

## Staying In: Ten Years Ago, and Today

On that day in December of 2009, it was cold in Texas. It isn't always, even our little square of it, way up in the South Plains. It was clear outside, and the sun burned way high up in a sky that seemed too blue for such a cold day.

Earlier that day I checked someone I loved out from an inpatient mental health facility. They had been there for a week, and visiting them had been sad and scary, but by the time it came for them to leave, I was almost used to it. The clerk asked how I was related to the patient as I signed the discharge paperwork. "Sister," I answered, and the person I loved laughed a little, and I laughed a little, because it was more true than it wasn't true, if that makes sense.

I took this person I loved home to my apartment, and they stayed with Nathan and me for a few days after that. My argument was that it was Christmas, and besides which it had been so cold, and when it's Christmas and it's cold, you should be with people you love.

We stayed inside for a few days, and we drank pots and pots and pots of coffee and I tried to cook (I still wasn't very good at it back then) and when I couldn't cook I made peanut butter sandwiches and finally, when we could not stand being inside one second longer, we went for a walk to the convenience store down the road. We bought cigarettes and gum.

It had snowed at some point in the days we'd been inside. Our parking lot was a disaster (no one plows in a city where snow is so rare) but we bundled up and trekked out onto it anyway. I hunched down in the shell of my coat. Our sneakers tried and failed for traction on the ice – none of us owned proper cold weather clothes. We skidded and slid. The wind plastered strands of my hair across my face into the corners of my mouth. I squinted against the sun. We laughed like kids at a skating rink.

Today we're staying in too, though we won't venture out in the cold. We will drink pots and pots of coffee and I plan to cook, and I imagine there will be peanut butter sandwiches. By Friday, when we cannot stand being inside one second longer, when we finally leave the house and squint up into the sun, I think we'll laugh like kids again.

*Erin Cooley*

HOPE UCC Ministry Council Moderator



## News & Notes

### **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 February, "Soup" will be the theme [in honor of our "SOUPer Bowl Sunday" taste testing - and while we have the recipes conveniently out ;) ] Please bring your favorite crowd-pleasing soup recipe to church on any Sunday in February or submit via email to Dee Zillmer, [deeliriousone@aol.com](mailto:deeliriousone@aol.com). THANK YOU!

### **Adult Quest**

Join Adult Quest on February 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!



### **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 my sister, Denise, who is in the ICU for double pneumonia and bacterial infection in her hip. She has a long road to recovery. (Barb & Bill Z.)
- † Prayers needed for Dee's cousin, Melissa, who suffered a broken neck and head trauma after a serious car accident yesterday. Please comfort her, be with the family, and guide surgeons to help in her recovery. (Dee Z.)
- † Prayers for Ebby, our old girl who had a sudden onset of limping. Please pray for relief from pain. (Tanya & Lela)
- † Please pray for Jackie, who is experiencing pain this week. May her doctor's visit bring relief. (The Zillmers)
- † Prayers needed for Phyllis' sister-in-law, Crystal, who had a stroke and just had surgery. She is the mother of a young woman who died on Christmas Eve. (Sally B.)
- † Let's pray for anyone dealing with despair.
- † Let us pray for my sister and her husband, who had to put their dog, Jill, to sleep. She was a wonderful companion and a sweet doggie. (Erin C.)
- † Prayers for peace of mind for Marija. Her asylum interview was cancelled due to the horrible weather last week. Pray for a quick rescheduling. (Erin C.)
- † Please pray for Jolene, who is healing well from her hysterectomy. She asks for prayers of thankfulness for her doctors and their care, as well as prayers of thankfulness and support for Chris, who has been taking care of her.
- † Prayers needed for my older half-siblings who are starting to experience symptoms of ataxia (a genetic neurological disease). (Katie M.)
- † Let us pray for Les Pierce and the Pierce family, as Les returns home! Praise to God for progress made, and prayers to God for patience on the road ahead. May the transition go smoothly and may "home" offer extra healing. (The Zillmers)
- † Please pray for my friend, Marie, whose mother passed away this week. She had a good life. She was 109 years. (Mark G.)
- † Let us pray for my two-steppin' pal, Jordyn, who lost her brother on Friday. (Mark G.)
- † Prayers that Chuck and I find a place to live. Everything we have tried for is taken. Peace for Derek as he gets ready to leave for Los Angeles. (Anna)
- † Rob P. (Danielle's Dad) struggling with dementia and his family trying to find a way to take his gun collection away safely. (Danielle D.)
- ☺ Thanks to God – Melody and Gina sold their mom's house last week. (Mel, Gina, and Shannon)



## Celebrating Birthdays

02/06 Sally Bice  
02/11 Pastor Lucas  
02/14 Julie Alessandri  
02/15 Phyllis Kimmel  
02/19 Mark Geiger  
02/28 Nello Alessandri

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	Erin Cooley
Des. Moderator	Dan Keil
Past Moderator	Mike Manderino
Treasurer	Les Pierce
Secretary	Barbara Roethel
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 - @ 9 a.m. HOPE UCC

### Adult Christian Education

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 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 February 12, by 12 p.m.**

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

**Thanks!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<b>February 6 - 13</b> 	<b>Pastor Lucas – Out of the Office</b>
<b>February 10, Sunday</b> 	<b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b>
<b>February 10, Sunday</b> 	<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> .
<b>February 13, Wednesday</b> 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
<b>February 17, Sunday</b> 	<b>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</b>
<b>February 17, Sunday</b> 	<b>New Partner Class @ HOPE UCC (11 a.m.)</b>
<b>February 19, Tuesday</b> 	<b>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.
<b>February 20, Wednesday</b> 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
<b>February 21, Thursday</b> 	<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.
<b>February 21-March 4</b> 	<b>HOPE UCC Office Manager - Out of Office</b>
<b>February 24, Sunday</b> 	<b>New Partner Class @ HOPE UCC (11 a.m.)</b>
<b>February 24, Sunday</b> 	<b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b>
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<b>February 27, Wednesday</b> 	<b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.
<b>March 3, Sunday</b> 	<b>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</b>
<b>March 3, Sunday</b> 	<b>New Partner Class @ HOPE UCC (11 a.m.)</b>
<b>March 5, Tuesday</b> 	<b>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.