

giving gentleness  
patience hospitality  
faithfulness faith peace  
joy leadership  
teaching mercy  
self-control service goodness love  
wisdom prophecy kindness

**The SPIRIT of LIFE:**  
*fruits & gifts*

## Find Your Place

Christian Education | Music Groups | Fellowship Groups



2015-2016



"The SPIRIT of LIFE: *fruits & gifts*" - it's a very pleasant sounding theme, as most anyone loves fruits and gifts! But take a look at the image for our theme, and you'll see it suggests that the way the Spirit's gifts and fruits are received is also unpredictable, jumbled, not always so neat and tidy. Part of the adventure of being a community of faith is that such a jumble of gifts and fruits among us can at times be creative but can also feel chaotic, can at times feel like abundance and at other times confusion. Perhaps that's something of the beauty of life in the Spirit: the Holy Spirit does not bless us with spiritual fruits and gifts so that we can manage God in a predictable way; God's Spirit lives among us to move us in ways of faithfulness that are both familiar and new, comforting and creative, reliable and surprising.

"The SPIRIT of LIFE: *fruits & gifts*" – it's your unpredictable invitation to join in this community blessed by the Spirit and to explore God's gifts and fruits in you.

# 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! The first rehearsal will be a special "get ready for fall worship" rehearsal on Wednesday, September 9th at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Brian at [BCarder@hopechurchca.org](mailto:BCarder@hopechurchca.org).

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

**Rhonda Edgington, Director**

**Rehearsals: 1st & 3rd Weds. of each month, 5:45 - 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 9. New members are always welcome. If you have note reading experience, and cannot commit to being a regular member, but would be interested in being on our sub list (you are contacted about specific dates, to fill in at rehearsals and on Sundays, for members who will be out), this is also an opportunity to be involved. 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. Do you play guitar? There's a group for you! Do you play a wind, brass, string instrument? Please join us in making great music for worship. For more information, contact Brian at [BCarder@hopechurchca.org](mailto:BCarder@hopechurchca.org).

# 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.

## Family Time Together (FTT)

This group emerged from the former PACT (Parents and Children Together). This group is open to all Hope Church families with children of any age. The group will meet periodically throughout the year for various family-oriented times together. Events may include Game Night/Game Day, Pancake dinner and celebration (Shrove Tuesday), and other opportunities for families to spend time together and with one another. Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website. Call or email Jocelyn VanHeest 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**

Parents and their children will explore a different topic each month that will help to nurture their faith together as a family.

# 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**

**Room 202**

*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 204**

**2nd and 3rd grades**

**Room 206**

**4th and 5th grades**

**Room 208**

This fall's offerings will be given to support Girls and Boys Christian High Schools in Martinpur, Pakistan. If you have any questions about the children's opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children's Ministry Director.

## 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**

The class follows *Crossings, God's Journey With Us*, which is published by Logos Productions. *Crossings* uses eight key Biblical themes as a foundation and uses these themes to frame the larger Biblical story. This enables young people to understand the value in community with God and the church. 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: High Hopes "Unshowered"

**Second and Fourth Sunday of each month at 9:40 a.m.**

### **Garden Lounge**

This group meets with Pastor Jill Russell and Youth Ministry Director Beth Jarvis 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 10th – 12th grade students are welcome, showered or not!

# 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 2015 to Advent

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

Commons I (unless otherwise indicated)

## September 13–October 11:

## Understanding Islam

Sept 13: **Dr. Sahibzada**, Imam at the Islamic Center of West Michigan, will present an overview of Islamic theology and practice.

Sept 20: **Dr. Sahibzada** will describe the experience of the Islamic religious community locally and nationally.

Sept 27: **Dr. Anne Heath Wiersma**, Associate Professor of Art History at Hope College, will present a survey of Islamic architecture and culture.

Oct 4: **Kari Miller-Fenwood**, Art Archivist for the Holland Museum, will present a survey of Islamic graphic arts.

Oct 11: **Dr. Annie Dandavati**, Professor of Political Science and Director of International Studies at Hope College, will discuss current Islamic politics in the Middle East.

## Sept. 20, Oct. 4, 18, and Nov. 1:

## Sex + Faith

Led by Youth Ministry Director Beth Jarvis, this class is intended for parents of children of all ages. We will be studying the book *Sex + Faith: Talking to Your Child from Birth to Adolescence* by Kate Ott. Please let Beth know if you will be attending. Room location to be determined.

## October 18–25:

## Caring for Creation

Oct 18: **Everything Is Interconnected?**

Such is the refrain in the new papal encyclical. Is it true? If so, what does that mean? How should we live if everyone, and everything, is interconnected? Hope College religion professor **Steve Bouma-**

**Prediger** will led a discussion of Pope Francis's new encyclical "Praised Be: On Care for Our Common Home."

Oct 25: **What Kind of Person Would Do Something Like That?** What kind of person carves his or her initials into a 3000 year-old giant sequoia? What kind of person lives simply that others may simply live? **Steve Bouma-Prediger** will lead a discussion of ecological virtues and how they are cultivated to make us people of character who care for the earth.

**November 1–15: Avodah – Exploring the Christian View**

What is our calling from God and how do we discern it? In what ways do all kinds of work—paid, unpaid, pre-retirement, post-retirement—provide us with the opportunity to serve the world? Led by **Dr. Tracy Brower**, Global VP of Workplace Vitality for Mars, Inc., and author of *Bring Work to Life by Bringing Life to Work*, and **Rev. Keith Derrick**, recently retired Director of Journey: Center for Continual Learning at Western Theological Seminary, we will explore this intersection in our session.

Nov 1: **Creating God** – We will explore how God as the creator also calls us to create in the world and how we discern all that God intends for us.

Nov 8: **Relating Christ** – We will discuss how Christ sets an example for our relationships with each other and the ways in which relationships offer precious opportunities for contribution and impact in the world.

Nov 15: **Transforming Spirit** – Week three will be focused on how the spirit works within us and the ways that we manifest our giftedness in the world – honoring the spirit in ourselves and in others.

**November 22–29: The RCA and Us: Is There Room for Hope?**

Nov 22: **Don Luidens**, retired professor of sociology at Hope College, will present the current state of the RCA. He will show membership trends and discuss their implications.

Nov 29: A panel, moderated by **Milt Nieuwsma**, will discuss Hope Church's relationship to the RCA. **Judy Parr** and **Lynn Japinga** will discuss the history of our congregation's relationship with the denomination. **Larry Schuyler** and **Marlin VanderWilt** will discuss the present status and speculations about the future.

## Wednesday Evening Fall Series

Wednesdays in October (7, 14, 21, 28), 6:45-8:00 p.m.

Pastor Gordon Wiersma will lead a time of study and discussion.

Watch the bulletin and Hope Church News for further details.

## Hope & Grace: College and 20/30s Ministry

The Hope & Grace: College and 20/30s Ministry is a shared ministry with Grace Episcopal Church. Together we seek a variety of ways in which we might create space for college students, church and community members from the ages of 18 - 30 to encounter God and one another in spiritually rich ways. Our weekly Thursday Nights gathering focuses on friendship and community around a shared meal, prayer, and communion. We also offer a couple weekend retreats in the fall and spring, and a week-long border encounter trip. Our desire is to create a space where honest questions are welcomed in discussion, where everyone finds belonging without judgment, and where affection and laughter are shared freely. Be sure to check the website for up-to-date information, or contact Andrew Spidah: [aspidahl@hopechurchca.org](mailto:aspidahl@hopechurchca.org) or 616-422-5104. Important Dates: Oct 2-4 Fall Retreat, Jan 1-8 Border Encuentro.

## 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 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 Joe Arevalo for more information at (616)-215-9596.

**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.

**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. at Hope Church. For more information, contact Maxine DeBruyn at (616) 836-5229.

**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. 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.

**REST (Relax, Empathy, Share, Thanksgiving) Support Group:** This group is planning to begin meeting again in the fall. Please contact Ginger, Parish Nurse at 616-414-2983 or glark@hopechurchca.org if you are interested and indicate what times work best for meeting. This group is open to anyone in need of resources or a time of sharing and friendship. Meeting Times TBA.

**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.

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