



HOPE UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
the church by the lake

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

HUC Issue 0119 - January & February 2019



**CONNECT. NURTURE. PRACTICE.**

210 Michaels St | PO Box 28 | Cochrane, WI 54622

[hopeunitedcochrane.org](http://hopeunitedcochrane.org)

the church by the lake

608.248.2481

We are excited to announce our  
official web site!

**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK**



Keep up to date on events, worship changes, and access newsletters. We will be adding more information and photos, archiving past newsletters, and linking with our facebook page (hopeucccochrane) in the coming months. Let us know what you think.

**HOPEUNITEDCOCHRANE.ORG**



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## Pastor's Letter:

We celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives in new ways, as Scripture and songs speak to our hearts!

We continue to look forward to living out our call as Christians to care for those who are in need of friends, food, shelter, and love. All of us are in that boat from time to time. We have opportunities to serve God by serving those in our congregation, our families, our community, and by extension all that are in need in the world.

Six members of our congregation have chosen to deepen their

knowledge of scripture and how it applies to our lives by registering for an online course through the Damascus Project "Returning to Sacred Texts: Finding Stories We Can Live In."

Many in our congregation participate in assisting the children to find faith and hope through God2L, through providing gifts at Christmas, and food during the Summer.

Many assist in worship, as we call one another to experience a deeper inspiration and presence of God.

Many help in a myriad of practical ways: Serving on the consistory which makes decisions on our behalf, filling the candles, emptying the trash and recyclables, vacuuming and cleaning, adorning the building, running the PowerPoint on Sunday mornings, bringing treats to share, and visioning a vital future.

Thank you all!

Where will this new year lead us as we follow God's voice and call?

Blessings,  
Pastor Colleen Kwong

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Pastor Colleen Kwong

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# Children's Christian Education (God2L)

## Wednesdays

Twenty-one children and youth gather on Wednesday afternoons to learn about Jesus through scripture lessons, to make crafts that help to reinforce the lessons of giving and growing in faith, and have a good time together! Snacks are provided by families. They participate in worship once a month and will going on a field trip on Good Friday.

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3:45pm to 5:30pm

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# Soup & Stories of the Spirit

**Wednesday, January 9, 2019**

Once again, the Hope in Action group will offer Soup & Stories of the Spirit in the church basement. We invite church and community members to share experiences in which God has been a part of our lives. This event's theme is Opening Doors, as we have all experienced times where it seemed a door closed, but another, more fulfilling door has opened.



We recognize we do not always know what is in store for us, but God opens up opportunities for us every day to serve Him.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ~Revelation 3:20.

Soup and bread provided.

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6:00pm - 7:30pm

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# Lifting Up Hope

## Project Update

Brad LaDuke and Jay and Eija are taking a look at the first draft of plans. Brad thought the construction looked reasonable and efficient. I have received feedback from over a dozen members and it centers around wanting to improve on our fellowship space, especially after learning the accessibility costs shown thus far.

This project started as accessibility research but after researching those costs it seems we should also be considering what things we need to be sustainable long term, ie a bedroom for our pastor and a better community space. And also consider our upcoming building maintenance. Our roof and heating system likely need replacing in less than 5 years, along with another \$3000 to replace our front stairs per the contractor.

We are a social church and we are heading in the direction of hosting more events to open our doors to the public; our God2L gained students again this year and is one way we are servicing the community. After discussing with consistory and Pastor we feel consulting with a design/build firm would be the best option for us. They can help us determine where to put our money and get the biggest bang for our buck. I already have a firm lined up to work with and the \$3000 previously allocated to the Building Committee will be sufficient to consult with them and get some drawings for us.

I am using the term "I" because no one has stepped forward to join me on the Building Committee, as of yet. The Consistory and Pastor have been a helpful sounding board, as has the member feedback. Pastor will join me to meet with the design/build firm to discuss what we need and want for our church going forward. There is still more research to be done and input about what our church needs should come from as many of our members as possible. If anyone would to join us please get in touch with me and keep the feedback coming as we progress!

Blessings, Sarah Kramer  
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