



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.5

May 2025

Dear Hope Community,

This past month, the world said goodbye to a spiritual giant. Pope Francis, who led with humility, compassion, and a deep commitment to the margins, passed from this life into the mystery of resurrection. Whether or not we are Catholic, his witness spoke across boundaries. He reminded us that to follow Jesus is not just to believe something, but to live something.

In one of his most well-known quotes, Pope Francis said:

“You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That’s how prayer works.”

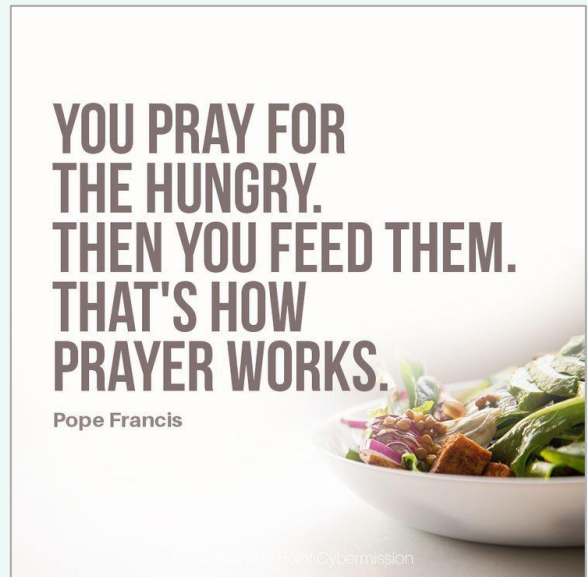
That’s also how belief works.

During this Easter season, we’re exploring what it means to be Rooted in Resurrection—to live in the hope that Jesus is still showing up, still transforming us, still calling us to love in bold, embodied ways. And that brings us to the story of Thomas.

Poor Thomas gets a bad reputation, “Doubting Thomas”, but really, he just wanted what everyone else had: an encounter with the Risen Christ. He needed to see and touch. And Jesus didn’t scold him. Jesus came close. Jesus showed up. That’s the heart of our faith. Not abstract ideas, but a God who enters into our questions, who meets us in our pain, who holds out scarred hands and says, “Peace be with you.”

Here’s the thing: belief isn’t just about thinking the right things. It’s about doing the right things, too. It’s feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, sitting with someone who’s grieving. It’s baking bread, planting gardens, offering second chances. That’s the kind of belief that changes the world.

(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)

At Hope UMC, we are striving to live that kind of belief-rooted in resurrection, bearing the fruit of hope. That's why we pray our Breakthrough Prayer. That's why we gather for worship, for Bible Studies, for May Day baskets and baptism Sundays and food pantry collections. Every time we say, "There is room at the table," or "We are refreshed and poured out," we are practicing a faith that is growing, sheltering, thriving.

Pope Francis once said, "God is not afraid. God is always greater than our plans." So let's keep planting seeds of love.

Let's keep asking questions and showing up for one another.

Let's believe-with our hands, our feet, our hearts.

Because resurrection isn't over.

And God's not finished yet.

With Resurrection Hope,

Pastor Jen



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.



ROOTED IN RESURRECTION – MAY 2025 WORSHIP THEMES

May 4, 2025 – Hospitality and Food Equity

Scripture: John 21:1–19

Jesus invites his disciples to breakfast after the resurrection, reminding us that love starts with welcome. This Sunday focuses on God’s hospitality, the justice of food equity, and the grace we receive in both baptism and the shared table. We celebrate a baptism as a sign of new life and welcome in God’s abundant family.

May 11, 2025 – Springs of Living Water

Scripture: John 4:1–15 (or Revelation 7:9–17)

Water is the sign of our renewal and the source of our life in Christ. We are not meant to hoard grace, but to be channels of living water for others. This week we reflect on how resurrection calls us to be refreshed—and to refresh the world through our compassion, justice, and joy.

May 18, 2025 – A New World

Scripture: Revelation 21:1–6

God is creating something new out of what already exists. Resurrection is not escape—it’s transformation. We are called to be co-creators of the new world God is building. This Sunday we imagine the world not as it is, but as it could be.

May 25, 2025 – The Tree of Life

Scripture: Revelation 22:1–5

Trees represent rootedness, growth, and the interconnectedness of all creation. In the resurrection life, we are nourished by God’s grace and invited to bear fruit for the healing of the world.

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.

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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

- May 5 1:00pm Nurture
5:30pm Trustees
- May 6 5:00pm Finance
- May 19 6:00pm Ad Board

NEW UPDATED Committee Meetings

ZOOM Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/3994452832?pwd=zQLjteVM7017VFggxPRg4q5wPwmd1p.1&omn=97039744985>

Choir

Rehearsals 7:00pm:

Tues April 29

Sing for Worship:

Sunday, May 4

Sunday, May 11

Pop-Up Food Pantry

10:00am - 11:00am

Saturday, May 31



SAVE THE DATE! HOPE UMC is hosting a BAKE SALE on Saturday, May 31st during the JONAH Thrift Sale.

- We will have a sign-up on clipboards for donations of items needed and volunteers to sell.
- More details to come.
- Please contact Renee Marino with any questions.



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

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



LAWN MOWING HELP NEEDED

Please sign up on our Sign-Up
Genius page at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A44AAA622A02-56431037-hope/41307228#/>

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 - MARCH 2025

	MTD	YTD
Contributions	\$13,263	\$31,536
Expenses	\$11,352	\$35,439
	\$1,910	(\$3,902)

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

Conference Assigned	We Have Paid
Amount for 2025:	As Of 3-31-25:
\$16,980.00	\$3,827.00



Pack & Pray for a Purpose Sunday, May 18 after Worship

Imagine being the hands of Christ in someone's darkest hour—when disaster strikes and everything is lost, *you* can be part of the healing.

For someone caught in a crisis—whether a flood, fire, or conflict—a simple bar of soap or a fresh washcloth isn't just hygiene. It's dignity. It's hope. It's knowing someone cares.

We're assembling UMCOR Hygiene Kits that go directly to communities facing disaster and displacement. These kits are small, but they meet real, urgent needs in the moment they're needed most.

We're packing after worship on **Sunday, May 18**, and every kit we prepare could be in someone's hands within days of a disaster. The need is real, and the time is now.

Action:

1. **Bring hygiene items** (toothbrushes, combs, soap, etc.—the list is provided below.
2. **Join us after worship** for a quick, meaningful mission moment: *Pack & Pray*
3. **Be part of a miracle in motion.**

Important Notes:

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.



UMCOR

Global Ministries | The United Methodist

Hygiene Kit

Value: \$12.00 per kit

Hygiene Kit Materials

- **One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)**
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **One washcloth**
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- **One comb**
 - Must be sturdy with at least 4-7 inches of teeth.
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 4-7 inches of teeth.
- **One toenail or fingernail clipper**
 - No emery boards or metal nail files
- **Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)**
 - No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - Do not remove from packaging.
- **One adult toothbrush**
 - Do not remove from packaging.
 - Personal advertising not acceptable
- **10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)**
 - Common household bandages acceptable
- **One one-gallon size re-sealable bag**
 - ***Do not add toothpaste when assembling kits**

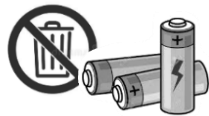
There are many opportunities to share your gifts and talents:

- 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.

**LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL
will be on
SUNDAY, MAY 11TH
Have a great Summer!**

Women of
HOPE

Women of Hope will not be meeting in May.



UPCOMING FOOD PANTRY SUNDAYS:

MAY 4
JUNE 1
JULY 6

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.

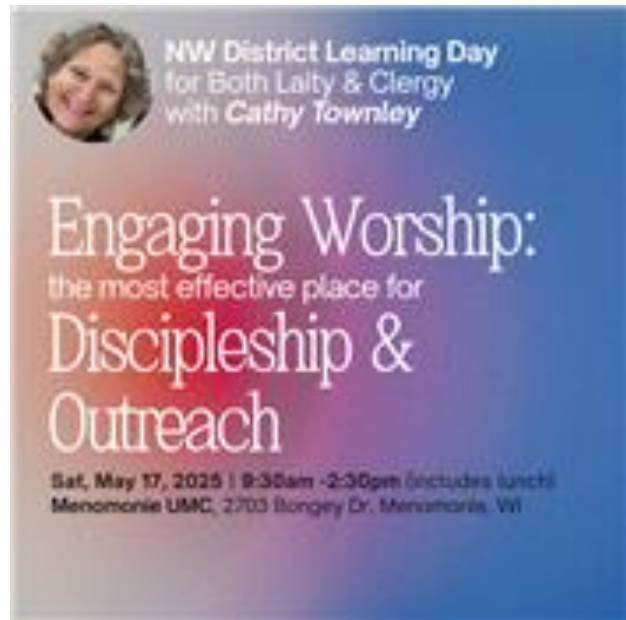
NOTE: Gift Card donations will be treated like other "In-Kind or Donated Goods" contributions. You are giving an item to the church. If you would like this contribution to appear on your giving statement, you must fill out a REIMBURSEMENT/DONATION OF GOODS FORM (copies are in the office) and select the "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.

North West District Learning Day: *Engaging Worship as a Tool for Discipleship, Vitality, and Outreach*

**Struggling with worship
engagement?
Wondering how to
rebuild in-person
worship?**

Join us for a dynamic day of learning and inspiration with worship coach and author Cathy Townley. She'll lead us in discovering how sharing our faith stories and engaging with people

beyond the church walls is what actually transforms worship *inside* them. This is your chance to learn how worship can become more than just Sunday—it can become your church's most powerful tool for discipleship, outreach, and renewal.



**Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:30AM–2:30PM (includes lunch)
Menomonie UMC | 2703 Bongey Dr, Menomonie, WI**

Register online: <https://wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/NWDistrictLearningDay>

\$15 per person | Pay at the door | Covers snacks & lunch
Participants will receive access to a *workbook* and can opt into a follow-up cohort, with a \$250 district matching fund available for teams who participate.

Community Thrift Sale



Find Something. Give Something. Build Community.

**Saturday,
May 31
9AM-3PM**

Hope UMC parking lot
(2233 Golf Rd)

Donation

Drop-Off Dates:

- Tues, May 13 10am-2pm
- Tues, May 20 10am-2pm
- Thurs, May 22 5-7pm
- Sun, May 25 11am-1pm
- Tues, May 27 10am-2pm
- Fri, May 30 2-6pm

****Due to limited storage space, we can only accept furniture drop-offs on May 30!**

We're accepting:

- ✓ Gently used clothing (no underwear)
- ✓ Toys in good condition
- ✓ Furniture**
- ✓ Household goods and kitchen items
- ✓ Collectibles and home décor
- ✓ Books in good condition

We're NOT accepting:

- X Electronics or appliances
- X Hazardous items



All proceeds support JONAH's justice work in the Chippewa Valley. Contact Eclipse at eclipsearmstrong@gmail.com with questions.

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](#).

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>			
	Joanne Mellema		Judy Ganong
<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.

May 2025

Hope United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	Apr 30	1	2	3
9:00am WORSHIP Communion / Baptism Food Pantry Sunday CHOIR	5 1:00pm Nurture 5:30pm Trustees CHOIR	6 5:00pm Finance 7:00pm CHOIR	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 9:00am WORSHIP CHOIR Sunday School	12 4:00-7:00pm (FH & K) Threshold Singers	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00am WORSHIP Pack & Pray for a Purpose (UMCOR Hygiene Kits)	19 5:30-9:00pm (FH) JONAH Board Meeting 6:00pm Ad Board	20	21 Pastor Jen MCCI in Sun Prairie	22	23	24
25 9:00am WORSHIP	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31
						10-11:00am Pop-Up Pantry HOPE BAKE SALE JONAH Thrift Sale

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				
	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	June 1
Greeters	Joey Bohl	Linda Larson	Dan & Judy Shuck	John & Merry Weiland	Ruth & Ray Nyland
Online Greeter	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino
Scripture Reader	Joey Bohl	Ryan Stepp	Linda Norton	Cindy Peterson	Sharon Fortune
Children's Message	n/a	Sharon Fortune	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prayers of the People	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	Becky Gochanour	Sharon Fortune	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.