

Hope United
Methodist Church
2506 Caton Farm Road
Joliet, IL 60435
www.hopeumc1.org
Ph. /Fax – 815-436-2209
March 2010

Preparing for
Worship In March

March 7

*The Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion*

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Pastor Glenna preaching

March 14

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Cor. 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pastor Glenna preaching

March 21

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;
Philippians 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8

Pastor Glenna preaching

March 28

Palm Sunday

“The Man on the Street”

Zechariah 9:9-11;
Psalm 118:1-9, 19-29;
Revelation 3: 14-22;
Luke 19: 28-40

Pastor Sue preaching

**Word from
Our Pastor**



Dear Friends,

Lent is a special season in the Christian Calendar, it calls for an intentional practice of self-examination, inner-reflection and drawing closer to God through spiritual disciplines of fasting, prayer, worship, and study. Essentially it is a time in which we prepare for the coming of Easter when we will once again sing Hallelujahs and celebrate the risen Christ.

Personally, I have found the period of Lent to be a transformative time. When we are intentional with our faith practices we are opening ourselves to God and the Holy Spirit within us. This often leads us into new direction and calling for our lives.

Many of you made a commitment to be attentive to the spiritual disciplines of Lent during our Ash Wednesday Service. And, I want to ask you now, how is it going? Has it been difficult to find time for prayer, have you slipped up and failed with your fast? Have other things gotten in the way of attending worship? If you said yes, you are not alone and do not despair, for through the grace of God we

CHURCH STAFF

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Secretary

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Children's Sunday School

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Custodians

Roger & Linda Hess - 577-0748
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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

always have the opportunity to begin again, to start anew today.

Lent invites us into a time for healing, reflection, renewal and preparation. The invitation is open to everyone and *at any time*. Come join Jesus on this journey of forty days. Come and be filled with the Spirit of God who has given us new life. Again and Again and Again.

Peace in All Things,

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.***

(Continued on page 6)



Our Growing in Faith Building Fund Appeal is off to a tremendous start. This special fund appeal will raise the money needed to expand and renovate our church building to better serve our members and community. Commitment Sunday for our Growing in Faith Building Fund Appeal is May 16.

Thank you to the following members who are serving on the Appeal Leadership Team to help guide the fund appeal under the direction of Don Schultz of The James Company:

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Appeal Chairperson

Carole Blackwell

Pacesetter Leaders

Rosemary Breen

Becky Gilliam

Marty Kaspar

Mark Ritts

Sue Ritts

Appeal Assistant

Roberta Drake

Telephone Leaders

Arlene Hupach

Nancy Mitchell

Judy Sohr

Gathering Leader

Linda Hess

Communication Leaders

Carrie Becker

Sharon Becker

Spiritual Emphasis Leader

John Wietlispach

Pastor

Glenna Olumstad

Every member of our church family will have an opportunity to make a significant financial gift to our Growing in Faith Building Fund. When we are asked to pray and consider a financial gift to support our church's ministry, we are given the opportunity to reflect on our faith and to grow in our generosity. As Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but a life by what we give."

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| <i>Those Who Serve</i> | March 7 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> | March 14 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> | March 21 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> | March 28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> |
|------------------------|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Liturgist | Vic Genge | Frank Denk | John Wietlispach | Boomer Crotty |
| Greeter | Marty Olumstad | Florence White | JoAnn Hall | Betty Talbott |
| Host(s) | Laura Wright & Jill Genge | Barb Denk | Nancy Mitchell & Betty Talbott | Diane Bown |
| Acolyte | Dominic Larmon | Dominic Larmon | Dominic Larmon | Dominic Larmon |
| Children's Message | Pastor Glenna | TBD | Pastor Sue | TBD |
| 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.

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.

Church Women United will hold their **World Day of Prayer** on **Friday, March 5 at 10 a.m.** at the **Second Baptist Church** located at 156 S. Joliet Street in Joliet. Lunch will be at noon and all are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the pantry.

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

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.

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

Haiti Relief - In January Hope UMC collected \$1,175 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring - Due to the generosity of the worshipers on February 7, Morning Star Mission and Daybreak will each receive a donation of \$70. Your gifts will be used to help their local outreach activities.

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 **one-pound bags of rice**. 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.

Items Needed for the Church

By Linda Hess

It has been brought to my attention that we should let everyone know when we need things for the church. Right now we need new card tables. Our old ones are just that and in very bad shape. We need a 36 inch around table and 3 or 4 regular card tables. We use these tables at our yard sales for people to sit at to eat their lunch. Also if you would like to make a donation for the stove in the kitchen, you can, just make sure you mark your check FOR THE STOVE. Carol Becker and I are still looking at stoves. We hope to have the addition stove in the next couple of months. We are also looking at vents that will have to go over the stoves. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. Thank you.

Seder Meal

By Sue Ritts

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, there will be a Christian Seder meal held in the Jesse Walker Fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to experience this meal which is historically a focal point of Passover, the religious festival commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. This Seder meal is the "re-telling" of the story of God's grace in history and invites each participant to experience and share in the story.

Since this will be a full family meal (including children), it is important for us to have a good estimate of how many people will be in attendance. Please contact Pastor Sue (815-556-8940) or the church office (815-436-2209) if you will be able to join us.

Building Committee Report

By Larry Wilkinson

The Building Committee has been busy supplying our consultant, The James Company, with information about our church and the proposed construction to enable their assembly of the building fund drive.

In March our Appeal Leadership Team will have meetings with the James Company and in April the congregation will begin to receive additional details concerning the fund drive.

The Building Committee has paused in the construction planning, awaiting a better idea of the funds that will be available for construction. We have a close approximation of the money that will be required to build a 40' x 56' sanctuary, partition the fellowship hall into classrooms and storage spaces, and to enlarge the kitchen. The plans have been on display in the narthex.

When the amount of the fund that will be available for construction becomes evident, meetings will be held with the congregation to seek opinions and suggestions on the proposed construction. The initial meeting, which is months away, will discuss the proposed floor plan. Subsequent meetings will discuss flooring material, windows, wall finishes, etc.



March 1 – Roberta Drake
 March 10 – Suzanne Kaspar
 March 18 – Wanda Mattix
 March 19 – Anthony Craven
 March 20 – Kali Ferguson
 March 21 – Joal Ott
 March 25 – Joann Hall
 March 27 – Earl Gilliam
 March 30 – Andre Hunter

I WOULD LIKE TO SEND SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED AND TOOK THE TIME TO MAKE MY BABY SHOWER TO BE THE OUTCOME IT DID. I WANT ALL TO KNOW THAT IT MEANS A LOT TO ME. THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.....

LOVE, ASHLEY AND LANIYA

Wedding Anniversaries

March 15 – Vic & Jill Genge

March 21 – Joal & Sally Ott

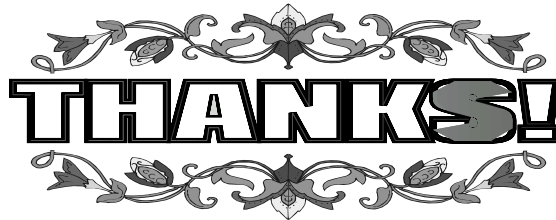
The Deacon's Corner

(Continued)

Those words somehow connected her to some distant part of her younger days when she was special to someone. ***You make me happy when days are long; you'll never know dear, how much I love you.*** Was she remembering those times when her children or her husband showed her love and affection? What memories were awakened by those words to an old song? ***Please don't take my sunshine away.*** Sometimes we sang through the song only once, but some days we---everyone in the service--sang it three or four times.

The nurses and aides would always groan when Ella started singing; admittedly, at first I did too. Then one day Ella stopped singing, looked around at the other residents who were singing also with that faraway, dreamy look in their eyes and loudly proclaimed "Jesus loves me!"

Isn't it amazing how God uses the unexpected times or the most unlikely people to teach us the Truth: Jesus loves each one of us! It is our joyous challenge to recognize the myriad ways Jesus loves us. What a blessing it is to have an "Ella" in your life!

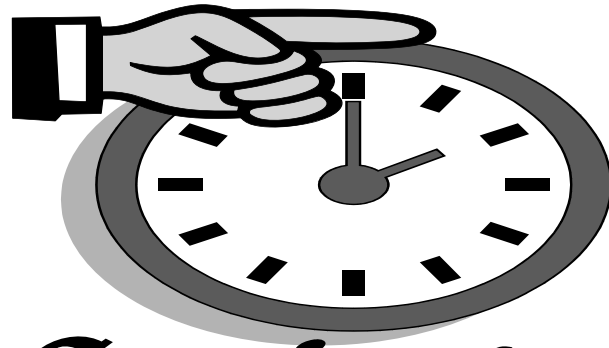


I would like to send a special thanks to all who helped and took the time to make my baby shower the wonderful event that it was. I want you all to know that it means a lot to me. Thank you all so very much!

Love, Ashley and Laniya

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the spaghetti dinner. We had a lot of help Friday night with setting up tables and shoveling snow, during the dinner, and after the dinner. It was really great to see all the helpers work together as a team. Thank you to Carol Becker who did a great job decorated the tables. Thank you to the people who baked. Everything went very smooth and that would not have been possible if it wasn't for all the help. Thank you to the people who donated a lot of the supplies which made our profit more. We made \$1208.00. Linda

Thank you letters were received from Stepping Stones and from Childserve for our donations to their work. Both agencies were most appreciative of our support of their work, especially in light of recent government funding cuts. These letters are on the bulletin board.



Spring Forward

Move your clocks ahead one hour before retiring Saturday, March 14