

in touch with Hope

Monthly newsletter of Hope Church, Spencer, IA

September, 2019



By Pastor Russell Muilenburg

God Questions

This month we are going to be doing a series of sermons we are calling "Glad You Asked." We created a link on our website and invited you to submit questions you have about God, the Bible, and the Church. The aim is for me to provide Biblical answers to these questions. After seeing the questions, I'm not sure we picked the right title for the series. We should have called it "Stump the Pastor!" I'm not so sure I'm glad that you asked some of these questions--they are hard questions.

But, at the same time, I think that's the point. We all have questions. Everyone has wondered about God at times, and some of us live with persistent questions that never seem to go away. God's not afraid of our questions. He made us intelligent, reasoning beings. When it comes to matters of faith, He doesn't want us to leave our brains at the door. He wants us to be curious. He wants us to think deeply and, as much as possible, understand Him and His ways. He wants us to search in His revelation—both the special revelation of His inspired Word as well as the general revelation of the world He has created—to discover answers to our questions and know Him better.

So, I don't want to be afraid of your questions either. I don't promise that I'll be able to give complete answers to each of the questions we look at as thirty minutes is not a lot of time to answer questions about which entire libraries have been written; nor do I promise that I'll be able to give entirely satisfactory answers as some of the answers the Bible gives are not always the answers we prefer. But, I will do my best to point to the places in the Bible that address these questions, and I'll try my best to put the answers together in an understandable way.

In addition, we will be writing some discussion questions to accompany each sermon. These discussion guides will be available on our church website under the MEDIA/RESOURCES tab. You can use these guides for further reflection with your small group, your family, or in your personal devotions.

Here are questions that have been submitted through the website that we are going to tackle the first four weeks:

Sept. 8	<i>Why Does God Harden Hearts?</i>
Sept. 15	<i>Why Does God Allow Terrible Things to Happen?</i>
Sept. 22	<i>What is the Christian Perspective on Homosexuality?</i>
Sept. 29	<i>What Happens After We Die?</i>

I've left the last two weeks of the series open for now. We'll continue to leave the submission page on our website. If there are more questions you would like to suggest, please do so. Otherwise we have a few good ones left to choose from. All questions will remain anonymous. The weblink is: <https://www.spencerhope.com/questions/>



Pastor Jay Van Gelder Youth News



DONUT miss hanging with us!

Parent Vision Night

We are combining all 6th—12th grade parents at a vision night on Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Come hear what we have planned and what is in store for the 2019-20 school year. We will also have important dates to share with you to put on your calendar!

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Youth Group

Fall Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 11	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group Kick-Off (Welcome 6th Graders!)
Wednesday, Sept. 18	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday, Sept. 25	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday, Oct. 2	6:30 p.m.	Vision Night 6th—12th Grade Parents
Wednesday, Oct. 2	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday, Oct. 9	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday, Oct. 16	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday, Oct. 23	6:30 p.m.	Youth Group
Sunday, Oct. 27	5:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat



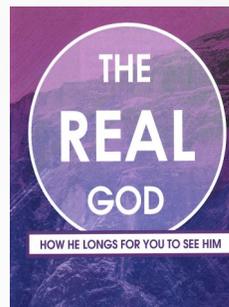
Fall Series

We often feel "stuck"--unable to take action for things in our daily lives to pursuing our life-long dreams. We often have crippling fear or lack of courage. In this series by Tim Tebow, we will be uncovering our potential, discovering God's purpose for our lives, and believing in God-sized dreams. We will learn how focusing on others and being aware of who and what is around us at any given moment can help us embrace the present. Tim teaches "now is the time to take some risks, to quiet the voices of defeat, to step forward and make a mark, because *this*

Sr. High Youth Group

Fall Schedule

Sunday, Sept. 15	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group Kick-Off (Welcome Freshmen!)
Sunday, Sept. 22	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sunday, Sept. 29	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Wednesday, Oct. 2	6:30 p.m.	Vision Night 6th—12th Grade Parents
Sunday, Oct. 6	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sunday, Oct. 13	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sunday, Oct. 20	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sunday, Oct. 27	5:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat



Fall Series

Popular culture says it's all about us—that the end justifies the means, that love means self-satisfaction, that status and appearance are what count. This ultimately is a self-destructive perspective, and our distorted view of God is at the root of all of our problems. In this series by Chip Ingram, we will learn about God's goodness, sovereignty, holiness, wisdom, justice, love, and faithfulness, and we'll see Him in a whole new light. It will change the way we think about God, ourselves and others. We will learn to pray and live with a deep peace, a renewed purpose and see Him as He longs to be seen.

Worship Music News



We are excited to announce that we have hired Craig Cannon as our new Worship/Music Director. He and his fiancée, Katie Helsel, will be married on September 7 and moving from West Virginia to begin work at Hope on September 23. Let's plan to shower them with welcome and wedding cards on Sunday, September 22. Cards may be dropped off to the church office or brought in on September 22.

Labor Day

The church building will be locked on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

First Wednesday Prayer & Worship

First Wednesday Prayer & Worship will be Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This special time of prayer and worship is an opportunity to reconnect and refocus on Jesus. Please join us as we spend time worshipping through music and praying for our friends and family, for ourselves, our community and our world.

Feed Our Children

Feed Our Children needs more volunteers to help deliver the bags to the schools on Friday mornings approximately once a month or less. Contact Sarah Kerns at sarahmariekerns@gmail.com or 712-240-0516 to volunteer, or with any questions.

Community Meal

The Community Meal will be returning Sunday, September 22; however, more volunteers are needed to plan/prepare the meals (small groups, families and individuals) and volunteers to serve/clean-up afterwards. With enough help you would only need to cook every few months. Please sign up at the Information Desk if you would be willing to serve in this capacity. Contact Lorelei Meeter at 712-363-4364 with any questions.

Starting Point

Starting Point will be held on Sundays, September 29 and October 6 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Well. This class is your pathway to membership at Hope Church and is a great opportunity to find out about Hope Church and about the church we are trying to be. Attending does not commit you to joining Hope Church, but it helps you make that decision wisely. This class is for adults. Sign up at the Information Desk.

Sarah Kerns Children & Family News

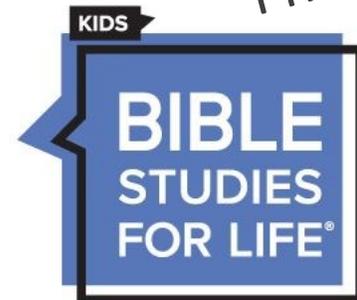
School is in Session!
SUNDAY SCHOOL IS TOO!

Sunday School
begins September 8
from 9:45–10:40
a.m.

New Curriculum!

Fun!

Friends!



Hands on learning!

MOPS (Mother's of Preschoolers)

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschool-age children and younger to develop her potential as a woman, mother, and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. We offer a morning meeting and an evening meeting to reach as many moms as we can, regardless of her schedule. Nursery is provided for both meeting times.

On Tuesday, September 24, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Harbor MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is having their annual ice cream social and kick-off celebration. Come discover how to get connected to Spencer MOPS. You'll be able to get info on the upcoming MOPS year, enjoy an ice cream sundae bar, meet mom friends, and register your kids ages birth through 5 years old for MOPS Kids, our childcare program. Bring the whole family!

Celebrating with

- Tyriana Vail on her baptism.
- Shaylee Brown as having professed her faith and can now participate at the Lords' Table for Communion.

Concerns for

- Kent Kilpatrick who was hospitalized with medical concerns on August 5.
- Marlis Kuiper had hip replacement surgery on August 19.
- Sue Sears had surgery on August 21.
- Stacey Hoffrichter had a total knee replacement on August 27.
- Klaas Groen who is having some medical issues.

Condolences to

- Cindy Steinkamp and Ryan Steinkamp on the passing of Cindy's husband/Ryan's father, Tom Steinkamp, from time to eternity on August 2.
- Madelyn & Scott Palmer on the passing of Madelyn's mother, Betty Kaiser, from time to eternity on August 5.

Beth Muilenburg Discipleship & Care

Bible Promise



Adult Sunday School

Paul Vande Berg and Dean Mechler will be teaching from the Sunday School Guide in the Well. The focus for the fall term will be faith, highlighting how to be faithful in good times and bad, while looking at a variety of Scripture.

Small Groups

Small groups will start in the middle of October. Be watching for more information.

Volunteer Spotlight: Paul Rekow



Paul, one of the ways you serve at church is carpet cleaning. How often do you clean the carpets?

I tend to do the Harbor carpets three times a year and other rooms as needed. I think that I have been doing it for ten years. Karmen was still on staff when I started.

How long does it take you to do the Harbor?

If everything is out of the room when I start, it takes a full day. If I need to move tables and chairs, it can take almost two days.

Why did you choose to serve in this way?

Well, it needs to be done and it saves work for someone else to do.

How can carpets bring joy to Jesus?

People may not notice them if they are clean, but people tend to notice if they are dirty. That can be discouraging to people. I think that it makes for a more positive environment.

Consistory News

The regular meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory met at 7:00 p.m. in the Well. Present: Deacons Bob Graham, Craig Van Drunen and Jason Warren. Elders Gary Zeutenhorst, Dean Mechler, Bryan Christoffer, Doug Siepkes, and Kurt Weeks. Pastors Russell Muilenburg and Jay Van Gelder. Absent: Deacons Kyle Mechler, John Haak, and Chris Swanson, and Elder Brad Olsen.

Pastor Russell opened the meeting with reading from Ephesians 1: 11-12 and led the discussion on the scripture and video *Sticky Teams*. He closed the devotional time with prayer.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- **MMSC** to approve the minutes of July 11, 2019.
- No July financial report given for July due computer issues.
- Dean Mechler reported on status of the computer issues and reported that this would hopefully be resolved by the end of next week.
- The Consistory broke into small groups and reviewed another section of recommendations by the General Synod 2020 report and then gathered together again to share thoughts generated by their discussions.
- Pastor Russell shared results of the recent church survey evaluating members understanding and meaning of the mission statement of Hope Church and the sermon series and workshops that will be offered 08/18, 08/25 and 09/01 for the purpose of exploring the meaning of Hope's mission.
- Craig Cannon has accepted the position of Director of Music Ministry. This is a full-time position (30hrs).
- Pastor Russell discussed some of the details of Craig Cannon moving and start date for the position of Director of Music Ministry. Targeted arrival in Spencer is September 16.
- There is a Classis meeting scheduled on September 10 in Alton, IA.
- Pastor Russell closed the portion of the meeting with prayer.

ELDERS MEETING

- Pastor Russell opened this portion of the meeting with prayer.
- The Constitutional Question was asked answered in the negative with some discussion.
- **MMSC** to accept a Profession of Faith request from Shaylee Brown and a Baptism request from Tyriana Vail.
- Discussed the process of adding grapes as a part of Communion.
- Congregational concerns were discussed.
- Closed the meeting with prayer.

DEACON MEETING

There was no Deacon meeting this month as we did not have a quorum nor an agenda.

Dear Lord,

May this school year bring opportunities to stand firm for you, to be strong & courageous in our faith, and may we find the gentle whisper of your nearness in a whole new way. Amen





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

Worship

Sundays:

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

First Wednesday Worship & Prayer

September 4, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Sunday School

9:45 -10:40 a.m.

Schedule & Sermons



Engaging with Joy

September 1 *Live Joy*



Glad You Asked

September 8 *Why Does God Harden Hearts?*

September 15 *Why Does God Allow Terrible Things to Happen?*

September 22 *What is the Christian Perspective on Homosexuality?*

September 29 *What Happens After We Die?*

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*; Beth Muilenburg, *Discipleship & Care*; Lori Swanson, *Office Administrator*