



The Monthly Heartbeat

The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter

Volume 23 JUNE 2016 Issue 6

Embrace

Enfold

Encourage

Equip

Exalt

A Family Integrated Church

By Pastor Scott

We are a Family Integrated Church. This means that we love every member of our congregation and desire the young and the old to fellowship, worship and serve together. Because of this love, you will rarely find our congregation separating the young from the old, though at times we may choose to run certain events for specific age groups in order to serve the unique needs of our members.

One of the first things you will notice in attending our services on Sunday mornings is that all of our members, from infant through elderly, are in our service singing and worshipping. We do not have a nursery, or a separate gathering for our children. We believe that Disciples of Christ learn best when they are in regular and consistent fellowship with the vast diversity of God's people.

Sometimes this means a baby will cry, or a child will make a sound. This is fine. We welcome the occasional sounds of children as a reminder that God has blessed us with the presence of children. Another unique aspect of our congregation is the prayer partnerships we have established between youth and those of more advanced years. Each child, with parent approval, is matched with an elder member of our congregation and they are encouraged to pray for each other, to share stories and to write notes of encouragement to each other. We have found this to be a blessing to our body.

In our worship services, we do not expect our children to stay seated and stationary. We recognize that God has given children great amounts of energy and so we encourage our kids, and those adults wishing to worship not only with their heart and mind but also their body, to dance and sing and move in ways that are reverent but

also free and artistic.

Contrary to some Family Integrated Churches, we have found that it is still best to have age segregated Sunday School classes. We have found this to be helpful in teaching to the unique needs of each age so that the questions of the youth can be answered in age appropriate ways without diminishing the robustness of the answers we would give to the more mature.

Additionally, we host a gender-segregated girls' club, and hope to start a boys' club in the future. This allows our boys to develop relationship with the men in the body and to learn about some of the unique things God calls males to be and do. It also allows our girls to fellowship with the women of our church and gain strong role models in the faith.

In short, we hope you will find the presence of our children and yours within the service to be an encouragement and a delightful expression of family-friendly worship. If you have any questions about how to help your child engage in the service or have any tips to help us structure meaningful participation of children in the worship of the Church, we would welcome such a conversation with you.

Sincerely,
The Elders

Thoughts on the Behavioral Covenant

By David Richards

One of several definitions found in the dictionary is as follows: *Ecclesiastical, a solemn agreement between members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel.*

Our covenant was brought about as an important part of the VERITAS (Truth) step in the Congregational Vitality program. It was a step that we agreed to when we voted as a Family to proceed after our first workshop. Our brothers and sisters in Christ from our Vision Committee then met several times crafting and fine tuning the words taking into account the comments collected from the discussion at the tables at our second workshop. They then based each section on verses from the word of God. They brought the document to the Elders and the Elders brought it forward to the Council.

The Vision Committee left the decision of final wording and whether the Covenant should be signed to the Elders, who after much discussion voted to have the Covenant signed by our members and future new members. When brought before the Council for consideration we again had a lengthy discussion about signing the Covenant. Council agreed to the signing of the Covenant by members and future members. Knowing that we are not perfect we also asked that these words be added at the bottom, *“Each of these behaviors, I will strive to adhere to, God helping me.”*

To sign or not to sign the Covenant has become the lightning rod question of the Vitality Process so far. It became obvious to the Council that asking members to sign a Covenant on how to treat each other and act in harmony was easy for some and a very tough, personal decision to make for some. So it was back to the Elders for more lengthy discussion and then to Council for even more discussion. During the discussions it was clear that as a Council we were divided on what to do and how to do it. What was clear was what ever we decided it must be done with love and grace.

I will not go into the various comments we received via chats, phone calls and emails. You have been heard. In the end it remains that this Covenant is the prayerful and heartfelt work of brothers and sisters in Christ which was meant to bring about *“a solemn agreement between members of a church to act together in harmony with the precepts of the gospel”*. We have voted to accept the Covenant.

Our plan, agreed to at our May Council meeting, is to have the Covenant printed in a large format on nice paper

with the verses wrapping the Covenant as a border. It will be presented at a Fall Commitment and Consecration Service which will be planned by the Vitality team. We pray that this will be a sign of a new beginning for our family. We are considering several options of framing and keeping the Covenant where all may see it and be reminded of the harmony we hope that it helps us to live by.

We hope all will be encouraged to sign the Covenant and those that wish to sign the Covenant publically will be given an opportunity to do so. For those that may wish to sign the Covenant privately they will also be given that opportunity as well. We will have to work out how we do this so your thoughts are welcome. Some may not wish to sign the Covenant and that will be honored as well. We recognize how diverse we are and hope to respect and honor the feelings of everyone.

It is also our desire to offer each new member the opportunity to review and sign the Covenant, again either in private or, if they wish, in front of the Congregation when they stand before us to be admitted as members.

We are still considering just where the signatures would be affixed. One thought is to sign the back so that the Covenant itself remains pristine and easy to read. This also affords privacy for some signers.

Our desire is to commit to treating each other with Love and Grace in all matters, God helping us.

Your brother In Christ
Who is walking with HIM
David

10,000 Blessings By Jerry and Faye Hop

You may have noticed a new addition to the wall in our foyer. It is a large wooden frame labeled "Wall of Blessings." The idea is not ours since we originally saw it at our daughter's church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. However we thought it would be a great idea to "borrow" for our church as well.

God has showered each one of us with so many blessings, and this is one way to remember and name them in a very visible way. This is intended to be used by young and old in our faith community. We ask that you follow the instructions posted next to the frame as to how we would like you to post your blessings.

Preaching Series:

- 6/5 Leviticus 1 The Burnt Offering
6/12 Guest Preacher—Aaron Walters
6/19 Guest Preacher—Seminary Student
6/26 Mark 6:45-53 Don't Do it in Your Own Strength

Greeters Schedule

Outside Doors

- 6/5 Dale and Deloris Perry
6/12 Karen Smith and Chris Pike
6/19 Mike and Jenn Boer
6/26 Ruth Stadt and Lisa Oppenhuizen

Coffee/Snack Schedule

- 6/5 Terry Vander Woude and Tena Vanderpol
6/12 Arlene Veenstra and Barb Zylstra
6/19 Jenn Boer and Pat Bosman
6/26 Helen Bowman and Alice Brakke

Prayer Room

- 6/5 Denise Doezeema
6/12 Christine Speyer
6/19 Herm Laninga
6/26 Connie Knutson

Children helping to serve

Many of our children would like to help serve after the morning service, so the Hospitality Team is looking to set up a schedule for them to help us. We will be assigning 3-4 children each Sunday to pour juice, set out the goodies, put the sleeves on the cups. It is our hope to include all the children who want to help in some sort of "service" on Sunday morning.

Offering Schedule

- 6/5 General Fund
6/12 General Fund
6/19 Outreach Fund
6/26 General Fund

Ushering Schedule

- 6/5 Len Vander Woude and Bud Brouwer
6/12 Don Knutson and Helen Bowman
6/19 Dale and Deloris Perry
6/26 Joe Pruitt and Lou Kooistra

Congregational Birthdays For June

- 1 Len VanderWoude
4 Bud Brouwer
6 Mabel Benedict
13 Jolene Skovron
13 Mattea Ruiters
18 Darlys Recker
20 Wilma Kelln
20 Amariah Ruiters
23 Kylie Thramer
27 Anne Geleynse
27 Lisa Oppenhuizen
30 Rockelle Ruiters



Deacon's Digest

By Terry Vander Woude

We want to thank Christine Speyer and Connie Knutson for their service to our church this past three years. Christine was Chair of the Deacons this year and also was responsible for all the posters displayed for special events. Connie worked hard keeping the donation records and served as the secretary for the group. Their time and service on behalf of Hope in Christ Church is very much appreciated.

Thank you to all who donated sheets in our "linen drive" on behalf of Love, INC. Having a new or fairly new set of sheets to go with a mattress is very much appreciated by those in need.

For July, the Deacons will be collecting **toilet paper and baby wipes**, which will be given to Interfaith Coalition for their annual Project Homeless Connect. A container will be in the foyer from **June 26 to July 17**.

June 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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| | | | <p>1 7pm Elders and Deacons Meet</p> | <p>2 6:30am Men's Grp. 7pm Worship Team Meets</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 9:30 Worship Service 6:00pm TAG service</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8 7pm Council Meets</p> | <p>9 6:30am Men's Grp. 7pm Worship Team Meets</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11 Mission Trip to Okanagan County</p> |
| <p>12 9:30 Worship Service</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16 6:30am Men's Grp. 7pm Worship Team Meets</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>19 9:30 Worship Service</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23 6:30am Men's Grp. 7pm Worship Team Meets</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25 3:30 Thursday evening men's group potluck at Zylstra's</p> |
| <p>26 9:30 Worship Service</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30 6:30am Men's Grp. 7pm Worship Team Meets</p> | | |