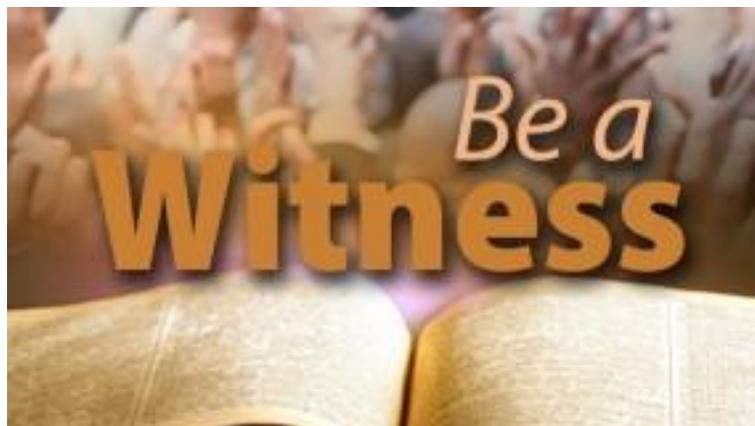


A Witness for Christ

My best friend Cyndi and I host Thanksgiving dinner each year. In addition to inviting my two sons, we also invite Cyndi's daughter, her son-in-law, and their two little ones. They live in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, so we don't get to see them very often. We do get to talk on the phone and share stuff on Facebook and Instagram.

One of the things I do frequently since becoming a Partner at Hope, is to check in on Facebook every Sunday morning at worship. Cindi's son-in-law had noticed and asked me about it. I know that it is wise to avoid political and religious topics during holiday meals. But when he asked me about it, I felt obliged to let him know my feelings. I explained how happy I am in finding an open and affirming church that shares my values. I explained that I have really enjoyed a progressive place of worship where I feel not only completely welcome, but totally accepted. I shared my enthusiasm about our other activities and how I enjoy participating in them.



He told me about growing up Catholic and that he stopped attending after moving away from home. He explained that he would really like to find a progressive church that his family could attend together. I told him about UCC churches and although they aren't all exactly the same, I felt they should check one out and see how it fits.

Later that evening, after everyone went home, I realized I should have taken one more step. I went to the UCC website, and searched for one in Stevens Point. I sent him a text with the link for Peace UCC just a couple of miles from where they live. I don't know if I accomplished anything, but it felt really good to be a witness for Christ.

Dan Keil

HOPE UCC Partner

News & Notes



Christmas Carol Sing-Along (9:45 a.m.)

Join us before Worship at 9:45 a.m. during Advent for a Christmas Carol Sing-Along.

Holiday Shopping Made Easy with Manna/Scrip

Shopping for the holiday season just got easier with the Manna/Scrip Gift Card Program. Additional order dates are available between now and Christmas.

LAST DATE TO ORDER BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS THIS SUNDAY!

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 10	Sunday, December 17

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:

- † My cousin, Stanley. He did wake up and is talking to family, but can't remember anything yet. Thank you for all prayers. Also for my father during a troubling time in his life. Please God, direct his footsteps to you. Also pray for all those affected in Libya. (Courtney)
- † Jeanne, who is home recovering from a successful knee surgery. (Trott)
- † Wisdom in making some big decisions this week. (Shannon)
- † Pray for those struggling during this holiday season. Prayers for peace and comfort. (Shannon)
- † My niece, Tiffani, in Montana. She graduated from nursing school and is working as a nurse. She bought her first home on her own. Her ex-husband is trying very hard to make her miserable through childcare issues. Don't let him steal her joy. (Zach J.)
- † Prayers for the family and friends of our high school classmate, Teresa. She passed away recently. Blessings go with her and live on in our memories. (Tim & Marie)
- † Praying for an easy remedy to our water leak. (The Zillmers)
- † Prayers for our niece, Juli, who is undergoing surgery for breast cancer this week. (Mary & John K.)
- † Please pray for Anna, as she struggles with back issues, dizziness, and a sinus infection.
- † Let us pray for my friend, Brad, battling cancer. (Zach)
- ☺ Rhonda and her wife, Jill, who were married this weekend in Alaska. Many years of happiness! (Mark)



Celebrating Birthdays

12/08 Tina St. Angelo Wetzel
12/24 Julie Hapke

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.

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

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 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 December 11, by 2 p.m.**

Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<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>
<p>December 27, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's Restaurant, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>December 31, Sunday</p> 	<p>Jesus Has Left the Building and We're Following Him (Work-shop instead of Worship) Details TBA</p>