

Hope United Methodist Church
12080 - 380th Ave
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Blue Earth, MN 56013



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Hope United Methodist Church NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2026

Dear Hope Family,

As we step into the second month of the year, we also approach the season of Lent, which begins this year on **Wednesday, February 18**, with Ash Wednesday, and culminates on **Thursday, April 2**, leading into **Good Friday on April 3** and the Easter weekend. For me, Lent has always been a special time to walk deeply with God. It is not simply about giving something up—it is about transformation and genuine change of heart. Each year, I intentionally set aside quiet moments for daily prayer and meditation. During one past Lenten season, I remember praying through a difficult decision I had wrestled with for months. One morning, I experienced a profound sense of peace and clarity that reminded me God is always present, even in moments of uncertainty.

Lent is a season of reflection, spiritual growth, repentance, and self-examination. While prayer and repentance are part of our ongoing faith journey, Lent offers a focused opportunity to walk alongside Jesus in his humility, service, and suffering. Above everything else, Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. His death clearly demonstrates the suffering of a servant who endured pain and sacrifice for the beloved people of God.

This season invites us to ask ourselves how we are dedicating our lives to serving others—not only during Lent, but always as people called to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. As Jesus reminded his disciples on the day he washed their feet: **“So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.” John 13:14–15.** As we journey through Lent together, I encourage you to notice the small yet meaningful ways God is speaking to you. Consider sharing those moments with someone else—they may be the encouragement they need. May this season draw us closer to Christ and shape us more fully into servants of his love.

Blessings to you,

Rev. Godfrey Gakuru



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10:00AM WORSHIP

A pre-recorded message airs at 9:30am on KBEW 1560 AM. Visit behopeumc.com to stay updated with current events, bulletins & newsletters.

Staff:

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

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

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

Office: (507) 526-2144 hopeumc@bevcomm.net

Office hours are Mondays 8:15am-12:15pm and Wednesdays 8:15am-4:15pm.

Newsletter items are due by the 17th of the month.

Please send announcements for the bulletin and the newsletter to the above email address or call the church office. Also, please notify the church office of any changes in names, addresses, incorrect birthdays or anniversaries, or if you'd like to receive this newsletter via email.

Hope UMC, a faith community growing in Christian love, through discipleship, the inclusion of all, and fellowship.

Mission Committee



Our Mission Focus for February is **Lord's Acre**. If you haven't already, please sign up on the poster in the Narthex. This is a project with decades-old roots from our old congregations - but has been modified – so you needn't be a “farmer” or even know anything about farming to get involved. If you sign up as a “renter”, you make a once a year donation of \$70 to Hope UMC. Once all the Farmers pledges and renter donations are collected in early March, an annual meeting with all those involved get together after worship and decide how to divide and who should receive the collective funds. This is our 2025 “Crop”! Recipients change from year to year depending on ideas and suggestions from the group. A recent example is Camp Scholarships we make available to any Hope kids that want to go to summer camp. Please sign up and bring your ideas on how to use our 2025 crop in early March.

Coming up end of February (Ash Wednesday), our Mission Focus will be **BUCC-y Bags** with our Lenten Offering! We'll be filling “Lenten Jars” with coins collected for that right up to Easter Sunday on April 5. Please see the Lenten Coin Calendars on the bulletin boards by the restrooms.



Then in April our focus is **Seeds of Hope** – a second year for the gardens. Please take some time to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return! Your input is very valuable in planning this year's season!

There are no limits to mission giving at Hope. **Anytime** during the year, you can bring in items for the food shelf, Bundle Up items, bags for Weaving Mats or even items for the Emma Norton Home. Plus, **Anytime** during the year you are moved to give to any of our mission projects, just label the memo line of your check and place in the offering plate. Online giving too (see *Carolyn in the office to sign-up!*).

Did you know? Last fall, Hope raised funds to help **Midwest Mission Distribution Center** (MMDC) purchase and pay for the their building in Jefferson, Iowa. We also sent bicycles, sewing machines, wheelchairs and walkers there to be distributed along with the donated building funds. Thanks to all who contributed! The good news is MMDC sent word that their building is now paid for! If you'd like to learn more about MMDC, you can go online at <https://www.midwestmission.org/iowa>.

Keep up the great work, Hope UMC!!

KIDS KORNER

The Movie Night from January will be rescheduled at some point—stay tuned for details!

Join us on Sunday, February 22 at 3pm for a family-friendly afternoon of board games, cards, snacks and fellowship.

Bring friends and a favorite game (optional).

~Megan Goshorn, Kids Coordinator



Music Notes

Hope choir resumes rehearsals on Sunday, February 1st at 9:00AM. We welcome new singers anytime. Please feel free to come and give us a try!

~Pat Richards

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2- Nelly Gakuru
Scott Steinke
Logan Kerr | 15- Maia Grathwohl
David Gonzalez |
| 4- Michael Bussinger | 17- Christopher Murray
Sheryl Aukes |
| 5- Susan Eckles | 18- Jason Hall |
| 8- Jennifer Roper-Risch | 19- Jill Fulton |
| 9- Allan Thompson | 20- Phyllis Northwick
Danielle Olson
Annika Salisbury |
| 10- Haiden Wielenga
Lloyd Wallace | 21- Connor Moen |
| 11- Amy Scholtes
Gwyn Hall | 22- Kenzi Eckmann |
| 12- Sherry Stevermer | 23- Bethanee Stith
Elizabeth Uecker |
| 13- Linda Taylor | 24- KayLynn Smith
Roxann Andringa
Raeleigh Andringa |
| 14- Reese Fenske
Nathan Hinton
Megan Asmus | |

February Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 25- Rebecca Moen | 14- Tom & Linda Taylor |
| 28- Jennifer Ankeny
Keagan Ihle
Fletcher Lundquist | |



OUT OF OFFICE

Carolyn will not be in the office on the following days:

Saturday, 1/31 through Saturday, 2/6.

If any assistance is needed during that time, please see Pastor Godfrey or Megan Goshorn. If your question or concern is in relation to your 2025 Giving / Contribution Statement, please see Carolyn when she is back to her normal scheduled hours on Monday, 2/9.

OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Godfrey will be taking vacation days from:

Saturday, 2/21, through Thursday, 2/27. More details to come on who will be covering what duties while he is off.

YOUTH EVENTS

RESCHEDULED from January: YOUTH SKI TRIP

For those youth (grades 6-12) that had previously registered for the January 18th ski trip to Mount Kato, it has been rescheduled to **Sunday, February 8th**. All other details remain the same.

LAKE CRYSTAL AREA REC CENTER—Sunday, February 15th from 4-10PM

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 are available in the Narthex or via email. Please see Pastor Godfrey or Megan Goshorn for more info/details!

Forms and fee are due no later than Wednesday, February 11th.



Please contact the church and leave a message if you know someone who needs a ride to church or call Al Roesler at 507-525-0630.

Let's fill the bus!



Realm-Online Giving Info



Since starting our new software called **Realm** in late 2024 and having learned quite a bit over the past 12 months, we are ready to have our Hope UMC members and friends start using this software as well as the staff!

Everyone in our church gets a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. Your profile also enables

you to track your giving, update your contact information, change family details, set notification preferences, or replace that outdated family photo (which goes along with the new pictorial directory pictures being taken in January).

By keeping your information current, you are helping our staff, group leaders, and our church community. Privacy settings will be gone over in more detail once you create your profile.

Your Profile includes:

- Contact Information* (e.g. name, address, email, phone)
- Photo
- Family Members
- Personal Information (e.g. marital status, birthday**, etc.)

*You can decide later what data you want to hide online by setting your privacy preferences.

**Feel free to enter your full birthday. The year and your age will not be displayed on your church directory profile.



Review your giving history or make new donations online or on your mobile phone. Simply sign in to look over your year-to-date giving, print a contribution statement, or make a new one-time or recurring donation. It's always available and kept secure in an easy-to-use online environment.

Prior to meeting with me or creating your profile on your own, you will need to have a **valid email address on file with the church office**

(Carolyn). Once I have an email address for you, I can send an emailed invitation to join our Realm world. Also, you can start thinking of a password for your profile. I will work with those that need assistance to get their profile set up correctly.

Current online contributors, I will help you migrate your current online giving to the new system.

Password Requirements

- Between 8 and 15 characters.
- Includes no repeating characters such as **aaa**
- Also no keyboard sequences such as **asdfgh**
- Includes no part of your email address.
- Includes none of the following: **< > & ^ \ ; % ` ' /**
- Includes no numeric or alphabetical sequences such as **12345** or **abcde**

Email questions or to get your email address to Carolyn: hopeumc@bevcomm.net

REALM CONNECT app is available to download on the Apple App Store or on Google Play!



Please lift up in prayer....



- Members and Friends in Health Care Centers and those at their homes including:

Mae Hove	Mike Rubatt	Terry Hassing
Jean Nelson	Mary Ochs	Muriel Hanna
Cindy Steinke	Scott Steinke	Lillian Kohlmeyer
Fran Fenske	Todd Olson	Damian Prescher
Layne McCleary	Mary Toland	

- Armed Services personnel and their families including: Eric Becker, Hunter Spencer & Cole Steinke.

- All those that have a lost a loved one recently: family of Tom Steinke.

Please help us update this list if you have names to be added or omitted.

Need Prayer?

We have created a form on our website so that you can submit your prayer requests. You can choose to be anonymous or not, and you can even choose how your prayer is shared. Whether you want just

Pastor Godfrey to know or the entire church is up to you! So go to our website:

behopeumc.com and click at the top on the tab that says "prayer request."

United Women in Faith (UWF)

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 2pm

Circle Meetings:

Joy Circle: Thursday, February 12 at 2pm

Faith Circle: NO February Meeting

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16 NIV

We Christians are called to actively engage in doing good and sharing with others. This is not a passive suggestion but an active command. We remember that Jesus went about doing good.

The early church thrived on the principles of sharing and community, such as acts of kindness and generosity, which can take many forms, including time, resources, and spiritual support. We, as believers, are encouraged to find practical ways to be generous in our daily lives. Such actions are pleasing to God. This should be a motivation for us to live out our faith through good works.

Prayer: Dear God, You always do good and share with us. Help us to be intentional about doing good and sharing with others. Thank You for reminding us to do Your will in giving to others. Amen.

United Women in Faith (UWF) will meet on Tuesday, February 3rd at 2pm. All are welcome to join us!

Be Blessed!






Your sister in Christ, Nancy



HOPE UMC ~ FEBRUARY 2026

“New month, new goals, new mindset, new focus, new intentions, new results.”



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:15AM: Fellowship 10AM: Worship & Communion Service 11AM: Sunday School Bible Study	2 11AM-6PM: Blood Drive 	3 2PM: St. Luke's Communion 2PM: UWF Meeting	4 7-7:30AM: Youth Bible Study 2PM: St. Luke's BINGO 2:30-4:15PM: Early Release 7-8PM: Confirmation	5 10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study 1-3PM: Mat Weaving	6	7
8 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:15AM: Fellowship 10AM: Worship Service with 3 rd Graders' Bible Presentation 11AM: Sunday School Bible Study YOUTH SKI TRIP (rescheduled from January)	9	10 2PM: Membership/History Mtg	11 7-7:30AM: Youth Bible Study 2:30-4:15PM: Early Release 7-8PM: Confirmation	12 10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study 2PM: Joy Circle	13	14 
15 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> 9:15AM: Fellowship 10AM: Worship Service 11AM: Sunday School Bible Study YOUTH: NEW ULM REC CENTER 4-10PM	16 NO SCHOOL  1-3 PM: Interfaith Caregivers BINGO	17	18 7-7:30AM: Youth Bible Study  6PM: Ash Wednesday Worship Service	19 10AM: Sermon Scriptures Bible Study 1-3PM: Mat Weaving	20	21
22 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:15AM: Fellowship 10AM: Worship Service (UWF) 11AM: Sunday School Bible Study BOARD GAME AFTERNOON 3PM Family Friendly	23 	24	25 2:30-4:15PM: Early Release	26	27	28

Season of Lent: Wednesday, February 18 to Sunday, April 5—shaded in purple!

Prayer of the month: *Lord, teach me to love like You love this February: unconditionally, sacrificially, and without expecting anything in return. Amen.*