



Hope UCC Weekly Update: March 19, 2023

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.

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational love and sympathy is extended to Jodi and Bob Church. Jodi's father, Luther Boyette, passed away peacefully on March 12. Bob's brother, Bill Church, passed away March 9. Our love and prayers for peace and comfort are lifted for Jodi and Bob and their families in this time of loss.

Today's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering



It's time to share! The United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering involves us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, we are part of the immediate response and long-term recovery. In last week's bulletin we provided special OGHS offering envelopes; there are also a few left on the Welcome Table in the hallway. We ask that they be returned this week. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Ruth Circle Afternoon Meeting at 1:00pm on Monday, March 20th

A quick reminder that Ruth Circle is meeting tomorrow afternoon, Monday, March 20th at 1:00pm. Enjoy the fellowship!

Hope UCC's Lenten Taizé Prayer Service Wednesday, March 22nd

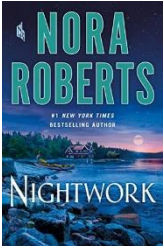
Please join us this Wednesday, March 22, for a light dinner and/or our Lenten Taizé Prayer Service. A light dinner will be served at 5:30pm and the Taizé Prayer Service will begin at 6:00pm. We will continue these Wednesday evening services through Holy Week.

Lent at Hope UCC - A Lenten Prayer Journey

Please continue to join us at Hope UCC throughout Lent for any or all of these worship opportunities:

- Wednesday, March 22, 29 & April 5
 - Light Dinner and Taizé Prayer Service
 - Dinner 5:30-6:00pm and the service begins at 6:00pm.
 - A Taizé service is a meditative prayer service that combines elements of traditional liturgy (reading scripture & prayers) with elements of contemplative meditation and simple music chants. The result is a gradual movement of prayer from our heads to our hearts. Not sure about this? Come and give it a try! It's Lent – let yourself be open to new faith development opportunities.
- Palm Sunday April 2
- Maundy Thursday April 6 (service time & location will be announced)
- Good Friday April 7 (service time & location will be announced)
- Saturday April 8, 10:00am-12:00pm, Community Easter Story Book Walk at Hope UCC
- Sunday April 9, Easter Sunday!
 - 6:00am Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden
 - 10:00am Festival Worship

Hope UCC Book Club, Monday, March 27th



On Monday, March 27 at 6:00pm, our Hope UCC Book Club will be meeting at the Moline Public Library to discuss Nightwork by Nora Roberts. The latest romantic suspense novel from bestseller Roberts (*Legacy*) is a master class in the slow burn, blending heartrending emotion and thrills to deeply satisfying effect. The story delivers all the hallmarks that make Roberts so beloved: charming characters, alluring settings, unconventional chosen families, heartfelt romance, and riveting action.



Blessing Box

Volunteers Needed:

Are you able to help keep the Blessing Box filled?

Volunteers needed for the quick job of keeping the BB stocked. Sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for Easter Story Walk Event

Looking for a way to help extend Hope UCC's community outreach? Consider helping with the Easter Story Walk we will offer on Saturday, April 8 (the day before Easter!). What is a Story Walk? It is intergenerational event inviting people to journey through storytelling stations to read "Twas the Morning of Easter" with Easter goodies at the end. The pages of this story book are reproduced on a series of yard signs that will be placed around the green space in our rear parking lot. Children and adults will walk through each station reading the story as they exercise their bodies, minds, and spirits as they explore the meaning of Easter. There are many ways to help:

- ♥ Donate Easter candy for filling eggs
- ♥ Fill eggs with candy
- ♥ Fill treat bags
- ♥ Help make the story page yard signs
- ♥ Help set up morning of event
- ♥ Help with publicity
- ♥ Be here at Hope UCC during the event (9:30am-12:00pm) to welcome visitors and pass out Easter treats

Please let Pastor Santina or anyone on our Mission and Outreach Ministry know how you would like to help. M&O members are Kathy Hobson, Sue Grchan, Kathy Negaard, Carole Keenan, and Ginny Anderson. Thank you!

Easter Lilies

You are cordially invited to purchase an Easter Lily in memory or honor of a beloved family member or friend. Lilies are \$12 and can be taken home following worship on Easter Sunday.

Please order your Easter Lilies by Sunday, April 2.

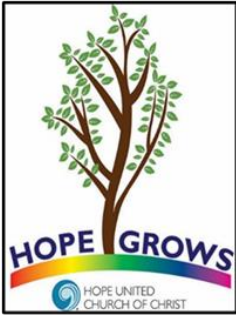
(If you are writing a check, please make it out to Hope UCC and put Easter Lily in the memo.)

COST: \$12 each. QUANTITY: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: _____

(please circle one)



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin March 19, 2023**

*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!*



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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE LIGHTING MEDITATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God summons us to wake up and see. Light has come to lead us to all that is good.

Many: Our eyes have been opened to God's goodness. We seek to live as children of light.

One: God sees beyond our outward appearance. God knows the intent of our hearts.

Many: We are here to find out what is pleasing to God. We want to know what is right and true.

One: God listens to all who worship sincerely. Praise God with openness and obedience.

Many: We seek to know and follow God's will. This is a day to do the works of God.

***OPENING HYMN**

#12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God (see end of bulletin)

***INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

Holy God, we sense your involvement in our lives. Like a shepherd, you watch over us and provide abundantly beyond our needs. You lead us in right paths when we are tempted to go astray. You refresh us with living water that overflows with your generosity. Let your light shine on us now to reveal truth we have not seen and open our eyes to possibilities we may not have realized. May we be receptive to learn from you and from one another. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great Shepherd, we thank you for finding us and bringing us to this time of prayer. We have wandered far from the paths of integrity, justice, and peace that you have set before us. We are ashamed of some things we do when we think no one will find out. We are quick to judge others and to excuse ourselves. We want to decide who is acceptable to you and who is not. Surely, we persuade ourselves, you prefer people like us and not those who appear, believe, or act differently. Even as we say those words, we know we are not in tune with your way. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. 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.)*

BELL ANTHEM *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* (trad folk hymn) arr. Jason W. Krug

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.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23 (Sung Responsively)

♩=50

REFRAIN

F G Am Am/G F

The Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth - ing I shall

4 G^{SUS} G F G

want. The Lord is my

6 Am Am/G F G^{SUS} G Fine

shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-41

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

SERMON

What Prayer Reveals

SERMON HYMN #247 *My Shepherd Is a Living God* (see end of bulletin)

PRAYER PRACTICE

Lectio Divina

INVITATION TO OFFERING

God has given us all that is good and right and true. What a joy to share these gifts with one another in the life of this community and far beyond our own reach. In this offering, we return to God with eager response to all we have received.

Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, as you illuminate our lives with fascinating insights and possibilities, we reach out to share your love through our tithes and offerings and our investments of time and energy in tasks to which you call us. All this we offer now for your blessing, for apart from you, the light goes out of our lives and we slip into meaningless existence. Let us, rather, dwell with you and serve you wherever we go. Amen.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHING MEDITATION

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain caused by the lack of basic needs — lack of food, of shelter, of education, of healthcare, of love. Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise — that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

BENEDICTION

One: God has drawn us out of the shadows of shame. In the brightness of God's life, we are transformed.

Many: We see much that we had not seen before. We have glimpsed others from God's point of view.

One: God has challenged the way we label others. We are invited to learn from them, not judge them.

Many: Not all disciples of Jesus are like us. Yet all of us are welcomed by God.

One: God will lead us daily by still waters. We will be guided along the right paths.

Many: God restores our souls and keeps us from evil. We can count on God's goodness and mercy. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Used by permission: One License # A-733028

Used by Permission. CCLI License #11387335



WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA?

Lectio Divina – divine reading - is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It dates back to the early Christian Church and was established as a monastic practice by St. Benedict in the 6th century. It is a way of praying with scripture that leads us deeper into God’s word. We slow down. We read a short passage more than once. We hold it and contemplate it slowly and carefully. We notice things about it and scripture begins to speak to us in a new, more personal way. Lectio Divina is different than a Bible study. Through this prayer

practice, Scripture becomes a meeting place for a personal encounter with the Living God. It is about formation rather than instruction. Lectio Divina utilizes readings of the same short Bible passage, pausing after each for a time of reflection. Ideally, one will spend 20 – 30 minutes with this prayer practice.

STEPS OF LECTIO DIVINA

1. *Lectio* Read: The first reading is an opportunity to get to know the Scripture passage. Listen carefully and notice any words or phrases that seem to jump out to you.

2. *Meditatio* Reflect: The second reading of the same passage focuses further on what you noticed in the first reading. You can simply re-read a few verses in order to reflect carefully on where God is nudging you. Ask yourself, what word, phrase, or image is standing out to me? What is ‘sparkling’ for me in this text? Let that be your focus, meditating on what might God be trying to show you through what stands out. Try not to slip into “study mode” – just listen and notice what God is doing through this text.

3. *Oratio* Respond: After the second (or third) reading, it’s time to respond. You can journal your response with words or an illustration. Ask God to show you what God wants you to take from it. This could lead you to offer thanks, ask forgiveness, or simply talk with God about what the passage brought to your heart, giving you an opportunity for a conversation with God.

4. *Contemplatio* Rest: After the final reading, spend around 10 minutes in silent contemplation. Be aware of God’s presence with you. Listen for God’s voice. This isn’t a time of prayer or meditation — just sit quietly and allow God to work. If your mind starts to wander and dart here and there, bring it gently back to stillness again.

GOD

12

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played, wher - e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The tune Ellacombe was named for a place in Devonshire, England. It was first published in a collection of tunes used in the private chapel of the Duke of Württemberg, and was possibly sung with the text "Ave Maria, klärer."

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen
 Württembergischen katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784
Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars, o - bey.
If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.

The image shows a musical score for three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef with chords and some melodic lines. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with chords. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.' followed by a bridge: 'The moon shines full at God's com - mand, and all the stars, o - bey. If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky! Wher - ev - er peo - ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres - ent there.'

EASTER SEASON

247

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^e me^e 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.)