

This Week

TODAY:

9AM: Choir Practice

10AM: Worship Service

11AM: Hot Dog Lunch

Liturgist: Al Roesler

Ushers: Larry Parsons & Mikaelynn Decker

Greeters: Dale & Jeanette Matheson

Accompanist: David Murray

Monday, September 1:



Tuesday, September 2:

2PM: St. Luke's Communion

Wednesday, September 3:

6-6:45PM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study
(VIRTUAL! see insert for zoom instructions!)

Thursday, September 4:

10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

1-3PM: Mat Weaving

6-8PM: Happy Hour with Jesus at Lost Saint Brewery (note new time!)

Sunday, September 7:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship & Communion Service

11AM: Sunday School

SHP Bible Study

Liturgist: Volunteer needed

Ushers: Volunteers needed

Greeters: Volunteers needed

Accompanist: Staci Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UWF Lunch on Sunday, 8/31/25!

Hot Dog Lunch after worship sponsored by United Women in Faith of Hope UMC. Free will offering to go towards the Blessing Bags fundraiser during the UWF District Meeting on 9/20. If you want to bring a side to share, you are more than welcome to but not required!

Choir is resuming!

Choir practice at 9AM before worship and we are planning to sing during worship for Sundays 9/14 and 9/28.

Fellowship is also resuming!

Starting Sunday, September 7 at 9:15AM, join us for coffee, snacks and fellowship with your Hope UMC family! Snacks for 9/7 have already been arranged.

Upcoming Changes to Office Hours!

Church office hours will be changing during the school year. Starting on Monday, September 8, the new hours will be:

Mondays 8:15am-12:15pm

Wednesdays 8:15am-4:15pm.

I will also be working one day from home on the accounting/financial/payroll/HR end of things.

The KBEW Radio Broadcast for the week of August 31 is sponsored by Judy Clark to remember and celebrate the life of Leon Hixon.

Want to financially support God's ministry at Hope? Offering plates will be passed around during worship OR scan this code to give online!



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Hope United Methodist Church

www.behopeumc.com | (507) 526-2144 | hopeumc@bevcomm.net

Church office hours: 8:15am-4:15pm Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Pastor Godfrey Gakuru: (740) 803-6762 hopepastor@bevcomm.net

Administrative Assistant, Carolyn Kaiser: (763) 567-9004 hopeumc@bevcomm.net

Kids Coordinator, Megan Goshorn: (253) 592-5219 kidscoordinatorhope@gmail.com

For more information and to see what else is happening at Hope, visit us at behopeumc.com and our Facebook page, Hope United Methodist Church-Blue Earth, MN.

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Hymn “Where Morning Gilds the Skies” UMH 185

Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship and to honor God, whose love endures forever.
All: We come with grateful hearts, ready to worship the Lord!
One: God invites us to return, to repent, and to be renewed.
All: We turn our hearts back to Christ, our first love.
One: Come, for Christ calls us closer, into His presence and His love.
All: We come with grateful hearts, ready to worship the Lord!

*Unison Prayer

Merciful God, we thank You for Your love and grace, freely given to us.
Help us to open our hearts to Your presence today, to receive Your mercy,
and to live as Your faithful children, sharing Your love with everyone
around us.
How can we resist Your voice, O Lord, when You call us to remember,
repent, and continue our good works of love? Hear us and reconcile our
hearts to You, so that we may fully know how to love You and our
neighbors. Amen.

*Hymn “Standing on the Promises” UMH 374

Children’s Message

Scripture Reading NRSVue **Revelation 2:1-7**
*1“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:
These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand,
who walks among the seven golden lampstands:
2“I know your works, your toil, and your patient endurance. I know that you
cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but
are not, and have found them to be false. 3I also know that you are enduring
patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown
weary.*

*4But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at
first. 5Remember, then, from what you have fallen; repent and do the work you
did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place,
unless you repent. 6Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the
Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
7 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the
churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree
of life that is in the paradise of God.*

Sermon Series **Growing in Love of God and Neighbor** Rev. Godfrey Gakuru
Sermon Title: A Love Worth Rekindling (Remembering the First Love)

Offering
*Doxology
Sharing of Joys (Birthdays/Anniversaries) & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

*Closing Song Praise Band

**Please stand if you are able.*

OUR MISSION SUNDAY IS ON OCTOBER 12TH!

Thrft with a Mission!

Love a good garage or estate sale? Well don't just shop, Serve Too! Here's what you can look for on your next trip:

Medical Equipment:

Foldable Walkers and Wheelchairs, Crutches, and Canes.

Sports Equipment:

Soccer Balls, Soccer Cleats, Volleyballs and Basketballs.



Lawn Tools &

Hand Tools:

Metal Rakes, Hoes, Shovels and Saws.



Midwest Mission Staples:

Bicycles, Fabric over 1 yard, sewing machines and sewing notions



Please donate only items in good, working condition so we can give the best supplies. The better quality of items, the the bigger impact they make!

Please consider donating any of the following items so that they can be sent to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) in Jefferson, IA, with Danielle Curtis, who works at that location.

Please bring your **BULKY items AFTER OCTOBER 1st** as the garage may not have enough room if we fill it too full prior to that.

Also, on the Student Kit List, we do **NOT need any bags** made as MMDC has a surplus of those on hand. **Please collect ONLY the actual school supplies listed.**



STUDENT KIT SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ 3 Notebooks - 1 Subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"
- ☐ 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- ☐ 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- ☐ 1 Pencil Sharpener
- ☐ 1 Pencil Eraser - 2" or larger
- ☐ 1 Box of 12 Colored Pencils
- ☐ 1 Box of 24 Crayons
- ☐ 1 Pair of Student Scissors
- ☐ 1 Handmade One-Handled Bag

(pattern at midwestmission.org/patterns)



ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

Sermon Scriptures Bible Studies

Join Pastor Godfrey to explore the scripture preaching on that Sunday. This is a great the scripture in preparation for Sunday options to choose from!

- **Virtual (starts Wednesday 9/3 from 6-6:45pm)**

The Zoom meeting ID and passcode should work each week:

Meeting ID: 957 2121 9470 **Passcode:** 078432

If you need help with logging into Zoom, please stop into the office and have Carolyn or Pastor Godfrey help you.

- **In-Person (starts Thursday 9/4 from 10-10:45am)**

This bible study will be held in person at the church.

Seeking His Presence Bible Study (starts 9/7 at 11am)

Led by Aron Goshorn

A chapter by chapter look into the books of the bible—one book at a time! We will start with the book of 2 Peter. Bring your own bible or borrow one from the church. We will meet weekly on Sundays right after the church service.

Happy Hour with Jesus (starts 9/11 from 6-8pm)

Led by Pastor Godfrey Gakuru

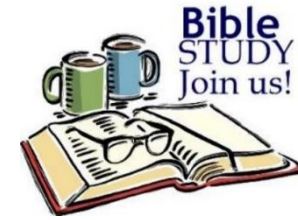
Join us at Lost Saint Brewery every Thursday evening for a time of fellowship and faith. Grab a beer, root beer, water, or just a chair and enjoy some much-needed time with Christian friends. Location MAY change occasionally in the future—stay tuned!

2025 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship Info

The 2025 Sign-Up List for sponsoring a Radio Broadcast is posted in the Narthex - please fill out whichever Sunday you'd like! Sponsorship cost is **\$28** per Sunday for 2025.

Volunteer Schedule for Fall/Winter 2025

The liturgist, ushers, greeters, etc, schedule is being worked on for Fall/Winter as we speak. It will be emailed out (and posted in Narthex) soon! If your name is missing in the schedule or if there are any date conflicts, please let Carolyn know ASAP! We can adjust the schedule as needed. Thank you for your patience & your help!!! So very much appreciated!



text that he will be way to encounter worship. Two

A Love Worth Rekindling – Remembering the First Love
by Pastor Godfrey Gakuru
August 31, 2025

I grew up in rural Kenya, about 24 miles from Nairobi, the country’s capital, and I always looked forward to visiting the city. I vividly remember my first trip there as a child—waking early with my family to attend my older brother’s Thanksgiving celebration at his boarding school. The experience was full of joy and excitement, and its memories remain vivid in my mind to this day.

Transitioning from my childhood memories to today’s reflection, we now consider the church in the city of Ephesus, a major commercial and religious center, famous for the great temple of Artemis—one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The presence of this temple and the widespread worship of Artemis often weakened the believers’ love for God in the church of Ephesus. Surrounded by a culture that celebrated Artemis, wealth, and trade, the believers were tempted and distracted, and their hearts became divided, no longer fully devoted to God’s love. As this goes on, Jesus appears to John the Apostle in a vision while John was exiled on the island of Patmos. Jesus gave John a message for the church in Ephesus, calling them out for abandoning their first love. But Jesus' message is to the seven churches scattered all over Asia Minor, each church with a specific message. Many believers at the time were facing persecution and threats from the Roman emperor, who demanded total loyalty through emperor worship.

Despite facing these challenges, the church of Ephesus was also praised for being hard-working, patiently enduring, and doctrinally sound. They were diligent, persevering, and discerning, able to recognize and reject false preachers and apostles. Yet, despite all of this, their first love—their early, wholehearted devotion to Jesus and genuine love for one another—had grown cold. This shows us that there is a profound difference between routine service and true, passionate devotion to God and others. Outward ministry activity can continue even when inward love fades. We can be busy serving Jesus yet drift away from intimate love with Him.

To address this, there are three helpful steps— “the Three R’s”—that can guide us in renewing our first love for Christ.

The first R is Remember. To **remember** is to intentionally look back—a spiritual flashback to earlier moments when your love for Christ burned brightly. What moments stand out to you? Perhaps it’s the excitement you felt when you first gave your life to Jesus or the gratitude that overflowed when God rescued you from a difficult season.

Remembering where we started and how God has been faithful helps rekindle our first love.

The second R is Repent. Repentance is often misunderstood as meant to mean judgment or shame, but repentance is a gift—an invitation to return to God’s best for us. It originates from the Greek word *metanoia*, meaning a complete change of mind and direction: to turn 180 degrees, to walk away from what leads us away from God and back toward God’s love. It can also mean turning from good to better, or better to best, meaning we all have room to grow deeper in love of God and one another. Repentance is not God scolding us—it is God calling us closer.

The third R is Repeat. Doing the same good practices that once stirred our love for God and others: prayer, worship, reading Scripture, and acts of service or just sharing our gifts and resources with others.

In conclusion, God is calling us today to remember, just as the writer of Hebrews urged the early Jewish Christians, to remember, repent, and continue in those works of love. Let us rekindle our love for God and for one another, and let us continue in good works, trusting that in due time we will reap the rewards.

Pastor Godfrey’s Weekly Schedule was sent out in the September newsletter but key highlights of it are as follows:

- **Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 9AM-4:30PM Office Hours**
(he does take an hour lunch, that time varies – call/email/text him first)
- **Fridays: Pastor’s Sabbath**
(only available for emergencies/urgent issues!)