

Hope United Methodist Church
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**Hope United Methodist
Church**



AUGUST 2026



Address Service Requested

There are some months when writing a newsletter article comes easily. This month has required more prayer and reflection. Like many of you, I have found myself hearing many questions, concerns, and differing opinions from people both within and beyond Hope United Methodist Church. It reminds me that living together as the body of Christ is not always easy – but it is always worth the effort.

Living together as Christ's family calls us to practice a different kind of conversation, both in speaking and in listening. We can speak truthfully without speaking harshly. We can listen without immediately preparing our defense. We can disagree without questioning one another's faith. We can refuse to spread gossip, exaggeration, or suspicion. We can pray for those with whom we struggle – not simply that they would change, but that God would continue changing us, as well.

Remaining committed to one another does not mean avoiding difficult or divisive topics. Rather, it means approaching them with humility and grace. None of us sees the whole picture clearly. Each of us brings our own experiences, fears, convictions, and blind spots into the life of the congregation. Humility allows us to say, "I may not understand everything." It enables us to see one another not as obstacles to overcome, but as children of God to love.

Difficult conversations require patience, prayer, repentance, and time. When emotions are running high, those virtues are not easy to remember. Some decisions are genuinely difficult. Some wounds require careful healing. At times, agreeing to disagree may be the best we can do. Even then, we can choose the way of Christ: gentleness instead of contempt, courage instead of avoidance, and love instead of fear.

The witness of Hope United Methodist Church depends not only on what we believe individually, but also on how we treat one another when those beliefs are tested. It is not our disagreements that define us, but the way we walk through them together. A watching community does not expect the church to have all the answers or to avoid every difficult conversation. What it longs to see is a congregation of Christians who face those conversations with grace, truth, humility, and love – and who remain united in Christ.

As we move forward together, let us recommit ourselves to Christian love and to one another. Let us pray before we speak. Let us listen before we judge. Let us seek understanding before taking sides. Let us remember that Hope United Methodist Church is not ours to defend through force or pride, nor is it a place to abandon because of disagreements. Hope United Methodist Church is Christ's body, entrusted to our care with tenderness and faithfulness.

Even in challenging seasons, I remain convinced that God is still at work among us, teaching us how to love one another more faithfully. May our conversations be marked by kindness. May our congregation be known not for the sharpness of its divisions, but for the depth of its love – for one another and for God. And may God continue to shape us into a people whose unity points others to Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Judy Clark

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



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

SUNDAY SERVICE: 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:

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Office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:15AM to 3:00PM.

Newsletter items are due by the 20th of the month.

Please send announcements for the bulletin and the newsletter to the above office 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.

Mission Committee

Save the Date!

All Hands On Deck!

Thanks to all of you, Hope UMC is continuing our existing mission projects like Bundle Up, Bucc-y Bags, Mat Weaving, Baby Hugs, Lord’s Acre, and more. But here’s another way, similar to our first time last fall. On **Saturday, August 29** the plan is to prepare **400 Meal Packs called Blessing Bags** right here at Hope. The Blessing Bags will go to Midwest Mission Depot Center (MMDC) in Jefferson, Iowa, for disaster relief. Each Meal Pack feeds six people, so this goal of packing 400 actually will feed 2,400 people. If you need a visual, just imagine feeding the flood victims and volunteer workers in both storm and war ravaged areas where UMCOR helps.

As partners in mission, our role as a generous congregation is two-fold. One is to fund these Blessing Bags which cost \$2.00 each, meaning we are challenged to raise \$800 for this packing. (Again, imagine feeding 2,400 people.) Label your monetary gifts “Meal Packs” or “Blessing Bags” anytime between now and August 29. Simply place them in our Sunday morning offering plate or on-line. The second part is the need for volunteers to help set up and clean up on that Saturday morning. Any age is welcome to help! It’s fun to watch 2400 meals packed in an hour.

To get a good visual of this, google “Blessing Bags” and watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QixtL-wR7Ok>

The MMDC truck will arrive Saturday about 9:00 a.m. with all the materials needed. Some of the food boxes weight between 25 and 50 pounds and will need to be carried inside to our fellowship hall for setting up the lines. At 10:00 a.m., workers will be at four tables, some seated, some standing, so there’s actually something for everyone to do. Afterwards, volunteers will wash and repack the equipment. **Look for signup sheets in the Narthex. Contact Bob Toland or Megan Goshorn for more information about this mission.** Volunteer and/or contribute to this new, exciting way to express our faith!

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Matthew 25:35



During the month of August, we will be collecting items for school kits to be sent to Midwest Missions. There is a poster in the narthex displaying the items and their sizes. Please place the items in the container by the display, by August 23rd.

When the Midwest Mission crew is here, August 29th, the truck will have enough room to take back any used bikes, walkers, canes, and/or wheel chairs that you would like to donate. Please have them at the church garage by August 25th.

August Birthdays

August Anniversaries

- 1- Tim Grathwohl

2- Ben Roper

3- Brent Murphy

4- Cindy Steinke
Jarett Stauffer
Jordan Weir

5- Rolin Sinn

8- Lois Abel
Judy Murray
Skip Meyers

9- Cole Steinke

10- Riley Helmstetter

11- Jodie Murray

12- Karen Davids

14- Gavin Bussinger
Bill Farnham

15- Sue Perrizo

16- Pam Hanson
Sue Mensing

19- Kenneth Breen
Robert Grapevine
Evelyn Burch (Rubatt)
Dylon Steele
- 20- David Nagel

21- Lee Kramer
Grayson Decker

22- Buzz Hanson
Jeanette Matheson
Tom Taylor
Travis Fenske

23- Jade Roper

25- Jalen Ihle

27- Charles Olson

29- Taylor Millmann

30- Tonia Weir
Nakita Lind
Jayden Dusing



- 2- Bill & Karrie Eckles

10- Daniel & Jenny Lundquist

11- Brandon & Megan Asmus

12- Roger & LaDonna Dutton

19- John & Brenna McGregor

22- Joey & Rachel Wilson

23- TJ & Jenny Lewis
Jordan & Rebecca Moen

24- JR & Barb Hanson
Timothy & Becky Dann

25- Kurt & Sherry Abel

26- David & Sandra Murray

27- Mike & Sue Mensing

29- David & Jade Roper

Hope's Garden is growing well with the Sunday Welcome Table having a variety of lettuce, herbs, zucchini, cucumbers, and more available for you and your neighbors. Green Beans will be coming soon! We invite you to bring food from your garden to share with others. If you need help harvesting or delivering your garden donations to the church please contact the church office on Tuesday or Wednesday or Melissa Anne anytime 501-965-5766. If you would like some garden goods delivered to your home contact the church office. We have volunteers ready to deliver! **Summer is a great time to visit your neighbors and why not with some fresh garden goods from Hope Garden!**



School will begin soon, and **BUCCY BAGS** will start again! This is such a good mission project for us, it’s local AND it’s as close as we can be to ensure all our K-5 students have enough to eat through the weekends and are ready to learn come Mondays! Thank You for your past support and moving forward too! This is an ongoing mission project for Hope, so whenever you can, the rest of this year and beyond - just label “BUCC-Y” or “backpack” on the memo line of a check and place in the offering plate or on by-line. Any amount, at any time, is welcome.

FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK

There are four “fifth Sundays” in 2026. One of them is this month! What does that mean? **POTLUCK at HOPE August 30 !!** Keep your eyes open in our weekly bulletins for more info. We usually have a free-will offering dedicated to an urgent mission. AND, Great food!

KIDS KORNER

Faith Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation!



VBS is this week!

August 3-6th from 2-4:30PM

And Family night is *Friday, August 7th at 6:30PM!*

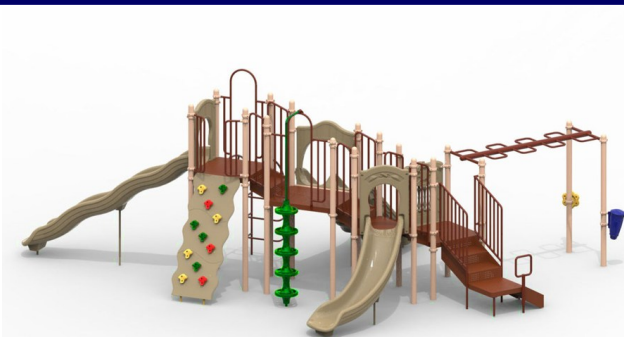
All are welcome. You can still come....

Register at the door!

As summer comes to a close, join us for our family friendly S'more School Bash on *Thursday, August 27th at 7:00PM.*

Come help us break in our brand new gaga pit, enjoy s'mores and fellowship around the campfire, and celebrate God's goodness through another wonderful summer. Everyone is welcome-we'd love to spend the evening with you!

~Megan Goshorn, Kids Coordinator



Playground Update!
Our new playground is in the works!
We are dedicated to completing this awesome project to enhance our children's ministry.

*Please consider a financial donation to help with set up costs and to complete the project. Thank you to all who have supported this ministry project. Questions, please reach out to Megan Goshorn.



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	Jake Shope	
- Armed Services personnel and their families including: Eric Becker, Hunter Spencer, Cole Steinke, & Brayden Rhys
- All those that have a lost a loved one recently, including family of Roger Whitney, family of Tanner Wickersham, and family of Ed Eckmann.

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. So go to our website: behopeumc.com and click at the top on the tab that says "prayer request."



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith (UWF)

No Meeting!

Circle Meetings:

Joy Circle: No meeting!

Faith Circle: Thursday, August 20th at 9:30AM

"And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' Matthew 22:39 NIRV

If we look at a garden as a metaphor for growing in Christ, we will be given our seeds of truth (scripture), instructions for planting (taking it to heart), and watering (application) that seed. The lord will grow a beautiful garden of his character in our heart! Summer is a time for tending our gardens, let us do so with care!
Be Blessed!
Nancy

There will be no UWF meetings in August.



HOPE UMC ~ August 2026

“As this beautiful new month begins, may it bring new beginnings and new opportunities for you.”



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Reserved: Millman's 11-4
2 10AM: Worship & Communion Service 11AM: Bible Study-SHP (Aron)	3 Vacation Bible School at 2PM	4 2PM: St. Luke's Communion	5	6 1-3PM: Mat Weaving	7 6:30PM: VBS Family Event	8
9 10AM: Worship Service 11AM: Bible Study-SHP (Aron)	10	11 9-11AM: Group Bible Study	12	13	14	15
16 10AM: Worship Service 11AM: Bible Study-SHP (Aron)	17 1PM:Interfaith Caregivers Bingo	18	19	20 9:30AM: Faith Circle 1-3PM: Mat Weaving	21	22
23 10AM: Worship Service 11AM: Bible Study	24 30 10AM: Worship Service 11AM: Bible Study 5th Sunday Potluck	25 31 12-6PM: Blood Drive	26	27	28	29 9AM: Blessing Bags

[Romans 15:13]: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the the Holy Spirit."