

MICHAEL AND SARA GANUCHEAU



4 YEARS

Our family began attending Hope Church in September 2017 after moving back to Ohio from Kentucky.

When we first moved back to Cincinnati, we began searching for a church right away. We visited several local churches and eventually landed at Hope. We could tell from their beliefs and doctrine that Hope was a solid, Bible-believing and teaching church, but once we visited for the first time, we realized Hope was more than that. From even the first Sunday we attended, we could tell that the people here genuinely cared for one another and had deep, meaningful relationships. The teaching was authentic and real, yet full of truth and grace.

Michael and Sara both serve on the leadership team for Cultivate, a community group for young families. Sara also serves as leader of a group for moms, called Mom + Me and she will also be kicking off a chronological Bible course in 2021.

When we plugged in as a family to different ministry areas at Hope and Cultivate, our sense of community and fellowship grew greatly. We were encouraged and challenged to grow in our faith. We made meaningful friendships with others in a similar life stage who could come alongside of us and do life together. Bible studies we engaged in grew our knowledge of the Bible which also grew into life changes and deeper faith. Ministries like IF:Table and Partake for women allowed for many multi-generational conversations and mentorships to develop. Men's ministry events throughout the year encouraged genuine conversations about challenging life topics and grew authentic friendships. All of these ministry areas always pointed to Jesus, brought Biblically-sound teaching and fostered meaningful Christ-centered relationships to develop.

There is something very meaningful in coming together with other believers during the Gathering. As we know from Acts, God calls us to come together in worship, teaching and community. This time was special for the early church just as it is special today for Hope Church. During the Gathering, we are consistently challenged in our daily walks with the Lord. We greatly appreciate the genuine honesty from Pastor Stephen with the messages that challenge us to live on mission where we live, work and play. The weekly teachings promote conversations within our family about faith and Biblical truths. They bring convictions of sin, encourage growth in our faith and don't shy away from talking about hard truths.

Not long after we started attending Hope, Sara's father unexpectedly passed away. We were still very new at Hope, yet we were genuinely surrounded by love and support. We received authentic community in a real, tangible way through the body at Hope. We were supported with people volunteering to help watch our children, meals for our family, and prayer during a really difficult time. We were (and continue to be) genuinely supported by our community at Hope during a tough journey of grief.