

Hopewell United Methodist Church

20 Blackwell Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525

(609) 466-0471

www.hopewellmethodist.org



July 13, 2021

Rev. Dr. Willy Mafuta

Thanks for the Welcome into the community

You have certainly heard the expression that in any given new relationship the first impression counts for a great deal. In fact, social scientists have discovered that the first seconds of your encounter with someone determines whether or not you could form a lasting relationship.

I am blessed to have come to Hopewell and my first impression has been "WOW." Since my arrival over a week ago, many of you individually and collectively have done everything possible to welcome me to the community. I am so grateful.

While I have been waiting for my belongings to arrive, you have gone extra miles to make sure I have enough to eat, and a bed to sleep in. You have familiarized me with different restaurants in town.

Neighbors have come to wish me the best and even go as far as to bake and offer me cards. Lorraine made sure to treat me at the Chubbies where later I have met Lyn, the owner, who has been very helpful introducing me to the community at large. Phyllis treated me with another local restaurant gift card.

How can I forget Jean and Malcom who took me on a 3 hour drive around neighboring towns all the way to the Delaware River and a visit to Washington Crossing. We even drove across the State to New Hope in Pennsylvania to have ice cream at one of the famous places.

Friends, your hospitality and enthusiasm to welcoming me in your midst have eased my transition from the cornfields of Iowa to the mountains of Hopewell.

I look forward to aligning myself to the Hopewell UMC vision to worship, learn, serve and love. I have no doubt, together we could make this church relevant to the Hopewell community by loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves. I am deeply committed to this golden rule of Christian faith.

Thanks again, friends, for welcoming me with open hands, hearts and minds. Let us continue to spread hope in our midst until we can't no more.

In His Name,
Pastor Will

Please join Dr. Will this coming Sunday, July 18, 2021, as he preaches "Distracted, The Story of Martha and Mary" (Psalm 42, Luke 10:38-42)

Kathleen Norris, an award-winning poet, writer, and author of the New York times best sellers said these words, "We want life to have meaning, we want fulfillment, healing, and even ecstasy, but the paradox is that we find these things by starting where we are, not where we wish we were. "And Norris goes on to say, we must look for blessings to come from unlikely, everyday places."

In this sermon, I tackle the story of two sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus is at their house for dinner, Martha leaps into action preparing for dinner and her sister sits still listening to Jesus.

I make the case that in our Christian tradition, while we praise Mary for sitting still, listening, and being held as a model of devotion and Christian piety, we should equally validate Martha's hospitality and hard work.

By doing so, we are open to the possibilities that God could be found anywhere, from unlikely, everyday places. It is up to us not to be distracted and yet discover God in that moment.



Indoor Worship Service: Sundays 10:00 am

(Services will continue to be livestreamed for those of you who will not be able to attend in person.)



Book Talk: Tuesday, July 20th at 7:30 pm

Our next discussion book will be: **Need to Know** by Karen Cleveland. If you like suspense, then this gripping espionage thriller might be something you'll enjoy (see announcements for more info).



Online Prayer Meeting – 7:00pm Wednesday Evenings

Let's gather from our homes to bring our concerns to each other and to the Lord. **Prayer Time Zoom Meeting ID: 867 0701 6102 or Dial by phone: 1 929 205 6099** and enter the above meeting ID number.



- 2 – Colleen Miller
- 7- Tammy Donahue/Thomas Miller
- 8 – Stephen McIntyre
- 9 – Irene Ey
- 11 - Altaira Bejgrowicz
- 26 – Toyin Idowu/Maryann Perkins
- 29 – Rich Miller/Sally Martin



14 – Lilly & Mike Petrcik



7:00 pm MAT Meeting, Monday July 19th
(Sunroom in person or on Zoom)



Kathy, Thelma, Jolynn, Sarah and baby, Gina and Tom, Mel and Rachael, Shirley and Paul Sr., Charles, Rich M., Tammy, Kevin, Hannah, Judith, Tom, Linda, Pastor Will, Pastor Laura, Karen, Alexa, Robbie. Prayers for healing within The United Methodist Church, The Garrison Family, Joy, Kara, Francina, Mike, Lily, Bishop Schol, Keith and Janet, Sandy and Bucky, Jennifer, Kerry, Archie.

The Upper Room for July/August is available at the church. They are in the Narthex area and by the entrance to the Community Closet.



Our mission: *To be a home for ALL people to be transformed by the love of God and grow in mind, body and spirit.*

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