In Touch with Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH, SPENCER, IOWA

OCTOBER 2022

Join Us for

Trunk or Treat

Oct 30 ♦ 5-7 pm

We are in need of a lot of candy to hand out (over 35,000 pieces)! If you are able to donate candy, please place bags of candy in the wagon in the lobby.

How else can you get involved? You can decorate a car, work at one of the many stations set up that night, and bring your kids. Sign up at the Information Desk. Any questions, contact Children's Director, Julia.

Pastor Jay Van Gelder

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

6TH, 7TH, 8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP
SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

6th, 7th, 8th Grade Youth Group kicked off September 21 with 52 students and Senior High Youth Group kicked off September 25 with 36 students. The 4 week series we're starting the year off with is Catalyst: Sometimes the idea of "faith" can feel a little mysterious and hard-to-grasp. Afterall, what is it? And how do you get it - or get more of it? In this four-week series from Hebrews, we'll discover that faith is a catalyst for action, the faith of others can be a catalyst on our journey, Jesus is the catalyst for a new relationship with God, and we can be a catalyst for change. Join us each week to grow in your faith journey and learn how God can impact your life.

SENIOR HIGH: Sundays at 7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL :
Wednesdays 5:30 pm - 6th Grade 6:30 pm - 7th Grade 7:30 pm - 8th Grade

Going once! Going twice! SOLD!!

You will not want to miss the fun at our annual fundraiser to benefit our youth summer trips.

Donations of auction items are needed: gift baskets, gift certificates, services, baked goods, etc. Be creative! Sign up at the kiosk in the lobby if you would like to donate an item.

A catered meal of grilled ribeye and chicken will be served during the auction for a free-will donation, and childcare will be provided.

CATERED MEAL | LIVE AUCTION | SILENT AUCTION | LOTS OF FUN

Julia Andela

CHILDREN & FAMILY DIRECTOR

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 hear God's big story!

3 Years - PreK: Upstairs - across from nursery
K-5th Grade: Harbor Basement
6th-8th Grade: Harbor
9th-12th Grade: Youth Room (Downstairs)
Adults: Well (Room North of Sanctuary)
Nursery available for children 0-2 whose adult is teaching Sunday School

Pastor Perry DeGroot

PASTOR EMERITUS

What does that all mean? Since people have been asking me or I saw perplexing looks on peoples' faces on the Sunday it was announced; I will try to explain. First of all, the following paragraph is a description. Secondly, this is some background of how this developed.

"Emeritus" is an honorary title bestowed upon one who has retired from the position of pastor, professor, or other professional position, as a way of honoring the individual's service. Emeritus comes from the Latin word "emereri," which means to earn one's discharge by service. Bestowing the title "Pastor Emeritus" upon a retiring pastor is a way for the church leadership to honor his/her service to the church.

During the last several months the Executive Team of Consistory and I have been discussing how I could be of more assistance for Hope Church during this transition without a Lead Pastor. We conversed about multiple areas of the congregation's ministry. In conclusion, it was decided that I would be designated as "Pastor Emeritus" serving primarily in congregational care providing leadership, direction and focus.

Finally, in agreement with the Executive Team, Pastor Emeritus Perry DeGroot agrees to provide the availability of office hours for relational care for approximately 3-6 hours per week. He will be available at the Congregational Care office at Hope Church on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 to Noon.

Pastor Emeritus Perry will be responsible to the Hope Church Board of Elders. He will provide the Pastoral Care Elder and the Congregational Care team with a monthly listing of Congregational appointments, visits, telephone calls, etc. that have been conducted.

Also, it was agreed that my services will be provided on an uncompensated basis. No employer – employee relationship is established. There is no expectation of attendance at weekly staff or Elders' meetings unless requested to report on specific congregational care matters.

This agreement authorizes no services for Hope Church other than noted above. However, this arrangement does not affect any separate services provided by Pastor Emeritus Perry DeGroot for Hope Church related to pulpit supply, weddings, baptisms, funerals, or Classis representation, all of which are compensated through respective agreements. Also, this arrangement does not limit any other volunteer services He may provide for Hope Church.

So let me share in conclusion that you can get a hold of me through the Hope Church office telephone number, 712-262-3016. Looking forward to serving in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Pastor Emeritus Perry DeGroot

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

Psalm 145:3

Concerns for

- Becky Robinson's sister, Diana, was hospitalized for fluids and antibiotics due to cancer treatments.
- Bob Faulkender had tests done in Sioux Falls.
- Dave Brink remains in the hospital in Omaha. He had heart surgery this week and will hopefully return home October 6. Pray for a quick recovery, no complications, and strength and peace for both Dave and Amona.
- Mike Schmillen remains in Chicago. He had two surgical procedures to help relieve the pain he's been having in his face and eye. Pray the procedure will stop the pain, and for peace strength and hope for Mike and Gloria.

Condolences to

- Mike Baartman on the passing of his father, Allen Baartman, from time to eternity on September 17.
- Pam Meier on the passing of her father, Lowell Meier from time to eternity on September 27.

Elder & Deacon Nominations

Nomination forms will be ready the end of October. All confessing members of Hope Church will be able to pick up their Elder & Deacon nomination papers and information for the upcoming year in the Lobby. Look for an announcement in the bulletin.

Small Group Opportunities

Morning Men's Bible Study Group
Meets Monday Mornings at 8 am in the Well and then walk to Hy-Vee for coffee. Overview of the Bible using Bible Project material. Contact person is Perry DeGroot 515-320-6361 or Steve Steele.

Evening Men's Bible Study Group
Meets Monday Evenings at 8 pm in the Lobby. Video series on Right Now Media. Contact person is Todd Brockshus 712-260-8951.

Ladies Bible Study Group
Meets Wednesday Mornings at 9 am in the Well. Coffee followed by study at 9:30. Contact person is Renee Egesdal 712-262-0301.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday School and Children's Church. We still need a few more volunteers in these areas. If you love children and love to share God's story, this is the place for you! Contact Julia if interested.

Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Praise and Worship. Do you sing or play an instrument? If so, we'd love to have you join our praise team. Contact Austin if interested.

Save the Dates

Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7pm in the Harbor – Informational meeting related to the Alliance of Reformed Churches (Alliance). The Consistory of Hope Church has voted unanimously to separate from the Reformed Church in America and begin the process to affiliate with the Alliance. Tim Vink, Director of Spiritual Advancement and Outreach with the Alliance, will be present to share the convictions and priorities of the Alliance. **This informational meeting is open to all who call Hope Church their home.**

Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 5pm in the Harbor – Congregational meeting where active communicant members of Hope Church will vote regarding affirmation of the unanimous decision of the Hope Church Consistory to separate from the Reformed Church in America and begin the process to affiliate with the Alliance of Reformed Churches. Procedures for absentee voting prior to the meeting will be established for those members who are not able to attend in person.

Consistory News

Hope Reformed Church Consistory met 8/11/22 at 7pm. Present: Deacons Terry Stevens, Eric Van Der Heide, Ryan Christoffel, Levi Morris, and Derek Bailey. Elders Darrell Todd, Arvin Druvenga, Cedric Winterboer and Jeff Helmink. by Zoom Pastor Jay Van Gelder.
Arv opened with prayer and a devotional from Acts 16: 1-16

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION
- **MMSC** to approve the July minutes.
- **MMSC** to approve July financials as presented by the Deacons.
- Discussion on getting families back to Church
- Pastor Search Team update Arv and Cedric
- Discuss Fall Classis meeting
- Executive Team report Arv
- **MMSC** for the Elders to establish an unpaid position of Pastor Emeritus
- Discuss RCA affiliation
- Staff Management - Office Manager
- Ministries Liaison reports
- Jay closed with prayer

Elders Meeting
- Darrell opened with prayer
- Baptism request for Colt Walker Son of Trent and Jessika Walker on Aug. 28th
- Discuss Pastoral Care
- Approve Profession of Faith for Jessika Walker, Braydon Schuster, Bailey Schuster, Jolie Robbins, Brayden Warren, Cameron Van Der Heide, Gretchen Haak, Kiera Brown, Cayla Cummings, and Hunter Bryd.
- Arv closed in prayer

Pastor Search Committee Update

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, and Deb Wittrock) continues to ask for your prayers, patience, and support. The church hired the Slingshot Group (Slingshotgroup.org) who specialize in church staffing to facilitate the Lead Pastor search.

Slingshot continues to work hard to help find a Lead Pastor for Hope Church. They have officially engaged with 125 candidates. There are 2 active candidates in the pipeline. Keith working with them to get their profile completed and he feels they are viable candidates. Slingshot continues to get and seek out additional applicants.

While the volume of viable candidates is not what any of would have wanted to date, we need to continue to keep the faith. We know being patience is difficult, but we need to trust God's plan for Hope Church.

HOPE CHURCH
BRING JOY. EXPERIENCE JOY.
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Spencer, IA 51301
(712)262-3016
hrc@spencerhope.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays
8:30 am and 10:45 am
Sanctuary

10:45 am Service Live-streamed online
www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45 am - 10:40 am
Preschool through Adult

SERMONS

Hope Is Here Sermon Series
Youth Pastor Jay Van Gelder

Oct 2	Hope for the Broken
Oct 9	Hope for the Underdog
Oct 16	Hope for the Doubter

HOPE CHURCH STAFF

Jay Van Gelder, Pastor of Student Ministries | **Austin Bryan**, Intern Worship/Music
Josh Hamrick, Facilities | **Austin Bryan**, Youth Ministries Assistant
Julia Andela, Children & Families Director | **Perry DeGroot**, Congregational Care
Jill Lowe, Office Administrator