

A Letter From the Dean

Dear Friends,

We find ourselves at the beginning of summer 2021, and life is changing! Even Hope Church is going back to in-person services starting in June, so I think that means most congregations are moving towards a new dual model, incorporating livestreaming with a live congregation again. I think it's safe to say that church music will never be the same post-COVID...

Even as we all mourn what has been lost though this past year, hopefully we can also keep in sight the benefits that new ways can also bring. I'd be curious to hear from you what are some things you feel like your congregation has learned from the last year of adjustments and change. What went better than you expected? What did you find you liked when you had to do it? What new skill are you glad you learned?

For Hope Church, a place where technology has not ever been very present in the sanctuary or worship service, transitioning to an online service was a steep learning curve, but I think both staff and congregation would say we are proud of ourselves for how we surmounted it, and surprised for the ways it could still feel meaningful, even when it also felt like a poor substitute for being together. For myself, I'm certainly a lot better at recording and editing music videos now!

Your Holland AGO is looking forward to our first in-person event both of this year, and the first this program year since our September bell event – a picnic in Kollen Park on Sunday, June 6 at 4pm. In the spirit of COVID precautions, we'll plan to bring our own picnic baskets and food (though if you have something easy and safe to share that you really want to bring, I won't discourage anyone from showing up with homemade cookies...) Bring a lawn chair too, so we can set ourselves up wherever on the grass is open and not too loud. Park in the lot at the end of 12th Street, and we can look for each other around the Bandshell. Feel free to bring family and/or friends with you if you'd like.

The other exciting organ event in Holland this summer is the return of the Pillar Church Organ Series! Thanks to the generosity of David Rossien, sponsor, and organizational work of Norene Walters, coordinator, Holland organ fans will have the chance to hear folks well-known to Holland like Peter Kurdziel, Jonathan Tuuk, Caron Farmer, and even David Heinze! Hope College's Huw Lewis will be opening the series on Wed, June 2 – all concerts start at 12:15 and last 30 minutes. The full program will be at the end of the newsletter.

The other big AGO news is that I'm planning on stepping down as your AGO dean this summer. It's been a great 7...8? years together, and I'm looking forward to seeing what comes next. I don't plan on disappearing, I just need to get a few volunteer things off my plate, as I'm stepping into the Interim Music Director position at Hope Church in June. So your board will be working on that transition, and look for elections coming into your inbox this summer.

Hope to see you at our picnic on June 6!

Best summer wishes,

Rhonda

Pillar Church 2021 Organ Series

(Concerts start at 12:15 p.m.)

June 2	Dr. Huw Lewis
June 9	David Heinze
June 16	Caron Farmer
June 23	Dr. Charles Kennedy
June 30	Bethany Dame
July 7	Dr. Peter Kurdziel
July 14	Jonathan Tuuk
July 21	Rhonda Sider Edgington
July 28	Dr. Norene Walters
August 4	David Schout

Upcoming Events -

Sunday, June 6, 4pm, Kollen Park – Members social gatherings (in person!)
Bring your own lawn chair, food, drinks, and snacks

Chapter Officers for 2020-2021

Dean - Rhonda Edgington
Sub-Dean - Linda Fulton
Secretary - Karen Howells
Treasurer - Gordon Bruns
Board Member - Rick Van Oss
Student Board Member - Alex Cross
Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – hollandareaago.org