



# HOPE CHURCH NEWS

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

Volume 62, No. 1

January 2019

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## Inserts:

- January Calendar
- Wisdom of the Wounded Calendar

The deadline for the February newsletter is **Tuesday, January 15.**

## Office Hours

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

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## Noisy Contemplatives



### Season of Reconciliation 2019 January 20 - February 10

The theme for the Season of Reconciliation 2019 is "Noisy Contemplatives" as we seek the connection of inward reflections/thoughts to outward responses of reconciliation. The adult education series as well as the book study will focus on how we can start from a quiet mind to bring change to a screaming world. The adult education series will take a different approach than previous season of reconciliation adult education. Participants will be asked to begin in individual contemplation and reflection to various prompts (visual, musical, and poetic) and then come together to discuss their own reflections. The book study this year again asks the readers for contemplation. "Braiding Sweetgrass" links Native spirituality and scientific thoughts in the use and protection of our world.

*More information on page 2*

**Congregational Meeting: January 27**

*read more on page 2!*

## Season of Reconciliation 2019 January 20 - February 10

**Adult Education**  
Sundays, 9:40-10:40 am

**January 13** – Sister Linda-Susan Beard, Bryn Mawr College – Associate Professor of English and Director of Africana Studies. This session will act as a primer for the notion of noisy contemplatives and contemplative intelligence that is the cornerstone of the Emmaus Monastery, which Sister Linda-Susan is the foundress.

**January 20** – This is the first of three active sessions, which the participations will be guided through prompts to first inwardly reflect and then build on that contemplation to a collective discussion. Session one will focus on the visual sense.

**January 27** – The second of the three active sessions will see the participants guided through musical prompts to initially reflect individually and then come together collectively.

**February 3** – The third and final session will allow the participants to be presented with poetry to contemplate and then individually reflect prior to coming together.

### Worship

Early Worship 8:30 am, Liturgical Worship 11 am

#### Witness to Reconciliation

Each Sunday at the 11 am service throughout the Season of Reconciliation, a member of our congregation is asked to speak to the notion of personal reconciliation in their own lives. They will share their stories of reconciliation, passion, and sacrifice in order that we may all humanize the stories of others and gain better insight into the body of Christ that we share with one another. These stories have proven over the course of the years to be some of the most memorable and powerful aspects of the season.

## Congregational Meeting: January 27

Our annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, January 27, from 12:15-2:00 p.m. in the Commons. We will begin with a shared meal and conversation around tables. The Consistory will provide a soup lunch. The meeting will include a presentation and vote on the 2019 budget, as well as other important information about the coming year of ministry at Hope Church.

- If your last name begins with A – O, please bring a salad.
- If your last name begins with P – Z, please bring bread to share.

Transportation will be provided for residents of the Warm Friend and Freedom Village at 2:00 p.m. (as well as the usual bus run at 12:15 p.m.). Please plan to attend!

### Book Study

Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:45 pm  
light meal provided

January 23, 30 and February 6

***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of the Plants***  
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

This year for the season of reconciliation, we will be reading *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of the Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will share a light meal and discussion surrounding the lenses by which we see the world around us, the scientific and the spiritual. While we tend to see them in conflict, we miss the intertwined harmony toward a central theme of our need to expand our ecological consciousness and live our reciprocal relationship with our planet and all its inhabitants.

All are invited to be a part of this study, and books are available in the gathering area for \$15. Sign up in the gathering area!

### Restorative Circles Facilitator Training

Thursday, January 31, 9am- 4pm;  
Friday, February 1, 9am- 4pm

Training for Restorative Circles has been a part of the Season of Reconciliation for the past 7 years. The mission of restorative circles melds easily with the message of reconciliation that is central to the season. Training Dates will be January 31 and February 1, 2019. Further information will be posted in the bulletin. Any questions can be directed to Jill Russell or Ann McKnight.

*More information on page 8.*

# 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.*

## Adult Education Ministry

Judy Parr, Adult Education Ministry Chair

The Adult Education Ministry is scheduling a variety of classes for winter/spring 2019:

- January 6: Pastor Beth Carroll will lead a discussion of lectionary texts for Epiphany.
- Jan. 13—Feb. 3: The Reconciliation Ministry will present "Noisy Contemplatives." See details on page 2.
- Feb. 10 and 17: Bored with Fear and Reactivity (your own and everyone else's)? Hope Church member Ann McKnight will encourage us to have fun exploring Living with Compassion, Clarity and Strength.
- Feb. 24 and Mar. 3: Jim Brownson, James and Jean Cook Professor of New Testament at Western Theological Seminary, will teach about what the Catechism on Sexuality developed by the Regional Synod of the Great Lakes includes and does not include.
- March 10: Palo Naso, an RCA mission partner and coordinator of an interde-nominational partnership called "Being Church Together," works with the Waldensian Church in Italy. He will speak about his ministry focus around issues of immigration and justice.
- March 17: Ryan Kilpatrick, Executive Director of Housing Next, a

collaborative initiative of nonprofit, government, and business partners working to create and promote a strong economic case for additional workforce housing units in the greater Ottawa County region, will discuss affordable housing.

- March 24 and 31: Plans are being developed. For details see March Hope Church News.
- April 7 and 14: Alyssa Cheadle, an assistant professor of psychology at Hope College, will speak about how and why religiousness and spirituality are related to health.
- April 28 and May 5: Peter Boogaart and the Caring for Creation Ministry will present a topic related to the focus of that ministry.
- May 12 and 19: Terry DeYoung, Reformed Church in America Coordinator for Disability Concerns, will discuss ways to prevent suicides and ways to help those who have lost someone through suicide.

Classes meet in Commons I between 9:40 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday morning during the school year. They are free and open to all adults. Adult education also happens in Hope Church worship services, book discussion groups, men's breakfasts, and women's circles. The Adult Education Ministry is

one of several within the Worship and Spiritual Formation area.

Several years ago, those planning Adult Education adopted the following mission statement:

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

Adult Education Ministry members are Jim Brownson, David Myers, Milt Nieuwsma, Judy Parr (chairperson) Jane Schuyler, Eloise Van Heest. Pastors Beth Carroll and Gordon Wiersma support Adult Education. If you have an idea for a course you want presented or would like to join this ministry, contact one of these people.

*The next Ministry/Committee Highlight will feature the Sacristy Guild.*

## Medical Leave for Pastor Jill

The consistory approved a request from Pastor Jill to receive medical leave beginning on January 31. After an abnormal annual examine and follow up biopsy, Jill's doctor has scheduled her to have a hysterectomy on that date. The earlier biopsy indicated that the abnormal cells were caught in a pre-cancer state which was a great relief. This surgery is expected to be curative. At this time, it is unknown exactly how long her recovery will take but the doctor has advised a medical leave of 6-8 weeks. In her absence, the following plans have been made. Pastor Beth will be increasing her worship leadership to serve as liturgist twice a month and preacher once a month. Lynn Japinga and Cindi Veldheer-DeYoung will also each preach once during this time. Parish Nurse, Ginger Clark, will be increasing her hours to help cover pastoral care needs. The office staff along with Pastor Gordon and Pastor Beth will be providing additional administrative support as well. The Consistory is grateful to the staff and congregation members who will be providing additional leadership during this time. Please contact Pastor Gordon, Elder Vice-President Celaine Bouma-Prediger, or Personnel Chair Jane Dickie if you have any questions.

## Staff Departure: Bruce Ten Haken

Personnel Committee

Bruce Ten Haken has been a special part of Hope Church and valued team member for many years as the Administrative Assistant and Housekeeper. He has started a new position so Bruce's last day was December 16. We have appreciated his service to Hope Church and will dearly miss him. Bruce wanted to share a few thoughts "I want to thank the Hope Church community for the opportunity to serve over the past few years. I appreciate both your patience and understanding as I addressed your questions, needs and concerns. I thank the Hope Church staff, Consistory and volunteers for their support, friendship and companionship while working toward our common goal of doing justice, loving with kindness and walking humbly with each other and our God."

## Two Job Opportunities - Administrative Assistant & Housekeeper

Personnel Committee

Hope Church is accepting applications for a part-time Administrative Assistant, and a part-time Housekeeper. The Administrative Assistant position is a part-time hourly position - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Sundays during the program year; 9:30 am – 11:30 am on summer Sundays; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm on Tuesdays weekly, and also on an as needed basis as specified in the full job description. The Housekeeper position is a part-time hourly position averaging 1-1.5 hours per week on Monday mornings with additional hours for special church events. For full job descriptions, please pick up hard copies on the welcome desk or email the church office. If someone you know may be interested, please pass these opportunities on to them! Please send cover letter and resume to [marevalo@hopechurchca.org](mailto:marevalo@hopechurchca.org), Attn. Pastors Gordon Wiersma and Jill Russell, by **January 6, 2019**.

## Letter from Rode Molla and Endrias Assen

Dear Hope Church Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Rode Molla and Endrias Assen in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

We give thanks to God for your love and support in our journey. We want to express our deep appreciation for the pastoral care we receive from Pastor Jill and Pastor Gordon for the last three years. We email them to ask them for their prayers and guidance when it is needed; they are always there for us. We are also thankful for our friend and spiritual director, Barbara Knoops. She is an amazing gift of God for us.

The 2018 academic year was very challenging and at the same time rewarding for me. Endrias is doing well. He is working at the University of Denver Student Dining Hall. He is supporting my work in his presence and love. I am a third year Ph.D. student, so it is required for me to complete all my qualifying exams. In Fall 2018, I have completed two of my comprehensive exams. I will be doing two more exams in the Spring.

After I finish my comprehensive examinations, I will start writing my proposal, and then a dissertation stage will come. It is a long journey, but we believe that we will do it with God and you.

I have received the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology Outdistancing writing/ researching award. I received the award because I presented different papers in different places and exhibited academic and practical competence in my writings.

In 2018 academic year, I have presented three papers and published two articles. The first paper presentation was in June 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia at the Society of Pastoral Theology Annual Conference. My paper presentation was on "Inviting Ethiopians to the In-between spaces: A Pastoral Theology of Hope for a Fragmented Ethiopia." In my presentation, I addressed the ethnic and political and social conflict in Ethiopia. I recommend a pastoral theology of hope in which Ethiopians can be able to live with diversity and unity. In my paper, I invite Ethiopians

to the in-between spaces so that they can meet and collaborate with hope. I claim that in the in-between spaces, Ethiopians can live out their hybrid identities in embodied and relational goodness that strengthens the covenantal web of life. I claim that in the in-between spaces Ethiopians can collaborate with hope, not by alienation, but acknowledging their brokenness, pain, and suffering.

I also presented two papers at the National Conference of the American Academy of Religion this year in Denver, Colorado. One of my presentations was on "The Affective Power of Baptism: Children's Religiosity Beyond Sunday School Class." In my paper, I argue that God's call to children in baptism enables us to see children's religiosity not only as a cognitive capacity but as their embodied experience in their holistic being. Through baptism, children receive a call which has affective power to nurture their spirituality in their relationships with parents, the church, and the wider community. Luther's theology of infant baptism confirms children's call through baptism and

*continued on page 5*



*continued from page 4*

the word of God to be brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. In baptism, children are called to grow in their faith and vocation. So, I call the Ethiopian Evangelical Churches to go beyond Sunday School class to see and learn how children make and create their agency in their wider context.

I also published two papers this year. One of the papers that I published "Pastoral Care in the Living web for At-Risk Children in Ethiopia," originated from my Th.M paper. I presented the

paper to you back in 2015, when I was in Holland, MI. The Other paper, "Beyond the Limitation of Applying the Western Youth Ministry Though to an Ethiopian Context." This article also came from the work I did when I was at Western Theological Seminary with my professor Dr. Ben Conner.

We are hoping and planning to move forward in a way that God is leading us. Your presence is essential for who we are and what we are going to be, so we ask your support and prayers in our journey. We appreciate your financial

support. Thank you for your Christmas gift! We would not be able to come this far without your love. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year! God bless you Hope Church!

"After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was." Mathew 2:9

## Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director

As we begin the New Year, prayer is needed for our Kids Hope students and mentors more than ever before. It is now, after a semester of getting acquainted and accessing the needs of our students, both emotionally and academically, that we begin to see their growth and they begin to experience success. Yet we are concerned with the challenges that influence the way each child learns and matures. Sometimes amidst all the fun we have during our weekly sessions we still encounter behavior and reading problems beyond what our time and capabilities allows us to fully address. This is why we feel blessed by your prayers and acknowledge their benefit when we see doors opening and little miracles of influence and learning take place between us and our Kids Hope student. So here is a prayer from the Kids Hope Regional Conference that we are asking you to pray. Maybe cut it out and put it beside your devotion table or read it at the table. I know we will feel it! Thank You from Vicki and all the Kids Hope Mentors and Students.

### Pray for Teachers, Kids, Families

#### **Bodily Health**

- For healthy body development
- For basic physical needs to be met
- For safety from accident and from serious illness

- For protection from violence, harm or fear
- For wise choices that affect health (sleep, exercise, food)

#### **Labor**

- For an earnest, eager desire to listen and learn
- For encouragement to all, needed for good teaching and learning
- For growing confidence in abilities
- For appropriate expectations placed on staff, students and families

#### **Emotional Health**

- For a secure sense of belonging and of being safe at home and school
- For the ability to give and receive love and care
- That key relationships cause recipients to be valued...special...loved
- All would feel worthy of having all needs met
- That home life provides healthy doses of fun and laughter - freedom to be and act as a child
- For hopefulness...that would permeate attitudes and behavior

#### **Social Relationships**

- For healthy relationships, with parents, siblings, staff, administration love and support

- For the ability to obey and respect authority figures
- For attitudes and behavior that encourage friendship, respect, thoughtfulness, kindness
- For genuine friendships that promote stability and enjoyment

#### **Spiritual Relationships**

- For the presence of the spirit in relationships
- For nurturing, healing influence in the lives of teachers, kids and families

#### **Pray for Mentors**

- A heart that truly cares for the welfare of their child
- Ability to communicate effectively on the child's level
- Enthusiasm and hopefulness that is constant and contagious
- Patience and understanding when progress seems unattainable
- Creative and resourceful ways for being an encouragement each week
- Unwavering conviction for the importance of their hour together
- Productiveness in their relationship
- Many reasons for joy in this ministry work

## Caring for Creation: Great Cloud of Witnesses

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Co-coordinator

You may remember the prophet Elijah lamenting, "I alone am left...." Those who are concerned for environmental issues often feel that way too. The task seems so impossible. Elijah was wrong, of course. Those of us in Creation Care ministries are not alone either.

The Reformed Church in America, under the direction of Earl James, Coordinator for African American/Black Ministries & Coordinator for Advocacy, has begun the process of building a denomination wide Creation Care ministry. Earl acknowledges his need to learn more about environmental issues but he feels strongly that, for the benefit of our children, we need to face those issues.

Although he didn't recognize it at the time, Earl's childhood in the Hudson River Valley set a creation care foundation for him. "As kids we were at the river all the time—fishing, swimming, and playing. I remember that in later years things changed. The water was more polluted and you got a rash if you swam in it. Later on, the people of the valley organized for change and water quality improved. The fish came back and you could

swim again. That was a lesson for me. No matter how bad it is, we can make it better if we speak out and work together."

Earl's work these days, starting in February 2018, involves workshops which are intended to call people to creation care. The approach is Biblical, taking Psalms 24:1 as its focus— "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." A team of 23 RCA members from New York to California prayerfully developed the 2018 ministry plan.

To date, 140 people from 39 churches in New York, Michigan and Iowa explored together in three-hour workshops about how caring for God's creation affects:

- Worship of God
- Discussions within families, congregations and communities
- Energy efficiency in church buildings and homes
- Community outreach and advocacy including opportunities to join online information and advocacy communities such as Creation Justice Ministries - <http://www.creationjustice.org>

[creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)

Earl is also working to introduce pastors and spiritual leaders to the resources which help them to both articulate creation care and to encourage local creation care ministries. Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4 of each year) curriculum materials and ministry stories were especially highlighted. As part of this initiative, Earl is also approaching RCA colleges and seminaries to encourage their commitment to sponsoring fruitful creation care teaching. A supporting web page is under development.

Sisters and brothers, please keep this creation care ministry in your prayers. Please ask God to make the messages within Psalms 24:1 to grow deep within hearts, minds and actions of the people of God in our community and around this "lost and broken world so loved by God."  
(from the RCA mission statement).

For additional information, email Earl James at [creationcare@rca.org](mailto:creationcare@rca.org) or [ejames@rca.org](mailto:ejames@rca.org)



### We're on the case!

The *Caring for Creation* Committee is looking closely at the ways in which Hope Church currently handles waste. Although we already have made great strides in recycling, there is plenty of room for improvement and we know you will help! **Look for changes** in the way we recycle things that currently go into the trash (and landfill), and know that we are 'raising the bar' in our effort to be an example of living sustainably.

*"Every aspect of our lives is, in a sense, a vote for the kind of world we want to live in."*  
-Frances Moore Lappe

## January 6: It's an EPIPHANY Celebration

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

The children will share a time of preparation and celebration on this Epiphany Sunday. The children will hear stories and learn more about the importance of this special day. During the 11AM worship service, the 4th and 5th graders will participate in the service in the sanctuary and then continue worship with the other children. The preschoolers through 5th graders will meet together during Children in Worship to continue the celebration. **The congregation will join them after the service to share some epiphany cake!**

There will be no church school on January 6 but will resume on January 13.

hosted by Randy Smit and Rhonda Edgington

We start off the new year hearing a voice as insightful as it is gentle, as familiar to us as it is challenging to our everyday assumptions. The Rev. Gordon Wiersma continues to cultivate a poetic voice that addresses the pain of those who hurt even while they may still be connected to the loving flow of God's grace. His puns bring us laughter, his presence through our varied experiences of stress and difficulty, "a little Sabbath," a "rest-note" perhaps just before some brand-new thing "silvers" us brightly onward. What a gift to have a shepherd like Gordon who attends to his love of poetry in ways that bless us all so richly. ~Randy Smit

(Quotes taken from poems featured below.)

As far as a favorite poem, I'd like to share "The Door" by Jane Hirshfield.

It is simply one of the most remarkable pieces of invitation and mystery, beauty and imagery, wisdom and hope, that I have ever come across.

I am in awe of both the artistry and the content of the poem, and it delights and intrigues me that such a poem can be written.

## **The Door** by Jane Hirshfield

A note waterfalls steadily  
through us,  
just below hearing.

Or this early light  
streaming through dusty glass:  
what enters, enters like that,  
unstoppable gift.

And yet there is also the other,  
the breath-space held between any call  
and its answer—

In the querying  
first scuff of footstep,  
the wood owls' repeating,  
the two-counting heart:

A little sabbath,  
minnow whose brightness silvers past time.

The rest-note,  
unwritten,  
hinged between worlds,  
that precedes change and allows it.

This poem was written at a time of particular personal struggle, and is also a reflection on the challenging realities I hear and see in those around me.

## **Flowing** by Gordon Wiersma 7/07

flowing, always flowing.

eyes open inward  
feel  
the tender stone  
broken,  
from which  
a woven stream  
of tattered strands  
flowing, always flowing  
- filling.

source from  
within and beyond –  
given sight to  
feel  
each unraveled thread  
join the broken flow.

(I will often sit on the banks and watch:  
amazed that such a river  
once begun  
claims so much  
for its persistent current)

I am broken open  
and within and beyond is  
flowing, always flowing.

broken stones  
are sharp  
and tattered cloth  
frays rough;  
but river rocks  
grow smooth  
and moistened strands  
lay soft –  
in the stream a wisdom  
not its own -

flowing, always flowing.

## Events and Announcements

**The church office will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1 for the New Year's Day holiday.**

### **Women's Circle Meetings**

**Circle 1** will meet Wednesday, January 2, 9:30 A.M. at Freedom Village.

**Circle 2** will not meet in January.

**Circle 4** will meet on Wednesday, January 9 at 7 pm.

**White Gift Offering** On Epiphany Sunday, January 6, bring a personal care product for a child or woman, wrapped in white tissue paper. These gifts will be brought forward during the offering, and later given to the Center for Women in Transition, a local agency assisting women and families caught in abusive relationships and empowering a hopeful future for them.

### **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, January 8, 2019 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, January 16th, at 1:00pm in Commons 2. We will be discussing the book, Beartown, by Fredrick Backman. Our discussion leader will be Lauren Heyboer, and our hostesses will be Kay Hubbard and Linda McFadden. New members are always welcome! For more information call Lauren Heyboer.

### **Pizza Sunday**

There will not be a January pizza Sunday due to the annual meeting on January 27.

**Restorative Circle Facilitator Training:** January 31st and February 1st from 9am-4pm. This two day training is for anyone who is eager to support the creation of strong communities, families, and work environments. You will learn how to communicate and collaborate during times of conflict or even just around different points of view. You will develop skills that can be put to practice immediately in informal ways and will also learn how to facilitate a formal restorative circle as well. For more information and to register go to <https://hrcircles.wordpress.com/> or call the church office at 392-7947.

### **2019 Offering Envelopes**

Envelopes for 2019 offerings are available for pick-up in the Gathering Area. They are displayed alphabetically. If you are unable to be in worship and need your envelopes mailed, please call the office. Special envelopes for the initial offering and for contributions to the Deacons Fund are enclosed, as well as envelopes for special holiday offerings. You are encouraged to use your envelopes as this saves time when the offering is counted.

**The 2019 Telephone Directory** will be available in mid January. You can pick up a copy in the gathering area or in the Hope Church office.

### **Winter Cancellations**

Be sure to check the Hope Church website blog and Facebook for any cancellations due to weather!

### **Brim Bunch: February 21**

February Brim Bunch meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019, at Hope Church. We will have a prepared meal (pork loin) and enjoy a wonderful presentation from Clare Heyboer (member of Hope Church) who is an expert on historical significance and restoration, and will speak on the treasure that is the Hope

Church sanctuary. He will talk about the history, and the significance and importance of the restoration work we are undertaking now. Come with your questions and bring your old pictures, if you want to share them!

### **Flowers for Worship**

We are blessed to be able to express the beauty of God's creation in our worship services. If you would like to be a part of the flower ministry, please sign up on the flower calendar on the music room windows, or call Joyce Teusink. Celebrate a special occasion in your family, or give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. A short note will be included in the bulletin for your celebration or memorial. We have florists who assist us for a fee, or you can deliver your own arrangement. Call Joyce Teusink with questions or for more details. Thank you for making our worship service even more vibrant!

### **Yoga Class**

Are you thinking of making 2019 the year you try yoga? I hope so! Please join me, Kim Mulder, for a yoga practice that partners alignment and stability with ease and freedom. We create space in the body, the heart and the mind. This is a wonderful practice to grow in strength and flexibility while experiencing the grounding we all long for in ourselves so that we can engage our world with courage and compassion. The winter classes will take place in the youth room on Fridays from 8:15-9:15 am. The session dates are January 11 – March 15, no class on February 15. Fee is \$10 per class at the door, mats provided. You can try one class or all of them. For more information about the yoga I teach or to ask questions, go to [www.withheartforward.com](http://www.withheartforward.com). See you on the mat!



# Thank You

## Thanksgiving For and From Community Action House

Community Ministry received this message from Meagan Maas of CAH after the delivery of the \$2,665 results of our turkey drive: "It's Day Two of our Thanksgiving Basket Distribution and the office is a flurry of activity as we hand out turkeys and all the fixings to families to enjoy in their homes. We've currently provided about 650 Thanksgiving meals but expect to have a busy afternoon. We estimate we'll be handing out 900 boxes total. I know you'll share our gratitude with everyone at Hope Church!" Scott Rumpsa, executive director and Hope Church member, added, "Your support means a lot to Community Action House and the folks we're working with--as well as to me personally." The Thanksgiving offering resulted in an additional \$3,660 gift to support CAH's work in our community, thanks to your generosity!

Thank you for your contribution in sharing our message for Transgender Day of Remembrance. To be able to hold this beautiful Candlelight Vigil with our community meant so much to us and to those who were able to attend. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

~Holland/Lakeshore Gender S.A.F.E.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings from Char and Dave Alexander, recently of Taiwan, now retired in Holland, MI

For some, if not all of the 37 years that we served as Reformed Church in America Missionaries in Taiwan, Hope Church provided a Partner in Mission Support share, which enabled us to live without anxiety about where the next month's salary would come from or how our children would be educated while we served the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan in different jobs over the years. The Taiwan portion of that life ended on July 31st, when we got onto a plane toward our retirement, and the final paycheck came on September 30th. This is likely our last Christmas Card to Hope Church as "your Taiwan missionaries." We want to use this occasion to thank you for the support, the prayers, the care and concern that you showed for so many years, and to wish you God's fullest blessing at Christmas this year and evermore.

~Char and Dave Alexander

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

17	Vern Boersma
28	Dorothy Robinson

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](mailto:office@hopechurchrca.org)

## Congregational Care & Health Ministry: A Brand-New Year

Ginger Clark, R.N., Hope Church Nurse

A time to celebrate a brand- new year (Hurray!) and a time to set some resolutions (ugh!). You would think my resolution advice would be what you would expect from a nurse. Things like “become more fit, maintain a healthy diet, work smarter and more organized, manage your stress better, get more sleep, learn and participate in something new and become a more positive person”. The model for healthy living consists of the following components: medical, movement, work, emotional, nutrition, friends and family and faith life. Take a moment to review your status on each one and how they integrate to make peace and harmony for wholeness of health. Let’s consider the health of our faith life- perhaps a few spiritual goals you would take hold of this year. Try to focus on “being” not “doing”. Create a clear vision of who you want to become. Here are a few goals to help you seize a look at who God says you can be.

1. **Live like you’re loved by God.** Sit in the middle of that love and soak it into your soul. Nothing can separate you from it.
2. **Act like you’re truly free.** Don’t let anything take this away- not your job, toxic relationships, or other expectations.
3. **Walk like you’re righteous.** You can stop clinging

to past failures and mistakes and walk in God’s truth through Christ.

4. **Be confident like you’re victorious.** You can expect battles and trials, but you can step out in the confidence that you are promised victory.
5. **Endure like you are brave and strong.** The God of the universe is by your side. You are strong and brave and can endure because God is your source of strength.
6. **Rest like your power source is infinite.** On days you feel your humanness most deeply, rest in the God of all grace who gives it abundantly. May you know that God is always enough.
7. **Function like you’re purposefully designed.** You are created by the most amazing Designer to ever exist! Go live the amazing you!
8. **Stand like your faith is unshakeable.** Life throws curveballs and the unexpected takes you by surprise. But you have faith! Stand strong in trust and lean firmly on the Faithful one. Take God at His word. You belong to the God who can make all things possible!

Blessings of health, peace, strength and hope,  
Ginger Clark, RN, Parish Nurse

*(excerpts from Janna Wright/Crosswalk.com)*

## At Home With the Word

Sunday Lectionary as Daily Bible Readings

### January 1–January 6, 2019

Tuesday	New Year’s Day; Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Wednesday	Psalms 72:10-14
Thursday	Ephesians 3:1-6
Friday	Ephesians 3:7-12
Saturday	Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday	Epiphany of the Lord

### January 7–13, 2019

Monday	Isaiah 60:1-6
Tuesday	Isaiah 43:1-7
Wednesday	Psalms 29
Thursday	Acts 8:14-17
Friday	Luke 3:15-17
Saturday	Luke 3:21-22
Sunday	First Sunday after Epiphany

### January 14–20, 2019

Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5
Tuesday	Psalms 36:5-10
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Thursday	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Friday	John 2:1-5
Saturday	John 2:6-11
Sunday	Second Sunday after Epiphany

### January 21–27, 2019

Monday	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Tuesday	Psalms 19:1-6
Wednesday	Psalms 19:7-14
Thursday	1 Corinthians 12:12-26
Friday	1 Corinthians 12:27-31
Saturday	Luke 4:14-21
Sunday	Third Sunday after Epiphany

### January 28–January 31, 2019

Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-8
Tuesday	Jeremiah 1:9-10
Wednesday	Psalms 71:1-6
Thursday	1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## and finally


Happy New Year! Such a simple sentiment isn't it? Its one of those phrases we say without ever really thinking about what it means. In fact, when we greet most people around the holiday season, "Happy", or one of its synonyms, is usually included. Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Happy New Year. Now don't get me wrong, Happy is great. Happy is fun. Happy is, well, happy. But sometimes happy is not realistic. Recently, I was talking to someone after church. We were both reflecting on some of the challenges we had both engaged over the past two years. She remembered New Year's day two years ago, with all its hopes and possibilities for the year ahead, but had no way of anticipating just how hard it would end up being, especially for her adult daughter. "But here we are now. We made it through these past two years and now our lives are filled with so much joy and possibility. I could have never imagined how hard that first year would be, but I also could never imagine how beautifully redeemed the hard parts would be either."

Does this resonate with you like it did with me? Many of us anticipate the year ahead with squeaky clean optimism and resolve to engage in behaviors that aim to bring those desires to fruition. We want the mountain top experience and will organize our lives in such a way to make it so. But as the saying goes, "life is what happens when you are busy making other plans". At risk of sounding like a pessimistic Eeyore, is it possible to also anticipate the valley experience when we consider the future? Of course, there is nothing wrong in wanting the best, but what about also making peace with the worst?

In a mysterious way, I think this is where true hope comes in. Hope is not the anticipation of happiness. Hope is what anchors us to the knowledge that no matter what, God, our Emmanuel, is with us and is at the work of redeeming all things. Hope knows our Redeemer God has the final word, not our circumstances. God redeems the hot, dry valleys. God redeems illness. God redeems college rejection letters. God redeems death. We cannot dictate how our coming year will turn out, but we can stand firmly in the knowledge that God is with us through it all, holding our hand. I encourage you to reflect on this poem by Rainer Maria Rilke, not as a way of groveling in pain, but as a means of understanding hope: real, gritty, shadowy ever-present hope. Have a Hope-filled New Year.

~Peace,  
Pastor Beth

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,  
then walks with us silently out of the night.  
These are the words we dimly hear:  
You, sent out beyond your recall,  
go to the limits of your longing.  
Embody me.  
Flare up like flame  
and make big shadows I can move in.  
Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.  
Don't let yourself lose me.  
Nearby is the country they call life.  
You will know it by its seriousness.  
Give me your hand. - Rainer Maria Rilke

 Hope Church  
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# Hope Church News

January 2019



## Early Worship Nursery Care: Volunteers Needed

We are in need of people to provide nursery care for families during Early Worship. Volunteers should arrive at 8:25 am and will be done by 9:35 am. There is only one family (2 children) needing nursery care at this time (although offering nursery may make it easier for other families to join this early service) so there may be weeks when they are not there. If no one comes, you are welcome to join the Early Worship Service or go have a cup of coffee. This was a need that came up suddenly so we are looking to be responsive and to fill dates as quickly as possible! Thank you for volunteering your time to help with this needed service. Please sign up to volunteer online at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/earlyworshipnursery>.

# January 2019

**Sun**
**Mon**
**Tue**
**Wed**
**Thu**
**Fri**
**Sat**

		<b>1 ~ New Year's Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 am</b> Circle 1 <b>6:15 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>3</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 ~ Epiphany Sunday</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Audrianne Hill</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Communion</i> <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12:15 pm</b> Ephany Celebration <b>6 pm</b> Fish Club & High Hopes	<b>7</b> <b>5:15 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance <b>6 pm</b> Executive Committee	<b>8</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Coffee at Freedom Village <b>2 pm</b> Disability Housing Task Force	<b>9</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>7:35 am</b> Discerning our Future <b>6:15 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7 pm</b> Circle 4	<b>10</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Kay Hubbard</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>9:40 am</b> 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School <b>9:40 am</b> G.I.F.T. Class <b>9:40 am</b> High Hopes Unshowered <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12 pm</b> Second Sunday Snacks	<b>14</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>7 pm</b> Consistory & Board of Elders & Deacons	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>12 pm</b> Building & Grounds <b>1 pm</b> Readers <b>4 pm</b> Fellowship <b>6:15 pm</b> Carillon Choir <b>7:30 pm</b> Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>18</b> <div> <b>Cranhill Retreat:</b>  <i>Fish Club &amp; High Hopes</i>  <i>Jan. 18-20</i> </div>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Kari Miller Fenwood</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12:15 pm</b> Blood Pressure Clinic <b>6 pm</b> Fish Club & High Hopes	<b>21</b> <b>4 pm</b> Outreach & Hospitality <b>6:30 pm</b> Christian Education <b>6:45 pm</b> Congregational Care & Health	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>5:30 pm</b> Season of Reconciliation Book Study <b>6:15 pm</b> Carillon Choir	<b>24</b> <b>10 am</b> Disability Concerns <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)	<b>25</b> <div> <b>Diners Club Weekend</b> </div>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Early Worship, <i>Beth Carroll</i> <b>9:40 am</b> Church School (children, adults) <b>9:40 am</b> 6th & 7th Grade Sunday School <b>9:40 am</b> G.I.F.T. Class <b>9:40 am</b> High Hopes Unshowered <b>10:45 am</b> Nursery <b>11 am</b> Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> <b>11:15 am</b> Children in Worship <b>12 pm</b> Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>28</b> <b>11 am</b> REST Support Group <b>6:30 pm</b> Personnel <b>7 pm</b> Worship	<b>29</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Newsletter Assembly	<b>30</b> <b>6:15 am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>5:30 pm</b> Season of Reconciliation Book Study <b>6:15 pm</b> Carillon Choir	<b>31</b> <div> <b>Restorative Circle Facilitator Training</b>  <i>January 31 &amp; February 1</i>  <i>9 am - 4 pm</i> </div> <b>2-4 pm</b> Hope Church Nurse <b>7 pm</b> Volleyball (FUMC Gym)		