



The weekly newsletter of

HAPPENings

God is Still Speaking,

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

09/12/2018

Personal Transformation Through Service to Others & the Community

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— MAHATMA GANDHI

Lately, it seems, I find myself bombarded with negativity. It's in the news and social media. Practicing self-care is more essential than ever. I try my best to eat right, get enough sleep, and exercise. I spend quality time with family and friends. I nourish my brain with good books, and I replenish my spirit when I participate in Sunday worship. There's one more activity I engage in weekly that may seem counterintuitive to self-care. Every Tuesday, I work as a domestic violence advocate on the crisis line and front desk of Sarah's Inn, a domestic violence program.

The opportunity to use my skills to serve others and work for a cause I am passionate about is a positive experience. One that I find personally transforming. Research shows that volunteering makes people happy. Helping others feels good! Volunteering combats depression, and it counteracts anger, anxiety, and stress. When we serve others, we make connections and build relationships with individuals and our community. We find meaning and a sense of purpose in these relationships.

As an at-home mom, I look forward to my Tuesday mornings. Utilizing my professional skills is mentally stimulating. I feel a sense of purpose knowing that my work is valuable to others. When I am a safe, supportive advocate to a caller in crisis, or help a child feel safe and welcome in the waiting room, I feel fulfilled. I am energized and inspired by the team of hard-working staff. They are caring people, committed to ending domestic violence. They care deeply about social justice. This gives me hope. My faith in other people and in goodness and love is strengthened.

Over the years, while in service to others, I have been privileged to bear witness to clients' stories and have been a part of their healing process. Though the work can be difficult, sad, frustrating, or even scary at times, I am awed by my clients' strength, courage, faith, perseverance, and resilience. I've learned to focus on the positive. When people are seeking help and making changes, it is a hopeful time. It is amazing to see ordinary people accomplish so much. They overcome great obstacles and transform their lives.

Serving others has shaped who I am and how I understand and view the world. My willingness to step out of my comfort zone has taken me into different communities. It has helped me to connect with people who are very different from myself. These experiences made me aware of my own prejudices. Myths and stereotypes about people, communities, cultures, and religions different from my own have been shattered. I have learned to value and celebrate diversity instead of fearing it. I also recognize that no matter how different people may seem from the outside, at our core we are all human. We feel the same feelings, and we have the same basic needs and desires for ourselves and our families. We love and want to be loved. We want to be content and fulfilled in our lives.

Lastly, service to others has taught me to appreciate things in my life that are easy to take for granted. A safe, peaceful home and community, family and friends who love me and care for me, having enough money for the things I need. Never wondering where my next meal will come from or where I will sleep tonight. I know that any number of random circumstances such as where I was born, the color of my skin, my sexual orientation, choices my parents made, my health, etc. are factors nobody can control, yet they play a powerful role in why I am so fortunate.

There are many opportunities to serve others within HOPE UCC and out in the community. I encourage each of you to take advantage of these opportunities to get involved, to serve others, and to see where the experience takes you. I hope it is amazing for you too!

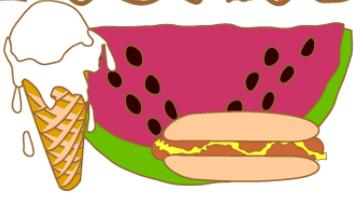
Jolene Fiscella

HOPE UCC Mission Ministry Chair

News & Notes

Annual HOPE UCC Picnic – Sunday, September 16

PICNIC



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.

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, Wheaton, IL 60189, West Picnic Shelter

Directions from 1701 Quincy Avenue:

Left on Ogden Avenue

Left onto N. Mill Street

Right on Warrenville Road

Left onto Herrick Road

Turn Right into entrance for the Forest Preserve

**Parking lot is right next to the picnic shelter.

HOPE UCC Mission Project

Join HOPE UCC's Team "Welcome Home" as we walk to support DuPage PADS.



DuPage PADS Run4Home Fundraiser
Ending Homelessness One Step at a Time
Family 1K, 5K Run/Walk, & 10K Run
Saturday, September 15th at 8:00 a.m.



- Register online through Thursday, September 13 at:
<https://fundraise.dupagepads.org/event/14th-annual-run-4-home/e175693>
- Register in person at 703 W. Liberty St., Wheaton on Friday, September 14th from 4:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m.
Register on Race Day from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
- The run/walk starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday, September 15 on the Northwest corner of Liberty Dr. & Carlton Ave.
- Parking is available in the municipal lot on the Southwest corner of Liberty Dr. and Carlton Ave.
- Packet & T-shirt pickup will be available outside DuPage PADS Client Service Center, 703 West Liberty, Wheaton on Friday, September 14 from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Race Day from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 a.m.
- Detailed information about the event is available at:
<https://dupagepads.org/run-4-home-2018-10k-5k-run-walk-dupagepads-wheaton/>

If you have any questions about walking with HOPE's team "Welcome Home!", please call or text Jolene Fiscella at 773-510-9672 or Zach Jarabeck at 630-946-9649.

HOPE UCC Team Welcome Home! will meet at 7 a.m. in the Municipal Parking Lot on the Southwest Corner of Liberty Dr. and Carlton Ave.

This Sunday in Adult Quest at 9 a.m.

We'll be engaging the question: What belongs in church and what doesn't? For a preview of the topic and some probing questions, please read this article before Sunday morning: www.faithandleadership.com/jazz-belongs-church . Pastor Lucas will be facilitating the conversation.



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

Date: Sunday, September 30th

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Where: Lisle, IL - exact address of the apartments will be posted here next week, as well as the location of our post-"workshop" lunch gathering.

HOPE UCC's next "Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him" project will be at 360 Youth Services.

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!! Please come ready to work. Wear clothing you do not mind getting paint-splattered. HOPE UCC will be providing the paint and some supplies will be available as well. Check back next week for information about bringing additional painting supplies from home.



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 fifth 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 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.

Creating Safe Spaces: Mental Health Support in Faith

Featuring award winning author, Amy Simpson, this event will focus on providing faith leaders and other partners the practical resources and programs needed to address the mental health needs faith communities encounter. Event will feature a series of presentations from people who have experience with spiritual support groups for persons with mental illnesses. For tickets and more information - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-spaces-mental-health-support-in-faith-communities-tickets-46450154663>

Wednesday, September 19

Registration & Light Refreshments 8-9am

Meeting time 9am-3:30pm

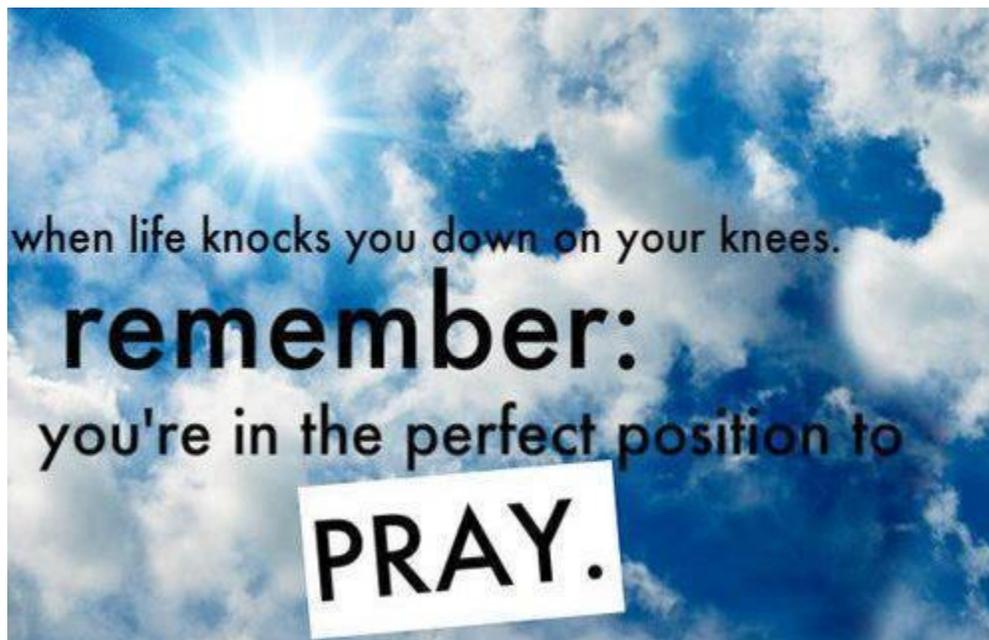
Elmhurst Hospital
155 E Brush Road
Oak Room
Elmhurst, IL 60126



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Celebrating the lives of George Pradel and Art Hellyer. Remembering those lost on September 11, including our friend, Dan Shanower. (Becky & Tina)
- † Please pray for Nathan and the runners of the Fox Valley Marathon for perseverance and strength during their race next week. (Erin C.)
- † Prayers for my mom and stepfather as they travel in the U.K. and Italy. (Erin C.)
- † Let us pray for the people who will be affected by Hurricane Florence when it makes landfall this week. Keep them in your prayers. (Mark G.)
- † Prayers needed for my sister, Kathy, who fell twice this week. She fractured her hand. She did see a new cardiologist who has a great new plan for treatment. (Zach)



Celebrating Birthdays

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

This Sunday in Adult Quest at 9 a.m.

We'll be engaging the question: **What belongs in church and what doesn't?** For a preview of the topic and some probing questions, please read this article before Sunday morning: www.faithandleadership.com/jazz-belongs-church. Pastor Lucas will be facilitating the conversation.

KID'S QUEST – Sundays during Worship

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

HOPE United Church of Christ

1701 Quincy Avenue, Suite 27
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 September 19, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<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. See article for details.</p>
<p>September 18, Tuesday</p> 	<p>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.) Meets at HOPE UCC, 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 HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>October 3, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>October 7, Sunday</p> 	<p>Neighbors in Need UCC Annual Offering (During Worship) Supporting ministries of justice & compassion throughout the U.S. including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice & advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice & Witness Ministries.</p>
<p>October 7, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>October 10, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>October 14, 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>
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<p>October 17, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
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