



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 61, No. 10

November 2018

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Inserts:

- November Calendar
- Wisdom of the Wounded Calendar

The deadline for the December newsletter is **Wednesday, November 14.**

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:
9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday: Closed

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Thanksgiving Offering: Dignity for our Neighbors

Community Ministry

Our Thanksgiving offering is designated for Community Action House, which continues its vital work in our community. Their program development focuses on offering services that not only address homelessness and food insecurity among our neighbors, but also recognize the human need for dignity and self-determination.

Hope Church's link to Community Action House dates back to its inception in 1969, when David Myers, a current member of the Community Ministry, made connections to support the development of a "community safety net." Earl Laman has led our collaboration with Community Action House faithfully for uncounted years, organizing the contributions of many of our members. And the recent leadership transition at Community Action House has brought Scott Rumpsa (and his family) back to Hope Church, as Scott has assumed the executive director role.

Please consider how you can support this vital ongoing work in our community through our Thanksgiving offering.

**Donations for the Thanksgiving offering can be made using the designated "Thanksgiving" envelope in the Offering Envelope sets, or with a check using the memo: Thanksgiving Offering. The offering will be received at the Thanksgiving Eve worship service, and donations may also be sent or turned in to the church office.*

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m.

We will gather together to ask the Lord's blessing and to give thanks. Come join in a service of song, prayer, and communion as we remember the goodness of God.

Adult Education: November

Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

November 4, 11, & 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. Those attending class are encouraged—but not required—to read the book before class. Those wishing to purchase the book can do so via Amazon.com.

Caring for Creation: In the Beginning, Climate Change

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Co-coordinator

"Everyone worships the god they believe in."

I first heard these words from a spiritual director twenty-five years ago. At the time, my reaction was; "Duh????!! Tell me something I don't know." Muslims, Buddhists, Christians.... It's pretty obvious isn't it?"

In time I learned that she had more in mind than a Wikipedia-like catalogue of world religions. The deeper truth is that our core beliefs form and shape our daily behavior. A life lived is testimony to whatever god drives it.

Perhaps this is why Jesus said, "Follow me...." There's a forming and shaping quality to following. Each step away from a life not-well-lived is closer to a life lived well. Each step toward Christlikeness brings one closer to the genuine God of creation. Each step is a change of view, from my perspective to God's perspective.

None of which is to say that this is easy. Change is hard, even for good reasons! I'm thinking of these things today in the wake of the latest IPCC report on the climate crisis. Long story short—we have to make radical changes and there isn't much time: twelve years they suggest. It appears that our way of living—revelatory of our core values—isn't turning out well.

Following Jesus calls for a turnaround. But Jesus wasn't naïve, he knew that letting go of an old life is hard. In fact, scripture says that many early followers turned back; his teaching was too difficult to accept. They made a choice, but in doing so forfeited the joy of the kingdom. Do not, however, confuse joy with happiness. Joy is costly.

Mitigating climate change will be costly in terms of life style, mobility, and consumption. There's no way around

that, but you do get to choose. At the moment, the world collectively is saying, "No, not going there. Not part of my core values, man."

Christians, however, have the opportunity to witness to a basic truth, that in God's design for creation all things work together for good. So, if we choose to turn, what sort of changes might we make in order to mitigate the effects of climate change?

I have some suggestions, none of which are exhaustive. For a fuller discussion, turn to Paul Hawken's *Drawdown - The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*. So here goes:

1. Catalogue your annual miles driven and reduce the total by 5,000
2. Minimize consumption of red meat
3. Invest in residential energy efficiency – Set a Net-zero goal
4. Eliminate recreational air travel
5. Advocate for walkable neighborhoods
6. Limit screen time to minimize exposure to consumerist advertising
7. Car pool to church
8. Let your legislators know that you really mean it

Jesus tells the story of a merchant who upon finding a great pearl sells all that he has in order to purchase it. That was a costly decision, and most likely in the eyes of the Wharton Business School, a bad move. But he did it because he had a different understanding of treasure. My prayer is that, when the day comes, we won't say that we lived well, but rather that we lived in such a way as to bring about Gods' kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

Structural Sanctuary Work Underway

Lois Maassen, Project Manager

You've no doubt noticed the lift in the parking lot and, during the week, the work underway repairing the brick and mortar in areas of our historic sanctuary. It's methodical work, requiring the removal of materials that have been degraded by time and weather; damaged bricks are replaced by bricks salvaged from our construction project and stored for this purpose. The tuckpointing will continue around the exterior of the sanctuary through mid-November, weather permitting.

Following the exterior repairs, the work will move to the interior, including repairing plaster and repainting.

Also in mid-November, we'll see evidence of the work underway to replace our bell and steeple. In addition to a significant amount of problem-solving engineering (thanks to Paul Elzinga for his commitment), structures and mechanisms will have been fabricated off-site. This project, like the structural repairs to the sanctuary, is weather-dependent; we're hoping for good conditions to complete it by the end of the month.

Kids Hope: WHO, WHAT & WHY Part 3

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director



This is the last of my 3 part series of the Who, What & Why of Kids Hope. Part 1 included a list of all those who have been a part of the Kids Hope Program since it began at Hope Church 15 years ago. Since then I have found in my files even more names of those who were involved and it continues to amaze me at the number of people from our church who have contributed to the Kids Hope program with their time, their finances and most importantly with their hearts for the neediest of children. Part 2 talked about the history of Kids Hope and of the many reasons we support this ministry. Many of you have answered the call of “caring for the least of these” and have made Kids Hope the success that it is today.

We are one of the 1,200 programs nationwide serving 23,000 students. Isn't that amazing! That article covered the What & Why and so now I am back to the Who again. This time I want to introduce you to those who have signed up to be Mentors, Prayer Partners, Substitute Mentors, and new this year, Special Event Helpers. This program takes a whole village of volunteers to run and I am so thankful for not only the new people signing up but for those coming back year after year. Here they are.... Mentors: Linda Cook, Barb Blauw, Stephanie and John Beyer, Bob Jordan, Dave Boelkins, Sandy Mulder, Carole Hintz, Steve Berry, Tim Pennings, Rhonda Edgington, Dave Dirkse and Lynne Hall. Substitute Mentors: Barb Joldersma, Sharon Arendshorst and Josh Bochniak. Prayer Partners: Jan Fike, Mary Buys, John and Stephanie Beyer, Dave Van Doorne, Stephanie Krom, Connie Vander Velde, Jill Russell, Kari Miller Fenwood, Josh Bochniak, Dorothy Sherborne, Judy Mastenbrook, Todd Engle and Vern and Lois Boersma. Special Event Helpers: Judith Boogaart and Lisa Denison.

I would like to say THANK YOU to each one of them and ask for your prayers as they begin their volunteering. Looks like a pretty good “team” to me and I look forward to us all working together to make our partnership with Vanderbilt School a success. (As it stands now I still need 2 male mentors and 2 or 3 substitute mentors. It is NOT too late to sign up and you can do that on the sign up sheet on the Kids Hope Bulletin Board by the office. I would love to have you join our ‘team!’)

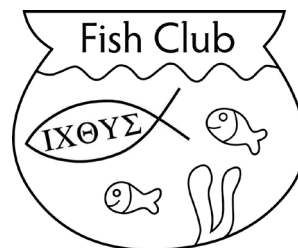
Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship

“Nothing in all of creation tastes sweeter than apple pie.” – Genesis 51

I am convinced that this verse would have totally been in the Hebrew Bible had the writer of Genesis lived in Michigan instead of the ancient middle east. In fact, in my “new earth” at the end of the eschaton, there will be an apple pie made from Granny Smith apples and my mother’s homemade crust waiting for me on the table of my kitchen. If you are nodding an Amen or even if you are having deep concerns regarding my theological education, I would exhort you to buy a Fish Club and High Hopes apple pie! These pies are not only delicious, they also raise funds for our summer youth trips. The funds from these pies ensure that every young person can afford to hike on the Appalachian Trail or help with work projects on our high school trip to Brooklyn this year. When you consider that many of our youth point to these trips as being some of the most spiritually formational in their lives, your purchase connects you directly to the work of God’s spirit in a profound way.

The pies are available to order now. They are \$12 a pie and can either be ordered by signing up for them on the order sheet in the Gathering Area or you can call the office to have your name and order added to the list. The order deadline is November 1 and they will be ready to pick up after the 11:00 service on November 11. In fact, we are always needing extra volunteers, so if you like to roll crust or chop apples, consider signing up to help on November 4 from 2-8. Bringing these pies to your Thanksgiving gathering will elevate you to instant celebrity status, so don’t miss out!



Spread the Thanksgiving Spirit ~ Turkey Table Time

Community Ministry

While many in our community are thriving, prosperity is not equally distributed. Community Action House has set a goal of providing Thanksgiving baskets to assure that 900 families in our community have a robust celebration, and Hope Church is again committed to funding the turkeys for those baskets.

How can you help? Stop by the Turkey Table in the Gathering Area on any Sunday between October 28 and November 18. You can also mail or drop off a check, with "turkeys" in the memo line, by November 15. Turkeys are likely to cost between \$10 and \$12.50, to help you decide how many you'd like to sponsor.

The Community Ministry is grateful for Hope Church's legendary generosity!

Organ Concert for Election Day!

Rhonda Edgington, Associate Director of Music and Organist

After you vote on Tuesday, Nov 6, you can head over to Hope Church for a special Election Day Organ Recital that night at 7:30pm. Ok, election day was actually serendipitous (what repertoire would I play for an Election Day Concert anyway?), the original idea tied this concert to the upcoming Veterans Day, with the theme of War and Peace. I will be playing music by contemporary American composers such as Bernard Wayne Sanders, Gwyneth Walker, and Emma Lou Diemer, as well as the French Messiaen, Czech Eben, and Spanish Correa. There will also be the war and peace themed movements from Holst's The Planets, in a powerful organ transcription. James Sailors will join me on tuba for a German early 20th century setting of a chorale involving the Grim Reaper! And there's one more tie-in for this concert. This fall marks the 35th anniversary of the NPR radio show Pipedreams, hosted by Michael Barone from Minnesota Public Radio. Pipedreams plays at 7am on Sunday mornings on Blue Lake Public Radio, and our concert will be paying tribute to a wonderful radio program, and showing our support as organ lovers for many hopeful future years of the pipe organ heard on public radio. Come out to show your support for Pipedreams, come to hear powerful and beautiful evocations of War and Peace, or come out to shake those election day jitters! All are welcome on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Haiti Vision Trip

Ben Sikkink, Senior Deacon

Curious about Haiti in general and about the work of the Haiti Foundation Against Poverty, which Hope Church has supported in many ways over the last several years, but feel you don't have any skills to offer on a work-based mission trip? If so, you are invited to join other Hope Church members on an Experience Haiti trip being planned for March 20-27, 2019. Mallery Neptune, the foundress of HFAP, and her husband, Frentz, will lead the group in learning about the work of HFAP in Port-au-Prince followed by several days in the countryside learning about Haitian culture, agriculture, small businesses and ways in which we could help Haitians overcome the many difficulties they face in their everyday life. Please watch for emails and future newsletter articles with more details, or contact Ben Sikkink.

New Administrative Staff Reconfiguration

Personnel Committee

Starting on Monday, October 15, the administrative staff underwent a reconfiguration. Megan Arevalo continues in her role as church administrator but has moved to 18 hours a week working on Mondays and Wednesdays in the church office. Katie Norris is in a new position entitled Office Manager taking on additional responsibilities formerly in the church administrator job description and has increased her hours to 35 hours a week (37 hours in the program year and 29 hours in the summer). Please note: for time sensitive requests, please cc both Katie and Megan on emails. Bruce tenHaken has moved into a new position entitled Administrative Assistant working two hours a week on Tuesdays from 3-5pm covering the reception function of the office as well as continuing to offer some additional administrative support at busy times of the year and continuing in his Sunday morning support role. Ben Sikkink has moved into a newly created position entitled Building Administrator working an average of 6 hours a week to support the buildings and grounds ministry and handle building issues as they arise.

Congregational Care & Health Ministry: A Great Lesson on Stress

Ginger Clark, R.N., Hope Church Nurse

A young lady confidently walked around the room with a raised glass of water while leading a seminar and explaining stress management to her audience. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'Half empty or half full?'

She fooled them all. *"How heavy is this glass of water?"* she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, *"The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.*

"If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, *"And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on.*

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced."

So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Pick them up again tomorrow if you must.

1. Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
4. Drive carefully ... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
6. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
8. Never buy a car you can't push.
9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
10. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
11. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
12. The second mouse gets the cheese.
13. When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
14. Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
15. Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
16. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
17. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
18. Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY . . .

19. Save the earth . . . It's the only planet with chocolate!

Worrying has no
effect on tomorrow,
but worrying can
sure ruin today.

Philippians 4:4-7

~Excerpt from Care Capsule, A publication of Care and Kindness Ministries.

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.

Disability Concerns Ministry

Judy Vander Wilt, Disability Concerns Ministry Chair

The Disability Concerns Ministry is one of Hope Church's newer ministries, although the purpose of this ministry has long been addressed by a variety of ministries. When this ministry began as a task force, the group affirmed the following statement of mission for its work:

"The Hope Church Disability Task Force believes in welcoming all people to worship, regardless of physical, mental, or developmental ability, and promoting a spirit of community without boundaries. Our goal is to share Christ's love in the world and create an environment where "everybody belongs and everybody serves."

It is important to note that the persons on this ministry continue to struggle with its name which includes the word "disability." Don't we all have challenges which we need to address and/or overcome? Additionally, we believe that all persons have abilities and gifts which contribute to the body of Christ. As Cindy Terlouw expressed so eloquently in our worship service on October 14, our goal is to include all, that is everyone, within the community of faith.

Recently some people from this ministry attended an RCA national conference which focused on welcoming our elderly. Many things that meet some of the typical challenges of our aging population are already in place at Hope Church, i.e., the hearing loop, large print bulletins, cutouts in some of our pews, access to our chancel, etc. However, if you find there are ways in which we can do

better, don't hesitate to let us know about that, too.

Not only has this ministry focused on the inclusion of all within our congregation, but we have also spent considerable time exploring a need within our community, that of housing for persons with disabilities. Over the course of our exploration, we have learned that there is a significant shortage of housing for persons with disabilities. Thus, in mid-August, we voted to form the Housing Task Force which is charged with further discerning the need for housing for persons with disabilities within the Holland community, and if the need is further confirmed, to proceed with establishing a home for persons with disabilities.

And so, I present to you three opportunities:

1. Volunteer to serve on the Disability Concerns Ministry as we seek to make Hope Church a community which is inclusive of all persons and their gifts.
2. Volunteer to serve on the Housing Task Force, either to serve on the task force itself or to offer your unique gifts for specific tasks should it be determined to proceed with establishing a home.
3. If you have suggestions to offer which would strengthen our welcome to all, do e-mail them to: judyvanderwilt@gmail.com.

We affirm the words from 1 Cor. 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

The next Ministry Highlight will feature the Facility Strategy Ministry.

Children's Ministry: Children's Stewardship

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

We are greatly blessed by God and God expects us to share those blessings with others. We can share not just our money but our time, talents and especially our willingness to make a connection with others. Even the youngest of children can make a difference in their community and world. Throughout the year the children will be given the opportunity to help in service to others. For example, during the Fall Family Fun Night the families decorated food bags for the Kid's Food Basket organization. This month the children will be bringing home a pledge form that your family can discuss and fill out. There will be some ideas that your family may want to adopt to help you share your blessings with others. There is also an opportunity for your family to add other ways you may already serve or new ideas you may have. On November 11th the pledges should be brought back to their Children in Worship centers or they can fill out another one in the center. The children will be bringing them down to the sanctuary to add to the congregation's collection of pledges.

Poetry Corner

hosted by Randy Smit and Rhonda Edgington

Greetings Friends -- This month we feature the creative contribution of a joyous soul, our dear Carole Hintz. Her love for whimsy hands us a hefty spoonful of Helen Bevington's autumnal breakfast and plenty to smile about. And her own prayerful SHALOM is a poem you'll want to take with you, especially through the more dreary and challenging days this coming season can bring. ~ *Randy*

Poetry is an avenue of expression, a release, for the full spectrum of emotions deeply felt. . . love, anger, wonder, joy, humor, sadness, loss, silliness, pain, hope . . . I believe poetry is born out of our life journey when we allow 'our living' the freedom to be who we are as God created us to be.

My poem by another poet is short and somewhat humorous. Though about October, it certainly relates to November as well.

A Bowl of October by Helen Bevington

October is a breakfast food
With fields of shredded wheat.
The golden cornflakes lie on the lawn,
And wheaties lie in the street.

The puffed rice clouds, the grapenut hills,
Oh! the oatmeal skies, abed
Have wakened me in the crispies air ~~
And so I have breakfasted!

My poem is just heart-written as only any writing I do must be (and it is not often.)

Shalom by Carole Hintz

Shalom ~ Shalom
Whispered ~ Whispered
In dreams of hope
Amidst memories
Of conflict and strife.

Shalom ~ Shalom
Upon wings of dawn
Oe'r a landscape of heartache.
A Promise ~ A Prayer
Golden from the rising sun?

Shalom ~ Shalom
Deepening pools of tears
of God's children everywhere
asking Where? Where?
Toward the winging bird on high.

Oh! Shalom ~ Shalom
Hold it tenderly.
Declare it ardently.
Pass it lovingly:
Earth and Shalom as One.

At Home With the Word

Sunday Lectionary as Daily Bible Readings

November 1-4, 2018

Thursday	All Saints Day; Solomon 3:1-9
Friday	Hebrews 9:11-14
Saturday	Mark 12:28-34
Sunday	Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 5-11, 2018

Monday	Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Tuesday	Psalm 127
Wednesday	1 Kings 17:8-16
Thursday	Psalm 146
Friday	Hebrews 9:24-28
Saturday	Mark 12:38-44
Sunday	Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12-18, 2018

Monday	1 Samuel 1:4-20
Tuesday	Daniel 12:1-3
Wednesday	1 Samuel 2:1-10
Thursday	Psalm 16
Friday	Hebrews 10:11-25
Saturday	Mark 13:1-8
Sunday	Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19-25, 2018

Monday	2 Samuel 23:1-7
Tuesday	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Wednesday	Psalm 132:1-12
Thursday	Thanksgiving Day (U.S.); Psalm 126
Friday	Revelation 1:4-8
Saturday	John 18:33-37
Sunday	Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday 7

Events and Announcements

Daylight savings ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 4. Remember to turn your clocks back an hour!

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet on Weds. Nov. 7 at 9:30 A.M. at Rita Snow's at Freedom Village.

Circle 2 will meet on Weds. November 7 at 9:30 A.M. in Commons 2.

Circle 4 will meet on Wednesday, November 14 at 7 P.M.

Coffee Time at Appledorn

This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. The next Coffee Time will be at Appledorn on Tuesday, November 13, 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, November 14th, at 1:00pm in Commons 2. We will be discussing the book, Hamilton, by Ron Chernow. Our discussion leader will be Audrienne Hill, and our hostesses will be Karmen Kooyers and Deborah Schakel. New members are always welcome! For more information call Lauren Heyboer.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 22 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Note: There will not be a **Pizza Sunday** in the month of November.

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Youth Apple Pie Fundraiser

Hope Church Youth, please sign up in the gathering area to assist with this year's apple pie fundraiser! This year, we are doing all pie assembly on Sunday, November 4 from 2-8. Parents and other adult volunteers are encouraged to help with pie

assembling too. If you can only come for part of the time, please indicate what those times will be. Sign up today! Contact Pastor Beth Carroll with any questions.

Brim Bunch

Brim Bunch's December 13 meeting will be dinner at Evergreen Commons with the Christmas Chorale program following. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner and program starts at 6:00 pm. Payment of \$24 must be paid by 19th of November to assure seats. You may pay at the Hope Church office, or on Sunday mornings, November 4, 11, 18.

Cleaning Up the Church Gardens

This task needs to be completed soon! If you or a group you belong to have "adopted" a section of the church gardens, we need you to clean up your plot for fall. City curbside pick-up (of leaves only) will be from now through November 18. Please bring your own clippers, rakes, etc. If you love to rake leaves, please feel free to share that gift with Hope Church. If you are uncertain about what needs trimming, please contact David VanHeest.

Flowers in Worship

The floral arrangements in the chancel enhance our worship environment on Sundays. Thank you to all who have contributed to the flower fund by designating a Sunday in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one or special occasion. Check the flower calendar on the music room window and sign up for your special week. The 2019 calendar will be available soon. \$50 is the amount for each week – make checks payable to Hope Church. You can make additional donations to the Worship Flower Fund if you wish. In the summer and fall months, Joyce Stempfly shares the beautiful flowers of her garden and we appreciate her artistry. The other months of the year the chancel flowers are provided by

Pat's Flower Market in Holland. On occasion, the flowers are taken from the church gardens and arranged by David VanHeest or he shares with the congregation one of his orchids that is in bloom. Many thanks to Joyce Teusink for overseeing the flower calendar and making arrangements for bulletin inserts and with the florists.

Holland Public Schools Equity Alliance

Meetings are open to everyone including teachers, parents, students, community members, college students, etc. We would like everyone represented in conversations about social justice and equity in our school community. The mission of the HPS Equity Alliance is to engage stakeholders in creating a learning culture of justice, empowered to identify and address inequities in our school community and beyond. Join us for a meeting to learn what we are all about and help us with our mission. 2018-2019 Meeting Dates: November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11. Meetings are from 5:30-7:30pm in the HHS/HEC D Wing Amphitheater.

Religious Identity: Dividing or Uniting?

The 2018 Jewish/Christian/Muslim Triennial Interfaith Dialogue. Pre-Conference - Wednesday, November 14, 5:30pm-7:00pm, GVSU Allendale Campus, Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room. All-Day Conference – Thursday, November 15, 9:30am-5:00pm, GVSU Downtown Campus, Eberhard Center. The events are free but registration is required. For more information or to register visit: www.InterfaithUnderstanding.org.

Cran-Hill Ranch: July 19-21, 2019 - Sign Up Now to Attend!

Fellowship Ministry

Hope Church has reserved the Cran-Hill Ranch Retreat Center and Camping area for **July 19-21, 2019!** The tricky part is, they would like us to have our reservations in by November 20 of **THIS YEAR!!** We need 20 rooms/sites to be reserved by that date in order to hold our reservation. We know that it's hard to plan so far in advance...but if you have any interest at all, we're asking you to please sign up. If it turns out that you are not able to make it, we will try to find a substitute camper for you.

Also, if you're not sure about the "camping" aspect of the weekend, they also have a wonderful Retreat Center with plenty of bunkbeds and bathrooms not far from your rooms!

Arrival is on Friday, the 19th, after 4pm. After checking in, many campers sign up for activities on Saturday. They have horseback riding, trail rides, tubing, canoeing, hayrides, swimming and other events. For some of these items there is a cost involved which campers are responsible for. We ask that each camper (or family unit) pays \$40.00 which helps to offset the cost of camping for the weekend. Hope Church covers the rest of the cost. It includes two nights of camping (or the lodge), smores, and hotdogs and chips for supper on Saturday night. Saturday night meal is a potluck (sides to go with the hotdogs). You provide your own meal for Friday night, Saturday breakfast & lunch, and Sunday morning. They have

refrigeration in the lodge if you need to keep food there. Checkout is on Sunday at 2pm.

It's a great way to meet other folks from Hope Church! We have a service on Sunday morning led by one of our pastors.

If you might be interested in joining us for a weekend at Cran-Hill Ranch, please sign-up now in the Gathering Area. Reservations must be in by November 21, 2018.

If you have further questions, contact Joyce Teusink.

Reading Scripture Well: A Workshop - Sun., November 4, 9:40 AM

Worship Ministry

How should a biblical narrative, prophecy, poetry – or Paul (shudder!) be read aloud?

Find out in this one-week class for those who do and for those who would like to participate in Sunday worship.

Richard Perez, Assistant Professor of Theater at Hope College, will offer gently constructive input to our reading.

Thank You

Hope Church folks,

Thank you all so very much for letting us use your amazing facility once again. It would not be possible for us to provide lunch for all our volunteers without using your facility. We so appreciate all of your support!

~Women's Service Day

Snowbirds!

Please call the church office at 392-7947 to let us know when you'll be leaving and what your temporary address will be so that you can continue receiving the Hope Church News and other church mailings.

Hope Church Events on Website

Did you know you can find up to date event information about Hope Church events and community events on our website at hopechurchrca.org? Hover over "Events" at the top of the page, and then click "Church Events" or "Community Events." On these pages, you will find a listing of upcoming events. If you click on the title of most events, it will also take you to a page with more information. Under "Events" you can also click "Calendar" which will take you to our church calendar, which is now completely online!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12	Trudy VanderHaar
27	Rowland VanEs, Jr. (missionary)

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

HOPE CHURCH NEWS

and finally

Late in August, Pastor Beth and I were invited by Hope Church member and Associate Dean for Residential Life and Education, Kristyn Bockniak, to share some faith reflections with the Resident Assistants who were doing their training for the coming school year. We decided to share one of the scripture passages that is fundamental to our identity as a congregation. We saw close connections between this passage and the values they use to ground their work in Residential Life: belonging, growth, dignity, respect, and love. The passage was Micah 6.8 "God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

We also chose this passage because it gave us a chance to share with that

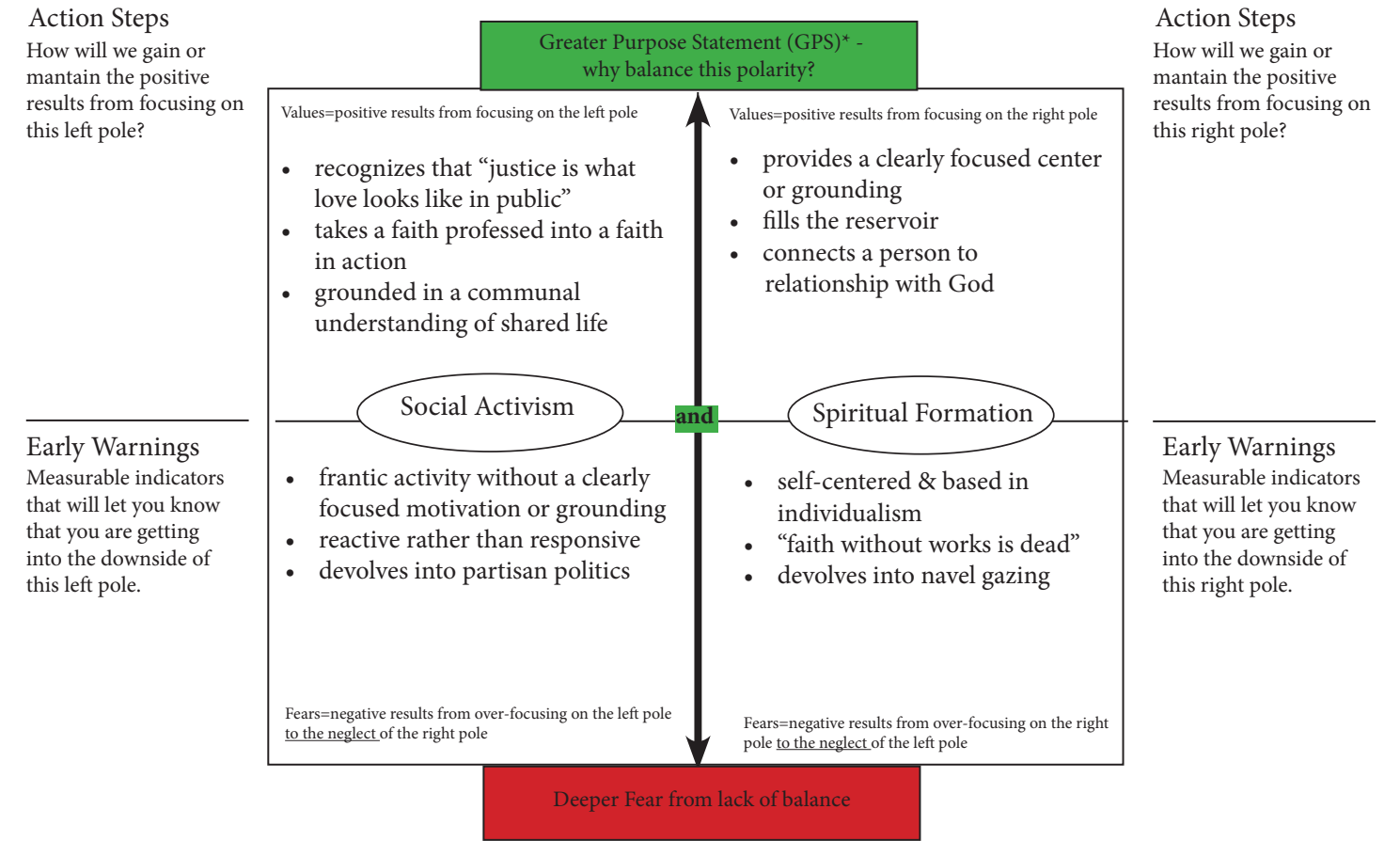
group of students what I shared in my last *And Finally* article back in August regarding the polarity of social activism and spiritual formation. My interest wasn't so much in the particularity of this polarity so much as the idea of polarities as a concept. I know it would have been incredibly helpful to me to understand this concept when I was a young adult. In order to talk to them about it, I decided I wanted to graph the details of this polarity so that I could talk about it in concrete rather than theoretical terms. I shared this with consistory in the early fall and they thought it could be helpful for me to share it with all of you. The way that I generated the content for each quadrant of the polarity was to imagine someone who was most at home with one side of the pole engaging in an argument with someone on the other side of the pole. Someone who

swims deeply in the pools of prayer, meditation, and spiritual retreats going toe to toe with a social justice activist who feels most alive when taking faith and putting it into action for the sake of the "least of these." I imagined how they would describe the gifts of "their" pole and how they would sound the alarms for the downsides of the "other" pole. It didn't take long to create this polarity below.

I hope you have been tracking some of the ways we have been intentionally living into some "action steps" to cultivate our spiritual formation as a congregation. Gordon wrote about some of these in his September *And Finally* article. The weekly emails Praying Toward Sunday, the Wednesday fall series, and Retreat held in the end of October were all efforts to help fill the reservoir of faith. I trust you

SOCIAL ACTIVISM AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION POLARITY

Thriving Congregation



Declining Congregation

are finding ways for this beyond these programmatic offerings. My family has been taking weekly or bi-weekly treks in the forest and I am finding that as one of the places that fills my soul and connects me to God as the ground of my being.

We do this work of walking humbly with God to fuel us for the outward expressions of our faith: to love kindness and do justice. When I shared this with the consistory, I also included an update for them on the various places we, as pastors of Hope Church, are engaged in the community and staying connected to social activism of various forms. Once again, they suggested that I share this with all of you. So you will find below the list of those engagements along with a mission statement for each group.

Pastors Engagement in Community Work

Faith Leaders for Justice – Gordon convenes this group which all three pastors attend along with several other Hope Church members.

Statement of Purpose for Faith Leaders for Justice:

We are a group of leaders (religious and secular, lay and ordained) working for broader acceptance and justice for and with those who find themselves on the margins of our community. We call the greater Holland area home, and in keeping with our traditions and values, we celebrate the sharing of hospitality and partnership with all our neighbors. Yet there are many who find themselves too often marginalized in our community, in particular immigrants, LGBTQ folks, African-Americans, Latino/as, refugees, people of faiths other than Christian, and people not a part of faith communities. Through thoughtful engagement, education, and advocacy, we along with many allies are working to foster an environment of genuine welcome and support. Humbly and persistently we will strive with and for our neighbors towards justice, equity and reconciliation in our community.

Interfaith Allies – Jill convenes this group which all three pastors attend and she facilitates the programming of this group such as Community Interfaith Dinners and the Know Your Neighbors educational series.

Statement of Purpose for Interfaith Allies:

Holland Interfaith Allies are dedicated to engaging people from the wide array of faith and worldview backgrounds represented here in Holland. We expand our circles of inclusion:

1. By promoting community initiatives and events that expand our circles of inclusion and our respectful engagement of all our neighbors.
2. By moving beyond mere tolerance of each other's beliefs and worldviews toward understanding, appreciation, and mutual respect.

Together, we are becoming the peace we seek in the battered and beautiful world we share.

Holland Public Schools Equity

Alliance – Jill and Gordon share a seat on this community action committee that is sponsored by the Holland Public School Board and is comprised of administration, staff, faculty, parents, and community members.

Mission Statement for Holland Public Schools Equity Alliance

To engage stakeholders in creating a learning culture of justice empowered to identify and address inequities in our school community and beyond.

Holland City Faith-Based Leadership

– all three pastors attend these quarterly meetings with the Chief of Police and Human Relations staff. This group focuses on issues of concern within the city and ways communities of faith can help to address those concerns. After initial conversations with the police and city leadership following a high-stakes traffic stop last summer, this group has continued conversations about how to strengthen the relationship between public safety and marginalized members of our community. One form that conversation is taking is to address the impact of trauma on our community. On November 1, this group is meeting at Hope Church to

hear from a staff member from Ottawa County Mental Health on this topic and continue to envision how Holland can become a more consistently trauma-informed community.

Holland City Human Relations Commission – Beth is member of the commission.

Mission Statement for City of Holland Human Relations Commission:

The City of Holland recognizes the inherent right of its inhabitants to strive to fulfill their goals and aspirations unhindered by discrimination based on or resulting from considerations of race, creed, handicap, educational association, color, sex, age, marital status, national origin or association. Therefore, in 1966, the City of Holland created the Human Relations Commission. The HRC is comprised of 9 members broadly representative of the City's population who are appointed by the Mayor with approval of City Council.

RCA Commission on Christian Action

– Beth has recently become a member of this commission within the RCA denomination structure.

Mission Statement for Commission on Christian Action:

To inform and advise the church concerning current social issues and the spiritual and Christian principles by which critical evaluation may be exercised on those issues and proper action taken.

There are many, many ways to live out our faith. I trust that you are finding ways to engage the work of justice and kindness day by day. Perhaps in formal associations and groups like the ones listed above but even more in the concrete experiences of your day to day life. I am deeply grateful for the vast diversity of expressions of faith we all embody as well as the divergent spheres of influence we all occupy. God is moving among us and beyond us and it is a gift to bear witness to all the places the Spirit is leading us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Peace to you,
~Pastor Jill



Hope Church News

November 2018



December, January, & February Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet for the next three months (**Please note: the schedule for the entire year is also now posted** on a "Greeter Schedule" poster in the gathering area):

December Greeters

02 Linda Graham & Bruce Evans
09 Jeff & Cathy Green
16 Steve & Sue Griffore
23 James & Jaqueline Heisler
24 5:30 PM:
Peter & Anne Hoekman
11 PM:
Laurie & Mark Baron
30 Michael & Kathy Henry

January Greeters

6 Juliann Hoekstra
13 Barb Israels
20 Mike & Shelly Israels
27 Dustin & Lauren Janes

February Greeters

3 Bob Jerow & Joyce Teusink
10 Amory Jewett
17 Steven & Michelle Johnson
24 Dan & Barbara Joldersma

If you are unable to greet on your assigned Sunday, you are invited to either switch with someone or find your own substitute. You can communicate this change by marking the change on the Greeters Schedule poster in the Gathering Area, or by calling the office and a staff member will mark the change for you. ***If you are willing to volunteer as a substitute greeter or greet more often than once a year, please contact the office.***

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	2	3
4 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am Scripture Reading Class 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Communion</i> <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 2-8 pm Fish Club & High Hopes - Pie-Making	5 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance	6	7 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 9:30 am Circle 2 5:30 pm Community 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	8 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	9	10
11 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am Parenting Class 9:40 am 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12 pm Second Sunday Snack	12 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm New Members/Elders Meeting 7:45 pm Consistory	13 10:30 am Coffee at Appledorn	14 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 1 pm Communications 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	15 8 am Art Committee 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	16	17
18 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12 pm New Member Reception 12:15 pm Blood Pressure Clinic 6 pm Fish Club & High Hopes	19 6:30 pm Christian Education 7:30 pm Reconciliation	20	21 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	22 Thanksgiving -Office Closed	23	24
25 8:30 am Early Worship 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Beth Carroll, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:30 pm Caring for Creation	26 11 am REST Support Group 6:30 pm Personnel 7 pm Worship	27 9:30 am Newsletter Assembly	28 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 4 pm Adult Education 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	29 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	30	