

A decorative banner for a newsletter. It features a central illustration of a large orange pumpkin with a green stem and leaf, flanked by two smaller pumpkins and several autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The background is a light, textured yellow. At the top, there are strings of triangular bunting flags in red, orange, and yellow. The date "October, 2019" is written in a green, cursive font in the upper right corner.

October, 2019

*in touch with Hope*

*monthly newsletter of Hope Church, Spencer, IA*

## *Emotional Maturity*

*by Pastor Russell Muilenburg*

Last Tuesday Pastor Jay and I attended a workshop on Emotional Maturity. It was all about managing anxiety in the midst of disagreement. It was about staying connected to people who have a different point of view. It was about the importance of keeping emotional perspective even as difficult issues are being discussed. I had two major takeaways from the workshop:

**1. Seeing things from someone else's perspective:** I was reminded of how important it is, in a disagreement, to put ourselves in the other person's shoes. Stephen Covey tells a story about a time he was on a New York subway when a man and two children entered the car. The children were so loud and rambunctious that immediately the whole atmosphere in the subway car changed. The children were yelling loudly, jumping from seat to seat, even grabbing papers out of people's hands. Meanwhile, the father sat next to Covey with his eyes closed, apparently oblivious to the situation. Covey writes:

It was difficult not to feel irritated. I could not believe that he could be so insensitive as to let his children run wild like that and do nothing about it, taking no responsibility at all. It was easy to see that everyone else on the subway felt irritated, too. So finally, with what I felt was unusual patience and restraint, I turned to him and said, "Sir, your children are really disturbing a lot of people. I wonder if you couldn't control them a little more?"

The man lifted his gaze as if to come to a consciousness of the situation for the first time and said softly, "Oh, you're right. I guess I should do something about it. We just came from the hospital where their mother died about an hour ago. I don't know what to think, and I guess they don't know how to handle it either."

Can you imagine what I felt at that moment? My paradigm shifted.

Emotional immaturity can lead us to tunnel vision. When confronted with a problem, the emotionally immature believe that their reading of the facts is the only perspective that is valid. It is amazing how getting the whole story can better help us to appreciate why other people feel and think the way they do.

**2. Resisting the urge to make everything better.** If one side of emotional immaturity is an insistence on always having our own way, the other extreme is a desire to minimize all conflict by agreeing to everything. One definition of emotional maturity is "the ability to act out of our deeply held values despite the pressure to do otherwise." An important part of managing conflict well is a willingness to live with the on-going tension of people who disagree.

Think of the story of Jesus and the rich young man. As Jesus was travelling the countryside preaching the good news of the kingdom and recruiting people for His movement, He was approached by a young man who wanted to know how to inherit eternal life. The man appeared to be earnest in his obedience to the commandments and eager to follow Jesus. He was even well-to-do and in a position to help Jesus financially. But that is where Jesus saw a problem. The young man was more attached to his money than to God. So, when Jesus challenged him to sell everything and give it to the poor, the rich young ruler's face fell and he went away sad.

And here's what's interesting about that story: Jesus let him go. Mark 10:21 says that Jesus "looked at him and loved him," but that didn't stop Jesus from giving a hard challenge. Jesus could have smoothed things over and found a way to sign this man up for His cause, but He knew they did not see things the same way where money was concerned. Jesus was not willing to change His convictions just to avoid the tension of the disagreement.

That is the paradox of emotional maturity. We must be open enough to see things from other perspectives while still being confident enough in our own convictions to stand up for what we believe in.



Pastor Jay Van Gelder  
Youth News

## Annual Youth Auction

**FUNDRAISING AUCTION**

Sunday, Nov. 3  
Harbor Room  
5:00 p.m.

Donations Needed:  
Gift Certificates,  
Services, Gift Baskets, Etc.  
Sign up at the kiosk in the lobby if you would like to donate an item.

Silent and Live Auction

Going once! Going twice! SOLD!! You will not want to miss the fun at our annual fundraiser to benefit our youth programs. Donations of auction items are needed and welcomed. Indicate the items you wish to donate at the sign-up table in the lobby. A catered meal of grilled ribeye and chicken will be served during the auction for a free-will donation, and childcare will be provided. If you are unable to attend the auction and would still like to donate to the youth work projects, checks can be made payable to Hope Church and given to me.

## Traveling Lock-In

**nickelodeon UNIVERSE**  
MALL OF AMERICA

All 6th - 12th grade youth are invited to come join the crazy fun at Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America on Saturday night, November 16 through Sunday morning, November 17! The cost for a Hope youth and a friend is \$40 per person and if a Hope youth comes alone it will cost them \$65. Sign-up runs October 2 through November 10 and is first come, first served, or until the buses are full.

## Craig Cannon Worship Music News

Hello Hope Church! I just wanted to introduce myself again. My name is Craig Cannon and I'm the new Music Director here at Hope. My wife Katie and I want to thank you for the warm welcome and the many cards we received upon our arrival! I look forward to getting to know you all and worshipping the Lord with you!



Blessings,

Craig

## Celebrating with

- Craig and Katie Cannon who were united in marriage on September 7.

## Concerns for

- Joyce Lemke fell and broke a finger and a blood vessel in her hand on September 3.
- Bob Faulkender had abdominal surgery on September 4.
- Florence Hammerstrom was in the Spencer Hospital for tests and evaluation.
- Denny Houseman was diagnosed with kidney cancer with possible metastases to his lungs.
- Eileen Johnson had hip replacement surgery on September 23.

## Condolences to

- Rick & Nancy Dean and Kellie Lowe & family on the passing of Rick's sister/Kellie's aunt, Barbara Dean of Spencer, from time to eternity on August 30.
- Ryan & Taylor Kruger and family on the passing of Ryan's father, Joel Kruger of Sibley, on August 30.
- Betty Groen & Brett Groen on the passing of Betty's husband/Brett's father, Klaas, from time to eternity on September 16.
- Paul Rekow & Stephanie Johnson on the passing of Paul's father, Karl Rekow of Gorton, SD, on September 26.

*Beth Muilenburg  
Discipleship & Care*

## *Fall Churchwide Small Group Series*



Starting the week of October 20, our small groups will be focusing on Pastor Russell's sermon series, Wind and Fire. Questions for small group or individual reflection will be available on our website: [www.spencerhope.com](http://www.spencerhope.com) Click on the MEDIA tab. On the dropdown menu, click on resources. Then, click on the Wind and Fire series.

If you are not currently in a small group and would like to be, signups will be in the church lobby or you can talk to Beth.

## *Volunteer Spotlight*

*Kristy Connor ~*

*Preschool Sunday School*



### **How many years have you taught preschool Sunday School?**

I have taught preschool Sunday School for over 17 years. When my daughter, Mackenzie was three and started Sunday School, she had some separation anxiety and cried when I dropped her off at Sunday School. I was invited to stay with her during the Sunday School hour. She did so much better when I was with her, so I joined the preschool Sunday School team. After she finished preschool Sunday School, I had two more children, Sean and Dylan, who I had the pleasure of teaching and helping adjust to Sunday School.

### **What keeps you coming back?**

I love children! They have so much energy. They love to hear stories about Jesus and are excited about the fun crafts that I plan for them to do. It is fun to hear them share with their parents what they made and learned in Sunday School each Sunday.

### **What is one thing that you want the kids to leave with?**

I hope that each child leaves Sunday School knowing that they are special. They are each a child of God and loved by Him. He is their forever friend.

### **What is something that the children have taught you?**

They have taught me patience over the years.

### **How does teaching Sunday School bring joy to Jesus?**

Jesus loves the little children. He wants them to know about Him and love Him. Teaching Sunday School and knowing the children are listening to the Bible Story and singing songs about Jesus surely brings Him joy.

*Sarah Kernis*

## *Children & Family Ministry News*



**TRUNK OR TREAT**

**SUNDAY, OCT. 27  
5 - 7 PM**

**HOPE CHURCH  
PARKING LOT**

**IT'S FREE!**

**TONS OF CANDY! HOT DOGS! LOTS OF FUN!**

**CANDY DONATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED IN THE LOBBY**

Sign-up at the Information Desk to host a decorated trunk or to help serve at this outreach event. Serve with your family, small group or friends! A lot of candy is needed (over 35,000 pieces!!) to hand out at this community event and your generosity is much appreciated! Place bags of candy in the large container in the lobby.

## *Sunday School*

Sunday School is open to all 3 year old's through Adults from 9:45 - 10:40 a.m. (in between the two worship services). Come join us and see what the buzz is all about!

## *Children's Christmas Choir*

All children Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to join the Children's Christmas Choir. We will be singing at both worship services on Sunday, December 15. Preschoolers will be singing too on December 15! Be on the look-out for

## *MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)*

MOPS is open to all mothers of preschool-age children and meets at Hope Church. There are two opportunities each month to attend. Meetings are on the first Thursday morning of the month from 8:45—10:45 a.m. and the third Tuesday evening of the month from 6:00—8:00 p.m. Childcare is provided.

### **MOPS 2019-2020 Schedule**

Thursday, Oct. 3	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 15	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 7	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Nov. 19	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 5	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 17	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 21	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 6	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 18	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Mar. 5	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Mar. 17	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Apr. 2	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, Apr. 21	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 7	8:45 a.m.	Tuesday, May 19	6:00 p.m.

## *First Wednesday Prayer & Worship*

First Wednesday Prayer & Worship will be October 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This special service is an opportunity to reconnect and refocus on Jesus and pray for our church family, community and world.

## *Church Offices Closed*

All Hope Church staff will be at Continuing Education October 7-9. The church offices will be closed during that time; however, if you need to send a prayer chain sent contact Lori Swanson at 712-260-1541.

## *Baptism*

The next baptism celebration will be on Sunday, November 10. If you would like baptism administered to yourself or a child, please contact Pastor Russell at 712-346-8480 or 262-3016 so arrangements can be made.

## *Elder & Deacon Nominations*

All confessing members of Hope Church: Please pick up your Elder & Deacon nomination papers and information for the upcoming year in the lobby. Nominations are due back to the office by Wednesday, October 23.

## *Armed Forces Honor Wall*

We want to recognize all of our service men and women who are currently serving in the Guard or in Active Duty. If you, your spouse or your child are currently serving in any branch of our Armed Forces, please contact the church office. We are requesting a picture and their branch of service to display on a wall in our lobby area.



*Cherish Center Fundraiser*

**Cherish  
CENTER**

Hope Church is doing a Baby Bottle Campaign during the month of October benefiting the Cherish Center in Milford. Please take an empty baby bottle located in the lobby to fill with your loose change, cash or check. Please return it to the church before the end of the month. The proceeds will be used to support the Cherish Center, a maternity home for teenage moms serving Northwest Iowa and beyond.

*"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."*

*L.M. Montgomery*



## *Consistory Notes*

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

Pastor Russell opened with devotion from 1 Timothy 4:12-16 and led discussion on Sticky Teams w/ Larry Osborne entitled "Let the Eagles Fly" and closed the discussion with prayer.

### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- **MMSC** to approve the minutes of Minutes from August 8, 2019.
- **MMSC** to approve the August financials as presented by the deacons.
- Josh has been able to get the bell to ring! There was brief discussion on whether we should have it permanently repaired. Pastor Russell suggests that we would need rules on when the bell would be used.
- Consistory broke into small groups and reviewed another section of recommendations by the General Synod 2020 report and then gathered for discussion.
- Pastor Russell will be preaching on the topic of homosexuality on 9/22 and asked for wisdom, prayer and guidance from the consistory. He referenced a book "People to be Loved" which has inspired his message. Several members of the Consistory requested a copy. We discussed the idea that "Christians have been really bad at this & what is our responsibility?" Pastor Russell will be leading two Thursday night workshops (9/26 & 10/4) to help address this issue, "Do we Really Know What the Bible Says?" These workshops will be more "Teaching" than "Interactive." Workshop #1 - Scripture Discussion. Workshop #2 - Theological Overview. The Consistory gathered in prayer with Russell in preparation for his message.
- Craig and Katie Cannon will arrive week of 9/16. He will practice with the team on 9/18 and play with the band on 9/22. Craig will begin employment on 9/23/19 and will be leading worship on 9/29.

### ELDERS MEETING

- The Constitutional question was answered in the negative. There was discussion surrounding the need to be diligent and thorough in this area.
- Matt McNea has been deployed. Prayers for his family and an emphasis on looking after them.
- A reminder of Communion on October 6. The grapes have been well received.
- We had a brief discussion concerning 1st Wednesday services. They serve a good purpose and we need to continue the emphasis on prayer. Explore / discuss future structure, format etc.
- Meeting closed in prayer.

### DEACON MEETING

- We discussed the hail insurance claim and are waiting to hear back from the adjuster.
- John talked with Josh regarding the bell tower repair and painting of the building which hopefully begins around October 1.
- We are looking at possibly repairing the glazing on the south side stained glass window.
- We are beginning the budget process for 2020.
- Craig closed the meeting in prayer.

# HOPE CHURCH

BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

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[www.spencerhope.com](http://www.spencerhope.com)

## Worship

### Sundays:

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

### First Wednesday Worship & Prayer

October 2, 2019

7:00 p.m.

### Sunday School

9:45 -10:40 a.m.

## Schedule & Sermons



*Glad You Asked*

October 6 *Who is Jesus in Other Religions?"*

October 13 *What About People Who Fall Away From the Faith?*



*Wind & Fire  
Sermons on the Holy Spirit*

October 20 *The Person of the Holy Spirit*

October 27 *The Promise of the Holy Spirit*

### Hope Church Staff:

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