



Hope United Methodist Church

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Neighborhood Jays

By: Clyde McMillan-Gamber

Our suburban neighborhood in New Holland is blessed with many evergreen trees, including Norway spruces, white pines, and arborvitae. These God-created, stately conifers provide us with year-around beauty, and offer shelter to a variety of birds and mammals through each year, including a family of attractive, year-around resident blue jays.

Blue jays have lovely blue feathers, trimmed with black and white ones. They also have pointed, feathered crests, and black beaks and legs, that add to their appeal. In April, I hear "our" pair of jays calling to, and feeding, each other as parts of their courtship. By late May, those jays are quiet and seldom seen because they are raising young in a twig and grass, open-cup cradle in a tall coniferous tree in our neighborhood. One year, however, I was happy to see our jays rearing offspring on top of an eight-foot, red juniper tree in our yard.

Blue jays feed their young a variety of protein-rich invertebrates, in their nursery, and in trees and on the ground, after the young jays fledge their nests. Sometimes, I see the jay family on our lawn.

The jays' pretty blue feathers are most stunning in October when those birds busily streak in and out of oak trees to harvest acorns. The oaks then have many striking red and brown leaves that contrast beautifully with the jays' lovely, blue feathers. Jays stash many of those acorns in tree crevices, and in holes they poke in the ground with their beaks, for winter use.

Blue jays are also attractive perched on needled boughs piled with snow. The green needles and snow together block cold wind, sheltering jays and other birds and mammals.

The attractive, sometimes raucous, blue jays are intriguing neighbors on lawns the year around. Some readers may have lovely jays on your lawns.

Nature Spotlight

A nature highlight accompanying the article above—celebrating the beauty of the outdoors, inspiring curiosity, and inviting moments of reflection and joy.

Blue Jay



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Let's show our appreciation for Pastor Kris by sharing a small token of thanks. **Sunday, October 25, is the last day to contribute!** A basket has been placed in the lobby to collect expressions of appreciation, including notes of encouragement, small gift cards, snacks, sunshine-themed gifts, or anything else you'd like to share. If you have any questions, please see Paul Trella. Thank you for helping us celebrate and appreciate Pastor Kris!



HARVEST HOME

Our Harvest Home collection is coming to a close! **Sunday, October 25, is the last day to donate.**

We are collecting canned goods, boxed foods, paper products, and other essential items to support Community Hive (formerly EASS), as well as families connected with Hope Church and our Preschool.

Your donations will help provide much-needed items to individuals and families in our community. Please place all donations in the baskets located under the coat rack in the lobby.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us care for our neighbors in need!



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The Shoeboxes are now on a table in the lobby. They are due back by **Sunday, November 15**. See Sandy Schmid, if you have any questions, Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming events at Hope!

December 13, 2026

🌲 Christmas Brunch*

*Event will take place immediately following worship service.

This Week's Message

October 25 Reformation Sunday

Part 3 – "Witnesses"

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Upcoming Sermons

Beloved Community

November 1 All Saints Sunday

Part 1 – "The Vision of Beloved Community"

Acts 2:1-21

November 8 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 2 – "What Hinders Beloved Community"

Matthew 23:1-5, 37-39

November 15 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 3 – "Moving Toward Beloved Community"

Matthew 25:35-40

November 22 Christ the King Sunday

Part 4 – "Living Out the Beloved Community"

Romans 12:9-21

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 25	Harvest Home Sunday School Worship Service	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday, October 26	Church Office Open Monday Night Bible Study	9 a.m. 6 p.m.
Wednesday, October 28	Preschool Trunk or Treat Bells of Hope Co-Dependents Anonymous Senior Choir Al-Anon	9:30 a.m. 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 29	Preschool Trunk or Treat Women's Book and Bible Study	9:30 a.m. 10 a.m.
Friday, October 30	Church Office Closed Hope UMC 128th Anniversary Men of Hope	7:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 31	Happy Halloween	
Sunday, November 1	All Saints Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday School Communion/Worship Service	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday, November 2	Monday Night Bible Study	6 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3	Election Day Crochet Group	10 a.m.
Wednesday, November 4	Bells of Hope Co-Dependents Anonymous Senior Choir Al-Anon	6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 8 p.m.
Thursday, November 5	Women's Book and Bible Study	10 a.m.
Friday, November 6	Men of Hope at Gus's	7:30 a.m.
Sunday, November 8	Veterans Sunday Sunday School Worship Service	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Card Shower

Doreen Raezer will be celebrating a milestone birthday on
October 25!



A basket for cards is in the office.



Card Shower

Polly Spangler will be celebrating a milestone birthday on November 4!

A basket for cards is in the office.



Upcoming Birthdays

October 26 - Ivy Texter
October 28 - Kevin Readman
October 30 - Laura Luciano
October 31 - Abigail Welty
November 7 - Dana Deamer



Upcoming Anniversaries

November 6 - Gene & Sylvia Geib

News and Notes

Thank you - Children's Winter Coats - we were able to purchase 54 children's coats for Community Hive (formerly EASS) - Sandy Schmid - see picture of some of the coats purchased on the bottom of the next column.

Thank you - to everyone who made Hope's Bingo Bash happen!

Current Curriculum

Seekers Sunday School Class - Studying "*Prophets and Kings*" by Ray Vander Laan.

The Way Sunday School Class - Studying the "*Book of Revelation*."

The Wide Awake Sunday School Class - Studying "*Fall 2026 Adult Bible Studies - Faith and Faithfulness*" by Clara K. Welch.

Thank you - Hope's Bingo Bash was a great success, with 25 attendees and **\$71.70** raised - Fellowship Events Committee

Revised Office Hours - The Church office will be open on **Monday, October 26** and closed on **Friday, October 30**. Thank you.

Veterans Day Information - We plan to honor our veterans and do not want to miss anyone who attends or visits Hope Church. We have information on V. Bear, L. Bickhart, R. Lindberg, J. Seifert, J. Smith, S. Smith and B. Tucker. If you know of anyone else or have more to add, please submit it to the Church office no later than **Sunday, November 1**.

One Great Year of Sharing - Through **December 27**, we will be collecting for City Gate. You can contribute by placing your donation in the jar in the sanctuary or in your weekly or monthly giving. Please remember to mark your envelopes accordingly. As of **October 18**, we have collected **\$493.00**. Thank you.

CPR & First Aid Classes - The Preschool will be offering two sessions of CPR and First Aid training for staff:

- Monday, November 23 at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, November 24 at 9:00 AM

Church members and staff who are interested in taking the class are welcome to participate. The class will take approximately 6 hours. If you are interested, there's a signup sheet on the table in the lobby. **The class fee is \$22.00.**

Monday Night Bible Study - Studying "*Christian*" by Andy Stanley.

Men of Hope - Studying "*How (NOT) To Read the Bible*" by Dan Kimball. The group will continue to meet on the first Friday of each month at Gus's.

Women's Book and Bible Study Studying "*Everything You Need*" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

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Hope UMC Church Directory

[Click here to view our updated Church Directory.](#)

Please remember that the directory is intended for use by our church family and contains personal contact information.

Please do not share the directory or link publicly.

Updated: October 16, 2026

Children's Coats



Church Hours Next Week

Office: Monday - Thursday - 9am to 1pm

Church Staff and Lay Ministry

Pastor: Kris Pursel
prkrispursel@gmail.com
(cell) 717-983-8466

Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano
Director of Music: Lisa Helock
Organist: Dave Luck
Sexton: Doreen Deamer

Serving in Worship This Week

Bulletin Folder(s): Laura Luciano
Children's Church Team: Amy Trella
and Amy Raezer
Greeter: Amy Raezer
Liturgist: Bruce Tucker
Sound: Paul Trella
Ushers: Barbara Griffith and Dave Schmid
Video: Tim Sumner

AUTUMN ADJECTIVES WORD SEARCH



Directions: Find the words from the bank below. Words may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Can you find them all?



CRISP	GOLDEN	RUSTIC	SERENE	FESTIVE
COZY	COLORFUL	VIBRANT	CRUNCHY	SPOOKY
CHILLY	BREEZY	CRIMSON	SCARLET	RELAXING



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