

Life Line

Last Sunday, (Easter), I spoke concerning “The Resurrection of Hope” which had become very real to me in the last few days, due to a health scare that is turning out to be better than I anticipated. I began the message with the old adage “Where there is life there is hope!” How very true that is, as it encourages us to never give up keeping hope alive.

Now let me turn this adage upside down so it reads: “Where there is hope there is life!” Life - with more aspiration, dreams, beauty, and appreciation for the moments, days, months, seasons, and years. More appreciation: for family, friends, community, and blessings small and large. Thanksgiving: for love received and reciprocated. Understanding and Faith: nurtured, stretched, and even challenged – enables growth and a maturing of such.

Life without hope descends into meaninglessness and multiple dead ends. Life without hope is existence on a treadmill, with nothing to look forward to - except grim death. Lack of hope steals the joy of living, and bleakness sets in like the cold of a dark wintery night.

Hope helps a human to see beyond their horizon, beyond sun sets, beyond our setbacks, our limitations, and even beyond death and dying. Hope makes for persistence, perseverance and progress. Life stagnates without faith and hope. These two graces are indispensable to living a happy and fulfilling life. Hope opens eternity to we mortals.

Hope is an anchor that keeps us from being washed away by every wind or wave of change. Without its anchorage the tides of life would toss us ever adrift in uncharted and dangerous shoals. Ever been between a rock and a hard place? That is when hope is your greatest asset.

Hope believes that ‘all things work together for good’ for those who love God. Hope is sure that the best is yet to come – even in the worst of circumstances. Hope transcends the mundane, and creates glad surprises for those who trust in its power. God in Christ’s resurrection opened the vistas of hope to include life abundant and without end - in Heaven’s paradise of peace and love. The abandonment of hope is hell on wheels, and the Evil One would like nothing more than for you and I to give it up our faith and hope.

Believe and be hopeful! *Pastor Paul*





Choir Practice

Choir practice will meet each week on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm.

Please contact Vicki Will, Choir Director, at 262-343-1326, if you would like to join and sing or if you have any questions.



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School will meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

FOR GOD
SO LOVED
THE
WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM
SHALL
NOT
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BUT
HAVE
ETERNAL
LIFE.
JOHN
3:16

Sunday, April 7 - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Choir singing.

Saturday, April 13 - Clean Up Day around the Church. There will be a sign up sheet posted inside the front of the church.

Sunday, April 14 - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Children's Sunday School. Special Music by the KR Band. Coffee Hour following the service.

Sunday, April 21 - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Choir singing. Church Council Meeting following the service.

Saturday, April 27 - Wisconsin Congregation Association meets at Faith Congregational Church in Franklin, WI.

Sunday, April 28 - Worship Hour at 10:00 am. Children's Sunday School. Special Music by Steve Dolphin.

Lectionary Readings

April 7 Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 14 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36-48

April 21 Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24: 36-48

April 28 Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15: 1-8



Prayers and Concerns



Victims of Terrorism	Oscar Jacobs
Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide	Elizabeth Joseph
God's Providence for Israel and the Middle East	Audrey Koeper
Our Nation's Leaders	Tom and Lynn Koeper
All military personnel and their families	Dan Medkalf
Casa Bernabe Orphanage	Rev. Stu Merkel
Ashley Clark	Stephanie Mutz
Tom Eckert	Matthew Olson
Morton Gall	Julie Pagan
Jill Haubrich	Torin Philips
Lori Haley - hospice	Pastor Ray
Morgan Haley	Reid Shamus
Daniel Hays	Nancy
	Viveca Persson, Agenta's sister



COUNCIL MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report

- **Lenten season is almost over.**
- **Our church is hosting Good Friday with our choir singing.**

Treasurer Report

- **February - Deposits were \$4,480. Withdrawals were \$4,583.**

Worship Committee

- **The last band finalized commitment for Saturday, August 24. (Music in the Park)**
- **Choir singing on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.**

Fellowship Committee,

- **Next Coffee Hour will be on Sunday, April 14. (KR Band plays at church)**

Mission Committee

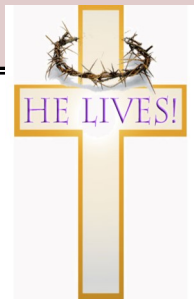
- **Crafting Group is meeting every other Friday and is busy working on OCC gifts.**
- **We served 27 people at Love Inc. on February 26.**
- **Communion will be served Sunday, May 19.**
- **Rummage Sale will be on May 25. We will need volunteers.**

Building and Grounds

- **Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 13.**

Marketing/IT

- **Rose Seeger is helping with Facebook pictures.**
- **Advertising Lenten Services, Good Friday service and Easter Service on Facebook and Highlighter.**





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

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Pastor PH. 508-837- 4611

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

www.fccrochesterwis.org

April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm</i>	4	5	6
7 10:00 am Church <i>Choir singing</i>	8	9	10 <i>Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm</i>	11	12	13 <i>Clean Up Day</i>
14 10:00 am Church <i>Children's Sunday School Special Music by KR Band</i>	15	16	17 <i>Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm</i>	18	19	20
21 10:00 am Church <i>Choir singing</i> <i>*(Church Council Meeting following the service.)</i>	22	23	24 <i>Choir Practice @ 7:00 pm</i>	25	26	27 Wisconsin <i>Congregation Association meets at Faith Congregation- al Church Franklin, WI.</i>
28 10:00 am Church <i>Children's Sunday School Special Music by Steve Dolphin</i>	29	30				

Pastor Ray's Office Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.