



In Touch with

Hope



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

MARCH 2026

James Runcorn, D. Min.

Lead Pastor

What Is God Calling You to Today?

(part 2 of 5)

Last month, we talked about hearing the voice of God. This month, we will look at the initial way God calls each and every one of us.

First and foremost, God calls us out from our life of sin, into a lifestyle of following Him. Which verse can serve as a Biblical foundation for that statement? I believe 1 Peter 2:9 is a perfect example, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Before Christ, we were in darkness. That darkness shrouded us with the veil of sin and death. Our condemnation was set. Our path was destruction. Through Christ, we are born again into the newness of life. We are made whole in Him. We are healed from our sins and transgressions (Isaiah 53:5).

Picture your loving, Heavenly Father, calling to you. He calls your name. He beckons you to confess your sins and to repent. He calls to you, by the demonstration of His love, through Christ Jesus (Romans 5:8).

So, you ask – How has God called me? The first call is to a new life. A new beginning. A fresh start. A new outlook, hope and future. Do you hear Him? Do you respond?

If so, perhaps this will remind you of the time you felt the prompting, the conviction and the voice of God. He has called you. Through that calling, He extended the invitation to believe and to receive.

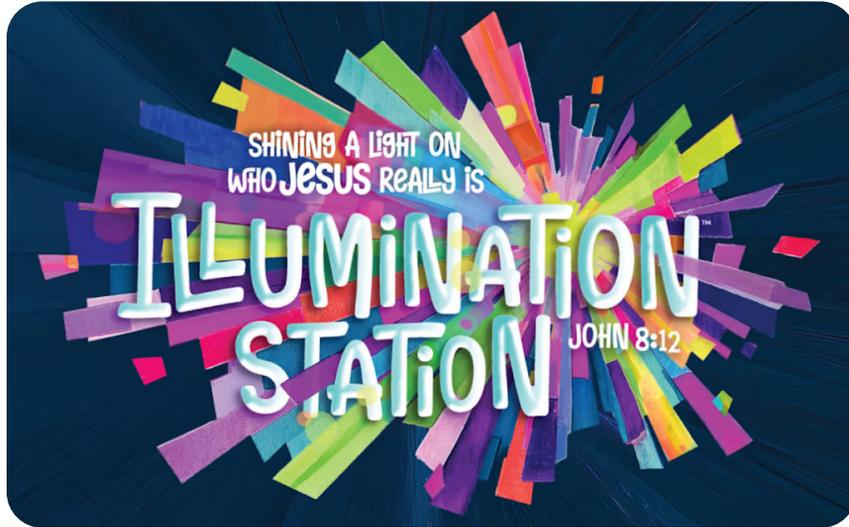
You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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

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VBS - June 8-12, 2026



**ILLUMINATION STATION VBS
WILL BE THE BRIGHTEST
WEEK OF THE YEAR!**

While many people claim to know about Jesus, many are in the dark about who He really is. During VBS, kids will explore all the ways His light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals.

**REGISTRATION
INFORMATION**

HOPE KIDS OPENS Sunday, April 5

COMMUNITY OPENS Monday, April 13

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT JULIA

jandela@spencerhope.org

Palm Sunday Program

March 29 - Both Services

We invite the whole congregation to join us as the Preschool and Elementary students help us kick off Holy Week with a celebration of our King, Jesus!

Elementary Practices

Wednesday, March 4 - 5:15 pm
Wednesday, March 11 - 5:15 pm
Wednesday, March 25 - 5:15 pm
Saturday, March 28 - TBD

Preschool Practices

Preschool will practice during the Sunday School Hour. If your child(ren) can join us then, we'd love to see them!

Super Sunday Party 2026

What a great night we had with the youth ministry of Hope Youth. It was the most memorable Super Sunday Party that I have planned, but was not able to attend. For 28 years, I have been doing Super Sunday Party's that have been a great fellowship, outreach and community event for young people. This Super Sunday Party, my 29th one, I planned and organized was very different. This year I watched the Super Bowl Game in a hospital room because of my emergency appendix surgery while my Youth Team pulled off an awesome party. I watched the game with a few people in my room while the party at Hope Church was a huge success, because of the great Youth Staff that helped served throughout the night. Thank you, Youth Staff Volunteers, who made this a great night for the young people. This year we had some additional things to the game on the big screens. First, want to thank Eric Meeter and others who made the Halftime during the game so much fun. We chose not to watch the halftime show that was on TV; instead we had a competition game event with audience participation that went very well and youth had a lot of fun with it. We also had some new inflatables with Slam Dunk contest, Football Throwing contest, an Axe Throwing competition and games with Jody Surber. Pizza Ranch provided the pizza, wings, breadsticks and topped the night off with ACAI bowls for our dessert in the 4th Quarter. Lots of youth came to Hope for the first time and multiple youth came that have come to our special events in the past. Great night of fun and fellowship with youth, but a big shout out again for our awesome Youth Staff Team in an awesome job pulling off one of our biggest events of the year. Thanks Youth Pastor Jay





MISSIONS



Hope Church supports JeanJean & Kristi Monpremier doing missions work in Haiti. United Christians International provides food through feeding centers, pastoral care, medical care, job opportunities, agricultural support and education to Hatians living in the Central Plateau area of Haiti. UCCI is the college training program for students interested in agriculture, teaching & education, medicine and also includes a seminary program. Now UCCI is building a teaching hospital! Thanks to the support of Hope Church and individuals, the missions ministries continue to grow!

“There is very good progress for the construction of the surgical center at the teaching hospital. The crew is working diligently on the installation of the electrical wiring and putting in the ceramic tiles. We are in the process of sourcing the surgical equipment and solar system needed. Also, the crew will tackle the plumbing after the electrical wiring.

The Ministry of Public Health came to conduct an inspection of our medical and nursing program in November. This is done every 3 years and we were happy to see that the government instability did not prevent them from coming. There was a lot of preparation and work needed to be done, but the outcome was very positive. The inspectors were very happy about the progress that happened in the school and the teaching hospital. They gave helpful feedback and encouraged us to keep our standards of excellence. Praise God!

Please pray that we will be able to find the proper surgical equipment needed for the surgical center. We would like this surgical center to be operational as soon as possible as we have a large class of interns next year that need good experience to complete their training.” - Kristi Monpremier

“We have tentative plans to be in the U.S. from June to the beginning of August. We would love to take this opportunity to give our UCI partners and friends an update on what God has been doing in our part of Haiti. We would love to see friends as we miss you and want to share the amazing ways God has provided safety and blessings during these tough years. We feel God is calling us to give a message of HOPE in the midst of the turmoil.” - Kristi Monpremier

If you wish to donate directly to UCI and UCCI checks can be mailed to:

United Christians International • PO Box 862 • Cherokee, IA 51012-0862 USA • Or online at: <https://ucihaiti.org/>

EASTER GARDEN

A colorful Easter Garden is planned for Easter Sunday, April 5

To purchase a flowering plant in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one(s), pick up an envelope at the Information Desk and return it to the office by Sunday, March 29.

Cost is \$25 per plant



LIBRARY NEWS



Jennifer Williams is our book reviewer this month. She is an avid reader so I know I will be putting this on my personal list.

*If you are looking for a book to help decipher some of the things that have been going on in the world and to see them from a biblical point of view, this is a great book for you. **Living in the Daze of Deception** breaks down the many ways that we are possibly deceived; including globally, spiritually, within our churches, and certain beliefs. All of these things supported by the Bible impress upon its readers to test the spirits and to be modern day Bereans. We are not to take the word of anyone other than God as truth. Thankfully, it doesn't end with all the bad news we hear about daily, but shows us how to equip ourselves for the battles we will inevitably encounter as Christ followers. How to dress for battle, to prepare our minds by learning the methods of the enemy, and understanding our one offensive weapon, the word of God. Jesus warned us of what was to come at the end of days, but are you ready?*

Highlight Shelf: We are excited to display some of our local authors! You have to check these out. People you may know: Mary and Steve Steele (Mary's third book has just been released), Russell Muilenburg, Diana Koppen, James Runcorn, and Ayaan Thomas.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES

The Women's Ministry Team is starting three new bible studies as well as planning for the Women's Spring Conference!

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday, March 22	9:45 AM
Wednesday, March 25	AM - TBD
Wednesday, March 25	PM - TBD

SPRING CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 11 9:00 AM
Theme: Faithfulness

*More information
will be available soon!*

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, March 15

4:00 pm

in the Harbor

*Bring a lawn chair
Light snack provided*

DAVID

DATES TO REMEMBER

WEEKLY

MEN'S MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Mondays 8:00 am

PRAYER & PRAISE

Tuesdays 6:30 pm

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, MARCH 2

Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Elem Kids Palm Sun Practice 5:15 pm
 BRICK 6:00 pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Blood Drive 12:00 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

BRICK Recognition Both Services

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Mom Connect 9:00 am

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Elem Kids Palm Sun Practice 5:15 pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Eswatini Meeting 9:45 am
 Family Movie (David) 4:00 pm

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Missions Team Meeting 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Prayers & Squares 1:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Elem Kids Palm Sun Practice 5:15 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Women's Bible Study 9:45 am

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Mom Connect 9:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Women's Bible Study AM - TBD
 Women's Bible Study PM - TBD

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Palm Sunday

MONDAY, MARCH 30

Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

CONCERNS FOR

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

The following as they navigate their cancer journeys

- Keith Fliss
- Hannah Dibble - Todd & Barb Brockshus daughter
- David Stephens - Brian & Greta Rouse's brother in law
- Chery Haden - Melissa Stell's mom
- Carl Johnson - Greta Rouse's dad

- Bill Hughes - his health concerns
- Gordon Schmidt - recovery from fall
- Emma Lair, Missy Lair's daughter-in-law, upcoming surgery
- Marilyn Winterboer - her health concerns
- Chelsea Johnson - recovery from surgery
- Joan Krayenhagen - her health concerns
- Zechariah Runcorn - at basic training
- Elijah Runcorn - healing from surgery

CONDOLENCES TO

Kevin and Angela Vander Stoep and their family on the passing of Harold, Kevin's dad, who passed from time to eternity on February 13.

Linda Flaharty, Paul Flaharty and their family on the passing of Larry, Linda's husband and Paul's son, who passed from time to eternity on February 18.

Mary Tensen, Julie and Jim Vermeer and their family on the passing of Audley, Mary's husband and Julie's dad, who passed from time to eternity on February 25.

REMINDER



CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD

MARCH 8

CONSISTORY MINUTES

Pastors: James Runcorn, Jay Van Gelder. Elders: Arv Druvenga, Cedric Winterboer, Dean Mechler, Gary Zeutenhorst, Kevin Vander Stoep, Mark Lockey. Deacons: Eric Vander Der Heide, Jason Warren, Kevin Goeken, Mike Bryan, Ryan Murry
January 22, 2026. 7:00 pm. Opening prayer: James Runcorn. Devotional: James read and discussed Philemon 1:4-7

REGULAR BUSINESS

Approved December 11/2025 minutes MMSC- (Kevin G/Kevin)
Approved December 11/2025 financials, MMSC-(Gary/Mike)
Giving and attendance analysis done by Eric Van Der Heide
Around the room check in with each of the consistory and the pastors. Jay closed with prayer.

TEAM REPORTS

(Purposeful Learning) Dean/Knut, Jay reported planning for the Superbowl party (2-08) 6th-12th grades. Continued planning for Rocky Mountain High, Middle school retreat in March and Senior high retreat in April. Julia stated that Bricks has started. They are still working on raising money to buy a donkey for someone in Haiti and would like to raise \$800. They have been having the kid's memorize scripture.
(Holy Living) Gary/Ryan, Ryan reported that Terry had 6 people so far that have signed up for the next Rooted group. Gary reported the Women's Ministry committee will be meeting again on the 28th to plan for the April conference. They will be inviting those who had expressed interest in being on the planning committee to the meeting. They are talking about starting a bible study. Library committee has been working with Julia to have the kids (Kindergarten-5th grade) make Valentine cards that would be displayed in the library. They are still waiting to get the computer back. Men's ministry continues to meet on Monday nights. **(Wholehearted Service)** Mark/Eric, Chili Cook Off 01/28 in the Harbor 5:30. Abby is still working on the 75th Anniversary worship service February 28th at 6:30. Planning a week of prayer and fasting the week prior to the anniversary celebration. **(Passionate Worship)** Kevin/Jason, Jason stated that Eric will be starting full time at the end of February first of March. They have emptied and cleaned closets where the extra sound equipment was and so it has been consolidated into one location. It will be easier now if they need sound equipment to be used outside the building or in the Harbor, it is readily available. **(Meaning Fellowship)** Arv/Mike, Arv reported that Steve and Kim Rhode have taken over the Ushers and Greeters. They are scheduled for the first quarter of the year. **(Loving Outreach)** Cedric/Kevin G, Jay reviewed the recommendations of the missions committee for the \$15,000 budget for FY 2026. MMSC-(Jay/Kevin) to approve missions committee recommendations.

PASTORS REPORT

James reminded the consistory regarding the retreat at the Okoboji Bible Conference grounds on February 7th 8:00-1:00pm. We will be doing this with the Good News Community Church consistory. Discussed several smaller fund-raising activities that have been going on at church and discussed how we determine or oversee those types of activities. Discussed that all such fundraising activities need to go through Jill and then she can contact staff and if need be, it can be brought to the consistory for final approval. Plan to have a week of prayer and fasting prior to the 75- year anniversary celebration.

OTHER BUSINESS

James indicated tentatively planning to have a meal for all those who volunteer in church and to talk about a more intentional approach to getting people more engaged in the church. A discussion was had around the issue of the smaller churches that struggle with getting pulpit supply and or being vacant in the rural areas. Discussed ideas about assisting them through the use of live streaming our service as an alternative. There would be some logistics to address but it would be or could be a "service" we could provide. Discussed some interactions with the Horizon network regarding using Jay to assist some of the newer youth leaders in the network and beyond to use some of his expertise to assist/mentor them as they seek to build their youth programs. Just in the talking phase and looking at what that would look like and how much time would be involved. James discussed the possibility of looking at broadcasting the Sunday sermons on the radio. This would be in an area within driving distance. There would be little work on our end and we would send it to the station and they would add an intro and an ending. There is a range of costs depending on which stations we would go with. It is about getting the word to the unchurched. After some discussion James, Kevin Vander Stoep and Kevin Goeken would discuss this further and bring some recommendations to the next meeting. Kevin Goeken closed in prayer.

ELDERS MEETING

Constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.
The Elder responsibility handout was reviewed. Discussed issues/wording related to infant baptism. Jill has sent the Elder letters out to your email. Contact Jill if you didn't get the email. Communion to homebound needs to be scheduled. We will be having an Ash Wednesday Service 2/18 this year. James Runcorn closed in prayer.

DEACONS MEETING

Kevin opened in prayer
Discussion about painting the harbor, specifically the timing. Late July is planned
Discussion about dry wall in harbor. Seeking professional bids to fix the special drywall in the harbor
Moving forward with quotes from Randy Swanson for 2 stoves and 2 microwaves for \$1810. Knut made the motion. Jason second. All in favor.
Missions team has been given \$12k that has not been allocated from 2025. They are meeting soon to allocate.
Discussion around cleaning sanctuary carpet or replacing it
Eric Meeter was approved for a credit card. Motion by Jason. Second by Mike. All in favor
Lift station in harbor basement needs to be replaced. Cleaned out and replaced for \$4670 from Pete Howe sanitation. It is believed this item is as old as the harbor. Motion by Kevin to use funds from Undesignated Capital Improvement fun. Second by Eric. All in favor.
Account Signers- The 2026 account signers will be Jason Warren, Eric Van Der Heide, and Levi Morris.
Knut closed in prayer



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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

Eric Meeter, Worship/Tech Director

Michael Fujimoto, Facilities Director

Jill Lowe, Office Administrator

Abbey Fujimoto, Media Specialist

Tim Yeager, Maintenance

Levi Morris, Treasurer

Missy Lair, Nursery Coordinator

