

October Vision

2026

October Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 4th – 9:15am Communion service;
World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 11th – 9:15am Communion service

Sunday, October 18th – 9:15am worship service;
Laity Sunday

***Sunday, October 25th** – 9:15am worship service;
Reformation Sunday; Halloween Themed
Fellowship



Office Hours

Pastor Steve:
by Appointment

Dana:
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10am - Noon

Dates to Remember:

Monday, October 1st – Book Club

Saturday, October 10th – New Hope at West Bend Farmers' Market

Monday, October 12th – Columbus Day / Indigenous People's Day

Saturday, October 31st – Halloween & New Hope's Trunk-or-Treat

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



October 2026



 **Happy
ANNIVERSARY**

- Sarah & Carl Lundberg 10/8 10yrs
- Katie & Andy Meier 10/13 19yrs



- Pam Dobberpuhl 10/14
- Donna Poole 10/17
- Scott Poole 10/24
- John Lockwood 10/31
- Gary Kranz 10/31

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:15am Communion service	5	6	7	8	9	10 New Hope at West Bend Farmers' Market
11 9:15am Communion service	12 Colombus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:15am worship service; Laity Sunday	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:15am worship service; Halloween Fellowship	26	27	28	29	30	31  New Hope Trunk-or-Treat 3:30-5:30pm

Rev's Reflections

The 90-Day Challenge: Who Can We Invite?

For the rest of the year, both churches are taking on a simple challenge: help people in our community who do not have a church home visit us at least once.

This is more than about increasing attendance. It is an opportunity to practice hospitality, share the hope we have found in Christ, and help others discover a church where they can truly be known and welcomed. Many people around us are lonely, spiritually curious, or searching for a place to belong. Some may simply be waiting for an invitation from someone they trust.

For the rest of 2026, I am asking every member of both congregations to prayerfully identify one person to invite to worship. They might be neighbors, friends, relatives, coworkers, or someone you regularly meet in the community. You do not need to give a speech or have all the answers. A simple invitation is enough: "I would love to have you join me at church this Sunday. Would you like to come and sit with me?"

We must also make sure our invitation is matched by our welcome. When visitors come, introduce yourself, help them feel comfortable, and invite them to return. We want people to discover that our church is a place where they will be known—a place where questions are welcome.

Not everyone we invite will attend, and that's ok. Our responsibility is not to pressure people or guarantee results. Our responsibility is simply to open the door and trust the Holy Spirit to work.

Prayer is critical. Begin by praying, "God, who is one person I can invite?" Write down their name, pray for them, watch for an opportunity, and then offer the invitation. One invitation may not seem like a big deal, but to someone searching for faith, hope, or belonging, it could make a lasting difference.

God's Peace,
Pastor Steve

The Pulpit, Unfiltered (within reason)

1. What songs are on the soundtrack of your life?

I'm going to answer with an artist because I can't decide which songs. Pretty much anything from Jimmy Buffet (God rest his soul.) I have been to several of his concerts and even have some Parrot Head tattoos. Whenever I need to turn my frown upside-down, I play his music. Yes, I am a certified Parrot Head.

2. What is your most random impulse buy?

The one that keeps coming back to haunt me, through the ribbing of my family, is this. When my son was two, I bought him an electric racetrack. All that I knew was that I wanted one as a kid and never got one. So, I got him a very nice one without discussing it or thinking it through. Remember he was two. He had no concept of what an electric racetrack was for. So, all he did was walk through it destroying it. Picture Godzilla destroying the city. No, he did not get in trouble. It was my fault.

President's Message

Dear Family of New Hope UCC,

October invites us to pause and notice the changing season. The days grow shorter, the colors around us deepen, and the familiar rhythms of summer give way to a quieter, more reflective time. In the life of our church, it is also a meaningful moment: a chance to look back with gratitude on what we have shared this year and to look ahead with hope as we prepare for Advent.

Throughout the year, New Hope UCC has continued to be a community where faith is lived through worship, service, fellowship, generosity, and care for one another. We have gathered in celebration and in concern; we have welcomed friends and visitors; we have supported ministries within our congregation and reached beyond our walls to serve our neighbors. Each act of kindness helps make New Hope the caring congregation it is.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because people respond, often quietly and without fanfare, to the needs of the church and the needs of others. Whether you serve in worship, help with a meal or event, contribute financially to our new furnaces or updated audio-visual system, offer a ride, make a phone call, share a conversation, or simply extend a welcome to someone who needs it, you are part of the ministry of New Hope. Thank you.

As we enter this final stretch before preparing for Advent, I encourage each of us to consider how we can finish the year with both gratitude and intention. In late November, Advent will call upon us to wait, watch, and prepare our hearts again for the coming of Christ. Before that season begins, October gives us an opportunity to bring together the lessons and blessings of the year. We reflect on our commitment to one another, our desire to serve, our faithfulness in difficult times, and our confidence that God continues to lead us forward.

There is much still to do, but there is also much for which to be thankful. In a world that can feel divided and uncertain, New Hope has the opportunity to be a visible sign of welcome, compassion, and hope.

May this season of change remind us that God is present not only in new beginnings, but also in the faithful work of carrying forward what has been entrusted to us. As we prepare to enter Advent, may we do so with grateful hearts, renewed energy, and a shared commitment to the future God is calling us to build together.

With gratitude and hope,
Barry J. Boline





TRUNK -OR- TREAT



FREE HOTDOG, CHIPS, & COOKIE

*Free
Candy!*

OCTOBER 31, 2026 | 3:30-5:30 PM

NEW HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4360 JACKSON DR.

JACKSON, WI 53037

262-677-2345



Join New Hope at the West Bend Farmers' Market!

Stop By and Say Hello!

New Hope will be raffling off a giant stuffed animal, passing out free candy & beanie babies, and hosting lots of other fun!

October 10th

7:30-11am / Booth #100

Near Brazen Head Pub & Husar's Jewelry

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

hosted by New Hope UCC and Faith UCC

Book for October

"The Flight Girls"

by Noelle Salazar

General info

When: Thursday, November 5th

@ 7pm

Where: New Hope UCC

All Are Welcome!



1941: Audrey Coltrane has always wanted to fly. It's why she implored her father to teach her at the little airfield back home in Texas. It's why she signed up to train military pilots in Hawaii when the war in Europe began. And it's why she insists she is not interested in any dream-derailing romantic involvements, even with the disarming Lieutenant James Hart, who fast becomes a friend as treasured as the women she flies with. Then one fateful day, she gets caught in the air over Pearl Harbor just as the bombs begin to fall, and suddenly, nowhere feels safe.

To make everything she's lost count for something, Audrey joins the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. The bonds she forms with her fellow pilots reignite a spark of hope in the face war, and--when James goes missing in action--give Audrey the strength to cross the front lines and fight not only for her country, but for the love she holds so dear.

Shining a light on a little-known piece of history, *The Flight Girls* is a sweeping portrayal of women's fearlessness, love, and the power of friendship to make us soar.

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

What's Happening at New Hope



New Hope's Annual Joint Church Picnic with Faith UCC was held at Folk Song Farm in Slinger on August 30th, 2026. Pastor Steve provided a wonderful sermon, followed by a potluck lunch, fellowship, and games. The weather was wonderful and spirits were high all around!

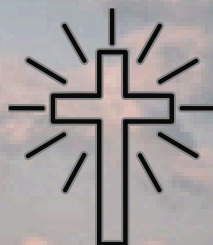


What's Happening at New Hope

**While Pastor Steve was on vacation over Labor Day weekend, New Hope member, Bruce Endlich, served as guest officiant.
Thank you for your generosity of time and talent, Bruce!**



**Bruce will be back serving as guest officiant again on October 4th.
Come show your support!**





During the week of August 31st - September 6th, New Hope's Mission Forward team organized a drive to provide dinners each evening for 35 people, both adults and children, at Family Promise of Washington County.

New Hope's members worked together to prepare delicious meals including, chicken alfredo, taco casserole, chili, burritos, spaghetti, pulled pork, and chicken, bacon & ranch sandwiches. All meals included sides, deserts, and drinks as well.

New Hope has a strong partnership with Family Promise. We faithfully support their mission of helping people from becoming homeless and supporting those who are temporarily experiencing homelessness.

In addition to the meals prepared and provided, the Mission Forward team used \$100 from the proceeds of June's Brat Fry fundraiser to give Family Promise a scrip gift card. That money will help purchase food items for their shelter.

**To everyone who supported this initiative,
THANK YOU!!!**





Dear friends:

9/3/2026

In high school I worked on a dairy farm, baling hay, feeding calves, and mucking stalls. Twice a day, we shooed 60 cows into the barn for milking then sent them back out to the field. The trickiest part was getting them through a narrow gate flanked by barbed wire fences that occasionally snagged my britches. Amazingly, the cows learned to file one by one through that narrow way. How I longed for a wide-swinging gate that would alleviate this bovine bottleneck.

Then one Sunday I heard these words from Jesus: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

I've wrestled with this passage ever since. In Luke, the metaphor is similar: "Strive to enter through the narrow door," implying that Jesus is the exclusive way to a life of fullness and salvation. Many people are drawn to this teaching because it is a reassuring spiritual promise that calls us into deeper discipleship. Yet it also draws from us, consciously or not, a judgment about who is "saved" and who is not. Winnowing the list of people worthy of God's grace doesn't strike me as reflecting the radical love of Jesus.

I find it interesting that in today's polarized environment, narrowness is revealed most clearly at the two ends of the political spectrum, where uncompromising ideologies lead to angry-finger pointing at the opposite corner. In mastering the skill of "othering," it seems, we lose the gifts of compassion and curiosity that so often produce unexpected blessings.

As we prepare to launch a new program year, the September Common Lectionary Epistle readings refer to Paul's mediation between Jewish and Gentile Christians around dietary customs and the Mosaic laws. Conflicts over their divergent backgrounds and traditions threatened to divide the early Church. But Paul declared that love must supersede judgment if we are to be one body in Christ. "Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law ... love your neighbor as yourself." (Romans 13:8)

I read the invitation to pass through the narrowest gate as instruction to us to cultivate the widest love. If Jesus is the incarnation of love, and if we seek to embrace and embody such love, that has immense implications for our practice of openness and inclusion.

To walk the narrow way is to welcome the stranger, to help the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to shelter the unhoused, to feed the hungry, to embrace ethnic and racial diversity, and to love people no matter their gender or orientation. That is a love from which Christians too often retreat, returning instead to our social media feedlots for a steady diet of prejudice, disparagement, and stereotyping.

In a few days, our nation will mark the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sep. 11, 2001 – an event that united Americans in deep grief. Sadly, however, we also experienced an anti-Muslim backlash that to this day fuels the xenophobia expressed by many and the massive, unjust ICE arrests and detentions of immigrants, most of whom have never been convicted of a crime. WWJD?

Meanwhile, as the nation mourns the death of Dolly Parton, we have been reminded again and again of her remarkable kindness. She was universally admired. One newscast ended with a video tribute sharing stories about her generosity and her care for the Appalachian communities that shaped her and at the end that noted she never spoke a mean word about anyone. When asked why, Dolly replied, "I just love everyone."

As we head into a contentious midterm election, keeping "love of everyone" front and center is more important than ever. Through that narrow gate lie the wide-open muddy fields of life, where we can be agents of good will, ambassadors of the love of Jesus Christ, and stewards of the generous grace of God.

The Rev. Franz Rigert
Conference Minister



Roundabout

Vicki Kemper

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer, for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea. - Exodus 13:17-18 (NRSVUE)

Science tells us the shortest distance between two points on a flat surface is a straight line. The shortest distance between two points on a sphere is called the great-circle distance.

But when it comes to key moments and stages of our lives, finding the shortest, quickest distance is not the point. Efficiency is not the goal. And still we spend our days racing from one task, one meeting, one thing on our to-do list to the next.

God has a better idea.

Instead of treating life as a task to be accomplished or a destination to be reached, consider who you might love, how you might grow, and what you might give along the way. Instead of going straight to AI for the answer, noodle around and see what else you might learn. Instead of making your own way, discern where God's love might be leading you. Instead of trying to control every outcome, trust God to work all things for good.

"God made the world round so we would never be able to see too far down the road," said the Danish writer Isak Dinesen.

Chances are that we will, like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, over time, become who God made us to be. And, in a roundabout process, we might discover communities where life-giving love flows like milk and honey.

Prayer

God of the straight line, the great-circle distance, and the roundabout, guide my feet in whatever way brings me closer to you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vicki Kemper is the Pastor of First Congregational, UCC, in Amherst, Massachusetts, and a spiritual director.





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

 262-490-8700

 pastor@newhopeucc.com



2026 Consistory



President: Barry Boline
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Finance: Sheila Smiley
finance@newhopeucc.com

Pastor Steve: pastor@newhopeucc.com

Celebrating Care for Creation; an interfaith gathering in the spirit of St. Francis

Sunday, October 4, 2026 | 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Redeemer United Church of Christ (Sanctuary Garden & Great Hall), W220 N4915 Town Line Road, Menomonee Falls

Are you passionate about the environment? Looking for ways you and your faith community can better care for our planet? Join neighbors from all backgrounds for a regional, interfaith gathering to nurture and resource your calling to creation care.

In the spirit of St. Francis, we will begin outdoors with a “Living Water” prayer service in the Sanctuary Garden, followed by refreshments, resource tables, and discussions indoors.

This event is free and open to everyone—whether you are already deeply involved in environmental work or just wondering how to get started! Sponsored by the Waukesha County Creation Care Network, Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, and the Cooperating Churches of Sussex.

Learn more and register at: www.wcccn.org



A REGIONAL, INTERFAITH GATHERING

JOIN US

Celebrating Care for Creation

October 4th, 2026 | 3:30-6:00 PM

- ✓ Outdoor Prayer Service
- ✓ Breakout Sessions
- ✓ Resources, Ideas, & Inspiration

REGISTER AT WWW.WCCCN.ORG

**REDEEMER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MENOMONEE FALLS, WI**

Sleep In Heavenly Peace builds FREE beds for kids who don't have their own

Hundreds of children in Washington County are sleeping with parents or siblings on a mattress on the floor or a sofa. Having their own secure space improves self-esteem and promotes better sleep to improve academic performance.

Register to receive information about future Bed Build and Delivery events and/or to volunteer to help build and deliver/set-up beds to childrens' homes.

We build 20 to 40 beds in one day several times per year, and deliver beds to childrens' homes weekly. No special skills needed. No ongoing time commitment; volunteer as an individual or as a group.

Donate to purchase building materials on www.shpbeds.org or by mail.

It costs \$250 to build a twin bed with mattress and bedding. Groups & businesses are invited to sponsor a 20 Bed Build event for a donation of \$5,000 and exclusively participate in bed building as a team.

Make check payable to Sleep In Heavenly Peace WI-Washington County
& mail to SHP, 5595 Kengary Court, Slinger, WI 53086

Request a twin bed or bunk bed and view our videos on www.shpbeds.org

Donate new bedding for **twin** beds

We need matching top/bottom sheets, comforters, quilts, pillows, & "Bed in a Bag" sets. Drop-off anytime at fire stations in West Bend, Hartford, Germantown & Richfield. Allenton only on Wednesdays 6PM.

Call or email for more information

(844) 432-2337 Ext 6168

Volunteering & bed requests: sue.becker@shpbeds.org

Chapter President: nick.stamatakis@shpbeds.org

Follow us on facebook and share with friends & neighbors.

www.facebook.com/SHPWashingtonCoWI



Registration QR code



www.shpbeds.org



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**



Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax deductible and used exclusively for kids in Washington County



RaiseRight™

You can earn money for New Hope UCC by Shopping with Scrip!

How Gift Card (Scrip) Fundraising Works

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.

Why? Because it's easy and more convenient than selling goods or recruiting volunteers. Earn simply by buying gift cards to use for everyday purchases, instead of using cash or credit cards.

Shop gift cards & start earning

With 750+ brands to choose from, there is a brand for every household need or wish list. Plus, you can pick from eGift cards, physical gift cards, and reloading funds digitally onto existing physical gift cards. It's instant earning with every purchase. **Gift cards from RaiseRight have no activation fees and they never expire.**

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