



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.7

July 2025

From Apathy to Empathy: Seeing Hope With New Eyes

Dear Hope Family,

What if the most powerful mission tool we have isn't something we're still waiting for—but something already right in front of us?

Our church building—nestled right on the bus line, with land, a kitchen, a nursery, and space to gather—has become more than a place to worship. It's becoming a signpost of empathy in a hard world. And that's because of you.

Recently, I was contacted by Mama Bear Family Care, an organization that supports families—especially moms—with feeding education and baby care resources. They're dreaming about the possibility of offering a seminar here at Hope. While it's not confirmed yet—it depends on grant funding—they were immediately drawn to our church. They lit up when they heard about our accessibility, our community presence, and especially our monthly *pop-up food pantry*. Their hope is to align the seminar with a pantry day, so families who need support can also leave with food.

They didn't just see a space. They saw a congregation living its mission. They saw Hope. That kind of impact happens when we shift from apathy to empathy. When we stop seeing our space as just a building—and start recognizing it as a tool for transformation. It happens when we see our neighbors not as problems to fix, but as people to love. It happens when we pray:

"Lord, light our way to see your limitless possibilities—for our lives and the church. Unite us in your vision. Equip us for your work. Amen."

(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)

And we *are* seeing differently. The more we pray, the more we're noticing needs—and the more others are noticing *us* as a place of care, welcome, and hope. That's no small thing.

So let's keep praying the breakthrough prayer. Let's keep showing up. Let's keep believing that God can use what we already have to meet someone else's need.

Because when we do, we don't just open the doors.

We open hearts.

And we put more Hope into the world.

With gratitude,

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.

July 6-OMG, It's a New World
Galatians 6:1–16

In the Spirit, we are becoming a new creation — not for ourselves alone, but for the sake of the world. Transformation is personal and communal. This is our final week in the OMG! series.



"Summer Adventures with Jesus"

As the sun warms our days and the pace of life shifts, July invites us into a worship series that connects summer experiences with timeless stories from the Gospel of Luke. From picnics to road trips, we'll explore what it means to live with compassion, presence, and grace—and how our everyday moments become holy ground.

July 13 – Picnic Grace: Who's at the Table?

Luke 10:25–37 – The Good Samaritan

This Sunday, we spread out the picnic blanket and consider who we're setting the table for. With gingham cloth and a basket of grace, we'll reflect on the call to love our neighbor—without borders. Who is God nudging us to make space for? Come ready to expand the table.

July 20 – Rest Stops and Road Trips

Luke 10:38–42 – Mary and Martha

In the bustle of summer, we pause to ask: where are the rest stops for our souls? This week, we'll travel with Mary and Martha and rediscover the sacred art of being present. With road maps and "rest stop" kits in hand, we'll remember that even Jesus paused. Maybe it's time we did too.

July 27 – Guest Preacher: Sharon Fortune

We're blessed to welcome Sharon to the pulpit as she brings a fresh word to close out July. Come with open hearts as we listen together for what the Spirit might be saying through her voice and story.

During the next few months, we will be sending out a weekly mailer for kids (roughly aged 2-10). If you have a child in your life (think grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbor kids) who you think might enjoy receiving this mailing, please contact the church office or Pastor Jen with names and addresses and we will happily include them in the summer fun!

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

- July 7 1:00pm Nurture
- July 9 1:00pm Finance
- July 15 5:30pm Trustees

NEW UPDATED Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

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



All Church Picnic & Neighborhood Block Party! Wednesday, July 23rd 5:00-7:00pm



Games! Food! Conversation!
Face Painting!
And, a Bouncy House!

Bring yourself, bring a friend,
bring your kids,
your grandkids, your neighbors.

Let's be in community
with each other and our
neighbors.



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

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

Show your Hope UMC Spirit!

We are taking orders over the next few weeks for Hope t-shirts.

They will be a Softstyle t-shirt in Heather Indigo. More information and sizing can be found at: https://sanmar.com/p/3480_HthrIndigo



"Hope in Action" on the front and "Hope United Methodist, Eau Claire, WI with UMC flame logo" on back. Cost is \$10.

Interested? Please email Joey at gibbonje@hotmail.com with your size and number of shirts. There will also be a sign-up at church.

Please try to order by July 13 to potentially have T-shirts for the all church picnic. Show your Hope UMC spirit!

STEP INTO THE STORY: JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM at HOPE UMC

Worship isn't a performance—it's a shared, sacred rhythm. At Hope UMC, we believe every voice matters in telling God's story. When you read Scripture, greet at the door, or lead the call to worship, you help create a space where people experience God's presence.

Think about the first time someone made you feel seen at church. Or the Scripture that stirred your soul when it was read aloud. Those moments aren't accidental—they're invitations. And now it's your turn to offer that welcome, that Word, to someone else.

We're looking for folks to join the rotation for

- Scripture reading (we'll send you the passage ahead of time)
- Greeting (a smile + "we're glad you're here" goes a long way)
- Call to worship (a brief, guided welcome—no sermon prep required!)

No experience necessary. We'll guide you every step of the way. Summer's a great time to try something new. You don't have to commit forever. Just take one step and see how it feels. Interested? Curious? Slightly terrified but maybe willing? Let's talk! Connect with Pastor Jen in person (afternoons in the office), on the phone (715-271-1182), or via email (jwjc4evr@gmail.com).





LAWN MOWING HELP NEEDED

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

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



Our next
gathering will be
September 22nd
at 1:00pm. We
will not meet in
July or August.



**UPCOMING FOOD
PANTRY SUNDAYS:**
JULY 6
AUGUST 3

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 - MAY 2025

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>Contributions</i>	\$9,255	\$52,906
<i>Expenses</i>	\$9,088	\$56,691
	\$167	(\$3,785)

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)

<i>Conference Assigned Amount for 2025:</i>	<i>We Have Paid As Of 5-31-25:</i>
\$16,980.00	\$5,267.00

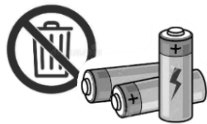
There are many opportunities to share your gifts and talents:

- 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.



FRIENDS at the LAKE

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Lake Street UMC is the host church for Friends at the Lake ministry. This is a program providing respite for those caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and all other dementias. Volunteers will be provided with training. Some of the many activities include art, music, crafts, service projects and a meal. Contact Sharon Fortune for more information. szfortune@yahoo.com or 715-210-2989 (cell)

Women of
HOPE

- Later July Date to be announced
- No Meeting in August

**Pop-Up Food Pantry
10:00am - 11:00am**

- Saturday, July 26
- Saturday, August 30
- Saturday, Sept 27

**POP-UP PANTRY
FUND DRIVE**



As we've noted before, Pope Francis' well-known quote was "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That's how prayer works." And we have the opportunity to put that prayer to work by raising funds for the Pop-up Food Pantry. It takes about \$100 a month to stock the Pop-Up Food Pantry which is in demand every month. If just 10 people commit to \$10/month, we can make that a reality! Pop-Up Food Pantry envelopes will be available by the offering plate.

Or consider scheduling an online donation indicating the Pop-Up Food Pantry.

Presentation



"Choose Your Own" Adventure

Exploring Health Promotion & Prevention Programs

As people are living longer, we tend to experience more health-related chronic conditions. In this interactive presentation we will explore our interests, motivations, and several researched-based steps we can take to eliminate problems.

You will sample some fun activities that can lead to rewarding results so you can live your best life!



Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:00 am
August 6, 2025

Hope United Methodist Church
2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire

Register at least one week
in advance. Call the Aging &
Disability Resource Center at
715-839-4735, or online
www.adrcevents.org.

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	<p>JONAH is proud to introduce our 2025 Book Club list, with all titles focusing on <i>hope</i>.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29-Jun	Jun 30	1	2	3	4	5
			Wed Fun Night 6-7:30pm (FH)		4th OF JULY	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00am WORSHIP Communion Food Pantry Sunday	1:00pm Nurture	Pastor Jen Out of the Office	1:00pm Finance Wed Fun Night 6-7:30pm (FH)			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00am WORSHIP	9:00am-5:00pm (Library) D.S. One-On-One Mtgs 4:30-6:00pm (Sanctuary) Threshold Singers	Pastor Jen MCCI in Sun Prairie 5:30pm Trustees	Pastor Jen Out of the Office			9:00am Women of Hope
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00am WORSHIP	Pastor Jen Vacation		All Church Picnic & Block Party 5:00-7:00pm			10-11:00am Pop-Up Pantry
27	28	29	30	31	1-Aug	2-Aug
9:00am WORSHIP Pastor Jen Vacation	Pastor Jen Out of the Office 1:00pm Bible Study					

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				
	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	Aug 3
Greeters	Judy Ganong	John & Merry Weiland	Connie Jacobsen	Linda Larson	Joey Bohl
Online Greeter	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen
Scripture Reader	Ryan Stepp	Linda Norton	Sharon Fortune	Cindy Peterson	Joey Bohl
Children's Message	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prayers of the People	Jan Lorentz	Pastor Jen	Pastor Jen	Jan Lorentz	Jan Lorentz
Audio Visual	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



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.