

This Week

TODAY:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship Service w/Choir

11AM: Sunday School
SHP Bible Study

TRUNK OR TREAT (2-3:30PM)

Liturgist: Megan Haase

Ushers: Buzz Hanson & Mark Haase

Greeters: Pam Hanson & Haase Kids

Accompanist: Staci Thompson

Tuesday, October 28:

6-6:45PM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study
via Zoom Meeting ID: 957 2121 9470 Passcode: 078432

Wednesday, October 29:

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

2:30PM – 4:15PM: Early Release

7-8PM: Confirmation

Thursday, October 30:

10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

Friday, October 31:

NO SCHOOL



Sunday, November 2:

9AM: Choir Practice

9:15AM: Fellowship

10AM: Worship & Communion Service

11AM: Sunday School
SHP Bible Study



Liturgist: Maggie Johnson

Ushers: Burce & Bonnie Ankeny

Greeters: Joni Jenkins & Mavis Scheid

Accompanist: David & Sandra Murray

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A 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.

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.

Today's KBEW Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Leslie Jose, Chuck Paschke, and Joyce Jose in loving memory of their uncle, Richard Paschke, whose birthday is October 30.

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 26, 2025

Twentieth 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

*Opening Prayer

**Lord our God, you yourself remind us through your holy people
that all our religious practices, even the Eucharistic sacrifice,
are not worth anything, if we use them to bend You, our way.
God, may we come to You in humility and repentance,
ready to encounter You in love and to turn toward You.
Accept us as Your sons and daughters, together with Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Prayer of Confession**

(inspired by Luke 18:9-14)

One: Lord God in heaven, we confess that we try to measure our faithfulness by comparing ourselves with others.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners.

One: Forgive us, O God, where we fail to see your Spirit's work in others and in those who have lived before us.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners.

One: Forgive us for choosing comfort and convenience over faithfulness.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“To God Be The Glory”

UMH 98

Choir Anthem

Walk Worthy

Children's Message

Scripture Reading

Luke 18: 9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by

himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

***Preparatory Hymn**

“Nothing but the Blood”

UMH 362

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

Sermon Title: "Pray Humbly – Do Not Look Down On Others" 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**

“Days of Elijah”

Worship & Song Hymnal 3186

**Please stand if you are able.*

God Is Near: Our Present Help in Times of Trouble

“Pray Humbly Without Looking Down on Others”

Today, we continue last Sunday’s theme on prayer by looking at another of Jesus’ parables — the one following the persistent widow, in **Luke 18:9–14**, about the Pharisee and the tax collector. Before that, let us turn to the Old Testament reading in **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**: “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Through this parable, Jesus contrasts two very different attitudes in prayer — one made by the pharisee which is filled **with pride and self-righteousness**. The pharisee in the parable of Jesus stands confidently in the temple, thanking God that he is “not like other people.” His prayer is full of pride — he lists his good deeds and compares himself to others. The other one is made by a tax collector marked by **humility and repentance**. In those days, tax collectors were **looked down upon** by society. They worked for the **Roman government**, collecting taxes from their own people, and were often **accused of corruption** — taking more money than required for personal gain. Because of this, they were considered **sinners and traitors**. And indeed, some were — for example, **Levi (also called Matthew)**, one of Jesus’ disciples, who was a tax collector before following Christ (*Luke 5:27–32*). Yet, in this parable, the tax collector shows a **humble heart**. He stands at a distance, beats his chest, and prays, “*God, be merciful to me, a sinner.*” His humility reveals the kind of prayer that truly reaches God. And that is what makes the difference between the tax collectors and the pharisee. Not their actions, but their humble hearts — to remember that we are fallen, and no one is good, nor is anyone rich without God, for everything is the Lord’s. The **Pharisees** were a religious group in Jesus’ time, known for strictly following the **Law of Moses**. Jesus challenged them because they focused more on **outward appearance and rules** than on **true humility and inner righteousness** before God. Jesus **accused them of showing off — wanting to appear clean on the outside while their hearts were unclean inside**. As He said, “*You clean the outside of the cup and*

dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence” (Matthew 23:25).

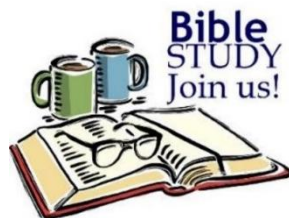
What We Learn from This Parable

First, the Parable challenges us to examine our own hearts as we come before God in prayer and as we live with one another. Besides being reminded not to show pride, self-righteousness, and self-justification of being better than others, this is a challenge for our generation not to focus on material success. We are living in a time when it can feel difficult to fit into certain social classes or communities, especially when you did not privilege like others, and when you have past failures or mistakes or even false and unjustified accusations. Subjection could happen right from home even from your family members, it could happen at school, or even in the workplace. Many times, people may feel that they are helping you rather than you both helping one another. This language, or these acts of discrimination or subjection, may happen directly or indirectly. **Secondly, Jesus is calling us today to recognize that we all belong to God, and that we will never be physically, materially, or intellectually, spiritual or in many other ways the same.** When Jesus said, “The poor you will always be with you,” Mathew 26:11. He reminded us that differences will always exist. Instead of seeing them as divisions, we can embrace them as diversities and know that they should not be a reason for pride, looking down upon others or divisions. Just like the Pharisee, it’s easy to fall into the trap of judgment or pride, thinking we are better than our neighbors. As we embrace the heart of humility and kindness, we need to remember **not to compare ourselves with others** or measure someone against another. At the same time, we must not forget that we can **share our successes, joys, and achievements** in ways that are welcoming, respectful, and affirming. In doing so, we **embrace one another, honor each other’s dignity, and celebrate the gift of life** together. We are reminded that prayer begins with humility, not recognition — with repentance, not self-justification or self-righteousness. Prayer is not about self; it is about relationship. **Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us as sinners.**

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.



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 Samaritan's Purse \$10 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.

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 ...

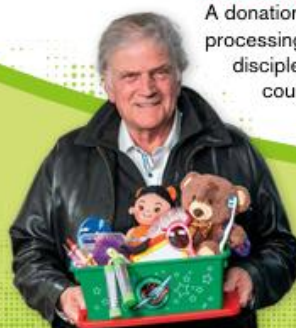
- Pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks
- Sunglasses
- Flashlights

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!

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](https://samaritanaspurse.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 | samaritanaspurse.org
© 2025 Samaritan's Purse. All rights reserved.

08-05-217