

# SEASONS OF LIFE

FEBRUARY 2025

## Seasons of Life

Summer, Fall, Winterrrrr (see what I did there?), Spring. In Wisconsin we know the different seasons well, and even though we become most acquainted with winter - we see and appreciate the different elements each brings.

Life has seasons too. At Hope Street we meet men, women and children in those different seasons of life. We have the opportunity to walk with, sometimes rest and be still with, and other times encourage - no situation looks the same, and yet one thing remains true - God is faithful. He is faithful in every season, and wastes no thing. It is both a mystery and a great gift.

Coming off a year of celebrating a great milestone (25 years), we are aware of the importance of embracing each season for what it is. Hope Street needed a season with just men, followed by introducing women - so that we could hear and understand that people flourish best inside of families. Which led to the season of kids being added to our census. With kids, means a need for more intentional programming which opened the door to Shechem. While that all fit nicely within a few sentences, the reality of those seasons was trial and error, hardships, restoration - and a mashup of tears and laughter. We have grown alongside our community. The Greenhouse has remained rooted in the Vine, while simultaneously doing what vines do, grow. We have grown, and we will continue to do so as we humbly



walk with God's people. We are walking into a new season, and you will learn more about that on the back.

Personally, in this season, my family has welcomed a baby girl, Eden Annemarie. I spent much of the last two years working with a team of people to bring a "garden" to life for our 25th anniversary celebration - that inspired her name, and the rich truth that while things are yet how they ought to be, we have a great Hope, and will one day walk in a restored Garden with Him.

**YOU WILL CONTINUE TO HEAR ABOUT OUR THEME THIS YEAR, AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR THREE EVENTS:**

**Women's Luncheon: February 27th**  
(Terrace 167)

**Hike for Hope: June 14th**  
(Nashotah Park)

**Hope Street Family Reunion: October 16th**  
(The Valerie)

Each event has a special "new" element as we move through the seasons of life at Hope Street. We hope you will join us!

**- ASHLEY THOMAS**

**"Hope Street needed a season with just men, followed by introducing women - so that we could hear and understand that people flourish best inside of families. Which led to the season of kids being added to our census."**



# **SUSTAIN CAMPAIGN**

*Maintaining Community, Protection and Hope*

**430 years of slavery.  
430 years of men, women  
and children breaking  
their backs for the cause  
of someone else.**

Living in a society with beliefs, values and morals opposite their own and catering to that other way of life. 430 years without personal property of their own.

## **Freed.**

Not two months later, after literally seeing the sea open for them, the Israelites did not know how to continue, preserve or sustain this new way of life. They turned to Moses who had direct communication with God. In Exodus 16:3, the Israelites lifted their hands:

“If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

The Israelites saw miracle after miracle greatly impact their lives, and still they sat hungry and wanting. They fantasized about the old way because their lack of basic needs didn’t allow them to see life a new way. The Israelites had already gotten through the hard parts. They left slavery, they left their homes. While they had already gotten through the hard part, they still needed sustenance to be able to keep on and move forward. While the Israelites

groaned towards death, God answered with life.

He covered the ground in Manna. “When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.’” Exodus 16:15. God brought physical sustenance to the Israelites. There it was. Provision. A gift from God. Something to keep them satiated and moving.

“And the children of Israel ate manna for forty years...” Exodus 16:35. After 40 years of eating the bread daily, the miraculous nature of the bread from the sky probably fell away.. After all, it took less than 2 months for the Israelites to doubt God’s provision in the first place. Sustenance isn’t flashy, still it’s there. It’s the thing nourishing you. It’s the thing that keeps you going and moves you forward.

8+ years of dreaming, planning and promising about a building, Shechem at Hope Street.

## **Built.**

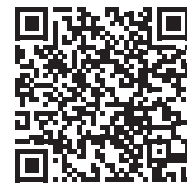
Two years in, we have seen sign after sign that the building has greatly impacted lives and see the envisioned wholeness of our community on the horizon. Still, we are unfinished.

**In July 2025 we are beginning our 2.5 year “Sustain Campaign”. We plan to raise \$6,168,362.37 from July 2025-December 2027.**

The funds raised will keep our buildings open, our programs running, our events inspiring, our people housed, our staff paid, our kids playing, our initiatives going, and our community served. This campaign will also allow us to service our remaining debt on the loan for Shechem. Even small gifts make a meaningful difference on our ability to keep Hope Street going and keep people growing. It’s our need in this season in order to get to the next.

**YOU WILL HEAR MORE ON OUR NEXT STEPS WITH THE SUSTAIN CAMPAIGN, FOR NOW, PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER WHAT YOUR PART IN THE SUSTAIN CAMPAIGN MIGHT BE AND PRAY WITH US, “GOD GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.”**

**- KENDALL SCHOENIKE:  
SHECHEM DIRECTOR**



**Want to help support our community?**

**Scan the QR Code to check out our wish list. We update these on a regular basis, and have one for both Homes at Hope Street and Shechem at Hope Street.**

**Purchasing these items we go through on a regular basis helps us have what we need for programming!**

**However you choose to help us, know that the impact is immediate, and lasting. We are so grateful for the ways you support our community.**

**Interested in other ways to get involved?**

**REACH OUT TO**  
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