



Hope UCC Weekly Update: October 24, 2021

There is always something happening at Hope UCC, so we thought we would add a weekly announcement feature to the bulletin that is mailed and emailed out to everyone. This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and beyond.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Fellowship has been suspended. Due to concerns of COVID, participation has been very low. So until further notice, there will be no Men's Breakfast Fellowship at this time. Any questions or concerns, please call Dan Hawotte.

Trunk or Treat October 23: Join Us on Noah's Ark!

Our Mission and Outreach Ministry has registered our church for the City of Moline Parks & Recreation's annual Trunk or Treat event. Join us at the Green Valley Softball Complex from 3:00-5:00 P.M. to pass out candy, meet and engage with our neighbors from all around the community, and enjoy the afternoon together. Our theme is Noah's Ark, so you can dress up as Noah, his family, or any of the animals. Would you like to help but cannot make it to the event? We would be thankful for any donations of Halloween treats – specifically individual bags of animal crackers or other individual bags of animal themed candies/treats (gummy bears, teddy grahams, etc) you'd like to offer. Please bring any Halloween treat donations to the church office during the week or to Fellowship Hall on the Sundays before October 23rd. Please see any of the members of M&O for more information or to sign up to help on the 23rd: Kathy Hobson, Jenny Hookey, Barb Hawotte, Donna Werner, and Lisa & Brian Williams.

Be the Church: Enjoy This Life Worship on October 31

We will conclude our worship series, 'Be the Church,' as we explore what it means to 'Enjoy this Life.' What a great coincidence that it falls on October 31st! We will enjoy life together in a fun way during worship on October 31st. We invite you to come dressed in costume as your favorite Bible character, event, or item, or as your favorite religious figure/character. Yes, this is for all ages! ☺ Get creative – enjoy the fun of thinking about and creating your costume. Our Worship and Music Ministry team will host a baked potato lunch following worship. Your free will offering will be used to support the Blessing Box ministry.

Celebrate Our Saints

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 7th this year. We will honor the memory of the saints in our lives during worship by adding to our 'Circle of Saints' wreath. The Circle of Saints holds ribbons with the names of beloved people in our lives who have died. Each year we add to the circle as we honor their memories. You can repeat the name(s) you included last year as well as adding any new names this year. Ribbons will be available beginning October 17 and we invite you to take one (or many) and write the names of the people in your lives whose memories you wish to honor. We are happy to mail them to you as well. Simply call or email the church office and let us know how many you would like. Please return the ribbons to church before or on the morning of November 7th, and they will be attached to the circle. Ribbons will be available at church during the weeks leading up to November 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Santina or Pam in the church office.



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
 Worship Bulletin October 24, 2021
 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
 "Love God"

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
 you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

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.

***Those who are able, please stand**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We are God's church:

We come together to worship.

God has given us God's Word:

We come together to learn from God.

God has filled us with God's love:

We go out to share God's love with others.

God calls us into God's family:

We come together to share our lives.

God has put God's words on our lips:

We go out to tell the world about God.

God has given us God's Spirit:

We come together to celebrate and live the Good News.

We are God's church:

We come together to worship. We come together to be the church.

***OPENING HYMN #247 *My Shepherd Is the Living God* (see end of bulletin)**

***INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

Creator God, Embodiment of Love, we focus on praising you this morning. We dwell in your presence with joy. Encircle us with inspiration to embrace unconditional love in your world. May your Spirit lead us in new directions to love you in new ways. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we hold onto biases and bigotries which divide us further from you and our neighbor. For this, we are genuinely sorry. Starting today, may our love for you inspire us to love our neighbors. May our relationship with you urge us to have greater respect and love ourselves also. Help us to know that we are all connected to all of creation by your love. 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 using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

SPECIAL MUSIC *All Good Gifts* - Swartz

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 4:4-13

⁴Rejoice[£] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.[£] ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved,[£] whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about[£] these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoice[£] in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it.[£] ¹¹Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. ¹²I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

SERMON "Be the Church: Love God"

SERMON HYMN *Christ Be Our Light* (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In our love and respect for you, God, we work to love our neighbors. One way that we attempt to achieve this is by sharing our time, talent and treasures. Let us come together today to share what we have to build your kin-dom.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, in a spirit of appreciation, we dedicate the gifts of time, talent and treasure to you. Through our contributions, we look to growing in our relationship with you and our neighbor. Give us the courage to use these gifts to build your kin-dom. Amen.

CLOSING RITUAL

Leader: Holy One, remind us that the cords of our being are formed from many single strands: Family, neighborhoods, school, work. Each strand by itself possess certain strengths, but bound together they become a stronger part of the whole cord.

People: Open our memories to the many strands that make up our individual cords.

Silence

Leader: Holy One, sometimes these cords are frayed and tested. Our divisions along race, class, and gender test and pull at the bonds we have formed.

People: Open our memories to times in which we have been tested.

Silence

Leader: Holy One, we long for healing and restoration, which you alone can provide.

People: Open our hearts and spirits to the need for healing and restoration in our broken relationships.

Silence

Leader: Holy One, make room in our hearts for the entrance of others yet unknown to us. Help us to befriend them.

People: Open our spirits to welcome the stranger who will become beloved friends. Empower us to be willing to risk friendship for Jesus' sake. Amen.

We will form a large circle around the worship space. Each person ties their cord to the cords of the people beside them as we sing the refrain only of Bind Us Together.

Refrain Bind us to-gether, Lord, bind us to-gether with cords that

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to-gether, Lord,

bind us to-gether, Lord, bind us to-gether in love.

Unison Prayer:

From the very beginning, You desired community for us, your people. You set us apart, Holy One, to be mirrors of your love. Help us to be models of your love and compassion as we are in community with others. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.

Southern Harmony, 1835

Harm. Erik Routley, 1976

Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.