

Small Groups

Life was never meant to be a “lone ranger” journey. God has made us all with a relational need to be known and to know others. We believe that the best way to go deeper in these relationships is through our small groups. For more info, ✓ on your welcome card. Current small groups:

Mondays - Thrive Women’s Bible Study **6:45pm**

Tuesdays - Ladies’ Coffee at Latté Café & Bakery Contact Dawn Roitblat at 630 443-9901 **10am**

Tuesdays – Celebrate Recovery **7pm**

Thursdays - Thrive Women’s Bible Study **10am**

Thursdays - Poulos/Martins’ home group (via Zoom) **7pm**

1st & 3rd Fridays - Young families’ home group email Travis: travis@go2hope.org **6:15pm.**

1st & 3rd Saturday - Men’s breakfast **8am**

Hope’s Email Prayer Network

If you would like to share a request, please email prayer@go2hope.org. To receive prayer requests, ✓ on your welcome card or email Kathy Fuhrer at prayer@go2hope.org.

Calendar (see www.go2hope.org for more)

- **Every Sunday Morning**—Prayer & Ministry Time in the nursery **9-9:30am**
- **Every Tuesday Morning**— Ladies’ Coffee at Latte Café & Bakery **10:00am**
- **Today** – Congregational meeting **11:15am**
- **Today** – Girls Night Out **6:00-8:00 pm**
- **Feb 23rd** – Thrive Women’s Small Group **6:45pm**
- **Feb 24th** – Celebrate Recovery **7:00-9:00 pm**
- **Feb 25th** – Zoom prayer meeting **7:00-8:00 pm** (Meeting ID 831 6405 5373 Password 030965)
- **Feb 26th** – Thrive Women’s Small Group **10:00am**
- **Feb 26th** – Zoom Martin-Poulos Small Group **7:00pm**
- **Feb 28th** – Iron Sharpens Iron men’s conference
- **Mar 2nd** – Thrive Women’s Small Group **6:45pm**
- **Mar 3rd** – Celebrate Recovery **7:00-9:00 pm**
- **Mar 4th** – Zoom prayer meeting **7:00-8:00 pm** (Meeting ID 831 6405 5373 Password 030965)
- **Mar 5th** – Thrive Women’s Small Group **10:00am**
- **Mar 5th** – Zoom Martin-Poulos Small Group **7:00pm**
- **Mar 6th** – Young Families Home Group **6:15pm**
- **Mar 7th** – Men’s Breakfast **8:00am**
- **Mar 15th** – Our Oasis **1:00-3:00 pm**

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

15 COMMERCE DR. - GRAYSLAKE, IL 60030 † P.O. BOX 937 - LAKE VILLA, IL 60046



www.go2hope.org



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info@go2hope.org

Welcome
to

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

February 22, 2026

What’s with ashes, fasting, and 40 days of Lent?

Boarding a flight Wednesday I noticed the gate agent’s forehead was smudged with a cross of ashes. It was Ash Wednesday: Lent had begun. I didn’t grow up in a liturgical church, but living in New Orleans as a child, I saw the revelry of Mardi Gras. Later, in Germany, I experienced the similar festivities of Fasching. Party time! Afterward my Catholic friends would pick something, like bubble gum, to “give up for Lent.” I learned those variations of Carnival and Fat Tuesday followed by Ash Wednesday and Lent (derived from an Old English word meaning spring) are about celebrating and feasting before a season of mourning and fasting in preparation for Good Friday and remembering Jesus’ death. The ashes are a nod to the Old Testament practice of mourning by “wearing

sackcloth and ashes.” The 40 days echoes the use of 40 in the scriptures as a period of preparation, testing, and transition, such as 40 days of rain in the flood, 40 years of Israel wandering before the promised land, and Jesus fasting 40 days in the wilderness. Lent actually lasts 46 days, but the six Sundays are not counted, as they are each worship celebrations within the season of sorrow, preparation, and penitence. However you observe Lent, may it be with genuine repentance, humility, and gratitude for Christ’s removing every smudge of sin from you and your life.

Brian Clements, co-pastor

Verse of the week

1 Peter 5:1-2a, 4-5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you... And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Are you new?

We're so glad you took the time to visit us this morning! Perhaps you're just beginning to explore spiritual things. On the other hand, maybe you have known God for many years. Either way, we invite you to join us as we travel together in life's spiritual journey to get to know the God of the universe!

What to expect

As we worship God, you may see people express their love for God in different ways. Some people are more expressive and like to clap their hands or even raise their arms. Others feel more comfortable worshipping quietly. But please don't feel compelled to do anything! Feel free to participate in worship or just sit back, relax, and observe.

Upcoming Events

Congregational Meeting

We are scheduling a congregational meeting today immediately following the worship service. All are encouraged to attend, but only official members may vote.

Girls Night Out

Please join us here for Girls Night Out **tonight, 6-8pm!** It will be a fun, encouraging evening just for women. Bring a friend and a snack to share (optional). To RSVP, note on your welcome card or contact Karen Clements (karenclements@gmail.com) or Mel Now (mellarienow@gmail.com).

Our Oasis

This women's gathering will be on **March 15th 1:00-3:00pm** and features food, fellowship, and fun, and is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends. Please register either by email to momsoasis@go2hope.org or scan the QR code from the flyers on the front counter.

Reminders

Celebrate Recovery

For anyone who might be interested in being in group sessions for recovery. Meetings are held weekly on **Tuesdays** from **7-9 pm** at the church. For further information contact Kelly Griffin at 773-485-8557 or kelly@go2hope.org.

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Worship Order

Welcome & Prayer

Worship

Announcements & Reminders

**Message: 1 Peter 5:1-11
About Sheep and Shepherds
What We Believe**

Co-pastor Brian Clements

(Nursery through 5th grade
are dismissed prior to the message*)

Final song

***Our Children's Ministries:**

Our children are dismissed for their classes just prior to the message. The elementary room is in the front & our nursery/preschool/ kindergarten is toward the back.

Sunday Morning Prayer & Ministry Time

Join us for a time of sharing, prayer, and ministering to one another every Sunday morning from 9:00-9:30am (in the nursery/preschool/ kindergarten room towards the back). We encourage you to join us in person; or ask Mary Skelton or Kathy Fuhrer about connecting by phone.

Our Purpose

To help people become Christ followers who grow, devote, connect, and serve.

Our Mission Statement

To honor God by helping people develop a passion for God, follow His Word & Spirit, live in community, and touch the lives of others.