

Back to School

As we embark again on another school year, we see all the back to school pictures on social media, settle in to a new fall routine, and receive a barrage of flyers home and attend open houses and curriculum nights so we can gain a glimpse into the what the next school year holds for our children.

At HOPE we have been discussing the four pillars from the Soaring Team. In this article I'd like to focus on personal transformation. I think that our annual return to school may give some insights into how we constantly try to transform ourselves. First by looking at how teachers seek to transform the lives of their students and how learning itself is a transformative process.



Teachers as Transformative Influences

Teaching is far more than the day to day activities planned for students. Teaching is about **love**. It is a love for learning and a love for kids. It is a love that transcends age, race, gender, socio-economic status. Teaching is about the selfless acts that nobody sees. Giving up eating lunch to help a student or colleague, exhibiting patience when the time for patience has long passed. It is a warm smile when kids enter a room, a hug, a high five.

Teachers spend multiple hours planning so that the kids have a good learning experience for 50 minutes. They treat 30 kids like they are all their own children. Without love, classrooms are cold warehouses, but with love they are warm and dynamic spaces. And we all have several teachers we can reflect on and realize it was their love that made us love their class or a particular topic. There is also the love that students have for their teachers. My own daughters beam when they talk about their teachers. And it is love and trust that make classrooms work year after year.

Teaching is really fundamentally about **hope**. It is a hope and a faith that kids can aspire to the greatest of heights. While the media would have us all believe that we are getting dumber by the day, schools are failing, and kids are more disrespectful than ever (all false), education is really designed so that in the words of JFK, ["the torch can be passed to a new generation"](#). Teachers possess an unwavering hope for all of their students to succeed. A hope that this year, kids will learn more than last year. A hope that they can impact the life of a child to go on and do great things. A hope that our society will be better than we are today. I have yet to talk with a teacher who doesn't want to inspire kids to soar to the best of their abilities.

As we begin the promise of another school year, I take pride and comfort knowing that together, we all may be personally transformed through our learning experiences. While we care deeply about how our children will fare in school, we also know that their transformations can occur because we do this in a community of teachers, support staff, parents, and students.

Michael Manderino

HOPE UCC Ministry Council Moderator

News & Notes

HOPE Children & Youth Safe Community Training (Nursery, Kid's Quest, & The Landing)

To all HOPE UCC Children & Youth Volunteers (Nursery, Kid's Quest, & The Landing)

Embracing Safe Community training for all volunteers who work with children and youth at HOPE (Nursery, Kid's Quest, & The Landing). If you were not able to participate in the October 2017 training, please plan to attend the session (maximum of one hour) on Sunday, September 2 immediately after the worship service.



Sunday, September 2 immediately after worship services

- Required by our insurance policy
- One hour maximum
- Healthy snacks for you and your kids will be provided

Thanks for your commitment to children and youth.



Annual HOPE UCC Picnic – Sunday, September 16

After service, please come to Herrick Lake West Pavilion for food, fun, and laughs. HOPE provides the hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and desserts. You all bring the side dishes. This year, BYO beverage. Water will be provided. There's a little change to the Bingo game. If you plan to play, please bring a WRAPPED item. The item must be 1 pound of something. One pound of anything! Of course, there will be other activities for all.

There is a sign-up sheet purely to give Community Life an idea of roughly how many are able to attend.



HOPE UCC Mission Project

DuPage PADS 14th Annual Run 4 Home 2018
Ending Homelessness One Step at a Time
10K & 5K Run and 5K & 1K Walk



Saturday, September 15th, 2018 – 8:00am
703 West Liberty, Wheaton

Join HOPE UCC's team **"Welcome Home!"** as we run & walk together to raise funds for our mission partner DuPage PADS. It's sure to be a fun event for a great cause. Wheelchairs are welcome, and strollers/baby joggers are welcome in the 5K & 1K walk.

REGISTER to join HOPE's team "Welcome Home" or **DONATE** to team "Welcome Home!" online at:

<https://dupagepads.org/run-4-home-2018-10k-5k-run-walk-dupagepads-wheaton/>

You may register online through September 13th.



New HOPE UCC T-Shirts – Get Yours Soon!

Hurry! 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. HOPE UCC Annual Picnic, Aurora Pride Parade, Jesus Has Left the Building, GameShow Palooza, etc.

JESUS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING & WE'RE FOLLOWING HIM

Please mark your calendar!!

HOPE UCC's next "Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him" event will be **Sunday, September 30.**

We will be painting **TWO APARTMENTS** for 360 Youth Services!! Since we are painting two apartments, we will be needing a lot of volunteers!! Please look for sign-up sheets at church this week!! See Laurie Fosen or Jolene Fiscella for more information.



Are you new to HOPE UCC and wondering what "Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him" is all about?

At HOPE UCC, we value social justice and putting our faith into action. Whenever there is a month on the calendar with a 5th Sunday, instead of gathering at HOPE for Sunday morning worship, we head out into the community for a Sunday morning "workshop" project at a local non-profit agency or community organization. Typically, we volunteer from 9:00 a.m. until noon, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Whenever possible, our "workshop" project involves an assortment of tasks so that people of all ages and abilities can participate.

Please Join Fellow HOPERS at these Ongoing Gatherings

Women Out to Lunch

Join the women of HOPE on the third Thursday of each month at noon. 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.



These two groups hold stimulating conversation about current events and topics important to our lives and faith. We love the questions and searching for answers together.

Explore Your Faith Breakfast – Wednesdays @ 7:30 a.m.

This group meets weekly at Quincy's Restaurant in Naperville for breakfast. They utilize "The Wired Word" curriculum, which is based on current events, to discuss significant topics.

Evening Explore Your Faith – First and Third Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.

Meeting twice a month at Jay and Jill Hruska's home, this group holds thought-provoking conversations about current events and other important subjects.

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Let's pray for Mark G. – He will be traveling to Scotland and England with his niece and cousin.
- † Prayers for the family in Little Village that lost eight members (six of them children) in a horrible fire. (Zach)
- † Please pray for me...I'm attempting to negotiate a better position at my current job. (Jon C.)
- † In celebration of my dad, Peter P. He died on Friday. He is finally at peace. (Sally B.)
- † Let us pray for the family of Sally B. Sally's father passed away on Friday. (Zach)
- † Prayers for my friend, Amy, as she continues her job search. Pray for a permanent position in academia where she can use all her talents and skills teaching. (Jolene)
- † Let's pray and give thanks. Cousin Marijo W. had surgery for cancer. Radiation and surgery mean she is now cancer-free! Pray for speedy recovery from surgery. (Jolene)
- † Prayers for my friend, Laurie, as she travels to Iowa to be with her mom. Pray for her mom, who had had another stroke. (Jolene)
- † Please pray for compassion and reconciliation with Nathan and Josh's mother. There is a lot of tension there lately. Please pray for healing on all sides. (Erin)
- † Let us pray for Zachary S., who moved into Columbia College yesterday. Keep all the students and teachers in your prayers. (Mark G.)
- † Send a prayer for the family of Malik F., who drowned in Lake Michigan last weekend. He was 14 and was a sophomore at Waubonsie. (Zach)
- † Prayers for courage and strength for multiple friends becoming empty nesters taking their kids to college. Also, prayers for us teachers starting a new year. (Bea)
- ☺ Nicole Hammerstad sends all her hugs and love to her fellow HOPERS. (Sally)

Prayer Requests



Celebrating Birthdays

08/30 Barb Zigterman
09/01 Ellen Brady
09/01 Conner David
09/03 Robb Winder
09/08 Nick Dempsey
09/15 Mia McCabe
09/20 Jill Hruska

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.

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

Quest

ADULT QUEST – Sunday 9 a.m. @ HOPE UCC **Adult Quest will start again on September 9, 2018.**

The classes will address scripture interpretation as well as topical issues in today's world including TEDx lectures.

If you have a specific topic you would like to explore, please contact me and we will add it to the class agenda.

KID'S QUEST – Sundays during Worship **Kid's Quest will start again on September 9, 2018.**

HOPE UCC's Christian Education for children. Teaching kids about Community, Scripture, Values and Service through participatory learning.

HOPE United Church of Christ

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The Reverend Lucas King

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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 September 5, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>September 2, Sunday</p> 	<p>Safe Community Training for Adults Working with Youth (Following Worship) (Please see article for more information.)</p>
<p>September 4, 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>September 5, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>September 9, Sunday</p>	<p>Kids' Quest Begins (During Worship) HOPE UCC's Christian Education for children.</p>
<p>September 9, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.) We're excited to be meeting again! Please free to bring a friend to any of our Youth group meetings. A calendar of events will be coming soon with upcoming meetings and outings.</p>
<p>September 9, Sunday</p> 	<p>Ministry Council Meeting (Following Worship)</p>
<p>September 9, 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>September 12, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>September 16, Sunday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Annual Church Picnic (After Worship) We'll gather again at Herrick Park (west picnic area) for our usual food, fun and games. Details to come.</p>
<p>September 18, 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>September 19, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>September 20, 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>September 23, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>September 23, 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>September 26, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>September 30, Sunday</p> 	<p>Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him More details to be announced.</p>
<p>October 2, 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>