



For The JOURNEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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With Christ as our center, we are called to reach out and share God's love with all.

Volume 30, No. 01

January 2023

Christmas is OVER!!! Thank Go----

Hold it right there. Christmas isn't over. Even as we enter these next few weeks of "ordinary time" after Epiphany we need to remember that Christmas is never really over. After all the decorations are packed away and the special gatherings have come and gone, the baking is complete except for shedding the extra pounds the goodies helped us pack on, the work of Christmas continues with glimpses of the Kin-dom.



That's what we, as people who say we are Jesus followers, hope that people get when they look at our lives- a glimpse into the Kin-dom of God. That's what we celebrate at Christ's birth; the coming of the one who helps us shape a vision of the life we are called to live-not just a special, rise-to-the-occasion kind of life, but an everyday life, an ordinary life that isn't ordinary. Because we believe that followers of Christ who live their faith day by day are anything but ordinary. They stand out; they become models and mentors; they are examples of what life is all about.

At least that is our hope and our belief: that our lives represent the kin-dom of God. We are the evidence that our faith is true and our God is at work in the world. In other words, we are now the epiphany, the light shining forth for the world to see. And of course, we will fail from time to time. But how we deal with failure is also a sign of that presence and glimpse of the kin-dom. So, this ordinary time is extra-ordinary in the living of it. Let us embrace the call with grace and with joy.

I hope for you in this new year of 2023:

That the single, most significant dimension of life is your relationship with the Source of Goodness who never ceases to sing love songs to your soul.

That you find meaning, purpose, and vitality in what you do daily.

That you treasure your loved ones and let them know how dear they are to you and that they do the same for you.

(Continued on Page 2)



ONLINE WORSHIP LINK - Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services

We have moved our online worship platform from Zoom to FACEBOOK.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771>

(Continued from Page 1)

That you make choices and decisions that reflect your truest self.
That you look in the mirror at least once a day and smile in happy amazement.
That you remember relationships are what count above all else –
more than work or money, or all the material things we spend so much time tending.
That you live in an uncluttered manner, enjoying the freedom to be content.
That you keep your sense of humor when things don't go the way you want. And if there is no
humor to be found in the situation, that dismay and grief do not overwhelm you.
That you find adventure in each new day and marvel at the wonders of creation which
constantly present themselves to you.
That you never give up on yourself even when others turn away or do not understand.
That you are attentive to the health of your body, mind and spirit.
That you take risks and accept the growth-full challenges that come to you.
That you draw on your inner strength and resiliency when you are in need and also accept the
help of those around you who wish to encourage and lend a hand.
That you carry peace within yourself, allowing it to slip into the hearts of others so our planet
becomes a place where violence, division, and war are no more.
Let us be the light bearers together-
Pastor Jen

Glimpses of the Kin-Dom

January 8, 2023

Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord – “The Water’s Fine” Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of the Lord is a perfect time to remind ourselves of the commitment to living a life of grace and hope outwardly. This week is the promise to be that example, to claim that grace and gift, and to embrace the responsibility of being the church in the world right now.

January 15, 2023, MLK Day

Sharon Fortune will share her message on right relationships and putting our faith into action.

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday after the Epiphany – “Have the Same Mind” 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Let's not mute the high calling of agreement found in this scripture reading by saying it is something less than what it is. This isn't a live and let live approach, or an indication that nothing really matters as long as we're nice to each other. There is more here. More gospel, more truth, more invitation than we might realize.

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany – “Blessed Are” Matthew 5:1-12

For the next three weeks, we dip into the Sermon on the Mount, perhaps the most famous extended teaching from Jesus from the gospels. This week, we look at what are called the Beatitudes, the first part of the Sermon.

Online Worship Options



- ❖ Link to the Church Facebook Page for ONLINE WORSHIP (Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services)
<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771>
- ❖ Zoom Link Option for ONLINE WORSHIP
<https://zoom.us/j/94890292077?pwd=ekxnanU5THc2eEdLK1ZpRIIKYUZ4QT09>
 Meeting ID: 948 9029 2077 /Passcode: 512603
 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



Hope Virtual Church Re-launch!



Look for the colored signs at church to help you easily identify what level of transmission EC County is at, and our policies regarding in-person worship and gatherings at Hope. Things can change quickly and we want to reflect the most current information and easily communicate our safety recommendations. Thank you

LAY PASTORAL CARE TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION



If you could use support, or if you know of someone who might, please contact a member of our Lay Pastoral Care Team

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Judy Ganong | 715-514-0258 |
| Connie Jacobsen | 715-838-9594 |
| Jan Lorentz | 608-886-0668 |
| Nancy Ross | 715-878-9099 |



GIVING

We can still continue our ministries whether we are meeting in-person, or online.

It's a time to remember the church is not about the building, but WE are the church.



MAIL: Please feel free to send your offerings in mail:

Hope United Methodist Church
 2233 Golf Road
 Eau Claire, WI 54701



ELECTRONIC GIVING:

Call or email the church office to request an Authorization Form for Automatic Withdrawal

715-835-5310 (leave a message)
hopeumcec@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



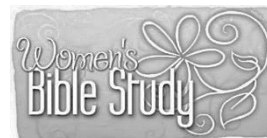
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Jan 9 1:30pm Nurture
5:00pm Faith Formation
5:30pm Finance
6:30pm Ad Council
- Jan 19 6:30pm Trustees

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94197853095?pwd=ZGhVZlQyK1FVTVNIUmdBYnU5bVBkQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be January 23rd at 1:00pm. We will begin a new series "Gratitude: Giving Thanks in Life's Ups & Downs." Please contact Cindy Hanson (715-878-4941) with questions.



Dementia Friendly Church Training at Hope

**January 25, 2023
1:00pm - 3:00pm**

This training is presented by ADRC
and is open to anyone.

Women of HOPE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

We will meet at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall to clean the kitchen. We will provide coffee, tea, and a special treat.



**Interfaith Prayer
Service
Feb. 8th at 6:30pm**

At Unitarian Universalist Church (421 S Farwell St, Eau Claire) This will be in person and on Zoom. Prayer brings us together as a Human Family.



Regular Office Hours:
9:00am-1:00pm Tues, Wed, Thurs
(Office hours may
change occasionally, please
call before you visit)



OUTREACH PACKING AT FEED MY PEOPLE

The Hope Outreach Team is trying to set up a once-a-month volunteer session at Feed My People. We'd be working in their clean room where bulk foods like cereal, rice, or pasta are repackaged. Shifts are 2 1/2 to 3 hrs. Right now, I'm tentatively looking at Thursday January 19th in the morning. For an official group session, we'd need 6 people, but it's possible to sign up smaller groups as individuals as well.

Please let me (Cheryl Muller) know if you would like to be included this round or later, and whether morning or afternoons are better. Email questions to clmuller1212@gmail.com



Thank you for supporting our special collections in December. Your generous giving will help many in our community and neighborhood

Totals Received in December:
\$100.00 Feed My People
\$ 80.00 Beacon House
\$770.00 Meadowview Kids Meals
\$950.00 TOTAL



NORTHWEST DISTRICT NEWS

2023 Spring trainings for Northwest District

As promised, we have several trainings within our district that are scheduled for early Spring 2023. There will be more to follow as the year progresses. Please prayerfully consider your role as a Lay Servant or Speaker and assess what is needed regarding training so you can continue to share your gifts for the Lord.

BASIC COURSE:

- **INTRODUCTION TO LAY MINISTRIES.**

A hybrid class led by Pastor Wendy Slaback will be offered Friday-Saturday, 10 hour session. Friday afternoon 1-5 p.m. afternoon, supper, then 6-8 p.m. evening on February 24th. Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. February 25th. Cost is \$20 for registration, meals and materials.

Menomonie United Methodist Church - 2703 Bongey Drive, Menomonie, WI.

Contact Lori at the church office (715-235-0654) to register.

ADVANCED COURSES:

- **REDISCOVERING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS.**

Led by Pastor Joel Certa-Warner, Monday nights 6:00-8:00 p.m. , February 6-March 6 (5 sessions at 2 hours a session=10 hours at Trinity UM C in Elk Mound. Cost is \$15 for registration and materials.

Trinity United Methodist Church - 105 Holly Avenue, Elk Mound, WI

Contact Denise at the church office (715-879-5596).

- **FROM THE PEW TO THE PULPIT (PREACHING COURSE).**

Led by Pastor Joel Certa-Warner, Friday evening through Saturday late afternoon March 24-25th at Trinity UMC in Elk Mound. Cost is \$20 for registration, meals, and materials.

Trinity United Methodist Church - 105 S. Holly Avenue, Elk Mound, WI

Contact Denise at the church office (715-879-5596).

I would like to share answers to two questions that were asked at one of our Conference meetings. The answers to those questions were sent from the Director of our Conference Board of Laity, Ben Brancel.

1. If you have taken a previous version of the BASIC LSM course (pre-2011), it is NOT necessary to retake it in the current version.
2. There is no time limit for becoming a Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Servant. If you have difficulty taking all the courses to become a Certified Lay Speaker (Basic + 6 Advanced), you might consider becoming a Certified Lay Servant (Basic + 2 Advanced) first to serve in your local congregation. If your eventual wish is to speak at congregations beyond your own, you can always accumulate the needed classes until you have them all. For both Speaker and Servant you need to take one Advanced class every three years to keep up your certification.

As I have said before if you are not able to attend in person trainings due to your schedule or distance and Zoom is not offered for that class, you can access many online courses through BeADisciple.com. Stay tuned for more trainings scheduled this coming year.

Blessings to all of you.

Barbara Hill

NW District Director of Lay Servant Ministries.

NOVEMBER 2022 UPDATES

| FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2022 | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | MTD | YTD |
| <i>Contributions</i> | \$10,311 | \$117,899 |
| <i>Expenses</i> | \$9,453 | \$114,124 |
| | \$858 | \$3,775 |

| CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS) - November 2022 | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Conference Assigned</i> | <i>We Have Paid</i> |
| <i>Amount for 2022:</i> | <i>As Of 11-30-22:</i> |
| \$17,808.00 | \$13,040.00 |

FINANCE NEWS



Year End UPDATE:
As of 12/31/22
our Apportionments
are paid in full!



FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

As you know we have added a new little food pantry and it has been already utilized well. It is a great ministry and example of loving our neighbors!

Our next Collection Date will be January 15th. Try to collect items that won't freeze.



SAVE YOUR INK CARTRIDGES

Please save your Empty (not-previously re-filled) cartridges for Hope!

Please do not throw your empty inkjet, laser, or printer cartridges in the trash! We have a way to turn those cartridges into cash. Simply place your empty cartridges in the basket near the main entrance.



**NORTHWEST DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST YOUTH**

Snow Tubing @ Trollhaugen
2232 100th Avenue, Dresser WI 54009

February 11th, 2023
1pm - 3pm (meet at 12:30, snacks at 3pm)

**Youth 6th grade - 12th grade
(including friends) are free!**

**Families members are welcome,
admission \$16 per person.**

Sign Up at
<https://forms.gle/yXkLa4mtRa1wPvCn8>

J.O.N.A.H. NEWS & UPDATES

(Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope)



JONAH mission statement:

JONAH exists to deepen relationships within and among faith communities and partner organizations to empower people in addressing the root causes of social injustice in the greater community.

Visit the JONAH website for updates and more information www.jonahjustice.org

JOIN A TASK FORCE

Consider attending one of JONAH's task forces to see if you would like to get involved:

- Environmental Task Force
- Immigration Task Force
- Chippewa Valley Child Poverty Coalition
- Affordable Housing Task Force
- Transportation Task Force
- Chippewa Valley Justice Action Team
- Mental Health Group



Who: Any leader in your faith community!

When: Tuesday
February 7, 2023, 6pm

Where: at Spirit Lutheran or via Zoom

with David Liners and Freddie Wilson of WISDOM

Register now!
<https://forms.gle/yqkuh4d5PDjkwL4PA>

JONAH HOSTED CONGREGATIONAL ORGANIZING TRAINING Build Your Leadership February 7th

6:00pm at Spirit Lutheran
(1310 Main St, Eau Claire, WI 54701)

JONAH will host, for its board and any faith leader in the community, David Liners and Freddie Wilson of WISDOM, who will train us in building leadership within our church by learning organizing techniques. This is timely as many congregations are reaching out to build their internal leaders, many others are venturing into justice work, and JONAH is working currently to connect to more churches. Please register by January 31st if you would like to attend.

SUPPORTING LOCAL REFUGEES

Are you wondering how you can support local refugees, particularly from Ukraine? JONAH is collaborating with Welcoming New Neighbors and has determined the best three options at this point to support Ukraine families.

1. Donations are needed directly to the churches welcoming a family as the biggest financial need is covering the arrival costs, the first three months, and work permits of a family's coming. Contact JONAH to find out who is in need today.
2. Once a family is here the most valuable things they need are social connection and support to find autonomy – that means your time! Contact JONAH to learn more.
3. There is a way to sponsor a family just in name and not monetarily or physically (as all they need is a name to come to the U.S. - may not be our area). Someone can talk to you about what is involved with this responsibility.

For more information on all of these options, please contact our organizer Lynn Buske at cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com.

JONAH New Member Training February 20th / 5:30-7:00pm Eau Claire Public Library

Interested to learn more about what JONAH is, how it works, what issues they work on, what region they cover (hint – the whole Chippewa Valley and beyond!), and how to be involved? JONAH does a lot so once a year they hold this training to help you face to face.

Register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjyODm24FhPiu6ohNJ22F0O9ZshwrjChH_v0Bg_hExp0A7kw/viewform

JONAH RURAL OUTREACH

Do you live outside of the city of Eau Claire? JONAH is expanding its outreach to more rural communities – listening to concerns, understanding the flow of information and resources, and hoping to connect people to each other. Please consider completing this survey: jonahjustice.org/ruralsurvey
Questions? Contact Deacon Kari Allen at ka.jonahorganizer@gmail.com



JUSTICE WINTER PARTY

You're invited to join SEVEN justice organizations for an evening of light social time and treats. The Winter Party doors are

open from 5:30-7pm at the EC Public Library 3rd floor meeting space on January 19!

COMMUNITY BANDANA PROJECT

JONAH's Mental Health Task Force is working to make the Chippewa Valley a visible place of awareness and support



for mental health issues by bringing the Green Bandana project to our area!

(<https://www.thebandanaproj.org>) People sign a pledge, take a resource card (no training necessary), and wear the bandanas daily. They are looking for donations to purchase bandanas (it is taking off already!), locations to be public distribution sites, or someone within a congregation to promote the program just to your members. Contact cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com for more information.

January 2023

Hope United Methodist Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------|----------------------------|
| 1 9:00am WORSHIP NEW YEARS DAY | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Zumba (FH) | 9 1:30pm Nurture 5:00pm Faith Form. 6:30pm Ad Board | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9:00am WORSHIP Food Pantry Sunday 11:00am Zumba (FH) Pastor Jen out of the Office | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 9:00am Women of Hope |
| 22 9:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Zumba (FH) | 23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:00pm Women's Bible Study | 24 | 25 1:00 - 3:00pm ADRC Dementia Friendly Training | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Zumba (FH) | 30 | 31 | 1-Feb | 2-Feb | 3-Feb | 4-Feb |

| SERVING SCHEDULE | January 1 | January 8 | January 15 | January 22 | January 29 |
|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Greeters | Connie Jacobsen | Joey Bohl | Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett | John & Merry Weiland | Joey Bohl |
| Online Greeter | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen |
| Scripture Reader | Ryan Stepp | Linda Norton | Cindy Peterson | Sharon Fortune | Joey Bohl |
| Children's Message | | Pastor Jen | | | |
| Prayers of the People | Jan Lorentz | Sharon Fortune | Pastor Jen | Becky Gochanour | Jan Lorentz |
| Audio Visual | Cindy & Emily Peterson | Renee Marino | Cindy & Emily Peterson | Renee Marino | Cindy & Emily Peterson |

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:00am Sunday Worship

We will have both In-Person Worship and Online Streaming of the service on our Facebook Page.

HOPE UMC OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00am- 1:00pm
Office hours may change occasionally, please call before you visit.

HOPE UMC STAFF

Pastor Rev. Jen Barnet
Office Manager . . . Kristen Kirchman
Pianist Ben Kittilstad

FOR THE JOURNEY Newsletter articles and updates should be submitted to the church office by the **20th** of each month. Contributions are welcome.

HOPE UMC website:
www.hope-eauclaire.org

facebook



Hope United Methodist Church

Visit and "LIKE" the Hope UMC Facebook page

From our website, click the "Like Us on Facebook" button just above the map showing our location