

## One Word Resolutions



Three years ago, I read a short book called One Word. It was an easy read that proposed we should do away with making lofty New Year's resolutions, which are often derailed after a few weeks anyway. Instead we should pick one special word to focus on throughout the year. So, I tried it, and it worked. My one word served as a constant reminder of what I was trying to accomplish. The word served to rein me in on occasion to reorganize my intentions. I will be selecting my new word for the fourth time for 2019.

About a year ago, I led children's time at HOPE, and introduced the concept of one-word resolutions. Afterwards there were several adults that were interested in trying one word. I'm not sure if any kids tried one word, but some adults gave it a shot. Trott even picked a word and I think she has been staying on track with her word too.

Here are some tips in case you would like to try picking one word for 2019:

\*Take some quiet time to look inward, unplug from the busyness of your life so you are not distracted.

\*Ask yourself: What do I need? What areas of my life need the most change, and why? What is in my way? What is preventing me from having what I need? What needs to go? Am I held hostage by past mistakes or pain? What do I need to let go of in order to move forward? By answering these questions, it will be easier to come up with a word that has true meaning in your life. The word may end up being a character trait, a discipline, a spiritual focus or a value. Whatever the word is, it will have a special meaning to you.

\*The next step is keeping the word front and center in your life! Post your word in visible places. I post mine on the bulletin board in front of my desk, place a copy of my word in the plastic window in the front of my wallet and post my word on the refrigerator. I even wear my word on a necklace.

\*Share your word with trusted individuals. This past year several of us shared our words at HOPE with each other. It's a great way to have support and stay connected with others. All these ways will assist us in staying focused on making positive changes in our lives!!

*Jeanne Smith*

HOPE UCC Partner

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

Join us before Worship at 9:45 a.m. during Advent  
(December 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](http://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.

Sunday, December 9, will be the last day holiday gift card orders will be accepted. If you order on December 9, you will 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 is only one Sundays left this holiday season to place specific orders: December 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 9	Sunday, December 16

## **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!!!**



## **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!



## **Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him**



Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him to ... St. John UCC, 309 Fifth Street, Aurora, for a joint end of the year worshipful gathering on **December 30 starting at 10 a.m.** We will all meet for lunch afterward (place to be determined).

### **\*\*\* Donations Needed \*\*\***

We are hoping to bring 100 pairs of socks and 100 pairs of underwear (all sizes, ages, colors needed) for St. John's neighborhood clothes closet. Please drop off your donations at HOPE UCC by December 24 or bring with you on December 30. Looking forward to seeing you for this special celebration!

# **Sharing Joys & Concerns**

## **Please keep these people & events in your prayers:**

- † Let us pray for the Pierce family. Les had a small stroke and is now under observation at Edward Hospital. Please pray for Les as he recovers. May his heart be strong and his patience even stronger. (Linda S., Mary & John K., and the entire HOPE UCC family)
- † My heart is so heavy for so many families right now. Please lift up Kelly and Ella, Shady and her daughters, and Lovetta in this challenging period. (Erin C.)
- † Prayers for my co-workers who lost their jobs this past week – five from my department. Layoffs total 139 total nationwide. Keep them in your prayers during this holiday season. (Mark)
- † Let's pray for all of the people who find it difficult during the holiday season. God bless them and give them peace and comfort. (Anonymous)
- † Prayers for Gia (Jackie's granddaughter) as she is due to deliver baby Hailey any day. I pray all goes well and that Jackie is able to see her great granddaughter. (Zach)
- † My cousins from southern Illinois will be here visiting next weekend. I just pray they all get along and we have limited drama. (Zach)
- † Prayers for my friend, Maureen, as she mourns the loss of her father who passed recently. Peace and love to all.
- † The parenting struggle is very great for me lately. Please pray with me as I strive for grace and patience and love. (Erin C.)
- † Let us pray for Jolene. I need some courage! Lots of medical tests, test results, and surgery coming in a few weeks. (Jolene)
- † Pray for folks struggling with anxiety and depression especially during the holiday season. Let them find peace, comfort, hope, and the help they may need. (Jolene)
- † Prayers needed for Anthony L. He is seeing an orthopedist. He may have a stress fracture. Pray it's not serious and he can return to his very active self. (Jolene)
- † Cousin Adam F. needs your prayers. He continues to struggle with health issues. (Jolene)
- † Let us pray for my friend, Jan R., who continues to struggle with chronic illness and financial difficulties due to medical costs and inability to work. (Jolene)
- † Pray for Aiden, Tony's nephew. His mom will have the ability to do what is right for Aiden. (Tony)
- † Let's pray for the people of Taylorville and southern Illinois where tornadoes hit. My brother and his family are safe. Please keep Deanna in your prayers – her car and property had damage. (Mark)
- ☺ Pray in gratitude for successful treatment relieving some of Jackie's pain. In celebration of another year of life, memories, and friendship. Happy Birthday, Jackie! (The Zillmers)
- ☺ Celebrate! I made it to church today! (Julie A.)
- ☺ Thanks for everyone who participated in last Sunday's Stewardship Luncheon. (Linda J.)



## Celebrating Birthdays

12/08 Tina St. Angelo Wetzel  
12/09 Ethan David  
12/24 Julie Hapke

If we've missed your birthday, please email  
HOPE's Office Manager at  
[HOPE@shareHOPE.org](mailto: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 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  
Naperville, IL 60540-6684

#### The Reverend Lucas King

Pastor Lucas' Cell – 720-378-2858  
Pastor Lucas' Email – [pastor@sharehope.org](mailto:pastor@sharehope.org)

Office Phone – 630-922-0470  
Office Email – [hope@sharehope.org](mailto:hope@sharehope.org)  
Website – [www.sharehope.org](http://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 11, by 2 p.m.**

**Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.**

**Thanks!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>December 8, Saturday</p> 	<p><b>The Polar Express is coming to HOPE UCC (Doors open @ 6 p.m.)</b>          (Please see article for more information.)</p>
<p>December 9, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</b></p>
<p>December 9, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Rainbow Faith @ HOPE UCC (1-3 p.m.)</b>          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: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Rainbow-Faith-LGBTQ-Christians/">www.meetup.com/Rainbow-Faith-LGBTQ-Christians/</a>          If you have questions, would like to participate or support this ministry, please contact <b>Pastor Lucas</b>.</p>
<p>December 12, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b>          Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 16, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b></p>
<p>December 18, Tuesday</p> 	<p><b>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.)</b>          Meets at HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>December 19, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b>          Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 20, Thursday</p> 	<p><b>Women Out to Lunch (Noon)</b>          Join the women of HOPE on the third Thursday of each month. Lively conversation, great food &amp; 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><b>Blue Christmas Service @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.)</b>          (Please see article.)</p>
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<p>December 24, Monday</p> 	<p><b>Christmas Eve Service @ HOPE UCC (5:30 p.m.)</b></p>
<p>December 25-27</p> 	<p><b>HOPE UCC Office CLOSED – Merry Christmas!</b></p>
<p>December 30, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him</b>          (Please see article for more information.)</p>