

For the Day after an Election:

A Prayer:

Alpha and Omega,

We call to mind the best that is within us:

That we live under God,

that we are indivisible,

that liberty and justice extend to all.

We acknowledge the sin that runs through our history as a nation:

The displacement of native peoples, racial injustice,

economic inequity, regional separation.

And we profess a deep and abiding gratitude

for the goodness of ordinary people who have made sacrifices,

who have sought opportunities,

who have journeyed to this land as immigrants

and strengthened its promise in successive generations,

who have found freedom on these shores,

and defended this freedom at tremendous cost.

Be with us in the days that are near.

Remind us that your ways are not our ways, that your power and
might transcend

the plans of every nation, that you are not mocked.

Let those who follow your Son Jesus Christ be a peaceable people

in the midst of division.

Send your Spirit of peace, justice and freedom upon us,

break down the walls of political partisanship, and make us one.

Give us wisdom to walk in your ways,

courage to speak in your name,

and humility to trust in your providence.

Amen.

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This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



From Scripture:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me -John 14:1

Thus says the Lord:

*Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls. -Jeremiah 6:16*

*Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. -Isaiah 41:10*

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'
Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to
me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. - Reve-
lation 21:5*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore. - Psalm 121*

From the Talmud

*Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justice, now.
Love mercy, now.*

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

**THIS SUNDAY WE NEED:
A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST AND ALTAR FLOWERS
IF YOU CAN SERVE PLEASE**

[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

This Week at HOPE November 6, , 2024



The Ministry of HOPE's Council: Naming Our Values Deep Look at Value 1

The HOPE Ministry Council has been faithfully exploring HOPE's values over the last six months. This has been diligent, engaging, and meaningful work and we are excited to share what the Holy Spirit has helped us discover! Our work was rooted in our current mission statement:

*HOPE is called by God to look beyond ourselves.
We walk together in faith, treasuring all people and sharing with them
the love, hope and acceptance that is in Christ.*

Here are the values we have faithfully discerned together:
HOPE Values...

- **All people without exception**
- Serving generously
- Spiritual Nourishment
- Our connection with creation

Our first may seem obvious, but this topic spurred the greatest deal of conversation. We wrestled with what it truly means when our mission statement says, "treasuring all people." How will truly, ALL, people trust that we say what we mean and mean what we say? We know that nearly every church under the sun would say *all are welcome, only to find out that such a welcome actually comes with conditions. It was important to us, as we believe it is important to all who gather as a community of faith here at HOPE, that anyone who finds themself in contact with HOPE would feel 100% welcomed, without a doubt.*

After looking at a number of other websites from churches we knew value "welcome" we got a sense of some better language to describe what we are talking about when we talk about HOPE. A sister congregation in Eau Claire describes their welcome as:

We recognize that every person has a valuable story that carries infinite worth. We are called by Jesus to love expansively and make this unwavering pledge to welcome all people, without exception. We affirm the image of God in people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, relationship status, physical or mental ability, health status, and cultural or ethnic identity. In our church family we welcome all regardless of socioeconomic situation, addiction, imprisonment, or anything else that too often divides us.

As we explored more, we actually discovered that quite a few describe their welcome in this way. Some are simpler and just say "without exception." Discussion of this value also brought up people's interest in becoming an inclusive community through more official processes (such as Reconciling Work's BIC/RIC process). Some expressed some hesitancy, but did name an appreciation for recognizing the broad swath of inclusions in something akin to the above statement (health status/mental ability/ socioeconomic situation/ etc).

Ultimately we came to understand that for people looking for a faith community, or even for people looking to not be turned off by a faith community's presence in their wider community, naming these things is important. We've come to understand that even if naming this isn't essential for our own participation, we recognize it *is what some others may need and Jesus calls us to be mindful of the needs of others, especially those who may have been harmed or abused previously in a different spiritual community. Because we worship a God who commands us to love one another, we first want to make sure that all others know they are welcomed by us.*

We hope this helps our community understand, appreciate, and live into our first value! In the coming weeks we will explore the additional 3 values.

Blessings,,
Pastor Annie Ladnier

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



CONFIRMATION 2024! CONGRATULATIONS MALLORY JAMES AND SYDNEY WOLFE



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HOSTED ANOTHER GREAT TRUNK OR TREAT!



This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



From left: Rich Loney, Ed Quinn, Pastor Annie, Lisa & Keith Ruehlow

Rich Loney:

I grew up on a farm near Baldwin and have spent the last 46 years in the River Falls area. My wife Trudy, who passed the day after Christmas in 2022, and I were richly blessed with three adopted daughters, Kristin and Jenny who both live in the area and Emily who is in Waukesha. Our family also includes four grandchildren, two boys and two girls. I enjoy working outside, lawn and garden work along with various home maintenance activities in the warmer months and, yes, moving snow in the winter. Who knows, perhaps we're in for the Big One this season! I'm grateful for the warm welcome I received at Hope and look forward to growing with the congregation.

Ed Quinn:

My wife, Pam & our family have lived in the Town of Hudson for about 25 years. We have two adult, married children, so that just leaves Pam, myself & our 4 rescue cats at home (Pumkin, Spice, Latte & Junior). We were previously members of Bethel Lutheran in Hudson. I recently retired from the MN Dept. of Natural Resources where I supervised the natural resource management program for MN State Parks. I love playing & coaching soccer, hiking, as well as natural & human history. What drew me to Hope was the welcoming community and the participatory nature of the worship services.

Lisa & Keith Ruehlow:

Keith is an ELCA pastor who retired in 2023 after serving 36 years in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. He and Lisa moved this past summer to River Falls from Amery where Lisa continues to work as the Director of the Foundation for the Amery Hospital and Clinic. Before her present job she taught English at Amery High School for 18 years. They are happy to be a bit closer in River Falls to a daughter living in the Twin Cities. They also have a daughter living in Massachusetts. Keith and Lisa love life on the water whether it is in a kayak or canoe, enjoying views of Lake Superior on the North Shore or walking down to the small creek behind their house. They have a Golden Doodle named Rudy. They love to sing and enjoy movies, theater and good books. Keith and Lisa were drawn to Hope by good preaching and the congregation's focus on mission and service. They are anxious to build relationships and find ways here to love God and serve the neighbor.



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Hope Lutheran

3337 Kingsbarn Ave

Friday, November 22, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and
enter: hopepf to schedule an appointment.



Give Nov 18 to Dec 8 for two pairs of custom **FRIENDS**
+ Red Cross socks, ltd qty. Keep one, gift one!

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2018 The American National Red Cross

[325] 0448 81 623836 - Men 10 624242 - Qty: 1 of 1 - 323 853 - 325-494-2577 - APR 6 - 24000

[CLICK HERE to schedule an appointment.](#)

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



FOREVER

thankful

ALWAYS

grateful

ABUNDANTLY

blessed

GRATITUDE BRUNCH NOVEMBER 17th!

Mark your calendar for a time celebrating God's many blessings and all we have to be thankful for! We will share in fellowship with one another while enjoying a delicious catered meal and naming our blessings together!

Carols and Candles

Sunday, December 8, 4pm

Carols and Candles Choir Rehearsals

Monday, Nov. 11, 6:30pm

Monday, Nov. 25, 6:30pm

Monday, Nov. 18, 6:30pm

Monday, Dec. 2, 6:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 7, 9:30am

The Carols and Candles Choir welcomes all singers of all abilities, high school age and up. Attend as many rehearsals as your busy schedule allows. Join the choir this year, bring a friend, and enjoy Christmas in song!



Conversations with Hope for Earth

Hope for Earth would love to meet you! Please come share your passions and imagine how you can be part of Hope for Earth's energizing sustainability work. Members of Hope for Earth will be waiting to meet you at these dates and locations in downtown River Falls:

- ⇒ **Wednesday, November 6 at 1:30 p.m.** at Selah Vie Bistro and Coffee Cottage, 208 N. Main Street
- ⇒ **Thursday, November 7 at 8:30 a.m.** at Waystone Coffee Co., 115 E. Walnut Street

Enjoy a free beverage and conversation. Let's get to know one another. Drop us a line if you have any questions: hopeforearthrf@gmail.com

See you there!



Join Us for a River Falls Community Diaper & Baby Wipes Drive!

One in two families in River Falls struggle with providing diapers and wipes for their children. Lack of diapers can limit access to childcare and lead to health issues and discomfort for children, so we are asking for your help!

The United Way St. Croix & Red Cedar Valleys Diaper Bank, along with the River Falls Rotary Club and Ezekiel Lutheran Church, invite you to make a difference from **October 7th to November 15th by purchasing diapers and wipes.**

How to participate:

- **Drop off at: Ezekiel Lutheran Church:** 202 S. Second Street or **St. Bridget's Catholic Church:** 211 E. Division Street, River Falls, WI 54022
- **Scan the QR code** to purchase diapers and wipes at Walmart.com. Purchased items will be shipped directly to the United Way diaper bank.
- **Go to RF Rotary Club Facebook** page for the direct link to Walmart.



All diaper sizes and baby wipe quantities needed. Please ensure all donations are in unopened, original packaging for safety.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and making an impact on the families in River Falls!



WITNESS TO FAITH:

The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe

First Congregational Church is delighted to present *Witness to Faith: The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe*, featuring original works of graphic art by Japan's foremost Christian artist of the 20th century. Sadao Watanabe is a world famous artist who took his Christian faith and infused it with the ancient Japanese art of printmaking to create beautiful creations. Watanabe's art can be found in places like the Metropolitan Museum in New York, but seeing multiple copies of his work is unique!

As part of Pastor Stacy Johnson Meyers' sabbatical grant, she worked to bring this exhibit of over 30 pieces of his art to First for this season!

A SPECIAL PRIVATE HOPE VIEWING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

Monday, November 25 at 6:30PM

First Congregational Church, 110 North Third Street, River Falls

[RESERVE YOUR SPOT HERE](#)

We will meet in the lobby of First Congregational Church that night.

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



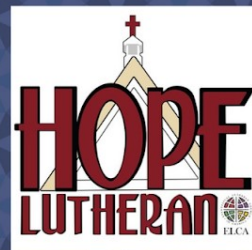
ADVENT FAIR

Wednesday, November 20th

5:30-7:30pm

An Inter-Generational evening of art,
creativity, & fellowship!

**NOW SEEKING
PROJECT HOSTS!**



**Have a fun Advent/Christmas project idea and want to lead it?
We are seeking projects for kids, teens/adults, and all ages!**

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



ELCA Truth & Healing Movement Opportunities!

Last November, Rev. Sara Bishop, NWSWI Synod Advocate for Right Relationship, joined us for an Indigenous People's service and learning opportunity on a synod resolution for Land Acknowledgements. Since then we have been studying and learning more from our indigenous siblings. We have read and discussed *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*, have learned more about the *Doctrine of Discovery* and the ELCA's repudiation of it, and broadened our conversation to wider civic life and faith concerns as we explore how our past informs our present. All of these efforts are in line with the ELCA's wider work, "The Truth and Healing Movement," which serves to put legs onto our official repudiation statement.

This fall there are a number of opportunities for further exploration, learning, repentance, and hope. Book studies, online presentations, classes and even a symposium are at your disposal through the [ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement website!](#)

Mark your calendars for these upcoming opportunities and learn more at the link above:

1. GOING ON NOW: Reading Circle on *Custer Died for Your Sins* by Vine Deloria Jr.* (*Standing Rock Sioux*) **HOPE ADULT FORUM ON THIS BOOK DATE HAS BEEN MOVED FROM NOV. 17 TO JANUARY 19, 2025!**
2. Sunday, November 10, 7-8:30PM: Presentation "Toward Truth and Healing: How Churches Face Accountability for their Indian Boarding Schools"
3. November 18-19th: Vine Deloria Jr. Theological Symposium*- ONLINE ACCESS AVAILABLE



WEDNESDAYS 5:45-7:15!

Fall Session: September 18th-November 20th

Join us as we explore Old Testament stories, take a deep dive into the 10 commandments, and celebrate our Bible Milestone.

Fall session ends with our cross-gen Advent Fair on November 20th!

All K-10+ children and youth are encouraged to register and attend!

Friends are always welcome!

3 Sessions throughout the year:

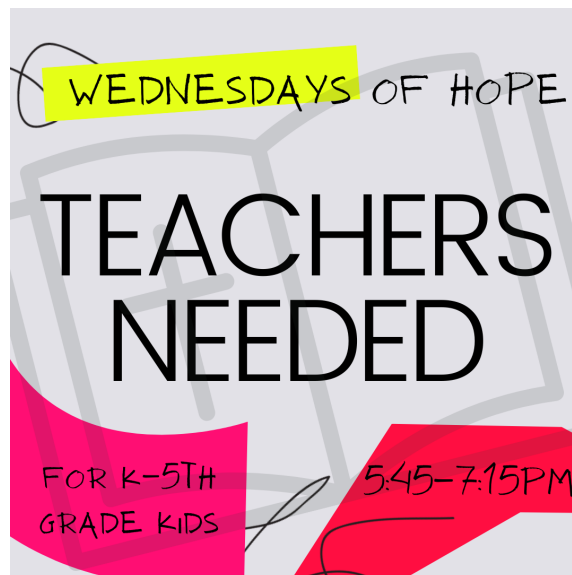
Winter Session: January 8- Feb 26

Spring Session: April 30-May 21

MEALS NOW PROVIDED EVERY WEEK!

Click below for more info & to register:

[2024-2025 WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE REGISTRATION](#)



[TEACHER SIGN UP HERE](#)



River Falls
Community Dinner

**DINE-IN
OR TO-GO**

*A Community
Non-Denominational
Event*

Thanksgiving Day

November 28, 2024

11am - 1pm

Held at

*Saint Bridget
Catholic Church*

We would like to invite you to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner. Everyone is Welcome, young, old, home alone, shut ins, travelers or just because you want to. We offer take-out or delivery for those unable to attend. FREE, or free will offering. We would be pleased to have you attend. Thank You

Please register between Oct 23 - Nov 25 in spotlight area on saintbridgets.org

Designed by:



This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



WEDNESDAYS OF HOPE MEAL HOSTS NEEDED! SIGN UP HERE AT THIS NEW LINK!

This year we would like to provide a SIMPLE, kid-friendly meal each Wednesday evening for our Wednesdays of HOPE ministry. This helps families participate in our ministry with one less thing to worry about on a busy weeknight, helps our youth and mentors connect over a meal, and provides an opportunity for other HOPE adults to engage with our children and youth!

Meals need to be ready at 5:45 and we expect to serve 15-20 people total. *Free Will donations will be collected to offset expenses. Donations of money for pizza nights are also being accepted.*

Please prayerfully consider if you/your ministry team would like to host a meal this year! Fall session is currently our biggest need!

Elementary Bible Milestone

All current 3-4th grade youth will receive a special, age-appropriate Bible during worship on Sunday, November 10th. As part of that milestone they will also participate in a special workshop on Wednesday, November 6th at Wednesdays of HOPE. Please make sure your child is present for this special Faith Milestone!

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024

Continuing the Work of the Assistance & Resource Center (ARC) A joint statement from Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP

With the discontinuation of the Assistance & Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) this year, Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP are developing a partnership to continue ARC's work of "providing short term financial assistance to residents of River Falls and adjacent communities to help them meet their basic needs." By adjusting service areas and leveraging the existing experience and programs of Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP, the two partner organizations will continue ARC's tradition of offering:

- Housing Assistance – Rent matching, pay arrangements, mortgage payments
- Utilities – Budgeting Sessions, payments to utility providers
- Transportation – Repairs, gas cards, taxi vouchers, registration, license fees, etc.
- Miscellaneous – Laundry, haircuts, work clothing, phone, vital records
- Food – School meal assistance, formula, other supplementation
- Referrals – Referrals & assistance for other programs

Operation HELP has been providing emergency financial assistance throughout St. Croix County, including the city of River Falls, for more than 30 years. These services include payment assistance for rent, utilities, and major car repairs. In recent years, a temporary emergency housing program (motel vouchers) has been added. Moving forward, these services will be extended to the entire River Falls School District area and adjacent communities will be added as the need and funding support is demonstrated. Applications for emergency financial services are handled entirely online (<https://operationhelpstcroix.org/client-application>) or by phone allowing clients to apply anytime from any location. Operation HELP has a full-time staff person dedicated to vetting emergency financial applications and working with clients, landlords, utilities companies, and repair shops to work out payment arrangements.

Our Neighbors' Place has spent the past 15 years providing help and hope to anyone in Pierce and St Croix county who is struggling to meet their basic needs. Services are delivered through 4 distinct programs: Day Center, Closet Thrift Store, Backpack Program, and Transitional Housing. Through the Our Neighbors' Place Day Center, guests in the River Falls and Ellsworth School Districts will have access to the Helping Hands Fund. This fund can provide emergency financial assistance related to vehicle costs, vital records, laundry, work clothing, and more - with a focus on priorities that support housing security. Additionally, all guests are eligible for gas cards, taxi vouchers, motel vouchers, food, showers, laundry, phone, and side by side assistance from our full time case manager. Guests who call or visit the Day Center for help will find a safe, nonjudgmental environment where all are welcome.

Although Our Neighbors' Place and Operation HELP are experienced and well-equipped operationally to respond to the discontinuation of services resulting from ARC's departure, funding for these services will be a challenge. In 2023, ARC provided approximately \$125,000 in rent and utility payments assistance to clients and approximately \$50,000 in transportation and other assistance. The continuing generosity of River Falls and Pierce County churches, businesses, clubs and organizations, and individuals will be critical to sustain these resources for local residents who are experiencing financial hardship.

Please consider a donation to continue these important services in the River Falls community!

To donate by check, mail to:

Our Neighbors' Place

122 West Johnson St River Falls, WI 54022

Please write "Helping Hands Fund" in the memo line

Operation HELP

1830 Hanley Road, Suite 100 Hudson, WI 54016

To donate by credit card:

[Donate to Our Neighbors' Place](#)

[Donate to Operation Help](#)

With gratitude,

Shelly Smith, Executive Director - Our Neighbors' Place

Tim Puffer, Executive Director - Operation Help

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



Sunday, December 1, 6:30 PM
Meet at Veteran's Park
All are welcome!

HOPE FOR EARTH INVITES YOU TO:

Entering Advent

A CANDLELIGHT RIVER WALK

We will gather by our beautiful
Kinnickinnic River to walk,
reflect, and greet Advent

Please bring a flashlight
Check www.hopeforearth.org
in the event of bad weather

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



Please lift up the following people in prayer

John Hamilton

Ellen Roose

Andy Haugen (Relative of Ellen Roose)

Derrek Lettich (Relative of Karen Brohaugh)

The Family of Teresa Jonas (Friend of Kay & Bill Montgomery)

Connie Juaire

Scott Uring (Friend of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)

John Cain (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Robb Scott

Jerry Sather Family (Brother of Karen Hamilton)

The Family of Woody Fangmeier (Friends of Jeff & Karen Rodewald)

Family of Kermit Paulson

Marcus Stack (Friend of Steve & Karen Kaste)

Jeremy Martinson (Brother-in-Law to Elise Forward)

Family of Teajai Schmidt (relative of the Boocks)

Jacob Dan and family (Friends of Jeff Rodewald)

Karen Hamilton

Patricia Miller (Sister of Carl Warren)

Rhiannon Bondhus (Niece of Bondhus family)

Lori Snyder (Friend of Nancy & David Peters)

Ed and Gwen Paulson

Randy Dopkins (Family friend of Olive Olson)

Eden Annoye (Relative of Debra James)

Fatma Aljarrah (Friend of Faye Perkins)

Beth Lindgren Family (Dan Malaney)

Michael Jacobson (Brother of Linda Jacobson)

Barb Carmichael (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Dennis & Sandy Schultz (Friends of Bill & Kay Montgomery)

Nancy Miller (Friend of Paula & Phil Klacan)

Linda Shurden (Friend of Nancy Sailer)

Hannah Forward

Ella Conover (Phil & Paula's Klacan's Niece)

Daryl Kleeman (brother of Darcy Boock)

David Boock (Relative of the Boocks)

Lee Hill (friend of Naomi)

Gary Siebold

David Hendrickson

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



November Birthdays

Dianne H-Robinson	1-Nov
Linda Yde	1-Nov
Greta Wunrow	3-Nov
Diane Meyer	5-Nov
Linda Jacobson	7-Nov
Grace Hansen	8-Nov
Heathley Neuhaus	8-Nov
Charles Bricton	16-Nov
Mallory James	16-Nov
Mikey Langlois	16-Nov
Karen Rodewald	21-Nov
Phillip Klacan	22-Nov
Deb Tokheim	29-Nov



November Baptisms

McKenna Brill
Karen Brohaugh
Russ Jiskra
Jane Terkelsen
Dan Rodewald
Linda Yde



November Anniversaries

Steve & Diane Meyer
Nick & Stacia Johnson
Annie & Lucas Ladnier

Date
25-Nov
08-Nov
07-Nov

Years to Celebrate

46
16
9

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



All are invited & needed to participate in the leading of worship! Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents!

SIGN UP HERE

Want to help but not sure what the job entails? Learn more in our [Worship Volunteer Guide](#)



All are invited to join Pastor Annie for this weekly small group conversation and Bible study! This is a great chance to grow in relationship with God and one another.

Discussion time includes group check-in, opening meditation, and study of the week's worship texts.

We meet via Zoom so all can join from wherever you are!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88419155061?pwd=di9hUXlraeDdzM0dCK0pPMDNtbHczZz09>

This Week at HOPE November 6, 2024



Bakken-Young

Funeral & Cremation Services

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services sponsors an in-person six-week grief support groups for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. We ask that you participate in all 6 sessions, as you are able.

Group in River Falls: Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm

October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

at St. Bridget Catholic Church

Garden View Room

211 East Division Street, River Falls, WI, 54022

All adults are welcome to participate in the group and the sessions are free.

Group Facilitator:

Julia Rajtar, M.A.P.S., BCC

Bakken-Young Grief Support Coordinator

To register please rsvp by October 18th, with your name, phone number, and email at: julia@bakken-young.com

For more information, call or text Julia at 715-781-4003.

Visit "Grief Support" at www.bakken-young.com
for additional groups and other grief support resources
or join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bakkenyoung