

# THE JOURNAL

## JOURNEY OF HOPE

May 2023 | Vol. 35

*"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts 2:17, ESV)*

### CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY WITHOUT MOM

Mother's Day is just around the corner and many of us are planning a special day honoring our moms by purchasing presents, ordering flowers or making dinner reservations. But what if your mother is no longer living? Mother's Day can be a difficult day and maybe you are struggling to find ways to celebrate her memory. Here are some suggestions that may help the day land more softly:

- Spend the day remembering your mother with family and friends who knew and loved her.
- Enjoy a meal of all of your mom's favorite foods.
- Spend time doing her favorite pastimes – was she a gardener? A golfer? A crafter?
- Share something your mother taught you.
- Do something your mother loved – watch her favorite movie, play her favorite game, read her favorite book, sing her favorite hymn.
- Plant a tree in her honor.
- Spend time honoring other women who have been meaningful to you.

### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

By now, I'm sure most of you have heard about the conversations that are happening between Good Shepherd UMC in Bartlett and Journey of Hope. These are conversations around a possible adoption merger. I know that there are some who are very excited about the future ministry opportunities,

It became increasingly clear that God was calling Journey of Hope to expand by adding a satellite location in Bartlett.

the relationship building, missional possibilities, and growth of the Kingdom of God that this kind of merger will bring to the Elgin and Bartlett communities. However, I also know that some have concerns. I hope that over the next few weeks, your church leadership and I can help you in understanding the process, goals, and visions that God is placing before us.

I will refer back to our C.A.T. (Congregational Assessment Tool)

survey from 2022. During this time, we had our consultant (who is also my clergy coach for the doctoral program), share the results of this survey which told us a few different things. One of them was that since we placed so high in both satisfaction and energy, that we should be looking to multiply. This could be an additional worship service, an all-digital campus, or a satellite campus. During this time, we began making changes to our digital presence, adding our church app, improving our website, and finding new ways to reach out via the internet. I believe this all came (cont page 2)

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INTERESTED IN SERVING ON  
A TEAM?

Contact Pastor Jarrod or  
Team Chair.

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

from our 'breakthrough prayer initiative' where we asked God to break through with new opportunities, new life, and new power to do far more than we could ever imagine. And God did not disappoint.

So many new opportunities began springing forth. The app, new ways of reaching people digitally, communication, and others have all come as an answer to our breakthrough prayer. We have also been discerning new ministry opportunities to help with our three strategic goals or reaching new people, connecting those within the church, and helping those broken by life's circumstances.

However, God wasn't done. Toward the end of last year, I had a meeting with the conference's Congregational Development and Redevelopment team where we provided an analysis of Good Shepherd UMC in Bartlett. Through this meeting and some other conversations with our district superintendent, it became increasingly clear that God was calling Journey of Hope to expand by adding a satellite location in Bartlett. Pieces fell into place as meetings took place and we discerned God's plan for our two churches. Excitement began to build as leadership saw the growth potential for both communities.

Journey of Hope's vision of belonging, changing, and sharing is one that will impact the community of Bartlett as members reach out into the community, sharing God's love with them and providing space for spiritual revival, just like Journey of Hope has already experienced. The revitalization that we have experienced here in Elgin should not be contained to just this one area. We are called to share in the mission of the church by going out and making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. God is leading, will we follow and continue to participate in this wonderful Kingdom?

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jarrod

## NEW MEETING TIME FOR UWF



Beginning in May we will meet on the third WEDNESDAY of each month at 1pm in M5, the room off the kitchen. Pastor Jarrod will be answering questions concerning the possible adoption merger during our meeting on May 17.

We are also looking for 1-3 women to help with planning meetings, organize treats and rides. Please contact Nancy Gardner or Robin Luzin if able to help or with questions.

Formerly United Methodist Women, United Women of Faith is the largest denominational faith organization for women and provides the perfect opportunity to connect with other women and encourage one another to experience a deeper relationship with Jesus.

UWF offers several online events every month, a bi-monthly podcast and more. For the latest news, check [www.uwfaith.org](http://www.uwfaith.org).

# M A Y



## SUNDAY

**Worship**  
S & FB Live @ 9:15am  
**Fellowship Time**  
CR @ 10:15am  
**Group Studies**  
M1, M3, M5 @ 10:30am  
**Confirmation**  
10:30am  
**Explorer Kids**  
L3 @ 10:30am

## MONDAY

**Walking Bible Study**  
Parsonage @ 7:30am  
\*Sonrise Room if rain

## WEDNESDAY

**Panera Bible Study**  
SE Panera @ 6am  
**Pathways Worship**  
CR & FB Live @ 6pm  
**Choir Practice**  
S @ 7pm

## 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  
**Disciple Bible Study**  
U1 @ 7-9pm

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

30	1	2 Care Team, 1pm Trustees, 7pm	3 Community of Hope, CR 12:30pm	4	5	6
7 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm Studio 10 Concert, 3pm	8	9 SPRC, 7pm	10	11 Soup Kettle, 5pm	12 Trivia & Dinner, 6pm	13
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	16 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm	17 UWF, 1pm	18	19	20
21 Manna Orders Mission Team Mtg, 8am Mission Trip Mtg, 10:30am Creative Journey, CR @ 3pm	22 Book Club, 10:30am	23 Church Council, 7pm	24	25	26	27
28 Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	29 Memorial Day -- Office Closed	30	31	1	2	3

## 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

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

"Current Events", M5 @ 10:30am

### MONDAY

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

## GARAGE SALE

**LAST  
CHANCE**

It's that time of year when garage sales begin happening all around us. Do you have a passion for Journey of Hope to have one this summer? Now's the time to step up to co-lead this effort! It takes a village to make it happen and the village always seems to show up. But that village needs leadership! Sometimes we think of a garage sale as just a way for our group to unload some "junk" which others think are "treasures". This truly is an opportunity to reach out to our broader community with great savings on assorted items they may have a need for. Many leave with joy in their heart as they find something they can use!!

Is this a project you are interested in taking charge of? Contact the Office by May 15 so a weekend date can be coordinated with your calendar. Please, no more items should be added to the large collection in the garage until we know it is happening. Thank you!

## PRAYER PARTNERS

We are blessed with about 14 people who will be traveling to Spirit Lake in North Dakota the week of June 11 - 16. Those of us remaining home have the ability to travel this journey with these amazing people as they give a week of their time to serve in the name of the Lord on our behalf. Ideally, we would like to connect each mission trip participant with someone who is not going on the trip and who will pray for him or her during their trip.

Is this something you wish to help with or would like more information about? Contact Carole Burris or the Office today. Their travels are coming soon!



CARE TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, May 3rd @ 1pm

## BOOK CLUB!

Take a break from everyday life and join us to discuss great literature, keep your brain sharp and make new friends. Our very first Book Club meeting will be at 10:30am on Monday, May 22 in the upstairs conference room, U1. We will be reading and talking through Kirk Wallace Johnson's *The Feather Thief* about the 2009 heist of the British Natural History Museum at Tring.

Reading is better together and hope to see many of you there! Questions? Contact Mary VanSlyck.



Our May Mission Links will support Peace with Justice. Half of the funds donated for this will remain in the Annual Conference to strengthen social justice ministries within the local

conference. The other half of the donations collected fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants.

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.

## CREATIVE JOURNEY

Are you new to crafting and overwhelmed where to begin? Maybe you an experienced crafter looking to learn something new? Creative Journey may just be what you are looking for.

Join us on Sunday, May 21 from 3-5pm in the Community Room as we create Hanging Lanterns. The Cost is \$2 / person. Please bring a mason or other glass jar (pickle jar, etc...). Register through the app, on our website or at the Welcome Center.

Questions? Contact Sherry Severing.

## FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Our Fellowship Time immediately following service is a wonderful time to mingle, catch up on news with each other and meet new friends. Many of our small groups have taken charge of hosting Fellowship Time during the past few months and we are blessed with many people who enjoy baking and providing snacks. Would you like to volunteer to host a particular Sunday? A signup sheet will be on the food table on Sundays. Please take a turn. Thank you!

## WALK AND TALK BIBLE STUDY. YOU CAN DO IT.

We are moving outside for the summer starting tomorrow, May 1 at 7:30 am. Meet in front of the parsonage (2024 Torino Dr). It is great for our minds, bodies, and souls! You will experience God's nature all around you - what a gift as you begin your day! No prep work needed, just come with your walking shoes on as we hit the trails around Tuscan Woods at for about an hour. Any time it is raining, we'll meet at church instead. Come and grow your love for the Lord even more!

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### PADS MEAL

Sunday, May 7 @ 5pm  
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

### SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, May 11 @ 5pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, May 16 @ 4:30pm  
Zion Lutheran Church

### FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, May 15 @ 5pm

### CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, May 28 @ 5pm  
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

# MISSION NEWS

## SHOE BOXES FOR SPIRIT LAKE

We will be collecting Target gift cards during May. These are a win-win for us. Buy your gift cards through Manna and Journey of Hope receives 2.5% of the value back. Andy also receives a discount from Target on purchases so more items are able to be purchased for the shoe boxes. Pick up a MANNA form from the Welcome Center or download one from the app under the RESOURCE tab.

## 2023 MISSION TRIP MEETING

Are you signed up for the upcoming Spirit Lake mission trip? If so, please plan to attend a meeting on Sunday, May 21 following worship in the Sunrise Room to review important details about our trip. Please contact Andy Lindstrom if you are unable to attend.



## TRIVIA NIGHT

Grab your friends and family and compete to see who knows it all! The Mission Team is hosting this FUNdraiser on Friday, May 12 from 6-8pm to support missions. Dinner, provided by Smokin' Coop BBQ, will be served beginning at 6pm. The Team is looking for dessert donations. There will be 4 rounds of trivia centered around movies, TV, sports and general knowledge. You can register through the app, call the office or stop by the Welcome Center. A free will offering will be collected.



**JOURNEY OF HOPE**  
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY  
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