

# Good News of Great Joy



*"Let the earth rejoice..."*  
Psalm 96:11

## Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

### 5:30 pm Family Worship Service

Christmas carols will be sung and the Christmas story will be told as we worship the Christ child together.

### 11:00 pm Candlelight Communion

Scripture lessons, carols, and music will fill our worship in a celebration of the birth of Christ. We greet Christmas morning sharing communion together, celebrating Jesus' birth.

## Christmas Sunday

Sunday, December 28

### 11:00 am Christmas Worship Service

A worship service of carols, scripture, poetry, Christmas celebration & reflection.

*There will be no Early Worship, Church School, Adult Education, or CIW.*

## Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 4

### 11:00 am Epiphany Worship Service

Andrew Spidahl, preaching  
The 4th and 5th graders will participate in the service.

### 11:15 am Children in Worship

### 12:15 pm Epiphany Celebration

*There will be no Early Worship, Church School, or Adult Education.*

## Opportunities to Give

### Alternative Christmas Gifts

Tired of searching for the "perfect present"? Sponsor a chicken, goat, cow or other items that can provide food and income for hungry families through the RCA Care Network, "Give A Gift of Hope". Go to [www.rca.org/giftsofhope](http://www.rca.org/giftsofhope) to support this ministry. Look for more information in the Gathering Area on Sundays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14.

### Tree of Light

Become more involved in the lives of the community by selecting a tag off the tree in the Gathering Area beginning Nov. 30. Each tag will indicate a specific request. Purchase, wrap, and return the gift to Hope Church by Dec. 14.

### Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering will support organizations addressing the Ebola outbreak in Western Africa. Hope Church will support Doctors Without Borders, which is one of the most effective organizations in working with local partners to offer both treatment and prevention. We will also support the We-Care Library in Monrovia, Liberia (supported by the late Dr. David Klooster of Hope Church), which is addressing the education crisis brought on by Ebola through the delivery of home school kits to children.

### White Gift Offering

On Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 4, bring a personal care product for a child or woman, wrapped in white tissue paper. These gifts will be brought forward during the offering, and later given to the Center for Women in Transition, a local agency assisting women and families caught in abusive relationships and empowering a hopeful future for them.



HOPE CHURCH  
77 WEST 11TH ST.  
HOLLAND, MI 49423

# A Longing in Our Hearts



## Advent 2014



HOPE CHURCH

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# Longing for Mercy

“Come to save us...”  
Psalm 80:2



# Longing for Comfort

“Comfort my people...”  
Isaiah 40:1



# Longing for Healing

“Bind up the brokenhearted...”  
Isaiah 61:1



# Longing for New Life

“Nothing is impossible with God...” Luke 1:37



## First Sunday of Advent November 30

9:30 am Advent Alternative Worship  
11:00 am Worship

Gordon Wiersma, preaching

4:15 pm Jubilate Rehearsal

5:00 pm Advent Activities

• **Children: Crafts**

Preschool\* through 5th grade will make crafts for the Advent and Christmas season. \*Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling.

• **Youth: Cookie Baking**

Fish Club and High Hopes will make cookies to deliver while Christmas caroling on Dec. 21.

• **Adults & Youth: Card Making**

Bring your list of friends, family, and church members in need of prayer and support. Supplies for card making will be available as well as premade cards.

5:30 pm Advent Evensong Service

Advent Evensong is a candlelight service of evening prayers incorporating song, prayer, and scripture. We begin the season of Advent mindful of the longing in our hearts for the healing of the world and for those we love.

6:00 pm Soup Supper & Lighting of Advent Candles

A simple meal will be provided after the Advent crafts and activities.

## Second Sunday of Advent December 7

9:30 am Advent Alternative Worship  
11:00 am Worship

Jill Russell, preaching

12:15 pm St. Nicholas Brunch

This will be a time to remember the traditions of St. Nicholas and share brunch in the Commons.

1:00 pm Jubilate Rehearsal

### Advent Alternative Worship Service

Advent Alternative Worship at Hope Church will meet at 9:30 am on Sundays, beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 30), and will have three movements for each service: a journey inward, a journey outward, and the Lord's Supper. The journey inward will invite us to center our hearts and our lives, to step away from the lies and distortions that our culture throws at us in this season, and to deepen our hope for Christ's presence and action in the world. The journey outward will deepen our connectedness with each other, and will clarify and strengthen our participation in God's gracious action in the world. In the meal, we will be fed and strengthened for our journey. The worship will be participatory, contemplative, creative, playful, and joyful.

## Third Sunday of Advent December 14

9:30 am Advent Alternative Worship  
11:00 am Worship

Gordon Wiersma, preaching

4:00 pm Childcare available for

pageant participants

4:00 pm Jubilate Rehearsal

4:15 pm Nativity Rehearsal

*Rehearsal for speaking parts only*

4:15 pm Advent Organ Recital

Hope Church Organist, Rhonda Edgington, will share Advent and Christmas tunes and texts during a concert that will feature music of 20th century France and Germany, as well as the music of Bach.

4:45 pm Pageant Participants Arrival

Children are asked to come costumed as a character in the story - a shepherd, sheep, angel, or magi. If you are in need of a costume, they will be available in the youth room. *Please pick up your costume Sunday morning.*

5:00 pm Nativity Pageant

The pageant is a wonderful event for the whole church community to gather and celebrate the music and meaning of this season as the children act out the events of the Gospel story. A light snack will end the evening in the Commons.

*Original Advent artwork by Kari Miller Fenwood*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21

9:30 am Advent Alternative Worship  
11:00 am Worship

Jill Russell, preaching

12:15 pm Pizza Sunday

12:30 pm Jubilate Rehearsal

1:00 pm Congregational Caroling

Share the spirit of celebration and joy with those who find it difficult to join us. Poinsettias, gift bags, and cards will be shared as we carol. You don't have to have a great voice, just a smile to share. We will carol both to our own members and in the Hope Church neighborhood. Families and persons of all ages are encouraged to participate - many voices are needed!

