

# In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

[www.spencerhope.org](http://www.spencerhope.org)

November 11, 2009

Join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (sanctuary) or at 10:30 a.m. (Harbor of Hope)

## Living the Adventure. . .

### ***A Current Picture of Jesus***

When you think about Jesus, what picture comes to your mind?

As we enter into the Christmas season, a lot of people think of the Nativity. They have an image of Jesus as a tiny infant, laid carefully in a manger. The Word of God made flesh. Other people most commonly think of Jesus in His passion, hanging on a cross with a crown of thorns upon His brow. The Suffering Servant. One of the images that resonates most deeply with me was painted on the wall of the nursery in my home church. It shows an adult Jesus surrounded by sheep and children—with a lamb in one arm and a child held tightly in another. The Good Shepherd.

Each of these images of Jesus—and many others—are appropriate and teach us something important about Him. But they also have one major shortcoming: they are all pictures of the past. They picture Jesus as He was, when He walked the earth, but they do not portray Him as He is now.

Is it possible to picture Jesus today? Does the Bible give us an idea of what Jesus looks like now?

As a matter of fact, it does. In Revelation 1:12-20 the Apostle John has an encounter with the heavenly Christ. The description that emerges is wild. Jesus is pictured with eyes “like blazing fire” and feet “like bronze glowing in a furnace.” He has snowy white hair, a face that shines like the sun, and a two-edged sword for a tongue. If you attempted to draw Jesus based on the description given in Revelation you’d end up with something fearsome and bizarre.

The language of Revelation is filled with metaphor and symbolism, so the image is not meant to be taken in a strictly literal sense. And yet, I think the picture of Jesus given in Revelation 1 is one of the best descriptions of Jesus as He now is. Three things stand out to me:

#### **1. Jesus is portrayed as alive and victorious over death.**

In Revelation 1:18 Jesus says: “I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

While the image of Jesus on the cross is vivid for many, and His death is so important to our salvation, I think it is vital to remember that He did not stay dead. He defeated death and is alive to this day. If death and hell are dungeons in which all sinners belong, it’s good to know that Jesus holds the keys for setting us free.

#### **2. Jesus is portrayed as powerful and mighty.**

While the descriptions of verses 12-16 are not meant to be taken literally, it is still clear that the Jesus described is no humble carpenter from Nazareth. The eyes blazing like fire imply that Jesus sees what is happening upon the earth. The sword-like tongue implies that His word is powerful and effective. His glowing face and bright-white hair indicate the indescribable glory that belongs to Him.

When Jesus walked the earth He took on human flesh and—with the exception of a few spectacular miracles—He limited Himself to our weaknesses. But Jesus today, resurrected and in heaven, knows no such weaknesses. He is majestic and sovereign.

#### **3. Jesus is portrayed as the one in control of the church.**

Jesus is described as standing in the midst of seven golden lampstands. In His hand He holds seven stars. In verse 20 He explains: “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

In other words, Jesus superintends the church. He holds it in His hand. He is responsible for keeping its flame going. The church belongs to Him and He continues to build it today.

As we approach Thanksgiving, this is something I am very thankful for: I am thankful that Jesus is alive and strong and caring for His church. I’m thankful that Hope Church belongs to Him and anything positive we do is to His glory. I’m thankful that whatever the future holds, Jesus will be walking among us: rescuing people from death and building His Kingdom.



## Upcoming Services

Sanctuary - 9:00 a.m.

The Junction – Harbor Room - 10:30 a.m.

**Hello Love...**

November 15 ~ **Love Trusts** - 1 Corinthians 13:7

November 22 ~ **Love Lasts** - 1 Corinthians 13:8

**Through Their Eyes:**

November 29 ~ **Zechariah: Preparing for the Lord**

**Prayer Concern:** Arlene Stewart was hospitalized with pleurisy for a few days and is recovering at home.

**Congratulations to Curt & Sara Sparks** on the birth of a daughter, Lillian Kay on Friday, November 6. She weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and 20 inches long.

### **Thank You Note**

...“A huge thank you to everyone who remembered us with cards and/or gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month. A special thank you goes to the anonymous donor of the swell belt. Thank you as well for the gift of a night away. It truly is a blessing to serve this congregation.” *Pastor Russell, Beth & Kids*

...“We would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts that you have given us plus the wonderful night stay in Sioux Falls. I enjoy being one of your pastor’s here at Hope Church thanks for the wonderful support and love.” *Pastor Jay, Shantel & girls*

### **Affirming God’s Servants:**

...Trunk or Treat was a huge success - PTL!! Thank you whether you donated candy, decorated a car, volunteered in one of the many areas, brought children, or encouraged others to come. It takes many, many people in many places to have a great event like this and we are thankful for each of you. We encourage you now to continue to reach out to the community share God’s love.

...What a blast again at the Youth Auction. Thanks to all who donated to the youth ministry program. The youth staff and young people truly appreciate your financial help for this year’s work project as well as the ministry to young people here at Hope. Thanks for your support, we have great young people coming to our ministry and hope you got a chance to meet some of them while they were serving you.

Youth Ministry Staff/Youth

## **Poinsettias**



This year we will have a poinsettia display during the Advent season. You can help with this display. You can make a monetary donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one(s). Place your name and the name of the person being remembered on a sheet of paper and bring it with your monetary donation to the church office or put in the mail slot by the office door. The cost of a plant is \$12.00. The Chancel Team will purchase the plants. After December 24 services you may take a plant home. A list of the people donating and those remembered will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, Dec. 20. **Deadline to donate is November 22.**



## **Attention 4<sup>th</sup> graders Getting to Know Your Bibles**

will meet on Sunday, November 15 & 22  
in The Well from 4-5:30 p.m.

“Not Yet” Group will meet on Thursday, November 19  
at Riverside Assistant Living at 2:00 p.m.



**Hungry?** Many people are hungry right here in our community. The Missions Ministry Team is asking you to donate non-perishable items to be donated to the Upper Des Moines food pantry. They are in special need of pastas, dish soaps, bar soaps, tooth

brushes and paper products. All other items will also be greatly appreciated. We will be collecting these items beginning today until Monday, November 23. Look for a collection area in the lobby.

**Do you throw your printer ink cartridges away?** Why not bring them to the church office and we will recycle them at Staples. We get a \$3 credit for every cartridge we bring in which helps to purchase office supplies.

### **Nursery Schedule: Sunday, November 15**

Jamie Decker & family, Dave & Laura Schaefer

**Youth Christmas Program Practice** for children in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be every Wednesday evening, 6:30-7:15 p.m. during the *Prayer and Praise* service. Parents are invited to stay for *Prayer and Praise* while the kids are practicing.

If you would like to have a **meeting** (team, prayer, small group, etc.) in the church at any time please contact the church office (262.3016 or hrc@spencerhope.org) so we may put it on the church calendar to avoid confusion and interference in setting up rooms. Thank you!

### **Do you enjoy singing and making a joyful noise?**

Then you are invited to join a Christmas Choir that will be part of a special 9:00 a.m. Advent Worship Service on Sunday, December 20. Rehearsals will be on Sundays (November 15, 4:30 p.m. in the Harbor); times will vary so watch your weekly bulletin. This is open for all ages from high school through adult. For more information, contact Karen Hunziker (262.5376) or Mary Van Drunen (262.3016).

## **Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Wednesday, Nov 25

7:00 p.m.

“Give Thanks at All Times”  
Deuteronomy 8:1-18



### **The church will be closed**

on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 26) and Friday (Nov. 27).  
Deadline for Sunday, Nov. 29 bulletin is  
Monday, Nov. 23, 9:00 a.m.

### "Divorce Care: Surviving the Holidays"

Sunday, November 15, 7-9:00 p.m. at Hope Church

If you're separated or divorced, the holidays can be a lonely, stressful, depressing time. But there's hope. The Divorce Care team will be leading an encouraging seminar that will help you survive the holidays and discover new ways to enjoy them again.

This 2-hour video seminar is helpful and encouraging. It features interviews with top Christian experts on divorce-related topics as seen from a biblical perspective and personal testimonies from people who have experienced the holidays after a marital breakup. The seminar is combined with support group discussion. A book with 30 daily readings that provide additional insight and ideas on holiday survival will be available for a small fee of \$4.

There is no charge for this event.

Free child care will be available with pre-registration.

Adult pre-registration would be appreciated.

Please call 712.262.3016 to pre-register.



Warner Funeral Home,  
Hospice of Northwest Iowa &  
area churches are sponsoring a  
**"Service of Remembrance"**  
for anyone who has experienced  
the death of a loved one.  
Monday, November 30, 6:30 p.m.  
First Congregational Church,  
1212 First Avenue West, Spencer

### Mark your calendar

- \* **Congregational Celebration:**  
Sunday, December 6, 5:00 p.m. in the Harbor.
- \* **Children's Christmas Program:**  
Sunday, Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. in the Harbor. Only **one** service this morning.
- \* **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services,**  
Thursday, December 24, 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 p.m.

### SMALL GROUP STORY

The small group of Aaron/Amy Knoup, Dusty/Michelle Reynolds, Micah/Laura Van Otterloo, Eric/Rachel Van Der Heide, Craig/Mary Van Drunen, Kyle/Janessa Mechler, Katie Van Voorst, Kristin Van Voorst, Dawn Vanden Berg, Emily Blok, Mark Haan, Danny Decker, Karlton Hector and Kyle Wenell recently finished a study called "The God Questions." As a wrap-up to their study they invited Pastor Russell and his family to a spaghetti dinner and then engaged Pastor Russell with some of the questions they had been studying. It was fun way to discuss some of Christianity's thornier issues.

At Hope Church we encourage everyone to be a part of the community that comes from being in a small group together. If you are not a part of small group but would like to join one please call the church office or Jim and Julie Hill at 262-6867.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Report

The Bitter Road to Dachau by Robert L. Wise

Many stories have been written about World War 2, but this one really brings to light what happened on a typical day in the Dachau prison camp. Have you ever wondered how far your faith could be tested and how you might respond in a similar situation? This book follows the life of a regular pastor and many of his peers who were imprisoned for speaking out about the excesses of Nazi Germany. I found this book to be a real page turner and it made me examine my own faith. I would highly recommend it for anyone high school aged or older. *Dave Donaldson*

### Hope's Book Club

"The Shack" by Wm. P. Young is the Book Club's choice for November. The monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Everyone is welcome to join in our discussion.



## WOMEN OF HOPE NEWS

Attention all ladies – reserve Saturday, December 5 from 2 – 4:00 p.m. for **Women of Hope Christmas Tea**. Ladies, invite your friends and family to this special event.

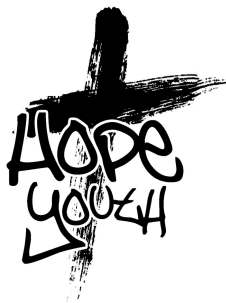
### SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

### 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

### YOUTH GROUP

will meet on Wednesday evening  
at 6:30 p.m.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane



12-4  
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"My left leg weighs 'actly the same as my right leg."

**Kid's Connection** Family Style

Join us for a great night  
of food and fun!

Kid's Connection Family Style  
will be putting the  
**Guimby School Bags** together on  
Friday night, November 20  
at 6:00 p.m.

We will be ordering pizza (freewill  
donation) and having fun serving as  
a church family!



The movie,  
**Fireproof**  
will be shown in the  
Harbor of Hope on  
**Sunday evening,  
November 22,  
6:30 p.m.**

This is a great PG movie to see.  
Popcorn and beverages will be served!

**Invite your family and friends.**

**Free childcare** (for infant to middle school) will be  
available by the Sr. High Youth & adults.

**Option 1:** You can have two youth come to your home.  
You **have** to request which youth you would  
like to come to your home by preregistering.  
Call Jay at 262-3016 or 363.0885.

**Option 2:** Bring them along that evening to the church  
and they will be divided into groups according  
to ages and activities will be provided for them.