

A Note from Our Pastor

ALL HOPE-related, in-person events are cancelled/postponed until at least April 11, 2020.

I finally had an opportunity to create a webpage that includes all the information regarding HOPE's response to the coronavirus pandemic: www.sharehope.org/COVID19. On this new website you will find encouragement, pertinent information, and valuable resources for you and your family during difficult times. Please check back frequently for updates.

Best,

Pastor Lucas

News & Notes



Announcing HOPE's First Remote JHLTB!

We all know what they say about the best laid plans... In keeping with the caution and discretion recommended by health authorities, we are going to have to cancel 2020's first Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him event.

Even though we're all disappointed by this turn of events, one of my very favorite things about HOPE is how we make the most of every opportunity. I'm excited to announce our very first (and hopefully last!) REMOTE Jesus Has Left the Building!

When we were making our plans to serve 360 Youth Services, their housing director, Carolyn Wahlskog, informed us that one of the challenges they had been facing recently was the loss of their federal funding. Unfortunately, funding safe, equitable, affirming housing for LGBTQ+ people just wasn't perceived as a high priority. We had planned a letter-writing party as part of our JHLTB project for March 29, where we would write to our federal representatives, as well as members of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus to let them know how vital equitable housing for the LGBTQ+ community.

Thankfully, this can be done in the comfort of our homes as we continue to practice social distancing. So, on March 29, grab some stationery, your favorite pen, and a bunch of stamps, and join us for a remote letter writing party. If you're a Facebook user, take a selfie of yourself as you write your letters and post it in the HOPE UCC Friends group for us all to see. If you're not on Facebook, email your picture to me at e.elizabeth.phillips@gmail.com and we will share them in the next outgoing HOPE Happenings. Let's send Jesus out of the building and into the world!

Contact information for the co-chairs of the LGBT Equality Caucus can be found at <https://lgbt-cicilline.house.gov/>.

GameShow Palooza! It's Been Postponed Until Fall 2020...

We're sorry to have to postpone HOPE's biggest fundraiser, but this is the best way to do our part in controlling the spread of COVID-19. We will update you with details as soon as they are known. Thank you for your understanding.



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.

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 (hopefully) 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, or you can simply mail your donation to HOPE UCC, as several families have done during the COVID-19 crisis.

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

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)



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Let us Pray for my childhood friend, Sarah, and her family as they are going through a rough time and could use a little HOPE love. (Tanya B.)

- † Please pray for me as I start to work on my past trauma with my new therapist. May I find peace, healing, and authenticity. (Tanya B.)

- † Prayers are needed for our former colleague, Michael. Michael is a few years younger than Nathan and I and was recently diagnosed with liver cancer. He still has 50% liver function, but it is nevertheless a scary diagnosis. Michael's girlfriend of many years died recently, so this diagnosis only adds to a terrible season of his life. His mother, Alice, could also use your prayers in this time of uncertainty and fear. (Erin C.)



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

Temporary Office Hours:
Tuesday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday – 9 a.m. to Noon