

## Mary, Did You Know?

If you grew up going to Protestant church, it's likely you've heard the Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" Its lyrics wonder if Mary knew the grandeur and the greatness of the child she bore, the miracles that would be performed by her tiny baby... It wonders if Mary knew, if she truly comprehended, that she held not only her child, but her God.

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?*

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?*

*Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?*

*That sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM.*

It's a very emotional song that does an excellent job of capturing the wonder and mystery surrounding the Christmas story. Yet every time I hear it, I think of the questions that I would ask Mary, mother to mother.

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy wouldn't sleep more than five hours at a time for the first year of his life?*

*Mary, did you know that his shrill, angry cries would sometimes make you feel like you were in the middle of a panic attack?*

*Did you know that you would look at him and simultaneously be so full of adoration and frustration that you almost couldn't bear it?*

*That sleeping child – that thankfully, FINALLY sleeping child – would consume you with a love that simply cannot be expressed in words.*

When we talk about Mary in the Christmas story, we focus on her beatific goodness, the saintly faithfulness with which she accepted the role of mothering the Holy child. But sometimes I wish the ones who inscribed the story of Jesus' birth had taken a moment to focus on the humanity of Mary, on the beautiful, ordinary, human miracle of a pregnant girl learning to be a mother.

*Erin Cooley*

HOPE UCC Designated Ministry  
 Council Moderator



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

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

### **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! We will also need many baby dolls to play the role of Baby Jesus. Bring your dolls of all shapes, colors, and sizes that evening. Thank you.



### **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!

### **SAVE THE DATE! Open Mic Night @ HOPE UCC**

Save the date – On January 25, we want to showcase you and your gifts. Calling all singers, dancers, comedians, writers and other great talents! We provide the mic and a piano, you provide your preferred media. More details will be announced.



## **Sharing Joys & Concerns**

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

- † Let us pray for Les and Jackie Pierce.
- † Prayers needed for Becky, a family friend, affected by the Taylorville tornado. Please bring her the help that she needs to be able to return to her home. (The Zillmers)
- † Continued prayer for Mom/Linda and Cooper, as we are still waiting to see improvement. Please rest your healing hand on them. (The Zillmers)
- † Let us pray for anyone who is suffering with health issues. May those in need find the relief they need. May we each extend a gentle helping hand to others.
- † Please pray for my brother-in-law, Bill K., diagnosed with bone cancer. (Linda J.)
- † Let us pray for Rhys. He has some upcoming surgeries and a brand-new surgeon. Pray for wisdom for Mom and Dad to make the best decisions and pray for Rhys to really start moving and grooving and walking, since the surgeon doesn't want to start surgeries until Rhys is full-time walking. Also, pray for healing of Rhys' skin. He has some leftover skin breakdown from his casting and braces. (Danielle)
- † Prayers for my chosen sister, Taryn, and her father as he peacefully transitioned to heaven. May they find comfort and peace in this time of grieving. (Tanya)
- † Please pray that I have patience and calmness as I look for a new job closer to home and one that is not as stressful, so my anxiety and depression can get some relief. (Tanya)
- † Let us pray for Meredith on the passing of her dog and best friend, Willie. (Zach)
- † Prayers of healing and strength for the Rhodes/Nagy family as Cheryl's dad has been in ICU. (The Higgins)
- ☺ Thanksgiving for all the people who attended *The Polar Express* event. Thank you, Tony for coming up with the idea and all of Community Life! We believe!
- ☺ The treasure of friendship. We are blessed to have a circle of hope in the friends of HOPE. Thank you all for your love and support.



## Celebrating Birthdays

12/24 Julie Hapke  
01/04 Ravinia Zillmer  
01/05 Antoinette Evans  
01/08 Anna Ahonen  
01/18 Jackie Pierce  
01/22 Emily Fosen  
01/24 Milo Cooley  
01/25 Bill Zigterman  
01/27 Becky McCabe

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

<b>Pastor</b>	Lucas King
<b>Moderator</b>	Mike Manderino
<b>Des. Moderator</b>	Erin Cooley
<b>Past Moderator</b>	Becky McCabe
<b>Treasurer</b>	Les Pierce
<b>Secretary</b>	Julie Hapke
<b>Registrar</b>	Jane Trotta
<b>Community Life</b>	Shannon Lane
<b>Education</b>	Marie Higgins
<b>Pastor-Parish</b>	Tim Higgins/Jay Hruska
<b>Marketing &amp; Communications</b>	Jenn Revoldt
<b>Missions</b>	Jolene Fiscella
<b>Resource &amp; Operations</b>	Nick Dempsey
<b>Worship</b>	Mary Kroening
<b>Librarians</b>	Les & Jackie Pierce
<b>Photo Archive</b>	Anna Ahonen
<b>Webmaster</b>	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 18, by 2 p.m.**

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

**Thanks!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

December 16, Sunday 	<b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b>
December 18, Tuesday 	<b>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.
December 19, Wednesday 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
December 20, Thursday 	<b>Women Out to Lunch (Noon)</b> 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.
December 21, Friday 	<b>Blue Christmas Service @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.)</b> (Please see article.)
December 23, Sunday 	<b>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</b>
December 23, Sunday 	<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> .
December 24, Monday 	<b>Christmas Eve Service @ HOPE UCC (5:30 p.m.)</b>
December 25-27 	<b>HOPE UCC Office CLOSED – Merry Christmas!</b>
December 26, Wednesday 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
December 30, Sunday 	<b>Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him</b> (Please see article for more information.)
January 2, Wednesday 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
January 6, Sunday 	<b>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</b>
January 9, Wednesday 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
January 9, Wednesday 	<b>PADS Dinner @ First Congregational UCC, Naperville (6 p.m.)</b>
January 13, Sunday 	<b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b>
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# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

(This is the spot to share your personal announcements.  
Submit items to the HOPE UCC Office by Tuesday, 2 p.m.)



## TRANSMOGRIFY COUNSELING SERVICES Holiday OPEN HOUSE!

Join us for an open house geared to anyone in the LGBTQIA community that does not have a welcoming place to spend the holidays. There will be food & refreshments provided. Please join us as Jameson Pagano and his children will be there to host.

Please RSVP to:  
[transmogrifycounseling@gmail.com](mailto:transmogrifycounseling@gmail.com)

**Date:** 12.24.2018

**Time:** 3-6pm

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** TransmogriFY Counseling Services  
682 W. Boughton, Unit B

## TransmogriFY Counseling Services

Our primary focus as therapists is to help individuals and their families discover who they are and the uniqueness and greatness within them. TCS empowers and advocates to achieve a more equitable society and fosters an ever-improving quality of life for the LGBTQ community.

**Location:**

682 W. Boughton, Unit B  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

**Website:**

<http://transmogrifycounseling.com>

