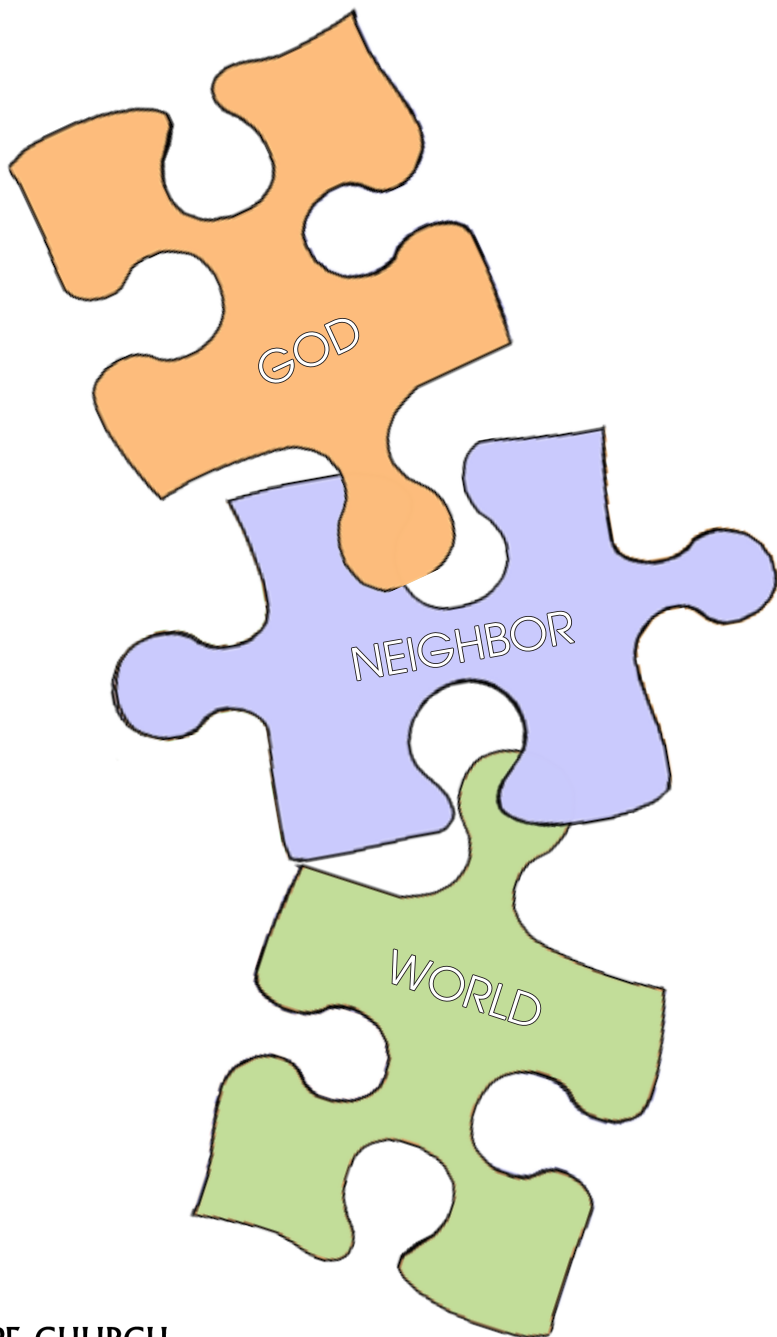


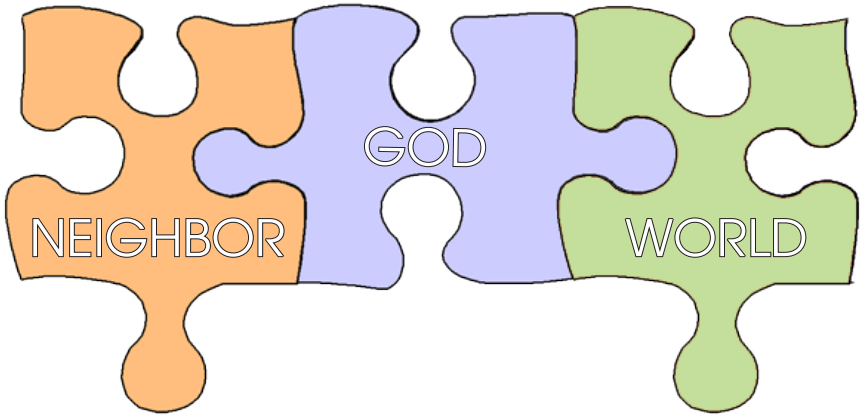
# CONNECTIONS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
OFFERINGS 2013-2014



# CONNECTIONS

"God has reconciled us to God through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:18



Words are important, and actions are too. As Hope Church looks ahead to another program year in its ministry, the Christian Education Ministry offers the theme of *CONNECTIONS* to bring our words and actions together as a community of faith.

The words are important:

"*CONNECTIONS: GOD, NEIGHBOR, WORLD.*"

They are an expression of the reconciling grace of God and of the themes of 'Connecting' and 'Engagement' that Hope Church has discerned for its ministry.

And what might those words look like in action? How about a puzzle! To be connected by God's grace is to be linked to our God, our neighbors, our world. To be connected is to no longer be on our own, but put together into something greater, better, complete.

Look at the opportunities here for ways to make, deepen, and renew connections to God and others in your life. Look for ways to link our words and our actions. The puzzle won't be complete without you!

# 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 song and anthems. This year's fantastic music plan includes new music and classics, as well as global music. Come join our worship choir! Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Church music room. For more information, contact Brian at [BCarder@hopechurchrca.org](mailto:BCarder@hopechurchrca.org).

## Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

**Rhonda Edgington, Director**

**Rehearsals:**

**2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month**

**5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

If you love music, have some basic note reading skills, and enjoy making music with others, the Carillon Choir may be just the thing for you. Music is rehearsed to be used approximately monthly in worship services. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, October 9. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Rhonda at [RhondaBSE@gmail.com](mailto:RhondaBSE@gmail.com)

## Children's Choirs

Children's choirs will take place seasonally. Watch for announcements in newsletters and bulletins and online.

## 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. Piano, guitar, wind, brass, or string; anyone wishing to participate should make his or her talents known to Brian Carder.

# NURSERY & YOUNG CHILDREN

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

**9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Room 103**

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 use the paging system by the nursery for 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.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

The parent-tot group will meet two Wednesday mornings a month in the Hope Church Commons. Playgroups often consist of story time with a simple snack (provided), an optional craft, free play, and time to talk with other parents while playing with the kids.

Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website.

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# CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School (Preschool through 5th grade)

**9:40 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Room 204**

Classes will be using the “Kid Connection” curriculum, inviting the children to connect with each other, their leaders, the Bible stories, and their families. 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.

Family Church School

**2nd Sunday of each month beginning in October**

# 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 and 1st grade Room 204**

**2nd and 3rd grades Room 206**

**4th and 5th grades Room 208**

This year’s offerings will be given to missions supported by Hope Church. If you have any questions about the children’s opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children’s Ministry Director.

# YOUTH GROUPS

## Our Purpose

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

### Fish Club (Middle School)

Fish Club is a youth group experience for the sixth, seventh, and eighth 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!

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Both groups typically meet on Sunday evenings. Watch for special joint events with First Presbyterian Church & Grace Episcopal Church youth groups. Updated schedule information is available on the Hope Church website. For more information, contact Anne Duinkerken, Youth Ministry Director.

# YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL

## 6th & 7th Grade

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

### **Library**

This class follows the “Dwell” curriculum, developed by Faith Alive Christian Resources in cooperation with the Children’s Ministry Office of the Reformed Church in America. “Dwell” is a place where young teens and leaders pause to wonder, imagine, marvel, and dive into God’s story. Developed out of a desire to provide children and young teens with less noise and more time to experience God, “Dwell” creates an environment for entering into God’s story, and then living into and living out of it together.

## G.I.F.T. (8th and 9th Grade)

**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 Andrew Spidahl (Fall 2013) and Pastor Gordon Wiersma.

## High Hopes Unshowered (10th through 12th Grade)

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

### **Garden Lounge**

This group meets with Pastor Jill Russell and Gretchen Schoon-Tanis 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 high-schoolers 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.

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Schedule ~ Fall 2013 Through Advent  
Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.  
Commons I (unless otherwise indicated)

### **September 8: Stories from the Mission Trip to Haiti**

Hope Church members Larry and Karen Mulder, Kari Miller-Fenwood and Ben Sikkink report on their five-day mission trip to Haiti in March 2013.

### **September 15–September 22:**

#### **Spanning Two Cultures: Stories from Children of Missionaries**

Children of missionaries grow up influenced by the Western Christian culture of their parents and the non-Western non-Christian culture of a mission field. How do these mixed influences shape them? What does it feel like to return to their childhood home after decades have passed?

**September 15** George Kraft tells of his childhood in China and his return there for three weeks in 2012.

**September 22** Don Luidens, son of RCA missionaries Ed and Ruth Luidens, describes growing up in India and spending his teen-age years in Lebanon. He returned to the Middle East in the summer of 2012 to visit Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman.

### **September 29: Reading and Faith**

Not only has Scripture shaped our faith, but also works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry have changed our hearts and minds and encouraged us. This past summer several Hope Church members listed more than 100 book recommendations. Some will talk about how a book has helped form their faith.

### **October 6: Healing Service in the sanctuary**



## **October 13: Wes Granberg-Michaelson's Unexpected Destinations**

Wes Granberg-Michaelson's choice to attend Hope College rather than Wheaton has taken him to some "unexpected destinations," and he'll share some of his reflections from his ministry within the denomination and around the world.

*Please note, there are two courses available from Oct. 20-Nov. 10*

### **October 20–November 10:**

**Caring for Creation presents *Low Carbon Diet – A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds*** (Meeting in Room 106)

*But what should I do?* We often ask ourselves this question when discussing global warming. Caring for Creation will facilitate a four week presentation addressing this issue. The "Low Carbon Diet" is a proven national curriculum which identifies specific actions that any homeowner can follow.

### **October 20–November 24:**

**History of Christianity, Reformation Through the 20th Century**

We'll pick up where we left off last spring with Diarmaid MacCulloch's DVD series. Discussion leaders include Judy Parr, Ed Anderson and Milt Nieuwsma.

- October 20** Reformation: the Individual Before God, Zwingli of Zurich, John Calvin of Geneva
- October 27** The Church of England, the New World, Bohemia and Beyond
- November 3** Protestantism: The Evangelical Explosion, John Wesley, American Diversity
- November 10** Slavery and Religion, African Missionaries, Korean Pentecostals
- November 17** "God in the Dock," Natural Philosophy, the French Revolution
- November 24** Modernism, Wars, Scientific Socialism, Questions

### **December 1-January 5: Advent Series**

A four-session series about Women in the Lineage of Jesus—interrupted by an anachronistic diversion: Breakfast with St. Nicholas

- December 1** Lynn Japinga tells Bathsheba's story
- December 8** Breakfast with St. Nicholas
- December 15** Jane Dickie tells Ruth's story
- December 22** Leanne VanDyk tells Rahab's story
- December 29** No class
- January 5** Sharon Arendshorst tells Elizabeth's and Mary's stories

# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Dwelling and Playing in the Word

**Wednesdays in October: 9, 16, 23, and 30**

**5:45-7:30 p.m.**

Scripture is both deep and wide. We often dip from it here and there, but perhaps more rarely have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in only a few verses for a longer period of time to discover its depth. This four-part series will seek to go deep into the story of the Widow's Oil from 2 Kings 4:1-7 by using memorization, body movement, staging, and creative reflection as a way to let this scripture dwell with us. Each session will begin with a meal provided by a group member and culminate with a time of interaction and reflection.

Look for the group sign-up and meal sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area this Fall. Childcare can be provided if necessary; please note if this is needed when signing-up. For more information, contact Andrew Spidahl.

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## MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH & ADULTS

**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 Lois & Vern Boersma at (616) 396-7247.

**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, winter walks, and battery recycling. They also provide various educational offerings throughout the year to give each of us the tools to live a sustainable lifestyle and enhance God's creation. Contact Peter Boogaart for more information at (616) 772-1659.

**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.

**Flexibility Class (FLEX):** This class is targeted toward older adults and accommodates people who might find exercise too strenuous. Instructor, Maxine DeBruyn, will accommodate people who have different levels of activity. The class meets for several eight week sessions throughout the year on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in Commons I. For more information, contact Maxine DeBruyn.

**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 Ruth Donaldson.

**Men's Breakfast:** This group meets faithfully at 6:15 a.m. sharp every Wednesday morning. 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.

**R.E.S.T. Care Group:** R.E.S.T. stands for Relax, Empathy, Share, Thanksgiving, and is a group for anyone who is looking for support in their care giving roles. The group's mission is to provide an environment for caregivers in various situations to relax, share, and support each other through empathetic listening, in a spirit of thanksgiving to Christ our Savior. Meeting times are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Hope Church library. For more information, contact Hope Church Nurse, Donita Robards at (616) 499-1609 or [donita.robards@resthaven.org](mailto:donita.robards@resthaven.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 Hope Church Women's Ministry, please contact the Hope Church office.

**Youth Karate:** This class is for youth ages seven and up, and meets every Friday at 5:30 p.m. starting September 13. Class Instructor, Ric Beltran, has 35 years of experience and is a 1st degree black belt Tai Kwon Do; 4th degree Japanese Karate; and 5th degree Sato Karate. There is no cost for the class, but donations of food or clothing for Community Action House will be accepted. Sign up by contacting the Hope Church office.

# HOPE CHURCH, RCA STATEMENT OF MISSION

Approved January 2013

## OUR FAITH

Hope Church is called by God and equipped by the Holy Spirit to be a witness to the unity, reconciliation and justice given in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. These touchstones drawn from the Belhar Confession give voice to the historic Christian faith in our time and place.

*"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation! God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."*

*II Corinthians 5:17-18*

## OUR MISSION

Hope Church affirms these values to be at the core of our calling:

**TO GROW IN FAITH:** We seek to grow not only in numbers but, most importantly, in depth of Christian commitment. We seek to identify and engage each person's particular gifts and to direct all our gifts in faithfulness to God's Word.

**TO PIONEER:** Founded as a pioneering congregation, Hope Church is willing to experiment courageously and to press ahead in new directions. We continue to seek creativity and excellence in worship, nurture, governance, and outreach.

**TO BE OPEN:** We celebrate and proclaim God's welcome of all people. Hope Church is blessed and strengthened by the rich diversity of background, race, gender, sexual orientation, culture, gifts, and interests present among and around us.

**TO LEAD IN CHRISTIAN ACTION:** Hope Church is committed to service, both locally and worldwide, and we support the work of justice and compassion by all people of good will. We serve both as a congregation and individually through our daily living.

*"There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, varieties of service but the same Lord, varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." -I Corinthians 12:4-7*