



Hope United Church of Christ

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An Open Table

I recently re-read my ordination paper that I wrote back in 2016. I smiled as I read everything I had to say about my spiritual journey and my theological perspective and ministry objectives. I smiled because at that time I had no idea my 'ministry objectives' included pastoring an amazing congregation in Moline, Illinois. However, I knew God would lead me where God needed me to be. And here we are!

In my paper I explained my theological perspective as being grounded in the lessons of hospitality I learned at a very early age, in my childhood home from my parents. Those lessons grew into my theological understanding of hospitality and welcome modeled by Jesus throughout his ministry and through the many scriptural lessons our faith ancestors learned and offered through the lens of hospitality and caring for each other as God cares for us. What I wrote in that paper in 2016 is still very true for me today: "Just as Jesus was willing to take a risk to reach out to people rather than waiting for them to come to him, we are to do the same. Opening the Table to others and ensuring there is room for all who seek a place is my greatest ministry objective."

I have witnessed the difference a simple act of hospitality makes in someone's life – both as the one who provides the hospitality and as the one who receives that hospitality. My favorite experience – and most transformative – was my interaction with Helen Orr in 1998. It was at a Thanksgiving lunch at my previous church. I wanted to get home but had committed to help serve the lunch following worship. As I was making my mental 'to do list' and absentmindedly pouring Helen a coffee refill, she said, "Thank you so much for this lunch. I am so glad to be here – I get so tired of eating alone all the time." Her kind words hit me like a ton of bricks and I absolutely shifted gears in that moment. All of the lessons from my childhood and lifetime of gathering around a table came flooding back to me. How could I have been so lacking in empathy to not realize how vital these meals are to others? God's Spirit truly worked through Helen that day because ever since then, I have understood this theology of hospitality and the vital nature of welcoming all to an Open Table as my core theology. I am so grateful for Helen and the gift she gave me with that seemingly simple interaction so many years ago. A cup of coffee is often so much more than just a simple cup of coffee – especially at church!

For years I have discerned what God is calling us to do with this theology – how does this ministry objective become a reality? What a blessing to see so many ways this is lived at Hope UCC! In July we will begin a new worship series focused on the ways God is made known when we are gathered as God's people. On July 3rd we will kick off a new worship series: "Gathered at the Table – The Holy Experience of Sharing Food." Throughout this worship series we will explore the many ways God is present around the 'Table' both in offering and receiving the gifts of hospitality. We will use holy texts from both the Old and New Testaments in this series. As we kick off this summer series, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for worship on July 3rd. The rest of our worship services in this series will take place in the sanctuary as usual. This worship series will kick off a new opportunity to gather for worship in different way. We will begin a Dinner Church service on July 31st. Dinner Church will, initially, be held on the last Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. If we find that there is a desire for Dinner Church to gather more often, we will add additional Sundays to the worship schedule. You can read more about Dinner Church in this newsletter, but I pray that through this new worship service will continue to enable us to live into our mission and strengthen us as we do so!

See you at the Table,
Pastor Santina





01 Dennis Beug
 04 David Newton
 05 Ed VanWychen
 09 Sherry VanWychen
 11 Ken Curtis
 13 Kathy Lewis
 13 Phyllis Dull
 15 Denny Black
 15 Lisa Powell Williams
 18 Linda Brown
 18 Marjorie Gottwalt
 19 Sheila Goderis
 20 Mary Tallitsch
 28 Marilyn Bustard
 28 Marilyn Rada
 30 Sue Grchan
 31 Tina Voss



Dinner Church Service Beginning July 31st at 5:00 P.M.

Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. -Acts 2:46 Common English Bible

We are excited to announce that Hope UCC is adding a new worship service to our schedule. Beginning July 31st we will share a Dinner Church service at 5:00 p.m. This all-ages worship service will take place in Fellowship Hall as we are seated at tables together. The service format will include music, prayers, scripture, reflection, discussion, the sacrament of Holy Communion, and, of course, dinner. Families of one and families of many are welcome at this service whether you are looking for spiritual nurture, physical nurture through a meal, communal nurture, or all three! As we begin this new service, we will offer it on the last Sunday of each month, but we will evaluate as we go forward and increase the frequency as requested/needed (this would be wonderful!). There are many ways to offer a dinner church service and Hope UCC will begin ours with the meal cooked for you. This might change over time to become a potluck or with volunteers who sign up to prepare the meal. We are going to make adjustments as the Spirit leads. Please consider joining us for this worship experience and please remember to share the information with someone you think might enjoy experiencing 'church' in a different way.

July Scripture

July 3	Luke 24:13-35
July 10	Exodus 16:1-4, 9-15 Luke 9:10-17
July 17	1Kings 17:2-16
July 24	Esther 5-8
July 31	Luke 22:7-23

A Different Style of Worship on July 3rd

On July 3rd we will kick off a new worship series: "Gathered at the Table – The Holy Experience of Sharing Food." Throughout this worship series we will explore the many ways God is present around the 'Table' both in the offering and in the receiving of gifts of hospitality. We will use holy texts from both the Old and New Testaments in this series. As we kick off this summer series, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for worship on July 3rd. We will only have our 10:00 a.m. service in Fellowship Hall on July 3rd. The rest of our worship services in this series will take place in the sanctuary as usual.

The format of worship on July 3rd will be a little different – not just where we're sitting (around tables) but also in how the service is delivered. We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion in two parts: sharing the bread early in the service and the cup at the conclusion of the service. Also, instead of a formal 'sermon,' Pastor Santina will offer a reflection on the text and then you will discuss the scripture at your tables using prepared discussion questions offered by your Table Facilitator.

Following worship you are invited to move your seats and enjoy Fellowship Hour. We thank you for your willingness to experience worship in a different way on July 3rd.

Happy 4th of July!
The Hope UCC Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of the holiday.

Blessing Box Donations Needed

We thank you for your continued support of the Hope UCC Blessing Box Ministry. Our neighbors continue to find what they need thanks to your gifts and donations. As we move through the summer months and children are home from school and the cost of groceries and necessities continues to rise, we are hoping you will once again help us keep the Blessing Box stocked. Currently our needs include:

- Small jars of Peanut Butter
- Pop Tarts (or similar breakfast pastry product)
- Individually wrapped snack items like bars, nuts, snack crackers, or raisins
- Canned meat products like tuna or chicken

Hygiene items: individually wrapped bars of soap

- Deodorant
- Sunblock
- women's menstrual products
- small containers of laundry detergent
- small (trial, travel, hotel sized) shampoos and lotions and body wash

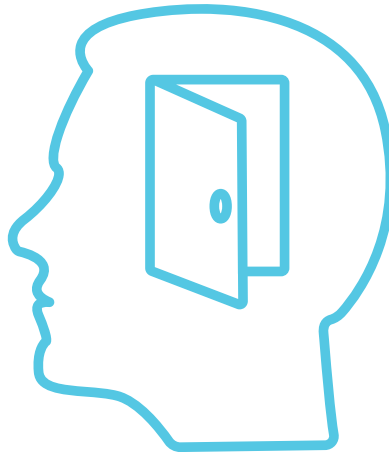
Inquirers' Class July 17 Following Worship

Have you been attending Hope UCC and would like to learn more about this congregation? We cordially invite you to attend our next Inquirers' Class to get to know more about this congregation, our denomination, meet some new people, and get plugged into Hope UCC. Perhaps this time together will help you discern if you are ready to get more involved in the life of this congregation by becoming a member. But please know that even if you decide not to join, we are so glad you are worshiping with us and that your presence is a blessing in this faith community.

The Inquirer's Class will be held following worship on Sunday, July 17 from 11:30-12:30. If that time does not work with your schedule, Pastor Santana is happy to arrange a time to meet with you that works better. Please let Pastor Santana or the church office know if you will attend the Inquirer's Class. Thank you!

Thank You

Hope UCC's Youth Group would like to thank this congregation for your support of our summer Service/Learning Trip. Your prayers and support meant so much to us. We recently found out that the 107 boxes filled with the meals we packed at Feed My Starving Children on June 10 were shipped to Cross Catholic Outreach in Dominican Republic on Thursday June 16. What a remarkable and memorable trip for our Youth Group.



Save the Date September 6: Understanding Mental Health Workshop at Edwards UCC

Edwards UCC in Davenport has invited us to attend their workshop Understanding Mental Health with presenters Drs. Shaun and Ginna Wilkinson. Some of the topics included are correct terms, resources, and recognizing if someone has a mental health challenge. The workshop is from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Edward UCC 3420 Jersey Ridge Road Davenport. Please call Edwards UCC for more information: 563-359-0331.



NAMI Walks Greater Mississippi Valley September 17, 2022

Please join "Team Hope UCC" for this annual 5K to raise awareness about mental health issues in the annual NAMI Walk! The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support and works to improve the lives of persons living with serious mental health conditions and their families. NAMI focuses on education, advocacy and support, and works with healthcare providers and other community leaders to address needs within the Quad Cities area. Their work complements treatment, filling an information and education gap for individuals and families.

Hope UCC's team will walk together and all funds raised will go directly to NAMI's programs helping our friends and neighbors in the Quad Cities. If you are unable to walk that distance, consider cheering us on from the sidelines or making a donation to our team. It's a great way for us to be present in the community, representing our church, and supporting those who are facing this critical health issue.

Please see Pastor Santina or go to: <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=51198>

in order to sign up to walk with Hope UCC's team or make a donation.

Thank you for supporting NAMI and for helping to raise awareness about helping people living with mental health conditions.