

THE JOURNAL

JOURNEY OF HOPE

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“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

~Luke 24:5b, NIV

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We have a wonderful opportunity for 20 of us to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg (740 Wiley Farm Ct.) on Saturday, April 20th, from 9-11am. If you're unfamiliar with this organization, Feed My Starving Children is a nonprofit that empowers volunteers to pack meals for the malnourished in nearly 70 countries, addressing both physical and spiritual hunger. We will form groups of around 7-8 people to pack food pouches for approximately 90 minutes and learn about the impact we can make firsthand. If standing isn't your preference, you can help by labeling bags while seated. It's always a rewarding experience that leaves a lasting impact!

Let's participate together! Sign-ups will be open until April 14th, unless spaces fill up earlier. Registration is available online or at the Navigation Center. Consider grabbing a meal together in the area afterward for added fun and camaraderie. Carpooling options are also on the table to ensure everyone can join. Join us today, and forge new friendships while serving the community! For any queries or to reserve your spot, reach out to Carole Burris at 847/436-3246 or carolejb0677@gmail.com.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

To the saints who are at Journey of Hope and are faithful in Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. Happy Easter! Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

While this is partially how Paul begins many of his letters to the churches in which he was connected, I thought it would be fitting for a greeting to the church in which I am also connected. It is truly good to be

“*Our hope and assurance rest in the grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*”

in ministry with you as a community of faith, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and looking forward to our own resurrection. We have just finished our journey through the season of Lent focusing on a far different topic than most years. This season is usually one of reflection and repentance, confession, and pardon. However, we spent six weeks reflecting on the resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of those who experienced it first-hand. I wonder what new insights you received during this journey. Do any

of the experiences of those we focused on resonate with you more than any other?

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth these words: “If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:14) All our hope rests in this one event in history. If the resurrection didn't happen, then where do we place our hope for our own resurrection? Would this mean that our faith and hope would be eliminated? But thanks be to God, Jesus has been raised from the dead and it makes all the difference in the world. The third day is resurrection day! (cont page 5)

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SPRINGING INTO ACTION: NEW MINISTRY CALLS

Today is the first full day of spring. This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday, which will get us started going into Holy Week. Most years we associate Spring and Lent and Easter altogether on some level. They bring with them certain sense of new life. The new life that spring brings as nature comes out of dormancy and the opportunity to plant new things and prune old things for new growth. Easter brings the promise and the hope of new life found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and the promise that we too will be raised.

I recently shared an idea for a new ministry when I was preaching in Bartlett on St. Patrick's Day and then, that same week, at the church council meeting I shared that idea along with another new one. When we start a new ministry, or consider starting a new ministry, we must ask the question "Why?". Our motivation for any ministry or program must come from the primary desire to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Secondary to that mission and purpose, we consider the three top priorities of our congregation to attract families with children and youth, to reach new people and incorporate them into the life and ministry of the church, and to work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

Another thing about starting a new ministry is we can't start a new ministry just for the sake of starting a new ministry. I have to take into consideration human resources, financial resources, and a source of more than just interest in a ministry. There must be a passion and a sense of calling from God. If we propose a new ministry, and there's no passion or fire from anyone else in the congregation, it may be that we're just not called to that ministry right now and that's ok. It may be an idea for another season or another time in the life and ministry of the church. It's still important to share them.

So here they are. The first is a program of church and neighborhood fellowship. The First Friday Fireside Fellowship. We'll gather together and invite our neighbors and friends to gather around the campfire once a month for fellowship, food, music, and more. The second to add to our ministry of supporting food pantries. What if we converted our old fenced preschool playground area into a garden. We could share the food grown there with food pantries of others who have a need of fresh food.

If you feel like either of these ministries lines up with your gifts or that God is calling you to either of these, get in touch with me or Pastor Jarrod.

Blessings,
Jason

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH



Our April United Women in Faith meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at 1:00pm in M5 at the Elgin campus. Jen Keller, Development Manager for PADS, will present on various programs offered through that agency and how we can most help them.

MINISTRY TEAMS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Carole Burris, Chair
carolejb0677@gmail.com

CARE TEAM

Mary Summers, Chair
mrfrank1942@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT

Gary Newton, Chair
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EDUCATION

Jan Barry, Chair
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Nancy Gardner, Co-Chair
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Robin Luzin, Co-Chair
rluzin@sbcglobal.net

WORSHIP

Mary Becker, Chair
marybecker50@yahoo.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN
A TEAM?

Please see Pastor Jarrod or
Jason Princer.

PRAYER LIST

Names listed below that are in **bold** have been added for the first time or the description has been changed. An asterisk (*) before a name denotes a Journey of Hope member. Prayers will stay on the list for one month unless otherwise requested.

Prayers for health and healing:

- *Ernie Chapman
- Angelo DiLiberti (father of Susan Collins), declining health
- ***Lisa Eby, healing following surgery**
- *Virginia Fink, strength and determination
- *Chris Freund, eye surgery
- Neighbor of Margo Goodwin, battling breast cancer
- Friend of Marlon, battling stomach cancer
- Robert Garcia (cousin of Gloria Kellenberger), stomach & pancreatic cancer
- Jason (cousin of Glenn Dye), lung & brain cancer
- *Jeff Grajek, multiple myeloma
- Hunter (son of Mary Norris), migraines
- Lynn (friend of Carlene Kellenberger), health issues
- Emily and family (niece of Lisa Eby)
- Marlene Palm, health
- *Jan Paskiewicz
- Emma Ramos, cancer remission and improved kidney function
- *Connie Schweitzer, health
- *Annalise Smoot/Mollsen, cancer treatments
- Lincoln Zick (grandson of Donna Bach)

Prayers for strength, support and comfort:

- ***Mary Rees & Jim Freeman as Jim enters hospice**

Prayers for those in continuing care and shut/ins:

- *Linda Seyller, The Sheridan at Tyler Creek

Prayers for family and friends in Military:

- Noah Akemann
- Tay Lewis
- AJ Lewis
- DJ Lewis
- Jayden Meyer
- All family & friends serving in the Law Enforcement



The Care Team will meet on April 2nd at 1pm in the Elgin campus upper-level conference room.

All are welcome to join in!

SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

Current Events, M5 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
Sunday School for Kids, L3 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
We'll Accept You, U1 (Elgin) @ 10:30am from 4/7 - 4/21
The Call Book Study, U1 (Elgin) @ 10:30am beginning 4/28

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, Sonrise Room (Elgin) @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bread Bible Study, SE Panera @ 6am

THURSDAY

Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS: New Opportunities Await!

Beginning April 7th, the "We'll Accept You" class will begin a three-week session dedicated to viewing and discussing the 1991 movie "Defending Your Life" (PG) starring Albert Brooks and Meryl Streep. According to IMDB, the film portrays the examination of the lives of the recently deceased in a city-like afterlife setting. Class will meet from 10:15-11:15am in the upper level Elgin conference room, U1

Join a study on "The Call" by Adam Hamilton, exploring the Apostle Paul's life for insights on calling, purpose, and authenticity. The 6-week class begins on April 28th in Elgin, discussing themes of self-discovery, gaining insights into our own personal journeys. Books cost \$13.50 and will soon be available at the Navigation Centers for purchase. Register online to ensure enough class materials are available.

THIS COMING SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH - POTLUCK FOLLOWED BY YOUR TOWN HALL GATHERING!

Come ask your questions, share your thoughts, and feed your soul with food and conversation. Both campuses

join together 12:30pm in Elgin for a potluck. Elgin campus attendees, please bring a hot dish while Bartlett campus attendees, bring something cold or at



room temperature so you are able to come directly following worship. Around 1:15pm the Town Hall gathering will begin by giving everyone the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, and share comments about Journey of Hope. This part will also be live streamed.

ELGIN CAMPUS NURSERY TO REOPEN ON SUNDAY MORNINGS! Can you help?

We're thrilled to announce the reopening of our Elgin Campus Nursery! As we gear up to welcome little ones



back, we need your helping hands. Volunteers play a crucial role in creating a safe and nurturing environment for our children. If you have a heart for children and

some time to spare, we'd love to have you on board!

Anyone interested in helping out is encouraged to reach out to Pastor Jarrod to learn how to get background checked and signed up. Let's make a difference together!

Throughout this series, we have been pondering the question about what difference the resurrection makes in our own lives. Have you been able to think about that for yourself? If so, what answers have you come up with? What difference does it make to you?

I keep going back to a phrase that is attributed to Fredrick Buechner; "The worst thing is never the last thing." No matter what we are going through in this life, we can always trust and hope in the promise of resurrection. Not even death will have the last word. O death, where is your victory, O grave, where is your sting? Our hope and assurance rest in the grace of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the season of Easter. This is the season of resurrection. This is the season of hope! We are hope-filled people, and we journey together, in community, to a deeper faith, a stronger belief, and a whole-hearted love of God and neighbor.

We can certainly look at Easter as this new beginning, even if the world looks to New Year's Day. If we do, then the question that most certainly come to us is this; what are we going to do with this new year we've been given? How can we grow in our own faith? How can we bond together as a community? How can we do ministry in two different communities? And how can we show the love of God to not only those within the walls of Journey of Hope, but also to all the people we come in contact with? Let us truly take our mission and vision to heart and follow through with ministries that transform our world.

Just in case you forgot, here is our mission and vision. Mission: To live out our faith as we encourage others to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Vision: Journey of Hope is a welcoming community that fosters belonging and acceptance. Through ministries, we enable individuals to transform their lives as they learn to follow Jesus Christ. We follow the guidance of the Spirit in sharing our faith through missional adventures, building relationships, and offering our witness to our community and world. Let's get to work! Happy Easter!

Pastor Jarrod



I wish to thank my Church family for all the kind words, cards, hugs for my 97th birthday. March 22 was a snowy day that kept me home but my joy was to read birthday cards of so much kindness.

I am lucky to have such a loving church family at the "Journey of Hope".

Blessings to All, Betty McLauchlan

A big thank you to everyone who contributed by preparing soups, breads, and desserts for our Bartlett Lenten Wednesday evening meals. It was a lovely opportunity for us to come together, "break bread," and enjoy conversations.

Big thanks to the Trustees for revamping parts of our main floor and the walls of the Wesley Chapel room in Elgin. The patching and fresh coat of paint were much needed and greatly appreciated.

Kudos to the talented individuals who effortlessly take care of various tasks across our campuses! We are fortunate to have dedicated workers who proactively identify and address needs (after seeking permission).

A big thank you to those who stepped up to lead our Lenten studies. Groups were held at both campuses, and some even came together online to exchange insights and deepen their understanding.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING JULY 15 - 19TH?

CAMP FIRELIGHT Vacation Bible School is coming to our Bartlett campus! A team led by Mary Becker is meeting now making plans for promoting and providing this amazing opportunity during the week of July



15-19 Monday through Friday from 6 to 8 pm for children 3 years old - 5th grade to learn and grow with God's love as they "camp together".

There will be many ways for all of us to help whether it be before hand, during or after. Praying, preparing supplies, shopping for needed items, walking in the Bartlett Fest parade, setting up, being a helper with a group, leading a group, assisting with snacks, or clean up, there is something for everyone! Sign ups and more info will be coming soon. Visit the Navigation Center to offer your help!

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL
Sunday, April 7 @ 5:30pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE
Thursday, April 11 @ 4:45pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tuesday, April 16 @ 4:45pm
Zion Lutheran Church

CRISIS CENTER MEAL
Sunday, April 28 @ 5:00pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651



APRIL MISSION LINKS

Our April Mission Links will go to support UMC missionary Rev. Jane Eesley (Advance# 3022718). Rev. Jane Susan Eesley, a United Methodist Church missionary, serves as advocacy coordinator at the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem. With a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theology Seminary and experience as a senior pastor, her journey spans missions in Jerusalem and activism across the U.S. From her youth group's social justice initiatives to tutoring in Chicago, her path is marked by compassion and activism.

If you would like to contribute to Mission Links, you may drop your donation into the offering basket during Sunday worship, mail a check to our office (designating it as "Mission Links"), or donate online through our giving platform (selecting the "Mission Links" fund).

SPIRIT LAKE SHOE BOX COLLECTION

As April draws near, our attention turns to collecting items for girls of all ages for our Spirit Lake shoebox project. Think about contributing stuffed animals, dolls, hair accessories, jewelry, art and craft supplies, books, bags, and purses to your donations. Your support is essential in sharing the joy of Christmas this year. Let's unite to create a significant difference and bring happiness to the faces of those at Spirit Lake with your generous contributions.

SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP

Join us for the Spirit Lake Mission Trip taking place from June 23-28. We still have room for 6-8 participants to join us on this impactful experience. Reserve your spot by registering with Andy or Pastor Jarrod, or drop by the Navigation Center. The deadline to sign up for this trip is April 30th. Additionally, there will be two informational meetings on April 28th – the first at 10:30am in Elgin, and the second at 11:30am in Bartlett.

