

# THE JOURNAL

## JOURNEY OF HOPE

March 2024 | Vol. 45

*“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:6, ESV*

### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

One of the most asked questions during this season comes around the topic of fasting. What should we fast from, how do we fast, what is the purpose behind fasting? People want to know what this is all about. Let me be clear, I’m not talking about the phenomenon of intermittent fasting for weight loss, but something far greater.

The season of Lent is a time of reflection and spiritual growth, and this growth is enhanced through the spiritual discipline of fasting. This discipline helps us grow closer in our relationship with God and also grow in our faith. But this only happens when we follow the guidance of the Spirit along the way. The purpose of fasting is not to just eliminate sweets from our diet or discontinuing meat on Fridays as an end in itself. There needs to be a deeper purpose. Fasting must guide our attention to our relationship with Jesus.

Many of you know that I decided to fast from adding sugar to my coffee about seven years ago. While one of the benefits was the elimination of a good amount of sugar in my diet, the other benefit was far greater. You see, every time I took a sip of the unsweetened coffee (insert ‘bitter’ here), I was reminded of the bitterness that Jesus faced during those last hours before the

crucifixion. Every bitter sip drew me closer to Jesus. Every bitter sip helped me to understand the deep sacrifice he made for my salvation. This is the purpose behind fasting.

However, there’s something in the passage that I shared at the beginning of this article. We here about fasting from Jesus during his Sermon on the Mount, and he’s reminding us that we should not publicly display our fasting. As far as those around us are concerned, it should seem like a normal day. We

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Fasting must guide our attention to our relationship with Jesus.

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should not complain about our desire for that Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup or make a big deal about wanting the very thing we are fasting from. We should do our fasting in private so that only God sees us. Now you may be asking about my sharing about previous fasting experiences. I feel that if someone were to ask you about it, that you could share your fast, but only as a testimony to the growth in our faith as this might be an encouragement to others. But we should never talk about it to glorify ourselves.

(cont page 5)

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Potluck and Town Hall for All Campuses

Join us for our first Town Hall gathering of 2024, scheduled for Sunday, April 7th, at 12:30pm in Elgin. Come all to enjoy a wonderful meal before the Town Hall meeting, which will also be live-streamed.

Elgin campus attendees, please contribute a hot dish, while those from Bartlett campus are asked to bring something cold or at room temperature. This will make it easy for Bartlett attendees who may be joining us directly after worship.

Bring along your thoughts, questions, and comments to share during this interactive session.

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## **MANNA** By: Carole Burris

What's it all about? It's divinely supplied spiritual nourishment, right? We offer you the opportunity on the first and third Sundays of the month to place an order for Manna but it's a little different than spiritual nourishment. Thanks to Lisa Eby who started this program a number of years ago, we earn between \$1000 - \$2000 a year just from people like you ordering gift cards.

Target, Jewel, Speedway, Dunkin Donut, Meijers, Shell, Kohls, McDonalds, Amazon, Starbucks, Penney's, Olive Garden, Walmart, Red Robin, Sams, Menards, TJ Maxx, and more...so many possibilities!

The selection is broad for you to choose from where Journey of Hope will receive from 1.25% - 18% of your purchase. You buy groceries, gas, maybe enjoy a meal out, and sometimes give a gift card as a gift. (It's like a gift twice - 1st the person opens it and is excited then that person goes to choose just what one would like and it's another gift!)

Stop by the Navigation Center to pick up a listing of the over 200 businesses offered to see if there's not just one card you could order to help raise funds while you pay the face value for the card. Order forms can also be downloaded from our app under the "Resources" page. It's that EASY! Place your order form with a check attached for the total of your order in the offering or give to Carole Burris and VOILA, the following Sunday your gift cards will be given to you! Can't be much easier! Questions? Please stop by the Navigation Center to find answers!

## **UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH**



Our March United Women in Faith meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20th at 1:00pm in M5 at the Elgin campus. Archie and Aprilmay Nerida from our Elgin congregation will speak about how to make decisions concerning Home Health. Please Join us

for this important and relevant discussion.



UWF of Prairie District invites you to join us for a Spring Cluster Luncheon at Baker United Methodist Church in St. Charles on Saturday, March 9th. Registration begins at 11am and luncheon at 11:30am. This event features worship, a keynote address by Simone Halpin, co-founder and executive director of Naomi House. A freewill offering will be collected for Naomi House. We encourage carpooling; you may reach out to Robin Luzin or Nancy Gardner if you're interested in attending.

## **SHAMROCKS, TRIVIA AND GOOD TIMES**

Join us for a St. Patty's Celebration on Saturday, March 16th, at 5:00pm! Bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck and assemble your team for the 2nd Annual Trivia Night. Excitement is brewing as Taylor Jackson from the Bartlett campus crafts enticing baskets for a lively raffle. It promises to be a massive Journey of Hope celebration filled with laughter, camaraderie, and the luck of the Irish. Don't miss out on this festive evening of community, good food, and friendly competition as we come together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style!

## **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

Dave Kellenberger, Treasurer  
kellenbrgr@aol.com

Randy Riotto, Secretary  
rrac56@aol.com

### **MISSIONS**

Andy Lindstrom, Chair  
andrewlindstrom@yahoo.com

### **SPRC**

Roger Holmes  
rlholmes04@gmail.com

### **TRUSTEES**

TBD

### **UWF**

Nancy Gardner, Co-Chair  
nandan42@att.net

Robin Luzin, Co-Chair  
rluzin@sbcglobal.net

### **WORSHIP**

Mary Becker, Chair  
marybecker50@yahoo.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN  
A TEAM?

Please see Pastor Jarrod or  
Jason Princer.

# 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
- Robert Garcia (cousin of Gloria Kellenberger), stomach & pancreatic cancer
- **Jason (cousin of Glenn Dye), lung & brain 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
- Emma Ramos, cancer remission and improved kidney function
- \*Connie Schweitzer, health
- \*Annalise Smoot/Mollsen, cancer treatments
- Lincoln Zick (grandson of Donna Bach)

## Prayers for strength, support and comfort:

- **\*Carol Zweig, for the passing of her son, Brett**

## 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

*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you very much for the generous donation. We came home from a trip visiting Jim's parents to find a flooded basement. I took a break from the clean up to open our mail and there your donation was. You put a smile on a very weary face. It was a sign from God that we are loved. Your love and support mean more to us than you will ever know! Over 1 million people are currently living with MS in the US alone.*

*I know with a team like you we WILL find a cure.*

*Love, Jim & Laura Michonis*

## SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

### SUNDAY

The Third Day, U1 (Elgin) @ 10:30am  
Current Events, M5 (Elgin) @ 10:30am  
Sunday School for Kids, L3 (Elgin) @ 10:30am

### MONDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

The Third Day, S. Elgin Panera Bread @ 6am  
Luke Bible Study, Bartlett Campus @ 6:30pm

### THURSDAY

The Third Day, Zoom @ 11am  
The Third Day, Zoom @ 2pm, Bartlett / Zoom

### FRIDAY

The Third Day, Zoom @ 10am, Elgin/ Zoom



Join us for a reflective journey during Lent as we embrace a season of introspection, prayer, and spiritual growth. Come together in community every week to experience meaningful moments of worship and contemplation.

### Wednesday Evenings, Bartlett

Pathways Dinner @ 5:30pm  
Pathways Worship @ 6pm

### March 21 - Palm Sunday

Worship @ 9am, Elgin  
Worship @ 10:30am, Bartlett

### March 28 - Maundy Thursday

Dinner Worship @ 5:30pm, Elgin

### March 29, Good Friday

Open Sanctuary @ 12-3pm, Elgin  
Vespers @ 3pm, Elgin  
Tenebrae Service @ 7pm, Bartlett

### March 31, Easter Sunday

Sonrise Service @ 7am, Elgin  
Mission Breakfast @ 7:30am, Elgin

Join us for a delightful Easter morning pancake breakfast following the Sunrise Service at the Elgin campus, just before the 9:00am service. Enjoy a delicious spread of pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, and sausage from approximately 7:30 to 8:45am. Your free-will offerings will support our mission work. If you're interested in assisting with preparation, serving, or cleanup, sign up at the Navigation Center. Let's come together for a joyful morning of fellowship, delicious food, and making a positive impact through our mission efforts. See you there!

Easter Celebration @ 9am, Elgin  
Easter Celebration @ 10:30am, Bartlett

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

We should never speak in ways that proclaim “look how good I am” because of our fasting.

I also wonder if you've considered this idea of not fasting from but fasting to something. Have you considered adding a spiritual disciple to your life? This could be making an effort to spend a little more time in prayer or study. It may be adding a time of service through one of our many food ministries. It might even be the discipline of simplicity, removing parts of your life that distract or take you away from a relationship with Jesus. It's not too late to start. While some would think you need to start on Ash Wednesday and go all the way through to Easter, feeling like you've failed if you either didn't start on time, or that you missed a day so you should just stop. Hear me when I say that there's a lot of grace with Jesus. Just pick up the pieces and start over, it's alright.

While there's no rule about only having contemplative time during Lent, I hope you take advantage of this focused time of year. It lasts for only a few weeks, but it is incredibly important. So, during these next few weeks as we approach the celebration of Easter, take some reflection time and truly listen to where God might be leading you. Look for ways to grow in your knowledge and love of God. Begin patterns that might continue long past this season of Lent. Let's journey together along this path God has placed before us as we strive for the celebration of resurrection day.

Pastor Jarrod



# GET PLUGGED IN

belong ⚡ change ⚡ share

Discover the vibrant heart of our community by getting plugged into church life! With a plethora of engaging events, meaningful volunteering opportunities, and diverse groups, there's a place for everyone. Whether you're seeking connection, personal growth, or simply a sense of belonging, our church offers a welcoming space to explore and contribute. Join us in building relationships, making a positive impact through volunteering, and finding like-minded individuals in our various groups. It's not just about attending services; it's about actively participating in a supportive and uplifting community.

Beyond Sunday mornings and Bible studies, there are various groups tailored to different interests, ensuring there is something for everyone.

The monthly Book Club offers a space to explore diverse literary worlds and exchange thoughts with fellow book lovers. United Women of Faith provides a supportive environment for women to strengthen their faith and build friendships. Meanwhile, Stitches of Hope invites those with a passion for fiber art to come together, share skills, and create beautiful works of art. Come sip on a warm cup of coffee, engage in friendly games, and bask in the joy of companionship at Community of Hope.

Explore fulfilling volunteer positions where your abilities can have a positive effect at Journey of Hope and within our local neighborhoods.

From greeting new and old friends on Sunday mornings, assisting with seating, materials, and assistance to helping staff the nurseries, hosting Fellowship time or joining our Audio-Visual team, there are so many ways to enhance any of our worship services.

Or, if you feel driven to give back and build a stronger more connected community, consider serving at one of the Soup Kettles, PAD's of Elgin, or the Community Crisis Center we serve at various times throughout the month.

There are many chances throughout each month to make connections outside of Sunday mornings by engaging in the community events at our church.

Experience the joy of concert events, periodic fundraisers for mission, potlucks, blood drives, line dancing, trivia nights and more. Coffee with the Pastor and Friday Game Night provide chances to forge new friendships and strengthen community bonds.

These activities extend beyond regular worship, establishing an interactive environment for all to connect, share experiences, and nurture enduring relationships in an lively and welcoming atmosphere.

More information on any of the above events and activities (and more!) can be found on our website, church app, and/or Thursday evening Weekly Update emails. Need more help? Feel free to contact any of our Administrative Assistants at either campus for more information.

## BOOK CLUB

Dive into an enthralling adventure during our March Book Club, where we'll explore "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins. This poignant tale follows Lydia's journey with her young son to escape a drug cartel's danger, highlighting themes of resilience and selflessness. Join other book enthusiasts on March 27 at 4:30pm in the Elgin Campus Conference Room for an engaging conversation dissecting the intricacies of Cummins' storytelling. Your insights are greatly appreciated, whether you've completed the book or are still immersed in its narrative.

## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline for submissions for both the George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship and the Merrill Scholarship is March 31st, with no exceptions for late applications, so ensure to submit yours promptly.

You can apply online or download the application and send it to the Elgin campus. Access applications and links on our website under the "Share" tab, specifically in the "Around the Community" section.

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### *PADS MEAL*

Sunday, March 3 @ 5:30pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

### *SOUP KETTLE*

Thursday, March 14 @ 4:45pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 19 @ 4:45pm

Zion Lutheran Church

### *CRISIS CENTER MEAL*

Sunday, March 24 @ 5:00pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

## Mission News

### MARCH MISSION LINKS

Untied Voices for Children is a dynamic initiative dedicated to amplifying the voices of children in need. Committed to advocacy and action, this collective brings together individuals and organizations passionate about creating positive change for children across diverse backgrounds. Through collaboration, Untied Voices for Children works to address issues such as education, healthcare, and child welfare. Join us in making a difference as we unite for the well-being and rights of every child. Together, our voices become a powerful force, advocating for a brighter future for children everywhere. 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 March, our focus for shoebox collection shifts to personal care items for Spirit Lake. We're seeking toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hairbrushes, and, specifically, cologne and perfume for our teenage boys and girls. Notably, soap and shampoo are no longer part of the shoebox contents. Your contributions make a meaningful impact, ensuring that these essential personal care items reach those in need. Join us in making a difference and bringing smiles to the faces of those at Spirit Lake through your thoughtful donations.

### SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP

Join our Spirit Lake Mission Trip from June 23-28. We're seeking 6-8 individuals to be part of this impactful experience. Sign up with Andy or Pastor Jarrod or drop by the Navigation Center to secure your spot. Don't miss the chance to be part of something truly special!



**JOURNEY OF HOPE**  
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY