

Spotlight on: Youth 360 Services

March is coming up quick, and with March comes the very first Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him event of 2020!

For our first event we are so excited to be pairing up with Youth 360 Services, a local organization "dedicated to helping youth make healthy choices and preventing youth substance use." Youth 360 Services is invaluable to Naperville and the surrounding community, offering services that range from counseling and prevention programs to providing stable housing for previously homeless youth. The organization also coordinates with other partners in DuPage County to provide safe and respectful environments for professionals and community members to network on issues related to LGBTQ+ youth.

I recently had the great pleasure of speaking with Carolyn Wahlskog, who currently serves as Youth 360 Services' Executive Director of Housing. Carolyn has been with the organization for seven years and came into her current position last summer. I was struck not only by her joy and passion for her work, but how beautifully Youth 360 Service's vision and mission align with several of the four attributes we seek to embody at HOPE – particularly those of community building, personal transformation, and world transformation.



CAROLYN WAHLSKOG, LCSW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
HOUSING

Why are you passionate about Youth 360 Services?

Carolyn Wahlskog: I can't think of any resource more important than housing. If you can't meet your basic needs, you can't meet any other needs. Providing housing to LGBTQ+ youth gives them the gift of just being a person in the world and letting them enjoy life. *(Content note: LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately likely to become or remain homeless due to overt discrimination when seeking alternative housing. In 2017, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago released a report on youth homelessness which found that LGBTQ+ young adults had a 120 percent higher risk of reporting homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual and cisgender.¹)* That we have a specific mission for queer youth is the heart of why I'm here. [I am passionate about this group because] in many ways we are pretty radical for the area: we live our values of harm reduction and meeting the community and its needs.

What is your favorite success story?

CW: What I love about [Youth 360 Services] is that everybody is a success story... even the person who stays a week and leaves with both middle fingers in the air. But one of my favorite stories is a young person who left the program and now runs an LGBTQ+ program. It's really wonderful to see someone take their lived experiences and give back to the world. I love being a place where people can land. This is a place where if you come to us, you become family, and you're part of our family forever.

How do you see Youth 360 Services changing the world?

CW: I really see us as pushing back on the nonprofit industrial complex. Unfortunately, LGBTQ+ housing just isn't a priority. But we know the need is there, we know homelessness exists, and so we are trying to change systems; [for example], the city of Naperville changed all their bathroom signs to be gender inclusive thanks to us. We know we can change the world, not only moving forward, but changing it so that fewer kids will need us in the future.

Join us on Sunday, March 29, to serve this wonderful, valuable organization!

Erin Cooley

HOPE UCC Past Ministry Council Moderator

1. <https://www.hrc.org/blog/new-report-on-youth-homeless-affirms-that-lgbtq-youth-disproportionately-ex>

News & Notes

Hi All You Pancake Dinner Helpers!

Thank you so much for sharing your extension cords, griddles, frying pans, crock pots, tongs, and flippers for the HOPE Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday Pancake dinner!

It was a lot of fun to cook together. It's amazing to see the various pancake techniques for buttering, "syruping", and stacking or side by siding. We enjoyed the provided "tunes" and best of all is the chance to visit and get to know people. And of course, the pancake eating isn't too bad either! We appreciate your willingness to help make a special evening possible!!!

HOPE Worship Committee

Mary Kroening, Anna Ahonen, Ellen Brady, Marie Higgins, & Tony Ozzauto



Gift Card Orders Due!



The gift card order for the month of March is due by **Sunday, March 1**. Fill out the order form, include payment (cash or check made payable to HOPE UCC) with your order and place it in the red folder on the front desk. Gift cards will be ready for pick-up the following Sunday, March 8.

Attention! A GameShow Palooza nudge! To all who may want to purchase gift cards for donation to Palooza baskets or for adding to your own prepared baskets....HOPE UCC will place an order on March 3 and the cards will be available on Sunday, March 8. If you're wanting to participate, please put in your orders on Sunday, March 1.

As you know, for each card we sell, HOPE receives a portion of the sale. Please contact Gail for more information or questions at 630-922-0470. As always, we will have on hand gift cards of various denominations for purchase every Sunday from these retailers: Jewel, Mariano's, Meijer, Speedway, and Target.

PADS - HOPE IS COOKING A GRILLED PORK CHOP DINNER PLEASE HELP!!!

On **Wednesday, March 11th**, HOPE will be providing the food for approximately 40 homeless guests at DuPage PADS. As is HOPE's tradition, we want to make sure our guests have a meal as we would prepare for guests at your home. We will be serving grilled pork chops, corn, cheesy potatoes, salad, applesauce, and brownies. Would you please help?

If you are unable to cook one of these dishes, any donation to HOPE's Mission fund will help defray the costs would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!!

To volunteer, please sign up at HOPE UCC at the PADS board or email/call: Becky McCabe and Tina Wetzel
Becky McCabe – becky.mccabe1@gmail.com, Cell: 630 276 9528 OR Tina – tsaint54@yahoo.com, Cell: 630 661 6617





GET EXCITED!

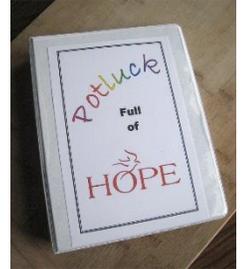
2020's very first Jesus Has Left the Building (and We're Following Him!) will take place on **March 29, 2020**. Join us as we take our worship out into the world and work to transform the world around us.

Location and project information to follow!

Thanks! (And It's Not Too Late...)

Just wanted to shout out a BIG THANK YOU to my HOPE Family Foodies! Whether you submitted recipes or bought a cookbook, you made a difference! Together we raised about \$430 for HOPE UCC and its missions! Thank you for supporting this project!

FYI - There are just a few cookbooks left, available for \$17 - first come, first served. Simply let me/Dee Zillmer know in person at church, or via email deeliriousone@aol.com and I can have it ready for you the following Sunday. Mangia!



GameShow Palooza! It's Coming....

Whoo hoo! We're bringing it back and it's set up for **Saturday, May 2**, at the American Legion Hall in Downers Grove, **start time is 7 p.m.** For those of you who are not familiar, it's one of our fundraising activities where teams of eight players compete against the other tables in rounds of modified gameshows, i.e. Jeopardy, Name that Tune, Family Feud + others. It's a fun event where you can invite your family and friends to join us in some fun, food and drinks all while testing your collective knowledge of routine information. This is a key fundraiser for HOPE UCC and the Outreach Programs for HOPE UCC. **Cost is \$25 per person, eight maximum per table.** We'll be getting a sign-up sheet posted very soon with more of the details such as snacks, drinks, costumes, etc.



There will be a silent auction and raffle baskets, a wine wall, and possibly other side fundraising activities. This is where you all can participate even if you cannot attend the event (but we sure hope you will). We canvas our HOPE folks and ask for donations of raffle baskets, wine, and silent auction items that we can use during the event. In the past, we've received full baskets, tickets, trips to vacation homes, and other new items that you may have that can be used in conjunction with other material for us to make a basket. Another option: If you have a talent of being a handyman, quilting, baking, music lessons, etc., you can also donate some of your time. All of the donations are tax deductible and better yet, if you want to canvas a store or two, we will have the tax-exempt letter for them. More to come on this, and you can be sure the team of Jeanne, Trott, Tim and Marie can discuss this in person in more detail.

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Mark it on your calendars and start getting your dream teams ready. Please reach outside of HOPE UCC. In the past, the folks who attend always seem to have a great time! And... you can always get more than one team assembled!

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Let us pray for my friend Yvette and her roommate, Teri. Teri's nephew is in ICU. (Mark G.)
- † Please keep my son and his family in your prayers. (Sally)
- † Prayers for Uncle Danny after having a stroke this week. (Zillmers)
- † Let us pray for all individuals and families impacted by mental health issues. For those feeling lonely, desperate, hopeless, and helpless. Prayers that we know how to support. (Shannon)
- † Please pray for my sister, Pat. She is having two level neck fusion surgery in Florida. (Zach)
- † Let us pray for my friend. She had to have an emergency c-section. She gave birth to a healthy 3# 3 oz. baby girl. Mom and baby are doing fine. (Tanya)
- † I need your prayers for courage for taking care of some medical concerns. Meeting with a surgeon on Tuesday. I am also thankful for my awesome chiropractor. (Jolene)
- † Bea P. would like to thank everyone for their prayers and phone calls as she goes through some difficult times. (Mark G.)



Celebrating Birthdays

02/26 Karon Van Gelder
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.

HOPE'S Leadership

Pastor	Lucas King
Moderator	Dan Keil
Des. Moderator	Parker Hall
Past Moderator	Erin Cooley
Treasurer	Lela Lauricha
Des. Treasurer	TBD
Secretary	Barbara Roethel
Registrar	TBD
Community Life	Shannon Lane
Education	Marie Higgins
Pastor-Parish	Tim Higgins/Jay Hruska
Marketing & Communications	TBD
Missions	Jolene Fiscella
Resource & Operations	Linda James
Worship	Mary Kroening
Librarians	Les & Jackie Pierce
Photo Archive	Anna Ahonen
Webmaster	Jenn Revoldt

Deadline for additions or corrections to the next issue of HOPE Happenings is March 3, by 12 p.m.

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

Quest

ADULT QUEST @ 9 a.m. HOPE UCC

New Adult Quest Series

Calling all wondering and wandering people - start the new year off with renewed curiosity on your faith journey. Join us at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings for a new Adult Quest series taught by Pastor Lucas using [Living the Questions 2.0](#) curriculum. Over the course of 21 weeks (come when you can!) we'll explore all sorts of fascinating and complex faith topics such as: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians, Debunking the Rapture, Incarnation: Divinely Human, and Prayer: Intimacy with God. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn, teach, explore, and wonder together!

KID'S QUEST – Sundays during Worship

HOPE UCC's Christian Education for children. Teaching kids about Community, Scripture, Values and Service through participatory learning.



Music Selections for Ensemble Anthems

(Click song to download sheet music.)

- March 1 – [Remember](#)
- March 8 – [Here for You](#)
- March 15 – [Do Something](#)
- March 22 – [Trust in You](#)

If it pleases you, come to HOPE UCC at 9 a.m. to rehearse and offer your voice to a particular song.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>March 3, 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 4, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 8, 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 8, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>March 11, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 14, Saturday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Game Night (7 p.m.) More information will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>March 17, 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 18, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 19, 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 22, Sunday</p> 	<p>One Great Hour of Sharing – Special UCC Collection (During Worship)</p>
<p>March 22, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
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<p>March 25, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 29, Sunday</p> 	<p>Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him (Workshop instead of Worship) Details TBA.</p>
<p>April 1, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 5, Sunday</p> 	<p>The Landing (Youth Ministry) @ HOPE UCC (11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.)</p>
<p>April 7, 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>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

“Outwords Journey” an LGBTQ+ Storytelling Event

Help Tony O. launch a new organization called “Outwords Journey” a LGBTQ+ storytelling event. The first event will be held on **March 10** at Dry City Brew Works, 120 N. Main Street, Wheaton, IL. Doors open at 6 p.m. Food will be available. For additional information go to Outwords.org, or email Tony at Outwordss@gmail.com .

Kiwanis Pancake Festival Fundraiser

Saturday, March 7 from 7 – 12 noon
Naperville Central High School

ALL YOU CAN EAT! PANCAKES & SAUSAGE!



Bands, Raffles, Children's Play Areas!



Tickets \$10.00

Under Age 10 FREE

Buy tickets at Casey's Foods, Oswald's Pharmacy