



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. 09

September 2023

Being "called" or talking about our "calling" is something we hear about a lot as disciples of The Way. And the word call is important. But, we are not called to save the world, solve all problems, and help all people. We each have our own unique call, in our families, in our work, in our world. We have to keep asking God to help us see clearly what our call is and to give us the strength to live out that call with trust.



Weekly Devotion for August 28, 2023

By Scott Carlson

Called

When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' and Moses said, 'Here I am.' Exodus 3:5).

Have you ever wondered who was going to solve a problem that was so obvious to you? I think when we see a problem before us, a challenge before us, and we feel a burning that this challenge has to be addressed, somehow! I believe this is the seed that God uses to tap us on the shoulder. This tap is the calling that God gives to us.

What are the passions and desires you have? How are you living that out? How are you responding to God's call in your life?

Moses heard God's call to lead the people out of Egypt, out of slavery. He heard the call. But he had his doubts and his fears. Do you know what that is like?

(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)

There was once a church in a changing neighborhood, that was getting older. They really weren't reaching people from the neighborhood anymore. For a while, the pastor was speaking about the importance of inviting new people to experience the love of God through the love of that congregation. Finally, one weekend, Ruth felt challenged and touched to invite someone new, someone younger to the church. But she didn't know how to do it. And she was afraid.

She started praying about who God wanted her to invite. She would sit on her front porch looking around the neighborhood and praying. One day, she focused on the teenagers who gathered on the street almost every afternoon with their skateboards in front of her house.

She at first thought, "Oh God, no. I don't even know how to speak to these youth."

Then an idea came to her. She loved to bake. So the next afternoon, she baked some cookies. She took the cookies to the youth that had gathered and asked if they would like some.

Well, they quickly ate the cookies, thanking her for the treats. Soon, she was regularly baking cookies and treats and sharing them with these teens. And the most remarkable thing started to happen. She started to get to know these youth. She discovered that some of them weren't doing well in school.

She went to her pastor, and they actually opened up a room in the church where anyone who wanted could come, with the help of a mentor, and study (and receive some of Ruth's baked goods). In time, between 20 and 30 youth started gathering regularly at "Ruth's Place," which is what this new ministry was called.

Families even started to attend and join this church because of this outreach. All because one person chose to pray and listen and put her talents and passions into play for God and God's kingdom. God called Ruth. God called Moses. God has called me. God has called you. Are you willing to say yes to God?



Worship for September - The Journey Begins

“The journey begins” is a time of celebration and of hopefulness. Here in the late summer and beginning of fall, when some things are winding down and other things are starting up, it is time for us to remember who we are and to whom we pledge our ultimate allegiance. Let’s go back to our first love and embrace our God with passion and with joy.

SEPTEMBER 3RD- Communion Sunday

“Who Am I?”

Ex 3:1-15; Matt 16:21-28

Knowing God and making a declaration of faith is an important part of the journey of faith. But then what usually follows an encounter with God is an acute and often painful awareness of self. Moses, following his father-in-law’s sheep in the wilderness, far away from a shady past, stumbles across a God who calls him to a mission of liberation. Who are you, so that I can answer when they ask who sent me.” But alongside that question is a realization that he does not measure up to this ideal or to this calling. “Who am I,” Moses asks again and again in an attempt to crawl out from under this call. Our awareness of self is an important element of the journey. But like our understanding of who God is, our understanding of ourselves changes and grows with time.

SEPTEMBER 10TH- Kick-Off Sunday- Blessing of the Backpacks- Ice Cream Sundae Bar

“What Is the Sign?”

Ex 12:1-14; Matthew 18:15-20

As we launch or continue our journey of faith, are we called to look for signs of God’s presence or are we called to be a sign of God’s presence? The answer, as you might expect, is yes! We are the ones who are trying to be tuned into God’s wavelength, listening to God’s broadcast. Therefore, we look for the signs that God is at work in and around us always. One of the things we do when we gather for worship and for fellowship is to celebrate those signs and share them with one another. But we can also avoid the tendency to look inward only to see God at work. We might be surprised by where and from whom we encounter God’s presence when we open our eyes to what is around us. It is a reminder that we don’t have an exclusive hold on the grace and love of God.



SEPTEMBER 17TH

“How Many Times?”

Ex 14:19-31; Matt 18:21-35

“How many times must we forgive?” This is one of those questions that we know how we’re supposed to answer, but it is harder to do in practice than in theory. When we gather for worship and hear the story from Matthew where Jesus tells Peter that we forgive 77 times, or 70 times 7, or in fact, we just keep forgiving, we smile and nod and clap our hands. “Of course,” we think, “we worship a forgiving God, and we know we need God’s forgiveness over and over again.” But then we realize that this means we also must be forgiving of those who offend us, again and again, perhaps. And then we wonder if that’s even possible.

SEPTEMBER 24TH – “For the Long Haul” Series Begins- All Church Potluck

“The Burden of the Day”

Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

God provides. It seems clear that this is one of the messages from our texts this week. But it would also be clear that God provides for our needs in unusual and sometimes confusing ways. Whether it is manna and quail in the desert or a surprisingly generous but perhaps somewhat unfair payment for labor, God provides in ways that give us pause and, hopefully, make us think.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



- ❖ **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School Begins September 10th. We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks and Ice Cream Sundae bar during Fellowship.
- ❖ **CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation begins Saturday, September 16th at 9:30am. Kids in 5-8th grades are eligible. For more information contact Pastor Jen.

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

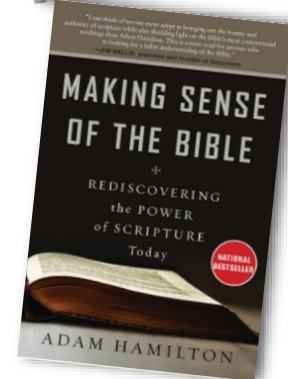
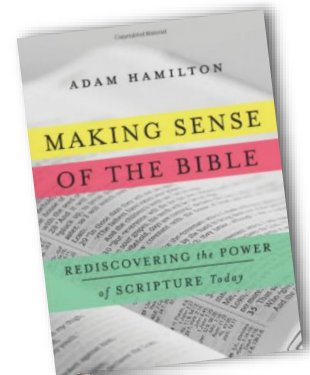
In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as: How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? And, is the Bible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





In-Person Worship
9:00am
Sunday Mornings

Online Worship Options



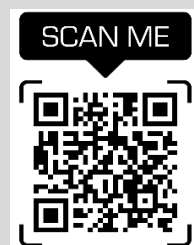
- ❖ Link to the Church Facebook Page for ONLINE WORSHIP (Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services)
<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771>
- ❖ Zoom Link Option for ONLINE WORSHIP
<https://zoom.us/j/94890292077?pwd=ekxnanU5THc2eEdLK1ZpRIIKYUZ4QT09>
Meeting ID: 948 9029 2077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

- Sept 5 1:30pm Nurture
- Sept 5 5:00pm Faith Formation
- Sept 18 6:30pm Ad Board
- Sept 19 6:30pm Trustees

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

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

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279



Rehearsals:

7:00pm Tues, Sept 12

7:00pm Tues, Sept 19

Sing in Worship:

Sunday, Sept 10

Sunday, Sept 17

Sunday - September 10th



Sunday, September 24th
following Worship



Faith & Froth

Sept 21st
at 6:30pm

It's time to bring our questions together again for an evening of trying to sort out some of the hazy places in our faith and scriptures.

Thursday, September 21, at 6:30pm, a distinguished (defined as "available") panel of experts will take your questions in the Prague Room of the Lazy Monk Brew Pub.



**Service Celebrating the
Appointment of
North West District
Superintendent, Rev.
PyungAhn "Peace" Kim**

Saturday, Sept 16 at 10:00am

at First United Methodist Church in Barron

The North West District Committee on Superintendency cordially invites you to a time of worship and a reception celebrating the appointment of Pastor Peace Kim as our new District Superintendent. Please join us on Saturday, September 16th at the First United Methodist Church, located at 154 Memorial Drive in Barron. Worship will begin at 10:00am, with a reception and luncheon to follow.



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.

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.

Volunteers needed



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>

Women of
HOPE

Women of Hope will meet at Sweet Driver at 9:00am on Saturday, Sept 16th. Please sign up on the clipboard in the hall, outside the sanctuary.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be September 25th at 1:00pm. Please contact Cindy Hanson (715-878-4941) with questions.



PUZZLE EXCHANGE UPDATE

We will be gleaning the puzzles in the Fellowship Hall. If you have contributed a puzzle you want back, please remove it by Sept 23.

We hope to thin out the current puzzles and replenish with different puzzles.

If you have any questions, please contact Jan Lorentz.

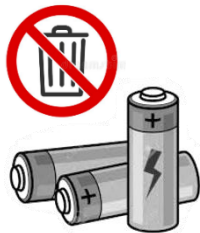


Feed My People
FOOD BANK

Our next serving date at Feed My People will be Thursday, Sept 7th at 1:00pm.

Please contact Cheryl Muller for more details.

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 - JULY 2023

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	\$13,853	\$79,872
Expenses	\$9,662	\$77,022
	\$4,191	\$2,850

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

<i>Conference Assigned</i>	<i>We Have Paid</i>
<i>Amount for 2023:</i>	<i>As Of 7-31-23:</i>
\$16,493.00	\$7,960.00

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



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.

MBSR (MINDFULNESS BASED STRESS REDUCTION) IS BACK IN THE CHIPPEWA VALLEY. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LIFE WITH GREAT EASE, JOY AND CONNECTION

Register before Sept. 1st to save your spot for this 8-week MBSR class. MBSR has been shown to be as effective as medication for moderate anxiety in recent studies

A free Orientation will be offered on 9/7/23 at 5:15pm with classes beginning . The orientation is mandated if you plan to attend class.

Contact Annie Allen at 715-896-0610 or at **Mindful Today** group on FB for more information and to reserve your spot in this amazing class. Annie has been teaching Mindfulness for 15 years and is a qualified MBSR teacher. She is a LMFT and has worked as a psychotherapist for 23 years.

Scholarships available upon review.

September 2023		Hope United Methodist Church				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27-Aug	Aug-23	Aug-23	Aug-23	Aug 31	1	2
9:00am WORSHIP	LABOR DAY	1:30pm Nurture 5:00pm Faith Formation 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	6:00pm - Book Study "Making Sense"	Feed My People Time TBD 4:30-8:30pm (FH + K) Mindfulness	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00am WORSHIP CHOIR & Sun School Backpack Blessing & Ice Cream Fellowship Clegghorn Harvest Fest	6:30pm Ad Board	5:30pm Zumba (FH) 7:00pm CHOIR	6:00pm - Book Study "Making Sense"	4:30-8:30pm (FH + K) Mindfulness	9:00am Women of Hope 9:30am CONFIRMATION at Hope	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00am WORSHIP CHOIR Food Pantry Sunday	6:30pm Ad Board	5:30pm Zumba (FH) 6:30pm Trustees 7:00pm CHOIR	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00pm - Book Study "Making Sense"	6:30pm Faith & Froth 4:30-8:30pm (FH + K) Mindfulness		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00am WORSHIP All Church Potluck	1:00pm Women's Bible Study	5:30pm Zumba (FH)	6:00pm - Book Study "Making Sense"	4:30-8:30pm (FH + K) Mindfulness		

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				
	Sept 3	Sept 10	Sept 17	Sept 24	Oct 1
Greeters	Joey Bohl	Linda Larson	Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett	Judy Ganong	Ruth & Ray Nyland
Online Greeter					
Scripture Reader	Ryan Stepp	Joey Bohl	Linda Norton	Joey Bohl	Sharon Fortune
Children's Message		Pastor Jen			
Prayers of the People	Jan Lorentz	Becky Gochanour	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	Becky Gochanour
Audio Visual		Alberto Larabee		Cindy 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.