Hope strives to be a safe haven for God’s unconditional love. Every person is invited and encouraged to participate in all Hope activities and roles, including membership and leadership. In this world, most human conflict and separation are caused by our differences: like race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, political positions, and more. Hope embraces diversity and welcomes all who come through our doors, without exception.

Hope’s Service Time: 10:00 A.M. Sunday

Connect with Hope
www.hopepresbyterian.org

Pastor:
Rev. Jay Moses pastorjaym@sbcglobal.net

Administrative Assistant:
Beth Cecil

Church Office Hours:
8:30 AM – 1:30 PM, Mon.–Thurs. CLOSED ON FRIDAY

Office Phone:
630-668-7750
Office Fax:
630-668-7950
Hope’s Email:
hopepres@sbcglobal.net

Clerk of Session:
Bill Borst (630-699-3873)

Choir Director:
Yuliya Hedroyts

Financial Secretary:
Glenn Stith

Church Treasurer:
Jay Lechnick

Building & Grounds:
Jim Vroman (630-660-7415)

Pastoral Care Contact:
Carol Urban (630-469-3819)

Elders on Session
John Dalby (630-460-5231) Anna Lloyd (312-622-6004)
Lynne Danekas (630-267-7354) Duane Ness (630-453-0656)
Jenny Goudreaufl (630-630-400-4682) Joe Strauss (630-220-6120)
Jessica Houston (773-206-7781) Jim Vroman (630-462-7414)
Chuck Lindberg (219-671-4298) Samantha Young (630-379-7990)

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Heinrich B. Eiler

In Touch with Hope
February, 2020

To Those Who Remember Hope,

Lent is probably the most important season of the church. In fact the Lenten fasting time held such importance that early Christians (and more traditional Roman Catholics) would call February “pre-Lent”! As I write this brief letter to you all, we are only a few weeks away from Ash Wednesday and our own observance of the contemplative walk to the cross. As I mention every year, yes our sacred seasons and times ground us in permanence in a changing world, but each permanent season is also changed by the specific time in which we find ourselves.

Hope Church is going through a time and process of cleansing, re-imagining, and coming together; all churches are. As we seek to clarify the sacred purpose of our church for the community, we have walked alongside these promptings with the New Beginnings process given us by our Presbytery. Our next step in the process is very timely for the Lenten season in general; it is house church gatherings during our Lenten time. Small groups of Christians originally met in houses of wealthy patrons, so our doing so certainly brings us back to our roots (and some pretty similar beginnings of Hope!). Our purpose in gathering is to seek Christ’s presence among us, and to discern through conversation the sacred nature of our church.

I invite you to read more about the different opportunities to gather in this way beginning March 1st and continuing for four weeks. I am grateful for the leadership of our ruling elders in this process, and I am excited for the people who will gather seeking Hope for the future. The future always arrives too soon it seems, so this process is a way to greet it with purposeful reception and action.

Peace to you in this “pre” Lenten time!

Pastor Jay
Epiphany 2020
At the January 21st meeting, elders:

Approved the creation of a sub-committee to examine ways to strengthen the music program at Hope. The committee will consist of two members from the Worship, Music & Arts Committee, two members of the Personnel Committee and two members of the Choir.

Approved the 2020 budget as prepared by the Capital Resources and Growth Committee. The budget will restore the traditional allocation of 10% of the total pledged income to the Relating Beyond Hope Committee for their use in supporting local organizations and world missions. Some of the funds received in December from the Presbytery’s Pastor Salary Supplemental Grant will be used to balance the budget and to award a grant to Pastor Jay. A copy of the budget will be emailed to all in the congregation in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26.

Continued planning our next steps in implementing our five-year plan and start of the “New Beginnings Program” exercise. Our proposal is to hold house meetings during Lent, starting on March 1 and to run for four weeks. We plan on creating 4 to 5 meeting groups which will be limited to ten members and be led by two elders. The tentatively proposed days and times for these meetings are Sundays at 11:30am, Mondays mid-morning, Mondays early evening, and Wednesdays early evening. More info in this to follow.

Reminder to the Congregation: Hope has a brokerage account set up with LPL Financial for members to send their donations of securities or other funds directly from their personal IRAs, brokerage accounts, etc. For instructions and more information, contact either Joe Strauss or me, or our LPL account manager, Barrett Hickerson, at 630-907-3059.

As always, you are invited to share any thoughts or concerns you have with either an individual elder or with the entire session. If you would like to present an idea to the session at our meeting, please contact either Pastor Jay or me to be scheduled during the “Speaking with Session” portion of the meeting. The next stated meeting will be Tuesday, February 18 at 7:30 pm.

Blessings,
Bill Borst
Clerk of Session

This year’s Bake Sale benefiting the food pantry at the People’s Resource Center was held February 2nd. Thank you to all who contributed baked goods as well as to everyone who purchased the baked goods. $432.00 was raised which will benefit the many deserving families served by the food pantry.

If you’d like more detailed Calendar Information, please visit the Hope Website! If you scroll down the home page, you’ll find the Upcoming Events (pictured) to click for the entire calendar.
**Breakfast Club**

with Jackie & Pat

Sunday February 9th
@ 10 am

Don’t miss it if you are in grade 6-12

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**Happy February Birthdays!**

4 Paul Herbert
8 Pam Dalby
10 Ray Thompson
11 Kurt Parent
12 Eliana Boudouris
17 Pastor Jay Moses
18 Karma Bell
23 Jenny Goudreault

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**Buffalo Theatre Ensemble at McAnnich Arts Center at COD Presents:**

**THE CAKE**

**SHOW DETAILS**

**By Bekah Brunstetter**

**Directed by Steve Scott**

**Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 3 p.m.** (90 minutes with no Intermission)

*Post-Show Panel Discussion including Pastor Jay Moses with Cake (optional)*

*It’s not a wedding without a little drama and a lot of love. Della’s bakery in Winston-Salem, North Carolina is a landmark baked with love. When Jen, the girl she thinks of as her ‘goddaughter’ asks Della to make her wedding cake, not for one bride but two, it’s hard to follow one of her tried and true recipes. Faith, family and food impact one another in the discovery that love is the key ingredient to any recipe in this timely play from a writer of NBC’s hit “This Is Us.” Contains adult themes and language*

Join Hope Presbyterian Church of Wheaton’s People Revering Inclusive Spiritual Ministries (PRISM) group in attending this thought-provoking play.

Tickets: $36 (includes group discount and a $2 MAC fee per ticket)

Contact: Hope Church Office (630-668-7750) or John Dalby (630-665-6352) Reserve and pay John for tickets by February 23.
Centering Prayer – a Spiritual Discipline

“When is the last time you were able to listen in stillness, not filling it with your own words and prayers and pleas? Waiting instead to be filled, waiting for the gift that might come into the still pool you have made of yourself? Keep listening. We know that one place God speaks is into the stillness. For many, our walk of faith brims with caring activities and worshipful words. We are full of everything but stillness. We pray regularly, but our prayers are full of our words – leaving little space for God to respond. It is when I cultivate that still, quiet center that I am most aware of the movement of the Spirit in my life.” These words come from Cindy Kohlmann who serves as co-moderator of the General Assembly. Participants in our Centering group would echo these words with their own meaningful experience of centering prayer. All are welcome to join us at 10 am on Thursday mornings—a time of new beginnings after the hectic holidays. We meet for an hour of prayer and discussion at the home of Mary Ellen Lloyd, 3S251 Home Avenue, Warrenville, IL. Speak with Carol Urban for more information.

Pastoral Partner News

Pastoral Partners continues to look for interested individuals to be Pastoral Partners. A Pastoral Partner is assigned to keep a prayerful watch over their cluster of Hope members and Friends. If you are interested, please contact Lynne Danekas.

The Pastoral Partners have been working to update our cluster list. It has been several years since the cluster list has been updated. Consequently, over the years there have been changes to the members/Hope Friends in the cluster list, as well as, changes within the Pastoral Partners group. Consequently, with the updated cluster listing, you may have the same Pastoral Partner or you may have a new Pastoral Partner. At our February Pastoral Partner meeting, we will be putting together a packet of information for you that will be mailed to you at the beginning of March.

This information packet will include a letter introducing you to your Pastoral Partner and a trifold brochure explaining the purpose of having a Pastoral Partner. Your Pastoral Partner is available to provide extra prayers for you during difficult times, please do not hesitate to contact your Pastoral Partner if you have prayer concerns. Also, during the year, your Pastoral Partner will occasionally contact you to see if you have any special prayer requests.

Lighthouse

Lighthouse celebrated Super Bowl Sunday bowling!! From the smiles below, everyone had a fun time!

What’s Happening in Lighthouse??

The third annual Lighthouse Chili Cook Off is Sunday, February 23 following the worship service. The Lighthouse families will choose their best chili recipe for the Chili Cook Off. Following the worship service, you are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall to taste the homemade chilis and vote for your favorite!!

The Chili Cook Off is the only Lighthouse fundraiser for the year. Your generous support of the Lighthouse youth program is greatly appreciated. All money received from the Chili Cook Off will go directly to Lighthouse.
West Suburban Faith-Based Peace Coalition

Presents

Peace Efforts in Afghanistan

Lombard Mennonite Church
528 E. Madison St.
Lombard, IL 60148
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2020

With

Kathy Kelly
Peace Activist, Author, Co-coordinator
Voices for Creative Nonviolence

Internationally Renowned Peace Activist Kathy Kelly will reflect on her September 2019 visit to Afghanistan at our next Educational Forum. She has acquired dozens of peace activist awards (as well as dozens of arrests) in the pursuit of peace worldwide since the 1980's. Kelly brings insights few others could match into the situation of this war-ravaged country. If you’ve ever heard Kelly speak about peace, you know how inspiring her talks are.

After 18 years of US militarism, causing irreparable and horrific losses to the people of Afghanistan, there is no sign that the “perpetual war” will come to an end soon. Kelly, co-coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, having advocated for an end to war by both words and actions throughout her lifetime, is uniquely qualified to share her latest insights based on her recent visit to Afghanistan.

Divine Design

Our Divine Design presentations were a huge success. Shannon Denny is non-stop motivation, and she gave us more than a little to think about in regard to our healthy living. Shannon is a gifted health coach and trainer. She’s been looking for a way to use her gifts with us, and Sojourners is glad to be able to help her do just that. We know you are excited to get started with Shannon’s 6-week program which will take us even deeper into caring for the divine designs we are created to be.

There are 2 options to participate in the Divine Design Wellness Program:

Evening classes start Mon., Feb. 24,
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.,
The Gathering Room

Daytime classes start Tues., Feb. 25,
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.,
The Gathering Room

Each session will run for six consecutive weeks at Hope.

We need a minimum of 8 and maximum of 20 persons per class to sign up and commit to the entire 6 weeks. Total cost is $60 per person cash or check made payable to Hope Presbyterian Church. Shannon is donating a portion of your fee back to Hope to help underwrite the cost for anyone unable to afford this opportunity. Sign up and payment is on a first-come basis.

Info and Registration Contact: Janice Flinner: jcflinner@gmail.com or 630-728-2902
New Beginnings during Lent

During Lent, we will begin the third part of our process with New Beginnings. As you recall, a stipulation to receive the Presbytery grant of $35,000 for 2020 was to participate in the New Beginnings group process. The third part of the New Beginnings process is a series of House Meetings. These meeting provide an opportunity to reflect on the Assessment Report in a series of 4 small group meetings held in members’ homes or at Hope church (each group of ~10 people will each meet 4 times) once weekly during the month March.

House Meetings are an opportunity for every member of our congregation to participate in a relaxed environment where you will be able to reflect and discuss each portion of the Assessment report in a small group setting. During this four-week period, each House Meeting will be facilitated by two or three Elders who will lead you through honest and exciting conversations about what God is calling you to do next with Hope Church ministry.

You will have an opportunity on Sunday, February 23 following the worship service to sign up to participate in a specific House Meeting group. You will remain with this same group for the four-week period. New Beginnings believes it is important for the groups to remain the same over the four-week period to provide continuity and consistency.

The goal of House Meetings is to engage at least 50% of our congregation’s average worship attendance in meaningful conversation that will lead to a bold decision for the future of Hope church. If participants want to have input in the future of the church, you need to be at these meetings.

More information, including meeting times and locations will be coming via eblast communications.

*Pastor Jay will not be leading the Lenten Series "Meeting Jesus for the First Time" on March 2, 9 and 16 to provide more flexibility to attend the House Meetings.*

February News from the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee

Beginning in March, you will have an opportunity to provide the bread for communion. The bread provided for communion may be home baked or store bought. The size and number of loaves will be different for Intinction Communion and Table Communion. On the Sunday, you are providing the bread for communion, you will present the bread for blessing before communion.

On Sunday, February 23, Lin Miller will have a table set up outside of the Gathering Room with details for providing communion bread and to sign up to provide bread for a communion Sunday between April and September. The WMA committee will provide the juice, gluten free wafers, and set up for communion. You will only be providing the bread for communion. Look for Lin Miller on Feb 23 and stay tuned for more details!!

The season of Epiphany will carry us almost to the end of February. During Epiphany, there has been an opportunity during the worship service to light a candle as a visual symbol of your prayer spoken privately to God. This visual expression of our prayers has been very meaningful. The last Sunday in Epiphany will be February 23, this is Transfiguration Sunday. Transfiguration Sunday, is one of the twelve Great Feasts and celebrates Jesus' radical change of appearance while in the presence of Peter, James, and John on a high mountain.

The music on Sunday, February 23 will be led by two guest musicians, Candy Hanslik and Robert Schwenk. Candy and Robert will be working with the children and youth to provide the music on February 23, Transfiguration Sunday. Anyone singing in the choir on Sunday, February 23 should be in the Sanctuary at 9 am.

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26. There will be a special, contemplative worship service on Ash Wednesday at 7 pm. If you haven't attended a contemplative worship service at Hope, we hope you will attend. This reflective worship service will provide an opportunity for you to prepare for the season of Lent.

You will notice as the season of Epiphany ends, the Sanctuary will begin to change. The primary color of Lent is purple, please take notice of the purple and other changes you observe in the Sanctuary. Lent is a season to simplify and look inward. We hope the visual changes in the Sanctuary will provide an opportunity for a deep, meaningful Lenten worship experience.