

Hope United Methodist Church
12080 - 380th Ave
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Hope United Methodist Church NEWSLETTER



September 2026

Hello Hope United Methodist Church in beautiful Blue Earth, Minnesota! My name is Pastor Kelly and I am beyond excited to be the next pastor of this incredible community of faith.

First my husband, Christopher, and I want to thank Tim Murray and the rest of the SPRC for such a great welcome to Blue Earth and Hope on August 3rd. I felt the confirming power of the Holy Spirit in the room as we were first introduced, spoke about this, your beloved church community, and the possibilities of discerning and following God's will for Hope UMC together. I confirmed the intent of the Bishop with Conference Superintendent Michelle Hargrave before we even reached the sanctuary (which is incredibly beautiful, by the way!).

I come to you through a long journey that God has brought me through. I look forward to introducing myself to you on September 6th—the first time we will be in worship together. I ask everyone for a bit of patience, for even though I've been in Minnesota now for 8 years, I am still a transplant and at times get a little (read: a lot) excited, be a too straight-forward (read: blunt), and too focused on what is next to get done (read: type A). I thank you (and my husband who comes from Nebraska, but his mother's family is from Minnesota) ahead of time for giving me grace and the benefit of the doubt. I am looking forward to settling in a community, being grounded, and doing the slow and steady work of building relationships, all while learning from you about pastoring a church in a rural setting.

I'm also feel incredibly blessed to be walking with you as we learn how to love one another, the people of Blue Earth, and beyond, as we discern and follow God's will for us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Once again, thank you for such a wonderful welcome. I will see you soon and I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us.

Pastor Kelly



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:

Pastor Kelly West Figueroa-Ray, call the office and leave a message or in case of Emergency, call 434-987-5338

Jaymee Nelson, Administrative Assistant (507)-525-0267 cell E-mail: hopeoffice@bevcomm.net

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

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

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

Office hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:15AM to 2:50PM.

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.

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

Mission Committee

First for September, **THANK YOU** to all who either donated or helped (or both) pack 2,400 meals on August 29. Our partner in mission, the Midwest Mission Distribution Center delivered the materials needed, then supervised their assembling – AND returned the meals to the Center in Jefferson, Iowa. We also stuffed that trailer full of school supplies, our used wheelchairs, sewing machines and bicycles – so they can be prepared and distributed to our United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR gets all this to where it is needed, whether that be to recent flooded areas like Indiana or across the globe to war-torn areas for refugees. UMCOR is there. This whole system works because collectively, United Methodists are committed to making it work. It's apparent that Hope is committed too, every month there's always people willing to help and willing to donate our time, offerings and even old bicycles!! **THANK YOU.**

Next, Danille Curtis of MMDC - shares that there are building plans in the future. "Something coming soon in Jefferson, is a **NEW WAREHOUSE!** Our Iowa location is bringing in so many donations that it is no longer feasible for us to transport everything to Illinois to be shipped out. So, very soon, we will be building a warehouse with a better loading dock situation so we can ship internationally from our Iowa location. It will be a big undertaking and major fundraising event." She also shares that "the Blue Earth Hope Church and congregation is one of my favorite happy places."

Also this month, as school begins again, the need to distribute **Buccy Bags** will continue. 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-line. Any amount, at any time, is welcome.

Finally, remember to keep our "Welcome" table busy. Melissa keeps the top stocked on Sunday mornings with fresh vegetables from our own garden, and there are baskets on the backside for any Bundle Up or Foodshelf items. There's even a basket if you'd like to donate items to the Emma Norton Center in St. Paul.

Interfaith Caregivers will be hosting a Dementia Friends workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 29th at 10:00AM at our offices at 301 N Main St, Blue Earth.

If you know someone with Dementia or are caring for someone with Dementia and you want to understand the disease better, or you want to get some helpful takeaways on handling situations, this workshop is for you. It is a 60 minute workshop

Please RSVP to 507-526-4684 by Monday, 9-28-26, to reserve your spot!

September Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1- Eva Steele
Cindy Schmidke
Nancy Cole | 21- Barbara Ankeny
Sarah Darula |
| 2- Elijah Goshorn
Daryl Murray | 22- Ethan Farnham
Calli Ferguson |
| 3- Megan Goshorn
Kathey Stallkamp | 23- Kurt Abel
Loretta Sparks
Wendy Nickel |
| 6- Renae Miller | 24- Signe Olson |
| 7- Doug Nagel
Will Jones | 25- Alexander Uecker
Marcia Daly |
| 8- Barbara Hanson
Allison Dann
Brad Frey
Daniel Lundquist
Jean Nelson | 28- Karrie Eckles
Justin Schaefer
Avery Darula
Rylan Storbeck |
| 9- Frances Fenske
Thomas Steinke | 29- Marlys Breen |
| 15- Malarie Scholtes Schroeder
Jenny Lewis | 30- Jacci Sparks
James Wood |
| 16- Andrew Brooks | |
| 17- Ethan Johnson | |
| 18- Jared Ihle
Kent Roper | |
| 20- Micah Goshorn | |

September Anniversaries

- | |
|--|
| 4- Doug & Becky Nagel
Brent & Alicia Murphy |
| 6- Al & Sue Roesler
Dale & Sheryl Aukes
Mark & Megan Haase |
| 8- Milt & Donna Steele |
| 11- Gene & Debbie Murphy |
| 21- Vernon (Buzz) & Pam Hanson |
| 30- Brad & Kim Frey |



There will be a reception for Pastor Kelly West Figueroa-Ray on
September 6th following Church.
Please join us in welcoming our new Pastor!



Save the date:

The Watoto choir will be performing in Blue Earth at the High School on October 9, 2026. We are in need of volunteers for this, please see Megan Goshorn.



Watoto
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
NOW ON TOUR

Hope Camp Ambassador Update

We have exciting news to report. Hope UMC had 15 kids attend summer church camps this year. Thanks to the Hope Congregation that enabled these youth to make new friends and experience nature in a Christian atmosphere.

Camp is not just for kids. There are still a couple of camps for adults coming up in September at Koronis and Northern Pines. We will be attending "Time Apart" at Northern Pines at the end of September. This will be our 4th year to attend, and we look forward to this fall retreat in Northern Minnesota.

If you are interested in camping, feel free to reach out to us or you can go online at www.campminnesota.org for information about Minnesota UMC camps.



Sunday School Begins on September 13th, after the service for ages Pre-K through 6th Grade.

Wednesday Release sign up is open! The sign up is available on our Facebook page or see Megan for more details. Our programming is open to all children ages Pre-K through 5th grade, and runs October 1, 2026 through April 30th, 2027.

Back to school season often comes with more structure and consistency. It's also a great time to get into a consistent routine of Sunday worship and Sunday school.
There is a place for you here.

~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
Mary Ochs	Muriel Hanna	Lillian Kohlmeyer
Cindy Steinke	Scott Steinke	Damian Prescher
Fran Fenske	Todd Olson	
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.
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. 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, September 8th at 2PM.
Program: Pledge to Mission Service: "A Pilgrimage for Mission", Leader: Maggie Johnson

Circle Meetings:

Joy Circle: September 10, 2026 at 2PM
Faith Circle: September 17, 2026 at 9:30AM

Prairie Winds District UWF Fall Gathering at Redwood Falls UMC: September 19

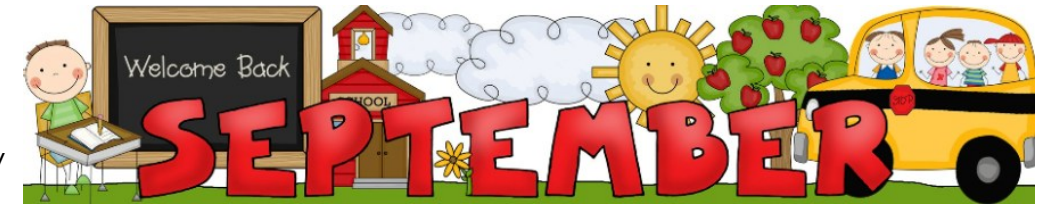
Romans 10:9
Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
Hello my friends! The Bible verse shared above is all about grace. If we believe in a risen Lord Jesus, say that we do, we will be saved. It's not how many hours or even years of volunteer work we have done, or anything else we could possibly do-we are saved by God's Grace! What a gift!
The hymn "Grace Alone" from The Faith We Sing by Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson beautifully states this idea. Here's the chorus:
"Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide. Christ in us our Cornerstone; we will go forth in grace alone."
May you be blessed as we enter into all the activities and things to do awaiting us in September!
Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for extending your grace to us with the promise of salvation if we only believe and say that we do! We know we could never earn such a gift. Thank you for Jesus and for loving us so much. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,
Nancy



HOPE UMC ~ September 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 School starts (Gr 8-12) 2PM: St. Luke's Communion	2	3 School starts (Pre-K-Gr 7) 1PM: Mat Weaving	4	5
6 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10AM: Worship & Communion 11AM: Bible Study Welcome reception for Pastor Kelly after church	7 Office will not be open No School 	8 2PM: UWF Meeting	9 2PM: Membership/History meeting	10 2PM: Joy Circle	11	12
13 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10AM: Worship 11AM: Bible Study Sunday School Starts! 2:30PM: 4-H Meeting	14	15	16	17 9:30AM: Faith Circle 1PM: Mat Weaving Faith Circle	18 2PM: Parker Oaks Communion	19 Prairie Winds District UWF Fall Gathering at Redwood Falls UMC
20 17th Sunday after Pentecost 10AM: Worship Steele Family Baptism and Birthday Party to follow 11AM: Bible Study	21 1PM: Interfaith Caregivers BINGO	22	23	24	25	26
27 18th Sunday after Pentecost 10AM: Worship 11AM: Bible Study	28 	29	30			

[Psalm 119:105]: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."