



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 60, No. 5

May 2017

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### Inserts:

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

The deadline for the June/  
 July newsletter is **Tuesday,**  
**May 16.**

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

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## Farewell from Alyssa Anten

Alyssa Anten, Western Theological Seminary Intern



As my internship is nearing its end, I have been doing a lot of reflecting and consequently a lot of thanking God for the gift that Hope Church has been for me. Each one of you has been a significant piece of this journey for me by being the body of Hope Church. Hope Church has embraced me from day one, has understood me, and chose to carry me along. Hope Church has vividly demonstrated the body of Christ to me. You have been a supportive and gracious learning environment that has allowed me to experiment, try new things, and ultimately learn a great deal about my gifts for ministry. I have learned so much from each of you and the ways that you impact your own corners of our community. I have often boasted of Hope Church as “containing a high caliber of people.” I have been inspired by

many of you, as you have revealed all of the possibilities of what ministry can be. All of this to say, I have been blessed to know the body of Hope Church. I am beyond thankful for all of you and the impact you have had on my journey.

The next step of my journey is graduate school at Michigan State University. I will begin a 12-month Master’s of Social Work Program this summer. I will finish at MSU in time to graduate with my cohort of seminarians next spring! In my social work program, I will be focusing on Organizations and Community Leadership, and interning at HQ, a teen drop-in center in Grand Rapids. My hope for after graduation would be working as a community organizer, ideally a church organizer around a particular social justice issue. I will remain living in Grand Rapids with my husband, CJ, and commute to East Lansing. There is a possibility you will still see us around because we have become so comfortable at Hope Church! Otherwise, we will be searching for a church community here in Grand Rapids.

Regardless of where we end up attending church next year, or where I end up in 10 years, Hope Church will always hold a special place in my heart. Hope Church will always be where I preached for the first time, where I fell in love with a high liturgical environment, and where I found theology and social justice intermingling. I am so grateful, and want to express that to each of you individually through this. I have been blessed by the entire body of Hope Church.

In Christ,  
 ~Alyssa Anten

## Save the Date - Ministry Fair: May 21

For more details, please see Pastor Jill’s “And Finally” article on page 11!

## Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

### May 7 and May 14: Fierce and Faithful Women of the Bible

Tamar? Mrs. Potiphar? Rahab? Dinah? Jael? The Levite's concubine? Lot's wife and daughters? Jezebel? Delilah? These and other women do not appear in the lectionary in part because they are about sex, or violence, or sex AND violence! Lynn Japinga will discuss these stories using some of the art pieces inspired by them. Lynn Japinga's most recent book, *Preaching the Women of the Old Testament: Who They Were and Why They Matter*, was published in February by Westminster John Knox Press and will be available for purchase at the welcome desk for a cost of \$12.00.

### May 21: General Synod Preview

On Sunday, May 21, Hope Church will preview the upcoming General Synod of the Reformed Church in America during its Sunday School hour, from 9:45-10:45 am in Commons I. The Synod itself will be held here in Holland at Hope College on June 8-13, 2017. During the preview session on May 21, we will explore major items that have been placed on the Synod's agenda, as well as whatever "vibe" may be emerging about the Synod. A significant number of Hope Church members will be attending the Synod in a variety of roles, and some of them will be participating in this event. If you want to do some advanced reading for this session, you will be able to access a digital version of the General Synod's agenda and other related materials at <https://www.rca.org/rca-basics/general-synod>. However our conversation will not presuppose that attendees have done any preparatory work. This is a difficult and complex time for the Reformed Church in America, with significant controversy and the threat of deep division, particularly over issues involving sexual ethics and LGBTQ inclusion. Last year's attempts to impose conservative controls over gay marriage through the Constitution of the RCA failed to be ratified, and the next steps of both sides in this debate will be important to note. Come to find out how things are emerging for the upcoming Synod. Dr. Jim Brownson, Hope Church member and General Synod Professor, will lead the session.

## Caring for Creation Prepares for E-Waste Recycling Event - May 20

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

The Holland BPW is hosting an electronics waste recycling collection on Saturday, May 20, at the Holland BPW building at 625 Hastings Avenue, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be rebates for large working appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers. Small electronics will be accepted as well. Hope Church will provide volunteers for the events and will receive a stipend for all the pounds of electronics received.

You can help with this event in several ways. First, volunteers are needed to help unload electronics at the event, contact Joe Arevalo to volunteer. Second, come and recycle your old electronics. Lastly, I encourage you to contact your elected state representatives and tell them to increase support for electronics recycling.

### More Caring for Creation Opportunities:

7th Annual Ottawa County Grand River Cleanup

Saturday, May 13 at 8:30 am – 1:00 pm at Harbor Island in Grand Haven

Join West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) with a small breakfast provided beforehand and a light lunch after the cleanup. With the event taking place after Earth Day and right before Mother's Day they will be hosting a "Love Your Mother Earth" Day celebration!

10th Annual Green Commute Week

May 14-20 in the Holland-Zeeland area organized by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council

Walk, bike, carpool, or ride transit to work, church, and errands to save money, improve your health, and win prizes.

# Kids Hope

Barbara Joldersma & Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Co-Directors

The month of May brings with it a bit of sadness and nostalgia as this will be the last month that Barb Joldersma will be the co-director of Hope Church's Kids Hope Program. I thought it would be a good thing to interview Barb for this month's article and ask her to look back at her 8 years of serving to give us a glimpse of what those years were like. Personally, I have had the privilege of working for and with Barb for the past 6 years and will miss being her partner but at the same time know that she has prepared me well to continue on as the Kids Hope Director. Let's hear from Barb now.

## **How long has Hope Church been involved with Kids Hope and who was the first Director?**

Hope Church began its partnership with Vanderbilt Charter Academy in the Fall of 2003. The first director was Judy VanderWilt.

## **How long have you been involved with Kids Hope?**

I became a substitute mentor in the Fall of 2009, was asked to consider being a co-director by Judy in the Spring of 2010, accepted and have been co-director ever since, first for one year with Judy, then 5 years with Anne Duinkerken, then 1 year with you [Vicki Rumpsa].

## **What made you decide to get involved with this program?**

We had recently joined Hope Church and I was looking for ways to get involved. As a retired teacher, working with children seemed like a good option and learning that there was a need for substitute mentors made it even better given our desire to be free to help out and visit our East Coast children and grandchildren during the school year.

## **What changes have been made since you first got started?**

The biggest was the decision by our

church to partner with Third Reformed Church. Judy had worked long and hard trying to get a partnership going with New Community/Fourth Reformed so when that didn't work out, it was wonderful to be approached by Third. Since we've partnered with them, the number of children served has doubled with each church having identical numbers of mentors each of the two years we've worked together.

## **What are some of the rewarding things that have happened during your time as co-director?**

I've had the opportunity to get to know many members of the Hope Church family who I would not have known well had it not been for our mutual involvement in Kids Hope. I've also enjoyed getting to know and working with the staff of our church whose efforts on behalf of this ministry, I've really appreciated. Working with the Vanderbilt staff, particularly the office personnel with whom I've had the most contact, has also been a pleasure. And of course, watching the interactions between mentors, prayer partners and the children and their families at our annual Kids Hope Celebration makes it all worth while.

## **Tell us a few of your favorite memories:**

Since the role of a co-director is to recruit, train and support our mentors, prayer partners and substitute mentors, most of my favorite memories are second-hand. They are usually the result of email exchanges or conversations at church with mentors who want to share something special which happened during their mentoring time. In many cases, it's a change in attitude on the part of their Kids Hope child; sometimes it's to tell me that something I suggested in our Weekly Memos has worked well for them. Of course, I also appreciate the hugs I get sometimes when I visit the school from a KH child who I have substitute mentored. That's pretty

rare....takes a special kind of child.... but it means a lot when it happens.

## **How do you see the Kids Hope Program making a difference in the lives of kids that we mentor?**

Many of the children we mentor really benefit from one-on-one time with a caring, faithful adult who is able to help them work on their academic and emotional weaknesses. When teachers refer students to us, they often indicate that they are from single parent families who struggle to put food on the table and whose work schedules make it hard for them to give their children the time and attention they really need. More than anything, our Kids Hope students value the fact that we show up on a weekly basis just to work with them. It's not unusual for them to ask, "Who else do you come to work with at Vanderbilt?" You should see the grins on their faces, when our mentors assure them that they are there for them and them alone.

## **What do you see your self doing with the few free hours you have now that you don't have the weekly responsibilities of Kids Hope?**

Initially, Dan and I plan to visit some of the National Parks which have been on our bucket list for a very long time. Being able to travel during the months of September and April will be a real bonus. I also plan to consider other ways to involve myself in the life of Hope Church. I know there's always a need for volunteers; I just don't know where I'll find my place.

## **Anything else you would like to say?**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years as a part of the Hope Church Kids Hope leadership team and I will always be grateful for that opportunity. I think Kids Hope is a wonderful program and I hope and pray that it will be a part of Hope Church's ministry to the community for many, many years to come.

# Washington School Neighbors

Christen Bordenkircher, Neighborhood Connector



## Washington School Neighbors

in 2001 and I've been bouncing in and out of West Michigan since then with a four year stint in Los Angeles and two years in Turkey. I am passionate about getting to know neighbors throughout the city of Holland and seeing how the strengths and assets of each individual can be a blessing to the community as a whole.

In the past 12 years, I have been serving in a variety of nonprofit leadership roles which has allowed me to work alongside several amazing organizations both here in West Michigan as well as in Southern California. In addition to my nonprofit work, I've been a professional photographer for the past nine years primarily focusing on portrait and

Hello! My name is Christen Bordenkircher and I am very excited to be joining the work of Washington School Neighbors as the neighborhood connector! I moved to Holland

humanitarian photography. I am a mother of two beautiful children, Sam (5) and Ada (3), and wife to Tony who is a marriage and family therapist at Holland Family Counseling.

I am thankful for the opportunity to step into this role and come alongside the neighbors of Washington School neighborhood and learn how I can be a support to the vision and dreams that exist within this community.

Please feel free to email me at [christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com](mailto:christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com) with your ideas, dreams and/or concerns you have for the neighborhood!



[WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com](http://WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com)

[Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors](https://Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors)

### Summer 2017 Preaching Schedule

For the past seven summers, the consistory approved an adjusted summer preaching schedule that would provide our pastors, Gordon Wiersma and Jill Russell, some increased workload flexibility for the summer. Adjusting the schedule gave our pastors the time and space for reading, planning for the coming program year, professional exploration and growth as well as accommodating the impact on both pastors' schedules when one pastor is engaged in two different week long youth trips. In addition, it gave Hope Church the unique opportunity to invite guest preachers who brought to our congregation a range of diverse voices. With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the consistory has approved a similar preaching schedule for the summer of 2017. We are pleased to share that preaching schedule with you.

#### JUNE

- 4 Pastor Gordon Wiersma
- 11 Rev. Rachel Brownson, Chaplain at University of Michigan Hospital
- 18 Pastor Jill Russell
- 25 Rev. Nate Schipper, Minister of Equipping and Missional Engagement at Fellowship RCA

#### JULY

- 2 Dr. Steve Bouma Prediger, Professor of Religion, Hope College
- 9 Pastor Gordon Wiersma
- 16 Pastor Jill Russell
- 23 Dr. Ben Conner, Associate Professor of Christian Discipleship at WTS
- 30 Rev. Kate Meyer, Eve's Haven Counseling Center

#### AUGUST

- 6 Pastor Jill Russell
- 13 Pastor Beth Carroll
- 20 Pastor Gordon Wiersma
- 27 Rev. Tito Venegas, Pastor at Intersection Ministries

# 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.*

## 5 Things to Know About Community Ministry

Anne Saliers, Community Ministry member

**1. Mission:** Community Ministry informs, engages, and supports Hope Church members, encouraging Christian action: to unleash the gifts that Hope Church can give and the relationships that can be formed to make our community a more loving, caring, and nurturing place.

**2. Members:** Lois Maassen (chair), Doug Abell, Joe Arevalo (Caring for Creation lead), Dave De Block, Judy Bultman, David Myers, Vicki Rumpsa, Anne Saliers, Pastor Gordon Wiersma

**3. Ministry Supports:** Community Ministry supports social, economic, and environmental justice work undertaken by Hope Church members through support of and partnership with a number of local organizations to meet needs for food, health, housing, education, and a sustaining environment. Kids Hope, the Caring for Creation task force, and Washington School Neighbors also find connection through Community Ministry.

**4. Ways to Engage:** Attend the Ministry Fair on May 21 to learn more about Community Ministry. Volunteer with other Hope Church members for a day, a week, a year to any number of agencies supported by Community Ministry, such as Kids Hope, Habitat for Humanity, Camp Sunshine move-in-out, High Hopes mission trip, Community Action House and more. And don't forget the annual Think Hope event, resuming in 2018!

### 5. Upcoming Events:

- Throughout May: Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity Women Build
- May 20: Appliance & Electronics Recycling Event at BPW
- May 21: Hope Church Ministry Fair during Pizza Sunday

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry.*

## Thanks for Improved Accessibility

Judy VanderWilt, Disability Concerns Task Force chair

The Hope Church Disability Concerns Task Force (DCTF) has been excited about all the ways in which the Living Hope project has addressed accessibility issues within our building. To be specific, we are thrilled to note:

- improved access to our chancel area;
- the addition of the elevator;
- the installation of many lever door openers (vs. knobs);
- the addition of loop technology to the new chapel;
- improved access to our building from the parking lot, i.e., the protective overhang;
- elimination of the step when dropping off people at the door;
- the intent for the automatic door opener to be functional whenever the church is open.

Additionally, I'm sure there are other ways, too, in which Hope Church's accessibility for all has been improved. Thanks to all who have made this possible!

In recent weeks, the DCTF has been collecting suggestions as to how we can further fine tune, either architecturally or programmatically, our efforts to make Hope Church as inclusive and welcoming as possible for all persons. So, if you have suggestions as to how we can further address your needs or those of others you know, please let us know. Stop by the Welcome Center where you will find an accessibility survey. Fill out this form, including your suggestions, and leave it at the WC. Thanks so much for your help in enhancing how Hope Church provides a welcome and sense of belonging for all persons.

## Young Adult Update

Beth Carroll, Resident Pastor of Youth and Young Adults



Breadsticks. Wine. Conversation. Blessing. Prayer. Tears. Laughter. Friendship. Kindness. Conviction. Did I just describe a Eucharist feast or a party of friends? One of my favorite parts of Hope Church's Pub Theology is that it's hard to tell the difference. In fact, I think our weekly gathering teaches us what communion is meant to be and I think the Eucharist teaches us what gathering together should be. We are God's people, gathered together by the Holy Spirit as a hen gathers her chicks, pointing to God and being nourished to be a light to the world. We are young and we are not so young. We are diverse

in our backgrounds, but strangely the same. We go to church every week, we go to church when a friend gets married. We have questions, we have answers. We have heartbreak, we have hugs. All of us reflect our Creator and all of us are being shaped by God's spirit into the fullness of who God uniquely creates us to be. We might not use a liturgy, but we certainly embody its meaning.

Our goals are simple. We want to be a solid and secure place where all people and all perspectives are welcome. Some weeks we use our entire 90 minutes to ask deep and hard questions about our readings for the week. Other weeks, we laugh about a Netflix movie a few of us happened to watch the week before. Every week, we eat appetizers and drink a beer or soda. Yes, we have a book we study, but reading it is only encouraged, not required. The book serves our life discussions, we do not serve the book. Just like the Lord's Supper, there is always enough space and enough food, so please join us some time! We meet every Wednesday at Hops, 84 East 8th Street, from 7:00-8:30 PM. Email me, Pastor Beth, any questions you have: [bcarrroll@hopechurchca.org](mailto:bcarrroll@hopechurchca.org).

## 2017 Bread for the World Appeal – Hope Church

Tom Arendshorst, Hope Church member



We know that we are living in a desperate time for people in need. At the same time that poverty, income disparity, homelessness and especially hunger are widespread among our fellow citizens, President Trump and many in Congress are dismantling funding for programs that are a lifeline to hungry people in our own country and abroad.

**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

We are a Bread for the World covenant church. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision-makers to end hunger at home and around the globe. Bread researches and develops strategic legislative initiatives to prevent hunger –and then works year-round to convince our U.S. Senators and

Representatives to support those measures. Over the past forty years Bread has become a leader in lobbying for this very special interest, and has been eminently successful.

On May 7 we at Hope Church will conduct our annual Offering of Letters, writing to urge our Congresspersons to support federal investment in the WIC and SNAP programs, tax credits for low-income workers, and international development assistance. These programs help millions of people escape from hunger. Personal letters do affect legislators. We'll be set up on May 7 in the Gathering Area before and after church. Please join me in writing letters in support of hungry families and children.

## Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

### Church School/ Children in Worship

May 21st is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The following week, May 28, children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will be meeting together in Room 204, upstairs in the Education Wing, when they are released from the 10 a.m. service. The teachers, worship leaders and children all had a very wonderful year together.

### Teacher Appreciation Reception, May 21

The Christian Education Ministry invites everyone to express appreciation to our Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders. We hope that everyone will extend their sincere thanks to those who have taught and led our adults, youth and children with a creative, faithful and willing spirit. One way to show our thanks is to sign or write a short note on the banner that is available in the Gathering Area on the Sundays prior to the reception. Please spend a few minutes to show your support and appreciation. You will find a listing of all the Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders and you may write a word of appreciation to them individually or as a whole. Of course you may thank them in person or send a personal note to them as well.

On Sunday, May 21, all leaders, teachers and music leaders will be recognized for their service to Hope Church during the worship service and there will be a cake reception in Commons II during Pizza Sunday where the banner will be displayed. Hope Church values our educational opportunities and we ask everyone to stay for this short reception to share in the celebration.

### Prayer PALS: Prayers Always Lovingly Said

On Sunday, May 7, we will celebrate the Children's Sabbath, a day when we as a congregation promise to nurture and pray in support of the children of Hope Church as well as those children with special concerns around the world. We want to celebrate all children on this Sunday and everyday that follows.

The congregation will have the opportunity to select names of children to support and pray for in the coming year. The names of all the children in each family will be included on the Prayer PALS sheet. We hope that this will allow each child in a family to have a similar experience with their Prayer PALS. There will be more information and ideas on how you can convey to those children how important and cherished they are by Hope Church. We will also provide cards that may be sent to the family to introduce the adult to the child(ren). Our children are an important and valuable part of our congregation as they share their joy and energy with each of us and we celebrate them. *Please note: the 4th and 5th graders will take part in the 11 a.m. service.*

## Reception for Jocelyn Van Heest: May 7

2017 marks Jocelyn Van Heest's 15th Year as Hope Church's Children's Ministry Director. Please join us on Sunday, May 7 after the 11 AM service for a reception in the Commons to celebrate Jocelyn and her ministry at Hope Church!

## Pancakes R Us at Hope Church

The renovations at Western Seminary will be temporarily displacing the ministry of "Pancakes R Us", and Hope Church will be the host for the program during that time. This is a Saturday morning breakfast provided free to the community, and will be held using our Kitchen and Commons facilities.

Pancakes R Us will begin at Hope Church in June and continue through the Summer and Fall. So if you're around on Saturdays, please be aware of this ministry and of being part of the hospitality to our community. And you can also come for breakfast too! – to eat, to volunteer, to have a cup of coffee.

We're grateful for this service to our community and grateful that Hope Church can provide this support.

## Events and Announcements

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Circle 1** will meet at Mary Buys' home on Wednesday, **May 3**, at 9:30 A.M.

**Circle 2** will meet at church on **May 3**, at 9:30 A.M.

**Circle 4** will meet on Wednesday evening, **May 10**, at 7:00 pm at host Joan Wenke's home.

### Coffee Time at Warm Friend

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 Warm Friend on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

### Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 17th at 1:00pm in Commons II. We will be discussing the book Two Family House by Lynda Cohen Loigman. Our leader will be Barb Osborn, and the hostesses will be: Rita Snow and Lauren Heyboer. New members are always welcome!

### Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for May 21.

### Summer Worship Times

On **Sunday, May 28**, the summer worship time will change to **10:00 a.m.** Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in Room 204 after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

### Consistory Members Elected

At an April 23 congregational meeting, the following new Consistory members were elected:

DEACONS: Kate Mears, Katie Van Ark, Ben Sikkink

ELDERS: Celaine Bouma-Prediger,

Bob Jerow, Scott Parrott

The new Consistory members will be ordained and installed on Sunday, June 11, and will begin their service on Consistory in June. Thanks be to God for this gifted group of leaders to serve the ministry of Hope Church.

### Congregational Meeting: June 4

The consistory voted at their March meeting to extend a 2 1/2 year contract to Pastor Beth Carroll to serve as the assistant pastor of discipleship. Since this contract will change the 2017 budget, the consistory is calling a congregational meeting for June 4th following the 11 AM worship service to present a revised budget. The consistory will be sending a mailing to all church members in advance of this meeting that will include a description of the vision for this position, a full job description, and the financial implications of this contract.

### Attention Graduates!

Please email [office@hopechurchca.org](mailto:office@hopechurchca.org) with details of graduation from high school, college, or graduate school. If you know your future plans, please include those. We will recognize our graduates at a later date in a Sunday worship bulletin.

### Easter Offering

Thank you for your generous response to the Easter Offering. Our Easter offering total was \$4,200.00, which was designated for Lighthouse Immigration Advocates.

### Uniting Against Abuse Conference

May 2 at Christ Memorial Church. The Faith Communities of West Michigan are uniting to wage peace, heal families, and build hope to end abuse. Please come to a one-day conference open to all at Christ Memorial Church of Holland on Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Go to [www.UnitingAgainstAbuse.org](http://www.UnitingAgainstAbuse.org). Love to make a donation, purchase tickets or volunteer. Please make

checks payable to United Way, 2775 Lakeshore Drive North, Holland, MI 49424. Please include Imago Dei on the memo line. Contact Sheila Bauer at [sheila@imagodei.love](mailto:sheila@imagodei.love) if you have questions.

### Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance: Summit on Race & Inclusion- May 23

Location: Frauenthal Center, Muskegon. Join LEDA for their annual Summit on Race and Inclusion. This year's theme, Moving Toward Justice, describes the continued necessary commitment we have in seeing the work of diversity and inclusion accomplished in our neighborhood, in our state, and in our country. The LEDA Summit on Race and Inclusion examines the effects of racial disparities, while offering strategies for their elimination. The day-long conference involves hundreds of participants from across the state of Michigan and even from across the country, including several locally and nationally recognized speakers. If you wish to attend, please register online at [www.ethnicdiversity.org](http://www.ethnicdiversity.org). (Follow link for more information about registration fees and location details.) Hope Church will be sponsoring this event along with Covenant Community Church, RCA, of Muskegon.

### Red Cord Community: Overnight Contemplative Retreat

June 3-4 at The Hermitage, Three Rivers, MI. Theme: Nature as a Spiritual Practice. An ecumenical non-profit organization, Red Cord Community cultivates the conscious integration of Christian spirituality and activism through the practices of Contemplation, Compassion, Creativity and Community.

# Thank You

*I want to thank those at Hope Church who have been praying for me about the Viral Bronchitis. I'm finally over it. Hurrah!*

*~Amory Jewett*

*We wish to thank all of you for the cards and expressions of love and support at the loss of Peter's mother, just weeks after his father's death. You help us feel surrounded by God's grace, and we have a deep appreciation for our Hope Church family during this tender time.*

*~Peter and Judith Boogaart*

*Thank you for the cards, kind words, hugs, prayers and support for me and my family following the death of my father, Jack Wiersma. I have felt the Spirit's healing presence through your love, and I'm grateful to be a part of this community of care.*

*~Pastor Gordon Wiersma*

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 06 | Ed Boer     |
| 26 | Mary McCune |

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)

**A NEW SERIES: Well Being! - # ONE:**

Well Being flows out to us and from us from several sources! This series will be addressing those sources. Coming first: Following are excerpts from Dr. Lynn Japinga’s Sunday, April 9 sermon:

# What About Physical Health?

Earl Laman, Health Ministry Member



## HEALTH MINISTRY

Even if we try not to think and read about it all the time, I wonder how much anxiety has taken root in our bodies. Headaches, stiff necks, sore backs, angry stomachs. Or perhaps the anxiety has us operating at a kind of high alert all the time. Sometimes it feels like there’s so much boiling inside that we might explode into pieces.

Ezekiel spoke to people who carried a lot of grief-bacon. (A literal translation of a German word for anxiety: kummerspeck!) The Israelites had been forced out of their land and were living in exile. For them, everything had exploded into pieces. “Our bones are dried up,” they said.

The body knows how much grief bacon we are carrying.

The body, life, and flesh are good and valued! That’s good news for us too. The body has NOT always been valued. Sometimes we’ve been told in the church that sex is bad, desire is bad, the flesh is bad. But if God values the body enough to put flesh on those dry bones, and if God values the body enough to become flesh in Jesus, we have our basis.

I wonder if one way to get through the grief-bacon, the dry bones, the disillusion and despair that we feel, is by nurturing the simple pleasures of the flesh. It is the body that anchors us. How do we care for it?

What if we turned off the television news and listened to music instead? What if we quit reading so many news articles and read a novel? What if we volunteered to play with children, or used our bodies to care for someone else? What if we took more time for friendship? If we enjoyed the pleasure of two bodies walking together or

sharing a meal together.

Why do this? Some people might say it is selfish, or naïve, or a waste of time in the midst of so much craziness. But God so often gives grace and healing through our bodies. Seeing a beautiful sunset. Hearing a child’s voice. The smell of coffee brewing. The feel of exercise. A hug.

We do have the power to care for our own flesh and the flesh of others. That isn’t just new agey self-help talking. I think that God does a lot of healing through our actions. We can decide to put those sheets in the washer. We can decide to cook a good meal. We can get exercise. We don’t have to wait.

We can be God’s breath blowing wherever we live. We can bring grace to other people, and to ourselves. We can be kind to other people and ourselves. We can value the flesh, by feeding it, caring for it, treating it well. We can look for the beauty in the world, and be grateful when we see it.

*~Excerpted from Dr. Lynn Japinga’s April 9 sermon*

## Communication Sign Ups

Communications Taskforce

### Congregational Emails

Sign up to join our congregational email list by calling the church office or signing up online at this link: <https://goo.gl/xCUceB>.

### Hope Church Volunteer Blog

To receive email notifications of Volunteer Opportunities, go to our Volunteer Blog at: <https://lifeofhopechurch.wordpress.com/>.

Then, on the right side of the page under “Follow Blog via Email”, enter your email address and hit “follow”.

### Text Reminders

To receive texts about Hope Church cancellations, service time changes, and special events, **text “@hoperca” to the number: 81010**. To receive via email rather than text, send an email to: [hoperca@mail.remind.com](mailto:hoperca@mail.remind.com).

You can also sign up to receive texts or emails for:

- **High Hopes (High School Youth):** Text @highh to 81010 or email: [highh@mail.remind.com](mailto:highh@mail.remind.com)
- **Fish Club (Middle School Youth):** Text @fishclub77 to 81010 or email: [fishclub77@mail.remind.com](mailto:fishclub77@mail.remind.com)

## *and finally*

It's been a full and rich time of ministry in the life of Hope Church. Lent and Holy Week worship culminated in a glorious celebration on Easter Day. After a long renovation project, we are dedicating this new building and sharing a celebration with our neighbors, friends, and church community on April 29th. The very next morning we are welcoming another 18 new members. Our ministries continue to connect and engage us to needs of the world and to the healing and growth in faith we are eager to find for ourselves and those we love. You learn about these opportunities when you read the newsletter and open the bulletin each week. But I am aware that we have a lot of new people around here and a fair bit of evolution among the groups and ministries that are active here at Hope Church. So even if you have been around for a long time, there may be things happening that you aren't aware of and opportunities to engage in ministry that you didn't know existed.

As we wind down the program year and gather for a pizza Sunday lunch after worship on May 21st we will be holding a ministry fair in the gathering area. All of the groups and ministries of Hope Church have been invited to participate and it is coming together to be an easy – one stop – shopping kind of moment to see what is happening and where you can plug in. There are some people who love to serve on committees and will have the chance to sign up to be on one of our on-going ministries that plan and direct the ministry of Hope Church. Other people want a chance to volunteer for a single task or event and will appreciate the lists at tables that highlight these periodic opportunities to serve. Some people are looking for a way to create ongoing relationship and will appreciate the chance to join a group like one of the women's circles. People who like to use their hands and have gifts for cross stitch or knitting will be able to connect to the congregational care ministry by working on baptism banners or healing prayer shawls. Some of you are sitting on musical gifts that you haven't shared with us yet and might find that this is the perfect time to let the music ministry know that you could be part of worship some Sunday. You get the picture.

I told Pastor Gordon the other day that this feels a little like planning a party and hoping people will come. We have a lot of dedicated people around here who are reaching out to open the circle wider and make it really easy for you to join them. I hope you will make your way to the different tables that day to look for some places to share your gifts or just to say "thank you" to some of the folks who have been taking the lead through this last season of Hope Church life. Maybe this next season is a time for you to step into something new around here or to walk with someone who is looking to join you in what you have been doing for years! Those connections across generations or between new and long-time members generate some of the greatest growth and joy as we share ministry together in this place.

Grace to you and peace,  
*Pastor Jill*



# Hope Church News

May 2017



## June, July & August Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet for the next three months (**Please note: the schedule for the entire year is also now posted** on a "Greeter Schedule" poster in the gathering area):

### June Greeters

04 Brian & Michelle Yurk  
11 Margo Zeedyk  
18 Gary & Beverly Zell  
25 Greg & Lisa Accardo

### July Greeters

02 Ed & Ann Anderson  
09 Tom & Sharon Arendshorst  
16 Kyle Vohlken  
23 Joanne Bade  
30 Kelwin & Yeta Bakker

### August Greeters

06 Mark & Laurie Baron  
13 Carla Beach  
20 Josh & Virginia Beard  
27 Carol Bechtel & Tom Mullens

If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, you are invited to either switch with someone or find your own substitute. You can communicate this change by marking the change on the Greeters Schedule poster in the Gathering Area, or by calling the office and a staff member will mark the change for you. If you prefer to have a member of the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry assign a substitute greeter, contact the office. ***If you are willing to volunteer as a substitute greeter or greet more often than once a year, please contact the office.***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>5 pm</b> Executive Committee <b>6:15 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance <b>7 pm</b> Community	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 1 <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 2 <b>12:10 pm</b> Quiet Space <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>4</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Reconciliation <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> G.I.F.T. Class <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12:15 pm</b> Reception for Jocelyn Van Heest <b>12:15 pm</b> Fish Club/High Hopes Tulip Time Stroll <b>7 pm</b> Tulip Time Organ Concert	<b>8</b> <b>11 am</b> REST <b>7 pm</b> Consistory	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>7:35 am</b> Discerning our Future <b>12:10 pm</b> Quiet Space <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Circle 4	<b>11</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>6:30 pm</b> Health <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Judith Boogaart &amp; QiaoQiao Chen</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> G.I.F.T. Class Meet with Elders <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12:15 pm</b> Reception for Alyssa Anten	<b>15</b> <b>5 pm</b> Fellowship <b>7 pm</b> Congregational Care	<b>16</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Coffee Time at Warm Friend	<b>17</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>12 pm</b> Building & Grounds <b>12:10 pm</b> Quiet Space <b>1 pm</b> Readers <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>18</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> G.I.F.T. Class <b>9:40 am</b> High Hopes Unshowered <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>11:15 am</b> 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School <b>12:15 pm</b> Pizza Sunday <b>12:15 pm</b> Ministry Fair <b>12:15 pm</b> Teacher Appreciation Reception <b>6 pm</b> High Hopes and Fish Club End of Year Party	<b>22</b> <b>11 am</b> REST <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>7 pm</b> Worship, Prayer & Spirituality <b>7:15 pm</b> Personnel	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>12 pm</b> Communications Task Force <b>12:10 pm</b> Quiet Space <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir	<b>25</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 First Summer Sunday</b> <b>9:40 am</b> Nursery <b>10 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>10:15 am</b> Summer Church School	<b>29 Memorial Day - Office Closed</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>12:10 pm</b> Quiet Space <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir			