

CHURCH OF HOPE

ANCHOR

November & December 2014

Regular Worship
at 10:15AM

202 N. Monroe
Gardner, IL 60424

FYI

Church phone

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Confirmation Classes to start on November 16



On November 16, 2014, we will begin our confirmation classes here at the Church of Hope. The classes will be held from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on the following dates: November 16, 2014, December 14, 2014, January 18, 2015, February 8, 2015, February 22, 2015, March 8, 2015, and March 29, 2015. You will notice that I have tried to schedule the classes around the holidays and school breaks

Confirmation in the Presbyterian church entails a person professing of her faith in Jesus Christ and God as first acknowledged through baptism. A demonstration of spiritual knowledge is required before the confirmation. Confirmation can occur at any point in a person's life, but teenagers are the most typical celebrants. Confirmation gifts should reflect the significance of this spiritual coming of age.

Pastor Jan will be contacting parents of those children who are eligible. If you are not contacted and wish to participate in the classes please call the church.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

On November 23rd at 7P.M. the Church of Hope will host a Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Everyone in the surrounding communities is invited to attend. Following the service refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



Upcoming Advent Bible Study

Starting Sunday, November 30, the first day of Advent we will begin a new Bible Study by Adam Hamilton called *Not a Silent Night*. Classes will be held during adult Sunday School.

Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view—proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.

Come and Decorate the Church · November 29th at 9:30am

Everyone is invited to help decorate the church! Come and lend your time and artistic talents while decorating the church for the upcoming Christmas season. Following the decorating coffee, hot chocolate and donuts will be served. Please join us for this time of fun & fellowship



The Sundays in Advent: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21

The season of Advent is the season of waiting and anticipation. In the days before Jesus' birthday the things that we see, hear, smell, touch and taste add to the anticipation. Many of those same "things" can distract us from focusing on the birth of the Christ Child. But they don't have to! Stop in foyer and pick up a Devotional booklet for the Advent season.



Women's Association Christmas Party

On December 2nd at Noon the Women's Association will have their annual Christmas Party. This year we will have lunch at the Country Mansion in Dwight. All are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to invite a guest. Everyone should bring a \$5 gift either a Christmas ornament or knick-knack.



Members & Friends of the church who need prayers



Please lift up in prayer the following members & friends of the church who are facing or recovering from illness or surgery -- Louise Mc Daniel, Gary Corneglio, Pastor Jan Chandler, Bill Mahler, Evelyn Howland, Marge Byers, Stephanie Sweitzer, Michael Christensen, Jimmie Kirkpatrick, Connor Kratochvil, Helga Male, Tom Wise, Mike Finn.

A "MILE OF PENNIES" for Kemmerer Village



The Mission Committee of the Church of Hope is sponsoring a fundraising project to help celebrate the 100th birthday of Kemmerer Village, the Presbyterian Church youth home in Assumption, Illinois. Since June we have been collecting coins and monetary donations which will be sent to Kemmerer at the holiday season. To reach our goal of a "Mile of Pennies" we need to collect approximately \$850.00, The project started in June with almost \$160.00 of pennies collected by Vacation Bible School. Since then the total has reach just over \$600.00, but to reach our goal by the holidays we need your donations. Please gather those coins (we'll gladly accept paper money and checks too) and drop them off at the back of church at any time. If you would like to make a specific family donation to Kemmerer we would be happy to send it along with our check at the Christmas season. For further information please contact Ida Schopp.



Christmas Poinsettias



Christmas Poinsettias: All in the church are invited to share in decorating the sanctuary with Christmas Poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one. You must let the office know your name and who your poinsettia is in honor or memory of so they may be recognized on the Christmas Eve list in the bulletin.



Christmas Card Tradition



Everyone in the church is invited to share in The Church of Hope tradition of decorating our Christmas Tree with Christmas cards to the Church. As a part of this tradition many in the church include an extra "Christmas offering" — an extra gift to help support the ministry of the church. Our thanks, in advance, to all who are a part of keeping this tradition alive. Cards may be mailed directly to the church, and will be placed on the tree in the sanctuary.

Sunday School Christmas Program, December 14th

The Children's Christmas program will be during 10:15am worship service on December 14th. We hope everyone will be able to attend; children, parents, grandparents, other family members and friends too! There will be no Sunday School on December 28th. Sunday School will resume after Christmas break on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015.



CHRISTMAS EVE



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services
with the Lord's Supper

This year we will again have two worship services. The first service will begin at 7:00PM and the second will start at 11:00PM. We hope you can join us for one of these Special Christmas Eve Worship Services as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And join us as we receive Christmas joy through carols, scripture, communion, and candlelight.

November

- 2 – Jeff Bexson
- 11- Thomas McDaniel
- 12- Kelly Steichen, Cole Anderson
- 13- Brock Kratochvil, Drew Anderson
- 15- Polly Hoffman

December

- 2- Michelle Lardi
- 3- Chris Halpin
- 10- Connie Swearingen
- 11- Angie Grieff
- 14- Ella Anderson
- 16- Audrey Myers
- 21- David Lardi, Katie Bollini
- 25- Holly Boudreau
- 28- Heather Boudreau

ATTENTION MEMBERS & FRIENDS

If you have an email address please send it to us at:

churchofhope@sbcglobal.net

The church is trying to send out this newsletter by email to as many people as possible.

Please help us keep postage down and send us your email address. Thank you!

Church Operating Expenses

	Income	Expenses
August	\$8,873.29	\$8,622.10
September	\$4,459.95	\$6,837.94
October	\$8,146.57	\$7,450.98

Dartball Schedule

- Nov. 17 7:00pm Church of Hope at New Life Assembly of God
- Dec. 1 7:00pm Essex-Bonfield here at Church of Hope**
- Dec. 15 7:00pm Mazon Congregational here at Church of Hope**
- Jan. 5 7:00pm All Star Game at Dwight Methodist
- Jan. 19 7:00pm Church of Hope at Dwight Congregational
- Feb. 2 7:00pm Church of Hope at Dwight Methodist
- Feb. 16 7:00pm Church of Hope at St. Patrick's Catholic
- Mar. 2 7:00pm Emmanuel Lutheran at Church of Hope**
- Mar. 15 1:00pm Tournament at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight

Musings from Pastor Jan

I know that it has been awhile since we have had a newsletter. I can't believe how fast time flies and by the time I start thinking about sending out a newsletter, the month is gone. It has been a busy time for the Church of Hope as we have had a pork chop supper, the KFC/Roast Beef dinner, and Trunk or Treat on Halloween. These have all been successful and we hope to continue to have more events throughout the year. God has truly blessed this church with a sense of mission and ministry in the community.

I was trying to figure out what to write about this month and decided that since November is Thanksgiving month, I would share with you all what I am thankful for. I am so thankful for the many blessings that God continues to give to me and to my family. It has been quite a year with my trial treatments at the University of Chicago, and it appears that it is working so far. When I think of the way that led me to where I am today, I am so thankful that God has led Frank and I to this place. I am so blessed to have the thoughts, prayers, and good wishes from everyone as well as the support and understanding when I'm having a punky time. I am so thankful for continuing my ministry here at the Church of Hope. November 2nd was my one year anniversary of my ordination into ministry, and I can still remember the excitement and awe of that day. This leads me to the blessing of all of you as I continue to be your pastor. Over the past 13 years, Frank and I have always felt welcomed and loved. This is a great church and could even be greater if we would all reach out into the community in mission.

I have learned that no matter what experiences we have in our lives, the good times and bad times, that the Lord is there to help us and support us no matter what. I am so thankful that through this past year I have learned that life is too short to hold grudges and that we are to live our lives fully, completely, with joy, each and every day. When we can't forgive others or ourselves, we hold ourselves back and end up not realizing what good is going on in us and around us. Thankfulness, what a word that challenges us when we think about it. I mean even when times get rough, this is an opportunity for all of us to get tough. There are many stories in the Bible that shows us that even when the people had their backs to the wall, things worked out for the best....it's just that sometimes the answer that God gave them was not the one they wanted. That is really something to be thankful for, that God hears our prayers and we will get them answered one way or another....it's just that sometimes it's not fast enough or to our liking.

I guess what I am trying to say is that no matter what, God is present in our lives helping us whether we realize it or not. Even when we put God on the back of the shelf in the busyness of our lives, he is still there waiting, watching, and working in spite of what we believe. So, I am asking that as you all gather around the Thanksgiving table, thank God for the food, family, and the blessings that we all take for granted. Share with each other what you are most thankful for and enjoy your day with joy and with peace.

Many blessings,

Pastor Jan

Church of Hope Calendar

Nov.	9	9:00am	Sunday School for Adults & Children
		10:15am	Worship Service
		11-12	Pastor Jan away at Presbytery Mtg.
	13	8:30am	Pastor's Lectionary Group
Nov.	16	9:00am	Sunday School for Adults & Children
		10:15am	Worship Service
	17	7:00pm	Dartball at New Life Assembly of God
	18	7:00pm	Session/Deacons Meeting
	20	8:30am	Pastor's Lectionary Group
Nov.	23	9:00am	Sunday School for Adults & Children
		10:15am	Worship Service
		7:00pm	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service here
	27		Happy Thanksgiving - office closed
	29	9:30am	Decorating the Church for Christmas
Nov.	30	9:00am	Sunday School for Adults & Children
		10:15am	Worship Service - Advent begins
Dec.	1	7:00pm	Dartball - Essex-Bonfield at Church of Hope
	2	Noon	Women's Association Christmas Party at Country Mansion
Dec.	7	9:00am	Sunday School for Adults & Children
		10:15am	Worship Service
	11	8:30am	Pastor's Lectionary Group
Dec.	14	9:00am	Sunday School for Adults & Children
		10:15am	Worship Service and Christmas Program
	16	7:00pm	Session/Deacons Meeting
	18	8:30am	Pastor's Lectionary Group
Dec.	21	10:15am	Worship Service
	24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
		11:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Dec.	28	10:15am	Worship Service



Happy New Year 2015!!!