



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 32, No.4

April 2025

Before anything breaks through-
before there's light,
before there's growth,
before there's change-
there are roots.

And roots go deep.

They stretch through hard soil.
They reach for living water.
They anchor what's coming next.

Resurrection doesn't begin at the stone
rolled away.

It begins in the unseen places-
the prayers whispered in faith,
the trust planted in dry seasons,
the holy hunger for more.

Roots show up all around us.
The roots of trees that hold strong in the
storm.
The roots of our hair we try to color or
cover up.
The roots of family, story, culture-where
we come from.
The roots of justice and hope, growing
beneath what looks dead.
And the roots of faith, quietly doing their
work when nothing seems to be
happening.



At Hope, we are already praying bold
prayers.

We are already asking God to break
through.

But here's the truth:

Breakthrough doesn't just happen
around us.

It happens in us.

So here's the invitation:

What if you believed-truly believed-
that resurrection power is not just a
promise for the past,
but a real possibility for you?

(Pastor Jen's Message - Continued on Page 2)



ONLINE WORSHIP available on our Facebook Page

Sundays at 9:00am & Special Services

https://www.facebook.com/Hope-United-Methodist-Church-116517175038771_10

SCAN
for more
info and
LINKS



(Pastor Jen's Message - Continued from Page 1)

For your family?
For this church?
For our city?
This season, we're going deep.
We're claiming resurrection not just as a holiday,
but as a movement.
Not just a celebration,
but a way of seeing the world—
full of God's yes, God's power, God's more.

Dig in. Stay rooted. Pray boldly. Believe wildly.

Because when we're rooted in resurrection,
the impossible doesn't stay buried for long.

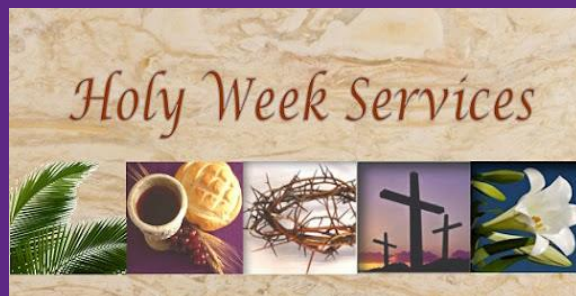
Growing in faith together-

Pastor Jen

Join us for our Easter season series: Rooted in Resurrection

Each Sunday, we'll explore what's possible when
we dare to believe in more—more life, more hope, more God.

Bring a friend. Show up expectant. Let's grow together.



April 13th Palm Sunday
9:00am at Hope UMC

April 17th Maundy Thursday
(with Communion)
6:00pm at Pleasant Valley

April 18th Good Friday Services
◆ 12:00pm (noon) Ecumenical
Service at First Congregational
◆ 6:00pm at Lake Street UMC

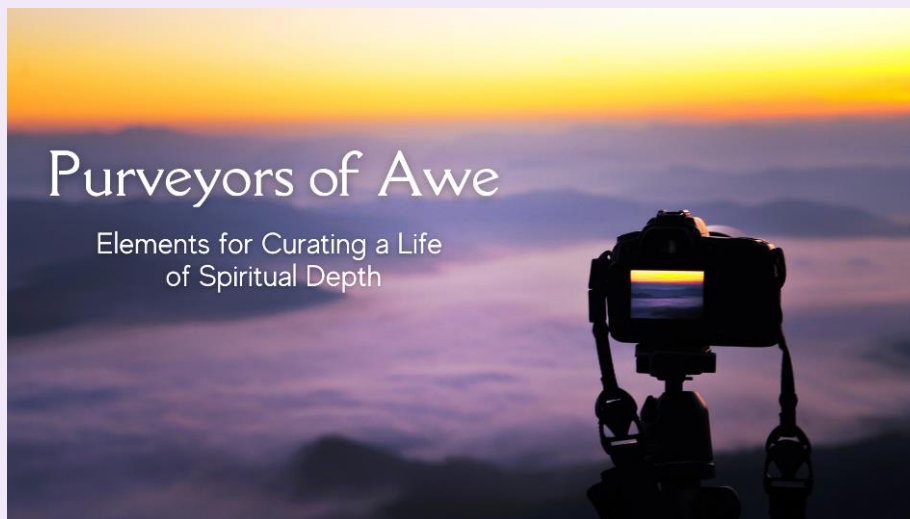
April 20th Easter Sunday
9:00am at Hope UMC

Stay Updated & Connected

We have a couple regular email distribution lists. Please let Kristen know if you would like to be included on any of the following lists, if you aren't already, or if you need to update the email address you prefer to receive these emails at. You can also be removed from any email distribution list. Just reach out.

- 1) **Weekly Email List:** This distribution list is mainly used on a weekly basis for the Saturday morning "Worship & News" email with updates for Sunday worship and announcements for the week. It is also used occasionally when there is a big announcement to be shared, a special gathering coming up, or a prayer request for the full congregation.
- 2) **Monthly Newsletter List:** Even though our newsletter is always available online at our website, or through the link in the weekly email, we do send out a monthly email specific to the newsletter.
- 3) **Prayer Chain List:** This is a smaller group of people who have chosen to be part of a prayer team. These emails are not scheduled, but rather are sent out when a prayer request comes in.





April 6th (5th Sunday of Lent and Holy Communion)

"Connection"

Psalm 149

Awe is a gateway to connection. As we have experiences that give us a sense of being part of something larger than "just us," our penchant for self-preservation and obsession with the competitive default-self gives way to a renewed commitment to the greater whole. We need moments of "collective effervescence" that increase hope and joy at being part of the human family.

April 13th (Palm Sunday)

"Self-giving"

Psalm 118, Luke 19:28-40

A sense of awe can include witnessing acts of "moral beauty." Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was such an act as he continued his ministry of lifting up the cause of the lowly and advocating for the power of peace and justice. Research shows that when we witness with awe others' kindness, courage, strength, and overcoming, we are more likely to feel inspired to give ourselves in service of the good. We become more self-giving, more ready to lend a helping hand or commit energy to making the world a better place.

Holy Week

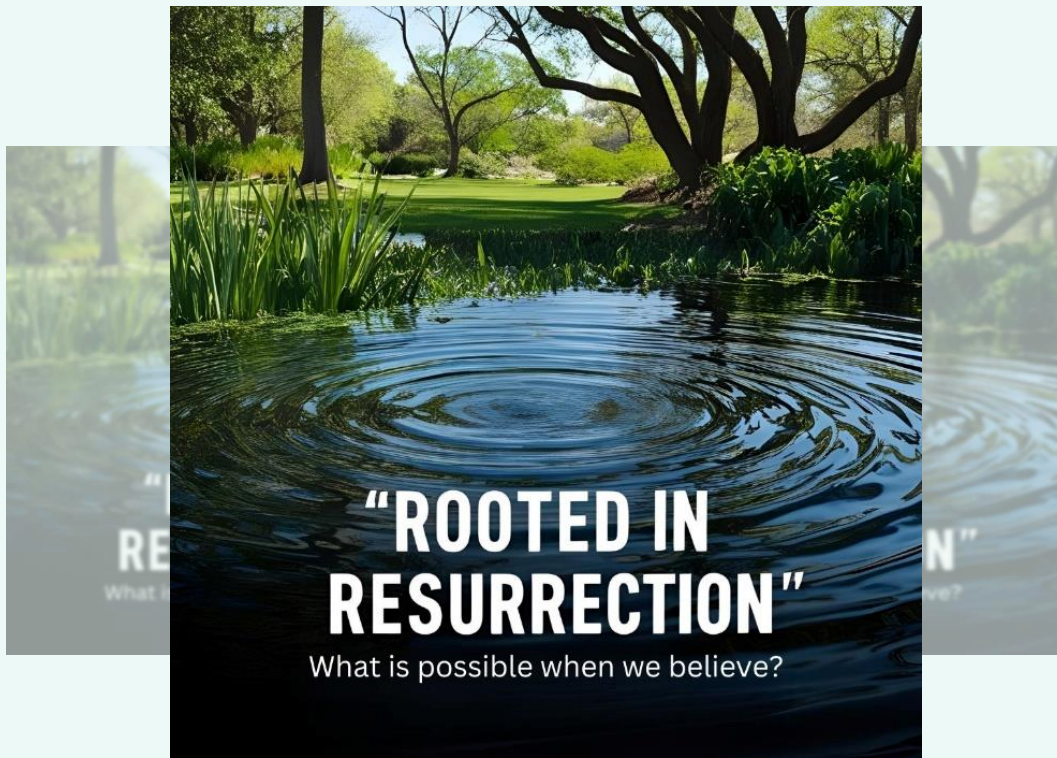
April 17th Maundy Thursday (6pm, Pleasant Valley- with Holy Communion)

"Scenes Along the Way"

Holy Week is full of the most awesome and awful moments of our faith narrative. It is a story that mirrors the vast range of human pathos and can teach us much about moving through life—and death. Many persons who report near-death experiences reveal elements of awe such as a connection to all things, bliss, compassion, and a sense of deep peace. What if we cultivated these right now as holy intentions for our lives—way before we reach the moment of death? We gather to eat, pray, and wait for the light.

April 18th Good Friday (6pm, Lake Street UMC)

"Stripped Away: A Service of Emptying and Surrender"



Easter isn't just one Sunday-it's a season. And resurrection isn't just something to believe in-it's something to live. We begin a new worship series called **Rooted in Resurrection**. Each week, we'll explore what it means to not just believe *in* Jesus, but to grow *into* the life he offers. This is a call to action. The world is aching for embodied hope, for justice that feeds, for water that renews, for roots that hold strong in uncertain times. This isn't a time to sit back. It's time to live what we say we believe. Come ready to move. Come ready to be changed. Come be *rooted in resurrection*.

April 20th Easter Sunday

It is Easter; let there be light! Let there be color and music and joy. In everything, let there be joy as we worship this day.

April 27th

"Embodied Believing"

Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Belief is not just what we think, it's how we live-what we do with our hands, where we go with our feet, how we show up in the world. Like Thomas, we come to believe when we touch, feel, and experience Christ in the body.

ONLINE GIVING is NOW AVAILABLE!



Scan the QR Code, then scroll down to the GIVE NOW option to set up or modify online giving. You can even download Hope's Church Connect Page as a "web app" to your phone or mobile device to make it easier to access. (For tips on setting this up on your phone visit: <https://www.churchtrac.com/support/connect/install-church-connect-app>) This is a great way to stay connected with Hope UMC!

Why use online giving?

- Convenient & Secure
- Allows you to view your contribution history (regardless of how you made the contribution)

How does online giving work?

You can either set up your contributions through secure ACH (bank account) or with a credit card, whichever is more convenient for you.

Are there fees?

You will not be charged any fees and will receive credit for your full contribution. The church will be assessed processing fees. You will have the option to make a donation to help offset these fees, but it is not required.

- ACH (US ONLY): \$0.25 flat rate per transaction
If the contributor chooses to use instant verification, there is a one-time \$1.50 fee for each bank account that a donor connects. After this initial fee, ACH transactions have a flat rate of \$0.25/transaction.
- Credit Card Processing Fees: 2.2% + \$.30 per transaction (3.5% for Amex)

GIVING OPTIONS



OFFERING PLATE on Sunday morning



US MAIL: Hope United Methodist Church
2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701



ONLINE GIVING – Now Available

Scan the QR Code, then scroll down to the GIVE NOW option to set up or modify online giving.

You can even download Hope's Church Connect Page as a "web app" to your phone or mobile device to make it easier to access.



ELECTRONIC GIVING:

1. You can set up automatic electronic payments through your individual financial institution. For example, RCU has a Bill Pay option where you can designate the church as a payee and decide how often you'd like them to mail a paper check to the church or make an electronic payment to the church.
2. We will be phasing out our current ACH Electronic Giving option with Vanco and transitioning to the new Online Giving option through ChurchTrac, our church management software. If you are currently using the VANCO system, there is no need to make any changes if you'd like to continue using this form of payment, but we will not be creating any new accounts.

Still have questions? Please contact Kristen in the office:
Phone: **715-835-5310** (leave a message) / Email: **hopeumcec@yahoo.com**

UPCOMING EVENTS



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- April 7 1:00pm Nurture (FH)
 6:00pm Trustees
- April 22 6:00pm Ad Board

NEW UPDATED Committee Meetings

ZOOM Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3994452832?pwd=zQLjteVM7017VFggxPRg4g5wPwmd1p.1&omn=97039744985>

Choir

Sing for Worship:
Rehearsals 7:00pm: Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday)
 Tues April 8 Sunday, April 20 (Easter)
 Tues April 15 Sunday, May 4
 Tues April 29 Sunday, May 11

Pop-Up Food Pantry

10:00am - 11:00am
 Saturday, April 26
 Saturday, May 31



The Gathering Table: A Dinner Church for Real Life

The world is changing—has our faith kept up? Every day, we make countless choices—about money, work, family, relationships, politics, and an uncertain future. In the middle of it all, how are we truly listening to Jesus?

At *The Gathering Table*, we're setting aside the formality and getting real. Over a simple meal, we'll have honest conversations about what Jesus' words mean for us today—and how they can actually transform our lives. No sermons. No pressure. Just a space to connect, ask big questions, and wrestle with faith in the middle of real life.

This is for everyone—whether you're a lifelong churchgoer or just curious. Bring your doubts, your hopes, and your appetite.



Three Wednesdays in Lent: March 12, March 26, and April 9



6:00-7:00 PM



Hope Church

You don't have to RSVP—just come hungry for food and conversation. Pull up a chair. There's a place for you at *The Gathering Table*.



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

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

New AED at Hope!

The AED was purchased with money from Memorial Funds. It is located at the main entrance on the wall.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came to cook & serve at Community Table

recently! It was an awesome gift to so many! Watch for upcoming serving dates so you can be part of this wonderful opportunity to help serve our neighbors.

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

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 2025

| | MTD | YTD |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| Contributions | \$9,881 | \$18,274 |
| Expenses | \$10,822 | \$24,086 |
| | (\$940) | (\$5,812) |

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Conference Assigned</i> | <i>We Have Paid</i> |
| <i>Amount for 2025:</i> | <i>As Of 2-28-25:</i> |
| \$16,980.00 | \$2,557.00 |

Hope UMC Photo Board Update

A team of us have taken on the task of updating our Hope UMC Church Family photo boards, and we need your help! Please email



whatever family photo you have that you would like to share on our photo boards to Cindy Peterson at cindynay916@gmail.com no later than Palm Sunday, April 13.

The mission of this project is to help put faces to the names of the wonderful people (members and nonmembers) who fill our chairs on Sunday mornings or contribute in any other way to Hope UMC. Please share whatever photo of your family you would like displayed and include the names of each individual in the picture.

Memorial Photos Also Welcomed We are also maintaining and polishing up our memorial photo board, so if you would like to contribute a photo of anyone from our church family who has passed on to the Kingdom of Heaven, please feel encouraged to do so. Again, just include the name of the person or people in the photo.

Amateur Photo Shoots Scheduled If you do not have a current family photo to share, and instead prefer to have a basic (read: not professional) picture taken at the church, we will be offering two dates to accomplish this. We just ask that you sign up for one of these days by either emailing Cindy or by using the sign up sheet near the current photo boards. These mini photo shoots will take place after the worship services on Sunday, April 6 and Palm Sunday, April 13.

Deadline Reminder As noted above we are setting a deadline for photo submission of Sunday, April 13 (aka Palm Sunday) so that we can work to get the photo boards up and ready to celebrate on Easter Sunday. If you have any questions about this project, feel free to email Cindy at cindynay916@gmail.com or call or text her at 715-205-2901.

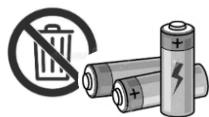
There are many opportunities to share your gifts and talents:

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

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



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.



Our next gathering will be April 28th at 1:00pm. Please contact Linda Larson with questions.

Women of HOPE **WOMEN OF HOPE**

Due to Easter, Women of Hope will not be meeting in April.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

Nurture Committee will be packing May Day Bags for Beacon House on Sunday, April 27th following coffee fellowship.



UPCOMING FOOD PANTRY SUNDAYS:

APRIL 6
MAY 4
JUNE 1

GIFT CARD COLLECTION to fill the FOOD PANTRY



To be more flexible and responsive to the needs of those using our Little Food Pantry, we are adding another option for contributions.

You can now bring in grocery gift cards from any area grocery store (any amount) instead of actual food items. Our team will use these gift cards to purchase needed items. This allows them to purchase during sales and better monitor when certain items/needs are in higher demand.

So, next time you are purchasing your groceries, throw in a gift card for the food pantry. It's that simple to make a difference! If you prefer, pantry items donations or monetary gifts can still be made.

NOTE: Gift Card donations will be treated like other "In-Kind or Donated Goods" contributions. You are giving an item to the church. If you would like this contribution to appear on your giving statement, you must fill out a REIMBURSEMENT/DONATION OF GOODS FORM (copies are in the office) and select the "Donation" box. Your gift will be recorded as Donated Goods /Gift Card on your giving statement, without a dollar amount. It is up to you to keep a copy of your receipt to record the value for tax purposes.

Come join the fun!

With United Methodists throughout our area as we spend an afternoon in mission and service!



Sunday, April 6

1:30-3:30 pm

Trinity UMC in Elk Mound, WI

We'll be joined by the missionary,
The Rev. Patricia Regina Moreira Marques,
a missionary with the United Methodist General Board of
Global Ministries who serves as a pastor of the Evangelical
Methodist Church of Portugal in the city
of Aguada de Cima Portugal.

In addition to hearing about her work internationally, we'll also
get to try our hand at a mission project we can do
locally: using plastic shopping bags to weave sleeping mats
for people who are homeless. The sleeping mats project will continue throughout
the summer, but April 6 will be a great opportunity to learn how it is done so we can
keep the progress going when the looms travel to each of our
churches in the months ahead.



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



Feb 18

BECOMING KIN
An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future
By Patty Krewac

Apr 15

A MORE PERFECT UNION
A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community
By Adam Russell Taylor

Jun 17

BECOMING ABOLITIONISTS
Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom
By Derecka Purnell

Aug 12

HOW WE SHOW UP
Reclaiming Family, Friendship, and Community
By Mia Birdsong

Oct 14

WE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM
Activism and the Struggle for Social Justice
By Alice P. Green

Dec 9

HOPE FOR CYNICS
The Surprising Science of Human Goodness
By Jamil Zaki

JONAH is proud to introduce our 2025 Book Club list, with all titles focusing on *hope.*

Come ready to discuss and get to know other JONAH members on the specified date at 6:15pm at Dotter's Books, 307 South Barstow in Eau Claire. Register [here](#).

FILM LINEUP

03 APRIL 2025

- ▶ Economic Justice ▶ Rural Immigration
- ▶ Christian Nationalism ▶ Indigenous Rights

UWEC
Hibbard 100

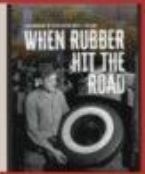
February
by Nathan Deming

8:30AM



When Rubber Hit the Road by B.J. Hollars & Steve Dayton

10:30AM



HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2233 Golf Rd

Series of short films:
Zoom and in-person!
1:00 PM

Las Chicas y Chicos de Blossom Street
on PBS Wisconsin

Breaking Silence
on PBS Wisconsin

Everything Wrong and Nowhere to Go
on PBS Wisconsin

Walk About Talk About
by SoulShine Creative Studios

Black Space by VOA Connect



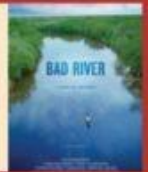
Bad Faith
by Stephen Ujlaki & Christopher Jacob Jones

4:00 PM



Bad River
by Mary Mazzio

6:30PM



04 APRIL 2025

- ▶ Environment ▶ WI Teen Homelessness
- ▶ Hmong Community ▶ Difficult Conversations

L.E. PHILLIPS MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
Riverview Room

The Power of Us
on PBS Wisconsin

9:30AM



The Hidden Homeless
by PBS Wisconsin

12:00PM



Being Hmong Means Being Free
by PBS Wisconsin

3:30PM



UNITY OF EAU CLAIRE
1808 Folsom St

Dialogue Lab: America by Brian Lawes & Jonathan Pickett

6:30PM



05 APRIL 2025

- ▶ Digital Media
- ▶ LGBTQ+ History

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1314 E Lexington Blvd

Screenagers
by Delaney Ruston

10:00AM



Wisconsin Pride
by PBS Wisconsin

1:00PM - Part One
3:00PM - Part Two



HOPE UMC LEADERSHIP - 2025

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <u>Administrative Council</u> | | | |
| | Renee Marino | | Chairperson of Ad Council |
| | Lynne Larabee | | Lay Leader and Chair of Finance Committee |
| | Sharon Fortune | | Lay Member to AC |
| | Judy Shuck | | Church Treasurer |
| | Cheryl Muller | | Chair of the SPRC |
| | Mike Larabee | | Chairperson of the Board of Trustees |
| | Sharon Fortune | | Chairperson of the Outreach Committee |
| | Judy Ganong & Connie Jacobsen | | Chairperson of Nurture Committee |
| | Jan Lorentz | | Chairperson of Faith Formation Committee |
| | Bill Zabel & Mark Hysell | | Members at-large |
| <u>Hope Staff-Parish Relations Committee</u> | Cheryl Muller (chair) | | Joey Bohl |
| | Cindy Peterson | Sharon Fortune | Becky Gochanour |
| <u>Finance Committee</u> | Lynn Larabee (chair) | Judy Shuck/treasurer | Joey Bohl/treasurer |
| | Doug Fortune | Bob Schwartz | |
| <u>The Board of Trustees (not to exceed nine persons)</u> | Renee Marino | | Dan Shuck |
| | LeeAnn Richards | Mike Larabee (Chair) | Rich Swanson |
| <u>Faith Formation Committee</u> | Jan Lorentz | Sandi Hysell | Ben Kittilstad (pianist) |
| | LeeAnn Richards | Jill Myers | Lacie Weatherholt |
| | Alberto Larabee | | |
| <u>Outreach Committee</u> | Sharon Fortune (Chair) | Linda Higgins | Joey Bohl |
| | Cheryl Muller - Feed My People | | Joanne Mellema |
| <u>Nurture Committee</u> | Connie Jacobsen (Co chair) | Judy Ganong (Co chair) | Jan Lorentz |
| | Kay Lee | Barb Rude | |
| <u>Care Team</u> | Judy Ganong | Jan Lorentz | Connie Jacobsen |
| <u>Committee On Lay Leadership (Nominations)</u> | Pastor (chair) | | Lynne Larabee (Lay Leader) |
| | Renee Marino | Rich Swanson | Dan Shuck |
| | Sharon Fortune | Jan Lorentz | |
| <u>Wills, Memorial and Gifts Committee</u> | | | Judy Ganong |
| | Joanne Mellema | | |
| <u>Website Development & Maintenance Team</u> | | Joey Bohl | Bob Schwartz |
| | Kristen Kirchman | | |
| <u>Funeral Serving and Kitchen Care Team</u> | Jan Lorentz(chair) | | Judy Ganong |
| | Kay Lee | Lois Nelson | Connie Jacobsen |
| | Dan Shuck | Judy Shuck | Linda Higgins |
| <u>Endowment Fund Committee of Directors</u> | | Lynne Larabee (Finance Chair) | |
| | Gary Gochanour | | Dan Shuck |
| | Rich Swanson | Pastor | Renee Marino |

Note: The Administrative Council is granted the authority, on behalf of the charge conference, to make any needed changes to our leadership between charge conferences.

April 2025

Hope United Methodist Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 30-Mar | Mar 31 | 1 ELECTION DAY Office Closed | 2 6:00pm Dinner Church @ Pleasant Valley | 3 1:00pm - Evening JONAH Film Fest (Sanctuary) | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:00am WORSHIP Communion Food Pantry Sunday | 7 1:00pm Nurture 6:00pm Trustees | 8 Pastor Jen at MCCI in Sun Prairie 5:30pm Zumba (FH) 7:00pm CHOIR | 9 6:00pm Dinner Church @ Hope MCCI Training after Dinner | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9:00am WORSHIP PALM SUNDAY CHOIR Sunday School | 14 | 15 5:30pm Zumba (FH) 7:00pm CHOIR | 16 | 17 6:00pm Maundy Thurs Service at Pleasant Valley | 18 Good Friday Services: Noon at 1st Congo 6:00pm at Lake Street | 19 |
| 20 9:00am WORSHIP EASTER SUNDAY CHOIR | 21 | 22 5:30pm Zumba (FH) 6:00pm Ad Board | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 10-11:00am Pop-Up Pantry |
| 27 9:00am WORSHIP Packing May Day Bags for Beacon House | 28 1:00pm Bible Study | 29 5:30pm Zumba (FH) 7:00pm CHOIR | 30 | 1-May | 2-May | 3-May |

| 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 | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| | April 6 | April 13 | April 20 | April 27 | May 4 |
| Greeters | Joey Bohl | Judy Ganong | Connie Jacobsen | Ruth & Ray Nyland | Joey Bohl |
| Online Greeter | Renee Marino | Connie Jacobsen | Renee Marino | Connie Jacobsen | Renee Marino |
| Scripture Reader | Joey Bohl | Gabby & Erich | Cindy Peterson | Linda Norton | Joey Bohl |
| Children's Message | n/a | Cheryl Muller | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Prayers of the People | Jan Lorentz | Pastor Jen | Sharon Fortune | Becky Gochanour | Jan Lorentz |
| Audio Visual | Alberto Larabee | Renee Marino Cindy Peterson | Alberto Larabee | Renee Marino Cindy Peterson | Alberto Larabee |

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

facebook

 Hope United Methodist Church

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.