



For The JOURNEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701
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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. 05

May 2023

My mother used to say, "You have to take the bad with the good." When I was disappointed, flabbergasted, outraged, or frustrated, those words never failed to infuriate me. What I heard her saying was, "Calm down." In retrospect, I've come to recognize that she probably meant to convey a lesson about life I wasn't yet prepared to receive. She was trying to help me see what it means to persist in being a person committed to nurture and healing in a world bent on breaking hearts, minds, and bodies.

Speaking to his friends, Jesus said something analogous to this just after he emerged from the tomb. They were now people of the Resurrection in a world that still crucified people, and this is what he had to say to them: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:23).

We will be the people who heal and nurture, or we will perpetuate a world that returns violence for violence and wound for wound. We cannot liberate this world by returning evil for evil, hate for hate.

To be honest, sometimes I get weary and discouraged with this healing, nurturing work that Jesus calls us to. It's tempting to believe that we could just eradicate the bad so that we're left only with the good. These feelings grow especially acute when it seems that violence, prejudice, greed, and selfishness are on the rise. But Jesus warns us that this is a dangerous, ultimately self-serving, and destructive illusion.

In one parable he puts it like this: Some weeds popped up in a wheat field. Workers wanted to pull up the weeds, but the landowner stopped them, saying that if you try to yank out the weeds, you'll just pull up the wheat along with them (Matthew 13:24-30). That's the kingdom as we now know it. You have to take the bad with the good. But you do not have to resign yourself to the bad.

(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>

SCAN
for more
info and
LINKS



(Continued from Page 1)

In another parable Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like yeast (Matthew 13:33). In quantity, the yeast is negligible compared to the lump of dough, but without the yeast, the entire mass would collapse in on itself. The yeast is present precisely for the sake of the whole. You have to take the bad with the good.

Some people pursue the common good, recognizing that to rob any person of dignity diminishes the dignity of every human being. And some seek their own comforts, advantages, and privileges at the cost of others' deprivation and misery.

The work of Christ, our work in Christ's name, is to liberate the captives from their captors and also to liberate the captors from themselves. This is the work of love. The work that ushers in the kingdom. Eventually. Sometimes that "eventually" can feel so delayed, so interminable, that it might just as well mean "never." But don't give up. Don't get weary. Christ is risen. And his resurrection is God's assurance that the power of hate is ultimately no match for the power of love.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jen

May 7th - "Like Living Stones"

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10

We are living stones, so what does that mean? How do we carry this foundational presence out into the world? How do we commit to building a church that transforms not just those inside, but those outside as well? How will our body-building strengthen our whole neighborhood and not just ourselves? This is the challenge of the living stones: discipleship for the transformation of the world.

May 14th (Mother's Day)

"Always Be Ready"

Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22"

Easter tide is for reflecting on the impact of the Risen Christ on our lives day by day. What does this good news mean for us in how we live, what we choose, and what we value? What are we supposed to be ready to do? Tell our story! It's as simple as that. And it's as complicated as that. We might begin with what has happened to us, what struggles we have faced, or what journeys we have taken. Then we speak of our encounter with the Risen Christ or the presence of the Spirit, and then we follow with the decisions we made because of this encounter. Then we issue an invitation. "Come and hear," says the psalmist.



May 21st ("This is Us" Celebration) "Casting Your Cares"

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

If you are one of those who believe that worship should leave you feeling lighter, unburdened, and set free, then this is the week for you. "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7 NRSV). What could be better than that?

May 28th Pentecost/Memorial Day

The lectionary gives us two different stories of receiving the Spirit, two different Pentecosts; feel the fire and stand in the wind or feel the peace breathed by the breath of God. Either way, or even observing both the loud and the quiet Pentecost, there is a uniting presence celebrated on this day. Barriers and divisions are overcome. Differences become signs of the artistry of God and not reasons to be afraid. Strangers are not enemies to be opposed but sisters and brothers to be embraced and included. This is a day where we remember that Spirit, wind, and breath are all part of the same experience and that life itself is a gift from God and a sign of God's goodness and presence in our lives.

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

- May 2 5:00pm Faith Formation
- May 2 6:30pm SPRC
- May 10 6:00pm Trustees
- May 22 6:30pm Ad Council
- June 5 Nurture Committee
(No Meeting in May)

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

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

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279



Rehearsal: 7:00pm Tues, May 2nd

Sing for Worship: Sunday, May 7

**CHURCH SPRING
CLEANUP DAY**
SAT, MAY 6
at 9:30AM



Spring Clean up Day will be Saturday, May 6th starting at 9:30am. We will have various cleaning jobs inside and outside the church.



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



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be May 22nd at 1:00pm. Please contact Cindy Hanson (715-878-4941) with questions.

Women of HOPE

WOMEN OF HOPE
9:00AM
SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

We will meet at church to carpool. Brunch at Lucy's at your expense. We will then visit Chippewa Falls History Center and the cost is \$6.00 per person.



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.



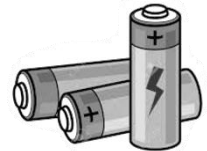
FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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 May 21

Don't Throw Your Batteries in the Trash!

Place your old batteries in the box in the hallway at church, and we'll make sure they are disposed of appropriately and can keep them out of the landfill.



FINANCE NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT - MARCH 2023

| | <u>MTD</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| <i>Contributions</i> | \$9,547 | \$30,769 |
| <i>Expenses</i> | \$11,243 | \$35,922 |
| | (\$1,696) | \$5,152 |

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Conference Assigned</i> | <i>We Have Paid</i> |
| <i>Amount for 2023:</i> | <i>As Of 3-31-23:</i> |
| \$16,493.00 | \$3,345.00 |



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

**SPECIAL SUNDAY
FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY
JAVA WITH JEN
SUNDAY MAY 7TH
AT 8:15AM**

We will have another opportunity for fellowship with Pastor Jen on **Sunday, May 7th at 8:15 am before worship**. We will also have fellowship after the service as usual.



**WEDNESDAY
MORNINGS
JAVA 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.

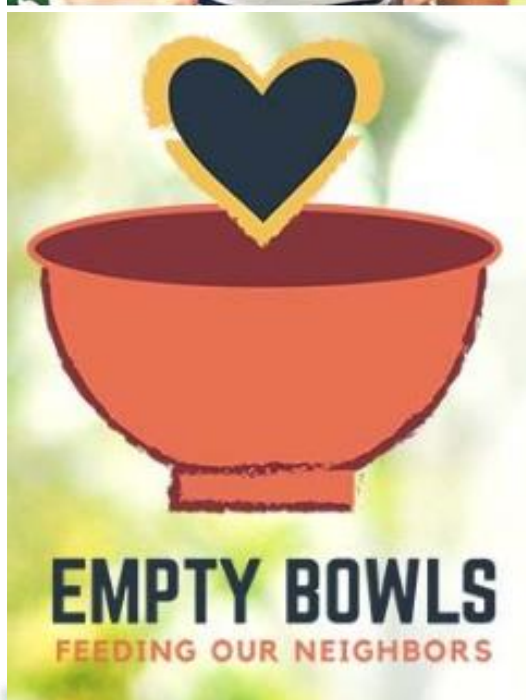
Wednesday mornings at 9:00am, you, and whoever else shows up, can have coffee with the pastor at The Coffee Grounds in Eau Claire.

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.

****Reminder – we will not be meeting on May 3, 10, or 17 due to the FunDrive Drop Off and Pastor Jen's Continuing Education.**



May 18, 2023

11 am-7 pm

@Feed My People

**2610 Alpine Rd,
Eau Claire**

Tickets on sale April 3



BEACON HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be serving at Beacon House on **Tuesday- Friday, May 23-26**. We are in need of servers, food providers, and donations.

If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboard at church or contact Joey Bohl at 715-563-0983 or gibbonje@hotmail.com.

Supper is served each night at 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. If you would like to pair up with an experienced volunteer and join us in this fantastic opportunity, contact Joey. Monetary donations to cover overnight staff at \$80/night are appreciated and may be made to the church. Additional donation items can be found at www.familypromisecv.org/donate and may be dropped off at church prior to May 20.

MOWING HELP NEEDED



We are in need of some volunteers to mow the lawn. A rider and push mower are provided in the garage. If you would like to donate money for mowing costs, please designate it on an envelope and place in the offering plate. See clipboard to sign-up for a week to mow or use the online Sign-Up Genius (link below).

Please contact any Trustee with questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A44AAA622A02-lawn1>



There are many opportunities to share your gifts and talents:

- Reading
- Greeting
- Sunday Fellowship
- Mowing
- Running PowerPoint
- Help to Prepare/Serve Communion
- and many more!

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





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

(Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope)

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!!

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



**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!



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

Prayer is not part of life; it is life.

When we teach our children not only to say prayers but to have natural (nonreligious) conversations with God, we place into their hands the most valuable treasure: an audience with and the friendship with God.

Unfortunately for our kids, we grown-ups, have complicated the practice of prayer. First, by our example, and second, by our instruction.

For example, what would a child watching your prayer life learn? Will they see prayer as an exciting privilege or a dreadful duty? Dull and repetitious prayers intimidate kids. Eloquent and lengthy prayers make them want to give up on praying altogether. Open and simple prayers invite them into the miracle of knowing God in prayer.

So much of the time, instead of simply letting kids pray simple, sincere prayers, we teach them the mechanics of prayer. We make it all about the right tone, the right length, the right posture, and the right vocabulary.

Be quiet. Close your eyes. Fold your hands. Stop giggling. Bow your head. Don't look around. Be reverent. Start with: Dear Heavenly Father. Finish with: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember to say, Amen.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying there's anything wrong with any of that. But, while I believe it is very important to teach our children how to pray, I think maybe we need to toss out the "rule book" and teach them to do what they do naturally and talk to God. And that's the inspiration behind a Prayer Burger. I've included a couple resources to help you help the kids in your life- including you, Child of God!



MAKE A PRAYER BURGER

Start at the bottom and work your way up

See next page
for ideas



PRAYER BURGER

You can fill it with anything that you're thinking or feeling at the moment. Here are just some of the things you may want to include in your prayer burger.

In Jesus' name. Amen.
or **Talk to You later.**

Dear Heavenly Father
or **Hey Jesus...**

Tell God what's on your mind—your plans, dreams, questions, wonderings.

Confess your sins and mess-ups, and receive God's forgiveness.

Tell your Father what you or other people need.

In those moments when your heart is hurting and you have nothing to say, let your tears do the praying.

There's no need for you to do all the talking. It's a good idea to spend a few moments quietly waiting for God to speak to you.

Tell God what He is like and what you love about Him. For example:

- You're merciful and kind.
- You're great and mighty.
- You're always with me.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|--------|--|
| Apr 30 | | 1 6:30pm SPRC 7:00pm CHOIR 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 2 FUNDrive Delivery Day | 3 | 4 | 5 Church CleanUp Day Pine Lake Retreat |
| 7 9:00am WORSHIP Choir 8:15am Special Fellowship w Pastor Jen 4:00pm Zumba (FH) | 8 | 9 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 10 6:00pm Trustees | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00am WORSHIP MOTHER'S DAY 4:00pm Zumba (FH) | 15 Pastor Jen Out of Office - Festival of Homiletics | 16 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 17 | 18 11am-7pm EMPTY BOWLS Feed My People | 19 | 20 9:00am Women of Hope |
| 21 9:00am WORSHIP Food Pantry Sunday 4:00pm Zumba (FH) | 22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Ad Board | 23 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 24 9:00am Coffee w Pastor @ Coffee Grounds | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:00am WORSHIP 4:00pm Zumba (FH) | 29 MEMORIAL DAY | 30 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 31 9:00am Coffee w Pastor @ Coffee Grounds | 1-Jun | 2-Jun | 3-Jun |

| SERVING SCHEDULE | View the most current Serving Schedule, by following this link, or scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page: https://hopeumceaucnaire.churchtrac.com/card/34 | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | May 7 | May 14 | May 21 | May 28 | June 4 |
| Greeters | John & Merry Weiland | Joey Bohl | Connie Jacobsen | Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett | John & Merry Weiland |
| Online Greeter | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen |
| Scripture Reader | Sharon Fortune | Joey Bohl | Linda Norton | Ryan Stepp | Joey Bohl |
| Children's Message | | | Pastor Jen | | |
| Prayers of the People | Becky Gochanour | Jan Lorentz | Becky Gochanour | Jan Lorentz | Pastor Jen |
| Audio Visual | Renee Marino | Cindy & Emily Peterson | Renee Marino | Cindy & Emily Peterson | 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

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.