



# THE JOURNAL

## JOURNEY OF HOPE

July 2023 | Vol. 37

*The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts. And in this place, I will give peace, declares the Lord of hosts. Haggai 2:9, ESV*

### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Summer is in full swing here in the Midwest. We've come out of spring with a dismal amount of rain, hoping to enjoy some of that water that brings life to our crops, plants, and lawns. While we did receive some rain toward the end of June, we are still in need. I think we sometimes take this aspect of our life for granted. We just assume that the rain will come, crops will grow, and we will have the food that we need or the backyard lawn to enjoy with family. When the rains go away, everything suffers. There is an interdependence between the lawn, the soil, and the rain. They are all needed in order to make this lush green grass and if something's missing, it browns up and dies.

It's strange to talk about interdependence during a month when we celebrate independence. July is the time when many vacations happen, but also that time when we celebrate the birth of America, Independence Day. It truly is wonderful to live in a country where we are afforded the freedoms that we have. One of the main freedoms we lift up is our freedom of religion. This means that we have the freedom to practice our individual expressions of faith

within a space that also allows others to do the same without the pressure of following a state sponsored religion. We live in a time and space where there is a diversity in beliefs and ways to worship, and for some, not to worship at all. Now, while we fully believe in the Triune God, we also must understand that some will not. We cannot force them to believe what we do, that is the foundation of the first

”  
We are no longer independent, but rather, interdependent upon each other.

amendment to the Constitution of The United States. This, however, does not mean that we should not be sharing our faith by word and deed so that others will be encouraged and find the hope and grace in Jesus Christ.

Well, that was a bit of a rabbit trail to follow. What I really wanted to mention was that as we join  
(cont on page 4)

### JOURNEY OF HOPE & GOOD SHEPHERD COMPLETE MERGER

On Sunday, June 25th, Journey of Hope and Good Shepherd held separate Church Conferences to vote on the adoption merger agreement. The vote was almost unanimous in favor of this merger agreement! The last hurdle comes when the Northern Illinois Conference's cabinet meets and votes to approve this merger which they have already given 'pre-authorization' for. At that time, we will send the legal paperwork to the state of Illinois to complete the legal merger. However, just because the legal paperwork has not been filed,  
(cont on page 5)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Journey of Hope Leadership ..... 2
- July Calendar ..... 3
- Small Groups / Bible Study ..... 4
- July Mission Links ..... 4
- Blood Drive ..... 4
- From the Desk (cont) ..... 4
- Care Team ..... 4
- Creative Journey ..... 5
- United Women of Faith ..... 5
- Complete Merger (cont) ..... 5
- Serving Opportunities ..... 5
- Mission News ..... 5

# JOURNEY OF HOPE

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Carole Burris</b>	Lynda Baran	Jan Barry	Mary Becker	Gail Casey	Greg Cherry
Carie Dabdoub	Margo Goodwin	Dave Henderson	Roger Holmes	Dave Kellenberger	Chuck Keysor
Andy Lindstrom	Robin Luzin	Kimberly Lynch	Steve Mink	Gary Newton	Randy Riotto
Ann Smoot-Mollsen	John Soderholm	Wayne Strong	Mary Summers		

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>Chuck Keysor</b>	Brian Kirmse	Herb Lewerentz	Gary Newton	Paul Puralewski	Wayne Strong
Frank Summers	Mary VanSlyck				

### CARE TEAM

<b>Mary Summers</b>	Jan Barry	Gail Casey	Joan Esch	Betty McLaughlan	Lillian Mink
Marge Muhr	Bev Newton	Sherry Olsen	Cec VaVerka		

### EDUCATION TEAM

<b>Jan Barry</b>	Robin Luzin	Steve Meyer	Amy Mellinger	Linda Morris	Gary Newton
Mary VanSlyck					

### FINANCE TEAM

<b>Steve Mink</b>	Don Becker	Carrie Dabdoub	Dave Henderson	Lisa Holmes	David Jackson
Todd Johnson	Dave Kellenberger	Chuck Keysor	Susan Mink	Gary Newton	Randy Riotto
John Soderholm					

### MEMORIAL TEAM

<b>Jarrod Severing</b>	Carole Burris	Greg Cherry	Susan Collins	Robin Luzin	Mareen Stanley
Carol Zweig					

### MISSION TEAM

<b>Andy Lindstrom</b>	Carole Burris	Janina Hoffman	Mick Hoffman	David Jackson	JJ Lindstrom
-----------------------	---------------	----------------	--------------	---------------	--------------

### STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC)

<b>John Soderholm</b>	David Akemann	Lynda Baran	Bill Beucler	Susan Collins	Dan Garnder
Roger Holmes	Steve Meyer	Ann Smoot-Mollsen	Frank Summers	Trudy Wise	

### SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

<b>Pastor Jarrod</b>	Jan Barry	Carole Burris	Chuck Keysor	Andy Lindstrom	Gary Newton
Mary VanSlyck					

### TECH TEAM

<b>Pastor Jarrod</b>	Paul Burris	Chris Cherry	Greg Cherry	Herb Lewerentz	Dave Kellenberger
Andy Lindstrom	Robyn Rafalzik	John Soderholm			

### UWF

**Nancy Gardner**      **Robin Luzin**

### WORSHIP

<b>Mary Becker</b>	Donna Bach	Lynda Baran	Paul Burris	Bev Cherry	Chris Cherry
Greg Cherry	Margo Goodwin	Janina Hoffman	Tatiana Kuzentsov	Andy Lindstrom	Robin Luzin
Kimberly Lynch	Steve Meyer	Jan Paskiewicz	Kelley Stover	Amy Zweig	Ashley Zweig



# JULY

## 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

25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm	3	4 Offices Closed 	5	6 Merger Team Meeting, 6:30pm	7	8
9 Blood Drive, 12:30-4:30pm	10	11 SPRC Mtg, Zoom 7pm	12 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	13 Soup Kettle, 5pm	14 Game Night, 7pm	15
16 Manna Orders Missions Mtg, 8am	17 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	18 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm Finance Mtg, 7pm	19	20	21	22
23 Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	24 Book Club, 10:30am	25 Church Council, 7pm	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 Care Team, 1pm Trustee Mtg, 7pm	2 Community of Hope, 12:30pm National Nite Out, 5pm	3	4	5

## 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

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

together as both Elgin and Bartlett campuses, we are no longer independent, but rather, interdependent upon each other. We need each other to fulfill our mission and vision. Our vision of a multisite church is possibly different than what you might have experienced in the past. The vision of Journey of Hope is that we become ONE church with multiple campuses, not two separate churches. This means that we participate in ministries together. We participate in mission together. We participate in worship together. We travel this journey of hope together.

In the past, I shared this passage from Haggai chapter 2 which discusses the rebuilding of the temple and how God was going to make the new temple far greater than the previous one. I truly feel that this still applies to our lives at Journey of Hope. God is continuing to guide us along the path, allowing us to encounter God in new and miraculous ways. We continue to see growth in numbers, but I want to make sure that we understand why that is not all we gauge success by.

The real test as to how we are doing at Journey of Hope is based in the spiritual growth and vitality of those in the community. You see, when we are vital and flourishing in our faith journeys, all of the other metrics increase. Our missional giving increases, our worship attendance increases, and our membership increases. But the foundation of that growth comes in the spiritual vitality of all of you. This will be the main focus of our lives together as we continue along the trail.

We've found ourselves at a new trail head, the navigation plans are forming for our journey, and we are almost ready to begin. I encourage all of you to take those first few steps in faith, knowing that God will guide our paths and provide all that is necessary for this trip. Let's go, together, into the great adventure of a life in Christ as Journey of Hope! See you on the trail!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jarrod

*Care Team Meeting*

*We will meet on July 11 @ 1pm in the  
Elgin campus conference room.*

*All are invited!*



Our July Mission Links will support KIDS ABOVE ALL (formerly ChildServ). Kids Above All is dedicated to protecting, healing, and educating children and families, enabling them to construct

better lives. They strive to be a catalyst for increased advocacy for children in every community. Recognizing the growing need in communities across the Chicago area, Kids Above All also provides home-based early childhood and daycare programs.

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.

## BLOOD DRIVE: BE A HERO, SAVE A LIFE

According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds a person in our community needs blood to help with surgeries, injuries, and cancer treatments. In response to this need our Bartlett campus will be hosting a blood drive on Sunday, July 9 from 12:30-4:30pm.

Drives are crucial for maintaining a sufficient blood supply to distribute to hospitals so please consider registering to donate today. Together, let's demonstrate the love and compassion that lies at the heart of our Journey of Hope! Register through our app or website.

## CREATIVE JOURNEY

There will be no Creative Journey in the month of July. Be watching for August's activity!

If you would be interested in teaching a craft, contact Sherry Severing at 815-985-4702 or by email at [ssevering6@gmail.com](mailto:ssevering6@gmail.com).

## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, **August 16th** at our Elgin Campus. Questions? Contact Robin Luzin or Nancy Gardner

## BOOK CLUB

Our July Book Club will be reading Marianne Cronin's debut novel *The 100 Years of Lenni and Margot*. Join us for our meeting on July 24 @ 10:30am at the Elgin campus conference room, U1. Reading is better together and hope to see many of you there. Questions? Contact Mary VanSlyck.

## MERGER COMPLETE... (cont from page 1)

does not mean that we don't begin acting like the combined community of Journey of Hope. As they say, it's 'off to the races!'

The Bartlett campus will be closed for worship services until September 10th, when we will hold a relaunch celebration service. There will be some remodeling taking place and if you are interested in helping, please reach out to Wayne Strong, Paul Puralewski, Chuck Keysor, or Pastor Jarrod and let them know. A huge thank you to David Akemann for all of his hard work on this project.

During this time, we encourage everyone to worship at our Elgin campus at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, or online at the same time through our church app or social media accounts. We also encourage you to join in combined ministries like Bartlett Fest, National Night Out, Family Game Nights, Blood Drives, and multiple community service projects. You can find out about those within this newsletter as well as our church app and website.

This is a day of new beginnings and God is guiding us on our journey.

## MISSION NEWS



## 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 July we are collecting hygiene items for children of all ages (eg: soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, combs / brushes, deodorant...). 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?

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Super Service Saturday returns on September 9th from 9am-4pm in Elgin. Serving opportunities include packing shoe boxes for Spirit Lake, collecting food for the Interfaith Food Pantry and a field trip to Feed My Starving Children. Lunch will be provided by your Mission Team. Register [here](#). Registration is not required but appreciated to help plan lunch.

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### PADS MEAL

Sunday, July 2 @ 5pm  
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

### SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, July 13 @ 5pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church

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

### FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, July 17 @ 5pm

### CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, July 23 @ 5pm  
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651



**JOURNEY OF HOPE**  
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY  
37W040 Highland Avenue; Elgin, IL 60124  
847.931.5400 | [johumc.org](http://johumc.org)