



Hope Scope

"You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean."

Acts 10:28 (NRSV)

The passage above comes from a really interesting story in the book of Acts. It's not a long one, and it is very important for us Christians who come not from Jewish converts, but from Gentile converts. The story is just one chapter long (Chapter 10) and the fallout follows in chapter 11. I recommend that you read it. It will take just a very few minutes.

But in it, Peter has a revelation that God's blessings are not just for one group of people, but for all. Nobody had really considered that before. Everyone thought that you had to be Jewish in order to be a Christian. After all, Jesus was, among other things, King of the Jews.

It is surprising to us sometimes, to learn that God's blessings might flow to people who don't act and speak and live as we do. We forget the depth and the breadth of God's love. We start to think, if we are not careful, that God loves the way we do.

But God's ways are not our ways. Nor are God's thoughts our thoughts. This is a healthy thing for us to remember. I have the idea that God's circle of concern is always going to be larger than ours, and larger than we might think.

There are people in this world—some not so far from Hope Church—who are struggling and who may not be much like us. And sometimes their ways confuse and confound us. But they are creations of God, and they are our neighbors. So, whatever we might think about how they live, we know our call from God is to love them in whatever ways we can.

Let's learn from Peter that God loves, and expects us to serve, people who are far different from us.

~ Blessings, Brian Jones

At its July 27th meeting, there really wasn't anything voted on and no motions were made to report on.



At its August 24th meeting, the Session:

- ⇒ Approved the teachers and curricula for the 2026-2027 school year;
- ⇒ Approved the repairing of the South edge metal work on the roof at an estimated cost of \$2,501.66
- ⇒ Decided to hold off on repairing the roof at the Northeast entrance by the Christian Education wing double doors
- ⇒ Approved paying the final bill from Oakridge Construction for the new entry remodel
- ⇒ Discussed a public celebration for the new entry
- ⇒ Approved holding another round of small group meals

Communion servers for Sunday, September 6th

The following volunteered to serve communion on Sunday, September 6th at the 10:00 am worship service: Larry Bratsch, Deb Ficek, Kelli Haglund, Howard Jones, and Jody Leason

Offering Counters

The following volunteered to count offering:

October - Brooke Appleby

November - Kathy Terpstra and Larry Bratsch

December - Alisa Taatjes

Fall Harvest Festival



As the summer is coming to an end, don't forget about HPW's Fall Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 10th! We will be accepting any produce you have from your gardens, along with baked goods, crafts, plants, home décor, books, puzzles, CDs, games, and DVDs. Stay tuned for more details!

MISSION & MINISTRY OPERATING SNAPSHOT

Our giving reminds us that we do not own our possessions, but they are an extension of God's grace and care. The kind of giving that matters is when it is worshipful, sacrificial, and generous.

	Month of July 2026	Year to Date Monthly Avg.	Year to Date July 2026	Prior Year to Date July 2025
Operating Support Received	\$ 20,668.05	\$ 21,362.24	\$ 149,535.68	\$ 150,099.05
Ministry Operating Activity	\$ 23,973.53	\$ 25,140.55	\$ 175,983.82	\$ 164,119.26
Operating Mission Plan Variance (Loss)	(\$ 3,305.48)		(\$ 26,448.14)	(\$ 14,020.21)
Support Needed to Meet the Mission Plan				\$ 27,674.40
Per Capita Commitment for 2026				\$ 7,144.00
Per Capita Support Received Through 07/31/2026				\$ 2,992.00

Report prepared by Kristene King, Treasurer

In 2026, Per Capita has increased to \$47.00 per active member.

Christian Education Youth & Families

Respectfully submitted by Tyann Jones

Mission statement:

Through Christ, at Hope Presbyterian, we meet people where they are to provide opportunities for faith formation and growth to help transform individuals to become who God created them to be.

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Valley Fair Day was an absolute blast!!

26 of us spent the day experiencing thrills and chills and time together!!

Thank you, Hope Church for helping sponsor our exciting time!







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In anticipation of this upcoming year, with the theme:

“Growing in God’s Word,”

Last spring, the WOW students planted 2 tomato and 2 pepper plants behind the church.

They helped water them all summer. By Rally Day on August 30th we had harvested a few tomatoes and a pepper with many more to come!

“The seed is the word of God.” ~ Luke 8:11



We have been blessed with all of our Christian Education Leaders who have been Called by God for this very important ministry.

“My grace is sufficient for you.”
2nd Corinthians 12:9

Please keep them in your prayers as we begin our year.

Wednesday, September 2 - Mental Wellness Presentations

We are starting our Christian Education year with mental wellness presentations by Molly Olson, a licensed professional clinical counselor. We are concentrating on stress and anxiety in these sessions.

Meal at 5:30 - all welcome - please RSVP to Steph or Tyann

6:00-6:15 WOW students, parents, and any other interested adults

6:15-7:15 TAG students, parents, and other adults who want to attend.

(Wally will be with the WOW students during the TAG presentation so all parents can attend the TAG session. **Thank you, Wally!**)

There will be a presentation for adults at a later date.

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**Starting September 9th, we will resume our normal
Wednesday night schedule.**

5:30 Family meal – **every Wednesday**

6:00-6:20 Worship service

6:20 WOW (preschool-Gr 6)

6:30 TAG (Gr. 7-12)

Adult Class starting later in September.



Fridge Bridge

September

2 Meal - 5:30

Mental Wellness presentations by Molly Olson for students and parents

WOW – 6:00-6:15

TAG – 6:15-7:15

9 Meal - 5:30

Worship - 6:00-6:20

Regular Classes

16 Meal - 5:30

Worship - 6:00-6:20

Regular classes

18-20 Clearwater Forest Camp Work Weekend

20 Handbells rehearsal at 8:50am

23 Meal - 5:30

Worship - 6:00-6:20

Regular classes

27 Handbells rehearsal at 8:50am

30 Meal - 5:30

Worship - 6:00-6:20

Regular classes

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Community Events & Announcements

- ⇒ The Link is looking for volunteers to help with a new service to it's clients. They will be having a bus pick up clients in New London from their homes and bring them to Spicer every Wednesday to get groceries from the Link and from Teals. The Link is in need of a few volunteers to help on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to help haul groceries from the bus to the client's home. This service will only be through December while the Link is in its temporary location during their remodel at the New London location. If you are available and would like to help out, please contact Steve Rustad at 354-0211.
- ⇒ Hawick Community Church Women's Conference - Saturday, October 10th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. See the Community Events board by Steph's office for more information on the speaker and activities.
- ⇒ Redhead Creamery Tour and Lunch - Friday, September 11th. 11:00 am departure from the Atwater Wellness Center. The farm tour is at noon and is about 1-hour long. Atwater Area Help for Seniors has rented a van. After the tour, we will be eating lunch at the creamery's restaurant. RSVP to Stephanie at the Atwater Area Help for Seniors (320-974-8737).
- ⇒ Grandparents and Kids Walk - Monday, September 14th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at Centennial Park in Atwater. All local Seniors are invited to join us for a walk with children from ACGC school's Kids Are Great Daycare program. Bring your own grandchild or be an adopted grandparent. Refreshments will be provided.
- ⇒ Wellness Expo - Tuesday, September 15th from 9:00 am to 11:30 am at the Atwater Community Center. Flu vaccinations will be from 9:00 - 11:00 am. Please call the office at 320-974-8737 to register for the shot. Free admission and refreshments. Door prizes and goodie bags too!
- ⇒ 55+ Driver Discount Program - Monday, September 21st from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Atwater Community Center. This is a 4-hour in person class. To register, call 320-308-1400 or 888-234-1294, or online at www.driverdiscountprogram.com
- ⇒ Suicide Prevention Training - Thursday, September 29th at 5:15 pm at the Atwater Community Center. There will be a meal. This is free and open to the public. All are welcome. During the training, participants will learn how to: recognize signs that someone may be struggling, start a caring conversation, encourage a person to seek help, and connect them with professional and community resources.

September's CARE Pantry Challenge products are... Baby Items!



This includes: baby lotion, baby wash, baby wipes, diapers, and pull-ups.

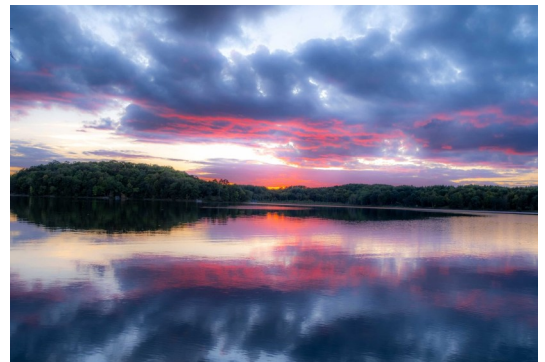
Please place your donations in the CARE Pantry box by the mailboxes. Thank you for your continued support of the CARE Pantry's mission!



Clearwater Forest Work Weekend

The Fall work weekend will be Friday, September 18th through Sunday, September 20th. Some of the work that needs to be done and other fun experiences you will have include:

- ⇒ Taking out docks and beach equipment
- ⇒ Any odd jobs needing to be done
- ⇒ Walks in the woods
- ⇒ Fellowship around the campfire
- ⇒ Fishing off the dock
- ⇒ Falling leaves



If you are interested in participating for the weekend or even just a day, please sign up on the Volunteer board in the Fellowship Hall. There are limited cabins to stay in if you don't have a camper or tent. Please see Jonelle or Harold Foreman to reserve a cabin. Any questions, contact Harold Foreman (320-894-0298), Pete Bratberg (320-894-5074), Duane Taatjes (320-894-8380), or Daryl Taatjes (320-894-3030).

Fall Worship Schedule

Just a reminder.... On Sunday, September 13th, our worship schedule goes back to one service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. As always, you can listen to the live service on the radio 96.9 fm KGLH or watch online at hopechurchspicer.org/worship. If you are not able to watch the service live, you are welcome to go to our website to view pervious services (same web address as above). But of course, we would love for you to be in person! Come early and enjoy some coffee, treats, and good conversation starting at 9:15 am!



Meal Groups

We have already reached a year doing meal groups! This means it is time to switch them up! If you are interested in continuing with participating in a meal group or weren't involved the first round but would like to be this next round, please sign up on the Volunteer board in the Fellowship Hall by September 13th to be included in a new group. Any questions, please ask Steph! Thanks!



Thank you everyone for helping celebrate my 95th year young birthday! God has blessed me in so many ways - especially by giving me a wonderful family and a wonderful church family at Hope. I prayed for each of you as I read and enjoyed your many visits, cards, and gifts. I am so blessed and honored to have each of you in my life.

~ Hilda Grosklags

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for all of your prayers, thoughts, cards, and acts of kindness for me and Tim during my recent health issue! I'm doing great and feeling good! God is Good! Love to you all!

~ Sue Block

Office Hours

Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

8:30 A.M. Outdoor Worship in the Chapel
9:15 A.M. Fellowship Hour
10:00 A.M. Indoor Worship in the Sanctuary
Also on Facebook Live &
on Radio 96.9 FM

TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181 - Sundays 2:15 pm, Tuesdays 11:30 am &
3:00 pm, or Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

Members with Health Issues:

Bill Titus, Roger Steele, Wayne Thompson,
Darlene Thompson, Gaylord Lind, Jason Bents,
Kathy Taatjes, Velda Jones, Sharon Jones,
Arlos Jones, Ruth Birkeland, Dick Lindahl

*Prayer
Requests*



Family and Friends with Health Issues:

Kendall Kragenbring (the Link's Ashley Hanson's father), Gene Templer (friend of Bob & Carol Sampson, Retha Fowler (Hilda Grosklags' sister), Judy Wohlin (Joy Oman's mother)

Grieving:

Family of Steve Mulder (Greg's brother), family of Jeff (Joni Lamphere's cousin), Family of Preston Asupp (friend of Brian & Tyann's)

****Please Note** If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request card found on the table by the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall and return it to an usher or Pastor Brian.

September Deacons of the Month: Bob & Carol Sampson

September Coffee Servers

September 6th: Julie & Bob Ehrlich

September 13th: Dee & Bill Schurman

September 20th: Mary O'Malley

September 27th: Pam Sigafoos &
Nancy Birkeland

