

HOPE



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

141 S 12th Ave
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
920-743-2701

A Caring Community with a Progressive Tradition



Hope Church UCC
February 1, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

We are grateful that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting, we extend an extra warm welcome to you and hope you will relax and enjoy worship! Come forward at any time during the service to light a prayer [votive] candle on the communion table. **Joys & Concerns are broadcast online so please use discretion when sharing prayer concerns.** Everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for coffee hour following worship today!

PRELUDE

*WELCOME & GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

“Take My Gifts”
Shirley Erena Murray

*WORDS OF AWARENESS

God of surprises,
startle us with truth we do not see,
amaze us with your power and grace,
beckon us, and lead us
far above restricted hope and narrow faith.
May it be so. Amen.

[~Fearless.1.2.2026 — Rex A E Hunt](#)

*OPENING HYMN

VU 79 “Arise, Your Light Is Come,” V 1-4

FIRST READING

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSVUE)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SECOND READING

"*Beatitudes for the Weird*" (Unknown)

Blessed are the weird people

- poets, misfits, writers, mystics heretics, painters troubadours—
for they teach us to see the world through different eyes.

Blessed are those who embrace the intensity of life's pain and pleasure
for they shall be rewarded with uncommon ecstasy.

Blessed are you who see beauty in ugliness,
for you shall transform our vision of how the world might be.

Blessed are the bold and whimsical,
for their imagination shatters ancient boundaries of fear for us all.

Blessed are you who are mocked for unbridled expression
of love in all its forms,
because your kind of crazy is exactly that freedom
for which the world is unconsciously begging.

Blessed are those who have endured breaking by life,
for they are the resplendent cracks through which the light shines.

Salaam. Shalom. Peace.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"*The Beatitudes*"

Tina English / Arr. John Purifoy

CHILDREN'S TIME

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.
May the Spirit of Love surround you
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go—you may go.

THE MESSAGE

JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

You're invited to pray in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer and in your own language, as appropriate.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 Hallowed be thy Name
Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
 And forgive us our debts,
 as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
 and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERING

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music

“Just as I Am. Without One Plea”
William B. Bradbury, 1816 – 1868
Setting by Nancy Rabe

***Praise Response -- “Doxology for Humanity”**

**Praise eyes that see all human need
Praise minds that cast out selfish greed
Praise lips that challenge those in power
Praise those who struggle every hour**

Music: Old Hundredth/“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” © 2013

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

May we welcome your gifts with thanksgiving, Loving God.

May we share your gifts with grace, so others might be touched by your love, healed by your touch, fed and nourished by your compassion as well as the fruits of your creation. Amen.

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Introduction

The Invitation

Thanksgiving

Conscious that we live, move, and have our being in this Presence,
we give thanks for people throughout history
who have affirmed this loving presence in all people.

**For those who have invited people to give witness to this
by lives characterized by gratitude, compassion, generosity, and
forgiveness.**

Especially we give thanks for the sage Jesus of Nazareth.
He loved so greatly and taught so clearly and courageously,
he was able to set people free from ideas and religious practices
that bound them into fear
and a false sense of separation from the Spirit of all Life.
Through him we have learned how our loving
is a sharing in the life of this Spirit.

**In him we see this Presence urging all of us
to make its creativity on earth more visible.**

Bread and Wine

Sharing the Elements

(Communion Liturgy ~Michael Morwood: Praying a New Story. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001, adapted and David & Beverley Bumbaugh from Seaburg, C. (ed). The Communion Book. Boston. UUMA, 1993, adapted)

Communion Music

“God Himself Is Present”
Joachim Neander, 1650-1680
Setting by Terry D. Wilson

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,
thank you for offering us
the simple gifts of bread and grape juice
to satisfy our deepest hunger
and quench our deepest thirst.

May you come into even the most hidden corners of our lives and
ourselves: into our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

Uncurl your strength and beauty within us.
that we might become more and more like you
and make it plain to the world in the things we do and say.

Amen!

***CLOSING HYMN**

VU 468 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, " V 1-3

***ALLELUIA RESPONSE**

We join our hearts/hands/voices to sing an 8-fold alleluia response

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

“What God Ordains Is Always Good”
Serverus Gastorius, 1646 – 1682
Setting by Mark Bender

To this week's worship helpers:

Jeanne Harris - Liturgist
Pete Sherwood - Trustee
Mary Ames and Carol Wies- Deacons
Patsy Vollrath - Nursery Attendant
Ann Quale - Slide Presenter
Safety Committee - Coffee Hour

We truly appreciate all of you!



Our worship services are shared live on Vimeo and are available for viewing on the Internet. If you do not want your image shown, sit at the rear of the sanctuary or immediately beneath the camera. If you want to view what is shown, <https://vimeo.com/event/4958968>

This sanctuary is equipped with Hearing Loop technology. If your hearing aid has the T-coil feature, activate the T-coil and your hearing aid becomes a personal receiver, part of the sound system of the church. If you have trouble hearing our speakers, but don't have hearing aids or they're being repaired, you may hear better with Loop headphones. Ask a deacon about them or find them in the basket by the Loop sign.



Resources are available to help occupy young children attending Sunday services. Children's books and jigsaw puzzles are available on the small bookcase at the far north wall of the sanctuary. Books, crayons, and coloring sheets are in the "Hope for Kids" busy bags on the stand in the narthex.

Our Hope nursery is available for children aged five and under. The screening process for attendants includes a background check and Safe Conduct training.

Pastor: Rev. Carol Reynolds

Moderator: Eric Vollrath

Choir Director: Mary Hall

Organist/Accompanist: Cheryl Pfi

AV Manager: Beth Mitchell

Office Manager: Brenda Curtis



141 S. 12th Avenue

Sturgeon Bay WI 54235

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Hope United Church of Christ

Events Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Activity/Meeting
Sunday	Feb 01	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship with Communion and Faith Formation
Tuesday	Feb 3	7:30 AM	Rotary Breakfast
Wednesday	Feb 4	10:30 AM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Membership Committee Aging Discussion Group Choir Practice
Thursday	Feb 5	8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Romeo's Breakfast Council Meeting
Friday	Feb 6	10:30 AM	Meditation in the Sanctuary
Saturday	Feb 7	2:00 PM	Coffee w/Carol @ 5&J
Sunday	Feb 8	10:30 AM 11:30 AM	Intergenerational Sunday Worship Souperbowl of Caring
Tuesday	Feb 10	7:30 AM	Rotary Breakfast
Wednesday	Feb 11	7:00 PM 6-8 PM	Choir Practice Confirmation via Zoom
Thursday	Feb 12	8:30 AM 5:30 PM	Romeo's Breakfast Board of Mission & Action
Friday	Feb 13	10:30 AM	Meditation in the Sanctuary
Saturday	Feb 14	2-3 PM	Coffee w/Carol @ 5&J
Sunday	Feb 15	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship and Faith Formation
Tuesday	Feb 17	7:30 AM 5:30 PM	Rotary Breakfast Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Wednesday	Feb 18	1:30 PM 3:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Personnel Committee Safety Committee Deacons Meeting Ash Wednesday Service Choir Practice
Thursday	Feb 19	8:00 AM 12:30 PM	Romeo's Breakfast Grief Support
Friday	Feb 20	10:30 AM	Meditation in the Sanctuary
Saturday	Feb 21	12-4 PM	Repair Cafe
Sunday	Feb 22	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship and Faith Formation

For PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES, please call or text Pastor Carol at 508-282-9511 or to schedule an appointment. Her office hours are Wed. – Thu, 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Please contact the church office to report calendar corrections, additions, or changes Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Prayer List

Jana Mitchell	Yvonne Siira & Family	Anna
The Bender Family	Brenda Veldboom	Char Shinktgen
Jim & Karen Ebbeson	Anna Herdina	Adrian "Ade" Webber
Janice McMahon	George Weis	Baby William
Vivian G	Peter	Dave L
June S	Lael C	Debbie C
Kim H	Darlene P	Sarah W (Sister of Allison)
Shawn M	Chris (Friend of June K)	Amelia B
Adam H	Guy (Brother of Geri Lynn)	Nikki P (Friend of Ricki)
Maetta C	Ann G (Niece of June K)	Kathy B and Greg B
Janelle H	Gavin L	John H
Dolly M	Dolly M	Tom B (Husband of Penny)
Cynthia R (DIL of Imelda)	Mark (Nephew of June)	Eric (Son of Sharon M)
Carol M	Sarah J (Friend of Ricki)	
Lynn K (Friend of Ricki)	Bernie V (Friend of Nancy F)	

Everyone in our nation who is frightened, losing benefits, and/or grieving

Federal Workers
Incarcerated persons
LGBTQ+ youth & adults everywhere
Victims and survivors of gun violence
L.E.A.F. Families

People who are missing or in harm's way

The people of and from Congo, Ukraine, the Caribbean, Gaza, Venezuela, and Minneapolis

...And especially the family and friends of

Thomas Foster (Father of Tom)	Sasha H
Bob Berkley (Father of Kent)	Pat H (Sister of Ken)
Beth Anne W (Daughter of Olive S)	Phil Sweet
Jendean and Dan Olson (Parents of Angela)	Hope B
Phyllis T (Friend of Ricki)	Eugene H
Kathy M	Tim S (Brother of Nancy F)
Henry G	
David B	

Please make a note on a yellow pew card or contact the church office to update the prayer list.

Hope Church Mission Statement

People come together at Hope Church for the following purposes:

- To worship God.
- To promote personal and spiritual growth.
- To develop a religious community which encourages tolerance and openness of thought and accepts diversity of thought and action.
- To search for meaning in life, and for understanding of ourselves through the teachings of Jesus and other great teachers.
- To understand how all things are related to each other, and to learn how we may best serve our local community and our world community.
- To celebrate with joy, the richness of ourselves and our religious community.

Hope United Church of Christ (UCC) Relational Covenant

Created 1-30-2021

We, of Hope United Church of Christ, make an intentional choice to embrace this covenant as an essential part of our faith journey. The following are ways in which we will work together to reach our highest potential as individuals and as a community.

- We aspire to be open, affirming and to encourage everyone to travel their own spiritual path. We are committed to building trust, advocating for justice, and celebrating diversity.
- We treat ourselves and each other with patience and love by listening with compassion and speaking with authenticity.
- We affirm all emotions, take responsibility for our own words and actions, and trust the good intentions of others.
- We affirm that every voice has equal value. In our verbal, written and online communication (email, texting, Facebook, etc.), we speak directly to any individual with whom we have a concern in caring, clear, honest, and respectful ways. Substantive issues that require discussion may be better handled in-person. We refrain from gossip and honor confidentiality.
- We uphold our faith community by participating actively and responsibly in the decision-making process and work of the church, as we are able. We reach out to meet the needs of each other and the wider community. We are accountable to each other.
- We create a safe environment for self-disclosure and healthy relationships. When harm is experienced, we acknowledge it, promptly take responsibility, and work to make amends. We practice forgiveness and kindness.

Endorsed by Hope UCC Council on February 23, 2021

This is a living document. It is our intention to revisit and refine this covenant.

Updated by Hope UCC Council on 11-6-25

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING SOUP COOK OFF

Sunday February 8, 2026

After Sunday Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall



*The sign-up sheet to be a
contestant is in the Narthex.
Get your soup pots warming!*

**Proceeds go to the Food
Pantry at Lakeshore Cap
in Sturgeon Bay.**



Helping People; Changing Lives

LAKESHORE CAP

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

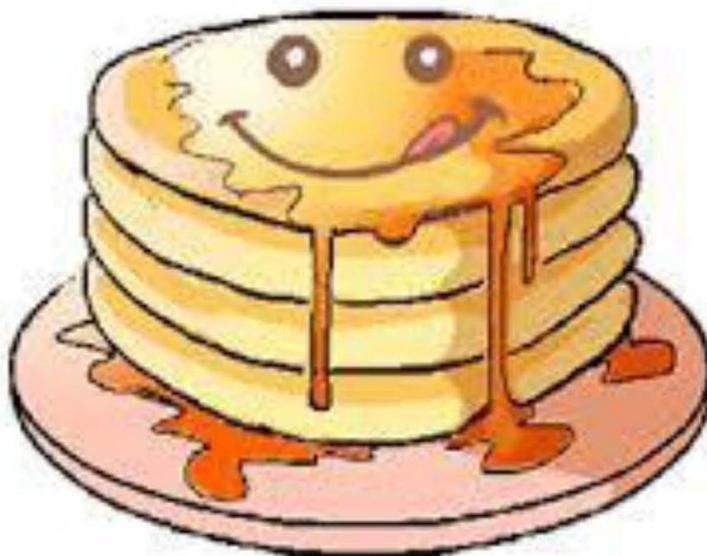


SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, February 17

Entertainment provided by the SBHS Jazz Band
starting at 5:30 PM

Check the narthex for a sign-up sheet soon to come.



Shrove Tuesday