

HOPE



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

A Caring Community with a Progressive Tradition



April 12, 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 1

"The godfather – Love Theme"
Nina Rota

PRELUDE 2

"Chariots of Fire"
Music By Vangelis
Special Assistant: Mary Hall

*WELCOME & GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTION

*OPENING PRAYER

O Great Laughing God,
We come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.
We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and
delight.
These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us
and for all the earth.
May we find that in giving up to laughter
there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.
Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit
to renew our worship and our living.
Amen.

~The United Church of Canada: <http://www.bayofquinteconference.ca/>

*OPENING HYMN

VU 352 "I Danced in the Morning," Verses 1,2,4

FIRST READING

Numbers 22:21-35 (The Message)

²¹⁻²³ Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went off with the noblemen from Moab. As he was going, though, God's anger flared. The angel of God stood in the road to block his way. Balaam was riding his donkey, accompanied by his two servants. When the donkey saw the angel blocking the road and brandishing a sword, she veered off the road into the ditch. Balaam beat the donkey and got her back on the road.

²⁴⁻²⁵ But as they were going through a vineyard, with a fence on either side, the donkey again saw God's angel blocking the way and veered into the fence, crushing Balaam's foot against the fence. Balaam hit her again.

²⁶⁻²⁷ God's angel blocked the way yet again—a very narrow passage this time; there was no getting through on the right or left. Seeing the angel, Balaam's donkey sat down under him. Balaam lost his temper; he beat the donkey with his stick.

²⁸ Then God gave speech to the donkey. She said to Balaam: "What have I ever done to you that you have beat me these three times?"

²⁹ Balaam said, "Because you've been playing games with me! If I had a sword I would have killed you by now."

³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your trusty donkey on whom you've ridden for years right up until now? Have I ever done anything like this to you before? Have I?"

He said, "No."

³¹ Then God helped Balaam see what was going on: He saw God's angel blocking the way, brandishing a sword. Balaam fell to the ground, his face in the dirt.

³²⁻³³ God's angel said to him: "Why have you beaten your poor donkey these three times? I have come here to block your way because you're getting way ahead of yourself. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she hadn't, I would have killed you by this time, but not the donkey. I would have let her off."

³⁴ Balaam said to God's angel, "I have sinned. I had no idea you were standing in the road blocking my way. If you don't like what I'm doing, I'll head back."

³⁵ But God's angel said to Balaam, "Go ahead and go with them. But only say what I tell you to say—absolutely no other word."

And so Balaam continued to go with Balak's nobles.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"A Place in the Choir"
Words & Music by Bill Staines
Choral Setting by Ed Harris

SECOND READING

Jamal Rahman

When thinking about your divine essence and the ways you do or don't manifest it in your life, don't take yourself too seriously. Keep a sense of humor. Laughter is sacred. According to the famous Hindu teacher Ramana Maharshi, when we go over to "the other side" and look back at our dramas and melodramas, we will laugh and laugh. So why not laugh right now? Whatever your sense of failure or inadequacy, remind yourself that you are the beloved of the Beloved. Tell yourself, and repeat as necessary, "All is perfectly well."

~Jamal Rahman, Katheen Schmitt Elias, Ann Holmes Redding: *Out of Darkness Into Light:*

Spiritual Guidance in the Quran with Reflections from Christian and Jewish Sources. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2009.

CHILDREN'S JESTIMONY TIME

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

Halle, halle, halle-luya!

Halle, halle, halle-luya!

Halle, halle, halle-luya!

Halle-luya, halle-luya!

A TIME OF JESTIMONY

MESSAGE

***HOLY HUMOR HYMN**

"Laughter Lends Itself to Praise"

***1. Laughter lends itself to praise
bringing healing from within;
hope will surely rise again
as laughter lends itself to praise.***

- 2. Laughter bends where laws may break;
rigid fact can not contain
half the wisdom of God's reign,
so laughter bends where laws may break.**
- 3. Laughter leaps into the void
finding only Spirit there;
shame and fear would never dare
so laughter leaps into the void.**
- 4. Laughter comes in spite of pain
dancing even as we mourn;
something dies but something's born
for laughter comes in spite of pain.**
- 5. Laughter lends itself to praise;
all the love and all the fear,
all the signs that God is near
say laughter lends itself to praise.**

—Daniel Charles Damon Words © 1993 Hope Publishing Company

LAUGHTER

JOYS & CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER AS MISHEARD BY PRESCHOOLERS

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

**Our Father, who does art in heaven,
Harold is his name.
Thy kingdom come,
as will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily breath.
And forgive us our trash baskets,
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from e-mail.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Theme from "Jurassic Park"
Composed by John Williams
Special assistant: Moi Zahler

*Praise Response/Doxology

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,
You've filled our lives with laughter, our hearts with hope,
and our pockets with more than enough loose change and holy
possibility.

We bring these gifts not out of guilt,
but out of gratitude—

because you keep surprising us with love, grace,
and the kind of joy that makes us snort when we laugh.

Use what we offer—

our coins and our kindness, our time and our talents, our dollars
and our dancing—

to tickle the world with resurrection joy and to spread your love
like laughter in a quiet room.

Amen.

~Thom M. Shuman

THE LAST LAUGH

*CLOSING EASTER CAROL

"Go Tell It on the Mountain," Verses 1-3

Chorus:

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus is alive.*

**1. While soldiers watched the gravesite
that quiet Sunday dawn
there came a big commotion
and then the storm was gone.**

Chorus

**2. The women found no body
their spices to anoint;
instead they found an angel,
God's message to appoint.**

Chorus

**3. Go from where He isn't
to where He said He'd be.
An Easter-time reunion:
the hills of Galilee.**

Chorus

***ALLELUIA RESPONSE** *Let us join hearts, hands, and voices to sing...*

***BLESSING & SENDING**

Go now—

**We will go with pockets full of laughter,
with eyes squinting from the brightness of grace,
with hearts wide open to holy surprises.**

Be bold in your joy.

Be generous with your giggles.

**We will tell the good news with a grin,
and live like resurrection is the punchline
that changes everything.**

May your steps be light,
your burdens be lifted,
and your spirit be as free
as a kid on a swing in the sunshine.

**The world needs our joy.
Let us go to share it.**

May it be so. Amen!

~Thom M. Shuman, slightly adapted

To this week’s worship helpers:

Mark Nelson - Liturgist
Don Whitson-Schmidt - Trustee
Mary Ames and Tom Foster – Deacons
Mary Hall and Moi Zahler - Music Assistants
Patsy Vollrath - Nursery
Marsie Hartman and Olive Schott - Coffee Hour
- Slide Presenter

We truly appreciate all of you!

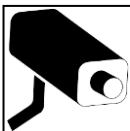


**Weekly Words of Encouragement
From the Mental Health Committee**

April 10, 2026 – Week 15

The Power of Listening:

Sometimes the best way to help someone is simply to listen. Offer your presence. Not solutions, and let God’s Spirit do the healing work.



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 Pfister
AV Manager: Beth Mitchell
Office Manager: Brenda Curtis



141 S. 12th Avenue
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235
Phone: 920-743-2701
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Hope United Church of Christ

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

Events Calendar

| Day | Date | Time | Activity/Meeting |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Sunday | April 12 | 10:30 AM | Holy Humor Sunday Worship and Faith Formation |
| Tuesday | April 14 | 7:30 AM | Rotary Breakfast |
| Wednesday | April 15 | 3:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM | Deacons Meeting Pastoral Support Committee Choir Practice |
| Thursday | April 16 | 8:30 AM 4:00 PM | Romeos Social Justice Committee |
| Friday | April 17 | 10:30 AM | Meditation in the Sanctuary |
| Saturday | April 18 | 12-4 PM | Repair Café / No coffee w/Carol |
| Sunday | April 19 | 10:30 AM | Sunday Worship and Faith Formation |
| Tuesday | April 21 | 7:30 AM | Rotary Breakfast |
| Wednesday | April 22 | 3:00 PM 6-8 PM 7:00 PM | Safety Committee Meeting Confirmation via Zoom Choir Practice |
| Thursday | April 23 | 8:30 AM | Romeos |
| Friday | April 24 | 10:30 AM 11:30 AM | Meditation in the Sanctuary Juliets Lunch |
| Saturday | April 25 | 2-3 PM | Coffee/Carol @ 5&J |
| Sunday | April 26 | 10:30 AM | Sunday Worship and Faith Formation |
| Tuesday | April 28 | 7:30 AM | Rotary Breakfast |
| Wednesday | April 29 | 7:00 PM | Choir Practice |
| Thursday | April 30 | 8:30 AM | Romeos |
| Friday | May 01 | 10:30 AM | Meditation in the Sanctuary |
| Saturday | May 02 | 2-3 PM | Coffee/Carol @ 5&J |
| Sunday | May 03 | 10:30 AM | Communion Sunday Worship and Faith Formation |

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

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

Prayer List

Jana Mitchell
The Bender Family
Jim & Karen Ebbeson
Janice McMahon
Peter
Lael C
Darlene P
Chris (Friend of June K)
Maetta C
Dolly M
Mark (Nephew of June)
Sarah J (Friend of Ricki)
Scott B
Dave R (Friend of Ricki)

Yvonne Siira & Family
Brenda Veldboom
Anna Herdina
George Weis
Dave L
Debbie C
Sarah W (Sister of Allison)
Amelia B
Ann G (Niece of June K)
Dolly M
Eric (Son of Sharon M)
Nancy S
John H

Anna
Char Shinktgen
Adrian "Ade" Webber
Vivian G
June S
Kim H
Shawn M
Adam H
Gavin L
Tom B (Husband of Penny)
Cynthia R (DIL of Imelda)
Lynn K (Friend of Ricki)

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

Incarcerated and Detained 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 the Ukraine, the Caribbean, Gaza,
Venezuela, Minnesota, the Middle East, Ecuador, and Cuba.

...And especially the family and friends of

Thomas Foster (Father of Tom)
Beth Anne W (Daughter of Olive S)
Hope B
Eugene H
Kathy M
David B
Guy (Brother of Geri Lynn)

Sasha H
Phil Sweet
Jendean and Dan Olson (Parents of Angela)
Tim S (Brother of Nancy F)
Henry G
Bernie V (Friend of Nancy F)

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