

Growing. Together.

By Arvin Druvenga, Elder

Spring is a time for new growth to take place. Beginning May 22, 2022, Hope Church will begin a new series for Sunday morning services titled "Growing. Together." This series will cover how we can grow both individually and as a congregation through the primary values Hope Church pursues.

The Apostle Paul prays for the church to please the Lord by bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10). Growth, in both serving those around us and in understanding God, is necessary in order to Bring Joy to Jesus and Experience Joy in Him.

Ezekiel 47: 12 provides the imagery of fruit trees which bear fruit every month "because the water from the sanctuary **flows** to them." The word "flows" offers one

way to remember the six categories of Hope Church values (with the letter "L" used twice):
Fellowship, **L**earning, **L**iving, **O**utreach, **W**orship, **S**ervice.

A descriptive word is added to each category to provide these six Hope Church values:

Meaningful Fellowship
Purposeful Learning
Holy Living
Loving Outreach
Passionate Worship
Whole-hearted Service

A key scripture passage for this series will be Jeremiah 17:7-8. "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Followers of Christ are encouraged to exhibit continual growth. Through God's blessings and faithfulness, we can be a body of Christ that sees consistent growth in the areas we value at Hope Church. This growth can best occur when we work together and support each other, especially during difficult times.

Spiritual growth depends on two things: first a willingness to live according to the Word of God; second, a willingness to take whatever consequences emerge as a result.





Pastor Jay Van Gelder Youth News

This summer our Senior High has the opportunity to go to Maryville Tennessee for HIS work camp. The speaker Ben Patterson will be talking about Kingdom Come. A common phrase for most church goers, but do we truly understand what it means to ask for God's kingdom to come? Jesus prayed for God's kingdom to come and will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10) and then spent the majority of his time on earth telling and showing us what that kingdom looks like. We're joining Jesus in that prayer, that the kingdom of God would come as it is in heaven.

Our Junior High will be heading to St. Paul Minnesota for Power Connection! Where speaker Heather Flies will be talking about sustained and to be truly connected to God, and to know ourselves in light of who God says we are will greatly impact the relationships around us. We are created for relationships. Knowing that we are always supported by God allows us to love others the same way.

The mission of the summer is to provide an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to transform the beliefs of students and adult leaders into a lifestyle of faith in Jesus Christ.



On April 24th we had our annual youth pancake breakfast but for dinner this year. There were 32 total volunteers with 26 of them being youth. For most of the senior high this was their first ever pancake experience. We made quite the mess in the kitchen, so to the parents don't have your kids make pancakes without covering all of your cabinets. A special thank you to all 205 that attended. We hope you had as much fun as we did!!!



HOPE



Julia Andela
Children & Families

MONUMENTAL

(adj.) great in importance, vast, huge

Our VBS theme has me so excited! We're celebrating how great, important, vast, and huge our God is. I can't wait for Spencer-area kids to fill our building for a whole week and get to hear over and over through Bible Stories, music, crafts, games and food how awesome our God is and how even though He is so big, He knows and loves each and every one of them *Monumentally!* Will you join me in praying for our VBS starting now? Pray that God will be glorified, and that seeds will be planted and lead to a personal decision to follow Christ, our *Monumental Savior!*

Another way the word *Monumental* has stood out to me is in the way our church family makes *Monumental* sacrifices to support this community outreach event. I'm blown away at the amount of time and resources that our volunteers give year after year. It's clear our volunteers understand the *Monumental* difference their God-given talents and resources make for God's Kingdom. Join me in thanking God bigtime for our church family!

Julia Andela

Director of Children and Family Ministry
(712) 363-5627
cjandela712@gmail.com

NOT INVOLVED YET? IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

We are looking for 20+ more 8th Graders through Adults during the week of, and we have countless building and design projects that we'd love your help with in the next several weeks -- whether hands on or donations towards! Please call/text/email Julia!



June 6-10 from 8:30-11:45am



Consistory News

Deacon's Financial Update – First Quarter 2022

With the books closed on Q1 we feel it's helpful to share our current financial standing with all those that support the ministries of Hope Church, and this is something we hope to continue to do on a regular basis. As of March 31st, we have received \$135,000 in contributions for the year. This amount does fall below our budgeted amount by \$53,000 but with the help of some cost controls we were able to keep our first quarter operating deficit to \$18,000. We are still in a good position with our operating reserve to cover this deficit and are hopeful that we can make up some of that ground in the second quarter. Still, it highlights that we are dependent on your faithful support for all of the ministries we offer.

We thank you and continue to ask that you prayerfully consider supporting Hope Church. As a reminder, there are several ways to give. Giving envelopes are available in the church office as are authorization forms for automatic withdrawal. Please talk to a deacon if interested in giving securities or even including Hope Church as part of a legacy gift.

Deacon Meeting:

- Eric opened with prayer
- Approved Josh's request
- Talked about possible alternatives to savings
- Luke covered local needs
- Approved opening a new brokerage account
- Considered Julia's request, will table until later
- Terry closed with prayer

CONSISTORY MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Hope Reformed Consistory met at 7:00 p.m. in the Well.

Present

Pastors: Jay Van Gelder, Brandon Morrow

Deacons: Eric Vander Heide, Ryan Christoffel, Terry Stevens, Luke Lovin, Derek Bailey, Levi Morris

Elders: Arv Druvenga, Darrell Todd, Cedric Winterboer, Bruce Groen

Cedric Winterboer opened with Scripture and Prayer

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

MMSC February minutes

MMSC February financials

February attendance- discussion

Executive Team report-Arv Druvenga

Staff Management report-Eric Vander Heide

Ministry liaison reports-Jay Van Gelder

Pastoral search team report- Mike Bryan

RCA affiliation-Arv Druvenga/Jay Van Gelder

Other Business:

Wed. 3/16/22 6:30pm Prayer gathering for search team
Maundy Thursday 4/14/22 7pm Last Supper drama and Communion

Breakfast for supper 4/24/22 HS youth serving

Sunday May 8th Baptism

New Members class May 15th at 1-2:30pm, May 22nd between services

Big Leadership Team gathering 4/21/22 6-8pm

April Consistory meeting 4/7/22 at 7:00pm

Jay Van Gelder closed with prayer

Elders meeting:

-Arv opened with prayer

-Constitutional question answered in the negative

-Communion 4/3/22 and Maundy Thursday 4/14 at 6-8pm

-Pastoral Care discussion

Closing prayer by Cedric Winterboer

PRAYER

Do you believe in the power of prayer?

Do you have a spouse, family member, of Hope friend that would be encouraged knowing that others are praying for them? **Request a prayer quilt.**

Our Prayers and Squares ministry team make lap quilts for our Hope church family. They are quilted with heavy thread ties. These threads are tied by our church family as they say a prayer for the person. **ANYONE may request a quilt.** Call Gloria Schmillen at 712-260-8531 or call the church office.

PRAYER - Something everybody can do. Young or old. Mom or dad. Sister or brother. Green tractor drivers or red tractor drivers or no tractor drivers. We all can be prayer warriors. Inviting everybody to come pray in the Grace Room prior to Sunday's services at 8:00 and 10:15

If you would like to be added to Hope Church's Prayer Chain or have a prayer request; please either call the church at 712-262-3016 or email hrc@spencerhope.org

Do you have the heart to serve to those in need through cooking?

Take Them a Meal is a ministry we have here at Hope Church having to do with bringing a meal to a family or individual in need at our church; that has either been in the hospital, sick or at home recovering from surgery and also families that have recently had a new baby. We have some of the best cooks and bakers in our church and I know there is a lot more of you. If you feel the calling to join a ministry and you love cooking or just blessing a family with a meal that is either home cooked or even our families have enjoyed having pizza delivered to them as well. Please contact me, Kristal Jensen either at 712-260-6724 (text or call me) or my email is lennyslady1995@gmail.com

It's good to be blessed. But it's better to be a blessing.



Pastor Search News

Pastor Search Committee

The pastor search committee (Sean Sherrod, AJ Zinn, Kim Rhode, Jason Warren, Mike Bryan, Gary Zuetenhorst, Marcy Nelson, Mary VanDrunen, Shelly Helmink, Sandy Van Wettering, Eric Meeter, Aliza Edwards, and Deb Wittrock) continue to ask for your prayers, patience, and support. The church has hired the Slingshot Group (Slingshotgroup.org) who specialize in church staffing to facilitate the Lead Pastor search. If you know of someone who would want to apply, please refer them to their website. All candidates will be vetted by them as they are trained professionals, and it also keeps things consistent for all candidates.

Keith Twigg, our contact at Slingshot presented profiles of 3 candidates which were qualified and interested in our lead pastor position to the search team on March 24th. The search team reviewed all three profiles and watched them preach. One candidate withdrew due to a philosophical difference with one of the RCA doctrines. The team did zoom interviews on Monday April 11th and Tuesday April 12th with the two candidates. After much prayer and discussion, the team decided to pass on moving forward with either of these candidates. Preaching/teaching is the number one quality we are looking for in a lead pastor.

There are 7 active candidates in the pipeline. Keith will be reaching out to each of them this week. They are continuing to seek out additional applicants. His goal is to have us a couple more candidates to present to the team within two weeks. God will provide!



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

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

10:45 a.m.

Live-streamed online  **YouTube**

www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

Staff Updates:

We express our thanks to Craig Cannon for serving Hope Church as Music Director. We wish Craig and Katie the very best as they move into a new session of life, church and ministry.

On an interim basis, Austin Bryan will become a Music Ministry Intern, working with the Worship Team to provide coordination of Hope Church music ministries.

Jay Van Gelder will serve as Interim Staff Supervisor in addition to his position at Youth Ministries Director.

HOPE CHURCH STAFF:

*Jay Van Gelder
Pastor of Student
Ministries*

*Austin Bryan
Intern Worship/Music*

*Josh Hamrick
Facilities*

*Austin Bryan
Youth Ministries
Assistant/
Communications*

*Julia Andela
Children/Families*

*Trish Halder
Office Manager*

