



in touch with Hope

Monthly newsletter of
Hope Church, Spencer, IA

October, 2021

By Pastor Perry DeGroot
(having served Hope Church from 1989-2006)

When you think about the changing of seasons, specifically fall, what comes to mind for you?.....I personally think: about football, leaves that are falling from the trees, then drifting in the wind; it is about families getting back in their routines of school, church, etc. Then there are fireplaces, which I thought about using on several occasions in the last week or two.

Mentioning fire places, I am reminded of a story about a preacher in a rural community, who heard that a man in his parish had announced that he would no longer attend worship services because he had decided he could commune with God just as easily in his fields and garden and among his trees.

One autumn evening, the preacher called on this reluctant Christian; the two men sat for a while before the blazing fireplace saying little or nothing, and not a word about the church. The man waited uneasily for the preacher to bring up the subject. The preacher was aware that he was expected to rebuke the man.

Finally, the preacher picked up the tongs, lifted a single glowing coal from the fire and set it down on the hearth, and silently waited until the coal quickly ceased burning while the other coals in the fire continued to burn brightly. "You see what happens," said the preacher. "You need say no more," replied the man. "Man cannot live alone. I'll be at the church service next Sunday."

"No Man is an Island." This insightful statement by John Donne is another excellent aspect of our discussion about being in worship with other believers. We cannot do without one another in the life, ministry and body of Jesus Christ at Hope Church. We cannot know the blessedness of being Christians without relationships and experiences with other followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, we read, "²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Some people say that they do not need to go to church to be a Christian. It is true that a person does not become a Christian by going to church. A person becomes a Christian by confessing one's sinfulness, accepting/receiving Jesus Christ as one's Savior and obediently trusting in Him as Lord. But a person does need to participate in a church, which is a community of believers, for the very reasons stated in the above scripture. Now the experience of community can occur through worship in a large group setting, but deeper fellowship is experienced in small group settings like Youth groups, Bible study and prayer groups for men and women. Being with one another as Christians is very, very important. It is vital for oneself and others.

We cannot be fully, alive Christians; if we are not taking the time to maintain our faith and spend time in friendship with others who have faith in God, worshipping, serving and enjoying each other's friendship in Christ. We need each other. Get involved in a small group and we hope to see you on Sunday!



Pastor Jay Van Gelder
Youth News

Youth Group

Youth Group has kicked off for the school year and we are doing a study, *Rad*, for 6th, 7th, 8th Grade and Sr. High.



SERIES OVERVIEW:

When Jesus was on earth, he had a lot to say about love, but not everyone loved him. Instead, Jesus' opponents hated him, attacked him, and saw him as extreme — dangerous — revolutionary — a radical. And they had a point! The things Jesus taught about loving God and loving others challenged the status quo and changed the world forever. That's pretty radical. In this 4-week series from

the book of James, we'll look at four ways Jesus invites us to love according to his revolutionary example. These ideas might seem simple, but when we choose to listen more than we speak, refuse to play favorites, watch our words, and fight for peace, we'll see just how radical Jesus' teachings really are

Youth Auction

YOUTH FUNDRAISING AUCTION

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
7TH
HARBOR ROOM

the fun begins at 5:00 P.M.

CATERED MEAL
SILENT AUCTION
LIVE AUCTION
TONS OF FUN

100% BENEFITS
THE YOUTH PROGRAM



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

Julia Andela
Children & Family News



Sunday School



Sunday School is well underway and we could not be more excited! We are starting at the very beginning -- when God created the world! This is a familiar story to most, so it can easily be overlooked. But when we stop and really think about this *true* story, we can't help but be in awe of our Great God. Fall is an incredibly beautiful season where God's creation -- full of beauty, wonder and power -- is on display! Take time to notice His creation and worship the beautiful, wonderful, and powerful Creator who made it all! "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1

If you've been on the fence about serving in Hope Kids, it's not too late! We are still in need of volunteers in these areas:

- Kids Prayer Team (weekly prayer emails)
- Elementary 5th Grade Small Group Teacher (1 hour weekly)
- Preschool Helper Teachers (1 hour weekly)
- Children's Church Adult and Youth Volunteers (both services, once every 6 weeks)

MOPS

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) begins for the year on Thursday, October 7 at 8:45 a.m. in the Harbor. During the school year MOPS meets on the 1st Thursday morning at 8:45 a.m. and the 3rd Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. MOPS meetings will be in the Harbor, and all women with children ages birth to 5 are welcome! Childcare is provided.



MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (BIRTH - 5 YEARS OLD)
MORE INFO & REGISTER AT
FACEBOOK.COM/@MOPSOFSPENCER

SPENCER MOPS 2021 - 2022 SCHEDULE
CHILDCARE PROVIDED

THURSDAY MORNINGS		TUESDAY EVENINGS	
OCT. 7	8:45 A.M.	OCT. 19	6:30 P.M.
NOV. 4	8:45 A.M.	NOV. 16	6:30 P.M.
DEC. 2	8:45 A.M.	DEC. 21	6:30 P.M.
JAN. 6	8:45 A.M.	JAN. 18	6:30 P.M.
FEB. 3	8:45 A.M.	FEB. 15	6:30 P.M.
MAR. 3	8:45 A.M.	MAR. 15	6:30 P.M.
APR. 7	8:45 A.M.	APR. 19	6:30 P.M.
MAY 5	8:45 A.M.	MAY 17	6:30 P.M.

TRUNK OR TREAT

**SATURDAY, OCT. 30
5 - 7 PM**

**HOPE CHURCH
PARKING LOT**

LOTS OF CANDY!
TASTY FOOD!
TONS OF FUN!

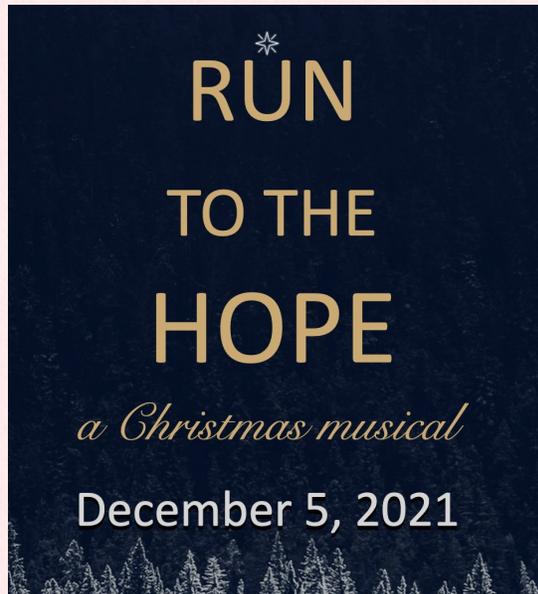
AND AS ALWAYS, IT'S FREE!

CANDY DONATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED IN THE LOBBY.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is Saturday, October 30 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in our parking lot. Sign up at the Information Desk if you would like to decorate a car or volunteer/serve at this awesome outreach event. We need a lot of candy to hand out (over 35,000 pieces!) and your generosity is much appreciated! Please place bags of candy in the large container in the lobby. Let me know if you have any questions!

Christmas Musical



Hope Church is presenting a Christmas Musical, *Run to the Hope*, on Sunday, December 5. *Run to the Hope* reminds us that the story of Jesus' birth is all about "the thrill of hope" to a dark and weary world. Anyone 9th grade and older is welcome to participate! The listen-through will be October 10 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with the first rehearsal beginning October 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Contact me if you are interested in participating at ccannon@spencerhope.org or the office at 262-3016.

Celebrating with:

- Dan & Abby Johnson on the birth of their son, Sullivan Alois, born on September 10.
- Dan & Kaitlynn Sherbon on the birth of their son, Pierce Daniel, born on September 14.

Concerns for:

- Arvin Druvenga was in the Spencer Hospital for health concerns.
- Marilyn Winterboer was hospitalized in Sioux Falls with pneumonia.

Condolences to:

- Becky Johnson on the passing of her husband, David Johnson, from time to eternity on September 6.
- Shelby & John Haak and family on the passing of Shelby's father, Bryan Harken, from time to eternity on September 24.

Consistory News

The regular meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory met on September 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Well. Present: Deacons Bob Graham, Derek Bailey, Levi Morris, Kyle Mechler, Eric Van Der Heide. Elders: Darrell Todd, Cedric Winterboer, Dean Mechler, Kurt Weeks, Arvin Druvenga. Pastors Jay Van Gelder and Perry DeGroot. Absent: Deacon Luke Lovin

Dean opened devotions with a reading and closed with prayer. Discussion and comments on the book, *Canoeing the Mountains*.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- **MMSC** to approve the August 19, 2021 minutes.
- **MMSC** to approve the August financials as presented by the Deacons.
- Watched a video, "Closing a Pastoral Relationship" and had discussion.
- Discussion on the Congregational Meeting on September 1.
- Discussion on the next steps for healing and moving forward.
- Discussed Pastoral Separation Documents to be filed.
- Went over the office arrangements.
- Discussion on coordinating small groups.
- Reviewed the future pulpit supply and Sunday morning duties.

ELDERS MEETING

- Darrell opened the meeting in prayer.
- Constitutional question was asked and answered in the negative.
- Discussed the vacant Elder position. It was decided to fill the final 2 years of the open Elder seat by accepting nominations at the same time nominations are submitted for the new incoming Consistory members.
- Discussed the timeline for the pastoral search.
- Approved the baptism of Verose Inez Lenz, daughter of Andrea Lenz.
- Congregational concerns were discussed.
- Arvin closed the meeting with prayer.

DEACONS MEETING

- Opened the meeting with prayer.
- Went over Josh Hamrick's snowplow proposal.
- Talked about other Deacon volunteer opportunities.
- Luke Lovin was approved as an authorized signer on our Northwest Bank account.
- Closed the meeting with prayer.

Make a note!

- Hope Church is seeking a full-time Office Administrator who is organized, welcoming, and shares a love for Jesus. Primary responsibilities include but are not limited to Communications (greeting people by phone and in person, preparing bulletin & newsletter, sending prayer chain emails) Record Keeping (maintaining church records, assist with financial records and accounts payable), and Administration (maintaining office supplies, oversee church calendar, and support other staff as needed). Experience with Microsoft Office and/or QuickBooks preferred, but not required. Those interested are encouraged to submit a resume to the church at hrc@spencerhope.org.
- Hope Church is doing a Baby Bottle Campaign fundraiser during the month of October benefitting the Cherish Center in Milford. The Cherish Center offers a maternity home for young moms facing unplanned pregnancies, counseling and parenting resources. Pick up an empty baby bottle in the lobby and fill with your loose change, cash or check (payable to Cherish Center). Please return your filled baby bottles to the church office by October 31.
- The next baptism celebrations are scheduled for Sunday, November 7 and Sunday, November 21. If you would like baptism administered to yourself or a child on either of these dates, please contact the church office so arrangements can be made.

HOPE CHURCH

BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

919 Grand Avenue
Spencer, IA 51301

(712) 262-3016
www.spencerhope.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

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

Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.  **YouTube**

Live-streamed online

www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer



*Autumn is God's way
of showing us how
beautiful change can be.*