



HOPE UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
the church by the lake

## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

HUC Issue 0720 - July & August 2020



**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. Let us know what you think.

**HOPEUNITEDCOCHRANE.ORG**



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## Pastor's Letter:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Descriptive phrases about the times we are living in are running thin, but these are both challenging and inviting times, aren't they?

I have heard from many who have the luxury of not having to physically go to work but working from home, or from those who are retired and actually staying home more, that they are enjoying the freedom to just be. All of us are traveling less, or not at all. Some of us have to go to essential jobs, or to workplaces that are re-opening. But all of us have changed the way we live.

What are the changes that may be for the best? Have you

decided to stop doing some of the tasks or commitments that have formerly kept you too "busy"? Have you re-evaluated your commitments and chosen new paths for your creativity and your energy? Have you taken time to "be" instead of "do"?

Even though I miss the income from selling my pottery work in person at church conferences this year, I have loved being able to be home during the beautiful month of May! My garden certainly has never looked better or been more productive because I have been home to tend it. There are bushes I have never seen bloom until this year because I was away working during their blossoming time.

What do you see as positive changes in your life because of this "stay at home" time? The invitation is to slow your inner clock to be with the Holy. Make sacred time by not filling it with tasks, but being open to the immense love of God that has always called you in being.

Claim the power of that love to help change the things that need changing in our world.

Gracious God, help us to be open and aware. Show us our spiritual path of beauty, power, and love. In Christ who knows and loves all, we pray. Amen.

Blessings,  
Pastor Colleen Kwong

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Pastor Colleen Kwong

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# Worship

## Suggestions & Zoom Chat

Worship together, apart, on Sundays by viewing [Hope UCC Facebook](#) page or on our website [hopeunitedcochrane.org](http://hopeunitedcochrane.org). Suggestion: Set up a worship space in your home with a cloth covering for a table, candle, small cup and plate for communion Sundays (first Sunday of each month), Bible, and computer or tablet or phone. Read the Order of Worship, then watch the video message. You can pause or repeat the message at any time. Then continue your worship with prayer as listed and add your own celebrations and concerns. You create the sacred space through your prayerful attitude and attention to God's presence. You acknowledge those who are also worshipping through your prayer for them.

Then at 10:00am Sundays, join others for a Zoom chat! We often discuss the message and also catch up on needs and joys of the community. It's like a virtual coffee hour or "benediction" which we have enjoyed at the North End when times were simpler.

If you would like to be part of this Zoom chat, please contact [Marilyn Bollinger](#) and she will send you an email invitation.

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## Convening Worship In the Sanctuary

### Keep Everyone Safe

Convening worship in the sanctuary will resume when safety procedures are in place, and certain health statistics and guidelines are met. Your consistory is monitoring the numbers for Buffalo and Winona Counties, and we will be glad to see one another in person when the time is right. Once we begin meeting in person, then we will continue to monitor the numbers and may have to go back to virtual worship if needed for a time. Hope Church continues to "be the church" whether or not we are meeting in the building. Our primary task is to keep the most vulnerable safe.

# Dedication - New Addition

**Sunday, August 16, 2020**

Dedication of our new addition to the church building will be held August 16 at 9:30am outdoors. We are grateful that, through the vision, work, dedication and generosity of many members and friends of Hope Church over many years, this gift to the community has become a reality!

We will be worshipping on August 16 at our dedication ceremony mindful of safety due to the virus concerns. This means all those in attendance wearing masks (we will provide if people arrive without one), distancing 6 feet or more, and no touching, singing, or communion. Many outbreaks of Covid19 have occurred because of church services, so we are being as careful and cautious as possible to protect our most vulnerable members and friends. If you would like everyone to feel welcome, then please protect them through your actions. Rev. Rob MacDougall, Associate Minister of the Wisconsin Conference, will be in attendance and bring a message from the larger Church. We will have tours in small groups through the new addition, and the star of the show—our new (elevator) lift—will be demonstrated.

Join to celebrate this amazing accomplishment made possible through your generous gifts and open hearts! We cannot thank Sarah Kramer and Deb Knutson enough for all they have done and continue to do to plan, organize, and monitor this building project!

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## Hope In Action

### Thanks To All

Hope in Action task group is making and delivering lunches to the homes of 15 families throughout the summer. This includes 37 lunches per week. Thank you to those who have donated funds to assist in the purchase of groceries. Additional funds are welcome, as it costs approximately \$80 per week to provide these lunches. Lori McCammon, Rose Cyert, Barb LaDuke, and Marilyn Bollinger are delivering while several others including Dawnette Cigrand are assisting with making lunches.

# Lois Beseler

## Sanctuary Memorial Service Coming Soon

We mourn the passing of Lois Beseler in May. She would have loved to see the new addition and lift, as every time we visited her she said, "Now get that elevator built!" A private graveside rite was held, and we will have a Memorial Service in the sanctuary when it becomes possible to hold large indoor gatherings again.

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# Supporting Hope Church

## All Offerings Are Appreciated

The business and ministries of Hope Church continue in this time apart, and your offerings are appreciated. You can send checks to Hope UCC, PO Box 28, Cochrane WI 54622. Direct deposits through Alliance Bank in Cochrane make it easy, too. Please contact the bank if you would like to use this option. Pastor Colleen continues to work, even though she is less visible except on Zoom and in videos! Many working hours are required to stay in touch with members and leadership, and to create worship experiences that are meaningful, faithful, and relevant. Please support the church with your offerings.

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# No Internet Access?

## Staying In Touch

Would you like to help Hope UCC stay in touch with those who do not have computer access? Send a card with a personal message, or make a phone call. We will email a list of persons and their contact information in a separate, private email to each of you.

# Lifting Up Hope

## Accessibility Project

Lifting Up Hope Accessibility Project has been successful, and many of you have given your donations up front to the new addition. This early giving has allowed us to pay many of our bills for the construction with cash in hand. If you are able, please consider giving your donation now to avoid paying interest on the loan, and decrease the time to pay it off. What a generous gift you have given to the church and the community! Imagine the gatherings we will be able to hold, and the groups we can host as God calls us into new beginnings!

### NEW ADDITION DEDICATION

August 16 at 10:00am (Outdoor Service)

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# Adult Bible Study

## Old Testament

Introducing the Old Testament Bible Study has been convening online each Friday evening 6:00pm-7:30pm with four members plus Pastor Colleen. We are finding out things we never knew, and been amazed by insights that bring the Old Testament to life! Jesus knew these writings and teachings well, and we understand the New Testament more deeply through this study.

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# Heathy Fundraiser

## Epicure - Weekday Meal Collection

See our [Website](#) or [Facebook](#) to order Epicure and to learn more.