



Sharing the Light

Find Your Place

Christian Education | Music Groups | Fellowship Groups



HOPE CHURCH

2018-2019

Sharing the Light



Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). Jesus said: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Interesting.

The image of Jesus as the light of the world resonates as inviting and inclusive, a way to express that God's love and presence are for all. It's a big claim, but in Jesus we see a light from God worthy of such an all-encompassing image.

The image of us, followers of Jesus, as the light of the world is a claim that seems aspirational at best and grandiose at worst. We are aware of too many ways that we are not bearers of light, and it seems out of place for Jesus to make this claim about us.

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world". Jesus said: "You are the light of the world". Interesting.

Perhaps a way to make some sense of these two statements together is not to think of them as claims about the way things are, but as revelations about the way God made things to be.

When Jesus spoke of himself as the light of the world, there wasn't a lot to show for it. But Jesus insisted, persisted, that the light of compassion, love, forgiveness, justice shining from him are the true power from God for this world.

When Jesus spoke of his followers as light for the world, it wasn't that they were better than others, it was that they believed the light of life in Jesus was what their lives and other's lives were meant for.

So each day, together, we insist, persist, believe, that this world was made for God's light, and we believe that such light is for sharing with all.

Worship and Music

Chancel Choir (High school - Adults)

Brian Carder, Director

Rehearsals: Sundays, 9:40 a.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month, 7:30 p.m.

The Chancel Choir sings weekly at the 11:00 a.m. worship service and provides leadership with liturgical songs and anthems. We love to sing and enjoy the art of making music together. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses - come join our worship choir! The first rehearsal will be a special "get ready for fall worship" rehearsal on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Brian at BCarder@hopechurchrca.org.

Carillon Handbell Choir (High school - Adults)

Rhonda Edgington, Director

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:15 - 7 p.m.

If you love music, have some basic note reading skills, and enjoy making music with others, the Carillon Choir may be just the thing for you. Music is rehearsed to be used approximately monthly in worship services. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 5. New members are always welcome. If you have note reading experience, and cannot commit to being a regular member, but would be interested in being on our sub list (you are contacted about specific dates, to fill in at rehearsals and on Sundays, for members who will be out), this is also an opportunity to be involved. For more information, contact Rhonda at RhondaBSE@gmail.com.

Children's Choirs

Children's choirs gather on a seasonal basis, Advent & Christmas, Palm Sunday & Eastertide. Watch for additional announcements in newsletters and bulletins regarding startup times.

Instrumental

Hope Church values the talents and skills of its members and friends. We encourage instrumentalists to accompany choirs, play for worship services (11 a.m. or Early Worship), and assist in accompanying groups and mid-week events. Do you play guitar? There's a group for you! Do you play a wind, brass, or string instrument? We also need piano accompanists for special events. Please join us in making great music for worship by volunteering. For more information, contact Brian at bcarder@hopechurchrca.org.

Nursery and Young Children

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Nursery

An environment of loving care is provided for infants during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. If care is needed during the church school hour, please follow instructions by the nursery to acquire assistance, or contact Jocelyn VanHeest prior to the sessions. Caring adults and youth are scheduled as caregivers, and volunteers are needed. Please contact Jocelyn if you are interested in volunteering.

Family Time Together (FTT)

This group is open to all Hope Church families with children of any age. The group will meet periodically throughout the year for various family-oriented times together. Events may include Game Night/ Game Day, Pancake dinner and celebration (Shrove Tuesday), and other opportunities for families to spend time together and with one another. Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website. Call or email Jocelyn VanHeest at jocevh2@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.

Church School

Church School (Preschool through 5th grade)

9:40 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Room 204

The children meet together to build a great foundation for their Christian faith. Children will begin each Sunday morning together for an exciting presentation of a Bible story, then divide into smaller groups by age to continue to learn about the story with age-appropriate activities and ways to connect the story to their lives. They grow together making sound relationships with other children and their teachers as members of God's family.

Children In Worship



Children In Worship is a walk-out program for ages three years through 5th grade during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. During worship, children will be invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for "A Word with the Children." From there, Children In Worship leaders will escort the children to the worship centers.

Children In Worship transforms ordinary time and space into sacred time and space. Our children enter sacred time in order to experience and praise God by being with God, talking with God, listening to God, and hearing the stories of God. The special time and space of Children in Worship helps the children bring the stories of God's action in the past and promises for the future into their present experience as they wonder, respond in their own way to the story, and pray together in community.

Ages 3, 4 & 5

Room 202

A parent may be asked to stay with young three year olds until the child is comfortable in the center and is ready for worship

Kindergarten & 1st grade

Room 204

2nd & 3rd grades

Room 206

4th & 5th grades

Room 208

4th & 5th graders remain in worship on Sundays in which communion is served.

The children's offering will be for a share of fresh vegetables to be given to the Community Action House from Groundswell. If you have any questions about the children's opportunities, contact Jocelyn VanHeest, Children's Ministry Director.

Youth Groups

Nurture faith. Build character. Create community. Engage in service.

Fish Club (Middle School)

Fish Club is a youth group experience for the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of Hope Church and their friends. Fish Club seeks to provide a close



Christian community of friends for our middle school students, while forming relationships with adult sponsors in the church. A variety of programming is offered to take a close look at ourselves, our faith, and our world. Service projects are an important part of the group's community ministry as well. Fundraisers enable us to plan some very special events, like retreats, and a trip to the Appalachian Trail. All middle school youth are welcome!

High Hopes (High School)

High Hopes is a youth group for 9th – 12th graders. There are a variety of social, service, and learning opportunities throughout the



year. The activities are designed to build and strengthen relationships among the youth and sponsors as part of a community of faith. There will also be fundraising for a mission trip planned for the summer and service work right here in our community. All high school youth are welcome!

Both groups typically meet on Sunday mornings or evenings. Updated schedule information is available on the Hope Church website. Contact Pastor Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship, at bcarroll@hopechurchrca.org with any questions.

Youth Church School

6th and 7th Grade

2nd & 4th Sundays at 9:40 AM

Room 106

The class follows *Crossings, God's Journey With Us*, which uses eight key Biblical themes as a foundation, and then uses these themes to frame the larger Biblical story. This enables young people to understand the value of life in community with God and the church. This class is led by Western Theological Student, Cassie Nelson-Rogalski.

8th and 9th Grade: G.I.F.T. Class

2nd & 4th Sundays at 9:40 AM

Youth Room 1

G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Class is a focused time for participants to explore faith in God and their connection to the church and faith. The group often visits other places of worship and ministry. Some might call G.I.F.T. a "confirmation class," but this is a bit different. Some participants will be led to make profession of faith in Christ at Hope Church, but it's not required. Each person will sort through that step when the time comes. The broader idea of G.I.F.T. is that it is a unique experience at an important age to deal with issues of faith and life as a part of the church. This class is a two-year experience led by Pastor Gordon Wiersma.

10th - 12th Grade: High Hopes "Unshowered"

2nd & 4th Sundays at 9:40 AM

Youth Room 2

This group meets with Pastor Jill Russell and Pastor Beth Carroll for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer. A three-year cycle leads each student through a year of thinking about their faith (theology), exploring how to live their faith in very practical terms (Christian practices), and how to sustain a lifelong commitment to study of God's Word (Bible study). The approach is interactive and relational. Journal writing, singing together, praying for one another, and study are all woven together in this one-hour gathering that meets September through May. All 10th – 12th grade students are welcome, showered or not!

Adult Education

Mission Statement

The Adult Education group plans and coordinates educational opportunities for adults using as much as possible the talents and resources of the congregation. Such opportunities are intended for spiritual formation through biblical study and critical examination of cultural, social and moral issues from a Christian perspective.

Schedule - Fall 2018 to Advent

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons 1 (unless otherwise indicated)

September 9: Thinking Smart (and Reformed) in a Post-Truth Age

David Myers brings his current roadshow talk to psychology educators home to Hope Church, where he will give examples of popular and potent false beliefs and explain how such come to be. He will also examine possible biases—and successful remedies for them (with resulting surprising findings)—within his own field of psychological science. Finally, he will suggest how a Reformed spirit of humility supports critical thinking about divisive issues.

September 16–30: Wisdom of the Wounded

Do you ever wonder what to say to a friend who has just been diagnosed with cancer? Or what to do for a neighbor who is going through a divorce? Perhaps you struggle with what to say in a funeral line? Join us as Karen Mulder teaches us more about how we can care well for others experiencing a difficult situation. A graduate of Western Theological Seminary, Karen is co-author of the handbook, *The Compassionate Congregation*. She is the founder of the website and radio program “Wisdom of the Wounded.” Karen’s passion is helping Christian people of all ages connect with the calling to love our neighbor.

Sept 16: Love Thy Neighbor - Practical Advice for Caring for Others

Even though Jesus tells us to love our neighbor who is suffering (Mark 12:31), we often avoid these uncomfortable situations because we do not know what to say or do. Karen will share four practical “Caregiving Basics” which can be used in all caregiving situations.

September 23: “Oh No! I Made It Worse”

Have you ever tried to comfort a friend and you said something that made things worse, not better? Karen will introduce you to the five “Verbal Villains” that distort our good intentions to care for others. She will share insights on words to avoid—and what to say to truly help a person who is suffering.

September 30: Finding the Abundant Life in Unexpected Places

Jesus said, “I have come that you may have abundant life” (John

10:10). We will explore ways that caring for others helps us have moments of the abundant life we seek. Caring for others can bring a sense of purpose, contentment and joy.

October 7: Jim Wallis's *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*

Judy Parr leads a discussion about Jim Wallis's book on slavery, racism, civil rights, and social justice. Those attending class are encouraged—but not required—to read the book before class.

October 14: Wade Hoag's Story of Overcoming Severe Injury

In 2015 lacrosse athlete Wade Hoag was enrolled to begin his studies at Hope College. While working at a summer construction job, installing a third-story window, the construction platform collapsed. Wade became paralyzed from the waist down. After six months in rehabilitation he joined the freshman class. Now finishing his studies at Hope with degrees in accounting and English, he works with the lacrosse team and has started two companies.

October 21–28: Christians and Politics

Fred L. Johnson III, associate professor of history at Hope College and host of the PBS series "Inventing America," will present.

October 21: What factors led to today's acrimonious political climate? How much influence did those factors exert in Donald Trump's 2016 presidential victory? Two chaotic years later, why does Trump continue to maintain his base?

October 28: In addition to voting, what can or should Christians do to change the current political climate?

November 4–18: Chant: An Old Song for a New World

Cassie Nelson-Rogalski will present a brief history of plainchant, when/where it started, and an overview of its development. She will explain how chanting is done. Then she will focus more specifically on chanting the Psalms and teach us how to chant them.

November 25: Wesley Granberg-Michaelson's Future Faith: Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century

Judy Parr leads a discussion about several of the challenges that Granberg-Michaelson describes in his recent book.

December 2: Lectionary Bible Study by Pastor Gordon Wiersma

December 9: Saint Nicholas Celebration

December 16: Lectionary Bible Study by Pastor Jill Russell

December 23–30: No classes

Wednesday Evening Fall Series & Retreat

If you are feeling the need to water your roots in order to bear fruit in areas of societal stress, you are not alone. There are two upcoming opportunities to learn and engage in guided spiritual practices in the month of October. First, our fall Wednesday night series will focus on spiritual restoration. On October 3, 10, 17, and 24 we will meet at 5:45 to share a light supper, before we listen to facilitators explain a different spiritual practice. They will then guide us in a time of group and individual practice, before concluding at 7:30. Mary VanAnandel, Kim Mulder, Linda Graham, and Rhonda Edgington are scheduled to lead us.

Then, consider joining us for a time of retreat at the end of the month. On the evening of October 26 and during the day of the 27th, Spiritual Director Mary VanAnandel will guide us in an intentional time of restorative prayer and spiritual practices. Watch the bulletin for upcoming details on price, location, and time specifics. Both events will have a sign up in the gathering area or you can contact Pastor Beth with questions.

Hope Church 20/30s Ministry

One of our gifts at Hope Church is that we are multi-generational. We are creating opportunities that meet the needs of adults in their 20's and 30's, while cultivating relationships across generations. Small discussion groups, Adult Education offerings that suit the interests and desires of younger adults, and shared meals are all ways we connect young adults with our greater church fellowship. We also connect with the Hope college community through our Pub Theology small group, one on one discipleship by Pastor Beth, sponsorship of student groups like Globe and Graces, as well as our pastors leading discussion panels and volunteering as guest lecturers.

Pub Theology

An off shoot of our young adult programming, Pub Theology is a group that meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9, usually at Hops on 8th Street. This theologically and generationally diverse group meets over snacks to discuss how the issues of the world connect with our lives with God and each other. All ages, backgrounds, and beliefs are welcome. Email Pastor Beth for details or join our Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hopepubtheology/>.

More Opportunities for Fellowship and Learning

BRIM Bunch: Taking its name from the old decaffeinated coffee brand, this group began as a couples club many years ago and is now a gathering of our retired members. Meetings typically begin over dinner and include a program. For more information contact the office!

Caring for Creation: Explores the intersection of faith and environmental care, with an emphasis on direct experience of nature as an essential component of spiritual growth, and on lifestyle critique as a spiritual discipline. To get involved, contact the office!

Diners' Club: An opportunity for adults of all ages to socialize, have fun, be casual, build relationships, and eat. Groups meet three times per year (October, January, April) for a potluck style dinner at the home of the hosting member. Please contact the Hope Church Office for more information or to sign up.

Hope Church Readers: This group meets regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Commons 2 for a monthly book discussion. A member of the group leads the discussion while other members provide the refreshments and hospitality for the meeting. The reading list for the coming program year is created by member suggestions each Spring. For more information, contact Lauren Heyboer at (616) 786-0436.

Men's Breakfast: This group meets faithfully at 6:15 a.m. sharp every Wednesday. Each morning includes fellowship over breakfast and then a topical study with interactive discussion. Long-term relationships of support and caring grow out of this group. All men are welcome. For more information, please contact David Hawley at (616) 915-6188.

REST (Relax, Empathy, Share, Thanksgiving) Caregiver Support Group: This group meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 11 am and is open to anyone in need of resources or a time of sharing and friendship. If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Clark RN, Parish Nurse at 616-414-2983 or gclark@hopechurchrca.org.

Women's Circles: Circles meet either the first or second Wednesday of each month. The groups mostly meet in people's homes for a time of fellowship and refreshments and a time of Bible study. To find out more about the Women's Ministry, please contact the Hope Church office.

HOPE CHURCH
77 West 11th Street
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-7947

office@hopechurchrca.org
HopeChurchRCA.org



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of Room for All