



HOPE UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
the church by the lake

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Issue 0322 - March & April 2022



**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:

The season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 2; that day St. Johns and Hope will come together for an Ash Wednesday service at 6:00pm at St. Johns. We will distribute ashes for all who choose to receive them on your forehead or the back of their hand.

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. The “three pillars” or practices that traditionally connected to Lent are prayer, fasting, and giving. For some this may seem quaint. Others find this too hard, bringing up shame, or hurt, or the feeling that one is unworthy. And so, unless giving up chocolate or smoking in any attempt to improve health, for a good portion of the population Lent means merely another seven weeks to Easter.

I've come to understand Lent as a sort of spiritual spring housecleaning. These three pillars are some of the tools we use as we go about it. These seven weeks can become a time of reconciling or growing deeper in relationship with God, with our families, and with our communities. In a phrase used in Twelve Step programs Lent is an opportunity to “clear our side of the street.” We are encouraged to let go of what keeps us from being the people we want to be, and more importantly, the people God created us to be.

For repentance isn't that we need to feel shame, or perpetual sorrowful for our actions; it is about turning around and going a different way. Repentance means looking honestly at what we wish we did or did not do, taking accountability, then asking God to show us a better way.

Organization specialist Kon Mari became popular suggesting to declutter we take each object in the home and ask, “Does this still give me joy?” If it did, keep it, repairing if needed. If not, either donate it or recycle/discard it. Lent invites us to do undergo a similar process with ourselves, our values, habits, choices, and relationships under the gaze of the Good News.

We take the time to ask “Does ‘this’ (habit, action, value, judgement, inaction, etc.) bring God joy? is it part of living the abundant, joyful life God intends for us and with each other?”

As a follower of Jesus, what in your life isn't bringing joy for you and for others? (Not happiness, but joy.)

Sometimes what isn't sparking joy is a situation that we cannot change, but is there a way to find moments of joy and grace within it? Join me over the next seven weeks asking that question. Remember, out of the worst day, God has, can, and will always bring resurrection. So check under the couch cushions in your life to see what's there, find those cobwebs in the back rooms of your life that only you see, and then ask God's Spirit of love, grace, and new life to blow through. Who knows what may happen? Let's find out.

God's grace and peace, Pastor Deb

P.S. On a different subject: Reminder – if you or someone you know would like a home visit, please reach out to me. I'd love to stop by.

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Lenten Bible Study for St. Johns UCC and Hope UCC

Pastor Deb will lead a Lenten Bible Study on the "Last Seven Phrases (Words) of Jesus" starting on Tuesday, March 8, at 1:00pm at St Johns UCC. We will meet for an hour to hour and a half depending on interest. Pastor Deb will open with a brief introduction of their place within the context of the gospel in which they appear as well as historical significance, then open for group discussion.

March 8 - Father, forgive them.

March 15 - Today you will be with me in paradise.

March 22 - Why have you forsaken me.

March 29 - Woman, here is your son.

April 5 - I am Thirsty

April 12 - Into your hands, and It is finished.

You are welcome to come to some or all. Registration isn't needed, but if you have the chance, please let Pastor Deb know that you plan to attend.

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Pastor Deb Kunkel

Email: [debrev2002@aol.com](mailto:debrev2002@aol.com) | Phone: 608.248.2481

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Page 2

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# Lifting Up Hope For All

## Update - Pledges

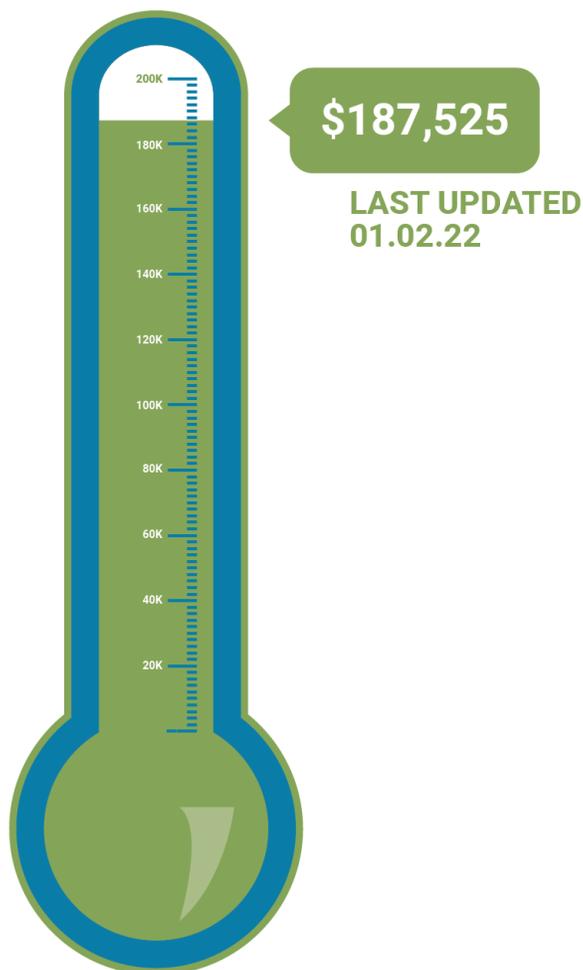
Our beautiful addition and lift are now complete. I hope many of you have had the opportunity to see or use it by now. We are immensely proud of what our Hope family has accomplished in these trying times of Covid-19.

Now that the job is complete, we are in the process of making payments on our project loan. I would like to encourage members to consider sending in their pledge (or any part of it) for 2021 at any time so that we can apply it to the loan balance. Any interest that we can save by timely or early payments will be a plus.

Thank you so much for your continued support. I believe we all look forward to when we can return to our friendship time and celebration events. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

On behalf of your Hope consistory,

Debra Knutson  
Consistory Vice President  
[knut1129@gmail.com](mailto:knut1129@gmail.com)  
715.495.5085



# Food Drive

## Now Through Easter

Lent is a great time for giving and Hope UCC - Cochrane is hosting a Food Drive now through Easter Sunday for the Fountain City Food Shelf located at St. John's UCC Church. The Food Shelf is open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9:00am-11:00am and the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 3:00pm-5:00pm. They offer non-perishable food items, frozen meats and toiletries. Cash is always welcome. Here are some needed items, toilet paper, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, toiletries, cereal, cake mixes, frosting, canned chili/stew and microwavable meals. Items may be dropped at Hope Church Cochrane on Sundays before or after services 9:30am-10:00am or a volunteer can pick up your donation.

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# Roast Beef Fundraiser

## Saturday, March 26, 2022

Hope UCC will be holding a Roast Beef Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday March 26 from 4-00pm-6:00pm in Cochrane, WI. Dine-in or take out. Tickets are now available and at the Church on Sunday. Cost per meal is \$12.00. The dinner includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, dinner roll, butter, and a dessert. We will be asking for donations of bars for the event. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards Lifting Up Hope.

If you would like to purchase tickets, need tickets to sell or want to donate bars please let me know. A sign-up sheet will be up soon for bars and workers for the event. This was a successful event last year and we have high hopes that it will be even bigger this time. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rose Cyert at 507-450-8312 or Debra at 715-495-5085. Blessings.

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4-00pm to 6:00pm  
210 Michaels Street  
Cochrane, WI

## Palm Sunday Worship

**Sunday, April 10, 2022**

Hope UCC will be having Palm Sunday Worship on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship @ 8:30pm

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## Good Friday Service

**Friday, April 15, 2022**

St Johns UCC is invited for a Group Worship with Hope UCC in Cochrane, WI on Friday, April 15, 2022 at 6:00pm.

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship @ 6:00pm

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## Easter Sunday Worship

**Sunday, April 17, 2022**

Hope UCC will host our annual Potluck & Egg Hunt after the Easter Service on Sunday, April 17 at 8:30am. All are welcome to join us for all activities.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30am Workship

# 100 Mile Garage Sale

## Outdoor Event

The well known 100 Mile Garage Sale is being planned for May 5-8, 2022. Your Hope Consistory is making plans to participate in the huge sale on Friday, May 6, 2022 and Saturday, May 7, 2022 in the church parking lot. As the event gets closer, the sale committee will be reaching out to members and friends for canopies and tents, tables, assistance with set up and sales, and take down. If you would like to donate any items to the sale, we will begin collecting items March 7, 2022. Just contact Debra Knutson [knut1129@gmail.com](mailto:knut1129@gmail.com) or 715.495.5085 and pick up will be arranged. All proceeds from the sale will go to the Lifting Up Hope for All project.

## HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Friday, May 6, 2022

TBA

Outdoor Event

210 Michaels Street

Saturday, May 7, 2022

TBA

Outdoor Event

210 Michaels Street

8:00am-3:00pm