

## 2025 Hope At-A-Glance Highlights

A Distillation of Key Aspects from Our Life Together – especially those which are out-of-the-ordinary

### Growing Deeper With God & Others – Worship, Scripture, Spiritual Practices, Community & Self-Awareness

- **Experience Worship** – hosted *Candlelight Café* on Sunday evening 2/16 at Brewlando – a music-driven service featuring the Hope band with poems & scripture readings in a casual brewery atmosphere
- **Women’s Retreat** – 38 Hope women & friends attended – including many from Oviedo Presbyterian (9/5-9/6) at San Pedro Center with leader Rev. Dr. Julie Johnson
- **A Quiet Day Apart** – Hopesters gathered during Lent (3/21) at San Pedro Center
- **Fresh Food Co-op** – shared & shopped bulk and BOGO food deals on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (weekly during the government shutdown), providing any unclaimed fresh food immediately to hungry neighbors
- **Earth Care, Recycling & Repurposing** – *Book & Magazine Exchange* (March) in-house, with unclaimed titles offered first to LNMS teachers then Good Will; recycled 30+ lbs of cloth textiles through ReTold Recycling; batteries, toothpaste tubes & other oral care products; old T-shirts and newspapers; reached ongoing total of 24 lbs of contact lens blister packs
- **Bible Doing, Book Clubs, Watch Parties** – *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by Adam Hamilton, in-person with Bill Smith & Dixie Gibbons at Giovanni’s; *A Lent of Less* virtual group with Marcy & NGO; *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* by Philip Yancey over lunch at Giovannin’s in the Fall led by Carrollyn & Frank Allen and Jeff Sooknarine; Movie Watch & discussion of film *Nickel Boys* (6/22); Book Club (7/30) on *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith* by Sarah Bessey;
- **Hope Circle** – teens & tweens gathered at 9:30 am every other week to connect and talk faith. Led by Jeff S, Reid Ransom & Derwin Penson
- **Hope Cookbooks** – beloved recipes submitted by Hopesters
- **Connecting over Food** – *Pop-Up lunches* at *Nature’s Table* (7/6), *Giovanni’s* (8/3), *Mutt’s on 13<sup>th</sup>* (9/21); “*I Love This Place*” at *Piazza Italia*, hosted by Kalils (2/2); annual Thanksgiving potluck (11/27); to-go treats for all for Valentine’s, Mother’s Day & Father’s Day.
- **Peacemaking** – attended “*Transforming Extremism through Dialogue*” event by Peace & Justice Institute (6/17); NGO reported (6/1) over lunch at Giovanni’s about her 2025 *Civil Rights History Tour* with PJI to Memphis, Little Rock, and the Emmett Till sites in Mississippi; public screening (9/18) of *For the Living*, exploring the common struggle between dehumanization and empathy; hosted 10<sup>th</sup> annual shared World Communion Sunday worship & potluck with Washington Shores
- **Care for the Hope Family: Packages for Far-away College Students** – snacks, gift cards & notes for college students, Spring & Fall; *Journey through Grief* books to those who’ve lost a loved one; *birthday cards*
- **Fun & Connection** – *Pop-Up movie* for *Wicked* (1/7) and *Wicked for Good* (12/14); elders & staff provided *My Favorite Things* (12/7); *Easter egg hunt* for Hope kids & guests (4/20); *Game Night* at Brewlando (6/26)
- **Miscellaneous:** *Hats On for Donna*, wearing hats or caps in worship to support Donna Adams during chemo treatments; ‘*Wear Green for Charlene*’ on 7/20 as solidarity with Charlene McClellan on the day of the (green-themed) NJ memorial for her husband Dave; bags of *birdseed* and *recipe for Birdseed Cookies*; *Birthdate Prayer Team* prayers for Hope + our witness each month of anniversary of one’s birth; periodic articles to encourage peacemaking, spiritual growth, earth care, and more

*Reaching Wider to Serve & Share God's Love with the World – Local Neighborhoods, Central Florida & the World*

- **Bags to Benches Campaign** – Weekly plastic bag collection netting 1,118 lbs of plastic bags (1,826 lbs total beginning 4/22/24) to earn & donate beautiful, sustainable garden benches via NexTrex. Hopesters nominated & awarded one each to *Fisher House Orlando* and *Oviedo Presbyterian Church*.
- **Advent Project** -- Funded *10,000 Meals for neighbors* via Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida
- **Hope Scholars** – gave 6 college scholarships (4 in-house, 1 to Lake Nona High & 1 to Oak Ridge High) totaling \$11,200 (two still unclaimed). *Since 2012, 65 Hope Scholarships have been claimed, totaling \$105,095.* Hosted *yard sale* (Mar); *golf scramble & silent auction* (May); *fleece throw raffle* (Oct); & *pie sale* (Nov)
- **Christmas Eve Cookie Delivery to essential workers**, for fourth year, to 19 sites, including fire stations, hospitals, gas stations and hotels along with a hand-written note of thanks
- **Sponsored Cub Scout Pack 418 for Lake Nona families**
- **Special Collections** – *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* -- \$1,497 for California wildfires; \$752 for horrific flooding in Texas, \$825 Hurricane Melissa relief totaling \$3,074; donated \$1,860 to our *beloved custodian Pablo Gomez Matias* when he was forced to take unpaid medical leave for back surgery; *31 pairs of eyeglasses* for South America vision ministry of doctors from Maitland Presbyterian; 3-Sunday emergency food drive in March collected 300+ food items and \$185 for *Hope Community Center in Apopka* during federal budget cuts; 20 reams of *copy paper and other supplies for faculty at Lake Nona High*
- **2025 Hope Prize** – \$2,000 to *Fisher House Orlando*, home-away-from-home for families of VA patients
- **Weekly for Meals on Wheels rotation.** Also delivered Christmas ornaments & two fleece blankets
- **Day of Service** – *Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge*, clearing & landscaping public areas; *Lake Nona Middle*, trash pickup in front of school; assembled 115 *Love in a Glove Box* Ziploc bags with food, bandaids & other supplies for unhoused neighbors; created *five no-sew fleece blankets for others* –1 raffled for Hope Scholars, 1 given to Fisher House, 1 to Ronald McDonald House & 2 to Meals on Wheels
- **Lake Nona Middle** – *Valentine's Day gift card drawing* for faculty & staff; *breakfast to-go bar* for returning faculty & staff in Aug; printed *blessings & drawing of four gift cards* for faculty & staff at Christmas; catered *lunch for custodians* in Fall (Gator's Dockside) and Christmas (Longhorn)
- **Miscellaneous** – *Volunteer Matching Fund* – documented 1,388 volunteer hours among schools and nonprofits where Hopesters served; surpassed 127,500 miles for *Charity Miles* team; reached 1,335 microloans totaling \$33,965 in 83 nations through *Kiva*; monthly *Five Cents a Meal* donations, totaling \$637.60; 13 lbs pop tops, 206 toiletries, 232 plastic utensils + total of 45 treat bags from donated Halloween candy and to *Ronald McDonald House*; 30 treat bags from Halloween candy to *Fisher House*; provided *water bottles & oranges* to share with unhoused during summer months; 7 Marlow 'Help Your Neighbor' Grants (\$1,105) – including maintenance supplies for two pre-school community gardens; food, hygiene & clothing for a working single mom with four children; food & supplies for a working but unhoused acquaintance of the church; materials to create four no-sew blankets for others; printed blessings & gift cards for faculty drawing at LNMS; *cards* to community members in crisis or with significant celebrations
- **Disbursements from "Service Savings" Distribution Fund** -- \$1,000 to *Second Harvest Food Bank* during government shutdown; \$2,560 *annual support* for 5 mission co-workers; \$3,500 *Service Matching Fund*; two LNMS *custodial lunches*; *lunch for Rebuild Yourself Inc.*, peer support for local teens; *retreat scholarship*; \$250 *affirming concert sponsorship*.