



July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 5th — 9:15am Communion service

Sunday, July 12th — 9:15am Communion service

Sunday, July 19th — 9:15am worship service

***Sunday, July 26th** — 9:15am worship service; **Christmas in July** **cookout Fellowship Hour**

Dates to Remember:

Saturday, July 4th — Independence Day

Friday, July 10th — Civil War Monument Dedication

Thursday, August 27th — Book Club



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



Kristen Doedens 7/3
 Kelsey Will 7/5
 Linda Kranz 7/11



Happy Anniversary!

Mark Sergeant & Debbie Burns 10yrs 7/16

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day!
5 9:15 Communion service	6	7 International Peace & Love Day 	8	9	10 Monument Dedication at Friedens 10am	11
12 9:15am Communion service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:15am worship service	20	21	22	23 National Vanilla Ice Cream Day 	24	25
26 9:15am worship service; Christmas in July Fellowship Cook- out	27	28	29	30	31	

Happy Birthday USA!

This year our nation marks a remarkable milestone—250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As I reflect on this anniversary, I can't help but think back to America's Bicentennial in 1976. I was a second grader then, and I still remember the patriotic celebrations, parades, and excitement. Jimmy Carter the peanut farmer was president. The movie Rocky debuted. I could go on. It seems impossible that another fifty years would pass so quickly. Yet here we are.

As Americans, we have much to be thankful for. We enjoy freedoms that many people around the world would love to have, including the precious freedom to worship who, what, and how we want. That freedom has allowed people of many faiths—and those of no faith—to live together in ways that are rare in human history. While our nation has never been perfect, we can still be grateful for the opportunities and liberties we have been given.

As followers of Jesus, our ultimate hope is not found in any nation but in the Kingdom of God. Yet loving our neighbors, praying for our leaders, serving our communities, and working for justice and peace are all faithful expressions of our Christian calling. We seek the good of the place where God has planted us while remembering that our highest allegiance belongs to Christ alone.

As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, may we give thanks for the blessings we enjoy, honor those who sacrificed to preserve our freedoms, and recommit ourselves to living lives marked by faith, compassion, and hope. May we continue to be people who reflect Christ's love in our homes, our church, and our community.

God's Peace,

Pastor Steve



President's Message

Dear New Hope family,

As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, we are invited to reflect not only on our country's founding ideals, but also on the responsibilities each generation inherits. This moment calls us to look back with gratitude and forward with purpose.

That reflection feels especially meaningful for New Hope, because our own story runs deep. According to our church history, a group of local German settlers formed Friedens Evangelical Church in March 1852 and built a log church that same year, beginning a long line of faithful worship and service that eventually became New Hope United Church of Christ. More than 170 years later, we are still stewards of that legacy in Jackson.

My vision for this season is simple: that we honor both our nation's anniversary and our church's history by living with renewed faith, unity, and purpose. Those who came before us built something lasting; now it is our turn to carry that witness forward with courage and hope.

Barry



The Pulpit, Unfiltered (within reason)

1. If you could have dinner with any three people—living or dead—who would they be and why?

Jesus, of course, and not just because I'm a pastor. He ate with sinners. We'd get along great. I bet He has a wonderful, dry sense of humor. Plus, I have a ton of questions.

The next would be Teddy Roosevelt. He was an intense, tough, brilliant man. For the love of God, he was shot in the chest right before he was to deliver a speech in Milwaukee. He insisted on delivering the entire 90 speech with the bullet still in him! The Teddy Bear was also named after him.

The third is Jimmy Buffett. He helped get me through some difficult parts of my life. He was also there for some great parts of my life. He had a love of life. It would just be a lot of fun to hear his stories. Yes, I am a Parrot Head.

2. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received that still influences your life today?

I've gotten a lot of good advice in my life and just as much bad. One piece of advice that always shows up in my memory is from my grandmother. She was a wonderful German grandma, stern and loving. When I was 7, we moved in with her. My mother got a job, so my grandmother helped raise me. We were very close. She had something she always said when I would start criticizing someone or talking poorly of someone. She would say, "Grab hold of your own nose and you'll have a handful." It was her version of Matthew 7:3, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?" In other words, worry about yourself. She was pretty funny.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW HOPE...

A LOOK AT NEW HOPE IN THE PRESENT DAY

A beautiful monument has been installed at our Friedens Cemetery, honoring the men buried there who fought in America's Civil War.

Join us at Friedens Friday, July 10th at 10am for the Civil War Monument dedication ceremony. The short but moving ceremony includes the Color Guard playing taps and a three-volley salute. The service is open to the public — all are welcome!





Brat Fry & Bake Sale — This past Saturday, June 27th, New Hope's Mission Forward team hosted a Brat Fry & Bake Sale at Jackson Piggly Wiggly. The event was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who participated, from those grilling, serving, and taking cash on Saturday to those who donated baked goods and helped coordinate and plan. All of your efforts paid off and a wonderful day was had!

Time and time again, our New Hope family shows up and demonstrates amazing love and generosity.



MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

hosted by New Hope UCC and Faith UCC

Book for August

“Wish You Were Here”

by Jodi Picoult

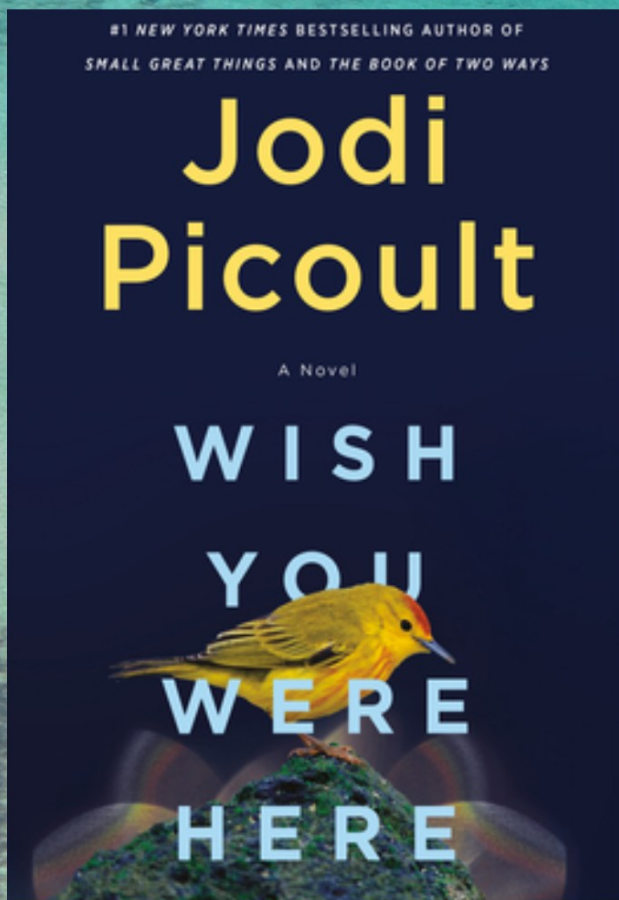
General info

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



We All Have Our Moments

Kenneth Samuel

God's anger is but for a moment; God's favor is for life. - Psalm 30:5 (adapted)

I totally understand the push to live in the moment. To totally show up in real time is always needful. But we've all been consumed by moments of anger, regret, sorrow and anguish. And sometimes these moments last for weeks, months, even years.

Life is more than the accumulation of the good and bad moments we experience. Life is also the hope that defies current desperation. Life is also the love that is still greater than our present animosities. Life is also the faith that keeps us moving forward even after we think we've experienced the best there is.

When I was a little boy, my mother made cakes from scratch. She would begin by placing all her ingredients for the cake on the table. Since her cakes were so delicious and her cake batter was so good (my siblings and I licked the bowl), I assumed that everything she used to make the cake had to be good.

One day after she'd set all her ingredients out and left the kitchen, I decided to taste each ingredient.

The eggs were slimy and unpleasant, the flour was dry and distasteful, the butter was repulsive, the buttermilk was bitter, and even the sugar was too sweet.

When she returned, I asked her how she could make such good cakes out of such nasty ingredients. She said, "Well, you just let Momma work with all this."

We all have our moments. But God works with all of them and blends them together just right to make our lives better than we ever thought possible.

Prayer

God please don't let bitter moments cause me to miss my life. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Decatur, Georgia.





Wisconsin Conference UCC

Where God is still speaking,

By Kayla Berkey | published on May 26, 2026

When Vicki Garlock set out to set a Guinness World Record by visiting the most places of worship within one month in Chicago, she carried her experience and interest in religion across diverse faith traditions and a list of logistical Guinness requirements to meet.

What she encountered were many small, meaningful moments of connection, like when a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod minister offered a tour and showed her an angel sculpture, which was the only item that was salvaged from the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. Or when she realized that the interim minister of St. Peter's UCC in Skokie, the Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson, was the parent of a student Garlock had once taught in a college class.

Garlock visited 185 places of worship, from mosques to monasteries, cathedrals to neighborhood temples, following the Guinness rules of traveling only by public transit or on foot and receiving signed and photo verification at each site. Among these, she visited 10 congregations of the United Church of Christ, with the personal UCC connection of having served as the children's minister at Land of the Sky UCC in Asheville, North Carolina.

Setting out on this task was an exercise in trust, said Garlock, who now lives in North Carolina but grew up near Chicago. She selected the city for this task because of its familiarity, and because it contains both a density and variety of worshipping communities.

To claim the Guinness World Record for visiting more places of worship visited in a month, Vicki Garlock documented each place with a photo, including the one above at Kimball Avenue UCC in Chicago. Vicki Garlock photo.

"I was trusting Guinness, I was trusting myself, I was trusting the city of Chicago – but also trusting that it would all be okay if I didn't get the world record. That it would still be an interesting experience, that I would still learn things," she said.

When she completed her month of September 2025, this trust carried her into successfully earning the Guinness World Record on Sept. 29, surpassing the previous record of 111.

The energy of meaningful spaces

Garlock was surprised to experience the great welcome people extended when she simply showed up. While things started out slowly as she relied on email to set up appointments, she soon shifted more toward a "meandering pilgrimage" of walking neighborhoods and adding more impromptu visits to worship services and offices. She walked over 350,000 steps and attended about 20 worship services.

"It was a privilege to have time and encounter people so willing to open and show me their sanctuaries," she said.

When Vicki Garlock visited a Greek Orthodox church in Chicago, she received an invitation to join the Annual Chicago Metropolis Blessing of Lake Michigan and Dive for the Holy Cross. Vicki Garlock photo.

When services weren't happening, many people offered tours of the sanctuary and meaningful elements of the church building.

"It goes back to how meaningful these spaces are for people, that they wanted to take time out of their day to show me. They would show the altar, the organ, the curved pews. Someone took me into a stairwell to show me photographs of the founders of the church. The energy of it being special to that group of people was so clearly present in every place I went to," Garlock said.



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Interfaith commitment

Garlock aimed to set this world record with a particular background and interest in interfaith work. She went to a Lutheran grade school and Catholic high school. She has worked at a Methodist and, most recently, a UCC church. She also regularly attends services at Buddhist, Hindu, and Jewish services throughout the year and has created an organization called World Religions 4 Kids, which focuses on building bridges across religious divides.

“One of the things I love about this business of interfaith education is there is always more to learn,” she said. “This experience took advantage of the work that I’ve been doing the last 10 years, and the skill sets I have around walking into spaces that are not Christian. But the fun of it was that it also helped me move forward even more – to learn more, to be challenged a little bit, to go into spaces that were still unfamiliar to me despite all the experience that I already have.”

Community connections

As she visited several UCC spaces, one observation she made was a sense of sharing instilled within the congregations. Many shared their spaces with other congregations and housed several community programs, she said.

“One of the things that struck me was that most faith communities were incredibly involved with their neighborhoods and the surrounding neighborhoods,” she said. “It wasn’t just UCC churches that partner in the community, but it was very clear that this is an important piece of what the UCC denomination means and what it means to people who affiliate with the UCC.”

Kimball Avenue UCC, for instance, hosts a community garden on its property and grows food that is used for regular community dinners, Garlock learned.

Vicki Garlock was officially awarded the title of most places of worship visited in one month on Sept. 29, 2025. Vicki Garlock photo.

Lifting up positive narratives

Garlock’s Guinness efforts also stepped into the experience of the broader city. Her time in Chicago overlapped with the ICE surge of “Operation Midway Blitz.” This narrative covered the city and national news, and Garlock heard stories of how it directly impacted people’s lives.

She also witnessed the care and kindness people were extending to one another.

“It’s a constant, disastrous sort of narrative, right?” she reflected. “And yet, there’s so many people who are trying to live their lives day in and day out, and get along with people, and be kind, and do their jobs well. And it really is such a dichotomy in terms of what narratives are being lifted up, and what narratives we’re paying attention to. We’re going to have to turn that around somehow, I think.”



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



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