



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. 04

April 2023

The Resurrection is upon us...once again. Hosannas and Hallelujahs rise to the rafters after a long Lenten journey. Amen and amen!

Yet, I wonder if we can capture, after more than 2,000 years, even a hint of the amazing, wonderful, glorious, ALL encompassing message of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? What do our Hosannas and Hallelujahs point to? What do our Amens proclaim?



The story of Christianity began with an outpouring of Spirit, a profound experience shared between humans and the Divine. (The Acts of the Apostles 1-2)

Almost immediately, though, the human recipients of the experience began wrestling with the question of inclusion/exclusion, who was in and who was out. This, in spite of the fact that in the first explanation of the outpouring, its initial interpreter, Simon Peter, stood with the other eleven apostles and quoted from the Hebrew prophet Joel, declaring,

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on ALL people."

All people.

Everyone. Every person.

All humanity. All flesh.

And yet, as clear as that statement seems, the word "all" has forever been arguably the most difficult word for Christian theologians as well as Christians in general to accept and apply. At least, that is, when the word is used to indicate wonderful things like goodness, mercy, grace, the reach of Divine inclusiveness, the wideness of God's embrace.

To that end...

The Apostle Paul's statement, "In the first Adam, ALL die," has somehow never tripped up interpreters. It is clear, they have consistently said, the word "all," used in this context, plainly

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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_10

SCAN
for more
info and
LINKS



(Continued from Page 1)

means every human ever born. Yet when Paul immediately used the same word again, saying, "But in the second Adam, Jesus, ALL are made alive," somehow the same word, "all," has consistently gotten whittled and pared down to a sad shell of its true self.

Why do we do this?

Well, whatever the reasons, a vital part of becoming fully human is resisting that tendency, that seemingly universal tendency to fear scarcity, to think defensively and negatively, to view love as limited, to believe complete abundance is only wishful thinking, to see neighbors as competitors and enemies instead of friends and family.

In other words, an important part of our soul's work is to believe "all" really means "all" — in the good stuff, the hopeful stuff, the stuff of love and goodness.

May God help us "all" as we try to believe the good over the bad, love over hate, inclusion over exclusion, abundance over scarcity.

Surely, God never intended for our eternal well-being to be dependent on fearfully hedging our bets, cautiously erring on the side of safety, or nervously hoping for the best while preparing for the worst.

Hallelujah! Jesus is...Risen, Love, Grace, Mercy, Compassion, Justice
for all.

In Christ,

Pastor Jen





April 2nd Palm/Passion Sunday ~ “Look for the Unexpected”

Psalm 118, Matthew 21:1-11

The disciples must have been excited and terrified all at once. The entrance into Jerusalem for Passover week had turned into a big deal. How would Jesus be received, by the people and by the authorities? And an entrance can define perception! Surely they would make as big a splash of confidence as possible. And then Jesus asks for a donkey. “A...donkey?!” Once again, Jesus demonstrates a love for peace and a love for common people by creating an entrance that proclaimed the power of God’s “kin-dom of heaven,” not Herod’s kingdom of oppression. Looking for love? Keep your eyes out for it in unexpected places.

April 9th Easter Sunday ~ “Love Wins”

In the end (or is it the beginning?), love wins. All things of this world pale in comparison to what resurrection looks like in our lives. New-found meaning, purpose, attention, wholeheartedness, wellbeing, peace: these are the things that matter — the things the Teacher shows us. And no matter how many “wrong places” we’ve looked for love, the graves give way to the light of a new day as we learn to love as Christ loves us.

*There will be a special Easter egg hunt for the kids during fellowship.

April 16th Holy Humor Sunday ~ “Fools for Christ”

For centuries in all Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Bring your best [worst] jokes!

April 23rd Earth Day Celebration ~ “God’s Gift”

The world marks Earth Day each April 22. All United Methodists are called to be good stewards of the planet. One of our Social Principles about the Natural World explains: “All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.”

*Sunday School will be held this week instead of the traditional 2nd Sunday, which is Easter.

April 30th ~ “Guardian of the Soul”

1 Peter 2:19-25

1 Peter presents the guardian of our souls as the one who brings us back together, who brings us home. We celebrate that guardian today, the one who walked through the world and showed us what a life of meaning and purpose looked like.

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



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- April 3 1:30pm Nurture
- April 12 7:00pm Trustees
- April 17 5:00pm Faith Formation
6:30pm Ad Board

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94197853095?pwd=ZGhVZlQyK1FVTVNlUmdBYnU5bVBkQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279

Join us in Volunteering at
Feed My People Food Bank
Thursday, April 27th
1:00pm – 3:00pm



The link to sign up online is:
<https://cerv.is/0381qNC2y6k> You will
be asked to create an account if you
have not signed up previously.

Please let Cheryl know if you plan to
attend, or if you have any questions
(clmuller1212@gmail.com)

Get Ready for SUMMER CAMP 2023

- **ONLINE REGISTRATION** – This process gets better every year. Check it out at WIUMCamps.org
- **PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE** – We offer a 4 month payment plan
- **SCHOLARSHIP FORM** – We will do whatever we can to make sure cost is not the reason people can't come to camp. Scholarship forms can be found at wiumcamps.org/for-churches.



Website: www.WIUMCamps.org
Email: camping@wiconsinUMC.org
Phone: 608-296-2720



Rehearsal:

7:00pm Tues, April 4th

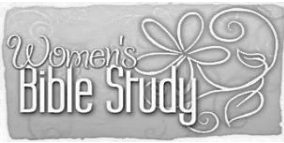
Sing for Worship:

Sunday, April 9
(Easter Sunday)

**Sunday
April 16th**



Bring your best
[worst] jokes!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be April 24th at 1:00pm. Please contact Cindy Hanson (715-878-4941) with questions.

Women of HOPE

WOMEN OF HOPE
9:00AM
SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH

We will meet at the church to work on May Day Baskets



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 April 16. 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 - FEBRUARY 2023

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>Contributions</i>	\$11,785	\$21,782
<i>Expenses</i>	\$10,026	\$24,679
	\$1,759	(\$2,896)

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

<i>Conference Assigned</i>	<i>We Have Paid</i>
<i>Amount for 2023:</i>	<i>As Of 2-28-23:</i>
\$16,493.00	\$2,090.00



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



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.

Joe with Jen...

Brew with me and you...

Whatever you want to call it, I'd love to enjoy a conversation over coffee with you. Since I can't do that during Sunday fellowship I'd like to get together with you at a different time.



Starting Wednesday April 12th at 9am and going until Wednesday, May 31st, you, and whoever else shows up, can have coffee with the pastor at The Coffee Grounds in Eau Claire.

We'll talk about whatever is on your mind. It may be about the latest sermon, or you may have questions, comments, suggestions, ideas, needs, praises, concerns, whatever!

What's the catch? Actually, there isn't a catch. I'm not going to sign you up to serve God in Malaysia, or try to get you to become a member of any committee, or even join the church. I simply want to hang out and chat.

No appointment or reservation is necessary. Just show up and let the joe and the convo flow.



Clean out your closets and cupboards for Hope United Methodist Church!

Hope FUNDrive Fundraiser

NO FURNITURE PLEASE!

ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN AND IN SELLABLE CONDITION.

BRING YOUR ITEMS TO CHURCH AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

COLLECTING ITEMS NOW UNTIL APRIL 30TH

Contact Pastor Jen with any questions.

WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS: Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly packed boxes for small household goods.

SMALL HOUSEHOLD GOODS

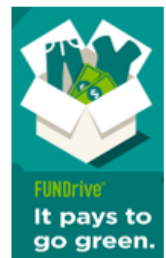
kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decor items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics and books.

CLOTHES

men's, women's, and children's clothing, coats, shoes, fashion accessories, scarves, ties, belts, handbags, backpacks, wallets, etc.

HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES

bedding, sheets, blankets, comforters, linens, towels, tablecloths, pillows, curtains, etc.





North Central United Women in Faith Spring Retreat

"PRAYER--Conversations with God"



United
Women
in Faith

Come and join the conversations on May 6th! Presenter Julie Mieke will speak at this UWF (United Women in Faith) Spring Retreat. Julie has a solid background in all things UWF. She has taken on leadership roles at the District and Conference levels, serving as President, Secretary of Program Resources and on nominations committees. Julie currently serves as our North Central District Secretary. She also brings education experience, having served as Mission u Dean, Assistant Dean and study leader. Look for her at Mission u in Mauston leading one of the studies this summer! Our mission focus gifts will support United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee.

Registration deadline: April 21, 2023.

Registration Cost: \$20.00 (includes lunch)//after April 21st, \$25.00

To Register or For More Information, go to <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/news-detail/north-central-united-women-in-faith-spring-retreat-17315285>

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



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.



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.



Earth Week Open House

The JONAH Environmental Task Force in collaboration with Beaver Creek Reserve and the Eau Claire County Office of Recycling and Sustainability are hosting the Inaugural Earth Week Open House. Over 30 organizations will be available to answer your questions about composting, recycling, energy audits and pollinator friendly lawns. There will be door prizes, kids activities and interactive displays. Come get inspired to adopt more sustainable practices in your everyday life.

Thursday April 20th / 5:30PM - 7:30PM
 Brewing Projekt, 1807 N Oxford, Eau Claire
 Food truck available
 Beer and soft drinks available for purchase
 Free to all



Soles4Souls Collection of Used Shoes

The Hope JONAH Core Group invites you to consider donating used men's, women's and children's shoes, boots and sandals, any size and any style that you no longer need. This shoe drive at Hope will donate its collections to Soles4Souls, a 501c3 organization which in turn, donates the footwear to homeless people in the United States and sells the rest to other non-profit organizations that operate micro-enterprise programs in developing countries to help promote local economies. The micro-enterprise programs supply local people enabling them to sell the footwear to generate income. The micro-enterprise model is seen as a sustainable way for people to help themselves and to support their families.

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Americans throw away at least 300 million pairs of shoes a year. These shoes end up in garbage dumps and landfills. Shoes take 30-40 years or longer to decompose. Hope UMC will have a bin in the hallway at church that will be marked that you can place in any shoes you want to donate. Please tie the laces together or place the shoes in a bag to keep the pairs together so the left and right shoe don't get separated. This will be available from April 16 - May 14. We are coordinating with the UWEC Student Office of Sustainability that is doing the same collection. We will combine our shoes collected with their collections. Thanks for donating!!

**Save the Date! May 6th 10am-6pm
 At Festival Foods on Mall Drive.**

JONAH will be having a Brat Stand fundraiser. Stop by and support JONAH by buying a brat or two! Hope to see you there!



APRIL 2023

Hope United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26-Mar	27-Mar	28-Mar	29-Mar	30-Mar	Mar 31	1
2 9:00am WORSHIP PALM SUNDAY	3 1:30pm Nurture	4 ELECTION DAY 7:00pm CHOIR	5	6 7:00pm MAUNDY THURS. at Pleasant Valley 9-11:30am (FH) La Leche Group 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	7 7:00pm GOOD FRIDAY Service	8
9 9:00am WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY Choir Egg Hunt after Worship	10 Pastor Jen Out of Office	11	12 9:00am Coffee w Pastor @ Coffee Grounds 7:00pm Trustees	13	14	15 9:00am Women of Hope
16 9:00am WORSHIP Holy Humor Sunday Food Pantry Sunday	17 5:00pm Faith Form. 6:30pm Ad Board	18 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	19 9:00am Coffee w Pastor @ Coffee Grounds	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21	22
23 9:00am WORSHIP Sunday School Earth Day Celeb.	24 1:00pm Women's Bible Study	25 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	26 9:00am Coffee w Pastor @ Coffee Grounds	27 1:00-3:00pm Feed My People	28	29
30 9:00am WORSHIP	1-May	2-May	3-May	4-May	May 5	6-May

SERVING SCHEDULE	View the most current Serving Schedule, by following this link, or scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page: https://hopeumceaucclair.churchtrac.com/card/34				
	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Greeters	Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett	John & Merry Weiland	Connie Jacobsen	Joey Bohl	Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett
Online Greeter	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen
Scripture Reader	Linda Norton	Cindy Peterson	Ryan Stepp	Linda Norton	Cindy Peterson
Children's Message				Joanne Mellema	
Prayers of the People	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	Jan Lorentz
Audio Visual	Cindy & Emily Peterson	Cindy & Emily Peterson	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

HOPE UMC website:
www.hope-eauclaire.org



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

SCAN HERE

for more info and LINKS



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