

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter | October 2026

Walking with Jesus, Walking with Others. Serving God, Serving Others.

Pastor Appreciation

As we enter into October and begin the month set aside for pastor appreciation, we want to encourage everyone to show gratitude and appreciation for both Pastor Mark and Pastor Steve - for the time and efforts they give in leading and shepherding us as well as Steve's ministry as a chaplain in the guard.

Some fairly "simple" things we can do:

- 1) Write a letter, add a note to a card, draw a picture, etc. and give it to them. If you need a little help with some prompts for what to write, there are some sheets for kids and adults on the table in the narthex - please feel free to use them! If you would like to send a card/letter to Pastor Steve, please place those in the basket on the narthex table and we will gather them all into one package and send it to him at the end of the month. Emailing a note to Pastor Steve is also an option.
- 2) Pray. Praying for our pastors is one of the best and most impactful things we can do. You can use the ideas on the list to the right to pray for Mark and Steve using Scripture.
- 3) Pray for and thank Miriam and Sarah for all they do to support their husbands and the church.

THIS MONTH AT HOPE:

Sunday, Oct. 4	9:00AM—Sunday School 10:00AM—Worship Service, Communion 11:00AM—MESA TF Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 7	4:30PM—Jr. & Sr. High Make Subs 7:00PM—Catechism and RCYF
Sunday, Oct. 11	9:00AM—Sunday School 10:00AM—Worship Service 11:00AM—Education TF Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 13	1:00PM—Esther Circle
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Pairs & Spares 7:00PM—Love Circle, Catechism and RCYF
Sunday, Oct. 18	9:00AM—Sunday School, Worship TF Meeting 10:00AM—Mission Fest Worship Service 11:00AM—All Church Potluck
Wednesday, Oct. 21	7:00PM—Catechism and RCYF
Sunday, Oct. 25	9:00AM—Sunday School 10:00AM—Worship Service 11:00AM—Buildings & Grounds TF Meeting 1:00PM—Education TF VBS Room Clean Out
Monday, Oct. 26	6:30PM—Elders Meeting 7:00PM—Consistory Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 28	7:00PM—Catechism and RCYF

Scriptures to Pray for Pastors and Leaders

Praying for Fruit in Their Daily Life

Lord, I pray that the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control will produce in his daily life. - Gal. 5:22-23

Praying for Your Pastor and His Family

Lord, help him to manage his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity - 1 Tim. 3:5

Lord, please help him to love his wife just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her. - Eph. 5:25

Praying for a Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

I pray that you give him a Spirit of Wisdom and revelation, so that he may know You better. - Eph. 1:17

Praying for His Love to Abound

I pray that his love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that he may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ. - Phil. 1:9

Praying for His Soul's Refreshment and Strength

Lead him to green pastures and quiet waters - restore his soul; guide him in the paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. - Psalm 23:3

Praying for Deliverance from Temptation

Lead him not into temptation, but deliver him from evil. - Matt. 6:13

Praying for Power and Boldness to Preach the Word

Help him to proclaim Your kingdom and teach about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. - Acts 28:31 *from meganallenministries.com

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 **Gerald & Pam Grave**
- 2 Jenna Maggert
- 3 Norma Winkel
- 5 **Paul & Angela Van Briesen**
- 6 Kris Grave
- 9 Beverly Luitjens
- 10 Vince Luitjens
- 12 Spencer Sprock
- 13 Mike Modder
- 14 **Bruce & Jane Aning, Andrew & Kallie Zylstra**
- 21 **Glen & Donna Geerdes, Melissa Grave**
- 23 Sarah DeHaan
- 24 Delores Krull
- 28 **Noal & Vonda Maggert**
- 30 Rachel Blake

Bold = anniversary

- Gratitude Corner -

Each month this space is used to recognize groups or individuals who help to further the Kingdom by *Serving God and Serving Others*. This month we are grateful for:

Pastors—To Steve and Mark for all they do in leading our congregation and guiding us to be more like Christ...

Buildings & Grounds TF—For all they do to fix things and keep our buildings in good condition...

Thank you!

To Our Pastor

Our God has sent you to this place
To lead us in the way
That He would have us work and think
And live from day to day.
No matter the hour; whatever the need,
You go the extra mile -
Always ready and willing to share
A comforting thought and a smile.
We're grateful that you're here with us
To teach us from His word,
And we will try to do our best
In service of our Lord.
We thank you for your ministry,
Your guidance and your care.
His greatest blessings for your life
Is our most humble prayer.

-Author Unknown

Pairs & Spares

Wednesday, October 13

Esther Circle

Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00pm

Location: Marlene Stubbe

Lunch & Lesson: Marlene Stubbe

Devotions: Jo Van Engen

September Bulletin Board

Valerie Gruis

Love Circle

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00pm

Leader: Kathy Altena

Lunch & Devotions: Kathy Altena

Lesson: TBD

DEACON'S REPORT

January-August 2026

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General	\$82,028.93	\$86,150.40	(\$4,121.47)
Benevolent	\$19,851.18	\$26,333.34	(\$6,482.16)
TOTAL	\$101,880.11		

Serving Others

<u>Oct</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Children's Sermon</u>	<u>Offering</u>
4	Mavis N. and Leo V.	Chantell A. Abby R.	Craig S.	Cory A.	RCYF	Benevolent
11	Darrin & Nancy P.	Sarah D.H. Keilahny A.	Bert R.	Sandy R.	Pam G.	General
18	Bert & Sandy R.	Melissa G. Grace L.	Pam G.	Brandon V.B.	Sarah D.H.	General
25	Kyle & Abby R.	Pam G. Carly D.	Dorene C.	Kyle R.	Shelly A.	General

"A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't." - Charles Spurgeon

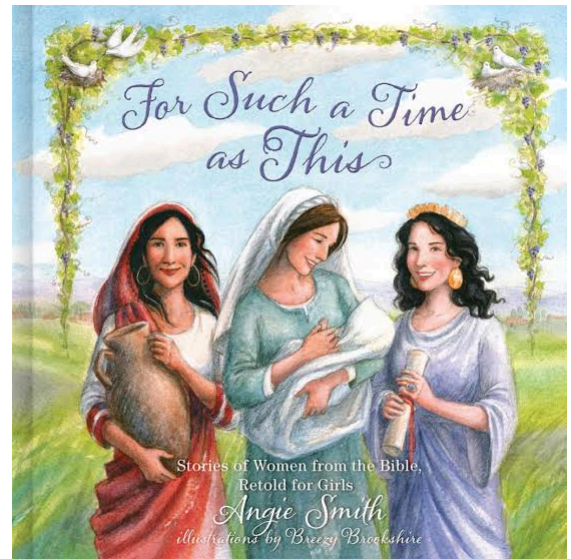
Youth Library Items

Check out some of the books that you can find in the basement library!

For Such a Time as This

Stories of Women from the Bible, Retold for Girls
by Angie Smith, illustrations by Breezy Brookshire

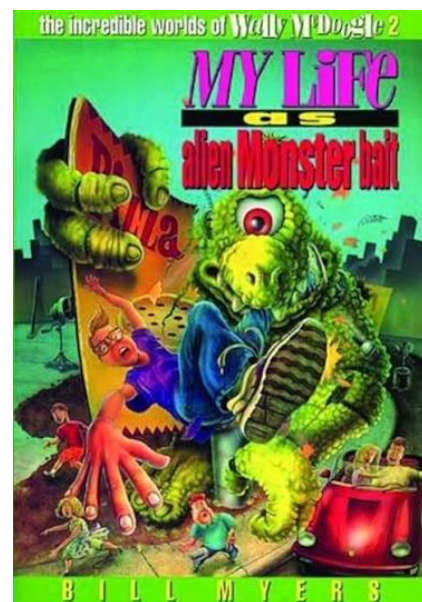
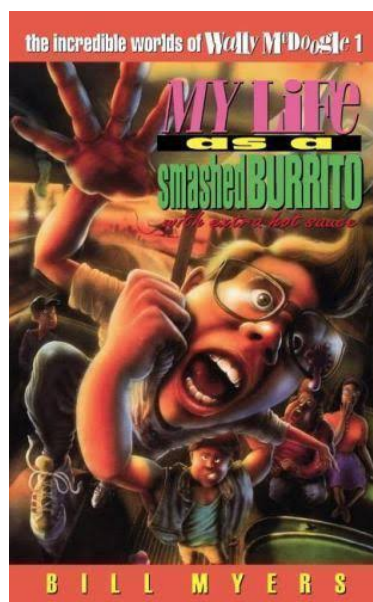
A storybook Bible that focuses on women in scripture and includes a devotional section at the end of each story.



October

Pray for MISSIONS supported by HRC

- Scott & Colleen Burdsall—London
- Jeff & Chelsea Lampen—Germany
- Deb Rensink—Whispers of Love, Hope & Joy
- Jon & Gracia Harmsen—Sioux Empire CRU
- Sunny Hesby—NC—youth movement
- Dan & Natalie Ebbens—Livingstone Prison
- Jason & Ruth Wiersma—Freedom's Gate
- Seung & Amy Kim—Bangladesh
- Brian & Elizabeth Bruxvoort—Alaska
- GLR Bread of Life and Food Pantry
- Operation Christmas Child—Samaritan's Purse
- Vacation Bible School
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace—(kids beds)—Lyon Co
- Love Inc—mentoring, furniture
- Touch of Hope—Haiti
- Life Wise—Christian program in public schools
- George Kiwanis—coupons for food for kids on weekends



The Incredible Worlds of Wally McDoogie

Book 1: My Life as a Smashed Burrito with Extra Hot Sauce

Twelve-year-old Wally-“the walking disaster area”-is forced to stand up to Camp Wahkah Wahkah’s number one all-American bad guy. One hilarious mishap follows another until, fighting together for their very lives, Wally learns the need for even his Worst enemy to receive Jesus Christ.

Book 2: My Life as Alien Monster Bait

“Hollyweird” comes to Middletown! Wally’s a superstar! A movie company has chosen our hero to be eaten by their mechanical “Mutant from Mars!” It’s a close race as to which will consume Wally first – the disaster-plagued special-effects “monster” or his own out-of-control pride ... until he learns the cost of true friendship and of God’s command for humility.

Silly Joke: Which vegetable did Noah leave off the ark?

Fall is right around the corner, and at **Inspiration Hills** we are getting ready for our **Annual Fundraiser** on November 5th! We are excited to invite you to join us in fellowship and support as we hear and reflect on the impact that Inspiration Hills has had on God's greater mission to this area and beyond. Tickets are \$50 a seat or buy a whole table for \$350 (8 seats). You can buy tickets for the night here: <https://inspirationhills.campbrainregistration.com/> or call the office @ 712-986-5193

2026 Fall Youth Retreats - This year's theme is Salt & Light, based on Matthew 5:13-16. Throughout both retreats, students will explore what it means to live as salt and light in their schools, churches, communities, and everyday lives.

CAMP CONNECTION | HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT - October 30-November 1
Grades 9-12

Bring your whole youth group for a weekend away together, or students are welcome to register and attend individually! The weekend will include worship, chapel, activities, games, fellowship, and plenty of time to enjoy camp.

EARLY BIRD: Save \$30 when you register by October 9!

[Learn More + View Pricing & Registration](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT - November 6-8
Grades 6-8

A fun, faith-filled weekend designed specifically for middle school students! Students will experience worship, chapel, activities, games, time with friends, and a weekend away at camp.

EARLY BIRD: Save \$30 when you register by October 16!

[Learn More + View Pricing & Registration](#)



2026 Task Force Members

MESA

Kathy Altena-Deacon & Sec.
Craig Sandbulte-Elder
Gary Jager
Angie Van Briesen
Pam Grave
Floy Korthals

Education

Sandy Reitsma-Elder
Mark Leemkuil-Deacon
Abby Reitsma-Chair, Co-Superintendent
Brenda Sandbulte-Co-Superintendent
Shelly Altena
Kendra Reitsma
Rachel Blake
Sarah DeHaan
Kyle Reitsma
Angie Van Briesen

Worship

Gerald Grave-Elder/Chair
Jim Rypkema-Deacon
Kaitlin Bechler-Secretary
Dorene Chapa
Wendy Leemkuil
Marlene Stubbe
Vonda Maggert

Building and Grounds

Bert Reitsma-Chair
Matthew Grave-Deacon
Randy Rosenboom-Elder
Kathy Altena-Secretary
Darrin Popkes
Dalton Popkes
Kim Joe Chapa
Abby Reitsma

General Schedule:

- 5:00 pm - Doors open
- 5:15 pm - Social Hour & Appetizers
- 6:00 pm - Dinner
- 7:00 pm - Testimony Panel current and future ministry leaders followed by a time of giving
- 8:00 pm - Depart

- ATLAS—mentoring and emergency food
- Justice for All—clothing and furniture
- Inspiration Hills—Bible camp
- Rocky Mountain High—RCYF attends
- Hope Haven—Brandon S's house
- Talking Bibles in many languages
- Gideons—sharing Bibles and mentoring
- Words of Hope—Daily devotions

"Gracious God, thank you for inviting us to join in your work of love and healing in the world.

Please open our eyes to the needs around us and send us out to serve with courage.

Give us the right words to speak and the grace to listen. Protect those who travel far and near to share your good news, and keep their hearts rooted in you.

Soften the hearts of those who hear, that they may find hope and life. Amen."

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15