



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 59, No. 11

December 2016

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## Inserts:

- *December Calendar*
- *Lectionary*
- *Restorative Circles Facilitator List*

The deadline for the January newsletter is **Thursday, December 15.**

## Office Hours

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

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Holland, MI 49423  
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HopeChurchRCA.org



## Advent 2016 Emmanuel ~ God With Us

### Second Sunday of Advent God With Us in **Harmony** December 4

8:30 am	Early Worship
10:00 am	St. Nicholas Breakfast
11:00 am	Worship
4:00 pm	Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
4:15 pm	Advent Organ Recital
4:30 pm	Nativity Rehearsal <i>for speaking parts only</i>
4:30 pm	Instrumentalist Rehearsal
4:45 pm	Pageant Participants Arrival
5:00 pm	Nativity Pageant

On Dec. 4, there will be a second bus pick up at 3:45 pm at Appledorn, 3:50 pm at Freedom Village, and 3:55 pm at Warm Friend.

### Third Sunday of Advent God With Us in **Surprise** December 11

8:30 am	Early Worship
9:40 am	Adult Education
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Jubilate Choir Rehearsal



### Fourth Sunday of Advent God With Us in **Faithfulness** December 18

8:30 am	Early Worship
9:40 am	Adult Education
11:00 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Pizza Sunday
12:30 pm	Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
1:00 pm	Congregational Caroling

### Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

5:30 pm	Family Worship Service
11:00 pm	Candlelight Communion

### Christmas Day God With Us in **Life** Sunday, December 25

11:00 am	Christmas Worship Service
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**No Early Worship, Church School, Adult Education, or CIW.**

### First Sunday after Christmas Sunday, January 1

11:00 am	Worship
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**No Early Worship, Church School, or Adult Education.**

More information regarding Advent services and activities can be found in the **2016 Advent Brochure** which is available on the Hope Church website and in the Gathering Area.

## Christmas Offering

Barb Knoop, Senior Elder

The Advent flyer for this season tells of Hope Church partnering with Rode Molla and her husband Endrias Assen in support of their ongoing ministry. Rode has been studying in the U.S. by God's guidance and providence, and she is very thankful for the opportunities that have opened for her. It is a blessing to see God's guiding hand as she travels to different areas and schools to pursue her degrees. Rode served in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus as National Children's Ministry Coordinator and she believes that she has a call to minister to children in Ethiopia.

Rode came to Holland, MI in August 2014 to pursue her Master of Theology degree at Western Theological Seminary. Through God's guiding hand I met Rode's prior pastor from her church in MN while I was attending a Spiritual Direction Intensive Weekend in Hendersonville, SC. He informed me about Rode's situation and her need for a contact in Holland to help her become familiar with the community. I invited Rode and her husband Endrias to worship with us at Hope Church. They participated in worship with us until they left for Saint Paul, MN. Later Rode gave a presentation for the Health and Reconciliation ministries and the congregation regarding her ministry and vision to minister to at-risk children in Ethiopia.

Just as Rode and Endrias were becoming comfortable and settled in Holland, it was time to move on. Rode had begun her CPE studies in St. Paul and was headed back there to complete the clinical work. John and I drove them to the Union Station in Chicago and sent them off on the train for their new home. It was not an easy time for them, and they were very thankful for their contact with people from Hope Church and the love and support they continued to receive.

Rode began applying to different Theological schools to pursue her Ph.D. She got admitted at Iliff School of Theology and Denver University Joint Ph.D. program. Upon completion of her CPE work, they were on the move again. God's guiding hand was evident. They had no furniture and knew no one in Denver. They were quite apprehensive. Through a relative of mine, they were put in contact with Volunteers in Action. Volunteers met them at the airport, found furniture for their apartment and even helped them purchase an inexpensive car.

There has been much violence taking place in Ethiopia over the past year. The government has at times shut down the internet, and this has disrupted Rode's ability to keep in touch with her family back in Ethiopia. For this reason, she covets, even more, her ongoing relationship with Hope Church. Soon, we will be receiving a letter from them telling of their journey. Watch your December church bulletin for more information.

### Christmas Cards for our Members

Continuing an Advent tradition, decorated gift bags will be on the pegboards in the Gathering Area. They will be delivered by Hope Church carolers on December 18. Enrich your Advent season by sharing Christmas cards with these members:

- LeVada Bombe
- Peg Danhof
- Helen DeWeerd
- John & Jean DeWeert
- Peggy Fitzgerald
- Betty Gordon
- Ruth Green
- Eddie Haworth
- Betty Hildore
- Jim and Alice Hinkamp
- Eleanor Hopkins
- Elsie Howard
- Phil Landes
- Mary Martin
- Mary & Duncan McCune
- Abby Price
- Don & Joyce Proechel
- Leola Ralph
- Stan Rock
- Barbara Stockman
- Terry VandeWater
- Ruth VanKampen
- Lila Vohlken
- Ruth Vrieling

## Additional Advent Opportunities

### Tree of Light

Become more involved in the lives of the community by selecting a gift tag off the tree in Commons II beginning Nov. 27. Each tag will indicate a specific request. Purchase, wrap, and return the gift to Hope Church by Dec. 11.

### Saint Nicholas Breakfast

Please join us before worship at **10:00 am on Sunday, December 4** to celebrate a Saint Nicholas Breakfast. Children will meet Saint Nicholas during worship and be able to visit with him during the breakfast. We will enjoy scrambled eggs, pig-in-a-blankets, and oranges. Please have children bring an extra shoe to leave for Saint Nicholas to fill with a treat. **Call the office to sign up!**

### Advent Organ Recital

Hope Church Organist, Rhonda Edgington, will play an Advent organ recital on **December 4 at 4:15 pm**. This year's concert will include both solo organ works, and a Buxtehude Cantata for two violins (with Ellen Rizner and Tammy Clark) three voices (John Hoyer and others) and organ - all based on Advent and Christmas themes. Composers include Marcel Dupre, J.S. Bach, D. Buxtehude, and H. Scheidemann. **Please note:** On **Dec. 4**, there will be a second bus pick up at 3:45 pm at Appledorn, 3:50 pm at Freedom Village, and 3:55 pm at Warm Friend.

## Adult Education: December

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons I

### December 11 & 18:

In Isaiah 9:6, we hear four royal titles-Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. *Names for the Messiah*, by Walter Brueggemann, ponders each royal designation and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. Here is a listing of the weekly Advent study emphases and facilitators:

**Dec. 4:** St. Nicholas Intergenerational Breakfast

**Dec. 11:** Mighty God led by Cindi Veldheer DeYoung

**Dec. 18:** Everlasting Father & Prince of Peace led by Beverly Zell

### Advent Series

## Closing the Year in Gratitude

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

**A LIVING HOPE**  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for FACILITIES REVITALIZATION



As the end of the year approaches, the Living Hope facility renovation team reflects on how far we've come during 2016. Some parts of our facility are already complete or refreshed and in use; other parts are roughed in far enough for us to clearly see our vision is becoming a reality. It's been and continues to be an enormous effort, and it's rewarding to begin to experience or better imagine new possibilities.

We're aware of how many creative thinkers contributed to our plans, how many hands have been at work, how many donors have supported this next phase in enabling our mission. In early December, the Capital Campaign Team will distribute an update on our progress in securing resources. If you're interested in information on year-end giving to support the capital fund, contact the church office.

### *Living Hope Renovations Pun of the Month*

Pastor Gordon: Are things going good with the renovations as Christmas approaches?

Pastor Jill: No, well!



## Hope Church Welcomes New Members

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on November 20 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Please take the time to welcome these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

### QiaoQiao Chen



**QiaoQiao Chen** joins by reaffirmation of faith. Qiaoqiao is currently studying at Western Theological Seminary. She is also a seminary intern at Hope Church. She enjoys reading, distance running and table tennis. She is sponsored by David and Janice Chase.

### Bob & Mary Luidens



**Mary and Bob Luidens** join by transfer from Altamont Reformed Church, Altamont, NY. Mary is a physician, currently providing primary care at the VA outpatient clinic in Muskegon. Bob is an RCA pastor, who retired last December after serving the Altamont Reformed Church for 31 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. They are sponsored by Tom & Sharon Arendshorst.

### The Janes Family



**Lauren Janes** joins by reaffirmation of faith along with her husband Dustin and kids Daphne (6) and Teddy (2). Lauren is a history professor at Hope College. She loves working with students and pursuing her research and writing in French and global history. She, Dustin, and the kids enjoy gardening and cooking as a family. They are sponsored by the Marthens family.

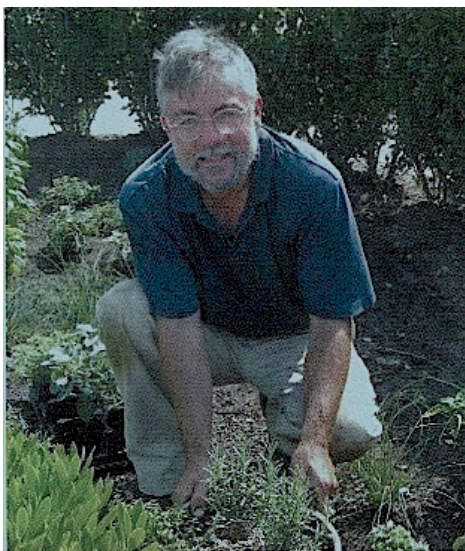
### Grace Miguel Cipriano



**Grace Miguel Cipriano** joins by transfer from Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI. Grace lives in Jenison and enjoys reading, drinking tea, spending time with family, and the occasional hike. She works at Western Theological Seminary, in Holland, MI as the Associate Director of Formation for Ministry. She is sponsored by Jocelyn Yost.



## Amory Jewett



**Amory Jewett** joins by reaffirmation of faith. About two a half months ago, he moved to Holland from Middleborough, MA. He is following God's call to come to Western Theological Seminary to study and prepare for Christian ministry. He will begin his studies for the M. Div. degree in the Fall of 2017. Presently he is a member of Americorps; he has been placed at Neighbors Plus, part of Harderwyk Ministries in North Holland, to help with their "Alternate School Suspension Program." He is sponsored by Earl Laman.

## The Bochniak Family



**Kristyn and Josh Bochniak** join by reaffirmation of faith with their children, Eli (8) and Zoe (5). Kristyn is the Associate Dean for Residential Life and Education at Hope College and has been working in college student development for 15 years. Josh is an outdoor and experiential educator, working as a naturalist, rock climbing instructor, and outdoor skills instructor for a variety of organizations in the Holland area. He is also a Lemonjello's barista and the advisor for Hope College's Outdoor Adventure Club. As a family, the Bochniaks enjoy sewing, baking, singing, camping, and playing outdoors in all kinds of weather. They are sponsored by the Davelaar family.

## Phil Landes; Perry & Pam Landes



**Perry and Pam Landes**, former member of the First Presbyterian Church of Colorado Springs and of Faith Church of Zeeland respectively, join by reaffirmation of faith. Perry is a professor in Hope College's theatre department, and Pam is a technology project manager at Haworth. Perry and Pam enjoy music, disc golf, biking, kayaking, and travel. They are sponsored by Jane & Larry Schuyler.

**Philip Landes** joins by transfer from Maximo Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, Florida. He was born in Brazil to missionary parents. Phil retired from a career as a civilian comptroller for the USAF in Colorado Springs; he now resides in assisted living at American House in the Boardwalk building on James St. A master at Yahtzee, he enjoys visiting with family, listening to books, and attending church services. He is sponsored by Phil Van Eyl.

## The DeLeau Family



**Rich and Carmel DeLeau**, and their children, **Marena** (22), **Jourdan** (20), and **Max** (17), join by transfer from First Reformed Church, Zeeland, MI. Rich is a Risk Manager and Carmel is in medical sales. Marena is a graphic designer in Grand Rapids, Jourdan is a sophomore at Western Michigan University and Max is a senior at Black River. The family enjoys having exchange students and international travel. They are sponsored by the Steeby family.

## Kids Hope

Barbara Joldersma, Kids Hope USA Co-Director



Thanks to our partners at Third Reformed Church, we will be participating in a new Kids Hope event this December which we will hope will be helpful in building a trusting, working relationship between our mentors and their Kids Hope students.

At the end-of-the-year evaluation conducted by Third Church Kids Hope volunteers last year, some Third Church mentors told director Beverley Rannow that it was the activities connected with our annual End-of-the-Year Celebration that helped them to finally begin to create a real relationship with their child. That made them wish that something similar might take place much earlier in the program year so that they could build on the good feelings it created as the year progressed.

In response to that request, Beverley

and Vicki Rumpsa have worked hard to develop an afternoon of activities called Fall Fun Day. It will take place at Third Church on December 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. and our hope is that most of the Kids Hope students and mentors from both churches will be able to participate. Also attending will be volunteers from among the ranks of

our substitute mentors and prayer partners who will help supervise the activities and prepare and serve the afterschool snack.

Age appropriate activities, chosen because they require mentor and students to work together, will take up the bulk of the time, but we will also be showing last summer's Camp Geneva video during the snack time. As you may know, both Hope and Third Churches in conjunction with Camp Geneva offer an opportunity to spend a week at camp to each Kids Hope student. Our hope is that showing the video may lead to more children and their families taking advantage of that opportunity next summer.

To give you some idea of what will be happening, here's a sampling of the activities that are planned: designing and constructing out of poster board a

maze through which students will try to blow a ping pong ball, decorating a frame for each student's student/mentor photo, racing cars down ramps built by the student and his/her mentor, playing GaGa Ball, and (on a tamer note) making Christmas cards. Vicki and Beverley tried to choose a variety of activities, some of which are intended to appeal to the students' competitive spirits while others place their emphasis on giving to others.

Since parents are being asked to pick up their child at the end of Fall Fun Day, we are also hoping that this will be an opportunity for mentors and parents to interact briefly with each other. Just being able to put a face to a name can make a difference for some parents who aren't totally sold on having their child be a part of Kids Hope.

Please pray with us as we embark on this new adventure. Specific needs are cooperative weather (volunteers will be walking the children from Vanderbilt to Third Church), good attendance, safety for all concerned, and most of all that through this event and though all of the Kids Hope programs of the year we will demonstrate the love of Jesus to each of our students and through them to each of their families.



## Trip to Haiti

Ben Sikkink and Larry Mulder

To our Hope Church members and friends,

Much of the work of Non-Governmental Organizations around the world is to do "relief" work where it's needed. Last week the work we saw that needs to be done in Haiti looked more like needing "re-creation". Some of the wreckage and ruin in southern Haiti was the result of Hurricane Matthew but much of it was much older systemic neglect. Either way, it was a sobering look at the plight of the Haitian people.

Thanks to your generosity we left for Port au Prince on Thursday evening, October 27 with over 30 tarps, 50 jars of peanut butter, a dozen solar lights and an expense account of \$1,000. After a night in Detroit we arrived in PaP Friday afternoon.

We spent Saturday and Sunday at the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty compound repacking large inventories of pills into small zip lock bags, purchasing the building supplies and

needed tools, and attending worship.

Monday morning four of us boarded a small six-passenger airplane for an hour flight to Jeremie, a small coastal town in the extreme southwestern part of Haiti. While Port au Prince was mostly missed by Matthew, Jeremie took a direct hit. While the mountains and coastline looked serene from 5,000 feet, the view from the ground was like a war zone. Blown off roofs, twisted and destroyed palm trees, a lot of blue tarps and deep mud. And lots of suffering people.

We were hosted by missionaries Aaron and Andrea Taylor, and their four children. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we drove each morning an hour east of Jeremie to a very small rural mountain community of Rouseuex. There we distributed the tarps, lights and peanut butter (which were lusted after!) and, to each of 36 families, four 2x4 timbers for roof joists, four 1x4 boards for purlins, and fourteen 3' x 6' sheets of corrugated galvanized tin for roofing.

We were able to rebuild three of the homes' roofs in our remaining time there. We believe that the remaining families could see how we used the materials and copy what was done.

Most of these families were living in houses with no roofs or whatever small scraps of tin roofing they could find, some torn rags and tarps for side walls, dirt floors, and nowhere to retreat to completely avoid the rain or the sun. They lived totally outside---old grandparents, young parents, little kids, and recently born babies. ALL outside and ALL exposed to whatever weather came their way. It was not easy to observe. We felt blessed to be there and give what little relief we could, but so much more needs to be done.

We left Haiti with a sober reminder that we live in a blessed place and worship with a generous and loving church congregation. Thank you so very much for supporting us. Please continue to pray for the Haitian people.

## Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

### Christmas Ornaments for Children

Each year the younger children (pre-school through elementary ages) are encouraged to take an ornament home with them from Hope Church. This year these ornaments will be available from the tree in Commons II. These ornaments may be taken from the tree beginning December 11th. Enjoy them on your tree.

### Church School

The church school children will be participating in some special Advent activities during the season. They will be responding to the wonderful stories about the coming of the Christ child. December 4th they will be attending the St. Nicholas breakfast celebration along with their families.

Special schedule note: There will be **no** church school on December 25 or January 1.

### Children in Worship

As we begin the Advent season the worship centers are changing to the color of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The purple cloths are being displayed, the Advent wreaths are being lit, songs of waiting are being sung and we are listening to the stories of the prophets and the angels telling of the coming of our Lord. Each week, the stories being told in each worship center are printed in the bulletin and we invite you to engage a child in conversation about their worship experience.

**Children in Worship will meet each Sunday in Advent. The children will remain in the sanctuary on December 25th for the family service and on January 1st the children will meet together in Room 204.**

### Children's Offering

During the Advent season the offering will be used to help with the Tree of Light gift giving. Each worship center will choose a gift request from the tree and share our blessings by fulfilling that request. Some of the children have decorated the stars on the tree, which will be used as gift tags for all the presents.

## Events and Announcements

### Winter Cancellations

Be sure to check the Hope Church website blog and Facebook for any cancellations due to weather!

### Blood Drive: Dec. 4

The next blood drive will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4 at First United Methodist Church from 8:30-2:15.

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Circle 1** will meet at Lois Boersma's on Weds. Dec. 7, at 9:30 am.

**Circle 2** will meet Weds. Dec. 7 at 9:30 am in Commons II at Hope Church.

**Circle 4** will hold their Christmas gathering on Thursday, Dec. 8 at Kathy Mulder Sheridan's home.

### Advent Quiet Days

Red Cord Community invites you to an **Advent Quiet Day: All Creation Waits** on Saturday, December 3, or Thursday, December 8 from 9:30-3:30. Hosted in a beautiful home along the shores of Lake Michigan and a step away from miles of forested dune trails, join us to be attentive to the longings of your own soul and to witness how nature teaches us to respond to the mystery of darkness opening to new beginnings. Cost: \$30, includes lunch. Register at <https://lorilyn.wufoo.com/forms/w12x6jwo129hh5a/>. For more information contact Lorilyn Wiering: 616/206-0877.

### Holland Hospital Physician Lecture

Peter Hoekman, MD, Otolaryngology, from Lakeshore Health Partners - Ear, Nose & Throat will present on "Thyroid Nodules, Cancers & Treatment" on December 8 from 6-7 pm at the Holland Hospital Conference Center.

### "Live" Interview and Q&A with Founding Fathers: Dec. 8-9

Audience members can experience both history and television in the making during the filming of Episode Two of "Inventing America: Conversations with the Founders" on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 8-9, at 7:30

p.m. at Hope College in the DeWitt Center main theatre. Admission is free, although advance tickets are recommended. "Inventing America" was created by Hope Church member Milton Nieuwsma, a two-time Emmy Award winner, to tell the story of the American republic and apply the Founders' ideas to the present time. Gary Zell is playing George Washington, and Perry Landes is the lighting and sound designer.

### 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 Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour!

### Brim Brunch

Brim Bunch will gather on December 15 at 6:00 pm for its Christmas dinner and program. The dinner menu is roast pork, rosemary potatoes, broccoli-cheese-brown rice casserole, Marilyn's cranberries, rolls and a Christmas dessert! Pay \$8 at the door. The program is "The Harp Ministry at Holland Hospital." David Blauw, Chaplain at Holland Hospital, and Carol Bechtel, professor at Western Seminary, both members of Hope Church, will be the presenters. The evening will conclude with the singing of carols accompanied by David Blauw's guitar. A caller will phone you for your reservation. The bus will run. Enjoy the Christmas spirit and plan to wear your Christmas attire!

### Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for December 18.

### Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 21st at 1:00pm in Commons II. We will be discussing

the book A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman. Our leader will be Lauren Heyboer, and the hostesses will be: Linda Rynbrandt & Linda McFadden. New members are always welcome!

**The church office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday, and on Monday, Jan. 2 for the New Year's Day holiday.**

### Kwanzaa Celebration: Dec. 29

A Kwanzaa Celebration will be held at Maple Avenue Ministries on December 29th at 6:30pm. Hope Church members will present one of the Kwanzaa principles.

### 2017 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes for 2017 offerings will be available for pick-up in the Gathering Area in late December. They are displayed alphabetically. If you are unable to be in worship and need your envelopes mailed, please call the office. Special envelopes for the initial offering and for contributions to the Deacons Fund are enclosed, as well as envelopes for special holiday offerings. You are encouraged to use your envelopes as this saves time when the offering is counted.

### At Home with the Word 2016-2017

An electronic version of the daily Bible readings for the coming year (Advent 2016-Advent 2017) can be found on the Hope Church website. Printed copies are available at the Advent table in the gathering area.

### "Listening for Grace" DVD

For anyone who missed the play at Hope College **Listening for Grace: Variations on a theme of struggle and hope**, you have an opportunity to borrow it from the Hope Church Office or schedule a time to see it with Dan DeGraaf at his apartment. If you are interested in seeing this DVD contact Dan DeGraaf to schedule a time.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

29      Helen DeWeerd  
Care Group: 4

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](mailto:office@hopechurchrca.org)

## Lunch & Learn - Energy Waste Reduction

**Dec. 5, 2016 – 11:45AM- 1:00PM** at Hope Church: Enjoy lunch and take a tour of efficiency upgrades done at Hope Church and learn how you can cut your own energy waste. Michigan Interfaith Power & Light-in partnership with BPW, Hope College Sustainability Institute, and West Michigan Creation Care will present local case studies, upgrade suggestions, and information about rebates and alternative financing. Attendees will leave with a "Get Started" action sheet. **Who should come?** Anyone who owns or works at a small commercial business or are house of worship representatives who would like to learn how to easily reduce energy consumption and increase their bottom lines. There is also a chance to win a \$50 credit for your congregation's or small business's energy bill. Event has no cost, but please RSVP at [www.MichiganIPL.org/events](http://www.MichiganIPL.org/events) OR (616) 392-7947.

**Your Body: Fantabulous “....awesomely and wonderfully made....”**

## **It's Really an Organ?!**

Earl Laman, Health Ministry member



A moody teenage boy wrestling with skin concerns said, “I hate my skin!” Father, “Then take it off.” Son, “That’s stupid, everything would fall out!” Father, “So live with it.” So we do, from our silky soft first day to our wrinkled, rumpled last.

Skin, our biggest organ, performs incredible functions. Scientists: “Skin is highly intelligent.” Stretched out the average human skin would cover about 25 square feet. (Don’t be too visual!) If it stood by itself it would weigh 9 lbs.

Skin: It’s tough! elastic! waterproof! It’s active: “good” bacteria colonies lie on its surface as part of our immune system. It prevents our water-saturated bodies from drying up.

More: It sweats out toxins and waste. A pair of feet have 260,000 sweat glands (it pores out!), 8 oz. per day. (Yeah, those gym socks!)

Skin is ever new. 600,000 particles die and drop away every hour (ever hear them hit the floor?). Cells are replaced hourly, being pushed up constantly from beneath to surface firmness, a 40 days comeuppance.

Skin is the thinnest in the eyelids- and oh so gentle. It’s the thickest on the soles of the feet- for walking barefoot of course.

Skin has 3 layers. The outer layer is a protective barrier providing skin tone and color. The inner layer is tough connective tissue. The center layer is substantial “spoils” out of which....

Oops! The center layer (dermis) has four layers itself out of which sprouts hair follicles, operates sweat glands, flows a rich network of nourishing blood vessels, and is serviced by 45 miles of nerves!

More: Those miles of nerves call out, “Send warm blood!” when cold prevails, or “Start sweating!” when too warm, via commands to contract, speed up, and let loose. 98.6 prevails!

Much more: They deliver the marvelous sense of “touch!” Which allows us to know, operate, calculate, change, evaluate and enjoy everything our fingers reach for or that contacts our skin.

Even more! “Touch” enables the feelings so precious to our friendships, belonging, warmth of being, loving and intimacy.

Our skin is much more than what we squint at in the mirror, see beyond our sleeves, or must note when we undress for sleep.

The Creator God has wrapped us in Wonder!

How can we protect what is protecting us? Cooperate with the healthfulness it is designed to provide?

A young Korean friend wrestling with English word order, when being chided about “girls”, retorted, “Ah, but beauty is only deep skin.” He was right!

## Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Resident Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

Imagine intently studying each of the presidential candidates and their platforms, yet never being allowed to cast a vote. What if you cared so deeply for a candidate that you volunteered for their campaign, all the while accepting that it is illegal for you to enter the voting booth? What might it feel like to have no voice in the decision for your future, yet still have to wade through a confusing world where your brown friends are threatened, your gay friends spat at, and your own safety feels less sure? While most of us adults are struggling to make sense of our post-election world, our youths are trying to grapple with a country they feel passionately invested in, yet have no democratic voice to be heard. This is the reality of many youths across the country and the youth of Hope Church are no different.

Over the past several months, I have been impressed by our youth's knowledge, not only of our government systems, foreign policies, and the state of democracy, but by their acute understanding of each of the candidates. They care. Deeply. Many teens are so well-informed about our democratic process that it puts many of us apathetic

adults to shame. On a recent Sunday, I asked our High Hoppers if they were sick of discussing politics yet, since it had already been about 3 weeks since the election. Their social media feeds are just as vitriolic as many adults are and I figured they were as sick of it as I was. Instead, they relished the opportunity to discuss their fears and process the fallout that is happening at their schools as well as ways they think our government can improve. In some cases, there has been an increase of bullying against minority and LGBTQ students. Their schools are responding by bringing in outside organizations to coach on how to handle the stress and aggression.

Perhaps you have heard it said that teens who have recently completed drivers training are some of the least accident prone in our population. I wonder if some of the same could be said of our youths studying civics, history, and government in school. If we let some of the problems of our country be examined by those of us who are younger, I wonder what fresh ideas they might have? "And a little child might lead them" indeed.

## *and finally:* **Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 18**

When I think of why Christmas Caroling in Advent is so important to me personally and to our life together as a congregation, one thing comes to mind. This is a tangible sign that we remember and we cherish our members who can no longer worship with us on Sunday in the sanctuary. When people's world begins to shrink they not only feel lonely they can begin to wonder things like "Do people even remember me? Do I matter?" When a group of singers walk through the door loaded down with poinsettias, cookies, and a bag chocked full of cards, our members feel cherished and loved by us and we feel cherished and loved by them. These are precious moments and I encourage you to be a part of it!

*~Pastor Jill*

As part of my music and choir leadership at Hope Church, I promote and encourage people to sing/ring/play together. We learn from each other and share our gifts as the experience of making music together is rewarding for both the participant and the listener. Caroling is a genuine extension of singing together as many of our listeners that we sing to, will also spontaneously sing with us. As carolers sing from home to home, lobby to corridors, the spirit of love via words and music bring joy to all. I encourage you to join our caroling event and experience the Hope Church togetherness.

*~Brian Carder*

I'll touch on 2 things to motivate your participation in caroling: obligation and blessing. The obligation part can be expressed in a couple of ways, one of which is that participating is simply the right thing to do. And if that makes you feel a little guilty, well then guilt is a time-honored motivation that I would be glad for you to respond to! Or to go a bit deeper, I see this as an obligation in the sense of treating others as I would want to be treated (aka the Golden Rule). And when I consider if my circumstances in life would turn out such that I am in a care facility, then would I want people from my church to come and sing carols to me? – my answer is an unequivocal YES! The Golden Rule remains a reliable guide in many circumstances. But if you need something still beyond obligation, then you can be motivated by blessing. As much as we rightly focus on how important this is for those to whom we carol, the truth is that there is a great blessing received as you carol. It's simply one of those experiences in life in which the Spirit is at work to bring mutual joy, blessing and grace to all involved. So, please do feel obligated to participate, and in doing so you'll end up with a blessing – sounds like a Christmas miracle to me!

*~Pastor Gordon*





# Hope Church News

December 2016



## The New Fast Food: A Program of Eighth Day Farm

Jeff Roessing, Eighth Day Farm

### Objective

To feed the hungry in our area with food that is healthy, delicious, and grown in ways that steward creation.



and quality of life costs associated with these dietary choices that affect both individuals and society. The New Fast Food addresses **not only the problem of hunger, but of health**; as increased health correlates to better employment and stronger families.

### Overview

The New Fast Food is an innovative approach to feeding the hungry in our community. Instead of donating a random variety of vegetables and assuming recipients know how to utilize them, we are attempting to tackle key obstacles people face when receiving produce. For a variety of complex reasons, preparing food has become difficult and intimidating for many people and, as a result, unhealthy processed foods that are ready made and convenient are the staples of most diets. There are enormous health care

The New Fast Food makes eating healthy more attractive and convenient. Attractive because the meals taste great! Convenient because all the ingredients necessary to make the meal are included in the brown bag along with a recipe card, QR Code and link to an instructional video that explains how to prepare the meal step by step.

These bags will be distributed through partnerships with local organizations that have a history of serving those

in our community. Eighth Day Farm is collaborating with Community Action House, Center for Women in Transition, Good Samaritan Ministries, Breakfast with Baby, St. Vincent's pantry, and the Mobile Food Pantry. We plan to distribute over 2,500 meals in 2016. All the produce will be grown at the Growth Center site at 709 Pine Avenue.

We are looking for 500 people to become monthly supporters at just \$5/month to fight hunger with health! Please consider making a difference by joining today at: <http://www.eighthdayfarm.org/sustaining-member/>.

Thank you, and God bless!

# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym) <b>7 pm</b> Reconciliation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Kari Miller Fenwood</i> <b>8:30 am - 2:15 pm</b> Blood Drive @ FUMC <b>10 am</b> St. Nicholas Breakfast <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>11:15 am</b> 6th & 7th Grade <b>4 pm</b> Jubilate Choir <b>4:15 pm</b> Advent Organ Recital <b>4:30 pm</b> Instrumentalist Rehearsal <b>4:30 pm</b> Nativity Rehearsal <b>4:45 pm</b> Pageant Participants Arrival <b>5 pm</b> Pageant	<b>5</b> <b>5 pm</b> Executive Committee <b>6:15 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 1 <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 2 <b>6 pm</b> Personnel <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Circle 4 <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>6 pm</b> High Hopes Progressive Dinner
<b>11 Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Judith Boogaart</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12:15 pm</b> Jubilate Choir	<b>12</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>7 pm</b> Consistory	<b>13</b> <b>10 am</b> Coffee Time at Freedom Village	<b>14</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir	<b>15</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>6 pm</b> Brim Bunch <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Karmen Kooyers</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> High Hopes Unshowered <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>11:15 am</b> 6th and 7th Grade <b>12:15 pm</b> Pizza Sunday <b>12:30 pm</b> Jubilate Choir <b>1 pm</b> Congregational Caroling <b>6 pm</b> Fish Club Christmas Party	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>12 pm</b> Building & Grounds <b>1 pm</b> Readers <b>6 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  <b>5:30 pm</b> Family Service <b>11 pm</b> Candlelight Communion
<b>25 Christmas Sunday</b> <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Christmas Worship Service	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast	<b>29</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> FLEX <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>