



25 Main Street, P.O. Box 61, Grand Bend, Ontario N0M 1T0 * (519) 238-2402
huronshoresunitedchurch@gmail.com * www.huronshoresunitedchurch.com

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PANDORA'S BOX

Have you heard of a Pandora's box? It's often considered to be a present which seems valuable but which in reality is a curse. Once opened the outcome is unpredictable.

Pandora, in mythology, had a box. She opened it and unintentionally released the evils of Greed, Envy, Hatred, Pain, Disease, Hunger, Poverty, War, and Death. When there was only one left, she slammed the box shut to prevent what was inside from escaping into the world. That was Hope! Why in the world would anyone keep Hope locked up?

Well, according to some ancient theories, Hope can be a tool of self-deception. False Hope is an evil with no basis in what's good. It can be a wish that is empty or prone to evil, making us lazy by taking away all industriousness and leaving us with a deceptive expectation. If we are distressed by the situation we are in and use irrationality or imprudence to think our way out of it, we are in danger of increasing the risk of getting into more trouble than we are in already. Hope based on man's thinking is wishful thinking that can be considered a curse.

However, I believe we can open the box and let Hope out. Our Hope is based on God's promise.

Due to God's promise our Hope is an expectation and a blessing. To have Hope is to want a better outcome, to make our present situation bearable, to improve our lives. Envisioning something better makes us take steps to make it happen. Hope is most essential to keep us going. If lost, all challenges may seem unsurmountable.

Is your Hope a wish or a belief in something?

*"When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm is a golden sky and the sweet silver song of a lark.
Walk on, walk on through the wind and the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on with Hope in your heart and you'll never walk alone."*

I Hope you like my message. 😊

Anon,
Wilma

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

