

## **This Week**

### **TODAY:**

**9AM:** Choir Practice

**9:15AM:** Fellowship

**10AM:** Worship & Communion Service

**11AM:** Sunday School  
Bible Study

**Liturgist:** Maggie Johnson

**Ushers:** Brian & Jean Millmann

**Greeters:** Karen Davids & Carol  
Grapevine

**Accompanist:** Staci Thompson

### **Monday, February 2:**

**11AM-6PM:** Blood Drive



### **Tuesday, February 3**

**2PM:** St. Luke's Communion

**2PM:** UWF Meeting

### **Wednesday, February 4:**

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

**2PM:** St. Luke's BINGO

**2:30PM – 4:15PM:** Early Release

**7-8PM:** Confirmation

### **Thursday, February 5:**

**10AM:** Sermon Scriptures Bible Study

**1-3PM:** Mat Weaving

### **Sunday, February 8:**

**9AM:** Choir Practice

**9:15AM:** Fellowship

**10AM:** Worship Service with  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Presentation**

**11AM:** Sunday School  
Bible Study

**YOUTH SKI TRIP** Rescheduled from January

**Liturgist:** Megan Hanson-Haase

**Ushers:** Buzz & Pam Hanson

**Greeters:** Mark, Gibson, Aidan Haase

**Accompanist:** Gail Keck

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **AFTER WORSHIP TODAY!**

The Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, 2/2 – any help taking down chairs and tables after the service today would be greatly appreciated to prepare for their event.

**OUT OF OFFICE**

**Carolyn will be out of the office from Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> through Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.**

If assistance is needed during that time, please see Pastor Godfrey or Megan Goshorn.

**Thank you!**

**NOTE: if you have a concern about your giving statement during that time, please wait until Carolyn returns to the office on Monday, 2/9.**

### **Third Grade Bible Presentation**

We will be presenting bibles to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders during the worship service on Sunday, February 8.

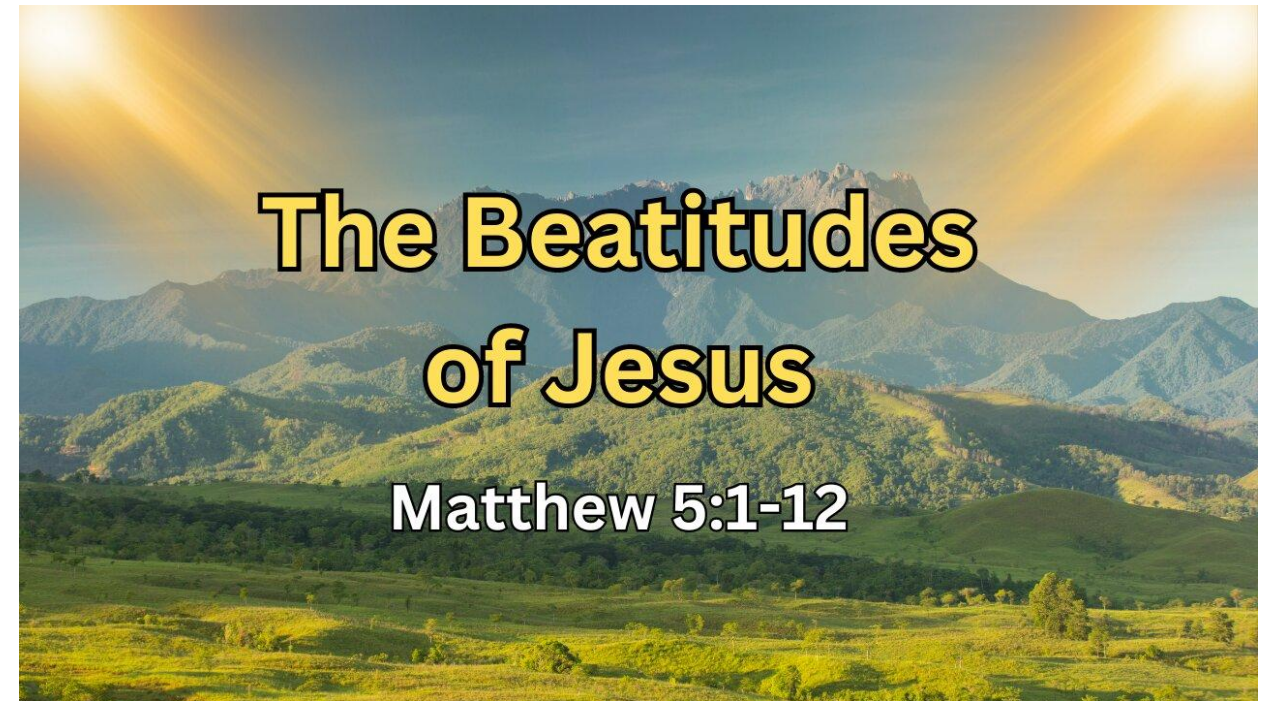
### **THANK YOU!**

The McCleary family wants to thank you, sincerely, for your generous gift of money from last Sunday's potluck! Your love, prayers and support for Layne these last five months is very much appreciated!

**The KBEW Radio Broadcast for Sunday, February 1, is sponsored by Pastor Godfrey & Christine in celebration of Nellie's 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday on Monday, February 2.**

### **2026 Radio Broadcast Sponsorship**

The 2026 Radio Broadcast sign-up list is posted in the Narthex! If you would like to sponsor/sign up for a particular Sunday, please fill out your name, message, and the sponsorship fee is now **\$30** per Sunday.



# **The Beatitudes of Jesus**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

## **Hope United Methodist Church**

[www.behopeumc.com](http://www.behopeumc.com) | (507) 526-2144 | [hopeumc@bevcomm.net](mailto:hopeumc@bevcomm.net)

**Church office hours: CLOSED THIS WEEK**

**(see Pastor Godfrey or Megan Goshorn for assistance)**

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

**Pastor Godfrey's Office Hours: Mondays 9AM-4:30PM & Wednesdays 9AM-12:00PM**

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

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

*For more information and to see what else is happening at Hope, visit us at [behopeumc.com](http://behopeumc.com) and our Facebook page, Hope United Methodist Church-Blue Earth, MN.*

Prelude  
Welcome  
Announcements

Rev. Godfrey Gakuru

\*Call to Worship

One: Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?  
**All: To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.**  
One: In our life together as the body of Christ, what does God call us to do?  
**All: To practice compassion, show mercy, and walk humbly with God.**  
One: Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!  
**All: We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*Unison Prayer

**Gracious God, you who are good to us beyond measure, we thank you for your acts of grace and mercy. We confess that we sometimes lose our way. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Teach us to do what is right and to walk humbly with you. Shape us into people who care for one another. By your Spirit, lead us to live as your faithful people. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

*“I Need Thee Every Hour”* *UMH 397*

Sanctity of Life

*Kim Webster*

Children’s Message

First Scripture Reading

*(Good News Translation)* **Matthew 5:1-12**

***The Sermon on the Mount***  
*<sup>1</sup>Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them:  
***True Happiness***  
*<sup>3</sup>“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor;  
the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!”*  
*<sup>4</sup>“Happy are those who mourn;  
God will comfort them!”**

*<sup>5</sup>“Happy are those who are humble;  
they will receive what God has promised!”*  
*<sup>6</sup>“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires;  
God will satisfy them fully!”*  
*<sup>7</sup>“Happy are those who are merciful to others;  
God will be merciful to them!”*  
*<sup>8</sup>“Happy are the pure in heart;  
they will see God!”*  
*<sup>9</sup>“Happy are those who work for peace;  
God will call them his children!”*  
*<sup>10</sup>“Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires;  
the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!”*  
*<sup>11</sup>“Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup>Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.”*

**Sermon Series:** *Be A Star*  
**Sermon Title:** *Shining Light That Brings True Happiness* *Rev. Godfrey Gakuru*  
**\*Responsive Hymn** *“Come, Share the Lord”* *TFWS 2269*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Offering** *(please put any written prayer requests & offerings in offering plates as they are passed)*  
**\*Doxology** *UMH 94*  
**Sharing of Birthdays, Anniversaries, Joys & Concerns**  
**Pastoral Prayer**  
**Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Closing Song** *Praise Band*

**Benediction**

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

## Shining Light Through Service: True Happiness

Sermon Series: *Be a Star*

When I first came to the U.S., I was far away from my family. Of course, I had friends—but there were days when I still felt lonely and unhappy. One day, that feeling hit me hard. I had not eaten African food for a long time, and I was craving something that could make me happy. So, I did what many people do when they are unsure what else to do...I drove to McDonald's for the first time. When I got to the counter, I tried to explain how I was feeling. I said, "I am sad. I have not had African food for a while, and I am looking for something that can make me happy, like children." They looked at me for a moment, clearly trying to understand. Moreover, honestly, sometimes we do not get it, do we? Then someone at the counter smiled and said, "How about a Happy Meal?" I thought, "Happy Meal?" That sounds good. If it can really make me happy, I will take one! However, no sooner had I opened the box than I realized—this was not what I was looking for. It was a children's meal. A small burger. Tiny fries. Moreover, I had no idea what to do with a toy. I was sad again—and now confused—because I had spent my money and was still unsatisfied. So, I went back and ordered what I should have ordered in the first place: a proper burger and some fries. However, even then, Happiness did not last very long. That, to this day, is still my favorite quick meal, even though it is not like my African indigenous arrowroot, cassava, and yams. I still long for that.

These experiences remind me that much of the Happiness we pursue in life is fleeting. It comes in a box, or a bag, or a moment—and then it has gone. That is why Jesus, in the Beatitudes, teaches us a very different understanding of Happiness. When Jesus says, happy are the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful...He is not talking about a happiness that fades. He is pointing us to a more profound joy, one that is not dependent on what we buy, eat, or achieve, but on whom we are becoming in God's kingdom. The way Happiness has been perceived in modern times has made many of us lose its meaning. However, always remembering words used in context. The way Happiness has been perceived in modern times has made many of us lose its meaning. If I go to a dance party and drink a cup of wine, it is easy to say, "I feel happy," and that is not bad.

What Jesus meant by being happy, according to the Greek word for Happiness that is "**makáριοι**", which means the same as

"blessed", Happiness means being in the right, favored relationship with God, living under God's gracious approval and blessedness refers to being "deeply blessed and truly well, not because of what we owe or possess, but because God is at work". Happiness means more than emotional Happiness, and it is not just feeling cheerful for a moment. It is **a state of contentment, joy, and fulfillment** that comes from living according to God's will. We try to make ourselves happy in many ways—buying things that for a moment makes us feel happy. **We tell ourselves, If I get this one thing, then I will be happy. But true happiness does not come from those things**, or from the happy meal that gives temporary satisfaction. Jesus teaches us **to be poor in spirit, mourning, humble, do works of mercy, be pure in heart, work for peace, and even take the risk of being persecuted for doing what God requires**. The first beatitude says: **"Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** But what does be poor in spirit mean? **To be poor in spirit means recognizing that we are spiritually needy. Jesus promises us this: when we come to God with humility, with open hands and open hearts, the kingdom of heaven is ours. That is where true Happiness begins.**

### The Story of Morning Glory Academy: Founded in Faith & Compassion

Some years ago, my father-in-law discerned what he believed was the most urgent need in our community. Although he never served as a full-time appointed pastor, he lived out his calling in a different way by transforming lives through quality education and supporting needy kids. Moved by compassion, he began a small community school starting with kindergarten and gradually expanding to elementary and then junior high (middle school). The school was built on a small piece of land he had purchased with his salary as an elementary school teacher and income from farming. At the time, public schools in the area were struggling. Infrastructure was poor, resources were limited, and quality education was uneven.

In our education system, day schools are often associated with low-income families, while boarding schools—especially from Grade 6 or 7 onward—are seen as the path to better education. However, boarding schools are expensive, mostly private, and inaccessible to many families. **His vision was clear: to ensure that**

children would perform well in the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams, so they could gain admission to strong high schools and eventually qualify for government funding that is only accessible to students who achieve high marks in the national exam. My wife, Christine, and her siblings—including one of my brothers-in-law, who studied at Pollard and will return to Kenya next month to serve as a professor of engineering—also began their educational journey there.

**Academic excellence was only one part of the mission. His second goal was to care for the most vulnerable children from low-income families whose parents could not afford school fees.** It also provided safety for children, especially girls, who come from abusive or unstable homes; therefore, he made it a boarding school. This is an example, and there are many others out there, and even what Hope Church is doing in the community reminds us of what it means to live in true Happiness. **Morning glory, though with growing needs, has been a shelter and a place for many children to call home today. Still, the needs remain heavy.** Many parents in this small community can only pay minimal fees. Most parents struggle to provide food for their families and pay for their children's education, not to mention their own healthcare needs.

Due to the increase in needy cases, the school continues to struggle to meet the needs of many children, especially in providing adequate nutrition and sanitation, not to mention classroom conditions. This is an example of people who choose simplicity over pride and service to others over service to self. Today, Morning Glory Academy stands like the tower Jesus spoke of, a lamp on a hill that cannot be hidden. **What if, in our call today, we intentionally show compassion and kindness, revealing the poverty of our hearts rather than the riches of the world? In doing so, we embrace God's promise to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. That is true happiness. For this, I would rather give up the fleeting pleasures—the 'happy meals' of life—and seek lasting joy by emptying myself for God and serving others. This is the happiness that endures forever. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...**

### **Youth Ski Trip RESCHEDULED:**

Any youth that was previously signed up to go on this trip, the new date is now **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Upcoming Youth Event!**

Sponsored by the Area Churches: **Youth in Grades 6-12** are welcome to attend an evening of fun at the **Lake Crystal Area Rec Center on Sunday, February 15, from 4-10pm** (no school the next day). Cost is \$20 per person, registration forms available in the Narthex. See Megan Goshorn or Pastor Godfrey for more info/details!



**Forms and fee are due no later than Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.**



**Family Game Afternoon!** Join us on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3PM for a family-friendly afternoon of board games, cards, snacks and fellowship. Bring friends and a favorite game (optional)!

### **Minnesota Walk to Emmaus – Men's Walk #135**

March 12–15, 2026 - *Lakeview Methodist Health Care Center, Fairmont*

The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Men's Walk #135 is coming up this March. Pastor Godfrey will be attending. The Walk to Emmaus is a 3-day experience set apart from our normal routines for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. If you are interested in attending the Men's Walk or Women's Walk (October 8-11, 2026), please contact Pastor Godfrey. <https://www.mnemmaus.org/>

