



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 61, No. 6

June/July 2018

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### Inserts:

- *June/July Calendar*
- *Wisdom of the Wounded Calendar*

The deadline for the August newsletter is **Tuesday, July 17.**

### 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



## Summer \*2018\* Fellowship Events

Joyce Teusink, Fellowship Ministry co-chair

### June 22, Friday, 6:00 p.m. Summer Concert Series & Picnic at Kollen Park

Come and join us for a picnic and music at Kollen Park! The concert is free. Bring your picnic supper, a blanket and/or lawn chairs, and enjoy the music! It's great for everyone (kids to adults)! For more information, go to [www.holland.org/events/summer-concert-series](http://www.holland.org/events/summer-concert-series). (No alcoholic beverages allowed.) The concert starts at 6:30 p.m., and you can come at any time. Barbara Bright will be our representative from Hope Church and will be there at 6 p.m. You can contact her if you have questions. We hope to see you there!

### June 24, 11:15 a.m. Pizza Sunday

### July 19, Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Summer Concert Series & Picnic at Felt Mansion

Come and join us for a picnic and music at the Felt Mansion! This concert is also free. **Schlitz Creek** (a bluegrass band) will be playing at 7pm. Food vendors start serving at 6 p.m. (Alcohol is allowed.) You can also bring your own picnic supper. Be sure to bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs to listen to the music! For more information, go to [www.feltmansion.org](http://www.feltmansion.org) and click on "Tours and Events" and then go down and click on "2018 Summer Concert Series." Joyce Teusink will be our representative from Hope Church and will be there at 6:30 p.m. You can contact her if you have questions. We hope to see you there!

### July 29, 11:15 a.m. Fellowship with Grace Episcopal

### August 17, 6:00 p.m. Teusink Farm Picnic, Kids (1-16): \$9.00 Adults: \$5.00

Save the date for a Hope Church picnic at Teusink's Pony Farm on Friday, August 17, 6-8:30pm. Details to come!

### August 26, 11:15 a.m. Pizza Sunday

## Panel to Review General Synod on June 24

Judy Parr, Adult Education Task force Chair

The 2018 General Synod of the Reformed Church in America will be held at Calvin College June 7 to 12. Among those participating from Hope Church are General Synod Professor Jim Brownson, Larry Schuyler as moderator and secretary of the Commission on Church Order, Lois Maassen as Holland Classis elder delegate, Leigh Van Kempen as Holland Classis minister delegate, Terry DeYoung as the RCA Coordinator for Disability Concerns, Cindi Veldheer DeYoung as member of the General Synod Council and of the Committee of Reference, and Carol Bechtel as General Synod Professor.

Several of these individuals will participate as panelists in a General Synod Review on June 24 at 11:45 a.m. in the Hope Church sanctuary.

## Hope Church Welcomes New Members

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on April 22 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Please take the time to welcome these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

### Richard Perez



**Richard Perez** joins by profession of faith. A professor of Theatre at Hope College he is originally from California. He has spent many years as a professional director and actor living in such diverse places as New York City, Bloomington, Indiana, Louisville, Phoenix and most recently, Chicago. He is a Co-Artistic Director of Exit Left, a new Theatre Company in Holland. Richard recently had the good fortune to marry Pastor Beth Carroll. He is sponsored by Perry Landes.

### Steve & Ruth Stegeman



**Steve and Ruth Stegeman** join by transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Both keep active in retirement jobs. Steve works for Careerline Tech teaching emergency medical skills to high school students. Ruth does contractual work with organizations involved in collective community development. Their two sons are Patrick, who works for a technology company in Denver, and Nick (married to Kathleen), a mechanical engineer in Holland. Steve and Ruth enjoy travel, reading, and a variety of outdoor activities. They are sponsored by Dan and Peg Luidens.

### Anne Heath Wiersma



**Anne Heath Wiersma** joins by reaffirmation of faith. She was affiliated with the United Church of Putney, VT (UCC), which disbanded in 2008. Anne teaches art history at Hope College. She is married to Gordon Wiersma and has two children, Liam, 9th grade, and Stella Morrison, 6th grade. She is sponsored by Judy Bos.

### Rebecca Cooper



**Rebecca Cooper** joins by transfer from Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Rebecca is a student at Western Theological Seminary and will graduate in May, 2019. Rebecca and her husband, Jon have three children: Levi (age 14), Noelle (age 10), and Josie (age 7). Rebecca's parents, Tom and Judy Boogaart, are also members at Hope Church.

## Rick & Sarah Boss



**Rick and Sarah Boss**, along with their son **Andrew**, join by reaffirmation of faith and profession of faith. Rick is the owner of his own residential/commercial painting business for over 20 years, and is originally from this area. Sarah has her degree in Photography and Art, but currently is a nanny for her two nieces. She grew up in East Lansing. They recently welcomed their first son Andrew into their lives. As a family, they enjoy all outdoor activities, especially anything that involves the beach and water. They are sponsored by Hal and Sara Alsum.

## Mari & Samantha von Websky



**Mari and Samantha von Websky**, along with their daughter **Vivian**, join by profession of faith. Mari works as a Director of Physician Services with Seasons Hospice. Samantha is currently a stay at home mom to their 5 month old daughter, Vivian, but can be found occasionally helping out at her family's business downtown Holland, Holland Peanut Store. Mari enjoys eating Samantha's gourmet home cooked meals, soccer, and skiing. Samantha enjoys cooking, reading, and playing tennis. Both enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, and staying active. They are sponsored by Fred and Lori VanDoornik.

## Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director

Whoa! We made it! Another school year for Kids Hope at Vanderbilt Academy has come to a halt. But in reality there will still be some connections taking place with mentors planning to see their child over the summer and 3 of our students are attending Camp Geneva. I know I will remain busy with year end evaluations and reviewing my first year as Director to see what went well and what could use improvement. August will be here before you know it and it is then that I will start recruiting for new members. Consider this your warning as I am going to contact as many of you that I can so that I can add you to our already stellar group of mentors.

Speaking of mentors, I have been blessed with a great group this year. They were loyal, creative, caring, fun and had an amazing influence on the kids they mentored. Many

went beyond what was expected of them as their relationships deepened which sometimes included activities outside of school like attending their students' ball games. I can't imagine a better group of mentors to work beside to make a difference in the lives of some of our neediest children. If you see them around please thank them for their service to Kids Hope: LINDA COOK, DAVE BOELKINS, BARB BLAUW, BARB KNOOPS, RHONDA EDGINGTON, SANDY MULDER, CONNIE VANDERVELDE, TIM PENNINGS, BRAD BRIGHT, STEPHANIE BEYER, JOHN BEYER, STEVE BERRY, ANDREW BREDOW, and BOB JORDAN.

These mentors were supported through prayer by their prayer partners: JAN FIKE, STEPHANIE KROM, MARY BUYS, JUDY MASTENBROOK, KARI MILLER

FENWOOD, JOSH BOCHNIAK, DORTHY SHERBURNE, JILL RUSSELL, DAVE VAN DOORNE, and JANE SCHUYLER.

And since no one's schedule is completely without conflicts our mentors depend on our subs to be there when they cannot: SHARON ARENDSHORST, CAROLE HINTZ, JOSH BOCHNIAK, JANE SCHUYLER and BARB JOLDERSMA.

And finally I want to thank Pastor Gordon for his support and Ann Anderson for faithfully praying for me when I was a mentor and now through my first year of directing the program.

Praise be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and may God continue to bless the Kids Hope program! Amen.



## Caring for Creation

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Co-coordinator

Ah, Michigan! It feels like we just lived through a double groundhog winter—twelve more weeks of winter. For those of us planning a wildflower walk, there was some anxiety. We couldn't know if this was going to be more walk than flower. But flowers there were! We planned two walks this spring in order to catch the sequencing of flower arrivals. In some places the display was spectacular. I heard comments like: "This is surreal!" The wait was worth it. And the reminder of God's faithfulness from one season of life to another was hard to miss. You might say that this was the kind of experience that causes one to wax poetic. Read on.

### AMAN PARK—SPRING 2018

By Peter Boogaart

The flowers don't care  
they aren't listening  
to you

The hour and the time  
choose themselves  
Be ready! Watch and wait!

Bloodroot  
doesn't negotiate

Spring Beauty  
won't consult your calendar

Trout Lilies  
paint leaf litter  
only when ready

Skunk Cabbage  
will come and go  
before the championship game

Trillium and Bluebells  
celebrate in mass  
while you are left behind

The flowers are listening  
to the snow  
to the wind  
to the sun

Day onto day, they listen  
as the sun sets its course  
from one end of heaven to the other

Flowers pulse  
as the wind  
passes over  
null winter void

Flowers wait  
for the cold snow stone  
to be melted away

And when they hear  
the springs and pedals  
of the organic earth

The flowers sing  
come  
come  
for all things are now ready

### Upcoming Caring for Creation Events:

#### June 4, 6:30 PM - 8 PM: Creation Care for Congregations

This event will take place at Hope Church. Light snacks/beverages provided. Free to all participants.

Whether you're new to the idea of creation care advocacy or have been a champion for many years, please join leaders of West Michigan Creation Care and the Reformed Church of America for an evening of idea-sharing and information-gathering. Our goal is to generate congregational excitement around this important work of caring for God's creation. We'll discuss some challenges as well as practical next steps for living a "creation-aware lifestyle" personally, locally, and globally. **Please RSVP - [creativityken1@gmail.com](mailto:creativityken1@gmail.com) or call - 616.403.5777.**

#### July 7, 9 AM - 12 noon: Macatawa River Kayak Trip

We will paddle from PawPaw Park and end at Dunton Park. Kayak rentals are \$25 dollars but people are welcome to bring their own boats as well.

#### August 5, 11:30 AM: Bike Ride -Tunnel Park to Rosy Mound

Bring bikes to church with you and a trailer will transport bikes from church to Tunnel Park.

Lisa Kasten, Neighborhood Connector

To coin a phrase from Sesame Street, "Who are the people in your neighborhood"? How many of us know our neighbors, on both sides of our home, those behind us and across the street? To visualize this, make a tic tac toe pattern and put yourself right in the middle. How many of the remaining boxes can you fill in with the corresponding neighbors' names, their family, what they do for a living, their life circumstances?

There is a book by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon called "The Art of Neighboring". It talks about building relationships right outside your front door. The grid idea was given to help visualize your neighborhood. After doing this exercise at over 1000 churches across the country they found that only 10% of people can give the first and last names of all the neighbors in this grid. The book continues asking the question, what meaningful information do you know about these same neighbors, like career goals, background, family dynamic? Only 1% could give anything meaningful they knew about their neighbors. What if we were conscious about taking that first step? What would life in our community look like if we broke down the fear, isolation and misunderstanding that comes from not knowing our neighbors? Would we start to develop more patience for our neighbors if we understood their struggles? What if there was an emergency and we felt comfortable asking a neighbor for help?

These are the ideas that I challenged my Block Connectors to find out over the next few months. I want to see what happens when we are intentional about knowing our neighbors and inviting them into our lives. Letting go of the busyness and taking an extra minute to say hello, introduce yourself and start to build a relationship. We know that Jesus commanded us in Mark 12:31 to "love your neighbor as yourself". What if He meant to love our actual neighbor? We love our neighbors across the ocean and those we support through our missions. We love on those in our community

through offering our resources to agencies that help those in need. What about those right next door to us? What are their circumstances and how can we love them?

I asked my Block Connectors to look for simple ways to find out more about their neighbors. Not in a way that is intrusive or disrespectful of someone's privacy. I suggested maybe as they are taking a walk, look for an opportunity to say hello. Out working in their yard is another good way to reach out. Maybe they are in need of an edger that they do not own. Ask a neighbor to borrow one. The neighbor will feel useful and needed and that wall of fear on both sides will be broken down. We may not all live in an area where we feel safe to explore relationships with others. But through relationships, trust is built and safety is a natural consequence.

I am not a social person by nature. I get anxiety when I know I will be around people that I have never met. When my pastor says that it is time to shake hands and meet someone new at church on Sunday, I want to exit for the bathroom. The thing is, there are very few instances where I was anxious about meeting new people that I didn't walk away feeling like it was no accident that I was there in that place. The more I ask questions and find out about others' lives, the more fear loses its stronghold.

We were designed to be in relationship, yet everything about our technology heavy world pushes us to be more consumed with self. We escape to an online world of false security and base our worth on how many 'likes' our post gets. In the real world we are responsible for forming relationships with actual people and holding ourselves accountable for our actions. It's much easier to voice our opinions when you are staring at a screen and typing words when there seem to be no consequences. In person, we have to really choose our words wisely and be able to stand behind what we want to say.

In the end, we are the only ones who can make this life what we want it to be. If we want to be in relationship with others...with our neighbors, we have to step outside of our front door and be open to what comes next. We have to take a chance that living in the real world is better than one lived on a screen. Living inside our own four walls may feel safe. But what would it feel like to have walls that extend throughout our neighborhood and you know all of the people inside of them?

I welcome questions and feedback. Email me at: [lisa@washingtonschoolneighbors.com](mailto:lisa@washingtonschoolneighbors.com)

## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday June 16th-10 am-(Hope Church 10th Street Gardens)**

**-Worms and Composting Workshop with Matt Richardson**

Come hear Matt Richardson, our neighbor on West 11th Street, share about his journey in the world of worms and how they have helped his family eliminate kitchen waste and instead use POW (poop of worms) to fuel their plants around their home. Put all your squirmy misconceptions about these slimy little guys to rest and find out how you two could have all the benefits without the stink and the gross.

**Wednesday June 20th-(Hope Church 10th Street Gardens)**

**-Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt**

**Registration 5:30 pm/start promptly at 6 pm**

Get out with your neighbors and explore the Washington School Neighborhood. Registration starts at 5:30 pm, with a start time of 6 pm **sharp**. Be the first to find all the landmarks on our scavenger hunt and return to the 10th st. gardens. Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt has graciously donated prizes for the first 3 teams who finish. (1st place-2/\$10 gift cards, 2nd place-2/\$5 gift cards, 3rd place-free fro-yo cake slice with purchase). Sign up in teams of two people (or families). Let's see how well you know your neighborhood.

## ministry/committee HIGHLIGHT

*This series of highlights on ministries/committees at Hope Church is intended to be sure our members are aware of how things happen and their opportunities to engage.*

### Building & Grounds Committee

Duane Kooyers, Building & Grounds Committee Chair

The Building and Grounds Committee is responsible for the care and maintenance of the physical facilities of Hope Church. It oversees repair and replacement of systems and equipment, the purchase of expendable supplies, and the payment for utilities and services. This ministry keeps the physical plant functioning smoothly so that all the other ministries can operate efficiently, taking seriously the commitment to be good stewards of our church resources, while remaining mindful of and maintaining the historical beauty of our place of worship.

Provide provisions for the journey.

1. Use our new sound board and computer connections to continue streaming services over internet for radio broadcast by WHTC and listening via internet.
2. Use that same new sound board to record sermons, as well as backup record ability of the computer, to allow creation, editing and burning of CDs.
3. We have a new phone and computer support company working with us to upgrade the wireless internet access throughout the church.
4. Run sound for Sunday service, classes and meetings in Commons

and new chapel.

5. Worked with our heating and cooling contractor to get a central control system so staff can program heating and cooling from their computers.

Welcome all.

1. Signage: Parking lot, building and rooms.
2. Facilities Maintenance: snow removal, lawn care, sprinklers, gardens, recruit gardeners, floor cleaning, lighting.
3. Maintaining handicap access ramps and doors.
4. Meeting spaces for community activities and groups – Tulip City Camera Club, Audubon Society, family reunions, weddings, etc.

Connect with and witness to the community.

1. Maintain space for CDS Child Development Services.
2. Arrange web hosting service for our website and e-mail service.
3. Provide support for the rain garden, community garden, and other environmental projects.

Engender deep engagement.

1. Assist with hanging art displays, banners, etc.
2. Make available space for groups

and activities – kitchen, nursery, choir room, offices, worship space, Sunday school rooms.

3. Provide mobile sound for season start celebration, quiet garden benches, etc.

We also want to celebrate and thank the many volunteers who help with caring for our facility and grounds. We'd like to make special mention of David VanHeest and Doug Abell for their leadership with the gardens and Peter Boogaart for his leadership with the rain garden. Special thanks also to our staff. They do great work, and they give of time that goes far beyond our budget numbers. We also need to thank Andrew Bunnell for his dedication with our sound board and new sound systems.

If you have any talents or interest in any of these areas that you'd like to share, we welcome you to join us. We meet at noon on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Contact any of the Building and Grounds Committee members: Duane Kooyers (chair), Ben Sikkink, Leon Knoll, Robert Jerow with support from David Hawley and staff support from Megan Arevalo, Katie Norris, Gordon Wiersma, and Ric Beltran.

### Appalachian Trail Trip Cancellation

After much brainstorming and discussion, Pastors Jill, Gordon, and Beth have decided to cancel this year's Appalachian Trail Trip, due to small numbers. As our Fish Club families are already aware, we will have a few years where our middle school youth numbers are smaller than usual, which will then affect High Hopes as our middle schoolers move up to high school. While we know in about 2 years our numbers will begin to increase again as the larger number of elementary school students move to middle school, for now we will need to be creative and strategic in making sure our programming and events are better dialed in for smaller numbers. But rest assured, this does not change our commitment to this fantastic trip! We already have next year's trip dates on the calendar and have invited our high schoolers to join us too. Thanks for all you do to support Hope Church youth!

Many of you know Francis Fike, Professor Emeritus of English at Hope College, who taught there from 1968-1998. Francis is a keen reader, writer, critic, translator, and lover of poetry. He served as Poetry Editor of Perspectives: Journal of Reformed Thought from 2005-2010. He has also published five books of poetry. The poem below first appeared in the Perspectives Journal. Part of the joy of this poetry corner, for us, is discovering how many fellow Hope Church members have such varied experiences with poetry, and sharing the fruits of those discoveries with you. R&R

Many years ago I came to church on some errand, parked the car and got out. In the southwest corner of the parking lot, there still remained that February day a large pile of slowly diminishing grey snow. Before I turned to go into the church, I saw a bird fly down to a small pool that the melting snow had formed. It was a Mourning Dove, a bird that at that time was in the state news. A group had formed to get the DNR to relist the bird from Songbird to Gamebird status, and thus give hunters one more prey to shoot. There were protests in Lansing against the change. I took this appearance of the dove as a reminder to me to stand up for its protection. Those opposed to the change eventually won, and the addition of Mourning Doves to the hunters' trophy bags was prevented. The song of the Mourning Dove is the first bird song heard in spring, and the last in summer. Some hear the song to say "Oh, pray for shalom and peace..."

I recorded the experience in a journal, and hoped to write a poem about it, but years passed before I finally was able to do one that was satisfactory. This is the poem based on the journal account, a poem which relates to our current topic of Creation Care.

## The Dove by Francis Fike

Here in a parking lot in February  
Where snow, piled through the winter, melting in thaw,  
Had sent a freshly pulsing tributary  
Across the asphalt like a silver claw,  
A dove landed, dipped, and drank, wary.

Songbird yet game bird, prey to hunters' pride,  
Preyed on as well by hawk, egg-hungry crow,  
This gentle bird has managed to abide  
As habitat is lost and cities grow  
On lands that we have seized and occupied.

Almost as swift in flight as peregrine  
With wings that whisper rhythm as it flies,  
Cautiously wild, yet still in cities seen,  
This is the Mourning Dove, whose presence vies  
For space against construction and machine.

Against the testing threats of time and place  
This dove, dipping to sip from pavement pool,  
Tempers with peace our noisy crowded space,  
Our heedless use of brash technique and tool,  
With wilderness refreshment in its grace.

## Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

### Summer Church School

Children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will leave the 10:00 a.m. worship service after the Word with the Children and will meet together in Room 204. This summer we will start by learning about the Light of Jesus through stories, music, crafts and other activities. We will learn about the experiences of John the Baptist, Bartimaeus, Zacchaeus, Mary and Paul as they lived and were changed by the light that Jesus brought to the world. The children will be done with their activities at the end of the worship service.

### Children's Offering

Our children dedicated their offerings to purchasing a share of fresh food from Groundswell Farms. The food will be donated to people in the community

who would otherwise not have good access to the great nutritious value of locally grown food. The children learned how important it is to share our gifts with others and how even small gifts may have a large impact on the lives of others. Thanks for your help, children, in remembering to share what you have been given with others.

### Nursery Care

Nursery care will continue to be provided during the service during the summer. We have been so privileged to have Margaret Buckley as the main caregiver during this past year. We would appreciate some other people to take the opportunity to enjoy the youngest members of our congregation during the 10 a.m. service this summer. There will be a signup sheet in the Gathering

Area or you may contact Jocelyn Van Heest if you have any questions. What a wonderful way to meet and enjoy the young families of Hope Church.

### Teachers and Leaders

Hope Church celebrated the dedication, commitment and faithfulness of our teachers and our Children in Worship, music and youth leaders on April 29. Thank you to all the people who gave of their time and talents this past year. Also, thanks to those who attended the reception to show your appreciation and to those who took the time to write notes of thanks to the leaders. It is wonderful that these dedicated teachers are able to receive the satisfaction of walking together in faith with their classes and are so lovingly supported by their faith community.

## Events and Announcements

### Women's Circle Meetings

**Circle 1** will meet June 6th, 9:30 A.M. at the home of Nancy Vande Water's daughter, Patti Bing.

**Circle 2** will meet on Wed. June 6 at 9:30 A.M. in Commons 2.

**Circle 4** will hold their wind-up salad supper on Wednesday, June 13, at 6:00 pm. Judy Mastenbrook will host the meeting.

### 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.

### Hope Church Readers

Our next meeting will be a Salad Luncheon at the home of Jean McFadden (4461 N Lakeshore Drive), at 12:00 NOON on Wednesday, June 20. We will be choosing our books for the 2018-2019 schedule. Please bring a salad to share, and a book suggestion for next year. Please suggest only one book, and it should be available in paperback when we read it. You will receive an e-mail with further details if you are on the HC Readers' Roster. The published list of books for the 2018-2019 year will be available at the Welcome Desk sometime in July.

### Brim Bunch: June 21

Brim Bunch will meet on the 21st of June at 6:00 pm. It will be an indoor picnic so will be held rain or shine at the church. The Freedom Village bus will pick up at 5:30 pm. The menu is BBQ on a bun, pineapple coleslaw, potato salad, calico beans, watermelon, Klondike bars. Kathy Sheridan, Hope

Church member and board member of the Child Development Services of Ottawa County, will present the program. Katy Van Dam will give the history and tell about the current program of CDS. There will also be a tour. (Aren't you glad there is now an elevator?) Reservations are requested.

### Holland PRIDE Festival June 23 - Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, June 23 from 12-5 PM at Centennial Park, there will be an outdoor celebration with information booths, vendors, food, and music! Hope Church will be an exhibitor at this event, and is looking for volunteers to staff our table. Sign up online at: <https://tinyurl.com/hollandpride> or contact the church office to sign up!

### June Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for June 24. There will be no July Pizza Sunday.

### Great Consistory Gathering: What lies ahead for Hope Church and the RCA?

Members of the Great Consistory of Hope Church (and your significant other) are invited to participate in an evening of conversation, processing together the substance and tone of the outcomes of General Synod. Dr. Jim Brownson will inform our discussion with perspectives on the history and polity of the denomination. Join us on **Wednesday, June 27, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.** at the Holland Area Arts Council. Light appetizers and beverages of all sorts will be provided. Please let us know whether you can join us either by filling out the form at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/greatconsistory> or by contacting the church office.

### Summer Brunch with the Pastors

The Pastors will be hosting brunch after worship on three Sundays from 11:45am – 1pm. The dates are July 15 at Pastor Beth's house, August 5 at Pastor Jill's house, and August 12 at Pastor Gordon's house. There are 2 ways to sign up: in the gathering

area and online at <https://tinyurl.com/pastorbrunch>. This will be a time of informal conversation and fellowship over brunch. We look forward to an opportunity to break bread with you.

### Tulip Time Parking Lot

The total collected from Tulip Time Parking was \$1,411! Thank you to those who helped staff the parking lot to help us raise money to benefit the Living Hope Capital Campaign, as we work to eliminate any mortgage on our completed renovation: Judy Bultman; Rhonda, Isaac and Esther Edgington; Jan Fike; David VanHeest & Doug Abell; Joyce Teusink, Anne Hoekman; Wendy & Kevin Rebhan; Dave Boelkins; Judy & Bill Parr; Fred & Lori VanDoornik; Cathy Green, Dave VanDoorne; and Rick & Deb Smith.

### Counting Offering

Each Sunday after worship the deacons, assisted by volunteers, count the offering in teams of two people. It takes from 45-60 minutes and each team will serve every 8-10 weeks. If you would like to serve Hope Church by helping with this (prior service as a deacon is not required) over the next year please contact Senior Deacon Ben Sikkink at [bsikkink@comcast.net](mailto:bsikkink@comcast.net).

### Yoga: Summer Beach Series

Holland State Park (near west side of pavilion inside the park) 8:15 - 9:15am. Yoga at the beach inspires a settling of the mind and body, a deep connection to both nature and ourselves, and an experience saturated with awe, wonder and a profound sense of being enough. Sink your feet in the sand. Take a deep breath. Embrace the invitation of summer Sunday mornings to practice a unique blend of fluid movement and guided contemplation. No experience necessary. Class is free. Bring a beach towel or two. Visit [www.bhavanaholland.com](http://www.bhavanaholland.com) or [www.withheartfoward.com](http://www.withheartfoward.com) for more information.



# At Home With the Word

Sunday Lectionary as Daily Bible Readings

## June 1-3

Friday 2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
 Saturday Mark 2:23-3:6  
 Sunday **Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Wednesday Job 38:1-11  
 Thursday Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
 Friday 2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
 Saturday Mark 4:35-41  
 Sunday **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Wednesday Amos 7:7-15  
 Thursday Psalm 85:8-13  
 Friday Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Saturday Mark 6:14-29  
 Sunday **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

## June 4-10

Monday 1 Samuel 8:4-20  
 Tuesday Genesis 3:8-15  
 Wednesday Psalm 138  
 Thursday Psalm 130  
 Friday 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
 Saturday Mark 3:20-35  
 Sunday **Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 25-July 1**  
 Monday 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
 Tuesday Psalm 130  
 Wednesday Lamentations 3:22-33  
 Thursday Psalm 30  
 Friday 2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
 Saturday Mark 5:21-43  
 Sunday **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 16-22**  
 Monday 2 Samuel 7:1-14  
 Tuesday Psalm 89:20-37  
 Wednesday Jeremiah 23:1-6  
 Thursday Psalm 23  
 Friday Ephesians 2:11-22  
 Saturday Mark 6:30-34, 53-56  
 Sunday **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

## June 11-17

Monday 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
 Tuesday Psalm 20  
 Wednesday Ezekiel 17:22-24  
 Thursday Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
 Friday 2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
 Saturday Mark 4:26-34  
 Sunday **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 2-8**  
 Monday 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10  
 Tuesday Psalm 48  
 Wednesday Ezekiel 2:1-5  
 Thursday Psalm 123  
 Friday 2 Corinthians 12:2-10  
 Saturday Mark 6:1-13  
 Sunday **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 23-29**  
 Monday 2 Samuel 11:1-15  
 Tuesday Psalm 14  
 Wednesday 2 Kings 4:42-44  
 Thursday Psalm 145:10-18  
 Friday Ephesians 3:14-21  
 Saturday John 6:1-21  
 Sunday **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## June 18-24

Monday 1 Samuel 17:32-49  
 Tuesday 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16

**July 9-15**  
 Monday 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12-19  
 Tuesday Psalm 24

**July 30-31**  
 Monday 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13  
 Tuesday Psalm 51:1-12

## Thank You

*A huge thank you to our amazing newsletter volunteers! There has been such a tremendous response from the congregation regarding assembling the newsletter and it is so refreshing to see all of you come together to help with this task. You are amazing!*

*Dear Hope Church Family: In the midst of one of the greatest storms of our lives, Hope Church offered a safe harbor. In the midst of an autoimmune liver disease and subsequent treatment with Prednisone, Daniel had eight vertebrae fractures in three weeks. As he endured the pain and we tried to wrap our brains around a "new normal" Hope Church upheld us in uncommon ways. You brought food—SUCH a gift! You prayed. You wrote notes. Pastors Jill, Gordon, and Beth brought meals and sat and prayed. In the midst of him being hospitalized for more than four weeks over three hospitalizations you messaged us and let us know that we were never alone. Yes—God was ALWAYS there. But so were you. Thank you. For everything. For being the Church. For the love, laughter, and food. And encouragement, prayers, and care.*

*In Christ's Peace,*

*~Ruth and the Hawley-Lowry Family*

## JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 14 Lois Boersma

July 17 Dorothy Sherburne

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)

## Summer Fun & Fitness

Ginger Clark, R.N., Hope Church Nurse

Now that summer is finally here, it is noteworthy to review some facts to get the most out of it. More personal and family time is spent doing your favorite activities in the summer. Let's take it outside!

FUN is the major reason active people give for exercising. The socialization that goes with it can add physical, emotional and mental health benefits. The benefits of exercise for all ages are increasing endurance, strength, balance and flexibility. If new to exercise, begin slowly and consult your doctor if you have any significant health problems. 30 minutes most days is great and it can be done in increments of 10-15 minutes at a time. Getting moving can help you manage pain and improve your strength and self-confidence. Many older people find that regular activity not only helps stem the decline in strength and vitality that comes with age, but actually improves it. Older adults who stay active will achieve a higher level of senior independence for a number of reasons. Exercise keeps both the mind and body functioning at peak performance, and it can boost your attitude as well.

**FAMILY and FRIENDS:** Relationship building and creating good memories helps our body release the "feel good hormones"- helping to strengthen our positive outlook and bond with those around us. These activities could include: biking, hiking, ball games, skating, swimming, scavenger hunts, frisbee, canoeing or lawn and garden work. Don't forget to include those pets for added fun!

Fitness for seniors and those with limited mobility can



include some stretching, leg raises, chair yoga, sit to stand, breathing exercises, abdominal exercises and range of motion exercises. Bring it outside if you can do it safely with an attendant or sit in front of a window watching the birds. Short walks with an assist device and pacing yourself can be very beneficial. Any routine movements on a daily basis can add to your overall health and well being.

**SAFETY** in the summer consists of use of sunscreen, sunglasses, bike helmets, knee and elbow pads, proper shoes, loose and light-fitting clothes and life jackets. Remember to stay hydrated. Get a head start on your water intake before you begin your activity. Divide your weight in 2 and drink that many ounces of water in a day (unless you have restrictions), make a water schedule, eat high water content fruits and veggies such as lettuce, cucumber, celery, tomatoes, watermelon, strawberries and cantaloupe. Avoid the hottest part of the day- usually between 10-3 pm. Know the signs of dehydration: fatigue, loss of appetite, muscles cramps, headache, flushed skin and dizziness. Seek medical advice if these occur.

**GET FIT FOR LIFE – NOT JUST FOR SUMMER!**



## and finally

As many of you know, one portion of my work as Pastor of Discipleship is to minister to Hope College students. At first glance, some might think that this is superfluous work, asking "Why would a Christian college need a pastor from outside their community to disciple them? Don't they have plenty of resources to support their faith on campus?" This is a great question! The fact is Hope does have wonderful resources from which to choose. Students can get spiritually supportive care from Campus Ministries, which offers chapel services 6 days a week, as well as chaplaincy support for students who desire one on one mentoring and prayer. A number of professors and staff offer encouragement and prayer support as well. There are also a number of student led Bible studies and small groups, both formal and informal. So with all of these faith enriching tools, why WOULD Hope College students need someone like me?

My answer is two-fold. First, Hope College takes church commitment pretty seriously. While there are a number of ways students can be discipled on campus, Hope's philosophy is that none of these should be a substitute for belonging to a church family. College students are encouraged to explore Holland area churches and get involved. While Hope College meets many individual needs, they know that being part of a church family is integral to Christian faith. While Hope is home for a few years, the church is a home for life. What better time to take ownership of one's faith away from home, by learning for yourself what kind of church is best to connect with?

The more poignant reason why Hope College students need pastors like me is that there are currently no **official** channels for LGBTQIA students to find Christian community and discipleship that meets their specific faith needs. There are many wonderful places for LGBTQIA students to get personal and social support through Hope College's counseling services and student groups, in addition to having access to supportive staff and faculty, many of whom are members of Hope Church. However, the college's current stance on LGBTQIA people matches

that of the Reformed Church in America's, which is to affirm LGBTQIA people as long as they are celibate; a "love the sinner hate the sin" stance as I have heard a number of students describe it. Students also are not offered protection from discrimination if they are gay or trans with the same protections offered on the basis of gender, race, or disabilities. Because there are not strong enough protections for these students on campus, many LGBTQIA students express not feeling safe or even feeling loved by God. On multiple occasions, I have students tell me that as they come out, they feel they have no choice but to choose either their orientation or their Christian faith. Healthy Christian discipleship during the process of grappling with one's sexual and/or gender identity is crucial.

About 70% of the students with whom I meet regularly are gay, queer, or trans. What a gift it has been to share the abundant love of Christ to students. To be told by a pastor that their whole being is declared "good" by their Creator is a rarity for LGBTQIA students and I love lavishing them with this good news!

Though Hope Church is not yet recognized as one of the official ministry partners of the college, I have been blessed to find a number of different avenues to connect to students. Several times a year, I serve as a panelist at events or as a guest lecturer in classrooms. I also attend as many arts performances and multi-cultural events as my schedule allows, which also puts me in front of students. From there, I build relationships with them through one on one coffee dates, invitation to Pub Theology, and working alongside them as an ally at awareness building events. Next year, I have even been invited to start a Bible study with LGBTQIA students, which excites me to no end! This year has been a meaningful time connecting with these beautiful students and I look forward to deepening those relationships even more next year.

Peace,  
~Pastor Beth

## Unity Build Update from Community Ministry

Anne Saliers, Community ministry member

Lakeshore Habitat for Humanity's Unity Build for the Glidewell family is full speed ahead. Exterior walls are completely framed and interior walls and roof trusses should be in place by May 18. Tuesday, May 15th was the Hope Church Women Build Day and our sponsorship allowed Women's Achieve to come out and work. Judith Boogaart baked and brought snacks to the volunteers that day. Check out the progress yourself at 155 Bluefield Drive, near West Ottawa Middle School.





# Hope Church News

June/July 2018



## Summer 2018 Preaching Schedule

For the past eight summers, the Consistory has approved an adjusted summer preaching schedule to provide our pastors some 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 pastors are engaged in 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



# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>9:15 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>9:45 am</b> Nursery <b>10 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> <b>10:15 am</b> Summer Church School <b>11:15 am</b> Prayer Reflections and Responses with Pastor Gordon	<b>4</b> <b>6:15 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance <b>6:30 pm</b> RCA Creation Care Gathering	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 1 <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 2	<b>7</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Nursery <b>10 am</b> Worship, <i>CJ Kingdom-Grier</i> <i>Installation and Ordination of Officers</i> <b>10:15 am</b> Summer Church School	<b>11</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>6 pm</b> Consistory Orientation <b>7:15 pm</b> Consistory & Board of Elders & Deacons	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>7:35 am</b> Discerning our Future <b>6 pm</b> Circle 4	<b>14</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym) <div>Restorative Circle Facilitator Training June 14 &amp; 15 9 am - 4 pm</div>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>9:45 am</b> Nursery <b>10 am</b> Worship, <i>Agshin Jafarov</i> <b>10:15 am</b> Summer Church School <b>11:15 am</b> Blood Pressure Clinic	<b>18</b> <b>12 pm</b> Facility Strategy <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>6:45 pm</b> Congregational Care <b>7:30 pm</b> Reconciliation	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>12 pm</b> Building & Grounds <b>12 pm</b> Readers	<b>21</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>6 pm</b> Brim Bunch <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>22</b> <b>6 pm</b> Summer Concert Series & Picnic at Kollen Park	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:15 am</b> Summer Walk-in Choir <b>9:45 am</b> Nursery <b>10 am</b> Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <i>Communion</i> <b>10:15 am</b> Summer Church School <b>11:15 am</b> Pizza Sunday <b>11:30 am</b> Caring for Creation <b>11:45 am</b> General Synod Review	<b>25</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>4 pm</b> Outreach & Hospitality <b>6:30 pm</b> Personnel <b>7:00 pm</b> Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	<b>26</b> <b>10 am</b> Communications	<b>27</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>7 pm</b> Great Consistory Gathering (offsite)	<b>28</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9:45 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Beth Carroll</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School	<b>2</b> 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9 am - 12 pm Kayak Outing
<b>8</b> 9:45 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma</i> <i>Baptisms</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School	<b>19</b> 11 am REST Support Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6:30 pm Personnel	<b>12</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> All Youth Amusement Park Trip
<b>15</b> 9:15 am Summer Walk-in Choir 9:45 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Gretchen Schoon-</i> <i>Tanis, Communion</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School 11:45 am Summer Brunch with Pastors	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast	<b>19</b> 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym) 6:30 pm Summer Concert Series & Picnic at Felt Park	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:45 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School 11:15 am Blood Pressure Clinic	<b>23</b> 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Personnel	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15 am Men's Breakfast	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Newsletter Assembly 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <div> <i>High Hopes</i>  <i>Mission Trip</i>  <i>July 28 -</i>  <i>August 4</i> </div>
<b>29</b> 9:45 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Jen Adams</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School 11:15 am Fellowship with Grace Episcopal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				