



The weekly newsletter of

HAPPENings

God is Still Speaking,

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

02/26/14

Getting to Know Each Other

By Ellen Brady

Greetings on this last week of February. At this point there is hope that spring will eventually come. A friend posted on Facebook that skunk cabbage has bloomed which is one of the earliest signs. (I looked it up and it's actually an herb with a bad odor.)

Some of you know that I grew up in Sandwich, Illinois and attended the Congregational church. (Yes, we too called it Congo.) It was a small town church and our membership was small so we were able to know each other over a period of years. We also would run into each other at the grocery or drug store and stop and talk. I remember my aunt and uncle's wedding with the reception held afterwards in the church basement.

I think the fact that HOPE is a small church right now is an advantage. We can make an effort to know each other better and it won't seem like an overwhelming task. The majority of us won't run into another HOPE person at the grocery store, but we can create ways to engage which should be fun as well as building closer relationships.

The last church where I was a member, before I came to HOPE, was Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago. I loved to hear the sermons on Sunday and got involved in cooking for the homeless, but with a membership of 5000 I didn't get to know very many people. It was a wonderful church, but not the right fit for me.

If we care enough to know each other better, I think it will make our challenge to know what HOPE UCC is meant to be in Naperville in 2014 easier. Zach said this in Ministry Council and I thought it was well worth repeating here.

Shalom.

HOPE United Church of Christ

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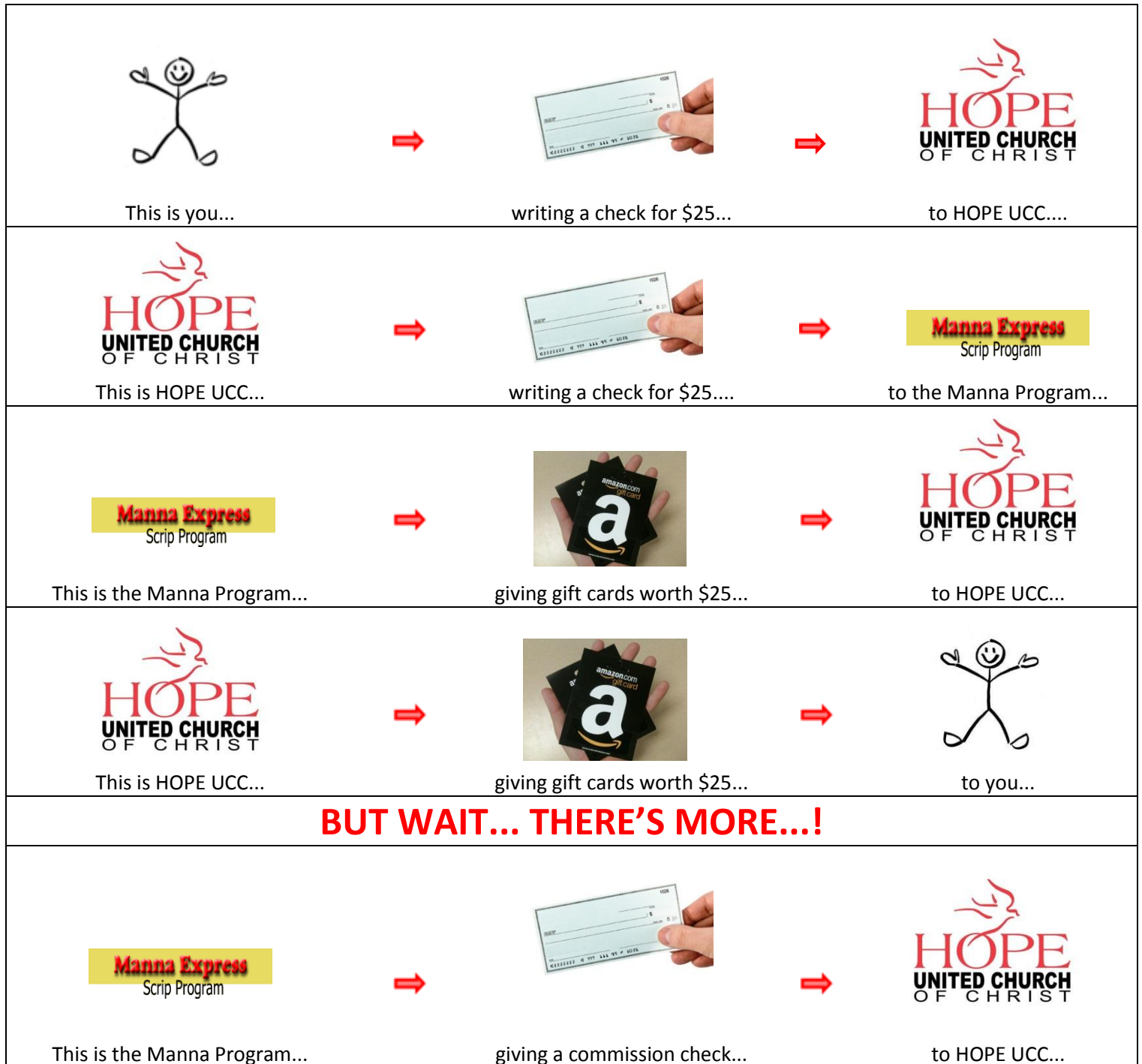
Website – www.sharehope.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Manna Program – How It Works... **JUST DO IT!**

Here's a visual to help promote the program. Again, if we could increase our weekly orders to 30-35, we would see an incredible return on our effort. Just think of the amazing ministries we could be doing if everyone got on board!



You spend \$25 and receive a \$25 gift card...
HOPE UCC receives a commission for the sale...
It's a win-win program.

Visit the HOPE UCC Fundraising Page for more information and to download order forms:
<http://sharehope.org/#/church-online/manna-gift-cards>

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Please keep these people & events in your prayers:

- + My aunt, Pauline. She is critically ill with pneumonia and complications of lupus. (Zach Jarabeck)
- + The Holmes family, whose daughter, Erica, was recently diagnosed with an inoperable cancer. May their spirits continue to be positive! May they continue to see this as an opportunity to unite and fight for Erica. (Teri Manderino)
- + Me, as I look for new housing and a new job. (Zach Jarabeck)
- + Randy Baines, who is going through chemo and radiation for lung and brain cancer. (Laurie Hogrewe)
- + My sister, Rose Hayes, as we expect to get her biopsy results this week. (Zach Jarabeck)
- ☺ Prayers of thanks for a negative result to my husband's biopsy. Also, thanks for my son's continued good health after a rough time of illness. (Anna Ahonen)
- ☺ Prayers of thanks for our Interim Pastor, Greg, bringing a smile and breath of positive energy back to HOPE. (Anna Ahonen)

Prayer Squares

Just a reminder that they are always available.

*The prayers and love of the people of HOPE go
to anyone who needs them.*

*The prayer squares are our gift of love to
anyone in need.*

Celebrating Birthdays

02/26 Karon VanGelder
02/28 Mary Dycus
02/28 Nello Alessandri
03/07 Joe Newton
03/08 Colin Higgins
03/11 Teri Manderino
03/12 Larry Carter
03/20 Linda Ley
03/21 Josh Beckman
03/22 Dee Zillmer
03/22 Janelle Manderino
03/25 Tracy Urben

If we've missed your birthday, please email HOPE's Office Manager at HOPE@shareHOPE.org.

Deadline for additions or corrections to the next issue of HOPE Happenings is March 4, 2 p.m. Thanks!
Announcements for Sunday due by Wednesday of each week.

HOPE'S Leadership

Moderator: Marie Higgins
Des. Moderator: Jeanne Smith
Past Moderator: Roberta James
Treasurer: Dave Zillmer
Des. Treasurer: THIS COULD BE YOU!
Secretary: Becky McCabe
Registrar: Ellen Brady
Social: Mark Geiger
Education: Tracy Urben
Mission: Lisa DeVette
Pastor-Parish: Jay Hruska/Tim Higgins
Outreach: Zach Jarabeck
Resource: Linda James
Worship: Anna Ahonen

Photo Archive: Anna Ahonen
Webmaster: Jenn Revoldt

HOPE LIBRARY

You may reserve items (books, videos or tapes) by calling HOPE's Office Manager (630-922-0470) during office hours (10 a.m.-2 p.m.); by checking them out at HOPE UCC any time it is open; or by calling **Martha Selby**, HOPE Librarian, at (630) 355-3709 OR **Karen Garland**, Assistant HOPE UCC Librarian at (630) 922-8348.

QUEST MINISTRIES ~ 9:00 a.m.

ADULT QUEST

A continuing series of exploration of who we are and what we believe.

Adult Quest will begin a series on the "SOUL".

How has the soul been viewed in history and religious traditions? What do you think the soul is? How do we feed the soul on a regular basis? Where does the soul go after death? Bring your questions and opinions and we will see where this goes; it is a personal journey of exploration.

Facilitated by Les Pierce, with a cast of other inquiring minds.

Ash Wednesday Service

Since there will not be an Ash Wednesday service at HOPE UCC this Lent, you may be interested in attending the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service at:













Wesley United Methodist Church

21 East Franklin Avenue, Naperville, Illinois

To be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 5, 2014

This service is being co-sponsored by Wesley UMC, Community UMC and First Congregational UCC.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HOPE UCC

<p>March 2, Sunday</p> 	<p>Oscar Night at HOPE UCC (6 p.m.) (Please see article below.)</p>
<p>March 11, Tuesday</p> 	<p>All Ministries Night (7 p.m.)</p>
<p>March 12, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 16, Sunday</p> 	<p>Ministry Council Meeting (Noon) (All are welcome to attend.)</p>
<p>March 19, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 20, 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 are 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 26, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>March 30, Sunday</p> 	<p>Jesus Has Left the Building & We're Following Him Details to be announced.</p>
<p>April 2, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 8, Tuesday</p> 	<p>All Ministries Night (7 p.m.)</p>
<p>April 9, Wednesday</p> 	<p>Explore Your Faith Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) Meets at Quincy's, 1112 E. Ogden Avenue, Naperville.</p>
<p>April 13, Sunday</p> 	<p>Ministry Council Meeting (Noon) (All are welcome to attend.)</p>

NEWS AND NOTES

Oscar Night at HOPE UCC

Did your invitation to the Academy Awards on March 2nd get lost in the mail? Why not come to HOPE UCC's first ever **OSCAR NIGHT**? We'll be broadcasting the event live on Sunday night on the big screen in the main theatre (sanctuary). Let's watch Ellen DeGeneres knock it out of the park. Get all dressed up or recreate your favorite character from movies past. (There will be a prize for **BEST COSTUME**.) Walk the red carpet. Hob nob with the other equally famous HOPE people and friends. Bring an Academy Award themed appetizer to share. (Again a prize for **BEST FOOD**) Bring your favorite beverage (no hard liquor please). If you don't think you can sit on the chairs that long, bring your own lawn chair. There will be ballots for voting on the winners and again, a prize for the person who gets the most right. (The law firm of Dewey, Cheatum, and Howe will be in attendance to handle the balloting.) The red carpet activities start at 6 p.m., the performance at 7 p.m. and you can stay as long as you want. This is open not only to HOPERS, but bring a friend or two. No age limit. The show must go on! Come join us. It's not L.A., but we can do up our own Academy Awards party!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

A friend of Greg's visited HOPE last week. She runs a prayer shawl ministry at her church and is very enthusiastic about sharing how to start one at HOPE.

If you are interested, please see Greg and he will put you in touch with Lindsey.

Providing Communion

Interested in sharing the gift of communion with the Partners and friends of HOPE? We would appreciate a volunteer who would be willing to provide the bread and juice for communion each first Sunday of the month.

If this is a gift you would like to share, please contact either Marie Higgins or Anna Ahonen. Thank you!



What Can You Do to Help HOPE?



If you are interested in volunteering for Scripture Reading, Children's Time, Community Prayer, Host/Hostess, Coffee/Snacks, or Cleaning, please let Anna Ahonen know. Her email address is aahonen78@gmail.com. If you know the dates you will be available, sign-up sheets are on the front desk. Please check your calendars before signing up.

Forth from the Communion Table

As we celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month, HOPE UCC expands the sharing of the Communion Table by participating in an offering for the benefit of a local community agency. As not everyone is able to attend on any particular Sunday, we receive the offering through the second Sunday of the month.

In order to allow you time to prepare and broaden your giving by grabbing bargain sales, the Communion community offerings for the next months are:

March: Youth Outlook: Danielle mentioned the possibility of another collection for this agency which is important to me personally as I was involved in its founding:

Items: bottled water, individual bags of chips and granola bars for the drop-in centers; copy paper and stamps for the office.

April: Companions Journeying Together, Inc.

Aunt Mary's Storybook Project: incarcerated mothers record themselves reading a book to their children; the book and recording is given to the children.

Fathers Read project: incarcerated fathers gather once a month to read to their children.

Brought to us by Julie Alessandri.

Items: Brand-new children's books



Please contact me in person or by email (kcvangelder@gmail.com) if you have suggestions for upcoming months or any questions.

Feed the Homeless!!

A MEATLOAF AND MAC & CHEESE DINNER FOR PADS

PLEASE HELP!!!

On Wednesday, March 12th, HOPE will be providing the dinner for approximately 50 homeless guests at PADS. We're planning to have them enjoy some special comfort food - Meatloaf and Mac & Cheese!! We need your help to make it happen!!

TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE EMAIL/CALL Nick Dempsey (pndempsey@aol.com or [630 357 5434](tel:6303575434)) or SIGN UP AT HOPE.

We will need:

- ✓ 6 volunteers to prepare a 9x13 pan of their favorite Macaroni & Cheese
- ✓ 2 volunteers to make soup - 1 vegetable and 1 meat soup. (Both soups should serve 20 – 25 people)
- ✓ 4 volunteers to “Adopt a Dessert” (Dessert kits will be available at HOPE this Sunday)
- ✓ 1 volunteer to purchase 10 two-liter bottles of caffeine-free soda or fruit juice
- ✓ Donations to help pay for meatloaf ingredients and the vegetables, salad, rolls, milk, relishes, etc. that go into making this a complete meal.



For those volunteers preparing the soup or macaroni and cheese, you may either deliver your food to HOPE during the day on Wednesday, March 12th by 2:00 p.m. or to First Congregational Church, 25 E. Benton, in downtown Naperville by 6:30 p.m. that evening.

THANK YOU!!! And please let me know if you have any questions.

- Nick Dempsey (pndempsey@aol.com or Ph: [630-357-5434](tel:6303575434))