

This Week

TODAY:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship & Communion Service

11AM: Sunday School

SHP Bible Study

Mission Meeting

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Liturgist: Barb Hanson

Ushers: Jay Ankeny & Lloyd Wallace

Greeters: Jacci Sparks & Jane Gray

Accompanist: David & Sandra Murray

Monday, October 6:

5-6PM: Finance Committee Meeting

6-7PM: Ad Council Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 7:

6-6:45PM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

via Zoom Meeting ID: 957 2121 9470

Passcode: 078432

Wednesday, October 8:

7AM: Youth Bible Study (Cabin Coffee)

2:30PM – 4:15PM: Early Release

7-8PM: Confirmation

Thursday, October 9:

10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

2PM: Joy Circle

Sunday, October 12:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship Service w/Choir

11AM: Sunday School

SHP Bible Study

MISSION SUNDAY

Liturgist: Joni Jenkins

Ushers: Jacci Sparks & Karen Davids

Greeters: Cooky Christ & Jeanette

Matheson

Accompanist: David & Sandra Murray

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Mission Meeting after worship today! Please meet in the Conference Room.

Tomorrow, Monday, October 6:

Finance Meeting starting at 5pm with

Ad Council Meeting following at 6pm!

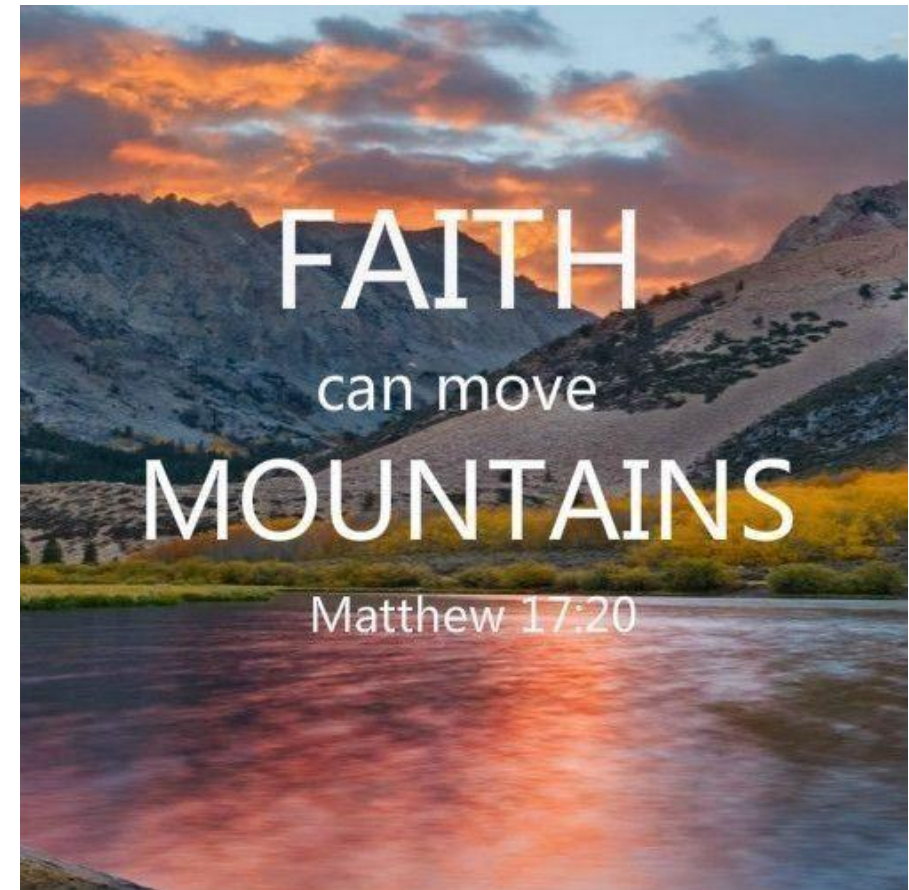
UWF Annual Gathering for MN Conference:

Saturday, October 11 at Alexandria UMC



ALL ARE WELCOME! For more information, please contact Megan Goshorn, Staci Thompson or Christine Kamwara/Gakuru.

The KBEW Radio Broadcast this week is sponsored by Bonnie Miller in celebration of all the fall birthdays!



Sunday, October 5, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Hope United Methodist Church

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

Church office hours: Mondays 8:15am-12:15pm, Wednesdays 8:15am-4:15pm

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

Prelude
Welcome
***Sharing of Peace**

Rev. Godfrey Gakuru

Prayer of Invitation

Lord God, in whom we put our trust—our Lord and Protector— You surround us with love and grace. In this moment of simplicity, we ask for the gift of faith. We thank You for the faith we still have, even when it feels small. Fill our hearts with humility so that we may earnestly seek You and love You more deeply. Remember the broken, the sick, the lonely, and those who need Your healing and comfort. Strengthen us to be instruments of Your love in the world. Amen.

Announcements

*Call to Worship

One: There is an outcry—destruction and violence abound.

ALL: God calls us to pray and be instruments of healing in our broken world.

One: O Lord, help us to tear down the strife and contention that surround us.

ALL: Lord, increase our faith, renew our hope, and bring us peace.

One: How many threats surround us—warfare, homelessness, loneliness, and loss.

ALL: There is strife that stands like a mighty mountain, but our God is greater.

One: We ask You, O Lord, in whom all things are possible, for strength and courage.

ALL: O Lord, increase our faith. Help us overcome the mountains that block our love and limit us from being part of the world's healing.

***Opening Hymn**

“Trust and Obey”

UMH 467

First Reading

Psalm 137

Testimony

Junior Martinez

Children's Message

Second Reading

Matthew 17:15-20

***Preparatory Hymn**

“Faith of Our Fathers”

UMH 710

Sermon Series: *God is Near: Our Present Help in Times of Need*

“Drawing Nearer to God by Faith: Mountain-Moving Faith”

Rev. Godfrey Gakuru

Holy Communion

UMH 12

Offering (*offering plates will be available as you come up for Communion*)

*Doxology

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Benediction

***Closing Song**

Here I Am, Lord

Praise Band

**Please stand if you are able.*

First Reading

Psalms 137 (NIV)

¹By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.

²There on the poplars
we hung our harps,

³for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

⁴How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?

⁵If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.

⁶May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you,
if I do not consider Jerusalem
my highest joy.

⁷Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.

"Tear it down," they cried,
"tear it down to its foundations!"

⁸Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is the one who repays you
according to what you have done to us.

⁹Happy is the one who seizes your infants
and dashes them against the rocks.

Second Reading

Matthew 17:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵"Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him." ¹⁷"You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." ¹⁸Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" ²⁰He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

God Is Near: Our Present Help in Times of Trouble

“Drawing Nearer to God by Faith: Mountain-Moving Faith”

I grew up in Kenya, where our home is surrounded by mountains, some as close as 10 miles. Mount Kenya, the largest in Kenya and second only to Kilimanjaro in Africa, is about 80 miles away and brings cold air to the region. I miss seeing these mountains daily. Still, I enjoy the flat land here, the farms, and the summer colors of pumpkins and gourds, like what Sue Perrizo, our church member, shared with us last Sunday. I also enjoy the lakes near Blue Earth, like those in Fairmont. I hear that Minnesota is called the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," with a landscape shaped by lakes, rivers, and forests, not mountains. For me, a lake is not just for fun, swimming, fishing, or enjoying the breeze, but a way to connect with God, creation, and nature. The lakes—especially their beaches—offer peaceful spaces for prayer, meditation, and contemplation. The lakes, such as Lake Victoria and the Indian Ocean, are on the other side of the country, so we mostly fly there for vacations. Therefore, as I grew up, my spirituality was shaped by a life of prayer and meditation on the mountains and along the riverbanks near our home.

For the Israelites, mountains like Mount Zion had deep spiritual meaning not just for their identity as a nation, but it signified God’s presence, safety, and protection, especially because of being closely connected to Jerusalem, the Temple, and as the site of the Ark of the Covenant. Mount Zion was their shelter—not because it was the tallest, but because it was firm, unshakable, and enduring. During their exile by the rivers of Babylon, the Israelites remembered Zion, holding onto God, hope, and their identity even far from home Psalm 137. Psalm 125 compares those who trust God to Mount Zion, which "cannot be shaken and endures forever." **In Greek, words for faith, trust, and belief come from the same root: the noun πίστις (*pistis*) means faith or trust; the verb πιστεύω (*pisteuō*) means to believe or trust.** This stresses that trusting God is more than intellectual agreement—it’s purely relying on God for help. Faith is confidently trusting in what is unseen. Jesus uses the example of the smallest seed rather than the highest mountain to remind us that even a little faith can move the unshakable mountains. Three times and in three gospels, commonly called the synoptic gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—Jesus used the mustard seed to teach on the kingdom of God and faith. This

reminds us that with little effort, we can move mountains, or rather, overcome obstacles that seem like mountains.

Whereas Mount Zion symbolizes hope and strength, there are mountains in our lives—barriers, roadblocks, or hindrances—that prevent us from fully experiencing God’s presence. These are the mountains God is calling us to speak to and confront with faith. They may be deep, tough roots, like the mulberry tree, as we read in Matthew 17:20, or rather difficult, long-standing issues that, through faith and prayer, we can still we can uproot those mountains. We can speak to the mountains in our lives—the obstacles, challenges, or struggles—and say, go and they will move—not because we have enormous faith, but because even a little faith, a small act of courage, a tiny voice.

As we speak to the mountains of our own lives, we must speak to the world; for the marginalized, the vulnerable, the poor, the orphans, the widows and the oppressed. It is the little things that sometimes matter, and that is what makes the difference. A kind smile on a Sunday morning like today, a phone call, a text message, or a small act of help can change someone’s life. Like the seeds in the hands of a farmer who turns them into a plant or a tree, your faith, even if small, is powerful in God’s hands. Humanly, it is easy for us to be emotional and quick to act rather than first thinking, praying, and even speaking to those situations before we act. Just saying: “You, mountain, move; you, sickness, be healed; you, waves and storms of life, calm down.” So, we can boldly declare: “Fear, be gone! Anger, leave! Doubt, be gone! Anxiety, move!” When we do this, we are activating the power God has placed within us, trusting that even the smallest measure of faith can overcome the greatest obstacles. We do not need to wait to be filled up or to have more faith; we are called to use what we already have. When the disciples said to Jesus, “Increase our faith,” He reminded them that even the little they had was enough. Likewise, no matter how small the help you can give might be or how limited your resources may seem right now, it is enough to bring about the change you are seeking.

You are like Mount Zion, capable of moving mountains. All it takes is to speak—to tell that mountain, or even a mulberry tree, “Move and be planted elsewhere.”

Amen.

Our MISSION SUNDAY is on Sunday, 10/12/25!

Part of our intention of having a "Mission Sunday" is to help raise funds for the Midwest Mission building in Jefferson, Iowa; along with donating medical equipment/tools, sewing machines, school supplies, etc... Currently, the Jefferson location is leasing their building and have concluded that buying the building would serve the Midwest Missions financial aspect so much better.

The Midwest Mission Endowment fund is matching the first \$100,000 donated! They have raised a total of \$250,687 of the \$400,000 needed. Special envelopes will be available on 10/5 and 10/12 if you would like to donate to their building fund.



GOAL: \$400,000 TO BUY THE BUILDING

DONATE NOW

<https://give.midwestmission.org/donate/give>

(if interested in online giving – please select "IA Capital Campaign")

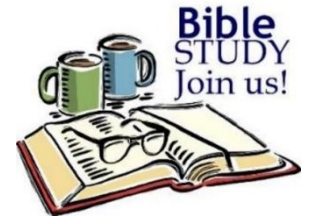
- Also, during Mission Sunday, we will be packing Student Kits up from the school supplies collected here at Hope.
- A free-will offering, light lunch will be served following worship that day as well.

Monetary donations are always welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

Don't forget to join in on one of our bible studies!

- Tuesdays at 6pm: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study on ZOOM (*virtually!*)
Meeting ID: 957 2121 9470
Passcode: 078432
- Wednesdays 7-7:30am: Youth Bible Study at Cabin Coffee
- Thursdays at 10am: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study (in-person) at the church
- Sundays at 11am (after worship): Seeking His Presence Bible Study (books of the bible) in the church library.



The Worship Committee has been reinstated, and the members of this team are as follows: Nancy Steinke, Joni Jenkins, Staci Thompson, and Barb Hanson.

Pastoral Visits

We are compiling a list of members who may need pastoral visits—whether they have moved to care facilities, have been absent from church for a long time, or are experiencing difficulties coming to church. If you know of anyone or feel that someone may need pastoral care or a visit, please inform Pastor Godfrey or Carolyn.

Prayers

Pastor Judy Clark will be serving short-term as pulpit supply and pastoral care at Open Doors UMC in Wells through December. Her Sundays will be committed to this ministry, and we ask that you offer your support and prayers for her during this time.

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.

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



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

TOGETHER

OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE



WHAT ARE CHURCHWIDE SUNDAYS?

Churchwide celebrations unite us to accomplish missions that no single church can achieve alone. On these designated days, United Methodists come together to reaffirm their commitment as God's people and to support special programs endorsed by the Church. To see how your contributions make a difference, visit UMC.org/yourimpact.

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:

Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit or debit card at donate.gcfa.org. Scan the QR code to donate with your phone.



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WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

TOGETHER

OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE



Churchwide Sundays unite us in serving, giving and strengthening our faith

WHAT IS WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY?

World Communion Sunday highlights the unity and diversity of the global Christian community. As we come together at the Lord's table, we celebrate our unity in Christ, joining believers around the world in Holy Communion. United Methodists honor this day by supporting scholarships and leadership training for underrepresented students, both in the U.S. and internationally, and by funding initiatives that promote inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.



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