

KEEPING UP WITH HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

MARCH 2026

From the Desk of the Pastor

Greetings to the people of God, who co-labor at Hope Presbyterian Church.



This month we celebrate Women's History Month. Female pastors have broken barriers in ministry, led communities with courage and compassion, and shaped both church and society through their faith-driven leadership and advocacy.

Women in the Bible illustrate faith, courage, wisdom, and perseverance. They often acted in times of crisis, influenced leaders, and fulfilled God's purposes despite societal limitations. Their stories teach lessons about trust in God, moral integrity, and the power of obedience and courage in shaping history.

I am happy to announce that March has offered some opportunities for the church by way of the Chicago Presbytery. We have been asked to apply for a Renewal Grant, which could benefit the church for the next three years and beyond. I have asked a small group of church members to assemble to help us prepare the application. The Chicago Presbytery has also asked if Hope would host the Boundary Training program in August, which is under consultation by the Elders.

I visited the members and found them to be doing well. I met Marlene Jepson, Carol and Dan Urban, Gordan and Phyllis Van Der Molen, and Susan Wolfe. I also attempted to meet with Randall Little and Billie Schmidt, but they were not at home. I strongly encourage the members to attend the Parkinson presentation this month on Saturday, March 14th. If time permits plan to attend the Rodney Sisco Kingdom Diversity Symposium, Thursday - Friday, March 19 -20, 2026, 7pm in the Wheaton College Coray Gym in the Student Services Building. Our church will be used as a Polling location on the 17th. Finally, we host the Bingo game on Friday, March 27th at 10:30 am. Hope is ever busy with great opportunities for the congregation. Please come out and enjoy yourself.

Humbly submitted by Rev. 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Christian Education Activities

All About Parkinson's Disease

Join us at Hope as Suzanne Kinsey, from Angel Home Care, explains the fundamentals of Parkinson's disease. We'll learn about the causes, symptoms and diagnosis of the disease and how to move forward once the diagnosis has been given.

Join us on March 14, 2026

10 am – 12:00

Hope Presbyterian Church in Wheaton.

Free of charge.

Make someone smile today

Bingo Blast!

Are you looking for some fun during the Long days of winter? Some that will brighten your day! Come join the in the fun at Hope as we play bingo on Friday, **March 27, 2026, 10:30 AM** Invite your friends to a morning of food, fun, fellowship and prizes. (A voluntary good will offering will be collected.)



Your Christian Education Team,

Pam Dalby, Jan Realie, Anna Lloyd, Mike Wolfe, Susan Vroman, Debbie Wolski, Carol Gats (chair)

GETTING TO KNOW

Catching Up with Jim Vroman!

What a great conversation we had as I interviewed Jim for our Newsletter; packing for his departure for the Gulf Coast of Florida, he offered easy, thoughtful, facts and stories...more about the stories in a minute. Jim was born in Hinsdale and grew up in Downers Grove, the third of four children. By 13 years old, he knew he was interested in the practice of law and, as a result, his educational path became much clearer. Graduating high school in Downers Grove, he attended the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana.



Graduating from the university in 1970, Jim found himself at a crossroads in his life. He was scheduled to begin classes at the U of I's College of Law in the fall, but he also faced the prospect of being drafted into the military. Jim decided to enlist in the Marine Corps Officer Candidate program, with an initial reporting date in mid-November, which gave Jim the opportunity to attend law school classes for a couple of months. This opportunity to attend law school for a few months became a true blessing when Jim began dating Susan, who was, at the time, a sophomore at the U of I.

When Jim's father passed in early November, Jim left law school to be with his mother and the Marine Corps extended Jim's reporting date to the Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Va., to June of 1971. Jim and Susan continued to date and see each other until Jim left for Quantico.

Quantico is the boot camp for Marine officer candidates, who all receive buzz haircuts and engage in strenuous physical activity. Jim not only "lost" his hair, but also some of his weight. In July, Jim received a long weekend "pass" for the 4th of July holiday weekend and decided to fly to Chicago where Susan would meet him at O'Hare. Jim had also decided to ask Susan to marry him. After arriving at O'Hare, Jim left the plane and began walking to the terminal. He did not know Susan tanned easily working as a lifeguard and had a deep tan. Jim walked right past her as she walked to the gate. Susan had never seen Jim with a "buzz haircut" and she did not know he had lost 25 lbs. She walked past Jim as he headed toward the terminal. They both suddenly stopped, turned, shouted the other's name, and hugged. Jim proposed right there and Susan accepted. They married in March 1972, while Jim was on leave to travel to his duty assignment at Camp Pendleton in Southern California.

They were married in the Methodist church Susan's parents attended in McHenry, Illinois. Susan had grown up in the Methodist faith.

While Jim was stationed in southern California for two years, Susan was able to complete her own college classes at San Diego State and earn her degree from the U. of I. When Jim left active duty in August of 1974, they returned to Champaign and he resumed his law school studies.

After graduating law school in 1977, Jim became an associate lawyer with the Chicago law firm of Winston & Strawn. He became a partner in 1983 and, shortly thereafter, began to focus his practice on environmental law. In 1993, Jim moved to the law firm of Jenner and Block where he continued his environmental law practice. He retired from his legal career in 2010.

Susan and Jim, after leaving Champaign in 1977, eventually settled in Glen Ellyn in early 1978, where they started attending, and soon joined, St. Thomas Methodist Church. Their first two children, sons Dan and Mike, were both baptized at St. Thomas and, after they became members of the church, Jim served on the Board of Trustees. In 1983, the family moved to Arrowhead. Tom and Julie arrived as children in 1986 and 1987, and in 1990 Susan and Jim found a new church home at Hope Presbyterian, where Rev. Lee Van Ham served as pastor. Jim and Susan found Hope to be an "easy walk" from their home, and they so much appreciated, under Lee's pastorship, the congregation's focus on social justice and community outreach. They also found Hope's members to be welcoming and so much fun to be with! Over the years, as members of Hope, Jim and Susan have made so many close and endearing friends.

Shortly after becoming a member of Hope in 1991, Lee invited Jim to serve on the Church Expansion Committee chaired by Lan and Pam Richart. That committee drafted a concept for the expansion of the church building and submitted it to Session in December. Jim was elected as an Elder on Session in January 1992 and began his service as the Session's Finance Chair.

After Jim retired from his law practice, Jim was elected to serve on the Wheaton-Warrenville District 200 Board of Education. He served on the Board for two terms and was its President for the final four years. With Susan, they travel to be with family and look to travel globally when possible; Viet Nam was a recent trip. Susan and Jim are very committed to spending time with their children and grandchildren, and they include Dan (pilot) and Tiffany with four children; Michael (attorney) and Jessica (grief counselor for very ill children) and their three boys; Tom (EPA field compliance officer) and Manique (environmental site assessor); and Julie (product manager, General Mills) and Matt (3M research manager), with three children.

Jim's priorities at Hope are many: active at the People's Resource Center, lunch with the RELICS every other week, currently an Elder on Session, chairing the Relating Beyond Hope committee, and actively engaged in friendships with members. His mission at Hope is to routinely contribute to a welcoming environment to all who find us; exploring new ways to give and support one another; and regularly worshipping together. This was a pleasure!

Christian Education Committee: Carol Gats, Jan Realie, Susan Vroman, Pam Dalby, Mike Wolfe, Anna Lloyd, Debbie Wolski

A decorative graphic featuring several colorful butterflies in shades of pink, yellow, and green, with dotted lines trailing behind them, set against a background of soft-focus flowers and greenery.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Finance Report

Financial Status

Due to strong pledge donations in both January and February, Hope's income so far this year exceeds expenses by \$33,000. Pledging should even out over the year, so this does not mean we will do better than budgeted for the year, but it is a better than usual start of the year.

Birthday Bucks

Birthday bucks totaling \$127 have been received so far this year to help grow Hope's reserve fund for capital improvements. Thank you to those who have made special donations to this fund matching their ages. This fund currently stands right at \$14,000.

Glenn Stith, Finance Chair

WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE

Lenten and Easter Services

The Season of Lent is upon us. The Worship Music and Arts Committee has been busy planning these worship services. For Easter Sunday, we will once again be placing potted flowers on the tables under the cross. If you would like to purchase flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please look for the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

Ash Wednesday, February 18 – At this evening worship service we received ashes and Communion by intinction. Immediately following the worship service, “stone soup” was served in the Gathering Room. This soup originated from the children’s story titled, Stone Soup, which was read aloud and re-enacted before we ate our soup. As the story goes, weary soldiers arrived in a town and asked for food, but the villagers told them there was none to spare. So, the soldiers asked for a large pot, then some water, and then 3 stones to heat over a fire. They began to heat the water and stones and said, “Only if we had some carrots. Our soup would taste so much better.” A villager brought them some carrots from her cellar and they were added to the soup. The soldiers repeated their wish asking for potatoes, turnips, onions, etc until they had a savory soup cooking over the fire. After the story ended, we enjoyed bowls of our “stone soup”, which was vegetable soup, made by Betsy DiVita and Sheri Clubb. This story reminded us of the importance of building community and unity. It is also reminiscent of the Biblical story of how Jesus fed 5,000 people with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. As Lent begins, this “stone soup” that we ate together was a reminder of the importance of building community by sharing what we have and supporting one another.



Palm Sunday, March 29 – Worship service begins at 10:00am. As we enter the sanctuary, we will be given a palm frond. At the beginning of the service, Lauren Buchalski will pull our donkey down the aisle to the front of the sanctuary while we follow waving our palm fronds singing “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”. The palms will be placed on the tables under the cross or on the floor around the donkey. During the worship service, the fish boxes and envelopes for One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – Worship service begins at 7:00pm. The Thursday before Jesus’ crucifixion, he shared his final meal with his disciples and washed their feet as an act of service. At our Maundy Thursday worship service, Pastor Ron will have a sample of a Seder meal and explain the significance of this meal. Also, that night during the Last Supper (Seder meal), Jesus blessed bread and wine stating the bread was his body and the wine was his blood. He told the disciples to partake of them in remembrance of him. Later in the service, we will receive Communion by intinction in remembrance of Jesus. At the conclusion of the worship service, the pulpit, baptismal table, Christ candle table, Communion table, and the cross at the back of the sanctuary will be draped in black cloth. Pastor Ron will place a crown of thorns on the cross as he leaves the sanctuary. The congregation will follow silently and leave the church in silence. River Glen Presbyterian Church has been invited to join us for this worship service.



Easter Sunday, April 5 – Worship service begins at 10:00am. Flowers will be available to flower the cross before we enter the sanctuary or you may bring your own flowers. At the beginning of the service, the cross will be carried forward to the front of the sanctuary as we sing, “Lift High the Cross”. The choir will sing “Christ is Risen” from the cantata, The Song Everlasting.

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Clubb, chair of Worship Music and Arts Committee



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

After Service Coffee Hour - Please sign up if you are able!!!!

RELICS-Retired men are meeting for lunch and conversation at noon on tomorrow Monday on March 9th and 23rd at Warrenville Cafe at 2 S. 505 Illinois Rt. 59 in Warrenville.

March 14th - 10:00am-12:00pm. Hope will be hosting a Parkinson's presentation given by Angel Homecare. The presenter will be Suzanne Kinsey-Community care liaison at Angel Homecare. **NO COST TO ATTEND AND FREE REFRESHMENTS!** Please come out and attend.

March 16th - If you would like to help sort clothes for the PRC Closet, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., please sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway.

Bingo Blast! - Come join the in the fun at Hope as we play bingo on Friday, **March 27, 2026, at 10:++30 AM.** Invite your friends to a morning of food, fun, fellowship and prizes. That will brighten your day! (a voluntary good will offering will be collected.)

Easter Flowers - You may help beautify our sanctuary on Easter morning by subscribing to purchase a flowering plant for \$30.00. Please see the poster in the vestibule to sign up for a plant.

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.

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 2nd and 4th Thursday	9:00 am
Elder session	Every 3rd 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** except weddings, funerals or maybe the Little Red Truck*

Hope's Email: hopepreswheaton1771@gmail.com

Hope Website: hopepresbyterian.org

Clerk of Session: Vacant

Church Treasurer: Debbie Wolski

Building & Grounds: Tom Schmidt

Elder Session

Tom Schmidt (630-750-0004)

Anna Lloyd (312-622-6004)

Sheri Clubb (630-639-122)

Sandra Jordan (630-853-9333)

Dave Donaldson (630-247-1205)

Jim Vroman (630-660-7416)

Carol Gats (630-404-2448)

Glenn Stith (630-217-6757)