

One Mom's Thoughts about HOPE for Boys

(Continued from last week.)

I think about HOPE's Statement of Faith that we read aloud each week, and how we try our best to live out our faith. I truly appreciate the role that the HOPE UCC community plays in my son's life. As a parent, I am so thankful for this "village" that helps look after Anthony, nurtures him, teaches him, as well as provides positive male role models for him. This may seem like a very simple thing or perhaps something one might take for granted at a church, but I do not. As a mom, I find myself wanting to shield my son from the outside world on a regular basis. I grapple with how much I should expose him to the national and local news. What are the messages he is getting from music, TV, YouTube, and movies? How do I explain why our leaders and other "role models" behave in such reprehensible ways, and why do so many grownups seem to accept their behavior? Every day on the news there are stories about mass

shootings and shootings in our cities, and we learn that the perpetrators of this violence and abuse are almost always men and boys. In our day-to-day lives, there have been subtle, and not so subtle, messages that teach my son how to "act like a man." From the tiny infant onesies that read "Tough Guy" or "Mommy's Little Monster" to the ever-present sports, heroes, and vehicle themed tot clothing available in very manly shades of blue, beige, and brown. When Anthony was in preschool, there was a horrified mom who questioned, "Should they be doing that?" when she saw our young boys were holding hands. There was the well-meaning male relative who told Anthony not to give hugs and kisses, rather, "Men shake hands!" When Anthony whined or cried, the same relative shamed him and said, "You sound like a little girl! Do you want to sound like a girl?" In elementary school, Anthony questioned if he should wear purple because another boy told him it was "a girl color." He also reported that certain toys were "for boys" and others "for girls." He questioned if it was OK to like "girl toys." Despite my best efforts, my boy was being shamed by adults he loved and trusted, taught to stuff away his feelings, discouraged from showing affection, and learning that it was not OK to act feminine or like feminine things. He was also learning that only certain characteristics and qualities were acceptable for men. It angers, frustrates, and saddens me that this is reality not just for my son, but for so many little boys and young men. My husband and I do our best to model and teach him alternatives to the "Act Like a Man" box he's being pushed into. Today Anthony is a kind, loving, empathetic, affectionate, and sensitive 10-year-old boy who is also very active, strong, athletic, and enjoys art and music too! I hope that he can always feel confident and secure in being true to himself instead of feeling he must live up to stereotypical male gender roles in our society that can be unhealthy, and, taken to the extreme, they can be toxic.



So, when I talked to Anthony about what he likes about HOPE UCC, "being welcome" and "being yourself" resonated so strongly with him. We also talked about the different people we know at HOPE, particularly the men and what they were like. What qualities did they have? What behaviors did they show us? There are men at HOPE who use their words and express their thoughts and feelings. There are men who listen, nurture, give hugs, and even cry. There are men who are athletic and men who are artistic. Some of the men are straight, some are gay, some are transgender. Some are dads and grandpas. Some are uncles and brothers. Some are old, some very young, and we all have different abilities. At HOPE there is a place for everybody, and the men at HOPE show Anthony that we don't have to be fearful, angry, or mean toward people who are different from ourselves, but rather we can learn about one another and get to know one another. At HOPE Anthony learns that Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, and he sees that put into action by everyone at HOPE UCC when we gather on Sunday mornings, when we do volunteer projects, and when we gather socially.

Jolene Fiscella
HOPE UCC Partner

News & Notes

Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him **You Are Invited to Join Us in "Workshop" Followed by Lunch**



On the *Morning* of Sunday, July 29 – all are invited to take part in our JESUS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING & WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM project. In place of our regular Sunday morning worship service, we welcome and encourage ALL HOPErs to join us in this "workshop" project!

This Sunday, HOPE UCC's youth group, The Landing, will be taking the lead on our Jesus Has Left the Building "workshop" project. The youth have chosen Ready Set Ride, a therapeutic recreation facility for children with special needs for our project. Certified therapeutic riding instructors provide physical, speech, occupational, developmental and recreational therapies for children as young as age 3 while riding on horseback!

JHLTB – Workshop Project

9:00 a.m. – Noon

at

Ready Set Ride

13056 Essington Rd.

Plainfield, IL 60585

815-439-3659

Post Workshop Lunch

12:30 p.m.

at

Red Robin Restaurant

12646 Rt. 59

Plainfield, IL

Join us for workshop and stay for lunch. You are welcome to join us for lunch even if you are not able to come to Ready Set Ride. There will be jobs available for a range of abilities – both physical and non-physical tasks. Please wear close-toed shoes and "work" clothing that you don't mind getting dirty.

Any questions: Call or text Jolene Fiscella at 773-510-9672

If you will be joining us for lunch on Sunday, but not going to Ready Set Ride, please call Jolene before 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 29th. We'll save a seat for you!

It's COUGARS BASEBALL time!

Who doesn't love sitting in the warm night air eating a hot dog and washing it down with a beverage of your choice? **Saturday, August 18**, come see the Cougars play some baseball against Clinton, Iowa. Seat tickets are \$13 (I think) and Trott's going to get 30 tickets, for starters. **Game time is 6:30 p.m.**, but there's more! It's **Super Hero Night** and then **fireworks** after the game. One last thing...The band **Hi Infidelity** (popular rock oldies) is playing before the game out behind the park in center field. They start around 4:45 p.m. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby so please let us know your interest in getting tickets and how many. **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME...** (Sing that in your head. It helps get you in the mood!)



We Need a Volunteer!!!

Many thanks to Courtney Williams for volunteering to clean HOPE. Unfortunately, she is moving away. As a result, we need someone to join Jolene as one of our cleaning teams. Please contact Nick Dempsey (Cell: 630 235 3042, pndempsey@aol.com) or Jolene Fiscella (Cell: 773 510 9672, j.fiscella@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in volunteering. Thanks!!!

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.

FRONT



BACK



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Let us pray for my friend, Alyce, who is facing a biopsy to determine the nature of dark shadows. (Barb Z.)
- † Prayers for my cousin, Danny. He is still in the hospital but making progress. Thanks for the prayers. (Barb Z.)
- † Please pray for more patience, understanding, empathy, and peace in our homes and community, our country, and our world. (Jolene)
- † Let's pray for Anthony. He sees an orthopedist tomorrow. Pray that his wrist is not seriously injured and that it heals quickly so that he can get back to gymnastics as quickly as possible. (Jolene)
- † Prayers for my husband. He is a step or two away from starting a new career and making more money (definitely needed). We will see! (Katie M.)
- † Please pray for Milo, who is starting at a new school in a few weeks. Please pray for an easy transition. (Erin C.)
- † Let us pray for my friend, Michelle, and her family as her dad was put in hospice and will be transitioning soon. (Shannon, Melody and Regina)
- ☺ Very thankful for a wonderful visit of our nephews and our new great niece from California. (Shannon, Melody and Regina)

Prayer Requests



Celebrating Birthdays

07/30 Ian Hankins
08/11 Regina Ellsworth
08/24 Maddie Fosen
08/30 Barb Zigterman

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 31, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<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 5, Sunday</p> 	<p>Gift Card Order for August – ORDERS DUE TODAY!</p>
<p>August 7, 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>August 8, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>August 11-12, Saturday-Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing Lock-In (8/11 – 5 p.m. to 8/12 – 9 a.m.) Details will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>August 12, 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>August 15, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>August 16, 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>August 18, Saturday</p> 	<p>Kane County Cougars Baseball Game (Concert @ 4:45 p.m./Game @ 6:30 p.m.) Come see the Cougars play some baseball against Clinton, Iowa. Seat tickets are \$13 and we're going to get 30 tickets, for starters. It's Super Hero Night and then fireworks after the game. One last thing...The band Hi Infidelity (popular rock oldies) is playing before the game starting around 4:45 p.m. There's a signup sheet in the lobby, so please let us know your interest in getting tickets & how many.</p>
<p>August 19, Sunday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Congregational Meeting (Following Worship)</p>
<p>August 21, 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>August 22, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>