

# FAMILY CONNECTION

 **Foothills**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
*bringing faith to life*  
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## Hope

By The Parent Cue | April 2, 2012 | Blog

"Hope you make the team!"

"Hope you ace the test!"

"Hope you feel better!"

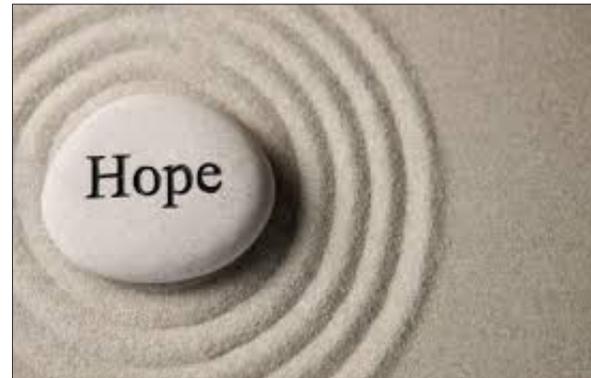
Hope is something we do—or say we do—almost daily. It's a thought we quickly express and forget about. But what if hope could be more than a passing thought? What if hope could be more than just an emotion? What if hope could, instead, be an attitude we carry with us every second of every day?

This month, we are talking about the virtue of hope. In fact, we have defined hope as *believing*

*that something good can come out of something bad.* It's not just a fleeting wish or a good luck charm. Having hope means always believing something good can come out of a bad situation and carrying that attitude of optimism with you throughout your life.

So take some time this month to learn about what it means to have hope as a family. To help, we have come up with some activities that show what hope can look like in your lives!

Here are just a few to get you started:



- Make your own puzzles and talk about how we can have hope, even when we don't see where a piece might fit.
- Make a fresh pitcher of lemonade—turning something sour into something sweet!
- Enjoy the hope each spring brings with a family bike ride, scavenger hunt, or family football game. You might be surprised how contagious your new positive outlook will be!

## Resurrection Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday!

March 27, between services

This year, Foothills is celebrating Easter a little differently. In addition to our 8:30 am and 10:30 am services, families and their children will enjoy a Resurrection Easter Egg Hunt. Why do we use the word "resurrection"? Just as Jesus' tomb was empty on the day of his resurrection, so are the eggs. The symbolism continues when each child gathers

12 eggs, representing the 12 disciples. They will take their 12 eggs to King Hall and exchange them for Easter toys and goodies that are too big for the eggs, just like God's love is too big to be contained.

Next, children and families will assemble bags to give to the homeless, a tangible symbol of taking Jesus' love beyond the church walls.

The event will end with a magic show from 10—10:15 am, giving parents an opportunity to register for Vacation Bible School and enter to win a family-themed Easter basket. The egg hunt starts promptly at 9:30 am on the grassy lawn. Plan to arrive no later than 9:15 am.

Please note for Easter:

- Parking. Plan to park in the Kaiser lot at Fury and Avocado. The church lot will be full.
- Basket. Make sure your children bring their Easter basket for the egg hunt.
- Dress up. The egg hunt makes for great photo opportunities!

# Ways to Connect

## Family Service Project

This month's project is supporting the Fiji Mission Trip.

During the month of March and April, families can pray for the 20 people from Foothills who have answered the call to serve on a mission trip to Fiji June 23-July 9 at the Davuilevu Theological College located in Nausori, Fiji. While all team members are paying their expenses, they need to raise \$20,000 for supplies to refurbish the men's dorm with new plumbing, windows, and painting, providing medical treatment, and leading a week-long VBS for children.

Families can pick up a box at KidsConnect in March and April to take home and decorate and collect change and money to bring back to church in late April. With the damage from the recent cyclone, this money will bring much needed *hope* to the people of Fiji.

## Spotlight



On Palm Sunday this year, all children ages preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet in front of the sanctuary 10 minutes prior to the start of the service and receive a palm branch. They will enter the sanctuary waving the palms. The children will sing the Palm Sunday countdown song on the chancel steps, then exit the sanctuary to join their KidsCon-

nect leaders. The kids are practicing the song during KidsConnect prior to Palm Sunday. The music and lyrics are available from [lisastewart@foothillsumc.org](mailto:lisastewart@foothillsumc.org).

## What's Happening in KidsConnect?



Parent Cue

This month's Parent Cue is about Hope. Pick up your card at KidsConnect.

Have you ever been in the dark in an unfamiliar place? Perhaps a hotel room on vacation or a tent on a camping trip? And you hear an unfamiliar noise? Our instinct is to turn on a light. Everything seems better when you have a little light! That's *hope*. The belief that although it is dark and difficult to see, everything is going to be okay. All it took was a small light that pierced through the darkness of that night.

It's important to help kids know that life will get messy at some point. But no matter how confusing or upsetting, God still has a plan. That's why our memory verse this month is **"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world,"** (John 16:33b: *NIV*). The life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is enough to give us all the hope we will ever need, which becomes especially important this month as we get to celebrate and discover more about Easter.

No one knows at what point kids might go through a dark time that doesn't make sense. But as a parent, you have an opportunity to lay a foundation so that whatever happens in their life, they can have hope. They can have hope because God's story is much bigger than the one they see and because Jesus promised that He would always be with them.

## Shout Out to...



**Val Sachs**, Interim Children's Choir Director at Foothills. Children's Choir meets on Wednesday afternoons. Contact Val for more details at [valsachs@foothillsumc.org](mailto:valsachs@foothillsumc.org).

## Get Connected!

Here is what is coming up in Children's, Youth & Family Ministries.

- *Lenten Series and Dinner*, 3/9 & 3/16 at 6:00pm
- *Family Camp Pancake Breakfast*, 3/13 after both services
- *MomsConnect*, 3/16 at 6:00pm
- *Palm Sunday parade & song in worship*, 3/20 in worship
- *Resurrection Egg Hunt & Eggstravaganza*, 3/27 at 9:15 am—10:15 am

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Team

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