



Hope UCC Weekly Update: December 8, 2024

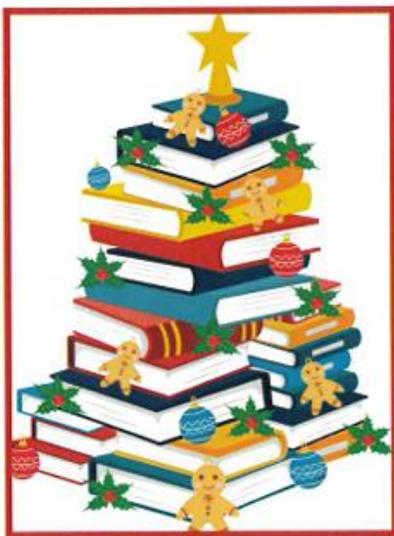
There is always something happening at Hope UCC, so we thought we would add a weekly announcement feature to the bulletin that is mailed and emailed out to everyone. This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and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

Grief Support Group December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:00 P.M.

Join us for 3 gatherings of a gentle time to remember and honor our experiences with grief.

Grief comes to us in many shapes and forms and is caused by all types of loss and hurt. If you have experienced loss and would find this time together helpful, please join us.

Please share this information and invitation with someone you know who might find comfort in a short term group like this. Please contact Pastor Santana with any questions.



Gifts of Books: A Ruth Circle Christmas Extravaganza!

December 23rd at 1:00 P.M.

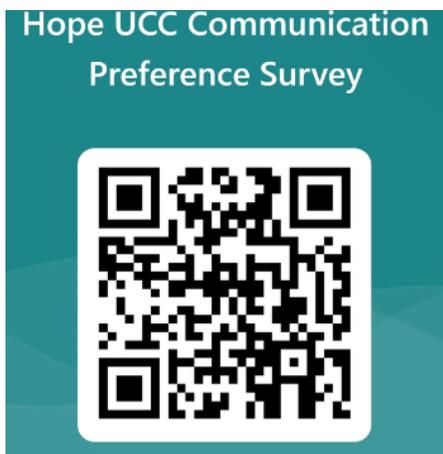
Spring Valley Community Center

Everyone is welcome to join Ruth Circle for the great Gifts of Books Christmas Extravaganza on December 23. During the Holiday Party at Spring Brook and Spring Valley Community Center, our Ruth Circle group provides a huge variety of books for readers of all ages. We could not do this without our wonderful donors of these books – thank you!. The children at the party can come and pick out books to give as gifts. They get wrapped up and the kids can then take them to the people on their gift list. Volunteers are needed to help kids pick out their books and also to get the books wrapped up in holiday paper the day of the event.

Any "Extravaganza" will need help to get ready! Your help is appreciated on Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. to set up the books. We will meet in Spring Valley's Community Room for the book set up and go for lunch when we finish. Please contact Barb Hawotte with any questions about this

Imagine Together: Hope UCC Stewardship 2025

We thank you all for your participation in our ongoing Stewardship of Hope UCC's mission. This community of faith has a long history of caring for others as we live into God's call to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This is a call that continues today and will for years to come. As we complete our financial planning for the new year, we are grateful for your commitment to support the work of your faith community, Hope UCC, through your pledge. For those who have completed and returned your pledge card, thank you! For those who are still discerning how you might support Hope UCC, we invite you to return your pledge card now. Our Church Council will be preparing our proposed budget for your vote at our Annual Meeting in January and your information is vital in our planning. We also look forward to receiving your "Sharing Our Gifts" survey sheet letting us know how you envision participating in the many ministry opportunities at Hope UCC. As we continue to Imagine Together the many ways we will serve God in this new year, we continue to thank God for each one of you. Together Hope Grows!



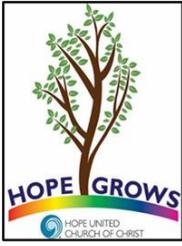
New Directory and Congregation Information Collection!

We need to update our files and information about you all! You will find a paper-based information sheet to fill out and return to the Hope UCC office OR you can scan this QR Code which will take you to an electronic version that can be filled out and automatically returned to the office. Questions? Please contact Connie in the church office. Thank you! If you have already filled in and submitted this form either electronically or on paper – thank you! You do not have to fill it in again. 😊

JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR UPDATE!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, January 20th at 1pm

BOOK CLUB will meet on Monday, January 27th at 2pm



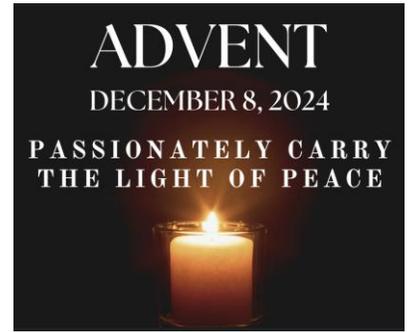
Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin December 8th, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*Because you are who you are,
 you are welcome here!*

***You may stand.**



PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness".

Many: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

One: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*HYMN: *We Light a Candle for Peace*

We will sing the Peace verse once followed by the Hope and Peace verses

We light a candle for peace and our world that's longing for peace.

We light a candle for peace and our world that's longing for peace.

Holy One, shine with the fire of our lives, oh

We light a candle for peace and our world that's longing for peace.

We light a can-dle for hope__ and our world that's long-ing for hope

We light a can-dle for hope__ and our world that's long-ing for hope

Ho - ly One,____ shine with the fire of our lives oh

We light a cand-le for hope__ and our world that's long-ing for hope

. *COMING TOGETHER AS A WORSHIP COMMUNITY

One: Listen! Listen for a messenger from God.

The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.

Many: We are here to listen for a word from God.

We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.

One: Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears.

There is a place for you in the company of seekers.

Many: We thank God for our acceptance in the church.

We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.

One: We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.

Many: We are glad God is doing great things among us.

We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.

*OPENING HYMN

NCH #115

The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore

*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

How good it is to gather where garments of sorrow and affliction are removed. Here, we are wrapped in the beauty of God's glory and welcomed to life at its fullest. Surely you restore us to our best, mighty God, and equip us for productive living. Make a difference within and among us today so we can work for a better tomorrow. Amen.

*OFFERING OUR CONFESSION AND RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

O God, we have tried to cover up our sins, yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives. You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits. We have denied our baptism and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship. The good we do is often self-serving, while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership. Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around, that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness. Amen.

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

LEARNING FROM OUR CHILDREN

PRAYING AS GOD'S PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Each of us has a unique experience with the Lord's Prayer. Please use the words you are most comfortable using as we share this prayer together. We can pray with one voice using a variety of words.

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

Malachi 3:1-4

¹“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracōnitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ²during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶And all people will see God’s salvation.”

SERMON

Passion in the Light of Peace

SERMON HYMN

NCH #101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

SHARING OUR GIFTS

What is a fitting offering that is pleasing to God? When we sense the wonder of God's majesty and realize the amazing extent of God's concern for us, we can only respond with all that we have and all we are. What we place on the altar is a small measure of our gratitude.

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.

*BLESSING OUR GIFTS

How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

NCH #609

Now is the Time Approaching

*BENEDICTION

One: Remember those messengers of the faith you have known;
rejoice and give thanks for their witness.

**Many: We, too, will prepare the way of Christ;
we will help to level the hills and valleys.**

One: Hold one another in your hearts day by day;
pray that love may rule all your relationships.

**Many: We will weep with those who weep.
We will rejoice with those who rejoice.**

One: God will be with you wherever you go;
the good work begun in you will be brought to completion.

**Many: All flesh will see the salvation of our God;
we will live in covenant with our Creator. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

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Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Caridad Ramos

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Bob Poor

Greeter: JoAnn Olson

Slide Ministry: Lindsey Svetlick

Fellowship Hour: The Newton, Demarest & Beug families

Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
Bob Poor, Bek Svetlick

HOPE UCC COMMUNICATION PREFERENCE SURVEY

Please help us get an all inclusive look at the preferences for communication within Hope UCC.

Please complete the information and return to the church office: drop off, mail in, or scan and email to office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com

PERSONAL INFORMATION

We will ask for information for additional family members living at this address later in this form.

Name _____
 Birthdate _____
 Phone Number (Circle one: Mobile or Land Line): _____
 Email address: _____
 Home Address: _____

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

We will address communication preferences for several types of church notifications for quick and inclusive notification. (These definitions will be used for all communication preference sections.)

Definitions:

Automated: Looking at opportunity for an automated mass communication platform that could notify the congregation in multiple methods quickly.

Text message: - either personal or automated (mass) text to cell phone

Phone Call - Personal: A representative of the Church will make individual calls to the preferred phone number (traditional method used at Hope)

Phone Call - Automated: This would be a call initiated through an automated mass communication platform

News Letter: Current News Letter

Email: Sent to your personal email address from a Church representative

Snail Mail: Notification sent via USPS to your address

Preferred method for General Church Business Communication: Please circle top choice

Text Message

Phone Call - personal

Phone Call - automated (if it were available)

News Letter

Email

Snail Mail

Other:

Preferred method for Prayer Chain Communication: Please circle top choice

Text Message

Phone Call -personal

Phone Call -automated

News Letter

Email

Snail Mail

Other:

Preferred method for LAST MINUTE Change to service or program (ie. service canceled due to weather)

Text Message

Phone Call - personal

Phone Call -automated

Email

Other:

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

HOPE COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY CONTINUED

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER(S) LIVING AT THIS ADDRESS (or children attending with you)

Please complete for every additional member

Additional Member at This Address:

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Additional Member at This Address:

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Additional Member at This Address:

Name: _____

Birthdate: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

May we include your contact information in the church directory?

Please circle and answer accordingly:

Yes – all is fine to include

Yes, but only the following information: _____

No, but you may keep my info on file for office use only.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We will compile the information and make plans moving forward.

Please complete the information and return to the church office: drop off, mail in, or scan and email to office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com