

Christmas at the Movies

There is something about the Christmas season and settling in to watch one or more holiday-themed movies from the comfort of the couch. Whether classic or corny, old or new, comedy or tear-jerker, films can bind us especially along the shared experiences of the Christmas season. Just this week our family enjoyed *Home Alone* snuggled up on the couch on Sunday night laughing together at all of the slap-stick comedy. My personal favorite holiday movie is *It's a Wonderful Life* (feel free to read the rest of this newsletter in your best Jimmy Stewart voice). I believe movies give us a shared sense of belonging. They are a common experience filled with memories of your first time in a theater (Star Wars with my Grandpa in 1977), your movie watching rituals (popcorn, M&M's, lights out, etc.), or your favorite actors, genres, and scenes. Christmas movies perhaps add to that sense of belonging because the themes themselves are about being together and celebrating the many meanings of Christmas.



I love that HOPE often uses movies to bring us together for social events and for opportunities to learn together. We have two upcoming movie events with *The Lion King* on December 2 and *The Polar Express* on December 8. These are not just movies for entertainment but are chances to connect with each other and reflect both individually and collectively on the Christmas season. I look forward to watching many movies this Christmas season and reflecting on my own reasons for the season.

Michael Manderino

HOPE UCC Ministry Council Moderator

Christmas Carol Sing-Along (9:45 a.m.)

Join us before Worship at 9:45 a.m. during Advent
(December 2, 9, 16, and 23) for a Christmas Carol Sing-Along.

Don't forget to fill out your 2019 pledge card soon!

Visit: www.sharehope.org/pledge

News & Notes

HOLIDAY GIFT CARD ORDERS

Every Sunday after worship, you generally see someone selling **Scrip** (the old Manna) gift cards at the front desk. How about an end of year push to give HOPE UCC a Christmas gift (in the form of a rebate) and then keep it going in 2019?

Scrip offers over 700 gift cards that gives HOPE UCC a rebate on every card sold. The rebates are between 3% - 24%. HOPE has a simplified order form of the most popular cards available weekly at the front desk, or click [HERE](#) for the order form. You buy a card, get the value paid for the card, and HOPE UCC gets the rebate. Simple.



Here's an example of how the math works: You place an order totaling \$1000. If the average rebate is 6% (for example), HOPE UCC receives \$60 rebate and you get \$1000 worth of gift cards to use and/or gift.

Between now and Sunday, December 9, gift card orders will be accepted each Sunday. Fill out an order form by Sunday, December 2 and the gift cards will be available for pick up Sunday, December 9. If you choose to wait until December 9, you can get the cards on December 16. Just simply fill out an order sheet and submit a check with the order form. Place the order form in the red folder located on the desk in HOPE's lobby and pick up the gift cards the following Sunday. CASH and CHECKS ONLY. (We cannot accept credit cards at this time.)

How does this help you and HOPE UCC? There's so many ways to do this, but it does take a little advance thinking and money outlay but you're going to spend it anyway.

- Don't you have to buy groceries weekly or for special holiday events? (Grocery stores, Target, Meijer, Jewel, Mariano's, Whole Foods)
- Planning on going to the movies? (Movie theatre tickets are nice to stock up on as well as for stocking stuffers)
- You're going to have to buy gas to get around & also for stocking stuffers. (Gas cards)
- Planning a little holiday dinner out? (Restaurant cards)
- Want to give the neighbor, mailman, teacher, garbage collectors, co-workers some holiday thanks? (Starbucks, Fannie Mae, Einstein Bagels, Pot Belly, Gas)
- Have friends and family that also need some gift cards for their own gift-giving? Give them the sheet to order cards from HOPE UCC through you.
- Want to donate to some charities through work or school? (Grocery or clothing stores)
- Have a remodel planned and know you're going to spend money at a hardware store? (Home Depot, Menards or Lowes)
- STOCKING STUFFERS! (Subway, Movies, Amazon, Chipotle, Petssmart, Gas)

There are only two Sundays left this holiday season to place specific orders: December 2nd and 9th!

It takes a little pre-planning and finding your checkbook, however the rebates from the cards adds up to free money for HOPE.

Submit Order By:	Pick-Up Date @ HOPE UCC
Sunday, December 2	Sunday, December 9
Sunday December 9	Sunday, December 16

Hakuna Matata means "No worries"!

This year, our Advent theme will bring together the stories of our faith and the music of *The Lion King*. Stay after service on **Sunday, December 2** for a showing of the Disney movie. Bring your brown bag lunch. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.



Polar Express is heading to HOPE UCC!

Get your PJ's ready and come jump on **THE POLAR EXPRESS**. The movie comes to HOPE UCC on **Saturday, December 8** with doors opening at 6 p.m. The "train" leaves at 6:30 p.m. Cost will be \$5 per person with a \$15 max per family. If you're planning on attending this interactive event, you'll be put on a wait list until payment is received. Only 90 seats available on this train and payment locks you in to your ticket. Payment is due by December 2. **ALL ABOARD!!!**

HOPE UCC FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

THE POLAR EXPRESS

INTERACTIVE

please plan on wearing your pajamas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th

Festivities begin at 6 pm, movie starts at 6:30 pm.
1701 Quincy Avenue, Suite 27, Naperville, IL 60540

\$5 per person/\$15 cap per family

PURCHASE TICKETS

by December 2nd to reserve your seat on the Polar Express
hope@sharehope.org or call #630.922.0470

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ROUND TRIP

People's Resource Center: Share the Spirit Holiday Toy Drive



HOPE and People's Resource Center (PRC) are working together to make the holidays hopeful and brighter for low-income DuPage County residents this holiday season. Each year, PRC collects children's gifts to be distributed to client families during the annual Share the Spirit drive. This year, over 800 client families will be invited to pick out gifts for their kids through PRC's Share the Spirit program. With your support, PRC can help provide a little bit of joy and hope through the annual Share the Spirit Program.

Here's how you can help:

1. We will be collecting new and unwrapped toys, books, hats/mittens etc. and gift cards until **Sunday, Dec. 2nd**. The gift cards will be given for the teenage children. Requested gift cards are Kohl's, Target, Walmart, Old Navy. Each family will also receive a grocery store gift card when they come in to shop for their toys. **Remember to order our gift cards and you will be giving to both HOPE and Share the Spirit.**
2. We will be providing volunteers on the distribution days at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. There will be positions for all abilities—from wrapping gifts to being a personal shopper with the families coming through. The date is to be announced.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Lane at shannonlane30@aol.com or Jolene Fiscella at j.fiscella@abcgloba.net. If you would like more information on the amazing work of PRC, check out their website at <http://www.peoplesrc.org>.

Blue Christmas Service – December 21 (7 p.m.)



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrains on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost. The anguish of the death of a loved one can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating and joy. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

Christmas Eve Service @ HOPE UCC (5:30 p.m.)

We will have our Christmas Eve worship service 5:30 p.m. with a Carol Sing beginning at 5:15 p.m. The service will include an Instant Christmas pageant and will end with cookies and hot chocolate. Please bring some cookies if you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share!



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † My nephew, Aiden, was recently hospitalized. He was harmful to others and himself. He tried taking his life during an emotional outburst. Please pray. (Tony)
- † Let us pray for my brother-in-law, Javier, who is critically ill. He is the husband of my sister, Kathy, who is chronically ill. (Zach)
- † Please heal our Cooper-man's ears completely so that we can forego more bandages, cones, and surgery. Hoping for a good report this week. (The Zillmers)
- † May this week's appointment for Jackie be a successful one, bring relief from pain. (The Zillmers)
- † Please Lord, bring comfort to Mom (Linda) amidst all her ailments, and grant her relief from the physical pain – most urgently for her fractured arm. Please touch her tired body with your healing hand to restore healthy vision and to mend well her bones. (The Zillmers)
- † Asking, Lord, that you might slow the crisis train down – having trouble hanging on.
- † Praying for more peace, love, compassion, and love to all. I love you all! (Tanya)
- † Let us pray for hearts of community, generosity, and goodness.
- ☉ Thanks for time with family and friends.
- ☉ Prayers of thanksgiving for all my fellow HOPErs who came to see me in my play. It warms my heart that there is so much support at HOPE UCC. God bless you all. (Mark G.)
- ☉ It is great to see the Hankins and Erin back from vacation. We missed you! (Zach)
- ☉ Thanksgiving for all HOPE partners! Safe travels for everyone over the holidays. (Sally B.)



Celebrating Birthdays

12/09 Ethan David
12/24 Julie Hapke

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's topic is a TED X talk entitled "Freedom of Speech and Controversy".

Every other Sunday, Pastor Lucas will be leading a new Adult Quest series at 9 a.m. - Bible Study. Now, let me assure you this is not your normal, boring, dusty, Bible Study. We'll be delving into the focus passage for the morning and exploring some of the background, context, and surrounding knowledge that will help you get even more out of the sermon and a bit deeper into the stories of our faith tradition. Try it...you might like it!

Here are the upcoming scriptures, in case you'd like to read in advance:
December 2 – Luke 21:25-36, **December 16** – Luke 3:7-18

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
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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 December 4, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>December 2, Sunday</p> 	<p>Hakuna Matata means "No worries"! Our Advent theme will bring together the stories of our faith and the music of <i>The Lion King</i>. Stay after service for a showing of the Disney movie. Bring a brown bag lunch. Popcorn and drinks will be provided.</p>
<p>December 2, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>December 4, 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>December 5, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 8, Saturday</p> 	<p>The Polar Express is coming to HOPE UCC (Doors open @ 6 p.m.) (Please see article for more information.)</p>
<p>December 9, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>December 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>December 12, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 16, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>December 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>December 19, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 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>December 21, Friday</p> 	<p>Blue Christmas Service @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.) (Please see article.)</p>
<p>December 23, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>December 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>December 24, Monday</p> 	<p>Christmas Eve Service @ HOPE UCC (5:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>December 25-27</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Office CLOSED – Merry Christmas!</p>