

Hope Happenings

Winter 2023

Hope Kids



Hope Community Covenant Church loves kids, and during the Christmas season, we celebrated kids with House of the Christmas Mouse – thanks to all the many volunteers who made it happen. We also enjoyed our kid's involvement in our Christmas Eve service – thanks Marcie for the great video and helping the kids with their music.



Hello Hopesters!

Hope's Council has had a very busy couple of months and we have much to share with you. Firstly, we are pleased to announce that we were successful in receiving money from two Trellis Foundation grant applications. Let's Talk - Tomatoes is a gardening project that begins on **March 16**. We are partnering with Jennifer Neufeld of Flowering Spring Permaculture and Soil Health to learn about "successful" tomato growing through planting and nurturing our own tomato plants. This spring and summer activity will connect us with our local community, helping us to live out our mission of Connect.Grow.Serve. There are a few spots left if you are interested in being involved.

Our second application allows us to send 5 people to a Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development weekend at the Harbour at Riondel near Nelson BC. This weekend retreat is being led by Scott Erickson, who is an author, artist and performance speaker.

Secondly, the Hope Council has been working on improving our governance processes. Sounds BORING...but it is a necessary part of Council's responsibilities.

The Council is very excited to see many new faces in worship on Sunday morning. We are constantly looking for ways to live into our mission of Connect.Grow.Serve. We especially would like to expand how we involve ourselves in the Strathmore community. If you have any ideas, please share them with us!

We would also like to encourage everyone to stay after Sunday worship on **March 12** to participate in our Annual General Meeting. During this meeting we will be voting on new Council members, voting on a new budget, as well as presenting information that is vital to the health of our church.

Finally, we praise God for everyone's generosity in making our new roof happen. What a blessing (and a relief!)



Pastor Heidi's Musings

Jesus started with four fishermen, whom he called to follow him and “fish for people”. From those early days of Jesus' ministry, following Jesus and growing in faith has been an integral part of what we are called to do as the church. But it is hard to “fish for people” if we don't know how to fish. Our theme this year is discipleship, being connected to the True Vine Jesus so that we can grow deeper in our faith and then “fish for people” by sharing what we know about Jesus with others. I am excited about those who are taking their faith seriously at Hope, our kids, our youth, and adults, especially our older adults. Jesus is up to something at Hope! Find a place to serve, find a group to join to learn more about Jesus, and dig in to what living as a branch, connected to the True Vine, is all about.

From Pastor Matt

It has been a wonderful year filled with new and exciting things for both children's and youth ministry at Hope. We are continuing to welcome new students at our Wednesday night youth gatherings at which we have been working through the Youth Alpha series and a Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount. Our Friday night events have taken us on some great adventures to various locations including The Calgary Farmyard and Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park. Hope Kids continues to be a steady part of our Sundays at Hope. Our wonderful children's ministry volunteers do an incredible job of showing the love of Jesus and teaching the beautiful truth of the Gospel to every child that walks through the doors on a Sunday morning.

For information on how to get involved with kids or youth, email matthew@hope-community.ca

Pastor Karen says,

Jesus stated in the great commission that we “make disciples”. In this season of Hope, we are choosing to focus on how we can best offer discipleship opportunities for our congregation. Currently we are using books focused on discipleship by James Bryan Smith. We are just starting the Good and Beautiful Community. These books have been excellent resources to help us by introducing spiritual practices that cause us to grow deeper in our faith. These classes are held Wed morning and Wed evening. Pastor Heidi has been teaching the book of Mark which again has created opportunities for growth. Currently we also are offering the Aging Faithfully group. Our men's and women's ministry also create opportunities for growth and discipleship. We would encourage you to take advantage of these resources.

Hope Community Covenant Church

Pastors – Heidi Wiebe (Lead Pastor), Matt Siebring (Pastor of Children and Youth), Karen Bayley (Pastor of Community Life and Adult Formation)

Staff –Brandi Bobee (Office Administrator), Linda Ray (Property Manager), Marcie Tremblett (Social Media Manager)

Support Services -- Joni Elliott (Hope Counselor)

Hope Community Covenant Church Council -- Lloyd Schoepp (Chair), Laurie Motley (Vice-Chair), Corine Kruse (Secretary), Ian Eygenraam (Treasurer) and Karen Harris. We are open to hearing your thoughts -- feel free to contact us, either in person or by email at council@hope-community.ca