



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 60, No. 2

February 2017

In This Issue

Witness to

Reconciliation2-4

Kids Hope.....4

Adult Education5

Walk for Warmth.....5

Sacristy Guild6

Organ Concerts.....6

Children's Ministry.....7

Events &

Announcements8

Health Ministry.....10

And Finally.....11

Inserts:

- February Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

The deadline for the March newsletter is **Wednesday, February 15.**

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



Transition Time for Living Hope

Lois Maassen, Project Team Leader

A LIVING HOPE
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for FACILITIES REVITALIZATION




Mark Your Calendar!

**A Celebration of
A Living Hope**

*Completion of our
facility renovation*

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Dedication 2 p.m.
Open House 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

 **HOPE
CHURCH**
77 W. Eleventh Street
Holland, MI 49423

February marks a significant change in cadence in the Living Hope renovation project. Much of the actual construction work will look or be complete; in addition to final construction details, we'll be testing systems like lighting and HVAC controls, receiving inspections, and applying for occupancy permits. By the end of the month, we hope that everything that can be completed during the winter is. We know we'll come back with the arrival of Spring to the 11th Street entrance stairs, final air conditioning system set-up, and landscaping.

During February we'll also receive delivery of new furniture and coordinate its installation. Church staff will also have some disruption

as they move into new offices, designing new routines, organizing new storage areas, and, no doubt, uncovering some unintended consequences! Your patience and support as we navigate this part of the project will be appreciated! There will be opportunities for volunteers to help with final cleaning and moving; if your name is not already on the list of those willing, contact the office.

And we trust you've marked your calendar for the celebration of project completion, scheduled for **Saturday, April 29**. The new facility will be dedicated in a service at 2 p.m., followed by an open house from 2:30 to 4:30, for which we hope to be joined by members of the construction team and our broader community.

Witness to Reconciliation - "I'm Not OK!"

Karen Mulder, Hope Church member

In Kindergarten I stole a box of stars from my teacher's desk. I wanted them not only because they were shiny and pretty, but because I had a deep desire to stick the stars all over my life. Then I could feel like I was ok—a person worthy of a shiny star.

Why did I not feel ok? I suspect that the title resulted from kids teasing me because I was chubby. I can still hear their raucous chant, "Fatty Fatty 2x4, can't get through the kitchen door."

As a teenager I did slim-down, but still my inner voice still said, "I'm not ok." So I tried to convince others that I was in fact ok by being a cheerleader, being a good student and by doing kind things for other people.

One surprise during those years occurred in eleventh grade speech class where I found my voice. For some reason (hmmm maybe it was God preparing me for a future role), when I gave speeches I forgot my negative self-image and earned my longed-for stars.

In college I majored in education and speech. Still I found myself trying to project the aura of being "ok" while below the mask lamenting the fact that everyone around me had gifts and talents. All around me were people with starring roles, people who could sing, act, paint, entertain or play football, basketball and run track. I kept asking God, "What is my talent? My gifts? What am I here for?"

I remember Carol Myers once saying, "In retrospect we can often see that God was working out a plan for our lives." So as I look back, I can see that God was preparing me for the ministry I cherish today.

Hope Church played a significant role in this journey.

During the 60's, Marlin VanderWilt, my pastor, introduced a 2-year Bible study to our congregation. I enrolled in the teaching phase of this program being taught by Rev Jim Cook. There I fell in love with God and God's word, and discovered how all those stories fit together into a wonderful love story.

At the end of the teacher training, Marlin called and asked if I would teach The Bethel Study to our congregation. I thought, "I can't." I don't know enough. I have never had a desire to teach adults." The other voice said, excitedly, "Yes, you must do this! You are prepared for a time such as this."

When I walked into that first classroom I was intimidated and scared and wondered why I had said "yes." Facing me were doctors, lawyers, college professors and a famous text book writer, but I forgot myself and much to my surprise found my place, my answer to the question, "Why was I here?"

I am grateful to all of you who have been on this journey with me. I learned so much from you. You affirm me. You energize me.

Also always encouraging me has been my best friend and husband, Larry.

Also instrumental in my discovery journey was a seminary class on Congregation Care taught by Stan Rock. Through that class, I began to understand how to care for those who were suffering.

A Bible study with a Hope church circle inspired the writing of *"The Compassionate Congregation: A*

Handbook for People Who Care."

Seminary professor, Tom Boogaart encouraged us in the writing of this caregiving book, and suggested the perfect title, *Wisdom of the Wounded*. Though the publisher chose another title for the book, in 2011 Tom's suggestion, *Wisdom of the Wounded*, became the name of my current website and radio program. The purpose of all facets of my ministry was and is to help others care for those who are suffering

I've been asked, "As you extend healing to those who visit your website, you encounter many stories of pain and suffering, how do you carry such stories and maintain a spirit of joy?"

I believe that when one is using the gifts which God has given them and using them to foster reconciliation, then one will have quiet joy and peace even in the stormy times.

Emily Dickinson reminds us of this truth, She said:

If I can stop one heart from breaking
I shall not live in vain
If I can ease one Life the Aching
Or cool one in Pain

Or help one fainting Robin
Unto his Nest again,
I shall not live in Vain.

So now I have a purpose.

So now,

I am ok. (most of the time)

You are ok.

Thank you God.

Thank you people of Hope Church.

Thank you Larry

Amen.

Witness to Reconciliation

Kate Mears, Hope Church member

"To have meaning, our lives require both passion and purpose. A life without passion is like a furnace without fuel, and without purpose, like a ship without a rudder." Dr. Mardy Grothe is very right when he made this quote. Life without purpose isn't life. It can't go anywhere or do anything. Without purpose, we can't do what we are made to do. We are stalled because we don't have our rudder.

My name is Kate and for a long time in my life I was stalled and I couldn't get anywhere or do anything. I have been lost inside myself for so long trying to make sense of who I am. All of my life I had been struggling with something that I never understood, an emptiness that couldn't quite get filled, a yearning to be complete. The only problem was that my struggle and only solution available for it was condemned by the faith I grew up in. And having that knowledge caused many walls to start to form that kept me from understanding what was going on.

I am Transgender. I have been a girl all of my life even though I may not have looked the part. I may not have understood what was going on as I was growing up, but as I look back through all that I have experienced in my years of living I can see the signs and implications of what was going on. Throughout my adolescent years my emptiness kept growing worse because my soul was telling me one thing while my body was becoming another. Every time I looked in the mirror, the person staring back at me never matched what I expected to see. The girl I am could never be found. I went to bed many a night wishing to wake up and be able to see the girl I kept looking for in the mirror.

Throughout all of this, my life refused

to find its place and I couldn't and didn't know how to move forward. I was distant from everyone. I didn't want to do anything or be with anyone. I didn't know what to do with my life. Even on the rare occasion I could figure out something to do, I lacked the drive to take action and I was fearful of what would take place. It got so bad in the months before I started living as my complete self that it was painful to even introduce myself to others because then it would be one more person to know me as someone that I'm not. Throughout all of this, my faith wasn't growing either. It was at a standstill. I was depressed.

Eventually I started to piece things together and understand what was going on. I found others who were like me and I read their stories and I understood even more. I knew I needed to transition, though it didn't happen right away. My withdrawal and depression steadily got worse and I eventually told my parents everything. While they were calm about it and tried to understand, to this day, they have never believed anything other than transition to be a sin, and they believed that I would be going to hell for taking the steps I need to so that I can become a complete person. So that I can finally match in mind, body and soul. Through my own soul searching and examining the scriptures I knew it wasn't wrong to transition, and because I couldn't live the way I was, especially coming to the point of attempting suicide, I decided to start my journey.

I know my parents love me. That's actually why they have been trying to convince me that I am wrong. They don't want me to go to hell and they think hell is what's in my future if I don't turn back from this path as I would be living in sin according to

their belief. I keep trying to explain to them that it not a sin to transition, but, as of yet, it hasn't helped. Again, I know they loved me, and continue to do so, but their actions were still in condemnation of what I was doing and it became harder and harder to be around that. Their church was a reflection of that belief as well. So I started looking for a new one, though I didn't know where to look.

My whole life was lived in the church and in the Christian faith. I went to reformed churches all of my life. I started in a non denominational church that left the RCA when I was very young, though they kept a similar belief system. From there I went to a United Reformed Church and throughout all of that I went through Protestant Reformed Schools. But my faith and church were important to me and I couldn't give it up. So I looked for another church, but I didn't think any reformed church would accept me.

All of the churches I originally found were outside the reformed faith, but I didn't feel like they fit me. They were welcoming, but I didn't feel like I belonged. I talked to my therapist about it and we both tried searching. Eventually I did a search online and I stumbled across the Room for All website. I found that in my state of Michigan, there was only one Reformed church which was open and affirming. It was Hope Church, in Holland, just 30 minutes away from where I lived. It was so close to me, I knew I had to go there and check it out.

Hope Church was so very welcoming and I felt very comfortable here. Everyone was glad to have me there, and I was glad to have found that church and to be here as well. I felt that I belonged. I was home.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

After a while I tried to transfer my membership from my old church to my new one at Hope. My old church wouldn't transfer that membership. Instead they started their "discipline" process and attempted to get me to turn back to what they believed or face excommunication. To this day, they never transferred my membership, but Hope Church still welcomed me with open arms. The elders of my old church stopped communicating with me and never even confirmed whether they excommunicated me or not, though I assumed that they did.

I joined Hope Church and joining this community, along with going forward in my transition, I finally found myself capable of growth, and not just on a personal level, but also spiritually as well. I found myself capable of acting

and having a desire to act and live for God. I'm helping others when I can. I'm participating more than I ever have in life. I feel the desire to do more and want to be able to find ways in which I can do just that.

Before all of this, I only had a small handful of friends and then my family. I lost almost all of them when I transitioned. I even had to move because I didn't really feel welcome living in the same city anymore. There was too much sadness. Now, my family and friends have grown to include all of my church. My home is right here in Holland.

I felt like I lost so much when I transitioned, but in actuality, I have gained much more than I ever had. I have grown and have found a

purpose in my life. I have found my fuel and rudder. I'm not at a standstill anymore. Though I'm not welcome in their house, I continue to talk to my parents through email in hopes that they will eventually be able to accept me. I believe it's important to continue fighting the good fight so that others don't have to go through difficulties like mine. I fight so they don't have to. When the fight gets difficult, my church is here to build me up and encourage me and stand beside me. I never would have made it to where I am today if I never found Hope Church. I found Hope through Room for All and I am growing because of all of it. I am thankful to Room for All and Hope Church. Most of all, I'm thankful to God for bringing this all together.

Kids Hope

Barbara Joldersma and Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Co-Directors



Last month, we expressed our thanks and appreciation to all of our currently active mentors. Now we wish to recognize the prayer partners and substitute mentors without whose support, our mentors would not be able to make the impact they make in the lives of our Vanderbilt students.

Our 17 mentors are supported by 17 faithful prayer partners who are praying just for them and the child they mentor. We also have 11 substitute mentors who help us provide continuity by meeting with Kids Hope children when their personal mentor is unable to be there. Rounding out our program is a group of 8 dedicated unassigned prayer partners who pray for the Hope Church Kids Hope program as a whole.

Our Prayer Partners who are assigned to a specific mentor and child are John Beyer, Stephanie Beyer, Josh Bochniak, Mary Buys, Jan Fike, Stephanie Krom, Cindy Laman, Earl Laman, Mary Luidens, Judy Mastenbrook, Kari Miller Fenwood, Sandy Mulder, Jill Russell, Jane Schuyler, Dorothy Sherburne, Loretta Smith and Connie VanderVelde.

Substitute mentors are Sharon Arendshorst, Vern Boersma, Marge DeBlaay, Anne Duinkerken, Carole Hintz, Barbara Joldersma, Marilee Nieuwsma, Vicki Rumpsa, Dave Schmitt, Jane Schuyler and Gordon Wiersma.

Prayer Partners who pray for this ministry as a whole are Ann Anderson, Joanne Brooks, Suzanne Buteyn, Helen DeWeerd, Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof, Char Laman, Nancy Rock and David VanDoorne.

We are grateful for their willingness to be an integral part of our Hope Church Kids Hope Team and we hope you will join us in thanking them for all they do to support our ministry to the at-risk children of Vanderbilt Charter Academy.

Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

February 5 - Reconciliation Ministry Summary

Reconciliation Ministry will summarize classes presented in January: Holland Refugee Program update, Holland's Youth Programs, Holland Equality Alliance, and Taking Root Ministries.

February 12 - 26

Suzanne McDonald, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Western Theological Seminary, will present a series of classes about the Protestant Reformation, which dates its beginning from 1517 when Martin Luther published his 95 theses calling for reforms of the Church.

February 12: We will focus on some Renaissance paintings and a woman's will from 1508 to describe what it was like to be an ordinary Roman Catholic on the eve of the Reformation.

February 19: The Reformation introduced a variety of Protestant threads into the tapestry of the Christian Church. We'll consider sources of this diversity.

February 26: The Reformation's effects continue to influence the Christian Church to the present day. We'll consider how and why they contribute to the vitality of the Christian faith.

Walk for Warmth: February 11, 2017

Norma Killilea

It is warm hearts, warm boots, warm homes time again! Hope Church has participated in the annual Walk for Warmth for several years. It is a way to help families in need in Ottawa County who have fallen behind in heating bills. Information on what Community Action Agency did last year includes:

In the **Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, Spring Lake, Fruitport & Nunica** area CAA assisted 49 homes for utilities, weatherized 6 houses and helped 78 households with free tax assistance - and provided food to 138 households.

Coopersville, Marne & Conklin / Tallmadge Township: Utility Assistance: 16 households, Weatherization: 2 households, Tax Assistance 3 households and provided food to 63 households

Hudsonville, Jenison & Grandville (Ottawa County Portion)

Utility Assistance: 42 households, Weatherization: 8 households, Tax Assistance 23 households and provided food to 41 households.

Holland, Zeeland & West Olive

Utility Assistance: 278 households, Weatherization: 15 households, Tax Assistance 153, Migrant Program: 49, Lower My Bill (Partner with City of Holland): 61 and provided food to 263 households

Walk for Warmth is one way, with local control and impact, to help families with marginal income and difficulty meeting heating bills.

In prior years, Hope Church members have indicated interest to sponsor a young person(s) from Hope Church

who would be willing to 'walk the walk'. If you are a young person willing "to walk the walk" or a Hope Church member willing to sponsor a young person, please call me. Also, there will be a table in the Gathering Area on Sunday, February 5 to sign-up or donate to support Hope Church members who will walk.

Registration for Walk for Warmth begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 11 (no registration fee) at City on a Hill, 100 Pine Street, in Zeeland. There will be good, hot coffee ready. Come and join a brisk 2 mile, well-marked winter walk around downtown Zeeland. Please see me also if rides are needed, if you have questions and, if able, join me in this local, supportive effort!

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.

Sacristy Guild

Joyce Teusink, Sacristy Guild Chair

What is the Sacristy Guild? It is a group of people who take time each week to prepare the sanctuary for worship. The work of the Sacristy Guild is to ensure that our sanctuary reflects the holiness and the joy that we all create together in worship. In preparing for each service, the guild members need to change paraments (Ecclesiastical vestments or hangings—they are hanging from each pulpit along with the covering of the communion table in front of the sanctuary), set out communion ware, make sure the cross is in place, set out the Paschal candle if needed, mark liturgical readings in the pulpit and lectern Bibles, and organize pew hymnals and Bibles.

The Sacristy Guild also helps with placing artwork throughout the church, as well as cleaning the linens after a communion service, polishing the silver communion ware when

needed, taking the wax out of the votive candle holders, and helping to prepare and then clean the home communion kits. The church office sends us instructions each week as to what needs to be done. We work with the Worship, Prayer and Spirituality Ministry; our pastors, Gordon and Jill; our resident artists, Kari Miller-Fenwood and Rachelle Oppenhuizen; and Ric Beltran, our custodian/caretaker. With all of us working together, we prepare the sanctuary for our regular services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, concerts, advent, lent, and special events.

The members of the Sacristy Guild are Linda Tiemstra Cook, Michelle Gerig, Judy Werkman, Nancy Rock and Joyce Teusink. We would like to thank Nancy Rock for her time of service with us. We wish her well in her retirement! We are looking for new members, so

if you have any questions regarding Sacristy Guild, or would like to help in any way, please contact Joyce Teusink, chairperson of Hope Church Sacristy Guild.

With all of the renovations going on this year, it has been a challenge to try and keep the sanctuary dust free. While dusting the pews, my mind wandered to thoughts that our sanctuary has been a place of worship for more than 150 years. I give thanks for the sacredness of our space. We are excited to have the new ramp available for use for entrance to the sanctuary and the choir loft. We look forward to maintaining a sacred and holy place for worship. To God be the glory—Shalom from the Sacristy Guild.

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Communications Task Force.

February Organ Concerts

Rhonda Edgington, Associate Director of Music & Organist

Those of you who have wondered if there will be a time to hear me playing the new organ at Hope College will get your chance in February. On Thursday, Feb 9 at 7:00pm, in the new Jack H Miller Center for Musical Arts at Hope College, I will be performing in a unique concert, combining the new Casavant Pipe Organ with the college's Hammond B3 electronic organ. However, I will not be playing the Hammond! (I may have many talents, but that is not one of them). Tony Monaco, the prof for jazz organ, will be also part of this concert. He and I will be alternating playing selections, as well as explaining a bit about the

history and design of our respective instruments. I'll be playing pieces by Bach, Dupre, and then more modern jazz-influenced classical pieces, Tony will be playing jazz standards. The concert will be free, and Tony is a great player, so it should be a fun evening.

In March, I will be out of town for about two weeks. First, I'll be playing an organ concert at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Then I'll be flying to Germany, where I haven't been since the summer of 2014, to play two organ concerts, in the cathedral in Magdeburg, and in the Marktkirche (Market Church) in Hanover. I wanted

to share with my Hope Church friends some of the music I've been preparing for these concerts, but which I can't quite find spots to play in a normal worship service. Thus, a new idea - the Post-Pizza-Pre-Concert-Tour-Recital! On February 26 there will be a pizza Sunday. After we've all had our pizza and a bit of time to chat with friends, I invite you to join me back in the sanctuary for a short (aprox 30mins) recital of music I'll be playing in my concerts in NY and Germany. There will be a range of music, from Baroque to Modern. The concert will start about 1pm (but no pizza allowed in the sanctuary please!)

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Mardi Gras Celebration/Shrove Tuesday February 28

A fairly new tradition at Hope Church is an exciting celebration of Mardi Gras. This is traditionally a time of last chance merrymaking before the disciplines of Lent. On Tuesday, February 28th from 6-7:30pm everyone (of all ages) is invited to come enjoy a pancake dinner and to participate in some fun activities including a parade with bead necklaces, noise makers, masks and games for all. The pancakes can be piled high with toppings, the music can be invigorating and the activities boisterous but there will also be a time for reflection as we prepare for the season of Lent. Everyone is invited to spend this time together in fellowship. Please sign up in the Gathering Area so that we'll be sure to have an extravagant amount of food and craft material as befitting a Mardi Gras Celebration. Come and enjoy!

Love your Leaders Sunday Morning Appreciation

On February 26th during the church school hour, we will be acknowledging and appreciating the commitment of the time and talent of the leaders and teachers of the children of Hope Church. The Christian Education Committee knows that this commitment also includes the entire family of the leader. So we are inviting these families to a relaxing morning of a fellowship and pampering. We love our Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, and nursery caregivers and youth leaders as they share God's love with the younger members of our church. We will gather together for breakfast and conversation in the Youth Room at 10 o'clock and enjoy the hour together.

How Congregational Care and Pastoral Care Happens

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 ministry: 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.

Wisdom of the Wounded

Karen Mulder, Hope Church member

The word of God speaks to the fact that we are all wounded and broken. It is also true that every one of us is tasked with encouraging and supporting those who are hurting. Yet very few of us feel confident to do so.

Wisdom of the Wounded is a perspective on how to support those who are hurting with love. It has been Karen Mulder's passion to listen. To listen and give time and space to those who are suffering, those who have suffered and those who desire to offer their support and care. Wisdom of the Wounded is a place. A place where this perspective can be shared.

To be able to meet someone in their suffering is challenging – to know what to say to them and to know how to be present with them in it. It is a gift to be in a position to care for someone. Through Wisdom of the Wounded, Karen Mulder is a guide to help you with this gift.

Visit WisdomoftheWounded.com for information and stories from individuals who have been wounded which will help you become a more compassionate and caring friend.

Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet Feb. 1, 9:30 A.M. at Betty Arendshorst's home.

Circle 2 will meet Feb. 1, 9:30 A.M. in Commons II.

Circle 4 will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 pm at Lauren Heyboer's home. Nancy Rock will lead the discussion.

Blood Drive - Feb. 5

The next blood drive is scheduled for February 5 from 8:30 am to 2:15 pm at First United Methodist.

Coffee Time at Warm Friend

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 Warm Friend on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 15th at 1:00pm in Commons II. We will be discussing the book The Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff. Our leader will be Lois Boersma, and the hostesses will be: Judy Lamse and Nancy Rock. New members are always welcome!

Brim Bunch - Feb. 23

February 23rd is the date for the Brim Bunch gathering. To help celebrate this month's birthday celebrations of some of the most memorable American presidents, BRIM member Judy Parr will quiz us and inform as about what presidents did in their

spare time after their presidencies. "The Afterlives of United States Presidents", illustrated by slides, will be entertaining and enlightening! The dinner menu is chicken & rice, applesauce jello, green salad, home baked bread, and peach cake for dessert. The time is 6:00 pm and the cost is \$8.00 payable at the door. The bus will run from Freedom Village. Invite guests - they are always welcome.

Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for February 24.

Ash Wednesday, March 1

6:00 P.M. Dinner, 7:00 P.M. Worship

Worship in the sanctuary will include scripture, music, prayer and meditation. The imposition of ashes is an ancient symbol that calls us into this season.

Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) Potluck - Feb. 4

Sat, Feb 4, 2017, 5 pm: Annual Heart 2 Heart Community Celebration. A Potluck and Cultural Sharing Party, hosted by the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH). Music, performances, silent auction, family activities, fabulous food, fun, fellowship. Everyone is welcome! At First United Methodist Church, 57 West 10th St, Holland.

Holland Hospital Physician Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 16 from 6-7 pm at Holland Hospital Conference Center. Dale G. Leffler, DO, Cardiology Specialist, Spectrum Health Heart & Vascular Services. "Love Your Heart:

What's New in Cardiovascular Care":

The advancements in cardiology continue to evolve, providing us with remarkable and life-saving technology, medications and procedures. Celebrate Heart Month with Cardiologist Dale Leffler, DO, and learn what's new in cardiovascular care and how to love your heart for life. Reserve your seat for this free presentation: Call (616) 394-3344 or online at hollandhospital.org

Nonviolent Communication

Workshop: Feb. 18

You are invited to participate in an upcoming workshop led by Western Seminary Professor Theresa Latini on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 9:00am-3:30pm at First Presbyterian Church. The workshop is Peace in Me, My Relationships, and the World: A Nonviolent Communication workshop to transform disagreement and difference into compassion and understanding.

Christmas Offering

The total collected in support of the ministry of Rode Molla and Endrias Assen was \$5,164.25. The generous support of Hope Church is much appreciated!

Staff Update - Bruce tenHaken

The Personnel Committee is happy to announce the appointment of Bruce ten Haken as the new housekeeper. Bruce's start date in this role was January 2. Bruce also currently serves as our Sunday Administrative Support and Administrative Substitute. Please join us in welcoming Bruce into this new role!

Living Hope Renovations Pun of the Month

Pastor Gordon: "I notice that the renovations include a new ramp for the chancel – are you in favor of that?"
Pastor Jill: "I'm inclined to say I am!"

Thank You

What a blessing to see and hear the wonderful Hope Carolers! A big thank you for the delicious cookies and the beautiful plants. We feel blessed to be part of such a loving and supportive church. You truly brought us a Christmas blessing.

*Love and peace,
~Terry & Nancy VandeWater*

Dear Carolers,

Thank you so much for your wonderful Christmas visit. The caroling was magnificent! The poinsettia is still lovely and blooming. And all the cards and cookies were very much appreciated. You warmed my heart and soul! I praise God for everything I received from your visit.

*God Bless all of you,
~Leola Ralph*

What a treat it was to hear the carolers coming down the hall to sing with me. They brought a beautiful poinsettia, a bagful of cards, and even baked goods. Thank you so much and blessings to all of you for a wonderful afternoon.

~Helen DeWeerd

Dear members of Hope Church,

Thank you so much for all the Christmas cards you sent me. They were lovely! I enjoyed looking at them (and still do!) and seeing your names on them. I particularly enjoyed the messages some of you wrote! I'm sure I will read them over and over all year. I'm also grateful to receive the Hope Church News. My only problem with that is my daughter Vicki steals it as soon as she can!

*Thanks again, with much love,
~Ruth Vrieling*

Dear Friends at Hope Church,

Education is surely a gift of Hope! Thank you for providing precious opportunity for the students of PEB schools.

*Blessings,
~Friends of PEB board*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

13	Kay MacKenzie
20	Suzanne Buteyn
24	Ruth Donaldson

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@hopechurchca.org

Communication Sign Ups

Communications Taskforce

Congregational Emails

Sign up to join our congregational email list by calling the church office or signing up online at this link: <https://goo.gl/xCUceB>.

Hope Church Volunteer Blog

To receive email notifications of Volunteer Opportunities, go to our Volunteer Blog at: <https://lifeofhopechurch.wordpress.com/>.

Then, on the right side of the page under "Follow Blog via Email", enter your email address and hit "follow".

Text Reminders

To receive texts about Hope Church cancellations, service time changes, and special events, **text "@hoperca" to the number: 81010**. To receive via email rather than text, send an email to: hoperca@mail.remind.com.

You can also sign up to receive texts or emails for:

- **High Hopes (High School Youth):** Text @highh to 81010 or email: highh@mail.remind.com
- **Fish Club (Middle School Youth):** Text @fishclub77 to 81010 or email: fishclub77@mail.remind.com

Support Groups of the Community

Ginger Clark, Parish Nurse, R.N.



Support groups are organizations of people who share a common challenge, who meet together to discuss their experiences, share ideas, and provide emotional support for one another. Usually a support group is led by a member who has had some training in facilitating group discussions.

Listed here are a variety of local support groups for reference:

1. CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

- Rest support group (for the Hope church community) Every 2nd and 4th Monday at 11:00 am at Hope Church
- The 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:30-1:30pm at the Day Center of Evergreen: 55 West 16th St. conference room
- The 4th Tuesday of the month from 12:30-1:30 pm at the Day Center of Evergreen
- The 4th Tuesday of the month from 3:00-4:00 pm at Fellowship Reformed Church on 168th St
- Grand Haven: Second Reformed Church library -1000 Waverly Ave. Park on Despelder St. for easier entrance to class. 3rd Tuesday of the month 6:30 pm contact Susan Thorpe 248-310-2312
- Support group for caregivers at the Little Red house in Spring Lake. It is an adult daycare place but also offers a Caregiver support group. Every Thursday from 10-11 am. 311 E. Exchange Street, Spring Lake. Phone: 616.846.5720.

2. BEREAVEMENT GROUPS

- Hospice of Holland- varied topics and times for adults and children. Call 396-2972
- Grief Share groups at Central Wesleyan Church every other Tuesday evening at 7 -8:30pm call Susan at 392-7083

3. MENTAL ILLNESS GROUPS

- DBSA - Depression, Bipolar, substance abuse, anxiety and mood disorders First and Third Monday of every month from 7-9 pm at St. Patrick's Family Center located at the corner of US 31/N Beacon Blvd and Columbus in Grand Haven. Family members and friends welcome. Adults 18 and over. Contact Helen at 616-844-0927
- Balanced Life Support Group meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month - 6:30 pm-8 pm Saint Francis de Sales Parish Office Building- for family and friends of persons with a mental illness. Contact Sheila Klemm at 616-481-3959

4. GENERAL AND WIDOW SUPPORT

- Mens breakfast group on Tuesdays at 8am at Russ' north
- Mens breakfast Wednesday group at 6:45 am at Russ' north
- Widows breakfast for women at IHOP at gam on last Friday of every month

5. CANCER SUPPORT

- Witness to Hope - the 3rd Monday of each month 5:30-6:30 pm in the library of Our Lady of the Lakes. Park in office lot. For cancer warriors, their support people and families.
- "Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support Group". We meet the first Thursday of each month from 7-8. We usually don't meet the

months of July and August. We meet at The Celebration Center 102 Walnut St, Holland, MI 49423. It is at the corner of Walnut and Chicago Dr., 3 blocks east of Russ'. Those interested can email me at ajones@hollandhospital.org or call me at 616-355-3871.

6. DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

- Holland Hospital 1st Thursday of the month 6-7 pm Conference Rooms

7. PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

- Call Evergreen Commons for the latest dates and classes 396-7100

8. LGBT

- PFLAG Holland/Lakeshore (parents, families, friends of lesbians and gays) Located in Holland ~ Contact: (616) 399-2161 pflaghols@juno.com. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of every month 7-9 pm at Grace Episcopal Church ~ 555 Michigan Ave, Holland
- GRAND RAPIDS: LGBT Support Group- Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr., SE. 2nd Tuesday, 7-8 p.m. Jill Granger, 616.308.7575
- GRAND RAPIDS: St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 3334 Breton Rd., SE 2nd Thursday, 10-11 a.m. Theresa Wilson, 616.301.2000

9. DIVORCE CARE SUPPORT GROUP

- Every Sunday 11:30 am-1:30 pm Room 115 a 13 week program begins mid Jan and mid Sept, Beechwood Church 895 Ottawa Beach Road Holland. Contact: kkammeraad-bos@live.com. Also check out DivorceCare.org for more information.

and finally

I've promised to keep you updated on my Doctor of Ministry program as I take courses. This time I'm telling you about the course before I even take it (I'm writing this mid-January, and the course will be January 30-February 3 in Chicago), as I'm reflecting on the reading I've been doing in preparation for it. This is my 4th course, and it's called "Culturally Attentive Leadership". I've decided the best way I can summarize all the extensive and challenging reading I have done, is to refer to the Word with the Children that I shared in worship on January 22 – here's what I said:

I'm so glad to see you this morning, children! I've asked Pastor Jill to help me as I talk to you today, so she's going to sit here by me. You may be hearing in church that we call this the "Season of Reconciliation" – that's a big word, RECONCILIATION! Does anyone know what that means? No?! Well, reconciliation is about making better things that are wrong. So I'm going to show you with some examples what reconciliation looks like – and I need my special Reconciliation Bag to do that.

In my Reconciliation Bag I have 2 apples. I'm going to start by showing you that I have 1 apple and Pastor Jill has 1 apple. But then watch what happens (I take away Jill's apple!). Hmm, Pastor Jill seems upset about that. So here's what I'll do: "I'm sorry Pastor Jill" (I keep the apple). Is that reconciliation, just saying sorry? No! If I really want to make things better then I will give back the apple! "Here you go, Pastor Jill, I'm sorry I took your apple and I'm giving it back to you." That's what reconciliation looks like.

Now we're going to start with me having 2 apples and Pastor Jill has 0 apples. Uh-oh, Pastor Jill looks sad and hungry. I know what I'll do! "Pastor Jill, God loves you!" (I keep my 2 apples). Is that reconciliation, just saying God loves her? No! If I really care about Pastor Jill, then I will share my apple with her, right? Here you go, Pastor Jill (I give Jill an apple). That's what reconciliation looks like.

Those are pretty good ways to understand reconciliation. But there's one more way, and it's the most difficult and most beautiful and most powerful way of all. Because when I have 2 apples, and I give 1 apple to Pastor Jill, that's good, but I need to ask: "why is it in the first place that I have 2 apples and Pastor Jill has 0?" That's not how God made the world to be, for some with too much and others not enough. So I need to talk about that with Pastor Jill and find a better way for things to be. It's no good if I keep having all the apples and Pastor Jill has none. Because in my Reconciliation Bag there is a whole bag of apples (I take a bag of apples out of my bag). What Pastor Jill and I have to figure out together is how we can both have enough apples, because God has made this world with enough for all, and that's how God wants us to live together. That's what reconciliation looks like most of all.

I've read many books and articles in preparation for this class, but my simple apple examples get to the heart of it all. Earlier in my life, I might not have included that last part in my Word with the Children. That's because as a white, middle-class, Protestant, American, Christian, I tend to focus on forgiveness and charity as the ingredients of reconciliation. But the voices of my sisters and brothers of color speak the need to start with an honest history – a history that includes the complicity of white Christians in injustice; and the need to focus on justice – a structural justice that addresses issues of historic and chronic contemporary inequity. This challenges me to rethink the paradigm of reconciliation in a fundamental way. Reconciliation cannot be a word that glosses over problems that are entrenched in our nation and world. Rather, reconciliation is only possible when we start with justice.

Thank you for supporting me in my Doctor of Ministry!

Peace,
Pastor Gordon



Hope Church News

February 2017



March, April & May Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet for the next three months (**Please note: the schedule for the entire year is also now posted** on a "Greeter Schedule" poster on the music room windows):

March Greeters

05 Cindi Veldheer-DeYoung & Terry
DeYoung
12 Kyle Vohlken
19 Ed & Ann Anderson
26 Kia & Elizabeth Weeldreyer

April Greeters

02 Lee & Joan Wenke
09 Barry & Judy Werkman
16 Adam Whitman & Dana Huisman-
Whitman
23 Chris Wiers & Lois Maassen

May Greeters

07 Cecil & Bette Williams
14 Sally Winchester
21 John & Kris Witkowski
28 Jocelyn Yost

If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, you are invited to either switch with someone or find your own substitute. You can communicate this change by marking the change on the Greeters Schedule poster on the music room windows, or by calling the office and a staff member will mark the change for you. If you prefer to have a member of the Outreach and Hospitality Ministry assign a substitute greeter, contact the office. ***If you are willing to volunteer as a substitute greeter or greet more often than once a year, please contact the office.***

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 12:10 pm Quiet Space 4 pm Adult Education 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	2 9 am - 4 pm <i>Restorative Circle Facilitator Training</i> 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 5:45 pm Season of Reconciliation Book Study 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	3	4
5 8:30 am - 2:15 pm Blood Drive (FUMC) 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Kari Miller Fenwood & Judith Boogaart</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Youth Sunday</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship	6 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Personnel 7 pm Community	7	8 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:45 am Discerning our Future Task Force 12:10 pm Quiet Space 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	9 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	10	11
12 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Alyssa Anten & QiaoQiao Chen</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Grade 5:30 pm Youth Movie Night	13 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory	14 10:30 am Coffee Time at Warm Friend	15 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12:10 pm Quiet Space 1 pm Readers 6 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	16 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	17	18
19 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship	20 5 pm Fellowship 7 pm Congregational Care	21	22 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 12:10 pm Quiet Space 6 pm Carillon Choir	23 1:30 pm FLEX 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	24	25
26 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Karmen Kooyers</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10 am Leader Appreciation 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Grade 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 1 pm Organ Recital 6 pm Fish Club	27 11 am REST Support Group	28 6 pm Mardi Gras Celebration				