

# In Touch with Hope

919 Grand Ave

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Phone: 712-262-3016

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

October 28, 2009

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

Living the Adventure. . .

## *Trunk-or-Treat*

When my family and I participated in Faith in Action Saturday a couple of weeks ago, the elderly woman we were assigned to help got to talking with me about our church. At first, she wasn't sure what church we were from, but when I told her Hope Church, she said: "Oh, you guys are that fun church!"

Now, I don't know if "fun" is necessarily the first thing I want people to think about our church (it's certainly better than being known as the "boring" church); but I think what she was getting at is something we want to be known for: we are here to bring joy to Jesus and experience joy in Him. We want to be a church where joy is evident.

By calling us a fun church I believe my new friend was saying that the joy of the Lord is evident in the things we do—whether that's in our worship services, in our service projects like Faith in Action, in our children's and youth programs, or in something like Trunk-or-Treat.

This Saturday we are aiming to experience fun as a church as we invite the families of Spencer to do their trick-or-treating in our parking lot. We'll transform our cars and put on costumes (over top of our warmest coats) and cook up hotdogs and hand out lots of candy. Why are we doing it? In addition to the desire to have fun, I can think of four reasons:

### **1) To redeem Halloween.**

Halloween has its roots in pagan superstitions and the occult. Monsters and witches are often associated with Halloween. Even for people who no longer associate Halloween with the demonic it is often an occasion for inappropriate costumes and the glorification of violence. It's easy to see, then, why many Christians prefer to have nothing to do with Halloween.

But, on the other hand, Halloween is very much a part of our culture and there are many parts of it that are quite innocent: such as pumpkin carving, dressing up in costumes, and candy. Without endorsing the negative aspects of Halloween, then, I believe it is appropriate for the church to offer something fun on a night when many people will be looking for Halloween-related activities.

### **2) To provide a safe, family friendly activity (on a night that isn't always safe).**

As a parent, trick-or-treating has always made me nervous. Lots of kids are out on the streets. It's usually cold and dark. And to trick-or-treat with any efficiency, you have to knock on the doors of people you don't know. While the kids enjoy it and end up with a lot of candy from perfectly nice people, I've always been happiest when it is over and everybody is home safe.

By inviting families to collect their candy from our decorated cars in the well-lit church parking lot we are giving them a place safe from traffic, safe from scary costumes and safe from unknown people. Plus, we throw in some games and hot dogs and warm cocoa and families can come have a safe, stress free experience.

### **3) To bless our community.**

Whether they are a part of our church or not, we want the people of Spencer and the surrounding area to be glad that Hope Church is here. We want to serve our community.

And so, we offer Trunk-or-Treat as a gift. We make this night fun and free so people can come and be blessed. We really don't need any other reason.

### **4) To introduce people to Hope Church.**

But there is this final, important reason. We know that some of the people who visit our parking lot on Saturday night will be people who do not know Jesus Christ. We will distribute information about our church and we will follow up with those that indicate to us that they do not have a church home.

It is our hope that they will leave with a positive impression of the church. Perhaps, even, that they will think our church is "fun". And, God-willing, for some people Saturday night's Trunk-or-Treat just might be the first step on a journey toward a joy-filled relationship with Jesus Christ.



## Upcoming Services

Sanctuary - 9:00 a.m.

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

Hello Love...

November 1 ~ *Love Sacrifices* - 1 Corinthians 13:5

November 8 ~ *Love Forgives* - 1 Corinthians 13:5

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

### **Affirming God's Servants:**

...A HUGE thanks to all who made the Kid's Connection FAMILY STYLE Tailgate a HUGE success! We had a lot of fun eating, making a project with and for our families and gearing up for the game. A special thanks to the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Tiger Football Team for being our special guests and signing our footballs!

...We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Soup & Pie Supper a success. If you contributed food, if you helped with, or if you came to enjoy, we give thanks. A special thank you to the youth, who helped by serving and giving of their time.

*Women of Hope Soup & Pie Team*

**Nominations for new consistory members** are due by Thursday, November 5. Please put your nominations in a sealed envelope (please write "nominations" on the outside of envelope) and put it in the slot by the church office door. All confessing members who have made a public commitment and profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord before the elders and congregation are eligible to submit a nomination. Submitting a nomination ballot is a unique and special way for you to participate in the leadership selection process of our church. **Only Hope Church Confessing Members are eligible to cast a nomination ballot.**



### **Do you enjoy music and making a joyful noise through song?**

You can be a part of a special event on Sunday, December 20.

You will have the opportunity to be a part of a choir that will lead the morning worship service as part of our Advent series. Rehearsals will be on Sundays beginning November 8 (times will vary so watch your bulletin weekly). On November 8 practice will be at 3:00 p.m. 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).



We are in need of supplies to make **sewing kits for our Haiti Team** to hand out when they are there in January. If you have any buttons, thread, needles, safety pins, or 1 yard (or longer) pieces of trim that you no longer need, please put them in the box in the church lobby. Thanks! If you have any questions, please contact Kim 262.3016.

"Only when we give joyfully, without hesitation or thought of gain, can we truly know what love means."

Leo Buscaqlia

## **PRAYER & PRAISE**



Please join us for Hope Church's weekly prayer time at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will conclude by 7:15 p.m. The time will consist of praise songs and prayer. This is also a great place to seek prayer for yourself.

Childcare will be available for infants – 3 years old in the nursery. We would like to encourage you to bring your older children along to *Prayer & Praise*.

## **Poinsettias**

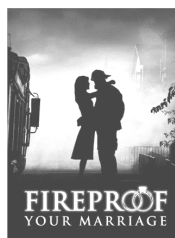


This year we will have a poinsettia display during the Advent season. You can help with this display. You can make a monetary donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one(s). Place your name and the name of the person being remembered on a sheet of paper and bring it with your monetary donation to 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.**

We are looking for someone to **fill in at the church office** (with pay); especially the Tuesday and Wednesday the week of Thanksgiving and also at other times. Computer skills are necessary. If you would be interested, please contact Lynda at the office (262.3016).



**Hope's Book Club** will be reading "The Shack" by Wm. P. Young in November, if someone has a book to lend, please call Marlis Kuiper (262.7031) or Betty Groen (262.3653).



The movie, Fireproof will be shown in the Harbor of Hope on **Sunday evening, November 22 at 6:30 p.m.** Mark your calendars, for this special event. This is a great PG movie to see. Popcorn and beverages will be served!

**Free childcare** (from infant to middle school) will be available from the Sr. High Youth and 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 preregister by calling Jay at 262-3016 or 363.0885.

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

**Hope's Sewing Group – Sewing What?** On Saturday, November 7, in the Grace Room from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon the group will be sewing activity bags to be used by the children during the worship services. Material and thread will be provided. Bring scissors and portable sewing machine if you have one. This is open to all men and women. If you have questions please contact Stephanie Johnson (262-0121).

**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 1**

Kenyon & Amanda Brown, Scott & Angie Mingus

**Youth Choir/Christmas Choir** 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.



**Attention 4<sup>th</sup> graders:** We want to help you get to know your new Bibles and to grow in your faith. Therefore, we are offering 6 classes for you. The first 3 will be in November. **Mark your calendars**

**for November 8, 15 and 22** and come to The Well (Fellowship Hall) from **4-5:30 p.m.** to do interesting activities and play fun games that will help you get to know what your Bible is all about. Questions? Call Carla van Holsteijn at 262-1854.

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!

You are invited to attend the **Women's Auxiliary Harvest Supper at Inspiration Hills Camp** (1242 280<sup>th</sup> St, Inwood, IA). On Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the camp. A delicious meal is planned. The cost for the evening is \$10 per person and you can make your reservations by calling the office at Inspirations Hills at 1-866-858-3265 by November 3. The entertainment for the evening will be the Kooi Family from Inwood. There will be an envelope offering during the evening for anyone wishing to contribute toward the projects of the auxiliary.



**Daylight Savings Times Ends Sunday, November 1**

Turn your clocks back and enjoy the extra hour of sleep before worship!

**Thanksgiving Service**  
Wednesday, November 25,  
7:00 p.m.

**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!



**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 Lord's Laughter**

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

11-25  
Copyright 1987  
Coville Syndicate, Inc.

"Cameras shrink us so Grandma can carry us around in her wallet."

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 31,  
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Hope Church parking lot



Invite your friends,  
neighbors, & families  
for a night of fun.

There will be a photo booth, games, food,  
and plenty of opportunities to collect candy.  
This is a chance to bless our community  
and introduce people to our church.

**Decorated cars should arrive  
between 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**



Will you give \$25...  
\$35...  
\$50 Dollars!!!!

## YOUTH MINISTRY AUCTION

Sunday, November 8, 5:00 p.m.

Youth Team is accepting items to be auctioned off.

**BE CREATIVE!**

Last year items ranged from babysitting,  
oil changes, pies, 2 hour boat ride,  
meals, to construction work.

A catered meal will be served during the auction.

We would like you to sign up at the lobby table on Sunday  
mornings with any item(s) you wish to donate.