



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 60, No. 7

August 2017

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### Inserts:

- *August Calendar*
- *Lectionary*
- *Consistory, Staff & Ministry Chairs List*

### 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



## Down on the Farm...August 18 Picnic

Fellowship Ministry



Fellowship Ministry is hosting a summer picnic at **6 p.m. on Friday, August 18!** Bring your own picnic supper and meet at Teusink's Farm. The picnic area is no charge and will be available to Hope Church members and friends for food and fellowship. Watermelon will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry. From 6 – 8:30 pm it is *Family Fun Night* at the farm! You can take part in the activities listed below or just enjoy visiting together at the picnic area. No reservations necessary! Come and enjoy a summer evening at the farm!

**Family Fun Night at Teusink's Pony Farm** ~ 1468 West 32nd Street, Holland, 49423

*Fun on the farm for five generations*

Activities: Pony Ring Rides, Hayride, Surrey Ride, Hay maze, Fishing, Penny Hunt, Barn Animals, Exotic Birds, and Feed the Sheep and Goats (50 cents a bag)

Price: Kids (age 1-16) \$8.00 / Adults \$5.00 (Cash or checks accepted, but no credit cards.)

## September 10 is Fall Kick-off Sunday

The Hope Church Fall schedule begins Sunday, September 10. After the 11 a.m. service (note change from summer time), we will gather for our annual Kick Off Church Picnic on the church grounds. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins!

**Note:** There will be no September, October or November newsletter. The deadline for the December newsletter is Monday, November 13.

## Room for All Conference: Volunteers Needed

Lori Van Doornik, Hope Church member

Hope Church has the privilege of hosting the Room for All National Conference this year which is happening September 28 - 30. There is a need for many volunteers in a variety of ways. Please take a moment to look through the requests and sign up for the spot you feel God can use your talents the best.

### Transportation:

1. We are looking for people willing to welcome and shuttle the attendees and speakers from the Grand Rapids airport to the Haworth Center. Some may be coming in on Wednesday the 27th but most would be on Thursday, the 28th from late-morning to mid-afternoon. You may need to wait a short time at the airport to receive people from different flights if their arrival times are close. We also need drivers to bring attendees back to the airport on Saturday early afternoon.

2. We will need someone to drive the Hope Church Van from the Haworth Center to Hope Church for those who may have difficulty walking that distance (or in case of bad weather). This would be Thursday, the 28th between 6:30 and 7pm and back to Haworth Center at 8:30pm; Friday morning at 8am, 4:15pm, 6:30pm, and 8:30pm and Saturday morning at 8:30am and again at the close of the conference at 12:30pm.

**Housing:** Some of those attending may need a place to stay during the 2 nights. If you have an extra bedroom or two, live close to Hope Church and enjoy showing hospitality we would love to hear from you.

**Food:** We want to serve delicious snacks during the conference so will be looking for all you "renowned" bakers to help us out.

**Conference volunteers:** Setting-up tables & chairs, taking-down tables and chairs, running errands, serving snacks, helping in the kitchen, and just generally being available to serve at different times during the conference. If you have a few hours during the conference dates to offer your help and your welcome smile we want to talk to you.

Please contact Lori VanDoornik to volunteer for one of the areas mentioned. The committee members are: Jane Dickie, DeeDee Piers, Lori VanDoornik and Kyle Vohlken if you have questions. Thank you!



## Register Now to Attend the Room for All Conference

Registration for Room for All's 2017 national conference titled "A Kaleidoscope of Intersections" is now open! The conference starts Thursday evening, September 28, through Saturday, September 30 at noon, at Hope Church! Full inclusion for LGBTQ people of all races, faith expressions and ages is front and center at this year's conference. Early-bird discount registration is open until July 28, and the final registration deadline is August 27. Get more information and register online at [www.roomforall.com](http://www.roomforall.com).

## Hope Church Consistory: Statement on Social Activism

Approved by the Consistory April 14, 2014

As Christians and part of the Reformed Church in America, we are called to work to affect the culture in which we live. We seek to participate in God's restoration and healing of creation, and to work toward peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Hope Church encourages its members to be politically active as guided by the Spirit; it does not endorse particular political parties or candidates. To do so would compromise the church's legal status as a non-profit organization, and, more importantly, it would promote the notion that there is a single path to justice. Members of our congregation will think for themselves and speak with their own voices, informed by the Biblical call to love God and our neighbors. At Hope Church, we expect differences and seek to be governed by humility, charity, and civility.

As an RCA church, Hope Church is served and governed by a Consistory. As a leadership body and among its other responsibilities, the Consistory is charged to address injustice and care for God's world, always grounded in the Word of God. When such situations arise, Consistory will acknowledge the diversity among us and weigh carefully the impulse to speak, our desire for unity, and the effectiveness and impact of a statement.

As we live out this calling as a congregation, we seek to nurture a community that welcomes all and encourages all to express their faith with conviction and grace. To do this we:

- Remember first that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, focused on Christ's message
- Hold up the ways in which we live together in differences; emphasize the places of agreement
- Invite perspectives to be shared, with the expectation that we will not always agree

### **"Faith in Action" Email Network**

You are invited to join our social activism email network! Several members of Hope Church expressed an interest in creating an opt-in email network dedicated to sharing social justice, community non-profit and political advocacy opportunities as they become available. We are calling this email network: "Faith in Action". Some examples would be information regarding: "A Day Without Women" rally, Habitat for Humanity events, petitions to Congress on social policy, or a Center for Women in Transition need/fundraiser. The administrator for the group, Lori Van Doornik, a Hope Church member, will receive emails from individual members of this network detailing a particular opportunity and she will then pass the information on to the entire group.

Once you opt-in to the group, emails will be sent to you, but you will not see the other members in the group. The group administrator will receive content from members of the group, and will also add and delete emails as requested. You are welcome to share this idea beyond Hope Church and to submit emails to add to the list. We are now ready to invite anyone interested to become part of this network. Your name and email information will remain private.

If you would like your email address added, please send your information (name and email) to Lori Van Doornik.

## Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

### Plug into Worship

The children who remain in worship are invited to "Don't just sit there, DO something!" There is a separate blue sheet available to help you stay engaged in the worship service. It gives you an opportunity to answer some questions about the service and about how you relate to what you have heard. Maybe you would like to take this paper home and complete it with your family. When you have completed the paper, return it to the box on the Welcome center. There are prizes involved but the most important thing is that everyone can be connected to the worship experience.

### Summer Church School

During the month of August, we are learning about the teaching of Jesus through parables. What do they mean to us? What do we learn about the kingdom of God? Why did Jesus use these stories? How can we share what we learned influence how we live our everyday lives? These are big questions for small children but the parables are a wonderful way for them to start to understand their place in God's kingdom. Through role-playing, songs, storytelling, discussion, crafts and games the children enjoy learning together.

### KICK OFF SUNDAY IS SEPT. 10

Our fall schedule begins September 10. Church School will start with a celebration of our time together and an introduction to our program for the year. We look forward to seeing all the children, 3-year-olds through 5th graders, get excited about the lesson with a group time and then dividing into age appropriate activities to further our understanding of the lesson. The children will leave the 11:00 a.m. service to worship in the Children in Worship centers. More detailed information may be picked up at the church later this month and an invitation will be sent to the children. We are excited to grow in faith together!

## 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.*

## Fellowship Ministry

Joyce Teusink, Fellowship Co-Chair

Who is sponsoring the pick-up Coed Softball Game (August 4) and the Friday evening at Teusink's Pony Farm (August 18)? These summer activities are sponsored by the Fellowship Ministry. You can find more information about these events in the bulletin, the newsletter, our church website, or you could ask a member of our Fellowship Ministry Team. All of these activities and many more fall under the umbrella of the Fellowship Ministry.

The Fellowship Ministry tries to incorporate activities for the congregation, offering opportunities for fellowship and also providing the background for spiritual growth. Some of the events we sponsor are treasured traditions in our spiritual lives, such as the Maundy Thursday Seder, the Lenten Series, and the

Easter Brunch. We also host Advent activities in December, where families can come together to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

We plan the Kick-Off Picnic with subs and ice cream sundaes in the fall and the Congregational Meeting with a potluck and soups in January. We help provide the food and coordinate these events. We are always looking for volunteers to help with set-up, preparation of food, and cleanup.

Another favorite activity is Pizza Sunday. The last Sunday of the month (unless otherwise noted) is Pizza Sunday. We have pizza and salad after our morning worship. This is a great time to get to know new members of the congregation as well as visiting with "old" friends. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway where the choir

room is located. Families (usually two), groups of friends (usually 4 or 5), or different groups from the church take turns helping with set-up, serving, and clean-up.

Our current Fellowship Ministry Team consists of Tom Bultman (Welcome to our newest member!), Cathy Green (co-chair), Kurt Hopkins, Kate Mears, Marilee Nieuwsma, Rick Smith, and Joyce Teusink (co-chair), with staff support from Megan Arevalo. Thanks to Sally Winchester and Kristine Bradfield for their time of service!

If you have a special event you would like to help with, or if you would like to join our team, just contact any of our members. Come and join us for Hope Church Fellowship!

*The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Christian Education Ministry.*

## Are You Able to Join Our Kids Hope Team?

If you can spare one hour per week to mentor one child during the school day,

*we need you!*

If you are willing to pray weekly for one mentor and one student,

*we need you!*



Mentors and Prayer Partners are needed to complete the Hope Church Kids Hope Team. For more information, please contact Vicki Rumpsa. Anyone 16 years or older is welcome to participate.

Our Kids Hope Partner School is Vanderbilt Charter Academy, 75% of whose student body is eligible for free and reduced lunch.

## Washington School Neighbors

Christen Bordenkircher, Neighborhood Connector

I had one more Bowerman blueberry donut in my bag after a half hour conversation with two of the neighborhood boys and their Grandpa. I left their front stoop as they screamed their excitement for the next neighborhood wide event for kids. I rounded the corner and heard the sound of a table saw. As I approached a young man in his makeshift shop, he stopped and came out to greet me. I offered him the last donut as we began talking. After I learned about the shelf that he was building for a friend, our conversation turned to what he would love to see within the neighborhood. When he mentioned his frustrated attempts at a backyard garden, I asked if he knew about our two community gardens. "There are two community gardens that are available for everyone?" he inquired. As I shared about the opportunity to garden just a block from his home, his eyes lit up. I invited him to join his neighbors and use one of the available garden plots to grow his vegetables. By the time that I walked home, I had texted his name and number to our master gardener Jeff who had then reached out to him

to provide additional details on the community garden.

Community life is about slowing down on a Saturday morning to listen to the stories of those who live in the neighborhood. Sometimes, community life is empowering neighbors to start something new. Oftentimes, it is as simple as extending an invitation to someone that may feel like he/she is on the outskirts of that community. Not everyone knows that there is a place for them to use their skills and assets in their neighborhood. But there is always a place for everyone to be a part of community life. All are welcome. All are invited.

### Upcoming Events:

- Washington School Neighbors Art Contest! Draw a pencil sketch of the Washington School neighborhood from your creative point of view. Submit drawing at Hope Church's front office by August 10. Open to kids, youth and adults! Prizes awarded to the winner in both the kid/youth category and the adult category!

- Holland's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at Kollen Park from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be games, entertainment & food. Stop by the booth for Washington School Neighbors and enjoy our superhero photo booth! :)
- Wednesday, August 2, 2017 - Front Porch Ice Cream Social - Sign up to participate and get free ice cream to share with your neighbors on Wednesday, August 2! This is a simple and easy way to build relationships with those around you! Contact [christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com](mailto:christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com) for more information.
- Tuesday, August 15 from 7:30-8:30pm at the community gardens - Join neighbors in the Washington School Neighborhood to share any concerns and ideas you have for community life! Any specific issues or community leaders that you'd like to hear from? Contact [christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com](mailto:christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com) with your ideas and thoughts!

## Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship



The trail is like an impassioned preacher; each year bringing a different sermon. Even though it is usually a message exegeted in pain and blisters, it usually bears sweet fruit that stays with us all for years to come. Three years ago, the trail preached that each hiker has a character gift that only becomes apparent when things get hard. Last year we learned what it means to be a true team, when one of our team mates struggle. This year we learned how God's spirit ministers to us through "Trail Magic".

For the uninitiated, Trail Magic is defined as an unexpected act of kindness. Trail Magic is a quintessential part of the Appalachian Trail experience for many long-distance hikers. With Trail Magic, a regular every day event is elevated

to something that is transformative. I think the bittersweet part of Trail Magic is that, not unlike life, you usually go through a bit of suffering before you experience it as magic.

Our course this year was hard. Now ever year is hard in its own way, but this course included not only two days of some of the steepest uphill our group has done, but we did it in 89 degree heat at 90% humidity. Our bodies were pushed to the brink those first two days and most us questioned why in the world we agreed to this trip. When we finally crested the top of Mt Greylock, a mountain straddling Vermont and Massachusetts, there was some Trail Magic disguised as a snack stand!! After experiencing the thirstiest thirst and burning in our lungs, we drank deeply the spring

water our Sherpa, Bruce tenHaken, lovingly brought us, before inhaling burgers and ice cream. Funny how something we usually see as "every day", cold water, burgers, and ice cream, became like manna to the Israelites.

The second episode of trail magic came soon after. We knew that on our final night, before our last day of hiking, we had to be a bit creative with our campsite. Since there were no nearby campsites on the trail for that portion, we pre-arranged to stay on the lawn

of Cheshire First Methodist Church in Cheshire, MA. As we approached the church after our day of hard hiking, the aspect of the church that excited us most was knowing we could set up camp on a lawn with no boulders or roots. But when we arrived, we were surprised by some of the kindest hospitality we could imagine. Not only was their lawn flat and cool, they had baked dozens of cookies for us, made trail mix and banana bread for the next day's breakfast and snacks, and the best part, let us use their bathrooms!! Running waters and flushing toilets! Again, the beautiful reminder of how blessed we are; that our daily routine back home allows us to cook treats in our ovens and use indoor plumbing. I pray that this sermon is one etched in our hearts for years to come.

# Vietnam Update: Children with HIV/AIDS

Dan Fisher, Hope Church member



Kim Loan Nguyen with her children **Nguyen Hoang Phuong** (8 years old) and **Nguyen Thi Kim Phung** (7 years old).



Dan hanging out with the kids as usual!



needed care and assistance that the two children will need when their mother dies.

Our goal is to keep these wonderful children in a loving and caring family situation, so they can grow up with the support needed to successfully overcome the many challenges related to their HIV infection.

Learn more about this and other projects we are working on at: [www.danfishervn.wordpress.com](http://www.danfishervn.wordpress.com)

Hope Church and its members have provided generous support for the work of the Warm Hold Association, including support for this family. For that I am forever grateful. The results of your kindness and care are reflected in the 115 children in three

provinces we now work with.

## BECOME A SPONSOR

I'd like to invite you to sponsor my daughter Elyse and me, as we run the Holland Park-2-Park 1/2 Marathon on September 23 in support of this work for Children with HIV/AIDS.

You can support us with a check payable to "Hope Church". Please note on the check memo line "Vietnam Children HIV Fund" and also a short note in the envelope saying you are contributing to this fund.

Thank you for your ongoing encouragement, caring and support.

Peace to all,  
Dan Fisher

In April, I made my annual visit to Vietnam working on a project I have been involved with since 2007, in support of children with HIV/AIDS.

Here is an example of one of the many families I visited while working with the Warm Hold Association Team.

Kim **Loan** Nguyen has two children. **Phuong** (8 years old) and **Phung** (7 years old). All three have HIV.

After her husband died 4 years ago because of HIV/AIDS, his family rejected them and pushed them out of his parent's house to live without support. They then moved into her parent's house with the support of her younger brother as her health situation is very poor.

With six of them living in her parent's

house, the brother was recently married, and his new wife is afraid of HIV infection. She discriminates against Loan and her children causing difficulty within the extended family.

Loan's dream is to have a small house for herself and her children, located next to her parent's house. She hopes that when she dies, her parents and her brother would be able to provide for her children.

Our team, the Warm Hold Association, has worked to provide a new house for the three of them next to her parent's house (See photos). In addition, we have worked with the Local Women's Union and AIDS Center to provide counseling for the sister-in-law so she can gain a better understanding of HIV. Hopefully, she will be in a better position to help provide the much

## Events and Announcements

### Pick Up Softball: August 4

Save the date: On **August 4**, we are going to have a Friday Night "pick up" coed softball game at **6 pm!** Maple Avenue Ministries and Calvary Reformed Church will be joining us! We have reserved the new Laketown Township ballfield, located at 4338 Beeline Road in Laketown Township on the south side of Holland. Bring your softball gloves, and we'll provide the bats and balls! Spectators should bring chairs. Children are welcome to join us! After the game (at **7:15 pm**) we will go to the south side Village Inn on Washington Avenue for "refreshments." If it rains, we'll meet at Village Inn instead of playing ball. Please sign up in the gathering area!

### Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers is a group of women who meet once a month to discuss books! Our discussions are lively and interesting! For more information, please contact the church office, or call Lauren at 786-0436, or email at lheyboer@gmail.com. We are always happy to have new members! Book lists for the coming year are available at the Welcome Desk! Looking ahead: Our first meeting will be on September 20th, at 1:00pm in Commons II. We will be discussing the book, Three Dog Life by Abigail Thomas.

### Blueberry Pie Sale

Blueberry pies will be available for pick-up on Sunday, August 13. Order forms are on tables in the Gathering Area and the Narthex. Volunteers are also needed to assist in making the pies on Friday, August 11 from 6-9pm and Saturday, August 12, from 9-noonish. No experience is needed as we have several excellent teachers and jobs for several skill levels. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are also on the tables, or email Ben Sikkink. The sale of the pies will support a mission trip being planned to Haiti in October, as

well as future adult mission trips.

### Haiti Mission Trip

A mission trip is being planned to Haiti in early October again in conjunction with the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty. The primary task of the trip will be to support Diane Lenox, HFAP's Sponsorship Coordinator, in her semi-annual updates of information about the students at HFAP's Les Bours school and children of staff members. An informational meeting about the trip will be held after worship on Sunday, August 6, with the deadline for signing up for the trip August 13. Cost for the trip will be \$1,500-\$1,700; financial assistance is available so all who want to can be part of this trip. For more information please contact Ben Sikkink.

### Blood Drive - Sunday, August 13

The next blood drive will be held at Hope Church on Sunday, August 13 from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm.

### Summer Brunch with the Pastors

The Pastors will be hosting brunch after worship on Sunday, August 27 at Pastor Jill's house from 11:45 am - 1:15 pm. There are 2 ways to sign up: in the gathering area and online at <https://goo.gl/forms/gE3TTjRYdDgraThZ2>. This will be a time of informal conversation and fellowship over brunch. We look forward to an opportunity to break bread with you!

### Rhonda Edgington Local Concert

In August, Rhonda is excited to be performing a 30 min concert at Grace Episcopal, on their new pipe organ, as part of their new Grace Notes series. This will be happening Sunday, August 27 at 3pm. Grace has just installed a brand new pipe organ, built by Martin Pasi and associates of Roy, Washington. Martin is an amazing organ builder, who has built important instruments in places like the Catholic Cathedrals in Omaha and Houston. The organ is both visually stunning in

the space, and aurally different from any other organs in West Michigan. Rhonda is very excited to have this new organ in Holland, and is looking forward to more chances to play it.

### No August Pizza Sunday

There will be no August Pizza Sunday.

### Bulletin Deadline - Weds. 5:00 pm

Please submit any information for the bulletin by Wednesday at 5:00 pm. Please make sure all announcements have the following information: title, date, time, location, short description, sign up information (website, telephone number, email, etc), and contact information for questions.

### 48-Hour Domestic Mediator

#### Training August 7-11 & 14

When: Mon., August 7th – Fri., August 11th, 2017 & Mon., August 14th, 2017, from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm each day. Where: Mediation Services, 68 West 8th Street, Suite 220, Holland, MI COST: \$895 standard registration fee {\$880 if paying with a check} OR \$75 active volunteer registration fee (requires a two-year monthly volunteering commitment) QUESTIONS and TO REGISTER: Call (616) 399-1600 or go to [www.MediationServices.Works](http://www.MediationServices.Works)

### ACEH Potluck in the Park - August 13

Sun, August 13, 1 pm: Annual Potluck in the Park hosted by the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH). Fun, fellowship, food. Everyone is welcome. Park location will be announced soon. Look for more info at: [www.harmonyalliance.org](http://www.harmonyalliance.org).

## Thank You

*Thank you so much for the retirement certificate signed by Kids Hope mentors and prayer partners as well as the gift certificate to Jonker's which were presented to me at this year's end of the year Kids Hope celebration. I will have a wonderful time selecting just the right plant(s) to enhance my gardens and remind me of your kindness. The appreciation from those directly involved in this ministry means a lot to me, as has the support of the congregation over these past seven years. Blessings as you continue to support the work of Vicki Rumpsa and the other Hope Church Kids Hope volunteers at Vanderbilt.*

*~Barbara Joldersma*

*Dear Hope Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for all of the prayers, support and cards regarding the passing of my mom-Mary Anna Thompson in Baltimore. So many people have been praying for me and my mom during her past 18 months of illness. I was so blessed to have her for 94 years. Again, thank you so much.*

*Warmly,*

*~Barb Blauw*

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 02 | John DeWeert   |
| 03 | Char Alexander |
| 25 | Peg Danhof     |
| 28 | Cecil Williams |
| 31 | Jean DeWeert   |

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](mailto:office@hopechurchca.org)

## Health Ministry - DPOA-HC

Jackie Knoll, Health Ministry Member



### HEALTH MINISTRY

Your 18 year old son has gone away to college - you are paying for his expenses plus he is still on your insurance.

Your 36 year old daughter is newly divorced.

Should you be concerned if they have

an accident or health problem that renders them unable to speak for their care? Once a child turns 18 years old, they are legally a stranger to you and you have no more right to their health information than you would to a stranger on the street.

In Michigan if your adult child gets a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and names you as their advocate you will have rights.

If your adult child has an accident or health condition that makes them unable to make decisions for their care and they haven't made a DPOA-HC naming you as their advocate your only option may be to apply to probate court for guardianship

for your adult child. Only after you have been appointed guardian would you have access to your adult child's medical information and be able to make medical treatment decisions for him or her.

Both protected health information release (HIPAA) and the ability to make medical treatment decisions are included in a Michigan DPOA-HC.

You don't need a lawyer or notary to do this. There are many downloadable forms on line for DPOA-HC in Michigan or the Health Ministry has more information for you. If your adult child is going to college or living out of state, it would be wise to have that states' DPOA-HC signed also.

## Congregational Care Experiment Providing Meals is Big Success!

Jill Russell, Congregational Care Ministry staff support

Over the last year the congregational care ministry made some changes to how they approach their role of supporting the ministry of congregational care here at Hope Church. Rather than seeing themselves as the exclusive care givers for the congregation they are working more and more to facilitate the ministry of care among the whole congregation. One very concrete example is in the provision of meals for people during times of illness or at the birth of a child or other seasons of stress. In the past there was a very small pool of volunteers who said that they would provide meals. If we learned of a need for meals the coordinator would have to call one of these volunteers and would need to track who was bringing meals when and if more were needed. The logistics were a bit tedious! And if long term meals were needed it would quickly tax the small pool of volunteers. In the old system, meals weren't provided all that terribly often. Perhaps people

intuited that we really weren't set up well to provide this ministry with ease and so didn't take us up very often on the offer to provide meals.

We knew that there were more people out there willing to make a meal now and then. People just needed an easier way to connect to each other to provide this ministry of care. With the use of the volunteer blog and a wonderful online tool called Take Them a Meal, we can now accommodate many requests for meals. People are taking us up on our offer of meals and we are finding it very easy to fill those requests. Between January and June of 2017 **members of the church have provided 56 meals** for each other.

### How to Get a Meal

If you would like to receive some meals during a time of stress or need, simply contact the church office to arrange for them. If you know someone going through a difficult time, ask if they'd like a few meals and if they say "yes"

then pass the request on to the church office. The meal coordinators will be in touch to get the details of dietary restrictions, best time to deliver meals etc... Then the office puts those details into the website Take Them a Meal and the link is shared through the Volunteer Blog. With a click on the link people can easily see what the needs are and sign up for the times that work best for them.

### How to Share a Meal

If you'd like to be part of this growing team of people providing meals for people in the congregation, all you have to do is sign up to receive emails from the Volunteer Blog and the requests will show up in your email inbox.

Thank you to all the people who have been sharing in this tangible ministry of support and care!

## *and finally*

Here's my report to you from my latest Doctor of Ministry class which I was in Chicago for the last week of June: I learned about a **hermeneutic of suspicion & a homiletic of disruption**. Need more than that?! – let me explain.

This was a DMin course on preaching and the course was titled "Gender, Power, and the Pulpit." The readings for the course explored how gender and sexuality are portrayed in scripture, church and culture as well as the power dynamics involved with such portrayals. The assigned books and articles were excellent, challenging me to reflect on gender roles, on the ways that assumptions about gender and sexuality often control our interactions, and about the interplay of biblical revelation and modern understandings. The course discussions centered on how to engage such issues in preaching, and the week included my writing a sermon on and listening to sermons on some very challenging biblical texts! – which was very difficult and fruitful.

And that's what brings us to a hermeneutic of suspicion and a homiletic of disruption:

- **a hermeneutic of suspicion:** "hermeneutics" is the process and approach one uses in interpreting scripture (for example, the importance of understanding the cultural setting when a text was written). To use "suspicion" as a description for how to approach scripture may sound odd or negative, but it has more to do with bringing a spirit of curiosity or genuine questioning to a text. In terms of gender and power, what the "suspicion" is about is to "suspect" that how a story is told or a teaching is given will be influenced significantly by the assumptions of the culture at that time about gender roles and by the agendas of those who are currently in power. This is not meant to invalidate a story, but to try to bring to light the power dynamics that are going on. What this approach also does is then bring the same "hermeneutic" to looking at modern life, trying to make visible the current range of assumptions and agendas about gender, sexuality and power. A hermeneutic of suspicion "suspects" that such questions are crucial in understanding and applying a text. Which leads us to...
- **a homiletic of disruption:** "homiletics" is the practice of preaching, both the preparation and delivery of a sermon (for example, requiring that a sermon must always have 3 points with each point alliterated!). As with "suspicion", the term "disruption" may sound like an inherently negative way to approach preaching, but here too the term has more to do with the idea of creativity and opportunity. This homiletical approach of "disruption" looks at biblical texts as stories and teachings that often go against the grain of what is expected or established – which means that even as one is "suspicious" to understand the assumptions and power at work in scripture, those very things are often being "disrupted" and undone by the text at the same time! And here also that "disruption" is brought into our own lives and current culture, exploring ways in which biblical texts disrupt our assumptions and open us to new understandings. So disruption really is meant as a pathway of freedom from harmful patterns and of freedom toward creative directions.

So that's my report! I actually think these understandings of "suspicion" and "disruption" are already present in many ways in the preaching you hear at Hope Church, but this course gave me some new language and depth to further explore and put into practice these approaches. There is a lot of importance given to issues of gender and sexuality in our culture, sometimes for great good and sometimes for great harm, and we need ways to explore and talk about these issues that face our assumptions and open us up creatively to the Spirit at work in our lives and world. I'm so grateful for the opportunity Hope Church is giving me to engage such issues in my DMin studies, and you can expect "suspicion" and "disruption" in my preaching!

Thanks and blessings.

Peace,



# Hope Church News

August 2017



## September, October, & November 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):

### September Greeters

03 George & Frances Becker  
10 Josh & Monique Bell  
17 Ric & Beth Beltran  
24 John & Claudia Berry

### October Greeters

01 Lynne Berry Hoover &  
Steve Berry  
08 John & Stephanie Beyer  
15 David & Barb Blauw  
22 Kristyn & Josh Bochniak  
29 Dave & Margaret Boelkins

### November Greeters

05 Dawn Boelkins & John Schmidt  
12 Egbert & Bobby Boer  
19 Vern & Lois Boersma  
26 Michelle Bombe & Curt Tofteland

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.***

# August 2017

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue       | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat                                     |
|---|---|-----------|--|--|---|---|
|   |   | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>6:15 am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>7:35 am Discerning<br>our Future | <b>3</b><br>2-4 pm Hope<br>Church Nurse<br>6:30 pm<br>Health<br>7 pm<br>Reconciliation<br>7 pm<br>Volleyball<br>(FUMC Gym) | <b>4</b><br>6 pm<br>Co-Ed<br>Softball                       | <b>5</b>                                |
| <b>6</b><br>9:40 am Nursery<br>10 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i><br>10:15 am Summer Church School  | <b>7</b><br>5 pm Executive<br>Committee<br>6:15 pm<br>Stewardship &<br>Finance  | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>6:15 am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>4 pm Adult<br>Education          | <b>10</b><br>2-4 pm Hope<br>Church Nurse<br>7 pm<br>Volleyball<br>(FUMC Gym)   | <b>11</b><br>Blueberry<br>Pie<br>Making                     | <b>12</b><br>Blueberry<br>Pie<br>Making |
| <b>13</b><br>8:30 am - 2:15 pm Blood Drive<br>9:40 am Nursery<br>10 am Worship, <i>Beth Carroll</i><br>10:15 am Summer Church School  | <b>14</b><br>11 am REST<br>7 pm Consistory  | <b>15</b> | <b>16</b><br>6:15 am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>12 pm Building and<br>Grounds   | <b>17</b><br>2-4 pm Hope<br>Church Nurse<br>7 pm<br>Volleyball<br>(FUMC Gym)   | <b>18</b><br>6 pm<br>Picnic at<br>Teusink's<br>Pony<br>Farm | <b>19</b>                               |
| <b>20</b><br>9:15 am Summer Walk-In Choir<br>Rehearsal<br>9:40 am Nursery<br>10 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma -<br/>communion</i><br>10:15 am Summer Church School<br>11:45 am Pastors Brunch at<br>Pastor Gordon's house | <b>21</b><br>4 pm Outreach<br>& Hospitality<br>5 pm Fellowship<br>7 pm<br>Congregational<br>Care                                  | <b>22</b> | <b>23</b><br>6:15 am Men's<br>Breakfast                                    | <b>24</b><br>2-4 pm Hope<br>Church Nurse<br>7 pm<br>Volleyball<br>(FUMC Gym)   | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>                               |
| <b>27</b><br>9:40 am Nursery<br>10 am Worship, <i>Rev. Tito Venegas</i><br>10:15 am Summer Church School<br>11:45 am Pastors Brunch at<br>Pastor Jill's house   | <b>28</b><br>11 am REST<br>6:30 pm<br>Christian<br>Education<br>7 pm Worship,<br>Prayer &<br>Spirituality<br>7:15 pm<br>Personnel | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b><br>6:15 am Men's<br>Breakfast                                    | <b>31</b><br>2-4 pm Hope<br>Church Nurse<br>7 pm<br>Volleyball<br>(FUMC Gym)   |   |   |