

THE JOURNAL JOURNEY OF HOPE

November 2023 | Vol. 41

"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving!" Psalm 69:30, NIV

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

As Paul begins his letter to the church in Philippi by telling them that he gives thanks to God every time he remembers them, I begin this letter in the same way. I thank God every day for the wonderful people of Journey of Hope. From the talented and gracious staff to all of the members and guests who grace our building and online worship services, I thank God for you! Your love and grace is evident in the missions and ministry of this church in our communities of Bartlett and Elgin. And I am grateful for the journey that we are on together. Who would have thought that this is where we would be as we reflect back over the past four years. Yes, God knew.

I know that November is the month that many of us take the time to be thankful, but I wonder why it seems like only this one month. Certainly, society plays right into this with the Thanksgiving holiday, but what if we made a decision to live in a constant state of gratefulness? How could our view of the world and our lives change?

A few years ago, one of the biggest trends was to keep a 'gratitude journal.' These are daily or weekly journals in which you reflected on

the day or week and then wrote down something that you were grateful for. One person told me that she needed to be as specific as possible because it was really easy to share about being grateful for the day, for family, or her church. However, when it came time to share about something specific, it took a little more time and forced her to think of something new each day, never repeating the thing she was thankful for.

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What if we made a decision to live in a constant state of gratefulness?

Some of you have already begun this in your life. If you have, I would love for you to share your experiences with others, maybe in a 531 moment. Encourage people in the community of Journey of Hope to start a journal, especially as you think about the difference it has made in your life.

I encourage you to get a notebook that you can keep next to your bed or on your desk where you can write

(cont on page 5)

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

This Advent, dive into a transformative book study as we explore "Heaven and Earth" by renowned author William H. Willimon. Join us on a spiritual journey through the pages of this inspiring work, deepening your connection to the true meaning of the season. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your faith and understanding. Mark your calendar and come ready to embark on a remarkable Advent adventure.

Sign ups for classes will be available soon. If you wish to lead a group, please see Pastor Jarrod.

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32ND ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT FAIR 2023

It's a blessing to return to having an in person Christmas Cookie Walk and Craft Fair this year at the Bartlett Campus. On Saturday December 2nd from 9-3 pm we welcome you to fill a box with homemade Christmas cookies for your holiday parties and shop with our vendors to kick off the Advent season. For \$25 Cookie Walkers get a 9' square clear container which we fill with assorted homemade, festive cookies of their choice. Depending on the cookies chosen, it can weigh between 3-4 pounds. It's an easy way to prepare for your holiday parties and gifts. Our vendors have unique offerings that are sure to please loved ones on your list. Proceeds go to our mission efforts.

BAKERS NEEDED

Don't put your apron away after baking for the Gingerbread Bazaar! Crack open your cookie recipe book, open your Pinterest account, or call your mom for that family recipe.

1. Select a few of your favorite Christmas cookies or cookie bar recipes that you can contribute to this event. We suggest you double or triple your recipes, as we need an thousands of cookies.
2. Label your container with your name and it will be returned to you. Identify the cookie and please mark if it has nuts or other allergic ingredients, like coconut.
3. Deliver your baked goods to the Bartlett campus on December 1st from 4-7pm. Most cookies can be made a few weeks ahead and frozen until the day of the walk. We have freezer space available at the Bartlett Campus if you need to store them before that date.

Contact Mary Norris or Jean Dye to arrange for delivery of your cookies if you need to use the Bartlett freezers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Cookie Walk and Craft Fair needs volunteers to help set up the station, fill cookie boxes, work the lunch station and clean up at the end of the event. Please consider participating in one of these ways. Look for a signup email coming soon.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT IS NEAR! That means decorating the church for the holiday or "Hanging of the Greens". We will be decorating the Elgin campus on Saturday, Nov. 25th from 9:00am-1:00pm. If you love decorating or just love the season of Advent please come out and join us. BUT before we can decorate, all of our decorations must be taken down from the balcony in the community room. We will do this on Sunday, Nov. 19th following worship service. We ask for church members to please help with this before attending small groups as lots of manpower is needed.

Stay tuned for details about Hanging of the Greens in Bartlett!

MINISTRY TEAMS

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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:

- *Gene Carter
- *Ernie Chapman
- Angelo DiLiberti (father of Susan Collins), declining health
- Donna (sister of Connie Schweitzer), surgery to remove hypothyroid cysts
- *Virginia Fink, strength and determination
- *Chris Freund, eye surgery
- Friend of Marlon, battling stomach cancer
- *Jeff Grajek, multiple myeloma
- Hunter (son of Mary Norris), migraines
- *Robin Luzin, shoulder surgery
- Lynn (friend of Carlene Kellenberger), health issues
- Emily and family (niece of Lisa Eby)
- Marlene Palm, health
- Neighbor of Margo Goodwin, battling breast cancer
- Emma Ramos, cancer remission and improved kidney function
- *Connie Schweitzer, health
- *Linda Seyller, health issues
- *Anneliese Mollsen-Smoot, cancer treatments
- Lincoln Zick (grandson of Donna Bach)
- Brett Zweig (son of Carol Zweig), ongoing health issues

Prayers for strength, support and comfort:

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

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NOVEMBER

SUNDAY

Worship
Sanctuary/FB Live, 9:00am

Fellowship Time
Community Rm, 10:00am

Sunday School
M3, M5, L3, 10:15am

Worship
Sanctuary & FB Live, 10:30am

Fellowship Time
Levans Hall, 11:30am

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study
Parsonage, 7:30am

Line Dancing
Levans Hall, 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bible Study
S.Elgin Panera, 6am

Pathways Worship
Sanctuary / 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

Soulful Walkers
Randall Oaks Rec Center, 6pm

Elgin Campus - In Black
Bartlett Campus - In Green

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

29 Potluck & - Townhall, 12pm	30	31	1 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	2 Disciple II, 7pm	3 Merger Team Mtg, 6:30pm	4
5 MANNA ORDERS SPRC, 11:45am PADS, 5pm	6 Cookie Walk Mtg, 7:30pm	7 Care Team, 1pm Trustees, 7pm	8	9 Soup Kettle, 5pm	10 Mission Mtg, 12pm Game Night, 7pm	11 Adoption Event, 11am
12 Blood Drive, 12:30pm	13	14	15 UWF, 1pm	16 Disciple II, 7pm	17	18
19 MANNA ORDERS	20 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	21 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm Finance, 7pm	22	23 	24	25 Hanging of the Greens, 9am
26 Creative Journey, 3pm Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	27	28 Church Council 7pm	29 Book Club, 4:30pm	30 Disciple II, 7pm	1 Cookie Walk Set Up	2 Cookie Walk & Craft Fair, 9am

SUNDAY SCHOOL / BIBLE STUDIES

We have several Bible Studies and Small Groups that meet through out the week! Interested in leading a class? See Pastor Jarrod.

SUNDAY, 10:15am Elgin

"If You Want to Walk on Water..." , U1

Current Events, M5

Kid's Sunday School, L3

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, Sonrise Entrance @ 7:30am

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Journey with the Living Word, Zoom @ 11am

Soulful Walkers, Randall Oaks Rec Center @ 6pm

A PAWSITIVELY AWESOME EVENT

Get ready for an unforgettable day filled with love, compassion, and furry companionship. Join us on November 11th from 11am-1pm as we co-sponsor an adoption event with Heartland Animal Shelter. You'll have the chance to meet, pet, walk, and potentially adopt one of the 4-8 animals that will be present.

Our mission for this event is to raise \$2000 in support of the dedicated veterinarians at Heartland Animal Shelter who work tirelessly to provide essential treatments for the animals under their care. Together, we have the power to make a profound difference in these animals' lives, offering them a brighter future.

Heartland Animal Shelter will gratefully accept donations of items such as dry food, large bath towels, crates, carriers, and more. And don't forget to indulge in some delicious, flavored popcorn, as all proceeds will go directly to Heartland Animal Shelter.

We're also on the lookout for volunteers to make this event a resounding success. Please reach out to David Jackson, if you are interested in helping.

Let's come together as a community to create a positive change in the lives of these deserving animals. Your participation will truly make a difference, and we can't wait to see you there!

NOVEMBER MISSION LINKS



This month, we're supporting PADS of Elgin in their mission to provide a safe and caring environment for homeless individuals and families in the Elgin area. For 28 years, PADS of Elgin has offered emergency shelter services while helping those in need plan for a sustainable future. The shelter is open every day of the year, from 7pm to 7am, and currently accommodates up to 96 guests per night.

If you would like to contribute to Mission Links, you may drop your donation into the offering basket during Sunday worship, mail a check to our office (designating it as "Mission Links"), or donate online through our giving platform (selecting the "Mission Links" fund).

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

those grateful thoughts. Make this a regular part of your day as you reflect on what you've encountered and then search for those things to be grateful. It may be a chance conversation with an old friend, a lunch with a parent or child, or an encounter with someone at a store, but I'm sure that there will be something that you want to give God thanks for that happened during your day.

I want to encourage all of you to give this spiritual discipline a chance. And to help in this effort, we will be putting some gratefulness prompts out on our social media, church app, and possibly other forms. The emphasis will be during the seven days leading up to Thanksgiving. I ask that we would all engage in this practice of gratitude so that the entire community and beyond will be encouraged by the words and experiences we share.

Again, I thank God every time I think about all of you. You are a blessing and I am forever grateful!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jarrod

Frank and I want to shout out a huge "Thank you". We so appreciated the cards, texts, emails and phone calls we received during the past several months. We truly felt your love and prayers. We are happy to say Frank is doing so much better on his new medication.



Blessings, Mary & Frank Summers

2023 CROP WALK RAISES HOPE AND FUNDS

This year the Journey of Hope CROP Walk team was blessed to include 13 Walkers: Steve Mink, Team Captain; Mary Weas, Mary Becker, Steve Meyer, Bev and Gary Newton, Mick and Janina Hoffman, Carlene Kellenberger, Mary and Roland Norris, Lauren Mink, and Chris Magana. (Three were unable to attend the official walk and walked separately.) We were fortunate to have good weather again this year. Together we raised \$3,000 for international disaster relief through Church World Service and for local food pantries. Thank you to all of our generous donors and to all who prayed for our safety and for good weather for the walk and for the well-being of the beneficiaries of the funds raised.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, November 5 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, November 9 @ 5pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, November 21 @ 4:30pm

Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, November 20 @ 5pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, November 26 @ 5pm

Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

THAT'S A WRAP...

Gratitude goes out to everyone who contributed to the Christmas shoeboxes project. Journey of Hope successfully packed 899 boxes this year, bringing our 12-year total to 10,367 boxes. In addition to our efforts, three other churches generously added 603 more boxes, resulting in a grand total of 1,502 boxes being transported to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center. The people at Spirit Lake are filled with enthusiasm as they prepare to distribute these boxes to those in need. Kenny Baker Jr. expressed his heartfelt appreciation, saying, "Please convey to everyone that these gifts hold immense significance for the children and parents on the reservation. For many of them, this might be the only gift they receive. We pray for all of you to continue this vital project for my people."

JOURNEY OF HOPE IS SPREADING JOY & LOVE ALL AROUND

From November to December 10th, let's all come together and lend a helping hand to those in need. We will be collecting some wintertime essentials like cozy PJs (all sizes, even adults), hats, gloves, mittens, children's boots, and warm coats. These donations will light up the faces of Parkwood School and bring warmth to Elgin's most vulnerable. Come on down to either of our campuses and drop off your donations at our collection boxes. Let's make this holiday season extra special for our community!

IT'S BAAACCKKK...

We are so happy to announce the return of our annual Spirit Lake Mission Trip in 2024! The dates are set for June 23 - June 28th. Sign up today. Exciting things are being planned by Kim & Paulette Paulson, Kenny Baker, Jr. and Andy & Jenny Lindstrom.



**MISSION
News**