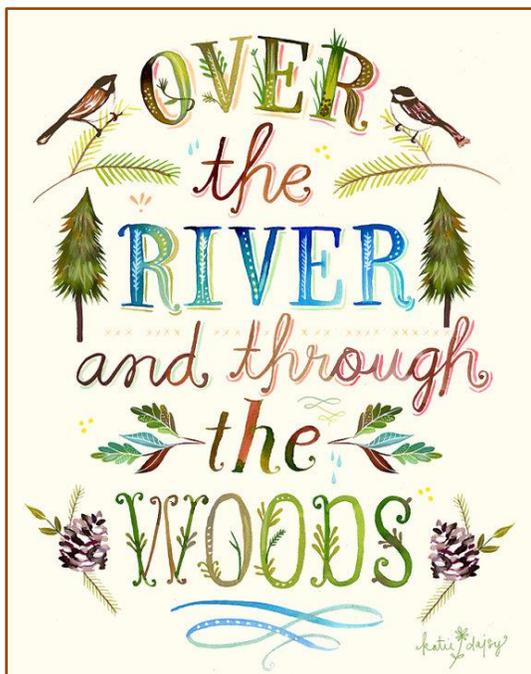


“Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother’s house we go.”



Every Thanksgiving I think of this song. Some of you younger folks might not know the song, but ask me and I will sing it to you.

When I was a youngster we used to pile in the car and head to Gramma’s house in the country. All the cousins far and wide showed up. As you opened the door the delicious aromas of everything cooking on the stove and in the oven, came wafting out and made us even hungrier; we skipped breakfast that morning, so we could eat more turkey.

The place settings of the good china were brought out only for these occasions. The table was laden full of homemade pies and nut breads and a turkey with all the fixings. I don’t think you could put another thing on the table. Jams and jellies and apple butter and pies all made from the fruits that we picked in the warmer visits to Gramma’s house. We used to climb the trees like monkeys to gather the fruits of our labor. Apples, cherries and apricots. Apricot jam was and is still my favorite.

We would all watch TV, either the parade or a football game was on, or we played Monopoly, or just talked. One of my relatives would come in the room and turn off the TV set announcing that the feast was ready. We would

all find our place at our tables, either the big table or the kids’ table. We would go around the tables and say what we were thankful for. Most of the kids said the food and the turkey. Then someone would volunteer to say the blessing and thank God for all that we had and pray for those who did not. Then it was time to dig in.

After we gorged ourselves, everyone retreated to the living room to sleep off the meal and loosen their belts to relieve the pressure from eating so much. We kids would run outside to play in the yard before pie time. After we ate the pies, packed up our doggie bags, kissed and hugged our relatives, we were on our way back to our respective homes.

One Thanksgiving dinner, when I lived in Chicago, I volunteered at Little Brothers of Chicago. I picked up my assigned senior at the nursing home – Wanda, a spitfire with red hair all dressed to the nines and sitting in a wheelchair – to take her to the luncheon that was set up for them. I learned that she was turning 88. The smiles on their faces were priceless. To share a meal with someone less fortunate just melted my heart. Listening to their stories and the history that they held had me mesmerized. After the party, when I returned her back to her residence, she gave me a thank you gift. A pine cone that she painted white and had glitter on it with a pipe cleaner hanger. She was so proud of it. Wanda, unfortunately, is not with us anymore, but every year in her honor, I put her pine cone on my Christmas tree.

Remember to keep all those you love, near and far, in your hearts, and those who have passed on, as you celebrate yet another Thanksgiving feast.

Blessings to all.

Mark Geiger
HOPE UCC Partner

News & Notes

Holiday Shopping Made Easy with Manna/Scrip



Shopping for the holiday season just got easier during November and December with the Manna/Scrip Gift Card Program. Additional order dates are available between now and Christmas. Check the schedule below for order/delivery dates.

Over 750 gift cards are available through the program. For every gift card purchased through HOPE UCC, a small rebate is sent to the church. Pick up an order form at HOPE or click [HERE](#) for an order form.

Here are a few ideas for purchasing and maximizing the amount of rebate that HOPE UCC receives:

- Share the Spirit – Donate gift cards such as grocery stores, Target, Old Navy, Kohls, or Walmart
- Share order forms with family, friends, and co-workers. Collect the forms and checks (made payable to HOPE UCC) and submit them to HOPE UCC
- Buy Amazon gift cards to shop on smile.amazon.com or amazon.com
- Purchase gift cards for those who serve you...letter carriers, hair stylists, teachers, or neighbors
- Buy gift cards for food shopping, gas cards for travel, or restaurant cards for dining out

It's easy to order! Here's how:

1. Pick up an order form at HOPE UCC, or click [HERE](#) to download
2. Complete the order form and fill in how many of each card you'd like to order
3. Write a check for the total order amount made payable to HOPE UCC
4. Pick up your order on the delivery date

Submit Order By:	Pick-Up Date @ HOPE UCC
Sunday, December 3	Sunday, December 10
Sunday, December 10	Sunday, December 17

Keep in Touch KITS – Information & Cash Donations Needed

HOPE's students have been working hard. We want to wish them well and give them a gift as a reminder that we have them in our thoughts and prayers. Please consider donating so that we may purchase gift cards to send out.

PLEASE email Linda James at ldj7900@sbcglobal.net, if you have a college student. We would like to give a gift to him/her and also send notes of encouragement throughout the school year. Let Linda know your student's name, school name, current address and future graduation date.



Linda James plans on giving the gifts out soon, so the **last Sunday to collect will be Sunday, December 3**. Thank you for all your support in letting our college students know that we are thinking of them.

People's Resource Center: Share the Spirit Holiday Toy Drive



HOPE and People's Resource Center (PRC) are working together to make the holidays hopeful and brighter for low-income DuPage County residents this holiday season. Each year, PRC collects children's gifts to be distributed to client families during the annual Share the Spirit drive. This year, over 800 client families will be invited to pick out gifts for their kids through PRC's Share the Spirit program. This program offers parents in need the opportunity to choose the gifts they want to give their children. Here's how you can help:

1. We will be collecting new and unwrapped toys, books, hats/mittens etc. and gift cards until **December 3**. The gift cards will be given to the older children. Requested gift cards are Kohl's, Target, Walmart, Old Navy. Each family will also receive a grocery store gift card when they come in to shop for their toys. **Remember to order HOPE UCC Scrip Gift Cards and you will be giving to both HOPE and Share the Spirit.**
2. We will be providing volunteers on the distribution days at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. There will be positions for all abilities—from wrapping gifts to serving as a personal shopper with the families coming through. HOPE will be providing volunteers on **Tuesday, December 5th from 8:00-11:30am**. Please sign up on the clip board in the lobby.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Lane at shannonlane30@aol.com or Zach Jarabeck. If you would like more information on the amazing work of PRC, <http://www.peoplesrc.org>.

HOPE UCC FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
THE POLAR EXPRESS
INTERACTIVE
please plan on wearing your pajamas
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th
Festivities begin at 6 pm, movie starts at 6:30 pm.
1701 Quincy Avenue, Suite 27, Naperville, IL 60540
\$3 per person / \$10 cap per family
RSVP BY NOV. 28th
hope@sharehope.org or call #630-922-0470
ROUND TRIP

Blue Christmas Service – December 21 (7 p.m.)



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrains on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost. The anguish of the death of a loved one can make us feel alone in the midst of the celebrating and joy. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

Christmas Eve Service @ HOPE UCC (10 a.m.)

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will have our Christmas Eve worship service at our normal 10 a.m. time with a Carol Sing beginning at 9:45 a.m. The service will include an Instant Christmas pageant and will end with cookies and hot chocolate. Please bring some cookies if you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share!



Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- † Pray for the family of 11-year-old Gabriel, who died by suicide. Special prayers for his mother, Angela. (Lizeth)
- † Please pray for Jeanne's family as we all mourn the loss of Jeanne's sister. (Trott)
- † Prayers for Julie S., whose stepfather is on a ventilator in the hospital. (Shannon & Melody)
- † Pray for hope. We all know what we need. (Sally)
- † Prayers for my friend, Laura. It's been a long recovery for her and she needs physical healing and healing of her spirit. (Zach J.)
- † My niece, Tiffani, needs your prayers. She worked so hard to graduate nursing school, and is buying her first home on her own. Her ex-husband is spitefully putting up roadblocks. (Zach)
- † Pray for what God is setting for my path. Please provide me the map with the "X". (Michael)
- ☺ Celebrate the birth of our newest great-nephew!! Josiah Fredrick, mom, and a very excited grandma are all doing well! (Marie & Tim)
- ☺ I am filled with gratitude to be a part of this HOPE UCC family. (Shannon)
- ☺ A grateful prayer for Sally B., Jill & Jay H., and Nick D. for their efforts in purchasing and cooking our turkeys for lunch. Thanks to all who helped prepare our lunch today! (Jane D.)



Celebrating Birthdays

11/23 Jeanne Smith
11/26 Erin Ley

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, at (630) 369-0485.

Quest

ADULT QUEST – 9 a.m. @ HOPE UCC

We will watch a short video and then discuss the idea of Science and Spirituality. All are welcome to explore who we are and where we think we are going. You may be surprised by what you hear about yourself.

~ **Les Pierce** - Adult Ed Facilitator

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 Librarians	Mary Kroening 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

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.

**Deadline for additions or corrections to the next issue of
HOPE Happenings is November 27, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>November 26, Sunday</p> 	<p>New Partner Class #3 (9 a.m. @ HOPE UCC)</p>
<p>November 26, Sunday</p> 	<p>Rainbow Faith (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>November 29, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 3, Sunday</p> 	<p>Advent Begins @ HOPE UCC</p>
<p>December 3, Sunday</p> 	<p>Deadline for Ordering Gift Cards to be Delivered on December 10</p>
<p>December 5, Tuesday</p> 	<p>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.) (Please note change of venue.) This week's meeting will be at Sally Bice's residence, Aurora. Meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>December 6, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 9, Saturday</p> 	<p>Polar Express – Exclusive Interactive Show! (6 p.m.)</p>
<p>December 10, Sunday</p> 	<p>Deadline for Ordering Gift Cards to be Delivered on December 17 LAST ORDER BEFORE CHRISTMAS!</p>
<p>December 10, Sunday</p> 	<p>Rainbow Faith (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>December 13, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 17, Sunday</p> 	<p>Ministry Council Meeting (Following Worship)</p>
<p>December 19, Tuesday</p> 	<p>Evening Explore Your Faith (7 p.m.) Meets at Dempsey's residence, Naperville, on the first and third Tuesday of each month.</p>
<p>December 20, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 21, 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>December 21, Thursday</p> 	<p>Blue Christmas Service @ HOPE UCC (7 p.m.) When Christmas hurts...Join us for a service of remembrance of those we've lost.</p>
<p>December 24, Sunday</p> 	<p>Christmas Eve Service @ HOPE UCC (10 a.m.) Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we will have our Christmas Eve worship service at our normal 10 a.m. time with a Carol Sing beginning at 9:45 a.m. The service will include an Instant Christmas pageant and will end with cookies and hot chocolate. Please bring some cookies if you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share!</p>