



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

"...A living hope..." | Peter 1:3

Volume 59, No. 4

April 2016

In This Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Living Hope Project..... | 2 |
| Communion in Lent..... | 2 |
| Caring for Creation..... | 3 |
| Adult Education..... | 4 |
| Deacons Fund..... | 4 |
| Pastoral Resident..... | 5 |
| Kids Hope..... | 5 |
| Refugee Presentation..... | 6 |
| Christian Education..... | 6 |
| Children's Ministry..... | 7 |
| Health Ministry..... | 7 |
| Events & Announcements..... | 8-9 |
| WSN Update..... | 10 |
| And Finally..... | 11 |

Inserts:

- April Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

The deadline for the May newsletter is **Monday, April 18.**

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday:
9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday: Closed

Hope Church, RCA
77 West 11th Street
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-7947
HopeChurchRCA.org



Build Hope: April 30 Dinner and Auction

Community Ministry



Will you join us for an evening of entertainment that just happens to be purpose-filled?

Mark your calendar for Build Hope, our annual fellowship and fundraising event: **5 p.m., Saturday, April 30th.**

The evening is a celebration of the gifts and talents of the community of Hope Church, brought together to benefit many ways in which our building is a gift to our broader community. The evening includes a chance to bid on items in an auction to benefit the Living Hope Capital Campaign Fund in improving the Commons, as well as a full dinner and entertainment.

Tickets are available in the Gathering Area

and church office for \$12 per person.

Auction donations are also welcome. Think about your possibilities, which could include handcrafted or home-baked items, certificates for food or services (babysitting, landscaping, or whatever your talents are), artwork, holiday opportunities, etc. Anything goes!

To donate, pick up a form from the Gathering Area or church office, and deliver your item (or your form, if the item is perishable) between April 17 and April 24.

Do join us for this celebration of talents, fellowship, fun, and the ways in which our building can be a gift to our community.

Living Hope Taking Shape

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, the Living Hope Design Team awaits bids and proposals from all of the skilled trades and suppliers who will help to make our plans a reality. We completed the Construction Document phase in mid-March; Elzinga & Volkers used those very detailed plans to communicate our intentions in bid packets. In early April, we expect to receive the final estimate of cost based on those bids.

Plans that have been hypothetical for some time will become very real. Beginning in April, Elzinga & Volkers will provide biweekly newsletters to keep us all informed of progress and the project horizon. Look for those newsletters online and, if you prefer paper, at the Welcome Center. We'll have some adapting to do along the way, but a lot of planning has gone into minimizing disruption.

There will also be opportunities for Hope Church members and friends to provide volunteer hours to help us to manage and even reduce costs. If you haven't already put your name on the volunteer list, contact the office or use the online form available at LivingHopeRCA.wordpress.com.

If you're part of a group that would like to volunteer together or plan a service event, let us know that, too!

Many hands = light work. In building renovation as in the rest of life.



Update on Living Hope Ministry Partners

In January 2015, Consistory approved that the 5% Ministry Partners portion of the Living Hope Project, a total of \$125,875, be designated as follows: Maple Avenue Ministries=\$28,320; New Community Fourth Reformed Church=\$28,320; Haiti Foundation Against Poverty=\$31,475; Greenpoint Reformed Church=\$37,760.

Maple Avenue Ministries will be using the funds for facility repairs/renovation for energy efficiency and preservation to continue multi-cultural ministry.

New Community Fourth Reformed Church will be using the funds to update their facility in the core city of Holland for ministry to Westcore Neighborhood.

The Haiti Foundation Against Poverty will be using the funds to build a modest home for orphaned children.

Greenpoint Reformed Church will be using the funds to reconfigure their kitchen and add restrooms to better support their Hunger Program.

In April 2016, we will disburse to the Haiti Foundation their total designation. In 3rd quarter 2016, we will disburse half of the designated amounts to Maple Ave (\$14,160), New Community (\$14,160), and Greenpoint (\$18,880). In 4th quarter 2017, we will disburse the second half of the designated amounts to Maple Ave, New Community, and Greenpoint.

From the Worship Ministry: Reflecting on Weekly Communion in Lent

Cindi Veldheer DeYoung, Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry chair

As members of the Worship Ministry discussed our plans for Lent, we considered how celebrating communion weekly might add to the richness of our understanding of communion, as well as enhance our experience of Lent. During the Sundays in Lent, several different

communion liturgies were used, each representing different "tones" to communion. Theologically, liturgies can present "tones" ranging from a more somber focus on sacrifice and cross to the celebratory, freedom-embracing feel of resurrection delight.

If you would consider your response to our Lent communion services, the Worship Ministry welcomes your thoughts and reflections. Please send these to the church office, or speak with a member of the Worship Ministry. Thanks!

Caring for Creation

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

A few months ago, a wise member of Hope Church shared this passage written by Wendell Berry in "Another Turn of the Crank":

"I take literally the statement in the Gospel of John that God loves the world. I believe that the world was created and approved by love, that it subsists, coheres, and endures by love, and that, insofar as it is redeemable, it can be redeemed only by love. I believe that divine love, incarnate and indwelling in the world, summons the world always toward wholeness, which ultimately is reconciliation and atonement [at-one-ment] with God."

Reflecting on current events, it can be hard to find evidence of this love. In the news politicians degrade one another, soldiers fight unending wars, and businesses pollute the planet to make money.

Nonetheless, living among the many passionate people of this community gives me hope. Daily, I see people bike across town to get to church or work. Every year, urban gardens spread further through the city. On Sundays, I see multiple electric cars in the church parking lot and congregants walking in from the neighborhood. Compost collection has begun being organized by Washington School Neighbors. New online resources like www.greenmichigan.org provide tools to make it simpler to live sustainably. And passionate activism supports local efforts like Project Clarity and national ones like the Paris Climate Accord.

I applaud the efforts of the Holland Community Energy Plan (CEP) to win the Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP) competition. The prize goes to the city which develops the best plan to engage its community in deep energy savings. Among 50 cities competing nationally for the \$5M prize, Holland was in third place at the end of last quarter.

With a good chance to win, Holland is trying harder. City manager, Ryan Cotton, created a door-to-door campaign to get local residents more involved. Thousands of households are being contacted with information and free products, including LED light bulbs and a smart surge protector. Our own Peter Boogaart is meeting homeowners for a free home energy analysis.

Holland has already created a resource called the Holland Energy Fund. The fund will provide financing for local energy efficiency projects including residential upgrades. If we win the \$5M, it will be added to the fund.



The Community Energy Plan itself is in the process of creating a home retrofit program. The intention is to create a simple seamless process which allows residents to access professional home diagnostic services, contractor installed improvements, and financing all in one package. Holland will even be first in the state to offer the new On-Bill finance option; which means that a loan could be paid back as an increment on your BPW bill. Our own Anne Saliers led the process to create this resource.

For even more motivation, contests like the Biggest Loser for households and the Energy Wars for schools are tapping into people's competitive sides. For more information go to www.hollandenergyprize.com and help Holland win!

Upcoming Caring for Creation Opportunities

- **March 24** at 6:30 pm at Herrick Library - Green Home Institute presentation on the energy efficiency pyramid for those interested in participating in the Biggest Loser challenge
- **April 24** at Hope Church - Earth Day Sunday with post-service tree planting and opportunities for helping to lead the Caring for Creation Task Force
- **April 30** at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the lobby of the Holland Public Safety Building – Drug take-back (dispose of expired or un-used medications – don't flush them down the toilet!)
- **May 15-21** - Green commute week (walk, bike, carpool, or ride transit to work, church, and errands)
- **May 21** at 8:00 am to 12:00 pm - BPW E-Waste and appliance recycling event (volunteer to help receive E-Waste, volunteer your truck or trailer to help Washington School Neighbors collect E-Waste, attend to drop off E-Waste)

Adult Education: April and May

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

April 3-24 (April 3, 10, 17, & 24): Jesus' "Farewell Discourse" in the Gospel of John

One of the distinctive features of the gospel of John is the extended "farewell discourse" which is unique to this gospel, found in John 13:31-17:26. Here Jesus addresses major themes of Christian faith including the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the unity of the church, union with Christ, conflict with "the world" and the return of Christ. We will cover roughly one chapter per session, so there will be opportunity for in-depth engagement with the text. Come prepared to explore and to learn! The course will be taught by Jim Brownson, who serves as the James and Jean Cook Professor of New Testament at Western Theological Seminary (for his doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary, Jim wrote his dissertation on the farewell discourse in the gospel of John, so this is very familiar territory to him).

May 1- 22: Economics, Inequality, and Faith

Much of the 2016 political debate has centered on America's economic inequality. What are the root causes and social consequences of inequality? What is a Christian perspective on economics, enterprise, income redistribution, worker rights, and monetary ethics?

May 1st: Jordan Bruxvoort, Micah Center (Grand Rapids): "Biblical Foundations of the Government's Role in Administering Justice."

May 8th: Gema Lowe, Organizer at the Workers Center of the Micah Center: "Workplace Injustice and What We Can Do About It."

May 15th: Dr. Steven McMullen, Hope College Economics Department: "Christian reflection on the stories we tell about inequality and poverty."

May 22nd: Dr. David Phillips, Hope College Economics Department: "What Has Been Happening to Inequality and Poverty? How Should the Church Respond?"

Gratitude for Your Attitude of Caring

Board of Deacons

Once again, the deacons thank the Hope congregation for generously supporting the Deacons' Fund through our Easter Offering. A lot of other people are thanking you, too!



One person helped by the fund wrote: "Dear Board of Deacons: My heart overflows with gratitude for your generous gift. It touched my heart deeply. I praise Jesus for your helping hands. Thank you, thank you. God bless you for your kindness."

Deacon Fund resources were also used in response to a Western Seminary appeal to help three seminary families. Kristine Bradfield purchased groceries to make food baskets for each

family that contained apples, eggs, meats, vegetables, pasta and sauce, pancake mix, a package of cookies—many foods that are often not available at distributions.



One family wrote: "My family and I are very thankful to God for His faithfulness to us. Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the generosity He has placed in your hearts. This offering we received from you arrived just in time for our household, just like every blessing

from God. I pray that each household and family of this congregation is never lacking in anything, and that there is always prosperity, health, and much of His precious love among you. May the peace, protection and love from our heavenly Father be always in your lives."

The person who was traveling north for a job interview and didn't have enough gas to get there thanks you for a gas gift card. The persons suffering from grief and depression thank you for helping finance counseling sessions. The one whose heat was going to be shut off thanks you for a utility payment.

So many needs, so many ways you help. God bless you for caring!

Announcing Beth Carroll Our New Pastoral Resident For Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Personnel Committee



the love of God, love of young adults and youth, and love of ministry among these emerging generations. Beth Carroll is not new to us, she has been working with our youth as director of youth ministry for the past year.

Why this position now? Hope Church values its role as a teaching church for students from Western Theological Seminary during their preparation for full-time ministry and for recent seminary graduates as they continue growing in their understanding and practice of ministry. In recent years the congregation has welcomed a post-seminary pastoral resident who also served for a two-year period. This pastoral residency ended in March 2016. Because the model has worked well the Personnel Committee proposed and consistory approved hiring a second pastoral resident for a one-year term, June 2016 - May 2017, in order to provide support and continuity for two key areas of our congregational life. The congregation has indicated that spiritual development for youth and young adults is a primary focus in the years ahead. Finding the person who can provide continuity and leadership is particularly valued. Having a full-

time position filled by someone who already knows our young people and has established relationships with them seems especially important.

Primary Focus of Position: Beth as pastoral resident will focus primarily on the youth program and ministry with young adults including post-high school through early 30s. She will support the Fish Club and High Hopes programs including pastoral care and spiritual development for youth and their families, and she will continue the ministry with young adults including the current Hope and Grace Episcopal cooperative program working with programming and spiritual development of young adults.

As we move into a new phase with new facilities, we as a community will need to discern our long-term staffing needs, however in the ensuing year, we are grateful to move ahead with this one-year appointment as we continue to Discern Our Future. More detail and answers to questions will be available at the April 24 Congregational meeting. Please join us in welcoming Beth into this position.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Beth Carroll to a newly created position of Pastoral Resident for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. This position combines two positions which were previously budgeted, that of Youth Ministry Director, and Young Adult Ministry Director, into a full-time position for a one-year appointment as pastoral resident beginning June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017. We are very fortunate to have someone with creativity and a strong commitment to

Kids Hope

Anne Duinkerken and Barbara Joldersma, Kids Hope USA Co-Directors



Charter Academy begin their Spring Break on April 1 and will not be returning to school until April 11. Since our last day of mentoring is April 28, that means Hope Church mentors will be meeting with their students no more than four more times this school year. Please pray with us that these sessions will be rewarding for both our Kids Hope students and their mentors. We pray that each will end the year together

on a high note; one that recognizes the gifts that each has brought to their weekly visits.

At times, we know that the weekly sessions have not brought the visible progress for which our mentors hope, but we trust that seeds have been planted and that faithfulness to the relationship has been observed. Pray with us that in time, our Kids Hope students will demonstrate that their caring relationships with our mentors and prayer partners have borne fruit.

Our program year is nearing its conclusion. Students at Vanderbilt

The Refugee Crisis—What Can We Do?

I was a stranger, and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35b

If you've heard or read something about the refugee crisis and wondered, "What can I do?" we have an idea.

Bethany Christian Services is expecting many refugee families to arrive in West Michigan from countries such as Syria, Burma, Iraq, Cuba, Afghanistan, and African countries in the next several months. The United States has

committed to resettling a percentage of the world's many refugees, and Bethany works to connect arriving refugee families with churches as co-sponsors. Bethany has asked Hope Church to consider sponsoring a family that will be resettled in Holland later this year. This is a six-month commitment and includes a wide variety of activities—everything from greeting the family at the airport to donating goods for their new life and providing rides.

To learn more about this opportunity, please join us at **12:15 on Sunday, April 17**, in Commons I. Deb Hoekwater from Bethany Christian Services will be here to explain the process and the many different ways we can help.

Note: A light lunch will be served. If you are planning to attend, please **sign up in the gathering area by April 10** so we have an idea of how much food we will need.

ministry HIGHLIGHT

This series of highlights on ministries at Hope Church is intended to be sure our members are aware of how things happen and their opportunities to engage with the ministry of the church.

Christian Education Ministry

Megan Marthens, Christian Education Ministry co-chair



Did you know that the Christian Education Ministry has been alive and well with family events in addition to weekly Church School and Children In Worship? We have enjoyed several family events in the last few months. Our Family Time Together group (FTT) has hosted family gatherings that have brought many together.

In early February, Shrove Tuesday was attended by nearly 75 people! We enjoyed delicious pancakes (adorned with whip cream and sprinkles) as well as fun games. As this celebration falls on the Eve of Ash Wednesday, we shared events that we looked

forward to as we looked ahead to the Season of Lent and beyond. A good time was had by all! What a wonderful way to get to know new families and their children. We give special thanks to Jocelyn Van Heest for all of her planning for this special event.

In early March, we also enjoyed a Game Night at church. Several families attended to play their favorite board and card games together on a Friday evening. It was a great night of

kicking back to play games like Life, Twister, and Monopoly. We enjoyed a simple dinner together as well.

These events are a nice opportunity for our families to come together and share our time. We look forward to more events in the seasons to come and encourage people of all ages to come and enjoy and get to know the young members of Hope Church.



The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Throughout the year, the children have been introduced to and reminded about different ways, places and reasons to pray. Even the youngest children know that pray can be offered in words, song and dance. This article is reprinted with permission and is a great reminder for us all.

TEN THINGS CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PRAYER

By Susan Taylor Brown author of [Can I Pray with My Eyes Open?](#)

1. Pray is communication. It can be spoken or silent. It can be a song or a story. It can be a picture or a dance.
2. Prayer can be done as often as you like. Every week. Every day.
3. Prayer can be done however you want. There's no right or wrong way to pray.
4. Prayer can be shared, but doesn't have to be. It can be done alone or with a favorite toy. It can be done with friends, family or pets.
5. Prayer can be done anywhere. It can be done in your room or at a kitchen table. It can be done out in your yard, at the park or even at the zoo.
6. Prayer can be done in any mood. You can be happy, sad, angry, scared or confused when you pray.
7. Prayer can be for yourself or someone else. If you know someone who could use a little help – add them to your prayers.
8. Prayer doesn't need a certain structure, length or specific words. Whatever words you use, long or short, however your prayer comes out is fine.
9. Prayer doesn't need a special occasion. There are certain prayers appropriate to special occasions but you don't need to wait for a special time to pray.
10. Prayer doesn't have to be a request. It can also be used to give thanks for what you have already received. "Thank you," is a perfect prayer.

Share this with your family as you practice your prayer life at home.

Health Ministry

Jackie Knoll, Health Ministry member



My 5 year old granddaughter Sydnee gave me the best health care advice when she said, "You know grandma, if you got hot pee, you need to take medicine." That set me to thinking Urinary Tract Infections and medicine.

It's Friday Evening...

You have a friend or family member who has problems with memory and now they are suddenly, increasingly confused. This might be the symptoms of a Urinary Tract Infection. Increased confusion is often seen with someone who is elderly and not able to express the signs and symptoms they are having.

If you or someone you care for go to a physician office or Urgent Care, the urine sample they get will only be "dipped." If this shows a potential Urinary Tract Infection you might be given a prescription for a good general antibiotic like Bactrim DS. Some of your urine will be sent on to an area lab to have a "Culture and Sensitivity" done. This test takes almost 48 hours to "grow" the bacteria that is causing your problem.

Now it's Monday morning....

And your physician's office calls to say that the bacteria causing your Urinary Tract Infection is "resistant" to the 10 days of Bactrim DS you bought and you now need to take Cipro instead.

Now it's Tuesday morning...

It's about an hour after you have taken the second dose of the Cipro and you break out in a red rash and hives. Please call your physician or

go to an Urgent Care right away. You may be allergic to Cipro. You need another antibiotic. So now they order Levaquin.

Now in 4 day's time you have brought 10 days' worth of Bactrim DS, Cipro and Levaquin. If you don't have prescription insurance you may be out around \$250.

Here's some good health care advice. When placed on any new medication you don't need to buy the whole 10 to 30 days all at once. Your pharmacy, at your request, can sell you just a few days to a week of the new medication to see if you tolerate it or with an antibiotic if bacteria cultured is "sensitive". This could greatly decrease your cost and you won't have a house full of half used meds.

Ask your Pharmacist or Physician who can help you decide.

Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet Weds. April 6th, 9:30 a.m. at Roberta Kraft's home.
Circle 2 will meet April 6th at 9:30 am in Commons II at Hope Church.
Circle 4 will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesday evening, April 13.

Coffee Time at Resthaven - 40th St.

This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. The next Coffee Time will be at Resthaven-40th St. on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, April 20 at 1 PM in the Commons. *TWO IN THE FAR NORTH*, an Alaskan love story, by Margaret Murie will be discussed. Ruth Donaldson will lead. Visitors are welcome.

RCA Council on Human Sexuality

Pray for the Reformed Church in America Special Council on Human Sexuality meeting April 15-18 in Chicago. 74 members of the RCA will gather around the mandate from the General Synod to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discern a "constitutional pathway forward for the RCA to address the questions of human sexuality as it relates to ordination and marriage." The RCA is asking for people to join together in a season of prayer and fasting for the 21 days leading up to the council, beginning March 29. To receive the daily devotional guide, you can subscribe at <https://rca.org/rca-basics/general-synod/special-council-human-sexuality>. As a Room for All congregation we seek to hold in prayer the members of the RCA LGBTQ community who are attending the special council and across our

denomination who hold in a particular way the pain of this discernment. Additional devotions and prayer will be available at the Room for All website: RoomforAll.com/Outsights.

Spring Garden-Clean Up

Gardeners! A clean-up extravaganza is planned for **Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 am til noon!** Plan to come for an hour or half a day – there will be plenty to do and people to tell you what to do! Bring your own equipment and gardening gloves.

Survive and Thrive - Nutrition and Health for Mothers and Children

Please join the Holland Chapter of Bread for the World for our public forum on April 14 at 7:00 PM – 8:30PM, at the Martha Miller Rotunda (257 Columbia Ave. in Holland). Poor nutrition during a child's early years can lead to premature death or a lifetime of poor health. And, mothers who do not receive adequate nutrition are unable to provide for their children's needs. Thus, investing in the health and nutrition of mothers and children is a key to ending chronic hunger in our world. Our guest speakers will be Dr. Donna Lowry, President and CEO of Ready for School, and Tom Post, team leader for Asia at World Renew.

Parents Book Discussion

Sunday mornings at **9:30am** on April 17, May 1, May 15, and May 22
Pastor Jill will lead a discussion of the book [The Whole Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind](#) by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson. Stop by the table in the gathering area to pick up the book and sign up to participate.

Art Response: April 23

Compassionate Connection presents **Blood, Water and Fire - Art Response 3.0: Evoke, Explore, Express.** April 23 and May 21... All are welcome. All

sessions will be held from 10 am - 12 pm in the Hope Church Commons. **Please sign up on the sign up sheet in the gathering area.** You can also contact Randy Smit with any question. A suggested donation of \$30 is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies and facilitation resource.

Consistory Nominations

Nominations for a new class of consistory members are in. A brief congregational meeting to elect officers will be held after worship in the sanctuary on **April 24.**

Energy Wars

Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore presents "Energy Wars" as part of an educational series. Local Students compete to join the "Dark Side." The event will take place Wednesday, April 20 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Maas Center at Hope College, 264 Columbia Avenue. For more information, visit: www.hope.edu/sustainability-institute.

Summit on Race and Inclusion

Registration is open for the May 17, 2016, Summit on Race and Inclusion, "Inclusion in Action." The event will be held from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Hope College. Registration fee of \$50 includes morning and afternoon keynote speeches, a breakout session, panel discussion, and refreshments and lunch. To register for the Summit online, please visit www.ethnicdiversity.org, or you may also email office@ethnicdiversity.org or call (616) 846-9074. There will be no on-site registration. Attendees are encouraged to register before May 12. Because Hope Church is a sponsor of this event, there are 5 free scholarships available to us. Use the code HCRCA when registering online to use one of these scholarships - first come, first serve!

Brim Bunch: April 28

SNOW postponed the February Brim Bunch meeting but you didn't miss anything because the program will be the same at the Brim Bunch meeting on Thursday, April 28. However the time is changed. It will begin at **5:30 PM** when Steve Hemingway who wrote the book, "The Life and Letters of Paul Fried", will be the presenter of the program.

Paul came to Hope College, a recent emigrant from Prague by way of England. Because of the Jewish ancestry of Fried's family, his two brothers, his father and his mother died in the concentration camps of Germany's Third Reich. After Paul's sophomore year he joined the U.S. Army where he served in the Intelligence Corps. In 1945 he returned to college and after graduation proceeded to Harvard University where he received his MA degree. Then he was invited to serve as a translator for the Nuremberg War Trials. He earned a doctorate at Erlangen University. In 1953 he returned to Hope College and joined Hope Church. He chaired the History Department and initiated the Vienna Summer School program. He retired in 1984.

Hear about Paul Fried's very interesting and productive life. The dinner will follow the program. The menu is chicken and rice, salad, rolls and cherry dessert. Pay \$8 at the door. It is helpful to make reservations when phoned or call Marilyn Cook. You are never too young to join us - bring a friend. The bus will leave from Freedom Village at 5:00 and from Warm Friend at 5:15 pm.

Thank You

Dear friends at Hope Church,

Thank you so much for your generous gift! Your support helps us ensure that the children in our community get the nutrition they need to be healthy and reach their potential. You are helping build a stronger, smarter, more vibrant West Michigan! We couldn't be more grateful.

Thank you!

~Bridget at Kids' Food Basket

Because of you, we have been able to provide residents in Flint, Michigan with clean water, hygienic wipes, water testing kits, shower filters, prayer and hope. Because of your generosity, we were able to spread God's love to those that are deeply in need of it. Simply put, we thank you for your continued partnership with Maple Avenue Ministries.

The Kingdom Comes...Because of You.

Thank You,

Rev. Denise Kingdom Grier, Senior Pastor at Maple Avenue Ministries

Thank you so much to all who helped with cleaning out the church basement! Our basement is looking great and is ready to be used as extra storage during the renovations, and it's all thanks to your help.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 03 | Char Laman Care Group: 7 |
| 04 | Barbara Boer Care Group: 1 |
| 09 | Gerard VanHeest Care Group: 4 |

If you are 75+ years old and would like to be listed in the birthday column, please contact the church office at (616) 392-7947 or office@hopechurchca.org

Washington School Neighbors

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



Washington School Neighbors

Do you have building or maintenance skills?

Would you like to find a place to serve from time to time in the neighborhood?

One of the things I love about our approach using Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is that it sees churches as members of the neighborhood. These are not just congregations that happen to meet here, but we share this place together, homeowners, renters, and church-goers. Some of the church-going neighbors at First United Methodist Church have been asking WSN how they can use their gifts for their neighbors, and a group of "handy folks" is getting together. This group would essentially be on a call

list for simple neighborhood projects that the homeowner finds difficult to have completed, whether from an economic or skills standpoint.

We are excited about this. Dave from FUMC is leading it, but we are looking for volunteers and one "point person" from each congregation who might also know a few others and help spread the word. If this tugs at your heart, please contact Andrew or email info@washingtonschoolneighbors.com.

WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com

Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors

Celebrate the Work of the Center for Women in Transition on April 28



CENTER FOR
WOMEN IN
TRANSITION

For many years, Hope Church has generously given to and supported the work of the Center for Women in Transition, the only agency in Ottawa and Allegan counties dedicated to serving the victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Hope

Church members are invited to attend the Center's annual fundraising event, Reach for the Stars.

- Thursday, April 28, 2016
- The Pinnacle Center, Hudsonville, Michigan
- Doors open at 6pm for cocktail hour and silent auction. Dinner and program to follow.
- Keynote speaker, Carine McCandless joins us to discuss her

memoir, *The Wild Truth*

- Tickets are \$125/person

If you would like to attend the event and sit at a table with other Hope Church members, please sign up in the Gathering Area. Contact Angie Martin or Jane Dickie with any questions. More information is available at cwitmi.org/events.

Hope Church Member Third Place Winner in Art Competition



Congratulations to Hope Church member Mitchell Roe, whose art work (oil paint on panel) entitled "No Choice for the Lesser" won third place in the Holland Area Arts Council Debut 2016 high school visual arts competition!



and finally

Everyone knows it's not polite to talk about politics or money, so let's talk about politics and money!

POLITICS: Perhaps you have noticed that it's a presidential election year?! There about seven months until the election in November, and already I think we all feel on overload! You can't help but notice the election season, and along with it notice that in this year there is a particular intensity to what is happening in American politics – a ramping up of rhetoric, conflict, anxiety, mean-spiritedness and vitriol that appears to be uncharted territory in its breadth and intensity. As citizens, Pastor Jill and I understand the passion people feel about what is happening and what is at stake in the political realm. As pastors, Pastor Jill and I have talked together about what it means for Hope Church to be a community of faith in the midst of the passion of this political season. I'd like to share some thoughts with you about that:

- To be a church is to be a very political place, but is not to be a partisan place. I reject any characterization of faith as non-political, since gospel issues of justice, compassion and peace have much to do with how political power is carried out. But I also reject the idea that faith is explicitly linked to or against a particular party or politician. It is both the challenge and the responsibility of a Christian community to engage the political realm passionately while not engaging in partisan divisions. This is not always easy, but it is always essential.

- Our friends at the Colossian Forum (Michael Gulker, Director) recently shared this concept with Jill and me: *as Christians, we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to have all that we do and say reflect the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness (generosity), faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* Just in case you weren't taken aback by that statement, please go back and read that sentence again. That is a profound and very difficult calling to carry out, and it is only the Spirit of Christ in and among us that makes it possible. In this political season, that calling is the standard by which we live: to have the fruits of the Spirit characterize our words and actions. Such a calling more than anything else will make us a witness to a different way than the toxic political climate around us.

- Our hope as Christians is not dependent on the outcome of any election or the success of any party. Our hope is the presence of God among us in the present, living in the truth that in Christ nothing can separate us or this world from the love of God. Such hope gives us a perspective that connects us to the many places of faithfulness and need beyond our politics and borders, helping us to live first as citizens of God's realm of love.

That's enough about politics. So to continue our impolite conversation, now let's talk about...

MONEY: To be specific, let's talk about RCA Denominational Assessments! You may not think this is an exciting topic, but at Stewardship & Finance Ministry the other day we were pleased to note that a number of our members used the special giving envelope provided to make an extra gift to help Hope Church cover the nearly \$100/person Assessment we pay to the Reformed Church in America. And we wanted to say THANK YOU! – this is a great help in covering the close to \$47,000 annual amount Hope Church pays to the RCA in Assessments. We also thought it might be helpful to review what these Assessments are. CLASSIS Assessment, \$26.26/person, supports the shared ministry of our 22 Holland Classis congregations, the leadership of our full-time Classis Coordinator, the care of theological students pursuing ordination, and the establishing of new congregations and ministries in our Classis. The REGIONAL SYNOD Assessment, \$17.50/person, supports the ministry and programs of our region (primarily Michigan and Ohio), with an emphasis on new church starts and urban ministries. The DENOMINATIONAL Assessment, \$53.71/person, supports the staff and programs of our national RCA denomination, including the General Synod annual meeting, Mission and Service, Congregational Support, New Church Development and Worship Resources. I have personal opinions on which of these Assessments are more helpful than others, but as an RCA congregation we annually give this faithful support to our denomination. We're grateful to those who made a point of making a special contribution for these Assessments – and Stewardship & Finance notes that it's not too late for more of you to do the same! Thank you!

That's enough about money. And I promise my next "and finally" will be more polite.

Peace,
~Gordon



Hope Church
77 West 11th Street
Holland MI 49423



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Holland, MI 49423
Permit No. 607

Hope Church News

April 2016



Ending Hunger One Step At a Time!

Judith Boogaart, CROP Walk Recruiter



Please join in walking to raise funds for Church World Service food aid.

Saturday, April 23
Holland Christian HS
Register 8:00 – 9:00 AM

or

Sunday, April 24
Beechwood Reformed
Register 1:30 – 2:30 PM

WALKERS: You can pick up your sponsor envelopes at the CROP Walk display in the gathering area on Sunday April 3, 10 or 17.

You can also register to walk or make your donation online at:
www.hollandhunger.org.

Remember to bring food items along to the walk to help replenish our local pantries for the summer.

If you have any questions, see the CROP Walk display or contact Judith Boogaart.

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 10:45 pm Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 4 pm Organ Concert | 4 5 pm Executive Committee 7 pm Community | 5 | 6 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 5:45 pm Carillon Choir 7:45 pm Chancel Choir | 7 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6:30 Health 7 pm 20/30s at Grace 7 pm Reconciliation 7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym) | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Audrienne Hill</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <i>parish nurse installation</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm High Hopes 6 pm Fish Club | 11 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory | 12 10:30 am Coffee Time at Resthaven 40th St. | 13 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Circle 4 | 14 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm 20/30s at Hope 7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym) | 15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Diners Club Weekend</div> | 16 |
| 17 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Katie Van Ark</i> 9:30 am Parents Book Discussion 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Alyssa Anten</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Refugee Presentation 6 pm High Hopes Unplugged | 18 4 pm Outreach & Hospitality 5 pm Fellowship 7 pm Congregational Care | 19 | 20 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 5:45 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir | 21 10 am Disability Concerns 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm 20/30s at Grace 7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym) | 22 | 23 10 am-12 pm Compassionate Connection Art Response |
| 24 Earth Day Sunday 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Judith Boogaart</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th and 7th Grade 12 pm Congregational Meeting 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 1 pm Fish Club CROP Walk 3 pm 20/30s Steering Force | 25 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Christian Education 7 pm Worship, Prayer and Spirituality | 26 | 27 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 5:30 pm Kids Hope Dinner | 28 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 5:30 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm Volleyball (United Methodist Gym) | 29 | 30 5 pm Build Hope Dinner and Auction |