



Hope UCC Weekly Update: February 11th, 2024

There is always something happening at Hope UCC! This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and beyond.

Reel Theology Friday, February 9

Join us to watch and discuss Barbie. Bring Your Own Dinner if you'd like to eat before the film at 5:30. Movie begins at 6:00 and the discussion follows.

Stone Soup All Church Lunch Sunday February 11

Celebrate the joy of creating something wonderful together as a community! Bring your favorite soup add in (chopped and ready to go into the soup pot) to the kitchen before church on Sunday and plan to stay for lunch at Fellowship Hour!

Lent at Hope UCC: Journey into God's Promises

Ash Wednesday Service February 14 at 6:30 P.M.

40 Questions 40 Miles 40 Days Walking Group at South Park Mall

Monday – Friday, February 14 - March 29 at 2:00 P.M.

Each Sunday during Lent

Our worship theme will be focused on the many ways God keeps God's promises with us and our place in God's promises.

Tuesday Study: Becoming Beloved Community at 6:00 P.M. (Please note this begins before Ash Wednesday)

February 13 & 20 at Riverside Methodist Church

February 27 & March 5 at Edwards UCC

March 12 & 19 at Hope UCC

Wednesday Light Dinner and Taize Prayer Service

Dinner 5:30-6:00 and the service begins at 6:00 February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, & 27:

Palm Sunday March 24

Maundy Thursday March 28

Service time will be announced

Good Friday March 29

Service time will be announced

Sunday March 31 Easter Sunday!

6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service at the Memorial Garden

10:00 A.M. Festival Worship

Lent Tuesday Night Study: Becoming Beloved Community

Please plan to join together with our siblings in faith from Riverside Methodist Church and Edwards UCC for this special Lenten Study. This 6 week program is designed to deepen self-awareness as well as organizational awareness of racial issues as we increase intercultural competence with the intention of experiencing transformational change. This 6-session study will require about 3 hours outside of class for 'homework' plus the class time. Course participants will gather as a community of learning on Tuesdays from February 13- March 19 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. (snacks included!). Please see Pastor Santina to register. Carpooling is available.

Ash Wednesday Service with Imposition of Ashes February 14 at 6:30 P.M.

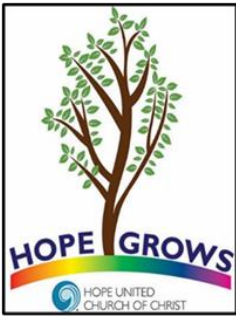
Begin your Lenten journey with this quiet worship service as we consider our humanity, frailty, and the opportunity to God's grace and mercy. The first step of this journey calls us to confession and examination of our lives in light of God's grace. This service includes the imposition of ashes and time for contemplative prayer.

Newsletter Correction

Nancy's Stevens' birthday was mistakenly left off of the February birthday list. Her birthday is February 1. We apologize for this omission and wish her a happy belated birthday!

Ruth Circle Spring Fling

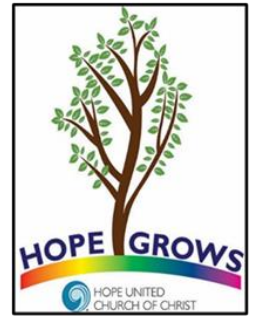
Hope UCC's women's group will have their annual Spring Fling dinner at Pagalo's in Milan on Monday, February 19 at 5:30 P.M. All women of the church are invited and we ask that you RSVP with Barb Hawotte or Dorothy Burdick (and they are also who to see if you have any questions).



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin February 11th, 2024**

**Transfiguration Sunday
Be Extraordinary**

*Thank you for joining us for worship today.
We are glad you are here!
Because you are who you are,
you are welcome here!*



***You may stand.**

PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God summons us from the sun's rising to its setting.
Listen, for the mighty One speaks to us.

**Many: Our God comes and does not keep silent.
Through fire and tempest, God is with us.**

One: God gathers those faithful to the covenant.
Be quick to respond to God's invitation.

**Many: We seek a double share of the prophet's spirit.
We look for a vision to claim our souls.**

One: Open your ears to the good news of the gospel.
Open your eyes to the glory of God.

**Many: We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.
We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

***OPENING HYMN NCH #304 All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name**

***INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

Speak to us, Mighty One, for we are eager to listen. Bless us, as we cry out to you for strength and vision. You have acted in times past to save your people. Save us now. You have sent prophets to change the world. Change us now. You have granted light in Jesus Christ. Shine on us now. Let us see your glory. Lift us to the mountaintop in this time of prayer. Stay close to us to melt away our doubts, and do not leave us, we pray, through Christ. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

When the gospel is veiled from us, mighty God, we feel alone. How easy it is to lose our direction and go the wrong way! At times, we feel as if we are perishing under the demands of our day, unable to see clearly what is most important. We become enslaved to our routines and enticed by shallow distractions. We fill all our hours with doing so there is no time for reflection and prayer. Forgive us, O God, and restore balance to our lives. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus, God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.

ANTHEM: Simple Song Sondheim/Bernstein

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

One: Let us pray: ...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰ He responded, "You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6

- ¹ The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
- ³ Our God comes and does not keep silent;
before him is a devouring fire
and a mighty tempest all around him.
- ⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- ⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
- ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge. *Selah*

*GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 9:2-10

- ² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.
- ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

SERMON *Be Extraordinary*SERMON HYMN: NCH #451 *Be Thou My Vision*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Through our offerings, we support prophetic leadership, provide possibilities for mountaintop experiences, and enable the teaching ministry of our church. Our generosity can make a difference in the lives of people we will never know and in our own lives as well. Let us give from our hearts in deep thanksgiving.

Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Use our gifts, mighty God, to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May Jesus Christ be proclaimed among us and around your world. May righteousness and justice prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit a double portion of the prophets' spirit to discern clearly the ways you would have us go. We dedicate ourselves and our offering to these ends. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

One: It has been good for us to be together.

Now we scatter to share good news.

Many: God has visited earth in human form.

In Jesus Christ, the beloved of God, humanity is blessed.

One: Light from the gospel has been revealed to us.

We are becoming lights to the world.

Many: It is an awesome responsibility to reflect God's glory.

Ours is a wonderful opportunity to show God's extraordinary love.

One: God will not leave us or forsake us.

God's presence is constant and dependable and extraordinary.

Many: We depart with confidence and joy.

We will carry the knowledge of Christ in our hearts. Amen.

***SENDING OUT AFFIRMATION** NCH #81 *God Be With You*

Verse 1

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,

With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

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Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist: Kathy Hobson

Greeter: JoAnn Olson

Fellowship Hour: Stone Soup Lunch

Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
Bob Poor, MJ Poor

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Wes Poor by Wanda Poor.