

# This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024

## Moving into the Unknown: Pre-Annual Meeting Wondering By Pastor Annie Ladnier

Our 2023 Ministry Council brought their work to a close last night at our final council meeting of our year together. Though it may at times seem tedious, the work of our Ministry Council is Holy Ground for God's work! This year our council was immersed in John 15:1-11. Nearly every month our meeting began by doing a brief Dwelling in the Word exercise with this passage. This helped ground our work, reminding us that Jesus, and his vision for us, is what guides our ministry day by day, month by month, and year by year.

Each month someone's attention would be brought to verse 5, **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** With Jesus in the very center of our decision making, we trusted that our ministry would indeed bear fruit, even if we weren't always certain what that would look like. As our year closes, we've seen not only the bearing of fruit, but we also see the fruits of this holy labor turning to seed, and as we head into another annual meeting, the ministry that began this year now plants seeds for where God is leading us next!

This Sunday you are all invited and encouraged to attend our 2024 Annual Meeting where we will celebrate being Christ's holy branches in 2023 and, with hope, give name to the goals and visions for the year(s) ahead! You can see the attached 2023 Annual Report for a taste of the fruits which have ripened this year! It has been a tremendous blessing to engage in ministry with our council and ministry teams this year and I am so grateful for your partnership in this holy work. A special thank you to our outgoing council officers and ministry team representatives:

Nancy Sailor, Lynda Meyers, Denise Burkett, Jeff Rodewald, Dan Malaney, Dale Bohnhert, and Diane Clark. Thank you for all of your hard work, diligence, collaboration, thoughtfulness, attention to detail, extra time, and faithful dedication to God's mission in this congregation.

I leave you with a blessing poem for a new year of ministry planting seeds, trimming branches, and staying rooted to the Vine.

### Moving into the Unknown (by Meta Herrick Carlson)

You can see only dimly,  
squinting and straining,  
seeking beyond the foreground  
you built to feel certain  
about how this works.

You have been tempted  
to hold onto the stuff right here  
because you have developed  
an allergy to the unknown  
and unknowable, things off track.

But God never asked for certainty,  
and you may never find it.  
So instead this blessing offers  
clarity about a few things  
and holy curiosity for the rest.

You do not need to know  
in order to move forward.  
The pillar of cloud and fire  
will find you out there,  
stumbling around and discovering.

I'm looking forward to faithfully stumbling and discovering with all of you in 2024!

# **This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024**



## **2024 ANNUAL MEETING & CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST 10:45AM**

Please join us either in-person or via [ZOOM](#)

All attending in person are invited to bring a dish for our Potluck Meal as we celebrate another fantastic year of doing God's work here at HOPE and plan for an excellent 2024 together

### **Advent Mission Project update:**

Thanks to your generosity we were able to assemble 35 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief and 44 pillows and cases for those experiencing homelessness at Grace Place!

### **Celebrating 2024 Generosity!**

As a reminder, if you made a 2024 giving pledge, or would like to update your online giving through Vanco, you will need to update your donation amounts with Vanco. Some people are comfortable doing it themselves by signing into your Vanco account and making the updates. But Olive is happy to make these updates for you. Simply contact Olive in the church office Mon-Wed 8:30AM-3:00PM.

### **Pastor Annie Out of Office January 25-29th!**

For any pastoral emergencies while I am away:

Please contact

Rev. Carolyn Staats (Mt. Zion, Hudson): 715-396-1465.

Pastor Bill Montgomery will be preaching  
and presiding on Sunday, Jan. 28th!



## This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024



All are needed to participate in the leading of worship!

Ushers, Communion Prep & Assistants, Readers, Prayer Leaders, Fellowship Hosts, Special Music, Altar Flowers, & Worship Assistants all add to the beauty of our worship together!

[YOU CAN SIGN UP HERE FOR ANY UPCOMING SUNDAY!](#)

## **SPECIAL 2024 HELPERS NEEDED!**

There are two worship volunteer roles that work on a monthly schedule.

Volunteers for these roles are encouraged to sign-up for an entire month at a time:

[COMMUNION BREAD BAKER SIGN-UP](#)

[COMMUNION SET-UP/ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP](#)



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**ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS & FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO BE  
Snack Hosts  
FOR OUR WINTER SESSION OF WOH!**

This is a great way to connect with our younger families here at HOPE!  
Snack hosts need to provide a simple snack and drink for about 20 participants  
Consider teaming up with a friend and checking out our Wednesday evenings!  
Help make Wednesdays of HOPE a safe, engaging, and welcoming time for all!



**This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024**



## **WINTER SESSION BEGINS TONIGHT! ALL ARE WELCOME**

All K-10th+\* grade youth are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6-7PM for fellowship, family friendly worship & service, learning, and growing in relationship to Jesus and one another! Our evenings begin with a brief family style worship, where children & adults help with leadership and a true sense of community is fostered. Youth are then divided into elementary (Faith Adventures) and middle/high (Confirmation) classes for deeper engagement with the evening's themes.

### **Winter Session Schedule:**

**January 10:** Liturgical Calendar: Hands on Exploration of God's Time & Church Seasons

**January 17:** The Lord's Prayer

**January 24:** The Lord's Prayer

**January 31:** The Lord's Prayer

**February 07:** ALL AGES BINGO NIGHT!

**February 14:** Ash Wednesday (6:30 Worship)

If you have not already done so, you can register for the Winter session here:

**[2023-2024 Wednesdays of HOPE Registration](#)**

**Teachers and Snack Hosts are needed to make each night of Wednesdays of HOPE a safe, engaging, and welcoming time for all!**

Please consider sharing your time and gifts to help! Sign-up at the links above or contact Pastor Annie!

**This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024**



**Teachers and Snack Hosts  
ARE NEEDED for the Winter and Spring Sessions!  
Help make Wednesdays of HOPE  
a safe, engaging, and welcoming time for all!**

Please consider sharing your time and gifts to help!  
Sign-up at the links above or  
contact Pastor Annie for more information!

**This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024**



All are invited to join Pastor Annie for this weekly small group conversation and Bible study!

This is a great chance to grow in relationship with God and one another.

We meet via Zoom so all can join from wherever you are!



This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024



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



Hallie Neuhaus	1-Jan
Jill Fritz	3-Jan
Hannah Hoglo	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

## **This Week at HOPE January 17, 2024**



### **Please lift up the following people in prayer**

Kermit and Sharon Paulson  
Gorden Jacobson (Linda Jacobson's uncle)  
Randy Dopkins (Olive Olson family friend)  
David Anderson (Karen Brohaugh's brother)  
Faye Perkins and family  
Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)  
John Weller (Karen Brohaugh's cousin)  
Dave and Deb Haugen (Family of Ellen Roose)  
Phyllis and Tom Haugen (Family of Ellen Roose)  
John and Lisa Davis (Friends of Dale & Jan Wegleitner)  
Fatma Aljarrah (Friend of Faye Perkins)  
Lorraine Brask Family ( Mother of Karen Kaste)  
Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)  
Betty Lou Oppgard and Family  
Michael Jacobson (Brother of Linda Jacobson)  
Barb Carmichael (Friend of Nancy Sailer)  
Dennis & Sandy Schultz (Friends of Bill & Kay Montgomery)  
Nancy Miller (Friend of Paula & Phil Klacan)  
Family of Marc DuPaul (Nephew of Naomi Brandt)  
Linda Shurden (Friend of Nancy Sailer)  
Charli and Sam King (Friends of Faye Perkins)  
Joyce Kendall (Mother of Cara Getschel)  
Judy Branson (Relative of the Boocks)  
Hannah Forward  
Amanda Olson (Olive Olson's daughter)  
Jerry Gibson (Diane Clark and Karen Rodewald's father)  
Ella Conover ( Niece of Phil & Paula Klacan)  
Mary Babler (Friend the Dan Malaney)  
Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)  
Naomi Brandt and family  
David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)  
Nicholas Simpson (Boock family friend)  
Teajai Schmidt (Boock family friend)  
Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt (Friend of Pastor Annie)  
Lee Hill (friend of Naomi Brandt)  
Gary Siebold  
David Hendrickson