



Doorway to Hope

The Newsletter of Hope Church, P.C.A.

Our Vision: Training People for L.I.F.E

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Hope Church and the Gospel

By Pastor Nate

I have already said thank you for your warm welcome to me and my family. We really do enjoy living life here in Ballston Spa and count it a privilege to work alongside and serve you all. As this is my first article for Hope's newsletter, I thought it appropriate to talk about why we are going to spend the next six months or so studying the book of Galatians. Here it is: Christians need the gospel too. Let's work that out.

What is the gospel? How we answer that question is going to impact how we relate to one another, how we 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling' (Phil. 2:12), how we read the Scriptures, and ultimately whether or not we believe God really is on our side. Is the gospel only the means by which we enter into a relationship with the living God or is it something more?

Listen to how the New Testament speaks of the gospel: It is something that the angels do not want to look away from. It has captured their gaze. They can't get enough of the suffering of Christ and his grace poured out for sinners (1 Peter 1:12). There is an ongoing awe of a King who is both Lion and Lamb. Crucified hands control the kingdoms of this world down to the

crumbs that fall from your dinner table (Col. 1:15-20). The gospel is the great mystery of the cosmos and the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:7-11) which is now revealed and explained to us. It is the meaning of life, the end of history (Rev. 5:9-10) and will be part of the celebration of eternity (Rev. 19:6-10). Within the bottomless depths of the gospel is the solution to every problem (2 Peter 1:3-11) and healing for every heartache (Rev. 21:1-4). Faith in God's gospel is not only the way to enter into God's kingdom, but it also is the way to grow in our obedience (Col. 1:6). And finally, as Paul points out to Christians in Galatians, to change the gospel is to turn away from God of grace (Gal. 1:6-9). The gospel really is the air that Christians are supposed to breathe in every day by faith and for godliness. As Steve Brown likes to say, "the gospel of grace is like a pool, which is shallow

enough for kids to splash around in and deep enough for elephants to swim."

So, what is the gospel? The word "gospel", literally means good news. It is news of a historic event that took place in real space and real time that demands a response and changed the listener's plight. When WWII ended on September 2, 1945, it was a 'gospel' type event. Everyone back home who were not participants in the violence had nothing to do to earn or experience this new freedom except respond in celebration. Thus when we as Christians talk about the gospel, the good news about what God has done through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, it is not an announcement of



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what we must do to find God. It's not a statement of steps detailing how good we must be to earn God's acceptance. It's the historical reality that communicates that we are so sinful that Jesus Christ had to give Himself up and die for our sins in order that we might receive Christ's righteousness. And because of this historical event, those who trust in Jesus as their Savior are right now holy, blameless and without reproach (Col. 1:21). We simply respond and receive it.

Galatians is about the importance of this gospel. Martin Luther, the 16th century Reformer, in his preface to his commentary on Galatians says this, "There are several different ways people live in order to appear good and acceptable. We keep the laws of our nation as good citizens. We seek to please our family and culture and try to do all the things our parents told us to do. We work really hard to keep God's moral laws and commands, recorded in Scripture. But there is only one righteousness that is a gift from God, given to us despite and apart from all that we do. This is Christian righteousness. It is a passive righteousness, something done and earned by Jesus. We do nothing for it and we give nothing for it. We only receive it by faith. Because Christians do not completely understand this we have to constantly teach it, repeat it and work this out in practice" (My paraphrase). Do you believe this gospel? If you do, that means God's acceptance of you is completely dependent on Jesus Christ. Trust him.

By now you probably have questions about how to work this out. Why should I obey? What's the purpose of God's laws and commands if we can't keep them perfectly anyway? How do I use the freedom Christ bought with his blood? But I think you are getting the idea that the Bible's teaching is that the gospel ought to saturate every part of our lives. My prayer for us at Hope is that the God of the book of Galatians would grip us with His grace and use these next six months to revive us and set us free to serve one another in love (Gal. 5:13). There is dynamite in this book, the power of God for our salvation.



To Bob: Our Heartfelt Thanks!

By Sally Jenkins

Ruling Elder Bob Hornlein was honored at our January 31, 2016 Congregational Meeting. He was presented with a framed certificate *"In recognition of 35 years of selflessly and prayerfully serving and shepherding the members and friends of Hope Church."*

Bob is one of the last three charter members worshipping at Hope Church, and he has been serving as an elder here since January of 1980! Known as a faithful servant and a man of prayer, he has been instrumental in leading, praying for and shepherding the flock at 206 Greenfield Avenue.

Bob was granted Elder Emeritus status in July of 1995 but then returned to be an active elder until he once again became inactive in 2012. However, Bob again arose to the needs of the congregation and served on the Session for another three years from 2012-2015. At our Congregational Meeting in January of 2015 Bob announced that at the end of 2015 he would no longer be serving as an active ruling elder but would truly become Elder Emeritus. He realized that his lifestyle needed to change and that although his mind was still sound his body was aging and the daily requirements of life were taking him longer.

Now at the age of 90 Bob will no longer be regularly attending Session meetings. We all know, however, that he will forever be a friend, resource and faithful prayer warrior for his church family at Hope. He is dearly loved and the scripture on his certificate aptly says,

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community and Mission around the Table

By Tim Chester

Reviewed by Pastor Nate

I made a recommendation for this book, *A Meal with Jesus: Discovering Grace, Community and Mission around the Table*, from the pulpit earlier this year. It's been one of the books both Bethany and I have enjoyed together. It has helped use God's Word to think about how to use the ordinary moments in our lives, eating meals, for the glory of God and love of our neighbor. Here are a few quotes from the book which I hope motivate you to read for yourselves:

“Eating is an expression of our dependence. God made us in such a way that we need to eat. We're embedded in creation; this means that every time we eat, we're reminded of our dependence on others.”

“If the foundation of hope is God's mercy, the content of hope is eating with God... ‘And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk and all the streambeds shall flow with water... (Joel 3:18).’ This is salvation: to feast abundantly and to feast with God.”

“In his book *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putman reveals that there's been a 33 percent decrease in families eating together over the last three decades. And more than half of those families are watching television as they eat together. Over the same period there's been a 45 percent decline in entertaining friends. Growing up I would ask each Sunday, “Who's coming for dinner today?”

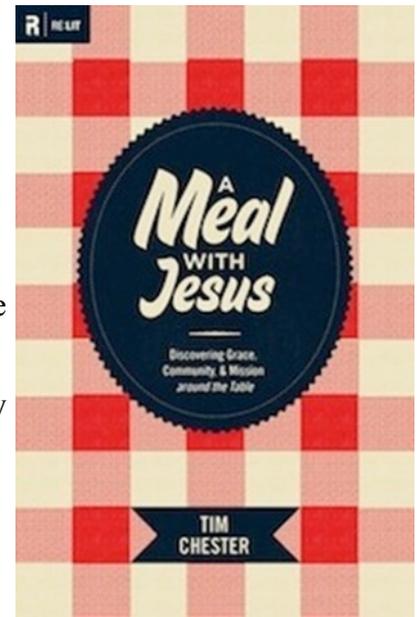
Not *whether* but *who*, because I knew my parents always would have invited someone. “In the typical American household, the average number of dinners eaten together is three per week, with the average length of dinner being 20 minutes.” Many homes no longer even have a dining room. We protect ourselves from outsiders, but our security systems and garden gates are our prisons, cutting us off from community. Instead we get our community vicariously through soap operas. *Friends* is a television program or a Facebook number, not people with whom we eat and laugh and cry.”

“We've commercialized hospitality... Starbucks sells us hospitality... There's nothing wrong with eating out or hosting a special meal—indeed there's a lot right with it. But somewhere along the line the commercialization of meals has cost us something precious. Hospitality has become performance art, and we've lost the creation of intimacy around a meal.”

Much more could be quoted from the book, but I will leave you with a good summary by Tim Challies:

Overall, this book shares a compact biblical theology of hospitality, focusing on meals. Chester makes a compelling argument that we would do well to view our meals through a biblical lens and to see each one as an opportunity to discover grace, community and mission. And since most of us eat 3 meals per day, we have endless opportunities to put into practice what we discover.

This is a good book to discuss with your friends around a good meal.



Interact in Worship

Two Winter Poems by Jane Tyson Clement From *No One Can Stem the Tide*

Child, though I take your hand
and walk in the snow;
though we follow the track of the mouse together,
though we try to unlock together the mystery
of the printed word, and slowly discover
why two and three make five
always, in an uncertain world—

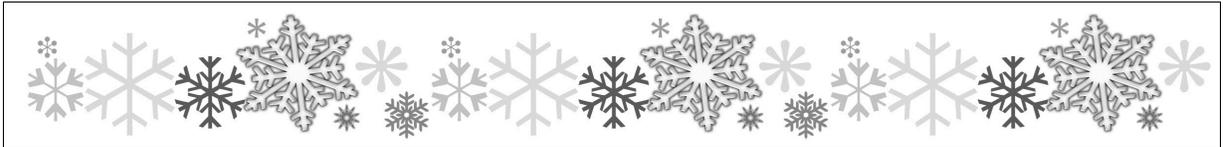
child, though I am meant to teach you much,
what is it, in the end,
except that together we are
meant to be children
of the same Father
and I must unlearn
all the adult structure
and the cumbering years

and you must teach me
to look at the earth and the heaven
with your fresh wonder.

The Quiet Wood

No footfall goes before us;
snow-muffled and entranced,
the moment held
heavy as snow-burdened cedar bough
and motionless
as in a spell...

pure
as the white heavens that have fallen on us
crystal after crystal all night long;
transformed
and for this little space of time,
as in the beginning,
innocent.



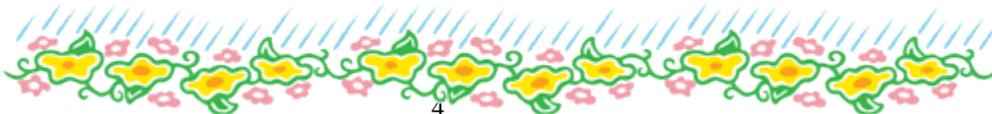
March

By Rae Whitehead

This time of year (O Lord!)
In nature do we see
Detritus of death—
The scarred and broken tree,
And oh the ground so newly bared
Of bright, forgiving snow
Is dull and old.
Bits and pieces, torn discarded things:
Cardboard, broken bottles now
Are all that's left of all the glory
Of still winter days
When brilliant white was nature's covering
(Grace to hide the ugliness below).
So now, O Lord, what shall we do
To keep at bay despair, dirt, dregs
And horrors, Lord, that You know
(But so much better than ourselves)?

Know:
Deep beneath the barren field
White roots lie.
And tubers, bulbs—
Hidden, strange misshapen things—
Will quicken, send forth shoots
And grow
And soon will open to the sky
And warming sun.
And oh the yield
Will be the Lord's!
And even we
Who lately dried and listless lay,
Will soak up living rain
And our lives reflect His beauty
Once again.

3/27/11



Foster Loving Relationships

It's the new year and we are so blessed! We have the Childs family joining us and increasing our numbers in Sunday School! Pastor Nate is working with the junior/senior high students! We have some new books in the library, as well as the Lamplighter books that I encourage you to take a look at. They are wonderful to read aloud even with older children. We will also have a Children's Page for the newsletter as well so please make sure to share this part with your children. Thank you.



Snapshot on Children's Ministry
By Melanie Combs

Let's get to know Eben Perkins. Eben is a 4th grader at Joseph Henry Elementary School in Galway. His favorite subject is science and his extracurricular activities include soccer, basketball, OM (Odyssey of the Mind) and 4H. His hobbies are reading, collecting rocks, nature stuff, hiking, skiing, camping and fishing. He is learning to play the recorder and piano. His favorite Bible Hero is Paul because he realized that he had done the wrong things and wanted to repent of them. Thanks, Eben, for helping us get to know you better.



Books of the New Testament

Here's a great puzzle for anyone who's trying to learn the books of the New Testament. Find the capitalized words from the word list in the Bible word search grid. Words may appear in any direction. Here's a twist: Can you also find the name of the man who wrote much of the New Testament?

Q	S	P	R	B	H	S	U	G	P	U	E	Z	N
T	C	N	L	E	U	K	A	S	T	C	A	N	H
D	H	U	A	T	V	L	R	E	T	E	P	O	O
P	A	E	I	I	A	E	S	A	D	C	S	M	J
P	H	T	S	T	S	N	L	U	M	N	O	E	F
Y	M	I	I	S	A	S	J	A	A	R	P	L	O
K	M	A	L	M	A	T	O	I	T	H	R	I	R
L	N	A	O	I	I	L	H	L	E	I	H	H	E
S	S	R	T	M	P	T	O	S	O	E	O	P	T
U	G	E	O	T	N	P	I	N	B	C	L	N	T
Q	N	T	M	I	H	A	I	R	I	U	S	G	E
Q	H	H	R	A	N	E	E	A	K	A	V	T	L
Y	J	O	O	S	J	W	W	E	N	E	N	C	F
H	C	F	C	J	S	W	H	J	W	S	Q	S	K

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
(I and II) CORINTHIANS

GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
(I and II) THESSALONIANS
(I and II) TIMOTHY
TITUS

PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
(I and II) PETER
(I, II, III) LETTER OF JOHN
JUDE
REVELATION

Foster Loving Relationships

Our New Members Speak: Natalie and Norm Jones

From Natalie...

May I begin by thanking all of you for a very warm and heartfelt welcome to both Norman and me! It is always interesting to look back and see how God in His great providence leads us to where we need to be.

My journey began in Rhode Island (the biggest little state in the union) where I was raised in the Catholic Church, I never truly felt God's love for me as a child or young adult. I never realized His commands were out of love. I just knew I could never follow them fully and I did not seek God or grasp what Jesus had done for me. But God continued to reach out to me.

After divorce and the sudden accidental death of my first husband I became a single mom of two young girls. Another short-lived, abusive marriage brought me to Cambridge, NY and the Coila Church. It was there through Sunday School and the preaching of God's Word that changed my heart and opened my eyes to God's great love, sacrifice, and grace. I began volunteering at a crisis pregnancy center and met a wonderful woman named Anna who happened to have a son named Norman. He lived in Syracuse at the time and was also divorced. We wrote and visited and eventually married, another gift from God. Through the retirement of our pastor and many other "events" in that church, Norman and I decided to look elsewhere for a church that matched our beliefs and where we felt God's leading. Norman's dear friend, Jim Farinacci, was here at Hope filling in as you awaited a new pastor, so we visited.

We both felt it was God's leading and providence to bring us here to Hope. We are so blessed by the preaching of Pastor Nate! We listen to the CD's over and over again. We look forward to what God has in store for us, the church and the community. We are thankful for the relationships that are forming and the bond of fellowship in Christ that we share. We also look forward to serving and growing in the Lord here.

A pastor we knew and loved quoted someone with these words: *"You are no place by accident today. Wherever you are you will be there by the divine appointment of Almighty God. He will use you to do His work today. You will be His hands, His voice, His feet. Because you ARE the salt of the earth, you ARE the light of the world, you ARE the hope of the community in which God has placed you. All you have to do is "show up." God has already been where you will be today. Never allow the thought, "I am of no use where I am." You certainly are of no use where you are not! The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace"* Numbers 6:24-26.

We have our challenges as a remarried couple such as being a melded family and debt along with the every-day challenges we all face, but God is bigger than them all. He has brought us together and promises to never leave or forsake us. I received a card years ago that said GODISNOWHERE — You can read that as "God is no where" or "God is now here." Like the cloudy days when you can't see the sun, it doesn't mean it isn't there. Through all of life's challenges, God is there and we need to seek Him, glo-

rify Him and share Him with others. I look forward to the great things He has in the future and look to grow closer to Him and you on our journey together. God Bless, Natalie Jones

From Norm...

In writing this I am thinking, "What would I want the people at Hope Church to know about me and my life in Christ?" Well, here goes.

The Lord came into my life when I was serving in the United States Navy in 1979. Early on I was influenced significantly by participation in a Navigator military ministry, attendance at an Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Berkshire Christian College, and Ralph Winter's perspective on Christian mission. My goal was to become a missionary to an unreached people group.

God in His perfect love and unsearchable wisdom has allowed me to go through some difficult struggles: a divorce, a long period of wandering from the Lord and finding my way back, and confusion and disappointment regarding the local church. Through it all I would have to agree with Alistair Begg when he said, "More spiritual progress is made through failure and tears than success and laughter." I am learning that Christ is my life.

I am so excited and happy, along with my dear wife, Natalie, that we have become members of Hope Church. I look forward to somehow becoming an intimate part of this church community even though we live 45 minutes away. I look forward to serving with you shoulder to shoulder in the great work that God has for us, the

(Continued on page 7)

Foster Loving Relationships

(Continued from page 6)

work that is being so wonderfully communicated by Nate in his current The Church in the World sermon series.

So let us get to know one another. Put me to work. Only may this work involve loving one another and reaching out with the love of Christ and his gospel to those outside the fold to the glory of his holy name. The Lord bless you.

Editor's Note: We will hear from new members Macia, Hannah and the Trestick's in our next issue!

Eggplant Parmesan

Submitted by Jill Galarneau

2 medium eggplants
2 eggs
¾ cups milk
½ cup seasoned bread crumbs
½ cup panko bread crumbs
½ cup parmesan cheese
Olive or vegetable oil
Pasta sauce of your choice (1-2 large jars?)
Parmesan cheese
2-3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Combine eggs and milk in a shallow dish. Combine both kinds of bread crumbs and the ½ cup of parmesan cheese in another dish. Peel eggplant and slice about ¼ to ½ inch thick. Heat some oil in large frying pan. Dip eggplant in egg/milk mixture and then in bread crumbs and fry on both sides until cooked to desired softness. I usually have to add more oil as I fry. Fry in batches until all eggplant is cooked, moving the pieces to a plate lined with paper towels to absorb oil. Heat sauce and spread about ½ cup onto the bottom of a 9x13 dish. Layer eggplant, some more sauce, and some mozz cheese. Continue layering until all eggplant and cheese is used up, ending with cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until bubbling.



Thank You: From the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund By Sally Jenkins

Every year at our Christmas Eve Service we receive a special offering for the PCA's Ministerial Relief Fund. A total of \$630 was received this year and was forwarded. We recognize that these funds have helped some people that are dear to our hearts. Kip and Judy Slawter received some assistance from them following Kip's injury and this past year the Thompson family was blessed by financial assistance following the death of his Dad, Ken Thompson, in July. Following are some of the notes of thanks that have been passed down to PCA local congregations.

"At this time my father is in rehab and very weak. My mother is recovering from heart and gall bladder surgery. Thank you so much for your generous gifts. Praise the Lord." — daughter of retired pastor and wife

"My wife and I are now in our 80s and without the monthly assistance from the Ministerial Relief Fund, would find it difficult to make it on Social Security alone. We have the occasion each month to give thanks for the love and generosity of our brothers and sisters across the boundaries of the PCA and those congregations that have so wonderfully blessed. God's grace is amazing! To all His saints—we say 'thank you and God Bless you!'" — Retired pastor and wife.

"We thank the Lord for you and your participation in the PCA Ministerial Relief Fund program to help pastors, missionaries and widows. God has greatly blessed us through your gifts. After ten surgeries to correct an intestinal problem, I am still suffering from many effects which have me disabled. I am so grateful for your help to enable me and my wife to meet our monthly bills. God has graciously spared my life and I give Him all the honor and praise. It is my desire to constantly share with others about God's saving and enabling grace. As I am able, I do volunteer chaplain's ministry at a local hospital. I enjoy visiting other patients and sharing the love of Christ with them and their families. God has opened the way to pray with doctors, nurses and staff. May God bless you as you have blessed my wife and me." — disabled pastor and his wife.

By **Mandy Klint <><**

Administrator

It is incredible to think that we are already about halfway through the school year! The students are back to work, after a well deserved Christmas break, and are enjoying school. The 5th and 6th graders are starting to prepare for their Culture and Science Fair projects. The kindergarteners are looking forward to starting full days at the end of the month. The entire school has enjoyed listening to several pastors speak in chapel. To top it all off, January is our mission's month and our students have all been studying what it means to be a missionary.

There are many items to be praying about as we continue to move forward. February comes with several important events: Open House on Feb. 6th from 10-noon, Discovery Day on Feb. 25th from 9-10:30 (this is like an Open House for our Pre-K and K program), and our Enrollment Dinner on February 27th from 5:30-8:30 (which will be at New Life Fellowship Church). You are invited to any or all of these events. Please be in prayer that interested families attend and are willing to listen and see what a wonderful opportunity for their children we can provide. We are also preparing for Pastor's Day, as well as our Spring Gala, both of which are in April. Please pray as we make connections, plan invitations, and put together all the details of these events.

As always, we are so thankful for you all! It has been great having Pastor Nate around and our students are looking forward to the next time he is able to speak in chapel. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and give you peace this beautiful winter day!

The Power of the Tongue

Mandy wrote the following in January 20th's "Weekly E-Blast" to Spa Christian parents. It's a "good word" that applies to us all!

*I spoke with the older students this morning about the words of our mouths. We focused on Ephesians 4:29, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but **only what is helpful for building others up** according to their needs, that it **may benefit those who listen.**" Our tongue can be a tool to help or a weapon to hurt.*

Our tongue is such a strong part of our bodies! After talking with the students I began to ponder my own tongue towards my students I remember the words my teachers spoke into my life, both those that built me up and those that tore me down. As adults we hold a huge power within our tongues. We have the ability to encourage our children to be the best God created them to be, or limit their dreams. "You'll probably never go to college." "You're so stubborn." "You always/never _____." Our words have an impact on how they see themselves and their future.

Let's challenge ourselves to speak life into our children, to help them dream big, to encourage them to be the best God created them to be.



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 18:10, NIV

"The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life." Proverbs 15:4a
"...how good is a timely word!" Proverbs 15:23b
"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing." Proverbs 12:18

Extend God's Hope



Hope Church Valentines Party

Saturday
February 13th
5:00 p.m.

For the Entire Family
Bring a dessert to share
and join us for a Ziti
Supper and games and
fun together.



Women's Retreat May 20-21, 2016

Cornick Home in Queensbury

Our Theme this year is:
"Worship While You Wait"

We have been in a waiting
period as a church and most of
us are also regularly waiting
on the Lord for something.

Ladies, join us at this year's
retreat as we consider such
questions as:

- How does being in community with other people help you persevere through the waiting periods of life?
- What are some of God's promises that you can claim while you are waiting?
- Why is waiting essential to your faith?

Please plan on attending and
be in prayer for the committee
as they make plans for a very
special retreat.

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Eva Anderson
- 3 Dr. Jody Collinge
- 6 Leslie Perkins
- 9 Hannah Mailloux
- 11 Luke Mailloux
- 11 Leah Mailloux
- 13 Robert Smith
- 15 Fred Richards
- 15 Rae Whitehead
- 22 John Milne
- 26 Dan Emerson

SYMPATHY

We want to extend our sympathy to
Debbie Cutler and the Owen family
in the recent sudden death of Deb-
bie's brother, George Owen.

BACK TO COLLEGE

Dan Turner has returned to college:
to SUNY Brockport, where he is
majoring in Creative Writing and
minoring in Coaching. He would
appreciate your prayers and cards.



**Newsletter
Deadline**

**Next Doorway to Hope
Deadline is March 15th**

MUSICIANS

Any closet musicians out there?
We'd love to have you join us on
the worship team! Speak to John
VanVoorhis.

INTERNSHIP

Gretchen Skye Herrick is presently
in South Africa doing an internship
with Clothing Bank. To find out
more about what Gretchen is doing
there you can find her blog at
16wsouthafrica.blogspot.com

Gretchen is presently a Junior at
Dartmouth College in MA.

DOORWAY TO HOPE STAFF

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the Church family

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The Presbytery of New York State will be conducting an Ordination and Installation worship service on Sunday, February 28, 2016 to ordain our Pastor Nate Thompson.

The service will be held at 5:00 p.m. and will be followed by a time of refreshment.

All are welcome as we celebrate this important day in the life of Hope Church and especially in Nate's life.

We are thankful to God for His goodness, faithfulness and grace.