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MEMO FROM PASTOR MICHAEL



This cross-stitch is from the 18th century and presents an important theme in American history. Vines and fig trees are a Biblical image. For example, in Micah (4:3-4) we read:

And God shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid . . .

American historian, Charles Royster writes that this biblical passage was among the most popular during the Revolutionary war, and the future hope of sitting unthreatened on one's farm, one of its most compelling images.

"Under their vine and fig tree" is a phrase often quoted by George Washington. He used it in his correspondence and there it can be found fifty times. First, Americans had to accept the misery of war. Then, they would lay down their weapons, pick up the plow, and after the harvest, rest unafraid, in the enjoyment with their families of the abundance they had made.

This simple needlework speaks to a deep human desire.

Sermons

| July 7 | David Becomes King |
|---------|---------------------|
| July 14 | God in a Box? |
| July 21 | Not Now |
| July 28 | Stayed in Jerusalem |

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 2 Samuel 7:1-14a 2 Samuel 11:1-15

See you in church, Pastor Michael



Hope UCC Yard Sale Was a Success!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Hope UCC Yard Sale! Thank you for your time, donations, and energy! We are entirely blessed by such a giving and generous congregation and faith community! We were able to raise over \$1,335.00 for the church and our Youth Group raised \$100 with their bake sale. They offer great thanks to Marcella Park, baker extraordinaire, for her help and leadership with the bake sale. Thank you all so much!

We would like to lift our eternal thanks to Kathy Lewis and Linda Brown who organized the sale this year. We hope you two are resting up after this successful weekend.

Men's Fellowship Saturday, July 6 Breakfast!

The Men's Fellowship group will be meeting on Saturday, July 6, 8am, at Deerfield Family Restaurant in Silvis. Please contact Josh Powell at (309) 737-8378 to RSVP or if you have any further questions.





Please help us keep Hope UCC's kitchen refrigerator clean and organized by making sure anything you put in there has your name, intended use of the item (eg: bake sale, memorial lunch, etc), and the date you put it in there. Please let us know if you have any questions - we're grateful for your help! Thank you, Jan Varga and Judy Hawotte.



All-Church Service Trip Feed My Starving Children September 21, 2024

We will once again be going to Aurora to serve at Feed My Starving Children. This trip will take place on Saturday, September 21st. We will again have lunch at Harner's in North Aurora before we go to pack the bags. All ages over 5 are invited to this wonderful service project. Please see Barb Hawotte to sign up to go, or to get more information. Carpools will be available if you are not comfortable driving to Aurora.

August Newsletter & Bulletin Announcements Deadlines

Please submit any announcements or articles of interest for the August Newsletter to Hope UCC's office no later than Thursday, July 25th. Also, if you have announcements for the weekly Bulletin they must be received by Tuesday prior to the Sunday Bulletin. Thank You!



July Birthdays

As always, if you note any inaccuracies or missing birthdays of any friends or members, please do not hesitate to let the office know, and we will correct and update our information in an expeditious, speedy, quick, prompt, swift, and efficient manner.

| July 1 | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| July 3 | | |
| July 4 | | |
| July 5 | | |
| July 6 | | |
| en July 9 | | |
| July 11 | | |
| July 13 | | |
| July 13 | | |
| July 15 | | |
| Lisa Powell Williams July 15 | | |
| July 18 | | |
| July 19 | | |
| July 20 | | |
| July 28 | | |
| July 30 | | |
| | | |

Join Us to Prepare and Serve Dinner at Christian Care on June 30!

Hope UCC will be preparing and serving dinner at Christian Care on Sunday, June 30th. We will cook at Hope UCC and then transport dinner to Christian Care where we will serve the guests gathered there.

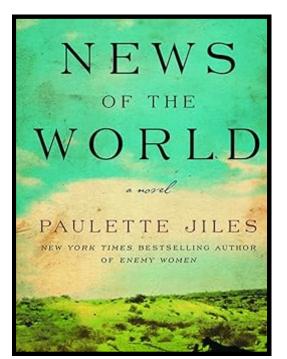
Please contact Kathy Hobson at (309) 912-4221 for more information or if you are able to help serve. Thank You!!



<u>The United Church of Christ</u> <u>Great Lakes Regional Youth Event</u> <u>July 17-20, 2024</u>

Please keep our wonderful Youth Minister, Lindsey Svetlick, and our youth in your prayers as they prepare and attend our Regional Youth Event. This is the first gathering since Covid and happily this year's event will be held at our very own Augustana College! This year's theme is *Love is Greater than Fear.*

Lindsey and 3 of our youth will be in attendance, sharing worship, fellowship, and lots of fun activities and workshops with our siblings from our Illinois Conference, as well as the Illinois South, Indiana/Kentucky, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin Conferences. This is always a great time for our youth to make new friends and discover their connections to the wider church. Thank you for supporting our kids and Lindsey in attending this gathering. We can't wait to hear about their experiences.



Hope UCC Book Club: July 22 at 6:00 P.M.

Please join us to discuss this month's selection, News of the World by Paulette Jiles. This amazing tale takes on a journey across the frontier as it explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor and trust.

We will meet in the Conference Room at Hope UCC at 6:00 p.m. Please see Dorothy Burdick with any questions.



Help Keep the Blessing Box Stocked!

Can you spare a few minutes to help our neighbors? Sign up to help restock the Blessing Box in front of Hope UCC? It doesn't take much time at all and it makes a BIG difference in the lives our friends and neighbors. Please see Julie Bustard for more information or Kathy Hobson to sign up. Thank you!!



Blessing Box Donations Needed



Can you help keep our Blessing Box filled with the items our neighbors need this summer? If you can provide any of the following items, we will use them to keep the Blessing Box stocked. Any questions? Please see Kathy Hobson! Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry. Canned meats such as tuna and chicken Cans or individual servings of fruits and vegetables Granola/Cereal Bars

Applesauce cups

Toilet paper

Cans of soup with pull top lids

Small size jars of creamy peanut butter

Boxed pasta or rice dinners

ENJOY THE SUMMER