



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.

Volume 32, No.9

September 2025

Dear Friends,

These past weeks at Hope UMC have been heavy. We have said goodbye to beloved parishioners-friends, mentors, and partners in our faith journey. We are preparing to release others to God's care as hospice walks with them. We are grieving the departure of our wonderful pianist, Ben, whose music has carried our prayers for so long. And all of this unfolds against the backdrop of a hurting world, where violence and injustice continue to break our hearts.



Grief touches every part of life. Sometimes it shows up in obvious ways-like the death of someone we love. Other times, it arrives quietly in hidden forms-changes and losses that only you may feel. However it comes, grief can feel heavy, confusing, or isolating.

Grief also has a way of reaching back into our lives. When we face a new loss, it can stir up the pain of old ones, reminding us of other goodbyes we have lived through. Even as we heal in healthy ways, sorrow has a way of linking together across time. This doesn't mean we are "going backward." It simply shows that love runs deep, and our hearts carry those connections always.

And yet, grief is not only about what we've lost. Grief is also a testimony to how deeply we have loved. The late Queen Elizabeth II once said, "*Grief is the price we pay for love.*" When we open ourselves to love-whether in friendship, community, music, or shared faith-we also open ourselves to loss. The ache in our hearts measures the depth of our connection.

Grief, then, is not just sorrow. It is also wisdom. It reminds us of the beauty of love's bonds; resilient, transformative, and sacred. It reshapes our understanding of what matters most. And it points us to the God who first loved us and who promises never to let us go.

(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)

Even in grief, there is hope. Hope that our memories will be a blessing. Hope that love does not end at the grave. Hope that God is still weaving new beginnings from the threads of our sorrow.

May we give thanks that we have loved and been loved so deeply. May we hold each other tenderly through seasons of grief. And may we cling to the One who is making all things new.

With love and hope,

Pastor Jen

Loving God,

You know the weight our hearts carry.

*When sorrow rises and old wounds ache again,
remind us that grief is the measure of love.*

*Hold us gently in your mercy,
surround us with the hope of resurrection,
and teach us to trust that your love never ends.*

Amen.

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.



Everyday Disciple: A New Worship Series

Following Jesus isn't about sitting on the sidelines or waiting for "someone else" to step up. It's personal. This September we begin a new worship series, *Everyday Disciple*, where we'll explore the personal call of discipleship. In this four-week series, *Everyday Disciple*, we'll explore what it means to live our faith in practical, daily ways.

Each week we'll look at the Gospel of Luke and hear Jesus' challenge to make discipleship our own. This is discipleship made personal. This is *Everyday Disciple*.

September 14th Your Cross, Your Choice / (Luke 14:25–33)

Jesus tells us plainly that following him comes with a cost. It's not about convenience, comfort, or hoping someone else will carry the weight—it's about each of us choosing to take up our cross. This week we'll ask: what does discipleship really require, and are we ready to take it personally?

September 21st Your Neighbor, Your Joy / (Luke 15:1–10)

In the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin, Jesus reminds us that every single person matters to God. Someone else won't go looking—it's our calling to notice who's missing, to seek them out, and to celebrate their return. Living as disciples means sharing God's joy in finding the lost.

September 28th Your Treasure, Your Trust / (Luke 16:1–13)

Faithfulness is shown in how we handle what God has already placed in our hands. We can't wait for someone else to give, serve, or manage wisely. Jesus calls us to be trustworthy and generous with our resources, big or small, as a reflection of where our true treasure lies.

October 5th Your Life, Your Response / (Luke 16:19–31)

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is a stark reminder that the time to act is now. We can't delay love, justice, or mercy, thinking someone else will take care of it or that we'll get another chance later. Discipleship means responding today—with compassion, conviction, and courage.

**Jesus didn't call "someone else." He called you.
Come discover how to take it personally—and live as an everyday disciple.**

UPCOMING EVENTS



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- September 8 1:00pm Nurture
- September 9 5:30pm Trustees
- September 15 1:00pm Finance
6:00pm Ad Board
- September 16 4:30pm Outreach

NEW UPDATED Committee Meetings ZOOM Link:

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



Friends of Hope UMC – It is with grateful hearts that we wish to **THANK YOU** for your generous giving of funds, time, ideas, and prayers. As of the end of July we are sitting financially at a much smaller projected loss than originally expected. The Administrative Board has worked hard to manage expenses and use as little as possible of the funds we had saved to make up for the passing of beloved members last year. We are excited to let you know that those savings are going much farther than expected as a result of your generosity! Working together to share God's love with all we have lots of Hope that the trends will continue and planning for the next year will be an easier task! **THANK YOU!**



**Youth Sunday
School
Sunday, Sept 7th**

**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 -JULY 2025		
	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<i>Contributions</i>	\$7,622	\$71,020
<i>Expenses</i>	\$9,574	\$76,002
	<u>(\$1,952)</u>	<u>(\$4,983)</u>

CONNECTIONAL GIVING (APPORTIONMENTS)	
<i>Conference Assigned</i>	<i>We Have Paid</i>
<i>Amount for 2025:</i>	<i>As Of 7-31-25:</i>
\$16,980.00	\$7,757.00

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



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Our next gathering will be
September 22nd
at 1:00pm.

Women of
HOPE

To Be
Announced

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

- 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.



Take your ministries to the next level with the Lewis Center Church Leadership Certificate Program.

From the Lewis Center for Church Leadership and Wesley Theological Seminary



Take your ministries to the next level with the Pathways for Ministry Certificate Program.

From Wesley Theological Seminary and SMU Perkins School of Theology

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY & TRAINING

Through The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary

You are invited to help us fill the remaining slots in our online Ministry and Church Leadership Certificate programs. Both programs include five courses, each of which are five to six weeks long and include a combination of weekly self-paced learning and occasional Zoom sessions to facilitate communal learning.

Our Lewis Center Church Leadership Certificate awards participants 5 CEUs and is geared toward both new and experienced pastors who would like to explore certain aspects of ministry not usually covered in seminary (e.g., strategic planning and visioning, stewardship, and cultivating community partnerships), while our Pathways for Ministry Certificate awards participants 2.5 CEUs and is focused on preparing lay ministers and laity to serve local congregations as worship leaders, education facilitators, and more.

Link for more information: <https://www.wesleypathways.com>

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
Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future – By Patty Krewac	A More Perfect Union: A New Vision for Building the Beloved Community – By Adam Russell Taylor	Becoming Abolitionists: Police, Protests, and the Pursuit of Freedom – By Derecka Purnell	How We Show Up: Reclaiming Family, Friendship, and Community – By Mia Birdsong

Oct 14	Dec 9
We Who Believe in Freedom: Activism and the Struggle for Social Justice – By Alice P. Green	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
	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.

September 2025

Hope United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 29	1 LABOR DAY Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00am WORSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL Communion Food Pantry Sunday	8 1:00pm Nurture (FH)	9 5:30pm Trustees 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	10	11	12 Lay Servant Ministries Retreat @ Luther Park Bible Camp (Chetek)	13
14 9:00am WORSHIP	15 1:00pm Finance 3:00pm NW Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Ad Board	16 4:30pm Outreach 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	17 1:00-2:30pm JONAH (FH)	18 MCCI - All Day Pastor Jen Out of Office	19	20
21 9:00am WORSHIP	22	23 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	24	25	26	27 10-11:00am Pop-Up Pantry
28 9:00am WORSHIP	29 1:00pm Bible Study	30 5:30pm Zumba (FH)	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct

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				
	Sept 7	Sept 14	Sept 21	Sept 28	Oct 5
Greeters	Linda Larson	Dan & Judy Shuck	John & Merry Weiland	Ruth & Ray Nyland	Linda Larson
Online Greeter	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen	Renee Marino	Connie Jacobsen
Scripture Reader	Ryan Stepp	Joey Bohl	Cindy Peterson	Sharon Fortune	Linda Norton
Children's Message	Pastor Jen	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prayers of the People	Pastor Jen	Becky Gochanour	Sharon Fortune	Jan Lorentz	Becky Gochanour
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



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.