

THE JOURNAL JOURNEY OF HOPE

May 2024 | Vol. 47

*“He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!””
(Revelation 21:5a, NIV)*

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

As we welcome the month of May, we certainly notice the change in our environment. Sure, it happens every year, but when spring reveals her beauty, there is something that is palpable in the air. There is a sense of hope and promise. There is a feeling that something new is about to begin. Maybe that's also true within Journey of Hope.

Over the past few years, there has been a push for new ministry opportunities within not only The United Methodist Church, but in churches everywhere. While many are seeing declining numbers of people worshipping on Sunday morning, they are seeing an increase in other times during the week. Many times, these gatherings don't look much like a traditional worship service. The term that is being used for these is "fresh expressions."

While I feel there is some merit in these new forms of being community, I also know that the traditional form of community as found within a church setting will not go away. Like many things in life, there needs to be a balance. Too many times we abandon the old ways and dive head-first into whatever new idea or trending theme happens to be going on. By doing this, we send a message that

whatever we were doing will not work, therefore we need a new approach. I feel like we need both. Which is why I want to ask a specific question.

What form of “fresh expressions” are you passionate about? Is there a hobby and favorite activity that you could build some community around? Maybe it’s something that’s already happening, like our “Stitches of Hope” group that gathers every Thursday and knits or crochets.

“ *What form of “fresh expressions” are you passionate about?* ”

It could be a puzzle group, golfing, hiking, movie appreciation, or any other number of hobbies and activities. It could also just be getting together for dinner, lunch, or just hanging out by a campfire on the first Friday of the month. These would all be fresh expressions of church and community building.

As Journey of Hope looks to live into our mission and vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, we turn our attention to some of these fresh
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CALLING GREETERS

We're in need of additional greeters to welcome our congregation and visitors. You can sign up monthly for a day and time that suits your availability. Simply arrive a bit earlier (8:30am for Elgin & 10am for Bartlett) on Sundays when you're attending worship. There are no meetings to attend, making it a convenient way to connect with our church family and greet newcomers. If you're interested in this welcoming role, please reach out to the campus Greeter Coordinator if you have questions: Janina Hoffman (Elgin) mshoff888@yahoo.com Lynda Baran (Bartlett) lyndalu22@yahoo.com

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GENERAL CONFERENCE 2024 BEGINS By: Jarrod Severing
Tuesday, April 23rd marked the beginning of the global gathering of The United Methodist Church's General Conference. This is the body, half clergy, half laity, which speaks for the whole church. Decisions are made, legislation is set, and a new Book of Discipline is created. While much of it will remain, there are some changes which are being proposed. These include removal of discriminatory language for the BoD, regionalization, and the revised social principles. Yes, there are many other pieces of legislation which will be voted upon, but with the declining membership and budgets, these will probably have the biggest impact on the UMC. Our prayers are with all the delegates, the bishops, and many others who have gathered in North Carolina to listen for God's voice amid a transitional church and mission. I will certainly try to keep you updated with changes and decisions as they come.

However, I also know that we at Journey of Hope are a community which comes from many different social, financial, educational, and theological backgrounds. We don't all think and believe alike, but can we agree to love alike. Remember that Paul wrote "faith, hope, and love remain, but the greatest of these is love." I understand that some are hoping things stay the same, while others are hoping for a change. In lesser communities, this could divide us, but we are Journey of Hope. Hope is our name-sake. Hope is foundational to our faith. We place our hope in Jesus Christ, knowing that through the grace of Christ, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the great agape love of God, we can find peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, and acceptance.

Whatever happens at General Conference, please know that we, at Journey of Hope, still have a mission to live out our faith as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. That has not, and will not, ever change. We continue the work that God has called us to. We are United Methodist. We are Journey of Hope. We are children of our Creator God.

MAY MISSION LINKS

Support Our May Mission Links: United Methodist Volunteers in Mission North Central Jurisdiction. Driven by a passion for service and a commitment to justice, they guide volunteers on a journey of compassion and solidarity. Whether rebuilding post-disaster homes or marginalized communities, they embody love in action. Their inclusive team welcomes all backgrounds and abilities, united to make a tangible impact. Through collaboration, advocacy, and hands-on service, they aim to foster a fairer society.

To contribute to Mission Links, drop your donation into the Sunday offering basket, mail a check (designated as "Mission Links"), or donate online through our giving platform (select "Mission Links" fund).



MINISTRY TEAMS

CHURCH COUNCIL

Carole Burris, Chair
carolejb0677@gmail.com

CARE TEAM

Mary Summers, Chair
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ENDOWMENT

Gary Newton, Chair
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Andy Lindstrom, Chair
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SPRC

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TRUSTEES

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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
- *Lisa Eby, healing following surgery
- *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
- ***Lillian Mink, recovering from fall**
- *Jan Paskiewicz
- Emma Ramos, cancer remission and improved kidney function
- *Connie Schweitzer, health
- *Annalise Smoot/Mollsen, cancer treatments
- **Dennis Stewart (cousin of Greg Cherry), awaiting lung transplant**
- Lincoln Zick (grandson of Donna Bach)

Prayers for strength, support and comfort:

- ***Mary Rees Freeman and family for the passing of Jim**

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
- Tay Lewis
- AJ Lewis
- DJ Lewis
- Jayden Meyer
- All family & friends serving in the Law Enforcement

Care Team will meet on
Tuesday, May 7 @ 1pm in
Elgin.



SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

Current Events, M5 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
Sunday School for Kids, L3 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
The Call Book Study, U1 (Elgin) @ 10:30am
Explore the Legacy, M3 (Elgin) @ 10:30am

TUESDAY

Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bread Bible Study, SE Panera @ 6am

THURSDAY

Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am



EXPLORE THE LEGACY: A Journey of Hope Study Opportunity

We're excited to announce a captivating study opportunity coming this May!

Join us for a three-week exploration into the lives and legacies of some remarkable individuals from our past. Beginning on May 5th, our study will delve into the inspiring stories of Marie Sidenius, Bishop Hartzel, and Morton Culver Hartzel. These individuals have played pivotal roles in shaping the history and spirit of our community, and their stories continue to resonate today.

This enriching study will provide a unique opportunity to learn, reflect, and connect with the rich heritage of our church.

Whether you're a long-time member or new to our community, we invite you to join us in room M3 on Sundays at 10:30am and embark on this enlightening journey together.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 15-19 @ 6-8pm

All children ages 3 - 10 years old*.
\$20 / child; \$50 / family max.

*ALL CHILDREN MUST BE POTTY TRAINED

- crafts
- music
- science
- bible stories

REGISTER TODAY!

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH CORNER



Our May United Women in Faith meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 1:00pm in M5 at the Elgin campus. Please join us for a round table discussion about how we all serve both at church and beyond. We will talk about volunteer opportunities. Hope to see you there.

Thank you to ALL who have given to the Women in Faith's Nifty Fifty commitment to pledge to the United Methodist District's Women in Faith, where funds are used to support and empower women and children in so many ways whether locally, nationally or globally. If you want to join this effort, please mail, go online or place your \$50 gift in the offering plate by May 15th. Together we can make a difference in others' lives!



BARGAINS, BLESSINGS & MORE By: Laura Mellinger

This year's garage sale will take place on Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th. We will need LOTS of volunteers to make this event a success. Set up for the event will be on Sunday, June 1st immediately following church service and fellowship time. You may begin bringing items to sell and place them in the Sonrise room beginning May 26th through June 5th. Please no electronics or clothes. We will have sign ups coming soon for volunteers to help set up, organize and price, work the sale days and clean up. Please consider offering even a couple hours of your time to help with this event as we will need lots of hands to make this event a success. We can find a way for everyone to be of use!

Also, we would love another co-chair to join Kimberly and I in being available for the week. Please let Kimberly Lynch or myself, Laura Mellinger, know if you are interested; see either of us at church or send us an email. Please contact Kimberly Lynch (klynch1264@yahoo.com) or Laura Mellinger (bucket181@yahoo.com) with any questions.

FIRST FRIDAY FIRESIDE FELLOWSHIP

Kick off the First Friday Fireside Fellowship on Friday, May 3rd, at 6:30pm. We are seeking donations of hot dogs, buns, condiments, small bags of chips, marshmallows, mini-Hershey bars, graham crackers, and roasting sticks. Join us in inviting our neighbors by distributing invitation cards after worship on Sunday, April 28th, showcasing both the Fireside Fellowship and VBS. Rain or shine, the neighborhood outreach and event will proceed as planned. For any inquiries, please reach out to Jason.



NEW FELOWSHIP TIME EXPERIENCE

We all cherish our Fellowship time after worship at both campuses. Starting the 3rd Sunday of May, everyone can join in! Once a month, we'll host a special themed potluck with snacks provided by us. On May 19th, please bring a BREAD item to share. Each month, the 3rd Sunday will feature a different food category. Let's embrace this new tradition! Don't forget to mark your calendars for June, when the theme will be PIES.

KANE SENIOR COUNCIL By: Kayla Falco

Kane Senior Council (KSC) is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to seniors in the Elgin area. KSC is a proud member of Meals on Wheels America, delivering nutritious, ready-to-eat meals to homebound seniors in Kane County on Mondays-Fridays. In 2022, KSC delivered 41,255 meals to seniors in Elgin, and as this number of seniors in need of our services continues to grow, so does our need for volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering can visit our website at www.kaneseniorcouncil.org/get-involved/.



Kane Senior Council

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

expressions of faith. While I would like to be at every one of these, I know that Jason and I can't and therefore, they need to be led by those who have the passion for those groups. So, I am encouraging all of you to think about ways that you can begin building community through these activities. Give me or Jason a call and let us know what you would like to do and how we can support you. Please, continue to think about this with a mindset of abundance, not scarcity as God is providing for us and continues to lead us along our journey.

The United Methodist Church began with a laity movement. Fresh expression will also be laity driven. This means all of you. Together we can participate with God in this new extension of Journey of Hope. What do you need in order to begin something new? Where is God leading?

Pastor Jarrod

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, May 5 @ 5:30pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

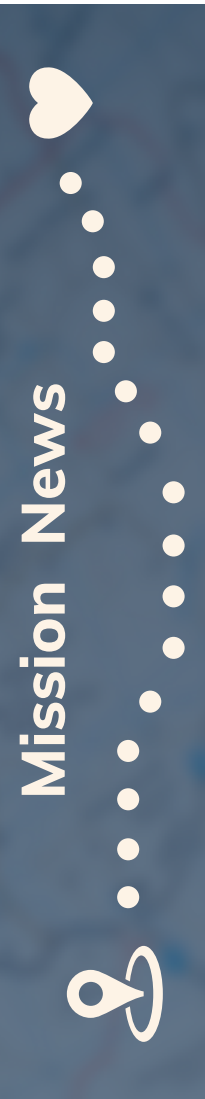
SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, May 9 @ 4:45pm
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, May 21 @ 4:45pm
Zion Lutheran Church

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, May 25 @ 5:00pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651



SPIRIT LAKE SHOE BOX COLLECTION

In May, our shoebox collection is dedicated to gathering items specifically for boys at Spirit Lake. Your generous contributions play a crucial role in brightening the holidays for these children. We invite you to donate items such as small toys (e.g.: Matchbox cars, yoyos, Legos, action figures), school supplies, hygiene products, and warm clothing to make a meaningful impact. Join us in spreading joy and bringing smiles to the faces of those at Spirit Lake through your thoughtful donations.

BARTLETT FEST IS COMING SOON

Celebrate Independence Day Weekend, July 4th through the 7th, with a bang! Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities and donate refreshing drinks to keep everyone cool. We're on the lookout for a superstar to take the lead, especially with Dave Jackson moving on July 5th and Andy's availability uncertain. Connect with Dave or Andy for more info and to step up as our hero in charge. Let's make this holiday weekend one to remember!

SPIRIT LAKE MISSION TRIP LAST CALL

Join us for the Spirit Lake Mission Trip taking place from June 23-28. We still have room for 5 more people to join us on this year's trip. Reserve your spot by registering with Andy or Pastor Jarrod, or drop by the Navigation Center. The deadline to sign up for this trip is April 30th.



Looking ahead to June, we anticipate having a minimum of 15 missionaries travelling to the Spirit Lake Mission Center. If you cannot make the trip, there's still a meaningful way for you to contribute. Consider becoming a dedicated prayer partner for our missionaries. Your support through daily prayers and a thoughtful packet including an inspirational note will make a significant difference. Contact Carole Burris about this opportunity and how you can get involved.

