

An Interview with Erin Cooley

We are thrilled that Erin Cooley will be our new Moderator starting at the annual meeting in January. Last week I interviewed Erin so we could all get to know her better. Here is that interview – enjoy!

Tell us a little about your family.

Erin was born in Barrington, Illinois, but lived in Houston, Texas the longest. Her father worked for Mobil gas and they moved a lot. She lived in six different places before she was a teenager. She has two younger sisters – one lives in San Antonio and the other lives in London. Her mom still lives in Houston. Erin’s father passed away from cancer when she was 20. Erin moved to Illinois in 2013 and says that her hometown is wherever she is now. And living here for five years now seems like a very long time.

Moving around as much as her family did was not easy for Erin. She is a shy person until she gets to know people. She spends time observing before jumping in and so this meant it took her awhile to connect with other kids at the schools she attended.

Erin graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor’s degree in Public Relations and Spanish and her Master’s degree in Spanish literature. She is biliterate in Spanish. She did not want to teach so she went on to other work and is now a consultant to companies on their tax issues.

Erin met her husband, Nathan, while they were both working at a children’s museum, Science Spectrum, in Lubbock, Texas. Her work at the children’s museum was a “jack of all trades” and hosted many birthday parties! Milo, who is 4 years old, was born here.

Erin grew up in the Methodist church and was very active when they lived in northern Virginia. When they moved to Texas she wasn’t as involved – her experience was that the community just didn’t connect with her. In college Erin dropped away from going to church at all.

Describe yourself in five words.

Bookworm, introverted (she states: I like people in small groups), people person (once I know them), silly/goofy, tone deaf/no rhythm.

What drew you to HOPE UCC?

I asked her why she landed at HOPE. She said was looking for a church that was community centered, socially liberal and focused on justice for all. She needed something outside the house that met her spiritual and action needs. Even though Nathan isn’t too concerned about religion they both want to make the world a better place. And HOPE feels perfect to her.

Erin told me that on her first Sunday at HOPE, she sat in the back and before the service started, she overheard some people talk about karaoke and singing to Stevie Wonder. She liked that! And then she heard a conversation about Harry Potter – and was very excited. She said, “I can stick with people like this!” She remarked that people were very friendly but also seemed to sense that she needed some time and space.

(Continued on next page...)



What roles have you had at HOPE?

Moderator nominated

Helped plan 20th anniversary

PADS, Jesus Has Left the Building

Discussion on white privilege

Children's time

Who is a person that you considered as a role model early in your life?

As a child, Erin's parents were very important to her. They didn't live close to her grandmas, but Erin spent a lot of time visiting them. Her Grandma is 82 and still volunteers and is active in the community. Erin is impressed with how active she is even as she ages. Erin's paternal grandmother loved to read and there were many library trips when they went to visit. She is very generous. She also sang in the choir and was very church centered.

Her father's death was difficult – and changed the dynamic of her family. Erin feels that she is like her mom – who is tenderhearted and funny and with a dry sense of humor. Her dad had a great sense of humor and Erin sees herself in him as well. She now sees Milo's personality with those same traits – and so her father lives on.

What have you read in the last year that really gave you pause or joy?

Erin is a huge and fast reader. She read 80 books last year – and is hoping to exceed that this year. She does not like books about WWII or Alzheimer's. However, she read a novel called: *Goodbye, Vitamin* by Rachel Khong. It is about Alzheimer's and is a warm and lovely book.

If you could change one thing in this world, what would it be?

Erin said she would want people to be more compassionate – that would solve a lot of the problems.

What else would you like the people of HOPE to know about you?

Being a voracious reader means Erin took the plunge and wrote a novel last year. She took a short leave from work and is now in the editing stage of the writing process. She needs to decide what to do with the novel – send to be published? Get an agent? Self-publish? The story is very personal but also fiction. The title is: *Cheval Blanc*

Becky McCabe

HOPE UCC Past Ministry Council Moderator

News & Notes



Open Mic Night @ HOPE UCC

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. Sign up in the HOPE UCC lobby. More details will be announced.

HOPE UCC Annual Congregational Meeting

Following Worship on **January 27**, HOPE UCC will hold its Annual Meeting. During this meeting, the HOPE partners will vote on the 2019 Budget and Ministry Council nominees. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



Cook Book Fundraiser

Have you ever wondered how Jeanne & Trott make Corn Chowder taste so good?! Or what is in Dave's winning Chili?! Or what makes Linda's "Christmas Crack" so addictive?! Have you ever asked, "Who made THAT?" and "Where's the recipe?" at a HOPE UCC pot luck?! Well the craving ends here with a chance for HOPERS to share their culinary greatness!

Over the next several months, we will be collecting recipes from the congregation... Each month will have its own theme... The intent is to compile these recipes and construct a cook book to be sold as a fundraiser for HOPE UCC and its missions - and just in time for Christmas 2019!

For the month of January, "Appetizers" will be the theme... Please bring your favorite crowd-pleasing appetizer recipe to church on any Sunday in January or submit via email to Dee Zillmer, deeliriousone@aol.com THANK YOU!

Adult Quest

Join Adult Quest on February 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 9 a.m. as we delve into the messages churches send to their members through art, worship, and more. What does it tell the body of Christ to provide inclusive representation of the Holy Family? What does it tell the body of Christ when worship services in the western world incorporate non-Western practices? Come prepared for a fun, informative, and interesting discussion!



SOUPer Bowl Sunday



HOPE UCC's SOUP POTLUCK will be on **Sunday, February 3**, following church service. Bring your favorite soup to share. Community Life will provide bread, desserts and drinks. HOPE's mini fundraiser football squares will be sold for \$2 each, max five squares per person starting Sunday, January 20. Bring a can of soup for Loaves and Fishes. The goal this year is to collect 53 cans of soup!

These HOPE UCC groups meet regularly... Join us!

- Explore Your Faith Breakfast – Meets weekly on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Join us at Quincy's Restaurant, Naperville for fellowship and discussion.
- Evening Explore Your Faith – Meets twice a month at HOPE UCC. Join us at 7 p.m. for conversation and fellowship. Next meeting will be on February 5.
- Women Out to Lunch – Gatherings are on the third Thursday of the month at noon at Giordano's Pizza, Naperville. Great food and camaraderie. Next get-together is February 21. Hope to see you!
- Rainbow Faith – As a ministry of HOPE UCC, we are committed to being welcoming, inclusive, affirming, and loving of all who wish to join. Some of us are brand new to reentering the life of a church, others of us are skeptical of faith, and others of us are still fearful after the hurt the church has caused us. This is a place where all, no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, are welcome to be present, build relationships, and wonder, question, and explore your faith. Please join us on January 27 for our next meeting from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- The Landing – HOPE's Youth Ministry's mission is to foster a loving and safe environment for young people that nurtures the discovery of their own identity as a person of faith. Invites relationships between youth and their larger faith community and; that encourages wondering about their connection to the complex and changing world around them. Next meeting is Sunday, January 27 following Worship.



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Let us pray for a little girl named Eira, who is in the middle of a custody dispute between her parents. Please pray for her safety and for true justice and peace to prevail in her family. (Erin)
- † Prayers needed as we search for a new place to live, as we must be out of our rental by March 30th, which is right around the corner. (Anna)
- † Tony T. was in a serious car accident last Thursday. He is in an induced coma with serious brain damage. (Linda J.)
- † George S., my former client and Carlos' S. brother, was in a bad car accident and is in the ICU. (Tanya)
- † Prayers for my patience as I transition from one job to another. Love and peace to all. I love you! (Tanya)
- ☉ Roberta J. – She has been nominated for a Golden Apple award. Her folks are very happy that college tuition was put to good use. (Linda J.)
- ☉ It's Milo's "Gaffer's" birthday! He is a wonderful father, father-in-law, and grandfather. (Erin C.)



Celebrating Birthdays

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.

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.

Quest

ADULT QUEST 9 a.m. @ HOPE UCC

Adult Christian Education

January 20 - Mike Manderino - Get Back in Touch with the real MLK
January 27 - Don Fosen
February 3 - Erin Cooley and Jon Chambers
February 10 - Erin Cooley and Jon Chambers
February 17 - Erin Cooley and Jon Chambers
February 24 - Pastor Lucas

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'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

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 January 22, by 12 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>January 17, Thursday</p> 	<p>Women Out to Lunch (Noon) – CANCELLED – Next gathering will be February 21 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>January 20, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>January 23, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>January 25, Friday</p>	<p>Open Mic Night @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.) Please see article for more info.</p>
<p>January 27, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>January 27, 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>January 27, Sunday</p> 	<p>Annual Congregational Meeting (Following Worship)</p>
<p>January 30, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>February 3, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>February 3, Sunday</p> 	<p>SOUPer Bowl Sunday @ HOPE UCC (Following Worship) Please see article for more information.</p>
<p>February 5, 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>February 6, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>February 10, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>February 10, 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>February 13, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>February 17, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>February 17, Sunday</p> 	<p>New Partner Class @ HOPE UCC (11 a.m.)</p>
<p>February 19, 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>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Saturday, January 19, 2019
10:00am
Kick-off: Kane County Courthouse Parking Lot
100 South Third Street, Geneva IL

JOIN US

Fox Valley Illinois' Women's March is led by women but is for everyone. When women rise, we bring our communities with us, and our march is bringing together people from all backgrounds, faiths, genders, ethnicities, disabilities, sexualities, ages, and immigration statuses to affirm our shared humanity and pronounce our bold message of self-determination and unity.

All who share Fox Valley Illinois' Women's March values are welcome to participate.

- 10:00am - Gather for rally at Kane County Courthouse Parking Lot/West Side
- 10:30am - March steps off on to Third Street, near James Street
- 11:00am - March ends on Third Street, near South Street
-

REGISTER HERE: [Fox Valley Illinois' Women's March Registration](#)

Registration on Facebook is appreciated, not required.

DONATE HERE: [Fox Valley Illinois' Women's March Donation](#)

If you are able, please consider making a donation. We need your help to cover the costs incurred in bringing you a safe and enjoyable march. With your donation to Fox Valley's Women's March, you are investing in a locally-organized march. The march is not affiliated or financially supported by the National Women's March.

TRANSPORTATION: [Metra Train Schedule](#)

Union-Pacific West, Geneva Stop, is conveniently located within a 5 minute walk to Kane County Courthouse.

PARKING: [Parking downtown Geneva](#)

Organizers: We Can Lead Change-Fox Valley and Kane County Coalition.

Partnered with Mutual Ground Domestic & Sexual Violence Services.

Follow the event on Facebook for updated march information:

[We Can Lead Change Fox Valley Facebook](#)

Contact: womensmarchfoxvalley.il@gmail.com