



In Touch with *Hope*



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2025

James Runcorn, D. Min.

Lead Pastor

It's Time for a Blessing

When you hear the word, “blessing,” what comes to mind? Do you picture zero debt, a massive bank account, early retirement, a month-long cruise in the Bahamas...? More often than not, our culture, mainstream media, pastors and even well-intentioned friends or family members paint an image of material prosperity when using the word, “blessing.” Jesus asks, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” (Mark 8:36 NIV). Scripture defines a life filled with blessings in a much different way. It actually promises difficulty and struggles and yet an undercurrent of hope, peace and joy when our foundation is built upon the rock of Christ. How is that even possible? How can someone be blessed when they are hurting or experiencing loss? It is possible because of the hope we have. The hope we have, “does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5). Seek Him. Open His Word. Be blessed by Him and through His Spirit.

*Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.*
– Psalm 1:1-2



**Our Mission is to
Gather, Equip, and
Grow in Christ.**

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Missions.....	2
Prayer & Praise	2
Library News.....	3
Take Them A Meal	3
Dates to Remember	4
Prayer Concerns.....	4
College Writing Ministry	4
Eswatini Meeting	5
Men’s Ministry	5
Church in the Backyard	5
Photo Recap	6-7

MISSIONS

Many Hands for Haiti and Many Hands for Abaco continue to serve the Lord by serving others. Hope Church has for many years supported Many Hands for Haiti and the work that local missionaries Craig and Christi Gabhart provide. In Haiti the support Hope provides helps with local schools, a goat program, concrete floors in homes, adult education, building community leaders, and sharing the Gospel. The First 1,000 days program helps pregnant mothers through childbirth providing health care and nutrition to expecting mothers and their children through their first 1,000 days of life.

Many Hands for Abaco in the Bahamas is helping rebuild homes and lives after hurricane Dorain that hit the island five years ago. The support that Hope Church provides helps with materials, construction, and sharing the Good News of Jesus. Community development and sustainable food production are key tools used in the Marsh Harbor, Abaco area.

Please pray for these specific things!

- We pray for the communities of Haiti. Lord, grant them strength, courage, and perseverance. Guide our work so we can bring comfort, resources, and unwavering support, helping hope triumph over hardship.
- We lift up the community of Abaco, giving thanks for their incredible resilience and hope. We pray for guidance to find and support those who most need our help, so that every effort we make brings lasting stability and peace.



PRAYER & PRAISE

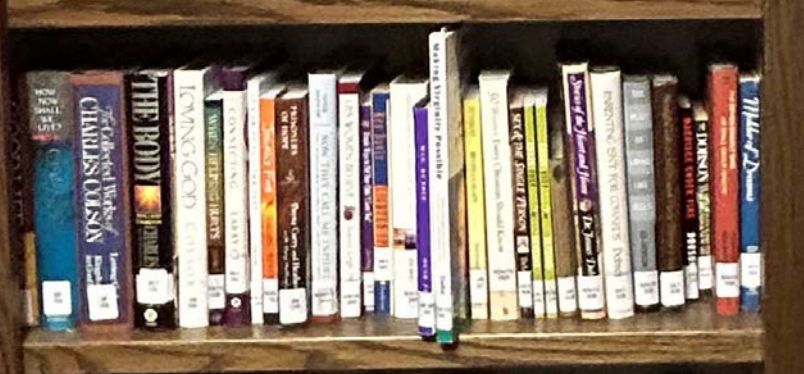
***Hope Church's Prayer & Praise is moving to
Tuesday evenings beginning September 16!***

Join us each week as we pray for Hope Church & our families,
Spencer, and the concerns in our world.

UPDATED SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 3	6:30 - 7:00 pm in the Well
Wednesday, September 10	No Meeting - Clay County Fair
Tuesday, September 16	6:30 - 7:15 pm in the Well

**NEW
DAY**



LIBRARY NEWS

For the month of September, we are highlighting family and child raising books. Check out the display shelf at the front of the library!

To check out a book, simply put your name and the date on the card inside the front cover, and drop the card in the box on the counter. Books can be checked out for 3 weeks.

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE!

Sunday, September 21

9:45 - 10:40 am

(between services)

*Come see all the changes made and
enjoy freshly baked cookies!*

**But in your hearts
REVERE**

CHRIST as LORD

**Always be prepared
to give the reason
for the
HOPE**

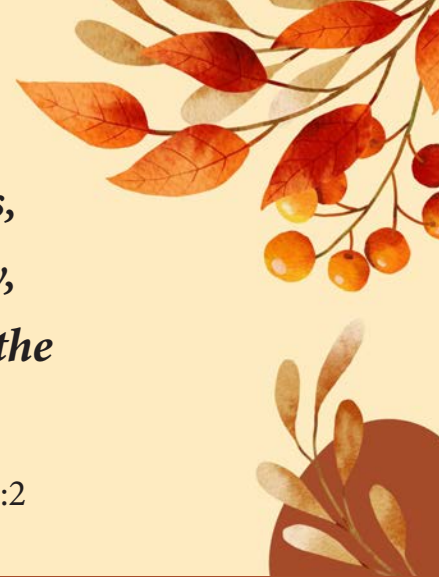
that you have.

**But do this with
gentleness and respect...**

1 Peter 3:15

*Carry each
other's burdens,
and in this way,
you will fulfill the
law of Christ.*

~ Galatians 6:2



TAKE THEM A MEAL MINISTRY

Take Them a Meal is a ministry at Hope Church that blesses families and individuals with meals when they have gone through surgeries, sickness, hardship or added to their families with a new baby. By feeding others, we carry their burdens and show that we genuinely care about their struggles. If you know of anyone in our church family that is in need of meals please don't hesitate to reach out to Kristal and let her know and she will contact them.

If you enjoy cooking and would like more information or to join this ministry, please contact Kristal Jensen at 712-260-6724 or lennyslady1995@gmail.com.



DATES TO REMEMBER

WEEKLY

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 8:00 am

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Sundays 7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays

6th Grade 5:30 pm

7th Grade 6:30 pm

8th Grade 7:30 pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Church closed for the Holiday

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Men's Ministry Family Outing 3:30 pm
East Leach Park

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Missions Team Meeting 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Prayers & Squares Quilting 1:00 pm

Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Library Open House 9:45 am

Eswatini Mission Trip Meeting 11:45 am

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Men's Ministry Serve Project 5:00 pm

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Church at the Runcorns 10:00 am

Lunch to follow the service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Staff meeting with Horizon Network
Sioux Center

Prayer & Praise 6:30 pm

CONCERNS FOR

Please continue to lift up the following people and families in prayer:

- Bill Van Wettering - as he continues to navigate his cancer journey
- Keith Fliss - as he continues to navigate his cancer journey
- Hannah Dibble - Todd & Barb Brockshus daughter, as she continues to navigate her cancer journey
- Cody, 17 year old brother of James & Tena's daughter-in-law, recovering from injuries from a fall and trauma to the brain
- David Stephens - brother-in-law of Brian & Greta as he navigates his cancer journey
- Rouse, as he navigates his cancer journey
- Jamie Erdman - granddaughter of Joyce Vermulm, as she continues to navigate health issues related to her spina bifida
- Harlan Boeve - as he heals from cellulitis
- Joe Klein - as he recovers from elbow replacement surgery and for his strength to return
- Joe Klein - as she navigates health issues and for answers

CONSISTORY

There was no Consistory meeting in July.

COLLEGE WRITING MINISTRY

We love to send letters from home and encourage our college students from Hope Church!

If you would like to send a monthly note to a college student or have a student who'd love to hear from us, contact Kristy Connor by Sept. 15 at 712-260-0771 or kconnor1423@gmail.com.

ESWATINI INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 21
11:45 am

(after second service in the Sanctuary)

Serve Date Change

Tentatively set for July 11-19, 2026

If you are interested in this short-term mission trip, please plan to attend this informational meeting.

Final commit date for this mission trip is November 2nd.

Questions: Contact Abby or Rebecca Goeken
Abby (712-229-0036) • Rebecca (712-229-9944)

MEN'S MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 9/1 No Meeting - Labor Day
- 9/8 Bible Study - 7 pm - Hope Church
- 9/14 Family Park Outing - 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
East Leach Park
- 9/24 Service Project - 5 - 7 pm - Hope Church
Feed Our Children/Longterm Recovery
- 9/29 Bible Study - 7 pm - Hope Church

If you have any questions, contact:
tstevens@spencerhope.org or (712) 262-3016

CHURCH *in the* BACKYARD

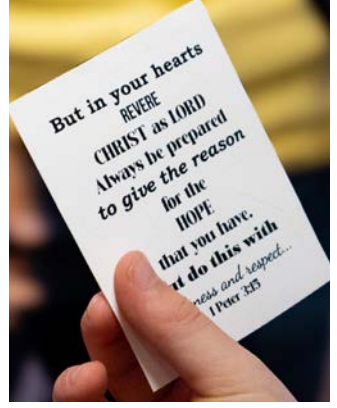


**SAVE
THE DATE**

Sunday, September 28 @ 10:00 am
at the Runcorn's

Lunch will follow the service • More details to come

PHOTO RECAP







919 Grand Avenue
Spencer, IA 51301
(712)262-3016
hrc@spencerhope.org

Worship Services

SUNDAYS: 8:30 am and 10:45 am

Live-streamed online:

www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

Sunday School

SUNDAYS: 9:45 am

Hope Church Staff

James Runcorn, Lead Pastor

Jay Van Gelder, Youth Pastor

Julia Andela, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Terry Stevens, Director of Adult Discipleship

Ryan Hoskins, Worship Director

Eric Meeter, Tech Director

Michael Fujimoto, Facilities Director

Jill Lowe, Office Administrator

Abbey Fujimoto, Media Specialist

Tim Yeager, Maintenance

Levi Morris, Treasurer

Missy Lair, Nursery Coordinator

