

This Week at HOPE February 6, 2022



FAITHFULLY ENGAGING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Week 2

By Pastor Annie Ladnier

This marks the second week of Black History Month. Last week I shared a bit about my own journey of intercultural development and antiracism work. Over the last six months, I have been engaging in an intentional process with other rostered leaders in our synod, utilizing the Intercultural Development Inventory (<https://idiinventory.com/>). The goal of this process is to gain awareness of my own intercultural competency, and then to grow in it! It has been eye-opening to learn of my own misperceptions. We've then been given some really helpful tools to better engage in interpersonal relationships, particularly as they offer opportunities to notice the gifts of intercultural presence.

I've set a few personal goals for growing in my intercultural competency. I've committed to engaging with more antiracism resources and specifically exposing myself to books, film, art, and music written and produced by black artists. I've kept 1 Corinthians 13 in the forefront as I do this work, "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

Last week I shared 3 things to read that I have found helpful (see last week's TWAH for these resources). This week I want to share 3 things to watch to help engage in this work:

1. *13th* (2016 film, available on Netflix). Titled after the Thirteenth Amendment, this American documentary film by director Ava DuVernay explores the intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States. Scholars, activists, and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom.
2. *Dark Side of the 90s: "Hip Hop: The East Vs. West Media War"* (Vice Studios, 2021, available on Amazon Prime and Hulu). This is a documentary television series that takes a look at popular culture of the 1990s. The whole series is a great trip down nostalgia lane, but I found this episode particularly insightful since it intersected with many of the works I've also been reading. This episode explores the infamous East Coast-West Coast hip hop rivalry and the tragic consequences of it—the deaths of Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls. (Please note this resource is NOT produced by black artists).
3. *The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song* (PBS, 2021, available to stream here: <https://www.pbs.org/weta/black-church/>). "This is a moving four-hour, two-part series from executive producer, host and writer Henry Louis Gates, Jr., ... that traces the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America, all the way down to its bedrock role as the site of African American survival and grace, organizing and resilience, thriving and testifying, autonomy and freedom, solidarity and speaking truth to power. The documentary reveals how Black people have worshiped and, through their spiritual journeys, improvised ways to bring their faith traditions from Africa to the New World, while translating them into a form of Christianity that was not only truly their own, but a redemptive force for a nation whose original sin was found in their ancestors' enslavement across the Middle Passage." (quote taken directly from website).

Each week I'll share a few more of my top picks! I pray you are blessed on your own journeys in this important work.

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SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Luther Point Bible Camp, located in Grantsburg, WI has opened their registration! WONDERFUL camp experiences for children, youth, and entire families are available this summer! Day camp options for our youngest friends, half-week overnights, full-week overnights, and some awesome FAMILY/Grandparent Camps too! Jr. High and High School camps also exist and for our 10-12 grade youth, the opportunity to be a camp B.U.D.D.I.E for 2 weeks is also an option! I highly encourage families to check this out!

CALLING ALL AT-HOME READERS, GREETERS, & PEACE SHARERS!

As we continue to celebrate our new reality of hybrid worship and faith community we are hoping to engage more of our at-home audience! **We are looking for those willing to record the Sunday readings, good morning/welcome greetings, and messages of sharing the peace!** These recordings will be shared in our livestream service! Video recordings are preferred, but audio recordings of the readings will also be accepted! Participants can record themselves using their own device or set-up a time to be recorded at HOPE. This is a GREAT way for families with children to participate as well! We'd love to see more of our at-home faith family!

You can [SIGN UP HERE](#) if you are interested! You will be contacted with further instructions!

Afghan Refugee at Camp McCoy

HOPE Mission Ministry is inviting members to support Afghan refugees from Camp McCoy with a special financial donation on the third Sundays of February (February 20th), March, and April. Because of the lack of public transportation and our geographical location, it will not be possible for River Falls agencies to resettle any Afghan neighbors in River Falls. However through the agencies of Lutheran Refugee Immigration Services (LIRS) and Lutheran Social Services, our gifts will go directly to support refugees being resettled in Eau Claire with personal needs including dental care.

Thank you for your hospitality and generosity.

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Full to the Brim

*Even
in the
desert*

2022 ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT

Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 2, this year!

Our theme this year is *Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent*. “The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, our Lenten theme, *Full to the Brim*, is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It’s an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed.

When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God’s lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.” Be on the look-out for more information on this year’s Lenten theme!

Our Expansive Lent begins with these Ash Wednesday opportunities:

12:00-1:00PM: Drive Up Ashes

7:00PM: Traditional Ash Wednesday Service both in person and livestream*

***at-home Lenten Kits will be available for pick-up beforehand and will include take-home ashes**

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Lighting HOPE Winter Luminary Walk



WHO: EVERYONE! Family, friends and neighbors!

WHAT: Enjoy a winter snowshoe/hike around our luminary-lit pond followed by a hot cocoa and cookie pick-up in Winds of the Spirit afterward!

WHEN: Saturday, February 26, 6:00 -7:30 pm

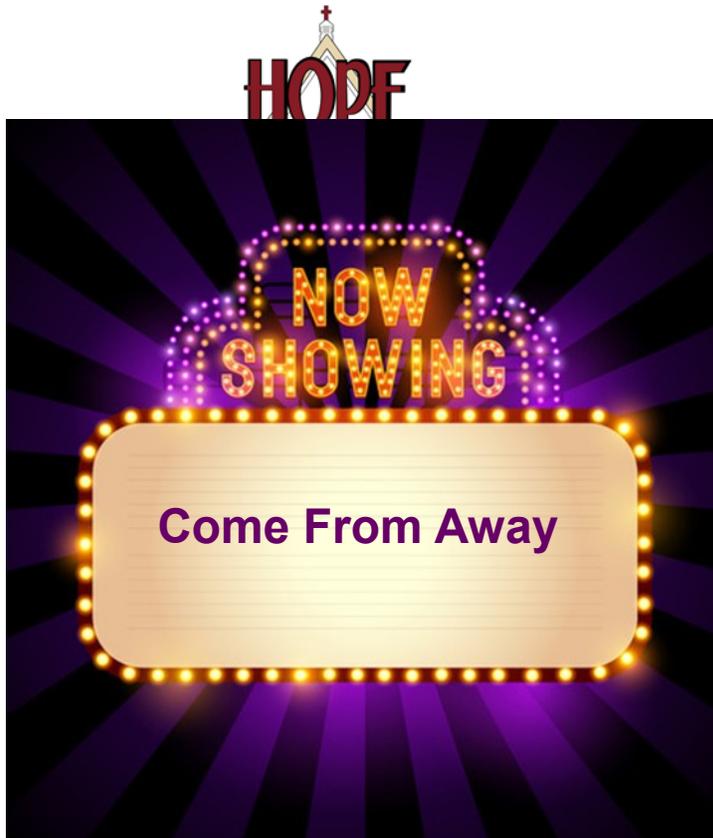
WHERE: HOPE *Winds of the Spirit* & Pond trail

WHY: A safe & family friendly activity during this socially distant time, chance to see & connect, get some exercise, and enjoy the beauty of nature at nighttime!

Please wear a mask and stay socially distanced from other families.



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Where: At HOPE Lutheran
Date: Saturday, February 19th
Time: 1:00 pm

Join us to watch the film version of this heartwarming show **"Come From Away"** *It's an award-winning Broadway musical which tells the story of 7,000 people stranded in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland after all flights into the US are grounded on September 11, 2001. As the people of Newfoundland graciously welcome the "come from aways" into their community in the aftermath, the passengers and locals alike process what's happened while finding love, laughter and new hope in the unlikely and lasting bonds that they forge."*

Here is the link to a short trailer of the play. <https://youtu.be/KYjtD-SBpFw>

COFFEE & CONVERSATION TUESDAYS @ 11AM!

Join with others from HOPE online via [Zoom](#) every week for a time of prayerful sharing and Bible study of our upcoming Sunday scripture texts! All are welcome!

A BIG "thank you" to Gwen Paulson for helping facilitate this conversation while Pastor Annie was on leave! Great job!

Pastor Annie is back and hopes you join us every Tuesday at 11!

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SIGN UP TO CATCH UP WITH PASTOR ANNIE!

I have missed you and a lot can happen in 12 weeks!
I'd love the opportunity to catch up with you and your family!
I still have a number of open times available in the coming week!

You can sign up [HERE](#)

Please note: if none of these times work for you, send me an email and we'll set another time! While you are welcome in my office, I'm also happy to do a phone/zoom call instead, come to your home or meet somewhere local! Coffee's on me!

CROSS-GEN NIGHT "Racial Equity & Faith"

EVERYONE is invited to join us **Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 6PM** for our next in a series of cross-generational ministry nights led by Deacon Laura Ramlow of the Northwest Synod of WI (of which we are a part!). This interactive evening is a great way to engage Black History Month and wrap up our month focusing on the Moses story in Faith Adventures/Confirmation.

This is an all ages appropriate evening designed to help faithfully explore this topic.

Wednesdays @ HOPE!

A reminder that we are still meeting in person with our children and youth! During the month of February we'll be exploring the story of Moses and the Exodus and seeing how it applies to the world around us today! Masks are required and we try to distance as best we can! These evenings are open to ALL ages for worship and we're always looking for extra adults to help with children & youth learning! **TONIGHT:** "Moses & The Burning Bush:

6:00PM All ages interactive worship
6:30-7: Faith Adventures (K-5th grade)
6:30-7:30- Confirmation

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February Birthdays

| Name | Birth Date |
|-----------------|------------|
| Mason Filarsky | 02-Feb |
| Bill Montgomery | 04-Feb |
| Gwen Paulson | 05-Feb |
| Susie Rudesill | 05-Feb |
| Lisa Ziebarth | 07-Feb |
| Michelle Hansen | 10-Feb |
| Kyle Rudesill | 10-Feb |
| Teresa Ginn | 11-Feb |
| Connie Kurten | 11-Feb |
| Dan Wunrow | 15-Feb |
| Ryan Leitch | 19-Feb |
| Diane Clark | 20-Feb |
| Nikida Sandberg | 22-Feb |
| Ryan Brill | 23-Feb |
| Charles Eaton | 24-Feb |
| Richard Jackson | 25-Feb |
| Rosemary Nelson | 25-Feb |
| Michael Hansen | 26-Feb |
| Eric Rydland | 27-Feb |
| Darcy Boock | 28-Feb |
| Jody Rahn | 28-Feb |



February Baptisms

Cecelia Bernard
Kevin James
Grete Rebein

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Please lift up the following people in prayer

Barbara McIntosh (Joe McIntosh's mother)

Marilyn Lightfoot (Friend of Olive Olson)

Linda & Jesse Annoye Family (Relatives of Debra James)

Greg Rosenthal (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)

Gordon Hendrickson (Mary Thompson's brother)

Boyd Huppert (Rodewald family member)

Keith Brill (Ryan's grandfather)

Family of Darcy Livingston (Naomi & Jerry Brand's Daughter)

Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)

Tom Roycraft (Grant Klacan's Father-in-Law)

Katie Drablos (cousin of Linda Jacobson)

Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)

Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)

Kris Miner (Friend of Faye Perkins)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)

Duane Hall (friend of the Brohaughs)

Judy Karshbaum

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson

Jim and Ila June Pratt

Jerry Brandt

Jon Boyce

Jay and Jeri Jorgenson (friends of the Bohnerts)

Fred Schmidt and family (Relatives of the Boocks)

Rod Cina (son of Mary Solum)



KIDS & TEENS IN GRIEF

AGES 5-18

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

When kids and teens hurt, we hope a band-aid and a hug will rid them of their pain. While this may work for a scraped knee, youth experiencing the death of a family member or close friend have wounds that go much deeper. With the help of a support group for kids and teens, families can work through their feelings of loss with the help of others in similar situations.

WE CAN HELP

Through participation in a support program, kids, teens, and caregivers alike learn they are not alone in coping with the painful reality of death.

Our trained facilitators will address each young person's needs, according to their age, maturity, and the complexities of their loss. They help the youth:

- Experience the pain of grief
- Accept the reality of their loss
- Discover new ways to cope in the absence of their loved one
- Reinvest energies in everyday activities
- Learn to love and trust again

ACKNOWLEDGE, PROCESS AND HONOR YOUR GRIEF

Each session focuses on specific objectives and offers activities that are educational and supportive. The five-week program encourages kids and teens with opportunities to express their grief through art, music, photographs, and group discussion.



Lakeview Hospital
927 Churchill St W
Stillwater MN 55082

**TUESDAYS, JAN 25 –
FEB 22, 2022**

**VIRTUAL THROUGH
ZOOM**

6:00PM – 7:15PM

Free, preregistration
required in link below.
Registration deadline
January 20, 2022

<https://forms.gle/Zsx2XKgt5TDeF3qb6>

For more information contact:
Monique Dossall
Grief Group Coordinator
stcroixchaplaincvassoc@gmail.com

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

**Session 1: Welcome,
Getting Acquainted**

*What is death and why
do people die?*

**Session 2: Keeping
Memories Alive**

What are grief feelings?

**Session 3: Learning
Coping Skills**

*Finding comfort and
support*

**Session 4: Coping with
Role Changes and
Special Days**

*Expressing and
communicating feelings*

**Session 5: Sharing Our
Memories &
Celebration!**

*Remembering through
memorials*

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Dear HOPE,

As we get into the swing of indoor worship, please remember that our Ministry Council is requiring that ALL worshipers wear masks before, during, and after the service. The only exception is for the worship leaders or those making announcements - while they are up front. You may also drop your mask for taking communion from your seats. Remember to thank your friends if they happen to need to remind you. I appreciate your attention to this detail as we try our best to protect our whole faith community.

Sincerely,
Ryan Brill
HOPE President

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HOPE COVID POLICY

Updated 10.05.21

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4).

On the advice of our local county health departments and the CDC, due to both St. Croix and Pierce counties being in "High Transmission" levels, our Worship and Exec ministry teams have currently updated our policy for indoor gatherings at HOPE due to increased infection numbers caused by the Delta variant of Covid-19.

1. **We are now requiring masks for all indoor gatherings/meetings, regardless of vaccination status.** We hope this requirement will be for a limited time until infection numbers decrease and vaccination numbers increase. With the beginning of another school year, we are particularly concerned for the well being of our youngest members, those who cannot yet receive a vaccination. Masking will help prevent sharing viral loads with children as well as parents and caregivers of little ones. It will also better serve those among us who are immunocompromised.

2. **Masking is not required for our outdoor gatherings,** but please continue to honor social distancing by family unit.

3. **Pastor Annie strongly encourages everyone who is eligible to do so, to receive a vaccine.**

a. Contact your family health provider for free vaccination for anyone 12+ **OR**

In St. Croix County: Vaccination clinics are held every Wednesday from 1-3PM at the St. Croix County service center in New Richmond, for everyone 12 and up. More info [HERE](#)

In Pierce County: Anyone 18+ who lives, works, or studies in WI is eligible. Appointments are at the Pierce County Public Health Department. You can schedule a vaccination [HERE](#)

*Please be prepared that depending on the severity of infection rates at that time, our singing and communion practices may be altered. Masks will be enforced indoors until we are out of the St. Croix advisory zones of red and orange.

We acknowledge these steps are inconvenient and feel like a step back from some of the progress we made! Unfortunately it is a necessary inconvenience at this time so that we can continue to gather safely in person and protect those most vulnerable in our midst. We appreciate your patience, prayerfulness, and understanding.