

THE JOURNAL JOURNEY OF HOPE

February 2023 | Vol. 31

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"

(Ephesians 3:20, NIV)

WALK TO EMMAUS

Have you ever wondered if unconditional love is really possible? I am not speaking about the love we have for our children or spouses, I mean true unconditional love from total strangers who love us just because God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves? Well, my brothers and sisters in Christ, my recent Northern Illinois Emmaus weekend was just that, TRUE AGAPE LOVE!

According to Wikipedia the word "AGAPE" comes from Ancient Greek and is "the highest form of love, charity" and the "love of God for man and of man for God". In the New Testament, 1 John 4:8,16, "Agape was also used by the early Christians to refer to the self-sacrificing love of God for humanity, which they were committed to reciprocating and practicing towards God and among one another". So you see, Agape love is possible and demonstrated in the most sincere and genuine regard within the Emmaus community.

My Emmaus experience was a full, and I mean FULL, three days of feeling loved, spoiled, and pampered from a very sacrificial community of men and women who wanted to love me, JUST BECAUSE. My weekend was full of reflection, meditation, prayer, laughter, and tears
(cont on page 2)

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

February is the month we celebrate several things including Black History Month, Random Acts of Kindness Week, and American Heart Month. Of course, we can't forget Valentine's Day as well. My hope is that we take some time this month to celebrate each of these in our own way.

We could offer to read a book, learning about African American history. Maybe watch "The Long Shadow," a movie/documentary which focuses on one person's studies of their family's history struggling with racism.

Creator God, break through our lives and Journey of Hope with new opportunities, new life, and new power to do far more than we could ever imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We could make an effort to increase our knowledge of physical health, taking an inventory of our heart health. Do you know what your blood pressure is? Are you taking care of yourself, enjoying heart healthy meals? And speaking of hearts, how are you doing in your personal

relationships? I know that not everyone has a spouse, significant other, or sweetheart, but this could extend to those we care about.

However, we should continue to ask how our personal relationships are. Is God glorified in our dating and marriage relationships? If not, how can we improve those relationships? How can we encourage others in their marriages? Maybe you could be a mentor or just a friend to someone who needs a listening ear.

But February this year is also the beginning of our Lent Season. Ash Wednesday is on the 22nd of this month, signifying the beginning of a season of reflection and repentance.

(cont on page 6)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Lent	2
Walk to Emmaus (cont)	2
February Calendar	3
Small Groups	3
Mission Links	3
Scholarship Opportunities	3
Save the Dates	4
Serving Opportunities	5
UWF Meeting	5
From the Desk (cont)	5
Mission News	5

Lent

UMM BREAKFAST & LENTEN SERVICE

Prairie Central District's UMM is hosting a Breakfast and Lenten Service at Journey of Hope on Saturday, February 18th from 8:30-10:30am. All men are invited to join in this morning of worship, spiritual development and camaraderie. Questions? Contact Prairie Central UMM's Vice President, Jason Maxson, at jmaxson@aol.com.

"THE WAY" LENTEN STUDY

Our Lenten book study will be on Adam Hamilton's book "The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus". Sign ups for classes will be available soon! We are looking for class leaders -- you chose the date, time and location of your class. If you are interested in leading a class, please see Pastor Jarrod.

ASH WEDNESDAY, LENTEN POTLUCK & WORSHIP

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd @ 6pm. Potluck dinners and worship will begin Wednesday, March 1. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6pm in the Community Room. Bring a dish to share. Pathways Worship will follow @ 6pm. If you are interested in helping organize dinners please contact Mary Becker or Janina Hoffman.

WALK TO EMMAUS (cont from page 1)

(happy tears so much so, that the Kimberly-Clark Kleenex company asked me to be a spokeswoman for their product). Oh, and let me not forget the food. There was food, food, AND FOOD. It was a weekend filled with surprises around every corner showing me exactly how much God loves me and how special I truly am.

I left feeling very full both spiritually and physically (remember I said there was food, food, food, and more food), but most of all I left feeling revived, inspired, and ready, even more, to serve my brothers and sisters in Christ as God calls me to do. I feel even closer to God and want everyone to see God working in me.

Now, I know you may be asking yourself, but Kimberly, you did not tell us WHAT happened, you only said it was liberating and fulfilling, and to that I have to say to you, the Emmaus weekend cannot be explained or simply outlined in detail one by one like a timeline of sorts, but MUST BE EXPERIENCED in order to fully grasp and comprehend what I am telling you. My Emmaus weekend re-lit my spiritual candle for the world to see and I am committed to let the light shine.

There are two upcoming walks. Please see Pastor Jarrod if you are interested in attending. Men's Retreat: April 13-16, 2023 | Women's Retreat: April 20-23, 2023

MINISTRY TEAMS

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INTERESTED IN SERVING
ON A TEAM?

Contact Pastor Jarrod or
Team Chair.

FEBRUARY



SUNDAY

Worship
S & FB Live @ 9:15am
Fellowship Time
CR @ 10:15am
Group Studies
M3, M5, U1, U5 @ 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
S & 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

29	30	31	1 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	2	3	4
5 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm	6	7 Care Team, 1pm Trustees, 7pm	8	9 Soup Kettle, 5pm Meet the Bishop, 7pm	10 Game Night, 7pm	11
12	13	14	15	16 UWF, 1pm	17	18 UMM Breakfast, 9am Mardi Gras Party, 4pm
19 Manna Orders Mission Team Mtg, 8am D & D, 4pm	20 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	21 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm	22 Ash Wednesday Svc, 5pm	23	24	25
26 Creative Journey, 3pm Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	27	28	1 Lenten Dinner & Worship, 5:30pm	2	3	4

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, Sonrise Room @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study, U1 @ 7pm

SAVE THE DATES



MEET THE BISHOP

The Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) has been assigned a new Bishop! You will have an opportunity to meet Bishop Dan Schwerin on Thursday, February 9th from 7-8:30pm here at Journey of Hope. Other date / locations are available if you wish to attend but are unable to do so; please refer to the NIC's website "Events" page for more information.

You can also read about Bishop Schwerin at bit.ly/3XB53bW.

MARDI GRAS

Come one, come all to a Mardi Gras themed party and get your masks and beads on. We are having a potluck on Saturday, February 18th at 4pm in the Community Room. Come prepared to play games and have fun with your fellow church family. We will be playing Bingo so be sure and bring a white elephant. Hope to see you all there with pot luck and white elephant in hand. It will be FUN!!! Questions? Contact the office.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Bold adventurers are wanted to join us for a Dungeon & Dragons afternoon on February 19 from 4-6pm. This fantasy roleplaying game has players journeying on a quest and players must work together to explore a world, battle monsters and overcome other obstacles. Register [on our app](#). Questions? See Steven Meyer.

CREATIVE JOURNEY

Do you like to create things? Would you like to learn to create things? We are starting a crafting group at Journey of Hope. We will meet once a month to teach a craft (painting, t-shirts, vinyl, beading, scrapbooking and more). Everyone is invited to join us. Our first gathering will be on Sunday, February 26 at 3pm. Our first craft will be a painting on canvas. Be watching for more information!

Do you have a craft that you would like to teach? Please contact Sherry Severing at 815-985-4702 (call or text) or by email at ssevering6@gmail.com, and I'd be happy to get you on the schedule.

PADS OF ELGIN



Our February Mission Links is [PADS of Elgin](#). PADS has helped create a place of safety, warmth and caring for Elgin area homeless men, women and children for 28 years. The mission of the organization is to provide emergency shelter while helping the homeless develop a sustainable future. The shelter is open every day of the year from 7pm to 7am and has a current capacity for 96 guests per night.

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

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Journey of Hope scholarships demonstrate our commitment to young people, both in our church and in our community, in their endeavors toward attaining higher education. We are accepting applications for the following scholarships:

Blankenship Endowed Scholarship

Love Your Neighbor

Merrill Scholarship

Scholarship applications will soon be available and are due by March 31, 2023.



United Women in Faith will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 16 @ 1pm in M5. Program details are TBD and more information will be publicized later.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, February 5 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, February 9 @ 5pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, February 21 @ 4:30pm

Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, February 20 @ 5:30pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, February 26 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

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

As you prepare for this time of year, I wonder if you would revitalize your 531 moments of prayer. Could you make this a daily occurrence as we collectively pray for Journey of Hope and the vision that God is giving to us.

You might need a reminder as to what the prayer has been, and while I will give it to you here, I also encourage you to pick one up at the welcome center during your next visit to Journey of Hope.

Creator God, break through our lives and Journey of Hope with new opportunities, new life, and new power to do far more than we could ever imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The season of Lent is sometimes the time of year when we “give up” certain things in our life, remembering Jesus’ pain during those times that we find ourselves missing whatever it was that we decided to let go of. However, many will choose to “add” something to their lives, like a spiritual practice. I would like to challenge all of you to add this “Breakthrough Prayer” to your Lenten journey as you travel the road to the cross and beyond this year.

You will find opportunities to share what you are experiencing in those moments of prayer as well as experiential worship services that will inspire you to a deeper faith journey with your Creator and Journey of Hope family. I am looking forward to our expedition. Let’s meet at the trailhead soon.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jarrod



SHOE BOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE

We are collecting toys for girls and boys ages 3-6. Stuffed animals, dolls, hot wheels, games, puzzles and other fun stuff that will fit in a shoebox are great ideas.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE! JOIN US FOR OUR 2023 MISSION TRIP

Come join us on our annual mission trip to Spirit Lake. We are leaving Sunday, June 11th and returning on Friday, June 17th. We have 20 spots reserved and these typically fill up quickly so do not delay. Contact Andy Lindstrom or Pastor Jarrod today to reserve your spot.

FUNDRAISERS

Your Mission Team is hosting two FUNdraising events to support their upcoming Mission Trip.

April 15: Dinner & Concert featuring Alleluia Quartet

May 12: Trivia Night and Dinner

**A freewill offering will be collected at both events.*

More information will be available as we get closer to the dates.



JOURNEY OF HOPE
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