

## This Week at HOPE April 26, 2023



In my sermon last Sunday, I named that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. During the sermon, I mentioned the alarming statistic that 77% of child abuse happens not from strangers, but by known caregivers to children (some sources site this as high as 93%). In fact, strangers are typically the person who winds up providing help to a victim. You can watch the full sermon on [YouTube](#) (at the 30:30 mark). As disciples of Jesus who declared, “let the children come,” we are committed to making safe spaces for our children to thrive here at HOPE and also in their homes, schools, and communities. One way we can live into this dimension of our discipleship is to be aware of typical grooming process techniques and how to recognize them, as well as how to teach our children to recognize “tricky” people or “tricky” behavior in adults.

The Church is already uniquely positioned to facilitate this process. Church people have been enacting what the CDC calls “protective factors” since the first century. Protective factors include 1) offering material support in times of struggle. The church is giving people food and money and shelter and childcare. 2) social connection. The church at her best is functioning as extended family—celebrating and mourning with people through life events. You can see a full list of [Risk & Protective Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect and Violence Prevention](#) to familiarize yourself with warning signs and the ways we as Church embody a place of protection. You can also see areas of strength here in River Falls, as well as areas in which we could use some improvement. How might we, as disciples of Jesus, strive to increase the protective factors of both our church and wider community? Perhaps, one step would be to receive detailed training and make sure we establish a safe child policy here at HOPE.

Child advocacy centers across the country offer this kind of community training for free. Research from the nonprofit *Darkness to Light* which offers child abuse prevention trainings, estimates that when we can get 1 in 10 of the adult population trained in understanding the dynamics of child abuse, we will see a culture shift not unlike the shift from the days of tossing kids in the back of the station wagon to the standard use of car seats.

A faith community who is trained in child safety and abuse prevention is important, not only because faith is such an integral part of many abuse victim’s lives, but because churches are intuitively doing what research says is best for people, and additional training can offer extra insight to help churches be savvy in recognizing tricky people, and protecting the vulnerable. When we can understand and recognize the grooming process, the tactics of tricky people, the red-flag boundary violations, we not only help keep kids safer by intervening to disrupt those patterns, we are also teaching and modeling for our children a right-relationship to self and others, which is such an integral part of being followers of Jesus.

Our eyes can be kept from seeing the difference between known tricky people and stranger helpers. But when we’re equipped to recognize and understand those right relationships, learn that trust is built in increments over time via behaviors, we can come to see that sometimes, the stranger in our midst is Jesus. We have the unique gift, as disciples of Jesus, to *be Jesus* even for children who do not know us. If you are interested in helping me organize an official training here at HOPE, I welcome your time and energy.

Blessings,

Pastor Annie Ladnier

**This Week at HOPE April 26, 2023**



### **Graduate Sunday**

Join us on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
as we celebrate and bless our 2023 high school graduates.

A special blessing during worship  
will be followed by a reception afterwards.

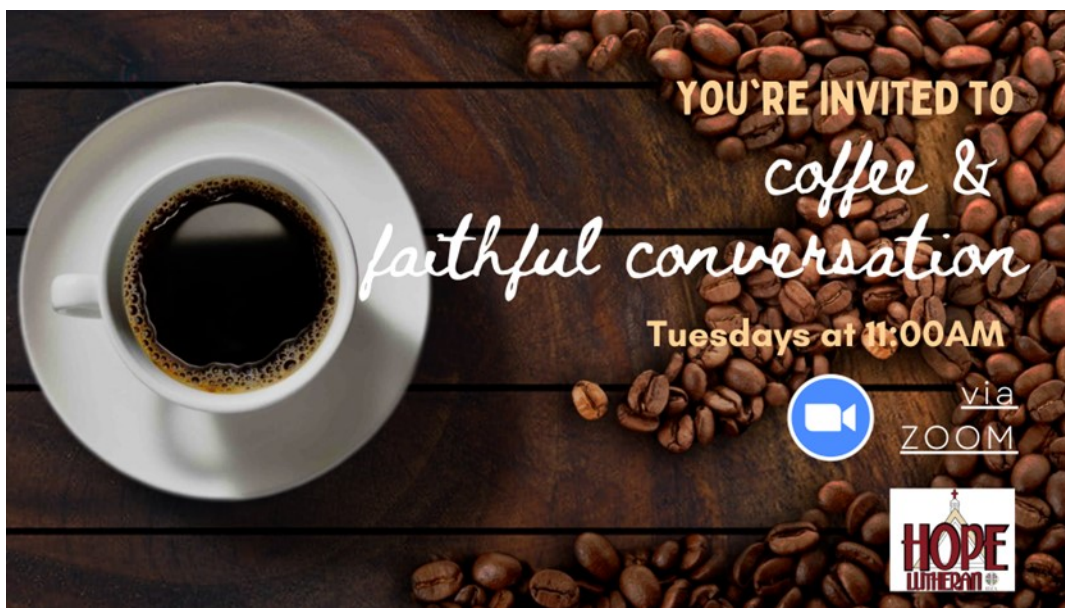
## This Week at HOPE April 26, 2023



### NEW Art Display at HOPE!

Paul Oman, "Drawn to the Word" artist  
April 1- May 14, 2023  
12 original watercolors  
(original prints can be purchased)

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD APRIL 30- MAY 14 FOR YOUR  
CHANCE TO WIN A PRINT OF YOUR CHOICE!



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### **HOPE's Community Garden**

Interested in organic gardening? HOPE Garden has plots available (10'x50' or 10'x25'). Garden Rules are on the HOPE website main page under announcements.

If interested or if you have questions, contact [psrudesill@gmail.com](mailto:psrudesill@gmail.com) by April 26th. Gardens open May 1st.

**Volunteers  
needed!**

The Property Committee will be putting up Sheetrock in the storage area of Winds of the Spirit on Saturday, April 29 starting at 9:00am.

Looking for volunteers!!

Email Doug at [Rudesill@comcast.net](mailto:Rudesill@comcast.net)

# This Week at HOPE April 26, 2023



## Communion Bread Bakers Needed!

Do you like to bake?

Are you looking for an easy way to volunteer your gifts without having to be “up front?”

Then become a communion bread baker!

3 months in 2023 still need bakers: August, September, & December

## SHARE YOUR GIFTS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

Did you know that you can volunteer to help with parts of worship  
**AT ANY TIME!!!**

Use [THIS GOOGLE DOC LINK](#) to sign-up to assist with our in-person worship!  
Or sign-up on the entryway table in person.

Greeters, readers, communion set-up & servers, acolytes, ushers,



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**WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE STARTS BACK TONIGHT!!!!**

Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM

K-10th grade & friends welcome!

6-6:30: Cross Gen Worship (ALL are welcome)

6:30-7: age appropriate learning (k-5th Faith Adventures, 6th+ Confirmation)

This spring we will learn all about creeds and  
wrap up our year with a hands-on service project night.

Hope to see you there!

**SPRING SESSION: April 19- May 10, 2023**

If you have not already registered for SESSION 3, please fill out the [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#).

Friends are always welcome!



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**Inspiring Guest Speakers + Strengthen Faith  
Service Learning + Meeting New People  
Challenging Conversation  
Great Music + Worship**

### **DETAILS**

Open to youth who have completed 8th-12 grade at the time of the event  
\$300 per participant; (\$50 due at the time of registration)  
More Information found here: <https://nswi.org/journey>

**\$50 DEPOSIT AND REQUIRED PAPERWORK  
DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APRIL 30TH.**

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# Mindful Pause Retreat

for Cancer Thrivers

**SAT. MAY 6**

ST. BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, RIVER FALLS, WI

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



**Schedule a day for spring renewal in body, mind, and spirit.**

Coach Cami will guide you on a path to personal growth this spring:

- gentle yoga
- mindfulness practices
- create your wellness vision
- expressive art experience
- group dialogue
- self-reflection



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:  
MKLAKE@COMCAST.NET**

[WWW.GUIDEDRESILIENCE.COM](http://WWW.GUIDEDRESILIENCE.COM)





## **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!

This Week at HOPE April 26, 2023



April Baptisms

- Margaret Anderson
- Louis Bernard
- Charles Eaton
- Hazel Ladnier
- Sharon Paulson
- Jack Stang
- Maxwell VanOverbeke
- Ben Wunrow
- Amanda Ziebarth



April Birthdays

Name	Birthday
Will Bohnert	2-Apr
John Hamilton	2-Apr
Sawyer Filarsky	4-Apr
Michael Stang	5-Apr
Jean Loudon	11-Apr
Traci Wolfe	11-Apr
Cathy Wunrow	11-Apr
Faye Perkins	14-Apr
Lori Leitch	29-Apr



		Celebrating
Brian & Crystal Roquette	02-Apr	21 Years
Gary & Vicki Siebold	21-Apr	22 Years
Eric & Lisa Rydland	30-Apr	18 Years

## This Week at HOPE April 26, 2023



### Please lift up the following people in prayer

Hannah Forward  
The Webb family (Family of Russ Keri Jiskra)  
Amanda Olson (Olive Olson's daughter)  
Nancy Sailer  
Jerry Gibson (Diane Clark and Karen Rodewald's father)  
George & Mary Klacan (Phil's Parents)  
Ella Conover ( Niece of Phil & Paula Klacan)  
Laura McDonald (Sister of Jean Loudon)  
Mary Babler (Friend the Dan Malaney)  
Beth Lindgren (Sister-in-law Dan Malaney)  
Betty Lou Oppegard  
Anna Peterson's Family (Friend of Olive Olson)  
Darwin & Margaret Bredahl (Karen Hamilton's sister & brother in law)  
Olive Olson & family  
Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)  
Miriam Monroe (Bill Montgomery's sister)  
Gary Blowers (Friend of Linda Jacobson)  
Naomi Brandt and family  
Milo Oppegard  
Carin Perkins (Faye Perkins sister)  
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)  
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)  
Linda Hidding (Nancy Sailer's cousin)  
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)  
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)  
Dave Hallquist (Friend of Bill Montgomery)  
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi 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)



**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**

**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