

## Finding the right church for you

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Hope College's Campus Ministries partners with five churches in the area to work towards merging the Holland community and students, as well as help them grow in their spiritual lives.

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During the past few chapels, leaders from these churches have shared their vision and wisdom. Below is more information on these churches!



Nestled between Downtown Holland and Hope's campus, Pillar Church is the perfect location for those looking for a congregation near campus. Pillar aims to experience renewal as a church by living out their vision: "reconciliation, raising up and redeeming our community." Each of these visions works together to make Pillar Church what it is today. Pillar is a unity between the Reformed Church of America and the Christian Reformed Church, which makes it a unique, dual-affiliated church. Pillar Church works closely with Hope College, as many Hope students are faithfully involved with this church. One of the church's vision points is to raise up young men and women for leadership in the church, and they do so by running college-aged Bible studies. Pillar believes that Hope Students are an integral part of their congregation and see it as a gift that the church and college campus are so close together. In addition to their connection with Hope, Pillar is strongly involved in serving the local Holland community. Pillar works closely with several organizations to show the love of Christ and meet people who may not know who Christ is.

Pillar works with The Great Escape, Holland Rescue Mission, Tulip Time, Summer Organ Concerts and Maple Avenue Ministries, just to name a few! In addition to outreach, Pillar hosts many events within their own church to serve the congregation and those beyond.



Located on 13th and Pine, Third Reformed Church is the home to Reverend Kent Fry. This church's vision states, "We are a joyful people, formed by Christ and instructed by his Word and example. We are committed to expressing God's love and care for all. We trust God to guide and empower us to be the Body of Christ." The people of Third Reformed have focused efforts in "inclusiveness and participation in worship, Christian formation and nurture, mission-directed outreach and ecumenical collaboration." In addition to local efforts, Third Reformed Church has a heart for global outreach. Third Reformed partners with Hope's international department. Congregation members connect with Hope's international students as a way to mentor them as well as encourage them during their time in the United States.

The church has mission partners around the world. They partner with these individuals to support the missionaries and their visions. Third Reformed is connected with these missionaries in Mexico, Japan, Peru, Kenya, Romania and Malawi. Third Reformed has global partners around the world, which include Words of Hope, Aqua Clara, Personal Energy Transportation (PET) and Bread for the World. They partner with these organizations specifically because they believe that each human should feel empowered, and this begins by giving them the basic necessities of survival.

"The sole basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. We believe that Scripture originated entirely from God and that it was given through writers inspired by God. We believe that there is only one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

These views are a glimpse at the belief statement of Moran Park Church. This church is located on 22nd and Pine Avenue. Right across from Holland's own Moran Park, this church is a nice walk from campus. Moran Park only has one service at 10 a.m., which creates a strong community within the congregation. Community is important, but discipleship is also a core aspect to Moran. They believe that because Jesus' command was to go and make disciples, it is our job to go and do the same. "We believe discipleship occurs best in the midst of intentional, healthy relationships, so every week there are opportunities for people of all ages to connect in community and grow in the character and competency of Jesus."

Moran believes that community and discipleship go hand-in-hand, and they show this in their mission statement. Moran partners with both local and global outreaches to make disciples by meeting the needs of others. Within the Holland area, Moran works with 70x7 Life Recovery, My House Ministry, and Holland Rescue Mission. Globally, Moran supports families and congregation members that works and do missions abroad. Puerto Rico and South Africa are two of the locations in which Moran members are located.



Engedi has two different locations—one at 710 Chicago Dr. and another at 11950 Riley St. The Riley St. campus is a recent launch, which the church calls their new North Campus. The Chicago Dr. campus is the most popular for Hope students, and the services are on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m. Part of Engedi's mission and belief is, "full harmony – with God, within ourselves and in our relationships – will not completely happen until the promised return of Jesus. But we are invited to experience restoration and to extend it to others, right here and right now. We're invited to advance the kingdom revolution of Jesus worldwide."

Engedi has recently launched their Young Adult ministry, which was created with college students in mind and meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Engedi also has what they call CABLE Groups, which is a Bible study of about 6-10 people that meet regularly to dive into the word. These groups are made up of all different ages, and is a great way to meet new people and form a community.



**St. Francis de Sales Parish**  
Our diversity reflects the richness of our Creator.

St. Francis de Sales is located on the corner of 13th and Maple. This Catholic church offers unique, bilingual services in Spanish and English on Saturday nights at 5 as well as a Spanish service on Sunday mornings at noon. English services are Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:30.

Part of their mission statement says that "we struggle to live out the gospel in the context of our parish and our community while we travel together the path to the kingdom of God. We respect the beliefs and traditions of other Christian churches and we strive to cooperate with them in serving those in our community." This cooperation can be seen in the church through their willingness to accept people of all faiths, ethnicities and backgrounds.

St. Francis de Sales works closely with Hope College to offer support and resources for Hope students. They sponsor the Union of Catholic Students on campus, which has both men's and women's groups, as well as the occasional Sunday Mass (and pizza!) in Maas Auditorium.

Students can reach out to the Union of Catholic Students for more information by emailing [ucs@hope.edu](mailto:ucs@hope.edu).

St. Francis also sponsors the Saint Benedict Forum, which works to explore academics and faith through various forums and lecture series. These series are often advertised around Hope's campus and cover a wide variety of topics.

For more information on getting involved or connected with Hope College's Campus Ministries, visit their website at [www.hope.edu/offices/campus-ministries](http://www.hope.edu/offices/campus-ministries). You can also follow them on Instagram and Twitter @hopecollegem. If you missed a Chapel or Gathering, podcasts of both are available on their website or on [tunein.com](http://tunein.com).