



For The JOURNEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701
www.hope-eauclaire.org
715-835-5310
hopeumcec@yahoo.com



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

Volume 30, No. 02

February 2023

I recently came across a reflection on winter by L. Roger Owens, a professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Owens moved to Pittsburgh from North Carolina and the novelty his family shared in experiencing their first cold and snowy winter is delightful. Shoveling snow, bundling up with many layers, and outfitting cars with snow tires became joyous signs of their ability to adapt and thrive in a new environment. At the end of the first winter a colleague of Owens' shared an ominous warning: "The second winter is much worse; the second winter, you know what's coming."



As I read this reflection, I was reminded of a winter many years ago, when I was asked to give a tour to the new head of security at the then Luther Midelfort downtown campus. He was coming to us from the south, where he had lived his whole life up to that point. As we toured the campus, we took a walk on the bike path that lies along the shore of Half Moon Lake. We walked along the path, looking at all of the buildings that encompassed the campus at that time, and as we walked, I noticed that he kept glancing at the frozen lake. When we got back to the warmth of the building, I asked if he had any questions. He had only one, "What were all of those people doing sitting in the snowy field on buckets?" With a slight smile I replied, "Dusty, that's a lake and those people are fishing." The shock read across his face, and he simply said, "I guess I'll be learning some new things here."

Dusty stayed with us for only a few years. He simply could not adapt. More than being unable to, he admitted he was unwilling to.

Every year, the cold winter forces us to rethink the way we do things. We get in the car before opening the garage. We buy clothes that will help us to weather the cold and snow. We put on our wool socks and warm boots in place of our sandals. Some of us even thrive in the winter months, trying new experiences, like ice fishing, and finding joy in those experiences!

(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)

If we, as the rugged Midwesterners we are, can adapt to living in the harsh winter months, then we can certainly open ourselves to the new things God is calling us to. We can open ourselves to a new and renewing faith rather than guarding against any new or changing or challenging thing God is calling us to.

We have the opportunity to do just that in the season of Lent that is approaching quickly. Just like winter, Lent can seem cold, dark, gloomy and too long. Knowing God, we are definitely being invited into something new this season. God is always on the move and always at work, even when it feels like so many things in the world or in our lives are actually moving. Lent is a season of making a renewed commitment to participate and be a part of the movement of Jesus in this world. This Lent, I hope we may all be open, and ready, to keep adapting, to keep moving with God and to keep moving with each other.

In Christ,

Pastor Jen

LENT OFFERINGS

There will be several studies, devotions, and meditations offered during Lent for you to participate in.

- On Wednesday afternoons, we will be offering a series of services based on experiencing Lent through the senses including a Prayer Labyrinth, Sound Healing, and Seder experience. These will be held at 3pm.
- On Wednesday evenings at Pleasant Valley, there will be a meal followed by a study of the book, "Hope for Hard Times" by Magrey deVega. The dinner will start at 5:30 and the study will follow around 6. Anyone is invited to attend. If you would like a copy of the book, please let Pastor Jen know and she will order one. The cost is \$5.40.
- A daily devotion for Lent, "Take Up Your Cross" will be available for pick up at church beginning the week of February 5th. If you would like a devotional and are unable to pick one up, please contact the church office and we'll make sure you get one.



GLIMPSES OF THE KIN-DOM

February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany- “You Are...” Matthew 5:13-20

Jesus asks us to reflect on the power we already have. “You are salt. You are light.” Not, “Do you want to be salt, or do you want to be light?” You already are. So, given that declaration from our Lord, how will we season? What will we light up?

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany- “But I Say” Matthew 5:21-37

Relationships within the body are important, but so is the relationship of the church with the wider community. What acts of service within the community are already in place that we can celebrate? What additional needs could be met, or invitations issued? Who is missing from the body of the church? Jesus calls us to go above and beyond in our attempts to see all the people.

February 19, 2023-Mardi Gras Sunday Celebration

Transfiguration – “Super Sunday” Matthew 17:1-9

Transfiguration Sunday, like Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday, is about the identity of the one we follow. Jesus the Christ is revealed in glory on the mount of transfiguration.

Like the disciples who were privileged to be with him in that moment, we often miss the significance or the opportunity to praise in our struggle to understand. This day is not about knowledge; it is about faith.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Lookin’ For Love in All the Wrong Places

The Christian scriptures offer many images of where love, grace, forgiveness, righteousness, and healing can REALLY be found. And it is not in the “usual” places. Isn’t it as true of us today as it was of the scriptural authors? Don’t we often look for wholeness and happiness in places that offer only temporary “good feelings” and satisfaction? Lent is a wonderfully reflective time to reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose. We’ll move through stories of Jesus to find out who offers the “real deal.”

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday- “Looking For Love” Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

When we look to God for love -not simply for the approval of others- and start with our own “turning,” we participate in the “turning around” of the world.

February 26, 2023

1st Sunday of Lent- “Look for the Resister” Psalm 32, Matthew 4:1-11

The story at the center of our look for love this week is the story of the temptation of Jesus in the desert after his baptism. We see the futility of looking for love in the things that only provide temporary satisfaction — in seeking empty highs, tempting fate, and in mindless adoration. Rather, as Jesus demonstrates, it is in our resistance to evil that we find true

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



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



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

- Feb 16 6:30pm Trustees
- Feb 23 6:30pm Ad Council

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

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

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279



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.



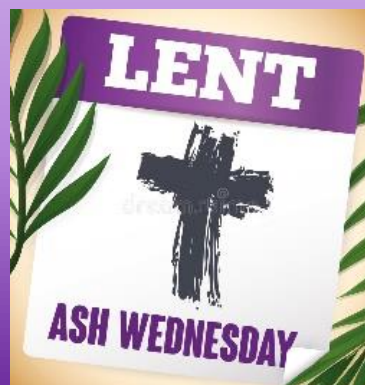
Regular Office Hours:
9:00am-1:00pm Tues, Wed, Thurs
(Office hours may change occasionally, please call before you visit)



We celebrate Hope UMC in paying the entire apportionments for 2022. Join us at fellowship time to celebrate this accomplishment on **Sunday, February 5th** immediately after church.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday
February 22nd
at 7:00pm



Mardi Gras Sunday February 19th

We will have an All Church Potluck immediately following the service. Bring your favorite dish to share and celebrate Mardi Gras. Beverages will be provided.





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be February 27th at 1:00pm. Please contact Cindy Hanson (715-878-4941) with questions.

Women of
HOPE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18
9:00AM-11:00AM**

We will meet at the church at 8:45am to carpool. We will have breakfast at Down to Earth. Please call Judy (715-514-0258) by Friday, Feb 17th so we can give the café an idea of how many will be coming.



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.



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 February 19th. During the winter months we are only putting dry goods in the pantry. Items such as individual cereal boxes, mac-n-cheese, soup mixes, dried fruit.



FINANCE NEWS



FINANCIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2022

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>Contributions</i>	\$12,408	\$130,307
<i>Expenses</i>	\$14,318	\$128,442
	(\$1,910)	\$1,865

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

<i>Conference Assigned</i>	<i>We Have Paid</i>
<i>Amount for 2022:</i>	<i>As Of 11-30-22:</i>
\$17,808.00	\$17,808.00





We are in need of a few more people to help out with the Audio/Visual rotation during Sunday Worship.

Don't worry, it's not as complicated as you think, and you would be given one on one training so you feel confident using the equipment.

Please let Pastor Jen know if you are interested or if you have questions.

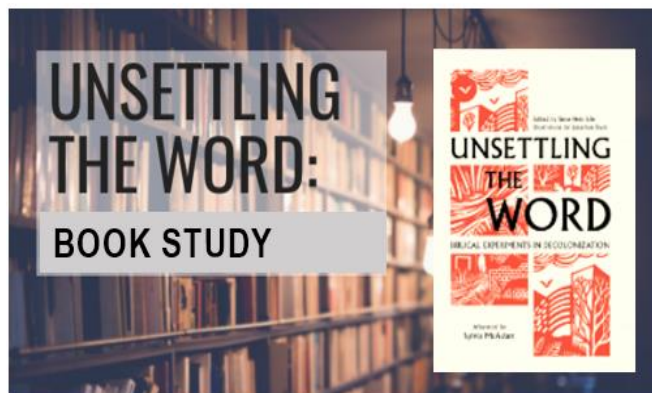


*Thank you to Ryan Stepp
and his family for the
new projector screen
in the sanctuary.*

*It is a great addition to
in-person worship.*

*We truly appreciate this
wonderful gift.*

~ The Trustees



Join an 8 Week Book Study with JONAH'S Core Group at Hope

JONAH'S Core Group at Hope United Methodist invites you to an 8-week book study beginning in February. We will be reading "Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization" by Jonathan Dyck.

We plan on meeting virtually once a week on Thursdays at 5pm starting February 2nd. This will be a safe space for open discussion, and we welcome anyone even if you have not read the book. Please feel free to reach out to Lacie Weatherholt to join: parkerstyle1971@gmail.com

From Amazon....."For generations, the Bible has been employed by settler colonial societies as a weapon to dispossess Indigenous and racialized peoples of their lands, cultures, and spiritualities. Given this devastating legacy, many want nothing to with it. But is it possible for the exploited and their allies to reclaim the Bible from the dominant powers? Can it serve as an instrument for justice in the cause of the oppressed? Even a nonviolent weapon toward decolonization? In Unsettling the Word, over 60 Indigenous and Settler authors come together to wrestle with the Scriptures, rereading and re-imagining the ancient text for the sake of reparative futures."

A Special Thank You from

FamilyPromise
of the Chippewa Valley

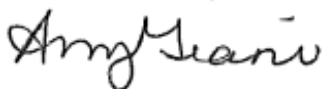
Dear Hope United Methodist Church:

On behalf of Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley (FPCV), the Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff, I would like to thank you for your donation in the amount of \$160.00 to help cover the staff overnight cost.

FPCV operates the Beacon House homeless shelter and provides case management and services to help meet employment needs, rental assistance, emergency food, bus passes and gas cards. Last year 4,346 nights of shelter and 13,038 meals were provided to the 34 families from the community who stayed at Beacon House.

It is through your support that we can continue to meet the needs of the children and families at the Beacon House. Your support of Beacon House and the vision of Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley is appreciated!

Sincerely,



Amy Giani
Executive Director



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>

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. (Feb 24TH)**

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. (Feb 6th – March 6th)**

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 UMC 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). (MARCH 24-25TH)**

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.

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



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 to 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/1FAIpQLSfjyODm24FhPiu6ohNJ22F0O9Zs_hwrjChH_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



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.

HOPE UMC LEADERSHIP - 2023

<u>Administrative Council</u>			
	Sharon Fortune		Chairperson of Ad Council
	Lynne Larabee		Lay Leader and Chair of Finance Committee
	Jan Lorentz		Lay Member to AC
	Judy Shuck		Church Treasurer
	Cheryl Muller (chair)		Chair of the SPRC
	Renee Marino (elected by 2023 Trustees)		Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
	_____		Chairperson of the Outreach Committee
	Judy Ganong & Connie Jacobsen		Chairperson of Nurture Committee
	Sandi Hysell & Jan Lorentz		Chairperson of Faith Formation Committee
	Bill Zabel & _____		Members at-large
<u>Hope Staff-Parish Relations Committee</u>			
	Cheryl Muller (chair)	Joey Bohl	
	Cindy Peterson	Sharon Fortune	Judy Shuck
<u>Finance Committee</u>			
	Lynn Larabee (chair)	Judy Shuck/treasurer	Joey Bohl/treasurer
	Doug Fortune	Bob Schwartz	Denny Schultz
<u>The Board of Trustees (not to exceed nine persons)</u>			
	Renee Marino (chair)	Dan Shuck	
	Mike Larabee	Rich Swanson	
<u>Faith Formation Committee</u>			
	Jan Lorentz(co-chair)	Sandi Hysell(co-chair)	Ben Kittilstad (pianist)
	LeeAnn Richards	Jill Myers	Lacie Weatherholt
	Alberto Larabee	Linda Higgins	
<u>Outreach Committee</u>			
	_____ (Chair)	Dan Shuck	Joey Bohl
	Sarah Myers		
<u>Nurture Committee</u>			
	Connie Jacobsen (Co chair)	Judy Ganong (Co chair)	Jan Lorentz
	Kay Lee	Barb Rude	
<u>Care Team</u>			
	Judy Ganong	Jan Lorentz	Connie Jacobsen
<u>Committee On Lay Leadership (Nominations)</u>			
	Pastor (chair)	Lynne Larabee (Lay Leader)	
	Rich Swanson	Dan Shuck	
	Jan Lorentz (Lay Member to annual conference)		
<u>Wills, Memorial and Gifts Committee</u>			
	Joanne Mellema	Pat Miller	Judy Ganong
<u>Website Development & Maintenance Team</u>			
	Joey Bohl	Bob Schwartz	
	Kristen Kirchman	Stacy Curtis	
<u>Funeral Serving and Kitchen Care Team</u>			
	Jan Lorentz(chair)	Judy Ganong	
	Kay Lee	Lois Nelson	Connie Jacobsen
	Dan Shuck	Judy Shuck	Linda Higgins
<u>Endowment Fund Committee of Directors</u>			
	Lynne Larabee (Finance Chair)		
	Gary Gochanour	Irv Nelson	Dan Shuck
	Rich Swanson	Pastor	Renee Marino

Note: The Administrative Council is granted the authority, on behalf of the charge conference, to make any needed changes to our leadership between charge conferences.

February 2023

Hope United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29-Jan	30-Jan	31-Jan	1	2	3	4
				5:00pm Book Study		9am-3pm Zoom Reach & Welcome New People Meeting
5 9:00am WORSHIP	6	7 6:00pm JONAH Congregational Training 7:00pm CHOIR	8 6:30pm Interfaith Prayer	9 9-11:30am (FH) La Leche Group 1:00-3:00pm 5:00pm Book Study	10	11 1:00-3:00pm NW District Youth Tubing
11:00am Zumba (FH)						
12 9:00am WORSHIP ★ CHOIR	13	14	15 4:45-7:30pm (FH) Mindfulness Group	16 5:00pm Book Study 6:30pm Trustees	17	18 9:00am Women of Hope at Down to Earth
11:00am Zumba (FH)						
19 9:00am WORSHIP MARDI GRAS SUNDAY Fellowship Breakfast Food Pantry Sunday 11:00am Zumba (FH)	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 ELECTION DAY	22 7:00pm Ash Wednesday ★ CHOIR 5:30pm Pleasant Valley - Ash Wed 4:45-7:30pm (FH) Mindfulness Group	23 5:00pm Book Study 6:30pm Ad Board	24	25
26 9:00am WORSHIP	27 1:00pm Women's Bible Study	28	1-Mar	2-Mar	3-Mar	4-Mar
11:00am Zumba (FH)						

SERVING SCHEDULE	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 22 ASH WEDNESDAY	February 26
Greeters	Connie Jacobsen	Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett	John & Merry Weiland	Ruth & Ray Nyland	Connie Jacobsen
Online Greeter	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen
Scripture Reader	Linda Norton	Stacey Curtis	Joey Bohl	Ruth Nyland	Sharon Fortune
Children's Message		Cheryl Muller			
Prayers of the People	Becky Gochanour	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	N/A	Becky Gochanour
Audio Visual	Renee Marino	Cindy & Emily Peterson	Renee Marino		Renee Marino

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