



HOPE UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
the church by the lake

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 0123 - January & February 2023



**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**



the church by the lake

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# Pastor's Letter:

**January 2023**

As we turn the calendar from 2022 to 2023, we are still in the Christmas Season, at least in the church. For Christians the Christmas Season begins December 25 and ends on January 6 when we celebrate Epiphany.

Since the 6th is a Friday, we will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 8, 2023. At that time, I hope to start a new tradition- giving out "star words". This is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for over a decade now. I will write a list of intention words, or guiding words, on paper stars. I will arrange the stars with the word face down on a table, and then invite you to randomly pick a star. You can place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word, as well as incorporate it in your spiritual practices.

Here are some of the theological thoughts behind this tradition:

1. The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us to move closer to Jesus.
2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
3. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.

On Epiphany Sunday I will provide both more information about the "why" of this spiritual practice, along with suggestions on ways to incorporate your word in your normal routines.

Continued on next page...

# Pastor's Letter:

**January 2023**

If you would like a star and are unable to be with us on Sunday, January 8, 2023, please contact me. I will randomly pick a star for you and mail it or put it aside until you can pick it up.

As we end this Christmas season and move into the season of Epiphany, may God presence and activity in this world, this church, and your life be seen in ways that you may not have seen God before.

Pastor Deb Kunkel  
Hope United Church  
210 Michaels Street  
Cochrane, WI

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Cell: 239.994.2528  
[debrev2002@aol.com](mailto:debrev2002@aol.com)

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## Annual Meeting

**Sunday, January 15, 2023**

The Hope United Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 15, 2023 after our morning service. Please contact the Church if there are any questions.

HOPE UNITED CHURCH

After Worship  
210 Michaels Street  
Cochrane, WI

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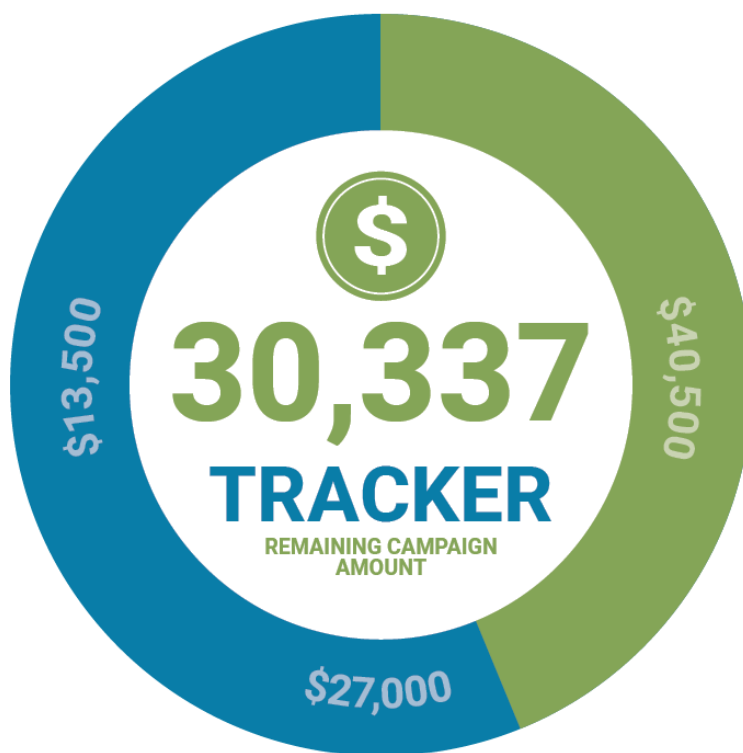
210 Michaels St | PO Box 28 | Cochrane, WI 54622 | 608.248.2481

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# Lifting Up Hope For All

## Here Is Your Chance To Help

While the Capital Campaign has ended we are still working to pay for Lifting Up Hope for All accessibility addition. If you are interested in helping any donation amount is appreciated for this ambitious undertaking.



**LAST UPDATED  
01.24.23**

# Fifth Sunday

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

Hope United Church is invited to join Worship Services with St. John's Church on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 10:30am in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Worship @ 10:30am  
303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI

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# Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

Hope United Church is invited to join Worship Services with St. John's Church on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:30pm in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Worship @ 6:30pm  
303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI

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# Online Calendar

**Keep Informed**

[hopeunitedcochrane.org/calendar.html](https://hopeunitedcochrane.org/calendar.html)

# Bible Study

## Jesus' Journey Towards The Cross

Lent itself is a time of spending time with the story of Jesus' journey towards the cross, as well as the impact his ministry still has today. As part of diving deeper into that story, I am offering a 6-Week Bible Study at St. John's Church on the story of the last week of Jesus' life as told through the Gospel of Matthew. I hope you will join me. ~ Pator Deb

Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
Tuesday, March 07, 2023

Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Tuesday, March 28, 2023  
Tuesday, April 04, 2023

### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Starts @ 1:00pm  
303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI

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# Mission

## CONNECT. NURTURE. PRACTICE.

We extend hospitality to all as a sign of God's inclusive love. No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

We CONNECT through shared life experiences and search for a spiritual presence in our lives.

We NURTURE spiritual growth for all ages by encouraging curiosity about Jesus Christ's message and how it relates to our world today.

The Spirit invites us to PRACTICE the language of hope.