

In Touch with

Hope

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOPE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2024

Pastor James Runcorn

Lead Pastor

I've had interesting conversations after sermons sometimes. On a couple of occasions, people have taken issue with something I've said. If the disagreement or frustration came from my words, I would have to take full responsibility for the statement/opinion/words. Interestingly enough, the objections I've faced (thus far) have been with the actual text of Scripture.

I'm ok with that. If someone doesn't align with God's Word, my prayer is that their heart will soften. If someone gets angry with what the Bible says, I can understand. When we try to control the situation with our own perspective, preconceived notions or opinions, frustrations are inevitable.

I am sensitive that I do not, have not, nor will not intentionally misrepresent what the Bible says. That is why I have repeatedly asked you, the church, to hold me accountable. The best method for speaking the truth, preaching the truth and teaching the truth, is to understand the context in which it was written. There is a specific time in history when each book of the Bible was written. There were cultural norms, practices and traditions that all helped to shape the words of that particular book. There was a specific God-inspired, human author who penned the words, as well as a specific recipient audience, not to mention the multiple literary genres throughout the 66 books (poetry, wisdom literature, narrative, apocalyptic...).

Keeping all of those factors in mind, I stick with the text and see where it takes us. If I start to head down the rabbit hole of my own opinions, we will end up far away from the truth of Scripture. Keep it real. Keep it truthful. Share it with love.

From time to time, we will look at texts that nudge us outside of our comfort zone. That's ok. Talking about, dealing with, studying and applying subjects and concepts (from the Bible) that are beyond our normal level of comfort will result in growth and maturity.

Let's move forward, together, with hopeful anticipation of where God will lead us next!

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Missions

Hope Church has been sponsoring Craig and Cristi Gabhart in Haiti for many years. The Gabharts live full time in Haiti as missionaries with Many Hands 4 Haiti. Dozens of Hope Church members have travelled to Haiti with the Gabharts.



Craig Gabhart will be joining us during a September Sunday to update Hope Church on their missions work in Haiti and what Many Hands for Haiti is doing. This is a great time to meet one of the missionaries we sponsor and a wonderful way to explore taking a short-term mission trip of your own.

Many Hands 4 Haiti is adding 160 new children to their 1,000-day program. They are looking for sponsors to help feed expecting mothers through delivery and the first 1,000 days of life as a newborn child in Haiti. This program has been tremendously successful in not only helping infants and small children, but the parents of these children also can grow vegetables and raise goats to help with their own nutrition.

MH4H is also providing care and assistance to Haitian migrants in Abaco Cay, Bahamas. Prayers are requested for the Convoy of Hope team working in Abaco and for the many new employees of MH4H. Prayers are also requested World Renew Vision Trip to Abaco as well.

Prayers also for Craig Gabhart who is currently residing in Spencer while undergoing cancer treatments. Please pray for Christi as well as she is still working in Haiti. And prayers for continued healing and good health for Christi.

Small Groups



ROOTED

Greetings Hope Church!!!

As you've heard, on September 22nd, we're launching Rooted, a 10 week, small group experience. We are called to make disciples and Rooted gives you the tools to grow your faith by spending time in scripture and community with your Rooted group.

Sign up started on the 25th of August and spots are available on a first come basis. If you're wanting to be a part of a small group, come see me at the Rooted table in the lobby between services (9:40 - 10:40 am) on September 1st and 8th.

I will be available answer any questions you might have as well as have a sign-up sheet ready. I look forward to seeing you!

Rooted in Christ ~ Terry Stevens

**CONNECT WITH GOD,
THE CHURCH,
AND YOUR PURPOSE.**

Join Us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sundays
at 9:45 am**

Preschool through Adult

Resumes Sunday, September 8



YOUTH GROUP

SENIOR HIGH

Sundays at
7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wednesdays at
5:30 pm - 6th Grade
6:30 pm - 7th Grade
7:30 pm - 8th Grade

**We Look Forward
to Seeing You!**

Concerns For

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

- Cheri Prange as she continues rehabilitation from her knee surgery.
- Terry Wiese who has been experiencing considerable knee and back pain.
- Jen Johnson and her upcoming knee and back surgeries as well as her recovery.
- John Vanden Hoek's parents. Ken - is in failing health and in Hospice. Arlene - her health issues/ possible surgery.
- Jody Vulk's dad, Dwight Surber, who recently had surgery.
- Rachel Van Der Heide's mom, Ronda Noteboom, as she recovers from back surgery.

Celebrate With



Marley Prenzlou who was baptized on Sunday, August 25.

Marley is the daughter of Nathan and Christie Prenzlou. She has 2 siblings, Campbell and Mila. She is in 8th grade and active in many athletics: volleyball, basketball, wrestling, track, softball and soccer.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, attending Youth Group and working out.

Dates to Remember

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Church will be closed for Labor Day

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 6 pm

Fall Film Festival Meeting in the Well

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 7 pm

Consistory Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 7 pm

Missions Team Meeting in the Grace Room

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 1 pm

Prayers & Squares Quilting Ministry in the Well

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Rooted Small Group Launch Day

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 10 am - 3 pm

Blood Drive

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-28

Consistory Retreat

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 10 am

Church in the Backyard at the Runcorn's
Look for an email with more details

Consistory Minutes

EMERGENCY MEETING - FLOOD DISASTER

Present: Pastor James Runcorn, Pastor Jay Van Gelder. **Elders:** Bruce Groen, Jeff Helmink, Doug Siepkes, Bob Campbell, Gary Zeutenhorst, Kevin Vander Stoep. **Deacons:** Terry Stevens, Ryan Christoffel, Jason Warren, **By phone:** Knut Brown, Alex Johnson

June 26, 2024 • 7:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Pastor James and opening prayer by Pastor James

- First item of discussion was to give Pastor James emergency decision making ability for Hope so he does not have to discuss every issue that comes up during this emergency with the entire consistory and wait for enough replies to have a quorum. MMSC (Bob Campbell and Terry Stevens).
- Second item of discussion was scaling back Julia's work week to 20 hours per her request. MMSC: (Warren/Campbell)
- Third item was to hire Abbey Fujimoto as a temporary employee for social media to work 10 hours per week that is being vacated by Julia. This position to be reviewed in 5 months' time. MMSC: (Warren/Campbell)
- Discussed church service in Pastor James' backyard and what to do for food, no decision made.

Closing prayer by Doug Siepkes

Save the Date!

Sunday, September 29 @ 10:00 am

for

CHURCH IN THE BACKYARD

at the Runcorn's

Lunch will follow the service. More details to come.

FALL FILM FESTIVAL

Stories of faith, hope and RESTORATION

REGISTER THRU SEPT 6

Making Movies for Jesus!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Abbey at
amfujimoto@spencerhope.org

COLLEGE WRITING MINISTRY

We love to send letters from home
and encourage our college
students from Hope Church!

If you would like to send a monthly note to a college
student or have a student who'd love to hear from us,
contact Kristy Connor by Sept. 15 at 712-260-0771
or kconnor1423@gmail.com.

Worship Services

SUNDAYS: 8:30 am and 10:45 am

8:30 am service live-streamed online: www.youtube.com/hopechurchspencer

Sunday School

SUNDAYS: 9:45 - 10:40 am Preschool through Adult

Hope Church Staff

James Runcorn, Lead Pastor | **Jay Van Gelder**, Youth Pastor | **Julia Andela**, Children & Families Director

Ryan Hoskins, Worship Director | **Terry Stevens**, Director of Adult Discipleship | **Michael Fujimoto**, Facilities Manager

Jill Lowe, Office Administrator | **Tim Yeager**, Maintenance | **Levi Morris**, Treasurer | **Missy Lair**, Nursery | **Abbey Fujimoto**, Social Media



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