNESDAY SERVICES FOR LENT**

"Lost & Found" Lk 15

6PM Soup Supper 6:30PM Service

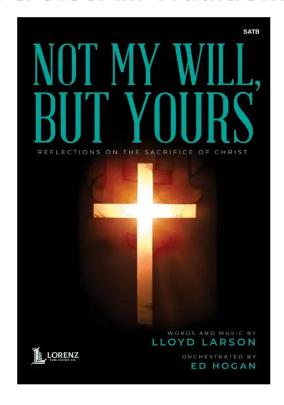
April 2<sup>nd</sup> Lost & Found... Older Son

April 9th Found in the Embrace of God

Suppers & Services will take place in the Hope Center.

## HOPE CHOIR LENTEN CANTATA Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

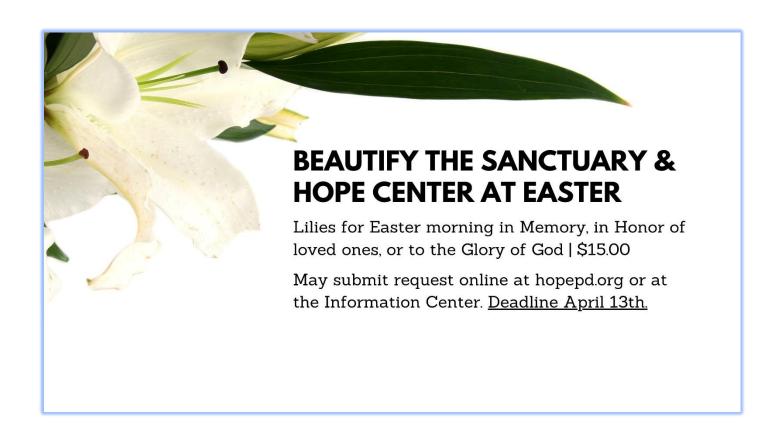
At 8:00AM & 9:30AM Traditional Services



#### **Quarterly Council News**

Here are some highlights of the Council actions and discussions from our council meetings:

- Marge Guentzler appointed to replace retired Rick Greaves as Treasurer
- \* Campus upgrade completed: sound, lighting, control panel, etc.
- Social media accounts received 15,000+ hits for Christmas Eve celebration
- Will develop and form a Stewardship Committee
- \* Nick Orth to begin 2-year internship at Hope
- \* New Lenten services format
- Extended Pastor Tom's contract through September 2025
- Child Center approved for additional classroom space
- \* Five Easter services: 1 Sunrise, 2 Traditional and 2 Modern



#### **Saturday Night Lutherans**

Saturday Night Lutherans (SNL) is a social group and we invite everyone to attend.

Our next event is April 19th at 5:00.
Susie & Joe Young will be hosting.
The Young's address is:
47-175 Via Orvieto, La Quinta.
(Enter Lake La Quinta development off Adams St.)

Please bring an appetizer to share and a drink of your choice. If you have any questions please give Susie a call at 760-668-3703. Be sure to sign up at the Information Center!

## **ANIMAL SAMARITANS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**



Please bring your used, "ready to throw out" towels / blankets / sheets for use in surgeries & cages.

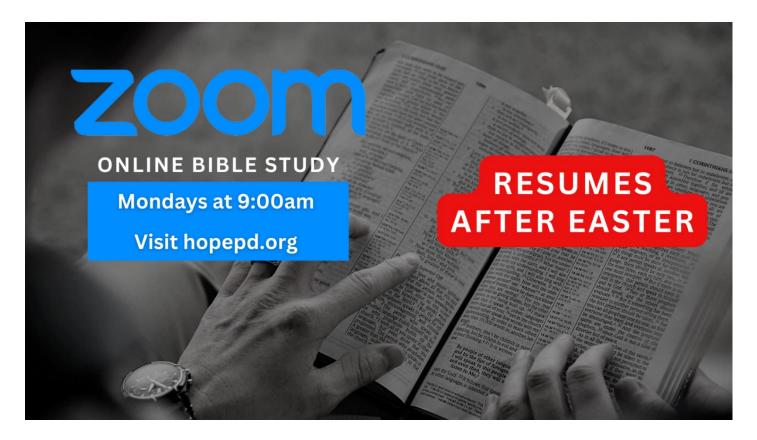
Items can be dropped off at the Hope office.





#### **MUSIC AT HOPE PRESENTS...**





\*You can find the Zoom link at Hopepd.org, click Online and go to Online Bible Study
\*All sessions are recorded. You can request Gabe@hopepd.org for the link

#### **African Asylum Seekers Initiative**

Thank you, Hope Lutheran Church, for all the electronic donations made to African Asylum Seekers Initiative. Countless people have had their lives changed by these donations. One young man who lost his leg, has been able to do graphic design and help other immigrants. He is now currently headed to college to complete his degree and go to law school. Another is a student in Denver on a visa from DRC who can attend his classes in technology with a donated computer. Amazing that old phones find a new life. The tablets and Kindles are a perfect addition to studying English, reading books, and learning to fit into American culture. In Africa the internet opens a world without war. We will be taking devises to Kenya next summer to share with people from Sudan who are in refugee camps. —Pat Leach

\*Hope Church will continue to accept electronic donations. Devices will be wiped clean of personal information before they are given to a person in need.

Altar Flowers/Needy Persons Fund				
Altar Flowers Given By		Needy Persons Fund Given By		
Richard Ameny		Reynold Worch		
To the	APRIL 6	To the		
Glory of God		Glory of God		
Toni Hafey Smith		Toni Hafey Smith		
In Memory of	APRIL 13	In Memory of		
Husband, Larry D. Smith		Husband, Larry D. Smith		
Available		Janice Barnes		
Available	APRIL 20	To the		
Contact gabe@hopepd.org		Glory of God		
Barbara Spencer		Jeri Brokaw		
In Memory of	APRIL 27	To the		
Stu Spencer		Glory of God		

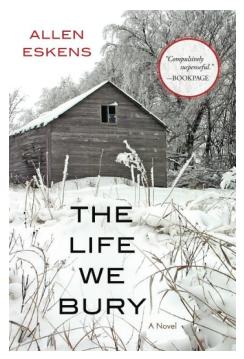
### **Hope Lutheran Food Pantry**



Our food pantry continues to grow. On one recent Monday, we gave out 25 bags of groceries. This amount is more than double what we hand out weekly. To be blunt, we got slammed! But, with your generosity we were able to handle this onslaught of need. For this ministry to continue, we need your food donations to continue and if possible, increase. We are meeting the needs of our local community. We are not a food bank with corporate donations. We don't have dozens of volunteers and we don't service hundreds of people.

Our donations come from YOU! We serve our local community. Our volunteers are church members. Our office staff supports church volunteers. We work together to help a few. But the few matter to Jesus, so they matter to us. If you're interested in helping us on Mondays, stop by or contact <a href="mailto:gabe@hopepd.org">gabe@hopepd.org</a>.

#### **HOPE BOOK CLUB**



The Life We Bury tells the story of Joe Talbert, a junior at the University of Minnesota, who receives a class assignment to write a biography of someone who has lived an interesting life. At a nursing home he meets Carl Iverson, a man dying of cancer who has been medically paroled after spending thirty years in prison for the murder of a fourteen-year-old girl. Carl agrees to tell Joe his story, and Joe sets out to unravel the tapestry of the thirty-year-old murder.

The Life We Bury is full of tension, twists and turns, and has a powerful, climactic ending sure to gratify. But in the end, it is the bond between Joe and his brother Jeremy that gives this novel its big (albeit tormented) heart.

HOPE BOOK CLUB MEETS: TUESDAY April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM in Meeting Room 1
BOOK COPIES ARE \$12 and can be purchased at the Info Center

#### **COLUMBARIUM AT HOPE**

#### Memorial Garden at Hope...

Have you noticed that Hope Lutheran Church has brought the cemetery back to the church grounds? Historically, Christians have laid their dead to rest in churches, where they are remembered and their remains safe-guarded. Burial within the church itself, or in an adjacent churchyard cemetery was once a common practice. Our Columbarium now provides parishioners a final resting place within church grounds, and offers a wonderful place to remember loved ones. Every Sunday family and friends of those interred take a moment to thank God for their loved ones with a brief prayer in the Memorial Garden. The Columbarium is located just a short walk past the Woehrmann Fountain on the left, across the plaza from Hope Center. Come and experience the Columbarium first hand.

For more information about purchasing a niche in the Columbarium, stop by the Information Center or the Church office and pick up a brochure "The Columbarium at Hope Lutheran Church", or contact the church office at 760.346.1273.

#### **QUILTERS OF HOPE**

Mark your calendars. Quilters of Hope will be meeting **on Wednesdays, April 2nd and 16th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.** After quilting you can also join us for lunch at a nearby restaurant.

All are invited to participate and join in the fellowship. No sewing experience is needed. If you've ever tied a knot, ripped out a seam, or ironed a sheet, we can use your talents either in person or at home.

For more information, please call or text Ruth Fikes at 714-642-3773.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry spreads the love and comfort of Jesus through the giving of handmade shawls along with a wooden cross and a special prayer. This is an ongoing ministry and prayer shawls are continuously created and distributed.

In addition to the Prayer Shawls, the ministry offers additional ways for knitters and crocheters to share the warmth and love of Jesus. Baby blankets are available to give to parents or grandparents in celebration of a new child of God. Beanies and slippers are shared with our food pantry and the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission.

For additional information please reach out to Mary Ellen Peterson at (801) 598-7733



Stand Firm is a Middle School Ministry and will meet every Wednesday from 6-8pm in Meeting Room 5.



Vibes is a High School Ministry and will meet on the second Saturday of every month in the Hope Center at 6:00pm.









# Middle & High School online at hopepd.org

Middle School Ministry service is from 10:30am - 11:30am in Meeting Room 5. Students will meet in the Hope Center for worship, then move to Meeting Room 5.

<u>High School Ministry</u> Sunday service is from 10:30am - 11:30am. Students will meet in the Hope Center for worship, then go to Meeting Room 4.



This is an event where students are the hands and feet of Jesus in our very own community. Less than a mile up the road from the church on Portola, students go into a community that needs food.

Our high school and middle school students go door-to-door handing out food to the families. On top of that, they're reaching out and asking if the families have any concerns that they could pray about together. This is an amazing opportunity for students to impact the lives of others.

Third Saturday of every month we gather in Hope Center @ 7:30am.

Every month third Saturday, March 15th, 2025

Every student High School APRIL 19.2025

Adults can volunteer too, contact nick@hopepd.org

#### PM

IN HOPE CENTER FROM 11:30AM-1:30PM (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)





## MONDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL

FROM 6-7:30PM; THIS EVENT IS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUNG ADULTS. IN THE HOPE CENTER.



Gesa Sharon gesa@hopepd.org 949-689-9681

Follow us on Instagram at "womenofhopepalmdesert" and on Facebook at "Women of Hope at Hope Palm Desert"

Monday Night Study is April 14th From 6:30pm - 8pm. Esther Circle is April 9th From 9:30am to 11am.



Connect. Grow. Thrive.



**Scan the QR code** to explore all upcoming Women's events and opportunities!





We are studying the book "BEFORE AMEN" by Max Lucado. This is a study about our prayer life and how we can learn to pray more effectively. Class is held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Meetings begin at 9:30am in Meeting Room 6.

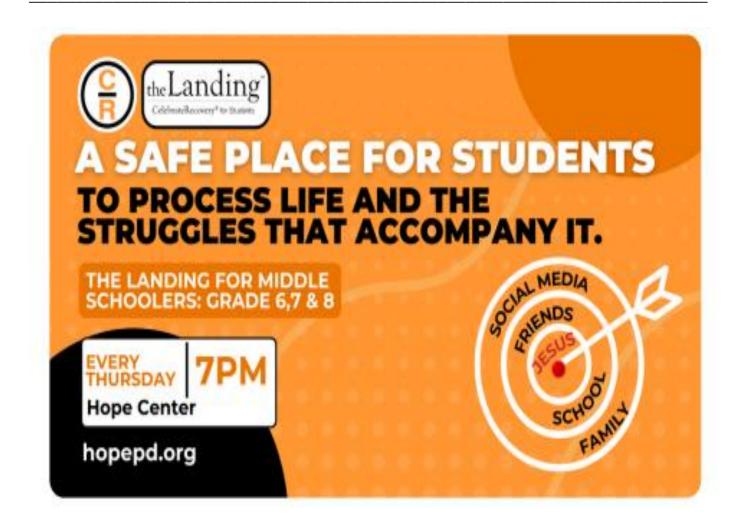




If you've been wondering what Celebrate Recovery is all about, just show up one Thursday night and see what God might do in your heart.

Our slogan is "You're worth it!" because you are! Celebrate Recovery meets every Thursday night from 7:00pm – 9:00pm in the Hope Center.

If you have any questions, would like more information, would like to talk, or email with someone, contact Gesa Sharon at <a href="mailto:gesa@hopepd.org">gesa@hopepd.org</a> or (949)689-9681.





#### A "Lay Ministry" to those in need...

Your Stephen Ministers continue to meet together twice a month to encourage and support each other in this caring ministry. The group is going through the book, *Attitude is Your Paint Brush* by James W. Moore, chapter by chapter. We are certain that the ideas from this book and the discussions that follow are helping us serve the people who need our support.

Currently there are four persons or care receivers who are being served by Stephen Ministers. Usually, a Stephen Minister meets in person or on the phone with their care receiver once a week. Sometimes, the meetings may be more often, depending on the need.

Being a member of Hope is NOT criteria in order to be served by a Stephen Minister. So, if you or someone you know might benefit from emotional support during this time, please contact Pastor Tom, Laurie Cribari or Bob Bateman.



#### CHURCH CENTER APP

Seeking clarity on in-person and online group meetings? Need Bible study start times or prayer lists? Interested in supporting the church financially? Our church app has you covered! Here's how to get started:

- 1. Visit your phone's App Store.
- 2. Search for 'Church Center App.'
- 3. Download it.
- 4. Set it up with 'Hope.'

With the app, you can submit prayer requests, catch service highlights, access our website, Kids Check-in, and connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Stay engaged and informed! \*\*\*L.\*\* #StayConnected\*\*

## WEEKLY ONLINE & ON CAMPUS AT HOPE:

Traditional Services	Sundays 8:00am and 9:30am	On-Campus	
Traditional Services on-line	Available Saturday evenings	Hopepd.org	
Modern Services	Sundays 10:30am	On-Campus	
Modern Services on-line	Available Saturday evenings	Hopepd.org	
Hope Kids	Sundays 9:30am and 10:30am	On-Campus	
Women's Gather Study	Monday, April 14	On-Campus	
Men's Bible Study	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays	On-Campus	
Vibes – High School Ministry	Saturday April 12, 6:00-8:00pm	On-Campus	
Stand Firm	Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm	On-Campus	
Hope Book Club	Tuesday, April 22, 6:00pm	Conference Room	
Esther Circle	Wednesday, April 9, 9:30am	On-Campus	
Quilters of Hope	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 9:30am	Hope Center	
Hope Choir	Thursdays 6:30pm	Choir Room	
Celebrate Recovery	Thursdays 7:00pm	On-Campus	
CR-Men's Open Share	Thursdays 7:00pm	On-Campus	
CR-Women's Open Share	Thursdays 8:00pm On-Camp		
Stephen Ministry	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays, 9:00am	On-Campus	

## Sharing the Gifts of God...

DECEMBER 2024					
Average Weekly Attendance (including online)	927				
Offering	\$136,066				
Miscellaneous Income	\$3,043				
Total	\$139,109				
Average Weekly Income	\$27,821				
Mortgage Balance	\$399,542				
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$4,204				
Building Mortgage (funds received for mortgage)	\$1,629				
YTD Interest Paid on Mortgage	\$4,372				

		APR	IL 202	25		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7:30am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Sisters in Christ	9:30am Quilters 6pm Stand Firm 6:30 pm Lent Soup / Supper	3 6:30pm Hope Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	4 6:30pm Girls Night Out	5
6 CHOIR CANTATA 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	7	8 9:00am BSF	9 9:30am Esther Circle 6pm Stand Firm 6:30 pm Lent Soup / Supper	10 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	11 9am Stephen Ministry	12 9am Pickleball w/ Pastor Tom 10am Desert Viking VASA 6pm VIBES
13 PALM SUNDAY 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	14 6:30pm Monday Night Study	7:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am BSF 9:30am Sister in Christ	16 9:30am Quilters 6pm Stand Firm	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7PM SERVICE 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	18 GOOD FRIDAY 7PM SERVICE	19 7am Student Impact
20 EASTER SUNDAY 6:00AM - SUNRISE 8:00AM - TRADITIONAL 9:00AM - TRADITIONAL 10:00AM - MODERN 11:00AM - MODERN EASTER EGG HUNTS: 9:50AM, 10:50AM, 11:50AM	21 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am Zoom Bible Study	9:00am BSF 9:30am Sister in Christ 6:00pm Hope Book Club	23 6pm Stand Firm	24 6:30pm Hope Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery	25	26 9am Pickleball w/ Pastor Tom 10am Sons of Norway
27 8:00am/9:30am Traditional Worship 9:30/10:30am Hope Kids 10:30am Modern Worship	28 9:00am Zoom Bible Study	9:00am BSF	30 6pm Stand Firm			

Sunday online services available at hopepd.org For more information on any events, go to hopepd.org

## **April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bonnie Semenoff Rylan Robison SARA and KELLY GELHAUS	2 April Valdez BONNIE and BILL RIESEN	3 Cindy Taylor Kristin Scharkey Ruby Aguilar Sheri Bartholomaus Shannan Star Reed Raquel Hernandez	4 April French Felix Torres Jared Camba Bob Bateman Dave Eckert Rhett Betts	5 Brayden Johson Quinn Heckmann Rhonda Belous Kayden Jones
6 Daryn Brush Carol Christoffersen Geoffrey Hodsdon Charlie Sheller Jeff Richardson	7 Joaquin Wedeking Kaylee Cox Ida Hastie Karen Lempert Vangie Schulz Nicholas Ditoro DALE and GEORGENE FAIRBANKS	8 Arturo Lomeli Patty Cramer	9	10 Jeanne Lindstrom Miranda Sanchez Patrick Foster Tina Godecke  PATRICIA and GARY LEACH	11 Roy Jarvis Taige Smith Paula Cieslikowski Connie Hartman Samaya Blank Robbie Brown Charlie Villa Israel Gonzalez	12 Alex Caseres Kay Lang
13 Ashley Moon Bryn Bedikian Christopher Lawrence DIANE and RON JOHNSON	14 Jerry Beers  BOB and CHARLENE CLARK	15 Elizabeth McLachlan Emily Delgadillo Kelly Upton Valerie Ward Bob Sterton Emma Tidd Christen Witt- Busanovich Ezekiel Martinez Tammy Erickson Florence Hagstrom Ricio Renteria	16 Dennis Moore Ed Anschell Julie Gayle Kyla Hardy Marian de Jong Allen Matter Jana Meinhold Anasta Blank	17 Abran Rodriguez Daniel Hall Carol Carlson	18 Gail Levy Jaxson Reed  BILL and CAROL STARK  LORI and ED SCHAFER	19 Cecilia Zuniga Chris Clawson Grace Cox Maylee Dunnell Michelle Kupskey Meg Degadillo Mary Houston Liisa Mendoza Alissa Vatter Avery Tanner Cole Fleischmann Esther Gelineau
20 Cindy Melbrod Sophia Manjarrez	21 Griffin Tobin Parker Swartz	22 Beth Finn Casey King Colin Ficke Finley Fitzpatrick Angie Niemi Ken Smith	23 Aaron Knight Jordan Knight Hana Kang Vanessa Vorwald Gail Little LOIS and NORM KIMBALL	24 Alberto Garcia Bev Cook Donna Eide Lauren Kelly Roman Stewart Katie Gundlach Michelle Gonzalez Samantha Garcia	25 Kelly Van Vlymen Terry Akre  KAREN and RON LEMPERT	26 Oliver Ealy-Zingg Elena Pradetto
27 Angelina Ortega Brian Don Levy Claudia Benjamin Lisa Day Trae Duininck Susan Partee Diego Mora-Capriles Carlos Vega	28 Rick Greaves Luke Leuschner	29 Carter Kirchhevel Justice Kistler Jacqui Wilkinson	30 Allison Ignatz Ardi Luke Diana Conaway Sylvia Rodriguez Haley Bucklin John Ehrhardt Steve Schoch Kendall Warren Anthony Rivas Jorge Santos			



#### STAFF

**Barbara Oeding** 

Bookkeeper barb@hopepd.org

Bobbi Acosta

Early Childhood Director bobbi@hopepd.org

**Carlos Vega** 

Children's Ministry Director carlos@hopepd.org

Christina Jutovsky Marketing & Social Media Director

christina@hopepd.org

Douglas C. Wilson Director of Music doug@hopepd.org

Gabe Den Hartog

Office Manager gabe@hopepd.org

Gesa Sharon

Pastor, Ministry Leader gesa@hopepd.org

John Wilson

Video Creator & Technical Director john@hopepd.org

**Manny Marinez** 

Facilities Manager manny@hopepd.org

Michael Cundari

Choir Director michael@hopepd.org

**Nick Orth** 

Intern Pastor & Student Minister nick@hopepd.org

Rick Bailard

Teaching Pastor rick@hopepd.org

**Tom Grevios** 

Interim Pastor tom@hopepd.org

Virginia Plavec

Director Hope Children Center virginia@hopepd.org

#### Council (Leadership Team)

Mary Fay Pinnow

President

Kim Buchanan

Stewardship

**Toni Hafey** 

Vice President/HR

David Shelep

Property Management

Reynold Worch

Secretary

John Stevko

Youth Ministry

Marge Guentzler

Treasurer

John Donnelly

Human Resources









#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

760.346.1273 | HOPE PALM DESERT 45900 PORTOLA AVENUE PALM DESERT, CA 92260 OFFICE HOURS:

9:00AM - 5:00PM MONDAY -THURSDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM FRIDAYS