

## QUESTIONERS

In the April 4, 2017 HOPE Happenings - I addressed the Dreamers in our midst. In this issue, I will address the Questioners and in a future Happenings it will be the Realists. These descriptions of our fellow partners have been selected to facilitate a discussion of who we are and where we wish to go as an organization and into our collective future.

The Questioners amongst us are those who view reality as a wonder that begs to be discovered. In this sense, we are like the Dreamers, we are looking to the future. After all our name is HOPE.

I suppose one of the criteria for a Questioner is an issue of doubt. We are looking for answers of what we see, hear, experience and in which we are participants. Life for us is an exploration of our surroundings. We generally do not take things for granted. I could go on about this issue but think that others have addressed the questioners far better than my attempts. I will let them speak below as to why we question:



Jon Meacham – Is a keen observer of the Human Experience and is executive editor and executive vice president at Random House. He won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Biography.

- Religious belief, like history itself, is a story that is always unfolding, always subject to inquiry and ripe for questioning. For without doubt there is no faith.
- An unexamined faith is not worth having, for fundamentalism and uncritical certitude entail the rejection of one of the great human gifts: that of free will, of the liberty to make up our own minds based on evidence and tradition and reason.
- The central tenet of Christianity as it has come down to us is that we are to reach out when our instinct is to pull inward; to give when we want to take; to love when we are inclined to hate; to include when are tempted to exclude.
- Scripture is not inerrant; believers are called to interpret biblical texts in light of tradition and reason.
- The many problems with taking the Bible literally is it reduces the most mysterious and complex of realities to simple - even simplistic - terms. Yes, scripture speaks of fire and damnation and eternal bliss, but the Bible is the product of human hands and hearts, and much of the imagery is allegorical, not meteorological.
- One of the earliest resurrection scenes in the Bible is that of Thomas demanding evidence - he wanted to see, to touch, to prove. Those who question and probe and debate are heirs of the apostles just as much as the most fervent of believers.
- Given that religious faith is an intrinsic element of human experience, it is best to approach and engage the subject with a sense of history and a critical sensibility.
- As crucial as religion has been and is to the life of the nation, America's unifying force has never been a specific faith, but a commitment to freedom - not least freedom of conscience.
- Francis Bacon - "If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties."

HOPE UCC is home and a place for seeking the hidden meanings in what we read, hear and discuss.

*Les Pierce*

HOPE UCC Ministry Council Treasurer & Adult Education Facilitator

## News & Notes



### **Don't miss the celebration!**

**Sunday, May 14** during worship, we will be welcoming new partners into the congregation!



### **Now Hiring – Additional Childcare Provider**

We are in the process of searching for a replacement for our childcare provider, Danielle, who has left our employ. If you know someone who would be interested in applying, please take a business card from the front desk and have the applicant contact Pastor Lucas with a resume.

### **Gift Cards Temporarily Unavailable**

The Manna Group has been acquired by Great Lakes Scrip Center, which is currently the #1 scrip provider serving the United States. HOPE UCC is currently in the process of transitioning over to this new company. We will let you know as soon as gift cards are available for ordering. Thanks for your patience as we make this change.



## Sharing Joys & Concerns

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

- † Kathy C. and her family. Bring them hope and peace. (Nicole H.)
- † Pray for my sister's dog, Clark, as he has a low-grade tumor. (Nicole H.)
- † Janeen Bradley and family for the passing of her sister. May God give the family peace and strength during this time.
- † Charytina C. – Pray for her willingness to go into assisted living and for her physical and mental health to improve. (Kathy C.)
- † My sister, Rose. She is on her way home from spending a year in Montana. Bittersweet. Hard to leave – happy to come home. (Zach)
- † My friend, Melissa, who is having a large benign tumor removed from her brain. (Zach)
- † Wanda, John, and Matt. Their son and brother, Dave, died very suddenly and unexpectedly. Pray for their comfort and strength moving forward. (E.C.)
- † Shelley N. – She completed her second round of chemo and will see the doctor in a few weeks to learn if treatment is working. She and her family are very hopeful. (E.C.)
- † My stepfather, Dan, and my mother, as they help Dan's father adjust to an assisted living facility. (E.C.)
- † Danielle, Dan & Rhys – This Wednesday is THE day! Danielle will be having a C-section at 9:30 a.m. Please pray for safe delivery, healthy baby, and quick healing. (Danielle)
- † A blessed delivery of Danielle and Dan's new little boy on Wednesday!
- ☉ My niece, Tiffani, graduated from Montana State with her RN yesterday. (Zach)
- ☉ Barb & Terry, who tied the knot this past week. (Mark G.)



## Celebrating Birthdays

05/17 Ava Manderino  
05/17 Barbara Anderson

If we've missed your birthday, please email  
HOPE's Office Manager at  
[HOPE@shareHOPE.org](mailto:HOPE@shareHOPE.org).

# Quest

### 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.

### ADULT QUEST – Sundays @ 9 a.m.

For the next few weeks Adult Ed will be exploring the Gospel of John the Baptist with Bishop John Shelby Spong. He has a unique view of this Gospel and his interpretation is anything but main-line. See how progressive Christianity views scripture in the matrix of the time when it was written.

### KID'S QUEST – Sundays during Worship

### HOPE'S Leadership

Pastor	Lucas King
Moderator	Becky McCabe
Des. Moderator	Mike Manderino
Past Moderator	Jeanne Smith
Treasurer	Les Pierce
Secretary	Julie Hapke
Registrar	Jane Trotta
Community Life	Shannon Lane
Education	Marie Higgins
Pastor-Parish	Tim Higgins/Jay Hruska
Marketing & Communications	Jenn Revoldt
Missions	Zach Jarabeck
Resource & Operations	Nick Dempsey
Worship	Mary Kroening
Librarians	Les & Jackie Pierce
Photo Archive	Anna Ahonen
Webmaster	Jenn Revoldt

### 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:

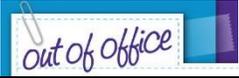
**Tuesday - Thursday - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Deadline for additions or corrections to the next issue of  
HOPE Happenings is May 16, by 2 p.m.**

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

**Thanks!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p><b>May 10, Wednesday</b></p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Dinner (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at the Dempsey's residence, 417 S. Julian St., Naperville.</p>
<p><b>May 10, Wednesday</b></p> 	<p><b>PADS Dinner @ First Congregational UCC, Naperville (6 p.m.)</b></p>
<p><b>May 10 – 12</b></p> 	<p><b>Pastor Lucas – Out of Office</b></p>
<p><b>May 11, Thursday</b></p> 	<p><b>HOPE UCC Office – CLOSED</b> (Pastor Lucas and Gail will be out of the office.)</p>
<p><b>May 14, Sunday</b></p> 	<p><b>New Partner Celebration (During Worship)</b></p>
<p><b>May 17, Wednesday</b></p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p><b>May 17, Wednesday</b></p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Dinner (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at the Dempsey's residence, 417 S. Julian St., Naperville.</p>
<p><b>May 18, Thursday</b></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><b>May 21, Sunday</b></p> 	<p><b>Ministry Council Meeting (Following Worship)</b></p>
<p><b>May 24, Wednesday</b></p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.)</b> Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p><b>May 24, Wednesday</b></p> 	<p><b>Explore Your Faith Dinner (7 p.m.)</b> Meets at the Dempsey's residence, 417 S. Julian St., Naperville.</p>

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## SUMMER 2017

National Youth  
Leadership Training

# NYLT

a different kind of summer camp  
powering a generation of leaders

Stay **Engaged**  
Experience **Discomfort**  
Speak **Your Truth**  
Listen **Generously**



Work **Together**  
Develop **Leadership**  
Create **Change**  
Take **Action**

Open to ALL High School Students  
in the 2017-2018 School Year

**SIGN UP AT**  
**[nyc.org/nylt](http://nyc.org/nylt)**



Deadline for applications is May 31, 2017

## July 23 - 29 | Sandstone, MN



Naperville & Lisle Townships TRIAD

# Annual Senior Picnic

**Naperville VFW**

**908 West Jackson, Naperville**

**Friday, June 9, 2017**

**12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.**

**Food, Bingo & Raffle Prizes**



**This is a FREE event, but  
reservations are required.**

**Please call 630-969-0992 to  
register.**

