

# KEEPING UP WITH HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

## DECEMBER 2025

### From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus. **Matthew 1:18-25**

In December we will hang the greens and visit with the sick and shut-ins on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will hold the Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. I will take my last vacation for the year from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2, 2026, and you will have a guest minister. This month most committees have chosen not to meet while they are preparing for 2026, and I encourage you to look for updates and announcements as they share with the congregation. The Elders will meet on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. If you have items you would like to share with them, please feel free to contact Bill Borst, Clerk of Session, or myself to get on the agenda.

"A song sings it: 'Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creations? ... This sleeping child you're holding is the great 'I am!'

"How could anyone have known? Who could have guessed it? That the Almighty, Eternal God would in his wisdom and mercy, quietly come into our world in the frailty of a baby! Born in the small town of Bethlehem in a distant corner of the Roman Empire, he would be named 'Jesus.' The name means, 'he will save,' save his people from their sins. He would be called 'Emmanuel' – it means, 'God is with us.'

"This holiday (holy day) season celebrates Christ, the Savior, the Redeemer for anyone in any time, in any place, who would trust in his name. God become a human being so that we can know God on a human level. In every generation since, people have come to know — you and I can know; know the living Lord, know the eternal God through faith in Christ this Christmas. The gracious invitation to personally know the Lord, the Savior, is there for you and for me. Mary came to know it. God wants for you to know it as well." **The Rev. Michael Imperiale, pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Salt Lake City**

I wish you all a special holiday season. Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Humbly Submitted by,

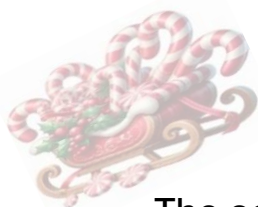
*R. Beauchamp*

Dr. R. Keith Beauchamp, Pastor



### **Hope's Welcoming Statement**

Hope strives to be a safe haven for God's unconditional love. Every person is invited and encouraged to participate in all Hope's 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 exceptions.

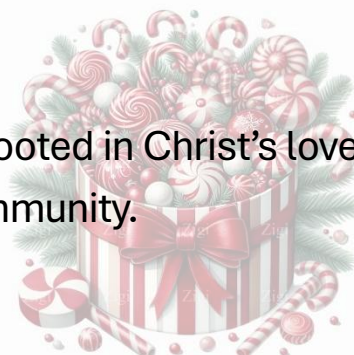


### **Hope's Mission Statement**

The community of Hope exists to let people know they matter to God; by showing them they matter to us, in order that they may share God's love with others.

### **Hope's Vision Statement**

We strive to be a beacon of Hope, building a community rooted in Christ's love and showing God's love to those searching for community.





## **CLERK OF SESSION**



### **Clerk's Corner Newsletter Article for December 2025**

Greetings from your Session!

Your session gathered on November 18 for a stated session meeting moderated by Rev. Ron Beauchamp. Below are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- Session welcomed a guest member, John Dalby, to “Speaking with Session” who presented a summary of the Systemic Racism Conference held at Hope Church last August. The moderator of that event, Craig Howard the Executive Presbyter of our Presbytery, suggested that Hope Church and Bethel New Life Church meet together to decide where we want to take our relationship. John suggested we hold a discussion, open to all members of both Churches, after Hope’s worship on a Sunday. Session then voted unanimously to hold this discussion on December 7 from 11:15am to 12:15pm. More information on this to follow.
- Elder Glenn Stith gave a report of the current financial situation at Hope and the status of the 2026 pledge drive. Since there are some outstanding pledges yet to be received, we will wait until next month to make adjustments to the 2026 budget accordingly.
- The Nominating Committee, under the leadership of elder Sheri Clubb, presented their slate of elder candidates for 2026 to Session which was approved unanimously. Elder Tom Schmidt is nominated to extend his current term by two more years; Anna Lloyd and Sandra Jordan are both nominated for three-year terms. The candidates for joining the Nominating Committee for next year are: John Dalby, Merikay Huszagh and Roberta Peterlinz. The election for the slate of 2026 elders and Nominating Committee members will take place at a congregational meeting immediately after Sunday worship on December 14.
- Session unanimously approved the extension of Pastor Ron’s covenant contract as Hope’s full-time pastor for a thirteen-month term from January 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027. At the conclusion of this period, Ron will have completed three full years as our pastor and will be vested in the Presbytery’s pension plan.
- Session reviewed the results of the worship survey taken on October 19 by members of both Hope and Bethel New Life. Session thanks our administrator, Jaquetta Carter, for typing up all the hand-written entries. The Worship, Music & Arts Committee will utilize the results of this survey to craft future worship services. It was stated that, “We are listening to what the congregations want.”

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 as John Dalby did in November, please contact Pastor Ron or me to be scheduled during the “Speaking with Session” portion of the meeting. The next stated meeting will be on Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 pm.

With blessings, Bill Borst, Clerk of Session





## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**



Christian Education Newsletter article for December 2025

As the end of the year draws near, the Christian Education Team wants to thank the people of Hope for your continual support. We provided several programs this year in an effort to educate you and the community about health, world affairs, emergency response techniques and inform you about services that are available to help you and your family. We even started playing Bingo to add a bit of fun for you each month. I hope you took advantage of some of these events.

We are already planning 2026, so please watch for announcements as we finalize these activities.

Christian Education wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We pray that 2026 will bring health, happiness and new opportunities for sharing God's love.

Sincerely, Your Christian Education Team Jan Realie, Anna Lloyd, Mike Wolfe, Pam Dalby, Debbie Wolski, Susan Vroman, Carol Gats - Chairman

### **Bingo Blast!**



Christian Ed's Bingo Committee has recently hosted two Bingo Blast games. It was a great time of fellowship...plenty of laughs, good snacks and some terrific prizes. Glenn Stith served as our Bingo Caller and his Bingo jokes rolled out almost as fast as the numbers!

**Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:30-11:30 am** There is no cost, but a free will offering is available. Come join the fun and invite your family and friends.







## FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

### FINANCIAL STATUS

Through November, Hope's operating income for the year has exceeded expenses by about \$4500, which is a significant improvement since last month, when we ended at about \$3800 in the red. Pledge receipts through November total about \$167,000 against our annual pledge of \$175,216. However, loose offerings are only \$4400 against a budget target of \$15,000, but this shortfall is somewhat offset by the almost \$6000 we have received in student parking fees. Expenses are running about \$5000 under budget so far, so this also helps. If we can meet our pledge goal and have a surge in loose offerings during December, we have a good opportunity to finish 2025 in the black.

### STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

So far Hope has received 27 pledges for 2026 for a total of \$162,000, with several families yet to indicate their commitments. This compares to 32 pledges in 2026 for \$175,216. Our treasurer, Debbie Wolski, is reaching out to families who haven't responded this year to try to wrap up a final number for our 2026 budget. If remaining families can at least match their 2025 pledges, we will end up with at least a modest increase in overall pledges.

Glenn Stith, Finance Elder



## RELATING BEYOND HOPE

### **The Gift of Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us. We are thankful for family, friends, health, shelter, and the food that graces our tables. Each Sunday in November donations were brought to the church and placed in the PRC shopping cart that was at the front of our sanctuary. On Sunday, November 16, Pastor Ron blessed this food before it made its way to the PRC Food Pantry. The Worship, Music and Arts and Relating Beyond Hope Committees would like to thank you for your generosity in filling this cart to overflowing. Even the bed of the little red truck was completely filled! Then at the PRC Food Pantry, our donations filled a large red bin to overflowing as well! In giving and receiving, hearts are filled with joy and thanksgiving.



The **People's Resource Center** is collecting NEW games, books, stuffed animals, blankets and \$25 gift cards for their annual Share the Spirit program. If you'd like to help out, please place your donations inside the box in the narthex no later than Sunday, December 7th. Gift cards to Jewel or Mariano's,

Target, Walmart, or Amazon should be placed in Jim Vroman's Relating Beyond Hope mailbox in the office. If you'd like to help deliver the donations to the County Fairgrounds on December 8th, please contact Merikay Huszagh. Submitted by, Relating Beyond Hope Committee, Jim Vroman (chair), Sheri Clubb, Merikay Huszagh, Kurt Parent, Claudia Taylor and Carol Urban

## Share the Spirit

Help spread some holiday cheer for  
our neighbors in need!





## Clothes Closet Crew

Hopers are volunteering at the PRC's Clothing Closet on the third Tuesday of each month from 3-5pm. Donated clothing is inspected, sorted, hung and then placed on the appropriate racks in the Clothing Closet. After our shift is over, volunteers and spouses who are free that evening have been gathering at a downtown Wheaton restaurant for a time of fellowship, food and fun.

You're invited to join us! The sign-up sheets are located on the RBH bulletin board in the entry vestibule. (Please note that December's shift is on **Monday**, December 15th.)

Questions? Contact Jim or Susan Vroman.



## **WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE**

### **Hanging of the Greens**

On **Saturday, December 6 from 2:00 – 4:30 pm**, we will be decorating the Gathering Room and the church. First, we will meet at the church and carpool to Wyndemere where will be **caroling from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**. We will return to Hope to hang the beautiful Chrismons we made as well as gold ornaments on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Room. Another lighted tree from Bethel New Life will be in the sanctuary near the entry doors. We will also be hanging wreaths throughout the church. While this is happening, there will be other ornaments to color and make for your trees at home. At **4:30 pm, the pizza will arrive for us to enjoy**. We hope that you will be able to join us.



### **Christmas Eve Service**

The Christmas Eve service will be candlelight service beginning at 7:00 pm. Glenn Stith and his crew will be setting out luminaria to light your way to the parking lot and into the church. The service promises to be one to light our hearts and prepare the way for the birth of Christ. Respectfully submitted, Sheri Clubb, chair Worship, Music and Arts







## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**



On Sunday, December 14 a brief congregational meeting is being called immediately following the worship service for the purpose of electing the slate of elders proposed by the Nominating Committee. This committee is nominating Tom Schmidt to serve a 2-year term; Sandra Jordan and Anna Lloyd to serve 3-year terms. The committee is also nominating the following congregational members to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee: John Dalby, Merikay Huszagh, and Roberta Peterlinz with Claudia Taylor as alternate.

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Clubb, chair Nominating Committee



## **BUILDING A FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOPE PRESBYTERIAN/BETHEL NEW LIFE**

Hope Presbyterian and Bethel New Life Churches in Wheaton need to determine what our future relationship should be. We share a church building, have the same pastor, and invite each other to attend our events. Where is our relationship headed? To alleviate fears and misunderstandings as well as to create a place where Christ Love (Agape) flourishes, we need to agree on a direction for our relationship. Attendees of the Chicago Presbytery's Systemic Racism Workshop, held in our church in late September, request you attend a joint Hope/Bethel discussion on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (between our two churches Sunday Services) to:

- Get to know each other better and
- Discuss our future relationship that is:
  - Amicable,
  - Agreeable,
  - Achievable,
  - Attractive, and
  - Advantageous.



Please come and help us Serve God Better. John Dalby for Rev. Beauchamp, Monica Adams, Jacquetta Carter, Augustine Gilmore, Anna Lloyd, Jennifer Stoner, Carol Urban, Mike Wolfe, and Debbie Wolski

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting** – 10:30 each Tuesday in the Gathering Room.

**Prayer and Bible Study** – Every Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

### **Saturday, December 6 – Hanging of the Greens**

Please help decorate Hope and the Christmas tree for the season of Advent and Christmas. We will be caroling at 2:00pm, decorating the tree with Chrismons at 3:30pm and enjoying a pizza supper at 4:30pm. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex.

**Building a Future Relationship Between Hope Presbyterian/Bethel New Life-** please attend a joint Hope/Bethel discussion on **Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm** (between our two churches Sunday Services). For further information contact John Dalby.

**Share The Spirit-** Hope will be collecting for Share the Spirit through December 7<sup>th</sup>. All gift cards should be placed in Jim Vroman's mailbox. For more information see the poster in the narthex.

**Sunday, December 14-** There will be a congregational meeting at the conclusion of the worship service to elect the slots of elders for 2026.

**RELICS**—Retired men are meeting for lunch and conversation at noon on Monday on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at Warrenton Cafe at 2 S. 505 Illinois Rt. 59 in Warrenton.

**Christmas Eve Service- Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**Bingo!!!-** January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am in the Gathering Room.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Hope, please call the office at 630-668-7750. Take time to find hope in everyday situations. God will comfort and bless you as you journey through life.

# **INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE!**

## **WHEN I WORSHIP**

When I worship...

I like to sing old familiar hymns  
that remind me of my childhood... do you?

I like to stand and sing along with the choir  
Even if I don't know all the words... do you?

I like to sing loud and clap my hands... do you?

My voice is not very good, so I like to sit back  
and close my eyes and listen... do you?

+I like to move and dance to the music... do you?

I like to sing songs in German  
like my godfather used to do... do you?

I like to learn new songs  
That challenge my thinking... do you?

I like to sing with different instruments...do you?

I like to shout Amen when something touches me... do you?

And I say to God... if we all like certain ways to worship...  
How do we worship together?

And God whispers to me the words... "Sacrifice of Praise."

"Let go of pleasing yourself and others... and please me."

"I hear the quiet and the loud, I hear the shout and the whisper, I hear the instruments and the recordings, I hear the familiar and the new, I see you sitting, standing, and dancing."

And I ask God... Which do you like the best?  
And he answers... "Man looks at the outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks at the heart."

And I think... All things are possible with God.

~By Jennifer Stoner



# Come Out Eat, Support and Fellowship!

## Bethel New Life Church Fundraiser!

Dr. R. Keith Beauchamp, Senior Pastor  
(Host Church) Hope Presbyterian Church  
1771 S. Wiesbrook Rd. Wheaton, IL 60189

### Chicken Dinners

Donations \$ 10.00

### Two sides, a Drink and Dessert

(Green beans and potatoes, Mac and Cheese, a can of soda and a slice cake)



Friday, December 12, 2025

Where: Bethel New Life Church

Time: 11:30 am until 3:00 pm

For more information, please call Jacquetta Carter (815) 258-2578  
or Monica Adams (773) 682-1953.

### Place Your Order Today!!!!

Please make all payment via zelle: to [bethelnewlifechurch15@gmail.com](mailto:bethelnewlifechurch15@gmail.com), Checks payable to Bethel New Life Church

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dine-in: YES: ☐ NO: ☐

Pick-up: YES: ☐ NO: ☐

# MONTHLY EVENTS AT HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

| Name:                | Date:                                              | Time:    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| BNLC Worship         | Every Sunday                                       | 1:00 pm  |
| Prayer & Bible Study | Every Thursday                                     | 6:00 pm  |
| RELICS               | 2x a Month                                         | 12:00 pm |
| Centering Prayer     | Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday | 9:00 am  |
| Elder session        | Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday                      | 7:00 pm  |

Pastor: **Dr. R. Keith Beauchamp**

Administrative Assistant: **Jacquetta (Jay) Carter**

Office Phone: **630-668-7750**

Office Fax: **630-668-7950**

## Office Hours: Appointment

Pastor Hour: **Dr. R. Keith Beauchamp**

Administrative Assistant: **Jacquetta (Jay) Carter**

**Sunday** 9:00-11:30 am

**Monday** 9:00-3:00 pm

**Monday** 9:00-3:00 pm

**Tuesday** 9:00-3:00 pm

**Tuesday** 9:00-3:00 pm

**Friday** 9:00-3:00 pm

**Wednesday** 12:00-8:00 pm

**Thursday** 12:00-8:00 pm

**Friday** 9:00-3:00 pm

*Saturday \*\*Generally **OFF** unless weddings, funerals or maybe the Little Red Truck*

**Hope's Email:** hopepreswheaton1771@gmail.com

**Hope Website:** hopepresbyterian.org

**Clerk of Session:** Bill Borst

**Church Treasurer:** Debbie Wolski

**Building & Grounds:** Tom Schmidt

## Elder Session

**Bill Borst (630-699-3873)**

**Tom Schmidt (630-750-0004)**

**Sheri Clubb (630-639-122)**

**Bob Strutzel (312-213-3466)**

**Dave Donaldson (630-247-1205)**

**Jim Vroman (630-660-7416)**

**Carol Gats (630-404-2448)**

**Betsy Salvatore (630-248-4790)**

**Glenn Stith (630-217-6757)**