



September Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 6th — 9:15am worship service; guest preacher, Bruce

Sunday, September 13th — 9:15am Communion service

***Sunday, September 20th** — 9:15am worship service;
Rally Sunday / Autumn Themed Fellowship

Sunday, September 27th — 9:15am worship service



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

Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 7th — Labor Day

Thursday, October 1st — Book Club

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

www.newhopeucc.com info@newhopeucc.com



Doug Alfke 9/14
James Klumb 9/27
James Poole 9/27

Happy Anniversary!

Lee & Mel Schowalter 9/2 48yrs
Russ & Pam Dobberpuhl 9/22 42yrs
Doug & Laurie Alfke 9/30 54yrs

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:15am worship service; Bruce guest preaching	7 Labor Day 	8 Consistory Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 9:15am Communion service	14	15 PRT Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 9:15am worship service; Rally Sunday / Autumn Themed Fellowship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:15am worship service	28	29	30	1 Book Club 7pm	2	3

Rev's Reflections

I know fall is not spring, but September has a way of feeling like a new beginning similar to spring. The air begins to cool, the leaves slowly start changing, and children are back in school or will be soon with backpacks, sharpened pencils, and maybe a little excitement mixed with disappointment because summer is done for the year..

But maybe "back to school" isn't just for children. One of the wonderful things about following Jesus is that we never graduate. There is always more to learn about God, more to discover in Scripture, and more room to grow in faith. No matter whether we are 5, 45, or 105, God is still teaching us.

The Bible says, "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth" (Psalm 86:11). That is a wonderful prayer for September. Lord, what do You want to teach me next?

Perhaps this fall is a good time to go "back to school" with God. Pick up your Bible and read a little each day. Ask a question about faith that you have always wondered about. Come to worship not simply asking, "What will I get out of this?" but "God, what are You trying to teach me today?"

And as autumn begins to paint the trees with new colors, remember that change is part of growing. Trees don't cling desperately to last year's leaves. They let go and prepare for what comes next. Maybe there is something God is asking you to learn, something you need to let go of, or some new way He is calling you to grow. So sharpen your pencil. Open the Book. Class is back in session.

God's Peace,
Rev Steve



President's Message

As we move into September, we also begin to move into a new season. The days grow shorter, the routines of summer begin to change, and before long we will see the signs of fall all around us. Fall is often a season of preparation and a time to gather, tend to what has been entrusted to us, and look ahead with gratitude for what has been accomplished.

The update I gave in church last month came six months after our February congregational meeting, when we made a number of important decisions together and the Consistory elected me to serve as your president. In those six months, New Hope has been busy and faithful in following through on the commitments the congregation made.

We sold the vacant land, replaced two furnaces, and addressed an unexpected but necessary septic-system repair. We are also moving ahead with improvements to our technology, including updated WiFi, a new computer and sound system, and a camera system that will allow us to live-stream our worship services.

These are practical matters, but they are also part of our ministry. A warm and functioning building welcomes people. A reliable sound system helps us worship together. Livestreaming will help us stay connected with members and friends who cannot always be physically present on Sunday mornings. Each of these steps helps New Hope remain a place of worship, outreach, and community.

None of this happens without the faithfulness of our congregation. I am grateful for the trust you place in me and for the trust you continue to place in our leaders. I am also grateful for the care you show for this church and for the many ways you contribute through your prayers, your presence, your regular giving, your time, and your willingness to help when needs arise.

As we enter this fall season, I hope we can continue to approach our work with both gratitude and confidence. We do not need to be anxious about every expense or every challenge. At the same time, we want to be good stewards of the resources we have been given and honest about the responsibilities that come with caring for a church building and sustaining a ministry.

Most of all, I want us to remember that we are not simply maintaining a building. We are supporting a ministry that serves our congregation and reaches into the wider community. Together, we are preparing New Hope not only for the season ahead, but for the opportunities God may place before us.

As the leaves begin to turn and fall reminds us that seasons change, may we also be reminded that God continues to work through every season of the life of this church.

Barry J. Boline



Baby Blessings

A brief update on Baby Blessings:

I think we may have turned the corner! We are now helping anywhere from 15 to 30 babies every time we're open. I've been sharing Facebook posts with about half a dozen Facebook groups, and I know some of you have been sharing also. Thank you. But that also means our needs are increasing. If you are able to help, that would be great! We always need wipes. I like the fragrance free just in case the baby has sensitive skin. We need diapers of all sizes especially newborns, 1, 5, 6, and any size pull-ups. Of course any new or gently used clothes, shoes, and toys. I also have the new sign-up sheet through November. It's about an hour and a half of your time if you can.

Thank you so much for your continued support of this worthwhile ministry. It's obviously needed and a great local outreach spreading the love of Jesus.

Rev Steve



The Pulpit, Unfiltered (within reason) – September 2026

1. What is the strangest coincidence that ever happened to you?

Some of you already know. After a two year hiatus, the Lord called me back into the ministry. I was searching for a church. I was leaning towards a nondenominational. I was searching for a while and had some interviews. None of it was a fit. I was frustrated. I complained to a friend that I wasn't asking God to drop something in my lap, I would do the work to find a church, but everything seems to be hitting a dead end.

The very next morning Jeff W calls me out of the blue and says, "I hear you're looking for a church." I never applied at either of your churches. I didn't know you were looking for a pastor. I didn't even know what the UCC was. And the rest is history. This proves to me that with God there is no such thing as a coincident.

2. What is the strangest food combination you enjoy?

I love a grilled peanut butter and bacon sandwich. When I was a kid I would take my toast crusts and dip them in orange juice and eat them. I haven't done that one in a while.

-Rev Steve

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

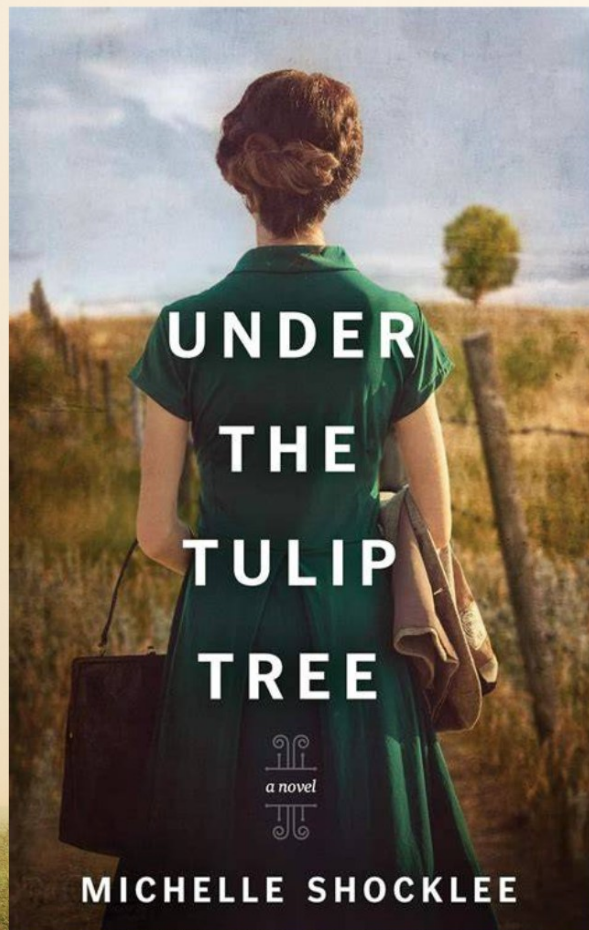
hosted by New Hope UCC and Faith UCC

Book for September

“Under the Tulip Tree”
by Michelle Shocklee

General info

When: Thursday, October 1st
@ 7pm
Where: New Hope UCC
All Are Welcome!



Sixteen-year-old Lorena Leland’s dreams of a rich and fulfilling life as a writer are dashed when the stock market crashes in 1929. Seven years into the Great Depression, Rena’s banker father has retreated into the bottle, her sister is married to a lazy charlatan and gambler, and Rena is an unemployed newspaper reporter. Eager for any writing job, Rena accepts a position interviewing former slaves for the Federal Writers’ Project. There, she meets Frankie Washington, a 101-year-old woman whose honest yet tragic past captivates Rena.

As Frankie recounts her life as a slave, Rena is horrified to learn of all the older woman has endured—especially because Rena’s ancestors owned slaves. While Frankie’s story challenges Rena’s preconceptions about slavery, it also connects the two women whose lives are otherwise separated by age, race, and circumstances. But will this bond of respect, admiration, and friendship be broken by a revelation neither woman sees coming?

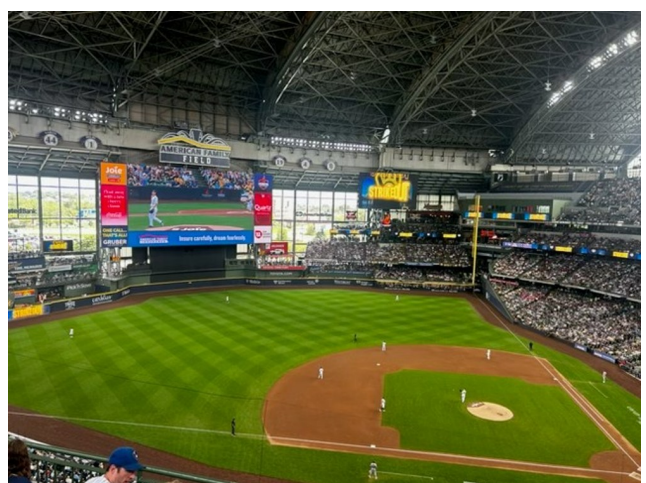
If you have questions or would like more information,
please contact Sheila Smiley-- sheila@smileyinfo.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NEW HOPE...

A LOOK AT NEW HOPE IN THE PRESENT DAY

Sunday, August 9th, was New Hope's Annual Milwaukee Brewers outing! Though the weather was dreary, New Hope's members in attendance didn't let the rain dampen their spirits. To stay dry, they tailgated at church before heading down to American Family Field for the game.

The Brewers beat the Minnesota Twins, 4-3, in an exciting 10-inning game. It was a walk off win — Jake Bauers got a hit to score Bryce Turang on an excellent slide. Close play at the plate, and a fun day for all!



Photos of the Month

Here, Gary's Market's
delicious
assortment of fresh
fruits and veggies can
be seen, along with a
photo of Gary, Dana,
and her husband Kyle,
who visited Gary's
Market one gorgeous
Saturday in August!





UCC member steers Drive \$mart Wisconsin

You've probably heard of Drive \$mart Wisconsin, but did you know about its UCC connection?

Founded in 2006 as the Milwaukee Hybrid and rebranded with the current name in 2011, the two-decade-old organization teaches safe and fuel-efficient driving skills that can be used in any gas or electric vehicle of whatever age. D\$W also promotes sustainable means of transportation and alternative fuels.

The man behind it all is Bradlee Fons, a member of New Hope UCC in Jackson with a passion for creation care. "As Christians, we're supposed to be good stewards," he said. "That affects how we drive and what we drive."

In 2016, he adapted the basic curriculum to create a new program, Driving in God's Garden, which places the message of D\$W in the context of faith for individuals who believe they are called to be good stewards of Earth. Since then, the group has presented to scores of congregations and other organizations and has had a regular presence at the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Conference. Bradlee grew up a Roman Catholic and retired after spending 50 years in the food-service industry, working on production and distribution. The family, which included his wife and son and D\$W co-founder, Justin, belonged for a time to a Mennonite congregation in Waukesha before landing at New Hope UCC.

The owner of three electric-hybrid vehicles, Bradlee understands that they're not for everyone, at least right now. "People are turned off from electric vehicles for political or other reasons," he said. Still, there are simple steps that any driver can take to make their ride safer and more efficient. A good place to start is by watching your speed. "Speed kills range and mpg," he said.

"This is my passion," he said. "I pray that God uses me as an instrument to teach people to drive better."

[Learn more about smart driving.](#)

[Arrange for a presentation of Driving in God's Garden at your church.](#)



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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