



Hope United Methodist Church

2506 Caton Farm Road
Joliet, IL 60435
www.hopeumc1.org

Preparing for Worship In February

February 7

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Pastor Glenna preaching

February 14

Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Cor. 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36
Pastor Glenna preaching

February 17

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10;
Matt. 6:1-6; 16-21
Pastor Glenna preaching

February 21

The First Sunday in Lent
Deut. 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Pastor Glenna preaching

February 28

The Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1;
Luke 13:31-35
Pastor Glenna preaching

Word from Our Pastor



*“The Lord is Compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.”*
Psalm 103:8 NIV

Dear Friends:

How can God be good, if God allows suffering in the world? People ask this same question every time a disaster hits. This question usually comes on the heels of hurtful, ignorant and poor theological statements made by television evangelists such as Pat Robertson who declare that tragedy happens to those deserving of God's wrath. In other words the reason earthquakes hit Haiti or the reason the hurricane destroyed New Orleans is because "the people are being punished for their sins."

Is this what people of faith truly believe? According to what Jesus teaches, nothing could be further from the truth. The God I have come to understand and experience is the God described in the scripture verse above. The God we worship is a God who cares and is present in the midst of our pain and suffering. A God who suffers with us, a God who weeps with us, a God whose love will not

CHURCH STAFF

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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

depart from us. And - a God who has sent Jesus, his Son to deliver us.

While scientists have pointed out that the earth continually goes through cycles of expansion and contraction; we do not know the "reason" for every thing. Things happen. But what I have come to know and observe is that persons of faith, who have experienced much suffering in their lives, who have been victims of tragedy, have recognized that bad things happen to the righteous and unrighteous alike. And the manner, in which we as people of faith can respond, the manner in which we best reflect our faith, is not through condemnation but through Grace, Mercy and Compassion.

The people of Hope UMC have responded well, you are a most generous and loving congregation who cares about the needs of others. As we continue to mourn with those who have lost much, let us also continue to be a light to the world and respond in the best way we know how. Not with words of hate or condemnation, but with words that describe the God we have come to understand and believe.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14: 27 NRSV)

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10 NRSV)

Peace,

Pastor Glenna

Pastor Glenna

The Deacon's Corner

Rev. Sue Ritts, Deacon

You're a What!?!?

I'm a permanent deacon in the United Methodist Church. The official titles are "Pastor," "Reverend," or "Deacon." The title used here at Hope UMC is "Deacon."

So, what does that mean?

The Book of Discipline says "Deacons are persons called by God, authorized by the church, and ordained by a bishop to a lifetime ministry of Word and service to both the community and the congregation in a ministry that connects the two." (Par. 329)

What are your duties and responsibilities?

Within this local congregation I am called to support individuals as they are called into a ministry of service, to initiate ministry opportunities, to lead small groups in Christian education, to assist Pastor Glenna in the administration of the sacraments, and to occasionally deliver the Sunday message. Within the local community, I lead a Bible study at the Senior Star Assisted Living and Memory Care facility in Romeoville. I am also authorized by the church to conduct marriages and funerals.

What duties are you not authorized to perform?

As a deacon I am not permitted to officiate at the celebration of the sacraments or to serve as the lead pastor of a congregation. Those responsibilities are reserved for the elder or a local pastor serving a particular congregation.

When you "grow up" will you become an elder with all of these other privileges?

No. I believe God has called me to the ministry of a deacon--into a ministry of love, justice and service set apart for connecting individuals within the church and beyond with the Good News of the Gospel.

Does this article explain all that a Deacon is?

No. This is only a brief outline description of the office of permanent deacon. Please ask me any question you may have.

<i>Those Who Serve</i>	February 7 <i>5th Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	February 14 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	February 17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	February 21 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	February 28 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>
Liturgist	Sue Ritts	Arlene Hupach	John Wietlispach	Roger Hess	Becky Gilliam
Greeter	Annette Craven	Rosemary Breen	Sue Ritts	Russell Mitchell	Sarah Baldwin
Host(s)	Jim Reuther	Carole Blackwell & Marlene Shain		Sheryl Dyer	Perri Larmon
Acolyte	Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon		Dominic Larmon	Dominic Larmon
Offering Counters	Carole Blackwell & Marlene Shain	Carole Blackwell & Carol Becker		Carole Blackwell & Jill Genge	Carole Blackwell & Boomer Crotty
Communion Steward	Jill Genge				



Notes of Hope



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

The United Methodist Men will be sponsoring their **Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 6, from 3:30-7:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$9.00 each and are available from any member of the UMM, or at the door. The meal includes corned beef, boiled cabbage, potatoes, carrots, dessert, and beverage. Carry-outs are available.

The Aurora District United Methodist Men will be sharing in a **Lenten Communion Service and Breakfast on Saturday, February 20, at 8 a.m. at the First UMC in Westmont.** See **Vic** or **Roger** if you want to go.

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.

If you utilize the church on Thursday afternoons, please leave the back door to Fellowship Hall unlocked for the A.A. group that meets on Thursday evenings. Questions or concerns? See **Larry Wilkinson.**

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.

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

Pastor Glenna and Pastor Sue will be leading a **Lenten Study** with the book, **“Parables from the Back Side”** by J. Ellsworth Kalas. The study begins **February 3** and runs through **April 8.** You can choose from two different times – **Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:30 p.m.,** or **Thursday mornings, 9-10:30 a.m.** There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. **See Pastor Glenna or Pastor Sue for a book.**

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.

Children's Sunday School Lessons for February 2010

<i>Session and Date:</i>	<i>Children Will Learn:</i>	<i>Bible in the Session:</i>
February 7 – Peter's Mother-in-law	God cares about us very much.	Mark 1:29-13-19 Verse: Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)
February 14 – The Four Friends	We can ask God to help our friends.	Mark 2:1-12 Verse: Love one another. (1 John 3:11)
February 21 – Jesus Heals Bartimaeus	We can ask God to help us.	Mark 10:46-52 Verse: Hear my prayer, O Lord (Psalm 102:1)
February 28 – Isaiah's Prophecy	We can thank God for everything He does for us.	Luke 17:11-19 Verse: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 16:13)
January 31 – Peter's Declaration	We know that Jesus is the Son of God.	Matthew 16:13-19 Verse: We give thanks to you, O God. (Psalm 75:1)

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

Haiti Update - Monetary Contributions for Haiti Relief as of this time = **\$890.00**. We are also collecting bulk items for health kits. Thank you for your support. *You may take a list of needed items for the Health Kits from the credenza in the narthex.*

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 **February** we will be focusing on donations of **cereals**. Please place them in the blue bin in the narthex.

Souper Bowl of Caring--Sunday, February 7

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" has inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Donations collected at churches in soup pots, and then every dollar is sent directly **DIRECTLY** to a local charity of THEIR choice. Since 1990 an extraordinary \$60 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities have been raised in communities across the country.

Hope UMC has the opportunity to collect donations--money and cans of soup--for **Daybreak** and **Morning Star** Missions. Please help fill the soup bowls of the hurting folks in our area.

Outreach Ministries

by Vic Genge

The Missions and the Finance Committees thought it would be a good idea to let the generous folks of Hope know how their contributions to missions were shared. For starters, our **apportionments** were **paid in full** for 2009. The Mission Jar realized \$200 that was divided equally between **Daybreak Mission, Morning Star Mission, Stepping Stones Rehabilitation Center, and Lamb's Fold Women's Center**. During the year we had four special Sunday collections: \$130 for **One Great Hour of Sharing**, \$115 for **Native American Sunday**, \$65 for **Golden Cross Sunday**, and \$130 for **World Communion Sunday**. Also, the children collected \$130 in the noisy coin collection that was designated to go to **the Heifer Project**.

This year we designated \$800 to go to the Rainbow Covenant. There are eight bands: International, USA, UMCOR, Children's Fund for Christian Ministry, Northern Illinois Conference, District, Missionary Personnel, and Sister Church Relations. Our choices for these advance specials were: **Honduras School Project** which offers scholarships to young Honduran women and men; **Nothing but Nets** which supplies mosquito netting to prevent malaria; **Mother/Child Survival** whose goal is to reduce infant and maternal mortality; **The Children's Fund; ChildServ; Will County Habitat for Humanity; Rev. Ut To, and Rev. Karen No-To**, missionaries to Vietnam; and **The Martin Keagy Fund** to support rural ministries.

Throughout the year we have supported the Ridgewood Food Pantry with donations of food and nonperishable goods to be distributed to needy families in the community. We have also sent cash donations in the amount of \$2600 to help with their mission.