

THE JOURNAL

JOURNEY OF HOPE

April 2023 | Vol. 33

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32 NIV)

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Spring brings with it a clear sense of hope, and of new life. You can see it all around you as you drive through our community and even stroll through the church grounds. Crocus and Snow Drops are emerging from their slumber, bringing with them a dash of color to a bland landscape. These are the beginnings of new life, springing forth every day.

Here at Journey of Hope we are preparing for a different kind of new life. Spring is also the season where we find Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. For the past few weeks, we have been traveling through Lent, the season of confession, repentance, and forgiveness. And we now find ourselves celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, and the new life that is offered to each and every one of us. My prayer has been, through this season of Lent, that you have been able to refocus your life and faith on your Creator. I hope that you have received a sense of newness along your faith journey and an even deeper understanding of who you are in Christ.

The passage I have included this month is from the story of Cleopas and his friend, traveling back to Emmaus after the horrific things surrounding Jesus' death. They

most certainly are feeling sad, upset, and frustrated at the events. I would imagine that they were hoping, as many were, that Jesus was going to usher in a new kingdom (one they were hoping for).

“Are we too focused on our personal preference, that we will the purpose of God's calling on our lives?”

What they couldn't see at that moment, was that Jesus did usher in the new Kingdom. They were so focused on what they wanted, that they couldn't see how God was providing them new life through Jesus Christ. It wasn't until the "stranger" came and walked along with them, opening the scriptures, and then revealing himself through the breaking of the bread, that they realized what had been given. Their eyes were opened, and they saw Jesus, maybe for the first time.

Are we too focused on our personal preference, that we will the purpose (cont page 5)

TOWNHALL MEETING

Our next Townhall Meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, April 30th @ 10:30am in the Community Room. This is a great opportunity for you to ask questions and learn what new, exciting opportunities may be on the horizon for us.

Church Council will present some of the ministries, opportunities, and problems we might be facing. It will also be a time for you to share your thoughts with leadership.

Please plan on attending this meeting. Questions? Contact Carole Burris.

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JOIN US FOR *Holy Week*

PALM SUNDAY

April 2nd
Worship @ 9:15am

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PATHWAYS WORSHIP*

April 5th
Worship @ 5:30pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER WORSHIP*

April 6th
Begins @ 6pm

GOOD FRIDAY - A TRAVELING TENEBRAE SERVICE

April 7th
Worship @ 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9th
Sunrise Service @ 7am
Pancake Breakfast @ 7:30am
Easter Celebration @ 9:15am

**In-person service only*

Easter flower orders are due by March 30th. Pick up your order form at the Welcome Center or go to <https://bit.ly/3FMm3oH>.

MULTIPLICATION IS NOT JUST FOR MATHEMATICIANS

You might remember from our CAT survey, that our consultant explained that we should be looking toward multiplication here at Journey of Hope. This means we should be looking to expand our ministry, whether that is another worship service, a satellite location, or an all-digital campus.

We initially had been in discernment for a location or ministry in the Pingree Grove area, however, God has heard our “break-through” prayers and has opened doors in another area. Your Journey of Hope leadership has been in conversation about a possible adoption merger opportunity that has come up.

After a couple of meetings and some conversations Pastor Jarrod has had with key leadership of another congregation and our District Superintendent, we are excited to announce that we will be taking the next step in our journey to pursue an adoption merger with Good Shepherd UMC in Bartlett, IL. (cont page 6)

MINISTRY TEAMS

CHURCH COUNCIL

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←—————◆—————→
INTERESTED IN SERVING ON
A TEAM?

Contact Pastor Jarrod or
Team Chair.

A P R I L

SUNDAY

Worship

S & FB Live @ 9:15am

Fellowship Time

CR @ 10:15am

Group Studies

M1, M3, M5, U1 @ 10:30am

Confirmation

10:30am

Explorer Kids

L3 @ 10:30am

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study

SR @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bible Study

SE Panera @ 6am

Pathways Worship

CR & FB Live @ 6pm

Choir Practice

S @ 7pm

THURSDAY

Prayer Service

SR & FB Live @ 7am

Coffee w/ the Pastor

SR @ 7:30am

Stitches of Hope

M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study

U1 @ 7-9pm

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm	3	4 Care Team, 1pm Gingerbread Mtg, 6pm Trustees, 7pm	5 Pathways Lenten Worship, 5:30pm	6 Maundy Thurs. Dinner Worship, 6pm	7 Good Friday Svc, 7pm	8
9 EASTER SUNDAY Sonrise Svc, 7am Breakfast, 7:30am	10	11 SPRC, 7pm	12 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	13 Soup Kettle, 5pm	14 Game Night, 7pm	15 Dinner & Concert, 6 pm
16 Manna Orders Mission Team Mtg, 8am	17 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	18 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm Finance Meeting, 7pm	19	20 UWF, 1pm	21	22
23 Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Townhall Mtg, 10:30am Creative Journey, 3pm	1	2	3	4	5	6

SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

If you are looking for a way to get connected and grow in your faith in the new year, consider joining one of our small group opportunities through out the week.

SUNDAY

"We'll Accept You", M3 @ 10:30am

"Current Events", M5 @ 10:30am

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, Sunrise Room @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Morning Bible Study, S. Elgin Panera Bread @ 6am

THURSDAY

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study, U1 @ 7pm

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers, hugs and cards received during and after my father's death. They are all so appreciated by me and my family.

Sincerely,

Jan Barry



Special thanks to everyone who helped out in our March 12th Candidate Forum! The goal for our church was to bring new people in the door, AND to engage with our community. We had a great turn-out and so the event was certainly a success!

But the event could not have happened without help and support from so many people. I don't even want to try to name them all, lest I leave someone out. We had a super floor mopper, ushers, greeters, singers, food preparers, a photographer, people to help set up, people to clean up before and after, people to put things away... and of course, thank you to our members who showed up for the event and provided a welcoming presence to all of our guests.

Special thanks go to Pastor Jarrod for being the Master of Ceremonies for this event, and for diving into all of the live streaming technicalities.

Thank you everyone!

Chuck Keysor



To my Journey of Hope Family,
I want to express my appreciation for the thoughtful cards, phone calls, visits and prayers during my period of challenges with heart issues. I'm doing better and pray I'll be back to my normal activities.

Thank you,

Betty McLauchlan

FROM THE DESK... (cont from page 1)

of God's calling on our lives? Are we so hung up on being right, having the answers, or maybe just trying to get our way, that we miss the point of what Journey of Hope is called to be? Or have our eyes been opened by Jesus, truly being able to see the new life and the fresh opportunities that God has placed in our path?

We begin another journey this spring season. This journey may be one that you are on personally with a new job, entering into retirement, or a new relationship. It may be a journey with your family, or here at Journey of Hope. Maybe during this season of Lent you received a message from God to begin a new ministry, small group, or outreach. This new life can come through all of these opportunities, however, there is one fresh opportunity which we will all travel together.

As our eyes continue to be opened, we recognize that we are at the beginning stages of our multiplication, expanding our ministry beyond the community of Elgin. I ask you to join me in prayer as we discern this opportunity, making sure that God is central in all of our decisions. It is God's purpose over our preference that matters.

This Easter, Jesus offers new life through his resurrection. Let us accept that new life for ourselves as well as for all of Journey of Hope, regardless of who joins us on this journey.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jarrod

CREATIVE JOURNEY

Come join us on Sunday, April 30th from 3-5pm in the Community Room as we create May Day baskets for our homebound folks along with someone you wish to show you care. No special artistic talents required. Sign up by Sunday, April 23rd at the Welcome Center or on the app so we have plenty of supplies for everyone. Come younger or older, male or female, come let your caring heart shine as we reach out to others.



United Women in Faith will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 20 @ 1pm in M5. This month's program will be presented by our very own David Akemann who will be talking to the group about wills and trusts. Hope to see you there.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our Nifty Fifty fundraiser. Donations are still being accepted for anyone who wishes to participate but has not yet done so.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL
Sunday, April 2 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE
Thursday, April 13 @ 5pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, April 18 @ 4:30pm
Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN
Monday, April 17 @ 5:30pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL
Sunday, April 23 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

MULTIPLICATION... (cont from page 2)

This will mean conversations and meetings between two merger teams, something that we are pretty familiar with at Journey of Hope. It will also require an all-Church Conference vote by members. The time and date of that meeting will be announced following multiple meetings to organize the details and fill out the necessary legal paperwork.

This is an exciting time here at Journey of Hope. Please pray for this ministry opportunity and for the members of Good Shepherd as they discern this path forward. Also, keep praying our break-through prayer as God is not done opening doors and guiding us into new ministry opportunities.



SHOE BOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE

In April we will be collecting items for girls ages 0 - 18! Anything from dolls, hair accessories, toys to books, journals, jewelry are great ideas. Don't know what to buy? Buy a Target gift card through our Manna program and let us do the shopping for you!

2023 MISSION TRIP

There are still a few spots open to go on this year's mission trip to Spirit Lake! We are leaving Sunday, June 11th and returning on Friday, June 17th. Mission trips are one of the greatest opportunities we have to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Don't miss out on your chance to go on this year's trip. Contact Andy Lindstrom or Pastor Jarrod today with questions.

FUNDRAISERS

The Mission Team is hosting these upcoming fundraising events to support their mission trip.

- April 9: Easter Pancake Breakfast @ 7:30am
- April 15: Dinner & Concert featuring Alleluia Quartet; *Dinner @ 6pm, concert following*
- May 12: Trivia Night and Dinner

Register for events on our app, at the Welcome Center or on our website.
*A freewill offering will be collected at all events; proceeds to go to the mission trip.