



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 60, No. 4

April 2017

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Inserts:

- April Calendar
- Lectionary
- Restorative Circles Facilitator List

The deadline for the May newsletter is Tuesday, April 18.

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



Worship During Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 9

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Palm Sunday Celebration

11:00 a.m. "Worship for the Way of the Cross"

We begin the journey through Holy Week with dramatic reading, liturgical dance, and music.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

6:00 p.m. Seder Dinner

This traditional Jewish meal remembers the events of the Passover told in the book of Exodus. There will be a pot luck meal as part of the Seder so please bring a dish to pass. Sign up for the Seder in the Gathering Area or by calling the church office (392-7947).

7:45 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)

The service follows the path of Jesus' passion through the Last Supper and crucifixion and includes communion, prayer, scripture & music.

Bus Ministry: On Thursday, **April 13** for the Seder Dinner and Tenebrae Service, there will be a bus pick up at 5:30 pm at Appledorn, 5:40 pm at Freedom Village, and 5:45 pm at Warm Friend, with a return trip after the Tenebrae Service.

Good Friday, April 14

12:10 p.m. Community Good Friday Service

Hosted at Third Reformed Church and co-sponsored by the Washington School and Westcore Neighborhood Churches (Hope Church, First United Methodist Church, Third Reformed Church, New Community Fourth Reformed, and Maple Avenue Ministries).

Easter Sunday, April 16

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service

9:40 a.m. Easter Brunch ~ please bring a breakfast item to share!

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Celebrate the Risen Lord! Pastor Gordon Wiersma, preaching, and Pastor Jill Russell, liturgist; with choirs and brass under the direction of Brian Carder. Church School will not be held.

Easter Offering Designation



The Deacons have designated Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates to receive the Easter Offering. There is an Easter Offering envelope in the giving envelopes for 2017. You may also designate a donation to the Easter Offering by writing "Easter Offering" in the Memo.

From LIA: *Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates (LIA) is a not-for-profit law office that brings stability to West Michigan families and communities through legal services and advocacy. Families that are constantly in fear of*

deportation; families that lack access to quality, low-cost legal services; families that are unauthorized to work; and/or families are trapped in violent situations, struggle to maintain stability and economic security. Unstable families and families suffering from economic insecurity lead to instability in our communities, schools, and workplaces.

This is an issue that impacts everyone in our community: rich and poor, young and old, citizen and noncitizen. Founded in response to this need within one of our most vulnerable communities, LIA provides high quality immigration legal services. LIA also advocates through community education, internships and volunteer opportunities, and public awareness campaigns. These services work towards insuring family economic security, intact and unified family units, and detecting and preventing violence in our community.

LIA staff and board of directors are passionate about serving this community. Anyone, regardless of race, color, religion, creed, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, are welcome to seek and receive services at LIA. We value human life and dignity. We value social justice, and we value a strong and stable community.

Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

April 2 and 9: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, and Nazi Resistor

Looking back at World War II, many people wonder how the country that had produced Martin Luther, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Immanuel Kant embraced the National Socialism of Adolf Hitler and was responsible for the Holocaust. We'll view Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resistor, a Journey Films 2003 documentary produced from archival footage, photographs, and interviews of those who knew Bonhoeffer best. We'll learn about and discuss the complicity of German churches and universities in allowing the Holocaust. Young people and adults are encouraged to attend these classes.

- April 2: We'll view and discuss the first 45 minutes of the film.
- April 9: We'll view and discuss the last 45 minutes of the film.

April 16: Easter Sunday - No class

April 23: Blessing of the Animals, a worship service for all ages led by Rev. David Blauw

April 30, May 7 and May 14: Some Fascinating Women of the Old Testament

Lynn Japinga's most recent book, *Preaching the Women of the Old Testament: Who They Were and Why They Matter*, was published in February by Westminster John Knox Press. Of the forty women covered in the book, Lynn will select several to discuss with us. The book will be available for purchase beginning April 2.

A Special Service of Blessing for Animals....and All Creation!

Come One, Come All... on Creation Sunday

Join our Hope Church family and others invited from our community for a special service of blessing for the animals with whom we share life!

Sunday, April 23rd Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Place: Centennial Park, (Please arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. River and 10th St., near the Gazebo; Rain or shine - will use the Gazebo, if needed.)

You may also simply bring a photo of your pet, a former pet, or a favorite animal in nature!

Our Service will end by 10:15, to allow dropping pets at home prior to our 11:00 a.m. church service, which will also focus on the wonder and blessing of creation.

IMPORTANT: All pets must be leashed or in a pen/cage, and owners must pick up waste.

Questions? Call the church office at 392-7947.

Consistory Corner

The consistory voted at their February meeting to reduce the consistory size to 18 over 3 years. This means we will be electing 6 new officers rather than 8 at the April congregational meeting.

The consistory voted at their March meeting to extend a 2 1/2 year contract to Pastor Beth Carrol to serve as the assistant pastor of discipleship. Since this contract will change the 2017 budget, the consistory is calling a congregational meeting for June 4th following the 11 AM worship service to present a revised budget. The consistory will be sending a mailing to all church members in advance of this meeting that will include a description of the vision for this position, a full job description, and the financial implications of this contract.


The consistory also voted in their March meeting on how to allocate the unspent funds that were reported at the annual meeting. Over 22 proposals were submitted to the consistory for consideration. After careful deliberation, the following projects were approved by the consistory. Built into this decision was a commitment to spend 10% of the unspent funds on ministries outside of Hope Church.

Proposed Project		Rationale
O&H and Fellowship -Hospitality Supplies	\$1,250	O&H had this money available at the end of the year and anticipated spending it in early 2017
Christian Ed - New Church Van	\$20,000	This is a critical safety concern for youth trips -- this provides the base for purchasing a van and allows the youth group to fund raise for the total amount needed
Vietnam Orphans - Dan Fisher's Project	\$2,700	This is a benevolent cause beyond Hope Church's ministry
Benevolent Cause to be designated by Deacons	\$2,300	The proposal was to give money to Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates. The deacons are designating the Easter offering for this organization. This amount reflects the remaining 10% benevolence allocation and the deacons can find the appropriate ministry to receive it.
Personnel	\$7,050	Building of reserve for staff benefits
Buildings and Grounds to allocate	\$12,000	Ask Buildings and Grounds to allocate \$12,000 between various projects.
Proposed Allocation for Unspent Funds	\$45,300	

Celebrate the Living Hope Renovation Project: April 29

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

All are invited to a Celebration of A Living Hope on Saturday, April 29 to celebrate the completion of our facility renovation! A dedication service will take place at 2 PM, and an open house will take place from 2:30 - 4:30 PM, with guided tours of the building changes available!

We are also still in need of many volunteers for the April 29 celebration. Can you help with any of the needs below? Please contact the office (616-392-7947 or marevalo@hopechurchrca.org).

- We need 4 volunteers to help make fruit skewers at 9 AM in the kitchen.
- We need 2 volunteers to help for the first hour of the open house from 2:30 - 3:30 pm, and 2 volunteers to help with the second hour of the open house from 3:30-4:30 pm. These volunteers will help replenish food, punch, etc.
- We need 4 volunteers to help clean up after the event (starting at 4:30 PM).

Living Hope Renovations Pun of the Month

The final Living Hope Renovations Pun of the Month will be revealed at the Celebration of A Living Hope on April 29!

Seeking Objects to Borrow for History Table Display

Judy Parr, Hope Church member

When Hope Church celebrated its sesquicentennial in 2012, Judy Parr sought various items for a display of mementos related to the congregation's history. People supplied hymnals, bibles, Sunday School books, newsletters of the 1940s, a needlepoint reproduction of the RCA seal, several old photographs of church activities, cross-shaped name tags, and even a nail from the church that burned in the 1871 fire.

For the Renovation Open House on April 29 and for a Tulip Time organ concert that Ronda Edgington will perform on May 7, Judy is seeking items of historical interest to display on a table in the Gathering Area. At this table copies of the

Hope Church history book will also be available.

If you still have what you provided in 2012 or if you have something that you think would be suitable to display, contact Judy Parr. She and Hope Church archivist Bill Van Dyke will be at the table on April 29 and May 7 to answer questions and distribute copies of Hope Church Holland, Michigan: The First 150 Years 1862–2012. Your items will be securely stored between April 28 and May 7, and Judy and Bill will make sure that items you provided will be returned to you. Thanks for helping people remember the history of Hope Church.

Caring for Creation Corner

Joe Arevalo, Caring for Creation Coordinator

Caring for Creation is pleased to announce two events being hosted in collaboration with students in the Emmaus Scholars program at Hope College.

The first is a **Forum on Congregational Creation Care to be held on Wednesday, April 19th at 7:30 at Hope Church in the Youth Room**. The event is in response to research the students did which indicated a high proportion of clergy in the Holland area support Creation Care, but few have any formal mechanisms to do so. We will hear from a speaker on each of the following topics. First, the theological foundations for creation care. Second, someone from the group West Michigan Creation Care will describe regional attitudes and norms. Third, Hope Church's Caring for Creation Ministry will describe current practices and plans for the future. Last, the students from Emmaus Scholars will present findings on some best practices for faith communities and provide some simple first steps for interested congregations. Then the forum will be opened for dialogue between presenters and the audience.

The second is a local march for creation care timed to coincide with the People's Climate March in Washington D.C. which is happening at noon on April 29th. The hope is for the **Caring for Creation March** to take place on **Saturday, April 29th in Centennial Park at noon**. More details will be forthcoming. Please note, that if you are interested in attending the main march in D.C., financial and logistical support is available via the CRC Office of Social Justice, contact Joe Arevalo to learn more.

More Caring for Creation Opportunities:

Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore presents "What is Invading Our Habitat?"

Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at Herrick District Library

Learn about local invasive plants, the effects they have on our native landscapes and what is being done about them.

Ottawa County Parks Foundation Launch Party!

Thursday, April 20 at 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Hemlock Crossing Nature Education Center

At this event, you'll be introduced to the Parks Foundation, discuss current and future projects, and hear a MAJOR Parks announcement for 2017. Brief program begins at 5:15. Light snacks will be served.

Macatawa River Cleanup!

Saturday, April 29 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Window on the Waterfront

Join the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council as they remove trash and plastic debris from our parks along the water's edge here in Holland!

7th Annual Ottawa County Grand River Cleanup

Saturday, May 13 at 8:30 am – 1:00 pm at Harbor Island in Grand Haven

Join West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) with small breakfast provided beforehand and a light lunch after the cleanup. With the event taking place after Earth Day and right before Mother's Day they will be hosting a "Love Your Mother Earth" Day celebration!

Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Resident Pastor of Youth and Young Adults

Is there anything that tastes better than being served a cheeseburger by a young person in a poodle skirt? If this is your kind of meal (or even if it isn't), I want to invite you to an annual High Hopes tradition, our 50's Drive In! On April 23 from 5-6:30 you can drive over to Hope Church parking lot, park, and we will deliver hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, and sodas right to your car door! The best part about this is, besides the delicious cheeseburgers, that you will help us raise money for our trip to Brooklyn.

Every other summer, High Hopes drives to Greenpoint Reformed Church, where we paint walls, organize the kitchen, run the soup kitchen and food pantry, and help with whatever projects Pastors Ann and Jen need assistance. Our high schoolers get to experience worship and ministry in an urban context, as well as take in a ferry ride to see the Statue of Liberty and a slice or 2 (or 5) of New York style pizza. This trip is one of the most formational events for our older teens, as they experience God in the transformed lives of those to whom Greenpoint ministers and in the shared experience of studying God's word and working together. Your participation in this event ensure that ALL youth can go at a cost that is affordable. So please mark your calendars now and come hungry for burgers and fun.



Uniting Against Abuse Conference: May 2

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Christ Memorial Church, 595
Graafschap Rd, Holland, MI.

The Faith Communities of West Michigan are uniting to wage peace, heal families, and build hope to end abuse.

Who: We as concerned people of our community are uniting to wage peace, heal families, and build hope to end abuse.

When: Please come to a one-day conference open to all at Christ Memorial Church of Holland on May 2, 2017.

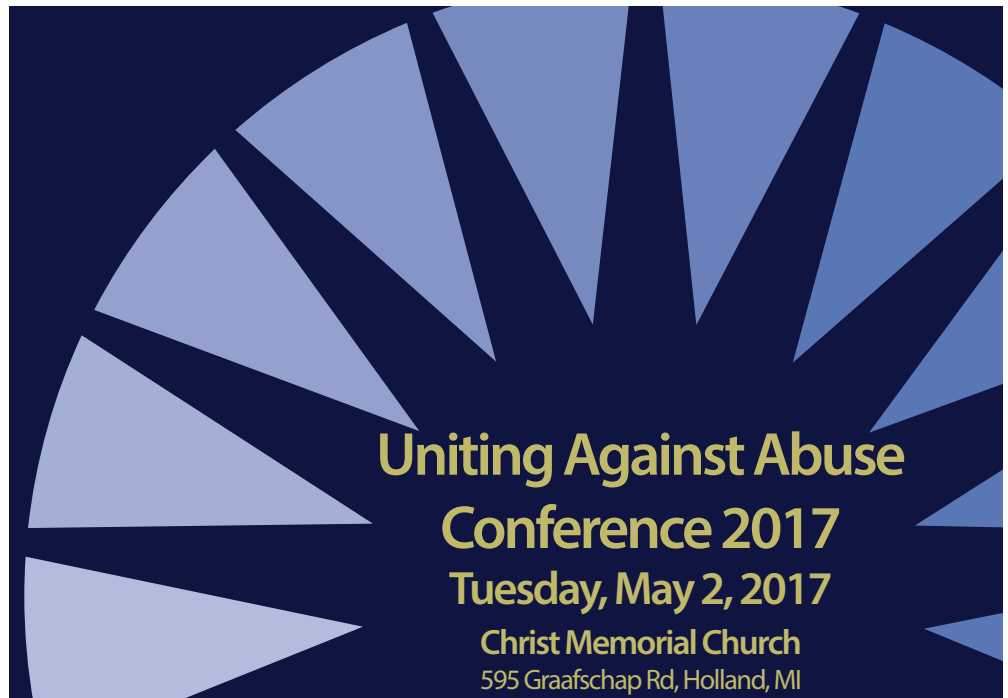
Details: Go to

UnitingAgainstAbuse.Love

to

make a donation, purchase tickets or volunteer. Please make checks payable to United Way, 2775 Lakeshore Drive North, Holland, MI 49424. Please include Imago Dei on the memo line.

What: Michigan ranks 9th in the nation for domestic homicides, 2nd in sex trafficking, and 9th in child abuse and neglect. By coming together to support our faith communities and nonprofit agencies that help the hurting, we can make a profound difference in the lives of those who suffer.



Everybody Belongs, Everybody Serves

Disability Concerns Task Force

If you looking for ways to support the needs of all persons within your congregation, plan to attend "Building a Sense of Belonging and Wholeness in the Church and Community." This workshop will provide ways your church can support its work for and with persons with disabilities.

This workshop (7 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, at Hope Church, 77 West 11th Street, Holland, MI) will include presentations by:

- Melissa Conner, Director of Friendship House and Renew Therapeutic Riding Center
- Joseph Cusack, Regional Disability Advocate for the Zeeland Classis, RCA
- Julie Essenburg, Regional Disability Advocate for the Muskegon Classis, RCA
- Angie Puterbaugh, Social Worker at Ottawa County Community Mental Health
- Judy VanderWilt, Regional Disability Advocate for the Holland Classis, RCA
- Yvonne Williams, Regional Disability Advocate for the South Grand Rapids Classis, RCA

CRC and RCA Disability Concerns staff members Mark Stephenson and Terry DeYoung will be on hand as well. This event is sponsored by West Michigan Disability Advocates (RCA and CRCNA). There is no cost for attending this event. For further information, contact Judy VanderWilt.

Kids Hope

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



Our program year is nearing its conclusion. Students at Vanderbilt Charter Academy begin their Spring Break on March 31 and will not be returning to school until April 10. Even though we plan to mentor through May 26 this year with the exception of Tulip Time week, Hope Church mentors will be meeting with their students no more than six more times this school year. Please pray with us that each of these sessions will be rewarding for both our Kids Hope students and their mentors.

Pray as well that each will end the year together on a high

note; one that recognizes the gifts that each has brought to their weekly visits. At times, we know that the weekly sessions have not brought the visible progress for which our mentors hope, but we trust that seeds have been planted and that faithfulness to the relationship has been observed. Pray with us that in time, our Kids Hope students will demonstrate that the caring relationships our mentors and prayer partners have developed with them have borne fruit.

Events and Announcements

Spring Garden-Clean Up

Gardeners! A clean-up extravaganza is planned for **Saturday, April 1 from 9:00 am til noon!** Plan to come for an hour or half a day – there will be plenty to do and people to tell you what to do! Bring your own equipment and gardening gloves.

Cleaning/Sorting Historic Bricks

On the same day of the Spring Garden Clean Up, April 1 from 9 am to noon, we will also be doing some cleaning and sorting of our historic bricks from the renovation project, and volunteers are needed! The work is to clean and sort the whole bricks from the broken ones, sort the historic brick from the non-historic brick, and then stack the historic brick in containers that will be taken away to a storage place offsite.

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet at church on April 5, at 9:30 am. We will have coffee in Commons II with Circle 2, and then the circles will separate for their own meetings.

Circle 2 will meet April 5, 9:30 A.M. in the conference room.

Circle 4 will meet on Wednesday evening, April 12 at 7:00 pm. Judy VanderWilt will host the meeting and Barb Knoops will lead the discussion.

Coffee Time at Resthaven—40th St

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 Resthaven—40th St on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

Church Office Closed: April 17

The Church office will be closed Monday, April 17 as an Easter Holiday.

Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, April 19th at 1:00pm in Commons II. We will be discussing the book Still Life with Bread Crumbs: A Novel by Anna Quindlen. Our leader will be Nancy Rock, and the hostesses will be: Joan Wenke and Anna Mae VanderWoude. New members are always welcome!

Brim Bunch: April 20

The date for Brim Bunch is April 20th. The program will be given by Paul Elzinga who has been a very important part of Hope Church's renovation plan. He will give a bit of Hope Church's building history and then lots of photos and information about the renovation. This comes at a wonderful prelude to the next week's Dedication of the Living Hope Renovation on April 29th. The menu is ham, macaroni and cheese, orangy sweet potato rounds, pineapple coleslaw, Texas rolls and once-a-year pudding. Put April 20 on your calendar. The bus will run from Freedom Village. Dinner is at 6 pm at a cost of \$8. Invite guests.

Consistory Nominations

Nominations for a new class of consistory members are in. A brief congregational meeting to elect officers will be held after worship in the sanctuary on **April 24**.

Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for April 30.

Celebrate Center for Women in Transition's 40 years of serving our community

Hope Church members are invited to attend Center for Women in Transition's 25th annual fundraising event, Reach for the Stars, on Thursday, April 20th at the Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville. The event begins at 5:45 p.m. and will include a silent auction, cocktail reception and dinner. This year's keynote speaker is Brooke Axtell, a survivor of human trafficking as a child, and domestic violence as an adult. Tickets are \$100 per person until March 31st; after March 31st, tickets are \$125 per person. If you would like to attend the event and sit at a table with other Hope Church members, please contact Angie Griffore-Martin for more info on how to register. Event details are available at cwitmi.org/events.

Ecumenical Symposium

On April 22 RCC (Red Cord Community) will be hosting "Opening the Stained Glass Window: A Celebration of Local Female Leadership". Featuring "TED" style presentations, prayer, worship and a wide variety of workshops addressing and facilitating holistic Christian spirituality, this is not a day to be missed. Childcare provided. An ecumenical non-profit organization, Red Cord Community cultivates the conscious integration of Christian spirituality and activism through the practices of Contemplation, Compassion, Creativity and Community.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

03	Char Laman
04	Barbara Boer
09	Gerard VanHeest

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

Thank You from Walk for Warmth 2017

My heart was truly warmed by Hope Church from the kind and cheerful donations given by members to this event. Hope Church was able to support the Walk for Warmth in the amount of \$851. I want all of Hope Church to know of the compassion I saw as it was extended to those struggling to pay utility bills. There were two stories shared, one by a past recipient, and the other by a worker, both of whom spoke of the intersection of cost of affordable housing in Holland, an unexpected bill such as a car repair, and winter utility bills – which combined can put a family in trouble. The worker added the comment that if families can be helped not to fall behind at a crunch time, they can so often keep going without late fees or other more serious repercussions of bill payment problems such as a shut off notice. I know many families will be helped by Hope Church's kindness. I know I was helped to experience the cheerfulness with which this was done.

~Norma Killilea

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance: Summit on Race & Inclusion

Date: **May 23rd**

Location: Frauenthal Center,
Muskegon

Join LEDA for their annual Summit on Race and Inclusion. This year's theme, Moving Toward Justice, describes the continued necessary commitment we have in seeing the work of diversity and inclusion accomplished in our neighborhood, in our state, and in our country.

The LEDA Summit on Race and Inclusion examines the effects of racial disparities, while offering strategies for their elimination. The day-long conference involves hundreds of participants from across the state of

Michigan and even from across the country, including several locally and nationally recognized speakers.

2001 began the first year in what was expected to be a five-year Lakeshore Region Summit on Racism series. In 2006, due to the Summit's success and high demand, it became an every other year event. Now, the Summit is a sold-out annual event.

This year, LEDA is excited to hold the Summit in Muskegon for the first time, and they look forward to working with their hosts at the beautiful Frauenthal Center to make a great event for everyone.

If you wish to attend, please register online at www.ethnicdiversity.org. (Follow link for more information about registration fees and location details.)

LEDA thanks this year's Event Partner, the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, as well as Platinum Sponsors--The Brooks Family and Meijer Inc.--for their support in making this year's Summit on Race and Inclusion a reality!

Hope Church will be sponsoring this event along with Covenant Community Church, RCA, of Muskegon.

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

The Milky Way

Earl Laman, Health Ministry Member



HEALTH MINISTRY

The night the first Americans landed on the moon, we lay in our sleeping bags atop a clipped-off peak of a Montana mountain. Not having seen another person during a three day climb, we communed uniquely with those moon men, our imaginations stretched, startled and stunned by immensity.

There they were hanging out in a fragment of the Milky Way which streamed with magnified clarity across the sky like splashed milk. Here we were on a pinpoint of Earth unable to comprehend what we were seeing.

But there is another “Milky Way” in the opposite direction of unseeable minuteness that I discovered when trying to comprehend the world of hormones in our bodies (i.e, January).

Frankly, it is such a complex, integral,

unfathomable system that I couldn't express its wonder! So, I'll focus on just one facet that gave us all our start in life, a mother's milk.

Wondrously, a newborn's unique needs are ideally met by the nutrients of a mother's milk, from immunity to growth.

Wondrously, a mother's milk changes its composition to meet the ever changing needs of the baby's growth! Never having met the kid, how does a mother know such complex recipes?

Wondrously, a tiny bit of pink tissue in the mother's breast “magically” calculate the exact and intricate mixture of nutrients the baby needs out there in the world.

Wondrously, while the baby is still splashing around in the inner puddle, one hormone prepares the milk glands in the mother's breast while another hormone puts up a “Not Yet!” sign for months. Until near birth another smart hormone says, “Slowly take your foot off the brake.” Who calls those timely shots?

Wondrously, when the baby sucks, nerve endings in the mother's breast

communicate directly to Hypo (remember him?) who somehow opens the spigot. Mother doesn't have to prepare or warm anything.

Wondrously, hormones carry messages to the cells, which are not conscious or intelligent, but are predesigned to carry out functions. Thus they mix the formulas for every stage- a formula which science labs have tried to duplicate for decades and can only come close.

Wondrously, we can't really say a baby sucks; they only squeeze the nozzle. Actually, another hormone, neurally alerted, secretes a message to all the breast tissue cells to “Contract!” and thus nudge the milk to the nipple for ready consumption.

Wondrous is the word for the unbelievably intricate system in conjunction with all other systems that converge and cooperate to give us bodily life. The “Milky Way” had its way with us foundationally while we were yet awakening to our own “awesome and wonderful” existence in a fantabulous body.

HOPEfully we will evidence soul-full reverence for the creative artistry of God!

Health Equipment Update

Ginger Clark, Parish Nurse, R.N.

There is the following equipment available for temporary use at no cost:

Wheelchairs, cushions, canes, crutches, commodes, shower chairs, raised toilet seats.

Call the church office or email gclark@hopechurchrca.org for availability.

If you have any equipment borrowed that is not needed anymore, please return to the office.

There are FIRST AID KITS in the following locations:

main office, kitchen, narthex, children's worship, youth room and the church van.

An AED (automatic external defibrillator) is located in the gathering area to the left of the hallway into the sanctuary. Directions for use are inside.

There are wheelchairs available at the 10th and 11th street parking entrances for use on the property.

and finally

As I'm making my way through my Doctor of Ministry program, I've been sharing with you some of what I've been reading, learning and reflecting on. I've done that mostly by summarizing some of the content of theology and theory that I've encountered, but I'd like to use a different approach for this time. Poetry is a voice that I have long appreciated in others, but that I discovered in myself during my first sabbatical in 2007. It is a voice that enables me not only to deal with issues intellectually (which I love to and am prone to do) but also on a level of feeling and spirit. As I've read recently about dynamics of racial injustice in my history as a white Christian American, I've had a lot of feelings percolating in my spirit. As I read the book for our Wednesday Lenten series, *Prophetic Lament* by Soong-Chan Rah, this is a poem that came together in me. I invite you to see what it speaks to and calls out in you.

FRAMED

I could not say
when I first noticed
that the frame was empty.
Before, it was full -
full of the faces of the story:
the right story, the white story.
Before, it was full -
full of everything
needed to keep from seeing what,
who,
was also there:
the faces of the emptiness.
Before, it was full –
and it was enough
to say what was wrong
about the right story:
that I could see.

I could not say
when I first noticed
that the frame was empty.
Perhaps it was when a bullet
entered the frame -
traveling slow motion
from a blue-white gun
over a long distance
into a black back in flight.
My eyes could not believe the bullet –
it does not tell the right story.
It triggers a fear
that there is too much
I have not seen:
all the emptiness coming to sight.

Peace

~Pastor Gordon

The author of the book *Prophetic Lament* will be here in Holland and at Hope Church on April 9. See the insert for more information.

Hope Church
77 West 11th Street
Holland MI 49423



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Hope Church News

April 2017



Looking Ahead to Think Hope 2018

Community Ministry



Because the Living Hope facility dedication and open house falls in the same timeframe as we'd typically have a Think Hope event, the Community Ministry has decided to forego this fellowship event this year.

You can start crafting or collecting your auction donations for 2018 now! Think Hope dinner, entertainment, and auction is on the calendar for April 21, 2018.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 am Garden Clean Up
2 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>QiaoQiao Chen & Kari Miller Fenwood</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> , <i>communion</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship	3 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance 7 pm Community	4 6 pm High Hopes & Fish Club Movie & Pizza Night	5 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 12:10 Quiet Space 6 Carillon Choir 6 Chancel Choir 7 Lent Series	6 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6:30 Health 7 pm Reconciliation 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	7	8
9 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Linda McFadden</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Worship for the Way of the Cross</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 4 pm Soong-Chan Rah Meeting	10 11 am REST 6:30 pm Elders & New Members 7:45 pm Consistory	11 10:30 am Coffee Time at Resthaven- 40th St.	12 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 Discerning our Future 12:10 Quiet Space 6 Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	13 Maundy Thursday 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Seder Dinner 7:45 pm Tenebrae Service	14 Good Friday 12:10 pm Good Friday Service at Third Reformed	15
16 Easter 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 9:40 am Easter Brunch 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship	17 Office Closed 7 pm Congreg- ational Care	18 4 pm Living Hope Celebration Committee 7 pm West Michigan Disability Concerns Event	19 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 12:10 Quiet Space 1 pm Readers 4 Adult Ed. 7 Chancel Choir 7:30 Creation Care Forum	20 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	21 <div>Fish Club Adventure Weekend</div>	22
23 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Judith Boogaart</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 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 Congregational Meeting 5 pm High Hopes Drive-in Fundraiser	24 11 am REST 6:30 pm Christian Education 7 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality 7:15 pm Personnel	25	26 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12:10 Quiet Space	27 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	28 5 pm G.I.F.T. Visit to Syna- gogue in Grand Rapids	29 2 pm A Living Hope Celebration: Dedication Service 2:30-4:30 pm Open House
30 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Audrianne Hill</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Alyssa Anten</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 11:15 am 6th & 7th Grade 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:15 pm New Member Reception						