

# In Touch with *Hope*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

APRIL 2024

## Pastor James Runcorn

Lead Pastor

### Winter's End?

I've heard from so many people in the community: *This is the warmest winter I've seen in a long time! Winter isn't usually like this. Don't let this fool you – March is usually our blizzard month. Don't worry, we'll get more snow...probably.*

The temperature outside doesn't bother me. I've experienced extreme cold, as well as extreme heat. What concerns me is the spiritual temperature of the church.

What is the temperature of your spirit right now? What is the temperature of your passion and zeal for Him? Are you willing to do more than just attend on a weekend? Are you willing to take intentional steps closer to Him? Are you willing to do the things He's called you to do?

If so, buckle up! We'll experience the greatest adventure of our lives together! Where He leads, we will follow. What He asks, we will do. This will take commitment. This will take endurance. This will take the community effort of all of us, standing firmly planted on the foundation of His truth -THE truth.

Let us allow the refining fire of His Holy Spirit to melt away the ice of indifference, callous hearts, shackles of sin and addiction. Let us allow Him to shine His light of truth through us into the darkness of the winter that imprisons the lost people around us.

This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, The LORD is our God." – Zechariah 13:9

## Next Series: Romans

Here are 5 Bible verses to challenge yourself to memorize as we prepare to study the book of Romans:

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 8:1; and 10:9.

# Pastor Jay Van Gelder

Youth Pastor

## SR HIGH SPIRITUAL RETREAT | APRIL 5-7 | INSPIRATION HILLS

*Please Pray for our Sr. High Youth group students that will be attending Inspiration Hills this weekend. We will be studying and looking at the Romans Road. Pray that as we dig into the scripture that we will be touched by the Holy Spirit as we grow together. We will be joining with Trinity's Sr. High Youth group from Orange City. Pray that we can have a wonderful experience as we grow in our faith journey together.*

Gracie Blair  
Austin Bryan  
Janey Carey  
Ryonna Faulkender

Dalton Flikkema  
Tyler Flikkema  
Jack Hemann  
Faith Klatt

Averie Nelson  
Cameron Pick  
Brayden Schuster  
Kamdyn Van Gelder

Jay Van Gelder  
Debra Wittrock  
Tate Zinn

## MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT | APRIL 12-14 | HIDDEN ACRES

*This year we will be taking 70 people on the Middle School Retreat, the most ever from Hope church. Last year we brought 56 people. It is very exciting to see how God is moving in our Middle school youth group this year. This year's retreat theme is "NOTHING ELSE". "Nothing Else" is all about putting Jesus and the gospel message above everything else. It means that nothing is more important for a Christian than following the teachings of Jesus and understanding the gospel. This theme encourages students to strip back their faith to just Jesus, making him and the values he taught the most important thing in their lives.*

Kinley Alger  
Paisley Atherton  
Jackson Bailey  
Caitlyn Barr  
Gunner Brandenburg  
Hallie Brown  
Austin Bryan  
Charlie Busch  
Addison Christle  
Azra Edwards  
Brooklynn Elsbecker  
Naylah Garcia  
Gabriela Gardea  
Wyatt Geerdes  
Deegan Grady  
Hudson Grady  
Bob Graham  
Caden Gress

Journey Griffin  
Josie Haak  
Emily Holt  
Brecken Johnson  
Sophie Kabrick  
Haleigh Kuhlman  
Miranda Madison  
Lillian Marlow  
Jaycee Mathis  
Alayna McEntee  
Max Merten  
Jacob Meyers  
Jada Mingus-Alfaro  
Hannah Moser  
Christina Mueggenberg  
Myah Nielsen  
Sally Peterson  
Marley Prenzlou

Angelo Rasmussen  
Eli Reiman  
Brooklynn Reynolds  
Jolie Robbins  
Brody Robinson  
Gustavo Romero  
Judah Runcorn  
Makenna Sassman  
Maisy Schmidt  
Bailey Schuster  
Emalynn Seaman  
Halle Sears  
Maggie Sears  
Braxton Seier  
Bianca Shemon  
Hudson Sherrod  
Lillian Sparks  
Quinn Stanzel

Keely Stephenson  
Kiah Stephenson  
Jersey Struve  
Maxx Techen  
Lotti Thiesen  
Ethan Tuzzio  
Lauren Van Der Heide  
Meghan Van Drunen  
Jay Van Gelder  
Kamdyn Van Gelder  
Silas VanLangen  
Eva Vogts  
Jody Vulk  
Larson Vulk  
Brayden Warren  
Cade White



let's play **BUNCO**

Adults 55+ *and* Sr. High Youth Group

Sunday, April 21

6:00 pm | Hope Church Harbor

*A FUN night when 2 generations get together to eat, fellowship and play Bunco. It's packed with good laughs and great conversations as well as prizes!*

Pizza provided by the Youth Ministry. Adults please bring a dessert to share.

**Julia Andela**  
Children and Family Director

**HOPE KIDS**



## **VBS REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 7**

Community Registration begins April 15

We are SO excited to dive into God's Rock Solid Truth with your kids this summer at Breaker Rock Beach!

### **VBS DATES**

**June 10-14 • 8:30 am - 11:45 am**

### **AGE GUIDELINES**

#### **PRESCHOOL**

4 years old (by June 10, 2024) - KinderKids  
(current 2023-2024 school year)

#### **ELEMENTARY**

Kindergarten - 4th grade  
(current 2023-2024 school year)

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Adults and 5th-12th graders  
(current 2023-2024 school year)

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT JULIA**

## **Welcome Michael!**



Michael Fujimoto and his wife Abbey are so excited to join the community of Spencer Hope. Michael was called to ministry several years ago when he started at a Christian camp in Island Park and is looking forward to stepping into ministry here. After receiving a Business Degree, he started out working in the hotel industry but answered God's call to step in to full time ministry where God last led Michael to serve at Watersprings Church in Maintenance. Abbey

received her Theatre Degree and has been following God's calling to utilize theatre and film to share God's gift of salvation. Michael and Abbey moved from Idaho Falls, Idaho where they met and God brought them together. They were married this last July. They both love the outdoors and enjoy taking their dogs Winston (corgi) and Hoss (mini Aussie) on adventures. Michael and Abbey strive to listen to the Lord's calling on their lives and are so glad He has called them here.

## **Thank you**

We also want to thank Josh for serving at Hope Church as Facilities Manager for the past 5 + years. We wish you the best in your next job!

# Missions Focus

One of Hope Church's mission supports is for Crossroads Prison Ministry. This ministry believes and supports the truth that all people bear the image of God and should have respect, love, and acceptance. Crossroads ministry hopes to restore dignity believing that God offers redemption and renewed purpose to each person who is incarcerated. God changes lives! Persons incarcerated request lessons centered on the Gospel message. These lessons are sent to mentors for guidance and encouragement and then are sent back to the person.

"Honestly, the best part of this Bible study course is the interaction with mentors who care to take the time to both read and respond to my answers and thoughts," said Joseph G., a student in Missouri. "This alone is why I enjoy this Bible study! Other Bible studies are great and studious but lack human interaction. It is also really cool that this study is free. I apply no postage to my return envelopes!"

Please pray that God will use this ministry to change the lives of those incarcerated through the Gospel message. Also pray that God would call and equip staff persons and volunteers to carry out this ministry.

To find out more about this ministry go to [cpministries.org](http://cpministries.org) or you can contact Gloria Schmillen at 712-260-8531 about interest in becoming a mentor.



## Do you know of someone connected to Hope Church who would be uplifted and blessed by prayer?

Be encouraged to ask this person if they would receive a prayer quilt or request one for yourself. This quilt is a physical reminder of our church families' love and support for this person through prayer. These needs can be big or small, physical, mental, or spiritual. To request a quilt please call the church office or Gloria Schmillen at 712-260-8531.

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

Galatians 6:2



The Riviera Theatre in Emmetsburg is excited to present inspirational stories from the Bible as depicted by the famous Sight & Sounds Theater in Branson, Missouri.

You are invited on Sunday nights at 5:00 pm to enjoy these productions. There is no cost to attend, but a free-will offering will help to continue to bring these productions to town.

**Moses** - Sundays April 7, 14, 21 & 28

**Joseph** - Sundays May 5, 12, 19 & 26

**Queen Esther** - Sundays June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

Riviera Theatre  
2209 Main Street  
Emmetsburg, IA



# The Armor of God and His Mighty Power

## Having Fit Feet

Do you know that our feet are the foundation for the human body? They hold us up and support the weight of our bodies as we stand, walk, or run. They provide stability and balance.

There is some confusion as to why Paul compares the foot equipment of a soldier to the Gospel of Peace in our resistance to Satan. One thing is for sure, if a Roman soldier had his sandals or boots on, he was prepared and ready to go whenever the command came to march.

Why is it important to be prepared and ready to resist Satan? Why is it important to have peace with God and the peace of God?

Jesus came that all who believe in Him might have peace with God. In Romans 5:1, we read, "since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God." And then, when we are rejoicing, living, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, submitting and depending on Him, we have the peace of God. In Philippians 4:6-7, we read, "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

"Now if we are at PEACE WITH GOD through faith in Jesus Christ and we are experiencing the PEACE OF GOD through faithful fellowship and obedient submission to Him. Then we will always be READY and PREPARED to resist Satan, knowing with confident assurance that Satan will flee because we have been submitting to the Lord." This exact truth is stated in James 4:6-8. "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, therefore to God. Resist the devil and He will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

**When we are faithfully, lovingly submitting to the Lord and seeking Him, the peace of God is our reality.**

Satan is out to rob us of God's peace, causing us to be afraid, behave and react out of fear, worry or anxiety. When we have PEACE WITH GOD and the PEACE OF GOD, we aren't caught unprepared, instead we can deal with Satan's darts of fear, doubt, jabs of worry and anxiety. It means that we need to continue to grow in faith and trusting obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our dependence on Him needs to deepen.

If we begin to trust in the familiarity and security of the routine, watch and beware; Satan is lurking around, and our experience of peace may be slipping.

When we have peace with God and are growing in the peace that passes all understanding, then a person can deal with accident, illness, disease, unemployment, economic crisis, etc. We don't become utterly distraught, knocked off our feet, because we know the truth; NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST. We can deal with the traumas and the tragedies of life. It is vitally important that we put on this piece of God's armor, because Satan enjoys robbing us of peace.

Here is a story of a couple who learned how to put on the armor of God's peace. This is taken from a message entitled CONFIDENT & STRONG, by Ben Haden, the former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Elmer and Eloise Stanfield lived in a very modest frame house in a little town very few people have ever heard of. It's in south Georgia, the town is Surrency, roughly 50 miles north of Jacksonville. They moved there some years ago with their 5 daughters and 5 sons...into this little frame house across the street from the school. It looked isolated, it looked quiet, it looked ideal, and it looked safe for them to rear their family.

Now they sit on the porch of that frame house...and they look across the street at the school, which is overgrown with weeds. The windows have been broken and boarded up...and they remember their children playing there. Not too long after they moved to Surrency, a son, aged 19, was killed in an automobile accident.

Eight years later another son, 17, killed in an automobile accident. The same year, a third son, 19, killed in an automobile accident. In 1973 the two other sons in separate accidents, killed. They both testified: "It's an awful thing to lose 5 sons. We never imagined anything of that nature could happen to one family. We thought we couldn't go on living we were so grief-stricken. We had nightmares of the cops' cars coming into the yard to tell us about another dead son. The Lord just took our sons one at a time."

"There's no way to describe a mother's feelings, losing 5 sons," Eloise says. "But through the power of prayer, and because we have always trusted God's plan that it was his will for each son to die when he did, and we've been able to make it."

Do you think these people had that kind of faith and peace when they first came to know God? How could they have made it through all the awful things without knowing the peace of God?

The person who has surrendered and committed their life to Jesus Christ and is diligently seeking to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might has a solid foundation for life and is equipped with the armor of God's peace.

**Let's Keep the Armor On!**



# Consistory News

Present: Pastor James Runcorn, Pastor Jay Van Gelder

Elders: Bruce Groen, Jeff Helmink, Doug Siepkes, Bob Campbell, Gary Zeutenhorst, Kevin Vander Stope

Deacons: Ryan Hoskins, Knut Brown, Alex Johnson, Terry Stevens, Ryan Christoffel

February 8, 2024 • 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order.

Opening prayer - Pastor James

Pastors Bobby VanOterloo and Chris Godfredson from Horizon Network were present to discuss Hope possibly partnering with this Network as maybe a better fit for us than the Midwest Network (formerly Dakota Network). Trying to intentionally work together and network with other churches. Empower one another and other churches in area. 1. Leadership development 2. Multiplication 3. Missional engagement. Churches fund Network: 1% National, 2% local. Does Hope switch to Horizon (Sioux Center, Rock Valley and Hull currently)?

Prayer: Pastor Chris Godfredson

7:30: Discussion among Pastor Runcorn, Pastor Van Gelder and consistory regarding switch to Horizon. Decided to have Pastor Runcorn attend a Hub meeting with Horizon to see if still feels good about possible switch.

## REGULAR BUSINESS

- Decided to table Jays devotions until next month due to time spent with Horizon pastors and ensuing discussion
- Reviewed and approved January 11, 2024 minutes MMSC (Bob, Terry)
- Alex reviewed January 2024 financials they were approved MMSC (Gary, Bruce)
- January 2024 attendance and giving reviewed by Alex
- Pastor James challenged consistory to look at what is working and opportunities for growth in our church such as having people up front after services to pray with those desiring prayer

## Pastor's report

- Sermon series on Galatians: problem=sin, solution=Jesus
- Small group series "Rooted" has begun with group with plans for these to become leaders of new groups
- Director of Adult Discipleship position offered to Terry Stevens MMSC (Kevin, Ryan C.) Terry accepted position for 10 hrs/wk
- BRICK (Building Relationships in Christs Kingdom) class starting for 5th graders led by Luke Lovin with goal to have at least one of each child's parent attend as well
- Vision update: Corey (evaluation of streaming equipment) is coming this weekend
- Design team met to begin evaluating updates to church building
- Facilities manager candidate coming to interview this week
- Deadline for potential retreat dates for staff and consistory discussed, no specific date chosen yet, checking on availability of Inspiration Hills

## Executive Team Report

- Bob Campbell provided copies of our bylaws to each member, Bob will also step in as interim chair of Missions Team, formerly Luke Lovin

## Staff Management Report

- Pastor James and newly elected Vice President of consistory Bob Campbell and chair of deacons will be Ryan Christoffel
- Network delegates will be Gary Zeutenhorst and Doug Siepkes for elders and Ryan Christoffel and Terry Stevens for deacons

## Ministry Liaison Report

- Superbowl Sunday this week at Hope

## Other Business

- Executive Team meeting - TBD. Consistory Meeting - March meeting moved to Friday 3/15/24

Closing Prayer: Ryan Hoskins

## ELDER MEETING

Prayer- Pastor James

- Congregational Care-Elder letters, need to change Certificate of ordination now not in RCA
- Membership certificates will now be given to each individual as they join Hope rather than giving one to married couples
- Would like to offer communion to homebound
- May begin using the pre-packaged communion again
- New members admitted to Hope: Cam Andela, Chad and Kodie Borchers, Abby Madden, Judi Nolting, Shirley Ohrtman, James and Tena Runcorn, Sean and Pam Sherrod, Jordan and Jean Steen, Trenton Walker, Terri Wiese

Closing prayer: Doug Siepkes

## DEACON MEETING

Present: Ryan Hoskins, Knut Brown, Alex Johnson, Terry Stevens, Ryan Christoffel

Ryan H opened with Prayer

- Discussion of surplus income from 2023 – decided to move \$10k to sabbatical fund and \$30k to capital improvement fund
- Discussion around amount needed in bank accounts and if we should move to get more interest via a CD or other alternative.
- Discussion on a new employee handbook
- Discussion on snow removal

Jay closed in prayer

## Concerns for

Please continue to lift up the following people and families in prayer:

Jim Vermeer as he heals from back surgery.

Joyce Lemke who has been moved to the Emmetsburg Care Center.

Mary Ann Lockey as she heals from knee replacement surgery.

Bob Faulkender who continues to experience various health issues.

Noreen Meyer as she heals from knee replacement surgery.

Harold Anderson who continues to experiencing a number of health related issues.

Charlene Hamrick and her on-going health issues.

Lorelei Meeter who has had tests and consults with her cancer care team.

Dennis Zylstra as he heals from his heart attack.

Lance Grave who had heart surgery this week.

## Condolences to

Dean and Deb Mechler, Kyle and Janessa Mechler and families on the passing of Dean's brother, Brian, on March 20 from time to eternity.

Terry and Erin Stevens and family on the passing of Terry's mom, Yvonne, on Sunday, March 31 from time to eternity.

## Celebrating with

Eric and Kristen Meeter on the dedication of their daughter, Elliotte Carolyn, on Sunday, March 17.

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who completed the Communications Survey! Your comments and suggestions have been very helpful and we hope to implement some of them in the near future.

The Communications Survey winner for the Medlar Coffee card was Bob Graham.

## Lost and Found

There will be a lost and found table in front of the office April 14-28. Be sure to check the table for anything you may have missed. Remaining items will go to Many Hands after the 28th.

## Dates to Remember

### April 5-7

Senior High Spiritual Retreat - Inspiration Hills

### April 7

CAAPP Training - 5:00 - 7:00 pm - In the Harbor

### April 7

VBS Registration Opens for Hope Church Families

### April 12-14

Middle School Retreat - Hidden Acres

### April 13

Kinship Radio - A Day for Women  
(see bulletin board for details)

### April 14

Benefit for Sara Schmidt in the Harbor

### April 15

VBS Registration Opens for the Community

### April 19-21

IGLLS 25th Anniversary Celebration  
(see bulletin board for details)

### April 21

Bunco Night for Adults 55+ & Youth 6-12th Grade  
6:00 pm in the Harbor

### April 24

Bridge Event for Youth 6-12th Grade  
6:30 pm in the Harbor

### May 12

Last day of Sunday School

### May 12

Youth Sunday

### June 2

Cherish Center Father/Daughter Dance

### June 10-14

VBS! Breaker Rock Beach



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

<b>James Runcorn</b>	Lead Pastor
<b>Jay Van Gelder</b>	Youth Pastor
<b>Julia Andela</b>	Children & Families Director
<b>Ryan Hoskins</b>	Worship Director
<b>Austin Bryan</b>	Youth Ministries Intern
<b>Perry DeGroot</b>	Pastor Emeritus/Congregational Care
<b>Terry Stevens</b>	Adult Discipleship
<b>Michael Fujimoto</b>	Facilities Manager
<b>Jill Lowe</b>	Office Administrator
<b>Tim Yeager</b>	Maintenance
<b>Levi Morris</b>	Treasurer
<b>Missy Lair</b>	Nursery