



**James Runcorn, D. Min.**

Lead Pastor

## What Is God Calling You to Today?

(part 3 of 5)

Over the last couple of months, we've looked at the first (and probably most obvious) ways God has called each and every one of us. In February, we learned that God can and does speak to us. The question is, do we take the time to listen? If so, how can we measure our willingness to listen? We would measure our willingness by how often we open up His Word, the Bible, to read, meditate, memorize and truly listen to the heart of the Father.

In March, we were reminded of the initial call God made to us: from death to life. We do not conform to the patterns of this world any longer, because we are a new creation in Him.

Now what? *What is He calling me to do, now that I am His child?*

You are called to action! *What action could God possibly be calling me to?? I'm nobody. I have no influence. I have no strength. What does He really expect of me?*

First of all, you are somebody through Christ Jesus. You are a child of the King! Secondly, your Heavenly Father is the ruler of the universe! Third, His power is made perfect in weakness. Humility is a great place to start. From there, we lean fully on His strength.

The action every single one of us can take is to pray. It says in the Bible, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (Ephesians 6:18).

How do you pray in the Spirit? Ask Him to lead. Don't pray in your own strength but surrender it to Him. Ask Him to help you to pray according to His will and not just for the things you would personally prefer.

From there, lift everyone and everything to Him! Pray for your friends, your family, your church, your pastor, the church staff, the other churches in town and the leadership of the city and state. Keep going with anything and everything you can think of! Trust Him. Demonstrate that trust by praying fervently as His child.

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

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## Sr High Spiritual Retreat

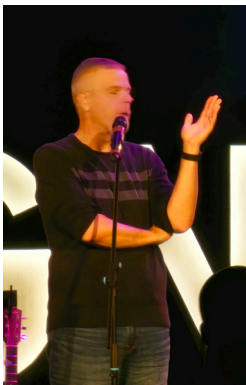
For the Sr. High Spiritual retreat this year, we went to the “IGNITE” Leadership Conference 2026 over spring break. We had a wonderful small group go that was a very meaningful time for all of us. Even though our time was cut 1 day shorter than we had planned, due to the snowstorm, we packed a lot in our 2 days we had together with a lot of learning, lots of sharing, and lots of great times together.

Our first speaker in main session was Shane Pruitt. He did a great job encouraging us that Jesus was calling us out to be leaders. Some of his quotes I wrote down during the session where: “If we don’t get Jesus right we get it all WRONG!!!” “What we Believe and Share about Jesus matters.” He challenged us in how we see Jesus in our life and that we can’t just make Jesus somebody we want him to be but that we need to go to scripture and learn about who he really is. He said culture opinions don’t change Jesus, my opinion about Jesus doesn’t change him, but real faith in the true Jesus will change you. He went on to tell us that Salvation has a lot of false views in our culture: just be a good person, believe in God, go to church, pray a prayer, wear a Christian t-shirt, come from a family that is Christian. These things are good, but they do not get you to heaven. “Real Faith in The REAL Jesus” is where it is at.

Our second speaker was Anthony Evans. He also had some very powerful quotes in his message. “The night I was most broken is the night God spoke and used me the most.” “God is going to ask us to do something so simple and possibly make zero sense, but that decision to do it could unlock a miracle in your life or someone else’s.” Don’t miss that moment, allow God to grab a hold of your circumstance to magnify your moment that you need help.

Our last main session speaker was Mark Jobe. He asked us if we have been listening for God’s voice. His quote was, “Been hearing the voice of God? Responding leads us to calling.” “If God is speaking to you, He sees you, and I pray that God removes whatever is keeping you from hearing His voice and responding would be removed.”

What a great retreat and everyone left inspired and encouraged. Throughout the weekend, we also got to pick which break-out session we wanted to go to. Lots of great selections and each youth went to 3 different sessions of their choosing. We finished up the weekend with TopGolf and had a lot of great laughs as we played together. After that we drove home and arrived in Spencer at midnight right as the freezing rain started. We thank God for safe travels and a wonderful weekend spending time with Him.



## Middle School Retreat



This year at the Middle School Retreat at Hidden Acres in Dayton, IA, we'll talk about what it means to be Stronger Together. Life is hard to do alone, and God designed us to have real friends who point us to Him. From the Bible we see friends who carried each other, stood up for each other, and reminded each other of God's truth. Most of all, we see that Jesus calls us His friend—and when He's at the center, we're never alone.

Please keep the following youth and sponsors in your prayers before, during and after the retreat: Kinley Alger, Caitlyn Barr, Deacon Bernardy, Arianna Birchard, Tucker

Brandenburg, Maycee Brant, McKenzie Brant, Addison Christle, Jackson Doppler, Boaz Edwards, Brooklynn Elsbecker, Addison Foss, Leo Geerdes, Wyatt Geerdes, Jax Gethmann, Bob Graham, Journey Griffin, Laynee Healey, Emily Holt, Aria Johnson, Anniston Julius, Sophie Kennedy, Layton Kerns, Destyne Lighter, Kathryn Manwarren, Addison Marko, Lillian Marlow, Rydia Mechler, Roslyn Newcomb, Avah Nielsen, Myah Nielsen, Mila Prenzlów, Addison Raveling, Declan Raveling, Brayden Reynolds, Ava Ries, Gustavo Romero, Kylee Seaman, Maggie Sears, Bianca Shemon, Hudson Herrod, Ryder Sherrod, Kim Smith, Eleanor Sparks, Quinn Stanzel, Kylie Steil, Kiah Stephenson, Jody Surber, Nolan Techen, Lauren Van Der Heide, Jay Van Gelder, Kamdyn Van Gelder, Tate Van Gorp, Jetta Von Ehwegen, Addison Warren, Carter Warren, Easton Weber, Vivian Westfall, Deb Wittrock and Oaklee Zinnel.

## MISSIONS

Hope Church supports Words of Hope Ministries. Words of Hope exists to equip indigenous Christian leaders to share the hope of the gospel in the heart languages of unreached people. Words of Hope connects you daily to the truths of Scripture and helps you to grow in your appreciation of and care for the global church. Resources donated to Words of Hope go directly to providing access to Scripture for people living around the world. Stories of conversion, faith, and discipleship from the global church encourage your faith walk, and Christ's church is built near and far!

At Words of Hope, we believe that Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. We believe that the Bible reveals God's truth. We believe that God commissions us to make disciples of all nations. We affirm the Apostles' Creed. We provide a daily English devotional in print, online, and through a smartphone app free of charge to everyone who asks. We also equip indigenous leaders to share the hope of Jesus in over 80 languages around the world. We support local leaders in unreached and under-resourced parts of the world, including: Niger, Uganda, South Sudan, Türkiye, Albania, Iran, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Indonesia.

Although Words of Hope was launched by RCA congregations and works closely with RCA Global Mission in Niger and Turkey, we are an independent ministry governed by a board of directors. Our directors come from a variety of congregations with roots in reformed, Presbyterian, and Baptist denominations. Words of Hope exists only through the generosity of churches and individuals committed to our mission. We receive no denominational assessments or mission shares.

Get connected with Words of Hope and learn to live out your faith globally. Please pray for persecuted Christians in North Korea; China; Nepal; Iran; and Niger.

Donate Directly to:

**Words of Hope**

700 Ball Avenue NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Or online at: [www.woh.org](http://www.woh.org)

**WORDS  
OF  
HOPE**



## SHINE BRIGHT IN A DARK WORLD AT VBS 2026

Invite your kids to Illumination Station VBS for 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 light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals.

**REGISTRATION OPENS SUNDAY, APRIL 5, FOR HOPE CHURCH FAMILIES**

**It will open to the community on Monday, April 14, so be sure to spread the word!**

**VBS is not possible without willing volunteers.** Please pray about what role you will play at VBS this year and be sure to get registered to help starting April 5th! We need help before, during and after VBS, so there's truly something for everyone. Thank you in advance for serving Jesus and His precious children of our community in this way!

### PNO RECAP

We had another fun Parents' Night Out! This year while parents enjoyed their date night, Hope Kids got to preview our 2026 VBS theme, Illumination Station: Shining a light on who Jesus really is. We had pizza, did some crafts and ended with a GLOW in the dark party to glow for Jesus! This event would not be possible without the many adult and student volunteers who spent their Friday evening loving and caring for our amazing Hope Kids. Thank you for serving God in this way!!



### BRICK

In March, we recognized the 8 families who completed the 8-week B.R.I.C.K. Bible Foundations Course with their 4th or 5th grade students. This course gives students a solid foundation in understanding the scope and sequence of The Bible as they spend time Building Relationships in Christ's Kingdom with their friends and trusted adults. The course is led by Luke Lovin.



# LIBRARY NEWS



**Reviewer:** Lora Zeutenhorst  
**Book:** When God Doesn't Fix It  
**Author:** Laura Story

Most of us are familiar with singer/songwriter, Laura Story, especially her hit song, Blessings. Well, did you know she is also an author? Her book caught my attention because of the title. We have all read books written by people looking back on trials they have endured and what they have learned from their experiences. But, what about when we are in the midst of suffering and may never overcome our suffering in this life? How do we go on? How do we find joy? Laura shares her own story which inspired her popular song.

“What if your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if your healing comes through tears?  
What if a 1000 sleepless nights are what it takes to know you're near?  
What if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise?”

This book is a true story and is filled with sound theology. I highly recommend this book.

## Be sure to check out our Highlight Shelf!

We are excited to display some of our local authors! 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.

# BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you Hope Church for your participation in the Baby Bottle Campaign for Cherish House in February. The very generous amount of \$2,229.80 was collected and is very much appreciated!



We pray the congregation received a blessing giving their coins, cash, and checks benefiting Cherish House, and have delight in knowing they have made a positive difference in some very cherished lives.

Thank you for your continued support!

# MEN'S MINISTRY

## APRIL EVENTS:

**4/6** BIBLE STUDY- 7PM - HOPE

**4/13** BIBLE STUDY- 7PM - HOPE

**4/20** YARD CLEANUP - 5-7PM

**4/25** BREAKFAST- 8AM- HOPE

Join Us

for a **WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

faithfulness

IN EVERY SEASON

## GUEST SPEAKERS



REBECCA GOEKEN



MEGAN HANGES



SHAZZY BRITZ

**APRIL 11TH** | **HOPE CHURCH**  
919 GRAND AVE | SPENCER, IA  
9 AM - 3 PM

COST: \$10/PERSON  
BREAKFAST & LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

**REGISTER HERE** ▼

<https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/WomensConference2026>

# 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

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Chick Fil A Food Truck 11:00 am

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 pm  
 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Easter Sunday  
 VBS Registration Opens to Hope Families

#### MONDAY, APRIL 6

Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Mom Connect 9:00 am

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Young Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Consistory Meeting 7:00 pm

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Women's Conference 9:00 am

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Communion

#### MONDAY, APRIL 13

VBS Registration Opens to the Community  
 Men's Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Young Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Sr High Youth & 55+ Bunco 6:00 pm

#### MONDAY, APRIL 20

Men's Ministry Yard Clean Up 5:00 pm  
 Worship Team Auditions 7:00 pm

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Mom Connect 9:00 am  
 Prayers & Squares 1:00 pm  
 Worship Team Auditions 7:00 pm

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Young Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
 Movie Night 6:30 pm  
 I Can Only Imagine 2  
 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm  
 Worship Team Auditions 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
- Mark Lockey
- Teri Van Wettering - healing from surgery
- Mark Jensen - health concerns
- Emma Lair, Missy Lair's daughter-in-law, recovery from recent surgery
- Randy Christoffel, Ryan's dad, A-Fib concerns
- Terry Wiese - career change opportunity
- Anonymous - sister Sandy waiting biopsy results
- Marilyn Winterboer - health concerns
- Joan Krayenhagen - health concerns
- Pray for those deployed: Kodie Borchert's brother and Jason Warren's nephew

# CONDOLENCES TO

Jill and Mike Barr and family on the passing of Brian Franseen, Jill's dad, who passed from time to eternity on March 18.

Evelyn Hughes, Robin and Brian Edwards and family on the passing of Bill, Evelyn's husband and Robin's dad, who passed from time to eternity on March 28.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## CONTINUED

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Men's Ministry Breakfast 8:00 am  
 All Church Spring Cleaning 9:00 am

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Membership Class 9:45 am

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Young Women's Bible Study 9:30 am  
 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm





# CONSISTORY MINUTES



Pastors: James Runcorn. Elders: Cedric Winterboer, Gary Zeutenhorst, Kevin Vander Stoep, Mark Lockey. Deacons: Eric Van Der Heide, Jason Warren, Knut Brown, Mike Bryan, Ryan Murray  
February 12, 2026. 7:00 pm. Opening prayer: Kevin Vander Stoep. Devotional: Kevin read and discussed Ephesians 2:14-18

## REGULAR BUSINESS

Approved 1/22/2026 minutes MMSC- (Jason/Eric)

Approved 1/22/2026 financials MMSC- (Mike/Knut)

Giving and attendance analysis done by Eric Van Der Heide

Around the room check in with each of the consistory and the pastors. Gary Zeutenhorst closed with prayer.

## TEAM REPORTS

**(Purposeful Learning)** Dean/Knut, Julia is planning a bake sale fundraiser for the congregation to raise money to buy a donkey for someone in Haiti. They have raised around \$1,000 so far. She is looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday school.

**(Holy Living)** Gary/Ryan, Ryan reported that the Rooted group has started. Terry reported that he is working with the Women's Ministry to get a "Sunday School" bible study for women on Sunday mornings. Gary stated that the Women's Ministry has set April 11th for the Spring Conference. They are planning 3 bible studies- one on Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening. And as Ryan indicated a Sunday morning study as well. Library committee has been working with Julia and the children to make Valentines to put up in the library and have the parents come in to see their work. They have gotten the computer back. Committee has discussed moving the library to the Fireside location which would give the library more exposure to people. They have concerns about having enough room for the books. They continue doing book reviews and next month they will be highlighting local authors.

**(Wholehearted Service)** Mark/Eric, Jill has gotten the Elder letters out. Abby is still working on the 75th Anniversary Celebration/Worship service. She is working on getting out information for the congregation about the prayer and fasting the week before the 75th celebration.

**(Passionate Worship)** Kevin/Jason, Jason indicated Eric will be leading worship starting in March. James stated that he and Eric have been working on a format for the Ash Wednesday service. Abby is working on slides that will be used to look back on the history of Hope. Looking forward to a fun night of celebration and stories of God's blessings for Hope over the last 75 years.

**(Meaning Fellowship)** Arv/Mike, Mike stated that he will be doing a short message (10-15 minutes) at the Spark Facility in Spencer. He will be doing two services.

**(Loving Outreach)** Cedric/Kevin G, Cedric stated that the Missions committee did not meet this month. Elders went out to the Highlands for coffee with residents on 02/11.

## PASTORS REPORT

James stated that he would be applying for a grant from the Horizon Network to support the start of the radio ministry. No further decisions/ action will be taken until we get feedback on the grant request. Discussed with consistory members their thoughts and experience at the retreat with Good News. Discussed the importance of thinking of and implementing action steps that would support and move us in accomplishing our Mission of; Gather, Equip and Grow in Christ.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Discussed the format for the Ash Wednesday service. Discussed getting a list of the greater consistory for the deacons when they need someone to fill in for offering on Sunday mornings. Cedric stated that he had contacted someone from Melvin church about the idea of streaming our service to fill pulpit supply. He indicated that they may be interested. Will explore this further.

Mark Lockey closed in prayer.

## ELDERS MEETING

James Runcorn opened with prayer.

The constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.

Discussed congregational care issues.

Cedric Winterboer closed in prayer.

## DEACONS MEETING

Knut Brown opened in prayer.

1/29 and 2/2- At request of Pastor James, the Deacons made a motion to help a person out of the Local Needs Fund.

Jason shared a notice about Property Insurance changes coming for May premium cycle.

Michael received a quote to replace harbor lighting for \$5000. Motion by Eric, 2nd by Jason. All in favor.

Mike and Jason gave updates from design team. Deacons looked at value of quotes, which is approx. \$55,000. Outstanding pledges is at \$55,797.

Pastor James closed in prayer.



## SATURDAY, APRIL 25 • 9 AM - 5 PM

There are morning shifts, afternoon shifts and all-day shifts.  
Lunch will be provided.

We are looking for help with an All-Church Spring Clean Up!  
There will be many different types of projects from deep cleaning kitchens to yard work.

If you/your family can help, please [use the link below](#) to let Michael know how many to expect.

**SIGN UP:** <https://hopechurchspencer.breezechms.com/form/SPRINGCLEAN>



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

### Worship Services

**SUNDAYS:** 8:30 am and 10:45 am

Live-streamed online:  
[www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer](http://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

