

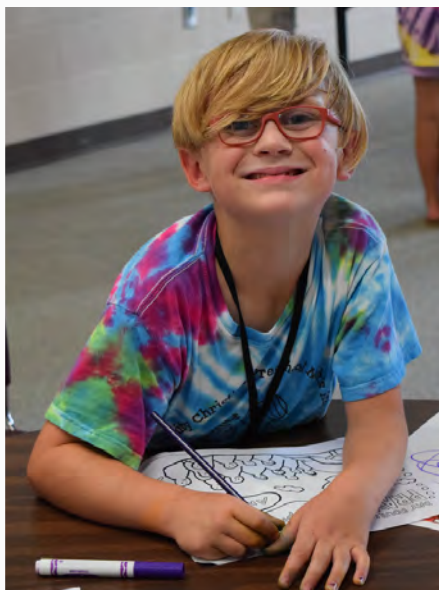
An impressionistic painting of a forest stream. The water is depicted with thick, horizontal brushstrokes in shades of blue, white, and red. The surrounding forest is painted with vibrant green foliage and dark tree trunks. The overall style is expressive and textured.

# **JONAH: Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope 2023-2024**





# Trinity Lutheran-Eau Claire's Vacation Bible School Supports JONAH!



# CONTENTS

About JONAH.....	3-11	Justice Action Team .....	29
JONAH Leadership .....	3	Environmental Task Force .....	31
Institutional Members .....	3	Interfaith Green Teams.....	32
JONAH Board Members.....	3	Immigration Task Force .....	33
Organizational Structure .....	3	Mental Health Task Force.....	35
Mission & Values .....	5	Transportation Task Force /	
Antidiscrimination Statement .....	5	Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance.....	36
Getting Involved .....	7	Madison Action Day.....	37
By the Numbers .....	11	Partnerships.....	38-44
Friends of JONAH & JONAH Sustainers .....	13	Beaver Creek.....	38
A Note from the JONAH President .....	15	Citizen Action of Wisconsin .....	38
Reflection from the JONAH Organizer.....	17	Community Table .....	38
JONAH's Internal CORE Teams .....	19-24	Epic Epiphany.....	39
First Congregational UCC Core Team .....	19	Fairchild Task Force Partnership .....	39
Trinity's Strive Committee Core Team.....	19	Health Dunn Right.....	39
Leadership Training Core Team .....	20	Health Department .....	40
Religious Leaders .....	20	Interfaith Action for Racial Justice .....	42
Fundraising Team .....	21	Chippewa Valley LGBTQ Center.....	42
Communications Team.....	23	Mission Coalitions .....	42
Rural Outreach Project.....	23	Neighbor to Neighbor.....	42
Book Club .....	24	Roundtable Revival .....	44
Events Committee.....	24	Welcoming New Neighbors - NW WI Immigrant Resettlement.....	44
JONAH's Task Forces .....	27-37	Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN).....	44
Affordable Housing Task Force .....	27	Prayers for Justice .....	46-49
Child Poverty Task Force .....	28		

# ADVERTISERS

AD Hogan Art .....	2	Markquart Motors .....	back Cover
Advancing Hope Fund .....	4	McMahon Chiropractic.....	26
Affordable Housing Task Force .....	6	Minuteman Press.....	51
AFSCME Chapter 32 .....	4	Mitchell Sinz, Financial Advisor.....	51
AFT Real Estate.....	2	Morley Custom Golf.....	4
Amalgamated Transit Local 1310.....	4	NAMI Chippewa Valley .....	30
Bravo! Salon & Spa.....	6	Next Step Energy.....	51
Brent Douglas Floral.....	2	Norske Nook .....	30
C&M Home Builders .....	14	Northern Spirit Radio .....	30
Caradori Pottery.....	10	Oakwood Hills Family Dental .....	30
Chelsea Hebert .....	8	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church .....	43
Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance.....	18	Puckabee's .....	51
Chippewa Valley Votes.....	10	Rex Mex .....	30
Citizen Action.....	4	River Prairie Wealth Partners.....	34
Decades Financial .....	18	Sammy's Pizza .....	22
Details .....	10	Sew Complete.....	34
Eau Claire Catholic Deanery .....	12	Silly Serrano.....	43
Eau Claire Democrats.....	10	Soul Shine Photography.....	30
Eau Claire Fitness .....	18	Spirit Lutheran .....	52
Eau Claire Refillery .....	51	St. John's Lutheran.....	50
Eau Claire Tenant Landlord Resource Center .....	16	Susan Wolfram .....	8
Eco-Minded .....	16	Tangled Up In Hue .....	34
First Congregational UCC .....	inside cover	Ted Oeffler, Financial Advisor .....	18
First Presbyterian Church .....	47	Temple Shalom.....	50
Goat Coffee House .....	18	Trinity Lutheran.....	inside cover
Grace Lutheran.....	16	Unitarian Society of Menomonie.....	47
Greater West Central Area Labor Council .....	18	Unitarian Universalist Congregation .....	43
Hillcrest Estates / Villa Diann.....	41	Unity of Eau Claire.....	45
Hope United Methodist Church.....	22	University Lutheran.....	45
Horan Funeral Home .....	22	Urban Style Hair Salon .....	34
Jest Scripts .....	16	Walter Mueller Studios.....	49
Jodi Emerson .....	22	Western Dairyland .....	45
Immanuel Lutheran Church.....	25	WHYS Radio .....	45
Immanuel Lutheran Trust Fund.....	50	Wonders of Nature.....	47
Lenmark Gomsrud Linn .....	26	Yoga Room .....	40

# A·F·T

## Real Estate, Inc

**Tap into 25 years of commercial  
real estate experience and  
resources for all your  
commercial real estate needs.**

**Al Taft**

**Phone: (715) 839-1234**

**[www.aftrealestate.com](http://www.aftrealestate.com)**

**Commercial & Industrial**

**Sales • Leasing • Site Selection • Development**



# Brent Douglas

## FLOWERS



**#1 in the Valley,  
"BEST FLORIST"  
for 13 years in a row!  
Thank You!**



715-831-0997



[brent@brentdouglas.biz](mailto:brent@brentdouglas.biz)



610 South Barstow Street, Eau Claire, WI



### JONAH LEADERSHIP

Rev. David Huber – Interim President  
Andy Thompson – Executive Vice President  
Mike Steuer – Vice President Liaison  
Joanne Mellema – Secretary  
Emily Moore – Treasurer  
Lori Leach – Bookkeeper  
Lynn Buske – Organizer  
Perla Martinez – Communications  
Kari Allen and Ken Hood – Rural and Congregational Outreach Organizers  
Christine Warlowski & Kari Allen – Religious Leaders Co-Chairs  
Judi Moseley & Susan Wolfgram – Affordable Housing Co-Chairs  
John Wagner – Child Poverty Chair  
Sue Waits – Environmental Chair  
Kelly Mahoney – Justice Action Team Chair  
Ray Koch – Immigration Chair  
Mark Quam and Phil Swanhorst – Transportation Co-Chairs  
Lynn Buske – Mental Health Chair  
Sedgrick Farley – CV EXPO Organizer

### JONAH Board Members

Jacky Miller - St. James Parish/Catholic Deaners  
Martha Nieman, Patty Scott - Eau Claire Friends  
Paul Savides, Jackie Christner - First Congregational UCC  
Becky Wurzer, Sue Wagner, Sharon Stedman - First Presbyterian  
Randy Adams - Grace Lutheran  
Joanne Mellema, Jill Myers - Hope United Methodist  
Ray Koch - Immanuel Lutheran  
Michelle Pride - Spirit Lutheran  
Judi Moseley, Stephanie Thurner - St Johns Lutheran  
Michael Steuer, Susan Wolfgram - Temple Sholom  
Jeff Goettl - The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Heather Day - Trinity Lutheran  
Mark Quam, Phil Swanhorst - Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Annette Taylor - Unitarian Society of Menomonie  
Sandi Anderson - Unity of Eau Claire Spiritual Center  
Carol Rudd, Cindy Rasmussen - University Lutheran

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Eau Claire Catholic Deanery (9 parishes)  
Eau Claire Friends  
First Congregational UCC  
First Presbyterian  
Grace Lutheran  
Hope United Methodist  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Spirit Lutheran  
St. Johns Lutheran  
Temple Sholom  
The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Trinity Lutheran  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Unitarian Society of Menomonie  
Unity of Eau Claire Spiritual Center  
University Lutheran

### ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

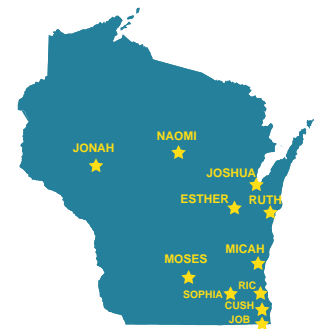
Our board is comprised of leaders from institutional members that support our common values; currently there are 22 congregations, of various denominations. We are always growing, evolving and welcoming.

JONAH focuses its organizing efforts on the entire Chippewa Valley (both urban and rural), but when we work on statewide issues we cover all of Western Wisconsin.

There is often strategic value to collaborating with other faith-based organizations in Wisconsin or beyond.

WISDOM is a Wisconsin statewide network of 11 affiliates, including JONAH.

Other affiliates include: RIC, CUSH, JOB, MICAH, SOPHIA, RUTH, ESTHER, JOSHUA, NAOMI, and MOSES. WISDOM is a member of the Gamaliel network. Gamaliel is an international network in more than 17 states, Great Britain, and South Africa. Gamaliel and WISDOM provide our leadership development, training, and technical assistance support to JONAH.



A small lending community  
that pays forward hope and help



Donations may be sent to  
Advancing Hope Fund Inc  
127 E. Mac Arthur Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

# Retired and Engaged

American Federation of  
State, County, Municipal Employees



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION  
LOCAL 1310



2233 Birch Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
Working in partnership  
with the JONAH  
transportation task force



Golf Clubs gripped and repaired  
Dave Morley  
303 Putnam Street #304  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-829-6529  
demorley47@gmail.com

*Morley Custom Golf congratulates JONAH on all  
the good things you have done in and around the  
Chippewa Valley. Thank you for making a positive  
difference in the lives of many.*



**WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD DEMOCRACY**

[citizenactionwi.org](http://citizenactionwi.org)

## MISSION & VALUES

JONAH - Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope - exists to deepen relationships within and among faith communities and partner organizations to empower people in addressing the root causes of social injustice in the greater community.

We organize diverse people around these common values:

- **Radical Inclusivity:** Belief in the infinite dignity and worth of every human life, in the ethic of shared abundance, and the intentional inclusion of all persons - especially people who have traditionally lived at the margins of society.
- **Love:** Opposition to all forms of oppression and inequity, and trust in the triumphs of love and hope over cynicism, hate, fear.
- **Reconciliation:** The idea of repairing past harms, and restoring people and communities to right relationship.
- **Living for the Future:** Having the well-being of our grandchildren's grandchildren as the criterion for the decisions we make and the structures we support.
- **Environmentalism:** Belief that we are responsible for the stewardship of the natural world.

## Antidiscrimination Statement

We, who believe in the infinite dignity and worth of every human life and celebrate diversity, affirm the following, and as policy do not discriminate as such:

People of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, educational backgrounds, marital status, physical or mental abilities, theological perspectives, political perspectives, and economic conditions belong in the activities of JONAH and are welcomed with open arms. We commit to finding ways to be more inclusive by strengthening our practice of acceptance and equity for all.

- Adapted from Trinity Lutheran,  
WISDOM Values, and UU statement

## Contact ...

2233 Golf Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
[www.jonahjustice.org](http://www.jonahjustice.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/JONAHCV](https://facebook.com/JONAHCV)  
715-497-8732 – Organizer's Cell

Learn more!

*Visit our site at [jonahjustice.org](http://jonahjustice.org)*



*Candle lighting ceremony*

JONAH of the Chippewa Valley's

## Affordable Housing Task Force

**Our Mission:** To facilitate culture change in Eau Claire City and County so that all stakeholders are informed about the lack of safe, good quality, affordable housing and are motivated to take actions to address it through public and private initiatives.



**Meeting Time + Location:**

Monthly on the 1st Thursday,  
5:30-7pm at Grace Lutheran Church  
(202 W. Grand Avenue, Eau Claire)

**Task Force Core Team:**

Susan Wolfgram - [wolfgram.susanm@gmail.com](mailto:wolfgram.susanm@gmail.com)  
Judi Moseley - [moseleyjudi@gmail.com](mailto:moseleyjudi@gmail.com)  
Paul Savides - [paul.savides@gmail.com](mailto:paul.savides@gmail.com)



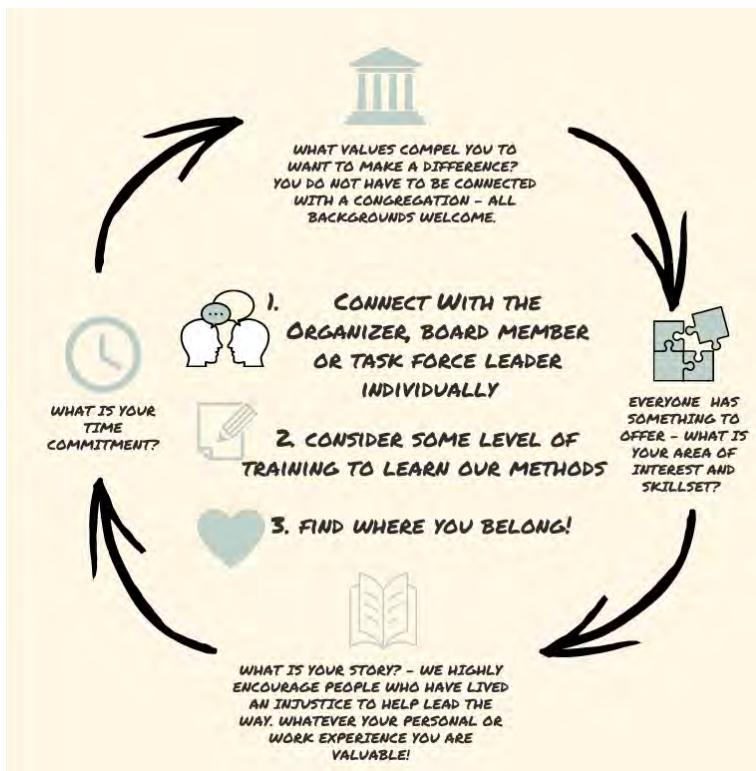
Hair Cutting, Coloring & Extensions  
Massage, Facials & Waxing  
Manicure and Pedicures

**715-552-3200**

1120 122nd Street Suite 5  
Chippewa Falls WI 54729



# HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?



## Volunteer

There are always numerous ways to support the functions of JONAH that match any skill and time boundaries.

Volunteer once or regularly! Contact [cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com) to find your place within our organization - all are welcomed!

## Join a Core Team

Is your congregation a member? Contact your board representative (see page 3) to join your JONAH group right in your faith community. If your congregation is not a member or you do not belong to a congregation, we can create or connect you to the JONAH group that works for you. Contact [cvjonahorgnizer@gmail.com](mailto:cvjonahorgnizer@gmail.com). See more about Core Teams on page 19.

## Join a Task Force

You can still be on a Task Force if you cannot attend the meetings. Contact the chairs listed to participate in the issue you are most passionate about.

## Task Force Meetings and Contact Information

- Affordable Housing: 1st Thursdays, 5:30pm. Contact [moseleyjudi@gmail.com](mailto:moseleyjudi@gmail.com) or [Wolfgram.susanm@gmail.com](mailto:Wolfgram.susanm@gmail.com).
- Child Poverty/Childcare: vary, contact [jwagner@chipvalley.com](mailto:jwagner@chipvalley.com).
- Environmental: vary monthly, contact [waitsr@charter.net](mailto:waitsr@charter.net).
- Immigration: 3rd Mondays, 4:30pm Zoom. Contact [rk9561@charter.net](mailto:rk9561@charter.net)
- Justice Action Team: 2nd Wednesdays at 8:30am Zoom. Contact [tom.wirth59@gmail.com](mailto:tom.wirth59@gmail.com) or [kellym@expowisconsin.org](mailto:kellym@expowisconsin.org).
- Mental Health: 1st Thursdays at 1pm and 3rd Thursdays at 4pm, hybrid. Contact [cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com).
- Transportation: meet with Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance, times vary, contact [mrquam@charter.net](mailto:mrquam@charter.net).

## Internal Committees

We have several committees that keep JONAH moving and new voices are encouraged: Communications, Training, Fundraising, Faith Leaders, and Events!

## I want to be a member!

Membership with JONAH is multi-tiered, but essentially if you are connected to JONAH you are a member!

Our board is made of institutional members that pay annual dues. Sustaining Members are donors that commit to automatic monthly giving. Individual donors are self-identified: if you are on our email list or social media page, if you volunteer or like our work, if you donate or just want to be a member = you are a member! JONAH is one big family.

While we have no official process for individual members we value everyone we're connected to. We have Member-Wide Meetings the third Mondays of even months Feb-August and our annual event in October. All are welcome - and we mean it! Join our email list or follow us on Facebook to stay informed.

# Eau Claire Tenant Landlord Resource Center

Chelsea Hébert

Program Coordinator

715.529.2918

[chelsea@ectlrc.org](mailto:chelsea@ectlrc.org)

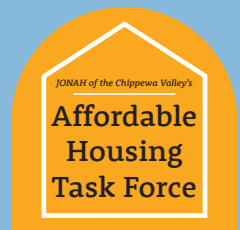
[ectlrc.org](http://ectlrc.org)



[www.ectlrc.org](http://www.ectlrc.org)



 JONAH Affordable Housing



**Dr. Susan Wolfgram**

Co-Chair JONAH Affordable Housing Task Force  
Co-Director Eau Claire Tenant-Landlord Resource Center

[wolfgram.susanm@gmail.com](mailto:wolfgram.susanm@gmail.com)

**"It is hard to argue that housing is not a fundamental need. Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter, everything else falls apart." -Matthew Desmond**



Top Row (L-R): Pat Mertens - Interfaith Green Teams, Environmental Task Force member, and JONAH Strive Core Team; David Liners and Jackie Christner at MAD; Nycki Wallsh (FREE), Lynn Buske (Organizer), and Kelly Mahoney (EXPO and CVJAT Chair) at 2022 Annual event

Middle Row (L-R): David Huber (JONAH President) and Lynn Buske (JONAH Organizer); Perla Martinez (Communications) and Shannon Severud (intern) at Community Involvement Fair; Ken Hood and Kari Allen, JONAH Rural Outreach Organizers

Bottom Row (L-R): Susan Wolfgram: Longtime Board Member and Affordable Housing Co-Chair; Lynn Buske and Julia Bennker at JONAH Annual Event



# CHIPPEWA VALLEY VOTES

## WORKS TO EMPOWER VOTERS

CVV collaborates with other nonpartisan organizations to:

- Train volunteers to assist voters with registration,
- Educate the community about the voting process,
- Work to reduce barriers to the ballot, and
- Advocate for people who have been disenfranchised.

Our jail voting education program empowers citizens who are incarcerated to register to vote and to get an absentee ballot.



CVV is a volunteer-based, nonpartisan organization.

web: [chippewavalleyvotes.org](http://chippewavalleyvotes.org)

Facebook: [chippewavalleyvotes](https://www.facebook.com/chippewavalleyvotes)

email: [chippewavalleyvotes@gmail.com](mailto:chippewavalleyvotes@gmail.com)

**Quality Stoneware Since 1986**

**715-835-8860**

**359 Ferry Street | Eau Claire WI 54703**

## DETAILS Fine Apparel and Accessories

### BLESSING BRACELETS

PAUSE ON EACH PEARL AND REFLECT ON A BLESSING IN YOUR LIFE

BUILD YOUR OWN STACK



A GREAT GIFT FOR \$28!

AS SEEN IN THE HALLMARK MOVIE: THE BLESSING BRACELET

Give us a call at 715-834-1946  
502 Water Street, Eau Claire, Wi  
Find us online at [www.detailsdirect.com](http://www.detailsdirect.com)

## EAU CLAIRE COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Support the  
Efforts of  
JONAH

## Charting our Financial Progress

<b>JONAH FINANCIALS</b> <b>January - December 2022</b>		
	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donor Support Income	39,339.00	48%
Grant Income	19,760.00	24%
Event and Fundraising Income	21,735.00	27%
Additional Income	1,002.00	1%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>81,836.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Event and Fundraising Expenses	5,658.00	7%
Office Expenses	6,362.00	8%
Contract Services Expenses	7,358.00	9%
Employee Wages and Benefits	47,373.00	61%
Affiliation Dues	11,000.00	14%
Misc. Expenses	300.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>78,051.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>3,785.00</b>	

### Fueling Change Through Dedication

At the heart of JONAH's operations, two pillars stand tall: our dedicated staff and our formidable task forces. Our staff members provide the crucial stability that allows us to move forward, while our task forces are where the real magic of change happens.

### Powering Our Mission Through Individual Donors

Our major source of revenue, the lifeblood of JONAH, is the support we receive from individuals like you. We are immensely grateful for the various ways individuals choose to stand with us. From occasional gifting, exemplified by the Friends of JONAH, to the steadfast commitment of our monthly and annual pledgers known as Sustainers, and the lasting impact of legacy gifting - in 2022, all three methods shone equally bright in their support for our cause.

<b>EOY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES</b>	
	<b>12/31/22 Balance</b>
Affordable Housing Task Force	2,947.00
Child Poverty Task Force	1,625.00
Eau Claire Tenant Landlord Resource Center	27,523.00
Environmental Task Force	(203.00)
Immigration Task Force	695.00
Mental Health Task Force	3,331.00
Rural Outreach	50,010.00
Other Restricted Funds	2,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,128.00</b>

### Investing in Change with Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are donations and grants designated for precise purposes, serving either as a rapid response to pressing community needs or as a foundation for long-term sustainability. Throughout the past year, numerous generous individuals like you have answered the call to support our specific task force endeavors, and for that, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Additionally, a significant portion of these restricted funds stems from the successful acquisition of grants. As a result, as the year began the Eau Claire Tenant Landlord Resource Center and Rural Outreach Project were excellently positioned financially for an active year of planned activities including the addition of staff support.

*As we navigate the future, we do so with gratitude for your unwavering support. The JONAH 2022 Financial Report is not just a document; it's a testament to our collective commitment to change, growth, and progress. Thank you for being part of our journey.*



St. Raymond of Penafort



Newman Parish



St. Mary's



Immaculate Conception



St. James the Greater

The Catholic Parishes of the Eau Claire Deanery as a group are a member of JONAH. We are supportive not only of works of charity, but also of justice. A major way we do this is to function ecumenically through JONAH. Our purpose is to carry out the role of justice in contemporary life, based on Sacred Scripture and Tradition.



St. Joseph (Rock Falls)



Sacred Heart / St. Patrick's Parish



St. Joseph's (Elk Mound)



St. Olaf

## FRIENDS OF JONAH & JONAH SUSTAINERS

### FRIENDS OF JONAH - Individual Contributions - Sept 1, 2022 - Aug 30, 2023

Andrew Werthmann	Elizabeth and Mitchell Spencer	Mark and Winnie Morse
Ann Heywood and Gene Stanley	Emily Anderson	Mark Ruddy
Annemarie Kresser	Emma Barnett	Marleine Schildt
Audry Polichnia	First Congregational United Church Of Christ	Martha and Jane Mohler
Barry and Susan Boyer	Freddie Wilson	Mary Dziewiontkoski
Becky Gunnes and Emily Lewis	Glenn Reynolds and Karen Havholm	Mary Foote
Betty Gertner	Greg and Barb Habben	Mayo Foundation for Medical Educational and Research
Beverly and Rochelle Davis	Greg and Emily Moore	Melissa Kullman
Bill and Jean Westerlund	Greg Galinsky	Newman Works of Charity
Bob Afdahl	Gwenn Nyhagen	Nicole Green
Bonnie Stone	Irene Asp	Pamela Guthman
Bradley Carter	James and Deborah Shultz	Paul Schadowald
Brigid and Charles Geroux	James Jeffries	Phil Swanhorst
Charles R. Bauer	Jeanette Scheuermann	Randy and Laurie Skow-Anderson
Chris Hambuch-Boyle	Jeff and Patty Henry	Ray and Sue Koch
Christian and Kimberly Phelps	Jeff Mazanec	Rebecca and Paul Whitebody
Christopher Harsh	Jeffrey Mantes	Rebecca Wurzer
Chuck Gorecki	Jim and Carolyn Dunning	Richard Arnold
Craig Koerth	Joanne Mellema	Rick Eilertson
Crispin and Rebecca Pierce	Jodi Emerson	Robert Pfundheller
Curtis Ray	John and Sue Wagner	Royal Credit Union
Cynthia White	John Schultz	Ruth and Brian Peterson
Dan Giguere	John Urice	Sacred Heart
Dana Smetana	Joyce and Joe Motto	Sally Sundby
David and Alicia Carlson	Judy Blackstone	Sharon Stedman
David and Joyce Anderson	Judy Moseley	Spirit Lutheran
David Morley	Julianne Lepp	Susan Luthy
David and Connie Turner	Kari Allen	Susan Wolfgram and Mike Steuer
Dennis and Sandra Anderson	Kate Lindsay	Tangled Up In Hue
Donald Mowry and Martha Munger	Keith and Alison Martin	Thomas and Jill Barland
Dorothy Rossow	Kirby Harless	Tim and Martha Nieman
Dustin and Kate Van Sloten	Kris Deehr	Walter and Kitty Rahl
Eau Claire Community Foundation	Krista Cleary	Will Fantle
Elaine Mann	Lloyd and Florence Sheperd	Wonders of Nature
Eleanor Wolf	Marie Jackson	

### JONAH SUSTAINERS (Donors with Monthly Pledge)

Agnes and Andrew Welsch	Joanne Mellema	Paul and Peggy Savides
Annemarie Kresser	John and Sue Wagner	Phil and Lori Ruge Jones
Betty Hurst	Juanita Peck	Ray and Sue Koch
Catherine Emmanuelle	Justin Arnold	Rebecca Wurzer
Christine Kondrasuk	Kate Felton	Richard Snyder
Cindy Rasmussen	Katherine Schneider	Robert Massey
David and Karen Behling	Kathy Boone	Roderick Cameron
David Morley	Ken and Terre Sullivan	Sandra McKinney
Dianne Dawson	Kirby Harless	Sara and Thomas Bryan
Greg And Mary Barnes	Larry and Sharon Metzenbauer	Sara Gannon
Jacky Miller	Loretta Young	Sarah Aiken Felling
Jacquelyn Christner	Lou Hoeschen	Sarah Harder
Jane Schultz	Louis and Janet Frase	Sharon Stedman
Janice Bogstad	Mark and Lois Helland	Steve and Lori Leach
Jill Christopherson	Mary Daniels	Sue and Ralph Suechting
Jill Myers	Mary Jo and Timothy Adler	Teresa Larson
Jim Raleigh	Nathan and Linda Aaseng	Terry Butler
Joann Klink		

LEARN MORE



SCAN HERE



# Experience The **C&M DIFFERENCE**

C&M Built Homes Are **30% to 40%** More Efficient Than Code!



715.861.6410

[CandMHomebuilders.com](http://CandMHomebuilders.com)

## A NOTE FROM THE JONAH PRESIDENT

Dear supporters of JONAH (and potential supporters) -

The work that JONAH does in the Chippewa Valley is essential, but it is also difficult, time-consuming, and sometimes seems to be without hope. Of course, it is that difficulty that makes it so worthwhile and satisfying! It is one thing to be charitable - to give a hungry person a meal, to help a person living on the streets with a bottle of water or clothing for a job interview - but JONAH works upstream, trying to change the systems that lead to people needing a meal, or a bottle of water, or a place to live. Many wonderful organizations are doing the work to provide for people in need. Not as many groups are doing the kind of work that JONAH does, which is to engineer social and political change to ensure that no one ever falls into a state of being in need.

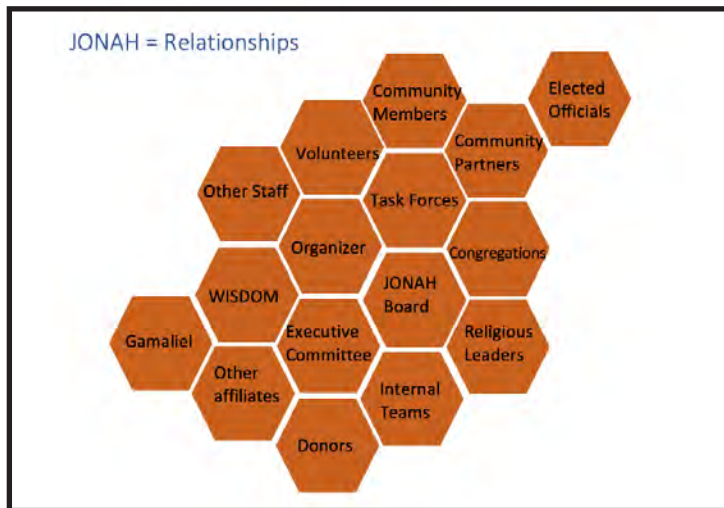
It's a heavy task we have taken on! It's also a very important one. Until no one is oppressed, until no one goes hungry or homeless or without medical care, until no one is mistreated because of their immigration status or sexuality or gender, until the laws apply equally to all people and all people have equality under the law; until such time, we are living unjustly. The members and supporters of JONAH believe deeply that

we must be a society - and a country, and a world - of justice.

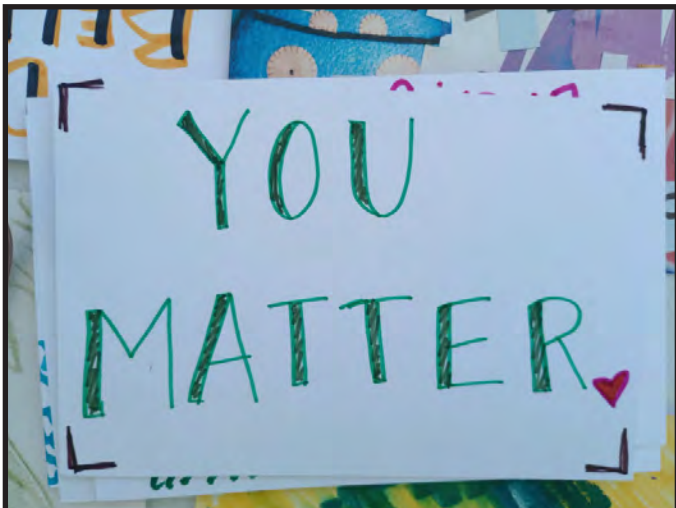
To that end, our many volunteers and our staff put in long hours, extraordinary passion, creativity, and love, changing the systems that need to be changed. And our many supporters, many of whom are also volunteers, help JONAH by supporting our mission with their hard-earned dollars. JONAH's work requires a lot of money - partly because our staff deserve to be paid for dedicating so much of their lives to this work, and also because the ones who benefit from the systems staying just as they are have far deeper pockets than we do, and they use it to work at maintaining the status quo (or even moving us backwards).

Thank you all for your generosity - your financial help is essential to making sure JONAH can do the work that we are called to do. And your financial help isn't just a gift to JONAH, it's a gift to the community and even a gift to yourself, too, because we all do better when we all do better.

Let's make the world a better place!  
Rev. David Huber, JONAH President



*Lynn Buske and Andy Thompson  
at Labor Day Picnic*



**"It is hard to argue that housing is not a fundamental need. Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter, everything else falls apart." -Matthew Desmond**



One eviction can change the trajectory of an individual or a family's life and multiple evictions in a community are destabilizing. We aim to intervene early between tenants and landlords before the word "eviction" is even spoken. For more information please visit

**[www.ectlrc.org](http://www.ectlrc.org)**



**Susan Wolfgram**  
Director



**Paul Savides**  
Director



**Judi Moseley**  
Director



**Chelsea Hebert**  
Program  
Coordinator



*Eco-Minded*

833-462-3326  
[www.shopeco-minded.com](http://www.shopeco-minded.com)

*Jest Scripts*

Madrigal & Jazz Dinner Scripts

Jane & Jim Jeffries  
715-833-0140  
[jestscripts@gmail.com](mailto:jestscripts@gmail.com)  
[www.jestscripts.com](http://www.jestscripts.com)



GRACE  
LUTHERAN



**Partnering with  
Habitat to House  
Our Vets**

202 West Grand Avenue, EC  
715-832-9713  
[grace-church.org](http://grace-church.org)

The symbol JONAH represents, in my perspective, embodies the concept that **collaboration is possible despite our differences**. That symbol is what initially drew me to this role almost 6 years ago, and it's the reason I accepted the position. The reality of JONAH's commitment to this ideal is a significant factor that continues to motivate me. The potential for unity amid diversity is a profound force, perhaps more profound than we often realize, and it's the driving force behind our work.

Our primary focus is to foster a community that benefits all its members - where all feel they belong and are successful. As former President Theodore Roosevelt aptly put it, "This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in." We believe that working together, especially across divides, is the most important ingredient to accomplish this.

Many people speak of the importance of collaboration, yet some struggle to let go of their own visions or embrace the discomfort of listening to different perspectives. People tell me, "I can't work with this person because of such and such." Working with individuals whom we differ from can be challenging but it is the vital work we have chosen to undertake.

The difficulty of this work is precisely why we need each other. Our values of building relationships, promoting honesty, withholding judgment, acknowledging imperfection, offering support, encouraging personal growth, are part of the disciplines we seek to instill in our volunteers and carry out as leaders. This endeavor requires vulnerability.

Vulnerability, in my opinion, is where our power comes from.

Collaborating with diverse voices, beliefs, and approaches necessitates a willingness to:

- Collaborate wholeheartedly,
- Acknowledge that we may not always hold the right answers; no single person possesses the universal truth,
- Recognize the differing beliefs of others do not invalidate our personal convictions,
- Prioritize collective goals over individual preferences,
- Let go of preconceived assumptions and biases,
- Embrace dialogue with those whom we may disagree,
- Continually foster new relationships.
- Honestly using your voice, yet learning to listen to others.

Corruption happens when there is an imbalance of power. To restore equilibrium and combat corruption, we must distribute power equitably, ensuring that everyone has a share. Regrettably, not all members of our society currently hold power. **We define power in organizing as having the ability to act.** Power also carries responsibilities, and we depend on one another to hold each other accountable. **Power is meant to be shared.**

What unites us, where we find common ground, is our overarching objective - whether it's compassion, inclusion, community building, or problem-solving. This shared goal demands intentional outreach, deliberate inclusion, effective communication, a commitment to openness, and unwavering trust. All these aspects emerge from authentic relationships - getting to know people for who they are, one person at a time, and **PRACTICING** patience instead of anger.

Many of us are **ANGRY** at people who seem to be acting counter to our values. Anger is a valid emotion to have, and we must hold space for ourselves to feel that anger. But we must pause and reflect to keep it in check before we act if we want to **BUILD COMMUNITY**.

As Thich Nhat Hanh, wisely noted "Anger immediately creates a distance. When two people are angry at each other, when they shout in anger, their hearts are no longer close,

their emotions are divided and they go miles apart. To cover that distance, they yell. The angrier they are, the louder they shout. They are no longer in a mode of love, of acceptance, of proximity. They are unable to hear each other, shouting is how they believe they can be heard." I believe JONAH's mission could be summed up as "CREATING CONNECTION" (or "ELIMINATING DISTANCE").

***I am convinced that true change cannot occur until we are willing to bring our hearts closer together.***

LOVE is one of JONAH's values because we understand that loving our neighbor means loving ALL our neighbors. Love is manifested in close hearts, not distant anger. Love is something that everyone can perceive.

Our journey is one of hard work and learning from our mistakes. It's about extending grace to ourselves and to others. This process of growth, both individually and collectively, is how we will further our mission and vision. When we truly believe that every voice matters as much as every other voice, and strive to act from that belief, something powerful will shift.



**Lynn Buske,  
JONAH  
Organizer**



Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance (CVTA) is a united voice for transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians in Eau Claire and neighboring counties of West Central Wisconsin.

[www.ChippewaValleyTransitAlliance.com](http://www.ChippewaValleyTransitAlliance.com)

[chippewavalleytransitalliance@gmail.com](mailto:chippewavalleytransitalliance@gmail.com) Find us on 



**DECADES Financial** LLC  
Advice Through Life

Investments • Income & Tax Planning •  
Retirement Planning • Estate Planning  
**(715) 514-4032**

\*Securities and Advisory Services through UNITED PLANNERS FINANCIAL SERVICES, Member: FINRA, SIPC. Decades Financial, LLC and United Planners are independent companies.

**Edward Jones**

Member SIPC



**Ted Oeffler, CFP®, AAMS™**  
Financial Advisor

2751 Commercial Blvd Ste 2  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
715-723-2117

MKT-5894N-A

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)



**The Goat  
Coffee House**

336 Water Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715- 831-4491

*Hours of operation:*  
M-F 6:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Sat 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sun 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



We Are Stronger Together

The mission of the  
**Greater West Central Area Labor Council**  
is to improve the lives of working families and  
bring economic justice to the workplace and  
social justice to our state and the nation.  
2233 Birch Street • Eau Claire WI 54703

[gwcac@gmail.com](mailto:gwcac@gmail.com)

**7-DAY FREE  
TRIAL**  
START YOUR  
FITNESS  
JOURNEY TODAY

**EAU CLAIRE**  
FITNESS

715.552.4570

3225 LORCH AVE  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701

[WWW.EAUCLAIRE-FITNESS.COM](http://WWW.EAUCLAIRE-FITNESS.COM)

It takes a lot to keep a large organization like JONAH running! While our Executive Committee and our Board of Directors makes the major decisions, we have smaller more-focused teams of volunteers to support our operations. These groups are a great way to get involved in JONAH if you'd like to participate in general support over being on a task force. Read about these groups on the following pages!

**The most basic building block of JONAH is the core team.** Core teams can be built in member congregations or other organized groups. They are made up of a small group of leaders who work in their congregation or group to learn and teach tools of organizing, hold actions, and act as a conduit of information between their congregation or group and the wider JONAH.

To give you a better idea of how a core team can function, here's a partial list of some JONAH core team activities:

### First Congregational UCC Core Team

- Held an August JONAH Core Team Golf Fundraiser at Hickory Hills Golf Course to raise funds for JONAH and for the work of the Core Team.
- Held JONAH Sunday on October 9, 2022. Activities included presentations by Core Team member Jackie Christner, JONAH Organizer Lynn Buske, and JONAH Mental Health Task Force member and author Larry Winter during the worship service. They spoke on the work of the Metal Health Task Force and the need for greater understanding of and increased services for those experiencing mental health crises.
- Worked with local organization Roundtable Revival to sponsor and assist with a Men's Mentorship program for men returning to the community from incarceration. The Men's Mentorship group, including three mentors from First Congregational Church,



meets twice monthly in Ingram Hall.

- Provided meals once a month for the Men's Mentorship Program and recruited other congregation members to help provide meals.
- Presented information at the June 4th worship service about the Green Bandana Project, a local initiative to increase awareness about mental health and provide resources and support for those with mental health issues.

### Trinity's Strive Committee

The mission of the Strive Committee at Trinity Lutheran Church of Eau Claire is to strive to bring peace and justice to the church, community and the world. It launched in 2023 as part of Trinity's mission revisioning with the leadership of Lidixe Montoya, our deacon and leader of the Neighbor 2 Neighbor Ministry, and JONAHs' support.

Part of Strive's activities:

- The Caring for Creation Team seeks to expand sustainability and awareness through the church. They taught and led projects at Vacation Bible School. They are implementing compost services at the church and food pantry. They made green tote bags to reduce plastic use and raise funds. They held forums at church.
- Supported ELCA Neighbor to Neighbor Ministries who works to provide resources to Hispanic neighbors across Western Wisconsin.
- Is planning a Hispanic Celebration.
- Led an impactful racial justice workshop series and will do it again in 2024.
- Shares JONAH updates in the congregation and sits on the board. Use the church space for JONAH meetings, events and the upcoming Dead Horses concert.



**Trinity Lutheran's Strive Core Team members  
Lidixe Montoya (chair) and Lynn Buske**

## JONAH'S INTERNAL CORE TEAMS

- Had a presentation about JONAH, and will do more JONAH topics in 2024, for congregation members.
- We are a Reconciling in Christ church and have a goal to internally work to ensure our entire congregation is prepared to live out that mission and be sincerely inclusive to the LGBTQ+ community.

Your congregation can have a Core Team too!

To learn more about how to organize a core team in your congregation, group or organization, please contact Paul Savides at [paul.savides@gmail.com](mailto:paul.savides@gmail.com).

### JONAH Leadership Training Team

***“Anyone can become a leader. It just takes the right attitude and skills, both of which can be learned and developed.”***

#### Providing Trainings

JONAH's Leadership Training Team, composed of Joyce Anderson, Lynn Buske, Perla Martinez, Paul Savides, and John Wagner, had another busy and successful year of training new leaders and refreshing “old” leaders through a variety of opportunities. A combination in-person and virtual new member training was held at L.E. Phillips Library, where 20 new members participated. Eight JONAH members attended a virtual 5-week WISDOM training series. Our JONAH organizer, Lynn Buske, trained new staff and interns, and the training team provided trainings at regular JONAH Board meetings. There were also individual and small group one-to-one trainings, member-wide meetings, and mini trainings held throughout the year.

As the Training Team looks at the upcoming year, we will again focus on our most popular and powerful training, “Building Relationships Through One-to-One Conversations.” It is through holding one-to-one conversations that we learn each other's stories. We discover our neighbors' interest and passions, and we learn what our neighbors need to live and thrive in our community.

Other training opportunities will include WISDOM's 5-week training series and JONAH trainings on holding effective meetings and on developing specific actions around important issues.

#### New Leadership Mentorship Program

The Training Team is also planning a leadership mentoring program for those who wish to work their way into JONAH officer positions. Serving as an officer can seem like too big a step for many. Being mentored by an experienced JONAH member and/or former officer can make the journey to a

leadership position smoother and less daunting.

We need leaders with the skills and confidence to step up and get involved if we are to build the kind of community where all our neighbors can experience a safe, healthy, and productive life. JONAH's Leadership Training Team is ready to provide training and support for individuals, community groups, neighborhoods, and congregations.

#### You are a Leader, too!

To arrange a training or to get more information about trainings already scheduled, please contact Lynn Buske at [cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:cvjonahorganizer@gmail.com) or Paul Savides at [paul.savides@gmail.com](mailto:paul.savides@gmail.com).

### JONAH Religious Leaders

The JONAH Religious Leaders group is made up of faith leaders in the greater Chippewa Valley. We meet for lunch and conversation monthly, at 12:30PM on the second Tuesday. Locations vary, as we rotate around to any congregation's space that chooses to host. All congregational leaders are welcome to attend, learn, and share.

In late 2022, the group discussed the focus and purpose of our gathering - who we are and who we want to be. In a great discussion, we discerned two paths: relationship for the sake of this group and relationship for the sake of the community at large. The JONAH Religious Leaders strive to be a supportive and educational group, learning from each other and supporting one another in our efforts for social justice. We additionally want to be in collaboration with the larger JONAH organization as catalysts for change, bringing a theological lens to issues in the community, and offering public witness.



***Religious Leaders Meeting***

### JONAH Fundraising Team

Our JONAH Fundraising Team is now in its third year of existence! This team was formed realizing that with any non-profit organization there are operating costs associated with its daily functioning. In addition, this year we have obtained more comprehensive insurance coverage and expanded our bookkeeping hours. Much of JONAH's work is done by a hard-working volunteer base, but we need the infrastructure of our office, organizer, communications, bookkeeping, etc to run more smoothly and effectively.

All this takes solid funding! We have our ongoing sources of church membership fees, and yearbook sponsorships, and we occasionally get some grant funding, but our biggest source of support is from individual sponsors. We are so grateful for you - whether you give sporadically or monthly as a sustainer!

### Activities

In May, we held a Festival Food Brat Stand, which was fun and profitable. We continue to send out two fundraising letters per year, which keeps us in direct communication with each of you about our work and helps bring in needed funds.

There's more than money involved with fundraising - it's education and relationships, too! We created social justice buttons to give out, and organized a social picnic event.

Our annual event in October is a time to celebrate and explain our work to many interested individuals and hopefully fundraise to uphold our work throughout our coming year. In addition, this year we are very excited to be holding a fundraising concert on November 11 by the popular group, Dead Horses. We continue to do the important work of creating a solid financial base so JONAH can continue its work in our community.

### Looking Ahead

**In Spring 2024 we will hold our biannual sustainer breakfast. This is a place to thank our sustaining members and for those considering sustaining membership to learn more about it! Look for information on that so you can attend!**

Thanks to you all for your support! We welcome anyone with the expertise, ideas, and enthusiasm to join us in our fundraising efforts - whether or not you are connected to JONAH. Joining our team is a great way to get connected!

2023 Fundraising Team: Sharon Stedman, Becky Wurzer, Joanne Mellema, Lynn Buske



*Religious Leaders Meeting*

This year, the group decided on a calendar of different justice topics for our monthly conversations. These topics included:

- Mental Health
- Racial Justice
- Addiction
- Creation & the Environment
- Criminal Justice
- LGBTQIA+
- Aging & Dementia
- Housing & Homelessness
- Immigration

Many in our group have appreciated this wide breadth of topics, since each diverse area of social concern has different community supports and opportunities available. Often, representatives of JONAH's various Task Forces or other pertinent leaders in the community are invited to join our conversation, so as to offer insight and further empathy for the issue. Our discussions have primarily focused on what each congregation is doing so that we might all learn new ideas and approaches to what can sometimes be challenging topics. We've learned how some Religious Leaders include these concerns in their preaching or how some congregations have dedicated staff or committees devoted to a specific issue.

This group is a welcoming and inclusive space. Over the summer, we have intentionally invited more representatives from congregations in the Chippewa Valley. Your congregation does not have to be an institutional member of JONAH to participate. JONAH's organization is committed to interfaith collaboration, and this group strives to be a place for interfaith relationships to grow. If you're interested in attending one of our upcoming luncheons, contact Kari Allen at [ka.jonahorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:ka.jonahorganizer@gmail.com).

- Co-chairs Christine Warloski and Kari Allen

# Hope United Methodist Church

## We Welcome All!

Scan QR Code to  
Connect with HOPE!



**Join HOPE for Sunday Worship  
at 9:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook.**

2233 Golf Road Eau Claire, WI (715) 835-5310 • [www.hope-eauclaire.org](http://www.hope-eauclaire.org)

*HOPE is proud to support JONAH in their mission and work!*

*Horan Funeral Home  
and Cremation Services*  
*A Tradition of Caring*



420 Bay Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729  
Phone: (715) 723-4404  
Fax: (715) 723-7511  
Email: [horanfuneralhome@gmail.com](mailto:horanfuneralhome@gmail.com)  
Website: [horanfuneralhome.com](http://horanfuneralhome.com)

Michael E. Horan  
Owner / Funeral Director  
Don L. Lucas  
Funeral Director  
Edwin S. Horan  
(1936-2015)

**JODI  
EMERSON**  
= FOR ASSEMBLY =



## Thank You

Thank you JONAH for all your work on affordable housing, criminal justice reform, environmental justice, fighting child poverty and encouraging mass transit. Our community is stronger because of you!

**JODI  
EMERSON**  
= FOR ASSEMBLY =

Paid for by Emerson for Assembly



**FAMILY • FRIENDS • TRADITIONS**  
*Serving the Eau Claire Area Since 1957*

**VIEW MENU ONLINE AT**  
[WWW.MYSAMMYS.COM](http://WWW.MYSAMMYS.COM)

**2812 LONDON ROAD  
EAU CLAIRE, WI**

**DINE-IN  
CARRY OUT  
DELIVERY  
FULL SERVICE BAR  
BANQUET ROOM**  
**715-831-1300**  
[WWW.MYSAMMYS.COM](http://WWW.MYSAMMYS.COM)

## JONAH Communications Team

Much of what Jonah does depends on communication. There is the sharing of information by emails, articles, social media, posters and calendars. Talking with one another in meetings in order for tasks to be accomplished and plans actualized, that's necessary too. But maybe more importantly is the interpersonal communication we have with our neighbors in the community. Communication that helps us understand "What makes my neighbor tick? What's important to her? If their viewpoints are different from mine, can we find common values that we share and can work from?"

**Communication is not only about talking, it is about listening, too.** This summer Jonah offered a program entitled Civil Discourse. It involved the work of learning how to listen to our neighbors, how to hear their viewpoints for what they are, and to not try to change their way of thinking. It focused on talking with each other with respect; giving up our own agenda; finding the right questions to ask; and listening with empathy. When we do this we may start to think, "Is it possible I have been wrong about what needs to be done? Is it possible there is a better way that none of us have yet conceived?"

Most of us want to be heard, to be listened to. Let's continue to learn to communicate and listen to each other, so we can find ways to better our life in this community.

Stay connected with JONAH's work through reading our emails, following us on social media, attending our bi-monthly Member-Wide meetings, and reach out to us - we want to hear from you, too! If you are interested in being part of the Communications Team, email Perla at perlaecj@gmail.com.

## JONAH Rural Outreach Project

### Chippewa Valley and Beyond

With growing awareness of rural needs after the pandemic, concerns about voter outcomes in rural communities, and 40% of JONAH followers residing outside of Eau Claire, JONAH formed a new Rural Outreach Project. In September 2022, two new Organizers, Kari Allen and Ken Hood, were hired by JONAH to focus on the inclusion of rural members across western Wisconsin.

Our team began with four goals: Listen, Learn, Empower, and Connect. We wanted to genuinely listen to the voices of rural residents so that we could learn their stories, strengths, and concerns. After building relationships with residents, we could then move into empowering directly-impacted residents for leadership within their communities and promote connections to local service providers, county resources, or people with pertinent experience as needed.



*The Rural Outreach team held an event in Fairchild where 18 organizations shared the support they offer in Eau Claire county. This event helped catalyze the forming of a Fairchild Task Force!*

Through one-on-one conversations, door and phone canvassing, and an online survey, we sought to specifically learn about top concerns, access to resources, and communication. Rural concerns remained clear and consistent throughout the project, with 23% of respondents indicating that Substance Misuse was a top concern, followed by 19% Mental Health, 12% Healthcare, and 10% Child Care. **One Stanley resident shared their top concern, "Mental Health, because we do have a high population of low income households. Unfortunately due to lack of treatment, many people with mental health issues have less success financially."**

### Rural Mental Health

Through the WI Area Health Education Center we welcomed a public health intern for the summer. In just two months he held dozens of 1-to-1 conversations with people in the Chippewa Valley working in mental health and several Health Departments in Western WI, engaged with rural residents at their community events and listened to their stories, researched an updated list of mental health resources and support groups available to rural residents, and generated a list of grant opportunities for us to pursue to spread access to, and create more of, these resources.

His findings revealed that understanding stigma is the path forwarded. "it is incredibly important to collaborate with local organizations or even Churches in order to gain support and spread through word-of-mouth. Training itself is not as important as the act of going into these areas with the intention of developing a sense of community. Social

## JONAH'S INTERNAL CORE TEAMS

Scan here with  
your smartphone  
to view a more  
detailed  
presentation of  
the Rural Project.



isolation is a major risk factor for mental illness and other negative health outcomes, and rural communities are often left out of the major

programming events or are unable to access the resources. Building relationships with rural communities works to connect rural residents who may have not been aware of resources available to them, but also works to destigmatize mental health by making it more visible in the local community”.

We will continue to expand access and deepen support for mental health in small towns and rural communities, and are seeking grant funding to support this work.

### Forward

A UW-Madison professor of political science, Katherine J. Cramer wrote, “We would do well to acknowledge that sometimes there is no substitute for sitting down with people and listening to their perspectives in order to measure what



**Kari Allen, JONAH Rural organizer, leads a training with RUTH - Rural Unity Through Hope in Trempealeau County**

those perspectives are.” Rural leaders have a very important role to play in meeting the needs of small town communities. There has already been a shift in JONAH, where our Task Forces and general operations are being more intentional of including our small town and rural neighbors, and we intend to continue.

### JONAH Book Club

The JONAH Book Club focused on the book “Nature’s Best Hope” by Douglas Tallamy in collaboration with the Environmental Task Force and congregations. The Book

Club is looking at bringing some unity between the different congregations connected to JONAH, most of them whom have their own book clubs. What books related to social justice have you read or would like to? What is your congregation reading? Would they invite JONAH’s full book club to one of their discussions next year? Contact Becky Wurzer at wurzerrp@uwec.edu.

Stories change hearts. There are countless number of really good stories about social injustice. Reading books is powerful. Reading books about activism and social justice helps people develop open-mindedness and empathy for others and understand the importance of respecting different cultures and beliefs. But don’t take our word for it - listen to these below writers! Or better yet, read a book!

“You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.” - Ray Bradbury

“Think before you speak. Read before you think.” - Fran Lebowitz

Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for a while.” - Malorie Blackman

“I read a book one day and my whole life was changed.” - Orhan Pamuk



### JONAH EVENTS COMMITTEE

In only its second year in existence, the JONAH Event Planning Committee accomplished much to bring people together in person to build relationship and understanding around social injustice.

We initiated a collaborative event with other organizing groups in the area to hold a Winter Party. It was a powerful way to demonstrate unity and partnership with social connection between groups being the key focus. Eau Claire’s Senator, Jeff Smith, gave an inspiring talk about the importance of organizing together to make a difference.

The Events Committee also organized a Community Involvement Fair, bringing the task forces together with community members interested in getting more involved. Seeing people talk face to face about what matters to them and seeing all the task forces together was powerful.

In alignment with the goal of providing more events to move

our work forward, the events committee facilitated the resurgence of Issues and Action nights over the summer. This provided opportunities for the Task Forces to present an issue they have been working on and allow others to get involved. The Issues and Action nights will continue next summer.

The committee also worked with the Fundraising Committee to organize the annual event this year. The event raises funds that allow JONAH to continue to operate and work toward justice for all.

We anticipate more wonderful and motivating events for JONAH in 2024!



**Segdrick Farley & Michelle Pride  
at 2022 Annual Celebration**



**JONAH friends at Juneteenth**

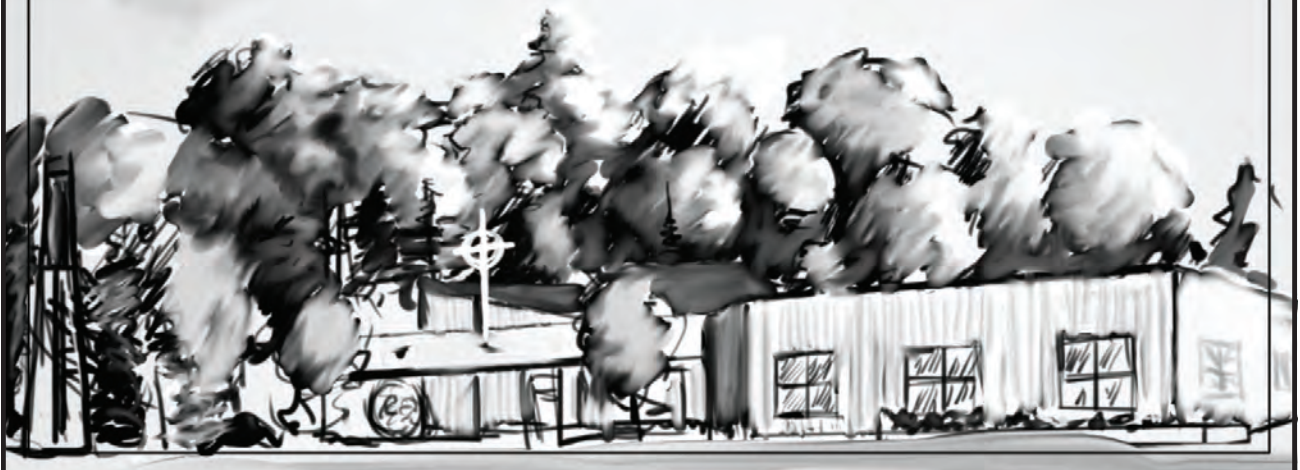
Left top to bottom are Jane Schulz, Jackie Christner and Audrey Nelson. Right top to bottom are Pete and Donna Raleigh and Michelle Pride

### Immanuel Lutheran Church

A Church Without Walls

Worship: 9:00 AM Sundays

3214 Golf Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-832-7832  
Worship: 9:00 AM Sundays  
6:00 PM Wednesdays





**All of JONAH remembers  
our fellow justice advocate  
and friend.**

*"And what does the Lord  
require of you? To act justly  
and to love mercy and to walk  
humbly with your God."*

*- Micah 6:8*

*Timothy Nieman*  
**IN MEMORIAM**

May 31, 1950 – July 23, 2023

**LENMARK GOMSRUD LINN**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES



*814 First Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-832-8301*

*1405 N. Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-834-4456*

*Proudly Serving Families at 2 Locations*



**3004 Golf Road, Suite 100  
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

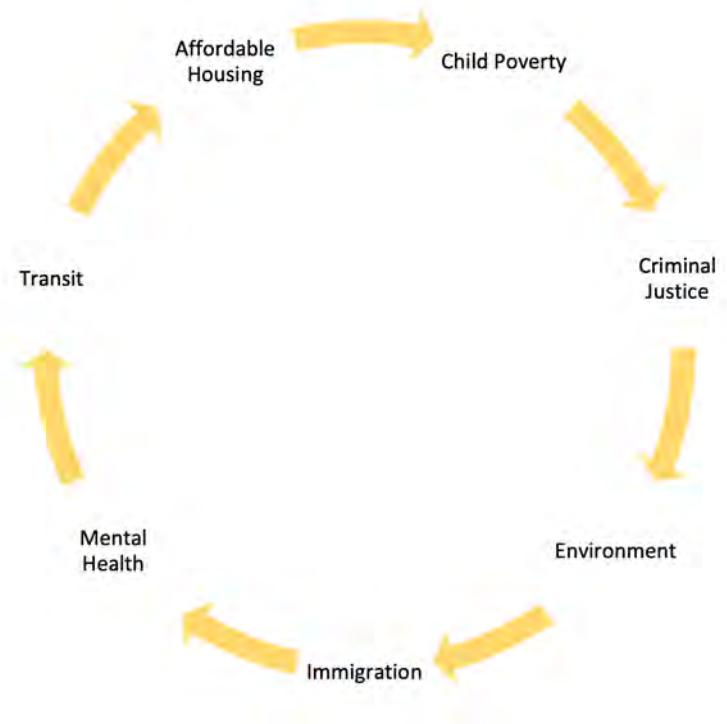
**(715) 834-4516**

**[www.mcmahonchiroandpt.com](http://www.mcmahonchiroandpt.com)**

## JONAH'S TASK FORCES: OVERVIEW • AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE

JONAH uses grassroots organizing to bring people in the Chippewa Valley together around social injustices, seeking to empower them to build a more just and healthy community for all. We believe in the principle that those closest to a problem or issue are best equipped to address it. JONAH connects people and serves to bridge them to solutions and actions to bring about change. We do this largely through our volunteer-led Task Forces. These task forces and the issues they are focusing on reflect what is important to our Chippewa Valley community. We currently have seven active task forces, which you can read about in the following pages, focusing on:

- Affordable Housing
- Immigration
- Transportation
- Environment
- Child Poverty
- Mental Health
- Chippewa Valley Justice Action Team



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE

Our work is well represented by Matthew Desmond, the author of “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City”:

***“Decent, affordable housing should be a basic right for everybody in this country. The reason is simple: without stable shelter, everything else falls apart.”***

Our Task Force has focused on two primary efforts: providing leadership in the establishment of a Day Resource Center for those experiencing homelessness and the opening of the Eau Claire Tenant-Landlord Resource Center. Both have at their core, stable shelter being the anchor of a person’s life.

Our efforts with the Day Resource Center led to the creation of Community Haven House Inc., an unincorporated nonprofit. We are a broad group of community stakeholders whose mission is to support and strengthen community residents facing the complexities of housing insecurities by providing day-time shelter, holistic services, and advocacy for collaborative, locally driven solutions. We are currently interviewing for a fiscal sponsor until we have sufficient funds to be an independent 501c3.

Our second commitment this past year has been the opening

of the Eau Claire Tenant-Landlord Resource Center <https://ectlrc.org/> Our mission is to provide education, consultation and mediation services that promote positive relations between renters and housing providers. We aim to intervene early between tenants and landlords when problems arise before the word “eviction” is even spoken.

During an affordable housing crisis, it is much harder for everyone, but particularly low-income residents to find housing. Once they find it, it is extremely important that they maintain that housing, because finding new housing, particularly if they have an eviction, criminal justice history, or a bad reference from a landlord, will be difficult.

***“One eviction can change the trajectory of an individual or family’s life; multiple evictions can destabilize a community.”***

Moving forward, we will remain focused on our mission to to facilitate culture change in Eau Claire City and County so that all stakeholders are informed about the lack of safe, good quality, affordable housing and are motivated to take actions to address it through public and private initiatives.

<https://www.facebook.com/JONAHAffordableHousing/>

## Overview of the Problem

Poverty is caused by a variety of factors: low wages, high housing, childcare, and medical costs. It is well documented that race and ethnicity contribute to higher levels of poverty. The long-term toxic stress resulting from these factors contributes to families remaining in poverty from generation to generation. The high costs of poverty and, in particular child care, also hurt the economy of the U.S. by reducing both the work force and the GDP.

Western capitalism results in an extreme imbalance of family wealth, which significantly disadvantages the poor, making it nearly impossible for these families to grow out of poverty.

## Impact of Recent Legislation

In the last century, the U.S. has passed a variety of legislation to help the poor but this legislation is both strictly targeted to specific causes and is difficult to understand and access. More recently, many public health experts have studied the complex causes of poverty and have proposed legislation that would provide more comprehensive and easily accessible aid to families. A version of this approach was implemented in the **CARES Act, resulting in an immediate almost 50% reduction in poverty**. However, the CARES Act family support funds were available only for the last six months of 2021, after which poverty again rose back to its pre-pandemic levels. In September 2023, the Census Bureau released a report that showed child poverty more than doubled in 2022 compared to 2021, resulting in another 5 million children living in poverty.

Conservatives and liberals both believe that families with children need better support. In the last five years a variety of bills have been introduced in the U.S. congress resulting in several congressional hearings but neither significant debate

nor lasting legislation. The Child Poverty Reduction Act was introduced in the spring of 2023 and is likely to be reintroduced this fall. This act would establish a more accurate poverty measure, and family support legislation that would help lift families out of generational poverty. Family support programs have been implemented in many other countries and have demonstrated, just as the CARES Act program, a significant reduction in poverty.

## Call to Action

JONAH and WISDOM ask you to support the pending Child Poverty Reduction Act (H.R. 1558/S. 643). Please contact your representatives and demand they support meaningful discussion and passage of this act.

## Task Force Efforts 2023-24

In 2023 JONAH's Child Poverty Task Force focused on three initiatives:

- Supporting the expansion of Badgercare in the state budget in partnership with several other groups. While the final budget did not include Badgercare despite countless stories of its need and the fact that it is free money provided by the federal government, the fight is not over. We will continue to fight for expanded Badgercare, as it helps families get back on their feet and stay healthy, with expensive healthcare costs, so they can be a thriving part of our community.
- Communicating widely the Childcare Crisis, advocating for funding for childcare providers, identifying the childcare gaps, and supporting the groups working to fill those gaps. Early childhood is a strong emphasis of this task force because we understand how Adverse Childhood Experiences can lead to the exact outcomes the rest of JONAH is working to reduce. Investing in our children is everything in building a peaceful community that works for all. In 2024 this will be our largest focus, as there are many complex pieces to the issue and families need quality, affordable childcare in order to work.
- Painting a Picture of Childhood Poverty around the state in a journalism collaboration with Julian Emerson. We have been working a long time on this project collecting stories and data. The challenge has been that there is much stigma around this issue and families often don't want to share their story. Additionally those struggling to make ends meet don't have the capacity to pause their efforts to survive to tell a story, which is painful to relive. If you are willing to share your story to an empathetic listener and help make a difference for others, contact Julian Emerson at [julianemersonec@gmail.com](mailto:julianemersonec@gmail.com).



**Child Poverty Advocates at the Joint Finance Committee Hearing**

The Chippewa Valley Justice Action Team is a dedicated advocacy group committed to fostering positive change in the areas of poverty, incarceration, mental health care and understanding the intersectionalities that occur within all areas of our community

Our approach involves fostering inclusive and engaging discussions, along with exploring community-based preventive strategies that address the unique needs and resources of individuals who have experienced incarceration. Our ultimate goal is to shift our focus upstream, aiming to prevent the overuse of the incarceration system as a response to the unfair distribution of resources.

We do this by:

- Hosting community members from various sectors, including community organizations, non-profits, legal and judicial systems, healthcare, mental health services, the incarceration system, academia, and more. We aim to learn from their experiences and insights.
- Providing a platform for sharing ideas and resources, encouraging personal growth and mutual learning among our members, especially those who have been directly impacted by these issues.

- Staying connected to other organizations and advocating for vulnerable populations in our community.
- Being allies to those who have gone through different systems, listening, and learning.
- Working Within the Criminal Legal system to work towards systems that work for everyone and include all voices.
- Continue to work on projects to connect UW students, faculty and stories of EXPO members.

This year in our work:

- This year we worked towards advocating for a higher education in Stanley Prison with Odyssey Beyond Bars.
- Peer Support in our community and the jails.
- A mural in Eau Claire that represents and is created by individuals with lived experience.
- Using Art As Therapy and Connection In Our Community.
- Our members spoke at the Correctional Health Care Conference and presented data that was done in this group titled "Returning To The Community".
- Community education around our group.
- Working with our unhoused population.



Kelly Mahoney, CVJAT and EXPO chair, talks with attendees at JONAH's Community Involvement Fair



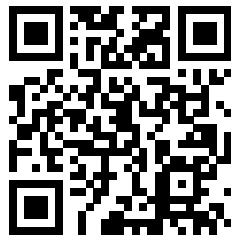
Lynn Buske and Peggy West-Schroeder leading training at FREE Summit



Mission: Support, Education,  
and Advocacy for individuals  
and their families living with a  
mental health condition.

Phone: (715) 450-6484  
info@namicv.org  
www.namicv.org

800 Wisconsin St, Mailbox 88  
Building #2D, Suite 420  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-3612



**Norske Nook**  
**Restaurant & Bakery**

www.norskenook.com

13804-7th Street | Osseo, WI  
2900 Pioneer Avenue | Rice Lake, WI  
Corner of Main and Holum | DeForest, WI



20% OFF  
FOR  
**JONAH**  
MEMBERS



 @SSPHOTOEC

 SOUL\_SHINE\_PHOTOGRAPHY

SOUL-SHINE-PHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Family  
Photo  
Fun :) Fun :)



**OAKWOOD HILLS**  
— FAMILY DENTAL —

**715-834-5882**

www.oakwoodhillsfamilydental.com

CATERINGS \* EVENTS\* BIRTHDAYS \* WEDDINGS \* ETC

CALL (715)2059451 OR EMAIL REXMEX.2021@HOTMAIL.COM

TO BOOK YOUR CATERING TODAY!!



**715-205-9451**

## ***“Who is an environmentalist? You are!”***

Katherine Hayhoe, PhD, Atmospheric Scientist and Chief Scientist for the Nature Conservancy describes an environmentalist as anyone who lives on earth. It is fitting that the work of the Environmental Task Force (ETF) is to collaborate with residents and community groups on programs to educate and inspire us all to preserve and take care of our planet. This past year our work fell into two categories: waste diversion and promoting and preserving biodiversity. Waste diversion is simply defined as programs such as composting, recycling and single use plastic alternatives that reduce waste and divert it from the landfill. Biodiversity involves programs that support the web of life and natural habitats. Below are some of our programming highlights from 2023.

### **Earth Week Open House**

In collaboration with Beaver Creek Reserve and the Eau Claire County Office of Recycling and Sustainability, the JONAH Environmental Task Force (ETF) hosted an Earth Week Open House at the Brewing Projekt on April 20th. Over 35 organizations engaged with 300 attendees discussing a wide range of topics from sustainable lawns, home energy audits, to no waste stores, composting, native landscapes, and much more. Plan to attend an even bigger 2024 Earth Week Open House at the Brewing Projekt on April 25, 2024.

### **Composting**

Prompted by a recent Department of Natural resource (DNR) audit of Wisconsin landfills, which revealed that over 30% of the landfill is organic waste, the ETF continues to collaborate with the EC County Office of Recycling and Sustainability to promote composting throughout the community. In 2024, six more schools in EC County plan to implement composting programs. The ETF will assist with these transitions as well as promote composting at various community events and participate in outreach campaigns to educate about composting at home.

### **Single Use Plastic Alternatives**

The plastic pollution crisis is all over the news, the ETF strives to educate consumers as to why single use is a problem and to provide practical alternatives. We will continue our community campaigns in 2024 to focus on awareness and simple habit changes that anyone can adopt.

## **No Mow May**

One of our biggest programs this year was supported by an \$11,000 Pablo Grant. The grant was used to promote No Mow May. No Mow May is a campaign that several cities in the US and the State have adopted to inspire communities to rethink their lawn and leave a portion of it natural for pollinators to increase biodiversity. No Mow May extended well beyond May with several events throughout the summer. We promoted community talks and expert lectures; editorials; an art contest which had over 30 entries and six award recipients; and a number of citizen science counting and reporting events for flowers and native bees. In addition, the grant paid for the production and distribution of over 350 signs to homes, schools, faith communities, and businesses. The grant also is helping us promote the book, “Nature’s Best Hope” through book clubs and an author lecture on October 14th which are described below under Book Club.

### **Book Club “Nature’s Best Hope” and Lecture**

Our No Mow May biodiversity theme continued and helped support a collaboration between the Chippewa Valley Book Fest and the LE Phillips Public Library. The book, “Nature’s Best Hope” by Douglas Tallamy was selected to be a feature book at the 2023 Chippewa Valley BookFest as well as the LE Phillips Eau Claire Library’s focus for the 2023/2024 Community One Book One Community program. The library will be hosting the author on October 14, 2023 for a lively discussion on key points from the book. “Nature’s Best Hope” is an inspiring read about each of us taking small, practical steps to support native habitats. The 8 key “next steps” that Tallamy highlights will be the launching point for the ETF’s 2024 biodiversity goals.

We invite you, the environmentalist, to join us in our work. Our meeting dates and times vary, so check the JONAH website ([jonahjustice.org](http://jonahjustice.org)) or email Sue Waits ([waitsr@charter.net](mailto:waitsr@charter.net)) for more information.

JONAH Environmental Task Force Members 2023:

Pat Mertens, Kathy Campbell, Nancy Coffey, Rebecca Whitebody, Jamie Larson, Amy Kalmon, Sharon Boussard, Christie Puetz, Dan Giguere, Sue Wagner, John Joadwine, Greta Gunnarson, Jane Mohler, Cindy Halfen, Denna Grangaard, Lori Arnesault, Carol Rudd, Roberta Kuchta, Cate Riedner, Sue Waits

## JONAH INTERFAITH GREEN TEAMS

We are happy to report that the Interfaith Green team has grown in membership this year. We now have over 20 congregations that participate in monthly meetings and information sharing. We meet at rotating locations most months and are hosted by the various members. **The goal of the group is to support and inspire each other in our individual team efforts to promote care of the Earth.** We share information and resources that help with the education of others on ideas to reduce our negative impacts on nature.

We have found that each green team has unique and interesting pursuits that meet the specific needs of their target membership. By sharing ideas and resources we continually help and excite each other and multiply the effect of each other's projects. To connect with this network of green teams, reach out to Sue Waits [waitsr@charter.net](mailto:waitsr@charter.net) or Kathy Stockton-Behnke [kasbehnke@gmail.com](mailto:kasbehnke@gmail.com).



Phoenix Park in Eau Claire was especially beautiful one Sunday afternoon this past August when the Chippewa Valley Multicultural Festival was celebrated. Why Beautiful? Because it was filled with the music and dance of Ballet Folklórico Mexico Azteca, Irie Sol, Second Generation Hmong Singers, and Ganna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. People danced and children smacked candy-filled papier-mache pinatas with sticks. But most beautiful was the park filled with residents of our increasingly diverse community. For those few hours we experienced how we would like the world to be, instead of the divisiveness and fear of one another that often prevails. People ate food truck offerings, shopped, and explored the many varied cultural booths, and some even joined in a Hmong line dance demonstration!

Fifteen-hundred to two-thousand people gathered at this event organized by the JONAH Immigration Task Force, Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Welcoming New Neighbors, and Visit Eau Claire. As Joyce Anderson, one of the event organizers said, "The festival is about neighbors getting to know neighbors and sharing our different cultural connections."

In many ways that is the purpose of the JONAH Immigration Task Force. We INFORM our community about immigration issues, act to CHANGE the system in the direction of fairness and compassion. We ENGAGE and EMPOWER people by building relationships.

## JONAH Immigration Task Force Mission

Coming from faith traditions that call on us to love and protect immigrants who live among us, and as citizens of a nation whose strength comes from the contributions of generations of immigrants, the JONAH Immigration Task Force will INFORM our community about immigration issues, and act to CHANGE the system in the direction of fairness and compassion. We ENGAGE and EMPOWER people by

building relationships.

## ***WE WELCOME ALL OUR NEIGHBORS!***

INFORMING: We inform our community through...

- Informational presentations at churches and community groups here and beyond the Chippewa Valley.
- Partnering on community rallies in support of fair and compassionate immigration policies.

CHANGING the system by...

- Advocating and teaching about the need for Wisconsin to allow undocumented immigrants to drive legally.
- Working with the City-County Health Department and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Neighbor to Neighbor ministry to address the Latino community and their access to healthcare in order to implement appropriate programming.

ENGAGING people in relationships by...

- Providing transportation to literacy classes for people afraid or unable to drive downtown.
- Participating in statewide WISDOM immigration calls.
- Bringing the Mexican Consulate to Eau Claire for the tenth year so that our neighbors do not have to drive to the St. Paul Mexican Consulate.
- Supporting individuals and families with law enforcement and the court system by accompanying individuals to court.
- Continue to have a dialogue with the Eau Claire Police Department on local immigrant concerns.
- Continue to partner with local immigrant advocacy groups: Welcoming New Neighbors and Chippewa Valley Bridge Builders.

Informing, changing, engaging, we work for a welcoming, just, and caring community in which all people have a place: a place that feels like the Cultural Festival. A place that the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner called the kind of place of which "God dreams for us."



Culture Fest - 2023

"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."

-HELEN KELLER

RIVER PRAIRIE WEALTH PARTNERS  
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT  
THE WORKS OF JONAH

1520 FRONT PORCH PLACE | ALTOONA  
WWW.RIVERPRAIRIEWEALTHPARTNERS.COM  
715.832.7715

RIVER / PRAIRIE  
WEALTH PARTNERS

Powered by  Ameriprise  
Financial

Not Federally Insured | No Financial  
Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value  
Ameriprise Financial, LLC. Member FINRA and  
SIPC. © 2021 Ameriprise Financial Services,  
Inc. All rights reserved.



TANGLED UP IN HUE  
BLUE BOXER ARTS



www.tangledupinhue.com  
505 South Barstow St.  
Downtown Eau Claire, WI



urban  
STYLE

715-832-7975

201 Gibson St.,  
Downtown Eau Claire, WI

A Full Service  
AVEDA Hair Salon

www.urbanstyle-eau Claire.com

## Sew Complete

At Sew Complete we have a wide range of sewing machines to meet anyone's sewing needs!

\*Get hands-on lessons and service with the purchase of most new machines.

\*Thread, Notions, Books, Patterns, Fabric & more!

Visit our website at [www.sewcompleteinc.com](http://www.sewcompleteinc.com) for all the latest happenings and new class schedule at Sew Complete!

*"We Have the Pattern for Quality and Service"*

*Thank you, JONAH, for your work in the Chippewa Valley!*

brother®

 **accuquilt**  
*better cuts make better quilts*

715-832-3343  
1-800-924-4075  
1408 S. Hastings Way  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sat. 9-4

2023 has been a year of connection for the Mental Health Task Force. Our group has become more connected with our community and each other over the last year.

We launched the **Chippewa Valley Green Bandana Project!** We have been actively distributing bandanas to interested folks willing to pledge to support and listen to someone dealing with mental health challenges. When they take a bandana, folks are also pledging to speak up for their own mental health needs. These efforts have reached around 1000 community members across the Chippewa Valley so far. The Green Bandana Project has served as a way to express solidarity in the fight to end mental health stigma while strengthening our visibility in the community.

Several of us completed **Emotional CPR training.** It provided us with tools to help those in crisis including actively listening and holding space without judgment. The training compliments the Green Bandana Project beautifully. We are currently exploring bringing this kind of training into the community, potentially offering it to those who have taken the pledge, as a way to accomplish our goal of expanding the Green Bandana Project.



**Kathy Reid-Walker speaking at Mental Health Issue and Action Night**

More recently, **rural mental health outreach** has become a topic of interest in JONAH. The specific challenges in the rural communities regarding mental health have been brought up in our group. JONAH's rural outreach public health intern Aidan reported back with details from surveys and 1-on-1 conversations with the rural community. **It is clear that mental illness exists in these communities in comparable numbers to urban areas, however, it is generally more challenging to seek help in rural communities due to access and transportation.** Another barrier is the stigma that surrounds seeking help, partially because of an individualistic disposition surrounding adversity. Aidan's analysis included recommendations to provide mindfulness training to educators, work to destigmatize mental health, and expand peer support services. As a result of this research, we plan to focus more on rural outreach in the coming year.

We begin our task force meetings by checking in: **"What is the state of your heart in this moment?"** We share our own experiences in mental health with each other, so we come together to address mental health needs at an individual level as well as on a community level. We welcome you to join us the 1st Thursday of the month at 1pm and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 4pm in person or on Zoom.



**UWEC Culture Fest - Green Bandana Signers**



Scan here to follow the Green Bandana Project on Facebook!

Our other focuses included **advocating for peer support services** both at JONAH's Issue & Action Night for mental health and the Peer Support forum held in November. Many of us feel that peer support is a crucial part of mental and emotional health. One of our goals is peer support expansion to help fill the waiting gap for mental health services.

2023 was a busy year for transit and public transportation in the Chippewa Valley.

### Transit Center Updates

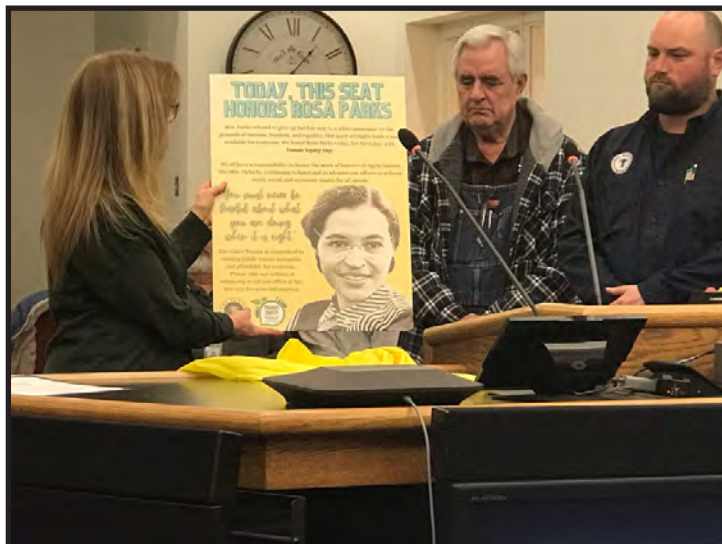
Construction work continued to move forward on the new Eau Claire Transit Transfer Center. An agreement was reached with the City of Eau Claire and Merge Urban Development Group based out of Cedar Falls, IA. The developer will build housing on top of the newly constructed Transit Transfer Center. There are plans to build 80 housing units. Half of those units will be affordable housing for community residents earning 80% of Eau Claire County's median income. The developer will pay the city \$250,000 to build in the space above the new Eau Claire Transit Transfer Center. In return the city will pay the developer \$5 Million if certain benchmarks are achieved. Construction will begin on the housing units in the Fall of 2023 and end in 2025.

### Bus Fare Wins

On April 4, 2023, election day, the Amalgamated Transit Union covered the cost of free bus rides on Eau Claire Transit to encourage people to get to the polls to vote and make it easier for those who don't drive.

On April 22, 2023, World Earth Day, the Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance covered the cost of free bus rides on Eau Claire Transit to recognize World Earth Day and promote more eco-friendly transportation.

In April, the Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance Board voted to donate \$300 to the City of Eau Claire which is partnering with other community entities and individuals to support a free bus ride program for people experiencing homelessness. The City



**Phil Swanhorst on Rosa Parks Day**

is funding a portion of this program through funds received from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This funding will be good for one year. Long-term funding subject for further evaluation and appropriation.

### Access, Equity and Sustainability

On January 30, 2023, UW Eau Claire and Eau Claire Transit implemented extended bus service times for the UW Eau Claire Campus. Bus service hours were extended to 11:30 pm. UW Eau Claire students now have the option to use late night evening bus service to get around the UW Eau Claire campus and downtown Eau Claire.

National Transit Equity Day was observed on February 4, 2023 in honor of Rosa Park's birthday. The city of Eau Claire issued a proclamation recognizing the event. Eau Claire Transit promoted the event with flyers, displays and had roses placed on one seat of each bus running that particular day.

Eau Claire Transit has plans to phase out their existing bus fleet with newer more energy efficient buses. The Phase out period will run from 2024 to 2028 with modernization of newer style diesel-hybrid buses.

### Bicycles

Wisconsin Bike Week Kickoff was observed June 2-10. CVTA and Eau Claire Transit promoted it locally.

### Rails Coming to Eau Claire?

The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission continues its efforts to develop passenger rail service between Eau Claire and St. Paul with various partners such as the West Central WI Rail Coalition. The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission recently applied for a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) study grant to continue its efforts with support from the WI Department of Transportation. FRA will announce grant recipients sometime in October or November of 2023. Amtrak is currently studying Eau Claire as a potential additional route service between Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Eau Claire, St. Paul, and Minneapolis.

CVTA meets monthly and periodically. Contact CVTA at [chippewavalleytransitalliance@gmail.com](mailto:chippewavalleytransitalliance@gmail.com)



Every two years, during state budget season, all of WISDOM convenes at the state capital in Madison, WI to build relationships with state legislators, share stories of lived experience, and empower them to improve social justice issues with specific funding. It is always a powerful experience: the camaraderie of our group of JONAH members who head down on a bus together, the inspiring venues, stories, and

mass of diverse peoples, wandering the capitol building, telling your story face to face with a legislator, who are people too, and the hope of big change. We stand together as a statewide group on the issues that face our friends and neighbors, and remind to our legislators that they have the ability and responsibility to take care of everyone and listen to the voices they represent.



## PARTNERSHIPS

With JONAH's very mission being about bringing people together and sharing our gifts toward a common goal, so much of what we do is in collaboration! We deeply treasure all the partners we connect and work with. We can't possibly list them all here! Here is a sampling from several good allies in social justice work in the Chippewa Valley. We hope by reading these you understand on a deeper level how JONAH works alongside others, learns from those in the thick of the issues, and is a catalyst for change empowering those that have the ability to make a difference. We are Better Together!

### Beaver Creek

Beaver Creek Reserve's partnership with JONAH has been and will continue to be a driving force for environmental awareness and understanding in our community. JONAH has been a huge supporter of our Earth Week Challenge and most recent campaign, Earth Day Every Day, as we encourage individuals and families to get outside and develop a more eco-friendly lifestyle. This past April, we partnered with the Eau Claire County Office of Recycling and Sustainability on our first ever Earth Week Open House at The Brewing Projekt. This event was a huge success as we welcomed hundreds of people and introduced them to green and/or eco-friendly businesses, clubs, and organizations in the Chippewa Valley. This in turn supports local businesses and families as they do their part to protect our planet. We are so proud of the growth we are seeing in our community, and excited for the continued partnership and environmental advocacy to come.

### Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Previously office-mates and longtime allies, Citizen Action and JONAH continue to support each other's efforts in organizing on behalf of justice for the betterment of all.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin's Northwestern Organizing Co-op is working to build people power in the Eau Claire area and beyond, to fight for social, economic, and environmental justice. We have had a busy year organizing alongside JONAH on key issues like BadgerCare Expansion in the state budget, and have formed a BadgerCare Action Team to focus on advocating for the state to accept the federal Medicaid expansion funds, as well as push for a BadgerCare Public Option bill expected to be released this fall.

The Northwestern Organizing Co-op is just one of seven chapters of Citizen Action throughout the state, but we have been the most active in terms of volunteer engagement around key elections, and our top volunteers have been hired on as part-time Deep Canvass Field Organizers.

We are currently working to recruit candidates for local



**John Wagner of Child Poverty Task Force speaking in partnership with Citizen Action on Badgercare**

office ahead of the Spring Election in 2024, and are establishing additional action teams to focus on issues like how to support local school districts with their sustainability and climate action goals.

Citizen Action members attended JONAH's Madison Action Day, collaborated on JONAH events, shared JONAH's news, and called upon each other when it was appropriate. JONAH members collaborated with Citizen Action on Badgercare expansion, attended Citizen Action functions, and spoke together at Joint Finance Hearings.

We look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate with JONAH, so free to reach out to Jeremy Gragert, Northwestern Co-op Organizer for Citizen Action of Wisconsin, at: [jeremy.gragert@citizenactionwi.org](mailto:jeremy.gragert@citizenactionwi.org), or (612) 220-1970. Learn more about Citizen Action of Wisconsin at: [www.citizenactionwi.org](http://www.citizenactionwi.org)

### The Community Table

As a member of the JONAH Affordable Housing Taskforce, I have found not only great friendships, but also the support of other very proactive advocates for our community members. When I receive our agenda, which is typically packed with lots of updates, it warms my heart to see all the activities we are involved in from the Housing Opportunities Commission, the Dairyland Housing Coalition, state legislative activities and so on. I love the dedication and commitment from this group to the community and the care they show for everyone

in the community through their advocacy and collaboration. I would encourage anyone looking to get involved in a meaningful and productive way to join one of the many taskforces JONAH has on various topics, such as mental health, immigration, poverty, and housing.

Appreciatively,  
TJ Atkins, Executive Director of The Community Table



**Partners - Monthly EC Coalition of Organizers Meeting**

## Epic Epiphanys

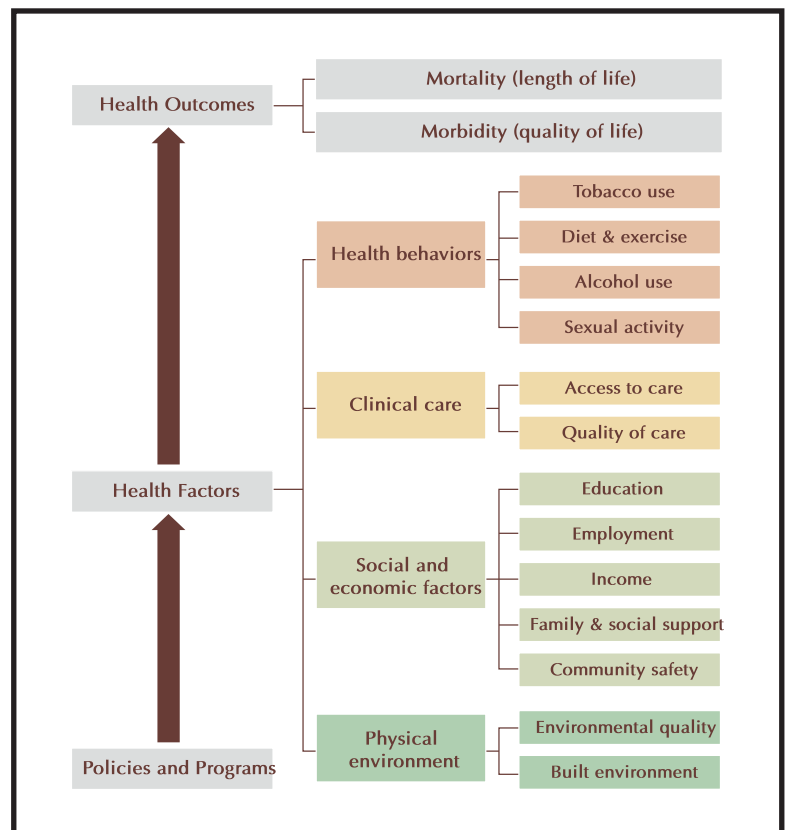
In 2022 Epic Epiphanys was one of 38 organizations who received an AARPA Grant to expand mental health telehealth services in the state of Wisconsin. JONAH was a big part of this telehealth expansion by partnering with Epic Epiphanys on Rural outreach efforts in multiple counties in the year the grant was gifted to us. Epic Epiphanys also became a member of JONAH Mental Health Task force to build relationships and conversations around mental health. We concentrated on those impacted by the criminal justice system to fill the gap in mental health and recently substance abuse and peer support services in the rural communities in Wisconsin. Through this collaboration we were able to establish Fairchild's Hope and Cope monthly event to bring resources, mental health and other wellness services to the community. We have met with other Rural coalitions to advocate for increased mental health, substance use and peer support services in Rural Wisconsin. We have been able to infiltrate the Eau Claire County jail to begin peer support services before the release of individuals incarcerated thus they have resources, and at times are set up with medical care, mental health care, and other wellness community based services in their area. JONAH has been a strong leader and supporter of this expansion of Rural wellness. Together we changed 100's of lives in the rural communities by bringing hope, education and services to areas that lacked it. I am so proud to be a member of JONAH mental health task force and a part of strong organization in our community.

## Fairchild Task Force

When JONAH came to the Fairchild community they brought many resources/EC county people with them. Lynn gave a presentation on how the different County areas could help Fairchild. Jonah truly helped the community come together. Fairchild has lost a lot over the years and now they are pulling together as a community to make things better. Fairchild now has a Taskforce which involves 3 main areas, Seniors, kids, and drugs. Fairchild also meets once a month for Hope and Cope(providing Hope and learning to cope). Bringing Resources and fun to the Community. All this is happening because of what JONAH started! Thank you JONAH!!

## Health Dunn Right

Health Dunn Right (Dunn County's health coalition) partnered with JONAH beginning in May, to launch the Green Bandana Project in our area. Coinciding with MAY Mental Health Month, green bandanas were made available at three locations: Menomonie Public Library, Dunn County Human Services Lobby and Kaleidoscope Mental Health Walk-In Center. It is hoped this will be an ongoing effort to help de-stigmatize mental health issues, highlight resources available and provide an avenue for individuals to help and be helped. We appreciate the support in launching this project!



# THE YOGA ROOM

2839 Mall Drive #1 • Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-833-1121

[www.theyogarooomec.com](http://www.theyogarooomec.com)

## Health Dept

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department and JONAH continued a long-standing partnership in 2023. Our shared commitment and focus on health and health equity, meaning everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible, is more important than ever. Both the health department and JONAH know that some people in our community are not achieving the outcomes we want due to factors that are well beyond their individual choices.

Achieving health for all requires ongoing, collaborative, and community led work. We need to go “upstream” to impact the social, economic, and environmental factors that determine our health before the health issues happen. These factors are known as the social determinants of health and can include income, housing, education, transportation, and access to healthcare; some of our most basic needs. According to the County Health Rankings Model from the University of Wisconsin, we know at least 50% of a person’s opportunity for good health comes from these factors, and are often outside of a person’s ability to control. Personal health behaviors that a person can control, such as eating well and exercising account for only about 30%. All these factors together can greatly impact how long, and how well we live.

The mission of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department is building a healthier community for all through prevention-focused programs and

partnerships. The partnership with JONAH has been instrumental in maintaining connection to the community to understand the root causes and barriers to improved health through the lens of social injustice. Our shared focus on addressing the social determinants of health and engaging the community around these efforts continues to be essential.

It has been a privilege to work with JONAH on some collaborative projects in the past year including:

- Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response Grant- Members of JONAH participated in the COVID-19 Community Health Equity Work Group throughout the COVID-19 response to improve access to services and information. In the last year, the group transitioned away from COVID-19 as the top priority and focused on creating a shared vision: “An Eau Claire where everyone has the power to have their needs met.” To support reaching this vision, the group identified shared priority areas to best serve and care for all members of our community: increasing access, collaboration, communication, education, and maintaining dignity of those we serve.
- Rural Health Outreach – The Health department joined JONAH in their efforts to improve Rural Health access by attending listening sessions held in the rural parts of the county. We learned about



# HILLCREST ESTATES & VILLA DIANN

**ARE PROUD SPONSORS OF JONAH**

**THANK YOU JONAH FOR ALL THE  
HARD WORK YOU'VE DONE!**

We have been working since 2017 to become the leader in manufactured communities throughout Chippewa Valley.

Everyone at Hillcrest & Villa Diann are dedicated to helping our community find affordable housing in a safe environment.

We want to help YOU become a homeowner today!

**To see our homes we have available or schedule  
a tour go to:**

**[www.hillcrestestates.net](http://www.hillcrestestates.net) & [www.villadiann.com](http://www.villadiann.com)  
or call: 715-834-6802**

## OUR HOMES

- Have A 1 Year Warranty
- Are Move-In Ready upon Closing
- Have Modern Features & Upgrades
- Are affordable

## PARTNERSHIPS

specific challenges in Fairchild and continue to see opportunity for program, policy, and system improvement.

- Building Relationships Training – the health department participated to promote better listening and understanding of the self-interest or personal drivers among different topics of health and levels of community engagement.
- JONAH Taskforce participation – the health department continues to provide information and support to efforts being undertaken to provide safe and health housing as part of the Affordable Housing Taskforce. Health department staff also participate in the Child Poverty and Immigration Taskforces.
- Eau Claire Health Alliance - The Eau Claire Health Alliance aims to help everyone in Eau Claire
- County live better, longer. JONAH actively participates on the Mental Health Action Team and Suicide Prevention Workgroup.
- JONAH and Health Department leadership – leadership of the two organizations continue to meet regularly to discuss shared interests and opportunities for collaboration.

The health department strongly values the relationship with JONAH. We look forward to building on each other's strengths to best serve and create a healthier Eau Claire.

### Interfaith Action for Racial Justice

The Interfaith Action for Racial Justice group is very grateful for our official partnership with JONAH having their volunteers support hosting “maker events” for the Chippewa Valley Postcard Project. A special thanks to JONAH's mental health task force for their measures and thoughtful contributions to the prompt questions for this years theme of “mental health awareness”.

We look forward to many more years of this welcome partnership combining art and social justice in the Chippewa Valley.

- leader and art therapist, Amy Hahn

### Chippewa Valley LGBTQ Center

Our mission is to aim to provide services and programming to promote well-being and unity within & among the LGBTQ+ Community. THE LGBTQ Center has valued having JONAH share its office space. JONAH's organizing tips have helped us in our work strategizing and I have attended a training or two. Lynn and I really have needed the support we offer each other as leading staff in our organizations, and we both look forward to that continuing. Lynn has shared that JONAH congregations appreciate the guidance we offer in understanding how to do the work to include folks in the LGBTQ+ community safely and sincerely. Whether it's

JONAH members tabling at Pride or volunteering at our front desk, or our folks showing up to JONAH events, or the coalition of organizers that meet together - it's powerful when we see organizations showing up for each other. Thanks JONAH!

## Mission Coalitions

The Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition (CFMC) and Menomonie Area Mission Coalition (MAMC) are proud to be Friends of JONAH! The CFMC, operating since 2011, is a collection of congregations and service organizations in Chippewa Falls working together to support those in need. Their work generated Hope Village and strengthens the impact on the community - they rally together when a need arises and they work together to come up with solutions for all! JONAH team members have provided trainings for this group, offer support and guidance, attend their meetings, and they share and help out with JONAH's requests. We value this connection. More at: <https://cfmc73.wixsite.com/cf-mission-coalition/about>

The MAMC is much newer but similarly is a collection of congregations looking to strengthen their impact by working together to help those in need. We attend their meetings and have offered guidance and updates. Their chair sits on our Mental Health Task Force. We are so proud to be working together so both of our work can be more powerful.

## Neighbor to Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry / Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio is a new ministry of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, where we cultivate meaningful relationships between the Anglo ELCA congregations with the Latino American community in the Northwest Synod of

*(continued on page 44...)*



**Roundtable Womens  
Mentoring Program Fall 2022**

# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Sunday Services

**Memorial Day - Labor Day**

**8:00 am - Our Saviour's Sanctuary**

**9:00 am—Irvine Park Band Shell**

**Labor Day - Memorial Day**

**8:00 am and 9:30am**

**Our Saviour's Sanctuary**



**1300 Mansfield St.**

**Chippewa Falls, WI**



WE ARE ...  
A CARING COMMUNITY  
COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY  
JUSTICE CENTERED  
SEEKERS AND QUESTIONERS

WE WELCOME YOU!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CONGREGATION  
421 S. FARWELL ST.  
EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701  
UUEAUCLAIRE.COM



*thrift store ♥ women's clothing ♥ handbags  
jewelry ♥ shoes ♥ home decor*

2209 Fairfax Street, Eau Claire 54701  
Open Wednesday-Sunday  
[www.shineonec.com](http://www.shineonec.com)



715-514-4300

2006 Cameron Street • Eau Claire

**SILLY SERRANO**

**MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

Breakfast • Lunch • Coffee • Espresso

[www.sillyserrano.com](http://www.sillyserrano.com)

## PARTNERSHIPS

Wisconsin. We strive to form a beloved community that is inclusive and diverse, a space to know your neighbor, and a platform for church to start the journey to explore social and racial justice in our context and communities.

The Neighbor to Neighbor ministry has been benefited by the relationship with JONAH. Together we have been able to provide services to the Latin American community in the Chippewa Valley. JONAH has collaborated in the Neighbor to Neighbor Health Fairs for Hispanic families that connected the resources in the community with this marginalized population. At the same time JONAH supported actively the Neighbor to Neighbor scholarships for Hispanic students that has historically awarded \$8,500. JONAH also sponsored so a leader could attend a training on rural health equity, and is working with deacon Lidix Montoya on a rural leadership conference in Stanley which will also be offered entirely in Spanish.

### Roundtable Revival

Roundtable Revival is a community-based reentry program for men and women who are reentering society after a period of incarceration. Our vision is to bring everyone to the table to create positive and supportive, recovery and reentry solutions. Our mission is to cultivate inclusive, accepting, and empowering spaces with people who face barriers due to a conviction history: facilitating full reintegration into our community. Our first program is a Mentoring Program for men and women. Currently operating in Eau Claire County, this program will be expanding to Dunn County in 2024. JONAH and the Chippewa Valley Justice Action Team (CVJAT) have been critical partners in our efforts to support returning citizens who are facing the many challenges of reentry: employment, housing, transportation, health and mental health care, and recovery. Thank you JONAH and the CVJAT!

### Welcoming New Neighbors – NW WI Immigrant Resettlement

Dear JONAH Executive Committee, Board, and Members, On behalf of Welcoming New Neighbors (WNN), I wish to express a HUGE thanks for partnering with WNN as our Fiscal Sponsor. Our joint missions are an awesome fit! WNN's initial mission of welcoming our new Afghan Neighbors has been accomplished. However, even though WNN members continue to mentor and build relationships, interest in serving the broader northwest Wisconsin newly arriving immigrants continues.

By JONAH partnering with WNN as our Fiscal Sponsor, we volunteers are able to focus on assessing needs, determine

volunteer interests and skills, and building awareness around immigration issues rather than on time consuming organizational tasks such as a 501(c)(3) status.

Forward together into a fully welcoming future!

Ginny Close

### Wisconsin Public Education Network

I continue to be thankful for the WI Public Education Network's solid relationships with so many organizations in Eau Claire that advocate for children and families. This past year many of these organizations formed a local Chippewa Valley coalition. We met monthly solidifying a strong bond...connecting the dots so we could better help and advocate for each other. We knew we could depend on each other. JONAH is a solid partner in this endeavor. I continue to serve on JONAH'S Child Poverty Task Force that overlaps with so many needs that children and families have these days.

This past year I also, participated in JONAH/WISDOM's advocacy day in Madison and we supported each other at the Joint Finance Hearing in Eau Claire as well. When Legislators see that we come together in support of each other around incarceration, child poverty, the environment, health care, child care AND public schools it makes the ask even more urgent and impactful to those that make policy and laws. On behalf of the WI Public Education Network and as the Northwest Regional Organizer, thank you, JONAH! We are SO BETTER TOGETHER!

- Chris Hambuch-Boyle

<https://www.wisconsinnetwork.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinNetwork>



**Lynn Buske and Chris Hambuch-Boyle  
at Joint Finance Committee Hearing**



Centered in divine love, we affirm a spiritually enlightened world.

Proud to be one of  
**JONAH'S**  
Original covenanting  
faith groups



**unity**  
of Eau Claire

Unity of Eau Claire  
1808 Folsom Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-836-0010  
[www.unityeauclaire.org](http://www.unityeauclaire.org)

**UNIVERSITY**  
**LUTHERAN**  
at the Ecumenical Religious Center

*Campus Ministry*  
... not for Lutherans only

Protestant + Progressive + Liturgical

Be fed. Belong. Be you.

**Builds Community**

**Deepens Faith**

**Expands Minds**

**Inspires Service**

RECONCILING in CHRIST



**Worship**

Sunday 10:00 AM

Wednesday 5:30 PM

**Free Meal**

Wednesday 6:00 PM

**LGBTQ+ Spirituality**

Thursday 4:30 PM

110 Garfield Ave, Eau Claire, WI  
[universitylutheran.org](http://universitylutheran.org) 715-834-8026



**wd|eoc**

WESTERN DAIRYLAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

Offering more than 20 unique programs  
providing short and long-term assistance to  
low-income families and individuals.

[www.WesternDairyland.org](http://www.WesternDairyland.org)

STREAM LIVE VIA OUR WEBSITE OR ANDROID APP

est. 2005



[WHYSRADIO.ORG](http://WHYSRADIO.ORG) • 405 S FARWELL • 715-831-WHYS

The below prayers were written by JONAH's Religious Leaders to pray when you are overwhelmed by the troubles of the world, pray diligently for the issue that you are most passionate about as your way to make change, or use them at the start of your meetings. They were written in each person's individual tradition, feel free to adapt them to your own belief..

### **Child Poverty** **Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones at Grace Lutheran**

God of compassion, whenever we receive children with love, you promise that we also receive you. Help us to move toward them with sacred acts of kindness, justice, and mercy. Where they are unsheltered, move us so that this might not be so. Remind us that there are few questions as sacred as this one: Why is that child hungry? In your holy name we pray. Amen

### **Environment - Earth Prayer** **Pastor Kathy Ried-Walker** **at First Presbyterian**

Womb of Creation and Breath of Life,  
we long for an Eden-like world,  
but we continue to defile the earth and air and water.  
Creation is crying.  
May we hear her and respond.  
May we wipe her tears with forests of trees.  
May we shelter her with wings of clean energy.  
May we clothe her with garments of hope.  
Every day, may our pebbles of care and determination  
lead to ripples of change.  
Ever-Present One,  
give new life to Earth and her creation.  
This is our prayer. Amen.

### **Mental Health** **Pastor Patrick Patterson** **at Trinity Lutheran**

During my time at seminary, I took a job in a locked mental health unit at Fairview Riverside Hospital. I worked the 11 PM to 7 AM shift. My job was to keep 16 patients calm and in their rooms throughout the night. I met a lot of interesting characters in my time there, and gained great empathy for their plight.

After Seminary, I served on a county mental health task force. Our job was to raise awareness and advocate for programs that would be helpful to folks who suffered with mental health issues. The chair of the committee ran a pretty loose meeting and sometimes ended up on tangents far afield from the agenda. As of Roberts rules sort of person, I would sometimes feel irritated with the lack of efficiency in which we conducted our business. John also worked full-time nights at a crisis center. This was a place that served folks who were experiencing a mental health crisis but did not want to go to the emergency department.

I got to know John better as we would have conversations about his work there, and eventually learned that he suffered severe mental health challenges as well. At that point my perspective on the way he ran the meetings totally flipped. I gained a greater appreciation for the challenges he faced in just trying to present himself as a "normal" member of society, and how difficult that was for him some days.

John lost the battle to mental health and died by suicide last year. He was a good man who not only struggled with mental health, he struggled with a society that does not honor nor support the challenges that he faced. We can do better, and we owe it to folks like John to be more accepting and supporting of the mental health challenges people face.

Dear God, thank you for the courage and persistence of folks suffering from mental health challenges. Be with them in those dark places, and bring the light of your spirit Into the darkness. Enable us as a society to find ways to better support and encourage those who suffer with mental health. Amen.

### **Immigration** **Pastor Mark Perizzini** **at First Congregational UCC**

Gracious God, Your compassion is over all that you have made, and you take delight in all your creation. You have made each person in your image and have entrusted us with each other's care. You have commanded us to love each other as you love us. So, we ask that you open our hearts, minds, and spirits to people who are forced by violence fear, climate change or natural disaster to flee their home and homeland seeking safety and new life. As Jesus and his family found safety in Egypt as did Israel before them, may we be moved by your Spirit to offer hospitality to those in distress seeking a place to live without fear. Help us to delight in the diversity of the human community. Open our eyes to see your face in the face of others, so we might remove the barriers we create between us, recognizing we are part of a larger whole, sharing together in life with this planet we all name as home. Amen.



**Premium Crafted  
Hemp Based Products  
Sourced from Small  
Family Farms**

**Need Help with  
Pain Relief,  
Arthritis,  
Sleep Problems,  
Stress or Anxiety?**

416 S. BARSTOW ST.  
EAU CLAIRE, WI  
(715) 514-4770



[WONDERSOFNATUREONLINE.COM](http://WONDERSOFNATUREONLINE.COM)



## Wonders of Nature Cafe



**Discover Our  
Wood Roasted Coffee  
Cold-Pressed Juices  
Whole Fruit Smoothies  
Vegan & Gluten Free  
Food Options**

**Now Open  
Monday-Saturday  
10-5pm  
Downtown Eau Claire**

  [@WONDERSOFNATUREHEMP](https://www.instagram.com/wondersofnaturehemp)



## The Unitarian Society of Menomonie *A Welcoming Congregation*



**105 21st St. NE  
Menomonie, WI 54751  
[www.menomonieuu.org](http://www.menomonieuu.org)  
Find us on Facebook**



## First Presbyterian Church

2112 Rudolph Road • Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701 • 715-832-1011

[www.firstpres-eauclaire.org](http://www.firstpres-eauclaire.org)



**Join us on  
Sundays  
at 10:30am  
for worship  
in-person  
and online.  
Educational and  
other activities  
throughout  
the week.**



*Rev. Kathy Reid Walker, Pastor*



**An Earth Care  
and Matthew 25  
Congregation**

### **Criminal Justice Reform**

**Father John Schulz**

We pray with Christian, Jewish, Muslim,  
and other world religions. We pray with those who are  
incarcerated, whether in prison, jail, other places,  
or within themselves.

We pray with the awareness that God's justice  
moves toward restoration, reintegration, and redemption.  
God's justice is connected to healing and reconciling.

We pray for repentance, pardon, and engaging the  
consequences of our sin, whoever we are.

These are needed for genuine community to be restored.

Restorative justice asks about the harm done,  
repairing the harm, and who is responsible.

In conclusion we pray with all who are somehow  
incarcerated, all ministering to them, and all of us.

### **Transportation**

**Mark Helpsmeet**

**at Eau Claire Friends**

Thank you, God, for the blessings of this Earth on which I  
live. Every step on your holy ground is nurture for my heart  
and soul, and each journey out of my home enriches me  
further, exposing me to more of the beauty of the places and  
creatures and people with whom I share this amazing planet.  
I've had such abundant freedom of movement, because of  
the health of my body, and because of the technologies that  
enlarge the scope of my travels – the bikes, cars, trains, and  
planes which have opened so many doors for me. And while I  
am so grateful for all I've been given, there is still sadness for  
all the people who lack my freedoms and advantages, whose  
movements are painful and limited because of disabilities or  
lack of means of transport, who are deprived of the dazzling  
richness of this wide world. Please help us all work together  
to open all doors to all people, that we may all walk, travel,  
work, play, and visit side-by-side.

### **Inclusion**

**Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones**

**at University Lutheran**

Holy One,

In divine wisdom you fashioned creation just so. There is  
much diversity among us, many places we are tempted to  
draw lines and separate "us" from "them", yet we are all  
created in your image.

Forgive the ways we leave others out and structure our lives  
in a hierarchy of worthiness. Fill us with your deep wisdom,

your unfailing courage, your fierce justice, that we will have  
what we need to turn from so much that does not honor all of  
your beloveds, to build community that fosters trust, mutuality,  
respect, and holy love among us.

For those who suffer because of the injustices we create, we  
pray they will know they are seen, known, and loved by you,  
the one who includes all--whether we like it or not. We pray  
for safety and comfort for those who are left out or shut out,  
and for love and compassion for them from those who think  
we are on the inside.

Help us to live into your dream of creation, where all are  
honored and loved, and where all belong together, with each  
other and with you. Amen.

Peace++

### **Inclusion**

**Reverend Julianne Lepp**

**at Unitarian Universalist**

Across our faith traditions and differences,  
may Love call us into a wide welcome.

May our hearts sing with solidarity, deep respect and  
compassion for the sacred worth and dignity of each person.

These are times for solidarity and speaking up.  
Time to disrupt intolerance, narrow-mindedness  
and barriers that divide us.

Our diverse expressions of identity and faith  
offer new perspectives and learning.

May we listen and learn together, as none of us alone  
has the answer. Together, our wisdom is stronger.

We are all parts of the whole.

A rainbow and a promise of the beloved community, the  
community we are, and the community we can become.

### **Peace**

**Bob Lesnewski**

**Benedictine Oblate**

From the Buddhist tradition. A "Lovingkindness Prayer "

May all people be happy, healthy and whole.

May they have love, warmth, and affection.

May they be protected from harm, and free from fear.

May they be alive, engaged and joyful.

May all people enjoy inner peace and ease.

May that peace expand into their world and  
throughout the entire universe.

**Justice**  
**Lynn Buske**  
**JONAH**

God of all. Every. single. thing. - you made it all, and it is made of your Love. Help us remember and see that Love in everyone and every circumstance we encounter. I am frustrated, though, when I think I see an absence of love around me. I am scared for the lives of those suffering. I am stuck in my own pain. I am fearful of the hate I see in the world and for the state of our planet. Help me move beyond these feelings and into action. Guide my heart, my ears, my thoughts, my actions towards peace and justice where I am best equipped to enter. Send peace towards the places that are not mine to do. Guide our elected leaders. Wrap your arms around those who have been forgotten. Be in the wind that reaches our eyes, ears and heart. Be in our voices. Thank you, thank you for always being there. I welcome the hope that you are with us as we steer this human race and planet. I accept my role in being the change I am led to value and envision. Amen

**Leadership**  
**Mark Judkins Helpsmeet**  
**Eau Claire Friends**

God, open my eyes and unstop my ears,  
that I may see your Light and may hear your heartbeat,  
reflecting and resounding within my chest,  
in those of all of my neighbors, near and far,  
in all creatures and plants,  
and in the ground I walk upon.  
And when I finally am able  
to yield to the leading of your rhythm and flow,  
may I come to walk cheerfully over the world  
answering your seed in all.



**Walter Mueller Studios**  
handcrafted cinematic films



**2023-2024 JONAH**  
**Yearbook Contributors**

Andrew Werthmann  
Anna Martinson  
Annette Taylor  
Constance Russell  
Curt & Lemae Rohland  
Dale & Jacquie Staebell  
Dennis and Sandra Anderson  
Feed My People  
Florian Skwierczynski  
Gregg and Emily Moore  
Healing Intentions Life and Soul Coaching  
Howie Nelsen and Marnie Hersrud  
Inspired Balance LLC  
James and Sara Julson  
Jay & Julie Gast  
Jeff Conger  
Jeremy Gragert  
Jim and Deb Schultz  
Judy Gatlin  
Julianne Lepp  
Larissa Skwierczynski  
Lucie and Tom McGee  
Mark Quam  
Mel Sundby  
Phil Swanhorst  
Ray & Sue Koch  
Ron Scott  
Sadie Poltilla  
Sally Sundby  
Sharon Bussard  
Shirley Rossano  
Steve and Lori Leach  
Thomas Krieg

# St. John's Lutheran

A commitment of service  
to our community.

**Worship**  
**Sunday 9:00 am**  
**Wednesday 6:00 pm**  
*(Wednesday worship Labor day - Memorial Day)*

**1804 Highland Ave**

Eau Claire, WI  
715-834-9571  
[www.stjohns-ec.org](http://www.stjohns-ec.org)



## Immanuel Lutheran Church Trust Fund

**Making small grants for innovative projects  
in the Chippewa Valley, including:**

Chippewa Valley Free Clinic  
JONAH Immigration Pandemic Emergency Fund  
ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Vecino a  
Vecino ministry  
Stand In the Light Memory Choir  
Lake Superior Bridge Builders  
Luther Park Bible Camp for new Ministry Center

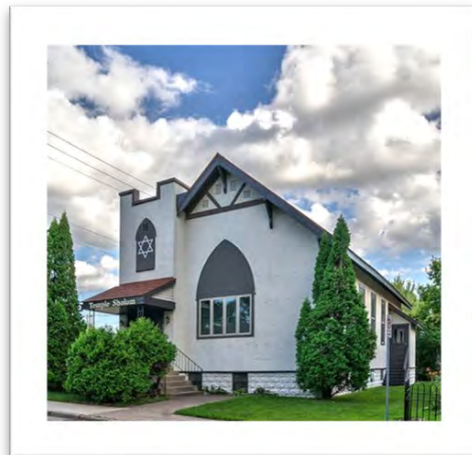
For information and grant applications, visit

[www.Immanuelec.org](http://www.Immanuelec.org)

3214 Golf Rd • Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54701



**Temple Sholom Eau Claire**



**1223 Emery St.**

**PO Box 1059**

**Eau Claire WI 54701-1059**

**[templesholomec@gmail.com](mailto:templesholomec@gmail.com)**

*We are honored to support Jonah as it seeks justice in the Chippewa Valley.*

# James Kaufman

Graphic Designer / Administrative Assistant  
Genealogies/Family Histories

☎ 347.815.3954

📱 /kaufmanj1973

✉ kaufmanj1973@gmail.com



Phone: 715.839.8282

3005 London Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

wi211.minuteman.com  
eauclaire@minutemanpress.com

Banners • Copies • Books • Letterhead • Business Cards  
Business Forms • Envelopes • Personalized Pens • Forms  
Check Printing • Full-Color Printing • Comb Binding  
Newsletters • Labels • Layout and Design • Posters  
Pamphlets • Name Badges • Note Pads • Rubber Stamps  
Calendars • Wedding Invitations • And More!

## MITCHELL T. SINZ

Financial Advisor\*

msinz@osaicwealth.com

call: 715-839-1006

text: 715-318-3055

fax: 715-839-6882

Investment Management Associates

431 E Clairemont Ave, Suite A  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

www.imaeauclaire.com

www.facebook.com/IMAEauClaire

## THE EAU CLAIRE REFILLERY



START YOUR LOW WASTE LIVING  
LIFESTYLE TODAY!

### STORE HOURS

SUNDAY 10AM-3PM  
MONDAY 3PM-6PM  
TUESDAY 11AM-6PM  
WEDNESDAY 1PM-4PM  
THURSDAY 11AM-6PM  
FRIDAY 11AM-6PM  
SATURDAY 9AM-5PM

START YOUR LOW WASTE LIVING  
LIFESTYLE TODAY!

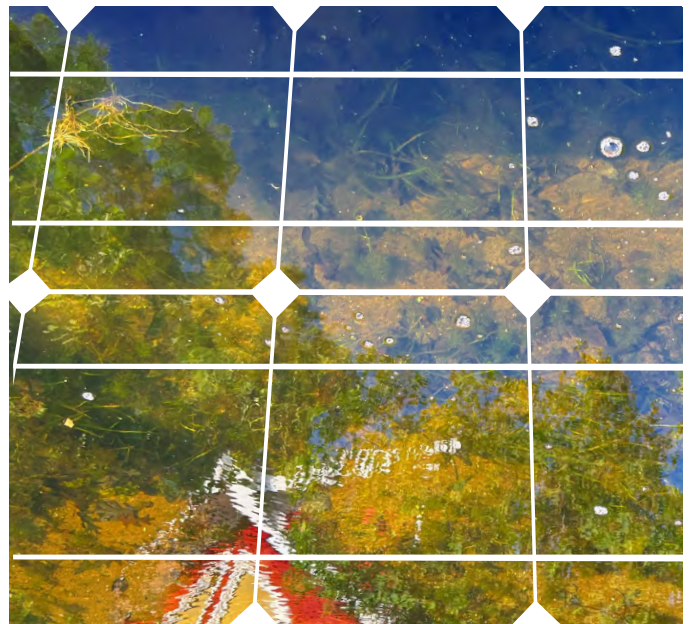
{ Puckabee's }  
{ eco-friendly grooming }

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed, citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."  
-Margaret Mead

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR EXPERTS SINCE 1982

## NEXT STEP ENERGY

RENEWABLE ENERGY • HEATING • ELECTRIC



## BE THE CHANGE

NEXTSTEPENERGY.COM • 715.830.9337



# SPIRIT LUTHERAN

1310 MAIN STREET · EAU CLAIRE

715.832.2421

[SPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG](http://SPIRITLUTHERAN.ORG)

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

8:30 AM · TRADITIONAL

10:30 AM · CONTEMPORARY (SEPT. - MAY)

10:00 AM · PRAISE IN THE PARK - PHOENIX PARK (JUNE - AUG.)





# First Congregational United Church of Christ



**A welcoming, practicing,  
relevant community.**



*Download the  
First Congregational EC  
app*



*Wherever you are in  
your spiritual journey,  
you are welcome here.*

310 Broadway St., Eau Claire, WI 54703 • (715) 834-2668  
[www.firstucceaclaire.org](http://www.firstucceaclaire.org) • [www.facebook.com/firstucceaclaire/](https://www.facebook.com/firstucceaclaire/)





# Markquart

**MOTORS**



**BUICK**

**GMC**



[www.markquartmotors.com](http://www.markquartmotors.com) | 715-833-0444