

# This Week at HOPE March 20, 2024

## Wandering Heart Wonderings...

From Pastor Annie Ladnier

Welcome to Holy Week! I pray it provides you space to dwell in Christ's story of deep, deep love for you. Of course, our [Wandering Heart Lenten devotional](#) is FULL of wonderful tools to help you carve this holy space out each day this week, but in my own preparations for this week, I came across a couple of additional devotional pieces that I'd like to share with you:

### A Blessing for Maundy Thursday

This is the night that it begins,  
the festival of grief and somehow triumph.  
The end is near.

Jesus, we are beginning to understand that  
your grace makes no sense-  
grace sits next to betrayers,  
grace washes the feet of backstabbers,  
grace breaks bread with the disloyal,  
grace shares a cup with double-dealers.

Jesus, you are undoing every guarantee  
that, in loving you, I will not lose.

You are losing everything.

Bless us now, as we see your sacrifice.  
How you are pleading with us to love,  
as your friends break your heart.  
How you are showing us how to remember,  
when we long to forget  
that in your undoing, you remade the world.

*Written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, in "The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days."*

### For Good Friday

To accompany [John 19:14b-18](#)

To the cross, that's where love led you.  
So that's where we come too,  
to stand and grieve with Mary and John,  
your mother and your closest friend,  
Overwhelmed that it should come to this:  
Powerlessness and utter loss.

So much hope and healing  
and laughter and feasting and miracles  
and promises  
have come to this.  
To untold suffering, and a cruel death.  
It is finished.  
In the darkness, a figure comes  
moving cautiously,  
hands reaching up to ease your body down.  
And women with their spices and linens,

gently doing for you what they could,  
Helpless with grief as they lay you  
in a tomb.

What's this? The strongest have come,  
Roman soldiers enacting orders  
to seal off the entrance permanently.

Blessed are we who remain here in wonder,  
in the stillness, with the silence of death  
so heavy upon us,  
asking again, "Jesus,  
Is this how it goes?  
Is this how love wins?"

*Written by Kate Bowler in "Have A Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs & In-*

**Reflection Prompt:** Jesus's violent death stands in front of us as an impossibility. How can the savior die? And, really, how can the ugliness of death visit each of us? The feeling is one of horror. Allow yourself to think about the horror of it for a moment without turning away. This is what we do during Holy Week: we do not flinch from the truth.

**May your wandering heart be blessed, beloved.**



## About this Series:

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

In becoming familiar with Peter's story, many themes resonated with the hymn, "Come Thou Fount." It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we will be guided by a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

Through this series, we affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

## Additional Resources to Expand Your Wandering Heart Journey:

1. Devote: Our friends at A Sanctified Art have provided a special e-reader version of this year's [Wandering Heart Lenten devotional](#), which you can access on your computer and mobile devices: **In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.**
2. Listen: Wandering Faith: Figuring out Faith with Peter [SPOTIFY PLAYLIST](#)
3. Read:
  - a. Read *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence*, by Diana Butler Bass. (Harper Collins, 2021).
  - b. *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What To Do About It*, by Brian D. McLaren. (New York: St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2021).
4. Watch: *American Symphony*, a Netflix Documentary. Directed and produced by Matthew Heineman, starring Jon Batiste. Netflix. Released November 29, 2023. [netflix.com/title/81728930/](https://netflix.com/title/81728930/) *There are several ways this film resonates with this series, as Batiste shows us a steadfast, heart-forward faith in the midst of a wandering journey.*





# Holy Week Services



## Palm Sunday

March 24th 9:30AM



## Maundy Thursday

March 28th 6:30PM



## Good Friday

March 29th 6:30PM



## Easter Sunday

March 31st

7:00 AM Sunrise Worship

9:30AM Worship






## **HOPE's Easter Garden**

HOPE is planning to display an Easter Garden around the altar on Easter morning. If you would like to donate plants or flowers to the Garden, please drop yours off on the church kitchen island anytime from Palm Sunday (March 24th) to Easter Saturday (March 30th) at 9:00 am. We will be building our Garden at 9:00 am Saturday morning. Olive will check all plants and flowers that may need watering while she's in the office (through Wednesday). There will also be a sign-in sheet on the kitchen island.

This year we are partnering with the Northwest Synod of WI's Bishop's Initiative, "Water Is Life" to help raise a collective \$40,000 to build 2 solar powered, deep drilled wells in our companion synod of Malawi! You have an opportunity to give every Wednesday or at the Bowling for Water event on March 10th!


# BISHOP'S INITIATIVE

## WATER IS LIFE




### WELL PROJECT

With the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi




Malawi's population is 18.6 million.  
More than 50% of the population is under 18 years old.





65% of rural areas have access to clean water services.

1 in 3 people don't have clean water to drink.




Thousands of children die each year due to water-borne illnesses. This worsens after natural disasters.







73% of health care centers don't have access to sanitation facilities.

Access to clean water increases safety and education for women and girls.




Deep-drilled wells can provide clean water for thousands of people in a single area.






Solar well designs can withstand more effects of climate change & extreme weather disasters.


**GOAL:**  
\$40,000 raised by Synod Assembly - June 7-8, 2024




**PROJECT:**  
Assist ELCM in building **two** new solar powered deep drilled wells.




Gifts for this initiative can be given via check, online, or on the synod app.



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
"Bishop's Initiative - Water is Life"  
944 24 1/4 Street Suite 2  
Chetek, WI 54728





Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024



Are you a sewer, quilter, or crafter with a fabric stash that needs downsizing?

The Green Team is seeking fabric in shades of blue, white, red, green and yellow for an Earth Fest project. Solid or softly patterned woven (not stretchy knit) fabric in pieces 8"x6" or larger would be greatly appreciated!

Fabric can be brought to the Eidskog room and placed in the box labeled "Green Team" from Sunday, March 17 until April 14.

Thank you!!



This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024



# *Making Magic with Ken Burns* *Jacqueline Schwab* *in concert*

*"Jacqueline Schwab brings more feeling and intensity  
to music than anyone I know," - Ken Burns*

FREE CONCERT

*Sunday, April 14th*  
4:00 PM



Facebook Event

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
110 N 3rd St. River Falls, WI  
[firstchurchrf.org](http://firstchurchrf.org) | 715-425-2052

Known for her work in over a dozen Ken Burns' documentaries, pianist Jacqueline Schwab will perform pieces from *Civil War*, *Baseball*, and *Mark Twain* as well as traditional Scottish tunes and her own works inspired by Ken's piercing window into American history.

This poster has been designed using assets from Freepik.com

This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024

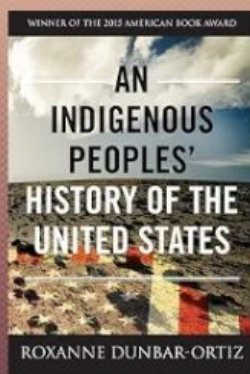


*You're  
Invited!*

## HOPE Community Book Read & Discussion

*"My hope is that this book will be a springboard  
to dialogue about history, the present reality of Indigenous peoples'  
experience, and the meaning and future of the United States itself."*

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz



First discussion April 14  
following worship

**Chapters 1-5**

### Books available for free in the Eidskog Room

Discussions related to the history of the United States from the Indigenous experience  
as a step toward Truth & Healing.

What does this mean for us as people of HOPE?





15TH ANNUAL

# SHOE SOME LOVE 5K

2024



# RUN

ALL PROCEEDS PURCHASE  
ATHLETIC SHOES FOR LOCAL KIDS IN NEED

Member  
**FDIC**

## 27/APR

 **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF RIVER FALLS**

- Start: 8:00 AM | Kid's Fun Run: 9:15 AM
- \$30 before March 31st | \$35 April 1st and after
- Kids 12 and under & Fun Run are FREE

For more info & registration:

**SHOESOMELOVE.COM**





**FIRST  
NATIONAL  
BANK**  
of River Falls  
**www.fnbrf.com**

# This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024



## The St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Week

[YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR A BUILD DAY HERE](#)

Workdays are from 9-3:30, with half shifts available

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old,

Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

This year's build is a bit different – rather than a new, ground-up build, we will be rehabbing a town home in Somerset! We're very excited to be expanding the scope of our projects in this way, as a shorter construction period will allow us to take on more builds and serve more families! Spring schedules can be busy, so talk with your HOPE friends about a day/time that works best for you and sign-up! Women and men are welcome on these project days.



**This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024**



# YOUTH NEWS



**Spring Session begins April 10th!**  
Join us as we explore:  
“Faith in Daily Life”

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!

This spring we are focusing on “Faith in Daily Life” and we’ll be learning about and experiencing different dimensions of our discipleship:

April 10: Exploring different ways to pray

April 17: Faith in Service with HOPE’s Green Team to prep for EarthFest with guest BISHOP LAURIE SKOW-ANDERSON

April 24: Exploring Our Faith through ART (with special leader Karen Rodewald)

May 1: Holy Communion Milestone Night 1: exploring how Holy Communion nourishes us to live

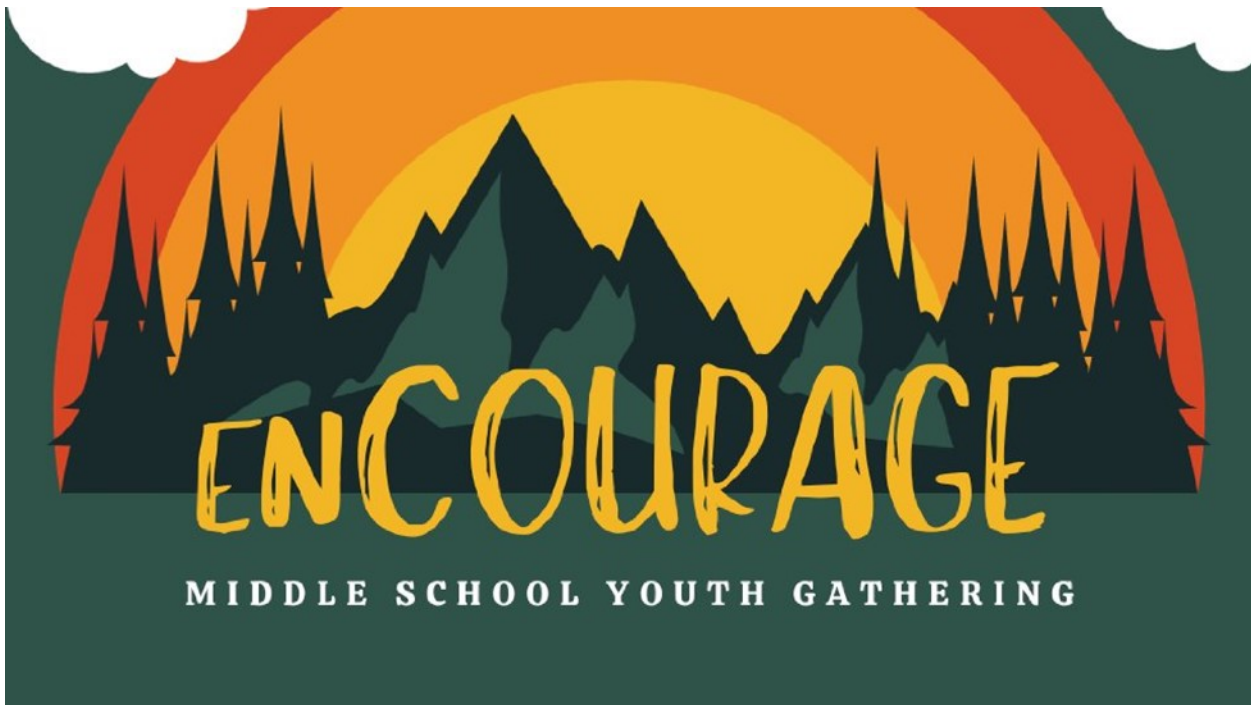
out our faith (night 1 of 2)

May 8: Holy Communion Milestone Night 2 & END OF YEAR WRAP UP!

**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 March 27, 2024**



**April 13, 2024 8AM-5PM  
\$50 by MARCH 31**

All 5th through 8th graders throughout the NW Synod of WI are invited to join us for an incredible day of music, awesome guest speakers, workshops, group activities, and service projects as we explore what it looks like to trust in God, to have courage, to encourage one another, and be reminded that Jesus is with us always! Registration fee includes an event t-shirt, breakfast treats & lunch. We hope to see you there!!

HOPE youth and friends who would like to attend need to let Pastor Annie know and turn in your \$50 payment NO LATER THAN March 31, 2024. **Please know that cost barriers will never exclude anyone from participating! Speak with Pastor Annie about scholarships.**



**This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024**



All are invited & needed to participate in the leading of worship!  
Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Want to help but not sure what the job entails?  
Learn more in our [Worship Volunteer Guide](#)

## **2024 ALTAR GUILD/COMMUNION SET-UP HELP STILL NEEDED!**

We are still in need of people willing to prepare the Altar for Sunday morning worship each week. This opportunity allows you the opportunity for a monthly rotation. Please sign up here:

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

For a description of how to fulfill this role check out the  
[Worship Volunteer Guide](#)

## **SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP HOST STILL NEEDED!**

We have been blessed with a pretty steady return of our Sunday fellowship time, but we do have an opening this coming Sunday!

You can [SIGN UP HERE](#) or contact Pastor Annie if you are able!

**This Week at HOPE March 27, 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!



**We have eggs again!**

\$3.00 a dozen donation.

You can find them in refrigerator.

The donations will go to Youth Ministry events.

Thanks for supporting our youth here at HOPE!!



# This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024



Trinity’s outreach ministry, We Do Feet was founded with a mission to provide basic household items to anyone in need, especially those desiring to make a fresh start in life. Since the 1990’s, We Do Feet has made a large impact in the St. Croix Valley, now serving hundreds of households annually.

**Donations needed:**

Beds, dressers, sheets, mattresses & box springs (must be in good, clean shape)  
Household items-dishes, silverware, pots & pans, bowls & small appliances

**Contact:**

715-781-0622

**Address:**

614 Badlands Rd. Hudson

**Volunteers needed:**

Weekly shifts are Tuesday evenings from 5-7pm  
and Saturday mornings from 9am – noon.



**This Week at HOPE March 27, 2024**



## **Death of a Parent: Am I an adult orphan?**

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom Webinar**

Bakken-Young Funeral and Cremation Services invites you to a free grief webinar for those who are coping with grief after the death of their parent(s).



### **Presenter, Kenneth Doka will discuss:**

- Describe the manifestations and process of grief noting the ways that the death of a parent can be disenfranchised
- Discuss the ways that a parent's death can influence the adult child's development and family dynamics
- Describe self-help strategies in assisting adult children cope with parental loss

Join **Kenneth Doka, PhD, MDiv, FT**, Professor Emeritus at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Vice-President for Grief Programs for the Hospice Foundation of America. He is the author of numerous books and publications and the contributing author of *Dying & Death: Life & Living*. He has keynoted conferences throughout North America and other countries.

Register at: [bakken-young.com/event/grief-webinar](https://bakken-young.com/event/grief-webinar)

Questions? Contact Julia Rajtar, Grief Support Coordinator  
(715) 781-4003 or [julia@bakken-young.com](mailto:julia@bakken-young.com)

**Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services**

River Falls (715) 425-8788 | [info@bakken-young.com](mailto:info@bakken-young.com) | New Richmond (715) 243-5252

Visit our grief support page for more information on events and resources at: [bakken-young.com](https://bakken-young.com)



*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

*April Baptisms*



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



		Celebrating
Gary & Vicki Siebold	21-Apr	23 Years
Eric & Lisa Rydland	30-Apr	19 Years





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

Breccan Olson and family

Patricia Miller (Sister of Carl Warren)

Rhiannon Bondhus (Niece of Bondhus family)

Sharon & Kermit Paulson

Barbara McIntosh (Mother of Joe McIntosh)

Brooke Grant (niece of Margaret Anderson)

Family of Mike Roy (Friend of Karen Rodewald)

Lori Snyder (Friend of Nancy & David Peters)

David Anderson (Karen Brohaugh's brother)

Ed and Gwen Paulson

Randy Dopkins (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)

John Weller (Cousin of Karen Brohaugh)

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)

Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)

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)

Linda Shurden (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Joyce Kendall (Mother of Cara Getschel)

Hannah Forward

Amanda Olson (daughter of Olive Olson)

Ella Conover (Phil & Paula's Klacan's Niece)

Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)

David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)

Teajai Schmidt (Relative of Boock family)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi)

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson