



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 61, No. 5

May 2018

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## Inserts:

- *May Calendar*
- *Wisdom of the Wounded Calendar*

The deadline for the  
June/July newsletter is  
**Wednesday, May 16.**

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](http://HopeChurchRCA.org)



## Think Hope for the Earth A Success

Community Ministry

Sincere appreciation to all who helped make the April 21st Think Hope event a reality, including those who donated auction items, prepared food, and planned and set up; those who served, provided table decor, and cleaned up; and those who ate, chatted, danced, laughed, purchased auction items, and will still deliver food or services. Special thanks to our fearless leader, Lois Maassen!



## Adult Education: May

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

### May 6, & 13: For God So Loved the World

This class is guided by the belief that the natural world and spiritual experience are intimately related. The sessions will explore our history and connections to the natural world, express some spiritual reflections and suggest practical implications.

**May 6:** Nature in Our American Culture - Josh Bochniak. Josh Bochniak has a Master's Degree in Recreation with an emphasis on outdoor and environmental education. He has a strong interest in connecting people with the natural world and has studied the ways in which we both view and understand nature. This session will explore the ways in which our views of the natural world have shaped our collective willingness to care for it. The presentation will feature a brief review of the history and philosophy of the American wild.

**May 13:** So, What to Do? - Avril Wiers. Avril Wiers is a passionate educator at Ottawa Area Careerline Tech. She has a Master's Degree in Outdoor and Environmental Education. Avril has always been an outdoor person and learned respect and care for the planet at an early age. This session will examine those places in our personal lives where we can make a difference. The session will explore our daily routines and identify practical ways in which we can successfully reduce our ecological impact.

### May 20: General Synod Preview - *final adult education of program year*

This session will survey major issues that are on the agenda of the General Synod, meeting on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, June 7-12. Once the workbook comes out, we will have a better idea of what all of these issues are, but they will include a variety of overtures, recommendations from various bodies, etc. Major issues will be at stake for the future of the RCA. The session will be led by Dr. Jim Brownson, General Synod Professor, the James and Jean Cook Professor of New Testament at Western Theological Seminary, and a longtime member of Hope Church.

## Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship

Believe it or not, summer is just around the corner! Summer is a gift to us Michiganders. The beaches, flowers, treats from Captain Sundae, and open windows are a gift after all the misery brought to us courtesy of winter and even the spring as was the case this year. Some of my favorite summer gifts are the opportunities for our youth to experience spiritual formation and personal growth through our trips.

Many of you are aware of the yearly Appalachian Trail hiking trip to which our Middle Schoolers go. This year, about 6 Middle schoolers and 6 adults will explore Virginia, where we hope to see wild horses and zero ticks. This trip proves time and time again to be one of the top experiences our youth reference as teaching them they are able to confront tough obstacles life throws our way. They learn that God is always with us in the difficult times and that God gives us each other to carry us through. I cannot wait to hear the stories of what this crew learns this year.

This year brings about a whole new kind of learning for our High Hoppers. In August we will be spending a week at The Reformed Church of Highland Park in New Jersey, working with ministers Stephanie Kaper-Dale and Seth Kaper-Dale. Some of you might have seen the media coverage of this church this past year, as they have been on the front lines of assisting refugees and providing sanctuary for immigrants facing deportation. The Reformed Church of Highland Park is deeply engaged in issues of justice. They own several residential properties they rent out to low income families, lead efforts for Hurricane Sandy relief, offer church based mental health services, assist survivors of labor trafficking, work for prison reform, and much, much more. Not only will our high schoolers have the opportunity to offer tangible work that demonstrates God's love for marginalized people, but they will also gain a wider understanding of what it means to be Christian in the parts of our world that are broken. This should prove to be a life-giving opportunity for our youths. We look forward to sharing our summer gifts with you in a few months!

# Conflicted: The Changing Place of Wilderness in American Culture

Josh Bochniak, Caring for Creation Co-coordinator

As I sit to write, I'm looking at a frozen world. It is hardly the weather we expect this time of year and a palpable reminder that the natural world can be a hard and unpredictable place at times. April gave us a time, in the days surrounding Earth Day, to pay attention to this natural world, to heighten awareness of our current responsibility to this place of which we, as people of God, are called to be stewards. And without going too far into the theology of caring for God's creation, I wanted to briefly express a view of how our American culture has approached that responsibility over time.

Our American view of the natural world is bound to an early Judeo-Christian perspective that saw wilderness, unaltered by human hands, as an unforgiving place and beyond control. This perspective of wilderness as a hard and undesirable place is seeded in our Old and New Testament stories. Adam and Eve were expelled from a pristine garden to a place filled with thorns and thistles, where survival was envisioned as a struggle against the land. The Israelites wandered for 40 years in the wilderness as a means of punishment for their unbelief. Wilderness became known as a place of punishment, of lesser morality, of spiritual trial.

For centuries, this perspective crept through literary tradition, both secular and sacred. Many Western stories and fables set untamed land as the dwelling place of monsters, beasts, and unsavory humans. "Out of the woods" meant safety and predictability. It is no great wonder that European settlers of the "new world" saw before them a world that needed to be conquered, tamed, controlled. To their credit, survival was a real task, in which there was no great room for creating an ethic of conservation. The early pioneers, many of whom were rooted in a Judeo-Christian worldview, took to heart God's command in Genesis 1:28 to subdue the world. And for centuries since, we scarcely stopped to think of the consequences. This ethic of consumption, driven by many other contributing factors, is at least partially founded on a Protestant work ethic that drove the settling of the American wilderness.

As the American frontier grew smaller and its threat to human survival diminished, however, many people started looking at wilderness with a different lens. In the late 1700's, a period of Romanticism began to cultivate an appreciative view of the American wilderness. Some began to see beauty in the unspoiled hills and forests and so laid a foundation of development that led to more positive view of wilderness. In the 1800's, America's wilderness became a drumbeat for national identity. It was something that had been largely lost in the European landscape, where most habitable land had been cultivated and controlled into a pastoral setting. Not so in the United States. Here, the wilderness was still vast.

Despite these Romantic and Nationalistic views of the American wilderness, as time progressed, the undercurrent of consumption continued to run alongside appreciation for it. Even as the National Parks were created and became available, there existed a disregard for how individual and corporate actions impacted those places and many like it. In the mid to late 1960's and 70's, efforts were made to legislate a regard for human impact on the natural world. This is where many of our own stories begin to join the greater narrative. There is a continual back and forth here. A drive to control and consume, or just make ends meet, paired with an appreciation for the beauty of the natural world. The gap between the two is the understanding that one impacts the other. Somehow we need to understand and make personal the reality that our personal use of and consumption of resources impacts the natural world that we appreciate. And an appreciation for the natural world helps scaffold the desire to act responsibly toward it.

These are the goals of the Caring for Creation committee, that we might help foster personal experiences in the natural world and provide education and resources to enable care. If you would like to look further into this history of American perceptions of wilderness, why it is a sacred responsibility, and/or how to take practical steps toward caring for the natural world, join us at either of our two adult education offerings in May.

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## References:

Nash, Roderick Frazier. *Wilderness and the American Mind*. 5th ed. (New Haven: Yale, 2014)



## Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director

I can't believe it is May already. Maybe that is because April was so wintry (of course I am writing this the 3rd week of April and there is some hope for Spring like weather yet:) One thing this time of year means for Kids Hope is that there is lots to do. I thought I would let you in on some of our Kids Hope happenings so you would get an idea of some of the things going on. The 3rd week in April saw the Kids Hope National Office in Zeeland host an event for all the Directors. This way we keep informed on what's new with Kids Hope and some of the future plans down the road. The founder of Kids Hope was the main speaker and his encouraging words always make one thankful that we serve such an awesome organization.

Also in April we had a bowling event. Mentors and their students stood side by side at the Bam bowling alleys and did their best to bowl down the middle and knock as many pins down as they could. Some of us admitted that the bumpers on the side came in handy when our balls had a mind of their own. If the bowling wasn't a highlight then the pizza and drinks we had

sure were. There were a lot of people thankful that this event returned this year after a 1 year hiatus.

Following that event we began planning our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast that takes place at 7:15am (yes that is early!) on May 1. Mentors help contribute some of the items for this and Bev (Third Church Director) and I bring the rest. We get there early to set up and then enjoy seeing the teachers' excited faces as they join us for breakfast in the teachers' lounge at Vanderbilt. Soon after that is Tulip Time in Holland and although we do not mentor that week, many of us attend the Thursday Kids Parade to look for the Vanderbilt School procession and wave to our kids. I got to admit that I love parades and this is one of my favorites.

The month of May concludes with our yearly Kids Hope Celebration, which is being held at Hope Church this year. This is an event that invites the whole family of our Kids Hope students for a dinner followed by an Award Ceremony. During the ceremony we call each child up individually and

they are joined by their mentor and the mentor's prayer partner. Each child gets an award certificate signed and commented on by their mentor and they also receive a book. If you have ever been a part of this you will know it can be a spirited time and the cheers of "Hip Hip Hoorah" are heard each time a student is recognized. The other wonderful thing about this event is the opportunity our mentors have of sitting at the same table of their student and family. This gives our mentors time to share some stories about their mentoring times with the families and an opportunity for them to get acquainted even more.

Our last day of mentoring is May 25 but I know that some of our mentors find a way to keep in touch over the summer. I will keep busy with year end school meetings, evaluation of our program and wrapping up the files that are kept for each child. Before long it will be August which begins the start up for the 2018/2019 school year. (and recruitment of new mentors!) Busy, busy, busy but a great way to end another successful Kids Hope year! Thanks be to God.



***From  
Outreach to  
Embracing:  
A Biblical Model for  
Equitable Allies***

Saturday May 19, 2018  
8:30am to 12pm  
Maple Avenue Ministries  
Cost: \$20 pp

427 Maple Avenue Holland, MI 49423 [www.mapleaves.org](http://www.mapleaves.org)

## Witness to Reconciliation by Jon Jerow, Hope Church member

Hello everyone, my name is Jon Jerow, and for those of you who don't know me, I'm the son of Joyce Teusink and Bob Jerow. I grew up on that carpet over there, listening to wise words and terrible puns every week, and have returned today to give a witness to reconciliation. I tend towards the verbose, so I'll jump right in and tell you that this is going to be a story of a difficult time in my life. It starts when I was a sophomore at Kalamazoo College, and an active member of the college's circus troupe. It was in this troupe I met someone named Michaela, who now goes by Mick. I was in the middle of discovering, as most folks in their early 20's do, that relationships are hard! I mean, it takes a considerable amount of time and effort to grow a healthy relationship, and even with that it occasionally falters for outside reasons. Despite all that, I was confident that Mick and I would absolutely make things work, we were bonafide. And for a year, we did work! We had a wonderful relationship, with give and take, we made a point of communicating with one another, and sharing our lives together as partners. I wouldn't hesitate to say we were both very much in love.

Now, having grown up on a farm, in a smaller town in West Michigan, I have certain parts of myself that I cannot help. I like to focus on the positive ones, like the work ethic that I got from baling hay for full, go degree summer days. Or the commitment to welcoming others into any and all spaces, that I attribute to my time here at Hope Church and as the son of my wonderful mother. There are however certainly negative parts, for instance having grown up in Lake Michigan, I find I have trouble swimming in the ocean, for all that salt. It just seems wrong!

With that said, there came a time during my relationship with Mick, where they decided to start telling people something they had learned about themselves. It was that Mick no longer felt they could conform to either gender, and so opted to be considered Gender-Nonconforming. They were understandably nervous to tell me, but when they did, I wasn't ready for my own reaction. I felt things I really

wasn't prepared to deal with. It ran the gauntlet from concern, to excitement, to curiosity, sadness, and even anger. I paused a lot of what was happening in my life, and spent a long time journaling at every opportunity, secluding from people, trying to understand the storm going on in my head. I let a few friendships fall by the wayside during this time, I was irritable much more frequently, and I was frustrated that it was taking so long to understand myself.

As it turns out, I had a lot of things present in my heart that I hadn't come to terms with. I always considered myself to be a forward thinking, progressive person. I considered myself a feminist, and only in a cursory manner did I ever think I might be part of the problem. Oh no, those are the other people, the hateful ones, they cause all the problems. I'm supportive of everyone discovering and being themselves, I'm one of the loving people! As it turns out, having never looked deeply into myself about it, I had missed a few things, glossed over a few things over.

I loved this person. This person no longer considered themselves to be strictly a woman, but I definitely still loved them. Of course I did. So does that mean I'm attracted to people who aren't women? Am I perhaps not a straight person? That shook me, because I had always identified myself as straight, yet here was something telling me otherwise. I felt a sadness, because I thought perhaps this meant we wouldn't be able to have the family I'd always envisioned. Of course we could have a family, but I wasn't sure if Mick would want to have our children. Thinking about the future of my relationship, I let my mind run forward to see where I'd end up. It turns out that the future I had imagined for myself was pretty gendered. It involved myself, and a female wife, and our kids that we made ourselves, and the two of us supporting each other's careers as we raised our children in a small town on the west coast, maybe northern California.

That future I longed for wasn't viable anymore, because the truth of the matter was that I loved Mick. Nothing had changed between us. They had not

changed. I had not changed, they had simply discovered something about themselves! I was torn, between this vision of a future I thought I needed to pursue, and my very real, immediate love for a person who didn't fit into that future. For a time, I simply wallowed in these feelings, torn between two sides. As I kept writing, however, I slowly began to bridge that gap, by exposing parts of myself in my journaling. I worked hard to genuinely entertain the notion of futures that were not the one I had tunnel vision for, realities in which I didn't have children, realities in which I and a partner pursued passion careers, or spent our time traveling, or adopted children to help ease the world's burden in that way.

Being raised here in West Michigan had a lot of perks, but it turns out that it had also seeded some expectations about reality, about gender, about myself, that were unfounded. Looking back, those assumptions affected how I had conversations with both genders, making comments that I thought were voicing love, but were oftentimes robbing others of their agency. I never thought of myself as part of the problem, but pieces of me that I held dear were based on outdated ideas about gender. I hadn't done the hard work of rooting out those prejudices from the core of my identity. The trouble with shuffling things around at the core of your identity, is that your idea of self shifts, in a huge way. A scary way. It's not easy work. But I kept writing.

Eventually, I found myself nearly patched up, after being torn in two over my want to be with Mick, and my want for the future I had always dreamed of. I found that what was important was loving the people around me to the best of my ability, regardless of what that might mean for my future. Holding that love for others at the core of my being is what brought me back to myself, with a new understanding of life, and those around me. That God is Love is the truest expression to me of the power of reconciliation, and I've found that if we open ourselves to that love, it can heal the wounds we find festering within ourselves. Thank you for listening to my story, and may God's love be with you and in you.

# Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

## Prayer PALS: Prayers Always Lovingly Said

On Sunday, May 6, we will celebrate the Children's Sabbath, a day when we as a congregation promise to nurture and pray in support of the children of Hope Church as well as those children with special concerns around the world. We want to celebrate all children on this Sunday and each day that follows.

The congregation will have the opportunity to select names of children to support and pray for in the coming year. The names of all the children in each family will be included on the Prayer PALS sheet. Along with the names there are some suggestions and more information about how you can make a meaningful connection to those children through prayer and/or involvement with the

family. The sheets will be distributed during the worship services on May 6 and they will also be available in the Gathering Area for a few weeks after the Children's Sabbath. We will also provide cards that may be sent to the family to introduce yourself to them. Our children are an important and valuable part of our congregation as they share their joy and energy with each of us and we celebrate them.

## Children in Worship Open House – Sunday, May 6

The children of Hope Church are excited to share their worship centers with the congregation. After worship on Children's Sabbath, please make your way upstairs to the worship centers and visit with the children and their leaders. Leaders and some of the children will be available to explain how the children continue

their worship each Sunday. You will be able to see the stories displayed and the materials they use to respond to the stories. **What a wonderful way to make a connection with your Prayer PAL on this Children's Sabbath.** Remember there is an elevator to take you to the second floor! Come celebrate the children and see how they worship.

## Church School/ Children in Worship

May 20th is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The following week, May 27, children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will be meeting together in Room 204, upstairs in the Education Wing, when they are released from the 10 a.m. service. The teachers, worship leaders and children all had a very wonderful year together.

# GSC Names Eddy Alemán as RCA General Secretary Candidate

The Reformed Church General Synod Council has named its candidate for general secretary of the denomination, Eddy Alemán. To read more, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycbz8hfhz>. We are delighted that Rev. Alemán will also be preaching this summer at Hope Church on Sunday, August 19.

## Summer 2018 Preaching Schedule

For the past eight summers, the consistory approved an adjusted summer preaching schedule that would provide our pastors some increased workload flexibility for the summer. Adjusting the schedule gave our pastors the time and space for reading, planning for the coming program year, professional exploration and growth as well as accommodating the impact on pastors' schedules when two pastors are engaged in two different week long youth trips. In addition, it gave Hope Church the unique opportunity to invite guest preachers who brought to our congregation a range of diverse voices. With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the consistory has approved a similar preaching schedule for the summer of 2018. We are pleased to share that preaching schedule with you.

JUNE	
3	Pastor Jill Russell, Hope Church Co-Pastor
10	CJ Kingdom-Grier, Minister of Music at Maple Avenue Ministries, and Associate Director of Admissions at Western Theological Seminary
17	Agshin Jafarov, RCA Missions
24	Pastor Gordon Wiersma, Hope Church Co-Pastor
JULY	
1	Pastor Beth Carroll, Hope Church Assistant Pastor of Discipleship
8	Pastor Gordon Wiersma, Hope Church Co-Pastor
15	Gretchen Schoon Tanis, Pastor at RELISH, an English Service in Hanover, Germany
22	Pastor Jill Russell, Hope Church Co-Pastor
29	Jen Adams, Pastor at Grace Episcopal Church
AUGUST	
5	Brad Bartelmay, Pastor at First United Methodist Church
12	Pastor Gordon Wiersma, Hope Church Co-Pastor
19	Eddy Alemán, RCA General Secretary Candidate
26	Pastor Jill Russell, Hope Church Co-Pastor

# Poetry Corner

hosted by Randy Smit and Rhonda Edgington

While I'm sure some of you know Randy's poetry already, others now have an opportunity to encounter a mystic poet here in our midst at Hope Church. Taking familiar words, Randy combines them in unusual ways, to draw our attention, with his, to the world in which we live, the people with whom we share it, and the things we so often miss, like the sky above us. As both these pieces show us, poetry doesn't have to be obscure or overly complicated, to convey profound truths.

I wrote this poem during a time in my life when I did not know at all what to say. What I did know was that silence was carrying me, the soundless house so full of God. Withstanding the mad frenzy of our culture can be painful; so little listening amidst more messages than humans have ever thought possible, so little relating. Shall I whisper into a wind storm? Why? Within the soul can mirror the madness without if we're not careful. Things get said, can poke, twist and hurt. Nevertheless the heart can still fall silent sometimes and rediscover the grace upon which any announcement must truly rely.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

by Randy Smit

What you are hearing right

now is the sound of someone

listening deeply. What is now shaped

with lips and tongue and teeth, the

tones you turn, inside yourself, to what is

worded as words typically, is in fact the

silence in between them, giving them their shape, carrying

the burden of what they can never express, laying

bare their true message.

Peaceably.

Clearly.

My most faithful care attendant is creation. "It" tells the truth, stays the course and steadies the troubled heart, no matter what. Nature remains and remains. I feel what William Stafford means, somehow the Sky can "look for me" when I get distracted, disgusted or am too lonely to stay at the window. I am grateful for this prayer of sorts from Stafford. Each time I read it I am reassured, as he was it seems, that what surrounds us is not only very alive, but quite loving and dependable and genuinely needed. It makes me smile to think right now, even right now at this very moment, the sky is up there or out there, keeping watch; speckled with diamonds through deep night, dressed with clouds of silk or clear blue.

## SKY

by William Stafford

I like you with nothing. Are you  
what I was? What I will be?  
I look out there by the hour,  
so clear, so sure. I could  
smile, or frown – still nothing.

Be my father, be my mother,  
great sleep of blue; reach  
far within me; open doors,  
find whatever is hiding; invite it  
for many clear days in the sun.

When I turn away I know  
you are there. We won't forget  
each other: every look is a promise.  
Others can't tell what you say  
when it's the blue voice, when  
you come to the window and look for me.

Your word arches over  
the roof all day. I know it  
within my bowed head, where  
the other sky listens.  
You will bring me  
everything when the time comes.



## Events and Announcements

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Circle 1** will be Wed. May 2, 9:30 A.M. at the home of Marge DeBlaay.

**Circle 2** will meet on Wed. May 2 at 9:30 A.M. in Commons II.

**Circle 4** will meet on Wednesday, May 9. Joan Wenke will host the meeting in her home.

### Coffee Time at Appledorn

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 Appledorn on the terrace on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

### Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 16th at 1:00pm in Commons 2. We will be discussing the book, The American Spirit, by David McCullough. Our leader will be Lois Boersma, and the hostesses will be Joan Wenke and Anna Mae VanderWoude. New members are always welcome.

### An Invitation from Cecil and Bette Williams

All the friends and members of the Hope Church family are invited to the celebration of our 65th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 19th in the Atrium of Freedom Village between 2 and 4 o'clock. We hope you will join with our family and friends as we celebrate this event!

### May Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for May 20 (note that it is not the last Sunday of the month).

### Summer Worship Times

On **Sunday, May 27**, the summer worship time will change to **10:00 a.m.** Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There

will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in Room 204 after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

### Church Office Closed: May 28

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

### Restorative Circle Facilitator Training

June 14th and 15th from 9am-4pm

This two day training is for anyone who is eager to support the creation of strong communities, families, and work environments. You will learn how to communicate and collaborate during times of conflict or even just around different points of view. You will develop skills that can be put to practice immediately in informal ways and will also learn how to facilitate a formal restorative circle as well. For more information and to register go to <https://hrcircles.wordpress.com/> or call the church office at 392-7947.

### Tulip Time Parking Lot Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help staff the Hope Church parking lot on three different days during Tulip Time, on which we will be collecting a \$5 fee for parking. Proceeds will benefit the Living Hope Capital Campaign, as we work to eliminate any mortgage on our completed renovation. Please sign up in the gathering area if you are able to help out during one of time slots listed on the sign-up sheet on May 5, 9 or 10.

### Attention Graduates!

Please email [office@hopechurchca.org](mailto:office@hopechurchca.org) with details of graduation from high school, college, or graduate school. If you know your future plans, please include those. We will recognize our graduates at a later date in a Sunday worship bulletin.

### Easter Offering

Thank you for your generous response

to the Easter Offering. Our Easter offering total was \$2,818, which was designated for the Deacons Fund.

### Consistory Members Elected

At an April 22 congregational meeting, the following new Consistory members were elected:

DEACONS: Al Bradfield, Claudia Berry, Peter Hoekman

ELDERS: Barbara Joldersma, Peter Boogaart, Barbara Bright

The new Consistory members will be ordained and installed on Sunday, June 10 at the 10 am service, and will begin their service on Consistory in June. Thanks be to God for this gifted group of leaders to serve the ministry of Hope Church.

### Unity Build Update from Community Ministry

The Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity Unity Build for the Glidewell family is officially underway! The hole was dug the week of April 9 and concrete footings were poured the next week. The Wall Raising Ceremony is scheduled for May 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the ReStore, 12727 Riley Street, and you are invited to attend. More than a dozen from Hope Church have signed up to volunteer with the build or to provide snacks! If you would like to schedule a time to volunteer, contact Travis Steinhoff at [volunteer@lakeshorehabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@lakeshorehabitat.org). June and onward are still pretty open.

### Summit on Race & Inclusion

Registration is open for the May 15, 2018, Summit on Race and Inclusion, "Advancing Equity." The event will be held from 8:15 am to 3:30 pm at Hope College. Registration fee is \$75. To register for the Summit online, please visit [www.ethnicdiversity.org](http://www.ethnicdiversity.org) or email [office@ethnicdiversity.org](mailto:office@ethnicdiversity.org).



# Washington School Neighbors Fundraiser

Lisa Kasten, Neighborhood Connector



## Washington School Neighbors

WSN is looking for riders to participate in the ROC (Restoring Our Cities) bicycle tour/fundraiser. It will take place June 8-10, and WSN is hosting the Saturday June 9th meal in our 10th Street Gardens.

If you would like to participate in this fun ride for WSN, and can gain sponsorship, please go to: [www.rocmichigan.com](http://www.rocmichigan.com) to register and get more information. 80% of the proceeds from our riders go directly to support the work of Washington School Neighbors, with the remaining 20% going to Great Lakes Urban.

If you would like to ride for WSN, please register and start your fundraising page today! (Open to all Holland residents who want to support the work of WSN)

\*\*We will also be taking potluck donations for our dinner June 9th, 5:30 pm, please email: [lisa@washingtonschoolneighbors.com](mailto:lisa@washingtonschoolneighbors.com) to sign-up.

[WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com](http://WashingtonSchoolNeighbors.com)

[Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors](https://Facebook.com/WashingtonSchoolNeighbors)

## Thank You

*The attention so many of you have given our father, Phil Landes, has been such a blessing! From the time we started attending Hope, so many have made a point to warmly greet him, and Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Kim Rosenau and Ginger Clark have been regularly visiting him at his home in assisted living. The way the church family has embraced him has been incredible following his accident and during his subsequent rehabilitation. Pastors Gordon and Jill, and many others, have been so attentive, providing prayer support, visits, and frequently checking in. We want to say "thank you" for being 'Hope' to us during this difficult time.*

*God bless you all,  
~Pam & Perry Landes*

### BIRTHDAYS

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](mailto:office@hopechurchca.org)

# Is There Hope For a Progressive Movement in the RCA?

Mark your calendars for a one day conference convened at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 6 entitled "Is there Hope for a Progressive Movement in the RCA?"

The Reformed Church in America is in a time of flux, and attitudes and actions of suspicion, recrimination, and disrespect are widespread. Many have left the denomination, or threaten to leave. At the same time, there remains a strong and dedicated number, fatigued with the infighting yet determined to remain "home" within the RCA. In such a context, will a movement arise that continues to cultivate the values of an inclusive

and embracing vision for all God's people? How can such a movement best advance an understanding of the gospel of Christ as a positive force of grace in the world? Is there still room in the RCA for many perspectives — and, more importantly, for all persons who serve the Lord Jesus?

This day-long event is intended to spur deeper thinking on such matters, to encourage networking, and to lay a foundation for a safe and stable future for all who self-identify as progressive and choose at least for the time being to stay within the Reformed Church in America.

Speakers will include Denise

Kingdom-Grier, Wes Granberg-Michaelson, Michael DeRuyter, Paul Janssen, and Hope Church members Lynn Japinga and Don Luidens. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m., and will include lunch. Since this is a fully self-supporting effort, the cost of the day is \$50.00 per participant.

Sign up online at [www.rcahope.eventbrite.com](http://www.rcahope.eventbrite.com), or you can pick up a flyer in the gathering area for more information, and mail in the registration sheet that is part of the flyer to: Paul Janssen, 210 William Street, Somerville, NJ, 08876. You can also email it to [paulgjanssen@gmail.com](mailto:paulgjanssen@gmail.com).

## At Home With the Word

Sunday Lectionary as Daily Bible Readings

<b>May 1-6</b>	
Tuesday	Psalm 98:1-3
Wednesday	Psalm 98:4-9
Thursday	1 John 5:1-6
Friday	John 15:9-12
Saturday	John 15:13-17
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>May 7-13</b>	
Monday	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Tuesday	Psalm 1
Wednesday	1 John 5:9-13
Thursday	Ascension Day; Ephesians 1:15-23
Friday	John 17:6-10

Saturday	John 17:11-19
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>May 14-20</b>	
Monday	Acts 2:1-13
Tuesday	Acts 2:14-21
Wednesday	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Thursday	Psalm 104:24-35
Friday	Romans 8:22-27
Saturday	John 15:26-27; 16:4-15
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>

<b>May 21-27</b>	
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-4
Tuesday	Isaiah 6:5-8
Wednesday	Psalm 29
Thursday	Romans 8:12-17
Friday	John 3:1-8
Saturday	John 3:9-17
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
<b>May 28-May 31</b>	
Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-10
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Wednesday	Psalm 81:1-10
Thursday	Psalm 139:1-6

## Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters: May 27

Tom Arendshorst and Tom Bultman, Hope Church members

*Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters: For Such a Time as This* is an opportunity to put your faith into action. In the last 25 years, the world has reduced by *more than half* the number of people living in extreme poverty. Yet continued progress isn't a given. In 2018, we expect Congress to again propose deep cuts to vital programs that help people who are struggling with hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. These might include programs

such as WIC and SNAP that provide nutritious food to families in the United States who are temporarily struggling to provide all that their families need. Congress will also consider cuts to international humanitarian and development assistance programs that fight famines, provide nutrition for mothers and children, and help struggling farm families increase their output and incomes. *Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters* offers you the opportunity to raise your voice

to help make it possible for all people to reach their God-given potential. I invite you to join us and thousands of *Bread for the World* members and friends across the country in working to make sure that no one is forced to go to bed hungry in the United States or around the world.

We will be offering our letters on Sunday, **May 27**. Look for our table in the gathering area before and after the service.

## and finally

I'd like to share with you how enjoyable it has been for me to be a part of a creative process.

As many of you are aware, a recent part of my Doctor of Ministry project has been the presentation of a Children in Worship story that I wrote (CIW is a major part of the education program that Hope Church uses for its preschool through 5th graders, using simple figures and materials to tell the stories of God). The story that I wrote has been presented as part of a Parent Workshop, told in the Children in Worship centers, and told in the Early Worship and sanctuary worship services. That's the bare bones of it, but it's been most interesting to me to see how this has all unfolded as a collaborative creative effort:

- In late 2017 I consulted with the Christian Education Ministry about the idea of writing a CIW story.
- In January, I locked myself in a room in Chicago (at McCormick Seminary) to create the story. I wasn't sure what to write but I had to write something, so I did.
- I first shared the story with Jocelyn, and her initial response of "this could work!" allowed me to feel like I had the seed of something that could be fruitful. Joce also shared a number of ideas, questions and critiques for me as I continued to work on the story.
- That combination of affirmation (that the story had potential) along with ideas, questions, critiques continued as I shared the story with Pastor Jill and Pastor Beth and with my Doctor of Ministry Advisory Group. I received such valuable

insight and encouragement from this input, and I rewrote the story many times (and thought about it a lot of the time!).

- I held a Parents Workshop at the end of February to offer some background on my DMin work and to tell the story (the world premiere!). It was a wonderful event, as I was so grateful for the engaged creative energy of the gathering. The story was very well received both as meaningful to the parents and as something they were eager for their children to experience. I also received crucial feedback: i.e. 'what about adding images for the younger children?'; 'can the figures better represent ethnic diversity?'. All this helped me to hone the story further, as I rewrote the story many more times!
- At this point, Joce assisted me intensively with getting the materials for the story finalized (including new multi-hued wooden figures!). And Clare Heyboer made a huge contribution in expertly preparing many wooden "wall" panel pieces and holders for the story.
- Following the workshop, I was encouraged by Jill and Beth to share the story in the worship services, which was a new idea for the project. We discussed the logistics and decided we could make it work.
- Palm Sunday, March 25, the story was told to all of the children in the CIW centers and at the 8:30am and 11am services. It was very meaningful for me to have the story received as part of worship, and it was exciting to have this new

story offered as part of the CIW curriculum.

- The feedback from March 25 was very rich. The CIW leaders were very encouraging about using this story in the CIW centers, and the congregation gave much affirmation and insight on the story.
- And now the creative process is continuing. Based on the feedback from the CIW leaders, I am working towards a particular version for each of the 4 CIW classrooms, with the content of the story tailored to each of the age groups. I am also looking for ways to share the story with other congregations who use the CIW program. And I am rewriting the story a few more times. :)

God the Creator has made us as creative creatures. The brokenness in God's world demands creativity from us to find paths of reconciliation and justice. Creativity requires individual effort but it can only bear fruit in faithful community. The story I wrote is just one little toe-hold in seeking to witness to God's grace in the world, but the process of seeing it take creative shape in collaboration with the faithful community of Hope Church has been a great joy and encouragement for me. Don't be afraid to offer your creative ideas; don't be afraid to ask for help or to offer help. Most any creative idea will require some rewriting and revising along the way, but placed in the hands of the Spirit and into a faithful community: "this could work!"

Peace,  
Pastor Gordon

### PRAYER REFLECTIONS & RESPONSES

*Doctor of Ministry Project by Pastor Gordon Wiersma*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 11:15AM-12:30PM**

*Hope Church Commons ~ light lunch provided*

All are invited to participate in this event as a part of Pastor Gordon's Doctor of Ministry project. Using prayers that Pastor Gordon has written for the worship liturgy over the past several months as a source for reflection and response, this event will explore how words and images shape our faith and how our faith intersects with meaning in our lives. Your participation and input will be an important part of the work that Pastor Gordon is doing for his Doctor of Ministry project. Please plan to attend by signing up for the Sunday, June 3, event on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.



# Hope Church News

May 2018



## June, July & August 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 in the gathering area):

### June Greeters

03 Jim & Kathy Brownson  
10 Tim & Linda Cook  
17 Curtis & Lezlie Gruenler  
24 David De Block & Kristen Gray

### July Greeters

01 Jean DenHerder  
08 Kay Hubbard & Daniel Fisher  
15 Peggy DeHaan  
22 Clare & Lauren Heyboer  
29 Terry & Cindi Veldheer DeYoung

### August Greeters

05 Jane & Larry Dickie  
12 Dave Dirkse  
19 Audrienne Hill  
26 Marian Luttikhuisen and John Doyle

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 in the Gathering Area, or by calling the office and a staff member will mark the change for you. ***If you are willing to volunteer as a substitute greeter or greet more often than once a year, please contact the office.***



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>3</b> 10 am Disability Concerns 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Audrianne Hill</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am GIFT Class 9:40 am Parenting Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> , <i>preaching</i> 11:15 am 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Joint Youth Tulip Time Stroll 7 pm Tulip Time Organ Concert	<b>7</b> 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance 7 pm Community	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Coffee at Appledorn	<b>9</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 4 pm Adult Education 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	<b>10</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Katie Van Ark</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am 9th Grade Meeting with Elders 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> , <i>preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Blood Pressure Clinic	<b>14</b> 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Judith Boogaart</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am GIFT Class 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Communion</i> <i>Beth Carroll</i> , <i>preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:15 pm Profession of Faith Reception 12:15 pm 10 Year Staff Celebrations 12:30 pm Caring for Creation 3:30 pm Joint Youth Year End Party	<b>21</b> 4 pm Outreach & Hospitality 5 pm Fellowship 6:30 pm Christian Education 7:30 pm Reconciliation	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	<b>24</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 4 pm Kids Hope Year End Celebration 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 First Summer Sunday</b> 9:50 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> , <i>preaching</i> 10:15 am Church School 11:15 am Kids & Family Bike Ride	<b>28</b> <u>Memorial Day</u> <u>- Office Closed</u>	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	<b>30</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast	<b>31</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)		