

# This Week at HOPE April 10, 2024



## **“What Does A Land Acknowledgement Have to Do with Our Mission?” A Weekly Reflection by Rev. Annie Ladnier**

Beginning this Sunday, April 14th HOPE’s Green Team is hosting a three week book discussion on *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. The discussion promises to be rich, eye-opening, and at times, challenging. It is also sure to plant seeds for further inquiry and discussion about the land which currently serves as our home here at HOPE. Why is such a conversation significant to undertake as a Christian congregation?

Scripture reminds us that seeking after truth is indeed costly:

*Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding- Proverbs 23:23*

The entirety of our scriptural witness shows us that we worship a God concerned with justice and liberation of God’s people. When such justice and liberation is withheld from any of God’s creation, it winds up killing both the oppressed and the oppressor. Withholding liberation from one another suffocates us all; it makes it impossible to breathe and live into the love God intends for us to have for one another.

But we are an Exodus people! We are Easter people! We are liberated and raised to new life! We confess that Jesus *came so that we may have life, and have it abundantly* (John 10:10). And that is a collective “we.” It is so *all* may have life! And part of Resurrection living is that we do better than when we were on the road only to death. Part of Resurrection living is that we join God’s pursuit of abundant life, even when we have to dig for it under layers of years of false “christian doctrine.” Investigating the origins of the *doctrine of discovery* and *manifest destiny* reveal to us just how easily our faith can be twisted when it is tied to a hunger for property, power, and money misconstrued as “God’s favor.”

Seeking abundant life means that we hear, see, and learn from the voices of all of God’s people and take a posture of curiosity about what more God might be trying to reveal to us through those voices. Zora Neale Hurston once said, “If you are silent about your pain, they’ll kill you and say you enjoyed it.” We should not demand this of those who have been hurt because of the misuse of trying to follow Jesus. We have not historically done it all that well. We have made grave mistakes throughout history. And God calls us to be better!

God implores us to wonder who was hurt? Who still hurts? What beautiful expressions of the divine did our ancestors trample on as they wrenched land and resources out of the hands of those already stewarding them? In the midst of multiple stories, where might God’s truth be woven? Where is God calling us now? Who is God inviting us to become? What current and future pain does our God earnestly hope we avoid causing one another? Or do we think we have fully arrived?

No. For we sing, *Jesus has arisen and we shall arise!*

When siblings cry out in voices loud enough to finally be heard after years of being silenced, we are called to rise to the occasion of listening, wondering, celebrating their gifts, and hoping for a renewed future together. This month, God is nudging us to do that through a book study. God is nudging us to grow a new appreciation for a beautiful part of God’s holy creation. I look forward to growing in God’s nudging, together.

# This Week at HOPE April 10, 2024




## “WATER IS LIFE” BISHOP’S INITIATIVE THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity throughout Lent and into this Easter season in support of this initiative! Your donations either at Wednesday worship or during our Bowling event, helped us raise **\$1,126.00!** This will be a helpful piece to the Northwest Synod of WI’s \$40,000 goal to build 2 solar powered, deep drilled wells in Malawi!

**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 April 10, 2024



## **ANNOUNCING: FALCON LINKS FOOD DRIVE**

Did you know that UWRF now has their very own social worker on campus to assist over 30 students who are system impacted?

This means they may have been in foster care, relative care, or orphaned; have incarcerated parents, experienced mental health hospitalization, or some other type of system impact. [UWRF Falcon Links](#) aims to provide guidance, support, and resources to these students so they can get their basic needs met and be successful college students. Many of the Falcon Links students are first generation college students. They often fall below the poverty line, lack a support system, and cannot get their basic needs met. Falcon Links helps to get students resources such as housing over school breaks, employment, food, hygiene items, access and navigation of healthcare, mental health resources, dental care, eye care, and other resources! If students can't get their basic needs met, it becomes nearly impossible to be a successful student. Falcon Links helps make both happen. Make sure to click on the link above to see the full scope of what Falcon Links does!

A few weeks ago, many of you came forward with generous gifts for a little boy, Breccan Olson, who was in the hospital with a severe GI infection that led to dialysis. His mother, Alyssa, just happens to be the Falcon Links social worker! When she was thinking of community partners, the personal generosity she experienced through HOPE caused her to reach out on behalf of her students! I have no doubt we will be just as eager to support these students!

**So, during the month of April the HOPE Mission Team invites you to bring in the following items:**

- ✝ Ready to microwave meals
- ✝ Granola bars
- ✝ Mac and cheese/pasta/sauce
- ✝ Soups
- ✝ Fruit cups
- ✝ Ready to microwave rice/rice meals
- ✝ Snacks
- ✝ Peanut butter
- ✝ Anything high protein
- ✝ Shelf stable milk
- ✝ Shelf stable chicken and tuna
- ✝ Spaghettios
- ✝ Poptarts
- ✝ Pedialyte/Gatorade
- ✝ Students are also able to accept gift cards that are \$25 in value without having it impact their financial aid.

**The final day for our collection will be SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH!**

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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!!

## HOPE SERVICE PROJECT NIGHT!

All HOPE members & friends are invited to join us on Wednesday, April 17th from 6-7PM as we prep for our prayer flag project! Bishop Laurie Skow Anderson will be with us for the fun. Helpers will sort and cut fabric, help our sewers make a loop, and organize supplies for Saturday. It promises to be a fun night of service together!

This Week at HOPE April 10, 2024

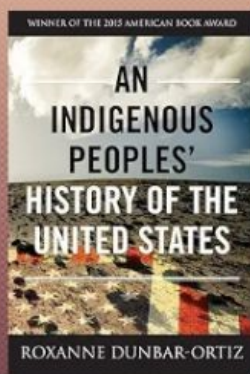


You're  
Invited!

## 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?

This Week at HOPE April 10, 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 April 10, 2024



Dear Faith Community Supporters,

Since 2009 when Assistance & Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) took its place as the primary source of short-term financial assistance to residents of River Falls (Ellsworth was added to our service area in 2013), the faith community has been a consistent source of program funding, providing approximately 30% of ARC's annual budget. ARC is grateful for your belief in our mission as well as your faithful support of it!

**This letter is to inform you that Assistance & Resource Center, Inc. will cease to operate as a non-profit at the end of fiscal year 2024.**

Short term financial assistance will be provided to clients, as requests are approved and funding is available, throughout this fiscal year with the goal of having all treasury funds expended by December 31, 2024.

It has been the passion and the privilege of every person involved with ARC to promote its mission through addressing the individual needs of folks needing a "hand up" to see them through a financial shortfall or unexpected household crisis.

Thousands of individuals and households have received assistance as ARC clients in the past 15 years. During that time, hundreds of referrals to other partner helping agencies have also been made. Due to the astounding amount of volunteer hours driving the entire mission of this organization, the total amount of direct financial aid provided to clients, in turn cycled back into the local economy, exceeds *\$1.2 million*.

Thank you and **God Bless You!**

March 2024

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**Assistance & Resource Center, Inc.**

PO Box 223, River Falls, WI 54022

(715) 338-0755

[www.arcriverfalls.org](http://www.arcriverfalls.org)

**This Week at HOPE April 10, 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 April 10, 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 April 10, 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 April 10, 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 | 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 April 10, 2024



**Bakken-Young**  
Funeral & Cremation Services

## 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)

# This Week at HOPE April 10, 2024



## *April Birthdays*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birthday</b>
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



		<b>Celebrating</b>
Gary & Vicki Siebold	21-Apr	23 Years
Eric & Lisa Rydland	30-Apr	19 Years

## This Week at HOPE April 10 2024



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

Karen Hamilton

Patricia Miller (Sister of Carl Warren)

Rhiannon Bondhus (Niece of Bondhus family)

Sharon & Kermit Paulson

The Family of Barbara 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)

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