

I Love HOPE UCC...Here's Why

Pastor Lucas has asked me to speak with some people who are planning on becoming new Partners of HOPE United Church of Christ. He asked me to tell them how I found HOPE and why it means so much to me. As I thought about his request, I knew that the testimony I had given to the congregation a few years back probably expresses my feelings best.

I was raised in an on & off again Christian family. By this, I mean that my sister and I attended Sunday school every week, and my folks attended church in an on & off again manner. I memorized all the important verses on which my teachers based their lessons. I knew the names of all the books in the bible. Old and new testament. So, I knew of God and his son, but I didn't really know God.

After Dave and I started our family, I looked high and low for a church that I could feel comfortable with. It was when my daughter, Roberta (out of college and in her first few years of teaching), called and told me about HOPE Church, that I became excited. She attended HOPE as a guest with two teachers who became good friends of hers. She called me that evening and said, "Mom, I think I've found the church you're looking for!"

I felt welcomed immediately and I loved the laid back and open attitudes. This is where I finally got to know God. I didn't learn how to talk to God until I was struck with cancer. I had a rough time battling this disease and one disaster lead to another. I told Pastor Timoth (the pastor at the time), on one of his numerous visits, that I felt like Job and maybe God was testing my faith. That was not the case; I learned that God took my hand and helped me through all the really tough times. I spent many a painful and long night conversing with God. My church family, as well as my biological family and good friends, sent up constant prayers for me and kept my spirits high. I was never forgotten by HOPE UCC, even when I missed attending church for over six months. My church taught me how to "Be Bold and Be Brave".

I can't express enough how fortunate we are to have a church like ours. We truly care for each other and the world around us. HOPE UCC gives us the opportunity to learn from each other as well as to express our own feelings and thoughts. We welcome everyone to come into our community to experience Love, Acceptance, and to learn what being a Christian is all about!

Linda James
HOPE UCC Partner



News & Notes



Naperville Band Concert – A Summer Event

Come join us for the Naperville band concert, "A Night at the Oscars," this **Thursday, July 12**. Nick and Jane Dempsey will stake out a spot on the lawn. Look for the red balloon! Come early and bring your picnic dinner and drinks at 6:30 p.m. Or come by at 7:30 p.m. for the concert. Meet in Central Park in Naperville (Between Jefferson & Benton, just east of Washington Street).

New HOPE UCC T-Shirts Have Arrived!

Get yours today! Our new shirts look fabulous! A variety of child and adult sizes available for a suggested donation of \$15 to HOPE UCC. T-shirts are great to wear to all HOPE UCC events, i.e. Aurora Pride Parade, Jesus Has Left the Building, GameShow Palooza, etc.



SAVE THE DATE for Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him



What: Jesus Has Left the Building and We Are Following Him

July's "workshop" project will be led by HOPE's youth group, The Landing! The youth have chosen our next JHLTB project. It will be at Ready, Set, Ride: Therapeutic Horseback Riding for Children with Special Needs

When: Sunday morning, July 29th

Where: Ready Set Ride, [13056 Essington Rd., Plainfield, IL 60585](https://www.google.com/maps/place/13056+Essington+Rd,+Plainfield,+IL+60585)

Stayed Tuned: Details and more information is coming in the HOPE Happenings & announcements on Sunday mornings. We hope to have both physical & non-physical workshop opportunities for HOPERS of all ages & abilities. There will be a sign-up sheet available soon for JHLTB as well as a post-workshop gathering for lunch.

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS – Save the Dates!

Just show up if you can! Look for the HOPERS! More details will be forthcoming... keep an eye on the HOPE Happenings!

8/01 (Wednesday) - Motown Concert @ Fishel Park, Downers Grove (7 p.m.)

8/18 (Saturday) - Cougars Game vs. Clinton - Hi Infidelity playing prior to the game

8/26 (Sunday) – HOPE UCC Annual Picnic!



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Prayers for my nephew, Adam, as he is struggling in a battle for his life. (Anna)
- † Please pray for my father, Thomas, as he heads here on a bus to rehab. Pray for Lee and me, as we are preparing to move. So many changes...God please lead us in the direction you want us to go. (Courtney)
- † Let us pray for Lily, as she is back in the hospital for her depression. She is at Hartgrove Hospital in Chicago. We're hoping a program with a different approach will be more helpful. (Danielle, Dan and family)
- † Nicole Hammerstad covets your prayers. She has hurt her knee. Also, in celebration, she received a \$3/hr. raise, which means she can quit her second job. (Sally B.)
- † Let's pray for Michael and family, supporting Michael quitting smoking after 41 years. It is a tough and difficult process.
- † Please pray for the continued comfort of my friend, Jenny, who is in hospice care. (Erin C.)
- † Prayers for Jackie T. Last night was rough. She appreciates your prayers for comfort and peace. (Zach)
- † Let us pray for Trott's mom. She had a setback this week. Prayers for her, Trott, and Jeanne. (Ellen)
- † Continued prayers for the Foster-Hulbert family and little man "Z" to become a permanent member. (Michael and Terry)

Prayer Requests



Celebrating Birthdays

07/11 Jaiden Manderino
07/14 Tamille Carter
07/19 Kristy Revoldt
07/30 Ian Hankins

If we've missed your birthday, please email
HOPE's Office Manager at
HOPE@shareHOPE.org.

HOPE LIBRARY

You may reserve items (books, videos or tapes) by calling HOPE's Office Manager at (630-922-0470) during office hours; by checking them out at HOPE UCC any time it is open; or by calling **Les & Jackie Pierce**, HOPE Librarians, at (630) 369-0485.

Quest

ADULT QUEST – 9 a.m. @ HOPE UCC

Please note: Adult Education is on Summer Break until September. A start date for Adult Education will be published in August 2018.

KID'S QUEST – Sundays during Worship

HOPE'S Leadership

Pastor	Lucas King
Moderator	Mike Manderino
Des. Moderator	Erin Cooley
Past Moderator	Becky McCabe
Treasurer	Les Pierce
Secretary	Julie Hapke
Registrar	Jane Trotta
Community Life	Shannon Lane
Education	Marie Higgins
Pastor-Parish	Tim Higgins/Jay Hruska
Marketing & Communications	Jenn Revoldt
Missions	Jolene Fiscella
Resource & Operations	Nick Dempsey
Worship	Mary Kroening
Librarians	Les & Jackie Pierce
Photo Archive	Anna Ahonen
Webmaster	Jenn Revoldt

HOPE United Church of Christ

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Naperville, IL 60540-6684

The Reverend Lucas King

Pastor Lucas' Cell – 720-378-2858
Pastor Lucas' Email – pastor@sharehope.org

Office Phone – 630-922-0470
Office Email – hope@sharehope.org
Website – www.sharehope.org

Office Hours:













Tuesday - Thursday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Deadline for additions or corrections to the next issue of
HOPE Happenings is July 18, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>July 12, Thursday</p> 	<p>Naperville Band Concert (7:30 p.m.) A Night at the Oscars! Central Park, Naperville (Between Jefferson & Benton, just east of Washington Street) Come if you can and look for the HOPers and the red balloon!</p>
<p>July 15, Sunday</p> 	<p>New Partner Class #2 @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>July 15, Sunday</p> 	<p>Ministry Council Meeting (Following Worship)</p>
<p>July 17, Tuesday</p> 	<p>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.) Meets at Hruska's residence, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>July 18, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>July 19, Thursday</p> 	<p>Women Out to Lunch (Noon) Join the women of HOPE on the third Thursday of each month. Lively conversation, great food & warm fellowship is waiting for you at Giordano's Restaurant at 119 S. Main Street, in downtown Naperville. Parking is available in the lot across from the restaurant or the Van Buren Parking Building.</p>
<p>July 22, Sunday</p> 	<p>New Partner Class #3 @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>July 22, Sunday</p> 	<p>Rainbow Faith @ HOPE UCC (1-3 p.m.) HOPE's ministry to support those in the LGBTQ+ community who are looking for a place to wonder and explore their faith. Find out more at: www.meetup.com/Rainbow-Faith-LGBTQ-Christians/ If you have questions, would like to participate or support this ministry, please contact Pastor Lucas.</p>
<p>July 25, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>July 29, Sunday</p> 	<p>Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him (Please see article for more information.)</p>
<p>August 1, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>August 1, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Concert @ Fishel Park, Downers Grove (7 p.m.) Featuring: Second Hand Soul Band (Motown) Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for the outdoor concert. Dogs are welcome to also enjoy the concert but must be leashed at all times. In case of inclement weather, concerts will be held indoors at the Lincoln Center located at 935 Maple Ave. To check concert locations based on the weather status, visit dgparks.org or call 630.963.0575 after 5:30 pm.</p>