



The weekly newsletter of

HAPPENings

God is Still Speaking,

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

03/11/2020

“How do you feel, Dan? How do you feel?”

As I slowly opened my eyes in that twilight zone of recuperating from general anesthesia, I think I finally muttered, “I’m cold.” “Let me get you a warm blanket.”, she replied.

I’m absolutely sure that long after the feeling of that dull pain in my surgically repaired knee fades from my memory, I will still remember how wonderful that warm blanket felt and how grateful I was to the kind and considerate nurse who provided it.



As the hours after surgery advanced and under the influence of some really remarkable pharmaceutical products, it was one of many things I came to appreciate last Friday. Friends, family, and members of my community reached out and offered kind, considerate, and loving thoughts and offers of assistance. All of these warmed my soul.

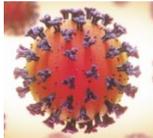
It didn’t take me long to realize how fortunate I am to have such a fantastic support system. It also didn’t take me long to realize how important it is to pass this gift forward. In the near future someone I know will need a warm blanket, and it will be my pleasure to provide it.

Just my opinion,

Dan Keil

HOPE UCC Ministry Council Moderator

A Note from Our Pastor



I know that there is a lot of information (and disinformation) and anxiety swirling in the world regarding COVID-19. At this time, we do not have plans to cancel any of our community's gatherings, but I do want to encourage you to feel empowered to take charge of your own health and, when you're here at HOPE, take care of your faith family's health.

You can do this by:

1) Staying home if you are a part of an at-risk population which seems to be anyone with an underlying health condition and staying home if you are exhibiting any symptoms of illness.

To remain connected to those who can't be with us physically, HOPE has for the past three years livestreamed Sunday morning worship services. Please ask for help if you need assistance figuring out how to access the livestream.

2) Not touching your face or mouth.

COVID-19 mainly spreads by touch, so stop touching your face or mouth. COVID-19 can also spread through the air so it is essential to always cover your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing with either the inside of your elbow or a tissue. After doing so, go to #3!

3) Washing and sanitizing your hands frequently.

There are now "Proper Handwashing Technique" signs in the bathrooms at HOPE. Please follow those instructions and wash/sanitize your hands frequently.

If you do choose to come to HOPE, you are in charge of who you interact with and how you interact. You are empowered to make your own choices regarding physical contact and proximity all without judgment from your faith family members. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you!

Best,

Pastor Lucas

News & Notes

HOPE UCC's Lenten Fundraiser

Lent is a church season that leads many people to alter their day-to-day routines. Historically, it has been a time for Christians to “give up” something as a way to connect with the selfless sacrifice Jesus made, and for many Christians this tradition continues today. For other Christians Lent is a time to “take on” something – to foster spiritual growth through deeper reflection and contemplation, or to become involved in a new community outreach activity.

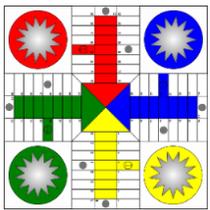
57 Cents

With these Lenten traditions in mind, HOPE's kids and the Kids Quest team are once again this year undertaking a Lenten fundraising effort that combines individual financial sacrifice, reflection and appreciation for God's blessings, and support for the local community. The effort centers on the story of Hattie May Wiatt, who as a young girl was unable to attend Sunday School most weeks because her church's Sunday School room was too small to accommodate all the children. Given hope by leaders of the church that one day a larger church building that would fit all of the children might be built, Hattie began saving her pennies. When she died of diphtheria in 1884 at age 6, her parents found a small purse under her pillow containing 57 cents that she had saved. They gave the money to church leaders. Hattie's 57 cents ultimately inspired members of her church to raise enough money for not only a larger Sunday School, but an entire new church. The church became known as The Temple, and Temple University later grew out of the new church.

For any individual or family that is willing and able to participate, we are asking for a donation of 57 cents per day during Lent, which over the 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday equates to \$26.22. Of course, larger or smaller donations are also welcome. These funds will be collected on Easter Sunday. During Kids Quest after Easter, our young people will identify up to three local charities to receive these funds to support their community outreach activities. Last year the money raised was donated to Loaves & Fishes, Feed My Starving Children, and 360 Youth Outlook.

Thank you in advance to those who are able to participate in this effort. Decorated donation bags can be found on the table in the sanctuary.

Thank you from HOPE's Kids and the Kids Quest Team.



HOPE UCC Game Night

Are you tired of being cooped up in the house? Is the dreary weather getting you down? It sounds like Game Night at the Higgins' is exactly what you need! Come join us for Game Night on **Saturday, March 14th** from 7 p.m. until they kick us out (probably about 10 p.m). Please bring an appetizer or dessert and your own beverage. Also bring your favorite games and invite a friend.

Growing and Supporting Our Worship Leaders

To help HOPERs step into new roles and support those who are already serving as leaders in worship, we are hosting another round of trainings for those who are or would like to be: Worship Leaders, Scripture Readers, Prayer Leaders, and Children's Time Leaders. Through the hour and a half training you will learn the tools, tricks, and guidance needed to feel comfortable and thrive in these important roles of leading our Sunday morning gatherings. We'll go over some of the basics of large group worship leadership and some of the more nuanced pieces of how to flourish in that role. Regardless of your previous experience, I do ask that you attend one of the trainings as we all have new things to learn and experience.



Please email Pastor Lucas as pastor@sharehope.org to let him know if you will be attending:

Tuesday, April 21, 6:30-8p (snacks provided)

Sunday, May 3, 11:30a-1pm (snacks provided)

GET READY – Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him



We will be serving at Youth 360 Services on March 29th by painting an apartment and cleaning a storage unit. Grab your painting supplies or bring your organizational skills to the first JHLTB of 2020!! One of the most beloved and unique programs HOPE UCC offers is ready to SOAR!

Joining JHLTB is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with community service organizations, get to know fellow HOPERS better, learn about community service organizations, and give back to the world to make it a better place for others. Don't miss your chance to give!

Projects available include:

1. Painting a two-bedroom apartment. Adult friendly! Painting starts at 9 a.m. The location is close to HOPE!
2. Organizing and cleaning out a storage unit full of clothes, including a couple of sit down tasks., Child-friendly for older elementary aged and above. Starts at 10 a.m. Located close to HOPE.
3. A sit down letter/postcard writing project to federal officials regarding the defunding of organizations such as 360 Youth Services. Child-friendly and above! Starts at 10:10 a.m. Located at HOPE UCC.

Please consider donating these needed supplies:

Paint brushes/rollers, paint trays, buckets, wide painter's tape, scotch tape, garbage bags, clear storage bins, paper/stationery, envelopes, postage stamps.

GAME SHOW PALOOZA ADOPT A GIFT CARD

Would you like to contribute a donation to Game Show Palooza, but haven't figured out what to donate? Here's an opportunity for you! There are 8/\$25 gift cards waiting to be adopted. Gift cards include Lettuce Entertain You, Chilis/On The Border/Maggiano's, Cheesecake Factory, Dave & Busters and AMC movie theater gift cards. To adopt a gift card for GSP contact Jeanne Smith at jeannesmith1123@gmail.com.



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.

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!

Invitation from Community Life

Please join Tony and the Community Life team for an evening of storytelling with OutWords Journey. OutWords Journey” hosts monthly storytelling events for individuals that identify or are allies of LGBTQ+ community. Our stories are authentic human experiences that are shared in story form. The audience connects with each story because it is experienced, written and delivered by the Storyteller. “OutWords Journey” storytelling entertains, enlightens and creates community. Join us for our Private Event:



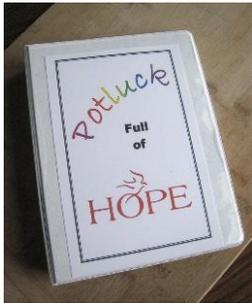
Tuesday, April 14th

@

Dry City Brew Works
120 N Main Street, Wheaton

Doors Open 6 p.m. / Stories start at 7:30 p.m. / Food will be available.

If you have any questions you can email Outwordss@gmail.com



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 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!

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Let us pray for Dan K. for continued healing of injured knee and a return to bowling!!! (Katie J.)
- † Prayers for all the folks dealing with the COVID-19 virus. (Katie J.)
- † Please pray for all those suffering from illness and those with impaired immune systems and seniors.
- † Prayers needed for Arlene T. She will undergo surgery to reset fractured leg to hip. (Linda J.)
- † Let us pray for Aiden, Tony's nephew. He's going through a hard time. He needs to learn how to let things go. Not keep them in, and trust others. Pray that he leans into who God created him to be. (Tony)
- † Prayers for me...I have right eye surgery in four weeks. (Zach)
- † Please pray for my sister, Pat, in Florida. She is having post-op complications after two-level neck fusion. (Zach)
- † Danielle and Dan need your continued prayers for vehicle repairs.
- † Let us pray for Ron P., Danielle's dad, as he has entered the final stages of Lewy Body Dementia. He is having to be on medication that sedates him to the point of barely functioning. It's a sad time for all of Danielle's side of the family. (Danielle)
- † Prayers for Rhys, who had the flu last week and while he is doing much better, he is still recovering.
- † Please pray for Bea P., who is celebrating her birthday today. Keep her in your prayers for the financial troubles that she is having. (Mark G.)
- † Becky, Tina and their entire family are celebrating Dad, George St. Angelo, on the 8th anniversary of his passing on March 4. You are in our hearts.
- ☺ Happy Birthday to our son, Colin, today! 25 years of love and laughter. We are blessed with him in our lives. (Marie & Tim)
- ☺ All the glory to God! After months of rejection, I am finally employed and start on Monday! God is so good! Hoping I do well. (CJ)
- ☺ Happy International Women's Day! (Trott)



Celebrating Birthdays

03/11 Teri Manderino
03/22 Dee Zillmer
03/22 Janelle Manderino

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 17, 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 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 14, Saturday</p> 	<p>HOPE UCC Game Night @ Higgins' Home, Naperville (7 p.m.) Please see article for more info.</p>
<p>March 15, Sunday</p> 	<p>Ministry Council Meeting (Following Worship)</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>
<p>March 22, 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 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) Please read article for more info.</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>
<p>April 8, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 12, 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>April 15, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets @ Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 16, 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>
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