



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 8

September 2016

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### Inserts:

- *September Calendar*
- *Lectionary*
- *Restorative Circles Facilitator List*

The deadline for the October newsletter is **Sunday, September 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



## September 11 is Fall Kick-off Sunday

### Worship

Early Worship begins at 8:30 a.m. in Commons I. This service offers informal and interactive worship, and encourages people of all ages to participate through music, story, art, drama, and weekly Holy Communion.

Worship in the sanctuary begins at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Jill Russell preaching and Pastor Gordon Wiersma as liturgist. Communion will be celebrated. Children will be led from the sanctuary during the service to participate in Children in Worship.

### Church Picnic

Join us along the parking lot driveway off the 10th street entrance (**please note the different location this year due to the renovations!**) after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the annual kick-off picnic. Lunch will be provided with a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per household.

There will be activities for children and time to share in fellowship. Members and friends are all welcome!



## Wednesday Evening Fall Series: October

Wednesdays in October (5, 12, 19, 26)  
5:45-7:30 p.m with light supper provided

There will be two offerings starting with a shared meal. Pastor Beth will lead a series entitled "Stories: listening for the ways God has worked in others so that I might see how God is at work in me". Pastors Gordon and Jill will lead a series using a book by Brian McLaren entitled We Make the Road By Walking. Watch for the sign up sheet in the gathering area!

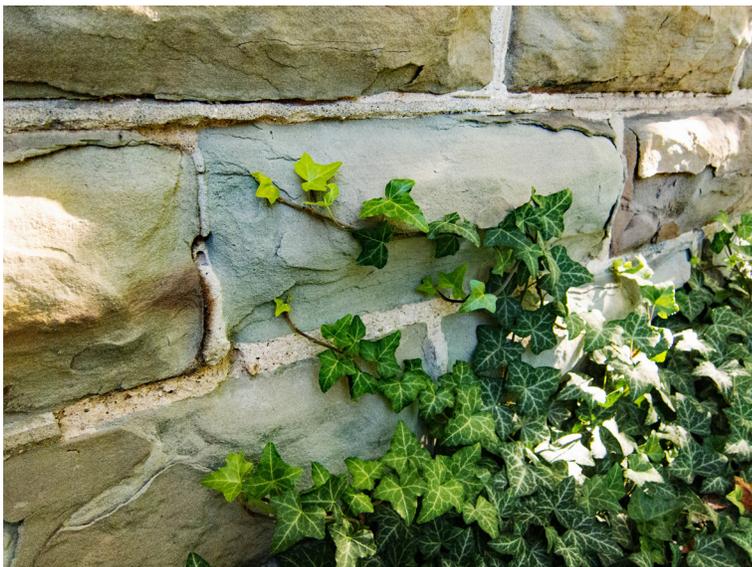
See pages 2-4 for information on the 2016-2017 Christian Education offerings.

### Find Your Place

Christian Education | Music Groups | Fellowship

*"like living stones...be built into a spiritual house"*  
1 Peter 2:5

Renovations are well underway at Hope Church! So it seemed natural to wonder about themes for our ministry that have to do with building and foundations and cornerstones, which are actually quite common images in Scripture. And then we came across this image in a letter written to the early Church: "like living stones...be built into a spiritual house" 1 Peter 2:5. "Living Stones" – it's an image that captures much of what is at stake in the renovation of our buildings and in this season of renewal in our ministry. The stones of our



building tell a living story, the foundations from generations before and the new stones being added in this generation. The people of Hope Church tell a living story, each one a living stone that builds up our ministry into a house of worship, care, and service. It is Christ who is first called the Living Stone. This image invites us to see that the place and people of Hope Church are an expression of the life-giving presence of Christ, giving life to and through this community of faith.

*Pages 2-4 highlight the Christian Education offerings starting with Fall Kick-off Sunday on September 11.*

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## 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 songs 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 7th at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Brian at [BCarder@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:BCarder@hopechurchrca.org).

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

**Rhonda Edgington, Director**

**Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:00 - 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 7. 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, this is also an opportunity to be involved. For more information, contact Rhonda.

Children's Choirs

Children's choirs gather on a seasonal basis, 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, or string instrument? We also need piano accompanists for special events. Please join us in making great music for worship by volunteering. For more information, contact Brian at [bcarder@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:bcarder@hopechurchrca.org).

## Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons I

**September 11–October 2: Reconciliation as a Way of Life**  
Pastor Jill Russell will share some of what she learned last fall during her sabbatical studies on reconciliation. The title for this series speaks to Jill's growing conviction that reconciliation is not just a nice idea or tool to be picked up at moments of crisis or conflict but rather needs to be embraced as a way of life.

### September 11: The Passion and the Questions

In this first session, Jill will share some of the background for her interests in the ministry of reconciliation and will begin to frame the questions and resources she used to explore them. A bibliography of her sabbatical reading will also be available for those who want to go deeper.

### September 18: The Theology and the Scripture

The second session will delve more deeply into the scripture and the theology that serves as a foundation for thinking about reconciliation as a way of life. What are some of the key texts and how should we read them? These will likely be quite familiar scriptures but perhaps read in a different light. A place of overlap between Jill and Gordon's recent sabbaticals was in the ongoing work of Renee Girard. Pastor Gordon focused on the theology of James Allison who has developed Girard's thought as a theologian. Jill was reading the work of Vern Neufeld Redekop and others in his field

who have been applying Girard's thought to the concrete and practical work of peacemaking and reconciliation efforts around the world.

### September 25: The Practical Tools

The third session will be an introduction to Restorative Circles which is a tool Jill has been using within and beyond the Hope Church community. Jill and her co-trainers at Holland Restorative Circles have been refining the ways that they teach restorative circles. There are several building blocks that make up a full restorative circle. You will walk away from this session able to apply some of those building blocks in your day to day life whether or not you ever make use of a formal restorative circle.

### October 2: The Inspiration Along the Way

In this final session, Jill will share photos and stories from her time with the Iona Community. This community and the worship resources they share have been incredibly formative. Jill will share how the time at Iona stimulated a renewal of spiritual practices that continue to feed her commitment to reconciliation as a way of life. Jill will solicit interest from those gathered to consider taking a Hope Church trip together to Iona sometime in the not too distant future.

For a full schedule of Adult Education classes being offered through November, see the Christian Education 2016-2017 Brochure, available at the church and online at [www.HopeChurchRCA.org](http://www.HopeChurchRCA.org).

## Youth Groups

### Fish Club (Middle School)

Fish Club is a youth group experience for the 6th, 7th, and 8th 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. 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. 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. Updated schedule information is available on the website. Contact Pastor Beth Carroll, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults, at [bcarroll@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:bcarroll@hopechurchrca.org) with any questions.

## Hope Church 20/30s Ministry

One of our gifts at Hope Church is that we are multi-generational. We are creating opportunities that meet the needs of adults in their 20's and 30's, while integrating them into larger church life. Monthly summer activities, small discussion groups, and shared meals are all ways we connect young adults with the church and our greater community.

## Hope & Grace: Campus Ministry

Hope & Grace Campus Ministry is a shared ministry with Grace Episcopal Church. Together we create space for college students as they encounter God and one another. Our Thursday Night gatherings focus on community around a shared meal, prayer, and communion. We also offer weekend retreats in the fall and spring, as well as monthly gatherings at the homes of Hope College faculty and staff. Our desire is to be a place where honest questions are welcomed in discussion, where everyone finds belonging without judgment, and where friendship and laughter are shared freely. Be sure to check [Facebook.com/HopeandGraceMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/HopeandGraceMinistry) for up-to-date location information, or contact Pastor Beth Carroll.

## Nursery and Young Children

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

**9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Nursery**

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 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.

## 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. 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 & 1st grade**

**Room 204**

**2nd & 3rd grades**

**Room 206**

**4th & 5th grades**

**Room 208**

*4th & 5th graders remain in worship on Sundays in which communion is served.*

We will continue to support the Girls and Boys Christian High Schools in Martinpur, Pakistan with the children's offering this year. If you have any questions about the children's opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children's Ministry Director.

For more information on the Hope Church Christian Education offerings this program year, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Area or go to [HopeChurchRCA.org](http://HopeChurchRCA.org).

## Church School

Church School (Preschool through 5th grade)

**9:40 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Room 204**

The children meet together to build a great foundation for their Christian faith. 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. They grow together making sound relationships with other children and their teachers as members of God's family.

Family Church School

Occasionally during the year parents and their children will meet together to explore different topics that will help to nurture their faith together as a family.

## Youth Church School

6th and 7th Grade

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

**Youth Room**

The class follows *Crossings, God's Journey With Us*, which is published by Logos Productions. This class is led by Pastor Beth Carroll.

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

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

**Youth Room**

Some might call G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Class 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"

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

**Youth Room**

This group meets with Pastor Jill Russell and Pastor Beth Carroll 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). This one-hour gathering meets September through May.

## Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Co-Director



I just returned from 2 days of intensive training for Kids Hope Directors. I came away very impressed by the prestige of this organization as well as its documented effect on at risk children. Here are a few of the things I learned:

1. Kids Hope began in 1995 with 3 churches and 3 schools and now has 1,200 churches helping 15,000 children in 33 states and Australia.
2. Kids Hope volunteer commitment for a full school year has a success rate of over 90% as compared to other school volunteer organizations' success rate of 30%.
3. Anyone who is involved with Kids Hope at all levels (mentor, substitute mentor and prayer partner) is required to be trained in the "Kids Hope Way" via video training, face to face training with the directors and one on one orientation at the school. It is so valuable!
4. There is a great support system set up with information access via the Web, people and resources at the individual churches and the Zeeland National Office, a Child Psychologist on call for child behaviour questions and communication on a weekly basis from the directors to the mentors and vice versa and from the

mentors to the teachers and to their prayer partners.

5. 99.3% positive response from teachers who see the difference in their students who have a Kids Hope Mentor.

I could go on and on but that is just a sample of what I learned and want you to know so that if you decide to become a Kids Hope Mentor you will know that you are a part of a quality volunteer organization that provides support for you and is proven to make a difference.

What's next? Both Barb and I will be seeking **new volunteers** for the upcoming school year in the next couple weeks. You'll hear us speak in church, you'll receive a bulletin insert about Kids Hope and you'll have the chance to sign up at our information table set up in the narthex. Come to us with your questions, your interest but most importantly with your heart open for a child who is hoping for a mentor **JUST LIKE YOU!**

## Living Hope Renovation Project Shifts to Phase 2



The conclusion of summer coincides with the conclusion of some notable parts of the Living Hope facility renovation project. The new nursery and youth room are very nearly complete, with the exception of the divider that will allow the youth room to be used for two events concurrently. The Commons renovation is complete. And it would be hard to miss the new canopy over the east entrance!

See and celebrate these new parts of our facility on **September 18 at 12:15 p.m.**, when we'll have "progressive refreshments" and members of the Living Hope Design Team on hand to point out features and answer questions.

With construction in these two areas wrapping up, the focus of work is in the former courtyard, where the elevator shaft is nearly complete and the "bones" of the new chapel are visible, and in the former offices, which will be made larger and accessible from the east entrance.

A reminder: Office staff are temporarily located in Room 106, where you'll also find the copy machine, supplies, and Consistory and Ministry mail files. Thanks for your continued support, patience, and prayers as we continue this work to assure that our facility supports our ministry and future generations.

### ***Living Hope Renovations Pun of the Month***

Pastor Jill: Why didn't they build this parking lot drop-off canopy a long time ago?

Pastor Gordon: I think because of the overhead expense.

*~submitted by Earl Laman*

# 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.*

## Reconciliation Ministry

Paul Smith, Reconciliation Ministry Co-Chair

The Reconciliation Ministry of Hope Church takes its focus from the scriptural statements that God intends the church to share in God's ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18) in which we seek to follow Christ's example of tearing down the dividing wall of hostility (Eph. 2:14) separating us from others.

One major way in which the Reconciliation Ministry has sought to highlight this theme has been in the annual "Season of Reconciliation" at the beginning of each new year. Once again this past January and February, our congregation was privileged to hear important experiences of reconciliation from individuals who shared their stories during the 11:00 worship service. During these same Sundays a series

of church school classes on the theme of the personal and societal impact of mass incarceration also helped us to understand how we might be agents of reconciliation. We were also blessed by the leadership of guest artist Joel Tanis as he helped us express reconciliation themes through the visual arts. The ministry is currently well underway planning for the "Season of Reconciliation" in early 2017.

Another area sponsored by the Reconciliation Ministry is the work of Restorative Circles. Several members of the ministry are active themselves in this work, and many others have been trained to extend this practice into the community. Other groups and events supported by the Reconciliation Ministry include the Lakeshore Ethnic

Diversity Alliance's Summit on Race and Inclusion, the Holland Pride Film Festival, the local celebration of Juneteenth, and the prison ministry of "Shakespeare Behind Bars." The Reconciliation Ministry has begun a supporting relationship with Rode Molle, a recent graduate of Western Theological Seminary from Ethiopia who is now continuing her education in Denver in order to return to Ethiopia to work in a much-needed children's ministry there.

The members of the Reconciliation Ministry are: Tom Arendshorst, Laurie Baron, Josh Beard, Jane Dickie, John Koch (co-chair), Earl Laman, and Paul Smith (co-chair). We welcome suggestions from the congregation for new areas we might explore to extend God's reconciling love.

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Building and Grounds Ministry.*

## Children's Ministry: Building a Strong Foundation

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

The Children's Ministry strives to offer many opportunities to nurture your child's faith. Hope Church provides Church School at 9:40 a.m. and Children in Worship during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. On Sunday, September 11, we will celebrate the start of an exciting year together.

### Church School

The children will gather together each Sunday morning at 9:40 in Room 204. The Church School hour is a great time to explore the stories and people of the Bible and make connections with other stories. As the children learn about their place in God's family they can begin to live out their faith with their families, community, friends

and the world. The children have the time to ask questions, hear some new stories and build their faith with their teachers and church friends. Each week the children will meet together as a large group and be introduced to the stories of God and then participate in a variety of activities to connect the story to their lives and to respond to the story.

### Children in Worship

Children in Worship will also begin on September 11. Children will leave the 11 a.m. service and meet together and be led to their worship centers. The storytellers are looking forward to worshipping with them in this special environment throughout the year.

Each week the story for each worship center is printed in the bulletin so each member of Hope Church is aware of what the children are hearing and responding to and also to let the children know that they are an important part of our congregation. Adults may like to make a connection with their Prayer Pal by asking about the story the child heard in their worship center. Remember the children and storytellers that are worshipping in their centers in your prayers as you worship. As always, we invite anyone who is interested in the Children in Worship experience to come and worship with the children on any Sunday.

*continued on next page*

*continued from page 6*

### Nursery Opening

**Yes, it is happening.** Beginning September 11th the nursery aged children will be cared for in the new nursery. We are calling it a "soft opening", because not all the furniture and toys will be ready for use but that means that each week will be exciting

as the new furnishings are added. We continue to feel the support from all of you as you have been checking out the nursery the last few weeks. Please come take a look and if you think you may have some lightly used playthings to donate, we would be happy to see if we would have a need for them. There will also be an

opportunity for the purchasing of some new items to make the nursery a welcoming and special place for our youngest church members. Look for those opportunities in the future and if you have any questions, ideas or concerns please contact Jocelyn Van Heest or Margaret Buckley.

## Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Resident Pastor of Youth and Young Adults



There are no easy trails. You can look at a two-dimensional map and mark out a path that seems to minimize difficult hills and cliffs, but to reduce one risk can make you vulnerable to an unforeseen other. Both in life and on the Appalachian Trail, there is no way to assure yourself that challenges will not arise. This year, our middle schoolers and intrepid leaders learned just this.

Pastor Gordon and I knew we were in a transition year. The first hike without Larry meant a new generation of leaders. So in order to build skills like camp set up and caring for youth while being exhausted yourself, we decided to pick a less difficult terrain. Instead of a trail filled with rocky inclines, which is pretty standard in the northern sections of the trail, we opted for Tennessee and Virginia. Most of our trail followed a ridgeline, placing us above challenging hills and stifling southern humidity. But what we didn't count on was that it would also place us above water sources and

into the territory of bears.

Yes. Bears. Our very first night required a bit of flexibility, when we learned the campsite we picked on the trail's edge was closed indefinitely due to too much bear activity. Thankfully we found a wonderful substitute location, complete with kind lemonade-bearing hosts and even wi-fi! (Sorry, Larry. How many demerits would that get us?) The next two days of hiking brought stepping over more bear scat than root systems and rocks. On our second night, we even had a visitation of curious furry friends, who smelled our food, safely stored a couple hundred feet off site! If you can believe it, the youth hikers slept completely through the irritated moaning of the bears. There was only one actual sighting of a bear "in the fur" though. Leader Grace Miguel saw an adorable brown beauty cross her path on our second day of hiking.

But while the presence of bears caused us a little excitement, they were

nothing compared to the challenge of finding water sources. Last year's course took us by multiple streams and springs, meaning we had more access to water than what we could carry. But this year, the higher elevation and the unusually dry southern spring meant even a trickle of water was harder to come by.

But even with some of the unique challenges this year, one thing stayed the same as the past, God's creative and unrelenting care. This year's trail included several access points from surrounding roads. This meant that rather than our usual one meet up with our precious Sherpa, Bruce tenHaken, we had three or four. Each connection brought us not only fresh blueberries, bananas, and trail mix, but also fresh cold water. It's amazing what you take for granted in your regular every day life. The snacks and water nourished not only our bodies, but our souls.

Beyond the care of Bruce, I also continue to be amazed by the resiliency and endurance of our youth. This year's crew brought tremendous unity, as the hikers cared for each other, even as they were exhausted themselves. They were quick to help the adults and filled the long hours on the trail with laughter and fun. They never complained, even when a leader forgot a precious container of peanut butter in the van instead of in her pack. There are no easy trails, but there is always a gracious and caring God.

## Events and Announcements

### Labor Day Holiday Notice

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day Holiday. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 6.

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Circle 1** will meet at Jan Mahaney's home on Weds. Sept. 7, at 9:30 A.M.

**Circle 2** will meet on Weds. Sept. 14 at 9:30 am in the Library at Hope Church.

**Circle 4** will meet on Weds. Sept. 14 at 7 pm. Contact Judy Bos for location.

### Coffee Time at Freedom Village

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 Freedom Village on Tuesday, September 13 2016, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

### Hope Church Readers

Our first meeting in the fall will be on Wednesday, September 21st at 1:00 pm in Commons II. We will be

discussing the book Re Jane: A Novel by Patricia Park. Our leader will be Jean McFadden, and the hostesses will be: Marilyn Cook and Lois Boersma. New members are always welcome! If you would like more information, contact the church office or call Lauren Heyboer. Book lists for the coming year are still available at the Welcome Desk.

### Pizza Sunday: Sept. 25

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, September 25. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you are willing to serve as host in the future months.

### Diners Club

Diners Club is a wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship with members and friends of Hope Church. This year's dinner dates will be:

**October 21 or 22, 2016**

**January 20 or 21, 2017**

**April 21 or 22, 2017**

From the sign-up sheets, groups of seven or eight are randomly formed with 'hosts' (or co-hosts) listed at the top of each group. The hosts are

responsible for selecting the time and the menu, contacting group members, and assigning parts of the meal. Look for the sign-up in the Gathering Area. Deadline for sign up is **September 25**.

### Orientation to Hope Church Class

On Sunday, October 9, at 9:40 a.m., an Orientation to Hope Church Class will begin for people wanting to learn more about Hope Church. The class will meet on three Sunday mornings, **October 9, 16, and 23 at 9:40 a.m. in Commons II**. A dessert meeting with the Board of Elders for those wishing to join Hope Church will occur on November 14 at 6:30 pm. Public reception will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on November 20. Please contact Pastor Jill Russell or the church office (392-7947) if you would like more information. Please know that attending the class only indicates your possible interest in joining our fellowship, not your actual decision to do so.

## Women's Service Day



Hope Church women are invited to participate in the 15th anniversary of Women's Service Day to offer a whole or half day of their time in support of local programs to benefit women and Children. Women's Service Day is an opportunity for women to offer their time, skills, and talent to nonprofit organizations in the Holland/Zeeland

area, to increase awareness of issues for area women and children, and to network among women in our community.

The one-day annual event, which is organized by a group of women in our community (including Hope Church members, Lois Maassen, Christine MacLean, Angie Martin and Kallie Spidahl), is in its fifteenth year. In the past, we've cleaned and organized, painted and finished, landscaped and weeded, framed houses and raised rafters, cooked and baked, washed

windows, and assembled lesson plans and materials.

This year's event will be held on Thursday, October 6. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/JoinWSD2016>

Learn more at [WomensServiceDay.com](http://WomensServiceDay.com). Contact us at [WomensServiceDay@gmail.com](mailto:WomensServiceDay@gmail.com). You can also help us expand our community network by inviting your sisters, friends, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, daughters, partners, and colleagues (aged 18 and older).

## Thank You

*Beloved Friends at Hope Church,*

*We have received your recent additional gift, which means that the entire total of your 2016 gifts exceeds your 2015 giving. This qualifies for the Miller matching challenge, a fact which you clearly anticipated and intended with this additional check. On behalf of the RfA board, thank you for your faithful support and example!*

*Best regards,*

*~Marilyn Paarlberg, Executive Director of Room For All*

*Thanks, Summer musicians!*

*We welcomed many members and friends to bring their musical talents to our summer worship:*

*Paul Pearson, Kallie and Andrew Spidahl, Issac and Esther Edgington, Tim Pennings, Stephanie Parrott & the Choral Scholars, Erica and Jared Duimstra, the Pearson family (Karen, Anna, Joshua, Mark), John Schmidt, Audrey VanderVelde, Tim Cook, Bob Johnston, Jim Brownson, Ellen Rizner and all the summer choir singers. Thanks for sharing your gifts.*

*Thank you Hope Church for the many ways you support the mission and work of Camp Sunshine. A special thanks to those who assisted with the set up and clean up at the Camp Blodgett location in August. Despite the warm temperatures and the physical demands, you completed the tasks both days with a servant's heart and a smile on your face.*

*With deep gratitude,*

*~Cindy Terlouw*

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03	Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof Care Group: 5
03	Martha LaBarge Care Group: 3
15	Peggy Fitzgerald Care Group: 5
16	David Alexander (missionary) Care Group: 7
17	Earl Laman Care Group: 7
19	Jane Van Es (missionary) Care Group: 7
23	Eloise Van Heest Care Group: 4

### World Communion Sunday, October 2: Collection of Breads for Community Kitchen

Please plan to bake or purchase a loaf of bread to bring to worship on Sunday, World Communion Sunday, October 2. The loaves will be received at our 8:30am and 11am worship services to beautify our communion celebration, and then will be donated to the Community Kitchen at Western Seminary to distribute to families in our community. We would love to have a collection of various ethnic breads to display and distribute, so please be creative!

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@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:office@hopechurchrca.org)

## Save your Breath!

Earl Laman, Health Ministry member

If someone says this to you, they mean, "Don't bother speaking, it's futile!" However, there is much to inhale about our breath.

Do you ever have to remember to breathe? Never. Those who attended you at your birth, after turning you upside down and spanking your bottom, knew they had started a function that would last a lifetime. Later maybe, a parent would slip in at night to check for sure you were breathing, but the marvelous rhythm of the respiratory system had begun. So, you probably never think of the 17,000 breaths you'll take today!

Respiratory system? Yes, think mostly "lungs". But think also of what it takes to get the vital oxygen to all the parts of your body. Air/oxygen first goes through the sinuses, the cavity that regulates its temperature and humidity. Then it sails down the filtering windpipe to the

bronchial tubes- which are hairy, move back and forth, carrying mucus up and out. Mucus, sticky stuff, collects dust, germs, unwanted stuff, which we expel when we cough, sneeze or swallow (like a quart a day!).

Air/oxygen then arrives in the three lobes of the right lung and the two lobes of the left lung (the heart insists on room to beat!). The small, spongy sacs of the lobes then bring about a marvelously (magical?) real exchange of oxygen for carbon dioxide. You breathe out, you are free of the poison.

Then, somehow, the red blood cells collect the oxygen and wondrously carry it to every part of the body- so you can live, move, and remain conscious. (Four minutes without oxygen and brain cells begin to die!)

The Creator's "imagination" has provided. Three-fifths of the oxygen

in our atmosphere is created by tiny organisms in the ocean, the rest by the living vegetation that clings to the Earth around us.

As adults, at rest we breathe about 12 to 16 breaths per minute. Exertion demands more. Night and Day. Every day. Quite a big deal you rarely cogitate about!

Except! Except! Such a constantly necessary, ultimately all-sustaining, intricately formed system is vulnerable! From within, from without.

So, what? A reverence for the Creator and the reality of God's "wondrous works" abiding in and around us is deeply needed! An awareness of all that brings health to all of us is richly needed! A vividness of all that threatens our wellness today is sorely needed!

Save Your Breath!! It just can't be futile!

## Caring for Creation Corner

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

*This piece entitled "Why Act On Climate? Because Black Lives Matter" was written by Leah Wiste of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (of which Hope Church is a member). It is shared with permission.*

This July, the African Methodist Episcopal Church—the oldest Protestant denomination founded by African Americans—became the latest religious body to pass a resolution on climate change.

Many religious groups have issued statements about the urgency of environmental stewardship in an age of global warming and the need for action on behalf of those who suffer most: the world's poor—the "least of these" in the language of Christian scriptures.

But the AME resolution is striking for how it directly connects the struggles

of the global poor with the plight of low income communities and communities of color right here at home, who disproportionately live near coal-fired power plants and bear the worst consequences of our fossil fuel-based energy economy:

"[C]limate change puts the health of children, elderly, and those with chronic illnesses like asthma at greater risk and disproportionately impacts African Americans, especially Black children who are twice as likely as white children to be hospitalized and four times as likely to die from asthma." Yes, you read that correctly. *Black children are four times as likely to die from asthma as white children.*

The connection between those suffering far away and those suffering nearby is obvious to many, yet it bears repeating.

The "least of these" includes not just people in the developing world, people who are starving, and other favorite targets of first world benevolence. It also includes people everywhere who have been systematically oppressed, marginalized and disenfranchised.

This connection bears repeating until the phrase "Black Lives Matter" becomes as uncontroversial as the notion that people of faith have a duty to love our neighbors, *especially the least of these.*

If we're doing it right, acting on climate and pursuing social justice go hand in hand. If these issues matter to you, please get in touch and join our work!

Michigan Interfaith Power & Light  
<http://www.miipl.org/>  
248-376-4603 | [outreach@miipl.org](mailto:outreach@miipl.org)

Check out these upcoming Caring for Creation opportunities:

- **September 17** at 709 Pine Avenue at 10 a.m. (\$10) – An introduction to Aquaponics by 8th Day Farm
- **September 24** at Window on the Waterfront from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. - 10th Anniversary Fall Macatawa River Cleanup hosted by the Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway

## *and finally*

Wiping away the tears watching my youngest marching into school this morning for his first day of Kindergarten, I was caught up in reverie about how fast time goes but also about the incredible privilege of education. I was envisioning all that is before my boy as he begins this adventure of school. So much to learn, so much to experience, so much to integrate about who he is and what this world is like and where he fits in this grand scheme of life. As we head into a new program year here at Hope Church I find myself thinking about the many different ways we each continue in all of that exploration that is so new and so exciting on the first day of Kindergarten. We never stop learning about ourselves and the world and God and our place within it all. I am convinced of the formative power of worship. I know how vital our education programs are for all of us not just our children and youth. The invitation to be actively engaged in the work of community building, justice and reconciliation is a critical component of faith. All of these dimensions of our church life are part of the exploration that I mean.

When I think about the places where I have grown the most in my life of faith, it has been in smaller group settings where relationships can deepen over time and where conversations go beyond the abstract and begin to touch the deep places of integration where faith and real life intersect. We have many opportunities for smaller groups to gather in our church life: men's breakfast, women's circles, the fall series, periodic gatherings like the parents' class last spring and last fall, Diner's Club, the Reader's Group, Brim Bunch, the 20/30s gatherings. Many people find that their involvements in things like choir and church ministries become a place for small group connection as well. A number of years ago now someone had the vision for a group of retired men and a small group was born that became so big they had to split into two. Around that same time a couple approached Gordon and I about wanting to create a long term small group and we helped them to brainstorm who they might invite since they were eager for the group to be multi-generational and didn't necessarily know who might be interested in something like this. I hear all the time about other small groups that exist off the radar like a book club or a discussion group that meets in one of the retirement facilities in town. These things happen without much structure or attention from the staff of Hope Church.

The formal groups of the church aren't necessarily the right fit for everyone and some folks don't feel so comfortable or confident to just go off and start a group on their own. So this year I am planning to give some time and attention to helping people make small group connections who want to be part of one. The fall series offering that Pastor Gordon and I will be leading is a great resource for a small group. It was designed for that purpose. We'll be looking at just four of the chapters as a sample of what the book can provide and our hope is that it might inspire some folks to continue using the resource in a small group. I'll be poised and ready to help coordinate that if people are interested.

Small group ministry has been on the radar of church leadership for some time. But this summer when I had three conversations with relatively new people to Hope Church who were asking about how they could plug into a small group I realized the time is right to bring this closer to the top of the list. So please pray with me about how to best support these connections among our worshipping community. There will be a few moments throughout the year when we will try to capture the names of people interested in being part of a small group. But you don't have to wait for those if this is something on your heart right now. Reach out to me – I'd love to talk with you!

Peace to you,  
~Pastor Jill

Hope Church  
77 West 11th Street  
Holland MI 49423



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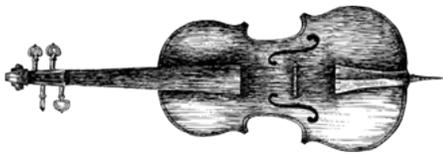
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# Hope Church News

September 2016



## Play about Relationships, Sexuality, & the Church: Sept. 15



# LISTENING FOR GRACE

VARIATIONS ON A THEME OF STRUGGLE AND HOPE

Ted Swartz's newest show, *Listening for Grace*, is coming to Hope College DeWitt Theater (141 E. 12th St. Holland, MI 49423) at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 15, 2016!

In *Listening for Grace*, Ted Swartz uses his distinctive humor to give voice to our fears and hopes when a faith community engages in questions around sexuality and same-sex relationships. It's about a father's journey, a church's struggle and a search for commonality.

*Listening for Grace* follows the story of a widowed father whose son has just come out as gay. Through his relationships with his son, an estranged cousin, people in his church and a pastor who deals with issues of sexuality in the Bible, the main character is challenged by many different viewpoints and experiences.

It's a piece about church. It's a piece about fatherhood. It's a piece about community. It's a piece about our sexuality. And it's an entertaining and enlightening piece about openness and love.

Tickets will be required and are **FREE**; **sign up in the gathering area** and pick up a ticket from the office. The play is generously underwritten by Room for All. There will be a panel discussion afterwards that Hope Church member Jim Brownson will be a part of.

Learn more about the play and join the conversation at [listeningforgrace.com](http://listeningforgrace.com).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 1:30 pm FLEX 6:30 pm Health 7 pm Reconciliation 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:40 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School	<b>5 Labor Day</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Personnel 7 pm Hope & Grace: Campus Ministry 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Kick Off Sunday</b> 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Kick Off Picnic	<b>12</b> 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory	<b>13</b> 10:30 am Coffee Time at Freedom Village	<b>14</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	<b>15</b> 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Hope & Grace: Campus Ministry 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class: Youth & Parents Meeting 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 12:15 pm Open House: Commons, Nursery, & Youth Room 6 pm Joint Youth Kick Off	<b>19</b> 4 pm Outreach and Hospitality 5 pm Fellowship 7 pm Congregational Care	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Hope & Grace: Campus Ministry 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:30 am Early Worship 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>Jill Russell</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th and 7th Grade 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:15 pm Family Time Together Communion Event 12:30 pm AED Training 6 pm Fish Club Tank Time	<b>26</b> 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Christian Education 7 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6 pm Carillon Choir	<b>29</b> 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Hope & Grace: Campus Ministry	<b>30</b>	