

## Jesus Has Left the Building Brought Me in the Door

When Milo was about six months old, I decided I needed to go back to church. I had been a non-attendeer for many years, and for most of the years I did attend church, I attended at the place of worship chosen by my parents. This time around I wanted to approach the exercise with intentionality, which led me to a handful of criteria I needed in my new worship community.



First, I knew I needed a new denomination; I still loved and valued much of the United Methodist tradition in which I'd grown up, but I knew too that the upper echelon of the denomination did not reflect my need to affirm and uplift the LGBTQ community, and that was not something I could abide. And second, I knew I wanted a place that "did the work": a place that placed high importance on tending to the undervalued, not only in words but in deeds.

HOPE was one of the first places I found in my search, and the thing that most jumped out to me when I opened its Web site was the Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him program. It so suited my criteria of a community performing my values that I didn't even bother looking into other churches. I had a beautiful kind of foresight in knowing immediately that this was the place I was looking for.

When I became moderator at the beginning of this year, one of the tasks the moderator team and Pastor Lucas set for ourselves was to tend to the health and vitality of this program. We know how a dynamic and vigorous community not only sustains itself but creates growth, and so it was our goal to give our attention to a program that, while deeply loved, showed signs of needing attention to improve its vitality.

In the coming weeks, we are inviting all of you to join in the conversation with us. After worship on **May 19**, please join us for food and conversation as we explore the love we have for Jesus Has Left the Building and the way the program fits into our spiritual home. We invite you to consider and wonder about the following questions:

- How do you see Jesus Has Left the Building fulfilling HOPE's mission?
- What is the story of your participation in the program?

We can't wait to hear your stories and explore with you!

*Erin Cooley*

**HOPE UCC Ministry Council Moderator  
and the Moderator Team**

## News & Notes



### **May is Mental Health Month**

May is mental health month. Join Adult Quest each Sunday at 9 am as we explore and learn about mental health. Questions?? Feel free to ask Jon Chambers.

### **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, "**Entrees**" 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!

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



We have an exciting chance to be involved with this year's Aurora Pride Parade, even if you're not able to attend the Parade itself! We are planning on handing out a variety of fun items with HOPE's name and website, and also rainbow buttons with HOPE's website on the back.

Here's where you can help! We are offering the opportunity to sponsor these items! We are hoping to collect \$750 for all these things! If we all chip in, we can get these funded and ordered right away! We already have the buttons sponsored, so now let's work on the sponsorship for the other items! HOPE UCC had an amazing presence in the Parade last year, and we are HOPEing to have even more of an impact this year! Let's act fast, as Antoinette Evans is planning on placing our orders by the 22nd of May. Please make your sponsorship checks (or cash) payable to HOPE UCC with a notation that it is for the Pride Festival. Thank you!

### **Please Join Fellow HOPERS at these Ongoing Gatherings**

#### **Women Out to Lunch**

Join the women of HOPE on the third Thursday of each month at noon. 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.



**These two groups hold stimulating conversation about current events and topics important to our lives and faith. We love the questions and searching for answers together.**

#### **Explore Your Faith Breakfast – Wednesdays @ 7:30 a.m.**

This group meets weekly at Quincy's Restaurant in Naperville for breakfast. They utilize "The Wired Word" curriculum, which is based on current events, to discuss significant topics.

#### **Evening Explore Your Faith – First and Third Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.**

Meeting twice a month HOPE UCC, this group holds thought-provoking conversations about current events and other important subjects.

## **Sharing Joys & Concerns**

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

- † Let us pray for my friend, Deb, who will be flying home to Florida. (Mark)
- † I am starting a new position within my company soon. Please pray for my transition and my focus so I can make a positive impression. (Erin C.)
- † Please pray for my cousin, Bob H., who passed away this past week in Ohio. (Sally B.)
- † Prayers needed for my friend, Karen. She is weak and ill. My sister, Rose, and I will be visiting her soon. (Zach)
- † Prayers of healing for my friends, Annette (leukemia), John (pancreatic cancer), Sarah (death of her eight-year-old granddaughter), and Chuck (won't go to the doctor). (Anna)
- † Let us pray for my employee, Carrie S. and her family. Carrie's mom lost her very short battle with cancer on Friday night. (Lela)
- † Prayers for my coworker, Tamika A., who has laid to rest two family members within the last month, and this past Thursday lost four members of the family in a car accident on I-57. Prayers for her family as they mourn the loss of six family members they will have had to rest in less than a month. (Antoinette)
- † Let's pray for Marcy, going through tests in Nashville and Bethesda to determine if she will qualify for a cancer treatment trial for her mesothelioma. (Zillmer Family)
- † Please pray for all my cousins. They lost their mother yesterday. (Marilyn)
- † Prayers for the legacy of allyship and justice that Rachel H.E. leaves behind. Let us also pray for the family she leaves behind.
- † Please pray for me, as I am trying to cope with Jack's decline. He is losing his sight and the nerves in his back paw don't allow him to go for walks anymore. The vet said he is very healthy besides his vision and leg. (Zach)
- † Prayers of strength. I am processing my transition and preparing for Mother's Day. (Sam V.)



## Celebrating Birthdays

05/10 Rhys David  
05/17 Ava Manderino  
06/20 Melody Ellsworth  
06/24 Marie Higgins  
06/25 Jonathan Chambers  
06/28 Barbara Roethel

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
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

May is mental health month.

Join us each Sunday at as we explore and learn about mental health.  
Questions?? Feel free to ask Jon Chambers.

## 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 May 14, by 12 p.m.**

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

**Thanks!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>May 8, Wednesday</p> 	<p><b>PADS Dinner @ First Congregational UCC, Naperville (6 p.m.)</b></p>
<p>May 12, 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 15, 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 16, 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>May 19, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Congregational Lunch &amp; Conversation – Jesus Has Left the Building... (Following Worship)</b>          We will be discussing the Mission, Vision, Values, and Direction for JHLB. Please join in the conversation. Lunch and childcare will be provided.</p>
<p>May 19, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</b></p>
<p>May 21, 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>May 22, 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 26, 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 29, 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>June 2, Sunday</p> 	<p><b>Ministry Council Meeting @ HOPE UCC (Following Worship)</b></p>
<p>June 4, 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>June 5, 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>June 9, 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>June 12, 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>June 18, 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>