

This Week at HOPE March 6, 2022



Welcome to Lent, 2022! Today is Ash Wednesday. It marks the beginning of our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with a cross of dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth but that we are also indelibly marked by the cross on our foreheads at baptism. We are reminded that as we journey through Lent to return to God, we are already reconciled to God through Christ. Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

This year our theme, “Full to the Brim” brings us a unique opportunity to focus not so much on what we need to “strip away,” but rather on the ways God “fills us up!” The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God’s abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise —these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We’ve done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. So, this year I invite you 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. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. 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!

Traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. 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 the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, Full to the Brim trusts the promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God’s own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that! This theme doesn’t ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn’t absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love’s promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us. Amen.

Our Expansive Lent begins tonight:

7:00PM: Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of ashes & Holy Communion, in person and livestreamed on [YouTube](#)

***If you need ashes to worship from home, they are available at HOPE, along with a Lenten devotional**

Tools to Help Fill You to the Brim

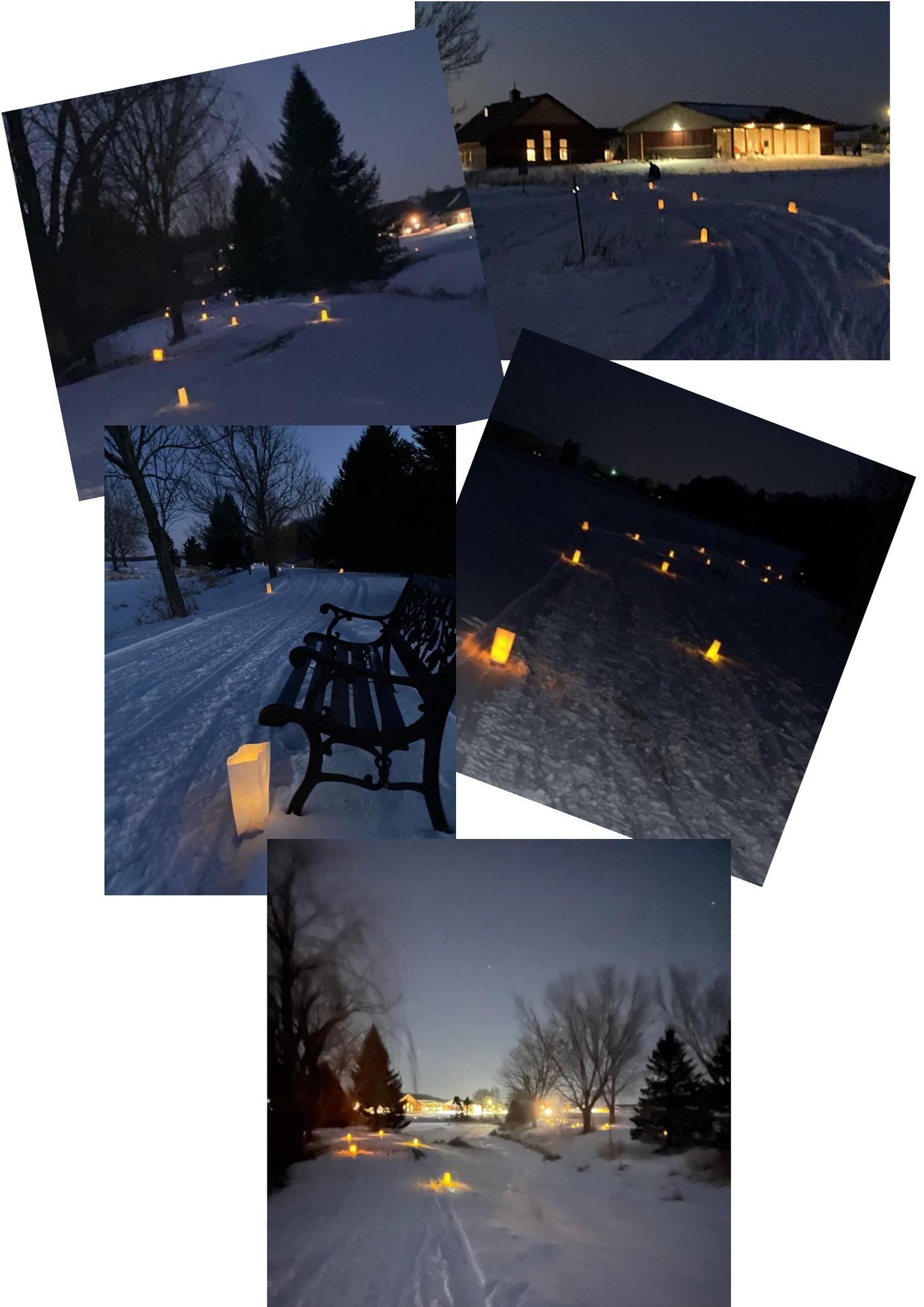
For your listening pleasure during daily devotions, on walks, drives, or whenever:

1. Spotify Playlist for Full to the Brim: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1FfRMbGJRTmrpzklUcJQ8R?si=157a93dc66f44850>
2. Full to the Brim Daily Devotional- printed copies are available at the back table at HOPE, pick up any time! A Digital Copy will be available on our website.
3. A Reflective Assessment Tool to help you set some Lenten intentions (attached to this email, available for pick-up at HOPE, to be available on the website).

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Thanks to all who helped set up luminaries and to those who came to enjoy the beautiful evening of Lighting HOPE on February 26th. Special thanks to the Rudesills who provided the light with their candles, lanterns and cozy fire.



This Week at HOPE March 2, 2022



This Week at HOPE March 6, 2022



Kris Miner, friend of Faye Perkins, has been on our prayer list for the past year. In March 2020, Kris was diagnosed with a “rare & aggressive” form of multiple myeloma when MRI results showed that “there are more bones effected by the cancer than not.” Kris’s journey has included chemo, a stem cell/bone marrow transplant, neuropathy, an aggressive return of the cancer, more chemo, targeted radiation on tumors, a clinical trial at Mayo Clinic, more chemo, pneumonia, and radiation treatment on a tumor on her optic nerve.

Kris recently started an immunotherapy infusion clinical trial at Mayo Clinic. With over a month since Kris has been able to work and over a month since she's been home, the cost of the airbnb bills, food, and transport is adding up. If you would like to contribute to Kris, please go to her Go Fund Me page at <https://gofund.me/e1a5bdab> You can follow her story on Caring Bridge. Please continue your prayers for Kris, her daughter Kylie, and her family.

If you would like to send a card to Kris, please address it to:

Kris Miner
C/O Sue Whitcomb
1129 Root River St., SW
Chatfield, Minnesota 55923

This Week at HOPE March 6, 2022



Wednesdays in Lent: Filling Wiley's Wardrobe from Full Tables!

Join us each Wednesday evening from the comfort of your own dinner table (or couch, or wherever you are!) for an interactive, relational, and contemplative [Zoom worship experience!](#) Phil Klacan will lead us in music, our children and families will lead us in stories lifting up our mission theme, and we'll take intentional time to connect with one another.

We WANT you to see this as a time for being "filled to the brim" - in whatever space is comfortable for you, gathered with your family in your home and gathered with your larger faith family! We hope that by worshipping via [Zoom](#), you don't have to worry about the rush and hustle of getting one more place on a busy evening! This is our 3rd year of worshipping this way during Lent because the time together in small groups is truly wonderful. **Join us at 6PM** to be filled with peace, filled with praise, and filled with God's love and grace!

40 Days of Lent

**Wiley's
Wardrobe**

**River Falls
High School**

Week 1

March
2 – 12

Hats | Gloves/Mittens | Mechanical Pencils | Pens | Colored Pencils | Fine Line Markers | Notebooks | Folders

Week 2

March 14 – 19

Briefs/Boxers – Guys XS – XXL
 Bikini Cut/Briefs – Gals XS – XXL

Ankle or Low Cut Socks for Guys and Gals

Week 3

March 21 – 26

Week 4

March 28 – April 2

Toothbrushes | Toothpaste | Ponytail Holders
 Shampoo | Conditioner | Body Wash
 Deodorant | Feminine Hygiene Products

T-Shirts | Long-Sleeved T-Shirts | Hoodies
 Sweatshirts | Pants/Jeans | Joggers

Week 5

April 4 – 9

Week 6

April 11 – 16

Granola/Protein Bars | Applesauce | Beef Jerky
 Instant Oatmeal | Mac 'n Cheese Cups |
 Ramen Noodles/Microwavable Soup Cups
 Juice Boxes | Water | Peanut Butter & Crackers

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40 Days of Giving to Wiley's Wardrobe at River Falls High School

HOPE's 40 days of giving will focus locally on Wiley's Wardrobe at the high school. Students in need of school supplies, undergarments, personal care items, clothing, and snacks can find them at Wiley's Wardrobe. During this Lenten season, our giving is paired with children's book titles to inspire you to donate what you can throughout the 40 days. All items will be taken to the high school after Easter.

March 2 (Ash Wednesday) to March 12: 50 Below Zero by Robert Munsch; The Hat and The Mitten by Jan Brett—new or gently used winter hats, gloves, mittens | Purple Green and Yellow (markers) by Robert Munsch; Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson—school supplies: mechanical pencils, pens, colored pencils, fine line markers, notebooks, folders NOTE: Because winter hats and gloves may be hard to find right now, needed school supplies are also included here.

March 14–19: Aliens/Dinosaurs/Monsters Love Underpants all by Claire Freedman; Underpants for Ants by Russell Punter, and the ever popular Captain Underpants series by Dave Pilkey—new briefs or boxers for guys size XS-XXL; new bikini cut or briefs for gals size XSXXL

March 21–26: Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss; Smelly Socks by Robert Munsch—ankle or low cut socks for gals and guys

March 28–April 2: The Tooth Book by Dr. Seuss; Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munsch— toothbrushes and toothpaste, ponytail holders, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products

April 4–9: Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes by Alice Schertle; Betsy Red Hoodie by Gail Carson Levine—new or gently used clothing for guys and gals size XS-XXL: T-shirts, long-sleeve T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, pants, jeans, joggers

April 11–16: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle; The Super Hungry Dinosaur by Martin Waddell—non-perishable snacks: granola/protein bars, applesauce, mac & cheese/Ramen noodles and other soup microwavable cups, beef jerky, peanut butter crackers, instant oatmeal, juice boxes

Think Big by Nancy Carlson is a story about someone small who wishes he were big, but let us Think Big in terms of giving generously to Wiley's Wardrobe, if not of the items mentioned above, then in a cash donation made out to HOPE Lutheran with Wiley's Wardrobe in the memo line. Thank you everyone.

April 17 Easter



HOPE & Pandemic/Endemic Living 3.02.22 Update

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).

As new recommendations are issued by the CDC and local county health departments, the HOPE ministry council is in conversation about our next steps! We acknowledge we are all anxious to get “back to normal.” Please remember that however we move forward, we enter a “new normal” which offers new possibilities for ministry! We appreciate your patience, prayerfulness, and understanding as we continue to faithfully navigate this unique season. **HOPE Executive and Council Ministry teams meet in the next 2 weeks and will issue a more concrete update after March 15, but here are a few updates:**

1. **Masks are still required for worship and meetings indoors, regardless of vaccination status, until council can meet for further discussion.** This allows us to offer more protection for some of our young people who are unable to be vaccinated, and due to the fact that the virus is contagious and can be spread from person to person. **Look for an update on this policy no earlier than Sunday, March 20.**
2. **Holy Communion:** We will begin processing forward for the celebration of Holy Communion. You will be invited to pick up each element at the front where the Pastor and Assistant Minister will speak the words to you. Please only remove your mask to consume the elements. As always, the pastor can come to you as needed! For those worshipping from home, please remember the Eucharist is intended to be celebrated in Christian community, within the context of worship and at-home communion is being practiced only until we can all safely return together. Pastor is always available for homebound communion visits.
3. **Offering:** We will resume passing the offering plate for in-person worship. Online giving opportunities remain in perpetuity and you are encouraged to sign up!
4. **Distancing is still encouraged.** We encourage people to sit distanced except from those family members and friends who feel comfortable being near each other.
5. **Fellowship Time:** We have been able to have fellowship for many weeks now, but have not had people willing to serve it. We would LOVE to resume this practice. You can sign up to host this time on our [HOPE Worship Volunteer Sign-Up](#)
6. **Hand Hygiene:** In light of updates for Holy Communion and Offering, please continue to practice good hand hygiene, taking advantage of the hand sanitizers placed around the sanctuary.

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

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Please lift up the following people in prayer

Kathy Granquist (Karen Brohaugh's niece)

Jerome Rodewald (Jeff Rodewald's father)

Barbara McIntosh (Joe McIntosh's mother)

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)

Family of Darcy Livingston (Naomi & Jerry Brandt'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)

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March Birthdays

Name	Birth Date
Maxwell VanOverbeke	02-Mar
Carl Warren	03-Mar
Madison Ziebarth	03-Mar
Grant Klacan	03-Mar
John Peter Eaton	05-Mar
Erik Oppegard	09-Mar
Addyson Wolfe	09-Mar
Sharon Paulson	10-Mar
Mollie Malaney	15-Mar
James Pratt	15-Mar
Carly Wunrow	17-Mar
Karen Ottney-Kaste	22-Mar
Joseph Kurten	22-Mar
Margaret Anderson	23-Mar
Lee Getschel	23-Mar
David Peters	23-Mar
Andrea Boock	31-Mar
Leonard Juairé	31-Mar
Roger Tweiten	31-Mar
Ben Wunrow	31-Mar
Shelby Roquette	31-Mar



March Baptisms

Darcy Boock
Samatha Brill
Luke Flirasky
Sara Filarsky
Lexy Getschel
Richard Jackson
Debra James
Mallory James
Connie Juairé
Katherine (Klacan) Schilling
Morgan Leitch
Gwen Paulson
Kyle Rudesill
Susie Rudesill



Mark and Sarah Bondhus 15-Mar **Celebrating** 42 Years

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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 a hybrid faith community we are hoping to engage more of our at-home family! **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 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, 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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Relay For Life of River Falls-Pierce County has returned to an in-person event scheduled Friday, April 1, 2022 (no fooling)! This community event, open for all, will be held at River Falls High School (schedule below).

We encourage family, friends and co-workers to create or join a team to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. **Fighting cancer takes a team!** Funds help those battling cancer, help with life-saving research, service programs, free rides and/or lodging to treatment, education and advocacy. Team sign up, secure donations and additional information about the event is found at www.RelayForLife.org/RiverFallsWI

If you prefer to write a check, please make checks payable to: American

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!

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