

What's Next?

I didn't really feel like writing this. I told Erin I would when I was having a good day. And well, I'm not anymore. I was at work having a great morning. Suddenly, my old companion and adversary, Depression, decided to come for a visit. I went from dancing to music, happily joking around with coworkers to feeling alone and filled with despair. I wanted to curl up under the counter and cry. Except, I knew I wouldn't be able to cry which only made me feel worse. A spiral was beginning... Suddenly, a car was at my speaker. "Good Morning. This is Jon. What can I get started for you?" I immediately parroted and in a moment was lost again in the world of coffee.



I've spent most of my short life on this earth battling with, trudging with, and living with clinical depression. It has been my companion for so long I sometimes get surprised that others don't know this old companion of mine. And as my constant companion, it has taught me a lot. There have been so many times that I just wanted to lay down and sleep. Life seems especially exhausting lately. Every day seems to bring bad news. Faith that things will get better seems like a barely discernible star in a stormy sky.

And, one thing I have learned is to just keep moving forward. Sometimes I can take a full 3.5-foot stride (I have long legs). And sometimes I move a millimeter. Sometimes a customer grabbing my attention pushes me slightly forward. Sometimes it is my dog standing on top of me pawing and whining as I try to lay in bed completely numb. Each nudge is a reminder. Just take one step forward. No matter how small. And on the days when I really feel like I can't, I have HOPE. HOPE as an elusive thing that there is a light even when I can't see. HOPE as a stubborn decision that I will not give up. HOPE as a faith community where for the first time I feel safe being myself, that wonderful, bizarre mess that I am. And so, I take one small step forward. I mark a centimeter as progress, as a victory and with a sigh-filled with determination say, "What's next?"

Jonathan Chambers

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!

Baby, it's STILL cold outside! Time for comfort food! For the month of March, "Casseroles" will be the theme - easy to make, easy to enjoy! Please bring your favorite crowd-pleasing casserole recipe to church on any Sunday in March or submit via email to Dee Zillmer, deeliriousone@aol.com THANK YOU! Excited to "share the table" one step further!

Meet Us for Brunch!

Join us Sunday, March 24, for brunch at Courtyard Banquets (3S200 Illinois Route 59, Warrenville). All you can eat with an endless amount of choices for \$14.95.



Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him

Join us March 31 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Ready Set Ride in Plainfield. We will be helping with some spring touchup jobs around the horse stables! Come with us for a fun time to give back to a great organization that does so much for their community and helping those with special needs! Remember, this event takes the place of Worship Service that Sunday.

Lisa Sanders in Concert (April 5 @ 7 p.m.)

Mark your calendars! Award-winning singer-songwriter, Lisa Sanders with Brown Sugar Hayes in concert at HOPE UCC! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$10/per person / \$20/per family.



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Please pray for my son and his family, who are facing some children and family issues. (Sally B.)
- † Prayers for Jane (and Nick) D. as Jane recuperates from her injury. (Sally B.)
- † Let's pray for Mark, who has bronchitis, to heal quickly and completely, and return to us. (Sally, and the Ensemble)
- † Prayers for continued healing for Les P. Prayers that he continues to gain strength and that his rehab goes well. (Shannon)
- † Prayers for Nathan as he travels to Dallas this week. (Erin & Milo)
- † Please pray for my stepfather, Dan, whose father passed away unexpectedly. (Erin C.)
- ☺ Celebration for our DuPage Horse Bowl Team! Going to State! (Zillmers)
- ☺ Prayers of thanksgiving for HOPE UCC! I love this place and I love you all. (Shannon)



Celebrating Birthdays

03/20 Linda Ley
03/22 Janelle Manderino
03/22 Dee Zillmer
04/10 Les Pierce
04/12 Quinn Revoldt
04/12 Harper Revoldt
04/13 Anthony Lieggi
04/17 Tony Ozzauto
04/21 Lela Lauricha
04/21 Tim Higgins
04/22 Zach Jarabeck
04/27 Shannon Lane

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
Des. Treasurer	Lela Lauricha
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

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

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 March 19, by 12 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>March 13, Wednesday</p> 	<p>PADS Dinner @ First Congregational UCC, Naperville (6 p.m.)</p>
<p>March 17, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>March 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>March 20, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 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>March 23, Saturday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Ministry Council Retreat @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.)</p>
<p>March 24, Sunday</p> 	<p>Let's Do Brunch! (Following Worship) Join fellow HOPERS for brunch at Courtyard Banquets (3S200 Illinois Route 59, Warrenville). All you can eat with an endless amount of choices for \$14.95.</p>
<p>March 24, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>March 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>March 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 31, Sunday</p> 	<p>Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) We will be helping at Ready Set Ride with some spring touchup jobs around the horse stables! Join us for a fun time to give back to a great organization that does so much for the community and helping those with special needs! Remember, there will be no Worship service that Sunday.</p>
<p>April 3, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 5, Friday</p> 	<p>Lisa Sanders Concert @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.) Award-winning singer-songwriter, Lisa Sanders with Brown Sugar Hayes in concert at HOPE UCC! Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$10/per person / \$20/per family.</p>
<p>April 7, Sunday</p> 	<p>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</p>
<p>April 7, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>April 10, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>