

THE JOURNAL

JOURNEY OF HOPE

March 2023 | Vol. 32

*“Therefore, say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”
(Zechariah 1:3, ESV)*

ELGIN CANDIDATE FORUM

Pastor Jarrod has often expressed his desire to open up our church, and get it to be part of the local community. To that end, we will in fact be opening up our church to an important civic event, a candidate forum! The forum will be on Tuesday, March 14. The doors to our church will open at 5pm, and the forum will begin at 6pm. The forum will be conducted in our sanctuary, and the social time will take place in our Community Room.

Historically, these forums draw anywhere from 40 to more than 100 people, depending upon who is hosting the forum, and how well it is promoted. We hope to be at the high end of the attendance range, and hopefully go over the top due to our partnership with WRMN.

Pastor Jarrod will open the forum session at 6pm by welcoming everyone to Journey of Hope. At the end of the forum there will be a mix and mingle time for the candidates to talk one on one with the voters, while they enjoy some refreshments. Hopefully during that time, Journey of Hope members will be welcoming all of our visitors and encouraging them to return for church.

We will be needing volunteers, such
(cont page 5)

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Fasting, meditation, studying the scriptures, prayer, and many other spiritual disciplines are a few of the ways we focus our attention during the season of Lent. Sure, we have a tendency to focus on fasting, or giving something up, for Lent. But many of the other spiritual disciplines can help us accomplish the same goal which is turning our attention to our Creator.

“THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE
FAST IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN THE FAST ITSELF.”

Maybe you’ve decided what you are going to fast from this Lent. Maybe you’ve already broken that fast. Or maybe you just need a little encouragement to help you during this time. Let me offer these words from Paul in his letter to the Philippians. “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (3:14) “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” (4:13) Hear those encouraging words, especially if you have either abandoned your fast, or are struggling to finish your race with fasting. You can do this as Jesus gives you strength.

But never forget why you are fasting. The purpose behind the fast is more important than the fast itself, otherwise it is merely a duty, something that you will come to regret or maybe even despise. The purpose behind any fast is to draw your attention to God and the calling God has on your life. When we feel a need for whatever it is that we fast from, we should be looking to God to fulfill that need. When hunger pains start, or that deep craving for sugar, we should remember the pain and disappointment that Jesus experienced during his ministry. It should remind us of the sacrifice
(cont page 5)

WHAT'S INSIDE

J Fazel Honored	2
Mission Links	2
New Book Club	2
March Calendar	3
Small Groups	4
From the Desk (cont)	4
Elgin Candidate Forum (cont)	4
Lenten Potluck / Walk & Talk	4
Serving Opportunities	5
UWF Meeting	5
Grief Group	5
Community of Hope	5
Mission News	5

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
jbarry2233@astound.net

FINANCE

Steve Mink, Chair
startmink@hotmail.com
Dave Kellenberger, Treasurer
kellenbrgr@aol.com

Randy Riotto, Secretary
rrac56@aol.com

MISSIONS

Andy Lindstrom, Chair
andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com

SPRC

John Soderholm
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



INTERESTED IN SERVING ON
A TEAM?

Contact Pastor Jarrod or
Team Chair.

J FAZEL HONORED AT PADS FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION

J Fazel's daughter Vickie and other family members told J that they were going to a special birthday celebration and that he needed to get dressed up for the occasion. Once they arrived at the Stonegate, J seemed a little confused, wondering what was happening here. There were people all over, dressed in semi-formal attire. The family made their way into the ballroom and sat down at a table, and J immediately recognized some familiar faces, including Doug Kramp. Still not sure what this was about, as he was wondering why this group of people would be at a birthday party.



Things started to become clear as announcements were made about the fundraising for PADS and the meal and auction began. However, it was after dinner that J received the surprise that many had been planning for some time. It was time to recognize J Fazel and the work he had done for decades.

For years, J Fazel was instrumental in volunteer work at PADS of Elgin. Preparing and serving meals, organizing activities and supplies, and driving everywhere to pick up anything that was needed. It was mentioned during the celebration, that J drove an incredible number of miles during his time volunteering for PADS.

J was honored with a plaque which read "In honor and appreciation for your endless support and service to those in need." This is truly an understatement. J walked up and onto that stage, was presented with the award, and gave a wonderful speech, recalling some of the experiences he had while volunteering. After a standing ovation for all of his work, J made his way off the stage, only to dance the whole way back to the table. This was truly his night, and J basked in all of the attention and gratitude that came his way, even taking pictures with the 'celebrity' dancers.

Thank you, J, for all your years of dedication and hard work, showing the love of Jesus to those struggling and for giving many in our community hope. You are an amazing man, and an example for us to follow in our service.



Our March Mission Links will support the six retirement and long-term adult facilities within the NIC and provides education scholarships for people pursuing careers in the field of adult services.

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.

NEW BOOK CLUB

Do you like to read? Would you like to talk to other readers about books? We are thinking about starting a book club here at Journey of Hope. If you might be interested contact Mary VanSlyck and mention what type of books and any other desires about how often, etc...

MARCH

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

Lenten Walk & Talk
SR @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bible Study
SE Panera @ 6am
Potluck Dinner
CR @ 5:30-6pm
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	1 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm	2	3	4
5 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm	6	7 Care Team, 1pm Trustees, 7pm	8 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	9 Soup Kettle, 5pm	10 Game Night, 7pm	11
12	13	14 Candidate Forum, 6pm SPRC, 7pm	15	16 UWF, 1pm	17	18
19 Manna Orders Mission Team Mtg, 8am	20 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	21 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm Church Council, 7pm	22	23	24	25
26 Creative Journey, 3pm Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	27	28 Church Council, 7pm	29	30	31	1

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

"30 Days Toward Healing Your Grief", M1 @ 10:30am

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

"Current Events", M5 @ 10:30am

"The Way", U1 @ 10:30am

MONDAY

Lenten Walk & Talk, Sonrise Room @ 7:30am

"The Way", U1 @ 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY

"The Way", S. Elgin Panera Bread @ 6am

THURSDAY

"The Way", Zoom @ 11am

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study, U1 @ 7pm

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

God made in offering his only Son as a ransom for our lives.

It is in and through this fasting that we return to God. Confession is offered as we are convicted of the sin in our lives by the Holy Spirit. We cry out to God, asking forgiveness for the many ways we missed the mark and sinned against God and our neighbor. And while we may feel completely helpless in those moments, God is always faithful and forgives us. Zechariah begins his prophecy with the words from above, calling us to return to the LORD. Again, this follows with the covenant that God has created with the Israelites, and with us. If we repent and turn from our sinful ways, God will "return" to us. God will meet us right where we are and welcome us back into the relationship that is God design from the beginning.

During this Lent season, what aspect of your life do you need to focus on? What habit, tradition, or 'vice' do you need to give up so that you can focus on deepening your relationship with your Creator? My hope and prayer is that during this time of walking in the footsteps of Jesus, this time of repentance and reflection, you will be able to grow in your faith and be challenged or encouraged in some new ministry, utilizing your special spiritual gifts. May you have a deep and meaningful Lent season.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jarrod

ELGIN CANDIDATE FORUM (cont from page 1)

as ushers, greeters, A/V operators (sound and video), people for helping to set-up etc. If you are interested in helping, please contact Chuck Keysor. Please watch your bulletins for further updates.

Here is some important additional information:

- The first part of this forum will feature the city council candidates and be moderated by WRMN's Mark Bialek. The second part of this forum will feature the two mayoral candidates and be moderated by Chuck Keysor. Written questions will be taken from the audience.
- The event will be broadcast live on WRMN AM 1410 radio. It will also be livestreamed on the Facebook pages of WRMN and Journey of Hope Church. The video will be archived on Facebook for later viewing.
- This is a great way to learn who the candidates are and where they stand as we prepare for the Elgin elections on Tuesday, April 4th. This is a non-partisan event. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Please contact Chuck Keysor if you have questions.



LENTEN POTLUCK

Potluck dinners begin Wednesday, March 1. On March 1, dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30pm in the Community Room, with Ash Wednesday Service beginning at 6:30pm.

Following weeks will begin with dinner at 5:30pm and worship following at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share. If you are interested in helping organize dinners please contact Mary Becker or Janina Hoffman.

LENTEN WALK & TALK

Many times we think about giving something up during Lent though adding some time with God may help your heart and soul even more! Enter church through the carport entrance on Monday mornings at 7:30am and do just that. Come fill your spirit with God's love as you walk and share the Word with everyday life stories and scripture which guide us. Maybe this Lenten season will be the time for you to give it a try!



United Women in Faith will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, March 16 @ 1pm in M5. This month's program will highlight the UWF reading program presented by Carol Hecht & Nancy Gardner.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, March 5 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, March 9 @ 5pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 21 @ 4:30pm
Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, March 20 @ 5:30pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, March 26 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

United Methodist Church of Geneva is holding a cluster luncheon on Saturday, March 11 from 11:30am-2pm. Holly Tseng from World Relief Chicagoland will be speaking. Women from Journey of Hope are asked to bring bread/rolls to share.

Please RSVP to Nancy Gardner by Friday, March 3rd.

NEW GRIEF GROUP

Shari Weber is leading "30 Days Toward Healing Your Grief" book study for anyone who is struggling with the loss of a beloved family member or friend. Based on Walking the Mourners Path, this study will help lead you from how your loved one died to how to live in honor of their memory. Classes start this Sunday in main level classroom M1. Books are \$15.95; sign up for class [here](#).

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Journey of Hope is reaching out to our broader community to offer friendship with a place to gather to enjoy one another. Looking for something new to try? You are welcome to bring friends and meet new ones while playing a game, working on a puzzle, or just being in conversation. Come Wednesday, March 8th at 12:30pm to the Community Room or drop in anytime until around 3:00pm. There can be a group playing cards while others may work on a puzzle. Some may enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and chat. This may be just what you need to break up your week!



SHOE BOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE

In March we will be collecting personal hygiene items -- toothpaste, toothbrush, combs, brushes, shampoo, soap, deodorant, etc...

SPOTS STILL OPEN FOR OUR 2023 MISSION TRIP

Mission trips are one of the greatest opportunities we have to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Find out by joining us on our annual mission trip to Spirit Lake! We are leaving Sunday, June 11th and returning on Friday, June 17th. We still have spots available so hurry before they are gone. 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 between services

April 15: Dinner & Concert featuring Alleluia Quartet

May 12: Trivia Night and Dinner

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

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



JOURNEY OF HOPE
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY
37W040 Highland Avenue; Elgin, IL 60124
847.931.5400 | johumc.org