

Something Different for Valentine's Day

It's February, and Valentine's Day is here again. It's a holiday that brings many different things to mind. Valentine's cards, conversation hearts, boxes of chocolate, bouquets of roses, maybe even heart shaped pizzas, and, often, Valentine's Day makes us think of romantic dates with somebody you love or really like a whole lot.

I know Valentine's Day is a difficult holiday for many people, and often does not live up to all the hype. I've seen friends commiserating on social media this week about their lack of dates, and some friends making jokes, possibly to avoid feeling uncomfortable feelings. This evening, while I was preparing for the Valentine's Day party at my son's school, I was thinking about how this year is Anthony's last year to decorate a mailbox and exchange fun cards with his classmates. It will also be his (and my) very last PTA mom hosted Valentine's Day Party. I'm feeling sentimental already and a little bit sad.

I can still remember my own childhood Valentine's Day celebrations that were fun-filled with school parties, silly cards and candy hearts, cupcakes with too much frosting, games and crafts, sometimes a little box of chocolates from my dad. When I was a child, I never imagined that someday I would commiserate with my roommates and call the holiday "Black Tuesday". I didn't have a thought or care about who "liked" me or if I would have a date or be alone, or fret because the romance in my relationship was not living up to my hopes and expectations. Just thinking about this is exhausting. And then it occurred to me, why do we do this to ourselves? Why not follow the lead of the elementary school children, and instead celebrate the holiday without any pressure to have a date, a partner, or the perfect romance?

So, this Valentine's day (or weekend) why not order a heart shaped pizza with friends or family, have a craft night, movie night, or a chocolate party with lots of decadent desserts. Exchange Valentine's cards with your friends. Go out dancing or bowling. We can also be our own Valentine. Make the day or the weekend all about self-care and time for you. Eat something fresh and healthy, get some exercise, take a walk. Set time aside to do an activity you enjoy. Read a book by your favorite author or dive into your favorite hobby. Make time to do something special for you. Schedule a massage, buy yourself flowers, and put them in a vase somewhere you can enjoy them. Treat yourself to special chocolates. Take time to mediate or pray. Write a Valentine's card to yourself. Too often we are very hard on ourselves, so take the time to say kind things to yourself (like you would to your best friend.) Write down all the positive things about you, all the things you love about yourself. Say "I love you" to yourself. These are just some of the ways we can reframe Valentine's Day and celebrate with our friends or make time for self-care. There are so many possibilities. I hope you enjoy your Valentine's Day or weekend. You deserve it!

Jolene Fiscella

HOPE UCC Missions Ministry Chair



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. THANK YOU!

Adult Quest

Join Adult Quest on February 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!



WORSHIP Ministry needs your assistance!



We'd like to borrow a few items to help our HOPE UCC - Mardi Gras / Shrove Tuesday / Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner be delicious and successful! We are in need of multiple non-stick electric griddle or frying pans, plastic pancake flippers, crock pots, tongs, and a couple of 25-foot extension cords. Please bring the equipment, labeled with your name, to HOPE by Sunday, March 3rd. It will be put to good use on Fat Tuesday! You will find it clean and ready for pickup Wednesday, March 6th.

If you can help, please email HOPE's Office Manager, Gail, or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the front desk. Thanks very much! We look forward to seeing you at the pancake dinner on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 PM.

Bring your appetite and your pancake flipping skills!

Plan to join us at the HOPE UCC - Mardi Gras / Shrove Tuesday / Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner on Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m.

"What is a shrove?", you might ask. And "Why are we eating pancakes at a Tuesday dinner at church?". And "Why are we recognizing Ash Wednesday on Tuesday?".

The word shrove originated from "shrive" which means to confess. Shrove Tuesday, which originated during the Middle Ages, is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time of abstinence. Shrove Tuesday is a time to celebrate and indulge yourself before Lent. Some Christians, past and present, do not eat foods such as meat, fish, fats, eggs, and milk. To prevent the food being wasted, families would feast and consume the food that would not last the forty days of Lent.

The English ate pancakes to use as much milk, fat, and eggs as possible. The French described the feasting as "Fat Tuesday" or Mardi Gras. Carnival, which is derived from the Latin *carne[m] levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh", is another term associated with Shrove Tuesday. It has links with the Romans and ancient Europeans celebrations of the Spring Equinox. The carnivals in Eastern Europe include energetic groups of people in large masks parading and playing jokes on bystanders. New Orleans and Rio de Janeiro also celebrate with elaborate costumes, masks, dancing, and feasting.

Come for the pancakes. Stay for the ashes.



HOPE UCC Game Night

Back by popular demand! Mark your calendar now! March 9 will find you at the Higgins' home for GAME NIGHT 2019! Family friendly evening from 7 to 9 p.m. Bring a drink, a snack and a willingness to play a game or two!



Meet Us for Brunch!

Join us Sunday, March 24, for brunch at Courtyard Banquets (35200 Illinois Route 59, Warrenville). All you can eat with an endless amount of choices for \$14.95.

SOUPer Bowl Success!

Thank you all who participated in the annual **SOUPer Bowl** gathering. Good soups, good bread, good conversation, and a raffled off football (to Zach). One of these days, we should go to the parking lot and play a pickup game! We came up just shy of our goal to gather 53 cans of soup to donate, but I'm sure some more may dribble in soon. As for the 100 square FUNdraiser, I'm sure you know already who's won (except Melody J), but here they are:



Q1 Bill Z. Q3 Barb Z.
Q2 Dan K. Q4 Barb Z. (yes, she won 2 quarters)

Barb & Bill are on a lucky streak! I'm sure the only person hoping that last field goal didn't hit was actually Barb. I know Linda J. was really rooting for it! Bill, Dan, and Barb (and Barb), you can pick up a \$25 Script (Manna) card from the pool – OR – if you want to choose another from the entire list and can wait until the next church order to get it, that will be fine also. Just let the Manna seller know that the card is your prize!

Thanks all. Looking forward to **SOUPer Bowl 54** next year. Well, not our 54th, but we definitely have a good run going!

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:

- † Church family, I'm asking for prayers please. One of my cousins was in a car accident and he is in critical condition. Update: He's stable and talking. Thanks for your continued prayers! (Antoinette)
- † Prayers needed for Dee's cousin, Melissa, who suffered a broken neck and head trauma after a serious car accident. She is doing well, but she has a long road ahead. She is home and healing. (Dee Z.)
- † Let us pray for my sister, Beth, to give her strength as she is going through a divorce from her husband, who has been emotionally abusive for many years. (Mary)
- † Prayers for Pastor Lucas and Adam as they travel.
- † Prayers for peace to be calm and not stressed as Derek moves this week...and so do we. Thank you, Lord, for finding a place for us. (Anna)
- † My mother's aunt passed away after a long bout of brain cancer. We are happy she is free of pain, but my mother is really feeling the loss. (Erin C.)
- † Today is the anniversary of my father's death. It's always a sad day for me and sometimes I feel ashamed that it is still hard. Help me to remember that grief is a process. (Erin C.)
- † Please continue to pray for Crystal. She has been put in hospice. She is holding her own. We are thankful for each day she has been given. (Phyllis)
- † Please pray for me...I have two interviews this week. (Jon C.)
- ☺ Thank you for all the love and prayers. My mental health is greatly improved. I love you all! (Tanya)
- ☺ I had laser surgery on my eyes at Thanksgiving to stop bleeding. We reviewed the results recently and for the first time in five years, I have normal eyes! No bleeding! (Zach)
- ☺ Nathan's sibling, Josh, was accepted into an artist's retreat this summer. We are so proud and excited! (Erin C.)



Celebrating Birthdays

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.

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 Librarians	Mary Kroening Les & Jackie Pierce
Photo Archive	Anna Ahonen
Webmaster	Jenn Revoldt

Quest

ADULT QUEST – @ 9 a.m. HOPE UCC

Adult Christian Education

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

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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 February 19, by 12 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>February 6 - 13</p> 	<p>Pastor Lucas – Out of the Office</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>
<p>February 20, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>February 21, 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>February 21-March 4</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Office Manager - Out of Office</p>
<p>February 24, Sunday</p> 	<p>New Partner Class @ HOPE UCC (11 a.m.)</p>
<p>February 24, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>February 24, 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 27, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 3, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>March 3, Sunday</p> 	<p>New Partner Class @ HOPE UCC (11 a.m.)</p>
<p>March 5, Tuesday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC - Mardi Gras / Shrove Tuesday / Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner See article for more information.</p>
<p>March 5, Tuesday</p> 	<p>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.) Cancelled due to Pancake Dinner. Meets at HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>March 6, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 9, Saturday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Game Night @ Higgins' Home (7-9 p.m.) See article for more info.</p>