

# APRIL 2024

A Monthly Newsletter from Hope Wesleyan Church



**Changing Lives by  
Leading Others  
Into a Growing  
Relationship with Jesus**

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www.hopewesleyan.org

## Sorry, Charlie!

April 6<sup>th</sup> is “Sorry Charlie Day”. It’s the day we celebrate the power of perseverance. The day is named in honor of Charlie the Tuna, a popular character in the Starkist Tuna commercials for nearly 20 years. Charlie tried everything to convince the Starkist company that he had good taste. The only problem was the tuna company was not looking for tuna with good taste, but “tuna that tastes good.” No matter what Charlie tried, he was constantly told, “Sorry, Charlie.” Over time, Charlie became a symbol of perseverance because he never gave up, no matter how many times he faced rejection.



Charlie the Tuna is not the first person to face failure. We all have. Here are some great insights highly successful people have shared about failure. Nelson Mandela said, “Don’t judge me by my successes; judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”

Basketball great Michael Jordan admitted, “I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why succeed.”

And pro soccer legend Mia Hamm gave this insight, “Failure happens all the time. It happens every day in practice. What makes you better is how you react to it.”

Each one of these individuals faced difficulties, they each failed many times, but each of them got back up, dusted themselves off and kept moving forward. They persevered. Multiple studies have shown that mentally strong people push through rejection. A 2015 “Inc.” article reminds us that the choice is ours to allow rejection to hold us back.

James, the brother of Jesus, said, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything” (James 1:2-4).* James is pointing out there is a purpose in our pain and a reward for those who don’t give up. When we face personal testing and trials, God intends to use them to strengthen our faith. James’ words were put to the ultimate test in 62 A.D. when Herod Agrippa II ordered that James be stoned to death.

Your faith is like a muscle. The only way to grow that muscle of faith is to exercise it. Fitness coaches often talk about the importance of “time under tension” in order for muscles to benefit from a workout. That’s where we get the phrase, “No Pain, No Gain.” In the same way, for your faith to grow you must persevere under pressure.

Many times, we can be just like Charlie the Tuna and suffer from tunnel vision. We can become so fixated on one particular goal that we fail to see there may be a better plan God has for us. If Charlie had gotten his wish, he would have become chopped up pieces of tuna stuffed inside a can!

As a pastor, I have walked with many people through difficult days. I’ve seen individuals enduring physical trauma that can only be described as excruciating. Others have fought battles with emotional, spiritual, and relational agony so harsh that you wondered how they can keep smiling. Some chose to give up their faith, failing to see any point in their personal pain. Others decided to push forward, believing that, in ways they may not fully understand right now, God can use even the most difficult moments of life to develop our character and make us more like His Son.

I suspect many of you reading this article are facing your own private pain

and you’re wondering why God would ever allow you to face days so dark like the one you’re enduring right now. Perhaps you’ve been knocked down, rejected, and feel you can’t take another day of despair. Please remember that God has a plan that’s bigger than you can understand today. Don’t give up. Instead get up, keep your faith in God, and believe He’s still working all things together for your good.



### SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

Online @

[hope@hopewesleyan.org](mailto:hope@hopewesleyan.org)

Children’s Church

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

(Pre-school - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

### SMALL GROUPS

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

\*Adult Class

Library

\*Women’s Class

Breakfast Club Room

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

\*Senior High

Church Office Basement

\*Junior High

Fellowship Hall

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Membership Class

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

11:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

# Music Moments

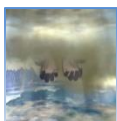


with Pastor Elissa

Deuteronomy 33:27, "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..."

Anthony Showalter was leading a singing school in an Alabama church in 1887. When he returned to his boardinghouse room one night, two letters awaited him. Both were from former students, and both men told of the recent loss of their wives. Mr. Showalter wrote back, seeking to comfort the young men in the midst of their grief.

But what to write? When he came to the end of each letter, he wanted to include a Bible verse. He picked Deuteronomy 33:27, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms ...."



He pondered the words of that verse as he penned them into the letters, and the lyrics of the chorus of Leaning on the Everlasting Arms came to his mind. He wrote to his friend, Elisha Hoffman, explaining that he had a chorus, but no verses. Mr. Hoffman wrote back with the rest of the words of this famous hymn.

Sam Duncan, a student and nephew of Mr. Showalter, was given the class assignment to write the tune for this poem. The piece was published under his uncle's name in the book Glad Evangel for Revival, Camp and Evangelistic Meeting Hymnal.

*What a fellowship, what a joy  
divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting  
arms;  
What a blessedness, what a  
peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*


*O how sweet to walk in this  
pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows  
from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*What have I to dread,  
what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting  
arms?  
I have blessed peace with my  
Lord so near, Leaning on the  
everlasting arms.*

Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Women's Connection  
Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 a.m.  
Senior Center  
For reservations call:  
319-361-9445

Sisters in Widowhood  
Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 p.m.  
Vicki Pilchers  
601 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW

 **Bowling!**  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
319 Social House  
\$10.00 per person  
Includes bowling &  
shoes.

*Sign up for  
this event on foyer table.*



[www.cedarspringscamp.com](http://www.cedarspringscamp.com)

Women's Retreat April 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>  
Man Camp April 26 - 28  
JH Camp June 9 - 14  
SH Camp June 16 - 21  
Tadpole Camp July 11 - 13  
Kids Camp July 15 - 18  
Family Getaway Aug. 30-Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>



## Birthdays

Steve Hepke	3
Joe Turner	3
Michael Tice	6
Dominick Kenney	9
Daryl Gericke	21
Amy Solon	30

## Anniversaries

Tim & Marilyn Darland	6
Sean & Laurie Taylor	19
James & January Rowland	20

  
May the **God of**  
*hope fill* you with  
**all joy and peace** in  
believing, so that by  
**the power of the**  
**Holy Spirit** you may  
abound in *hope*.

Romans 15:13, ESV



**Baptism:** Declare your faith in Christ through baptism.  
**Membership:** Learn more about who we are, our beliefs and our mission at Hope Wesleyan Church.  
**Child Dedication:** A ceremony in which believing parents make a commitment before the Lord and the congregation to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways.

Contact: [hope@hopewesleyan.org](mailto:hope@hopewesleyan.org)