



For The JOURNEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2233 Golf Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701
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715-835-5310
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With Christ as our center, we are called to reach out and share God's love with all.

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August 2025

***“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”
— Isaiah 43:19***

Dear Hope Family,

I believe with all my heart that we are standing on the threshold of something remarkable. Through the **Missional Church Consultation Initiative (MCCI)**, God is inviting us to lift our eyes beyond what we think is possible and catch a glimpse of God's **limitless possibilities** for Hope UMC.

One of the most life-giving lessons we've learned is the power of a single, hopeful word: **yet**. We may not see the full picture *yet*. We may not have all the answers *yet*. And God isn't finished with us *yet*. Dr. Carol Dweck's research on "growth mindset" shows that when people believe they can grow, they lean into challenges with perseverance and hope. That's exactly the posture we are called to take as a church: we're not stuck, we're not finished—God's best is *yet* to come.

A New Mindset for the Church

MCCI is helping us shift from a "wait and see" posture to a "**sent and active**" faith. We're learning to think beyond ourselves, to notice who God is calling us to reach, and to organize all we do around real needs in our community.

One of the tools we're practicing is called a **Triad**—a sequence of three connected events that help new people take a next step in faith. Instead of just hosting a single event and hoping someone returns, we're intentionally creating *paths of connection*. We're also learning to design for what MCCI calls **Conflux Moments**—those Spirit-sparked moments when people sense God's presence

(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 take a step closer to Jesus. And we're praying for the Holy Spirit to guide us every step of the way through our church-wide **Breakthrough Prayer**:

"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."

What's Coming: MCCI Express Day

Sometime in the next few months we will schedule our **MCCI Express Day**, and you will play a critical role! On this day, a team of MCCI leaders will be on-site at Hope for a full day of **listening and discernment**. You will have the chance to share what you've been hearing from God through your own prayers.

After Express Day, the team will return with a **Consultation Report** that will include three to five specific "prescriptions" designed to help us move into a fresh season of vitality and growth. If we as a church choose to move forward, we will be paired with **prescription coaches** who will walk alongside us to help us faithfully live into the vision God is giving us.

Your Part in This Incredible Journey

I cannot stress this enough: **this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Hope UMC**. God is giving us a chance to dream bigger, to grow deeper, and to impact our community in ways we have not even imagined *yet*.

Here's how you can join in:

1. **Pray the Breakthrough Prayer every day.** Let it open your heart to God's limitless possibilities.
2. **Show up for MCCI Express Day and the gatherings that follow!** We need every voice, every perspective, every prayerful insight.
3. **Step into the "power of yet."** What if this is the moment God is calling you to invite a neighbor, share your story, or serve in a new way?

Church, can you picture it? Can you imagine lives transformed, new people finding hope, children growing up surrounded by God's love, and Hope UMC becoming a beacon of Christ's light in our community?

That future is not only possible—it's what God is preparing us for. And the best part is this: **you are a vital part of it.**

Let's lean in together with faith and joy, because the best is **yet** to come.

With gratitude and excitement,

Pastor Jen



"Summer Adventures with Jesus"

As the sun warms our days and the pace of life shifts, we continue this worship adventure that began in July, 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.



August 3– “What Are We Building?”

Luke 12:13–21

Are we building our lives on things that will last? In this parable of the rich fool, Jesus challenges us to look beyond what we store up and to build on the solid foundation of God’s love. We’ll reflect on letting go of what won’t last and choosing what endures in God.

August 10– Kite-Flying Faith

Luke 12:32–40

“Do not be afraid, little flock.” Jesus invites us to live lightly, expectantly, and open to the movement of the Spirit—just like a kite dancing on the wind.

August 17 – Campfire Conversations

Luke 12:49–56

Jesus’ words about fire and division challenge comfortable discipleship. We’ll consider how truth can refine us and still lead to deeper love.

August 24 – Healing Pools & Deep Waters

Luke 13:10–17

What does true freedom look like? In this powerful story, Jesus heals a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years, breaking the barriers of pain and social rules to set her free. We’ll dive into the deep waters of God’s healing love—restoring dignity, hope, and joy.

August 31 – The Ultimate Potluck

Luke 14:1, 7–14

What if the table wasn’t about status or saving a seat for the “right” people, but about radical welcome? Jesus flips the rules of hospitality upside down and invites us into a feast where everyone belongs. *We’ll end worship with a potluck—bring a dish if you can, and most importantly, bring an open heart to sit with someone new!*

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- August 4 5:00pm Faith Formation
- August 18 6:00pm Ad Board

NEW UPDATED Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:
<https://zoom.us/j/3994452832?pwd=zQLiteVM7017VFggxPRq4q5wPwmd1p.1&omn=97039744985>



We will be serving at
The Community Table
Monday, August 4th
9:00am-2:00pm

the COMMUNITY TABLE

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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**

FINANCE NEWS

FINANCIAL REPORT - JUNE 2025		
	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>Contributions</i>	\$10,492	\$63,398
<i>Expenses</i>	\$9,737	\$66,428
	\$755	(\$3,031)

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)	
<i>Conference Assigned</i>	<i>We Have Paid</i>
<i>Amount for 2025:</i>	<i>As Of 6-30-25:</i>
\$16,980.00	\$7,057.00

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).

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.



**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



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

Women of
HOPE

No Meeting
in August

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

- Saturday, August 30
- Saturday, Sept 27
- Saturday, October 25

**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.

Lay Servant Ministries Learning Retreat

*Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13
Luther Park Bible Camp, Chetek*

The North West District Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) Committee invites all lay members of the Wisconsin Annual Conference to join in an overnight learning retreat in the beautiful Northwoods.

During this overnight learning retreat current and incoming Lay Servants and Speakers can choose from one of three LSM courses and one non-LSM course:

- 1) **Basic Course,**
- 2) **Preaching,**
- 3) **Leading Worship ,**
- 4) **“Prayer for Revival”** a special, interdenominational course that is not included in the 6 LSM Advanced Courses.

Registration (and optional lunch) begins at 11:30am on Friday. Orientation and Opening Devotional at 12:30pm. Please plan to arrive at Luther Park Bible Camp no later than 12:15pm. Luther Park Bible Camp is located at 944 24 1/2 Street, Chetek 54728.

Courses will all be taught in-person and will begin Friday, September 12 at 1pm. Each course will meet for the required 10 hours over the course of that Friday and into Saturday afternoon. Please plan on being at the Camp until 3pm on Saturday.

Cost: base cost is \$80, includes overnight lodging at the Camp, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. Optional Friday Lunch costs an additional \$9.50. Course books for Leading Worship and Preaching will be \$10. No additional cost for materials for the Basic Course or Prayer for Revival.

For questions or to register
Please contact Pastor Adam Woods at (608) 513-2937
or email him at pastor.adamwoods@gmail.com
Deadline to register is Sunday, August 31

Lay Servant Ministries Learning Retreat

TIMELINE

Friday (note from Camp: overnight guests can access their rooms immediately when they arrive)

- 11:00am–Organizers arrive and set up Registration table in the Dining Hall
- 11:00am–Instructors arrive and set up classrooms
- 11:30am–12:15pm–Participants begin to arrive for Registration
- 11:30am–Optional Lunch begins
- 12:30pm–Opening Devotional in the Ministry Center
- 1:00pm–Courses Begin
- 3:00–3:30pm–Break
- 3:30pm–Courses Resume
- 5:30pm–Dinner
- 6:30pm–Courses Resume (*Instructors and Participants can determine how late they want to go Friday night, keeping in mind they must meet for a total of 10 hours before Saturday at 3pm*)

Saturday (note from Camp: overnight guests must have rooms cleaned out before 10:00am)

- 8:00am–Breakfast and morning devotional
- 8:45am–Morning Devotional/Worship in the Ministry Center
- 9:00am–Courses resume (*Instructors and Participants can determine when to take a break and for how long*)
- 12:00pm–Lunch
- 1pm–Courses Resume
- 3pm–Courses Complete

COST BREAKDOWN

\$80.00 Base Cost for Overnight Participants, Instructors, and Organizers

\$11.25 Friday Dinner

\$50.00 Overnight Accommodations *private room*

\$8.50 Saturday Breakfast

\$9.50 Saturday Lunch

(\$29.25 Cost for Non-Overnight Participants)

(\$55 Cost for Overnight Participants *sharing a room*)

\$9.50 Optional Friday lunch

\$10 Course book for Leading Worship and Preaching Participants

\$0 Course book Basic Course and Prayer for Revival Participants (Pastor Adam is covering those costs)

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	Apr 15	Jun 17	Aug 12
<p>Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future – By Patty Krewac</p>	<p>A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community – By Adam Russell Taylor</p>	<p>Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom – By Derecka Purnell</p>	<p>How We Show Up: Reclaiming Family, Friendship, and Community – By Mia Birdsong</p>
Oct 14	Dec 9	<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>	
<p>We Who Believe in Freedom: Activism and the Struggle for Social Justice – By Alice P. Green</p>	<p>Hope for Cynics: The Surprising Science of Human Goodness – By Jamil Zaki</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
	Renee Marino (elected by 2023 Trustees)		Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
	Mike Larabee		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 (chair)	Dan Shuck	
	LeeAnn Richards	Mike Larabee	Rich Swanson
<u>Faith Formation Committee</u>	Jan Lorentz	Sandi Hysell (Chair)	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.

August 2025

Hope United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	Jul 31	1	2
9:00am WORSHIP Communion Food Pantry Sunday	3 9:00am NO Nurture 9:00am-2:00pm Serve at Community Table 5:00pm Faith Formation	4 9:00am-2:00pm Serve at Community Table 5:00pm Faith Formation	5 9:30-11:30am (FH) ADRC Event	6 9:30-11:30am (FH) ADRC Event	7 Pastor Jen Out of the Office	8 Pastor Jen Out of the Office
10 9:00am WORSHIP	11 9:00am-5:00pm (Library) D.S. One-On-One Mtgs	12 MCCI - All Day	13 MCCI - All Day	14 MCCI - All Day	15 MCCI - All Day	16 MCCI - All Day
17 9:00am WORSHIP	18 6:00pm Ad Board	19 Pastor Jen Dcom in Barron	20 Pastor Jen Dcom in Barron	21 Pastor Jen Dcom in Barron	22 Pastor Jen Dcom in Barron	23 Pastor Jen Dcom in Barron
24 9:00am WORSHIP	25 1:00pm Bible Study Pastor Jen Out of the Office	26 1:00pm Bible Study Pastor Jen Out of the Office	27 1:00pm Bible Study Pastor Jen Out of the Office	28 1:00pm Bible Study Pastor Jen Out of the Office	29 1:00pm Bible Study Pastor Jen Out of the Office	30 10-11:00am Pop-Up Pantry
31 9:00am WORSHIP	1-Sep LABOR DAY	2-Sep	3-Sep	Sep 4	5-Sep	6-Sep

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				
	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Greeters	Joey Bohl	Judy Ganong	Connie Jacobsen	Ruth & Ray Nyland	Joey Bohl
Online Greeter	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino
Scripture Reader	Joey Bohl	Sharon Fortune	Cindy Peterson	Linda Norton	Joey Bohl
Children's Message	n/a	n/a	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	Renee Marino Cindy Peterson

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.