



Hope United Church of Christ

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OFFICERS

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TREASURER: BOB TALLITSCH
REC. SECRETARY: DONNA WERNER
HISTORIAN/REGISTRAR: DONNA WERNER

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REV. SANTINA POOR
*KATHLEEN LEMASTER
*SHEILA GODERIS
*BOB TALLITSCH

*NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Advent Waiting

This month, like so many people around the world, we are focused on the upcoming Christmas holiday. However, it's not just December 25th that we celebrate – of course the weeks leading up to December 25th play a major role in our spiritual journey toward Christmas. Advent is a time of waiting and anticipating. We are remembering what has been and we are anticipating what will be: Advent is a season of 'already and not yet.' During Advent we remember Jesus's birth and we await his return. Our Advent theme this year, From Generation to Generation, conveys that sense of remembering and waiting. We remember and celebrate the stories and promises of God- stories passed down from generation to generation. These are not only the stories in our families such as when I tell my boys (every year!) about the nativity set we have in our front room that used to be in my grandmother's house. These are the stories our ancient faith ancestors shared that we continue to read, study, share, and be guided by in our journeys. We are part of a long history; those who came before us and those who will follow us continue to be drawn to the light of God. A light that was and is promised. A light that came into the world in the most ordinary way to the most ordinary people and yet turned those ordinary circumstances into the most extraordinary and wonderful event.

Throughout Advent we will focus on the ways the story of the birth of Jesus has been shared from generation to generation and how we are part of that story. Just as the rings of the tree move out from the center, the story of God's love known from generation to generation moves out into the world. We hope you will find meaning in this season of Advent as together we move toward Christmas and all that follows. We all have a place in the story, from generation to generation we grow and move forward sharing God's light and living into God's promises.

Each Sunday of Advent we will celebrate a new aspect of the story:
November 27: HOPE There's Room for Every Story

December 4: PEACE God Meets Us in Our Fear

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion together.

December 11: JOY We Can Choose a Better Way

The Handbell Choir will offer special music and we will decorate our sanctuary Christmas tree during worship

December 18: LOVE We See God in Each Other

The Handbell Choir will once again share special music with us during worship.

The Blue Christmas Service is at 1:30 P.M. (Continued on page 2)

December 24 Christmas Eve: We hope you will join us on Christmas Eve for one or both of the services we will offer:

2:00 P.M. Candlelight and Communion

5:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols

December 25 Christmas Day: Christmas falls on Sunday this year. We will gather at our usual time at 10:00 A.M. in the sanctuary for a 'Cozy Christmas' gathering and share prayers, Christmas memories, our favorite Christmas hymns, and of course cookies and cocoa. Wear your coziest outfits (warm sweats, Christmas jammies, etc.) and join us for this warm and cozy time together.

January 1 New Year's Day! Brunch Church gathering during our 10:00 A.M. service in Fellowship Hall.

I hope that this season of Advent is time of hope, peace, joy, and love for you all. I am thankful to be part of the continuing story of God's promises with you all.

Happy Advent,

Pastor Santina

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational love and sympathy is extended to Dick and Phebe Head upon the death of their son, Rory Ramsey. Rory passed away on November 24. Our love and prayers are lifted for Phebe and Dick and their whole family in this time of loss. Rory's funeral service was held at Rafferty Funeral Home on Tuesday, November 29 at 10:00 A.M.

Happy Birthday



02 Joanne Bowman
03 Kimberly Beug
11 Lewis Poor
11 Dakota Beug
14 Parker Lewis
20 David Birdsell
27 JoAnn Olson
29 Karla Hawotte

December Scripture

December 4	Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 1:26-38
December 11	Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 1: 18-25
December 18	Isaiah 7:10-16 Luke 1: 46-55 Luke 1:39-45, 56-58
December 25	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2: 1-20

Advent Angel Tree at Hope UCC

This year Hope UCC's Mission and Outreach Ministry has partnered with Rock Island Academy to bring Christmas hope, love, peace, and joy to their teachers and students by filling the teacher classroom wish lists. We will also have the most needed items for World Relief on the Angel Tree as they continue to welcome newly arrived immigrants and refugees to the Quad Cities. The Angel Tree is located in Fellowship Hall. Please take a tag and attach it to the gift when you return it to church. Presents do not have to be wrapped, but please remember to attach that tag. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Angel Tree, be assured it will be used to purchase items on the tree. If you make a monetary donation, please write "Angel Tree" on the envelope or memo line of the check. Gifts should be returned to Hope UCC by January 1. Thank you for supporting this special outreach ministry.





**QUAD CITIES
FLUTES UNLIMITED**
HOLIDAY CONCERT
DECEMBER 5, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.
HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Come enjoy the wonderful songs of the holiday
season at this free concert.*
3324 41st Street in Moline
www.hopeuccqc.org

Stewardship Update

As of Tuesday, 29 November, members and friends of Hope UCC have pledged \$99,760 towards our Stewardship goal of \$121,124.00. A joyful and heartfelt thank you for supporting Hope UCC's mission!

If you have yet to submit your pledge feel free to do so. You may drop your pledge off at the office or place it in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday.

You can still support Hope UCC's mission even if you are uncomfortable pledging or are unable to do so for any reason. You can either let the office know that you will be contributing the same amount, less, or more than last year, or, if you prefer, place a note in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday.

Thank you again for your support of Hope UCC's mission. Because of you Hope UCC is able to do the work God calls us into!

With love,
Bob Tallitsch, Treasurer

Blue Christmas
A service of remembrance and hope
Hope UCC
Sunday, December 18, 2022
1:30 P.M.

A quiet, reflective service for those feeling grief, sadness, loss, or pain, or who are simply seeking a time of stillness in this Advent season.

Blue Christmas Service December 18 at 1:30 P.M.

In the midst of this season where we see 'JOY' almost everywhere we look, what do we do with the grief and loss we carry? It can be challenging to face the joy and happy chaos of the Christmas season when we feel grief, sadness, anxiety, or pain. Our 'Blue Christmas' service at Hope UCC is a space to claim those feelings and find hope in the compassionate love of God. All are invited to join in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture and music that acknowledges that God's presence is there for those who mourn, for those who struggle and that God's word comes to shine light into the darkness.


**CHRISTMAS EVE
HOPE UCC**

2:00 P.M. Communion & Candles
5:00 P.M. Lessons & Carols

Join us at Hope UCC for one or both of our all-ages Christmas Eve services.
www.hopeuccqc.org



**December 25
Christmas Day at Hope UCC
Cozy Christmas**



We will gather at 10:00 A.M. in the sanctuary for a cozy time together sharing prayers, Christmas memories, our favorite Christmas hymns, and of course cookies and cocoa. Wear your coziest outfits (warm sweats, Christmas jammies, etc.) and join us for this warm and cozy time together.

Bring cookies to share! Coffee and hot cocoa will be ready for you.

happy new year!

BRUNCH CHURCH WORSHIP
AT HOPE UCC!
JANUARY 1, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST AS WE WELCOME 2023
WITH A BRUNCH CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE! WE WILL GATHER
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR WORSHIP TOGETHER DURING WHICH
WE WILL ENJOY BRUNCH.

THIS WILL BE A POTLUCK SO BRING YOUR FAVORITE
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, OR BRUNCH DISH TO SHARE.

December 4: No Youth Group

December 11: Youth Group Christmas Party 3-4:15: gift exchange

December 18: Youth Group Meets: Christmas service project

December 25: No Youth Group

January 1: No Youth Group

