

HOPE



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

A Caring Community with a Progressive Tradition



The Christ Spirit Lives In You For All

August 23, 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

"Claire du Lune"

Claude Debussy

Performed by John Contratto

WELCOME & GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Psalm 138 selected phrases)

One: We come gathering to face all that is Sacred.

We come together as a community alive in the presence of the Holy.

ALL: Here we gather as the people of God bringing the Holy presence to others.

Here we come, thankful for the opportunity to be.

One: When we gather we offer our thanks and our praise.

Here we are assured that the Sacred and Holy we call God, is with us.

ALL: Together we sing praises and receive assurances.

Together we learn of the Sacred in each and all.

One: Come one and all, come and worship, come and sing,

Come and be the Sacred Presence for others.

ALL: We are the presence of Hope for all.

We are the messengers of God in and for all;

Come, come and worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

VU # 226 For The Beauty of The Earth V 1, 2, 3.

PREPARING THE WAY

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.

FIRST READING:

An Excerpt From: The Fragrance of Faith The Enlightened Heart of Islam
By Jamal Rahman

Gradualness, indeed, is a characteristic of the action of the Sustainer of the Universe. "Do your work of transformation little by little. Rumi says: 'Little by little, wean yourself. This is the gist of what I have to say. From an embryo, whose nourishment comes through the blood, move to an infant drinking milk, to a child on solid food, to a searcher after wisdom, to a hunter of more invisible game.'

SECOND READING:

Romans 12:1–2

from *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson (slightly adapted)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for the *Sacred One*. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on *what is sacred*. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what this *Sacred Life* wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, the *Sacred and Holy ONE* brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Rainbow Fantasy"

Frederick Chopin

Performed by John Contratto

MESSAGE

"The Christ Spirit Lives In You For All"

HYMN

642 Be Thou My Vision vs 1, 2, and 4.

A TIME FOR SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER-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 OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"In This Moment"

R. Kevin Boesiger

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,

Whose daystar shines for us on high.

Whose spirit brings into our sight

The hope, which to our world draws nigh. Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of All and our God, we offer praise in many ways, with song and word, with our presence and our labor, and with our gifts and offerings. We dedicate these offerings to the mission and ministry of Hope, here in this community and the world of which we are a part. AMEN.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Give Thanks for Hope" (see page 5)

Tune of VU #705 "For All The Saints"

***ALLELUIA AND BENEDICTION**

We join hearts, hands and voices to sing an eight-fold Alleluia. The second time through we hum the tune and sing the final "Alleluia."

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**To this week's worship helpers:**

Moi Zahler - Liturgist  
Don Whitson-Schmidt – Trustee  
John Contratto – Special Music  
Lynn Brunswick and Mary Ames – Deacons  
John Contratto and Frank Tank - Coffee Hour  
Carol Wies - Slide Presenter  
- Nursery

**We truly appreciate each of you!**  
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Give Thanks for Hope

**1 Give thanks for Life the measure of our days,
Give thanks for Love for beauty does it bring
And Thanks for Hope, our home, our love, our praise.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.**

**2 This is our Hope, our home our place to come,
Thanks for the love by which our lives are fed
A love that strengthens all that choose to come.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.**

**3 Give thanks for Hope, for those who make it theirs,
For here within its walls our lives find strength
And all who come, are welcomed here with love.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.**

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.

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
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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.

Weekly Words of Encouragement From the Mental Health Committee

August 21, 2026 – Week 34

Kindness as Witness:

Kindness can be a light in someone's darkness.

A simple word or gesture may be the very hope they need today.

Events Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Activity/Meeting
Sunday	August 23	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship Led by Rev. Richard Feyen Blessing the Backpacks
		10:00 AM	Memoir Monday
Tuesday	August 25	7:30 AM	Rotary Breakfast
Wednesday	August 26	6:00 PM	Back to School Weenie Roast
Thursday	August 28	8:30 AM	Romeos Breakfast @ Sunrise Café
Sunday	August 30	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship Led by Rev. Kirk Perucca
Tuesday	September 1	7:30 AM	Rotary Breakfast
Thursday	September 3	8:30 AM	Romeos Breakfast @ Sunrise Café
		10:00 AM	Meditation @ the ADRC
Sunday	September 6	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship Led by
Monday	September 7	Labor Day	
Tuesday	September 8	7:30 AM	Rotary Breakfast
Wednesday	September 9	5:30 PM	Hope U
		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Resumes
Thursday	September 10	8:30 AM	Romeos Breakfast @ Sunrise Café
Sunday	September 13	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship Led by 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

Upcoming Service Leaders

August 30, Rev. Kirk Perucca



Sunday Service
Special Music Performances
September 13th: Door County Handbell Choir

For PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES, please call or text
Rev Peter Mannoja (Tanum Forest Evangelical Lutheran Church), 920-559-3339
or Rev Mary Lou Plummer (Hainesville Lutheran Church), 715-451-9992

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	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	Maetta C
Gavin L	Dolly M	Dolly M
Tom B (Husband of Penny)	Eric (Son of Sharon M)	Cynthia R (DIL of Imelda)
Sarah J (Friend of Ricki)	Nancy S	Lynn K (Friend of Ricki)
Scott B	John H	Dave R (Friend of Ricki)
Cyndi N	Samantha O	Clara
Kevin C	Gayla G (niece of Nancy)	
Theresa (Aunt of Samantha)		

Everyone in our world 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

Rev. Phil Sweet	Hope B
Eugene H	Tim S (Brother of Nancy F)
Kathy M	Henry G
David B	Bernie V (Friend of Nancy F)
Guy (Brother of Geri Lynn)	Adam H
Harry Proctor	Cal Holvenstot

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