



IN TOUCH WITH HOPE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH, SPENCER, IA

September, 2020

By Pastor Russell Muilenburg

GOOD MEDICINE

“Laughter is good medicine.” That sounds like something out of the Bible. It’s not, but it’s close. Here’s what the Bible says, **Proverbs 17:22**: A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

There is a lot of spirt-crushing stuff in our world right now. A lot of us feel the dryness in our bones, the ongoing weight of big, global issues. As a way of countering all that pressure, my wife and her brother have been texting each other jokes on a daily basis. In the interest of sharing good medicine, here are some of the best (or, depending on your tolerance for puns, the worst):

- I’m reading a book on anti-gravity. It’s impossible to put down.
- My friend keeps saying, “Cheer up, man, it could be worse. You could be stuck underground in a hole full of water.” I know he means well.
- My facelift has gone terribly wrong. If anyone knows a good surgeon, I’m all ears.
- I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon. I will let you know.
- If I tell you, “Ygolohcysp,” I’m using reverse psychology.
- I’m so bored I just memorized six pages of the dictionary. -I learned next to nothing.
- A man fell into an upholstery machine. He is now fully recovered.
- Somebody stole the toilet seat at the police station. Investigators having nothing to go on.
- I just entered the town’s “tightest hat” competition. I hope I can pull it off!
- Why didn’t the pepper enter the archery contest? He didn’t habanero.
- How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.
- Why did the orange go to the doctor? He wasn’t peeling well.
- Why did the invisible man turn down the job offer? He couldn’t see himself doing it.
- Why don’t eggs do stand-up routines? They would crack each other up! (Bonus answer: they only have one yolk!)
- Two guys walk into a bar... the third guy ducks.
- Why did the Math book look so sad? Because of all of its problems.
- There are three unwritten rules of life:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- They said a mask was enough to get into the supermarket. They lied. Everyone else was wearing clothes!

There’s a lot to burden us down in today’s world. But, there is also a lot to be cheerful about. Keep laughing, and keep trusting that the Lord has things under control.



Pastor Jay Van Gelder YOUTH NEWS

2020-2021 Parent Information Meeting

We will be having a parent meeting for all 6th—12th grade parents on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Harbor. We will be sharing the guidelines on how we plan to meet together, discussing important dates for the upcoming year, and learning more about the details of youth ministry at Hope Church.



Welcome Bags

On Wednesday, August 19, we had Welcome Bags to hand out to 6th-12th grade students to welcome them back to youth group and kick off the new school year. We handed out 105 bags to students and parents driving through the parking lot in their cars, on bicycles and even a lawn mower!

If you were unable to pick up your Welcome Bag, contact Trent or me and we will make arrangements to get one to you.

Sr. High Youth Group

Sr. High Youth Group will meet on Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. beginning Sunday, September 20, in the Harbor. Please see our strategies listed to the right for how we plan to meet.

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, September 23, in the Harbor. Please see our strategies listed to the right for how we plan to meet.

2020-2021 Youth Group Guidelines

HOPE YOUTH GROUP STRATEGIES



THIS IS HOW WE ROLL!

FACE COVERINGS



• A FACE COVERING THAT COVERS THE NOSE AND MOUTH IS EXPECTED TO BE WORN ENTERING & EXITING THE BUILDING, AND WHEN PHYSICAL DISTANCING IS NOT POSSIBLE.

TEMPERATURE SCREENINGS



• YOUTH & YOUTH LEADERS WILL HAVE THEIR TEMPERATURES TAKEN BEFORE ENTERING THE BUILDING.
• STAY HOME IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL OR HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

HAND SANITIZER

EVERYONE NEEDS TO USE HAND SANITIZER WHEN:



• ENTERING THE BUILDING.
• BEFORE AND AFTER TOUCHING THEIR FACE OR MASK.
• BEFORE AND AFTER USING SHARED SUPPLIES.
• AFTER USING THE RESTROOM.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING



• THE HARBOR ROOM WILL BE ARRANGED IN 6' SPACING BETWEEN CHAIRS.
• YOUTH LEADERS WILL ORGANIZE GROUPS OF STUDENTS WHEN NECESSARY TO MINIMIZE INTERMIXING.

Are you interested in serving in the areas of tech at Hope Church?

This includes Projection, Livestream, and Soundboard.

All are welcome to join this team which plays a vital role in our Sunday morning experience!



You will receive the training you need to be confident and successful!

Contact Craig for more info at ccannon@spencerhope.org

Craig Cannon WORSHIP NEWS

I am needing more volunteers to join our Tech Team at Hope. You don't need to have experience as we will give you the training you need. If interested please contact me at ccannon@spencerhope.org or 262-3016.

Family Sunday School

ALL KIDS-
3 YEARS OLD
THROUGH
12TH GRADE
ATTEND WITH
THEIR FAMILIES!



Axis
THE CENTER ON WHICH WE TURN

FUN WHILE
DISTANCING
MASKS WHEN NOT ABLE
ENTERTAINMENT
BIBLE SKILLS
GAMES
SNACKS

FAMILY STYLE SUNDAY SCHOOL

You do not want to miss out on this
unique and exciting opportunity!

SUNDAYS
945 AM
SEPT 20-OCT 25

SIGN UP TODAY!!

SCAN THE QR CODE
OR
STOP IN THE CHURCH LOBBY



Harbor - 1st grade through 12th grade (and parents)
Harbor Basement - Ages 3 through Kindergarten (and parents)
Nursery - Birth through 2 years old

Beginning Sunday, September 20, we will resume Sunday School from 9:45 - 10:40 a.m. Because this is a time of change and challenge, we are going to offer family-style Sunday School for families with children ages three through 12th grade. You won't want to miss this as it will be a ton of fun while social distancing, and entertaining with Bible skills, games, and snacks! Kids grades 1st through 12th, along with their parents, will be in the Harbor. Preschool through Kindergarten children, as well as their parents, will be in the Harbor Basement. All families are asked to [sign up here](#) (Nursery available). Masks will be required when entering and exiting the building and when social distancing is not possible.

Please contact me if you need more information or have any questions at skerns@spencerhope.org or 712-240-0516.

Root Beer Float Thru

On Sunday evening, August 30, we served 530 root beer floats at our drive-thru! There were walkers, cars, bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds, a riding lawn mower, a hover board, skateboards and the Spencer Hospital Ambulance who came through the line for a refreshing float with 1919 Root Beer.





Be strong & courageous. Do not be afraid; Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you.

Joshua 1:9

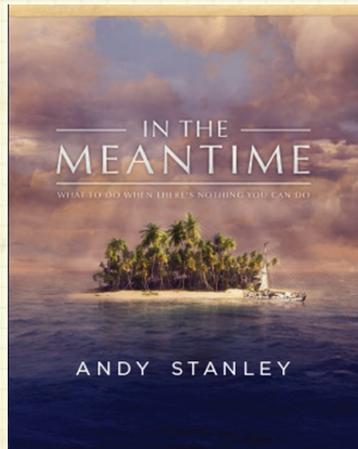
Beth Muilenburg DISCIPLESHIP AND CARE

Spread-Out Small Group

What do you do when there's nothing you can do?

What do you do when there's no way forward and there's no way out?

In this 6-part study, Andy Stanley answers the questions, "What do I do in the meantime?"



When:
Starting Monday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. and lasting for 6 weeks

Where:
In the Harbor, at tables set 6 feet apart

Why:

- See what Jesus will do
- Have an opportunity to encourage others
- Have an opportunity to be encouraged

Contact me with any questions at 262-3016.

Adult Sunday School

There is no Adult Sunday School scheduled for the fall at this time.

CELEBRATING WITH:

- Andrew Wimmer and Mackenzie Smith who were united in marriage on August 8.
- Jonathan & Lindsey De Graaf on the baptism of their daughter, Annie, on August 9.
- Chad & Kristy Seaman on the baptism of their son, Carson, on August 9.
- Andy & Briana Wetrich on the baptism of their son, Greyson, on August 9
- Azra Edwards, son of Brian & Robin Edwards, on his baptism on August 30.

CONCERNS FOR:

- Tom Wakefield broke his hip and is recovering at Longhouse for continued skilled care.
- Hannah Thurman suffered a severe injury to her left thigh in an accident with a circular saw on August 21.
- Javen Hamrick broke his arm on August 21 and had surgery on August 28.

CONDOLENCES TO:

- Betty Oltman on the passing of her husband, Dave, from time to eternity on August 25.
- Joyce and Pastor Perry DeGroot, as well as Sara and Curt Sparks and family, on the passing of Joyce's mom (Sara's grandma), Bertha Eason of Alton/Orange City, from time to eternity on August 26.

CONSISTORY NEWS

The regular meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory met at 7:00 p.m. in the Harbor. Present: Deacons Bob Graham, John Haak, Kyle Mechler, Craig Van Drunen. Elders Gary Zeutenhorst, Dean Mechler, Brad Olsen, Darrell Todd, Kurt Weeks, and Cedric Winterboer. Pastors Russell Muilenburg. Absent: Deacons Derek Bailey and Levi Morris, and Pastor Jay Van Gelder.

Pastor Russell led the devotional time by reading from Romans 13:14 and closed with prayer.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- **MMSC** to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes.
- **MMSC** to approve the July financials as presented by the Deacons.
- Pastor Russell led a discussion on the Greater Consistory meeting with Tim Breen regarding the Vision 2020 recommendations on 8/4/2020 in the Harbor.
- **MMSC** have Pastor Russell send out a letter to the Consistory and Greater Consistory to get volunteers to form a committee of 6-8 people to begin to look at our options/recommendations related to the Vision 2020 recommendations.
- Pastor Russell presented the plan for fall programming which included handouts for Youth Group and Children and Family ministries.
- Pastor Russell recommended the following: Beginning Sunday, September 20, we would start both services in the building and no longer provide the parking lot service. The first service would be scheduled at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, and the second service in-person and live streamed at 10:45 a.m. Expectations would be masks required in the services and in the lobby.
- **MMSC** to approve the two indoor church services starting September 20 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., discontinuing the parking lot service, but still transmitting on the FM station and live-streamed.
- **MMSC** to require masks for the indoor services and lobby areas for the church services.
- Dean Mechler discussed some more details related to Pastor Russell taking a sabbatical. He suggested that customarily there is a small committee of people (4) and that group would work with the Pastor to craft a plan for what he would like to accomplish in the sabbatical time. The Deacons stated that they have been talking about the financial aspects. Time frames on when the sabbatical would occur have not been decided. The sabbatical would be for a period of two months.
- **MMSC** to approve a financial budget for the Pastors sabbatical of \$15,000.
- Pastor Russell closed this portion of the meeting with prayer.

ELDERS MEETING

- The constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.
- **MMSC** to accept the requests for membership from John Amendt, Jon and Lindsey De Graaf, Craig and Katie Cannon, and Kevin and Angie Vander Stoep.
- **MMSC** to approve the baptism requests for Grayson Wetrich, Annie De Graaf, and Carson Seaman.
- Discussed congregational concerns.
- Closed the meeting with prayer.

DEACONS MEETING

- Craig opened the meeting in prayer.
- **MMSC** to approve \$15,000 for Pastor Russell's sabbatical.
- **MMSC** to have Williams and Company complete an audit.
- Bob closed the meeting in prayer.

On Sunday, August 16, we had a fun evening at our cook-out and concert. The youth helped safely serve a meal of burgers, chips, popcorn and sno-cones to over 215 people in their cars or in lawn chairs. Our talented Hope Church musicians performed a concert for us playing and singing some favorite songs.



HOPE CHURCH

BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

919 Grand Avenue
Spencer, IA 51301
(712)262-3016
www.spencerhope.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays through Sept. 13

9:00 a.m.

Hope Church Parking Lot

10:45 a.m.

Sanctuary & Live-streamed



Sundays Beginning Sept. 20

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

Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.

Live-streamed

SERMONS



No Turning Back

*The Letter to the
Philippians*

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 6 | <i>Knowing Christ</i>
Philippians 3:1-11 |
| Sept. 13 | <i>Straining Towards What is Ahead</i>
Philippians 3:12-4:1 |
| Sept. 20 | <i>Put into Practice</i>
Philippians 4:2-9 |
| Sept. 27 | <i>Well Supplied</i>
Philippians 4:10-23 |

Hope Church Staff:

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