



Hopeful Connections

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BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

It is challenging to enter into a new program year without reflecting on all that has happened over the past two years. However, as we approach Kick Off Sunday on September 12, we can do so with a hopefulness and optimism that we will be able to navigate this new year using the tools of flexibility and compassion that were developed more fully during the pandemic. We have learned a lot during this season in our lives – personally, communally, and globally. In our lives of faith, we developed a new appreciation for and understanding of what ‘church’ looks like – many Sunday mornings, church meetings, and coffee hours in front of our computer screens helped drive those lessons home. Now that we are regathered both in person and online, we will continue to explore what it means to *Be the Church* during our worship services. The UCC *Be the Church* banner is our inspiration for our September and October worship series. Each Sunday, beginning with our Kick Off Sunday worship service in the park, we will explore these themes and the many ways we are called to be the church in this world. Prayers, hymns, special music, scripture, reflections, and additional programming will focus on these important and meaningful ways that we live and serve as God’s hands, feet, and voice in this world.

The church is not a building. We are the church and as we grow and change and open ourselves to the many ways God is still speaking and God’s Spirit is moving us to share the love, grace, and peace of God we understand what it means to *Be the Church* in new and wonderful ways. We hope you will find these experiences meaningful and transformational in your spiritual journeys.

Here is our schedule – we hope to see you in person or online. Invite a friend so they can know they are the church too!

September 12: Kickoff Sunday Service in the Park: Be the Church

September 19: Reject Racism and Embrace Diversity

September 26: Care for the Poor and Powerless

October 3: Forgive Often

October 10: Enjoy this Life

October 17: Protect the Environment

October 24: Love God

October 31: Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santina



September Scripture

Sept. 5	Psalm 103
Sept. 12	Acts 2:38-47
Sept. 19	Micah 6:3-8 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Sept. 26	Luke 10:25-37

Thank You

Thank you for all the lovely cards, visits, thoughts and prayers. I really appreciate you all so very much!

Love, Mary Boquist

We've Moved!!!

Cliff & Della Findlay
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come see us soon!



NAMI Walk – September 18, 2021

Join "Team Hope UCC" for this annual 5K to raise awareness about mental health issues.

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, 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=44071>

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.



Covid Update

In response to the recent increase of COVID cases within our community, we encourage everyone to wear masks and continue social distancing while inside the church building. As any developments arise, Hope UCC's Church Council will assess the situation and make further adjustments if necessary. We are grateful for your faithful willingness to care for yourselves and your neighbors. Thank you!

KICK OFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 12
10:00 A.M.

RIVERSIDE PARK
WEST PAVILION



- CELEBRATE THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR!
- WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM'S JERSEY/COLORS
- BRING A CHAIR AND PICNIC LUNCH

Kick Off Sunday at Riverside Park – September 12

Join us for outdoor worship at Riverside Park as we celebrate our Kick Off of the new program year! Now that football season is starting, let's have some fun by wearing your favorite team's shirt, accessory, jersey, colors, or hat. Am I missing anything? Professional, college, high school teams all count. Full disclosure: I don't have a favorite team. 😊 However, I will definitely be enjoying the spirit of the day and getting ready to kick off a great year with our church community!

We will gather at the Western Pavilion at Riverside Park (just west of the swimming pool) for our 10:00 a.m. worship. We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion at this service.

Please bring a chair and a picnic lunch. Remember to invite a friend! Of course, in case of rain, we will meet in Hope UCC's sanctuary.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Santina in the church office or any of our Worship and Music Ministry team members.



Youth Group September News

Youth Group meets from 3:00-4:30 Sunday afternoons, unless otherwise noted for special events.

September 5: Meet at Church

Let's finish painting the Blessing Box!!

*****Date TBD:** Blessing Box Installation and Blessing***

September 12: Kick Off Sunday!

Please join us for Worship at Riverside Park at 10:00 A.M. Youth Group will meet at church at 3:00 to kick off our year! "Be the Church"

Set goals: Scripture focus, Service projects

Fundraising: for what/whom & how (idea brainstorming)

September 18: NAMI Walk: Would you like to walk with Hope UCC's team in support of those with mental health issues and those who love them? Let Pastor Santina know! Meet at Hope UCC at 8:00 a.m. and return to church by 1:00 p.m.

September 19: "Be the Church"

Reject Racism and Embrace Diversity

September 26: "Be the Church"

Care for the Poor and Powerless



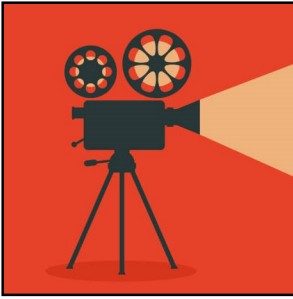
QC Pride Parade September 11

Join your church community and our sister UCC ONA congregations as we show our love and support for our QC LGBTQIA family, friends, and neighbors as we march together in the QC Unity Pride Parade. The parade begins at 11:00 A.M.

Want to carpool to the parade? Please meet at Hope UCC at 9:30 A.M. We'll get dropped off at the starting point and picked up at the end for a ride back to church. If you'd like to meet us at the parade starting point, please meet us no later than 11:00 A.M. As soon as we get the location details from the parade organizers, we'll let you know where we'll be. We are working on a float for the parade so that all can participate regardless of physical ability. If you'd rather watch and enjoy the parade instead of march in it, that's great too. Please let Pastor Santina know if you'd like to be part of this special event!

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study Returns September 14

Join us for our weekly discussion and study of the scripture that will be the focus of Sunday worship. We meet each week (mostly) on Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. for this time of learning, exploration, and fellowship. Our meeting schedule is Tuesdays at 10 A.M. EXCEPT on the 3rd week of the month when we meet on Wednesday at 10 A.M. This is not a 'formal' Bible study and sometimes we leave with more questions than when we started, so if that sounds about right to you, please consider joining us! Please see Pastor Santina if you have any questions or would like more information about the Lectionary study group.



Reel Theology Returns!

Please join us on the 3rd Friday of each month for dinner, a movie, and a discussion! Bring your dinner at 5:30 and we will begin the film at 6:00 with the discussion about the film, its theme, spiritual/theological implications and other aspects as well. If you've missed going to the movies for the past two years, this is a great chance to catch up on some of the amazing films that have been released during the pandemic and shut down and consider their larger themes, symbolisms, and reflections of society and our emotions, dreams, and behaviors. We'll watch and discuss new releases, classics, musicals, documentaries, foreign films, as well as some that we

had planned to watch but were not able to due to the shutdown. Some of the films we'll be watching this year are *In the Heights*, *Nomadland*, *The Dig*, *Peanut Butter Falcon*, *13th*, *Departures*, *Lilies of the Valley*, *American Factory*, *Minari*, *4 Good Days*, *CODA*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Summer of Soul*, and the Flor-



Reel Theology Begins September 17th: *In the Heights*

Our first gathering will be Friday, September 17th and we will begin with the film adaptation of the blockbuster musical *In the Heights*. This film is the 2021 American musical based on the stage musical of the same name by Quiara Alegría Hudes and Lin-Manuel Miranda. The film tells the story of a corner in the predominantly Dominican Washington Heights neighborhood of Upper Manhattan in New York City, where every member of the community pursues their dreams of a better life.

Although we cannot begin with our usual potluck dinner, you are welcome to bring your own dinner and we can eat together at 5:30. The film will begin at 6:00 with the discussion to follow. All ages are welcome but please remember that this film is rated PG-13, so plan accordingly.



Hope UCC's Blessing Box Ministry

Last winter, our Mission and Outreach Ministry began the work to create and plan a way to assist our neighbors and address food insecurity issues facing our community. As the Blessing Box ministry began to take shape, plans and dreams became a reality. What was sketched out on paper is now sitting on a table in our Fellowship Hall, currently being painted by our Youth Group. We will complete the painting and hopefully have the Blessing Box installed by the middle of September. As Mission and Outreach has created a list of essential items to stock the Blessing Box. We are grateful for your assistance in the collection of these items. If you would rather offer a monetary donation towards the stocking of the Blessing Box, we are grateful for that support too. Please indicate "Blessing Box" in the memo of your check or on your envelope. In September there will also be a sign-up sheet available for folks who would like to volunteer to look after the Blessing Box each month by keeping it stocked and maintained.

Thank you for your donations!

- ♥Fruit Cups
- ♥Canned Fruit: 11 and/or 15 oz sizes
- ♥Canned Soup: 10.5, 15, and/or 19 oz sizes
- ♥Dried Ramen type soups
- ♥Canned Vegetables
- ♥Small boxes/Single serving packages of nuts and/or dried fruit
- ♥Powdered Milk
- ♥Canned Tuna
- ♥Canned Chicken
- ♥Creamy Peanut Butter: 28 oz size jar or smaller
- ♥Toothbrushes
- ♥Toothpaste
- ♥Deodorant
- ♥Women's hygiene products
- ♥Bars of Soap
- ♥Laundry Detergent Pods

We thank you for your support of Hope UCC's newest mission project. We look forward to helping our neighbors when they need it.



02-06-2015

SIRI ... SAY GRACE