

KEEPING UP WITH HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

February 2026

From the Desk of the Pastor...



“So, God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Genesis 1:27

This month is unique since we celebrate the contribution of Black citizens and honor the concept of loving one another no matter who we may be. According to the book of Isaiah, “You are precious in His eyes; you are precious, and I love you.” - Isaiah 43:4

Please continue to encourage friends and neighbors to visit our church and to experience the joy of the Lord with us. Last month we had a fantastic service focused on The National Day of Racial Healing: The Rhythm of Our Common Humanity led by Bethel New Life and guest pastors from four other churches. Several members from Hope Presbyterian participated in this event. We closed the service with a song selection given in a recitation format led by Carol Urban, which stated that we need each other to survive.

I had the privilege to attend the January Presbytery Assembly worship service held at Sixth-Grace Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Rev. Dr. Craig Howard was the keynote, and we installed Lawrence Brown as the new moderator. On Saturday, February 7th we will offer an Elder Retreat. Ken Hockenberry and Sandy Zeles from the Chicago Presbytery will lead the retreat. Jenna will be our guest presenter to get us warmed up and our minds stimulated as she offers us a session from her Ageless Grace community presentation.

The Presbytery Assembly will be held at McCormick Theological Seminary at 10 am on February 17th. The next Elder Session will be on Tuesday, February 17th at 7 pm. If you are interested in speaking with the Session please write back to me. We are still looking for another Elder if any are interested, please let us know.

I invite you to pray for Carol and Dan Urban as she is sick. Please consider those who are also shut in and unable to share with us weekly. If you have the time to visit, please

share by extending yourselves. We are asking Pastoral Partners to improve their connections with the members by sending cards, calling, or visiting them. With technology we can now share through Facebook and YouTube. We will be reviewing the various forms of communication that we use to stay connected. Keep us in prayer as we work at improving this process.

We are planning a special presentation of the I Have a Dream speech on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please plan to join us in this celebration. We are preparing for Ash Wednesday and special opportunities during Lent. Please stay tuned for more activities, sign-up boards, and Palm Sunday Brunch information.

As I close this article, I am reminded of the unique gift God gave us through His Son Jesus Christ. Let us remember to share the story with others and invite them to come to church to be a part of this joyous occasion. Allow me to leave you with this scripture as we also celebrate Valentine's Day this month.

1 Corinthians 13, New King James Version

The Greatest Gift

“13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body [a]to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [b]puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c]thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is [d]perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Humbly Submitted by, Rev. Dr. R. Keith Beauchamp

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 is busy planning educational and outreach opportunities for this new year. Watch for announcements as we make them and then come join us.

Christian Education believes that the after-worship coffee time is important for our Sunday morning experience. This time allows us to catch up with old friends and to make and get to know new friends. Of course, coffee time is better with coffee and maybe a small treat. It is with this in mind that Christian Ed has committed to host the coffee time each Sunday in March. Join us. Have a chat. Introduce yourself. Share a cup of coffee, a treat, a laugh and a smile. Then be on your way and arrive home in plenty of time before the kick-off or the first pitch is even thrown.

Christian Ed will help Worship, Music and Arts plan something special for Black History month and we fill and distribute the Easter eggs for the Palm Sunday Brunch.

We continue our theme of health and wellness in March, when we will sponsor a special presentation on the topic of Parkinson's Disease. Suzanne Kinsey from Angel Home Care will educate us about the disease and how to deal with it. Join us. March 14, 2026, 10:00 am at Hope Church. See you there!

Watch your newsletter monthly as we continue our "Getting to Know You" series. Each month we will highlight a member of the congregation and tell a little about them.

Make someone smile today.

Bingo Blast!

Are you looking for some fun during the Long days of winter? Come join the in the fun at Hope as we play bingo on

Friday, February 27, 2026, 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.)



Your Christian Education Team,

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

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

GLENN STITH



Glenn has been a member of Hope Presbyterian Church since 1977. In 1962 Glenn was going to college in Tulsa, OK. He rented a room from a couple. The couple just so happen to be Suzan's aunt and uncle. That's how they met and got to know Susan. They got married in 1967.

They had their first daughter in 1971 and the second daughter in 1973. They lived in Tulsa until Glenn got transferred to the Chicago land area in 1976. While they were in Tulsa they attended a Presbyterian Church. Once they moved to Wheaton, they started hunting for a church. In 1977 they found Hope Presbyterian Church. They became members and raised their 2 daughters here in Wheaton. Now they have 5 grandchildren, 3 boys and 2 girls.

One of Glenn's hobbies has been golf. He doesn't go and get to play much anymore. But he does love the game. For about 25 years he was a golf rule official.

Glenn also loves music. So, he joined the choir. He has a few hobbies. 1st being the financial secretary for the church and 2nd being our wonderful BINGO caller! And that's a little bit about Glenn Stith.

By Jan Realie

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Finance Report

January financial reports were not yet available at press time for this report, but pledge giving was strong in January, with normal expenditures, so it looks like a good start to the year. Below I will point out a good use of memorial funds already this year, and then I submit the notes for my financial report I gave at the annual meeting, for those who might be interested.

Memorial Funds Use in January

In January Bill Borst replaced the computer in the pastor's office, as it was quite old and could not run Windows 11. The cost was covered by \$529 from the Mary Ellen Lloyd memorial fund and \$61 from the Lee Huszagh memorial fund. We are grateful for the use of these funds and for the opportunity to once again be fondly reminded of those two past members of Hope.

Finance Presentation for Hope's 2026 Annual Meeting

I wish to help you understand Hope's financial condition. Although I will be quoting some numbers, you don't need to be reading the annual report to follow along.

As introduction, you should understand that Hope's finances are managed by session through its Finance Committee. The Finance Committee consists of a chairperson, who is a member of session, a treasurer, a financial secretary, a neutral advisor, and the pastor, who is an ex officio member. Currently I serve as both the chair and the financial secretary, which isn't ideal, but we don't currently have spare financial expertise on session to separate these roles. Debbie Wolski has been treasurer for two years and was recently voted by session to continue to serve in this role. John Dalby has served as an advisor for the past two years, and he continues to provide his valuable insight to our committee. I want to thank each of these people, including Pastor Beuachamp, for what they provide to this committee. I also want to thank Jay Lechnick, a past chair of the committee, for conducting a financial review of Hope's 2024 financial books during this past summer.

Next, I want to address our current financial condition, and there are several positives to report. For the third year in a row, we have closed the year with approximately \$108,000 in our bank accounts. This includes about \$40,000 in special funds, including \$18,000 in our manse fund, \$5000 donated several years ago for a youth pastor, about \$14,000 in our Building and Grounds Capital Reserve, and almost \$3000 in memorial funds. This leaves about \$65,000 in our operating account to cover expense variations and potential emergency expenses.

Although this total amount is not enough to repair and repave our parking lot, it means we are currently sound financially and holding our ground.

Also, for the third year in a row, our operating income has exceeded our expenses, by \$1064 this year. This occurred despite some headwinds: Our original budget projection for 2025 was that we would lose over \$8000 dollars; we collected about \$3000 less in pledged donations than were originally pledged: and we also collected about \$4000 less in loose offerings than we had forecast. To offset these headwinds, we took in \$6035 in student parking fees that were not originally planned; we took in over \$600 in fees for having our recycle bin in the parking lot; and we came in under budget on expenses by about \$8000, mostly of which was in lower utility bills than we projected. So, we ended 2025 in good shape, and I thank all of you for your support.

Now let's turn to the 2026 budget. This past fall, session put together a proposed budget that would continue our efforts to keep costs to only what is necessary for the mission of our church. Session felt that the pastor and staff should get reasonable increases of about 3% each to recognize their contributions and to help meet their own personal needs. We also identified several areas where costs would increase: \$2245 in medical insurance fees, \$1600 in insurance costs, and an increase from 70 to 80 hours a month for our administrative assistant. To cover 2026 costs, we projected that pledges would need to increase by about 6 to 7 percent.

However, pledges fell from 32 to 30 for 2026 and total pledged money fell by \$4000. As a result, we ended with a projected deficit of \$13,824. Earlier this month, the Finance committee discussed ways we could cut costs to reduce this potential deficit. We didn't want to cut pay increases, and we felt committee chairs had held the line on their committee expenses. The only "easy" way to reduce costs would be to reduce our commitment to pay 10% of our pledged giving to mission; and we didn't want to do that. Therefore, the finance committee recommended to session that we adopt this deficit budget, keep our expenses as low as we reasonably can, and cover whatever deficit occurs by our current bank balances. Session voted yes to this earlier this month.

What does this bode for the future of Hope? For 2026 we should be fine, but unless we can grow our membership and grow our income over the next couple of years, we will be faced with tough decisions for our future. So please continue to support Hope and to help to bring in new members as you see the opportunity.

Submitted by Glenn Stith, Finance Chair

WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE

Worship Music and Arts

February is the ordinary time following Epiphany and leading into Lent, but there is nothing ordinary about it. It is a time for us to reflect on the early ministry of Jesus and his teachings.

Wednesday, February 18 is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have a worship service that evening at 7:00pm where we will share in Communion and receive ashes. Following the service, we will once again share in a bowl of “stone soup”. The story, Stone Soup, will be re-enacted as it is read aloud. The message is similar to the loaves of bread and fish that fed the multitudes who were there to listen to Jesus reminding us to share what we have with others.



Palm Sunday is March 29, and we will process with palms during the worship service. A brunch or brunchette sponsored by the Pastoral Partners will follow the worship service. Look for more information in the March newsletter about this Sunday.

April 2 is Maundy Thursday, and we will have a service that evening at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday is April 5. The Worship Music and Arts Committee has begun planning for all these dates, but we do not have specific details to share at this time. Look for more information in the March newsletter.

February also brings Black History Month. During one of our worship services, we will remember Martin Luther King by sharing parts of his “I Have a Dream” speech. Also, we have been invited by Bethel New Life to join them in a meal of soul food on Saturday, February 21 from 1:00-3:00. Roast and potatoes, greens, macaroni and cheese, sweet potatoes and cornbread will be served for \$20 per person. Bible Study for the month of February will be devoted to Black History month as well. The first Thursday will be game night. The following Thursdays there will be movie nights with discussion afterwards. Please see the flier for additional information.

Respectfully submitted, Sheri Clubb, chair





Bethel New Life Church

Dr. R. Keith Beauchamp, Senior Pastor

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EVENTS SCHEDULE

05
Feb

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

6:00PM-8:00PM

12
Feb

MOVIE NIGHT - SELMA

6:00PM

19
Feb

MOVIE NIGHT - HIDDEN FIGURES

6:00PM

21
Feb

SOUL FOOD EXTRAVAGANZA

12:00PM - 3:00PM

26
Feb

MOVIE NIGHT - 12 YEARS A SLAVE

6:00 PM



Bethel New Life Church
1771 S. Wiesbrook Road,
Wheaton, IL 60189

For more information please call (630) 668-7750

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

Donations: \$ 20.00

Two sides, a Drink and Dessert

**(Roast and potatoes, green, cornbread, sweet potatoes, mac and cheese,
a can of soda and a dessert)**

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Where: Bethel New Life Church

Time: 12:00 pm 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, Checks
payable to Bethel New Life Church**

Name: _____

Number of Dinners: _____ **Total Amount:** _____

Phone Number: _____

Dine-in: YES: NO:

Pick-up: YES: NO:

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.

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

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

February 8th- Scout's Sunday & Bake Sale-Please come and buy some goodies. All proceeds will benefit the People's Resource Center Food Pantry.

February 18th- Ash Wednesday @ 7:00 Worship service that evening is at 7:00pm where we will share in Communion and receive ashes. Following the service, we will share in a bowl of "stone soup" in the Gathering Room. The story, Stone Soup, will be re-enacted as it is read aloud. Please join us to discover how 3 hungry men encouraged a village of skeptical people to create a delicious vegetable soup. The message is similar to the loaves of bread and fish that fed the multitudes who were there to listen to Jesus reminding us to share what we have with others.

February 21st- Hope is invited to attend Bethel's Soulfood Extravaganza. Please see the flyer on the table in the entryway.

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 2 nd and 4 th Thursday	9:00 am
Elder session	Every 3 rd 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)