

# In Touch with Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

## Pastor Perry De Groot

Pastor Emeritus/Congregational Care

**TAKE SOME TIME TO.....THINK! TAKE A MOMENT TO....MEDITATE!**

**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - THE NINTH GRAPE OF THE CLUSTER**

**Self-Control - Last But Certainly Not Least in the Fruit of the Holy Spirit**

The ninth grape in the fruit cluster group of God's Spirit is the last, but it is certainly not least. This is especially true, when we realize that it has everything to do with the use of our tongue, the use of our hands, the use of our minds, our entire bodies, and even the use of our money.

We may be surprised to find that this aspect or trait of Christ's Character within us is so all inclusive. This grape in the fruit cluster of God's Spirit has so much to do with addictions; we are talking about addictions of any kind, even overspending with the use of a credit card. Discussing this aspect of Christ's work in us has a great deal to do with our temper, wild behavior, untamed attitudes, and actions.

The ninth grape in the fruit cluster of God's Spirit in Galatians 5:22 could be defined as self-control, temperance, moderation, self-restraint. W. Phillip Keller says this in his book entitled *A Gardener Looks at the Fruits of the Spirit*, in Chapter 13, "No doubt it is true and fair to say that this is one aspect of Christian conduct and character and conversation which most of us have the greatest difficulty." Of all the traits of Christ's character in the garden of our lives, "this may well be the one which is the most 'spotty,' 'uneven,' and 'irregular.'"

Of all the grapes in the fruit cluster of God's Spirit in our lives this may well be the one which is the most underdeveloped. Why is that the case? What is it in our lives that hinders us from experiencing any or all the grapes (traits or characters) for that matter in the garden of our lives or the soil of our souls?

Read these words slowly, prayerfully, and thoroughly from Galatians 5; "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Those last two sentences are talking about denying oneself, surrender, submission, and obedience. Those are difficult attitudes and actions. But they are very vital in our faith journey with Jesus Christ, if you and I are going to experience the fruit of God's Spirit within us. Letting the Lord govern, rule, and control our mind, emotions, our will, our actions, attitudes, and behavior results in His character shining in and through us. There is no other way. Doing the Lord's will results in self-control in our eating, what we read, getting enough rest, our spending, our tongue, our behavior towards others, etc.

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A gardener noticed that a tree planted at the sunny end of his house had large and beautiful blossoms. It was a feast for the eyes; but what an amazing difference in some of the branches trained around the corner of the house where they got much less sun. The blossoms were starved and dropping, and there was little promise of fruit. They had the same root and stem in common, but whole one part of the tree was in the full glorious light, the other branches were in the shade.

Our character is affected in the same way by insufficient light. The dark places produce unfruitful branches: strange weaknesses, distortions, inconsistencies, immaturities, indirection, failures in practical life and conduct. If all the fruit of God's Spirit is going to be fully developed in our lives, then we need to open our entire lives, heart, soul, mind, and body to the complete exposure of God's light, namely Jesus Christ, who is "The Light."

There is so much more that could be explored with you on the work and power of God's Spirit in our lives. Therefore, in closing this series of meditations on the soil of our souls, the fruit of the Spirit and what is produced in the garden of our lives; let me highly recommend the book entitled A Gardener Looks at the Fruits of the Spirit, by W. Phillip Keller.

The truth of these words from Philippians 2:5-8 are vitally important now and always in our lives. *"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross."*

*May the heart, mind, life, and the character of Christ  
be found in you and me through the indwelling and control of His Holy Spirit.*

## Congratulations to

Chad and Kodie Borchers on the birth of their son, Oliver Ray, on September 25.

Dan and Abby Johnson on the birth of their twin girls, Maxine and Gwendalyn on September 28.

## Concerns for

Dwight Sparks who recently had back surgery.

Barb Selzer who has been recovering from her heart attack.

Kelly Geerdes who has been dealing with health issues due to stress.

Chris Swanson who had an emergency appendectomy on September 28.

Maxine and Gwendalyn Johnson, twin daughters of Dan and Abby, who are in the NICU in Sioux Falls.

## Celebrate with

The family of Paul Abrahamson would like to celebrate their dad's 80th birthday with a card shower. If anyone would like to wish Paul a happy birthday, you may send a card to: 2555 320th Street, Spencer, IA 51301.

**Please note:** *If you have a family member celebrating a milestone birthday and would like congregation members to be able to send cards, we will be putting them in the monthly newsletter. Please send any requests to Jill at [hrc@spencerhope.org](mailto:hrc@spencerhope.org) before the 20th of each month.*







# Welcome James, Tena & Family!

This month, we are so excited to make the Runcorn family officially a part of our Hope Church family!

Join us on October 15th for a special service as we welcome Pastor James and spend time praising and thanking God for His faithfulness to our church in the past, and in this new chapter as a church body.

On October 22nd, Pastor James will begin a series entitled "God is Calling". Invite your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers to join us in this 6-week series of learning God's call for each of us!

## Consistory News

Hope Reformed Consistory meeting was Thursday, August 10, 2023  
Present: Elders: Barry Anderson, Jeff Helmink, Bob Campbell, Doug Siepkes.  
Deacons: Terry Stevens, Eric Van Der Heide, Alex Johnson  
Meeting called to order.  
Opening prayer Bob Campbell  
Devotion on Heidelberg Questions # 16-23

### REGULAR BUSINESS

Reviewed and approved June minutes with no changes  
Approved July 2023 financials  
Reviewed July 2023 giving and attendance analysis  
Executive Team reports  
Staff Management report  
Ministry Liaison reports

### OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming congregational events & meetings  
Big Leadership Team (BLT) discussed some of the plans  
Closing Prayer and refreshments

### ELDERS MEETING

Doug Siepkes opened in Prayer  
Baptism/Profession of Faith requests discussed  
Discussed congregational care, small groups and other prayer requests  
Closed in Prayer

### DEACONS MEETING

Present: Terry Stevens, Eric Van Der Heide, Alex Johnson  
Eric VH opened with prayer  
Discussion about roof replacement / repair  
Discussion on navitity set replacement – tabled to next months meeting  
Discussion on tractor request from Josh  
Discussed Staff appreciation  
Discussion of insurance loss control report and who to assign items to  
Alex Johnson closed with prayer



## Elder & Deacon Nominations

Nomination forms will be mailed October 20th. All confessing members of Hope Church will be able to nominate people. Each nominee must be a confessing member of Hope Church, be at least 21 years of age, support the mission and vision of Hope Church and meet the Biblical qualifications. **Please prayerfully fill out your nomination form and return them to the church office by November 3.**

# Jay Van Gelder

Pastor of Student Ministries

# YOUTH AUCTION FUNDRAISER

**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 5 | 5PM**

*You're invited to join us for our Annual Youth Auction!*

This is our only fundraiser to help offset expenses for our summer youth trips. All proceeds go to the youth.

The youth will serve a catered meal during the auction and childcare will be provided.

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

**CATERED MEAL - LIVE AUCTION  
SILENT AUCTION - TONS OF FUN**



# YOUTH GROUP

WHERE STUDENTS CONNECT  
WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Wednesdays**

6th Grade - 5:30 pm

7th Grade - 6:30 pm

8th Grade - 7:30 pm

## HIGH SCHOOL

**Sundays**

7:00 pm



# Austin Bryan

Worship Intern

Music is very much part of our everyday lives. That being said, it is very important that we know the words that we are singing. It is very easy to overlook the lyrics of the song but just enjoy the melody and beat behind the song. Recently we have started singing the song Goodness of God. So I think it is important that we take a moment to ask ourselves where Goodness of God is scripturally based?

Psalm 107:1 says, Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Goodness of God also focuses on a few key themes. Gods faithfulness, Surrender, praise, and thankfulness. We serve a wonderful God who never fails.

# Julia Andela

Children & Family Ministries Director

# HOPE KIDS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have Sunday School every Sunday at 9:45 am.  
You can find the location of your class below:

**Preschool:** Located in the hallway across from the Nursery for kids age 3 to KinderKids. If your child goes to Children's Church, they will transition right into Sunday School.

**Elementary:** In the Harbor Basement for kids in kindergarten to 5th grade. Please have your child check in at the top of the stairs.

**Middle School:** Located in the Harbor for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students.

**High School:** Located in the Youth Room downstairs for 9-12th grade students.

**Adults:** Located in the Well.



# Trunk or Treat

# HOPE KIDS

**Sunday, October 29 • 5 - 7 pm • Hope Church Parking Lot**  
**Tons of Candy • Hot Dogs • Lots of Fun**

A lot of candy (40,000 pieces) is needed to hand out at this community event and your generosity is greatly appreciated! Please place bags in the container in front of the office. **How else can you get involved?** You can decorate a car, work at one of the many stations that night and bring your kids. **To decorate a car or work at a station, sign up in the Lobby.** Contact Julia with any questions.



# Trunk or Treat



# Missions Focus



Through our missions giving at Hope Church, we send support monies to **Nathan and Amanda Hobert** who live in Madison, Wisconsin. They serve Redeemer City Church where they are seeking to renew their city through the Gospel.

Their Elder team met last January and set a goal to have a focus on the neighborhood around their facility. They gathered in March to pray as a congregation, and then began to see God work! They partnered with the Hispanic Church that is also meeting at their facility to do some intentional engaging by surveying their neighbors to get to know them and seeking to discover when doors might open to share the Gospel. They then worked with the apartment complex

right by their facility which houses 2000 people. The church was allowed to throw a big party (bounce house, games, food, music etc.). It was a great time of getting to know their neighbors a bit better and letting them know there is a Church in the neighborhood that loves them and is there for them. Please pray for their congregation to continue to develop a heart for those in the community.

The Elder team has decided to hire an associate pastor of outreach so they can continue to equip their people to live on mission in their city. They are currently in the process of interviewing some potential candidates for that position. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as they continue that process.

Let us also continue to pray for Nathan, Amanda, and their children as live in God's grace to serve the Lord.

## Baptism



### Boden Scott Lovin was baptized September 24.

Son of Luke and Molly Lovin.  
Boden was born on August 16, 2023.

Luke is an Ingredient Buyer for AgState and Molly is a Nurse Educator at Spencer Hospital.

Boden was welcomed home by his three older sisters, Isla (7), June (5), & Malin (3), who have become great big helpers!

When we have a little spare time as a family, we love being outdoors, golfing and traveling together.

*If you would like baptism administered to yourself or a child, please contact the church office so arrangements can be made.*



# 10 Years of Prayers & Squares Ministry

The first prayer quilt was given in 2013! It has been 10 Years and we have just given our 100th prayer quilt! It is time to remember, celebrate, and praise God for His goodness in bringing comfort to the many receiving these quilts in a time of needed uplifting from their Hope family.

Prayers and Squares is an international organization that has given us leadership and support in our ministry. The theme is "It is not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers." These quilts given, at a time when a person is facing a difficult situation, bring comfort, hope, and encouragement.

Here are some comments we have received from quilt recipients.

*"It's encouraging for us and all our children to know we have such a wonderful church family supporting, thinking and praying for us."*

*"While the prayer quilt has comforted me during my recovery it's been a blessing to know many people had prayed over it for my healing."*

*"My husband said he often found me sitting with the prayer quilt around me."*

*"...the 'comfort' of having lots of people finish it with knots and prayers for my healing and just feeling Jesus close by when covered with it."*

*"As I am being comforted by the quilt, I can touch each knot and feel the blessing of each prayer."*

*"Having the quilt with me at chemo is not only a visual reminder of God's peace and strength, but also a reminder of all the prayers being lifted up for me."*

In 2016 we began making prayer quilts for those being baptized. We have given 54 baptismal prayer quilts. We pray that these quilts will be a visual reminder that this Hope family is a support and encouragement for the person as well as their family as they begin this journey with God.

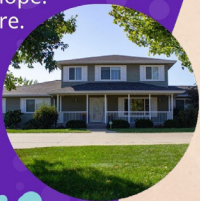
*"Thank you all so much for helping us celebrate 'our son's' baptism."*

*"We love the prayer quilt and appreciate everyone's prayers. Thank you for your abundant generosity and kindness. We are beyond grateful and blessed."*

If you have prayed as you have tied a knot in a quilt, YOU have been a vessel of God's goodness and comfort. May YOU be blessed!



We are a home.  
We are a hope.  
We are here.



  
**cherishhouse**<sup>®</sup>  
A Place of Caring Support.



## Your Change Changes Lives!

In November, Hope Church will partner with Cherish Center in their Baby Bottle Campaign! This event successfully raises a huge amount of funds and awareness to the Cherish Center.

Beginning November 5, you can pick up a baby bottle in the Lobby, fill it with coins, cash, or check (payable to Cherish House) and return to the Church Office.



**Cherish**  
center

Community. Hope. Renewal.

1004 22nd Street  
Milford, IA 51351  
712-338-3333

info@cherishcenter.org  
www.cherishcenter.org



919 Grand Avenue  
Spencer, IA 51301  
(712)262-3016  
hrc@spencerhope.org

## Worship Services

### SUNDAYS

8:30 am and 10:45 am in the Sanctuary

8:30 am services live-streamed online:  
[www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer](http://www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer)

## Sunday School

### SUNDAYS

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

## Hope Church Staff

**James Runcorn**, Lead Pastor

**Jay Van Gelder**, Pastor of Student Ministries

**Julia Andela**, Children & Families Director

**Austin Bryan**, Youth Ministries Assistant & Intern Worship/Music

**Perry DeGroot**, Pastor Emeritus/Congregational Care

**Josh Hamrick**, Facilities Manager

**Jill Lowe**, Office Administrator

