



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 58, No. 6

June/July 2015

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**The deadline for the
August newsletter is
Monday, July 20.**

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday:
9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday: Closed

Hope Church, RCA
77 West 11th Street
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-7947
HopeChurchRCA.org



"Hope and Grace" Softball Team Season Begins



The joint Hope Church and Grace Episcopal Church softball team began its season with a VICTORY of 14-7 against Central Park on May 15!

Many more games are scheduled for June and July (dates and times can be found on the calendar insert). All games are played at Bilmar fields (Felch and 100th Ave in Zeeland).

Come and cheer on the Hope and Grace team, and join us for pizza afterwards!

Interested in playing? People of all skill levels are welcome to participate. Women are especially needed! If you'd like to learn more about it, please contact Andrew Spidahl.

Did the Pastors Visit You When You Were in the Hospital?

If they were informed of your presence there: Yes!

If they did not know about your hospitalization: sadly, no.

Have you ever wondered how the pastors and congregational care ministry members learn about people's needs for care? The very simple answer is they know what people tell them.

So here is a request from your pastors and congregational care group leaders: please let the office know if you are facing a hospitalization or any other time in life when you might appreciate some

outreach and care.

We welcome those calls. If you know of someone going through something and have their permission to pass it along to the pastors, please call and let them know. They much prefer to be told the same thing 15 times than to miss an opportunity to reach out in love to someone in a time of need.

One final note: **if you are ever**

hospitalized tell the hospital staff to call your pastors if you would like them to know. This should be asked of you during intake. It doesn't always happen so don't hesitate to bring it up yourself. If you ask them to call the church, they will do it. If you want only the pastors to know and not the church office, ask for a chaplain and pass along this request to them. They will then handle the request discreetly and contact the pastors directly.

Living Hope Capital Campaign

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader



As this newsletter goes to press, we approach several important milestones for the Living Hope Capital Campaign. It's clear that we achieved the \$100,000 challenge grant that was offered for pledges before May 18, by a wide margin. The Capital Campaign Team is humbled by and grateful for the support shown for the continuing mission of Hope Church. May 31 is the date at which progress against our fundraising goal will be assessed, so that a recommendation can be made to Consistory.

Consistory will meet on June 15 to act on the recommendation made by the Living Hope teams, with support from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry. Once the scope of the renovation is set in that meeting, planning for construction can begin in earnest. Watch for communications about decisions and next steps in late June!

Camp Think Hope A Success

Community Ministry

Sincere appreciation to all who helped make the May 16th Think Hope a reality, including those who donated auction items, prepared food, and planned and set up; those who served, provided table decor, performed, and cleaned up; and those who ate, chatted, sang along, laughed, purchased auction items, and will still deliver food or services.



Many enjoyed bidding on the fabulous auction items representing the gifts and talents of the Hope Church community.



Hope Church Youth served delicious hors d'oeuvres including sunshine asparagus quiche.



Prayers and Partnership

Carole Hintz, Kids Hope USA prayer partner



With the hindsight and the insight of two years as a prayer partner with Barbara Schmitt and Isaih, a fifth-grader next year, I have discovered that “Prayers and Partnership” to be the better wording arrangement for understanding my role.

We who serve Kids Hope USA do so “for the love of children.”

Thus at the heart of our partnership is the hope to build relationship, to encourage growth, to acknowledge accomplishment, to strengthen confidence, to share stories, to discover the “I can . . .”, to bask in the joy of partnership. All of these hopes are lifted to God in prayer and trust, thanksgiving and faithfulness.

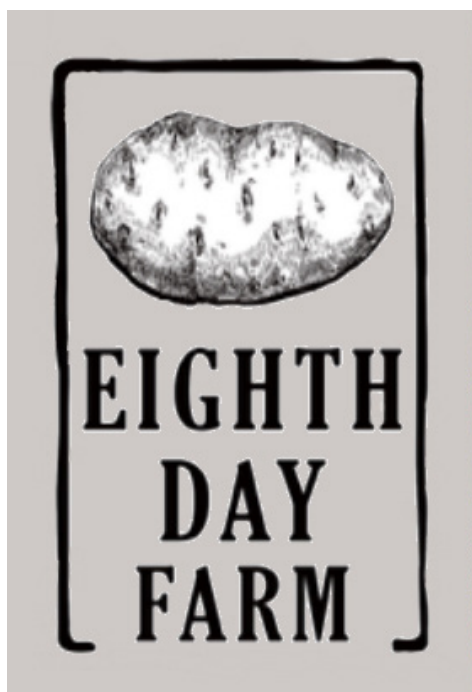
Barb and I have consistent, weekly communication with honest assessments. We are helpmates through sharing and active listening which is the guiding beacon toward praying, responding, and relating. Barbara’s devoted attention and weekly updates, the special book Isaih and I share, and Isaih’s trust in our commitment, brings each of us together in partnership.

The ‘special book’ is one Isaih chose to do, beginning in third grade. He and I write notes, share poetry, draw pictures, send holiday wishes and create games in our book. Barbara is the conduit between us. There are no time parameters, only the promise of honest, genuine sharing. It is a book Isaih cherishes. It is a book that records his growth and insight. He will be given this book when he graduates from Kids Hope next year.

Not only being a partner but also being a substitute mentor when Barbara is unable to meet with Isaih has truly strengthened our threesome relationship. The journey together has been very prayerful, surprising, challenging, and deeply memorable. We three look forward to our third year together!

Caring for Creation

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator



Many of you are already familiar with the wonderful work of Eighth Day Farm, a local urban farm whose mission is to Love the earth, love our neighbors and love our food! The core of the farm is a seasonal vegetable CSA program that provides weekly shares and half-shares for individuals and families from early June through early November. The farm also donates at least 10% of everything we grow to area food providers including the Community Action House, the Community Kitchen at Western Seminary and the Center for Women in Transition.

They just wrapped up a Kickstarter campaign that will provide the

resources to plant an urban orchard at their southside neighborhood location - the Growth Center - near Zion Lutheran Church (29th and Pine). They're raising money to repaint the outside of the building and plant fruit trees, shrubs and other perennials in a small area of the property that was not being used for food production.

The Caring for Creation ministry has supported this campaign and will have "Hope Church" engraved on a plaque made of recycled wood that will hang in the Growth Center. You're invited to come visit and check it out!

Youth Ministry

Beth Jarvis, Youth Ministry Director

When I was 18 years old, I joined a crew of kids from my church to do hurricane relief in Homestead, FL during our Spring Break. Hurricane Andrew had nailed south Florida the August before, becoming one of the costliest hurricanes in American history. I was certain that though my construction skills were limited to hammering thumbs, I mean nails into planks of wood, my work would make a sizeable impact in all of the devastation. Well, there was a sizeable impact made that week, but it had little to do with meeting the vast needs of Homestead. I learned two life lessons. God taught me that there is an entire world out there hungry for the life-giving message and redemptive kingdom work of the gospel and that we cannot do it all on our own. This work starts with God's spirit and it happens through God's church. I have carried these lessons in my heart for over 20 years.

It is with this anticipation of God's formation in the lives of our youth that our ministry teams passionately prepare for our two summer trips. This year Fish Club resumes their annual trek to the Appalachian Trail the first week of June and High Hope's embarks on a workweek at Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn, NY in August. This will be the 26th year for the A.T. hike, and this will be the 5th time High Hopes has travelled to Greenpoint, so these are good and strong traditions that are being carried forward. It is such a gift to be able to witness all the ways God is at work in connecting their young hearts to God, each other, the church, and the greater world.

There are two specific ways that you too can connect with this work. Please be in prayer for our teams; that God would give us safety and robust health before, during, and after our

trips. We are also in need of funds for the High Hopes trip. **In fact, save June 28 on your calendars! After a three year hiatus, High Hopes will be resuming our 1950's drive in, where you can feast on hotdogs and ice cream.** Check upcoming bulletins for more details.

As always, let me say thank you to you all for the honor and blessing of working with the youth of Hope Church. They are gift to me, just as they are a gift to our church.



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.

The Health and Healing Ministry -- Is More Than Checking Blood Pressures!!

Ann Piet Anderson, Health Ministry member



We attempt to create a congregational atmosphere which understands and values the deep connection between our faith and our health. Even though we are a subcommittee in Congregational Care, we are ready to help all of Hope Church ministries accomplish their missions. To accomplish this, we offer many opportunities for you to participate in living this connection between your faith and your health.

- Healing Prayer Services during the year (cooperative effort of Worship, Prayer, Spirituality and the Music Ministries).
- Yearly Adult Education Series. Last fall we presented 4 sessions on Integrative/Holistic Health topics.
- Weekly Flex and Balance exercises for older adults led by Maxine DeBruyn on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 pm.
- Monthly newsletter articles with our Health Ministry Bulletin

Board featuring the same theme, with books, pamphlets and other information on a topic for you to read. The CARE NOTE rack is nearby.

- Maintain medical equipment to borrow for use at home. Maintain first aid kits and the defibrillator.
- Provide a flu shot clinic in the fall
- Frequently hold Blood Drives in cooperation with our neighbor – The First United Methodist Church.
- Summertime exercise challenges like GO AND GLOW.
- Monthly Blood Pressure checks and consultations on Pizza Sunday.
- The Knitting Ministry promotes and keeps track of those who receive Prayer Shawls.

This past fall we provided a picture directory of Hope Church Medical Persons. This will help the Deacons be familiar with them in case of an emergency.

Last October, MAKING CHOICES MICHIGAN was featured as an Advanced Care Planning and Advance Directive evening to promote conversations between persons who are designated as a

medical Power of Attorney and those for whom they may have to speak.

In March we said “good bye” to our Parish Nurse, Donita Robards, who moved to Georgia to be with her 3 sons. This May we welcomed our new Parish Nurse, Ginger Clark, who is eager to begin her ministry with us at Hope Church. She is eager to meet you.

Health Ministry is a support for our Parish Nurse and Congregational Care visitors. Please let us know of your needs and suggestions for future events.

Hopefully, the Caregivers Support Group will re-organize soon and other support groups will be inspired to begin – especially one for those living with depression and/or other mental health situations.

New members are always welcome. Come and join us and learn the importance of why Churches should care about HEALTH as well as FAITH.

LUKE 9:2 “...and he sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to HEAL.”

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Caring for Creation Ministry.

New Parish Nurse Hours

Please take note that the new Parish Nurse Office Hours are Thursdays, from 2:00-4:00 PM starting on June 4, in the Hope Church Library.

Go and Glow Returns This Summer

Health Ministry



The Health Ministry is again launching “Go and Glow” to get us moving this summer. There is a quote from Iraeneaus, “The glory of God is the human person fully alive!” Part of being fully alive is being attentive to how we honor and love God with mind, soul and body. Churches often provide a myriad of ways to support you in loving and honoring God with your mind and soul. We have been less attentive as churches to ways we can support each other in loving and honoring God with

our body. We have less experience within the church for how we can be proactive in our physical health and how that contributes to being more fully alive.

For those who are able, we encourage you to make some fitness goals for the summer. Beginning on Sunday, May 31st, you can pick up cards to indicate a goal you have to get moving...to go and glow! One card will be left with the church and the other card you will take home to be displayed in a prominent place to remind you of your goal. The goal cards will be available in the church office and also may be returned there.

If you meet your goal you can turn in your card for a drawing at the end of the summer to receive a prize. Along the way - take a photo of yourself

‘on the go’ and post it on the Health Ministry bulletin board or Hope Church Facebook page. It will be fun to see the many ways people are taking up the challenge.

We hope people will find ways to join together in their fitness initiatives. Having people who want to meet to walk together or having partners for bike trips is way more fun than trying to go it alone. A weekly walking group will be available to learn how to use the Holland Wellness Trail: A 1/2 mile to 1 mile city walking trail with intermittent work out stations for mild strengthening. Details coming soon!

Another great way to meet your goal is to attend “Flexibility and Balance” (FLEX) with Maxine DeBruyn on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

Washington School Neighbors Update

Andrew Spidahl, Neighborhood Connector



Washington School Neighbors

About this time last year, Janelle Lopez-Koolhaas joined the WSN team as a Neighborhood Connector.

She had in mind the summer, and then “we’ll see.” The “we’ll see” turned out to be a year, and a fruitful one. Janelle’s social and organizational skills, her creativity, her vision, her innate understanding of community development, and her intercultural experience made her a great fit and a great asset to our neighborhood work. She is moving on, as planned, and we want to thank her and bless her on her next phase. For now, she and her family are still living in the

neighborhood. Thank you Janelle!

As a new summer recruit to help with events and the WSN garden, we’ve agreed to hire Gary Benson. His interests in community building and his experience as a farmer with Eighth Day Farm give us a lot to look forward to as well. Stop by this summer to see how the garden is growing on Pine and 10th St., and look for other community gardens springing up around WSN.

WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com

Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors

Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle One will meet on Wednesday, **June 3 at 9:30 AM** at Nancy VandeWater's daughter's home (Patti Bing). **Circle 2** will meet on Wednesday, **June 3 at 9:30 AM** at Hope Church in Commons II.

Community Kitchen Volunteers

Hope Church provides volunteer people to work/serve at the Community Kitchen 2 to 4 times per month, from 11 am to 1+ pm on weekdays. If you would like to be part of serving a good nutritious meal to disabled and disadvantaged folks of our community, simply call Earl Laman. Whether regularly, seasonal, this summer (Possibly with your teenager!), you can have a needed experience. Here are the willing HC folks who regularly or "on call" have served the past year: Sharon Arendhorst, Ann Duinkerken, Mark Rhodes, Dave and Barbara Schmitt, Milt and Marilee Nieuwsma, Linda McFadden, Janet Elzinga, Gerry Van Heest, Barbara Bouma, Pete Hintz, Earl Laman. Ask them about it!

Blood Drive - June 14

The next blood drive will be held at Hope Church in Commons I on Sunday, June 14 from 9:30 am - 2:15 pm. You may make an appointment by calling the Red Cross or by signing up in the gathering area after the service. Walk-Ins are also welcome as always. Beside blood donors, we are in need for volunteers to operate the drive.

Help is needed in the following areas:

- 2 persons on Saturday June 13 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. to assist in setting up the needed equipment
- 3 persons for the welcoming table (1 person for each time period) 9:30 -11:00 am, 11:00 am - 12:30

pm, 12:30 -2:15 pm

- 2 persons on Sunday from 2:45 - 3:45 pm. to assist in taking down the used equipment

The sign-up sheet will be found in the gathering area.

Hope Church Readers - June 17

Hope Church Readers will close out the year with its annual salad luncheon at Jean McFadden's home on Wednesday, June 17 at 12 Noon. At that time, next year's book list will be chosen. Members may submit one book for the choosing, making sure that it has a paperback edition.

Brim Bunch - June 25

The Brim Bunch will meet June 25 at 6:00 at the church. 'Summer Camp Memories' will delight you with Marlin and Judy Vander Wilt as your Camp Directors. They will remind you about all the wonderful parts of summer camp: friendships, music, devotions, picnic food, ice cream. And you won't have to contend with any of the bad parts: no mosquitoes, no sand in the sleeping bag, no poison ivy. The great picnic food will be pork barbeque on buns, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, Klondike bars and decaf raspberry tea & orangy lemonade. Meet at the church. Only \$8 at the door. Guests are always welcome and there is no age discrimination. The bus will run.

Holland Area Pride - June 27

The Holland Area Pride Festival will be held on the grounds of the Window on the Waterfront Park on Saturday, June 27, from 12N - 5 p.m. This year's event will feature music entertainment, a petting zoo, vendors, a silent auction and more. Look for the Hope Church table among the booths that day.

Summer Pizza Sundays

Upcoming Pizza Sundays will be held on June 28, July 26 and August 30 after 10 a.m. worship. Please sign up in the Gathering Area if you are willing to serve as host in the future months.

Camp Sunshine 5k - July 15

Come join Camp Sunshine in downtown Holland for the 5th Annual Run for the Sun. The streets will host runners, walkers, and spectators for a 5K timed race and 1 mile walk/run on July 15th at 6:30pm. This is a very fun event with music, food and lots of sponsor booths to visit both before and after the race. For more information or to register, go to CampSunshine.info.

Blueberry Pie Sales - July 24-26

The blueberry pie sale is being planned for Sunday, July 26. Once again the proceeds from the sale will be used to support the ministries of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty and Hope Church's Adult Mission Trip Fund. Help will be needed in the making of these delicious treats on Friday and Saturday, July 24-25. Please watch the bulletins and your emails for announcements with further details in July.

Pictorial Directory - Sept. 21-26

Plans for the 2015 Pictorial Directory are underway! Please mark your calendars for the week of **September 21-26** for portrait sessions. Look for more details in August regarding signing up for a specific time slot!

June & July Birthdays

June 30	Ruth Green Care Group: 2
June 30	Betty Gordon Care Group: 8
July 14	Lois Boersma Care Group: 2
July 17	Dorothy Sherburne Care Group: 12

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@hopechurchra.org

Room for All 10th Anniversary Dinner: June 22



**From Loss to Legacy:
Recalling our Past,
Ensuring our Future:**
Room for All will

mark their 10th anniversary with a celebration dinner on Monday, June 22nd at 6 PM. The event will take place in Schenectady, New York, where the RfA's seeds were sown during the 2005 General Synod trial and conviction of the Rev. Dr. Norman Kansfield, who presided at his daughter Ann's same-gender wedding. We're delighted that Norm and Ann will be the guest speakers!

RfA invites your participation at any of three levels: **1. With a donation of \$400**, you may invite eight people to attend at your invitation, or if you prefer, you may sponsor a table and allow RfA to invite eight people on your behalf. Table sponsors are asked

to sign up by May 25th and submit guest names by June 8th. **2. If you prefer not to sponsor a table, you may help to underwrite the event** with a general gift in any amount. **3. If you would simply like to attend**, the suggested at-cost donation for an individual ticket is \$50 per person (sign-up deadline June 8th).

The evening will include an invitation to support the expanding work of Room for All. In all cases, please reply by the given deadline at RSVP@roomforall.com, or call Cameron Van Kooten at 201-803-9738. Table sponsors will receive electronic invitations to distribute along with other instructions; individual guests will receive a confirmation along with event details, and event underwriters will be given payment instructions. All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

Juneteenth Celebration: June 20

The African American Awareness & Development Organization (AAADO) of Holland presents the 15th Annual Juneteenth Celebration, at Kollen Park on June 20 from 1-7 pm.

The Festival will provide a celebrative

atmosphere that brings people together from all cultures and backgrounds across West Michigan. The Juneteenth Festival will provide a day of unity and peace. Come and enjoy the fine food, excellent entertainment, and fascinating conversation!

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help install new hymnal racks (to accommodate both of our new hymnals) sometime in July! Please let the church office know if you are willing and able to help. Stay tuned for further details.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

Children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will leave the 10:00 AM worship service after the Word with the Children, and will meet in the Youth Room. This summer we will start by learning about God's Family in ACTION. We will discover how God's family grows, works, cares and welcomes others. We will be playing games, hearing God's stories, singing songs, and doing activities together. The children will be done with their activities at the end of the worship service.

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Our children dedicated their offerings to support the schools in Martinpur, Pakistan. These schools were named in honor of Dr. Samuel Martin, who was a United Presbyterian Church missionary there in the late 1890's. He was also an ancestor of Sam Martin, a Hope Church member. We enjoyed knowing we had a connection to

school children so far away.

Through their giving we are able to donate \$400 which is enough to offer a day student scholarship and school supplies for one student for a year. Thanks for your help, children, in remembering to share what you have with others.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SURVEY

The Christian Education Ministry recently sent out a survey by email to all the families of Hope Church with children and youth. The survey will be used to collect the families' thoughts and ideas regarding activities that are currently being offered and any input or suggestions for our future planning. There are also survey copies available in the office. Please take the time and complete these surveys or if you would prefer members of the ministry would love to speak with you directly. We value your assistance and look forward to working together to nurture your

families.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

The CIW leaders ask you to prayerfully consider joining them in the wonderful experience of worshipping with the children of Hope Church. The leadership schedule can be very flexible to match your availability. The Children in Worship program is an integral part of the nurturing of the children as they begin their faith journey. We are in need of storytellers, whether experienced or willing to learn, to help staff the current worship centers. It is a great way to meet and get to know the wonderful children in our faith community. If you have a Sunday a month, or a few consecutive weeks that you would be willing to be involved you can be of great service. You will be enriched as much if not more than the children themselves as you worship together. Thanks for your consideration.

Brim Bunch Corner

Here's the recipe for Applesauce Jello.

Mix 1 3 oz. box cherry, strawberry, or raspberry jello (sugar free works fine) with 1 cup boiling water and 1 teaspoon lemon juice. Stir until all crystals are dissolved.

Add 1 1/2 cups Meijer Cinnamon Applesauce. Stir until blended. Chill.



and finally

A Window into Classis Exams and Beyond

Classis exams for ministerial candidates in the RCA can produce some anxiety. I am preparing for mine now. But rather than feeling dominated by anxiety, I'm rather stimulated by many thoughtful and beautiful questions that the examiners pose to us ahead of time to get us thinking. Take this one, for example:

"Share with us about a doctrine or theological accent in the Reformed tradition that makes your heart sing."

I love that the Reformed tradition celebrates God's Spirit and Word in all places and facets of life. This is expressed quite beautifully in a stanza from the RCA's 1978 statement of faith, Our Song of Hope:

God's Spirit speaks in the world
According to God's ultimate word in Christ
In every time and place
In technology and business
In art and education
God has not been left without a witness
The Word has entered
Where we have failed to go

We do not bring Christ to the world. Christ, as Spirit and Word has been here since the beginning, and goes before us in every place and person and gifting. God is pleased that we are witnesses—attentive to where our spirit testifies with Christ's and ready to confirm God's work wherever we find it.

The mystery of God's powerful Word already present, the Spirit at work, brings me to praise, and wonder, and humility. And I find it an instructive theological accent as we begin to examine our strategic questions as a church in the coming months. Which prompt their own questions in me:

"In what surprising or unlikely places could we 'do church' – or meet Christ?"

Come, Lord Jesus

We are open to your Spirit¹

Peace,
Andrew

¹Taken from Our Prayer, from Our Song of Hope

Summer 2015 Preaching Schedule

For the past five summers, the consistory approved an adjusted summer preaching schedule that would provide our pastors, Gordon Wiersma and Jill Russell, some increased workload flexibility for the summer. Adjusting the schedule gave our pastors the time and space for reading, planning for the coming program year, professional exploration and growth as well as accommodating the impact on both pastors' schedules when one pastor is engaged in two different week long youth trips. In addition, it gave Hope Church the unique opportunity to invite guest preachers who brought to our congregation a range of diverse voices. With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the consistory has approved a similar preaching schedule for the summer of 2015. We are pleased to share that preaching schedule with you.

JUNE

7 Cindi Veldheer DeYoung
14 Jill Russell
21 Gordon Wiersma
28 Beth Jarvis

JULY

5 Jim Brownson
12 Gordon Wiersma
19 Jill Russell
26 Christina deGroot

AUGUST

2 Liz Testa
9 Jill Russell
16 John Schmidt
23 Gordon Wiersma
30 J.P. Sundararajan

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Hope Church News

June/July 2015



Down on the Farm...August 14 Picnic



Fellowship Ministry is hosting a summer picnic at **6 p.m. on Friday, August 14!** Bring your own picnic supper and meet at Teusink's Farm. The picnic area is no charge and will be available to Hope Church members and friends for food and fellowship. Watermelon will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry. From 6 – 9 pm it is *Family Fun Night* at the farm! You can take part in the activities listed below or just enjoy visiting together at the picnic area. No reservations necessary! Come and enjoy a summer evening at the farm!

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

Fun on the farm for five generations

Activities: Trail Ride (age 7 and up), Pony Ring Ride, Hayride, Surrey Ride, Hay maze, Fishing, Penny Hunt, Barn Animals, Exotic Birds, and Feed the Sheep and Goats (50 cents a bag)

Price: Kids (age 1-16) \$9.00 / Adults \$6.00 (Cash or checks accepted, but no credit cards.)