

THE JOURNAL

JOURNEY OF HOPE

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“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19, ESV

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Happy New Year! As we enter this new year of 2024, I wonder what we will remember from 2023. Are there memories that you want to carry over, or maybe you have some that you want to forget. For some this past year has been wonderful, full of celebrations, new relationships, new family, increases in employment, or just an overall sense of peace in your life. While others have faced some deep losses in family, friends, relationships, jobs, or an increase in anxiety, depression, and fear. For those, this past year has been difficult to bear. Maybe we're looking for a new start, a new beginning. God speaks through the prophet Isaiah when he says, “Behold, I am doing a new thing.” God is always doing a new thing; the question is whether we can perceive it or not.

The new year brings with it an opportunity to make a new start or to embrace a new beginning, but maybe that new thing is not so new. This is the time of year that we seem to make the most decisions which could affect our future, if we allow them to. We try to make resolutions, many of which fail within the first couple of weeks, possibly even days. But I wonder how you can make those new starts last longer and become part of your life? It will take intentionality to help them become

part of your life. Remember from our Advent series, that “it is not within our own power to make a fresh start, if we are to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift.” We must receive this gift, especially as we begin something new.

Here at Journey of Hope, we face the same struggles in beginning something new. We try to make a change only to find ourselves retreating into what we know, what

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is comfortable. This is the temptation that we must resist. If we are to continue in our growth and impact the world around us, we must continue to change and embrace fresh starts. This means doing things as we have never done them. And yes, I fall into that trap as well of retreating to what I know, not allowing God to lead me where God desires.

Here at Journey of Hope, we have a mission to live out our faith as we encourage other to become disciples (cont. page 2)

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of Journey of Hope, we extend a warm invitation to join our New Member Class. This class is designed to provide insight into our rich history, core values, and beliefs, while also highlighting various opportunities for personal growth, service, and connection within our community.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming class dates,

- January 14th @ 3pm, Elgin
- January 17th @ 7pm, Bartlett
- January 18th @ 10am, Elgin

Questions?

Contact or see Pastor Jarrod.

WHAT'S INSIDE

From the Desk (cont)	2
Unhanging of the Greens	2
Prayer List	3
Thank You	3
Small Groups / Bible Study	4
Blood Drives	5
Lenten Devotionals	5
Cookie Walk Thank You	6
United Women of Faith	6
Serving Opportunties	6
Community of Hope	6
Mission News	6

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FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR (cont. from page 1)

of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We do this by being 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. The question becomes how are we doing with that? Are we truly living into the mission and vision of Journey of Hope? Or are these merely words on a page, making us feel better about ourselves?

We also have three strategic goals which all campuses should be striving for. These are to reach out to young families, to welcome new people and incorporate them into the life of the church (this includes current members as well), and to develop ministries that work toward helping those broken by life's circumstances. I understand that these might look a little different in the communities we serve, but this is part of the DNA at Journey of Hope and therefore are goals we should all be striving for.

Finally, I presented a 'beyond the horizon' vision a while ago. This gives us a direction and a big picture vision to guide us along our journey. This vision is "In the next 15 years, we will recapture core United Methodist beliefs and practices through spiritual disciplines and faith formation, resulting in the cultural replication of Journey of Hope throughout all existing and additional campuses."

I sense a calling into this 2024 year for a renewed focus on spiritual disciplines, faith formation, and our strategic goals. This means encouraging everyone to either join or start a small group, and offering opportunities to not only learn about, but also to practice the spiritual disciplines. We will also work toward significant outreach to the communities around us, inviting youth and adults to join us on our journey of faith. We will also plan and prepare for a new ministry focusing on helping many in our communities who are broken by life's circumstances (look for opportunities to help).

We have some serious work ahead of us, and it will take all of us and more to accomplish what God has planned for us. God is ahead of us, preparing the way. God is behind us, encouraging us to take those next steps. God is beside us, walking this journey with us. Are you ready for an incredible new year? I know I am!

Happy New Year!
Pastor Jarrod



Un HANGING OF THE GREENS

What goes up must come down! Please join us at the Elgin campus for "unhanging of the greens" when we undecorate and pack away everything till next Advent. We will be doing this on Saturday, January 13th at 9:00am. All are welcome to help.

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
- *Virginia Fink, strength and determination
- *Chris Freund, eye surgery
- Neighbor of Margo Goodwin, battling breast cancer
- Friend of Marlon, battling stomach 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, surgery
- Emma Ramos, cancer remission and improved kidney function
- *Connie Schweitzer, health
- *Linda Seyller, health issues
- *Annalise Smoot-Mollsen, cancer treatments
- Lincoln Zick (grandson of Donna Bach)
- Brett Zweig (son of Carol Zweig), ongoing health issues

Prayers for strength, support and comfort:

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

Thank You

A quiet knock was at my door. When opened I knew you were there. The Christmas Carolers had come to say you are present in every way. Their happy smiles, the warm hellos were blessing to me that they bestowed. Words so true, music that ring with them I began to sing. Your love through them was clear and strong. I know I have it all year long. They made my day!

Deb Francis

Welcome the New Year with transformation! Join one of our Bible Study and Small Groups for fresh perspectives on scripture and a supportive community. Step into 2024 with intention, discover joy in shared exploration, and form meaningful relationships on your spiritual journey. Your seat awaits in our welcoming community—join us for a year of spiritual discovery and connection!



BREWING CONNECTIONS WITH A NEW SHORT-TERM SMALL GROUP

Pastor Jarrod will be renewing a small group in January, running for about 5 weeks. This small group is called “5 Cups of Coffee.” Now, don’t let the name concern you as you do not have to drink 5 cups of coffee during our meetings. The name refers to the five conversations that we will have over the 5 weeks. This is not your usual bible study, but an opportunity to explore not only your own calling, but also a way to encourage others in their Christian walk. The group will meet in Elgin on Friday mornings beginning on January 19 at 9:30am. There is a limited number of spaces for the group, so I encourage you to sign up as quick as possible. However, even if you sign up, the space may already be taken. But don’t worry, Pastor Jarrod will be offering more opportunities in the future, including some evening groups in a couple of months. Look for opportunities to sign up online, at the Navigation Center, or contact Pastor Jarrod directly.

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY

A Look at the Holocaust, U1 (Elgin) @ 10:15am

Current Events, M5 (Elgin) @ 10:15am

Kid's Sunday School, L3 (Elgin) @ 10:15am

MONDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bread Bible Study, S. Elgin @ 6am

THURSDAY

Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am & 7pm

Are you interested in leading a new small group or bible study?

Contact Pastor Jarrod or Jason Princer.

UNDERSTANDING HISTORY: A SIX-WEEK LOOK INTO THE HOLOCAUST

Our upcoming “We’ll Accept You” Sunday School class will delve into a comprehensive six-week look into one of the darkest chapters in human history – The Holocaust. This thought-provoking series aims to provide insights into the life before, the harrowing experiences during, and the aftermath of this tragic period. Join us as we navigate through historical accounts, personal testimonials, and reflections on how the Holocaust is remembered and taught today. Class begins on Sunday, January 7th at 10:15am in the upper-level conference room, U1, in Elgin.

THE NEED FOR BLOOD By Steve Klein

The holidays are a time for festivities and family. It's also a time to give back. The American Red Cross urges donors to give something that means something by donating blood or platelets.

This powerful message from the Red Cross is one of many that won me over in helping with their lifesaving blood drive effort. My name is Steve Klein, Volunteer Blood Drive Coordinator at our Bartlett Campus.



Together with Gail Casey, our other Volunteer Blood Drive Coordinator, we have hosted 50 blood drives for the Red Cross. I can enthusiastically

say, it's been a wonderful and rewarding experience! I'm thrilled to be part of the team to start a Blood Drive Program at our Elgin Campus! Our inaugural drive will be Thursday, January 25th from 9am to 3pm. Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org it's easy and convenient.

Following are a few more great reasons to donate blood:

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Blood is essential to help patients survive surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. This lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. The need for blood is constant. But only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. You can help the American Red Cross make sure that supply meets demand.

Whole Blood Donation vs. Power Red

Donation: As the name implies, "whole blood" donation includes all of the contents within the blood. This includes red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma. Whole blood donations are typically used to help patients fight cancer, blood disorders and traumatic injuries.

The Power Red donation enables the donor to safely donate two units of red blood cells at just one appointment! The Power Red donation is similar to the whole blood donation, except a phlebotomist uses a special machine to ensure two units of exclusively red blood cells are collected. The machine returns the other blood components to you. Think of it as a more efficient way to yield more fuel for patients. The Red Cross highly encourages donors with O+, O-, A- and B- blood types to try a Power Red donation. For more information on eligibility to donate visit the power red donations information page.

We look forward to seeing you at the Drive!

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded of the importance of introspection and spiritual growth. Lent is a time for reflection, a time to connect with our faith, and a time to deepen our relationship with God.

We are looking for people who are interested in writing daily devotionals. We encourage you to choose a topic that holds personal significance, one that resonates with your heart and faith, allowing your unique perspective to have a profound impact on others.

We invite you to join us in this meaningful endeavor to inspire and connect through the upcoming season of Lent. Together, let's create a collection of devotionals that will bring comfort, hope, and inspiration to all who read them. Submissions are requested by January 7th for consideration.

SWEET SUCCESS!

Thank you all for your contributions to the success of the 32nd annual Christmas Cookie Walk and Craft Fair. Whether you were a baker, crafter, volunteer worker, or shopper, you helped bring love and light to the Bartlett community on the first Saturday in December. You may be wondering if anyone earned that Cookie Baker's Club apron. Why yes; 9 aprons were distributed. I'm grateful to Sherri Arns, Mary Becker, Carole Burris, Carie Dabdoub, Jean Dye, Jackie Hayes, Lisa Holmes Ann Townsend and Mary Norris for taking the challenge and making at least 50 dozen Christmas Cookies. When we work together we accomplish amazing things.



Who were you prior to retirement? UWF will explore this issue at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 17th at 1:00pm at the Elgin campus. We will delve into what all of us did for jobs/careers before we reached retirement and hopefully will have fun discovering more about each other.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, January 7 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, January 11 @ 5pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, January 16 @ 4:30pm

Zion Lutheran Church

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, January 28 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SEARCHING FOR DAYTIME ACTIVITIES TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

Start the year anew! Come Wednesday, January 3rd at 12:30pm to the Sonrise room (carport entrance, Elgin) for enjoyable games, conversation and snacks. Drop in when you can; no monthly commitment is required. It's the 1st Wednesday of each month so come, give it a try. Puzzle enthusiasts welcome! Come expand your community with us! Questions? Ask at the Navigation Center!

JANUARY MISSION LINKS

United Methodist Committee on Relief - Undesignated (#999895) UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response in the US and internationally. These undesignated funds allow UMCOR to allocate funds to disasters as they arise. 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

In January, we kick off the gathering of items for the 2024 Christmas Shoeboxes for Spirit Lake. Keep an eye on clearance sales for specified items, as the list will be available at the Navigation Center. This month, our primary focus is on ensuring the warmth of children by collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and socks. Feel free to shop for all ages, ranging from infants to 18-year-olds.

SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP

Join us on a meaningful mission trip to Spirit Lake from June 23-28! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to support our friends in North Dakota. To sign up, reach out to Pastor Jarrod, Andy Lindstrom, or visit the Navigation Center. Your participation will make a positive impact, fostering connection and assistance within the Spirit Lake community. Sign up today and be part of this fulfilling experience!



JOURNEY OF HOPE
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY