

# THE JOURNAL

## JOURNEY OF HOPE

September 2023 | Vol. 39

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles." Acts 2:42-43, NIV*

### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

August is the semi-official back to school month as most schools have already begun classes and kids already have a boatload of homework to complete. I seem to remember beginning school after Labor Day weekend, probably because I don't remember having many school birthday parties, especially with my birthday falling on the 2nd. However, September seems to be the official back to church month as we will sometimes hold "rally day" celebrations and launch Sunday School classes at this time.

This doesn't have to be just for the kids, maybe us 'kids at heart' want to take part in this time of year. We try to figure out what class we would like to join, rearrange our schedule so that we can attend, and then get ready for the learning to begin. What do you want to learn this year? Where would you like to grow?

At Journey of Hope, we are launching not only a new campus this month with our first worship service on Sunday the 10th, but we are also looking at a few new classes and small groups to start up this year. Recently, Connie Schweitzer began "Journey with the

Living Word," which is an online group studying with the help of Zoom. Lisa Eby is beginning a class on prayer journaling. Ted Whittington is thinking about starting a UMC/local church history class on Sundays. Plus, we have so many existing classes from Mary's class on current events and Steve Meyer's very accepting class. As we

Let's make a commitment to grow in our faith this year.

get closer to Advent, we will also have many short-term classes start up to follow the worship series. And this is just the beginning of what we will offer at our Bartlett campus.

When I think about this time of year and the beginning of so many school classes, I can't help but think of all those front porch signs telling us what grade our kids and grandkids are entering, as well as what their favorite things are from food and games to teachers and classes. So, let me ask you a question. If you were to hold up a sign as you enter the 2023-2024

(cont on page 5)



Starting 9/10

**ELGIN**  
Worship, 9am  
Fellowship Time, 10am  
Sunday School, 10:15am

**BARTLETT**  
Worship, 10:30am  
Fellowship Time, 11:30am

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## **MINISTRY TEAMS**

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## **WE ARE COMING TO BARTLETT!!**

Sunday, September 10th will be an exciting day as together we launch Journey of Hope with our sisters and brothers in the Bartlett community. Worship at 9am in Elgin for the first part of Pastor Jarrod's message then journey with us at 10:30am to worship in Bartlett for the conclusion of the message! All are welcome to stay for fellowship, a provided picnic, games to watch or participate in, and music! If you are able, please bring a dessert to share or a case of water. Weather permitting we will be outside for part of the activities, so don't forget your comfy lawn chair. Mark your calendars and join us!

It would be great to have an estimation for the meal so if you plan on coming, RSVP here. We hope many from Elgin will make the journey to join with our Bartlett folks for this very special day!!

## **TWO SPECIAL EVENTS COMING SOON**

First the **Gingerbread Bazaar** will be on Saturday, October 21st from 9am-3pm at the Elgin campus. You won't want to miss this showcase of handmade products along with the bake sale and a light lunch available for purchase. The opportunity to assist in a variety of ways will be coming soon so stay tuned!



Later, as the Advent season arrives, the 32nd annual **Cookie Walk and Craft Fair** will be on Saturday, December 2nd from 9am-3pm at the Bartlett campus. Another event you won't want to miss. There will also be many ways to assist with this event as well.

Two campuses, double the opportunities to raise funds for missions while sharing with the both communities in many wonderful ways!

## **CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE; NOW LET US CREATE FOR GOD**

What do you get when prayer meets creativity? Creative Prayer Journaling! Join and create a personal prayer journal in which to write your conversations with God, prayer requests from others, your thoughts about a Bible verse and how it fits into your life. There will be time for creativity in your journals as we discuss a Bible verse chosen for the week. We hope that Creative Prayer Journaling helps build and strengthen your relationship with God while giving you the space and freedom to create and share time with others. All you need to bring is a pair of scissors and a willing heart.

This class will run from Wednesdays September 6 - October 11, 2023 @ 2pm in the upstairs conference room in Elgin.

## **WOMEN'S SALAD SUPPER**

All women are invited to join us for a casual salad supper on Wednesday, August 30th at 4:30pm. This is a wonderful way to engage with and meet other women in our community. Stay after for Pathways Worship @ 6pm.

Please sign up [online](#), through the app or at the Navigation Center.

# SEPTEMBER

## SUNDAY

### Worship

Sanctuary & FB Live @ 9:15am

### Fellowship Time

Community Rm @ 10:15am

### Worship

Sanctuary & FB Live @ 10:30am

### Fellowship Time

Levans Hall @ 11:30am

## Tuesday

### Walking Bible Study

Parsonage, 7:30am

## WEDNESDAY

### Panera Bible Study

SE Panera @ 6am

### Creative Prayer Journaling

U1 @ 2pm

### Pathways Worship

Community Rm & FB Live @ 6pm

### Choir Practice

Wesley Chapel @ 7pm

## THURSDAY

### Prayer Service

Sonrise Rm & FB Live @ 7am

### Coffee w/ the Pastor

Sonrise Rm @ 7:30am

### Journey w/ the Living Word

Zoom, 11am

### Stitches of Hope

M5 @ 1pm

Elgin Campus - In Black  
Bartlett Campus - In Green

## SUNDAY

## MONDAY

## TUESDAY

## WEDNESDAY

## THURSDAY

## FRIDAY

## SATURDAY

27	28	29	30 Women's Salad Supper, 4:30pm	31	1	2
3 MANNA Orders Blood Drive, 12:30pm PADS, 5pm	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	5 Trustees, 7pm	6 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	7	8 Game Night, 7pm	9 Super Svc Sat, 9am-4pm
10 NEW WORSHIP TIMES! SEE PAGE 1 Picnic, 11:30am	11	12 Care Team, 1pm SPRC, 7pm	13	14 Soup Kettle, 5pm	15	16
17 MANNA Orders Missions Mtg, 10:30am	18 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	19 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm	20 UWF, 1pm	21	22	23
24 Creative Journey, 3pm Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	25	26 Church Council, 7pm	27 Book Club, 4:30pm	28	29	30

## SUNDAY SCHOOL / BIBLE STUDIES

We have several Bible Studies and Small Groups that meet through out the week! Keep an eye out for new classes as more are added regularly. Interested in leading a class? See Pastor Jarrod.

**SUNDAY** - Starting Sunday, September 17 @ 10:15am

### **Jesus Revolution, M3**

This film depicts the inspirational story of the Jesus Movement of the the 60's & 70's, highlighting a wave of spiritual revival culture change centered around young people encountering Christianity and embracing its message of love and faith.

This is a 5 week class; the movie will be broken up into 25 minute segments with discussion and questions following.

### **Current Events, M5**

Mary VanSlyck leads this casual class which centers around various topics of the day. Regular attendance is not required.

### **Kid's Sunday School, L3**

Designed especially for kids, children will hear Bible stories through fun activities, interactive lessons, and creative crafts that nurture their spiritual growth and begin building a solid foundation on their faith.

## TUESDAY

### **Walking Bible Study, Parsonage @ 7:30am**

Walk the trails near the parsonage for a refreshing combination of leisurely walks and meaningful discussions, allowing you to strengthen your spiritual walk while enjoying the beauty of nature and each other's company.

## WEDNESDAY

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

Come enjoy a cup of coffee, pastry and discuss the upcoming Sunday's bible verses at the South Elgin Panera Bread.

## THURSDAY

### **Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am**

All are invited to join this online group led by Connie Schweitzer. This class meets weekly for approximately 90 minutes and will focus on Philippians 3 & 4 in September. Sign up through the app or church office for the Zoom link.

# SUPER SERVICE SATURDAY

Join us for our annual Super Service Saturday on Saturday, September 9th, from 9am-4pm. This event was started by our youth 16 years ago to have one opportunity a year where we all gather for a day of serving together. This year's serving opportunities include:

- Wrapping / Packing Shoeboxes: 9am-4pm
- Fill the Truck Food Drive: 9am-4pm
- Feed My Starving Children: 2-4pm
- Landscaping: 9am-4pm **NEW**

*In preparation for the upcoming winter, we will be tending to the landscaping (spreading mulch in flower beds, weeding...) Please bring a wheelbarrow and/or shovels to help move mulch.*

The Mission Team will serve lunch at noon. Sign up on the app or contact the office.

Questions? See Andy Lindstrom.

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

what would your sign say, just beginning, maybe 1st or 2nd grade? Or would it read high school, college, or graduate school? What would your favorite teacher or subject be? Maybe you know what class or group you would like to join, or maybe you know a topic you would like to study more and wonder if anyone would be willing to lead it. I would even challenge you to think about possibly leading a small group or class. Just reach out to me and let me know what you would like to begin, and we will work it into the schedule. It can be in person, online, or even hybrid.

Let's make a commitment to grow in our faith this year. This happens as we participate in the means of grace, by studying, praying, worshiping, meditating, and being in holy conversations with our brothers and sisters in Christ. What do you need to grow in your faith and knowledge of God over the next year? How can Journey of Hope help you on that path?

Pastor Jarrod





**UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH** will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 20th @ 1pm in M5. We will be wrapping shoeboxes for Spirit Lake and enjoying fellowship at the same time. Please join us as we get ready to deliver shoeboxes in October.

## BOOK CLUB

Emily St. John Mandel's post apocalyptic novel "*Station Eleven*" will be the focus for our September meeting. The book follows a group of characters as they navigate a world decimated by a deadly pandemic, highlighting the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring impact of art and culture.

Join us on Wednesday, September 27 @ 4:30pm at the Elgin campus conference room, U1. Reading is better together and hope to see many of you there. Questions? Contact Mary VanSlyck.

## MISSION LINKS

Our September Mission Links will support The Caretaker's of God's Creation. This grassroots community aims to elevate the understanding among Methodists about the profound correlation between Christian discipleship and the stewardship of God's creation while also equipping churches and organizations with diverse resources to actively practice their faith within this context.

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.

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### PADS MEAL

Sunday, September 3 @ 5pm  
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

### SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, September 14 @ 5pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, September 19 @ 4:30pm  
Zion Lutheran Church

### FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, September 18 @ 5pm

### CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, September 24 @ 5pm  
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

## MISSION NEWS



We extend a heartfelt appreciation to our congregation. In August, we distributed funds from our summer fundraisers to the following:

- \$1,150 was directed to support Amy Mellinger and her companion, Manny, in attending a leadership conference in Colorado.
- \$5,000 was allocated to the Heifer Project to acquire an "ark" .
- \$1,500 was dedicated to United Voices for Children.
- \$500 was directed towards Kids Above All.
- UMCOR received \$1,000 to further their impactful initiatives.
- We contributed \$500 to the All People's Interfaith Food Pantry.
- A sum of \$500 was directed to the Hanover Township Food Pantry.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of a giving congregation like Journey of Hope. Through your generosity, we are able to make a positive impact on individuals around the world, our nation, and our local communities. The Mission Team extends its gratitude for your continuous support as we persist in embodying the compassionate spirit of Jesus in our world.