



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. 11

November 2023

Years ago, while serving at another church, I had the extreme pleasure to lead the whole congregation, including a confirmation group visiting from a different denomination, in the Hokey Pokey.

Yes, during worship.

It was a beautiful thing that stemmed from the age old philosophical question, "What if the Hokey Pokey is what it's all about?"

Seriously. Think about it.

Alright, maybe the Hokey Pokey doesn't pose the searing philosophical question I made it out to be. But hopefully you now have a smile on your face, or maybe you even laughed out loud at the absurdity of the question. But if you think about a group of kids singing and dancing to the Hokey Pokey, it really makes a great metaphor for focusing on what matters most:

You put your whole self in. You put your whole self out. You put your whole self in and you shake it all about. You do the Hokey Pokey and you turn yourself around. That's what it's all about!

The Hokey Pokey asks us to put our hands, feet, head and eventually our whole selves in because, as the song goes, that's what it's all about. God's call is all about that as well: inviting us to live generously, joyfully, even sacrificially, for sharing hope and building beloved community.

When we live as God intended us to, we'll use our hands to reach out and invite new people and to engage in life changing service. We'll use our feet to cross barriers and step out to the margins. We'll use our heads and hearts to transform our relationships with God and our neighbors. And we'll find ways to offer our whole selves for growing in our love of God and the world.

But here's what putting our whole selves into serving God doesn't mean.

It doesn't mean serving on every single committee until the end of time...unless it brings you JOY. It doesn't mean running around like crazy until we're so burned out on church we can't stand the thought of driving past it let alone going inside the building. It doesn't mean we stand on the corner

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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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downtown or in the grocery store aisles proclaiming the GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT YOU HEATHENS WHO NEVER SHOW UP ON SUNDAYS!!!

It does mean we “sit at the feet of Jesus” and listen. We open up our hearts- really open them up, so that our eyes might really be opened up and our minds really opened up. And we come with a willingness to be moved and changed and transformed.

Sounds like a Bible story we all love and ...dislike...

Yes, dislike. Because let's face it- we are all Martha's and we feel guilty about it. We hear this text read in church and we cringe because we're busier than we'd like to be and we're being called out by Jesus.

But are we?

There's a reason this story is a story about Mary *and* Martha. Because we all need to be both. If all we every did was recline at Jesus' feet and listen nothing would ever get done. The hungry would all stay hungry, the stranger would never be welcomed and the Good News would never be shared in the most important and tangible ways.

But if we never take time out to recline and soak in the grace of Jesus Christ then we're missing out on the very thing that will make us *want to...really want to* serve Christ by serving each other.

And here's the thing- it takes all the hands, all the feet, all the heads, all the hearts and full bodies to make it work. I can't do it all without you - and neither can Jesus.

So put your dancing shoes on, friends, and let's offer our whole selves to what God is doing in our lives. After all, that really is what it's all about!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Jen

Advent Season



Advent (for us) will begin on Sunday, November 26th. The liturgical calendar has Advent beginning on December 3rd, but that makes Advent 4 and Christmas Eve the same Sunday. And it feels like Christmas Eve deserves its own day. So, the decision was made to move the first week of Advent up one Sunday to keep the season less stressful and more purposeful.

Because Advent can be filled with worry about many things including finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried — often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is “the Holy Living One is with you.” Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

There will be an Advent devotional available as well as a weekly at home liturgy for you to use for candle lighting or simply praying. And together we ask, Christ Jesus, the Greatest Gift of All, that in the coming weeks, help us savor our journey toward the celebration of Christmas.

Our worship in November gives us a taste of many things: remembrance, gratitude, and the beginning of the season of waiting- beginning with HOPE. In all of these themes we can hear feel ourselves wanting to be known and wanting to know the God who came so close that He came to live among us. "The Holy Living One is with you." Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close.

♦ **November 5th - All Saints Sunday / "From Every Tribe" / Revelation 7:1-17**

All Saints Sunday is a glorious celebration of the body of Christ in our local context. There is no church like ours, no collection of gifts and graces, no accumulation of wisdom and experience, no place of joy and sorrow exactly like our congregation. This is a time to celebrate who we are in Christ.

♦ **November 12th - Veteran's Day / "Enter the Gates" / Psalm 100**

What does a life of gratitude look like? Or perhaps more importantly, what does it feel like? When we invite others to join us as we are being made into disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we are looking to live a life of service and joy.

♦ **November 19th / "In Everything" / "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice!"** Gratitude and joy are woven together and sometimes it is hard to tell one from the other. But it does reveal that our consideration of a life of gratitude should be exuberant, marked by the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

♦ **November 26th -Advent 1 / "Hope"**

Ecumenical
Inclusive
Ministry
Church



IM Church runs once a month all year long. The worship site is Lake Street, but each month, volunteers from various churches take turns caring for the Fellowship, Worship and Education for IM church Sunday. November is Hope's opportunity to lead!

Volunteers are needed for table leaders and kitchen help. We meet at Lake Street around 2:30 and are done by about 4:30. It is a wonderfully soul enriching opportunity. If you are interested in helping out or would like more information, please contact Pastor Jen or Lynne Larabee.

You're Invited to our
Honoring
VETERANS
Church Service


Nov 12, 10:30am


Pleasant Valley UMC
512166 Hillview Rd Eleva, WI
54738

 @allinallgodstove



In-Person Worship
9:00am
Sunday Mornings

Online Worship Options



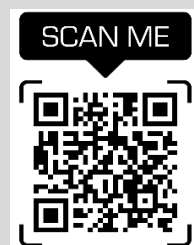
- ❖ Link to the Church Facebook Page for ONLINE WORSHIP (Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services)
<https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771>
- ❖ Zoom Link Option for ONLINE WORSHIP
<https://zoom.us/j/94890292077?pwd=ekxnanU5THc2eEdLK1ZpRIIKYUZ4QT09>
Meeting ID: 948 9029 2077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

- Nov 6 1:30pm Nurture (FH)
- Nov 9 6:00pm Trustees
- Nov 13 5:00pm Faith Formation (MR)
- Nov 20 6:00pm Ad Board

Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

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

Meeting ID: 941 9785 3095 / Passcode: 078279



Rehearsals:

7:00pm Tues, Nov 7
7:00pm Tues, Nov 14

Sing for Worship:

Sunday, Nov 12
Sunday, Nov 19
Sunday, Dec 24



**FOOD PANTRY
SUNDAY**
Third Sunday
of the Month
NOVEMBER 19TH



FALL BACK
November 5th
Turn your clocks
back one hour for
Daylight Savings.



Active Threat Training
Wed, November 15
at 6:00pm

Lieutenant Chris Kirchman, a police officer with the UW-Eau Claire Police Department for 31 years, will present general safety tips and how to prepare yourself to respond in an active threat event.



Mark Your calendars!
2023 Annual Charge Conference
5:00pm Tues, Dec 5th

Reminder: A special Member Vote
will take place on Sunday,
November 12th following worship.
(See page 5 for more details)



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

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."- Matthew 25: 31-40

Let us remember Hope's history as a church plant that received much support from our United Methodist Connection. This is our chance to help another congregation looking to reach people with the Good News.

FAQ's regarding the relocation of River of Life Hispanic Ministry from Lake Street to Hope UMC, and the special member vote on Sunday, November 12th following worship.

Why the relocation?

Rios de Agua Viva, River of Life, Hispanic Ministry was originally planted at Lake Street UMC a few years ago because the church had recently renovated a space for the WI Conference's use that the Conference was no longer using. However, demographic information (along with our own insight about our community) shows that there is a very large concentration of Hispanics living in very close proximity to Hope. Relocating from Lake Street to Hope will help River of Life reach more people.

Worship time?

Currently, River of Life worships at 1:00pm on Sundays. This would remain the same. Our ministries would likely never cross- unless we decide to intentionally do something together. They would follow the same "calendar" rules as anyone else using the building.

Will they pay rent?

No, they will not pay rent. If they do relocate, Hope's building will become their building. We are working on a covenant together to make sure as many "kinks" are worked out from the beginning. But as it is with anything, some issues will arise and we will work them out together.

Yes, in the near future, when they are established here, they will contribute to the cost of having the building open: utilities, cleaning, etc. They have already offered help with the upkeep of the building and grounds.

Who can vote?

Anyone who is a current member of Hope UMC may vote. Anyone may come to the meeting and have a voice. Any member unable to be here in person may vote through an absentee ballot. **Please make sure to mail it back to the church or return it to the office by November 12th.**

Any further questions or concerns should be brought directly to Pastor Jen.

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.

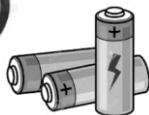


MAGAZINE EXCHANGE

Finished with a magazine, or want to read something new? Check out the magazine exchange rack in the library.

We would like to keep the available magazines fairly current, so please only bring in recent magazines dated within the last 3 months.

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.

Women of HOPE

Women of Hope will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:00am on Saturday, November 18th to decorate Christmas cookies.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our next gathering will be November 27th at 1:00pm. Please contact Linda Larson with questions.



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.

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Contributions	\$8,981	\$97,320
Expenses	\$8,830	\$94,908
	\$151	\$2,412

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

<i>Conference Assigned</i>	<i>We Have Paid</i>
<i>Amount for 2023:</i>	<i>As Of 9-30-23:</i>
\$16,493.00	\$10,040.00



Hope welcomes JONAH to their new office space in Hope's Ministry Room.

The Ad Council approved of the agreement brought forth by the Trustees at the August council meeting. The door to the Ministry Room will be left unlocked and the room can still be used by Hope members when not in use by JONAH.

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





DEAD HORSES



In Concert

Fundraiser for JONAH



Saturday, November 11, 2023

7pm @Trinity Lutheran Church

\$30, Tickets at: <https://bit.ly/439xhfE>



*Sponsors: WHYS Radio, Wonders of Nature,
Tangled Up in Hue, Earthbound Environmental,
Susan Wolfgram and Mike Steuer*

More info at: www.jonahjustice.org and www.deadhorses.net

November 2023

Hope United Methodist Church						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29-Oct	30-Oct	Oct 31	1	2	3	4
			5:30pm @ P. Valley Book Study "Chasing Francis"			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am WORSHIP ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Daylight Savings	1:30pm Nurture (FH)	7:00pm CHOIR	5:30pm @ P. Valley Book Study "Chasing Francis"	4:30-8:30pm (FH + K) Mindfulness 6:00pm Trustees		VETERANS DAY
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am WORSHIP CHOIR MEMBER VOTE following worship	5:00pm(MR) Formation Formation 5:30-9:00pm (FH) JONAH Board Mtg.	7:00pm CHOIR	6:00pm Active Threat Training	4:30-8:30pm (FH + K) Mindfulness		9:00am Women of Hope Decorate Cookies (FH)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00am WORSHIP Food Pantry Sunday CHOIR	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:00pm Ad Board			THANKSGIVING		
26	27	28	29	30	1-Dec	2-Dec
9:00am WORSHIP ADVENT - Week 1	1:00pm Women's Bible Study			5-7pm COOKIE WALK SET-UP Fellowship Hall		

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				
	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26	Dec 3
Greeters	Connie Jacobsen	Joey Bohl	Linda Larson	Kay Lee & Elsie Bartlett	Connie Jacobsen
Online Greeter	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen
Scripture Reader	Sharon Fortune	Joey Bohl	Ryan Stepp	Linda Norton	Ryan Stepp
Children's Message		Cheryl Muller			
Prayers of the People	Becky Gochanour	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	Sharon Fortune	Jan Lorentz
Audio Visual	Renee Marino	Cindy Peterson	Alberto Larabee	Renee Marino	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.