

October 16, 2026



News in the Pews!



Digital Edition

Upcoming Events

Women of Hope Retreat

October 17 beginning with check-in at 8:30am at Hope Lake Weir Campus

Stewardship Commitment Weekend

October 17 & 18 at all Hope campuses

I Feel Pretty Concert

October 23 at 5:00pm at Hope Central Campus

Reformation Weekend

October 24 & 25 - Celebrated at all worship services

Ministry Team Leader Meeting

October 27 at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus

Deadline to Submit a Pastor Appreciation Message

October 30

New Member Orientation

November 7 at 9:00am at Hope Central Campus

Leave a Note for Pastor Appreciation Month



October is Pastor Appreciation Month! This year, we're encouraging everyone to share a short message of thanks with any (or all!) of our wonderful Hope pastors.

Please fill out a *Thank You, Pastor...* notecard or submit your message online using the link below. You may return cards in the offering tray or in the pledge card collection bins at any Hope campus. You may also bring them to the office. All messages will be collected and privately shared with our pastors at the end of October.

Let's come together to remind our pastors that they are appreciated! The deadline to submit your message is October 30.

[Click Here to Leave a Digital Message](#)

Stewardship 2027: Return Pledge Cards THIS Weekend!

Letters with information about Hope's 2027 Stewardship Campaign should have arrived at your home over the past couple of weeks.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how God is leading you to help support and grow Hope's Ministries during the coming year.

Pledge cards may be returned by dropping them into the offering plates, or you may mail them to the church.

Stewardship commitment weekend will be THIS WEEKEND, October 17-18. Donation boxes will be available at each campus, and you may return pledge cards there as well.



Let's Raise Our Flag Together!



*Our Flag Represents So Much to So Many
Due To Financial Constraints, This Powerful Symbol
Was Cut from the Hope South Campus Budget*

WE WANT TO PUT IT BACK

AND WE NEED YOUR HELP

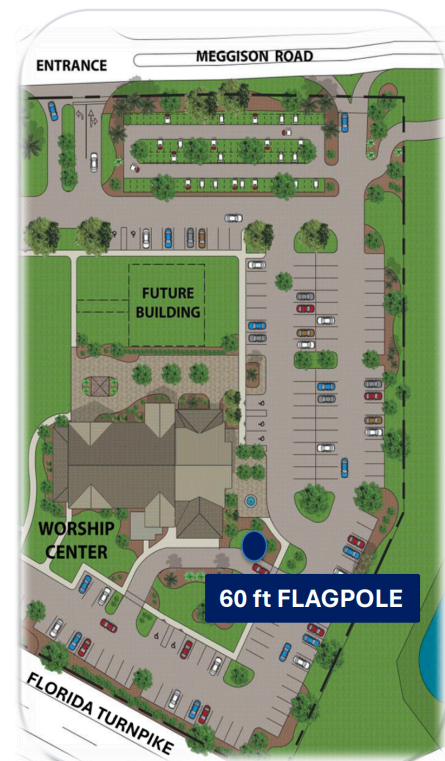
Our flag has different meanings to all of us. For most, it's symbolic of a special bond between ourselves, our country and our shared values. To some it represents patriotism, to others service above self, and for many, it's the ability to freely worship as we please. The flag and what it represents are vitally important to most members of our congregation and community. That's why we feel it's so important for Hope Lutheran Church to have a flag on Hope South Campus.

Why an American Flag is Appropriate at a Church

American Christians have a special relationship with the flag. Our country, which our flag represents, was founded on Christian principles. Moreover, we believe in freedom of religion which is symbolized by our flag. It is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. These are just a few of the many reasons why we feel the flag is important and appropriate for our church. For more information, please [**CLICK HERE**](#).

Why Your Help Is Needed

The flag display was cut from the original budget as part of the drive to bring costs down for the Hope South Campus building project. While that goal was achieved, it wasn't without some painful decisions and removing the flag was one of them. Now that



the Hope South Campus building is nearing completion, we have a second chance to include this powerful symbol which means so much to so many of us. If we act now, we can even have it in place in time for the Open House of our new church building. And yes, that means we need some additional funding.

How Much Funding Is Needed?

To make this happen an estimated minimum of \$30,000 is required. That sounds like a lot for a flagpole. But there is a great deal more to it than that. As you are aware, Hope must comply with the standards The Villages have set, and we must have their approval before proceeding. These standards include commercial-grade construction and size requirements for the flag, flagpole, concrete foundation and electric lighting, all of which, along with approval submission costs, add to the cost. And importantly, there will be annual maintenance of the flagpole, and the cost of replacement flags. So, any additional monies raised will go into a FLAG account to cover those costs in coming years. Your contributions to the FLAG initiative will count toward the Donor Recognition Wall. For a more detailed cost explanation, please [**CLICK HERE**](#).

Although meeting these requirements is necessary, what's more important is that the final product will be an inspirational flag presentation that will be seen from every direction, day and night. It truly will be a beacon of hope to all and make the statement that *HOPE IS HERE!*

How Can I Donate?

You can contribute in three ways:

- **Give Online:** Just go to the HOPE Lutheran Church website (<https://hope4all.church>) and click on the 'Give' section. Then select 'FLAG' from the 'Fund' listings and follow the on-screen instructions. You may also click the link below.
- **Give In Person at Any Service Offering:** Checks or cash. Checks (memo line) and envelopes must be marked 'FLAG'.
- **Mail Your Check:** Checks can be mailed to Hope Lutheran Church, 250 Avenida Los Angeles, The Villages, FL 32162. Please write 'FLAG' on the memo line.

For additional information or questions, [**CLICK HERE**](#).

All funds raised will go into a dedicated 'FLAG' account which will only be used for current and future flag-related expenses.

Your support of the Hope South Campus Building Project remains vitally important. To contribute to our third campus, please [CLICK HERE**](#).**

Let's raise our flag together!

[**Click Here to Help Raise the Flag!**](#)

Join the Hope Flag Team!

Your passion for our American flag has been felt during the Hope South Campus Flag Raising Initiative. **Now we're looking for interested individuals to be part of the Flag Team at Hope South Campus!**

Responsibilities include lowering the flag on appropriate holidays or as directed for unique events, and taking the flag down and stowing it in the Worship Center when The Villages is expecting serious weather, then raising it again when the threatening weather has passed. Team members will also work with the office as needed to order replacement flags, which we anticipate will be every six to eight months.



This group might also have the opportunity to work with the Pastors and Worship Team to put together ceremonies on appropriate holidays such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and more. These will be wonderful community outreach occasions!

If you are interested in being part of this new team, click the link below to sign up or call the church office at (352) 750-2321.

[Click Here to Sign Up for the Flag Team](#)

Ministry Team Leader Meeting & Packing Party with Pizza!

Calling all ministry team leaders! There is an important meeting you won't want to miss.

We're hosting a **Ministry Team Leader Meeting on Tuesday, October 27**, starting at 10:00am at Hope Central Campus.



After our business has concluded, we will be packing Christmas gift boxes for our *Sharing the Joy of Jesus* program, to benefit children in need in our local community. Congregation members and team leaders are all invited to pack boxes together.

Pizza will also be served! There is no cost, but please RSVP to Pam Slating by email at pams@hope4all.church or by calling (352) 750-2321.

Join Hope's Next New Member Orientation



Ready to make Hope your church home?

Book Shelf



Love to read? Please consider joining one of Hope's four book groups. They all meet at Hope Central Campus.

The November books are:

We invite you to participate in the next step of the membership process by attending Hope's New Member Orientation on **Saturday, November 7 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.**

Continental breakfast will be served.

New members will be received on the weekend of November 7 & 8 at their preferred service. We have three levels of membership - voting, associate, and seasonal.

For more info on membership options, please visit our website by [clicking here.](#)

Questions? Contact Pam Slating at pams@hope4all.church or by phone at (352) 750-2321.

Deadline to submit paperwork is October 31.

Second Monday, November 9 at 9:00am is *The Dressmakers of London* by Julia Kelly

First Tuesday, November 3 at 1:00pm is *A Girl Named Samson* by Amy Harmon

First Tuesday, November 3 at 4:00pm is *Sanctuary: Raw Confessions of One of God's Imperfect Servants* by Rev. Harry Schenkel

First Wednesday, November 4 at 9:00am is *Bridge of Sighs* by Richard Russo

Please email Anita Dillman at anitadillman1@gmail.com if you have any questions or for more information.

SAVE THE DATE for the next BOOK EVENT Sunday December 13 in the afternoon.

Calling All Singers! Join the Christmas Cantata!

This December, you're invited to be part of Hope's annual Christmas Cantata.

Our presentation this year is entitled "**Holding Onto Christmas**". As in years past, there will be plenty of familiar sing-along opportunities for the audience, interspersed with festive, original songs, all centered around a narrative story sure to bring warmth to your holiday.

Ken Wood, Director of Music Ministries at Hope, once again conducts a combined choir of congregants from all of Hope's campuses, joined by friends from the surrounding community. Hope's own Mary Jo MacLean, Frederick Blanchard, and Lila MacLean will all lend their voices to the three presentations this year.



Anyone looking for a wonderful way to usher in December is encouraged to join us for our weekend rehearsal schedule, regardless of experience level. You don't even have to be in any of our other choirs!

If you prefer to enjoy the presentation from the congregation, then come kick off your Christmas season by bringing your joyous spirit as you lift your voice with us. Presentations are on **December 6, 7, or 8 at 4:00pm** at Hope Central Campus. You

won't want to miss this annual tradition, or this special trip down memory lane as we bring glory to the newborn King.

Interested singers, please email musicupdate@hope4all.church with your intent to join us so we can get you on our digital roster. We ask that you do not call the church office to convey your interest. Direct questions to musicupdate@hope4all.church as well.

Before the first rehearsal, you'll get a more detailed schedule and materials sent to you via digital links, where we upload everything needed to learn your part at home between rehearsals. Digital competency with cloud-based file storage, downloading files, and sending and receiving emails is a "must" for us to be able to accommodate everyone equally. Thanks for understanding.

The cut-off to join the Cantata is Wednesday, October 28 at 5:00pm.

If you can commit to the dates and times linked below and would like to join us in this annual tradition, email musicupdate@hope4all.church. ***Everyone will need to do this for our record-keeping.***

Complete List of Rehearsal Dates and Times

Waiting for Tickets?

Cantata tickets will be available starting November 6 through our church website hope4all.church. Each seat is \$10.00. Reservations will be sold on a "first-come, first-served" basis, with a maximum seating capacity of 525 for each of the three performances. Fellowship with light refreshments will follow each performance. Reservations can also be made in person during business hours at Hope Central Campus starting November 6.

Concert to Benefit Angel Wigs of Hope

The Brothers in Song Invite YOU!



The Brothers in Song invite you to their next performance at Hope Lutheran Church!



Don't miss your chance to see Mary Jo Vitale and Dawn DiNome live for a good cause!

Tickets \$20 per person. Click the link below to purchase.

[Click Here to Register](#)

A Musical Roller Coaster Ride

November 13 at 6:00pm
Hope Central Campus

Ben Osborne, Director
David Flanigan, Accompanist

Tickets \$20 per person. Click the link below to purchase, or buy your ticket at the door.

[Click Here to Register for the Show](#)

Support the Girl Scout Alumnae Pajama & Book Drive During the October 21 Social Supper

Local Girl Scouts will be collecting pajamas and books during the Wednesday, October 21 Social Supper at Hope Central Campus to support homeless and needy children living in the tri-county area (Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties).

This collection benefits local children identified by school social workers and community service agencies and blesses them with new pajamas and much-needed books. Many of the children come from families whose income falls below or near the poverty line. These children may be living in cars, foster care, motels, the forest or the street. All can be reached through the combined efforts of Lake, Marion and Sumter County Schools social workers and the Needy Children Program in Marion County Schools.



During our Social Supper, we will be collecting:

- New Pajamas, any size (0-18 Years) for either gender
- New Children's Books

The Girl Scout Alumnae have "zero administrative cost" to provide this service to the community. Absolutely everything collected goes out to area children.

Do we make a difference? Yes! One of our recipients wore his pajamas the following October to school as his Halloween costume. When his teacher said, "Johnny, we could have helped you make a Halloween costume." Johnny replied, "You don't understand. When I wear my pajamas, it's like I'm a real boy." Please help us help more kids to feel that they're "real."

Registration for the October 21 Social Supper will open on Thursday, October 15.

Gatherings of Hope

Pastor Rani is leading Gatherings of Hope on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in Room 204 at Hope Central Campus from 9:30am to 10:30am.

Experience a community of support that cares for you no matter what you are going through. All are welcome, including non-Hope members, so please invite your friends to join us.

Faith & Fellowship

Faith and Fellowship creates a weekly opportunity to look at the scriptures in light of everyday life. Together we continue to unpack the gift that we have in and through God's grace.

Faith & Fellowship is now meeting at all Hope campuses! You can find a list of locations and meeting times **by clicking here**.

All are welcome, including non-Hope members.

Join a G.I.F.T. Group

Hope Lutheran Church has launched our G.I.F.T. Groups (Growing In Faith Together) ministry!

Join a small group of 6–10 people who will meet in homes, at church, online, or wherever God provides space.

[Click Here to Get Involved](#)

Worship Attendance for October 10 & 11, 2026

Hope Central Campus:

4:00pm - 174
6:00pm - 60
8:00am - 103
10:00am - 260

Online:

Hope Lake Weir Campus:

10:00am - 103

Hope at the Everglades Rec Center:

8:00am - 118
10:00am - 155

**Scripture Reading for
October 18
Twenty-first Sunday after
Pentecost**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew
22:15-22**

**Scripture Reading for
October 25
Reformation**

Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36



Flowers on the Altar Given By...

- Gary Bernardo, in celebration of Kathy's 80th birthday

In Memoriam



Ginny Pontious passed away on October 9, 2026. Ginny was born on March 22, 1950. She and her partner, Chris Terrill, joined Hope Lutheran Church on June 26, 2005.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Dignity Memorial, 7134 Powell Road, Wildwood, FL on Monday, October 19 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Please keep Chris and their family and friends in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.



Lester (Les) Broeker passed away on October 12, 2026. Les was born on November 9, 1936. He and his wife, Priscilla (Pris) Voigtman Broeker, were married on April 21, 2007. They joined Hope Lutheran Church on October 29, 2006.

A memorial service for Les will be held at Hope Central Campus on November 14 at 10:00am.

Please keep Pris and their family and friends in your hearts and prayers during their time of grief.

This Weekend's Worship Bulletin

Click the button to view this weekend's worship bulletin for traditional services.

[View the Worship Bulletin](#)

Inform the Church of Visitation Needs

Do you know of someone who needs a visit from a Hope pastor? Please call the church office at (352) 750-2321 and let us know. Our Pastoral Care Team would love to visit with you or your loved one.

Submit a Prayer Request

Need Prayer? Submit a prayer request via our hope4all.church website.

[Click Here to Submit a Prayer Request](#)

Hope Lutheran Church Office Hours

Monday to Thursday - 8:00am to 4:00pm / Friday - 8:00am to 1:00pm

Have news to share? Please fill out the [Newsletter Article Request Form](#) for inclusion in a future edition!

Hope Lutheran Church | hope4all.church

[Visit our Website](#)

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