



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 61, No. 3

March 2018

In This Issue

Lent	2
Reconciliation	3
White Privilege	
Conference	4
Adult Education.....	4
Spring Unity Build	5
WSN Update	6
Poetry Corner	7
Events &	
Announcements	8-9
Ministry Highlight	9
Kids Hope.....	10
Children's Ministry.....	10
And Finally.....	11
At Home with the	
Word Lectionary	11

Inserts:

- *March Calendar*
- *Wisdom of the Wounded Calendar*

The deadline for the April newsletter is **Sunday, March 18.**

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:

9:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: Closed

Hope Church, RCA

77 West 11th Street

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(616) 392-7947

HopeChurchRCA.org



Worship During Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 25

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Palm Sunday Celebration

11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration

We begin the journey through Holy Week with a Palm Sunday processional, liturgy, preaching, and song.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

6:00 p.m. Seder Dinner

This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office (392-7947).

7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)

The service follows the path of Jesus' passion through the Last Supper and crucifixion and includes communion, prayer, scripture & music.

Bus Ministry: *If you would like to ride the bus for the Thursday, March 29 Seder Dinner and Tenebrae Service, please sign up in the gathering area. If there aren't any sign ups, the bus will not run.*

Good Friday, March 30

12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service at Hope Church

Hope Church will host a community ecumenical Good Friday service, in cooperation with several downtown Holland congregations: First UMC; Maple Avenue Ministries; Third Reformed; Fourth/New Community RCA; Holland UCC; Grace Episcopal; First Presbyterian. The liturgy of scripture, song and prayer will focus on the seven last words of Christ on the cross, and will be led by participants from the various congregations.

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch ~ please bring a breakfast item to share!

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Celebrate the Risen Lord! Pastor Jill Russell, preaching, and Pastor Gordon Wiersma, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder. Church School will not be held.

For more information on the Season of Lent, see page 2.

Wednesday Evening Lent Series Continues

We will continue to join with Grace Episcopal Church (555 Michigan Ave.) for their Wednesday evening Lent Series.

6:30pm Eucharist Service
7:15pm-8:45pm "Values in Action" Program
at Grace Episcopal Church

The program will be utilizing video from the Trinity Institute Conference held in New York City in February and will engage us on the intersection of faith and contemporary issues.

March 7: Video of Deirdre Good, Andrea Weiss, and Adnan A. Zulfiqar describing a national, non-partisan campaign called American Values Religious Voices that brought together scholars from a diverse range of religious traditions to articulate core American values after the national election.

March 14: Video of Elizabeth Edman, priest and political strategist, articulating her conviction that our job as people of faith is to show the world that the power of God is a real thing – to make it plainly, graphically, authentically visible in the world. For our commitment to have any impact – for our values to translate into action – we must do something harder: we must cultivate this commitment as a virtue. We must live it.

March 21: Video of Mark Bozzuti-Jones and Winnie Varghese, priests, authors, and Trinity Church Wall Street's directors of Core Values and Justice and Reconciliation leading us in reflection on how we put values into action.

Healing Prayer Service: March 18

Sunday, March 18
11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

There will be a healing prayer service as part of our 11:00 AM Worship Service on Sunday, March 18. The liturgy at the 11am service will focus on the need for healing from God in our lives, in the lives of those we love, and in our world. During the service, there will be the opportunity for the congregation to offer prayers for healing and to receive a blessing of healing oil as a symbol of God's healing touch. If you are unable to attend and would like a particular prayer for healing to be included, please contact one of the pastors or the church office to let your prayer request be known.

Easter Offering Designation

The duties of the deacons, according to the Book of Church Order, include "a ministry of mercy, service, and outreach...and care to the whole benevolence program of the church. They have charge of all gifts contributed for the benefit of the poor and distribute them with discretion." Many of the organizations that are supported through the regular benevolent budget of Hope Church, such as the Good Samaritan Ministries, Community Action House, the Free Health Clinic, and others work for the benefit of the poor.

But often the requests and need for assistance comes in a more personal, individual form both from within the congregation and within the neighborhood. That is why the deacons also maintain a Deacons Fund. These needs come in as requests

for food, gas, emergency auto repairs, rental and utility expenses to help people remain in their home and keep it comfortable, unexpected medical or dental expenses, and immediate expenses caused by a house fire. Typically these requests are from the immediate area, but occasionally the Deacons Fund is also used for more widespread assistance such as helping to purchase supplies for kits sent to Flint in response to the water crisis in cooperation with Maple Avenue Ministries. Actual decisions on the use of Deacons Fund moneys are made by the pastors, sometimes in conjunction with the Senior Deacon, with review from the entire Board of Deacons (without identifying information included).

Hope Church is generous in its support of the Deacons Fund, but the needs

are also ongoing. Therefore at their January meeting, the deacons voted to designate the 2018 Easter offering to go to the Deacons fund. This year you have a double opportunity to give: on Easter Sunday, April 1, there is a special envelope for an Easter Offering as well as one of the 'extra' yellow envelopes which are included throughout the year for Deacon's Fund contributions. Using only one of the envelopes is fine, but please consider keeping the other one for another contribution at some point during the year. The envelopes can be placed in the offering on any Sunday, not just Easter Sunday, and if you don't use the envelopes, writing Deacons Fund on the memo line of the check is fine.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry of Hope Church.

Witness to Reconciliation

JoAnne Brooks, Hope Church member

One thing I've learned in my old age is that our God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Go back with me, will you, to Hope Church in 1956. We had just called a great young man from Iowa called Marion DeVelder. He came with all the zest and passion of making the church relevant and to make it grow. When he arrived he urged us as Hope Church people in 1956 to grow our church, to expand our church, to reach out into the community.

We came up, about a year later, probably about 1957, with the idea that we needed to build an educational wing. We had a vote in the congregation like we always do, even today and lo and behold, the church was split right down the middle, 112 votes for the educational building and 106 against. So, a committee was formed. And 4 years later the committee had not come up with any solution. And so they disbanded and a new committee was formed. Anyway, this committee were go-getters and within 6 months they had a plan, they had a budget, they had an architect, they had a builder and were ready to go.

Well, those of us that had really been against the idea, we thought it was too much expense for a building that was only going to be used one day a week, on Sunday. So, those of us who had voted that way and saw it beginning to happen, we formed a group that searched in Holland for ways in which we could use our daycare center the other 6 days.

At the same time there was a wonderful organization in this community called Church Women United. And boy that was a great thing. They had a wonderful migrant ministry for when the migrant workers were brought up

here to pick the berries. They had built a day care center out on Berry Street and they had a chapel. They also had a regular program for the migrant families in the evening. Our doctor, Dr. Boersma, Vern Boersma, came one evening every week and listened to their health needs and their medical needs. We were all very much involved in that migrant ministry.

After the summer was over, we decided on the board of Church Women United that we should be working all year round, not just in the summertime. And so we began to hunt for ways that we could be of service to the community. Carol VanPutten, who was a Hope church member and also worked for the Bureau of Social Services, told us they had a need for some volunteers to come in and help them with the families they were working with. And so we started a program called HANDS. Help and Service.

The very first thing the department of social services asked us to do was to be with a young 16 year old girl who had two small children but had never learned to read and write. And so, they were about to put the children into Foster care because she wasn't keeping good care of them. I said "I'll take that. I'd really like to help with that." Fifty years later we were still friends when she passed away a Christian.

We decided that the next 6 months we would be their helpers. And within 6 months we had 6 more calls like that for other women to go into the homes of mothers who were not doing well and help with the care of the children. We didn't have any women who had that much time to give to it and so at the end of the 6 months Carol VanPutten and I decided that what this community needs is a day care

center for low income people. Now we took this need of the community to the group who were looking in Holland for ways to use our educational wing the other 6 days of the week and they were all for the idea for starting a day care center.

We got permission from the consistory and we had our license given to us. The wonderful thing was that we knew the black women north of Holland in the black church and we knew the latino women through Church Women United and so we hired several black aides for the classroom, and we hired two latino women to be our teachers. We filled in with Dutchmen and had a great group.

Hope Church got behind it hook, line and sinker. They really, really were enthusiastic about this day care center. They provided the transportation that we needed and they provided the produce from their gardens with which we fed the children. They really came together as a powerful support group for the daycare center.

We started at the beginning of summer with having these people, all the teachers and aides and everybody come together and it was a melding of the most unusual group. The black people, the latino people and the dutchmen, (which I have always been amazed with how well they all got together) all working with the children in the classroom. A lot of little black children, little latino children, little white children. And talk about a melding of people who don't usually live together! But it was a beautiful, beautiful assimilation of children and staff and their parents. We had to have 51% of the parents on the board so the parents also were melded with our church people. And it was just a beautiful sight to see happening.

The White Privilege Conference: April 4-7, 2018 - Grand Rapids, MI

Reconciliation Ministry

ABOUT the WPC

For the past 18 years the WPC has examined challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solution and team building strategies to work towards a more equitable world. WPC is a conference designed to examine issues of privilege beyond skin color. WPC is open to everyone and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege including race, gender, sexuality, class, disability, etc.

The conference is unique in its ability to bring together students, youth, teachers, university faculty, activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, and members of both the spiritual community and corporate arena. Issues of race, addressed from a comprehensive, intersectional perspective, bring in dynamics of gender/gender identity, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, ability and class.

Our strategy in addressing issues of inequality involves bringing together a consummate network of both national and regional lead learners and practitioners to work and learn from each other. This synergistic collaboration produces both paradigm shifts and personal action. As our evaluations confirm, the WPC provides an opportunity for participants to discuss how white privilege, white supremacy, and oppression affects daily life while gaining strategies for addressing issues of privilege and oppression and advancing social and economic justice.

The Youth Action Project is a dedicated event for high school youth to seriously engage issues of race, oppression, privilege and what it means to be an ally. The workshops, youth led caucuses, race affinity groups, interactive activities, film, spoken word, Theatre of the Oppressed techniques, and fishbowl discussions address issues of heritage, racial identity, language, isms, labels, teamwork, and strategies for community action and social change. The final day of the conference culminates as the youth join the larger conference, integrate learned concepts and present a powerful closing performance for all conference attendees.

To attend, register online at www.whiteprivilegeconference.com.

Adult Education: March

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

March 4: Well-Being

We will focus on two facets of well-being by calling attention to: "I AM a living being!" Presenter: Earl Laman.

March 4: Born to Belong- we are not isolated and independent beings. Thus, we'll view the promise and complications of "be-longing", once again via experiences and realities arising from therapeutic journey.

March 11, 18 & 25: A Light Unto My Path: Interpreting Scripture as Reformed Christians

On March 11, 18, and 25 Jim Brownson will be presenting a three-session series titled "A Light Unto My Path: Interpreting Scripture as Reformed Christians." This class will view a 3-part video series created by Todd Billings with the title listed above. Churches throughout the RCA have been invited to view the series and to engage its contents, particularly in light of recent divisions and conflicts within the denomination. We will participate in this invitation, exploring the range of approaches to Scripture that are part of the Reformed tradition, and inviting reflection on how the faithful use of these traditions can speak to and inform our present controversies. The series will be led by Dr. Jim Brownson, who serves as the James and Jean Cook Professor of New Testament at Western Theological Seminary, and who has been a long-time member of Hope Church.



THE WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE

WHO Attends the WPC?

- Annually approximately 2,000 participants each year.
- Attendees travel from more than 35 states, Australia, Bermuda, Canada, and Germany.
- More than 90% of conference participants report leaving with new information and resources, and gained strategies for addressing issues of privilege and oppression regarding social and economic justice.
- More than 90% of participants were satisfied with the overall quality of the conference and will recommend it to others.

"I attended the WPC for the first time in 2014. It was a life changing experience for me. I thought I knew a lot about the work of racial justice but had my mind and heart opened in ways I did not anticipate. It is well worth the commitment to attend!" ~Pastor Jill Russell

Spring Unity Build for the Glidewell Family

Community Ministry

Helping address the affordable housing shortage and building strength, stability, and self-reliance for families, Hope Church has long been a partner with Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity. Since 1990, more than 200 families in Ottawa and Allegan counties have been served.

This spring Hope Church is supporting the Unity Build for Kala and Taavi Glidewell. Their home site will be at 155 Bluefield, near West Ottawa Middle School.

What is a Unity Build?

It's a collaborative effort, a partnership in ministry, with local churches to help provide funds, gifts-in-kind, and volunteers to build a home. It's an opportunity to do missions in our own back yard and to impact a family's life for generations to come. Hope Church Community Ministry has allocated

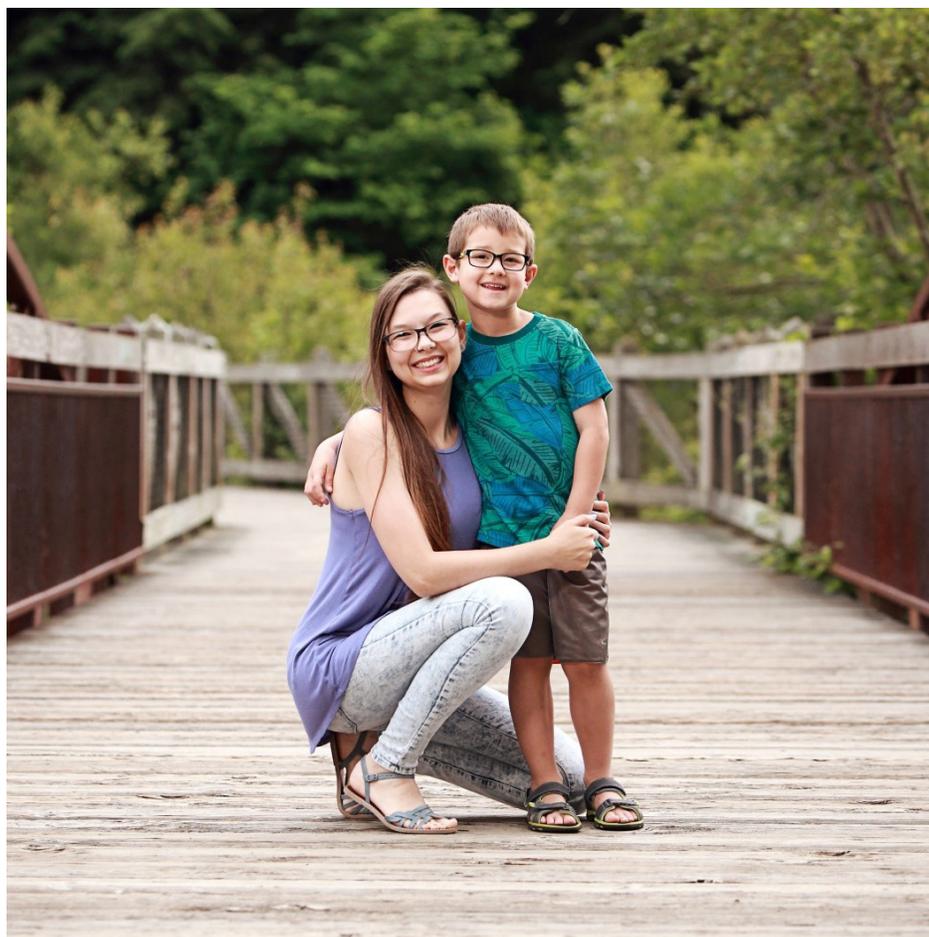
\$2,500 to the Unity Build and is now seeking your involvement.

How can I get involved?

- Volunteer! If you like to swing a hammer, roll on paint, install tile, stage materials, or bring a snack out to a crew, express your interest on Sunday, March 25, during Pizza Sunday. Travis Steinhoff, Lakeshore Habitat volunteer coordinator, will be here to answer questions. He can also be reached at volunteer@lakeshorehabitat.org. Or, contact me, Anne Saliers, at 616.848.1230 or asaliers@hollandbpw.com. Shifts are AM or PM, April - September. You can sign up individually, or as a group. (Minimum age is 16 years old. Those 16-18 must be with a guardian.)
- Gifts in kind. Contractor expertise, building materials, food for the

volunteers, etc.

- Financial support. Join the Hope Church table for the annual Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity From Hope to Home fundraising luncheon at noon on Tuesday, May 1, at the Doubletree. Lunch is delicious and free and the program inspiring. Donations are encouraged. 100 percent of donations go toward building houses. Please contact me to save your spot.
- Prayers, for the safety of the crews, volunteers, and families in the program.
- Participate in ground-breaking and dedication events.
- Donate goods, volunteer, and shop at ReStore, 12727 Riley. The public is welcome!
- Refer a family for a home.



Meet the Glidewell Family

Kala Glidewell is a busy and active mother, and along with her full time job at West Michigan Office Interiors, she likes hiking, playing games, and reading with her 6-year old son, Taavi. A Finnish name meaning beloved, Taavi loves soccer, Pokemon, video games, and reading. His favorite color is metallic gold and he is already talking about painting his bedroom that color! Kala's goals as a Habitat homeowner are to become financially stable and to save for the future. She said, "Owning a Habitat home will provide happiness and stability, enabling me to raise my son in a life-long home. We will have a sense of pride about what we can accomplish."

Habitat homeowners must have lived and worked in the area at least a year, been turned down for a conventional mortgage, have put in 250 "sweat equity" hours, and completed personal budgeting coursework. The mortgage they pay is at 0% interest.

Washington School Neighbors - H.O.P.E.

Lisa Kasten, Neighborhood Connector



Washington School Neighbors

Hope is a word that many people reach for in uncertain life circumstances. Hope can provide a steady faith that everything will work out according to what is best for your life. Beyond this view of hope being a kind of faith that things will work out, hope can also undergird our mission to create value in the lives of our neighbors.

What if **HOPE** stood for **Host Opportunities and Provide Encouragement**? This forms the basis for what Washington School Neighbors seeks to accomplish in the neighborhood surrounding Hope Church through our Block Connectors. We recently met with some 15 households that have a desire to become more invested in their neighbors' lives by becoming Block Connectors. Block Connectors are an important part of our neighborhood as they work to connect smaller groups of residents by forming relationships, communicating needs or concerns, and creating places to gather and serve within our outreach area. This is where the first part of the "H.O.P.E." acronym comes into play...

Host Opportunities. For many,

busyness is a way of life. When we keep ourselves continually busy, even for good reasons such as for our job or for our families, we can miss out on relationships that are meant to enrich our lives and open our eyes to those living around us. Washington School Neighbors equips Block Connectors to host events and opportunities designed to foster relationships. One way we do this is through the provision of seasonal themed block boxes, which are kits that may include all the pieces for a craft project, cups, plates, beverage mixes and we even print the invites. Washington School Neighbors wants to make the process of gathering with your neighbors as simple as just opening your home and being present to meet other neighbors who share a vision for living life in community.

Provide Encouragement. The second half of the H.O.P.E. acronym has the same goal of building relationships and highlights an area that WSN also wants to facilitate. If we can provide encouragement to residents to use their gifts and talents in a way that benefits the entire community, then value is added to the neighborhood. We all have gifts that we have been equipped with that are meant to be shared with those around us. This could be something as simple as time. In order to reach all of the people that live within our outreach area, we need individuals to give of their time, such as Block Connectors who help to deliver our quarterly newsletters to some 500 households. We have been

encouraged by the neighbors who have shown a desire to invest in the Washington School Neighborhood on a deeper level through our Block Connector teams. In turn these Block Connectors are reaching out to their neighbors to provide encouragement and continue the cycle of giving. Sometimes all people need is a little encouragement.

When we look to planning events for the coming year, what opportunities can you envision being a part of? What kind of an event would make you set aside busyness to gather with your neighbors and possibly form new relationships? How can WSN encourage you in your life and in the ways that you may want to play a larger role in your neighborhood? We exist to make this diverse neighborhood richer through listening to your needs and empowering you to bring about change.

Please feel free to let us know what types of events you would like to see us host and the ways in which we can encourage you. Christen@washingtonschoolneighbors.com or Lisa@washingtonschoolneighbors.com.

Also, we are still looking for neighbors within the WSN area that want to become Block Connectors. If you are interested, our next meeting is **Tuesday, March 27th from 5:30-7 pm** at Herrick Library.

WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com

Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors

Pigs in the Blanket Fundraiser

Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship

Young people, Sausage, and Carbs, I dare you to find anything more perfect than these three things! On March 11, our youth will be making pigs in the blanket to raise money for our upcoming summer trips. Order forms are in the gathering area; please order them by March 4.

Poetry Corner

hosted by Randy Smit and Rhonda Edgington

This month, I (Rhonda) will start us off, with a poem I've written, and another that I heard for the first time this fall and found meaningful.

Many of you probably know the work of poet Jane Hirshfield, but I heard her read at GVSU last fall, and was enamored! She read this poem, which reminds me that writing isn't really about getting famous or getting published. For me, it's about saying things that need to be said, both for the sake of the poet, and for her readers. About how finding the space and time, both inside ourselves, and in our lives, to make writing happen, is sometimes the most difficult hurdle. And about how we need each others' work. I hope this Poetry Corner, in some small way, can be a place like that for you as well.

The Poet

by Jane Hirshfield

She is working now, in a room
not unlike this one,
the one where I write, or you read.
Her table is covered with paper.
The light of the lamp would be
tempered by a shade, where the bulb's
single harshness might dissolve,
but it is not, she has taken it off.
Her poems? I will never know them,
though they are the ones I most need.
Even the alphabet she writes in
I cannot decipher. Her chair --
Let us imagine whether it is leather
or canvas, vinyl or wicker. Let her
have a chair, her shadeless lamp,
the table. Let one or two she loves
be in the next room. Let the door
be closed, the sleeping ones healthy.
Let her have time, and silence,
enough paper to make mistakes and go on.

At the suggestion of a friend and mentor, I spent a week at retreat center Gilchrist, in Three Rivers, Michigan, two summers ago, and the place has changed my life. Now I try to go at least a few times a year, in different seasons. I always walk for hours, in the woods and over the prairies, and I usually leave with a few new poems. This one was born during that first visit.

Surprised by the Holy

by Rhonda Edgington

Tromping through the woods
following an unfamiliar trail
I set out with good intentions
of living in the now
feasting on the moment.

But before I know it
I am everywhere but here
anytime but now.
All imaginary dialogues, worries,
obsessive ponderings, over-analysis.

My feet follow the path somewhere amazing -
blackberries around every turn, ripe and juicy,
unexpected vistas, meadows of goldenrod,
hillsides of pine and maples, birds and crickets

calling to me from the bushes and grasses -
but my brain is going in circles
stuck in a suburban cul-de-sac
gazing at all the things I'd left home to avoid.

Until a racket startles me, just out of sight
off the trail but nearby - leaves thrashing,
feet stomping, and the briefest glimpse
of leaping hind legs, a white tail in the air.

I missed that sighting and many others
So often coming out of myself too late.
Had I been walking quietly my eyes and mind opened
I might I have slipped up beside them.

Looked over and gazed at her
our eyes meeting for a moment
alert still and suddenly aware.

Events and Announcements

Service of Lament with "The Many"

We will be welcoming a Chicago group to Hope Church, Plural Guild and The Many, who will help lead us in a service of lament. The Many will join us in worship on Sunday morning, March 4 and share a few musical selections with us. In the afternoon at 3pm, through music, liturgy, art, poems, and prayers, we will have a chance to lament together and privately. You may be interested in hearing more about their music - check out their website, pluralguild.com. Please join us for this special event, sponsored by the Reconciliation Ministry and Worship, Prayer, and Spirituality Ministry, on Sunday, March 4 at 3 PM. Child care will be provided.

Orientation to Hope Church Class:

On Sunday, March 4, at 9:40 a.m., an Orientation to Hope Church Class will begin for people wanting to learn more about Hope Church. The class will meet on three Sunday mornings, March 4, 11, and 25 at 9:40 a.m. in Commons 2. You are cordially and warmly invited to attend these orientation classes.

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet March 7, at Freedom Village at 9:30 A.M.

Circle 2 will meet on Wed. March 7, at 9:30 A.M. in Commons II.

Thank You

*Dear Hope Church members,
I am so appreciative of all that people from the church have done for me since the death of my son, Stuart. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers in this time. ~Kay MacKenzie*

This comes as a most sincere thank you for the many who did one or another thing that were so helpful to me following my recent surgery. There was a new thermometer and a good book delivered, fresh fruit for healing, a ride to the MD's office, and many calls and cards. I may be like many others who find that when I went about my usual stuff, I didn't know how much I

Circle 4 will not meet in March due to Lenten activities.

Daylight Savings: March 11

Daylight savings begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11. Remember to turn your clocks forward an hour!

Coffee Time at Freedom Village

This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. The next Coffee Time will be at Freedom Village on Tues, March 13, at 10:30 am.

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, March 21st at 1:00pm in Commons II. Audrienne Hill will lead our discussion of the book, A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline. New members are always welcome! If you would like more information, call Lauren Heyboer.

Spring Garden-Clean Up

Gardeners! A clean-up extravaganza is planned for **Saturday, April 7 from 9:00 am til noon!** Plan to come for an hour or half a day – there will be plenty to do and people to tell you what to do! Bring your own equipment and gardening gloves.

might need. What a difference many individual acts of kindness did mean. I am truly grateful. ~Norma Killilea

*Dear Hope Church family,
Change is hard for me and I hate it. However, I have been inundated by it lately. Practically everything has been affected by it from giving up my dog (I've had one or more for 80 years), giving up driving, moving from the country in a 6000 sq. ft. house on 20 acres to a 800 sq. foot house on a tiny lot in Holland. That's along with the loss of Al through a tragic accident. I could go on but one thing has not changed and that is the support of my church family. I know*

Interfaith Community Dinner

Come to enjoy conversation with people from various traditions over a vegetarian Thai dinner on Tuesday, March 13 at 6 PM at the Holland Area Arts Council (150 E. 8th St). All are welcome. Be sure to register early, as space is limited. Register online at: interfaith-community-dinner.eventbrite.com. Suggested donation: \$5 per attendee. Presented by the Interfaith Allies.

Lent & Eastertide Musicians Needed!

Have you thought about singing or ringing lately? And how you may be able to contribute to the musical life of Hope Church? The choirs of Hope Church are in need of additional singers and bell ringers for the upcoming worship services and festival Sundays of Eastertide. Chancel Choir members are expected to have the ability to read music. You do not have to be a soloist, just add to the choir section. Handbell ringing does require arm and wrist coordination and good degree of concentration! If you have minimal music reading skills, i.e. played in high school band, sang in choir, bell ringing is a great group experience, ask Brian or Rhonda for more details. Please join us as we continue our tradition of well-played/sung music in our worship services.

I can count on you whether it means rides I may need, checking to see I'm all right, condolences to say I'm being thought of. Thank you again for being my family. ~Jan Smith

Thank you Hope Church friends for all the lovely birthday cards and notes in celebration of my 105th birthday. You made my day so very special. I cherish all those years I attended Hope Church, and the many friends who were a part of my life. I miss you all. I am in good health and enjoying each day here in Hyannis and very grateful for the wonderful care from my daughter Peg. ~Dorothy Robinson

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.

Stewardship & Finance Ministry

Fred VanDoornik, Stewardship & Finance Ministry Co-chair

The Stewardship & Finance (S&F) Ministry of Hope Church supports the Hope Church mission by providing oversight and guidance of the annual financial operations of the church. Some key activities include:

- We work with all of the other ministries to establish and propose an annual budget for the church. This includes establishing the timeline for the budgeting process, coordinating the annual stewardship campaign, and shepherding the budget through the Consistory and the congregational meeting for approvals.
- We establish and maintain procedures to ensure that the church's financial activities are handled accurately and with transparency and integrity while also serving the mission of Hope Church.
- We carry-out the budget that is

approved by the congregation.

- We do review a summary of financial performance on a monthly basis to ensure that there is appropriate cash available to fund operations and resolve questions that might arise from staff.
- We address finance-related topics that don't currently have a procedure or method for handling special or unique situations.
- We maintain the "Hope Church Financial Policies and Procedures" manual.
- We periodically perform an audit of the books which includes a compliance review of established financial procedures to ensure everyone who deals with money in the church is following what is outlined in the policies and procedures manual. An audit has been scheduled for April 2018 by an outside auditor.

- We work closely with the Hope Capital Campaign team, acting as a 'check and balance' measure over the project budget.

The current members of the S&F Ministry include Fred VanDoornik (co-Chair), Tom Marthens, Kevin Rosenau (co-Chair). Pastors Jill and Gordon are ex-officio members; and the church Financial Administrator, Karla Kammeraad-Bos, also participates in our meetings. We anticipate that there will be openings on the S&F Ministry in the near future, and would encourage anyone who is interested to contact one of the current members. The time commitment is low (1-2 hours per month) for ministry members, and it's not necessary to be an accountant or have a financial background.

Please continue to pray for this ministry and if you feel called to participate please let us know.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Reconciliation Ministry.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

05	Nancy VandeWater	17	Bette Williams
05	Marjorie French		
06	Barbara Bingham		
10	JoAnne Brooks		
14	Terry VandeWater		
16	Duncan 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

Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director



I have been thinking about why someone would volunteer to be a Kids Hope Mentor. I remember getting an email once from a mentor who stated that he could think of no other 50 minutes of time spent that had the potential to make such a difference. That is so true of Kids Hope. In that once a week, 50 minute time period our volunteers spend with their student, they are creating a relationship that not only lasts throughout their elementary school years but now with the Kids Hope "Next" program into their middle school years as well. Our Kids Hope mentors learn that Kids Hope is not a tutoring program like some think it is but rather puts its emphasis on relationship building. The bondings run deep and sometime go beyond the school walls. Let me explain.

I know that one of our Kids Hope mentors has had their student over to their house to play games. Another

has taken their student miniature golfing, another out for ice cream and others have enjoyed other outings together. None of this is required beyond the 50 minutes spent at school but are an example of how close their relationships have become.

One example recently really shows how a mentor has gone over and above what they initially signed up for. In this situation the young man that this mentor was mentoring changed schools and was no longer going to Vanderbilt. One of the things that he asked about was if his mentor could come to his new school and mentor him. While sometime this is done it is more frequent that the student would be assigned a new mentor who is affiliated with the church that mentors at that specific school. But not in this case. His mentor wanted to continue mentoring him and got in contact with his mom to see if she was in agreement with this. She was thrilled to think that he would continue mentoring at the new school even though it was farther away on the north side of town. To get a feel for how strong their relationship is let me quote the mentor in his email to the Kids Hope Director who oversees the program at the school his student

moved to: "I have been his Kid's Hope mentor for the past three years and am glad that it can continue in his new school at Lakeshore Elementary. On the very first day that I met him at the beginning of the 1st grade, his first two questions for me were: "Am I your only Kids Hope child?" and "Will you be here next year too?". Last year when he found out that Kid's Hope has a program that allows for tutors to continue on past 5th grade, he immediately asked I we could continue. It all points to the need in his life - and undoubtedly the lives of many others like him - that Kids Hope fills. I'm glad to be able - in a small way - to provide some added adult continuity in his life."

I am so excited for both of them that their relationship is continuing. it shows how deep the role of mentor and mentee can become. So when you or I ask why someone would volunteer for Kids Hope, just think of what a difference 50 minutes a week can make in the life of a needy child. The bonds are strong enough that they reach beyond the school walls,, that they include "going the extra mile" to make it work and that not only is the child's life made better by the involvement of a caring adult but that your life too will be changed for the better by the giving of your time. Thinking of volunteering? Come this summer I hope to recruit YOU!

Children's Ministry - Save the Date for Peace Camp: June 18-22

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Children ages 5-10 are invited to attend Peace Camp which is a day camp during the week of **June 18 through June 22**. The camp is being held at First Presbyterian Church and they are inviting children from the community to come together to learn peace building and conflict resolution skills. This year's theme is "Explore a Path to Peace." The children will see how to experience, practice and learn peace. Further information will be available soon. Please ask me if you have any questions about the camp program. I will be there the entire week and we are looking for more adult leaders. If you are interested in being a part of this experience please contact our church office. The campers and leaders had a wonderful camp last summer as we learned together how to make a difference in the world by making peaceful changes in our own lives and sharing with others.

and finally

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

Acts 2:17

During our Youth Sunday service a few weeks ago, we explored the practice of the Old Testament prophets, who would pass their mantle, or cloak, to the next prophet as a sign of God's anointing. Specifically, we looked at the mentoring relationship between Elijah and Elisha. Elisha would follow Elijah around, observing him, learning from both Elijah's strengths and even his weaknesses. Eventually, Elisha was ready to receive the anointing of God's spirit, literally picking up Elijah's mantle, which was left on the ground when Elijah was whisked away into a whirlwind to heaven. The work of Elijah didn't stop; it continued on through all Elisha had learned from him.

Such is the work of mentoring relationships today. While studies show a steady decline in the church attendance of millennials and even middle-aged adults, those same studies reveal that young people who are empowered into leaderships

positions in church and have the gift of being in relationship with older adults stay and thrive in the church. As an added bonus, this same mentoring relationship is predicted to improve church retention and involvement with older adults too.

Enter Generation Spark. Generation Spark is a new church mentoring program developed by the Center for Leadership at Hope College. Six churches have been selected to pilot this program, allowing researchers to study and learn from official mentoring relationships that will occur over a period of 12 weeks. Hope Church is one of the 6 churches that have been selected for this program! I have begun the process of pulling together a leadership team, mentors, youth ages 16-24, and prayer partners to begin this potentially life changing program, which will launch on April 15. I attended a training program several weeks ago and was greatly impressed by how thorough, well organized, and specific the program is. Mentor/mentees meet weekly for two hours to go through guided exercises and devotions, as the younger person also explores a challenge in the church or community they'd like to study and even imagine solutions for. Our Hope Church Generation Spark

exploratory committee, made up of youth and adults, was energized by the possibilities this program brings to enrich and expand our church community.

So how can you be a part of this excitement? There are several ways. If you see yourself as a strategist, consider joining the leadership team. This team will meet monthly before the program launches and during the 12-week run of the program. Especially consider being a mentor! No experience with young people is required, only curiosity and a desire to make a new young friend. For each of the 6- 10 mentoring relationships, we also need a prayer partner. Someone who commits to regularly praying for the pair and checking in with them on occasion to offer encouragement and take any specific prayer requests they might have.

This is a program for all of us! Just like the picture in Acts 2, a robust vision of the church is one where the gifts of younger people and older people alike are celebrated to bring vibrancy and healing for the world. How will you pass on your mantle?

Blessings,
~Pastor Beth

At Home With the Word

Sunday Lectionary as Daily Bible Readings

March 1-4

Thursday 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
Friday John 2:13-17
Saturday John 2:18-22
Sunday Third Sunday in Lent

March 5-11

Monday Numbers 21:4-9
Tuesday Psalm 107:1-3
Wednesday Psalm 107:17-22
Thursday Ephesians 2:1-7
Friday Ephesians 2:8-10
Saturday John 3:14-21
Sunday Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 12-18

Monday Jeremiah 31:31-34
Tuesday Psalm 51:1-12
Wednesday Psalm 119:9-16
Thursday Hebrews 5:5-10
Friday John 12:20-26
Saturday John 12:27-33
Sunday Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 19-25

Monday Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Tuesday Mark 11:1-11
Wednesday Isaiah 50:4-9
Thursday Psalm 31:9-16

Friday Philippians 2:5-11
Saturday Mark 15:1-39
Sunday Palm/Passion Sunday

March 26-31

Monday Isaiah 42:1-9
Tuesday Psalm 71:1-14
Wednesday Hebrews 12:1-3
Thursday Maundy Thursday;
John 13:1-17
Friday Good Friday;
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Saturday John 19:38-42



Hope Church News

March 2018



It's Back!!! Think Hope Silent Auction returns Saturday, April 21, 5pm-8pm

Community Ministry



After a hiatus last year (as our facilities were being renovated!), Community Ministry is bringing back the ever-popular **Think Hope** Silent Auction. This evening of fine food, fellowship and fun will be held this year to benefit CompRenew,

a local non-profit that offers technology education using pre-cycled electronics. This designation had been made in consultation with our Caring for Creation Ministry, and more information about CompRenew will be available at the Think Hope event.

So the date is set for you to mark your calendar, but the key to Think Hope is your **creative donations!** **You can start now to craft or collect your donations to the silent auction!** To inspire you, past-year items that reflect the creativity and talents of our members have been

knitted scarves, hand-sewn grocery bags, original artwork, cakes and pies, ethnic dinners, boat rides, and babysitting and carpentry services. We're planning a delicious dinner along with an evening's entertainment (the rumor is that square-dancing may return!), and you provide the items and the bids.

Watch for more communications about ticket sales and logistics for delivering your contribution! And plan to join us for a celebration of our members, their gifts, and our support for a vital organization in our community.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	2 8:15 am Yoga Class	3
4 Third Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Beth Carroll, Communion</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 3 pm The Many - A Chance to Lament 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal	5 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance 7 pm Community	6 12 pm Early Worship Meeting	7 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 4 pm Adult Education 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Lent Series at Grace Episcopal	8 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	9 8:15 am Yoga Class	10
11 Fourth Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Begins! 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma Communion</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 5 pm Youth Pig-N-Blanket Fundraiser	12 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory & Board of Elders & Board of Deacons	13 10:30 am Coffee at Freedom Village 5 pm Fellowship	14 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4 7:15 pm Lent Series at Grace Episcopal	15 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	16 8:15 am Yoga Class	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> G.I.F.T. Class Heartside Trip </div>
18 Fifth Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell, Communion Healing Prayer Service</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School 12:15 pm Blood Pressure Clinic 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 6 pm Fish Club Tank Time	19 4 pm Outreach & Hospitality 7:30 pm Reconciliation	20	21 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir 7:15 pm Lent Series at Grace Episcopal	22 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	23 8:15 am Yoga Class	24
25 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:30 pm Caring for Creation 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal 6 pm High Hopes Unplugged	26 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Christian Education 7:00 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality 7:15 pm Personnel	27	28 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	29 Maundy Thursday 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Seder Dinner 7:45 pm Tenebrae Service	30 Good Friday 12 pm Community Good Friday Service	31