



HOPE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Hopeful Connections

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Rebuilding and Renewing

Throughout the month of July and beginning of August, Paul's letter to the Romans has been the focus text for our worship together. Paul's words of encouragement and hope – the Good News for this faith community experiencing difficulty – feel so very relevant today during this time of uncertainty. Each Sunday we have attempted to piece back together a broken pot. The reconstruction of this pottery reminds us that God continues to restore us in the midst of our brokenness. Brokenness comes in many shapes and forms – this pandemic has made us

more aware of systems that were broken long before we ever heard the name "Covid-19." Mental health issues, inequality, poverty, lack of access to adequate and affordable healthcare, overburdened and underfunded school systems, systematic and institutionalized racism, and unemployment and underemployment are just a few of the concerns that weigh upon all of us during this unprecedented time in our history. With over 150,000 deaths since March in the United States alone, how do we find hope? How do we find resurrection? We remember the words Jesus said when asked to tell the greatest commandment: *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* (Matthew 22:37-39) As we love God we find that love revealed through the way we work for justice and equality and in our care for others.

Rev. Cameron Trimble recently offered this meditation in the Convergence Newsletter, Piloting Faith:

The center is not holding. All that we trusted - institutions, leaders, corporations, multinational agreements, democracy, capitalism - it's all falling apart. When the center does not hold, we instinctively turn to the Center that always holds. We seek God, the One that was, is, and will always be. But we come with new questions because we know that the institutions of faith that got us to this point cannot take us forward. So we seek the Sacred anew. Some of us were made for this moment. You have been waiting for the center to fall apart so that the margins could finally be seen. You sense the way forward. You speak of new worlds. You lead with vision; you never lead with fear. Listen for the new visions emerging around you. The center is not holding, and the Center always holds. We can trust in the "falling apart" because we can trust the Source that rebuilds.

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©Kintsugi by Myriam Greff

I appreciate Rev. Trimble's reminder of moving past the fear and noise that distracts us and to trust God, our Creator and source of all hope. As I prepared this series on Romans, I used Kintsugi as my inspiration. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. What is created from broken pieces is a work of art – the brokenness actually transforms the pottery into something new and beautiful. The pottery is different than it looked before, and is reborn as new work of creative art. What is God creating anew within each of us, within this faith community? How is Hope Growing now and in the days, months, and years ahead?

The answers to these questions will continue to be revealed as we experience transformation and growth. I have faith that God is with us and God's Spirit is guiding us through it all. I am so thankful to be on this journey with you all. Hope Grows!



Hello from Jim and Peggy Clemmons!

Jim and Peggy wanted to make sure to let everyone know they are doing well and miss seeing everyone. They enjoyed receiving their May Day basket and wanted to let us know the flowers are growing beautifully and are well protected in their front yard by these happy gnomes!

It is great to see pictures like this from you all! Thank you, Jim and Peggy - We miss you seeing you guys too. Stay safe and well. Hope grows!



Masks Needed – How You Can Help!

Members of the Moline Coal Valley School Board are hosting a Mask Drive for our students, teachers, and staff for the upcoming school year. Donations of masks (homemade or purchased) can be dropped off by August 18th at Allendale Administration Office, 1619 – 11th Avenue. Monday-Friday 8 am – 4 pm, and at Moline High School: Monday – Friday 8 am – 3 pm.

Not sure how to make a mask? Check out this YouTube tutorial and learn how to make one: <https://bit.ly/31ZWWho>

You can also use a pattern you are already comfortable with to make your donated masks. The School Board thanks you for your support!

August Scripture

Aug. 2	Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21
Aug. 9	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33
Aug. 16	Genesis 45:1-15 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Aug. 23	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
Aug. 30	Exodus 3:1-15 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28
Sept. 6	Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew:15-20

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

02 Candy Herbst
05 Katelyn Birdsell
05 Larry Ohrberg
08 Karie Bowman
16 Cliff Findlay
16 James Grafton
18 Debbie Rottman



Back to School Drive-In Blessings at Hope UCC

'Back to School' feels very different this year for school faculty and staff, parents and guardians, and students. Teachers, staff, and administrators are working hard to plan for a safe, healthy, and academically challenging school year. Parents and guardians are figuring out schedules and working to ensure their children have the technology, support, space, and love they need to succeed. And students, young and old, yearn to thrive and learn and return, safely, to their classrooms to grow together with their friends and peers in this new academic year. Perhaps you are feeling all these concerns for others even though you yourself are not in school or associated with a school. All of these factors add up to a sense of worry, loss, and uncertainty.

Hope UCC would like to offer you a blessing and a prayer for peace, health, safety, wisdom, and loving strength as you all discern how the new guidelines and safety measures will impact you and your families and friends. Whether you are attending class or teaching or working at a school in person or remotely, we hope you will drive up and allow us the great privilege of praying for you during this time of uncertainty and stress.

We will be set up at the entrance to our driveway; simply drive in, roll down your window, and receive these prayers. We will follow health and safety guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. We will be outside August 3, 10, and 17 from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m.

We hope you will come by for a prayer and extend the invitation to anyone you know that might feel the need for a prayer and blessing in their lives.



Florecente Community Clean Up

Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 9 AM – 12 PM

Interested in helping our neighbors revitalize our community? Please consider joining in this project hosted by LULAC Council 5285 and Two Rivers YMCA. Please let Pastor Santina know you would like to attend by August 10 so she can register our group. **We will wear masks and maintain social distancing safety guidelines for this outdoor event.** Wear your Hope UCC t-shirts and comfortable work clothes and sunscreen, work gloves, and a hat! If you cannot attend but would like to support the cleanup, the organizers are looking for the following donations:

- Cleaning supplies
- Yard work supplies
- Working Gloves
- Trash Bags
- Snacks
- Water/Refreshments

We will meet at the cleanup location: 335 5th Ave, Moline, IL 61265, but if you would like to caravan over, meet at Hope UCC no later than 8:15 a.m. and we will leave from there. Volunteers will be spending the day cleaning up the streets of litter, pulling weeds on the sidewalks, engaging with residents from the community, and participating in a post-discussion on issues relevant to the Floreciente area and the Quad Cities community. We hope you will consider joining us and representing our church as we care for our community. Please call or email Pastor Santina with any questions or to let her know you will attend.

Hope UCC Mid-Year Financial Report

Hope UCC's Church Council and Trustees Ministry have asked that Pam, as Bookkeeper, and I, as Treasurer, provide the congregation with a financial update halfway through the fiscal year with all income and expenses recorded. If, after reading this report, you have any questions feel free to contact me by phone (764-8507) or e-mail (roberttallitsch@augustana.edu) or Pam at the office (762-1419) and we will do our best to answer them for you.

Income: The budget, as amended at the annual meeting, called for a total income for 2020 of \$168,798.83. If we are on budget by the completion of June income should be \$84,399.42. As of June 30 all forms of income were \$60,795.52, or 36% of the amount budgeted, which is less than the projected amount to be raised by June 30.

Expenses: As outlined in the Annual Report, each Ministry of the Church has its own budget, so we have broken down expenses thus far in the fiscal year by category.

Personnel: Amount budgeted for personnel expenses was \$125,793.33. Amount expended thus far is \$41,716.56 or 33.2% of the budgeted amount. Therefore, as of June 30, personnel expenses are less than budgeted. There are at least three reasons for this:

- We have yet to find and hire a Youth Leader, so none of the \$5,408.00 budgeted for that position has been spent.
- Our organist resigned in November of 2019 and because an accompanist was not hired until June we have not spent as much on supply organist/accompanist salary payments as was budgeted.
- Hope UCC applied for, and was granted a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program loan for nonprofit organizations. The amount paid to Hope UCC was \$10,685.00. As outlined in the PPP loan guidelines, these funds are being used to pay staff salaries and utilities. The loan funds will be completely spent by the end of July, at which time Hope UCC will file the required paperwork with the lending institution. If it is determined that Hope has followed the PPP guidelines correctly, the total amount of the loan will be forgiven.

Trustees: Amount budgeted for Trustees expenses was \$33,000. Amount expended thus far is \$10,968.49 or 33.2% of the budgeted amount. Therefore, as of June 30, Trustees expenses are less than budgeted. There are several reasons for this:

- Payment of utilities through the PPP loan funds
- Significantly reduced garbage service costs due to a renegotiated contract
- Reduced snowplowing expenses thus far in 2020
- Reduced expenses for Repairs and Maintenance and Other Property Expenses line items thus far in 2020

Faith Exploration and Education Ministry: Amount budgeted for Faith Exploration and Education was \$1,600. Amount expended thus far is \$603.07 or 37.7% of the budgeted amount. Therefore Faith Exploration and Education expenses are less than budgeted.

Worship and Music Ministry: Amount budgeted for Worship and Music was \$2,950. Amount expended for the first half of the fiscal year is \$1,177.59 or 39.9% of the budgeted amount. Therefore Worship and Music Ministry expenses are less than budgeted.

Mission and Outreach Ministry: Amount budgeted for Mission and Outreach was \$5,700. Amount expended for the first half of the fiscal year is \$1,575 or 27.6% of the budgeted amount. Therefore, as of June 30, Mission and Outreach expenses are less than budgeted.

Summary of Income versus Expenses: Although income thus far in 2020 is less than was budgeted, overall operating expenses are also less than budgeted, mainly due to the CoVid-19 pandemic and the PPP loan. Therefore, as of June 30 Hope UCC's income is \$4,754.81 more than expenses, and no funds have been transferred from savings into checking.

Summary of Cash and Assets: As of June 30 Hope's cash and assets are as follows:

Checkbook balance:	\$51,599.57
Savings balance:	\$44,765.50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund:	\$1,199.74
LPL Financial Investments:	\$265,232.55
Total Cash and Assets:	\$362,797.36
Increase (decrease) in Cash and Assets from end of 2019 fiscal year:	\$110,531.16

Summary of Designated Funds:

Memorial Fund:	\$3,882.04
Faith Exploration/Youth Fund:	\$4,115.62
Mission and Outreach:	\$1,577.55
Music and Worship/Bell Choir:	\$455.36
Union Congregational Legacy Fund:	\$2,487.00
Memorial Committee:	\$19,503.48
Total Designated Funds:	\$34,767.23
Increase (decrease) in Designated Funds from end of 2019 fiscal year:	\$18,284.24

Overall Financial Summary: Financially Hope UCC remains strong and vibrant, and still capable of doing what is called of us by God. Thank you for your contributions of time, talent, and finances to Hope UCC. Feel free to contact either Pam or me if you have any questions.

Respectively submitted:

Bob Tallitsch, Treasurer
Pam Becker, Bookkeeper



Thanks to Charles Dunleavy (See 1Kings 11:1-9)

08-19-2005

SOLOMON RECONSIDERS HIS POLICIES ON WIVES AND CONCUBINES