



October Whispers 2026



Hope United Church of Christ

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Dear Friends and Family of Hope Church,

I'm doing something unusual -- giving my space in our church newsletter over to someone else, to a person I've never even met, but I do so because I believe she has something important to say, especially to those of us who happen to be parents. So, let me introduce you to Brie Naughton with the Axis Christian ministry team.

Homecoming Is For The #1 Fans.

I am an only child. The only daughter of my parents. From a young age, my dad made sure I knew my worth, no matter the situation. Growing up, my dad would run "mock interview" scenarios with me. He'd have me stand outside his office door, knock, and wait to be invited in. He taught me the importance of a firm handshake and how to carry myself when I walked into a room. *"Chin up, Brittany. Shoulders back. You belong in this room."* When I filled sentences with "um" or "uhhh," he'd interrupt. *"Not 'um.' Say it. You know what to say."*

Shy by nature, I've always had a hard time looking people in the eye when I speak, so my dad found a workaround for me. *"Look right between their eyes. To them, it'll look like eye contact. To you, it'll feel like less exposure."* At restaurants—any restaurant, any scale—I ordered for myself. Always. Never *"I'll have,"* never *"can I get,"* not even *"can I please have."* If I started with any of those, my dad would stop me. So I'd sit up straighter, look the server in between the eyes, and start again: *"MAY I please have..."*

What annoyed me growing up seemed like a fun and challenging game to my friends. At sleepovers, they'd beg for their own turn. They'd line up outside my dad's office door for their own mock interview, complete with notes, always with him ending the same way: *"Never forget—you belong in the room as much as anyone else. You got it?"*

As I got older, the topics shifted. One sleepover, my girlfriends were holding court with my parents in our kitchen—peppering them with questions about school, sports, college, drama, and of course, boys. One friend finally asked, *"But how do you know if a guy actually likes you?"*

My dad didn't miss a beat. *"Oh, you'll know. And if you don't, then he doesn't. But that's the wrong question. It doesn't just matter if he likes you, it matters if he's paying attention. Next time a guy tells you he likes you, close your eyes and ask him to describe your eye color. If he can't do something that simple, he isn't paying enough attention, and if he isn't paying enough attention, he isn't worth another minute of your time."* Then he exited the kitchen, stage right, to the sound of shrieks and teenage giggles.

A lot of sophomore boys were broken up with that year.

At sixteen, a boy honked from the driveway to pick me up for a date. My dad said one word—*"Nope"*—and I wasn't allowed outside.

Eventually, the boy came to the door, and my dad took the opportunity to invite him in to sit down with both of us. Suffice it to say, a boy never simply honked again.

If I trace every standout memory I have of my dad back to one thread, it's this: he was my number one fan.

The thread is pulled through how he taught me not to be afraid to take up space. It's there in the strange, wonderful mix of his feminism and his chivalry. It's there in how he repeatedly taught me to "*leave everything you have on the field Brittany*"—the track field, the soccer field, the cheer mat, the stage, the audition room, the interview chair. It didn't matter which field. It just mattered that it was mine.

Every rule my dad made, every scene he staged, every embarrassing kitchen monologue, was really just one long sentence: ***I am paying attention to you. I am in your corner. I fully and completely believe in you.***

That's what being a number one fan is all about. It's not about telling a teenager they're right about everything. *I wasn't*. Or that every choice they make is a good one. *Mine weren't!*

It's about being so unmistakably *for* them that they can take real risks, hear real correction, try—AND REALLY FAIL—knowing there's someone on the sideline who isn't going anywhere.

Brie Naughton & The Axis Team

Sounds like a good recipe for what it means to love others as Christ has loved us. So, my question, Hope Church, is how will we show those outside our building that both we and Jesus are their number one fan -- not with slogans, but with the kind of attentive, steady, patient love and ongoing ministries that make people feel seen?

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Gene

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 4



Celebrating that our congregation is part of a global faith community.

HOMECOMING *Sunday*

Inviting someone back to church can feel simple, but it's also deeply meaningful. A personal invitation carries a kind of grace that programs and committees can't replicate. As Homecoming Sunday approaches, I encourage each of us to make it part of our own agenda: come and also reach out. Invite former members who may be back in town for the high school's Homecoming weekend. Invite neighbors who don't have a church home and might welcome a friendly place to land. Invite current members we haven't seen in a while. Do it the way we share a good restaurant, a good movie, or a good book — naturally, sincerely, because it matters to us and we believe it might matter to them.

And to celebrate the joy of being together in our Church Home, we'll recognize a few "milestones" among those present — from the typical member who traveled the farthest to the more uniquely-Hope milestone of "most gallons of spaghetti consumed over the years."





Hope Happenings

Debbie Mader, Worship Committee

Happy October! We've received some good feedback about the new A/V system. I personally like being able to see everything on the screen and not having to flip between the bulletin and hymnal. The images and videos are also a nice touch. Let me know your thoughts.

At Bible Study we're currently discussing the book of Exodus. I have been learning so much, and I encourage everyone to come check it out. We meet every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. You can join us at any time, even if you've missed the first sessions. If a different day or time would work better for you, please let me or Pastor Gene know. He would be willing to add another day/time if there is enough interest.



October 4th - World Communion Day

Communion will be served at the altar with ushers directing several people to come up at a time to be served as a group. Different ethnic breads will be available to choose from. We would like to decorate the church with flags from different countries. If you have any you would like to include, please let us know. Free blood pressure check after the service (see Dick Tellock)

Liturgist: Nikki Steiger

Ushers: Katrina Dering, Gordie Vong

October 11th -

Liturgist: Bryan Hahn

Usher: Ben Bodoh



October 18th - Homecoming

Invite former church members and out-of-town family members. Wear Weyauwega-Fremont Warhawks colors: red, white and/or black. Bring in pom poms, pennants, jerseys, etc. Even if they're from years ago! Snack 'n Chat following the service, hosted by the Worship Committee.

Liturgist: Autumn Bailey

Usher: Dennis Vogt

October 25th -

Liturgist: Allison Gleisner

Usher: Gordie Vong



November 1st - All Saints Day

There will be special recognition of members who have departed within the last 12 months. The congregation will also have the opportunity to remember any other loved ones who have passed on.

Liturgist: Dawn Mason

Ushers: Katrina Dering, Ben Bodoh



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.



Circle of Hope held their Quilting Bee in September. They made 15 quilts during the two-day event. Let us support their hard work!



THINKING AHEAD--We are hoping to host 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!

Quilts are for sale:

Lap size	\$25
Twin size	\$50

AV Project Update



Dear Hope Church Family,

We have **REACHED** our goal, and we want to share a **HUGE** Thank You to all our donors!!!

Thanks to your exceptional generosity and shared vision, we have reached our funding amount for this much-needed project.

Here is exactly where our campaign stands today:

- **Total Project Goal:** \$63,000
- **Total Received to Date:** \$63,345
- **Remaining Balance Needed:** Funds will be needed for future maintenance & equipment upgrades.

If you have been considering donating, you still have an opportunity. There will be future maintenance, and equipment upgrades down the road that will need to be funded.

How You Can Help Us:

- **Online:** Make a fast, secure donation on our giving page at <https://campaigns.tithely.com/70816-hope-united-church-of-christ/copy-of-audio-visual-equipment-2026>.
- **In Person:** Drop your gift in the offering basket during any Sunday service.
- **By Mail:** Send a check to Hope Church, 8950 Alpine Rd, Fremont, WI 54940 (please note "A/V Fund" on the memo line).

Thank you again for your continued support, prayers, and commitment to the future of Hope Church. Together, we can continue to enhance our worship experience for years to come.

With gratitude,

The A/V Fundraising Committee

**BY
THE
NUMBERS**

	Income	Expenses	Avg. Attendance Mthly
<u>Beginning Balance</u>	\$155,752.43	\$160,560.66	
January	\$ 7,037.88	\$13,292.17	49
February	\$23,706.33	\$12,452.81	51
March	\$7,750.12	\$12,127.30	44
April	\$11,373.10	\$ 8,883.62	53
May	\$7,011.63	\$20,446.71	57
June	\$7186.00	\$16,423.00	41
July	\$5,338.00	\$17,788.00	52
August	\$17,940.00	\$17,078.00	54
TOTALS:	\$243,095.48	\$42,069.05	

Birthdays

Dawn Mason	10-03
Nicole Steiger	10-06
Tony Dering	10-10
Pastor Gene Ramsey	10-10
Lori Bodoh	10-16
Sherry Behm	10-17
Julie Merritt	10-18
Marlyn Hahn	10-26
Michael Budaj	10-26



Anniversaries



Kevin & Pam Welch	10-10	45 years
Tony & Katrina Dering	10-12	35 years
Ron & Denise Gehrke	10-12	35 years
Madeleine & Brian Lemke	10-24	6 years



Sunday School **EVERY** Sunday at 10am

Faith,
Fun &
Friends!

Come join us for **FUN, FAITH & NEW FRIENDS!**
Bring a friend, bring your energy, and come
be part of the fun!

**YOUTH
GROUP**

Sundays at 6:00 PM

Oct 11th

Oct 25th



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Circle of Hope Meeting 9:15 Sunday School 10:00 Family Worship 10:15 World Communion Sunday	5	6 Bible Study 4-5 pm Worship Committee Mtg 5:30	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday School 10:00 Family Worship 10:15 Youth Group 6:00 pm	12 Council Mtg 6:30pm	13 Bible Study 4-5 pm	14	15 Pastor out of town	16 High School Homecoming Game Pastor out of town	17 High School Homecoming Dance Pastor out of town
18 Family Worship 10:15 Homecoming Celebration	19	20 Bible Study 4-5 pm Whispers Deadline	21	22	23	24
25 Family Worship 10:15 Youth Group 6:00 pm	26	27 Bible Study 4-5 pm	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween

Mark Your Calendars!

Grand Opening

October 24, 2026
10am - 1pm

208 Waupaca St,
Fremont

Visit our Facebook page
or website for updates
www.fremontpl.org



NEUSCHAEFER
COMMUNITY
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FRIENDS
LIBRARY



VILLAGE OF
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