



**Hope United
Methodist Church
2506 Caton Farm Road
Joliet, IL 60435
www.hopeumc1.org
Ph. /Fax – 815-436-2209**

April 2010

*Preparing for
Worship In March*

April 4

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,
14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26;
John 20: 1-18

Pastor Glenna preaching

April 11

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150;
Revelation 1:4-8;
John 20:19-31

Pastor Glenna preaching

April 18

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6; Psalm 30;
Revelation 5:11-14;
John 21:1-19

Pastor Glenna preaching

April 25

The 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43;
Psalm 23;
Revelation 7:9-17;
John 10:22-30

Pastor Glenna preaching

**Word from
Our Pastor**



Dear Friends,

As we enter into the Easter Season, I am reminded that we witness resurrection in many ways: Death does not have the final word; hope is the shape of tomorrow.

A Resurrection Story

On a bright spring day, a mother drove her son out to the countryside for a day trip, a short excursion away from the city, a return to nature. It had been years since the mother drove down this stretch of road, years since she had last walked through this particular wooded forest. With her young son now old enough to walk, talk, and appreciate the outdoors, the mother thought it was an opportune time to return to the woods.

As the car rounded the bend of the road, the mother was shocked at the terrain she saw unfolding before her. The forest was gone. That dense wood – that she had once walked through when she was just a child – was laid desolate. Slashed and burned, as far as the eye could see. For whatever reason, the land had been cleared. All that remained were layers of ash...remnants of the greenery and life that used to be.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Glenna L. Olumstad
436-5057
pastor@hopeumc1.org

Deacon

Rev. Sue Ritts - 556-8940
deacon@hopeumc1.org

Music Director

Cheryl Foster - 722-3771
musicdirector@hopeumc1.org

Organist

Annetta O'Bryant - 722-3771
organist@hopeumc1.org

Secretary

Roberta Drake - 436-2209
secretary@hopeumc1.org

Child Care

Pat Jones - 723-6799
childcare@hopeumc1.org

Children's Sunday School

Ashley Allen - 216-0093
sundayschool@hopeumc1.org

Custodians

Roger & Linda Hess - 577-0748
custodians@hopeumc1.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

Church Council Chair - John Wietlispach

Staff-Parish - Greg Chapman

Finance - Dennis Mattix, Roger Hess

Education - Jacqui Slaughter

Board of Trustees - Larry Wilkinson

Building Committee - Larry Wilkinson

Financial Secretary - Trish Nash

Treasurer - Vic Genge

Bldg. Maint. Treasurer - Linda Hess

Membership - Harriet Luce

Lay Leader - Pat Michalik

Lay Member to Conference - Greg Chapman

UMW - Florence White, Harriet Luce

UMM - Vic Genge, Roger Hess

In shock, the mother pulled the car to a stop at the side of the road. She and her son got out and walked to the field's edge. The mother was overwhelmed, every single tree was gone...brought low to ashes.

The son looked up at his mother's face. "What's wrong, mom?"

"There used to be trees here, son...many, many trees." "Well, where did they go, mom?" the son asked innocently.

"I don't know, replied the mother. I don't know..."

She stood in silence, still shocked at the unexpected change in landscape. Her son ran several yards out into the field, kicking up ashes as he began to play and make wind-swishing noises. A few minutes passed before the mother snapped out of her stupor by the excited and playful shouting of her child, who had now ran out more than 30 yards into the field.

"Mom! Come here! Quick!

Pushing her grief aside, the mother put on a fake smile to match her son's excitement as she jogged over to where the son stood.

"What is it, son?"

"I found it!"

The mother smirked at the simplicity of her child's excitement and looked down to the ground where he pointed. Squinting her eyes, she pushed aside some ashes with her shoe before she saw it for herself...

The first sprout of a baby evergreen tree...

Amidst the ashes...

Alone in the field...

A new tree was sprouting...

Resurrection Blessings,

Pastor Glenna

Pastor Glenna



The Deacon's Corner

Rev. Sue Ritts, Deacon

Ella was a difficult person to like. If you would see Ella standing in line at McDonald's, you would most likely get as far away from her as possible. To look at Ella you would first assume that she didn't have the foggiest idea about personal hygiene: her hair was dirty and uncombed; her clothes were worn and tattered; remnants of her last meal still clung to her lips and shirt. If you were brave enough to engage Ella in conversation, you would be assaulted by crude and nasty language, scowls and growls, and wild, erratic gestures. Yes, Ella was one difficult, ornery woman. One would think that by the time she had reached 75 years of age, she would have mellowed--some. However, Ella had experienced a hard life trying to scrape together an existence for herself and children---at least before she fell into the depths of alcoholism and dementia.

Ella carried her rough edges and harsh demeanor with her even when she participated in her favorite times of the week---Bible study and Holy Communion. When Wednesday and Sunday services were brought to the nursing home, Ella was there in the front row--waiting, waiting. Waiting for us to join her in singing her favorite "hymn", *You Are My Sunshine*. This song had to be a part of each and every service; if the leader didn't remember, Ella would loudly remind us all by starting to sing it at the top of her lungs! Then a wondrous thing happened: Ella's face softened, her eyes sparkled, she even allowed a broad smile to break out on her lips. *You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.*



COMMITMENT SUNDAY – May 16

Exciting and challenging are the best words to describe our Growing in Faith Fund Appeal. The fund appeal is exciting because we are raising the money needed to complete a much needed expansion and renovation of our church building to better serve our members and community. To accomplish this, our members will be challenged to significantly increase their financial support to our church and its ministry.

Our Appeal Leadership Team met twice in March to plan for the appeal. Don Schultz from The James Company led the meetings. The Appeal Gathering will be held after worship on Sunday, April 18. Please plan on attending, a free lunch will be provided. Commitment Sunday for our Growing in Faith Fund Appeal is May 16th.

Every member of our church will be asked to make a building fund financial commitment to help us reach our goal. As you pray, think, and talk about your building fund financial commitment, reflect on these words from scripture: *I Timothy 6: 18-19, They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share...so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.* Winston Churchill, put it this way, "We make a living by what we get, but a life by what we give."

Appeal Chairperson

Carole Blackwell

Telephone Leaders

Arlene Hupach
Nancy Mitchell
Judy Sohr

Communication Leaders

Carrie Becker
Sharon Becker

Pacesetter Leaders

Rosemary Breen
Becky Gilliam
Marty Kaspar
Mark Ritts
Sue Ritts

Appeal Assistant

Roberta Drake

Gathering Leader

Linda Hess

Spiritual Emphasis Leader

John Wietlispach

Pastor

Glenna Olumstad

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Notes of Hope



WE, HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, ARE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST, WHO WORSHIP, WORK AND PLAY TOGETHER . . .

Arlene Hupach is announcing a free performance of the **Sweet Adelines** on **April 11** at **1:30 p.m.** at the **Knights of Columbus** on **Infantry Drive**. They will present their competition numbers and several quartets will be features. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please keep bringing your **aluminum cans** to church. See **Linda Hess** with questions.

The church office is always in need of **used ink cartridges**. The office supply stores now **accept only name-brand (Dell, HP, and Epson) cartridges**. These cartridges can be redeemed at office supply stores for paper and other supplies we need to run our office. Please leave used cartridges in Roberta's mailbox.

Volunteers are needed to **clean our church**. Please continue to sign up on the Volunteer Schedule which is in the Housekeeping mailbox. The job description is also available in the mailbox. See **Linda Hess**.

If you wish to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact **Roberta** in the church office to arrange the date and the dedication for the bulletin. You may also make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one in lieu of flowers.

If you purchase your personal office supplies at **Staples**, please give the church phone number (815-436-2209) to the cashier when you check out so that a percentage of your purchase will come back to the church as part of their Rewards program. This is another way to help our church get what it needs without costing you anything! Thanks for your help.

A New Photo Directory Is In The Works! Hope Church will be assembling a new **Photo Directory** starting this month. It will be self-generated; we are not using any outside company to take the pictures (no pressure to buy!) **Trish Nash** will be leading the project, with **Linda Hess** serving as our photographer.

The United Methodist Women are meeting on **Sunday, April 25**, after worship. For our program we will be welcoming **Sam Wietlispach**, who will be speaking about the **Appalachian Service Projects** that he has attended with the **Youth Group** at **Grace United Methodist Church**. See **Florence** or **Harriet** for more information.

*ARE COMMITTED TO GROWING AND SHARING
IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE . . .*

Lay Speaker Academy - Three of our members attended the 2010 Aurora District Lay-Speaker Academy. Graduation was held Sunday March 21 @ Downers Grove UMC. Congratulations are extended to our Certified Lay-Speakers: John Wietlispach, Boomer Crotty, and Greg Chapman. You will be hearing from our graduates as they share their experiences in the near future.

Lay-Speaking Academy is open to all, no prerequisites required. Perhaps more of you are feeling called to this ministry. For more information contact one of our graduates. They would be happy to share. Well Done!

Camping Opportunities - Once again Hope UMC is offering **scholarships** for youth who would like to attend summer camp at **Wesley Woods** in Williams Bay, Wisconsin or **Camp Reynolds Wood** in Dixon, Illinois. A copy of the Summer Camp Schedule can be found in the office or you may view it online at: <http://www.niccamp.org/>. These camps are a program ministry of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. Please leave your name with **Roberta** in the church office or with **Pastor Glenna** if interested.

<i>Children's Sunday School Lessons for April 2010</i>		
<i>Session and Date:</i>	<i>Children Will Learn:</i>	<i>Bible in the Session:</i>
April 4 – Jesus Lives!	We celebrate the new life God gives us through Jesus.	Luke 24:1-2 Verse: He is not here, but has risen. (Luke 24:5)
April 11 – Peter and John	We praise God for the new life we have been given.	Acts 3:1-10 Verse: He entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (Acts. 3:8)
April 18 – Philip Spreads the Word	We can share Jesus with others.	Acts 8:26-38 Verse: Go and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19, adapted)
April 25 – Peter and Cornelius	God loves everyone.	Acts 10:1-48 Verse: God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right. (Acts 10:35, CEV)

AND SPREADING GOD'S LOVE BY REACHING OUT TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE.

Haiti Relief - In January Hope UMC collected \$1,210 which was sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for direct aid to Haiti. Our donation of supplies was combined with those of other area churches, and Plainfield UMC delivered 250 pounds of material to the distribution center in Chatham which will be organized into health kits that are also destined for Haitian relief efforts. Recovery efforts will continue in Haiti for an extended time, so additional money and supplies will be welcomed at any time.

Boomer's Kids - Please continue to bring school supplies for **Boomer's kids**. We will be collecting year-round to help supply the needs of the kids all though the school year.

The Joliet Cluster is continuing to support the **Ridgewood United Community Pantry**, an outreach ministry of **Trinity United Methodist Church**. In **March** we are asking for donations of **Canned or Bottled Juices (non-refrigerated)**. Please place them in the blue bin in the narthex.

The members of the "Faithlink" class will sponsor a shoe drive for **Share Your Soles**. It is best if the donations are **new** or **gently used**. We will be inviting other area churches to get involved. Please leave your donations next to the recycle bin in the kitchen. Thank you for your generosity and support.

The Finance Committee would like everyone to know how their money is going to help others. So far this year we have donated the following:

Apportionments are paid	
UMCOR Haiti Relief	\$1,210
Ridgewood Food Pantry	900
Souper Sunday, Split between Daybreak and Morning Star Mission	140
One Great Hour of Sharing	375
TOTAL	\$2,725

Thanks to all for helping to make a difference in others lives.

<i>Those Who Serve</i>	April 4 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 11 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	April 18 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	April 25 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>
Liturgist	Pastor Sue	Greg Chapman	Mark Ritts	Becky Gilliam
Greeter	Linda Hess	Sheryl Dyer	Edith Tibble	Shirley Zupancic
Host(s)	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	Dorothy Chapman	<i>Appeal Gathering Lunch</i>	Harriet Luce & Arlene Hupach
Acolyte	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon
Children's Message	Pastor Glenna	TBD	Pastor Sue	Barb Denk
Offering Counters	Carole Blackwell & Marlene Shain	Carole Blackwell & Carol Becker	Carole Blackwell & Jill Genge	Carole Blackwell & Boomer Crotty
Communion Steward	Jill Genge			



Birthdays This Month

April 1 – Marlene Shain
April 4 – Laura Wright
April 11 – LaDessa Chapman
April 15 – Noah Slaughter
April 22 – Sara Craven
April 23 – Betty Talbott
April 27 – Virginia Nyhart

Wedding *Anniversaries*

April 9 – Bob & Florence White
April 9 – James & Trish Nash



Laniya Grace Allen was born on Thursday, March 25, at 8:43 a.m. at Bolingbrook Adventist Hospital. Laniya was 19 inches long and weighed 5 pounds 12 ounces at birth. Mother Ashley Allen and baby are doing fine. Ashley would like to extend her thanks to all for everything they have done, and asks that she and Laniya be kept in your prayers. Feel free to call her at 815-216-0093.