

JOURNEY OF HOPE

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THE JOURNAL

COMING SOON....A NEW CHURCH APP!

We all long for new ways of remaining connected with each other, and even ways to become more intimately connected. Social media is nice, but not always the safest place to share and learn. It also seems like there's always something new coming out and it might be a bit overwhelming. However, we are working hard to introduce something new to you. You might have heard that "there's an app for that," especially when talking about learning in our society. Well, if you are looking to grow in your discipleship, your knowledge of your Journey of Hope family, or just want to know what's going on at Journey of Hope, then I can say, "there's an app for that!"



We hope to unveil this new app for smart phones in the coming months. This will be a space where you can worship online, discover small groups, have protected

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"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."
(Ezekiel 36:26, ESV)

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

New beginnings, we all want them from time to time. It seems as though there is something special about starting a new job, new relationship, new child or grandchild, or maybe just as simple as trying a new restaurant. We have seasons in our lives when a fresh start is celebrated, like starting (or finishing) school. I guess that's why September is a wonderful time of year, besides my birthday. We celebrate "Rally Day," when many of our Sunday School classes begin again. There's an emphasis on 'back to church' Sunday. It is almost as if we are trying to celebrate this new beginning each and every year.

"WE KNOW THE 'NEW' THING THAT GOD IS PROVIDING FOR US IS BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAD BEFORE."

While I know that this should not be a new beginning for everyone, especially as we think about our life within the church and how it should be year-round, it certainly can be for others. Maybe this is the year you decide to join a small group or Sunday school class. Maybe you've been running from the idea of leading a small group and are now hearing

God's calling for you.

Either way, this is a busy time of the year for churches, schools, and families. We are figuring out new ways of doing some of the old things, and that might feel painful. But we are reminded that God is always the same. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and I hope that gives us a sense of stability in changing times.

A message from God, given through Ezekiel, is that we will receive a new heart, a new spirit within us. So, while we experience changes and possibly loss during the process, we know the
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SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The mission team and the scholarship committee are pleased to announce the three Love Your Neighbor scholarships for deserving students attending ECC. Two \$1000 scholarships are for new freshmen interested in psychology and accounting. A \$500 scholarship goes to a continuing student in nursing who is finishing a long journey to finish at ECC.

These scholarships were created last year and are being awarded for the first time. We had eight worthy applicants and are pleased with that community interest.



NEW CHURCH APP *(cont from page 1)*

conversations, join a bible study, lead a bible study, or just find out what's happening here at Journey of Hope. We will have complete control over the content, and it will all be handled "in-house" so you don't have to worry about sharing information.

There will be a time of training offered to all people where you can have your questions answered and explore the app with a tech guide. I will be encouraging everyone to download the app once it's available because it will also allow us to maintain contact through messaging, especially in an emergency context.

If you have any questions or concerns as we lead up to the release, please let Pastor Jarrod or Robyn know. Also, if you have any suggestions for things that should be included, we would love to hear from you. This truly is an exciting time at Journey of Hope and I pray that you are all looking forward to this new way of reaching out and connecting with each other. Get ready, the tech is coming.

Pastor Jarrod

RALLY DAY

Bring your kids, grandkids, and their friends to a butterfly event after church on September 11. We will be...

decorating our "little library" with handprints and bugs
painting rocks

making milkweed seed balls

Children bring an old paint shirt!!!

And....prepare to eat caterpillars....and....have fun!!

September

Sunday
Worship
 S & FB Live @ 9:15am
Fellowship Time
 CR @ 10:15am
Group Studies
 M3 @ 10:30am
Confirmation
 10:30am (begins 9/18)

Monday
Walking Bible Study
 Parsonage @ 6:30am
***if rain, meet in SR*

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

Thursday
Prayer Service
 SR & FB Live @ 7am
Coffee w/ the Pastor
 SR @ 7:30am
Stitches of Hope
 M5 @ 1pm
Disciple Bible Study
 TBD @ 7-9pm

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3
4 MANNA Orders PADS, 5pm	5	6 Care Team, 1pm Trustee Mtg, 7pm		8 Vintage 325, 10 am Soup Kettle, 5pm	9 Game Night, 7pm	10 Super Service Saturday, 9am
11 RALLY DAY	12	13 SPRC, 7pm	14	15 UWF, 1pm	16	17
18 MANNA Orders Mission Team, 8am Council Retreat, 1pm	19 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	20 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm	21	22	23	24
25 Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	26	27 Church Council, 7pm	28	29	30	

SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

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

"Beyond the Broken Heart," U5 @ 10:30am 9/11

"Revival," U1 @ 10:30am 9/11

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 6:30am

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study, U1 @ 7pm



Solar Oven Partners

This solar oven training and distribution program works in the Dominican Republic.

solarovenpartnersumc.org

from Universal Church were not there as they finalized their end of the paperwork on August 8th.

There was an initial down payment of \$187,000.00 which after closing costs, netted Journey of Hope \$151,323.29. We now enter into a two-year contract where we will receive monthly installment payments of \$3,750.00 which includes 4% interest and principal payments. The final closing date is set for August 2024 where we will receive the payment for the remaining balance.

This has been a long process and I want to offer my thanks to Dave Akemann for being so diligent in making sure paperwork was correct and the many phone calls and emails to facilitate this closing sale. Also, a big thank you to your trustees for staying the course and bringing this chapter to a partial close, as we will have to wait two years for the final closing. I know that this news might bring some emotional responses as this was a beautiful church in the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church for many years. Wesley UMC served this community well and was accentuated with the missional gifts to the Elgin community just prior to the merger.

While this building is no longer a United Methodist Church, we know that God is still providing through the foundation that was laid by many current members and saints from the past. God is using this building to continue reaching into this community through Universal Church and we pray that lives will be changed through the ministries offered within those walls. Journey of Hope offers our warmest blessings for the leadership of that church, and pray for all who will continue walking through the doors on South Street. Yes, something new!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jarrod

SEPTEMBER UWF MEETING

UWF will be having a Spirit Lake shoe box wrapping session on Thursday, September 15th at 1pm in M5 and the community room. Everyone is welcome to join in this push to help get Christmas shoeboxes wrapped and ready to fill prior to being delivered to Spirit Lake in October.

GINGERBREAD BAZAAR

There are limited booth spaces still available for this year's Gingerbread Bazaar craft fair. The event is on Saturday, October 15 from 9am-3pm. Contact Shari Weber at shari@johumc.org for an application.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Last chance for all who would like to form a Dungeons & Dragons group. If you have an adventuring spirit, like solving problems/puzzles, working as a team, and enjoy shared storytelling then give it a try! Teamwork, trust & fun! See Steve Meyer or email moonwatcher2001@hotmail.com

From the Desk of Your Pastor

(cont from page 1)

the 'new' thing that God is providing for us is better than what we had before. If you remember, from what each of you told us in the congregational assessment tool (CAT), we are poised to multiply here at Journey of Hope. This could be another worship service, online presence, satellite location, or an adoption merger. This is in addition to the three goals which were explained during our survey evaluation presentation. Of course, the multiplication will also fit within one or more of the goals. This is truly an exciting time for all of us.

I must also let you know about the Wesley property sale. On August 5th of this year, we held the initial closing of the building sale to Universal Church. Our attorney, Dave Akemann, along with Chuck Keysor, Gary Newton, and myself were there to finalize the sale with signatures. Representatives

MANNA GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Manna Gift Card program is an ongoing fundraiser. Through Manna you are able to purchase gift cards at face value for a wide variety of stores -- from big box and grocery stores to pharmacies and gas stations! In return the retailer will give a portion (2-20% depending on the retailer; percentages are listed on the order form) back to Journey of Hope. Purchase a gift card to use for your everyday spending or buy one to give as a gift.

Orders are collected the first and third Sundays each month. You can download an order form [here](#) or pick one up at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning.

Questions? Contact Carole at 847.436.3246 or at carolejb0677@gmail.com

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, September 4 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.717.4318

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, September 8 @ 5pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tuesday, September 20 @ 4:30pm at
Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, September 19 @ 5pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, September 25 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.717.4318



Revival is resuming in U1. Chapter 4 "The Necessity of Grace"; All are welcome.

Beyond the Broken Heart is starting in U5. This is an 8 week grief support and ministry program for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

MISSION NEWS



CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX NEEDS

We are having a huge packing day on Saturday, September 10th. We need to collect infant/toddler items. Small stuffed animals, sippy cups, toddler toothbrushes, socks, coloring books, crayons, bibs, baby shampoo, toys for 3 years and under are needed. Hate to shop? Order a Target gift card through MANNA and we will do the shopping!

SUPER SERVICE SATURDAY

The 15th annual Super Service Saturday is September 10th, from 9am-4pm. Sign up online or at the welcome center for JOH yard cleanup, wrapping shoeboxes, and Feed My Starving Children. Sign up for one or all! Lunch will be served around 11:30am. Come be part of this day of fellowship and helping others!

We would like to thank our newest members, Judy and Darrell Lindstrom. Through Thrivent Financial grants they have donated \$1000 this year to support our mission events, pies, spaghetti dinner, shoeboxes, and Super Saturday lunch. Thank you for your generosity!



JOURNEY OF HOPE
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