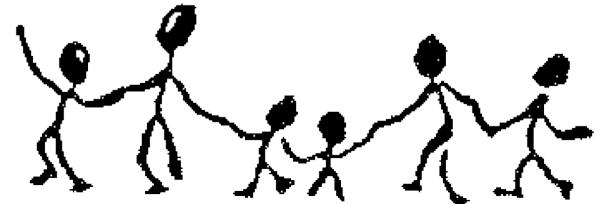


HOPE CHURCH  
77 West 11th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 392-7947

[office@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:office@hopechurchrca.org)  
[HopeChurchRCA.org](http://HopeChurchRCA.org)

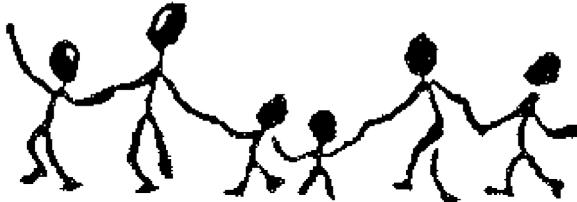


# Connections



Christian Education  
Music Groups  
Fellowship Groups  
2014-2015

# Connections



"...for I handed on to you as of first importance what I had in turn received..." I Corinthians 15:1

Take a look at the graphic for the Connections theme: several figures holding hands. But what if that's just part of the picture, with the line actually extending far beyond in both directions? Imagine that, and then imagine this too: these figures linked together not just in a place, but also connected across time, stretching from past to present to future. Perhaps that's a bit much to get out of a simple graphic! But it's not too much to find in the theme of Connections.

The Apostle Paul writes that the Good News he shares is simply the message he has received and knows the importance of passing on - now think of that graphic! - all the way to a community called Hope Church. Person by person, generation by generation, that is the picture: people connected to Jesus Christ by those who have handed on the Good News and a community called to make new connections as we share God's grace with others. So look for yourself in this simple picture – you're there! - and know that God is connecting others into the picture too.

**Flexibility and Balance Class (FLEX):** This class is targeted toward older adults and accommodates people who might find exercise too strenuous. Instructor, Maxine DeBruyn, will accommodate people who have different levels of activity. The class meets for several eight week sessions throughout the year on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in Commons I. For more information, contact Maxine DeBruyn at (616) 399-6312.

**Hope Church Readers:** This group meets regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Commons II for a monthly book discussion. A member of the group leads the discussion while other members provide the refreshments and hospitality for the meeting. The reading list for the coming program year is created by member suggestions each Spring. For more information, contact Ruth Donaldson at (616) 394-3075.

**Men's Breakfast:** This group meets faithfully at 6:15 a.m. sharp every Wednesday morning. Each morning includes fellowship over breakfast and then a topical study with interactive discussion. Long-term relationships of support and caring grow out of this group. All men are welcome. For more information, please contact David Hawley at (616) 915-6188.

**R.E.S.T. Care Group:** R.E.S.T. stands for Relax, Empathy, Share, Thanksgiving, and is a group for anyone who is looking for support in their care giving roles. The group's mission is to provide an environment for caregivers in various situations to relax, share, and support each other through empathetic listening, in a spirit of thanksgiving to Christ our Savior. Meeting times are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Hope Church library. For more information, contact Hope Church Nurse, Donita Robards at (616) 499-1609 or [donita.robards@resthaven.org](mailto:donita.robards@resthaven.org).

**Women's Circles:** Circles meet either the first or second Wednesday of each month. The groups mostly meet in people's homes for a time of fellowship and refreshments and a time of bible study. To find out more about the Hope Church Women's Ministry, please contact the Hope Church office.

**Youth Karate:** This class is for youth ages seven and up, and meets every Friday at 5:30 p.m. starting September 12. Class Instructor, Ric Beltran, has 35 years of experience and is a 1st degree black belt Tai Kwon Do; 4th degree Japanese Karate; and 5th degree Sato Karate. There is no cost for the class, but donations of food or clothing for Community Action House will be accepted. Sign up by contacting the Hope Church office.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING FALL SERIES

Wednesdays in October (1, 8, 15, 22, 29), 6:45 p.m. there will be two offerings:

- 1) Pastors Jill Russell and Gordon Wiersma will lead a time of study and discussion.
- 2) Pastoral resident Andrew Spidahl will facilitate a group in exploring and planning alternative worship in Advent.

Watch the bulletin and Hope Church News for further details.

## YOUNG ADULT/TWENTY-THIRTY MINISTRY

The Young Adult/Twenty-Thirty Ministry seeks a variety of ways in which it might create space for church and community members from the ages of 18 - 30 to encounter God and one another in spiritually rich ways. Some ideas include times of worship, weekend trips, movies and conversation, exploration of spiritual disciplines, and service opportunities. A specific schedule for this program year is yet to be determined. Please see the website for up-to-date information, or contact Andrew Spidahl: [aspidahl@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:aspidahl@hopechurchrca.org) or 616-422-5104.

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## MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING

**BRIM Bunch:** This group meets five times per year and is for people 50 years old or over who are looking for good fun, good food, and good fellowship. Meetings typically begin over dinner and include a program. For more information contact Richard and Marilyn Cook at (616) 396-1051.

**Caring for Creation:** This faith based environmental group's goals are to explore and inform about ways to consume responsibly to protect the environment. The group organizes events such as kayaking trips, winter walks, and battery recycling. They also provide various educational offerings throughout the year to give each of us the tools to live a sustainable lifestyle and enhance God's creation. Contact Peter Boogaart for more information at (616) 772-1659.

**Diners' Club:** An opportunity for adults of all ages to socialize, have fun, be casual, build relationships, and eat. Groups meet three times per year (October, January, April) for a potluck style dinner at the home of the hosting member. Please contact the Hope Church Office for more information or to sign up.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Chancel Choir (High school - Adults)

**Brian Carder, Director**

**Rehearsals:**

**Sundays, 9:40 a.m.**

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 7:00 p.m.**

The Chancel Choir sings weekly at the 11:00 a.m. worship service and provides leadership with liturgical song and anthems. We love to sing and enjoy the art of making music together. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses - come join our worship choir! **Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 p.m. with a shared dinner and casual rehearsal at the Miller-Fenwood home & studio.** For more information, check online or contact Brian at [BCarder@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:BCarder@hopechurchrca.org).

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

**Rhonda Edgington, Director**

**Rehearsals:**

**1st & 3rd Weds. of each month, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

If you love music, have some basic note reading skills, and enjoy making music with others, the Carillon Choir may be just the thing for you. Music is rehearsed to be used approximately monthly in worship services. **Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 10** (in Sept. only, meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays). New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Rhonda at [RhondaBSE@gmail.com](mailto:RhondaBSE@gmail.com)

Children's Choirs

Children's choirs gather seasonally, Advent & Christmas, Palm Sunday & Eastertide. Watch for additional announcements in newsletters and bulletins regarding startup times.

Instrumental

Hope Church values the talents and skills of its members and friends. We encourage instrumentalists to accompany choirs, play for worship services (11 a.m. or Early Worship), and assist in accompanying groups and mid-week events. Piano, guitar, wind, brass, or string; anyone wishing to participate should make his or her talents known to Brian Carder.

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# NURSERY AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

**9:40 a.m.-12:15 p.m.      Room 103**

An environment of loving care is provided for infants during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. If care is needed during the church school hour, please follow instructions by the nursery to acquire assistance, or contact Jocelyn VanHeest prior to the sessions. Caring adults and youth are scheduled as caregivers, and volunteers are needed. Please contact Jocelyn if you are interested in volunteering.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Playgroups often consist of story time with a simple snack (provided), an optional craft, free play, and time to talk with other parents while playing with the kids. Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website. Call or email Jocelyn Van Heest with any questions or suggestions.

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School (Preschool through 5th grade)

**9:40 a.m.-10:40 a.m.      Room 204**

Classes will be using the “Kid Connection” curriculum, inviting the children to connect with each other, their leaders, the Bible stories, and their families. Children will begin each Sunday morning together for an exciting presentation of a Bible story, then divide into smaller groups by age to continue to learn about the story with age-appropriate activities and ways to connect the story to their lives.

Family Church School

**2nd Sunday of each month beginning in October**

**October 5-19**

**Outreach and Hospitality Ministry: Disabilities Awareness**

**October 5** Harold S. Gazan, past Director of Child & Family Services of the Michigan Department of Social Services will present a historical overview of the care of developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons in the state and nation.

**October 12** James K. Haveman, Michigan Department of Community Health, and Jessica Tomberlin, of Adult Services of Ottawa County's Department of Human Services will focus on the resources which are available state and county-wide for developmentally disabled persons or families with a developmentally disabled child.

**October 19** Thomas Vreeman, CEO of Kandu Industry, and Jack Kooyman, Holland Deacons Conference, will highlight community resources which are available for developmentally disabled persons or families with a developmentally disabled child.

**October 26: Healing Prayer Service in the sanctuary ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**November 2-23: Holistic/Integrative Health and Healing**

Creating or maintaining health is a multidimensional process, combining physical, emotional, spiritual, nutritional, cultural and environmental spheres-and more. This four part class combines shared experience and the wisdom of participants with contributions from several types of health practitioners. It will be framed by the stories of Christ's healings.

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# ADULT EDUCATION

## Mission Statement

The Adult Education group plans and coordinates educational opportunities for adults using as much as possible the talents and resources of the congregation. Such opportunities are intended for spiritual formation through biblical study and critical examination of cultural, social and moral issues from a Christian perspective.

### Schedule - Fall 2014 to Advent

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

Commons I (unless otherwise indicated)

### September 7-November 23: Lectionary-based Bible study led by WTS intern Paige Convis

All are welcome to join for this weekly study of the lectionary texts used in our worship services, reflecting creatively on the connections of scripture to our individual and communal life.

### September 7: Rowland and Jane VanEs, Missionaries to Kenya

Rowland and Jane are longtime RCA missionaries serving at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, and they are also longtime members of Hope Church along with their daughters Jenna and Michelle. Rowland and Jane will be giving an update about their ministry in Kenya and their perspective on the broader socio-political context in Kenya and the African context.

### September 14: Dr. John C. Knapp, President of Hope College

The twelfth president of Hope College assumed his duties July 1, 2013. He will reflect on his first year as Hope's president and discuss his vision for the college's future. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers following his talk.

### September 21-28: Community Ministry -Hunger Issues

Most of us are grateful to take for granted that we'll have enough to eat. Hear about access to healthy food here in our community on the 21st. On the 28th, hear about how national and international factors affect hunger from Carol Myers, board member for Bread for the World.

# CHILDREN IN WORSHIP



Children In Worship is a walk-out program for ages three years through 5th grade during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. During worship, children will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for "A Word with the Children." From there, Children In Worship leaders will escort the children to the worship centers.

Children In Worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. Our children enter sacred time in order to experience and praise God by being with God, talking with God, listening to God, and hearing the stories of God. The special time and space of Children in Worship helps the children bring the stories of God's action in the past and promises for the future into their present experience as they wonder, respond in their own way to the story, and pray together in community.

#### Ages 3, 4 & 5

*A parent may be asked to stay with young three year olds until the child is comfortable in the center and is ready for worship*

#### Kindergarten and 1st grade

#### Room 202

#### 2nd and 3rd grades

#### Room 206

#### 4th and 5th grades

#### Room 208

This fall's offerings will be given to support a school in Martinpur, Pakistan. If you have any questions about the children's opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children's Ministry Director.

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# YOUTH GROUPS

Nurture faith. Build character. Create community. Engage in service.

## Fish Club (Middle School)

Fish Club is a youth group experience for the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders of Hope Church and their friends. Fish Club seeks to provide a close Christian community of friends for our middle school students, while forming relationships with adult sponsors in the church. A variety of programming is offered to take a close look at ourselves, our faith, and our world. Service

projects are an important part of the group's community ministry as well. Fundraisers enable us to plan some very special events, like retreats, and a trip to the Appalachian Trail. All middle school youth are welcome!



## High Hopes (High School)

High Hopes is a youth group for 9th – 12th graders. There are a variety of social, service, and learning opportunities throughout the year. The activities are designed to build and strengthen relationships among the youth and sponsors as part of a community of faith. There will also be fundraising for a mission trip planned for the summer and service work right here in our community. All high school youth are welcome!



Both groups typically meet on Sunday evenings. Watch for special joint events with First Presbyterian Church & Grace Episcopal Church youth groups. Updated schedule information is available on the Hope Church website. Contact Youth Ministry Director Beth Jarvis with any questions.

# YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

## 6th and 7th Grade

**Sundays, twice a month at 11:00 a.m. (leaving with Children in Worship)  
Library**

This class follows the “Dwell” curriculum, developed by Faith Alive Christian Resources in cooperation with the Children’s Ministry Office of the Reformed Church in America. “Dwell” is a place where young teens and leaders pause to wonder, imagine, marvel, and dive into God’s story. Developed out of a desire to provide children and young teens with less noise and more time to experience God, “Dwell” creates an environment for entering into God’s story, and then living into and living out of it together. This class is led by Beth Jarvis.

## 8th and 9th Grade: G.I.F.T.

**Sundays at 9:40 a.m.**

### Youth Room

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) class is a focused time for participants to explore faith in God and their connection to the church and faith. The group often visits other places of worship and ministry. Some might call G.I.F.T. a “confirmation class,” but this is a bit different. Some participants will be led to make profession of faith in Christ at Hope Church, but it’s not required. Each person will sort through that step when the time comes. The broader idea of G.I.F.T. is that it is a unique experience at an important age to deal with issues of faith and life as a part of the church. This class is a two-year experience led by Pastor Gordon Wiersma.

## 10th - 12th Grade: "Unshowered"

**Third Sunday of each month at 9:40 a.m.**

### Garden Lounge

This group meets with Pastor Jill Russell for bible study, fellowship, and prayer. A three-year cycle leads each student through a year of thinking about their faith (theology), exploring how to live their faith in very practical terms (Christian practices), and how to sustain a lifelong commitment to study of God’s Word (Bible study). The approach is interactive and relational. Journal writing, singing together, praying for one another, and study are all woven together in this one-hour gathering that meets September through May. All high-schoolers are welcome, showered or not!