



August Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 2nd — 9:15am Communion service

Sunday, August 9th — 9:15am Communion service

***Sunday, August 16th** — 9:15am worship service;
Summer Treat Themed Fellowship

Sunday, August 23rd — 9:15am worship service

Sunday, August 30th — 10:45am worship service at Folk Song Farm

Dates to Remember:

Thursday, August 27th — Book Club

Sunday, August 30th — Shared Church Picnic at Folk Song Farm



Office Hours

Pastor Steve: by Appointment

Dana:

Tuesdays & Thursdays

10am—Noon

Let's Keep in Touch!

If your phone, address, or email have changed, or if you're not receiving emails from New Hope, please let us know at info@newhopeucc.com

New Hope UCC 4360 Jackson Drive Jackson, WI 53037 (262) 677-2345

www.newhopeucc.com info@newhopeucc.com



Sara Doedens	8/4
Dean Endlich	8/8
Noah Doedens	8/16
Roger Kissinger	8/19
Matt Doedens	8/23
Derek Smiley	8/24
Robin Peña	8/28
Christine Young	8/29
Larry Koziol	8/30



Happy Anniversary!

Steve & Julie Koehler	8/13	38yrs
Elizabeth & Tom Will	8/17	30yrs
Steve & Becky Powell	8/25	36yrs

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:15am Communion service	3	4	5	6	7	8 National Frozen Custard Day 
9 9:15am Communion service	10	11 Consistory Meeting	12	13	14	15
*16 9:15am worship service; Summer Treat Fellowship	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:15am worship service	24	25 National Park Service Founders Day 	26	27 Book Club at 7pm	28	29
30 10:45am worship service at Folk Song Farm	31					

Why Your Invitation Matters

Have you ever stopped to think about how people first come to church? For me, I was born into it. For those of you with a church background, you maybe had the courage just to come in. But for many people, the answer is simple: someone invited them. It may have been a parent, a grandparent, a friend, a neighbor, or a coworker. That simple invitation became the beginning of a journey that changed their lives.

Many people in our community are searching for hope, purpose, and a place where they belong. They may not admit it, but they are asking life's biggest questions: Is there more to life? Does anyone care about me? Where can I find peace? While they may never walk through the church doors on their own, they are often willing to come if someone they trust simply asks.

Jesus spent much of His ministry inviting people. His first words to many of His disciples were, "Follow me" (Matthew 4:19). He welcomed tax collectors, fishermen, skeptics, and sinners. He didn't wait for people to find Him; He went where they were and invited them into something greater. We are called to do the same.

Sometimes we hesitate because we think we need all the answers. We worry that someone might say no. We fear it could be awkward. But inviting someone isn't about having the perfect words. It's simply saying, "I'd love for you to come to church with me this Sunday." The Holy Spirit takes care of the rest.

Think about the people God has already placed in your life. You know them. You know the ones "who could use a little Jesus in their lives." You've probably thought it already. Your invitation may be the very thing God uses to open the door to new life in Christ.

Imagine what would happen if every person in our congregation invited just one person before Labor Day. Not everyone would come. But some would. Some would hear the gospel for the first time. Some would discover a church family. Some might begin a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

This month, I want to challenge each of us to pray for one person by name. Ask God to give you the opportunity and the courage to invite them to worship. Then trust Him with the results.

God's Peace,

Pastor Steve



President's Message

Dear New Hope family,

Over the past few months, I've been thinking about how God calls us to care both for our neighbors beyond our doors and for those who share our pews each Sunday. We are a small but mighty congregation, and when we work together, our impact reaches further than any of us could manage on our own.

One example of this is our upcoming outreach in early September, when we will be preparing meals for people who are currently unhoused and living with food insecurity. A warm meal, a steady presence, and sometimes a listening ear may seem simple, but they speak loudly of God's love to those who often feel forgotten. When we serve in this way, we are reminding our neighbors and ourselves that no one is beyond the reach of grace.

At the same time, our calling does not stop at the church parking lot. Many within our own New Hope community are carrying heavy burdens: health concerns, family stress, grief, or quiet worries they may not feel ready to name out loud. Working together for those who we see each Sunday and for those we do not means paying attention to both. We can share meals after service on Sunday, but we can also share casseroles, rides, prayers, and encouragement with one another.

My invitation this month is simple: ask God to show you one person outside our congregation and one person within it whom you can support. It might be signing up to help with the September meal, writing a card to someone who has been missing from worship, making a phone call, or simply showing up and listening. No act of care is too small when offered in love.

Thank you for the many ways you already give of your time, gifts, and hearts. Together, we are learning what it means to be the body of Christ as we hold one another up and reach out beyond our walls, always trusting that God will continue to guide and strengthen us for this work.

In gratitude,

Barry



The Pulpit, Unfiltered (within reason)

This is a new monthly feature to help you get to know me, Pastor Steve, better. Each month I will answer two random questions. If you have a question for me, let me know.

1. What am I allergic to?

I am allergic to sesame. I developed it as an adult. I never had a food allergy in my life and then all of a sudden, there it was. Yes, it will put me in the hospital. I steer clear of Asian cuisine. Boy do I miss sesame chicken.

2. What is your favorite quote?

"Leave the gun, take the cannoli." (Clemenza in the movie The Godfather)

New Hope UCC & Faith UCC

Shared Church Picnic



FOOD - WORSHIP - FUN

HAM & ROLLS, WATER, & LEMONADE
WILL BE PROVIDED
BRING A DISH TO PASS!

SUNDAY
30
AUGUST

FOLK SONG FARM
AT 10:45AM

4811 PIONEER RD. RICHFIELD, WI 53076

FEATURING STEVE KOEHLER ON MUSIC

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

hosted by New Hope UCC and Faith UCC

Book for August

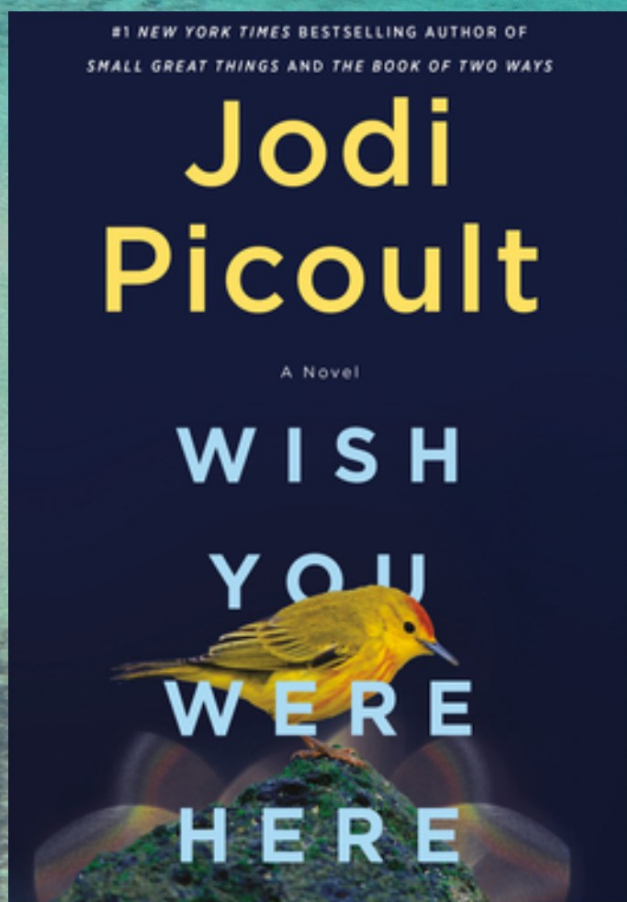
“Wish You Were Here”

by Jodi Picoult

General info

When: Thursday, August 27th
@ 7pm

Where: New Hope UCC
All Are Welcome!



Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track. She will be married by thirty, done having kids by thirty-five, and move out to the New York City suburbs, all while climbing the professional ladder in the cutthroat art auction world. She's an associate specialist at Sotheby's now, but her boss has hinted at a promotion if she can close a deal with a high-profile client. She's not engaged just yet, but she knows her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galapagos—days before her thirtieth birthday. Right on time.

But then a virus that felt worlds away has appeared in the city, and on the eve of their departure, Finn breaks the news: It's all hands on deck at the hospital. He has to stay behind. You should still go, he assures her, since it would be a shame for all of their nonrefundable trip to go to waste. And so, reluctantly, she goes.

Almost immediately, Diana's dream vacation goes awry. Her luggage is lost, the Wi-Fi is nearly nonexistent, and the hotel they'd booked is shut down due to the pandemic. In fact, the whole island is now under quarantine, and she is stranded until the borders reopen. Completely isolated, she must venture beyond her comfort zone. Slowly, she carves out a connection with a local family when a teenager with a secret opens up to Diana, despite her father's suspicion of outsiders.

In the Galapagos Islands, where Darwin's theory of natural selection was formed, Diana finds herself examining her relationships, her choices, and herself—and wondering if when she goes home, she too will have evolved into someone completely different.

If you have questions or would like more information,
please contact Sheila Smiley-- sheila@smileyinfo.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW HOPE...

A LOOK AT NEW HOPE IN THE PRESENT DAY



On Sunday, July 26th, we held our Christmas in July outdoor worship service and fellowship hour!



Photos of the Month

Here, Bob and Gary
are featured cooking
up some fresh,
delicious goodies in
their kitchen for
Gary's Market!
Baker Bob has
butterscotch pie and
poppy seed torte and
Gary is holding a tray
full of butterhorns.





July 23, 2026

The Mercy of the Long Way

By Hannah Sachs

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer. - Exodus 13:17a (NRSV)

I am a passionate devotee of the shortcut. If Google Maps promises to save me four minutes by weaving through three alleyways and a sketchy supermarket parking lot, I will take it!

We live in a culture that worships efficiency, and I confess I sometimes bring that same frantic energy to my spiritual life. I want the direct route to healing, the express lane to maturity, and the immediate answer to my prayers.

But God, it seems, is a fan of the scenic route.

When the Israelites walked away from the backbreaking quotas of Egypt, the shortest path to freedom was a straight shot up the coast. It was direct. Efficient. Instead, God rerouted them toward the wilderness. On a map, it looks foolish.

But that nearer route was a heavily fortified imperial highway, lined with watchtowers and military outposts. God knew that if this newly freed population immediately faced violence on the open road, they would panic, lose heart, and run straight back to their captors.

The long way around wasn't a punishment or a test. It was an act of fierce, protective tenderness—a beautiful refusal to force a weary, aching people to keep marching at the relentless pace of their past.

We still resist the detours, don't we? Empire demands that we heal instantly, produce constantly, and rush past our pain. So when a transition drags on or a season of loss takes years to navigate, it is easy to resent the delay. But our gentle God values our wholeness far more than our speed.

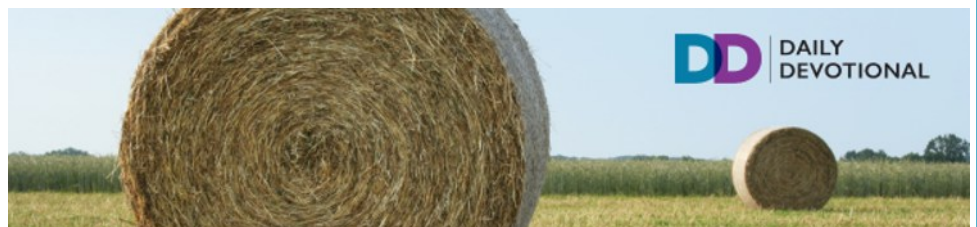
If you are on the slow road today, you aren't failing. God uses these wilderness miles to do the careful, caring work that cannot be hurried, shielding you until you are strong enough for what lies ahead.

Prayer

God of the protective detour, deliver me from the empire's rush. Walk with me through these quiet miles, and remind me that the long way is an act of love. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hannah Sachs is the Minister of Faith Formation at Rock Spring UCC in Arlington, Virginia.





PLEASE REACH OUT!

NEW HOPE FAMILY:

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
REACH OUT TO PASTOR STEVE
WITH YOUR PASTORAL CARE NEEDS**

- Health issues
- Visit requests
- Other concerns



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2026 Consistory



President: Barry Boline
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Gift card fundraising, also known as **Scrip** fundraising, has been the #1 fundraiser for nonprofit organizations across the U.S. for more than 25 years.

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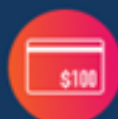
Use your gift cards

Use your physical gift cards in-store or online, or access your eGift cards right from your online account. Stored in your Wallet, you can easily view, use, and organize to quickly find the ones you use most. Raise Right even has a mobile app!

Each brand donates back a different amount, and you never have to spend extra money. Buy a \$50 gift card to Target, and you get \$50 to spend. Target then donates 2.5% of your purchase back to New Hope. Donation amounts range from 1-14% and average around 6%. Buy things you were going to buy anyways, and feel good knowing your purchases are supporting New Hope!

**To view a complete list of participating brands, visit
www.raiseright.com/brands**

Please contact Julie Endlich at 262-339-0540 djendlich@charter.net to purchase Scrip



BUY A GIFT CARD

Buy a \$100 Gap eGift card from RaiseRight, with 14% earnings. Pay with your bank account or credit card.



USE IT INSTANTLY

Your \$100 eGift card is delivered to your online "Wallet" instantly, ready to use or save for later.



EARN AUTOMATICALLY

You automatically earned \$14 for your fundraising account. Way to go!



THANKS, GAPI!

Your earnings come from the brand, so no extra money out of your pocket.

