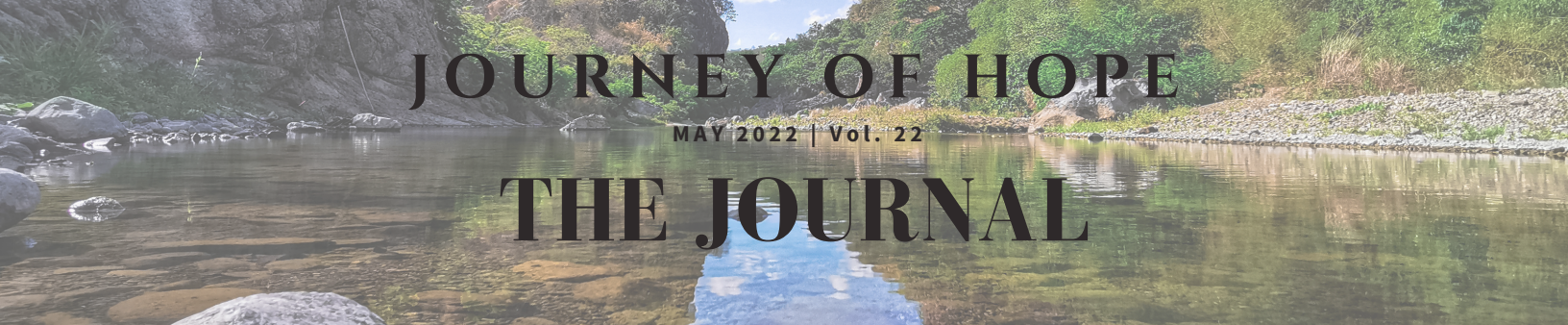


JOURNEY OF HOPE

MAY 2022 | Vol. 22

THE JOURNAL



SPIRIT LAKE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Your mission team is hard at work with all the planning for the many ways we reach out to our community locally, regionally, and nationally. Between the many food missions here in Elgin and our surrounding towns, to mission trips to Spirit Lake and Henderson, Journey of Hope continues to bless those around us with the gifts God has given to us.



June is not that far off, and we leave for our annual mission trip to Spirit Lake, North Dakota on June 12th! We will spend a week at the Spirit Lake reservation, working on local projects on the reservation and on the ministry site with Pastor Mike and Libby Flowers. It is an incredible journey that many members of this church have experienced. Projects are wide ranging from painting, wheelchair ramp construction, drywall, remodeling, landscaping, and many others.

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“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”

(Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

May is a wonderful month and for many different reasons, I love this time of the year. Certainly, the weather is staying warmer a little more consistently, but it is also the time when things are in full bloom.

The trees, bushes, and flowers are displaying the splendor of God and I can go outside and enjoy all that creation has to offer. Grilling season

“WHAT WILL JOURNEY OF HOPE’S ‘TWO’S’ BRING US?”

officially kicks off with Memorial Day, although many of us will grill well before that, some even all year long.

But May also brings a celebration to Journey of Hope, as May 31st marks our anniversary, or should I truly say our birthday.

May 31, 2020, is the day we worshiped together as a combined congregation under our new name of Journey of Hope! Yes, this year we will be two years old! Now, as I remember my kids as they grew up, the twos were known by a different name, the “terrible two’s.” Boundaries are tested, tantrums are expressed, and parents look for ways to escape during this time of growth. This begs the question; what will Journey of Hope’s ‘twos’ bring us? Will there be

boundaries tested? Will we experience some anger and frustration about possible changes? Will some of our ‘parents’ look to escape from the unsettled feelings? Yes, as with all new things, we will experience some bumps along our journey; we’ve already felt a few. But I guess that tells us that we are on the right path. Growing pains are normal, and we will have a few more as we continue this growth pattern.

You heard me correct, we are growing! Not sure if you’ve noticed, but the excitement that surrounds Journey of Hope is gathering momentum and others are noticing. Average worship

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Becoming the Beloved Community: **Talking About Race in America**

Dr. Richard R Guzman, professor emeritus at North Central
College

Saturday, May 14th 9am ~ 12:30pm
Rogers Hall, First UMC, Elgin

Pre-Registration due by April 30th
with suggested donation of \$20

link available on First UMC website and Facebook page

SPIRIT LAKE (cont. from page 1)

All hands are needed and it's not too late for you to join us!

This trip leaves on Sunday June 12th and will return on Friday June 17th. We stay at the Spirit Lake ministry site and have meals prepared by our head gourmet chef, Libby Flowers. (Yes, the food is that good!) There will be time for some sight-seeing as well as devotions, games, fun, and laughter (especially if you like 'Sven and Olie' jokes).

Talk with Andy Lindstrom or Pastor Jarrod if you are interested in joining us for this life-changing mission trip.

CONGREGATION ASSESSMENT TOOL RESULTS

THANK YOU!! We are pleased to announce that we had an overwhelming response to our recent Congregation Assessment Tool (C.A.T.). With the surveys now completed and analyzed it is time to discuss the results and find out what our next steps are for moving our ministry forward! Please make plans to attend this presentation!

Sunday, May 1st

Continental Breakfast @ 10:15am

C.A.T Presentation @ 10:30am



AD HOC LANDSCAPING GROUP

With the tree removal project complete, we are looking to re-landscape the 9.2 acre corner of our property. This ad hoc team will make a recommendation to Trustees for final decisions. Please contact Mary VanSlyck if you are interested in joining. maryavs@akemann.net; 847.848.4478.

GARAGE SALE

We are in the planning stages to host a Garage Sale and need your help! What do we need?

Gently used, clean housewares, electronics, tools, books, sporting goods, furniture. (sorry, we do not accept clothing donations or TV's)

Manpower to move boxes, unpack and arrange donations, price and sell items.

This is a massive undertaking that cannot happen without your support. This is a wonderful opportunity to work together and get to know new people. Stop by the Welcome Center to sign up today or to contact the Church Office.

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

FINANCE

Steve Mink, Chair
startmink@hotmail.com
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GREEN TEAM

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MISSIONS

Andy Lindstrom, Chair
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SPRC

Dan Gardner, Chair
nandan42@att.net

TRUSTEES

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UWF

Nancy Gardner, Co-Chair
nandan42@att.net
Robin Luzin, Co-Chair
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WORSHIP

Mary Becker, Chair
marybecker50@yahoo.com

MAY 2022

<p><u>Sunday</u> Worship S & FB Live @ 9:15am Fellowship Time CR @ 10:15am Group Studies @ 10:30am Adult: M3, M5 Confirmation: PO Explorer Kids: L3</p>	<p><u>Monday</u> Walking Bible Study Parsonage @ 6:30am</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study Panera, SE @ 6am Pathways Worship S & FB Live @ 6pm Choir Practice Balcony @ 7pm</p>	<p><u>Thursday</u> Prayer Service SR & FB Live @ 7am Coffee w/Pastor SR @ 7:30am Stitches of Hope M5 @ 1pm</p>	<p><u>Saturday</u> Handbell Practice Balcony @ 2:40pm</p>
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MANNA Orders NO Sunday School CAT recap w/ cont breakfast 10:30am PADS 5pm	2	3 Care Team 1pm Trustees 7pm	4	5 Bazaar Planning Mtg 6:30pm	6	7
8	9	10 SPRC 7pm	11 NO Choir	12 Vintage 325 10am Soup Kettle 5pm Choir Practice 7pm	13 Game Night 7pm	14
15 MANNA Orders Mission 8am Blessing of the Bikes 10:30am	16 Food for Greater Elgin 5pm	17 Soup Kettle 4:30pm	18	19 United Women in Faith 1pm	20	21
22 Crisis Center Meal 5pm	23	24	25	26 Vintage 325 10am	27	28
29	30	31 Church Council 7pm				

SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY @ 10:30am

"We'll Accept You", M3

"How our Faith Interacts with Today's Happenings," M5

"Explorer Kids," L3

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, **Parsonage** @ 6:30am

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Beginning May 2nd!

KIDS ABOVE ALL (formerly ChildServ) began in 1894 as

Methodist Deaconess Orphanage and later was named the Lake Bluff Home for Children. Today, Kids Above All is a highly experienced, multidisciplinary child and family services network reaching children and families facing adversity in Cook, DuPage, Kane, and Lake counties. Our focus is to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families, foster parents, and other caregivers, reaching 3,000 at-risk children and families annually.



ACT OF GRACE NEEDS A GUITARIST

Act of Grace was founded in 1992 at Grace Methodist Church to write and perform original songs which are based on the UMC Lectionary. So we write and perform Bible based songs that support the worship service in general, and the sermon in particular. When we don't have exact song matches, and don't have time to write a new matching song, we pick what works the best.

However, *Act of Grace* had its wonderful guitarist of the last 21 years retire last July. Since our vocal work is supported by a guitar and a bass, losing our guitarist has created a real difficulty. I have been strumming a guitar as best I can, but it does not replace the drive and energy that can be provided by a skilled musician!

We have reached out through various channels to multiple churches, and now I feel led by the spirit to issue a general request to see if anyone in Journey of Hope knows of a good Christian guitarist we could reach out to.

If you know of anyone that may be interested in the position, please let me know! And if you don't know of any guitarists, please feel free to pray for us.

Thank you,

Chuck Keysor

847.622.1835; chuck.keysor@sbcglobal.net

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

attendance is up over 85 during Lent and Easter and shows no sign of slowing down. This is great news! With this comes new and fresh ideas, discerning God's call, and continuing to catch the vision that God is casting for Journey of Hope.

As I reflect of what God has accomplished so far on this journey, I realize first of all, that God is certainly not done with us. In fact, God's just beginning. Therefore, I want to remind you of something. The scripture passage that is quoted above was the one we focused on during the merger process. It was a word for us during that time, reminding us that we should be unified in our mission and vision as this forming congregation. But it also speaks to us now, reminding us that we should still be thinking and acting as the body of Christ, the Church, unified in Christ for his mission.

We are sisters and brothers together on this journey. We need to love and care for one another, and most times, that means thinking of others before ourselves. It means that we search for ways that we can be of service not only in our community, but also right here within these four walls. It means listening to each other, discerning how God may be calling those around us and also hearing through them, how God is calling us. It also means loving each other, even when we don't find others lovable. After all, that's what Jesus did for us and then told us to go and do likewise.

My challenge to you during our 'terrible twos,' is to not fall into the trap of looking inward. It will be too easy to rely on the way we've always done things, following our desire to go back to the usual, the familiar. Let's truly live into our 531 moments by listening for the dreams and hopes that God has for us as we strive to continue reaching new people with the love of God. Let's really live into our vision of creating a space that all people can belong, a place where they are challenged to change their lives by growing in their faith, and also be encouraged to share their witness with those around them.

My prayer continues to be that we would no longer be strangers and aliens, no longer Wesley or Epworth, but that we would be fellow citizens with each other and with all the saints and members of God's Church which includes this Journey of Hope.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jarrod



To All of My Journey of Hope Family,
 Thank you so much for the lovely celebration after church service with a beautiful cake and assorted goodies. It was a great surprise. Guess one needs happy surprises these days.

I especially want to thank niece Carole Burris, Mary Summers, and committee members of the Care Team.

God bless each one of you for your kindness, stay healthy. Kindness like this is what helps us to all grow in Christian love.

The altar flowers are beautiful - how I enjoy flowers.

Thanks to all for the many happy birthday wishes.

Love, Betty McLauchlan



SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, May 1 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.717.4318

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, May 12 @ 5pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, May 17 @ 4:30pm

Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, May 16 @ 5pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, May 22 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.717.4318

2022 BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR UKRAINE ASSISTANCE

The Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) of the United Methodist Church has made an appeal to member churches for a special offering to be presented at the 2022 Annual Conference of NIC. The Bishop's Appeal special offering will go toward Ukraine humanitarian assistance. While immediate needs are great, we know the people of Ukraine will need assistance in the long term. The conference Board of Global Ministries will distribute funds through UM support and relief organizations including Eurasia in Mission Together - Ukraine and Moldova; and UMCOR International Disaster Response - Ukraine. To learn more about UMCOR's response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, go to umcmission.org/umcor/faq-the-the-crisis-in-ukraine/.

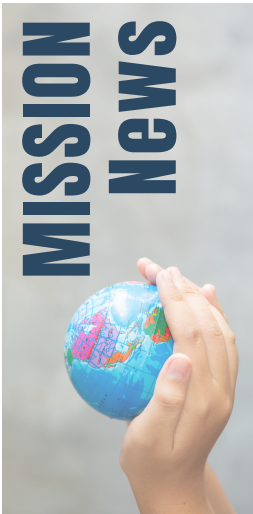
To give to the Bishop's Appeal, make out a check to Journey of Hope, with "Bishop's Appeal" written in the memo line, and drop it in the offering basket. Gifts made through Journey of Hope will be presented at Annual Conference in June.

Thank you for your generosity!

Steve Mink, Lay Member of Annual Conference

UMW IS NOW UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH!

Our next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, May 19th at 1pm. Nancy Gardner will be sharing about her trips and experiences to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Join us for sweets and fellowship!



MOTHER'S DAY PIES

Order your Mother's Day pies by Friday, May 6th. Order forms are online or at the Welcome Center.

SHOE BOXES

Spring is here! Let's bring in toys for boys and girls age 3 - 10!

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Save the date *Saturday, June 4* the Mission Team is having a drive through Spaghetti Dinner! Proceeds go to our trip to Spirit Lake.

MISSION TRIP PRAYER PARTNERS

Sign up with Carole Burris to be a prayer partner for someone going on the Mission Trip.



JOURNEY OF HOPE
 A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY
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