



GRACE CONGREGATIONAL United Church of Christ

2801 Garfield St., Two Rivers, 920-553-1222

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 & 10:30 AM * CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 9:15 AM

WWW.GRACEUCC.ORG / unitedchurchofchristgrace@gmail.com

Pastor Kim khenning1956@gmail.com Pastor Colie pastorcolie@gmail.com



February 2020

Reflection of

Kim Henning

SURROUNDED



On Christmas Day, one of my childhood Sunday School Teachers died. I was raised knowing and believing in a church, and at a young age, already, I kind of looked up to those teachers, those who believed enough to teach the Christian faith. There was Alma, Doris Mae, Ron, Pat and Mable. And then there was Marion. Marion played organ in worship and then taught Sunday School after. She believed, and I knew it.

I know I made light of faith as I was growing up. Church was not my favorite place to be. I am serious. I offered all kinds of resistance to my Mom, especially. Faith was one of my lesser priorities. But my parents insisted that church was part of growing up. We didn't pray often at home, but I never heard swearing or bad language. I was made to understand that worship was important. And I noticed those Sunday School teachers.

The easiest of all worlds, someone wrote, is to say 'no' to God. When a person says, 'no,' nothing more is expected. If we don't believe, we don't need anything proven to us. We don't need to wrestle with doubt. We don't have to listen to a sermon that fell flat. We don't have to be troubled by the evils of this world. We don't have to think deeper than the evening news.

I can recall when first I said of my own choosing, "I love you, God." Do you remember the first time you said those words? Was it when the world's evil became bigger than you ever imagined? Was it when the miracle of human life made the Big Bang theory sound ridiculous? Was it when you suffered the death of a grandparent, and hoping against hope you just knew there must be God? Or was it when that still, small voice whispered?

Marion died on Christmas; she thought that would be perfect day to be united with Christ. Her family showed me her Bible, it was wonderfully tattered. They told me of her generosity, she loved to give. And she had symbols of faith throughout her apartment---the Lord's Supper, the Ten Commandments, praying hands, the Lord's Prayer and more. Marion surrounded herself with reminders of her trust in Jesus Christ.



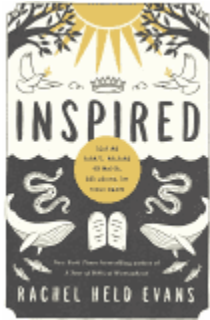
In Hebrews 11 gives us a definition of faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Another version reads, "faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see." Then, we're told that 'a great cloud of witnesses' surrounds us. Believers are not isolated human beings. We have stories of Abraham and Isaac and Moses and Samson and Barak and David and Samuel. The list goes on.

Marion committed herself to Christ and the Church. With the passing of time, my contacts with her were limited to her Christmas letter; she always wrote about church. I am grateful years ago, that my parents insisted that this rambunctious young boy spend some time in her classroom.

TWO EDUCATIONAL EVENTS....

Back in mid-November, I asked the Monday morning study group, “What would you like to know more about?” After the briefest of pauses, one person responded: “How did the Bible come into being?” In response, we offer you two study opportunities. One, a book by Rachel Held Evans; and Two, two lectures/presentations by the Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn from Lakeland University. We hope to see you at both of these events.....

INSPIRED: One Woman’s Journey Back to Loving the Bible



If the Bible isn’t a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When Rachel Held Evans found himself asking these questions, she began a quest to better-understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her----and it will change you too.

Drawing on the best in recent scholarship and using her well-honed literary expertise, Evans examines some of our favorite Bible stories and possible interpretations, retelling them through memoir, original poetry, short stories, soliloquies, and even a short screen play. Undaunted by the Bible’s most difficult passages, Evans wrestles through the process of doubting, imagining, and debating Scripture’s mysteries. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God’s loving and redemptive work in the world.

First Adult Class Session: Monday, January 27 at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Cost of book: \$13.

The BIBLE: Where did it Come From?

The Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn

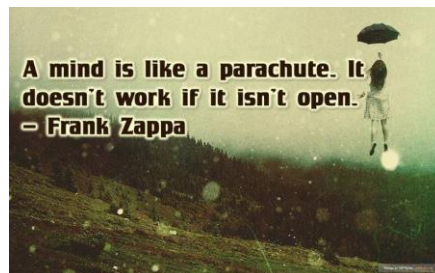
Many Christians have the implicit sense that the Bible is inspired by God, and we often refer to these writings as the “Word of God.” But it is also the case that individual believers and communities of faith played integral roles in gathering, speaking, writing down, editing, compiling, and preserving the traditions found in Scripture. This study explores what biblical scholars commonly identify as important landmarks and characteristic features in the creation of the Bible

February 10 (6:30-8:00)

Reclaiming Identity and Hope in Exile: the Development of the Old Testament Traditions

February 17 (6:30-8:00)

Comprehending and Proclaiming a Crucified Messiah: the Development of the New Testament Traditions



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NEWS FROM THE CABINET

At our January meeting, our Treasurer reported the church operating fund ended 2019 with a surplus of \$6080. Thanks to everyone who responded to the appeal made by the Trustees in October, which brought in \$9500 to help close the shortfall of \$12,000 we were facing at the end of September. Thanks also to our members who fulfilled their pledge for 2019, which brought the total of pledged gifts just over budget by year's end. We also credit our staff, Treasurer and ministry leaders who worked hard to keep overall expenses below budget.

Our Financial Secretary reports there are 212 projected giving units for 2020, which is an increase from last year. She also wants everyone to notice there are offering envelopes for Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter in your boxes or packets. These offerings are not counted toward your pledge, but any gifts go to support church operations(our budget).

The Diaconate has selected Josh Willis as its chairperson for 2020. Their February meeting will be an informal gathering for new and old members to get acquainted and learn about the various ministries of the Diaconate. The Diaconate will also monitor summer worship attendance for 2020 and 2019 to compare the single Sunday service to previous years when we had two Sunday services all summer.

The Board of Mission and Outreach reports that \$2983 was received in the Advent offering for the What If? Foundation. The Christmas Fund offering received \$1058 to help retired clergy in need. The Board also purchased clothing items for the two elementary schools in Two Rivers and toiletries and snacks for the middle and high schools to share with needy students. The Emmaus Home choir will visit our church May 15-18 and host families will be needed for them.

Pastor Parish committees discussed upcoming church events and reported that Pastor Colie expects to graduate in May from her doctoral program at Lancaster Seminary.

Pastor Kim informed us that Kelsey Meyer was hired as the new cleaning person for the church. A clipboard in the flower room can be used to communicate concerns to her. He announced the Monday book study will resume on January 27, with an interruption February 10 and 17, when Dr. Karl Kuhn will lead a study on how the Bible was compiled. Pastor Kim plans to lead a tour of civil rights sites in Memphis and in Montgomery, Alabama from March 29 to April 3.

Two Rivers-Mishicot Ecumenical Pantry has asked each supporting church for a representative to a new advisory board, meant to assist with fund-raising and future planning. Anyone interested in serving should contact Don DeBruyn or Renee Anderson. There was an update on the pantry in the January church newsletter.

Earth Care Ministry announced that an ecumenical Manitowoc County Earth Care Team was born from people involved in organizing the two Earth Care festivals. Jim and Susie Miller are attending their meetings, which are open to all. Our own Sue Crowley, a professional forester, has surveyed the new property north of the church and is offering suggestions for improving the vegetation. While the church still needs to determine how we should use the land, the Earth Care Ministry felt that a portion of it should be reforested, as a way to capture carbon dioxide and mitigate climate warming. Solar electricity generation for the church has been researched and a proposal has been solicited. While final figures are being further refined, members of the Earth Care Ministry have pledged financial support.

Betty Becker announced that an adult mission trip is planned to Fayetteville, North Carolina the week of March 7-15 to repair and rebuild structures damaged in several hurricanes and tornados. The next planning session will be on February 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm for people interested in going.

CONTINUED PLEDGES GIVEN FOR 2020

DONNA ANDERSON
MATT & HEATHER ANDERSON
BARB BAECKMAN
KAY KATKE-BAUKNECHT
MARY BERGENE
KEN & ROBIN BERGMAN
TRAVIS & AMBER BOHMAN
RON & HOPE BOUDNIK
ABBY & BRIANNA BRIXIUS
AL BRUCKSCHEN & HEATHER ANTONIEWICZ
AARON & LYNN BUCHHOLZ
TOM & MEGAN CHRISTENSEN
JOE & DWYN DEGROOT
MARCIA DONLON
RANDY & LINDA EDINGER
REIN & MARY ELIAS
GINNY ENGSTROM
MEL & MARY JEAN ERICKSON
DAVID & SARAH GALLAGHER
SUE GEROSO
JACK GOEDJEN
TIM & KATHY HIRVELA
THEO HOFFMAN
RICK & COLLEEN INMAN
NAN JAGEMANN
CHERYL JASPER
JEFF & LAURA JASPER
DIANE KEATING
TIM & ANN KLEIN
TRUDY LECLAIR
BEVERLY MARK
GARY & GESINE MCVEY
JIM & SUSIE MILLER
MARV & JOYLYN MOORE
MIKE & CHEYENE NEVILLE
LILLIAN PASEK
ROBERT PEASLEE
HAROLD SMITH
BOB & LAURA STEEBER
JOE & LISA STODOLA
ANDRE ST. PIERRE
MIKE & DEBBIE TIMM
KATIE VER HAAGH
DAVID WANIGER

**ELECTRONIC WHO DID NOT RETURN PLEDGE CARDS BUT
WE ARE ASSUMING THEY WILL CONTINUE GIVING**

JON & STACY BACKUS
JOE & COLLEEN COLLINS
KEITH & SUSAN DIEDRICH
MELISSA DUPKE
SHAWN & SANDY ENGLEMAN
BILL & SHAY HAMPTON- GREGORY
KARL & KATHRYN KUHN
FLORENCE LUECKER
CHRIS & ERICA MAINWARING
NICK & REBEKAH MUELLER
AMY PETERS
ANTON & HOLLY PIETENPOL
CASEY & LYNN RENNERT
JILL RICHMOND
CHRIS & MARY SAYESKI
ERIC & JOY SCHRAMM
BRUCE & THERESA TERP
KEVIN & PAM WARGIN
MIKE & DONNA WEIER
JOSH & STEPHANIE WILLIS



CHURCH CABINET

Moderator, Betty Becker, **Treasurer**, Linda Justema **Clerk**, Rein Elias
Financial Sec, Chris Blimel **Trustee Chair**, Todd Moolenaar
Diaconate Chair, Josh Willis
Board of Christian Ed Chair, Katie Ver Haagh
Mission & Outreach Chair, Joe DeGroot
Pastor Kim-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jeff Harding
Pastor Colie-Pastor/Parish Chair, Jim Miller
Members-at-Large, Brianna Brixius & Joe DeGroot

STEWARDSHIP CORNER FOR GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST **DECEMBER, 2019**

Total 2019 Expected Pledges	\$374,054
Pledge Income Received during December	\$32,070
Pledge Income Needed (on average) to balance the budget	\$31,171
Loose Offering Received during November	\$1,999
Sunday School Offerings During November	\$12

Please Note: Our constitution prohibits us from using any proceeds from our Endowment Fund to support our day to day ministry at Grace Congregational Church. It is our church's expectation that our members are responsible for the support of this church's ministry as an act of faithfulness to God.

Marks of Your Generosity Beyond Grace Congregational Church

What If? Foundation---Haiti: \$2,983

Christmas Fund---\$1,058

Habitat for Humanity---\$765

Capital Campaign (2019 contributions) \$16,817

Christmas gifts for TREP

Christmas Gifts for Ascend

THOSE SECOND-MILE CONTRIBUTIONS.....

In the end of October, the Trustees informed you of an anticipated budget shortfall. We did not like the thought of ending the year in the red, so we explained our perception of the problem and our hope that some of you might be willing to respond with a second mile offering. We just received the year-end report, and we are pleased to report two things. First, \$9,465 was contributed by individuals---most of which was in \$100 increments. Second, we finished 2019 with just over \$6,000 in the black. **THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR YOUR CHURCH.**

TIMING THE SERMON

The Pew Research Center analyzed nearly 50,000 sermons from about 6,500 congregations and determined that the median length of all sermons was 37 minutes. Catholic sermons were the shortest, with the median being 14 minutes. Sermons in mainline Protestant congregations came in at 25 minutes, compared to 39 minutes in evangelical Protestant churches. Sermons in historical black Protestant churches are the longest---the median length was 54 minutes. (Christian Century)

VOLUNTEER / FUN OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

EQUAL EXCHANGE

sold Sunday February 9th at the Information Center

January 1, Equal Exchange will be raising their prices. It is not known at this time if some or all items will see an increase, but Mission & Outreach will also need to increase the selling prices. So....., you know what to do!



Your purchase of Equal Exchange products not only supports small farmers around the world, but also helps supply the coffee you enjoy during TAC and other meals at church. Thank you for your continued support of Equal Exchange products. Sincerely, *Mission & Outreach*



Sunday Supper

Grace will be hosting the Sunday Supper on **Sunday, February 23rd**. The meal will be served at 4:30 p.m. at St. Peter the Fisherman.

We are again asking for volunteers to help serve and clean up after the meal or if you love to bake, we will need donations of cookies and bars for desserts.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the information center on Sunday, February 9th and Sunday, February 16th. Desserts may be brought on Sunday, February 23rd to Grace UCC by 9:30 a.m. or to St. Peter the Fisherman by 4:00 p.m. Your help and willingness to serve is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 645-1014 or csdresang@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support in this important ministry. Charlene Dresang

WOMEN OF GRACE NEWS AND NOTES

Next meeting: March 14th, 2020 @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall we will discuss our plans for the Maundy Thursday soup supper which will be held on April 9th, 2020. **After the meeting, we will hold a wooden sign painting party with Donna Weier as our leader. Please attend as it sounds like so much fun! More information about this event will be announced at a future date. Remember, all women of Grace Congregational Church are members of Women Of Grace! Please join us and I promise you that you will make new friends and have a great time serving our Lord and His Church!**

Reminder---Fay Henning has graciously stepped up and will be the Interim President of WOG as I have stepped down for awhile. Please contact Fay if you have any questions. I will be back again in September as President.

Yours In Christ, Amy LeGreve, Fay Henning

TWO RIVERS ECUMENICAL PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY.

Meals in a can like stew or ravioli are needed. State commodities do not include items like toilet paper and soaps so these are appreciated. Shampoo, toothpaste and hand soap are also needed by TREP clients. Thanks for your continued support for the under-employed, elderly and handi-capped who depend on TREP and your generosity.



THE LAKESHORE

MEMORY CAFÉ WILL
MEET FEBRUARY 5, 2020



Join us for a **GREAT GAME OF JEOPARDY** with “Alice Trebeck” We’ll gather Wednesday, February 5th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Manitowoc Public Library’s Balkansky Room (707 Quay St). There is no charge and all are welcome. Find us on Facebook.

The Memory Cafés welcomes those experiencing early stage Dementia, mild memory loss or cognitive impairment and family and friend of those affected. It’s a great opportunity for lively discussions, information gathering, refreshments, camaraderie, and lots of creative fun! We have a Dementia Specialist professional on hand to answer questions and an enormous wealth of experience among participants to be shared. We’d be delighted if you would join us.

ADULT REBUILD MISSION TRIP

In 2006 (after Hurricane Katrina), our congregation organized its first rebuild, mission trip---to Biloxi, MS. Following several trips to Mississippi, we hosted trips to Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. This year, we are headed for. We will depart on March 7th and return on March 15. North Carolina has incurred destruction from Hurricanes Florence, Matthew and Dorian. Are you interested in serving? Do you have questions? Contact Betty Becker or Pastor Kim. The next planning session for this trip will be on

February 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm for people interested in going.



GENERATION G

Wednesday nights from 7-8pm in the High school youth room a dozen high school youth have been coming together studying the book of Mark. The youth ask deep questions learning to read things from the perspective of the time they were written instead of our person perspectives in this time in history. Our youth share their high's and lows from the week, as well as praying for so many who are on their hearts and minds. I am so thankful for their faith.

I am grateful for the weekly presence of Taylor Lechler, who provides an extra adult to keep things covered from a safe sanctuary stand point. I'm also appreciative of the support of not only Taylor but Keith and Cheryl Barneson, Cal MacAuley and Robert Herda who come along as adult chaperones/drivers for our trip to the Cloverton Concert at the Cup O Joy in Green Bay as well as our Christmas party. This group loves and serves our youth by coming alongside for so many events, helping build relationships from the church that help make faith stick.

Looking ahead we will be selling chocolates in Lent from Seroogy as well as hosting our annual Easter Breakfast. The money that gets raised helps send mail to our college and military personnel, reduces the cost of our youth going on retreats to Pilgrim Center, as well as covering other things for the High school youth group. Thank you to those who support our youth. If you have questions you can contact Nicole Herda at nlherda@yahoo.com or (920)553-6789, Thank you.

ASP INFORMATION

The Appalachia Service Project group (ASP group) is thankful for Grace Congregational UCC's abundant support. To those of you who purchased Christmas wreaths from us again this past year—thank you. Those orders are taken in, branches are cut, piles are made, handfuls of greens are crimped onto wreath forms, stacks of wreaths are piled high and stored until we have them all completed. Those wreaths are then brought back to the Juza garage where the individuals you order from hot glue the decorations on before taking a hand-made bow and attaching it to the wreath. Youth and adults are grateful when they have their wreaths all delivered to you, as well as having their money turned in as it wraps up our only fundraiser for the trip.

This year we currently have about 44 individuals who have committed to the trip June 20-27 to West Virginia where we will make homes warmer, safer and drier. The prayers you cover us with help keep us safe while the homemade cookies help keep us fueled as we work (and drive). In March and April there will be meeting notices appearing for the ASP group who committed in September to prepare them for the trip followed by a practice build opportunity they are expected to participate in May. We look forward to you all joining us for our ASP send off service before we head to the Appalachia Mountains. We are grateful for your constant support and faithful example.

Peace: Wade Juza, Keith Barneson and Nicole Herda

CONFIRMATION – DONATION FROM TUESDAY LUNCHON GROUP

Dear Confirmation Class,

The Tuesday ladies luncheon group would like to give you the enclosed \$65. We collect coins all year long, and hope this will help you reach some of your goals.

Sincerely,

The Tuesday Ladies (Chris Blimel)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1 – Kay Bero
Lou Ann Smith
Mark Schmitt
Adrianna Powalisz | 14 -Levi Taylor
Nicole Thor
Ryker Heimerl | Flossie Luecker |
| 2 - Joshua Kuhn | 15 –Grace DeRosier
Larry Wensauer
Lily Michalek | 24 – Sara Schuh
Théo Lynne Hoffman
Kambrielle Haack |
| 3 - Carol Gruetzmacher
5 - Sandra Way | Amy Loomis
Kristin Schuh
Chris Sayeski | 25 - Cathy Lambries |
| 6 - Pam Wargin
Andrew Wagner
Diane Grimmer
Madilyn Zich | 16 – Henry Basken
Aubry DeRosier | 26 - David Gallagher
Sandy Monka
Paul Smith
Sara Brey
Cheryl Barneson |
| 7 - Laura Slickman | 17 - Auden Peterson
Saleena Gulseth | 27 - Robert Herda
Clare Kuhn |
| 8 - Dave Loomis
Keith Van Ess
Olivia Mancheski | 19 - Wil Schmid
MinokaSkenandore-
Veleke
Arianna Stodola | 28 - Casey Rennert
Krystle Zich
Daniel Grant
Nicole Yanda |
| 9 – Heather Antoniewicz | 20- William Otto
Jim Rasmus | FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES |
| 12 – Joyce Marcelle
Sapphire Garcia | 21 - Robert Steeber
Brayden Laurin
Mckenzie Holschbach | 11 - John and Judy Lango |
| 13 - Keith Diedrich
Jackson Zich
Tom Christensen
Grace Backus
Richard Ott
James Schleif
Betsy Freiberg
Steven Schwobe | 22 - Joyce Behnke
Lance Anderson | 14 - Gary and Gesine McVey
14 - Keith and Cheryl
Barneson |
| | 23 - George Taylor
Shelby Bohman | 21 – David and Ann Kleman
22- Jim and Jennifer Dewane
23 – Jim and Martha Rasmus |

“ A Senior Get-Together at Grace Congregational Church”



Where: Grace Church Fellowship Hall

When: Tuesday, **February 4, 2020** 1:30 to 3:00 pm

On May 5, 2020 there will be a Senior Luncheon
at 12:30 & Bingo from 1:30-3:00.

Hope to See You! Any Questions / Need Transportation?

Call 553-4051(Marsha Heuer)

RSVP: Call the Church Office: 553-1222 or

Sign up at the Information Center

*Are you aware of anyone who would like to receive
the sacrament of holy communion in the privacy of
their home? Please contact Pastor Kim Henning.*

GRACE CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

HOSPITALIZED

Kyth Banks had surgery at Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, Tennessee. He continues his recovery at home. Get well cards may be sent to: 326 Shady Road, Jonesville, VA 24263

Dorothy Holschbach was a patient at Holy Family Memorial Hospital. She continues her recovery at the rehabilitation center at Shady Lane.

OUR SYMPATHY

We offer our sympathy to the nieces, nephews and family of Marilyn Grover who died on Friday, December 20. A funeral service was held in our sanctuary on Friday, December 27.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Mary Ann Klein as they grieve her death. A funeral service was held at St. Peter, the Fisherman, on Friday, December 27.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Forest Springstube. A funeral service was held at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ on Saturday, January 4.

We offer our sympathy to Rodney Marotz and Kim Marotz (Nick Meissner) as they grieve the death of their mother, Lucille Kubichka. A prayer service was held January 4 at Harrigan Parkside in Manitowoc.

We offer our sympathy to Roy Ozanne and his family as they grieve the death of his mother, Fran. A Memorial Service will be held at Grace Congregational Church in the future. Words of sympathy may be sent to Roy Ozanne, 326 Sunrise Road, Lopez, WA 98261.

THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

On Thursday, January 16, Al and Diane Nelson affirmed their baptismal vows and stated publicly their desire to serve Christ with this community, Grace Congregational United Church of Christ. We welcome the Nelsons and thank God for the faith that has brought them this far.....

A CHILD IS BORN

Jayden Joseph Jeanty was born on January 2, 2020. Jayden is the son of Ben and Cassie Onderbeke Jeanty. His grandparents are Max and Lisa Onderbeke and Bruce and Polly Jeanty.

THE BAPTISM OF KARL IAN MAINWARING.....

Karl Ian, son of Chris & Erica Mainwaring was baptized December 29, 2019. Karl has one sister, Alyssa. Chosen as godparents were Laura and Jesse Thayer. Karl's grandparents are Kim & Fay Henning, Phil & Carol Mainwaring, Frank & Janet Schaumann, Everett & Helen Henning and Shirley Spindler.

THE BAPTISM OF LIAM JAMES MEULBROEK.....

Liam James, son of Brandon and Shannon Meulbroek was baptized into the Christian faith January 5, 2020. Liam has one sister, Molly. Chosen as godparents are Katie Lawrenz and Manda Meulbroek. Liam's grandparents are Bob and Linda Meulbroek, Susan Kelly and Robert Kelly.

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON GROUP

We would like to invite ALL women of the church to our Women's Luncheon Group.

Announcements are usually in the bulletin and in the newsletter. If you need a ride we can usually provide it. **February 11th 2020 @ WiscoTech Two Rivers 11:30 a.m.** Contact Chris Blimel at 793-2204 if you will be going.



Hope House
of Manitowoc County

HOST WEEK

Thank you! About 15 of you donated your time to serve at Hope House January 12-18. Thank you serving the church and its ministry to those in need. If you are interested in serving in the future, contact Pastor Kim Henning, Betty Becker or Mickey Veleke.