



Hope

United Church of Christ

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Coming Home

How wonderful to be back home at Hope UCC. I have missed you, our church family! On behalf of Bob, Lewis, Julian, and MJ, we thank you all so much for your loving care, support, and prayers all these months and for the sabbatical I was so grateful to take. When I met with Pastor Michael last week, he had nothing but compliments and praise for you all. Thank you for welcoming him as your interim pastor this summer. He enjoyed his time with you immensely.

My sabbatical goals were to find renewal and rest and I promise you, both goals have been achieved. In that time of rest I was able to recover some of my creative energy and apply that to plans for worship and programs for this new year. Although my attempts at gardening resulted in a pretty dismal harvest (I think about 12 tomatoes and 1 edible zucchini), I thoroughly enjoyed planting everything and monitoring all the plants. I could not have failed this well at vegetable gardening without this sabbatical. Thank you for the time away that helped me realize that I will not be able to start a new career growing vegetables. I think Bob and the kids are all relieved that we will not be moving to a farm anytime soon.

One thing that did grow for me this summer was my sense of hope. Of course I continue to hope for peace in the world around us and in our country. But this summer I focused a great deal of time and energy praying and hoping for peace within my own heart. That peace is continuing to happen and will be a lifelong journey for me for sure. My heart was so broken into pieces with Charley's death, but I have started to believe that there is hope for its eventual healing. In fact, I know that healing has already begun. I continue to hope and give thanks for all of you here who have prayed and cared for us, and in doing so have brought that healing love to me and my family. Thank you for being a source of love, healing, and hope for me.

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Coming Home (continued)

Your loving care and support has inspired our worship series for September: *Renewal and Re-Creation: How God Is at Work Within, Through, and Around Us Bringing New Life and Healing to Our World.*

Each week we will explore how God and God's love is healing us.

September 1: Coming Home: Re-Creation and Restoration

September 8: Healing & Renewal through God's Creation

September 15: Healing & Renewal through Repentance and Forgiveness

September 22: Healing and Renewal through Community

September 29: Celebrating Healing, Renewal, Resurrection, and New Life!

I hope you will find this worship series meaningful and uplifting. I hope you will find hope in the scriptures, prayers, hymns, and praise we will share. I hope you feel what I feel in this community of faith – a home.

With deep thanks and more love than is possible to describe,
Pastor Santana



Hope UCC and Church of Peace UCC **Annual Women's Retreat**

Mark you calendars for Saturday, October 19 and plan to join us for a special day together. More details and the registration form are coming soon, but make sure to save the date - Saturday, October 19 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Save the Date



**Kick Off
Sunday!**



Kick Off Sunday at Riverside Park September 8, 2024

Join us for outdoor worship and fellowship in the West Pavillion at Riverside Park as we celebrate our Kick Off of the new program year! We will gather at 10:00 a.m. for worship and enjoy a potluck lunch following worship. The Pavilion is accessible from the parking lot by short walk on a completely paved walkway. There is plenty of seating available at the picnic tables in the Pavilion. If you're comfortable navigating the grass, you're welcome to bring a chair or blanket for your seating. Just for fun (and in keeping with the 'Kick Off' theme) you're invited to wear your favorite sport team's shirt, accessory, jersey, colors, or hat. All teams count: professional, college, high school, little league, intramural, club – whatever! All sports can be represented – including Pickleball! Even if you don't have a favorite team or sport, come along and enjoy the spirit of the day as we kick off great new year with our church family!

We'll have coffee and treats available before worship begins, and if you are able, please bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. We'll provide the water, plates, silverware, and napkins.

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: Jan Varga, Judy Hawotte, Nancy Stevens, and Mary Tallitsch.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study Resumes September 3

Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M.

Join us for our weekly discussion and study of the scripture that will be the focus of Sunday worship. We meet weekly in the Conference Room on Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. for this time of learning, exploration, laughter, and fellowship. Our meeting schedule is every Tuesday at 10 A.M.

EXCEPT on the 3rd week of the month (no class the 3rd week!). This is not a 'formal' Bible study. This is a very friendly group where we can ask honest questions about scripture. 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.



OPEN DOOR YOUTH GROUP

Hello Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I'm excited to start a new year of community, building relationships, continuing our spiritual journey, and engaging Our Whole Lives. Last year's focus was on getting to know your kids and finding ways to build relationships and this year we'll be building self-confidence.

I and Sara Verdick from Edwards UCC are asking parent(s)/guardian(s) of 7th-9th grade youth to attend an informational workshop on [Sunday, September 15th from 2-4 pm](#) at Hope UCC Moline regarding the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum. This workshop is for parent(s)/ guardian(s) **ONLY**.

OWL was created in the early 90s by the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). OWL is a progressive approach to sexuality education that deals with the totality of human sexuality in a developmentally appropriate manner. It is based firmly on the values of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice, and inclusivity.

The UCC also created a companion to OWL called Sexuality and Our Faith. To offer sexuality education in a congregation is to acknowledge that human sexuality is simply too important, too beautiful, and too potentially dangerous to be ignored in a religious community. The goal of this resource is to connect faith with identity, relationships, and sexuality issues in ways that lead to informed and reasoned decisions and to empower youth to act responsibly as they seek to unite body and spirit, spirituality, and sexuality.

The workshop on September 15th for parent(s)/guardian(s) will mirror the youth workshops and a space to learn about OWL, ask questions, raise concerns, and consideration to move forward with OWL for youth.

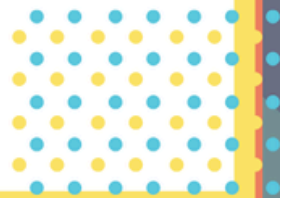
See you on Sunday, September 15th from 2-4 pm at Hope UCC Moline!

Lindsey Svetlick - OWL Facilitator

Sara Verdick - CO Leader

Also, anyone wanting to learn more about OWL may join our meeting!

Adults ONLY





All-Church Service Trip Feed My Starving Children September 21, 2024

We will once again be going to Aurora to serve at Feed My Starving Children. This trip will take place on Saturday, September 21st. We will again have lunch at Harner's in North Aurora before we go to pack the bags. All ages over 5 are invited to this wonderful service project. Please see Barb Hawotte to sign up to go, or to get more information. Carpools will be available if you are not comfortable driving to Aurora.



September 28, 2024

8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

The Bend Expo Center

Save the date, register to walk with Hope UCC's Team, and support NAMI – the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Mississippi Valley Chapter. Join us on Saturday, September 28 at 8:00 A.M. to walk together as we raise mental health awareness and raise funds for NAMI's mission. By walking together in this important community event, we are letting our friends, family, and neighbors who live with mental health issues and their loved ones know they are not alone!

This year's walk will be held once again in East Moline at the Bend Expo Center. 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. The walk just happens to be on Pastor Santina's birthday – so come and celebrate with her as we walk in support of the great cause together!

To register to walk on Hope UCC's team and/or to make a donation, please go to:
<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=68289>



Did You Know??

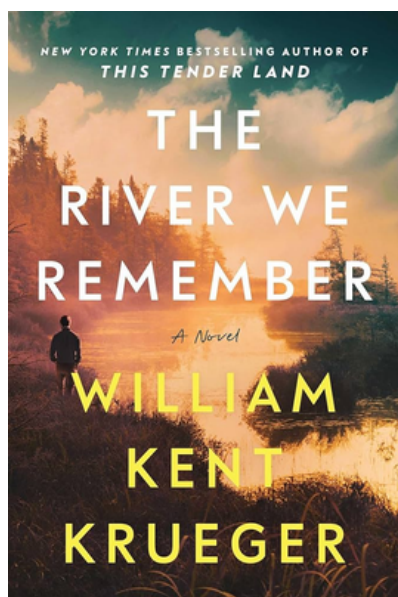
Did you know that our Trustees Ministry just installed a television in the small chapel? They have installed the television there to provide a space for anyone who would like a quiet spot to sit and watch worship during our Sunday morning time together. This room already had speakers so anyone in the chapel could hear the service, but now we are able to watch the service from the chapel. Thank you Bob Church and Trustees Ministry!

Hope UCC New Website Under Construction

We will soon have a new website for our church. Our current website has been a wonderful way to keep our congregation informed as well as introduce new friends to Hope UCC. The new website will keep the same address but will have all our information and graphics organized in a different way.

A church website is a church's new front door, with visitors opening these virtual doors many times before ever walking in the actual front doors of the physical building. We want to ensure that our visitors are able to learn as much as possible about Hope UCC so when they come to visit in person, they are informed, comfortable, and excited to be here!

Stay tuned for more information and get ready to provide us your feedback on the new website.



September Book Club: The River We Remember

All are welcome to join the Hope UCC Book Club on Monday, September 30 at 6:00 P.M. We meet in the Conference Room at Hope UCC. September's selection will be *The River We Remember* by William Kent Kruger.

This novel is a complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of midcentury American life. *The River We Remember* is an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call home.

You do not want to miss this discussion! Please contact Dorothy Burdick with any questions about Hope UCC's Book Club!

Are You Ready to Ring in the New Program Year?

Our Ministers of Music, Laurel and Greg, are ready to help make all your handbell ringing dreams come true! Come see them following worship September 1 (or any Sunday after worship!!) and get signed up for our Handbell Choir. Rehearsals begin soon and we can't wait to hear your beautiful offerings during worship. Any questions? Please contact Greg and Laurel through the church office or following worship any Sunday.



New Flower Calendar Available

Would you like to remember a loved one or a special occasion on a Sunday? We once again have a Flower Calendar sign up sheet available if you would like to bring flowers for the altar on a Sunday. The flowers can be from your yard, a bouquet from a store or florist, or even a plant. You are welcome to bring them home after the service. We will include your dedication in the bulletin that Sunday. The Flower Calendar is posted across from the church office. Thank you!

Men's Fellowship Saturday, September 7th Breakfast!

The Men's Fellowship group will be meeting on Saturday, September 7th at 8am at Deerfield Family Restaurant in Silvis. Please contact Josh Powell at (309) 737-8378 to RSVP or if you have any further questions.



September Birthdays

As always, if you note any inaccuracies or missing birthdays of any friends or members, please do not hesitate to let the office know, and we will correct and update our information in an expeditious, speedy, quick, prompt, swift, and efficient manner.

Marcella Park	September 8
Paul Bowman	September 9
Becky Pisman	September 9
Ginger Hostetter	September 12
Reagan Hawotte	September 12
Dean Herbst	September 14
Jack Stremflow	September 19
Pastor Santina	September 28

Confirmation Class Beginning in October

Pastor Santina will begin Confirmation class with all youth in grades 6-12 in October. This year we will once again use the wonderful "Confirm Not Conform" curriculum. We will team up with our friends from Church of Peace UCC, Edwards UCC, and First Congregational UCC in Geneseo for our classes. Students and parents/guardians, please look for an invitation to our information meeting on Sunday, September 22 following worship.

We hope you will be part of this journey of faithful discernment!

Help Keep the Blessing Box Stocked!

Can you spare a few minutes to help our neighbors? Sign up to help restock the Blessing Box in front of Hope UCC? It doesn't take much time at all and it makes a BIG difference in the lives our friends and neighbors. Please see Julie Bustard for more information or Kathy Hobson to sign up. Thank you!!



Blessing Box Donations Needed

Can you help keep our Blessing Box filled with the items our neighbors need this summer? If you can provide any of the following items, we will use them to keep the Blessing Box stocked. Any questions? Please see Kathy Hobson! Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry.



- Canned meats such as tuna and chicken
- Cans or individual servings of fruits and vegetables
- Granola/Cereal Bars
- Applesauce cups
- Toilet paper
- Cans of soup with pull top lids
- Small size jars of creamy peanut butter
- Boxed pasta or rice dinners

Coffee Fellowship Hour- Volunteers Welcome!



**Sign up to provide snacks and help
set up and clean up.
Your help is greatly appreciated!
Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.**