



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 61, No. 8

September 2018

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Inserts:

- *September Calendar*
- *Wisdom of the Wounded Calendar*

The deadline for the October newsletter is Sunday, September 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



September 9 is Fall Kick-off Sunday



Worship

Early Worship begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This service offers informal and interactive worship, and encourages people of all ages to participate through music, story, art, drama, and weekly Holy Communion.

Worship in the sanctuary begins at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Gordon Wiersma preaching and Pastor Jill Russell as liturgist. Communion will be celebrated. Children will be led from the sanctuary during the service to participate in Children in Worship.

Church Picnic

Join us on 11th Street after the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the annual kick-off picnic. Lunch will be provided with a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per household.

There will be activities for children and time to share in fellowship. Members and friends are all welcome!

Wednesday Evening Fall Series & Retreat: October

St. Teresa of Avila once wrote "The tree that is beside the running water is fresher and gives more fruit." If ever there was a time when we needed to be well-rooted, it is in this demanding and polarizing climate. It seems like there is always an argument to counter, a social media post to question, and a rally to march in. If our energy is finite, where do we spend it? 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 VanAndel, 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 VanAndel 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.

See pages 2-4 for information on the 2018-2019 Christian Education offerings.

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.

Pages 2-4 highlight the Christian Education offerings starting with Fall Kick-off Sunday on September 9.

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 Carder.

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 Edgington.

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 Carder.

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

Adult Education

Sundays, 9:40–10:40 a.m. in Commons I

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.

For a full schedule of Adult Education classes being offered through December, see the Fall Program 2018-2019 Brochure, available at the church and online at www.HopeChurchRCA.org.

Youth Groups

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. 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. 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 with any 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/>.

Nursery and Young Children

Nursery (Infants through 2 years old)

9:40 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Nursery
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. Look for specific dates, events, and times in newsletters, bulletins and on the Hope Church website. Call or email Jocelyn VanHeest with any questions or suggestions

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. 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
<i>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</i>	
Kindergarten & 1st grade	Room 204
2nd & 3rd grades	Room 206
4th & 5th grades	Room 208
<i>4th& 5th graders remain in worship on Sundays in which communion is served.</i>	

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.

For more information on the Hope Church Christian Education offerings this program year, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Area or go to HopeChurchRCA.org.

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.

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
Some might call G.I.F.T. (Growing in Faith Together) Class 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). All 10th – 12th grade students are welcome, showered or not!

Liturgy 101 Class

Have you ever been in one of our Sunday morning worship services and wondered why everyone suddenly stood up for a hymn? Or, maybe you even wonder what a hymn is? And maybe you wonder why the pastors all wear robes? If you are curious

about Hope Church but find liturgical worship foreign or even confusing, you are not alone! **On September 16, during the 9:40 Adult Education hour**, the pastors will lead a "Liturgy 101" class to explain some of the basics. Liturgical worship can be

deeply meaningful, and this class aims to explain the basics to assist beginners in participating in ways that are enriching and powerful. **Sign up in the gathering area or contact the pastors with questions.**

Chancel Choir Participation

Brian Carder, Director of Music

We invite all interested singers to join in choral singing for worship. With that, we are announcing a few changes in the 11 a.m. worship music group. We will increase the focus on new music for Chancel Choir and continue on the lectionary themes and festival Sundays. New music often accompanies new text and that is our goal to trade out some of the archaic choral music/text to something fresh

and more vital to worship.

Chancel Choir will also sing three Sundays a month, leaving a 4th and 5th Sunday open for featured musicians and small singing groups. We have several congregation members that cannot participate on a weekly basis in Chancel Choir, however they may be able to get involved on an occasional Sunday, which is scheduled

in advance.

Are you willing to participate in music at Hope Church? Singer? Bell ringer? Soloist? Cantor? Rehearsal accompanist? Please share your willingness with Rhonda or Brian. We welcome your conversation.

Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director

WHO? WHY? WHAT?

Char Alexander, Dave Alexander, Grant Alexander, Jesse Bolinder, Margaret Boelkins, Vern Boersma, Judith Boogaart, Peter Boogaart, Jonathan Brownson, Kathy Brownson, Suzanne Buteyn, Stephen Chase, Paige Convis, Marge DeBlaay, Keith Derrick, Helen DeWeerd, Peggy DeHaan, Dave Dirkse, Anne Duinkerken, Bert Duinkerken, Paul Elzinga, Todd Engle, Sally Farabee, Kelly Fleming, Danielle Herrington, Renie Geary, Robert Hoekstra, Kate Irvin, Clare Heyboer, Lynn Japinga, Elizabeth Johnson, Signe Johnson, Kristen Kidwell, Cindy Laman, Earl Laman, Norma Killilea, Bob Luidens, Jaclyn Knoll, Brad MacLean, Christine MacLean, Mary Meyer, Larry Mulder, Clare Mullen, Renee Nibbelink, Marilee Nieuwsma, Norma Noordijk, Rachelle Oppenhuizen, Cliff Orlebeke, Karen Pearson, Terry Pott, Nancy Rock, Barbara Roe, Arda Rooks, Barbara Schmitt, Janice Smith, Loretta Smith, Chad Stanley, Bruce TenHaken,

Phil VanEyl, Ruth Van Kampen, Del Vander Haar, Trudy Vander Haar, Judy VanderWilt, Marlin VanderWilt, Michael VanderWilt, Nancy VandeWater, Terry VandeWater, Barbara Veurink, Mary Jo Waters, Joan Wenke, Anne Wiersma, Claudia Berry, David Claar, Marilyn Cook, Kim Doxstader, Karen Mulder, Barbara Osborn, Nancy Rock...

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? These are the names of people who have been involved in Kids Hope in the past either as mentors or prayer partners.

WHY LIST THEIR NAMES?* Because they have been and will always be part of the Kids Hope Family here at Hope Church and I want to praise and thank them for their service to Kids Hope!

WHAT? By calling on the memory of those who have served before, I am reaching out to inspire you to join them. I want our participation to grow this year so Hope Church can serve more children at Vanderbilt Academy.

I need more mentors, substitute mentors, prayer partners, and special event helpers, so please give these opportunities to volunteer some prayerful thought.

You would be joining my current mentors, Linda Cook, Dave Boelkins, Barb Blauw, Barb Knoops, Rhonda Edgington, Sandy Mulder, Connie VanderVelde, Tim Pennings, Brad Bright, Stephanie and John Beyer, Steve Berry, Bob Jordon and Andrew Bredow as well as their prayer partners and substitutes, Ann Anderson, David VanDoorne, Kari Miller Fenwood, Jill Russell, Jan Fike, Jane Schuyler, Dorothy Sherburne, Josh Bochniak, Judy Mastenbrook, Stephanie Krom, Mary Buys, Sharon Arendshorst, Carole Hintz, and Barb Joldersma.

If you are interested in giving it a go, please sign your name on the sheets located on the Kids Hope Bulletin board by the office. I would love to get you connected!

Guides: Welcoming and engaging with one another

Lori VanDoornik, Outreach & Hospitality Ministry member

Hope Church's website offers several themes which guide our ministry. One of these themes is "To welcome all". What does this mean? Being okay with anyone who wants to join Hope Church? Shaking hands and introducing yourself to people sitting near you who you aren't familiar with? Reading the short bio of new members in the newsletter? Or should it be more? What about the theme "To engender deep engagement with one another"? That sounds like putting in a genuine effort to get to know someone. Or another theme: "To provide provisions for the journey". Is that just for the pastors? Or Sunday School Teachers? Or are these actions that all of us should be taking to make sure that anyone who becomes part of Hope Church is familiar with all of the opportunities available to help them grow in their faith and in communion with other members?

The Outreach and Hospitality Ministry is hoping to enrich our Guide Ministry

Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship

"That service felt a little of what I think heaven will be like". This was a statement I heard more than once from our High Hopes team upon reflecting on their experience of the church service at The Reformed Church of Highland Park, in Highland Park New Jersey last month. This RCA church dedicates much of its resources in helping refugees resettle in their community and that love and care is reflected in a congregation that consists of over 50 nationalities. On the Sunday we were present in church, the congregation welcomed two new families from different countries. While these families do not yet speak English, the thunderous applause that greeted them during their introduction at church, transcended any words attempting to speak welcome.

It is one thing to have a yearlong "love your neighbor" theme in youth ministry but participating in a real-life Good

(previously called sponsorship of new members) by finding a group of people who want to help make new members' transition into Hope Church as easy, warm and meaningful as possible. Are you one of those people? If you enjoy seeing new families become part of our church, are curious to learn about their interests and gifts, like to help others, celebrate with others and learn with others then we feel you are perfect for this guide ministry.

You will attend the first Orientation session where you will hear the stories of those seeking more information about Hope Church and start to get to know them. After that you will be paired up with new members and we will give you ideas on things you can do to help them feel welcome and acclimate them to the many activities of our church family. What is Men's Breakfast? What does Circle 1 and Circle 2 mean? Who puts out the flowers? Is Pizza Sunday for everyone? How much does it cost?

Samaritan story for 5 days sears those lesson onto your heart. While there, we made and fed sandwiches to the homeless, helped two refugee families move into new homes and babysat their kids, painted walls, and listened to stories from individuals who lived in detention centers before beginning their hope-filled lives with the support of the Reformed Church of Highland Park. It was a gift to not only live out our faith in this context but be taught by the leadership of this church as well.

These experiences served as the perfect transition into our youth ministry theme for this coming year, "Faith in Action". **This year, we aim to learn what it means to live out our faith in our vocation and community by inviting older adults to share with us about how their faith has directed them to their passions in vocation and volunteer work.** Sound intriguing and

No, you don't have to attend every activity with them but just be there to help them find those activities that line up with their interests and find another Hope member who can invite them to the activity if you do not attend yourself.

Are you interested? No experience necessary! Any age! Singles or Couples! And you don't have to have been a member for years and years to qualify! You may have just joined yourself and are excited about the opportunity to discover all the possibilities with another person. Or maybe you've attended Hope Church all your life and are anxious to show our newest members all the reasons you love it. We are hoping to get enough people so that each person will only have one guide role per year. There will be a sign up sheet in the gathering area starting in mid-September or you can call Lori VanDoornik to sign up and/or get more information. Thanks!

fun? Well there is good news! You get to be a part of our learning. We are looking for a number of adult volunteers this year to help in two areas. **First, share your story with us!** Your life story doesn't have to be dramatic, we want to hear simple, practical stories of how you live out your faith in your work or in your areas of passion. Contact Pastor Beth to see what Sunday evenings are available and for more details.

The second way you can be a part of us is through food! This year, we would like to enlist the help of adults who like to cook to both prepare a simple Sunday night supper AND join us to eat it! Visit the website below for dates and more details on dining with our Hope Church Youth. We hope to see you on a Sunday night!

<https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/APXR7536>

Deacons Kate Mears and Katie Van Ark have recently moved and needed to resign from their terms. We will be publishing updates from them. To complete vacant Deacon terms, the Consistory has appointed Lois Maassen (2 years), Jean DenHerder (2 years), and Stephanie Beyer (1 year).

Update from Kate Mears

Kate Mears, Hope Church Member

Hi to all at Hope Church, I've missed all of you since I moved out here to Highland Park, New Jersey, just over 5 weeks ago at this writing, and I can't wait for the time when I can come back and be with you all again. I hope all there are doing well. The drive down here was long, but the move went well. I was graciously set up in one of the affordable housing places that the church operates, mostly for refugees, though there are other people who benefit from the affordable housing as well. I live right across the street from the Reformed Church of Highland Park.

Even though it's been 5 weeks, I'm still adjusting to things around here. The biggest change for me is that I'm currently living with 4 other women in a two bedroom apartment, as I used to live alone. It's not too bad though, and it's definitely a learning experience, which was one of the reasons I moved down here. So, I guess it's a good thing. Of my housemates, 3 are refugees. One of them came from Uganda, and the other 2 came from Nigeria, though both Nigerians are planning on moving to Texas before the end of August. To be in the midst of the different cultures in this area is an eye-opening experience

and I'm glad to be experiencing it.

I'm slowly starting to get to know some people here and build a community as well as some friends. I spend a portion of my days looking for jobs at the moment as I am still unemployed. But between my job huntings, I'm usually trying to help out whenever I can around the church. I was grateful to have been able to be a part of the activities and projects that the group from Hope Church participated in while they were down here as well. I try to help where I can with what this church is involved in, in terms of its Shiloh ministry in helping feed the homeless on Sunday night, the thrift store they operate in their basement, volunteering to help with refugees, or even once visiting the refugees in the detention center. This week, I'm lending a hand with their Vacation Bible School. Outside the church, I did just start volunteering at our local PRIDE center, and I hope to eventually make some friends there as well. However, I don't know what'll all be possible once I finally get a job, but we'll see.

My current job hunt is probably my biggest struggle here. While I currently

have a small savings that'll help me last a little while longer without a job, that'll probably dry up quickly. I'm starting to get antsy and my anxiety is starting to increase the longer this job hunt takes. I'm trying to find a job in an office setting, however, I don't know how easy that'll actually end up being. I don't really have any experience as my last job in Michigan was 12 years in a warehouse. I'm still holding out hope though as I don't really want to have to go back to a physically demanding job as I can't do those jobs as easy as I used to. I do know that if my job hunt takes too long, I will have to just go with my experience and go back to those kind of jobs. I'll just have to pray for the best in this situation. In a couple more months I can start reapplying for school out here as well as all of the financial aid and scholarships that I'm going to need.

I would appreciate and covet any prayers as this job hunt continues as well as I look towards the future with school applications and the search for the necessary financial aid. I look forward to the day I can attend Hope Church again. Until then, I thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry strives to offer many opportunities to nurture your child's faith. Hope Church provides Church School at 9:40 a.m. and Children in Worship during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. On Sunday, September 9, we will celebrate the start of an exciting year together.

Church School

The children will gather together each Sunday morning at 9:40 in Room 204. The Church School hour is a great time to explore the stories and people of the

Bible and make connections with other stories. As the children learn about their place in God's family they can begin to live out their faith with their families, community, friends and the world. The children have the time to ask questions, hear some new stories and build their faith with their teachers and church friends.

Children in Worship

Children in Worship (CIW) will also begin on September 9. Children will leave the 11 a.m. service and meet together and be led to their worship

centers. The storytellers are looking forward to worshipping with them in this special environment throughout the year. Each week the story for each worship center is printed in the bulletin. Adults may like to make a connection with their Prayer Pal by asking about the story the child heard in their worship center. Remember the children and storytellers that are worshipping in their centers in your prayers as you worship. As always, we invite anyone who is interested in the CIW experience to come and worship with the children on any Sunday.

Events and Announcements

Labor Day Holiday Notice

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 3, for the Labor Day Holiday. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 4.

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet at Lois Boersma's on Weds. Sept. 5, at 9:30 A.M.

Circle 2 will meet on Weds. September 5 at 9:30 A.M. in Commons 2.

Circle 4 will hold their first meeting of the season in the Youth Room on Wednesday, September 12 at 7:00 pm.

Coffee Time at Freedom Village

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 Freedom Village on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, September 19, at 1:00pm in Commons 2. We will be discussing the book, *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. If you love to read and you've always wanted to give our group a try, consider joining us at our September meeting. New members are always welcome. You can find a copy of our reading list for the coming year at the Welcome Desk every Sunday. If you would like to be added to our e-mail list, please leave your contact information at the desk when you stop. We are looking forward to another great year of discussions and friendly fellowship! Hope to see you there!

October Diners Club

Diners Club is a wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship with members and friends of Hope Church. The next dinner dates will be: October 12 or 13,

2018. Sign up in the Gathering Area! Deadline for sign up is **September 23**.

Orientation to Hope Church Class

On Sunday, September 30, at 9:40 a.m., an Orientation to Hope Church Class will begin for people wanting to learn more about Hope Church. The class will meet on three Sunday mornings, September 30, October 7 and October 21 at 9:40 a.m. in Commons 2. Please contact the church office (392-7947) if you would like more information. For those who are interested in joining Hope Church, a dessert meeting with the Board of Elders will occur on November 12 at 6:30 pm. A public reception of new members will take place during 11:00 a.m. worship on November 18. You are cordially and warmly invited to attend these orientation classes whether you are interested in membership at Hope Church or simply wanting to learn more about this congregation.

September Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for September 30.

Sign Up for Email Giving Statements

Opt in to receive your Hope Church giving statements by email instead of by mail! All you need to do is fill out the online form with your name and the email address you'd like the statements emailed to by going online to: <https://tinyurl.com/emailgiving>.

Cran-Hill Ranch Camping: July 2019!

Even though it's early, we want you to be aware that the Fellowship Ministry is planning a weekend get away at Cran-Hill Ranch in July of 2019. If you're not a tent or trailer person, we also have a lodge available. Sign up will be this fall, so watch for bulletin announcements and further details on events at Cran-Hill. If you have questions, contact Joyce Teusink.

Yoga Classes

Autumn is coming; a new season will begin; change is certain. Find steadiness and flexibility in Yoga while on the mat and in life. You are invited to join Kim Mulder, RYT 200, for a yoga class which will strengthen, lengthen and invigorate the body, heart and mind. This class is an alignment based class and is accessible to all from beginners to those who have an established practice. We will meet Friday mornings, 8:15-9:15, in the Youth Room from September 14 through November 16. Class fee is \$10/class at the door. Mats available. More information about Kim and alignment based yoga can be found at www.withheartforward.com. See you on the mat!

Choose the Path of Peace

2018 International Day of Peace Presentation at Herrick Library, Tuesday, September 18, 7-8:30pm. Featuring Kyle Kooyers, Program Manager at Kaufman Interfaith Institute and a panel representing Holland Mediation Services, LAR Counseling Services, LEDA, and The Friendship Office of the Americas. Come to explore peace as a choice. Kyle will offer 6 everyday choices we can make on the pathway of peace. A panel of 4 will expand on Kyle's exploration by describing how those choices are applied among individuals, families, communities, and nations. Come to become better equipped to promote a more peaceful and just community and world. For more information, email lwfp@gmail.com. This event is sponsored by the Reconciliation Ministry at Hope Church.

Poetry Corner

hosted by Randy Smit and Rhonda Edgington

Poetry Corner will return next month in it's regular format - until then, a poem by Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Robert Bly.

A Walk

Already my eyes touch the sunlit hill
far ahead of the road I have just begun.
So we are grasped by what we cannot grasp;
we see its light, even from a distance-

and it changes us, even if we do not reach it,
into something else, which, hardly sensing it,
we already are; a gesture seems to wave us on,
answering our own wave...
but what we feel is the wind in our faces.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03	Ruth Hoekstra-Telgenhof
03	Martha LaBarge
15	Peggy Fitzgerald
16	David Alexander (missionary)
17	Earl Laman
19	Jane Van Es (missionary)
23	Eloise Van Heest

Listen to the 11 AM Service in the Chapel

Starting on Sunday, September 9, the 11 AM service audio will now be broadcast in the Chapel. If you need to leave the service for any reason, feel free to continue to worship with us in the Chapel.

Thank You

*To our friends at Hope Church,
Thank you for your support! We could not provide our high-quality, low-cost programming without your help! On behalf of our Lighthouse team, I want to thank you for hosting us at our Attorney Q&A event on July 25th. Your partnership and support strengthen our advocacy in the Holland community. With gratitude,
Julia Fulton
Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates*

Vietnam Update

Dan Fisher, Hope Church Member



Please check out the following website to learn about Kay and Dan's 2018 visit to Vietnam in support of children with HIV/AIDS.

<https://danfishervn.wordpress.com>

And please consider sponsoring Dan and his daughter Elyse as they run a 1½ Marathon on September 22 to support this very cool project. Hope Church and members have been amazing supporters of these kids and families. We are thankful for your support and kindness.

To sponsor, please go to the website, or send a check to Hope Church with note "Vietnam Children HIV/AIDS fund."



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@hopechurchrca.org

Getting Started With Mindfulness

Ginger Clark, R.N., Hope Church Nurse

Mindfulness practices bring many benefits but don't have to be overwhelming. Like many habits, the more we practice, the better we get, but we don't have to be experts before we can start. Here are some ideas for getting started with mindfulness in small doses in a variety of ways until you hit your stride.

- 1. **Mindful Mornings.** Are you aware of how you start the day? Even before you get out of bed, take some deep breaths, use a favorite centering prayer, or pause to be aware of how the various parts of your body feel.
- 2. **Working Ways.** When you sit in your chair, let yourself feel your body come into contact with the chair, the floor, the desk, or other physical tools of your profession. Draw a breath and let it out slowly before moving on to be physically present to another dimension of your space before being lost in the rush of tasks.
- 3. **The Best Intentions.** We all have things we have to do every day that consume most of our time. It only takes a few seconds to choose

something that we want to be today—kind, calm, patient. What value is on your heart that you want to embrace in this moment?

- 4. **Noticing Senses.** Try using a sense you don't usually focus on. Close your eyes and listen. Stop moving and be still. Inhale deeply the fragrances around you. Touch a new texture. In that moment, what is that sense of discovery like?
- 5. **All the Feels.** We do so much on auto-pilot, from small tasks like brushing our teeth to important tasks like how we fuel our bodies or have conversations. For one minute, turn off auto-pilot. What does it feel like to brush your teeth? To scratch the dog's chin? To inhale clean laundry?
- 6. **The Real Truth.** When you have a self-deprecating thought, nip the rumination in the bud by speaking truth out loud. Say something positive and admirable about yourself, take a deep breath, and sit with the truth for a moment before moving on.
- 7. **Flickering Flames.** Light a candle and simply watch it flicker and

dance. Let the simple movement of the light calm you. You are not trying to think about anything or accomplish anything but simply notice.

- 8. **Soothing Showers.** A warm shower already has a calming effect for many people. Use it as an opportunity to intentionally slow down, notice the sensory experience and observe your thoughts without judging them.
- 9. **Ritual Richness.** Your own mini-ceremony for anything from how you prepare your tea to clearing your desk—and your mind—at the end of the day can create calming space for you to better manage stress in your life.
- 10. **Cool Spots.** Choose a spot where you can be alone for five minutes—even in the midst of a group of people, such as on a bus or subway ride. Anywhere you can close your eyes, breathe intentionally, and observe your senses will help reduce stress.

~From Church Health Reader, Summer 2018

At Home With the Word

Sunday Lectionary as Daily Bible Readings

September 1-2

Saturday Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sunday **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 3-9

Monday Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Tuesday Psalm 125
Wednesday Isaiah 35:4-7
Thursday Psalm 146
Friday James 2:1-17
Saturday Mark 7:24-37
Sunday **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 10-16

Monday Proverbs 1:20-33
Tuesday Isaiah 50:4-9
Wednesday Psalm 19
Thursday Psalm 116:1-9
Friday James 3:1-12
Saturday Mark 8:27-38
Sunday **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 17-23

Monday Proverbs 31:10-31
Tuesday Psalm 1
Wednesday Jeremiah 11:18-20
Thursday Psalm 54
Friday James 3:13-4:3, 7-8
Saturday Mark 9:30-37
Sunday **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 24-30

Monday Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Tuesday Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Wednesday Psalm 124
Thursday Psalm 19:7-14
Friday James 5:13-20
Saturday Mark 9:38-50
Sunday **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

and finally

I sometimes wonder how many people read these “And Finally” articles that I write...but I no longer have to wonder if people read the “And Finally” articles that **Pastor Jill** writes! :) Jill’s piece last month described her increasing awareness of a polarity in faith between action and formation, between living out our faith and building up our faith. And that really struck a chord – or even a nerve – with many folks! There have been a lot of responses (emails and conversations) to the article, as the content of Pastor Jill’s “And Finally” has also been talked about in a number of ministry/committee meetings and at Consistory, and Pastor Beth and Pastor Jill and I have also talked about it extensively. For some folks, it seems that having this polarity named so clearly and compassionately by Pastor Jill gave a sense of encouragement about not being alone in wrestling with these dynamics. For others, having a clearer sense of this polarity tapped into some frustration, becoming more keenly aware of a desire to think about priorities and shared values. And for others I think it was simply a helpful and meaningful new way to identify some of the dynamics many of us are feeling individually and as a community of faith. So I’m going to piggyback on what Pastor Jill has expressed by: 1) reporting to you about a June event for my Doctor of Ministry project 2) reiterating something important about polarities 3) telling you about a new idea that the pastors are implementing for the Fall.

1) At the end of June, I was grateful to have about 70 people attend an event to reflect on and respond to Prayers of Confession that I have been writing for use in our worship services over the past months. People engaged with the prayers so wonderfully, and it was very valuable for me to receive such thoughtful feedback. A significant part of what we discussed was the value people place on and the need they have for worship that is nourishing to them. And it is from such feedback that something like this will be in my final DMin Thesis:

Hope Church has an identity focused on service and justice, but the rhythm of worship is the weekly heartbeat of the community, and it is in worship that this identity is nourished by the Spirit. The responses given to the prayers express that faith is felt most deeply when a feeling of God’s love and a commitment to action are woven together. The demanding action of justice is rooted in the soil of God’s deep love, as the Spirit over time bears good fruit in and through our lives. (These are the kinds of things one writes in a Thesis!)

All of which is to say, part of what exploring those prayers and this polarity has helped us to do is to reaffirm the central place of worship for a congregation that is called to justice.

2) I want to reinforce some thoughts that Pastor Jill shared about polarities, which is that a polarity is not about balance between two opposites (which is a common misconception) but about interplay and relationship between two things that are essential. Faith nurture and faithful action will never be in perfect balance. Different circumstances in life will require more focus on one or the other from us, and in fact each of us will always be in different places in the interplay between the two (which is why we need each other!). Instead it is when nurture and action are in dynamic relationship with one another within us and among us - nurture shaping our hearts for deeper compassion and action drawing us to a deeper dependence on God – that the polarity is a source of creativity and strength for us.

3) We have an idea! It’s an idea focused on supporting our worship life and faith nurture which is actually adapted from feedback given by participants in the June prayer event. Jill, Beth and I have developed a resource that will be sent out by weekly email in advance of each Sunday to invite people to prepare for the worship services. The email will contain the Prayer of Confession or Prayer of the Day for the coming Sunday and a link to the lectionary scriptures, along with reflection questions. We are seeking for this to be a simple but meaningful way to connect individually and corporately to the weekly heartbeat of worship for our community. And we believe it will be a way through which the Spirit can deepen in us the essential interplay of nurture and action.

Watch for the initial email for worship preparation coming your way in advance of the September 9 fall kickoff Sunday. We look forward to hearing from you about this idea, as we continue to explore how nurture and action are woven together in our faith.

Peace,
~Pastor Gordon



Hope Church News

September 2018



Every Trail Connects

Avril Wiers, Caring for Creation Co-coordinator

When I first moved back to Holland with a four-month-old Hazel in tow, I had a hard time connecting with other parents who would understand the joys and challenges of raising a child to love the outdoors. The urgency increased when I discovered that attitudes toward nature and the environment are pretty much set by the time kids turn 5--I had to ramp up our time outside if I was going to ensure that Hazel would love the outdoors as much as I do. That's when I found Hike it Baby.

Hike it Baby is a national nonprofit, founded in 2013, with the mission of building communities that support getting families outside. There are over 180,000 families hiking with Hike it Baby nationally and the founder, Shanti Hodges, recently published

a book detailing the organizations' favorite hikes across the country.

I joined Hike it Baby as a member and started attending hikes. I met a group of fabulous like-minded people who loved getting out for all sorts of hikes--adult-paced with our babes in carriers, park-and-play dates at our favorite playgrounds, and (most recently), toddler-paced hikes known affectionately as Toddler Wobbles. Hike it Baby stresses that no hiker is left behind. We stop frequently for diaper changes, toddler tantrums, and nursing breaks. We swap snacks and somebody **always** has extra bug spray. It's refreshing to hang out with parents who get it.

September is a special month in the Hike it Baby calendar. Four times a

year, Hike it Baby hosts a special event called a "Hike it Baby 30". During a challenge month, families are encouraged to get out for 30 minutes three times a week or to hike 30 miles during the month. September is one of those challenge months.

To become involved in Hike it Baby, parents can go online to hikeitbaby.com and pay a \$10 annual membership fee. This grants access to the calendar where hike event details are posted (on a secure site where only paying members can access hike location and time information). Any Hike it Baby member can host hikes. We also have a Hike it Baby Holland Facebook group where parents can share local resources, connect post-hike, and help support each other getting outside. We hope to see you out on the trails!

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Beth Carroll</i> 10:15 am Summer Church School	3 Office Closed for Labor Day	4 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance	5 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	6 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	7 <div> Youth Adventure Weekend </div>	8
9 ~ Kick Off Sunday 8:30 am Early Worship 9:30 am Second Sunday Snacks 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Communion</i> <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Kick Off Picnic	10 11 am REST Support Group 7 pm Consistory with Care & Hospitality	11 10:30 am Coffee at Freedom Village	12 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	13 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	14	15
16 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Intro to Liturgy Class 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Blood Pressure Clinic 6 pm Fish Club & High Hopes - Bonfire	17 4 pm Outreach & Hospitality 6:30 pm Christian Education 6:45 pm Congregational Care & Health 7:30 pm Reconciliation	18 10 am Communications	19 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Chancel Choir	20 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	21	22
23 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am All Parents & Youth Meeting 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship	24 11 am REST Support Group 7:00 pm Worship, Prayer & Spirituality	25	26 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	27 9:30 am Newsletter Assembly 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 6 pm Brim Bunch 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	28	29
30 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Orientation to Hope Church 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 12:15 pm GIFT Youth & Mentors at Pizza Sunday 12:30 pm Caring for Creation						

Steeple Restoration to Commence This Month

It's been just over a year since we discovered that our steeple, which rested on 150-year-old timbers, was structurally unsound and needed urgently, as a safety hazard, to be removed. We had hoped for a grant for its restoration, but were unable to secure that funding. Applying for the grant, however, had the benefit of requiring a thorough review of the historic parts of our facility, during which we uncovered additional needs for attention to our historic 110-year-old brick sanctuary, both exterior and interior.



The steeple has been forlornly in our parking lot; our bell is stored with our friends and colleagues at Elzinga & Volkers. As fall approached, it became clear that we needed either to move forward with the restoration project itself or make a significant investment in secure weatherproofing to take our steeple stub through another winter.

At its August meeting, Consistory approved the following resolution, in order to allow us to move ahead with both the restoration of the steeple and cupola and the repairs to the brickwork and plaster of the sanctuary:

For the Hope Church Consistory to draw on the current line of credit with the RCA Growth Fund to fund the Steeple and Sanctuary renovations as proposed in the amount of \$217,000.

The RCA Growth Fund has been the source of our construction loan for the Living Hope renovation. Assuming that Living Hope pledge commitments are fulfilled, before this additional borrowing we would have a mortgage of \$150,000 when the construction loan ends mid-2019 (which reflects awe-inspiring commitment for a project that totaled over \$3 million). Consistory has requested the Living Hope Capital Campaign Team to extend its mandate to include a plan for raising the additional \$217,00 for the steeple and sanctuary—in addition to minimizing or eliminating altogether a Living Hope mortgage. You'll hear more about fundraising plans as they're developed over the next weeks and months.

In the meantime, watch for work to start on our historic sanctuary and its steeple. If you'd like to learn more about the restoration project, plan on an **informational meeting on Sunday, September 16, at 12:30 p.m.**

