

LIVING STONES



Find Your Place

Christian Education | Music Groups | Fellowship Groups



2016-2017



LIVING STONES

"like living stones...be built into a spiritual house" 1 Peter 2:5

Renovations are well underway at Hope Church! So it seemed natural to wonder about themes for our ministry that have to do with building and foundations and cornerstones, which are actually quite common images in Scripture. And then we came across this image in a letter written to the early Church: "like living stones...be built into a spiritual house" 1 Peter 2:5. "Living Stones" – it's an image that captures much of what is at stake in the renovation of our buildings and in this season of renewal in our ministry. The stones of our building tell a living story, the foundations from generations before and the new stones being added in this generation. The people of Hope Church tell a living story, each one a living stone that builds up our ministry into a house of worship, care, and service. It is Christ who is first called the Living Stone. This image invites us to see that the place and people of Hope Church are an expression of the life-giving presence of Christ, giving life to and through this community of faith.

Worship and Music

Chancel Choir (High school - Adults)

Brian Carder, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 9:40 a.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 7:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir sings weekly at the 11:00 a.m. worship service and provides leadership with liturgical songs and anthems. We love to sing and enjoy the art of making music together. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses - come join our worship choir! The first rehearsal will be a special "get ready for fall worship" rehearsal on Wednesday, September 7th at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Brian at BCarder@hopechurchrca.org.

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

Rhonda Edgington, Director

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:00 - 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, September 7. New members are always welcome. If you have note reading experience, and cannot commit to being a regular member, but would be interested in being on our sub list (you are contacted about specific dates, to fill in at rehearsals and on Sundays, for members who will be out), this is also an opportunity to be involved. For more information, contact Rhonda at RhondaBSE@gmail.com.

Children's Choirs

Children's choirs gather on a seasonal basis, Advent & Christmas, Palm Sunday & Eastertide. Watch for additional announcements in newsletters and bulletins regarding startup times.

Instrumental

Hope Church values the talents and skills of its members and friends. We encourage instrumentalists to accompany choirs, play for worship services (11 a.m. or Early Worship), and assist in accompanying groups and mid-week events. Do you play guitar? There's a group for you! Do you play a wind, brass, or string instrument? We also need piano accompanists for special events. Please join us in making great music for worship by volunteering. For more information, contact Brian at bcarder@hopechurchrca.org.

Nursery and Young Children

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Nursery

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

Family Time Together (FTT)

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

Church School

Church School (Preschool through 5th grade)

9:40 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Room 204

The children meet together to build a great foundation for their Christian faith. Children will begin each Sunday morning together for an exciting presentation of a Bible story, then divide into smaller groups by age to continue to learn about the story with age-appropriate activities and ways to connect the story to their lives. They grow together making sound relationships with other children and their teachers as members of God's family.

Family Church School

Occasionally during the year parents and their children will meet together to explore different topics that will help to nurture their faith together as a family. More information about these special occasions will be available in advance of the church school sessions.

Children In Worship



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

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

Ages 3, 4 & 5

Room 202

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

Kindergarten & 1st grade

Room 204

2nd & 3rd grades

Room 206

4th & 5th grades

Room 208

4th & 5th graders remain in worship on Sundays in which communion is served.

We will continue to support the Girls and Boys Christian High Schools in Martinpur, Pakistan with the children's offering this year. If you have any questions about the children's opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children's Ministry Director.

Youth Groups

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

Fish Club (Middle School)

Fish Club is a youth group experience for the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of Hope Church and their friends. Fish Club seeks to provide a close Christian community of friends for our middle school students, while forming relationships with adult sponsors in the church.



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

High Hopes (High School)



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

Both groups typically meet on Sunday evenings. Updated schedule information is available on the Hope Church website. Contact Pastor Beth Carroll, Resident Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, at bcarroll@hopechurchca.org with any questions.

Youth Church School

6th and 7th Grade

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

Youth Room

The class follows *Crossings, God's Journey With Us*, which is published by Logos Productions. *Crossings* uses eight key Biblical themes as a foundation and uses these themes to frame the larger Biblical story. This enables young people to understand the value of life in community with God and the church. This class is led by Pastor Beth Carroll.

8th and 9th Grade: G.I.F.T. Class

Sundays at 9:40 a.m.

Youth Room

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

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

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

Youth Room

This group meets with Pastor Jill Russell and Pastor Beth Carroll for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. A three-year cycle leads each student through a year of thinking about their faith (theology), exploring how to live their faith in very practical terms (Christian practices), and how to sustain a lifelong commitment to study of God's Word (Bible study). The approach is interactive and relational. Journal writing, singing together, praying for one another, and study are all woven together in this one-hour gathering that meets September through May. All 10th – 12th grade students are welcome, showered or not!

Adult Education

Mission Statement

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

Schedule - Fall 2016 to Advent

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m.

Commons I (unless otherwise indicated)

September 11–October 2:

Reconciliation as a Way of Life

Pastor Jill Russell will share some of what she learned last fall during her sabbatical studies on reconciliation. The title for this series speaks to Jill's growing conviction that reconciliation is not just a nice idea or tool to be picked up at moments of crisis or conflict but rather needs to be embraced as a way of life.

Sept. 11: The Passion and the Questions - Jill will share some of the background for her interests in the ministry of reconciliation and will begin to frame the questions and resources she used to explore them. A bibliography of her sabbatical reading will also be available for those who want to go deeper.

Sept. 18: The Theology and the Scripture - The second session will delve more deeply into the scripture and the theology that serves as a foundation for thinking about reconciliation as a way of life. What are some of the key texts and how should we read them?

Sept. 25: The Practical Tools - The third session will be an introduction to Restorative Circles, which is a tool Jill has been using within and beyond the Hope Church community. You will walk away from this session able to apply some of the building blocks that make up a full restorative circle in your day to day life.

Oct. 2: The Inspiration Along the Way - Jill will share photos and stories from her time with the Iona Community. Jill will share how the time at Iona stimulated a renewal of spiritual practices that continue to feed her commitment to reconciliation as a way of life. Jill will solicit interest from those gathered to consider taking a Hope Church trip together to Iona sometime in the not too distant future.

October 9-30:

**A New Heaven and a New Earth:
Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology**

Steve Bouma-Prediger will lead us through a new way of understanding what the Bible says about end times. In God's good future, will Christians be whisked off the earth and the earth be burned up to nothing? What does biblical hope really look like? In this class we will explore these (and other) questions with the help of Richard Middleton's *A New Heaven and a New Earth*. Over against the all-too-common eschatology of heavenly rapture and earthly destruction, this book reclaims the scriptural vision of cosmic renewal. Reading *A New Heaven and a New Earth* will be optional, and copies of the book will be available for purchase at the Hope Church welcome desk after September 10. The four classes will address the following questions:

- Oct. 9:** What is the plot of the biblical story?
- Oct. 16:** What is salvation in the Old Testament?
- Oct. 23:** What is the New Testament's vision of redemption?
- Oct. 30:** What does this holistic eschatology mean for how we live today?

November 6-13:

Our Brother Dan: Families in the Crossfire

In the last decades, few issues have wrenched the thinking and feeling of our society as much as sexual orientation. When this issue intersects with terminal illness, persons and their families are in the crossfire of society's conflict and their own pain. Twenty-three years ago, Hope Church member David Blauw was a hospital chaplain in Princeton, N.J., where he met Dan Spence, a patient dying of AIDS. Moved by Dan's struggle to cope not only with his terminal illness but the stigma associated with it, David decided to tell the young man's story—on film. The result is a poignant 27-minute documentary, *Our Brother Dan: Families in the Crossfire*. In each session of this two-week series, we will see a portion of the documentary and reflect on the dynamics and issues at play today.

November 20:

Presentation on Haiti Foundation Against Poverty

November 27, December 11 & 18, and January 8:

Advent Series

Based on Walter Brueggemann's *Names for the Messiah*.

December 4:

A Visit from Saint Nicholas

Join the children and young at heart for a visit from Saint Nicholas and learn how he has become an important part of Advent celebrations.

Wednesday Evening Fall Series

Wednesdays in October (5, 12, 19, 26)
5:45-7:30 p.m with light supper provided

There will be two offerings starting with a shared meal. Pastors Gordon and Jill will lead a series using a book by Brian McLaren entitled We Make the Road By Walking. Pastor Beth will lead a series entitled "Stories: listening for the ways God has worked in others so that I might see how God is at work in me". Sign-up in September. Watch for more details in the September newsletter and bulletins.

Hope Church 20/30s Ministry

One of our gifts at Hope Church is that we are multi-generational. We are creating opportunities that meet the needs of adults in their 20's and 30's, while integrating them into larger church life. Monthly summer activities, small discussion groups, and shared meals are all ways we connect young adults with the church and our greater community.

Hope & Grace: Campus Ministry

Hope & Grace Campus Ministry is a shared ministry with Grace Episcopal Church. Together we create space for college students as they encounter God and one another. Our Thursday Night gatherings focus on community around a shared meal, prayer, and communion. We also offer weekend retreats in the fall and spring, as well as monthly gatherings at the homes of Hope College faculty and staff. Our desire is to be a place where honest questions are welcomed in discussion, where everyone finds belonging without judgment, and where friendship and laughter are shared freely. Be sure to check [Facebook.com/HopeandGraceMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/HopeandGraceMinistry) for up-to-date location information, or contact Pastor Beth Carroll.

More Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

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

Caring for Creation: This faith-based environmental group's goals are to explore and inform about ways to consume responsibly to protect the environment. The group organizes events such as kayaking trips and battery recycling. To get involved, contact Joe Arevalo at (616) 215-9596.

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 and Balance 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. at Hope Church. For more information, contact Maxine DeBruyn at (616) 399-6312.

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

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

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

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

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of Room for All