

June Whispers 2026



Hope United Church of Christ

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Dear Friends,

You will see the Confirmation of Jamison Hosket and Megan Bailey mentioned in this edition of Whispers multiple times. That's not because we are being redundant, but because it's important. It's important not just to Jamison and Megan, meaningful not just to their families, but significant to the Church, the entire body of Christ.

I fear that sometimes we misunderstand our own role in this immense spiritual community which is the Church. We think that we are insignificant; when conflicts arise we nearly always choose the alternative thinking, "They won't miss me." We look down on our own skills, we think that we don't have all that much to offer and when asked to volunteer say, "I really can't do much." We are aware that the Church has demands put upon it and that it takes financial support to meet those needs, yet we also feel similar demands coming from other parts of our lives; so, we pray and hope, "Someone else will take care of it."

The reality is that the Church is not the Church without every single one of us. We read that 3000 were added to the Church at Pentecost and think of it as a massive number. It isn't. In reality it is a single Megan, a single Jamison, saying "Yes" to Jesus, saying "Yes, I will be a part of this faith community, and I will support the community of which I am a part by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, and my service." Then that individual's "Yes" is repeated over and over again by just one more individual until we've collectively said Yes some 3000 times. But it all hinges on your individual, personal "YES!"

We've probably all heard the story of the Body family. There was Every Body, Some Body, Any Body, and No Body. There was an important job to be done and Every Body was sure that Some Body would do it. Any Body could have done it, but No Body did it. Some Body got angry about that, because it was Every Body's job. Every Body thought Any Body could do it, but No Body realized that Every Body wouldn't do it. It ended up that Every Body blamed Some Body when No Body did what Any Body could have.

The converse of this is just one body that means it when he or she says "Yes" to Christ and then puts it into action. One of those people who blessed Hope Church for many years was Gary Zuehlke. Gary didn't have an MBA; he wasn't a CPA. But he knew how to add and subtract and he put those skills to work on behalf of his church. Gary didn't have the best or highest paying job in the world, in fact he was retired and living on a fixed income, but that didn't stop him from making support of God's work both locally and globally central to who he was. When push came to shove, Gary chose to give sacrificially – meaning sometimes it hurt. But he did it anyway as a thank you gift for all that the Lord had done for him. And while Gary never married and his family was small when counted the way most of us count, there's not one day since his passing that we haven't missed Gary who reached out and touched us all in, oh, so many ways.

Because Gary's YES was a real genuine YES, Gary made a difference. We can, too, if we learn

- to make our YES to supporting the church by our presence mean, Yes, I will be there to worship and not neglect assembling with my faith community in order to worship and grow in Christ.
- to make our YES to supporting the church by our gifts mean, Yes, I will not just vote for but contribute to the AV fund that is going to help the church do a better job of sharing Christ's message within our sanctuary and beyond.
- to make our YES to supporting the church by our service mean, Yes, I will not stand on the sidelines expecting somebody else to provide leadership in our Christian education program or with our children, when I know that God is speaking to me. I trust that when God calls me, God will also equip me to do that work he entrusts to me. I will be the Body that answers, "YES!"

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Gene



Hope Happenings

Debbie Mader, Worship Committee

Special "Happenings" last month:

The "Bring A Friend" service brought in eight visitors, who were each given a loaf of bread during the service and were invited to enjoy a potluck lunch with us. Music was provided by Reflect Worship with Catherine and Daniel Lovett.



Mother's Day was observed with a flower presented to each of the women; in recognition and appreciation of all the work they do.

Confirmation of Megan Bailey and Jamison Hosket was celebrated on May 17th. Kim Schafer was also recognized as a new member. A taco bar and cake were enjoyed after the service.

Pentecost was observed May 24th. The congregation was encouraged to wear red, representing three main elements: Tongues of Fire, Energy and Zeal of the Holy Spirit, and Blood of the Martyrs.



The church building continues to undergo some much-needed updates: a pressure wash of the exterior, a fresh coat of paint on the inside, and a new sound/video system! Your patience is appreciated during these renovations, and every attempt is being made to keep disruptions to a minimum.



June 7th -

Liturgist: Brooke Kramer

Usher: Katrina Dering, Ben Bodoh

June 14th -

Liturgist: Bryan Hahn

Usher: Dennis Vogt

June 21st - Father's Day

Liturgist: Nikki Steiger

Usher: Gordie Vong

June 28th -

Liturgist: Katrina Dering

Usher: Ben Bodoh



Mark your calendar!

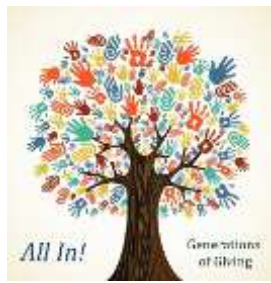
Worship in the Park:

July 26th, 10:15

Wolf River Crossing Park, Fremont

Held in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church, Weyauwega. Special music by Shepherd's Quarter. Picnic lunch provided by the Worship Committee.

Bring a salad or dessert if you wish.



Stewardship

Our New Church Directories are DONE~ If you have not received your copy, stop by the church during office hours to pick up your copy or grab one on Sunday after worship.



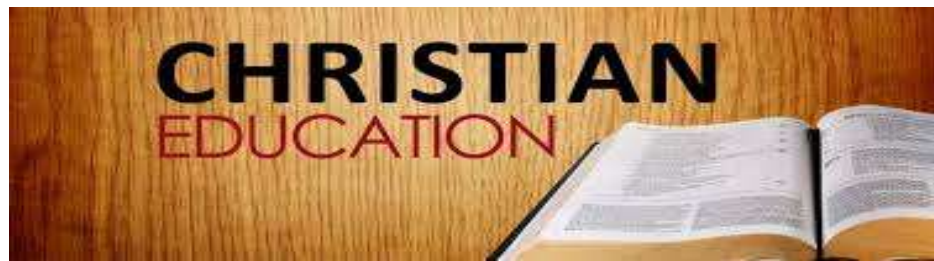
Audio Visual Fund Raiser Update-Our fundraiser is underway! Our goal to reach is \$63,000 as of May 1st we are at \$33,843. With everyone's help, we can reach our goal!! Please consider donating, every dollar helps. We have AV donation envelopes available in the pews for your donations! Please use the one's marked AV Fund Raiser.



Thank you! Thank you!! Circle of Hope hosted their annual Spaghetti Luncheon & basket raffle. Many thanks for the donations/helpers/volunteers who make this event happen we could not do it without **YOU!!!!**



THINKING AHEAD--We are hoping to host a Thanksgiving Dinner this year! Would you like to take the lead?? Depending on the response we receive, will determine if we are able to host one this year. Please consider lending us your time & talent!



Congratulations to our two new
Confirmands, Megan Bailey & Jamison
Hosket on your confirmation on May 17th.
They invited the congregation to help them
celebrate with a taco bar & cake!



Congratulations to you both!!!



**Sunday School is on summer vacation.....
See you in September!**

**Bible Study continues through the summer
Tuesdays; 4:00-5:00 pm**

Birthdays

Daniel Schmidt	6-01
Kyle Hahn	6-02
Ronald Knaack	6-03
Dennis Vogt	6-08
Renee Hosket	6-10
Martha Bailey	6-13
Broderic Arndt	6-16
Nancy Parrott	6-17
Jerry Wohlt	6-20
Diane Zwiers	6-20
Easton Fietzer	6-23
Jessica Fietzer	6-25
Jason Behm	6-27



Anniversaries



Keith & Jacki Hahn	6-5-82	44 years
Larry & Sherry Behm	6-7-75	51 years
Steve & Patricia Schmidt	6-8-85	41 years
Rich & Andrea Neault	6-11-05	21 years
Michael Jones & Kerry Jones	6-11-06	20 years
Greg & Jane Freer	6-17-72	54 years
Ward & Wendy Weiss	6-14-69	57 years
Tim & Becky Hoewisch	6-28-75	51 years
Tom & Nancy Simons	6-29-97	29 years

BY THE NUMBERS

	Income	Expenses	Avg. Attendance Mthly
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$155,752.43	\$160,560.66	
January	\$ 7,302.81	\$13,272.12	49
February	N/A	\$12,452.81	51
March	N/A	N/A	44
April	N/A	N/A	53
May	N/A	N/A	57
	\$ 7,302.81	\$159,741.35	

Churchyard Beautification

We love our church grounds, but the weeds love them too!! We would appreciate your help keeping them tidy. If you have a little spare time, please pull a few weeds around the church and place them on the brush pile across the road by the gravel parking lot.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Bible Study 4-5 pm	3	4	5	6
7 Family Worship 10:15	8 Church Council meeting 6:30pm	9 Bible Study 4-5 pm	10	11	12	13
14 Family Worship 10:15	15	16 Bible Study 4-5 pm	17	18	19	20 Whispers Deadline
21 Family Worship 10:15 	22	23 Bible Study 4-5 pm	24	25	26	27
28 Family Worship 10:15	29	30 Bible Study 4-5 pm				