

THE JOURNAL

JOURNEY OF HOPE

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They will perish, but you will remain; they will wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. Psalm 102:26-27, ESV

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Change is inevitable. Actually, it seems like we are living in a state of constant change from our families, jobs, community, and even church. How many times have you said, “why can’t things just stay the same?” We are creatures of habit, and we like things when they follow patterns, it brings comfort. But we also know that things never truly stay the same. Remember, it’s God’s purpose over our personal preference.

Transitions bring about change, and if we truly think about it, the month of August is one of those transitional months. Seasonally, it is still summer, many times the hottest month. But it marks the time when we get ready for some major changes in life. Social media begins filling with photos of kids holding little signs, signifying a new grade, a new school, and a fresh start. School supplies have been on sale since the end of July and are now running low. But that’s not the only transition that we experience this time of year.

The transition to allergy season comes mid-August with the introduction of ragweed and hay fever. We prepare for the coming fall

season of our favorite television shows. And many within the church are preparing for the upcoming Sunday School session.

Add to this list our recent merge with Good Shepherd and the preparations of the relaunch of our Bartlett campus, and you begin to feel overwhelmed by the transitions and change that is surrounding us.

“We are creatures of habit, and we like things when they follow patterns, it brings comfort.”

In the middle of all of the unrest, we want to feel comfort and peace, the kind that usually comes with stability and ‘sure things.’

Maybe that’s why the passage from Psalm 102 and also Hebrews 13:8 which states, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” can offer a sense of peace. Sure, everything around us can be changing, but if we rest assured, (cont on page 6)

NEW SERVICE TIMES IN SEPTEMBER!

Mark your calendars and get ready for a momentous occasion! We are thrilled to announce that the Bartlett location will officially reopen its doors on September 10, 2023. To accommodate the ability to livestream services at both locations, we will be implementing new worship times. Beginning September 10th, Sunday worship in Elgin will move to 9am and Bartlett will begin at 10:30am.

We are excited about the possibilities these new worship times offer and look forward to seeing each of you at our services.

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LET'S GET TOGETHER, YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!

We are blessed to have 2 campuses now and want to get to know one another! Many ideas have been going around of ways to do that. Which of these speak to you? Which one would you like to be a part of organizing? How about a joint picnic or ice cream social? Does a progressive dinner or road rally sound enticing? What idea comes to your mind that you'd like to plan with others?

We have the opportunity to change people's lives in two communities and answer God's call to help people on their journey. Once we know each other better, God's love will flow endlessly through all of us! Contact the either office location or Carole Burris at carolejb0677@gmail.com or (847)436-3246.

SUPER SERVICE SATURDAY

Join us for our annual Super Service Saturday on Saturday, September 9th, from 9am-4pm. This event was started by our youth 16 years ago to have one opportunity a year where we all gather for a day of serving together. This year's serving opportunities include:

- Wrapping / Packing Shoeboxes: 9am-4pm
- Fill the Truck Food Drive: 9am-4pm
- Feed My Starving Children: 2-4pm

The Mission Team will serve lunch at noon. Sign up on the app or contact the office. Questions? See Andy Lindstrom.

JOIN OUR ONLINE BIBLE STUDY CLASS TODAY!

Embark on a transformative "Journey with the Living Word" with our exciting online Bible study! This class offers a unique opportunity to delve deeper into the Scriptures from the comfort of your home. Led by Connie Schweitzer every Thursday @ 11am, you'll explore the teachings of Scripture and deepen your understanding of faith. Engage in thought-provoking discussions, share insights, and connect with fellow class members. The only book you'll need is a Bible. Whether you're a seasoned believer or new to the faith, this study promises to enrich your spiritual understanding and strengthen your relationship with God. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith and wisdom.

Registration is required so the Zoom link can be emailed to you. You may sign up through the app, online, contact the office or stop by the Navigation Point.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Looking for a way to have fun and meet new people? Well search no further! Community of Hope is the group for you. Join us on Wednesday, August 2nd from 12:30-3:00pm for coffee, games and fellowship. The more the merrier so be sure to grab a friend to join the fun.

MINISTRY TEAMS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Carole Burris, Chair
carolejb0677@gmail.com

CARE TEAM

Mary Summers, Chair
mrfrank1942@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT

Gary Newton, Chair
captainchemistry33@yahoo.com

EDUCATION

Jan Barry, Chair
jbarry2233@astound.net

FINANCE

Steve Mink, Chair
startmink@hotmail.com

Carie Dabdoub, Co-Treasurer
cudabdoub@yahoo.com

Dave Kellenberger, Co-Treasurer
kellenbrgr@aol.com

Randy Riotto, Secretary
rrac56@aol.com

MISSIONS

Andy Lindstrom, Chair
andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com

SPRC

John Soderholm, Chair
j.soderholm43@gmail.com

TRUSTEES

Chuck Keysor, Chair
chuck.keysor@sbcglobal.net

UWF

Nancy Gardner, Co-Chair
nandan42@att.net

Robin Luzin, Co-Chair
rluzin@sbcglobal.net

WORSHIP

Mary Becker, Chair
marybecker50@yahoo.com

AUGUST

SUNDAY

Worship

S & FB Live @ 9:15am

Fellowship Time

CR @ 10:15am

Monday

Line Dancing,

Levans Hall @ 6:30pm

Tuesday

Walking Bible Study

Parsonage, 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bible Study

SE Panera @ 6am

Pathways Worship

CR & FB Live @ 6pm

THURSDAY

Prayer Service

SR & FB Live @ 7am

Coffee w/ the Pastor

SR @ 7:30am

Journey with the Living Word

Zoom, 11am

Stitches of Hope

M5 @ 1pm

Elgin Campus - In Black
Bartlett Campus - In Green

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

30	31	1 National Night Out, 5pm Trustees Mtg, 7pm	2 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	3	4	5
6 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm	7 Gingerbread Bazaar Mtg, 6:30pm	8 SPRC, 7pm	9	10 Soup Kettle, 5pm	11 Game Night, 7pm	12
13 Town Hall Mtg, 10:30am	14	15 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm Merger Mtg, 6:30pm	16	17	18	19
20` Manna Orders Missions Mtg, 8am	21 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	22	23 Book Club, 4:30pm 	24	25	26
27 Creative Journey, 3pm Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	28	29	30	31	1	2

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 in Elgin throughout the week.

SUNDAY

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

TUESDAY

Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study, U1 @ 7pm

SAY CHEESE!

Updated directory pictures will be taken at our Elgin campus on Sundays before and after worship throughout August. Please see Karen Castillo to have your new picture taken. Aren't sure where to go? Stop by the Navigation Point and we'll direct you to the right person!

Aren't coming to Elgin?

Don't worry; we've got you covered!

BARTLETT

Karen will be on site for the re-opening service in September. Stop by then to have your picture taken.

HOMEBOUND

If you are currently homebound or know of a homebound member, please contact the church office. We will coordinate times to have their pictures taken.

ONLINE MEMBERS

If you are one of our online members, feel free to upload any picture you wish or snap a new selfie and upload it through our online app!

Did you know we have a digital directory? Instant Church Directory provides this amazing, secure directory for our members to access both online and on mobile devices. The best part about using the digital directory is it is always up to date with members' latest contact information. You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app. If you want to be added to the online directory, please contact Shari Weber to have your profile created.

Visit Google PlayStore or Apple App Store to download the app today! You can also visit <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> to access it online.



Our August Mission Links will support The Native American Ministry of Presence. Northern Illinois is home to a significant population of Native Americans belonging to diverse

nations. Sadly, many of them have faced adversity and miscommunication with the Christian church in the past. To address these issues and provide support, the NIC Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) collaborates closely with the St. Kateri Center of Chicago, a Roman Catholic Native American community. Their partnership spans more than 25 years and focuses on raising funds for educational and cultural programs, active participation in community events, and conducting cross-cultural workshops to promote understanding and harmony.

To contribute to Mission Links, simply drop your donation into the offering basket on Sunday during worship or mail check to the office. Please designate checks "Mission Links". You may also use our online giving platform; please select "Mission Links" fund.

TOWN HALL MEETING COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

August 13th following worship in Elgin will be our quarterly Town Hall meeting in the Sanctuary where you will have the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and learn about belonging, changing and sharing.

CREATIVE JOURNEY

We will meet on Sunday, August 27th at 3pm. Come join us as we make beautiful fabric flowers using a candle to shape the petals. It's a very simple craft anyone can do. The only thing needed would be for each person to bring a pair of scissors. Our craft will be taught by Kathy Longo. If you have questions, please contact Sherry Severing at (815) 985-4702 or ssevering6@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB

In August the Book Club will be reading Kim Michele Richardson's 2019 novel *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, a historical fiction novel set in the 1930s and revolves around the story of Cussy Mary Carter, also known as Bluet, a young woman from Troublesome Creek in Kentucky. Join us at our NEW meeting time on **Wednesday, August 23 @ 4:30pm** at the Elgin campus conference room, U1. Reading is better together and hope to see many of you there. Questions? Contact Mary VanSlyck.

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

knowing that God never changes, maybe that will give us encouragement as we proceed through the changes in our lives. These may be transitions in health, finance, family, or even our own spiritual journey, but we know that we can fully rely of God's presence and providence in our life. God will always be there for us, even in those times where we are unsure of it.

In this season of transition at Journey of Hope, trust that God is still guiding, still calling, and still journeying with us. There are wonderful things on the horizon and God is using Journey of Hope to reach out into our communities to change lives and transform the world around us. This will take each and every one of us, especially as we use our spiritual gifts which God has provided. What is your gift (or gifts), and how are you using them to participate in the Kingdom of God today?

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jarrod



SHOE BOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE

In the spirit of giving and spreading joy, *Shoebboxes for Spirit Lake* has become a tradition, bringing smiles to the faces children in Spirit Lake. Through this inspiring act of filling a shoebox, we come together as a community to make a profound difference in the lives of these children. Every month we choose a different themed item to collect.

In August we are collecting school supplies for children of all ages. Donations may be dropped off at the Metadidomai Center in Elgin. Don't feel like shopping? Buy a Target gift card through our MANNA program and let us do the shopping for you?

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, August 6 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, August 10 @ 5pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, August 15 @ 4:30pm
Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, August 21 @ 5pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, August 27 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651