



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. 08

August 2023

Hope and Joy!

Entering into the second week in my new role, my prayers were centered around these two words: hope and joy. *"O God, we are your people committed to following Jesus through and with the United Methodist Church here in North West Wisconsin. Increase hope and joy in us. Let them extend beyond us and flourish in our communities through our ministry."*

Greetings to you, my beloved and respected leaders of the United Methodist churches in the North West District of the Wisconsin Conference. I didn't want it to take long to send my greetings to the churches after my first letter to the clergy of our district. You are important. You are appreciated. Thank you for your dedication as leaders of The United Methodist Church. Thank you for embodying God's message of hope and joy.



PyungAhn "Peace,"
North West District Superintendent

I am here as your servant leader and fellow follower of Jesus Christ. You have refused to give up on our faith communities despite the challenges of declining numbers. I join you in holding steadfast to the promise given by God: "a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)"

"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)"

Yes! We have a reason to be hopeful, so we "rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:4)" and share "the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15)" in our communities and beyond. We are God's people who "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn, living in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:15-16a)"

(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_10

SCAN
for more
info and
LINKS



(Continued from Page 1)

I am grateful for the opportunity to begin my one-on-one meetings with the clergy. Each encounter reveals the unique and diverse stories of God's calling and the remarkable work being done through the United Methodist Church. Of course, there are challenges that must be named within our stories. However, as Henri Nouwen wrote, "As long as we have stories to tell to each other there is hope. As long as we can remind each other of the lives of God's people in whom the love of God becomes manifest, there is reason to move forward."

My commitment will remain unwavering to celebrate the stories that God continues to weave in us, among us, and through us. I am honored to be a mere instrument in God's hands, joyfully writing new faith stories without fear but with an abundance of hope and joy.

Together, as encouraged with the words of Romans 12:12, let us rejoice in our confident hope, display patience amidst troubles, and persistently lift our prayers.

May the joy of trusting in God and the hope that comes from it be yours on every Sunday with your church family and friends. May such overflowing joy and hope flourish in your life every day as you walk with God.

Hope and joy!

PyungAhn "Peace"

North West District Superintendent

Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church

pkim@wisconsinumc.org / 608-478-4527

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, September 6th we will begin a 6 week study by Adam Hamilton, "Making Sense of the Bible."

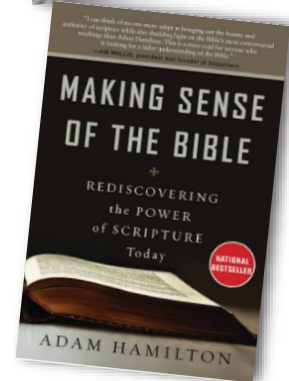
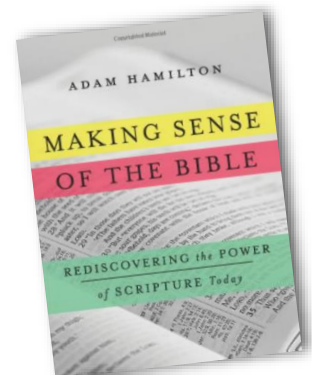
In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as: How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? And, is the Bible ever wrong?

From there, Hamilton considers the real questions people frequently ask that continue to divide Christians and denominations alike, including:

- Were Adam and Eve real people?
- Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Why would Paul command women to keep silent in the church?
- Is Jesus the only way to salvation?
- How does God view homosexual people?
- Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times

In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often misunderstood biblical themes leading listeners to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.

We will meet at 6:00pm for dinner and study. If you would like a copy of the book, please let Pastor Jen know and I will order for you. The cost is \$12.99 for a paperback copy through Cokesbury. If you prefer to order yourself, paperback, audio and hardcover are available through a variety of places including Amazon.



Worship for August - Searching for the Face of God

Throughout our summer worship we've been discovering what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We've been honest about the difficulty but also considered some of the joys that come with following this path. This final part of the series is in some ways a pinnacle. The community that gathers for worship is reminded that we are indeed following a God who is at work in the world. We are seeking signs of God's presence as we live and work in a hurting yet beautiful world around us. There is no more difficult but ultimately joyous exercise than that.

August 6: "Wrestle Mania- Wrestling with Our Hunger"

Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21

Many years ago, there was a television commercial that began with the line, "What are you hungry for when you don't know what you're hungry for?" A powerful question to be sure. I think their answer was crackers. But the question itself seems deeper and more profound than that. Advertising often tries to take spiritual hungers and offer physical solutions because they have something to sell, but it leaves us unsatisfied in the end. So, what are we hungry for? That's the question we're wrestling with this week.

August 13: Joy

Sharon Fortune will be preaching about Joy.

August 20: "Is it Fair?"

Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15: 10-28

This title is not aspirational, but descriptive. This is not who we should be, but it is often who we are. We claim to want fairness, or at least we want fairness in a way that benefits us. Fairness in our favor, we might say. Deep down, however, the truth is that we don't really want fairness; we want mercy. At least that is what we want from God. At the same time, we want to deal fairly and be dealt with fairly as we live and work in the world.

August 27: "The Journey Begins"

"Who Do You Say?"

Matthew 16:13-20

We seem to be always beginning. Or at least we have a tendency to speak about how we start our journey of faith. To some, that seems redundant. "We began long ago," they might think. And that could be true. Yet, each day is a new beginning, a reaffirmation of the desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. So, once again, the journey begins.

Out of nowhere, it seemed, as they traveled along, Jesus asked his disciples a question of identity. "Who do you say that I am?" It's a question we must answer again and again as we seek to become disciples of Jesus Christ.



In-Person Worship
9:00am
Sunday Mornings

Online Worship Options



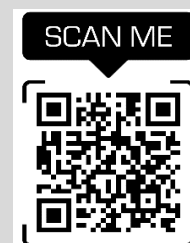
- ❖ Link to the Church Facebook Page for ONLINE WORSHIP (Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services)
<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771>
- ❖ Zoom Link Option for ONLINE WORSHIP
<https://zoom.us/j/94890292077?pwd=ekxnanU5THc2eEdLK1ZpRIIKYUZ4QT09>
Meeting ID: 948 9029 2077 /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

- August 7 5:00pm Faith Formation
- August 22 6:00pm Trustees
- August 28 6:30pm Ad Board

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

We will not meet during the month of August. Next meeting date TBD.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be August 28th at 1:00pm. Please contact Cindy Hanson (715-878-4941) with 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>

There are
many
opportunities
to share
your gifts and talents:

*Volunteers
needed*

- 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.



20TH ANNUAL
HIKE FOR THE
HOMELESS
TUES, AUGUST 15TH
AT 6:00PM



The 20th Annual Hike for the Homeless benefits Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley Inc, which owns and operates the Beacon House Shelter in Eau Claire. We provide homeless families with temporary shelter and help them find permanent homes and become financially independent. In 2022 we provided shelter and other services to 87 families with 52 children in our community. Our annual event helps provide us with the financial resources to provide these services.

The Hike for the Homeless will be held on Tuesday, August 15th, at River Prairie Park in Altoona, Wisconsin. Participants will walk all or part of the 2.8-mile course. The Hike is stroller and pet friendly. Day of Registration & refreshments start at 5:00 pm, HIKE starts at 6:00 pm, followed by gift basket prize drawings.

REGISTER: [Family Promise of the Chippewa Valley: 20th Annual HIKE for the \(giveagab.com\)](https://www.giveagab.com)

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 - JUNE 2023

| | <u>MTD</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Contributions | \$10,661 | \$66,018 |
| Expenses | \$9,319 | \$67,359 |
| | \$1,342 | (\$1,341) |

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

| <i>Conference Assigned</i> | <i>We Have Paid</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Amount for 2023:</i> | <i>As Of 6-30-23:</i> |
| \$16,493.00 | \$6,610.00 |

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

CHIPPEWA VALLEY MULTI CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, August 20, 2023
1:00-6:00 pm
Phoenix Park

300 Riverfront Terrace, Eau Claire, WI



Presented by:

City of Eau Claire, Visit Eau Claire, JONAH of the Chippewa Valley,
Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association,
Welcoming New Neighbors—NW WI Immigrant Resettlement

All are welcome!

Music

Food and Craft

Vendors

Performances



See our [Facebook page](#) for more information

August 2023

Hope United Methodist Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|----------|
| 30-Jul | Jul 31 | | | 10:00am ADRC (FH) | | |
| 9:00am WORSHIP | 6 | 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | 7 | 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | Pastor Jen Vacation | | | |
| | 1:30pm Nurture | | | | | |
| | 5:00pm Faith Formation | | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 9:00am WORSHIP | | 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | 9:30-11:30am JONAH (FH & K) | | | |
| | | 6:00pm HIKE-for-the-HOMELESS | 1:00pm Feed My People | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 9:00am WORSHIP Food Pantry Sunday | | NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | | | | |
| | | 6:00pm Trustees | | | | |
| | | 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1-Sep | 2-Sep |
| 9:00am WORSHIP | 1:00pm Women's Bible Study | 5:30pm Zumba (FH) | | | | |
| | 6:30pm Ad Board | | | | | |

| 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 | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | August 6 | August 13 | August 20 | August 27 | Sept 3 |
| Greeters | Connie Jacobsen | Linda Larson | Judy Ganong | John & Merry Weiland | Joey Bohl |
| Online Greeter | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen | Connie Jacobsen |
| Scripture Reader | Cindy Peterson | Linda Norton | Ryan Stepp | Sharon Fortune | Joey Bohl |
| Children's Message | | | | | |
| Prayers of the People | Jan Lorentz | Jan Lorentz | Jan Lorentz | Becky Gochanour | Jan Lorentz |
| Audio Visual | Renee Marino | Cindy Peterson | Cindy Peterson | Alberto Larabee | 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.