

2025 FAMILY REUNION

Well Moments

AUGUST 2025

LANDMARKS

For as long as I can remember I have paid attention to landmarks. Physical markers that serve as placeholders for memories.

I have landmarks along my routine walking path that remind me of how far I have gone. They serve as encouragement when I'm tired that I only have so far to go before I'm done, before I've completed my task, and achieved my goal.

Our regular routines often hold memories and landmarks that remind us of what was and what is. Some we stop at, while others we pass by as they push us forward towards our goal. Each routine comes to a close when we have "arrived" or achieved the thing we set out to do. What about when those landmarks, mundane as they may seem, become what reminds us where we are stuck or have yet to arrive?

A familiar (favorite for me) story in the bible is the Woman at the Well. We get a snap shot of her participating in a mundane, daily task — going to draw water from the well.

What we don't know until we read further is that:

- She was weary, tired and hot (it was the middle of the day after all).



“... the well was a landmark that was wrought with shame, and it became one that sprouted forth life. We encounter similar stories around Hope Street.”

- She intentionally came to draw water at a time she wouldn't have to see anyone.
- She was met by someone who could really see her, and what He saw He loved.

For her, the well was a landmark that was wrought with shame, and it became one that sprouted forth life. We encounter similar stories around Hope Street.

FOR CHRISTIAN, a 14 year old Shechem member, Hope Street is a well. It's a part of his day,

a regular stop. He comes for a purpose, to play ball and hang out with friends. Being here so often, the flashiness of the new building may have worn off for him, but each day he stops here, it still reminds him he is loved and known and he is pointed towards healthy habits.

FOR ALLISON, a Homes member and mom who has encountered instability, Hope Street is a well. After transplanting out of Homes, she returned down an all too familiar toxic path. Homes was

a landmark she knew she could come back to, one that reminds her she is worthy of a flourishing life and that life is possible.

We get to be an intentional stop where people are reminded of what is true. We peel back the barriers that thwart people's ability to know they are beloved. But we don't stop there, we step into the real need (glass of water, a home, place to be a kid) and become a pivot in the story.

A tangible choice can be made for where to go next. Laying down the burden of the weights we have carried, and picking up that which provides life. Hope Street is a "well", a special place that provides the water needed for growth and transformation to take place.

The beautiful thing about a "Well Moment" is it doesn't have to be flashy or over-spiritualized — these moments can be a part

of our normal, daily routine and yet they have significance for who we are becoming, and how we are joining Him in His kingdom work. We get to be a part of these moments on a regular basis, and see the lasting impact they have. You are a part of them too as you faithfully show up, serve, and invest in our community. This year's event will highlight these *well moments*.

- **ASHLEY THOMAS**

FAMILY REUNION

Whether your family has one every year, or never before — we all get a picture of what this means. Hope Street's Family Reunion came at a time where we wanted to begin to bring our greater community together for a special time of stories.



It has morphed into an experience that inspires and invites people further into a community that is authentic and unique. We have used this gathering as a sacred space where people's God given talents are on display for the benefit of a special place we know and love. This year will be no different, we will be at a

beautiful new venue, The Valerie, located in Oconomowoc. We will walk and listen through the story of The Woman at the Well, and how it impacts the work being done on 26th and Capitol.

WE WILL HAVE TWO UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN US THIS YEAR:

WELL MOMENTS IN THE MORNING

Books, coffee, pastries and special reading with little ones. Join us for a beautiful morning on Eden's Patio at The Valerie. This event is a special launch for our children's book, written by myself (Ash) and beautifully illustrated by Hannah Carpenter. The book, "Well Moments for Kids" is a beautiful story of community, faith and strength inspired by real stories from our community. This morning will include two readings, one at 9:30 AM and the other at 11:00 AM. You can stop by at any point from 9 AM to 1 PM to purchase the book, Hope Street merch, and enjoy live acoustic music. This is a family friendly morning, and free to attend. No RSVP necessary, just show up! There will be coffee provided by AM Coffee Co, pastries and merch for sale. Also, be the

first to get a sneak peak at the evening walkthrough experience.

WELL MOMENTS IN THE EVENING

Our evening fundraiser is a special time of community, stories and artistic expression. We will have a family style dinner, raffle baskets, live performances and a unique walkthrough experience. Each year's event is curated towards a specific theme, and leaves attendees inspired and encouraged by the work being done in and through Hope Street. Invite a friend, or gather a table full of friends for a memorable night out with a purpose.

Please consider how you can join us this year, there's lots of opportunities — from volunteering to donations or sponsorships, to showing up for the event.

You can find all of these details on our event website at www.HopeStreetFundraiser.com or email Ashley@hopestreetministry.org

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON, HOPE STREET FAM!