



# IN TOUCH WITH HOPE

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH, SPENCER, IA

DECEMBER, 2021

**BY PASTOR PERRY DEGROOT** (HAVING SERVED HOPE CHURCH FROM 1989-2006)

### *ADVENT*

The Advent Christmas season is here; cards and letters of greetings are or will be sent and received. It is certainly a pleasure and joy to receive cards and greetings especially those with pictures for me and my family.

Over the years in ministry my family and I have become acquainted with a number of people; and each card's greeting means something special. There is one card that we received a number years ago that has been unforgettable for me. In fact, I saved it. The greeting was a Christmas message with several brief Christmas stories. The following one, entitled "One Solitary Life" has become a favorite of mine. I think of its realities often.

*How do you explain the greatness of the Man whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas ?*

*He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then for three years was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book, He never held office. He never owned a house. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.*

*Although He walked the land over, curing the sick, giving sight to the blind, healing the lame, and raising people from the dead. The established religious leaders turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was spat upon, flogged, and ridiculed. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, the executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, and that was His mantle. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.*

*More than twenty centuries have come and gone; today He is the central Figure of the human race and the Leader of the column of progress.*

*All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of humans upon this earth as has that "One Solitary Life".*

—Source Unknown

May the greatness of Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour's Life, Love and Resurrection affect our celebration of His Birthday this Christmas season in every way!

May you all be blessed with a special Advent and Christmas Season!



## PASTOR JAY VAN GELDER YOUTH NEWS

### YOUTH AUCTION NIGHT

Thank you all so much for the amazing support to our Youth Ministry Program at our annual youth auction. What another amazing Youth Auction we had again this year!! As always, the Youth Auction is such a wonderful time where you as a congregation get to know some of the youth (that are attending our youth programs). The students love to get to serve you for a night. Also, it is just so much fun laughing and having fellowship time with one another. It is a fun evening as we raise money to help support the youth to go on their summer work project trips. We were able to raise around \$21,000 which is just amazing. I am always in awe of how God provides for the ministries here at Hope Church. Like I said on the night of the Auction, it is so nice to not have to worry about doing multiple fundraisers so youth can have the ministry program that we have. Please Pray God will continue to help us as we plan the summer trips for 2022. Thanks again for your continued support of our youth ministry program here at Hope Church!

### TRAVELING LOCK-IN

On November 20 we took off for another year to the Mall of America in Minneapolis. This year the weather was great and we did not have to worry about rescheduling due to snow or ice. Why do we do the Traveling Lock-In every year? The Traveling Lock-In is all about youth at Hope Church inviting friends to come along on a fun-filled night building relationships. The goal is to ask other students in the community that do not have a church home or a youth group to come along with us for an awesome night. This year, Hope Youth invited 40 other youth that joined us for the night that have never been to an event or youth group night at Hope Church before. We also had around 40 youth that we have not seen in awhile come along who enjoyed the night as well. Great job to our young people for inviting youth who do not have a church community. Other churches who joined us were Trinity in Orange City, New Life in Sioux Center, First Reformed Sanborn in Sanborn, Good News in Estherville, and First Presbyterian in Spirit Lake. This year we had a few less youth because of the bus shortage and could only reserve three buses, so we took 168 from Hope and a total of 440 total youth and adult staff combined. Thanks to the great Hope Youth Staff team from Hope that stayed up all night: Debra Wittrock, Trent Hansen, Jody Vulk, Jason Vulk, Sally Peterson, Ryan Stienkamp, Bob Graham, and Austin Bryan. If you see them at church, please thank them. They are great people who love youth and give their time and service so the youth in our community can come to a youth group that truly cares about them.

CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight*  
SERVICE

Friday, December 24  
5:00 PM ~ 7:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM  
NURSERY PROVIDED NURSERY PROVIDED

*Sunday, December 26*  
*9 00 a.m. Worship Service*  
*Led by the Elders*

*Breakfast to follow*  
*Served by the Deacons*

*No Sunday School*



JULIA ANDELA  
CHILDREN & FAMILY NEWS

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Families of Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to join us for a family-friendly Christmas movie!

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!**  
**FRIDAY, DEC. 3**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**BRING COMFY BLANKETS, PILLOWS,  
LAWN CHAIRS, ETC. AND WE WILL  
TAKE CARE OF THE FUN AND FOOD!**



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 19 at both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services, the children ages 3 through 5th Grade will be performing their Christmas program.

## VBS

Mark your calendars for June 6 - 10, 2022 for VBS! Be watching for more information in the coming months!

## CRAIG CANNON MUSIC NEWS

On Sunday, December 5, we will be presenting a Christmas Cantata, *Run to the Hope*, at both worship services. *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.



## CELEBRATING WITH:

- Levi & Katie Morris on the birth of their son, Briggs Walter, on November 1.
- Griffin Murray, infant son of Ryan & Angela Murray, on his Baptism on November 14.

## CONCERNS FOR:

- Bob Faulkner was hospitalized mid-November for bronchitis/pneumonia.
- Rose Fear had hip replacement surgery on November 10.
- Terry Stevens was involved in a car accident on November 12 and fractured his collarbone.
- Katrina Howard had gastric sleeve surgery on November 16.
- Brooke Moser had foot surgery on November 19 to repair torn ligaments.

## CONDOLENCES TO:

- Katie & Craig on the passing of Katie's father, David Helsel from Pennsylvania, from time to eternity on November 19.

## YEAR-END TITHING

Year-end financial donations to the church will be received through noon on Friday, December 31.

**HOPE**  
**CHURCH**  
BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

COMING IN JANUARY, 2022

contact the church office at 262-3016 if you are interested in attending.



# HOPE CHURCH

BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.

919 Grand Avenue  
Spencer, IA 51301

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sundays

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

Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.

Live-streamed online

[www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer](http://www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer)

### Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

### Sunday, December 26

9:00 a.m. (1 worship service)

