



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. 07

July 2023

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. | Jeremiah 29:11-14



The prophet Jeremiah wrote these words to a group of people taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. His letter to them offered encouragement and instruction to settle into Babylon for an extended period of time and to pray for their welfare for their own sake. Those in captivity took to heart Jeremiah's words keeping their eye on "a future of hope."

Friends, we are experiencing a return from exile following the worldwide pandemic. While we weren't cast out to an unfamiliar place or with unfamiliar people, our lives were significantly impacted. And so was the church. The best thing about Hope UMC is that we never lost sight of "a future of hope." This church is characterized by resilient people who seek and find God even when it is difficult.

We are navigating the return to a more familiar way, fulfilling our mission and vision. But that does not negate the continued questions our church leaders, staff and I face which include how do we respond to the reality that many people have wandered away from worship and participation in church life, especially households with children; how do we

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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



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engage younger generations that are not participating in our ministries; how do we address the decline of church attendance over the past 60 years and the diminished role our churches play in the lives of our communities; what will be the lasting repercussions of our polarities in social and cultural issues, and the stress that we have endured and continue to endure?

The questions seem to be summed up with a sense of “What does the church look like and what are we called to be in this post covid, polarized and broken world?” We might phrase it more in terms of “What and who are we being called to be as the church today?” These are questions of discernment and of visioning. We certainly find ourselves in new territory here. We realize that we cannot go back to “normal”, or what life was like pre-covid. It feels as though we are living like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness seeking the promised land, who found themselves longing for the good old days (in slavery in Egypt), sitting by the fleshpots and eating their fill of bread. One person described it by saying “I don’t know what the church looks like 10-20 years from now, but this is not it.” So how do we discern the future? What does visioning look like? What process might we use to discover the future God has in store for us? Because with no vision we will perish.

It begins with prayer. Corporate, individual, ongoing prayer. Seeking God’s wisdom, presence and guidance, including specific situations and realities of the community and congregation. Lamenting what was and may never be again. Gratitude for what is new and growing in our midst. Confession for our shortcomings and where we have failed to live out our calling to be disciples faithfully.

Then there is time for reflection. Naming those things that have been lost, sharing our feelings of grief, and in some cases gratitude. Letting go of what was and will never be again – giving thanks for the blessings that were received. Naming those things that have endured and counting the blessings they provide.

And then there’s the opportunity for open conversation. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate, asking questions about their discernment. What are the 3 greatest needs in our community that we might address? What talents, passions and blessings do we have and how might we best offer them? What passions has God instilled in you that are not yet being explored? How has God called us to respond in this place and time?

Ask questions about where the particular needs of the community are not being met. Where are the talents and resources among us that we can engage to meet those needs?

Prayer, reflection, conversation intentional activities to discern where we have been, where we are, and where we are headed. A process by which we might begin to cast a vision for how we are called to serve in our communities and the world around us. Let’s move together and further toward a “future of hope.”

In Christ,
Pastor Jen



July 2nd

“Quenching a Thirst”

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Matthew 10:40-42

Implied in our theme for this week is the idea that everyone is thirsty and that we are in the thirst-quenching business. The world is indeed our parish, but the world begins in our sanctuaries and fellowship halls. The world begins at our front door.

July 9th

“Taking the Yoke”

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

On the path of a disciple, we are learning to grow in our relationships with Christ and with the community. It begins when we take the yoke.

July 16th

“Seeds in the Dirt”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

This familiar parable can easily be interpreted, mostly because Jesus gave us the clue in our text for this week. We don’t have to hunt around for meaning this time. Instead, we look for applications. Or rather we learn to live into the parable as we are invited to look at possibilities.

July 23rd

“Shine Like the Sun”

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

As in last week’s story, Jesus seems to be telling us that God is somewhat sloppy when it comes to bestowing gifts. Actually, it wasn’t just Jesus—from the book of Genesis on, we find God being willing to call and equip individuals whose flaws were as obvious as their strengths. A lot of the folks God chooses wouldn’t even make the first cut for our lists. That is good news for us, frankly. We are often more aware of our flaws than our strengths, too. God still has a place, even for the likes of us. What a gospel!



In-Person Worship
9:00am
Sunday Mornings

Online Worship Options



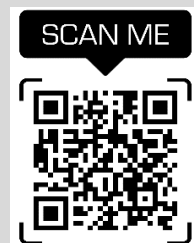
- ❖ Link to the Church Facebook Page for ONLINE WORSHIP (Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services)
<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771>
- ❖ Zoom Link Option for ONLINE WORSHIP
<https://zoom.us/j/94890292077?pwd=ekxnanU5THc2eEdLK1ZpRIIKYUZ4QT09>
Meeting ID: 948 9029 2077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

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



Hope Virtual Church

GIVING OPTIONS

We can continue our ministries whether we are meeting in-person, or online. 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.
Phone: **715-835-5310** (leave a message)
Email: hopeumcec@yahoo.com



ONLINE GIVING
Coming Soon

UPCOMING EVENTS



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- July 10 5:00pm Faith Formation
- July 12 6:00pm Trustees Meeting
- Aug 7 1:30pm Nurture Meeting
- Aug 28 6:30pm Ad Board (No July Mtg)

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94890292077?pwd=ekxnanU5THc2eEdLK1ZpRIIKYUZ4QT09>

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279



LET'S HAVE SOME FUN TOGETHER!

Do you have an activity you would like to share with others?
Would you like:

- someone to go to a baseball game or concert with you?
- to go hiking or biking?
- to play a board game or work on a jigsaw puzzle together?
- to go out to eat, or have coffee together
- to volunteer in the community with others?
- or any other number of activities?

Activity sheets are posted on the clipboard stand. Just fill out an activity sheet with your name, the activity, date and time. Or the date and time can be "to be determined" (TBD) if you are flexible. You can mention it during announcements at church and it can be put in the bulletin. If there is more advance notice, it can be put in the newsletter.



Regular Office Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm Tues, Wed, Thurs

(Office hours may change occasionally, please call before you visit)

HOPE CARE LIST



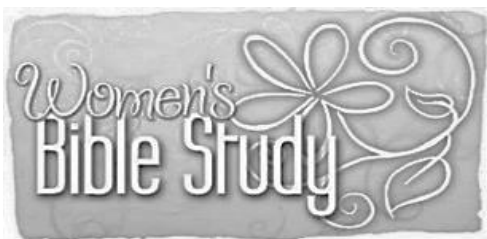
We now have a
HOPE-CARE-LIST.

Please check the Ministry Moveable Clipboard Cart for a list of things at Hope that need some attention. There are indoor and outdoor projects.

Women of
HOPE

9:00AM SATURDAY, JULY 15

We will meet at 9:00am at the church. We will carpool from there to Higher Ground in Neillsville, WI



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Volunteers
needed

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.



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>

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.



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 well utilized. It is a great ministry and example of

loving our neighbors! Our next Collection Date will be July 16th.

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT - MAY 2023

	MTD	YTD
Contributions	\$12,441	\$55,357
Expenses	\$9,630	\$58,040
	\$2,811	(\$2,683)

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

<i>Conference Assigned Amount for 2023:</i>	<i>We Have Paid As Of 5-31-23:</i>
\$16,493.00	\$5,395.00

J.O.N.A.H. NEWS & UPDATES (Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope)

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 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

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Community Table is putting together Birthday Bags and Baby Shower Baskets.

We will be collecting the following items through the end of July.



BIRTHDAY-In-A-Box ITEMS NEEDED:

- Cake Tins
- Cake Mix
- Can of Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Candles
- Plates
- Forks
- Napkins
- Balloons
- Gift Bags
- Tissue Paper
- Birthday Card



BABY-SHOWER-In-A-BASKET ITEMS NEEDED:

- Shampoo & Soap
- Teething & Baby Toys
- Blankets
- Gift Baskets
- Baby Food
- Diapers, Wipes, Lotion
- Gift Cards for Misc Items
- Gift Cards for Food Delivery



Come join us for Coffee & Conversation!



Meet our ADRC
Prevention Program
Coordinator. Let's
share ideas on topics
of your choosing.
Submit your topic,
bring someone along
and RSVP 1 week prior.

Where: Hope United
Methodist Church
2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire
10:00 AM

Thursday August 3, 2023

RSVP: 715.839.4735 or
adrc@eauclairecounty.gov



JULY 2023							Hope United Methodist Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
25-Jun	26-Jun	27-Jun	28-Jun	29-Jun	Jun 30	1							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8							
9:00am WORSHIP		FOURTH OF JULY Office Closed											
		9:00am Zumba (FH)		5:30pm Zumba (FH)									
9	10	11	12	13	14	15							
9:00am WORSHIP	5:00pm Faith Form.		6:00pm Trustees										
		5:30pm Zumba (FH)											
16	17	18	19	20	21	22							
9:00am WORSHIP Food Pantry Sunday													
		5:30pm Zumba (FH)		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE									
23	24	25	26	27	28	29							
9:00am WORSHIP	1:00pm Women's Bible Study	5:30pm Zumba (FH)											
	Kristen - Vacation												
30	31	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	Aug 4	5-Aug							
9:00am WORSHIP													

SERVING SCHEDULE	View the most current Serving Schedule, by following this link, or scanning the QR code at the bottom of the page: https://hopeumceauclaire.churchtrac.com/card/34				
	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
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	Cindy Peterson	Joey Bohl	Linda Norton	Sharon Fortune	Cindy Peterson
Children's Message					
Prayers of the People	Pastor Jen	Jan Lorentz	Becky Gochanour	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen
Audio Visual	Renee Marino	Cindy Peterson	Renee Marino	Cindy Peterson	Cindy 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.