

This Week at HOPE January 11, 2023



January is so often a mixed set of emotions for me. I want the Christmas decorations to linger for a bit, but not too long. At some point they begin to feel like clutter, so we pack them away, leaving things looking stark and bare...cold. It matches what is happening outside. Trees remain bare, the sky is typically gray, the ground is covered in snow, ice, and slush. This month of long nights and short days, of cold winds and hunched shoulders can be difficult to endure at times. It is often a tough season for mental wellness.

But there within the cold stillness, the quiet, snow covered ground, and slow sunrises, is a gift. Nestling beneath all of that everything from salamanders to chipmunks to bears are hibernating. Plants and flowers rest dormant underground, waiting to surprise us come spring. Farm fields rest, the soil soaking in snowfall, the remnants of last fall's crops helping to feed still grazing animals. There is a natural rhythm of rest all around us. As these cold days linger, perhaps it is God's invitation for us to join the rest of the created order, and rest a while, too.

For the remaining Sundays in January, we will gratefully receive God's invitation to do so as we explore the practice of Sabbath rest. We will come to appreciate Sabbath as part of God's good intended order for creation, as a sheer gift, and as an act of justice in our world.

So, beloved, sink into the slowness of these winter days. Put on your slippers and snuggle up under a cozy blanket. Allow the quiet of all creation to envelop you too, that you may be nourished, renewed, and restored.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Annie Ladnier



Important Notice

Mark your calendars for HOPE's annual meeting
January 22nd after service.

There will be a pot luck lunch after the meeting

The Mission Ministry will be accepting donations for the Middle School and Family Resource Center Until January 22nd. Below is the list of needs for these 2 establishments.

G-2-G Teens will focus on Meyer Middle School needs, which are listed below:

- † Deodorant
- † Body Wash
- † Lotion
- † Lip Balm/Chapstick
- † Shampoo/Conditioner
- † Bigger sizes of athletic pants/shorts for males

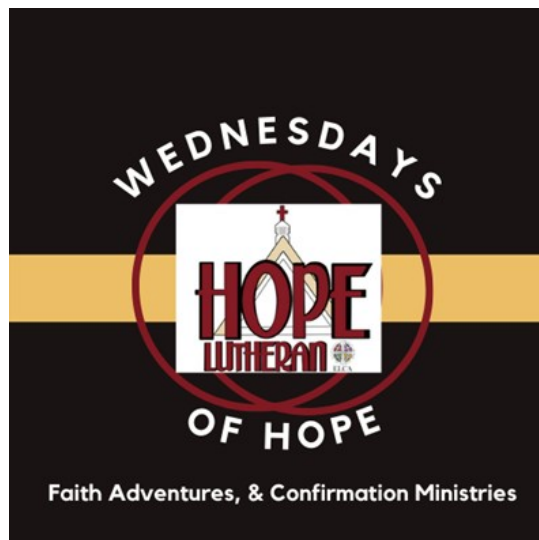
G-2-G Babies will focus on the Family Resource Center housed in Baldwin. Family Resource Center provides services for pre-natal through Kindergarten age children and their families living in Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk counties. Their needs are:

- † Diapers (larger sizes 3–6)
- † Baby Wipes
- † Board Books (infant, toddler, preschool)

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Unfortunately, due to weather and school cancellations, our Winter Yoga session tonight has been cancelled. Stay tuned for details on alternative dates in the near future!



**WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE RESUMES NEXT WEEK!
WINTER SESSION BEGINS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH**
All children & youth who participate in Wednesdays of Hope need to be registered.

If you have not already registered for **SESSION 2**, please fill out the [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#).

Friends are always welcome!

Please forward registration information to them!

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Mark your calendars for February 18th from 5:00 - 7:00 for HOPE's annual Luminary Walk



Save the Date!
HOPE's Family Bowling Event
March 26th from 1:00-3:00

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A NEW GIVING OPPORTUNITY: THE HOPE MUSICIAN'S FUND

Do you LOVE the musical offerings here at HOPE?

Are you grateful for the gift of our fantastic Sunday pianists?

Would you love to see additional musical ensembles and guests join us?

Has music in worship been an important dimension of your spiritual life?

If you've answered YES to any of these questions, you may want to live into God's call toward generosity by giving a gift to our NEW "HOPE Musician's Fund."

HOPE now pays our Sunday musicians a fair wage for their work, rather than expecting this on a volunteer basis. This expense emerged as a need mid-budget year, and so this fund will help meet this financial need and hopefully provide seed money to fund these positions in the 2023 budget year. In addition, our hope is for this fund to be used in the future to bring in special musical guests and ensembles in the months and years ahead!

Please prayerfully consider giving a special Christmas Seed Gift to this important ministry as you are able!

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Hallie Neuhaus	1-Jan
Jill Fritz	3-Jan
Teegan Johnson	6-Jan
Katherine (Klacan) Schilling	11-Jan
Camryn Glaubitz	11-Jan
Mary Thompson	13-Jan
Jan Malaney	15-Jan
Connie Juaire	16-Jan
Samantha Brill	18-Jan
Sydney Wolfe	19-Jan
Lexy Getschel	21-Jan
Mason Shea	21-Jan
Sean James	22-Jan
Makayla Ziebarth	23-Jan
Amanda Ziebarth	28-Jan
Jeremy Wolfe	31-Jan



Mark Bondhus
Wendy Tokheim
Lisa Ryland
Karen Rodewald
Susan Schuettpelz
Bruce Schuettpelz
Greta Wunrow

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Please lift up the following people in prayer

Mike & Lorraine Davis

The Trudy Loney family

Darwin & Margaret Bredahl (Karen Hamilton's sister & brother in law)

Olive Olson & family

Bruce Young (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)

Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)

Dawne Green (Friend of Olive Olson)

Miriam Monroe (Bill Montgomery's sister)

Gary Blowers (Friend of Linda Jacobson)

Noah Sailer (Nancy Sailer's son)

Naomi Brandt and family

The family of Jim Pratt

Tom & Judy Jensen (Friends of Nancy Sailer)

Meg Heaton Family (Friends of Nancy Sailer)

Milo Opegard

Brian Fix & Katie (Nancy Sailer's cousin)

Kevin Rodewald & family (Jeff Rodewald's brother)

Carin Perkins (Faye Perkins sister)

David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)

Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)

Linda Hidding (Nancy Sailer's cousin)

Kathy Granquist (Karen Brohaugh's niece)

Barbara McIntosh (Joe McIntosh's mother)

Linda & Jesse Annoy Family (Relatives of Debra James)

Greg Rosenthal (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)

Boyd Huppert (Rodewald family member)

Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)

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

Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi & Jerry Brandt)

Judy Karshbaum

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson

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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First Sunday of the Month Special Collections

The River Falls School District has 112 children signed up for the Backpack Program this year. This program falls under the auspices of Our Neighbors' Place and is primarily funded by The Black Tie Affair held every April and donations. It does not receive any help from the River Falls Food Pantry.

Therefore, the Mission Ministry through HOPE would like to start collecting donations for the Backpack Program on the first Sunday of each month alternating with the Food Pantry.

The Magic Box works in the same manner as for the Food Pantry, whereas each dollar magically will have \$5 of purchasing power. The next opportunity will be November 6, when your generous donations will support the Backpack Program.

First Sunday of the Month Special Collections Schedule

2022

November 6	Backpack Program (BP Program)
December 4	Food Pantry (FP)

2023

January 1	Backpack Program
February 5	Food Pantry
March 5	Backpack Program
April 2	Food Pantry
May 7	Backpack Program
June 4	Food Pantry
July 2	Backpack Program
August 6	Food Pantry
September 3	Backpack Program
October 1	Food Pantry
Nov 5	Backpack Program
December 3	Food Pantry