

This Week

TODAY:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship Service

11AM: Sunday School

SHP Bible Study

CARLY'S BABY SHOWER

(after worship)

Liturgist: Megan Haase

Ushers: Buzz Hanson & Mark Haase

Greeters: Pam Hanson & Haase Kids

Accompanist: Staci Thompson

Tuesday, October 21:

6-6:45PM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

via Zoom Meeting ID: 957 2121 9470 Passcode: 078432

Wednesday, October 22:

7AM: Youth Bible Study (*Cabin Coffee*)

2:30PM – 4:15PM: Early Release

7-8PM: Confirmation



Thursday, October 23:

10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

Sunday, October 26:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship Service w/Choir

11AM: Sunday School

SHP Bible Study

TRUNK OR TREAT (2-3:30PM)

Faribault County Fairgrounds

Liturgist: Al Roesler

Ushers: Larry Everett & Steve Scheid

Greeters: Stan & Cooky Christ

Accompanist: Gail Keck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Annual CHARGE CONFERENCE

will be held on Sunday, November 9,
at 4:00PM for 2025 annual forms. It
will be hosted at Open Doors UMC in
Wells, MN.

All Saint's Day will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2025

If you have lost a loved one in the last year
(since end of October 2024), and you would like
them added to the list of Saints for All Saints
Sunday, please let Carolyn know by October
28th.

Drivers for Bus Needed:

We currently have 6 kids that attend our Early
Release Program on Wednesdays that need a
ride home via our church bus. If donating an
hour of your time each Wednesday afternoon is
something that can fit in your schedule, please
let Megan Goshorn know! We would appreciate
your help even if you can only do one or two
trips, or all of them in a month!

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 passed around during
worship OR scan this code to give online!**



Sunday, October 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

*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

Rev. Godfrey Gakuru

*Call to Worship

One: Come, let us humble ourselves before God in prayer.
All: We come with hearts that persevere, seeking God’s blessing.
One: We come humbly, seeking repentance and God’s guiding hand.
All: We come as the lost and rejected, to receive grace and renewed hope.
One: Our God hears and is faithful; He listens to our prayers from heaven.
All: Lord, answer us when we call, hear our prayers, and vindicated those crying out for justice.

*Opening Hymn

“As the Deer”

TFWS 2025

*Unison Prayer

Gracious Father, thank you for everyone gathered here today. Bless our time here together. Please forgive our failures when we fail to see your will, for missing opportunities to lift up your people and to spread your Word. We ask for you to sustain and guide us. To grant that we may share with others the gifts and goods you have put at our disposal. Teach us to share the message of your love, to overcome divisions, and to reach out with a helping hand to serve all people. Please lead and direct us, we want to serve you and your Kingdom. In the precious name of Jesus, AMEN.

Children’s Message

Scripture Reading

Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

¹Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

⁴“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Preparatory Hymn

“This Is Our Prayer”

UMH 487

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

Sermon Title: *“Pray Without Ceasing: Prayer That Works”* Rev. Godfrey Gakuru

Offering *(please put any written prayer requests in offering plates)*

*Doxology

Sharing of Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

*Closing Hymn

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

UMH 496

**Please stand if you are able.*

God Is Near: Our Present Help in Times of Trouble

“Pray Without Ceasing: Prayer That Works”

Prayer, as we know, is our means of communicating with God and it is through prayer that we draw near to God by faith, through God’s grace.

A Testimony of God’s Grace and Persistence in Prayer

I want to begin with a story from my life. I was born the youngest of six siblings – five brothers and one sister. Often, the youngest child enjoys the benefits of what parents and older siblings have built – but that was not my experience. My father had already sold most of our land and, unfortunately, spent much of the money on alcohol. None of my siblings benefited from his wealth, and we were not well-parented or cared for. We survived purely by God’s grace and through the tireless efforts of my mother, who never stopped praying for us. She longed to see us grow, succeed, and build a better future – and by God’s mercy, her prayers were answered. Today, she can rejoice, knowing that God responded to her persistent prayers. Some of us have become graduates, while others are skilled professionals raising families, all of whom are a testament to her steadfast faith. In 2012 – around the time I entered ministry – my mother committed herself to a new life in Christ. She fully embraced the church, promising to support my calling and the ministry God had placed upon me. Today, she is actively involved in the life and work of the church.

Mission at Hope UMC

When I see Hope UMC participating in the Baby Hugs Mission, my heart is deeply moved. This local mission offers a small gift to every baby born at U.H.D. Blue Earth Hospital—a simple act that carries great love. In many places, like where I grew up, such opportunities do not exist. When you take part in this mission, your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of people like me. I often wonder how different my mother’s and my own lives might have been if such programs were available to us. And what a wonderful ministry of prayer shawls you create for our community—making them available for those in need. Each shawl is a beautiful reminder that we pray for and care for one another.

The connection with scripture?

The story of my mother, now a widow, reflects the resilience of many widows among us—women who have faced loss yet continue to walk in faith and strength. Her life closely mirrors the parable Jesus tells in Luke 18:1–8 about the persistent widow—a woman overlooked by society but never forgotten by God. Just like that widow, my mother never gave up. Her prayers and perseverance became the doorway to hope and transformation for our family. In the Jewish culture of Jesus’ time, widows were often disregarded and left without protection or support. Without a husband, many lose their social and economic standing. Yet in teaching about persistence in prayer, Jesus uses the example of a widow who faced injustice in a system that rarely delivered fairness. Even when widows were right, they were often denied justice. But this widow refused to give up.

Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow to reveal not weakness, but strength, resilience, and unwavering persistence in faith. The unnamed widow kept coming before the unjust judge—one who neither feared God nor cared for people. Yet because of her persistence, she eventually received justice, reminding us that when we pray with steadfast faith and persistence, God will surely hear and answer our prayers. I recently shared how much I enjoy praying in the mountains. I also recall my time at the university prayer house in Kenya, fresh out of college, when I would pray with my colleagues in the Christian Union. Even today, I continue to strive to fully embrace this life of prayer, which has been a pillar of my spiritual life and ministry. My life itself is a testimony—and our lives together are living testimonies—that God truly hears and answers prayer.

Today, we are reminded that prayer is about pushing, not pulling—it is not surrender in the sense of giving up, but a steadfast declaration: “I will not leave this place, O Lord, until You bless me.” In our own way, we can find quiet places and ways to seek God.

Just push.

P-Pray.

U-Until.

S-Something.

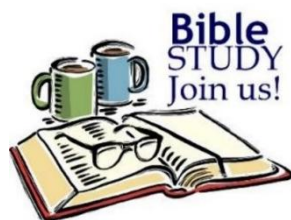
H-Happens.

Amen.

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.



**St. Luke's BINGO held Wednesday, 10/22/25, at 2pm
at St. Luke's hosted by Hope UMC. Bring prizes!**

Confirmation Volunteers Wanted:

Pastor Godfrey is seeking volunteers to accompany him during the Confirmation studies on Wednesday nights from 7-8PM.

Teaching/instructing will not be required. Please see Pastor Godfrey if interested or with any questions.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes:

Please see insert and the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information!

Hope UMC will be collecting both donated items and monetary donations for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster,

famine, and disease.

The bulletin board has a list of do's & do not's to include in your shoebox. We are looking to fill 10 shoeboxes and each box costs \$10 Samaritan's Purse for processing/shipping costs.

Our Sunday School kids will color/fill out an informational page about themselves to include in each box, and help pray over each box too, as they help pack the shoeboxes up on Sunday, 11/16/25.

If you have any questions, please see Nancy Steinke or Megan Goshorn.



Mission Sunday is done, but raising funds never stops!

We still welcome any monetary donations to help raise funds for the Midwest Mission building in Jefferson, Iowa; along with donating medical equipment/ tools, sewing machines, school supplies, etc...

Please make sure your monetary donation is marked MMDC BLDG if that is where you would like it to go.

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

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



Pastor Godfrey and Megan Goshorn are participating in Trunk 'n Treat at the Fairgrounds – they would love to have a few more "trunks" from Hope join them!

Come be a part of this year's

TRUNK 'N TREAT

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Faribault County Fairgrounds
235 Midway Road, Blue Earth, MN 56013

Dress up a Halloween kid-friendly trunk of a vehicle and help promote your organization or business by handing out treats to area children who come to enjoy a safe way to trick or treat.

Traveling Trophy for Best Trunk

Vehicle line up begins at 1 pm	Trunk 'N Treat 2-3:30 pm
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For more information and to sign up your trunk please send Maria an email:
beternity.edu.coordinator@gmail.com

Water and chips for kids

Free-will donation for the Food Shelf

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran, Hope UMC, Kerry, Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church and CCF Bank

A colorful illustration of a truck decorated for Halloween. The truck has pumpkins, jack-o'-lanterns, and the words "Happy Halloween" written on it. There are also small figures of people and other Halloween-themed items.

WHAT WILL I PACK?



Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with **the Good News of Jesus Christ** as expressions of God's immense love for a child. **So, be sure to make them ...**

FUN: Include a quality "wow" item to delight the child, such as ...

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal

FULL: To fill empty spaces, add school supplies and personal care items, such as ...

- Pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks
- Sunglasses
- Flashlights

PERSONALIZED: Make sure every shoebox is unique and covered in prayer.

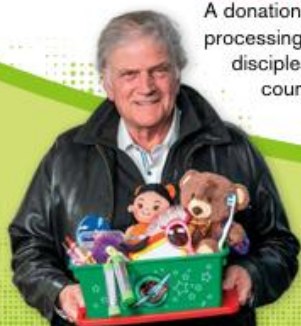
Include a note of encouragement and photo of you, your family, church, or group to further personalize the gift. These personal letters often are children's favorite shoebox items!

Wondering
if certain items
are OK to pack?
**See our gift
suggestions and
search tool:**



WHERE WILL IT GO?

A donation of \$10 per shoebox is critical to help cover collecting, processing, and shipping gifts to equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship. Give online through Follow Your Box and discover the country destination of your gift through our Look-up Tool.



**"Shoebox gifts are like
snowflakes—no two are alike!"**

—Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.

Samaritan's Purse®
Helping in Jesus' Name®

Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.
Franklin Graham, President | 1-800-353-5949 | samaritanspurse.org
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Epiphani
and Daniel

SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

When an 11-year-old girl in the western African country of Ghana learned about Jesus through Samaritan's Purse programs Operation Christmas Child and *The Greatest Journey*, she decided to follow Him as Savior and boldly share her faith. The girl's name is Epiphani.

"Through the program, I now know who Jesus Christ is," said Epiphani about *The Greatest Journey* follow-up evangelism and discipleship program for shoebox recipients. "The classes changed my life. I put my trust in Jesus."

Shining the light of Jesus Christ in her community led Epiphani to notice a boy picking through trash for metal scraps to sell for food. She gave him the Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift she had received—filled with items such as pencils, books, and a pair of blue sandals. She had loved the gift but decided that the boy named Daniel needed the treasures more. He wears the sandals nearly every day.

Daniel was so intrigued by Epiphani's thoughtfulness, as well as her excitement and love for Jesus, that he accepted her invitation to attend church and began studying the Bible. Before long, Daniel gave his life to Christ. He plays drums during the church's worship services.

After Daniel told his mother about Jesus, she also accepted Jesus as Savior and became part of the church. Praise God for how He is shining His light into families, beginning with boys and girls who are making disciples by sharing the gift of Jesus Christ.



Scan to hear
Epiphani's
testimony.