



Hopeful Connections

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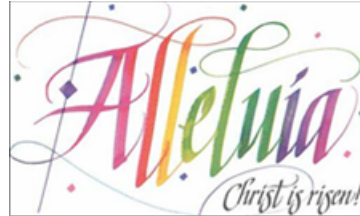
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Easter Blessings

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! I am so looking forward to sharing this Easter greeting with you this year! We need Easter now more than ever - we need its message of hope found in Christ's resurrection. Death and brokenness, hate and despair- these will not be the final words.

Renewal, new life, and love will reign. The words to our hymn Because You Live O Christ feel very true and real this year more than ever: "Because you live o Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower, the shadows of the tomb are flooded with your resurrection power." After missing see you all in person for over a year, the possibility of regathering in person for Easter Sunday fills me with a whole new appreciation for all that resurrection means. Alleluia!!

Easter in 2021 will be the start of a new normal. It will be an Easter celebrating the promise. We have been on this pilgrimage to the promise during Lent and really for the past year. Each step we take reminds us that we are an Easter People. Last Easter was one, where in the midst of pandemic, we found courage and hope from our faith in Christ in a time of discouragement, fear, and uncertainty. This Easter, we not only believe in the Resurrection, we are experiencing it.

This year, we will continue to livestream our services and we will also have in person worship opportunities as well. All in person experiences will require participants to follow all Covid safety guidelines in order to faithfully care for one another. If you're not comfortable returning to in-person worship quite yet, we understand. You can join any service during Easter and Holy Week and all Sundays following by using our regular Facebook Live option or watching on our YouTube channel. We hope you will join us for the services on Easter and the Holy Week leading up to it and that you will share Hope UCC's information and worship opportunities with your friends!

This last year has been a time of learning, loss, and challenge but God is still speaking through it all and offering words of hope and love for us. We still have a long road to recovery ahead and we will never forget all that we have lost this past year. Grief in the midst of Easter joy is very real and in the weeks and months ahead we will continue the journey by holding and honoring that grief and comforting each other in these deep losses even as we begin to rebuild and renew and recreate something new.

Who will you share the Good News of Easter with? As we continue to live into the promise of Easter, I pray you will know God's renewing and transformative love in your lives and that it spreads through you to a world that so desperately needs it.

Easter love and blessings to you all!

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santina


April Scripture

| | |
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| April 4 | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 John 20:1-18 |
| April 11 | Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31 |
| April 18 | Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48 |
| April 25 | Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18 |

Happy Birthday to You (musical notation border)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

- 01 Caridad Ramos
- 02 Janet Varga
- 02 Charley Poor
- 04 Duane Goderis
- 05 MJ Poor
- 24 Barbara Babcock
- 28 Suzanne Cutler
- 28 Rebecca Morse



Thank You

Thank you for the support, love and prayers you have given to our family in remembrance of Jerry. May God bless you.

Judy Piper and Family



Congregational Sympathy

Congregational love and sympathy is extended to Denny Black upon the death of his mother, Lola Sinn. Lola passed away peacefully on March 29. Our love and prayers are lifted for Denny and Laura and their family in this time of loss.



Pastor Santina on Vacation

Pastor Santina will take a few days away following Easter from April 5-10. Rev. Mariah Marlin-Warfield will be available for any pastoral care emergencies. In the event this is needed, please contact Pam in the church office, Kathleen Lemaster, or Grady Birdsell and they will connect you with Pastor Mariah. Thank you!



Holy Week at Hope UCC

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 1)

We gather at Ben Butterworth Park East Pavilion for a time of reflection, song, and Holy Communion at our Tenebrae Service. Please bring your own chairs. If you would like to bring a picnic dinner, please come at 5:00. If you choose not to come early with your dinner, please arrive by 6:00 in order to participate in Holy Communion. Please dress warmly! Blankets are encouraged! Sunset is at 7:38 P.M. and we plan to be finished before evening darkness settles in. Covid safety guidelines will be in place.

GOOD FRIDAY (April 2nd)

Contemplate-Pray-Remember

Spend some time in quiet contemplative prayer and reflection with self-guided Stations of the Cross in the sanctuary and a labyrinth walk in Fellowship Hall. Reservations will be required in order to ensure safe social distancing requirements are maintained. Spaces are available from 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Please call or email the church office to reserve a space or if you have any questions.

EASTER SUNDAY (April 4)

6:30 A.M. Sunrise Service: Join us in the Memorial Garden for a special time to celebrate Christ's resurrection as we watch the sun come up! Dress warmly! Holy Communion will be celebrated: we will have individual communion elements available but you are welcome to bring your own if you are more comfortable doing so.

10:00 A.M. Celebration Service: Our festival service celebrating Christ's resurrection will take place in our sanctuary and will be livestreamed as we regather in person for this service. Following safety guidelines, the maximum number of in person attendees is limited to 50 so reservations will be required. Please email or call the church office to reserve your spot.



Youth Group News for April

Youth Group meets from 3:00-4:30 Sunday afternoons, unless otherwise noted for special events. In order to faithfully and safely gather, all activities require properly worn masks and social distancing guidelines are enforced. Please stay home if you do not feel well or think you have/have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for Corona Virus. Thank you for complying with the safety guidelines – it is an act of caring and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

April 1: Maundy Thursday

Please plan to attend the Tenebrae service at Butterworth Park

April 2: Good Friday

Reserve a time to come in with your family and walk the labyrinth in Fellowship Hall and spend time in the Stations of the Cross in the Sanctuary.

April 4: Easter Sunday No Youth Group

April 11: When We Doubt

John 20:19-31

Praying in color

April 18: No Youth Group (sorry Pastor Santina has a Western Association Meeting)

April 25: Youth Group will meet following worship at 11:30 a.m. for an off campus adventure (Depending on Covid restrictions, closures, etc – but we will pray and hope for the BEST!!)

Planning ahead – dates TBD:

Pilgrim Park in Princeton Saturday Retreat



Hope UCC Covid Update

We have been carefully following the latest updates in positivity rates, hospitalizations, and vaccination rates. Thankfully, there has been a decrease in the positivity rates and an increase in vaccinations and their availability. What an immense relief to see this happening. After careful consideration and discussion, Hope UCC's Church Council approved the Covid Task Force's plan for regathering in person for worship. This means that worship is going to look and feel different than it did before the pandemic. Here's what you need to know:

- ♥ As long as it is safe to do so, we can have up to 50 people at a time, in the building for worship. This number includes everyone: children, adults, staff, and support staff.
- ♥ We will require weekly reservations for worship in order to ensure we have space available.
- ♥ We will continue to require proper masking (nose and mouth covered) and safe distancing for all church activities, indoors and outside.
- ♥ For safety, there is no congregational singing during worship in the sanctuary. We will enjoy the music worship gifts of our music ministry and soloists who will offer this part of worship.
- ♥ Doors will open 15 minutes before the service starts and greeters will sign you in. We are doing this to ensure we have the information we need for contact tracing purposes. There will not be any coffee or fellowship hour following worship. We hope to be able to start this once again, maybe outside, when it is safe to do so and weather permits.
- ♥ Seating in the sanctuary is spaced so there is 6 feet separating seats. We are utilizing Fellowship Hall for seating as well to ensure the maximum allowable safe number to gather.
- ♥ Church Council will evaluate how things are going with our regathering plan after the first month and will then determine other ways to gradually continue to reopen and regather in the building.
- ♥ This is very important: As we have discovered during the pandemic, plans can change very quickly! We can only continue to move forward with regathering plans if our county, state, and federal health agencies approve it. If numbers of positive cases and hospitalizations increase again, we will have to adjust accordingly, which may mean pausing our plans for in person worship again. But, fear not, we can pivot and adjust and wait patiently for the next opportunity to regather. The best way to ensure our continued ability to regather is to keep wearing your masks, get your vaccination, and encourage others to do so.

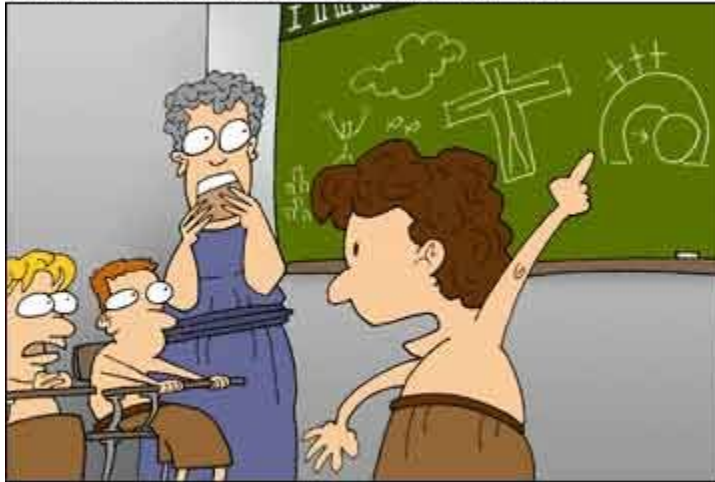
Thank you for your faithful care for yourselves and others during this pandemic. We thank our Covid Task Force and our Church Council for their loving stewardship of this process. We will continue to keep you updated on changes and information.

50th Anniversary

50th Anniversary Celebration

There will be an open house celebration April 3rd at 4 p.m. in honor of Ed & Sherry VanWychen's 50th wedding anniversary. The open house will take place at Bethany Baptist Church, 700 35th Avenue Place, Moline. All are welcome.

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Thanks to Rowena

01-24-2006

JESUS BLOWS SOME MINDS ON "WHAT I WANT
TO BE WHEN I GROW UP" DAY