

# 2024 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 11/17 at Brewlando – a music-driven service featuring the Hope band with poems & scripture readings in a casual brewery atmosphere
- **Bags to Benches Campaign** – Collected 708 pounds of plastic bags toward a 1,000-pound goal– sparing landfills to create a garden bench with NexTrex. Challenge runs till Earth Day 2025
- **Created & hosted 4,200-mile Virtual Civil Rights Tour** for our October *Steps for Change* challenge
- **Women's Retreat** – 25 women attended 2/2-2/3 at San Pedro Retreat Center with leader Angie Winn
- **Lenten Communities** – *Entering the Passion of Jesus* in-person lunch and Bible Doing with Lynne Plew and Bill Smith at Giovanni's; *Recalibrating the Spiritual Compass* with NGO; free daily devotion book *Hope Springs Eternal* for each household
- **Earth Care** – compostable bamboo toothbrush for each worshiper (4/28) recycle guides
- **Proverbs Chapter a Day Challenge** in July
- **Bible Doing, Book Clubs, Watch Parties** – *Context* by Josh Scott, led in Fall over lunch at Giovannin's by Donna Adams; 7/16 Book Club on *Soul Keeping* by John Ortberg; 9/25 discussion on the Baptist Joint Committee 10-part podcast “The Dangers of Christian Nationalism”; 10/30 Zoom movie watch party for *1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture*; theater screenings of *Cabrini* (3/10) and *Bonhoeffer* (11/24)
- **Birthdate Prayer Team** – Hopesters praying for Hope & our witness on monthly anniversary of birth
- **Growing Deeper Worship** – sermons from our own Rev. Roger Browne and elders Rob Martz, Michael Eckhoff, and Wendy Scott-Penson; *Epiphany Star Words*; Remembering the Saints
- **Connecting over Food** – periodic post-worship snacks or meals to grow deeper with others; occasional Pop-Up lunches after worship; annual Thanksgiving potluck (11/28) with Nancy & Paul for anyone interested; to-go treats for all for Valentine's, Mother's Day & Father's Day.
- **Friendship with Washington Shores Pres** – 9<sup>th</sup> annual shared World Communion Sunday worship 10/6; 7<sup>th</sup> annual Steps for Change challenge to raise awareness and \$500 for the Peace & Justice Institute; participated in Summer-Fall *All We Puzzled Project* led by poet & historian Valada Flewellyn of WSPC
- **Themed Lenten Worship** – *Setting Our Spiritual Compass: A Practice of Prayer* (Wk 1); *Sacred Reading* (Wk 2); *Creation* (Wk 3); *Sabbath & Rest* (Wk 4); *the Examen* (Wk 5); *Fasting* (Wk 6)
- **Care for the Hope Family: Packages for Far-away College Students** – Hopesters donated snacks and gift cards, wrote notes of encouragement & mailed packages to distant college students, Spring & Fall 2024; birthday cards; *Journey through Grief* books to those who've lost a loved one
- **Fun & Connection** – *Charlie Brown Christmas* on 12/15 at Orlando Family Stage; *Easter egg hunt* for Hope kids; 8/8 dinner & *Sound of Music* play at St. Luke's UMC; hosted 7/23 *Puzzle and Game Night* at Brewlando; periodic *pop-up lunches*
- **\$10K Matching Gift for December** contributions to the Operating Fund. Matched!
- **Miscellaneous:** 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**

- **'Bring a Friend' Charity Challenge** – a weekly vote from 11/3 to 12/8 by Hope households in attendance + individual guests for one of 7 local charities, securing a first-place \$1,000 check for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando & second-place \$500 check for Zebra Youth
- **Advent Project** -- Funded 135 *sight-restoring surgeries* at \$25 each through Cure Blindness Project
- **Hope Scholars** – gave 6 college scholarships (4 in-house, 1 to Lake Nona High & 1 to Oak Ridge High) totaling \$16,750 (one still unclaimed). *Since 2012, 61 Hope Scholarships have been claimed, totaling \$94,720.*
- **Gleaned 334 pounds of eggplant** through Society of St. Andrew, donated to New Beginnings of Central Florida in Clermont
- **Christmas Eve Cookie Delivery to essential workers**, for third year –provided & delivered to 17 sites, including fire stations, hospitals, gas stations and hotels along with a hand-written note of thanks
- **Sponsored a second Lake Nona Cub Scout Pack** – now packs 418 and 187
- **Special Collections** – underwrote 3 ½ shipments of food pallets to Cuba (priced at \$200 each), sent amid a food crisis by Central Florida Presbytery to 12 partner congregations; 131 pairs of gently worn footwear to help fund scholarships for Filipino nurses at Advent Health Celebration; donated \$1,000 to Utange Orphans Ministry in Kenya; 97 pairs of eyeglasses for South America vision ministry of doctors from Maitland Presbyterian; collected tattered flags for proper disposal; collected old electronics for earth-friendly recycling; donated 45 items to the Bully Up Rescue including blankets, treats, and toys; donated approx 25 reams of copy paper for faculty at Lake Nona High;
- **2024 Hope Prize** – \$1,540 and 15 bikes to Rusty's Bicycle Recycle, providing & repairing bikes for unhoused persons and foster children
- **Weekly Friday delivery rotation in Orlando for Meals on Wheels** through Seniors First
- **Days of Service** – *In Harmony with Nature* Wolf Sanctuary (10/5)– clearing & landscaping public areas; Ronald McDonald House (10/6) – serving a Giovanni's meal and connecting with families in residence
- **Lake Nona Middle** – Souper Bowl of Caring in Feb collected 318 cans for LNMS pantry; end-of-year dessert bar & gift cards on 5/24 for faculty; food for family in crisis at end of 2023-24 school year; 100 gift bags & printed blessings for new & returning faculty & staff at the start of the school year in August; 90 items of shelf-stable food and two bags of clothes in September for a family in crisis
- **Miscellaneous** – "Change for Change" for *Society of St. Andrew* during Lent (~\$557) – delivering 2,750+ pounds of fresh food to a hunger-relief agency; surpassed 116,113 miles for *Charity Miles* team; reached 1,285 microloans totaling \$32,635 in 82 nations through *Kiva*; *Five Cents a Meal* monthly donations, totaling \$637.60; from mid-year (new collection anchor), 10 lbs pop tops, 287 toiletries + 90 treat bags from donated Halloween candy and 66 pretzel treats to *Ronald McDonald House*; 3 Marlow 'Help Your Neighbor' Grants (\$360) – including maintenance supplies for a pre-school community garden; food for a family with household income shortage following a hospitalization; and providing a used-in-good-condition keyboard for a teenage music student whose mother couldn't afford one; collection for survivors of the *Baltimore bridge collapse*; recycled 6.65 lbs *contact lens blister packs*; newspapers, canned pet food, T-shirts and blankets for *Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge*.15 candy treat bags for residents of the VA Hospital's *Fisher House*; cards to people/communities in crisis – including *Paul Whelan*, newly released U.S. prisoner of Russia ... loved ones of the tragic *Baltimore Bridge Collapse* in March ... 100<sup>th</sup> birthday card for former US President *Jimmy Carter*.