



HOPE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
the church by the lake

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

HUC Issue 0923 - September & October 2023



CONNECT. NURTURE. PRACTICE.

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

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). Let us know what you think.

HOPEUNITEDCOCHRANE.ORG



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Our Pastor

September 2023

As I write this the temperature is comfortably in the 70s outside. Yet last week it was over 90 degrees, with a heat index of 100 degrees or more – no gradual shift. Just one day it feels as if the heat hits you in the face when you open the door leaving one wanting to retreat back inside. Then the next, it's pleasure to get outside and enjoy the day.

As I reflected on the weather, I realized that the last few years have been like that- and not just with weather. Pandemic, political divisiveness spilling over into communities, friendships, and families. Too often it feels like when we poke our heads out the door we instantly want to retreat back inside. And just when we get used to going back out- another heat wave rolls in. There is just so much going on (wildfires, natural disasters, shootings and other violence, war etc.) that the list can seem endless. Add in the challenges closer to home, and staying inside both physically and emotionally can seem like the best choice.

Yet Jesus shows us a different way. One of community, of connection, of support from God and with others. I truly believe that churches can offer a way of being and relating that is counter to the forces that face us, a community of love and care that can make an impact and offering traveling companions along the way. One where all people (but not necessarily all behavior) are welcome joyously and celebrated for who they are, even if we still wonder “how can they be/think/ believe that” or “I don't get it”. We do this because we recognize that God welcomes us joyously in the same way, even when we are not sure if we deserve it ourselves. The Spirit joins us together to give each other hope, and then share that hope and light with others in multiple ways.

I bring this up because as the Presidential Election Cycle heats up, I fear its going to be bumpy ride. To mix metaphors, I feel the next 14 months will add fuel to the fire already raging in so many places and in so many people.

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Our Pastor

September 2023

There will be plenty of opportunities to dig into “our” side (whichever one we may be on), blame “them” for all the problems, as well as act in ways that further divide us from each other both as individual and communities.

Yet we have a haven in God’s presence and in our congregations. A haven is a place where boats go when the storms get too strong, where ships are repaired, and crews refreshed. Tugboats, freighters, cruise ships, fishing boats - all are welcome to come into these havens when needed. It’s also where they can come on a regular basis to refuel, rest, and prepare to go out again.

So know that you have a haven here, as well as in God’s love. Know that in that haven we are refreshed by each other’s presence, buoyed by their faith and support, and are reminded that God’s is even now working through us and around us to bring about the day when all Creation lives together an abundant, flourishing, and joyful life.

God’s grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel
Hope United Church of Christ
210 Michaels Street
Cochrane, WI
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Blessing Of The Animals

Sunday, September 24, 2023 @ 10:30am

This Special Worship Service will start at 10:30am at the Cochrane Park. People are invited to bring their animals to the service as long as they are up-to-date on their vaccines and are leashed or crated/caged as appropriate. If someone would like a blessing for an animal that can't be easily transported to the park (such as a horse, cow or other livestock that they couldn't bring) or is not safe around other animals, people can bring a picture of the animal or something the animal uses such as a harness.



Children who wish can bring a stuffed animal if they didn't have a pet. So a snake in a closed terrarium is okay - however Pastor Deb will not be "snake-handling" or other reptile/insect/spider handling. People will be expected to clean up after their own pets and animals. Everyone at Hope Church Cochrane and St. John's Church is invited to attend. Bring lawn chairs or picnic tables are provided. Potluck to follow after service. There will be NO regular Worship Service at St. John's Church.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Starts @ 10:30am

Goose Lake Park

Cochrane, WI

Joint Worship Invitation

Our Pastor

October 2023

As I write this the second Presidential candidate debate for the upcoming 2024 election has yet to happen. But based on what I've seen from both political parties, I don't doubt it will be more talking past each other than a debate.

This style of discussion has spilled over from Presidential debates to everyday life. Conversation skills including listening atrophied due to the necessity of limited social contact during the pandemic. Why is this important? Because how can we love our neighbors as we would be loved if we can't even talk and listen to each other?

I shared in a sermon a few weeks about a scene from the TV show "Ted Lasso" that reflects the problem with this. In it Ted talks about how people usually underestimate him. One day he realized that it wasn't about who he was. It was that the others weren't curious about learning about him. Instead of asking him questions, they prejudged. (For those who you who haven't seen it, search online for it – the kicker in it is worth it even if you've never watched the show.) And of course Jesus was curious, asking people questions, listening to them, and seeing them for who they were, not how others labeled them

So this month I'm offering a sermon series "I've Been Meaning to Ask you..." Through scripture passages we'll be looking at four questions. First "...where are you from?"- which is more than about your hometown. Second "...where does it hurt?" Next, "...what do you need?". Then finally, "...where do we go from here?" And for St. John's Church and Hope United Church joint "Fifth Sunday" service at the end of the month, we'll have a "creative" worship service to tie this all together.

The writers of the resources for this series describe why they decided to create it: "We started by asking ourselves questions: "How can we listen to one another? How do we find connection despite distance? How do we create space for compassionate dialogue and for seeking holy in one another?"

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hopeunitedcochrane.org

Our Pastor

October 2023

We landed on our leading question, “I’ve been meaning to ask...” because it conveys intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies ... “I’ve been thinking about you, and I’ve been wanting to check in... You’ve been on my mind... I haven’t known how to have this conversation, but I’m getting started with a question.” (T)he main objective of this series (is)to cultivate courageous conversations—and to keep having them, even if we need to pause.”

For smaller communities like Fountain City and Cochrane, it may seem like “everyone knows everyone.” Yet the pandemic and the spillover of political ideological divisions at times may still stretch the ability to fully talk and listen to each other. At the very least, reflecting on this may help individuals feel comfortable listening or know that they are heard, even if disagreement remains. At the very best, it can spill over into our world so that there are less divisive, judgmental conversations, and more relationship building, reconciling, and healing ones taking place.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel
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Pizza Fundraiser

Order Your Pizzas Today!

Hope United Cochrane FAMOUS pizzas will be on sale! All pizzas will be made fresh and packaged. We will again be offering the deluxe pizza option with sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, onions, green, red, yellow peppers. NEW THIS YEAR - BREAKFAST PIZZAS IN 12". This is one of our BIGGEST fundraisers that helps support activities at Hope United Cochrane.

16" PIZZAS - \$13.00/EA					12" PIZZAS - \$9.00/EA					
CHEESE	PEPPERONI	SAUSAGE	PEPP/SAUS	DELUXE *	BREAKFAST*	CHEESE	PEPPERONI	SAUSAGE	PEPP/SAUS	DELUXE *

DELUXE: CHEESE, PEPPERONI, SAUSAGE, MUSHROOMS, ONIONS, GREEN, RED, YELLOW PEPPERS.
BREAKFAST: SAUSAGE GRAVY, EGGS, BACON, SAUSAGE, CHEESE.

NEW THIS YEAR - BREAKFAST PIZZAS IN 12".
BUY 10 PIZZAS GET 1 FREE.
PIZZAS ARE ALL SHRINK WRAPPED FOR FREEZING.

hopeunitedcochrane.org/pizza.php

PIZZA ORDERS DUE:
 Sunday, October 1, 2023

PIZZA PICKUP:
 Saturday, October 14, 2023
 3:00pm - 4:00pm
 Hope United Cochrane
 210 Michaels Street
 Cochrane, WI



Fifth Sunday

Joint Worship Invitation

St. John's Church is invited to join Worship Services with Hope United Church on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 8:30am in Cochrane, Wisconsin.

ST. JOHNS CHURCH

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Starts @ 8:30am

Hope United Church

210 Michaels Street

Cochrane, WI

God2L Education

Children's Christian Education

Children from 4 years old to 6th grade meet weekly during the school year on Wednesdays after school. Each week they play, enjoy a snack, pray, study a Scripture lesson aided by our "Picture the Bible" materials and learn with fun hands on activities. This year we have 24 children enrolled. Marilyn Bollinger, Jenny Ehlenfeldt and Audrey Holien provide weekly leadership with the help of several wonderful parent and church volunteers including Donna Halling, Karen Auer, Amanda Lacey, Sarah Kramer, Michaela Flippin and Josh Ehlenfeldt.

SEPTEMBER 2023 THRU MAY 2024

Every Wednesday

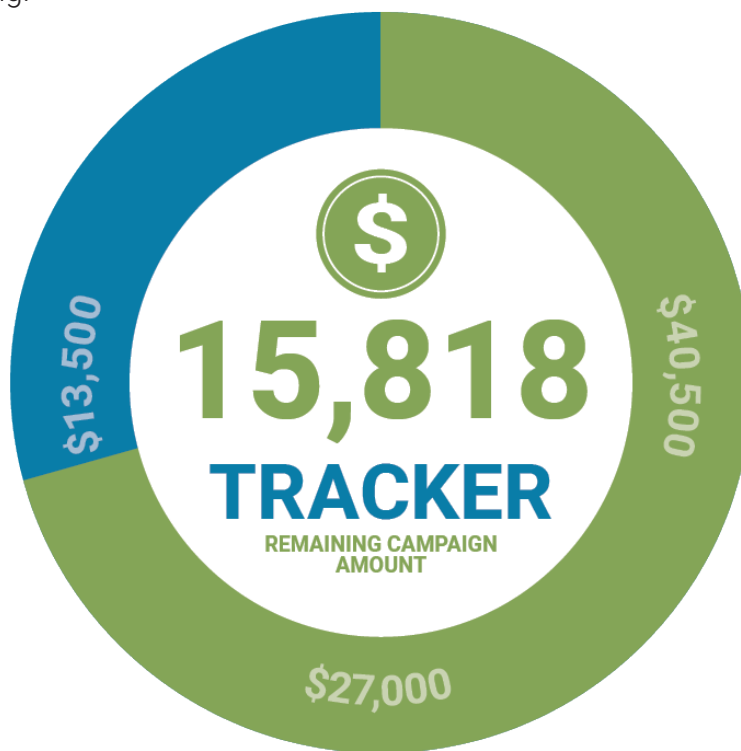
Starting 3:15pm to 5:00pm

God2L is canceled on school closing days, or early dismissals due to the weather.

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
09.29.23

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.

Online Calendar

Keep Informed

Visit us online for up-to-date information on special events and Hope United Cochrane news.

hopeunitedcochrane.org/calendar.html