

## I Was Almost Slain in the Spirit

When I was 13 years old my parents got divorced. I remember hearing them fight when I was trying to go to sleep at night, so even though I knew it was coming, it still seemed like a bad dream.

The divorce hit my dad much harder than my mom and he needed a support group. His best friend growing up had been a drug dealer and turned to church to get clean and fix his life. He now invited my dad to try out his church, a Pentecostal church on the north side of our town. My dad was reluctant at first, but soon became highly connected to the church. I think it gave him the support, meaning, and lifeline that he needed. It even helped him to become sober for the first time in his life.

Soon my dad started bringing me. At first, I didn't know what to think. During the worship services people would raise their hands and chatter nonsense syllables. To me it sounded like someone trying to imitate Italian without really knowing Italian. I soon learned this was called speaking in tongues and was a key part of the worship service. It was a completely unfamiliar experience to me, but if people felt closer to God when speaking in tongues, then who was I to judge.

Like my dad, I felt I had a support group when I joined the youth group; soon I was part of the community. After attending for a few months, I heard that they would be having a guest pastor who would be slaying people in the spirit. I wasn't sure exactly what that was, but I had a Baptist friend who had seen it on TV. Basically, people would raise their hands and then fall to the ground when the pastor touched them. It seemed odd, and though we were both highly skeptical, my Baptist friend was interested in seeing it in person.

We arrived at the church on Sunday morning not sure what to think. Music was playing, and the guest pastor asked those willing in the congregation to step forward. She lined everyone up then slowly went down the line, asking them to raise their hands and close their eyes. As she got to each person, she would gently touch their forehead and they would immediately drop to the ground and lay motionless. It was like watching dominoes falling.

At this point my friend started to feel uncomfortable and asked if we could leave. We started to head out the door and my dad stopped us. He encouraged us to get prayed for before leaving, so we reluctantly went to the front and lined up for the guest pastor. When the pastor got to my friend, he dutifully raised his hands and closed his eyes. To my surprise, when she touched his forehead he dropped like a rock and lay motionless on the ground. I wasn't entirely sure what had happened, but I assumed he was just going along with the show.

When she got to me, I tried to be open to the experience, but didn't feel anything. Because I wasn't falling, they brought over an assistant pastor and I started to feel embarrassed and like I was holding up the show, so I just dropped to keep things moving.

Afterward my friend came up to me and explained that was the most life changing event he ever experienced. He didn't know God could move like that. He was utterly captivated by the whole experience, although when we got to the parking lot, my friend started to question everything. He wondered if the pastor had pushed him. I had my own questions. Was it an elaborate form of hypnotism or was it God moving and connecting with the congregation? And if it was God moving and connecting with the congregation, what was wrong with me that I couldn't feel it?

Over time I've learned that everyone connects to God in a different way. For some it's getting slain in the spirit, but for me it's a walk in nature or sharing stories with friends and loved ones. We don't all have to do it in the same way as long as we are each progressing on our own spiritual journeys.



*Bryant Hankins*

HOPE UCC Partner

## News & Notes



### **Lisa Sanders in Concert (April 5 @ 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. Sign up in the HOPE UCC lobby or call HOPE UCC (630-922-0470).

### **Holy Week Events**

The worship team would like to invite you to two Holy Week Events. First, we will host a soup supper at 6 PM on Maundy Thursday, April 18th. We will follow dinner with a ritual mirroring Jesus washing the disciples' feet and communion. Please sign up so that we can provide enough soup.

Secondly, on Good Friday, April 19th, at 7 PM, there will be a Tenebrae service – also known as a Service of Shadows. We hope you will be able to join us.



### **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!

SPRING has SPRUNG! Let's think *Green*! Let's think *Fresh*! For the month of April, "**Salads**" will be the theme - greens, beans, gourmet, or fruit! Please bring your favorite crowd-pleasing salad recipe to church on any Sunday in April or submit via email to Dee Zillmer, [deeliriousone@aol.com](mailto:deeliriousone@aol.com) THANK YOU! Excited to "share the table" one step further!

### **Kids' Quest Project – Will you help?**

During Lent we remember Jesus through giving up something (sacrifice) and/or taking on something (service). Kid's Quest would like to ask your help by doing both. Anyone who is willing and able to sacrifice 57 cents/day (\$26.22 for the Lenten season) or some larger or smaller amount is asked to take a contribution basket and return it on Easter Sunday. The Kid's Quest group will work with Pastor Lucas to identify local charities whose service we can assist with the contributed funds after Easter.



We are doing this in memory of Hattie May Wiatt, a girl whose 57 cents, following her death, led to a fundraising effort that built a Sunday School building that was big enough for all children, and that ultimately became the beginning of Temple University. Baskets will be located on the table in the Sanctuary.

### **Please Help with Planning Aurora Pride Festivities**

HOPE needs volunteers to help with the planning and execution of this year's Aurora Pride festivities! This year, Pride has expanded to include a weekend-long market day with a parade finishing things off on June 9th at 12 p.m. Please contact Danielle David if you are interested in being a part of HOPE's involvement in this year's Aurora Pride Festival! Danielle can be contacted via email or text. [DanielleDavid1027@gmail.com](mailto:DanielleDavid1027@gmail.com) or 630-212-2161. Thanks!



## **Sharing Joys & Concerns**

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

- † Love and support to all who are suffering. I love you and I am here for you. (Tanya)
- † Prayers of healing for my good friend, Annette, who has been diagnosed with leukemia, and has been in Prentice Women's Hospital for seven weeks. (Anna)
- † Let us pray for Aiden, his Mom, and brother. Divine intervention is needed for their family's mental health. (Tony)
- † Prayers for a full house for Derek's L. A. film festival premiere of *The Transcendants*. (Anna)
- ☺ I am grateful for the ministry council and their joyful dedication to HOPE UCC. (Erin)
- ☺ Joy for my son, Damon's birthday! Some of you may remember how close to death he came a few years ago. Now he has a young daughter, and life is good! (Sally B.)
- ☺ Prayers for me as I continue to recover from my bronchitis. Thank you for all the cards and texts. I felt the love and support. (Mark G.)
- ☺ Gratefulness! During Lent, I look around more closely and find out how many good things are happening, good friends, many of us healing well. (Bea)



**PRAYER**  
*Requests*

## Celebrating Birthdays

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  
04/27 Linda Smith  
04/27 Jennifer Revoldt  
04/30 Mary Kroening

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>	Erin Cooley
<b>Des. Moderator</b>	Dan Keil
<b>Past Moderator</b>	Mike Manderino
<b>Treasurer</b>	Les Pierce
<b>Des. Treasurer</b>	Lela Lauricha
<b>Secretary</b>	Barbara Roethel
<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 - @ 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](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 April 9, by 12 p.m.**

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

**Thanks!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>April 5, Friday</p> 	<p><b>Lisa Sanders Concert @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.)</b> 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><b>Confirmation Classes Continue @ HOPE UCC (9 a.m.)</b></p>
<p>April 7, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b></p>
<p>April 10, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 14, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>One Great Hour of Sharing – UCC Special Collection (During Worship)</b></p>
<p>April 14, Sunday</p> 	<p><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>.</p>
<p>April 16, Tuesday</p> 	<p><b>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at HOPE UCC, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>April 17, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 18, Thursday</p> 	<p><b>Women Out to Lunch (Noon)</b> Join the women of HOPE on the third Thursday of each month. Lively conversation, great food &amp; 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>April 18, Thursday</p> 	<p><b>Maundy Thursday Soup Supper @ HOPE UCC (6 p.m.)</b> (See article for more information.)</p>
<p>April 19, Friday</p> 	<p><b>Tenebrae Service @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.)</b> (See article for more information.)</p>
<p>April 21, Easter Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Confirmation (During Worship)</b></p>
<p>April 24, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 28, Sunday</p> 	<p><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>.</p>
<p>May 1, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>May 5, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Cinco de Mayo Potluck @ HOPE UCC (Following Worship)</b> More details to be announced.</p>

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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## Community Table

BENEFITTING



## YOUTH OUTLOOK

*Join us for a celebration of community,  
empowerment, and friendship.  
All are welcome at our table.*

Naperville - April 12, 2019 @ 6:00 pm  
First Congregational United Church of Christ



*RSVPs required, seating is limited*

**\$35.00 per person (\$25.00 for youth)**

Register - <http://bit.ly/2HIFUbacommunitytable041219>

**FREE  
EVENT**



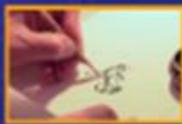
ISLAMIC CENTER *of* NAPERVILLE  
invites you - our friends and neighbors to our

*Open*  
**MOSQUE**  
**DAY**

*Sunday, 04.28.2019 11am-5pm*

**Islamic Center of Naperville**

*2844 W. Ogden Ave, Naperville, IL 60540*



CALLIGRAPHY



FOOD



HENNA



MEET THE IMAM



MOSQUE TOURS



PRESENTATIONS

**WITH A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR KIDS**

To RSVP contact: 630-426-3335 or [admin@icnmasjid.org](mailto:admin@icnmasjid.org)