

in touch with Hope

monthly newsletter of Hope Church, Spencer, IA



February, 2019

by Pastor Russell Mailenburg

Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Cultural Missions

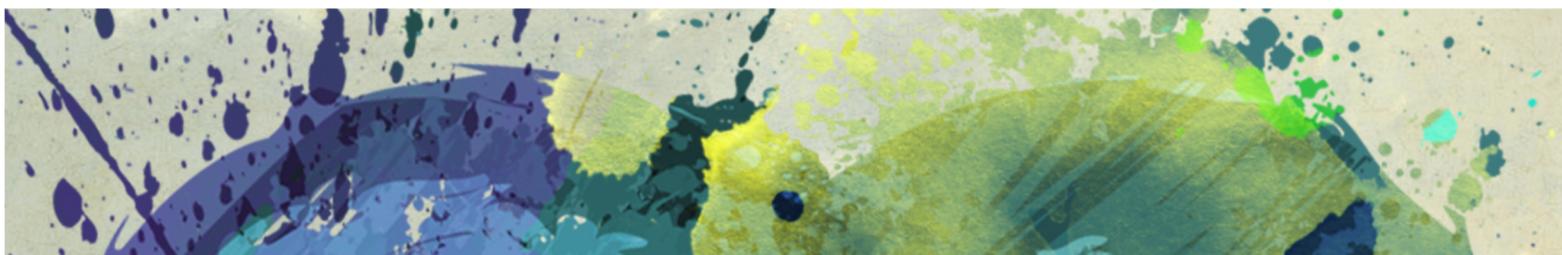
Historically, the American Church has done a poor job of reflecting the diversity of God's creation. Revelation 7:9 gives a vision of heaven in which people from "every nation, tribe, people and language" are worshipping before God's throne; and yet, in America, most churches reflect only one racial or ethnic background. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. once famously said: "It is appalling that the most segregated hour of Christian America is eleven o'clock on Sunday morning." According to Lifeway Christian Research, it is still true: 8 out of 10 churches in America are made up of one predominant racial group. Sadly, that includes Hope Church.

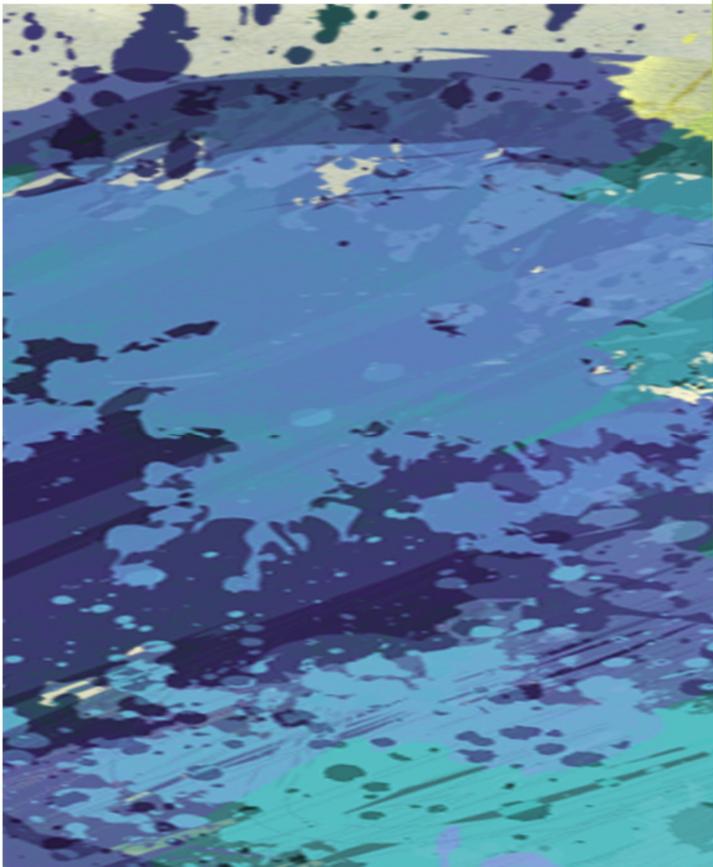
Last year, Hope Church made a commitment to partner with two new churches which are working to change that. The first is a church, **Renewing Life Church in Ferguson, MO**. Yes, that Ferguson. Ferguson made national news in 2014 when Michael Brown, an 18-year-old black man, was shot by a Ferguson police officer. The protests and trials that followed made Ferguson a national symbol of ongoing racial tensions. At the same time, T. Darnell "Terry" Tyson was leading a monthly worship service in Ferguson when he was recruited by the Reformed Church in America for a three-year pilot program for starting urban churches. It was a new, experimental way for the denomination to start a church, and after two years the program ended. Pastor Tyson and his small, burgeoning church were left without support. But he did not give up. Pastor Tyson and members of his leadership team began driving half an hour to St. Peters to worship at Christ's Church, an RCA Church with a predominantly white congregation. He became a member, then an elder. Others on the leadership team joined and became deacons. Christ's Church pastors helped Pastor Tyson navigate denominational channels to bring his two years of planning to fruition, and the congregation considered it a blessing to welcome half a dozen African Americans into fellowship.

In August of 2018, Milan Johnson (who grew up at Hope, thus our connection) became the pastor of Christ's Church in St. Peters. Also in August, Pastor Tyson and his leadership team began holding Sunday morning services in a building Christ's Church purchased in Ferguson. The new congregation is called Renewing Life Church and it has a mission to have a diverse body of believers which reflects the demographics of the community as it works through issues of race relations and reconciliation. The partnership between the pastoral staffs of Christ's Church and Renewing Life is strong, and members of Christ's Church regularly drive to Ferguson to worship with the new congregation.

The other new church plant Hope Church has committed to supporting is **Iglesia Roca Fuerte in Storm Lake**. Ricky Sanchez was born and raised in Monterrey, Mexico in a Catholic family. At age 14, he received Christ as his Savior and began serving and growing in music ministries at a local church. He was called to preach in 1993 and trained as an assistant pastor in Chicago for seven years. With a passion to share the gospel and prepare leaders to impact the Hispanic world, he helped to plant two churches in Lewisville, TX and then served as a pastor of an Anglo church which he helped to merge into a multi-cultural, multigenerational church. Now, Pastor Ricky and his wife, Terry, are being called by the East Sioux Classis of the Reformed Church in America to start a multi-ethnic church in Storm Lake. Their vision is to begin with Bible Study and worship in their home while creating a presence in the community through food ministries, ESL programs, public events, translation services, small groups in houses and personal evangelism and discipleship.

Hope Church has committed financial and prayer resources to both of these new congregations. More importantly, it is our hope that we can partner with these new churches and learn from them how we can be a part of God's plan to receive worship from all the diverse cultures of the world.





Library News

New books and DVD's have recently been added to our church library. They are located on the display shelf. We have a ton of great books and DVD's for all ages.

Concerns for:

Kathy Houseman broke her tibia.

Perry DeGroot suffered a slight stroke on January 18.

LaVern (Joe) Hamrick was hospitalized due to his lungs taking on fluid, breathing problems, a blood infection, and there is testing being done for COPD.

Lyle Howard has been dealing with complications and a hematoma from compartmental surgery on his leg.

Condolences to:

Barb & Ed (Skoog) Anderson on the passing of Barb's mother, Pat Schuler of Storm Lake, from time to eternity on January 18.

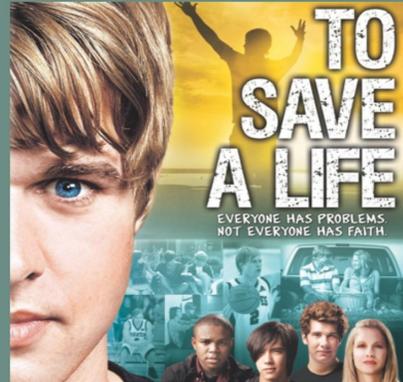
Stacia & Casey Timmer and family on the passing of Stacia's father, Gary Van Sloten of Doon, from time to eternity on January 19.

Diana Williamson and David Warren on the passing of Diana's mother and David's grandmother, Betty Warren of Spencer, from time to eternity on January 27.

Jay Van Gelder
Youth News



6, 7, 8th Youth Group



6, 7, 8TH
YOUTH GROUP
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

SERIES
BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 6

To Save A Life Parent Small Group

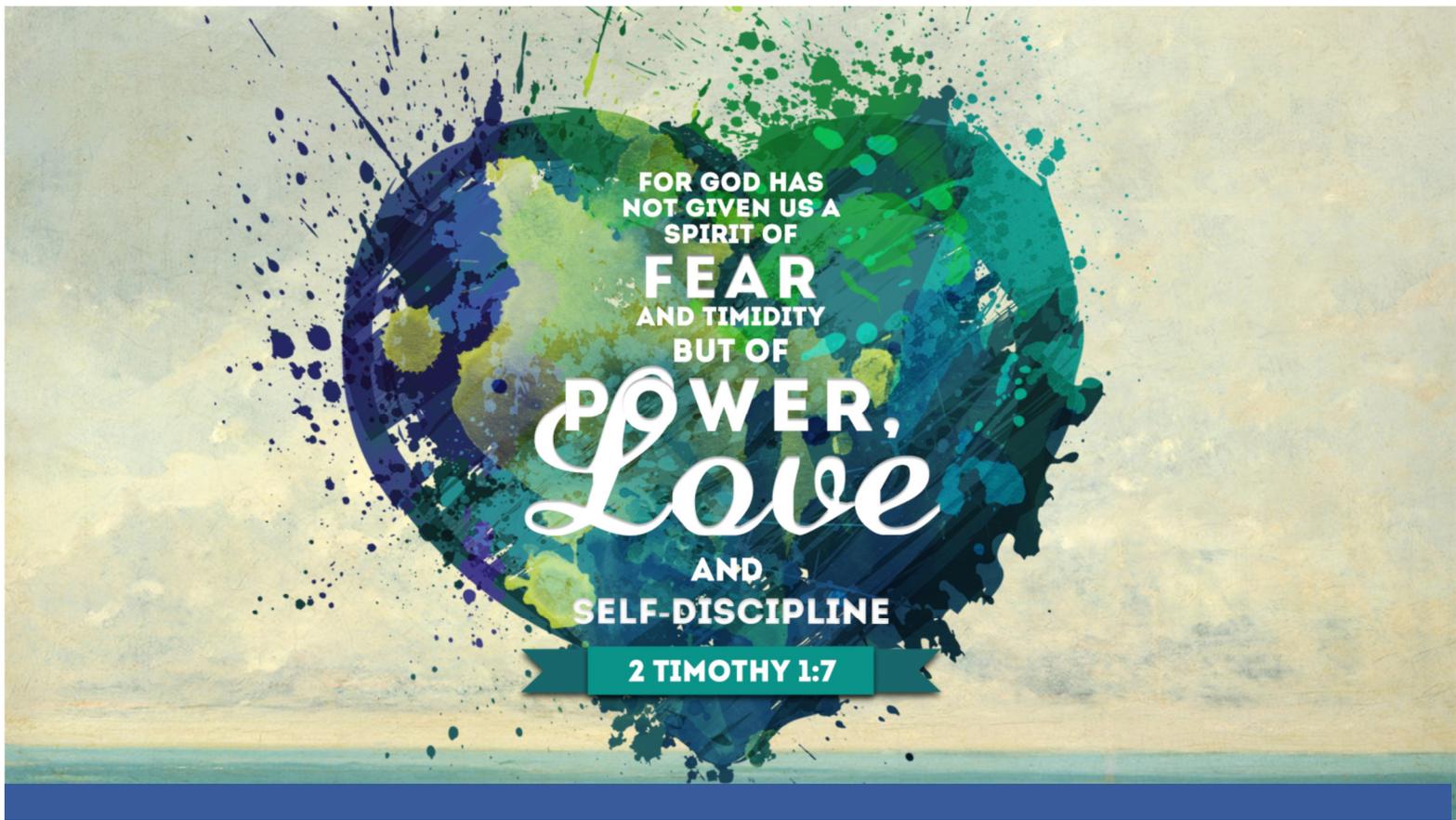
A middle school parent small group for 6th, 7th & 8th grade parents will meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Hope Church beginning February 13 for six weeks. We will be studying the same lessons in correlation with the middle school youth group series, *To Save a Life*. Please watch the movie before coming. Sign up at the Information Desk or contact Sarah Kerns at skerns@spencerhope.org or 240-0516 if you would like to be involved in this parent small group.

Sr. High Youth Group



No Apologies

No Apologies has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 13.



FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF

FEAR AND TIMIDITY

BUT OF

POWER, Love

AND

SELF-DISCIPLINE

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Sarah Kerns Children & Family News

Hello! My name is Sarah Kerns and I am your new Director of Children & Family Ministries. A nurse by trade, this new adventure is surely a leap of faith! It has been a consistent prayer of mine to allow God to use me & my gifts in any way he sees fit. (He knows best, right?!) I can confidently say I did not expect this to be it. I love kids, planning and executing events, coming up with creative ideas, connecting with people and enthusiastic leading of a team. You pair that with a desire to help children and families know and have a lasting relationship with Christ and BAM! Sounds simple, but I know that God's good plan for my life has been one of ups and downs, learning opportunities, spiritual growth, and many more intricate details I cannot even begin to imagine.



As I begin this new journey, there are a few things you should know. I love people - particularly the younger (and typically more fun) group! I have a lot of energy, big ideas, and an endless imagination. Just ask my husband, Cody - I get that look in my eye and he's not sure what kind of adventure I'll be getting us into. Yes, I say "us" because my family members—Cody & three kids: Lexi (15), Cohen (11), & Layton (6) - are usually volunTOLD! What this means for Hope Church is my commitment to use those gifts to serve Christ. And fortunately for me, I will be able to grow in my own faith! I will strive to create safe relationships, a fun atmosphere, and most importantly - a deeper connection with Jesus. I want to be an example of bringing joy to Jesus, especially with our families, and therefore experiencing joy in Him. I hope you will all join me on this journey knowing I am thrilled to be a part of your world!

There is NO Kids Connection Early Out on Wednesday, February 6.

Save
the
Dates!

VBS is June 3-7!

Stay tuned for updates on registration and to find out this year's theme!

Summer Church Camp

Inspiration Hills Church Camp brochures are available in the lobby. Registration by mail or online opens February 1 with early bird registration savings ending April 15. Hope Church will pay \$100 per camper toward the camp registration, so please contact Sarah Kerns at 262-3016 or skerns@spencerhope.org with the camp and dates your child will be attending. Camp scholarships are available.

Beth Mailenburg Adult News

Divorce Care

After 22 years of serving as the Coordinator for Divorce Care, Joyce Heiller is stepping down from that position. We appreciate the faithful, compassionate care Joyce has shown to those going through this journey!

Divorce Care will continue to be offered at Hope Church. Alecia Johnson and Steve Larsen will be co-facilitators. The next session of Divorce Care will be from February 17 - May 12. If you would like to be in contact with either Alecia or Steve, let me know and I can get you their contact information.

Right Now Media

Hope Church has a subscription to Right Now Media that is available for the entire congregation to use.

Their vision statement says, "We believe the mission of the church matters. And we've seen how God can change lives through video resources. That's why we developed RightNow Media. Now, every person in your church can access over 15,000 Bible studies. RightNow Media has studies for small groups, families, students, leadership development, and much more. Our content comes from over 250 top Christian publishers and ministries. And we produce exclusive studies and training just for you and your church. We hope to help you equip and disciple the people of your church."

"It's like the Netflix of Christian Bible study."

-Matt Chandler
Lead Pastor of the Village Church in Dallas, TX

If you do not have a log-in for Right Now Media and would like one, please contact me.

Bible Promise



Volunteer Spotlight Dave & Anita Donaldson - Greeters



Why did you decide to be greeters?

I think that it is important to help people feel welcome and to encourage them. Church is important to us and I want to support that feeling in others. I find that greeting people is a good way to connect to others. It gives us an avenue to visit with some people that we don't always have a chance to see otherwise.

What do you want people's first impression of Hope to be?

I want people to know that the people of Hope are welcoming and that we are willing to accept anyone and everyone in Jesus' name. I want people to know that we are a loving church.

What does hospitality look like to you?

Hospitality is extending grace. When you accept people into your personal home, you do things to make them feel comfortable. We want to help people feel comfortable in God's house, too.

If you are interested in joining the greeter team, contact Anita Donaldson at dadonald@smunet.net for more information.

Haiti News

Everyone is invited to be a prayer warrior for the Haiti Team traveling January 30 - February 8: Sharon Berkenpas, Todd Brockshus, Karmen Brown, Shelly Helmink, Kent Means, Marilyn Means, Charity Mueggenberg, Christina Mueggenberg, Lon Peterson, Monica Peterson and Kris Toay.

Consistory News

The regular meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory met at 7:00 p.m. in the Harbor. Present: Deacons: Jason Warren, Craig Van Drunen, John Haak, Danny Dekker, Bob Graham, Kyle Mechler. Elders: Gary Zeutenhorst, Dean Mechler, Brad Olson, Bryan Christopher, Kurt Weeks, Doug Siepkes. Pastors: Russell Muilenburg, Jay Van Gelder.

Pastor Russell opened the meeting by reading from 1 Peter 5: 1-4 and then led a discussion on the scripture and a video Elder/Pastor relationship. He ended the devotional time with prayer.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

MMSC to approve the minutes of December 13, 2018.

MMSC to approve the December financials as presented by the deacons.

Discussed and assigned officers and liaison ministry positions.

Discussed resignation of Danny Dekker from his deacon position due to a upcoming move and job promotion.

MMSC to appointment someone from the Greater Consistory for a one-year position to fill out Danny's position. It's understood that this person would not be eligible to serve for a two-year period at the end of this year of service. Pastor Russell had a list of nine persons that had served in the capacity of deacon in the past and he will contact those individuals and the casting of lots will be done in between services this Sunday. The person's name would then be in the bulletin on January 20 and January 27 would be installation.

Staff management presented their recommendation for the Children and Families Ministries position.

MMSC to offer Sarah Kerns the Children and Family's Ministry position. A financial package was discussed including salary and benefits. Pastor Russell will contact.

Pastor Russell discussed the Consistory Retreat on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. He indicated that Tom Smith will be facilitating the meeting.

Brian Christopher closed the meeting with prayer.

ELDERS MEETING

Pastor Russell opened the meeting with prayer

Beth Muilenburg presented congregational care visits and will send her report of visits made since her she started working. She will email elders her report.

Constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.

Pastor Russell discussed and invited the elders to attend the Starting Point classes scheduled for January 20 and 27.

Specific congregational concerns were discussed.

Closed the meeting with prayer.

DEACONS MEETING

Bob opened with prayer.

Met with Greg Meeter (Treasurer) regarding year-end fund balances, medical insurance rates, and other questions.

MMSC to move \$5,000 in surplus to Capital Improvements Undesignated fund.

MMSC to pay \$44,012 down on the Open Doors loan.

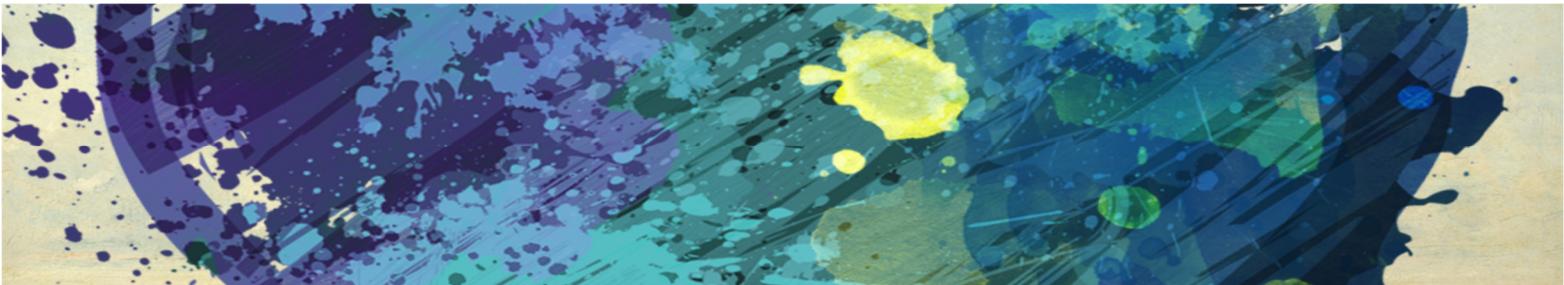
Giving Statements will be stuffed and mailed on 01/22/2019 @ 6:30pm.

Jay closed with prayer.

A special meeting was held at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary on January 13 at Hope Reformed Church. This meeting is the result of a motion made at the Consistory meeting on January 10 to appoint someone from the Greater Consistory who had served as a deacon in the past to fill a one-year deacon position. Those in attendance were consistory members and congregational members that had been invited to attend this special meeting after the first worship service.

Pastor Russell opened the meeting with prayer and discussed the duties of elder and deacon as set out in the scripture in Acts 1.

The selection process was done by casting of lots. The following individuals agreed to serve the one-year term: Kenyon Brown, Mike Bryan, Mark Flikkema and Chris Swanson. The results of the casting of lots: Chris Swanson will fill the position for one year.





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WORSHIP

Sundays: 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

First Wednesday Prayer & Worship
Wednesday, February 6
6:30 p.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 - 10:40 a.m.
Ages 3 years old through Adult

schedule & sermons



How to Eat a Sermon

February 3 *Foodies*

February 10 *Chewing it Over*

February 17 *Knife & Fork*

February 24 *The Life Giving Power of Preaching*

Hope Church Staff:

Russell Muilenburg, *Lead Pastor*; Jay Van Gelder, *Pastor of Student Ministries*; Josh Hamrick, *Facilities*; Trent Hansen, *Youth Ministries Assistant & Communication*; Sarah Kerns, *Children & Families*; Eric Meeter, *Worship/Music*; Beth Muilenburg, *Congregational Care*; Lori Swanson, *Office*