

ONE BODY MANY MEMBERS IN CHRIST

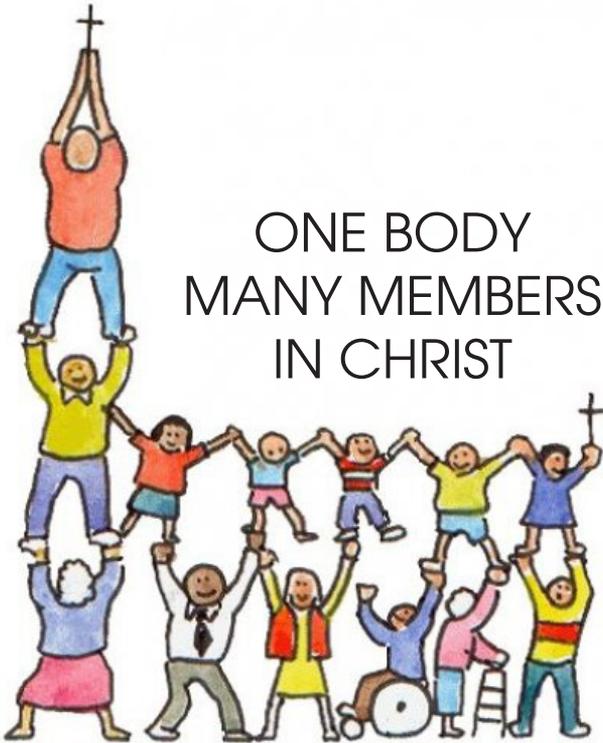
1 Corinthians 12:12 & 27

Find Your Place

Christian Education | Music Groups | Fellowship Groups



2017-2018



1 Corinthians 12:12 & 27

ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS, IN CHRIST

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." 1 Cor. 12: 12, 27

"One": One body, one Spirit, one calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God of all (Eph. 4). When we are a part of the church, we are a part of the beautiful mystery of "One", as we are united to God and one other in faith and action. And even more, the mystery of "One" connects us to all people as children of One God.

"Many": Many gifts, many roles, many abilities, many differences, many generations, many ideas, many passions, many voices. When we are part of the church, we are part of the beautiful mystery of "Many", the distinct expressions of faith and faithfulness revealed in each person. What we celebrate as the body of Christ is that "One" and "Many" are not opposites but part of a single truth held together in Christ.

We invite you to explore how you are a part of this beautiful truth: the many ways God is at work at Hope Church to express the one voice of God's love for all.

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 6th at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Brian at BCarder@hopechurchrca.org.

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

Rhonda Edgington, Director

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7 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 6. New members are always welcome. If you have note reading experience, and cannot commit to being a regular member, but would be interested in being on our sub list (you are contacted about specific dates, to fill in at rehearsals and on Sundays, for members who will be out), this is also an opportunity to be involved. For more information, contact Rhonda at RhondaBSE@gmail.com.

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.

Nursery and Young Children

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Nursery

An environment of loving care is provided for infants during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. If care is needed during the church school hour, please follow instructions by the nursery to acquire assistance, or contact Jocelyn VanHeest prior to the sessions. Caring adults and youth are scheduled as caregivers, and volunteers are needed. Please contact Jocelyn if you are interested in volunteering.

Family Time Together (FTT)

This group is open to all Hope Church families with children of any age. The group will meet periodically throughout the year for various family-oriented times together. Events may include Game Night/ Game Day, Pancake dinner and celebration (Shrove Tuesday), and other opportunities for families to spend time together and with one another. Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website. Call or email Jocelyn VanHeest at jocevh2@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

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. More information about these special occasions will be available in advance of the church school sessions.

Children In Worship



Children In Worship is a walk-out program for ages three years through 5th grade during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. During worship, children will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for "A Word with the Children." From there, Children In Worship leaders will escort the children to the worship centers.

Children In Worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. Our children enter sacred time in order to experience and praise God by being with God, talking with God, listening to God, and hearing the stories of God. The special time and space of Children in Worship helps the children bring the stories of God's action in the past and promises for the future into their present experience as they wonder, respond in their own way to the story, and pray together in community.

Ages 3, 4 & 5

Room 202

A parent may be asked to stay with young three year olds until the child is comfortable in the center and is ready for worship

Kindergarten & 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.

The children's offering will be for a share of fresh vegetables to be given to the Community Action House from Groundswell. If you have any questions about the children's opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children's Ministry Director.

Youth Groups

Nurture faith. Build character. Create community. Engage in service.

Fish Club (Middle School)

Fish Club is a youth group experience for the 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. A variety of programming is offered to take a close look at ourselves, our faith, and our world. Service projects are an important part of the group's community ministry as well. Fundraisers enable us to plan some very special events, like retreats, and a trip to the Appalachian Trail. All middle school youth are welcome!

High Hopes (High School)



High Hopes is a youth group for 9th – 12th graders. There are a variety of social, service, and learning opportunities throughout the year. The activities are designed to build and strengthen relationships among the youth and sponsors as part of a community of faith. There will also be fundraising for a mission trip planned for the summer and service work right here in our community. All high school youth are welcome!

Both groups typically meet on Sunday evenings. Updated schedule information is available on the Hope Church website. Contact Pastor Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship, at bcarroll@hopechurchca.org with any questions.

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. *Crossings* uses eight key Biblical themes as a foundation and uses these themes to frame the larger Biblical story. This enables young people to understand the value of life in community with God and the church. 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

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Class is a focused time for participants to explore faith in God and their connection to the church and faith. The group often visits other places of worship and ministry. Some might call G.I.F.T. a "confirmation class," but this is a bit different. Some participants will be led to make profession of faith in Christ at Hope Church, but it's not required. Each person will sort through that step when the time comes. The broader idea of G.I.F.T. is that it is a unique experience at an important age to deal with issues of faith and life as a part of the church. This class is a two-year experience led by Pastor Gordon Wiersma.

10th - 12th Grade: High Hopes "Unshowered"

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). The approach is interactive and relational. Journal writing, singing together, praying for one another, and study are all woven together in this one-hour gathering that meets September through May. All 10th – 12th grade students are welcome, showered or not!

Adult Education

Mission Statement

The Adult Education group plans and coordinates educational opportunities for adults using as much as possible the talents and resources of the congregation. Such opportunities are intended for spiritual formation through biblical study and critical examination of cultural, social and moral issues from a Christian perspective.

Schedule - Fall 2017 to Advent

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

Commons I (unless otherwise indicated)

September 10-24:

Christian Hospitality

Beverly Zell, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, will help us examine the theological significance of Christian hospitality as a practice central to faith and identity and one worth reclaiming in an age of growing tribalism. An optional book, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*, by Christine D. Pohl (Eerdmans, 1999), will be available for purchase after mid-August.

September 10: Exploring Foundations of Christian Hospitality

Biblical, theological and historical roots ground our understanding of hospitality and inclusion.

September 17: Beyond Good Deeds—The Power of Recognition

Traditional ways of practicing hospitality and some fresh perspectives can move us into a deeper understanding of what it means to encounter Christ in the stranger.

September 24: Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice

We can weave hospitality into our lives as we welcome strangers into our church, community, and world.

October 1-15: Welcoming the Stranger: Past, Present, and Future

Southwest Michigan has experienced three periods of significant immigration by various ethnic groups: the Dutch in the mid-nineteenth century, Hispanic/Latinos after World War II, and Asians in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Refugees from the Middle East may soon immigrate to West Michigan.

October 1: The stories of Albertus C. Van Raalte, Engbertus Vander Veen, and Chief Waukazoo will tell why the Dutch came, what they expected and what they found, and Native American responses to the arrival of the Dutch.

October 8: Alfredo Gonzales, who arrived as a child with his migrant worker family, learned English, worked and studied diligently, and

assumed increasing responsibilities to become dean for international and multicultural education at Hope College. His story is of hardships endured and grace received.

October 15: Sarah and Aaron Yore-Van Oosterhout will discuss current immigration policy, local issues, and the work of Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates.

October 22-November 12: There Is No Place Like Home

The meanings and feelings of home run very deep in our human consciousness. But what exactly is a home? Why do some people lose their home? What does it mean to leave home? What does it mean to be “at home”? Steve Bouma-Prediger will help us explore these questions and the meanings of home, homelessness, and homecoming. Reading *Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement* (Eerdmans, 2008) co-authored by Bouma-Prediger and Brian J. Walsh will be optional. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

	Chapters	Question/Theme
October 22:	1-2	What does it mean to be at home? Home, Homelessness, Homecoming
October 29:	3-4	Why are so many people homeless? Socio-Economic Homelessness
November 5:	5-6	Why do we feel homeless on earth? Ecological Homelessness
November 12:	7-8	Why do we feel like exiles living in a landscape of the temporary? Postmodern Homelessness

Nov. 19-26: RCA missionaries in the Arabian Mission

November 19: Paul Heusinkveld will describe some of his experiences as a child of RCA missionaries and how they have influenced his life, education, family, and career. These stories and more are included in his book *Elephant Baseball: A Missionary Kid's Tale* (Eerdmans, 2017), which will be available for sale.

November 26: Paul will tell us about Dr. Eleanor Calverley, the first doctor in Kuwait, and about other prominent missionaries in the Arabian Mission. Fascinated by her life and dedication to improving the health and well-being of the women of Arabia, Paul is writing a book about this doctor and her impact on Kuwait.

December 3: Lectionary Bible Study by Pastor Jill Russell

December 10: Saint Nicholas Celebration

December 17: Lectionary Bible Study by Pastor Gordon Wiersma

December 24-31: No classes

Wednesday Evening Fall Series

Wednesdays in October (4, 11, 18, 25)
5:45pm-7:30pm with light supper provided

Pastors Beth, Gordon, and Jill will be leading a series using the book by Rob Bell entitled *What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*. We are interested in this series to bring people who might feel rather skeptical about how they were taught to read Scripture in the past together with people who are long time students of the Bible. We want to connect people who have never really read the Bible much for themselves together with people who mine the Scriptures daily. All of us will be invited through this series to think again about why we call this book the Word of God. Watch for an opportunity to sign up in September!

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 cultivating relationships across generations. Small discussion groups, Adult Education offerings that suit the interests and desires of younger adults, and shared meals are all ways we connect young adults with our greater church fellowship. We also connect with the Hope college community through our Pub Theology small group, one on one discipleship by Pastor Beth, sponsorship of student groups like Globe and Graces, as well as our pastors leading discussion panels and volunteering as guest lecturers.

Pub Theology

An off shoot of our young adult programming, Pub Theology is a group that meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30, usually at Hops on 8th Street. This theologically and generationally diverse group meets over snacks to discuss how the issues of the world connect with our lives with God and each other. All ages, backgrounds, and beliefs are welcome. Email Pastor Beth for details or join our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048625935279108/>.

More Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

BRIM Bunch: This group meets five times per year and is for people 50 years old or over who are looking for good fun, good food, and good fellowship. Meetings typically begin over dinner and include a program. For more information contact Richard and Marilyn Cook at (616) 396-1051.

Caring for Creation: This faith-based environmental group's goals are to explore and inform about ways to consume responsibly to protect the environment. The group organizes events such as kayaking trips and battery recycling. To get involved, contact the office!

Diners' Club: An opportunity for adults of all ages to socialize, have fun, be casual, build relationships, and eat. Groups meet three times per year (October, January, April) for a potluck style dinner at the home of the hosting member. Please contact the Hope Church Office for more information or to sign up.

Hope Church Readers: This group meets regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Commons II for a monthly book discussion. A member of the group leads the discussion while other members provide the refreshments and hospitality for the meeting. The reading list for the coming program year is created by member suggestions each Spring. For more information, contact Lauren Heyboer at (616) 786-0436.

Men's Breakfast: This group meets faithfully at 6:15 a.m. sharp every Wednesday. Each morning includes fellowship over breakfast and then a topical study with interactive discussion. Long-term relationships of support and caring grow out of this group. All men are welcome. For more information, please contact David Hawley at (616) 915-6188.

REST (Relax, Empathy, Share, Thanksgiving) Caregiver Support Group: This group meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 11 am and is open to anyone in need of resources or a time of sharing and friendship. If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Clark RN, Parish Nurse at 616-414-2983 or gclark@hopechurchrca.org.

Women's Circles: Circles meet either the first or second Wednesday of each month. The groups mostly meet in people's homes for a time of fellowship and refreshments and a time of Bible study. To find out more about the Women's Ministry, please contact the Hope Church office.

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HopeChurchRCA.org



A proud member
of Room for All