



HOPE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Hopeful Connections

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Volume 25 Number 10

October 2019

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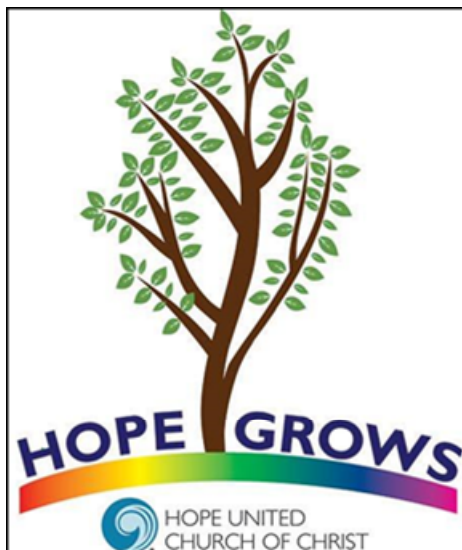
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Bob Tallitsch

Kathleen LeMaster

Sheila Goderis

*NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Hope Grows! What a wonderful proclamation! This has been a year of growth at Hope United Church of Christ. Yes, our attendance has grown, but more importantly, our spirit and faith have grown as we are more engaged in spiritual and faith formation, mission and service, and fellowship. Hope Grows – in faith, discipleship, and in Spirit! Consequently, our stewardship emphasis this year is centered on the proclamation: Hope Grows! This great news is an invitation to respond to the faithfulness and goodness of God.

Hope UCC's Trustees, ministries, and Church Council have been hard at work preparing our proposed 2020 budget. We are dreaming big this year as well as being very realistic about the costs associated with

much needed repairs for our building and property. Our stewardship materials, with the proposed balanced budget, offer us the story of our congregation and how we live out our mission as God's people. Hope UCC's Mission Plan and stewardship information, including our commitment cards, will be distributed following worship on October 13. We hope that the cards are returned by November 10 so that we will be able to plan accordingly for our Congregational Meeting in January.

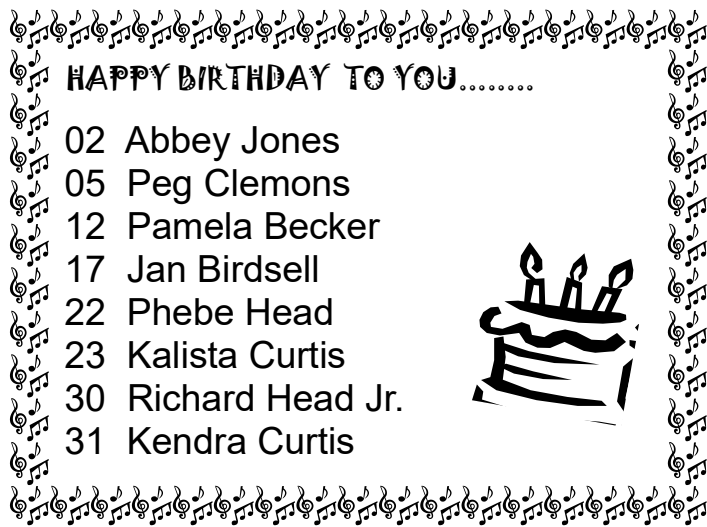
I want to thank you for being a partner in the ministry and mission of Hope UCC. Your ongoing financial contributions are making a difference in the lives of many people. You know what matters in life, and through your giving, you are sharing with others and reaching them with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In the next few weeks you will be hearing more about how we as a congregation are seeking to grow and answer God's call. As you know, that will require our investment with both our spiritual and financial gifts. I am asking that you pray about how you want to answer the challenge to grow as you consider your pledge this year.

The practice of generosity is a faith discipline. Growing in generosity is the mark of a developing faith and deeper walk with Christ. I answered the call to serve as Pastor of Hope UCC because I believe that our members and friends are committed to being genuine disciples of Christ. I love being involved and being part of a church that really matters in this community. As a congregation, we are seeking to be fed spiritually and to actively engage the world where its deepest needs meet our abilities, and with God's help, to be a difference for good. This is how Hope Grows. I am so blessed to be part of this community.

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santana

P.S. A special THANK YOU to our talented graphic artist, Brian Williams, who designed Hope UCC's new logo. Thank you, Brian for this wonderful design!



October Sunday School Schedule

Class	Oct. 6 Sunday 1	Oct. 13 Sunday 2	Oct. 20 Sunday 3	Oct. 27 Sunday 4
Lower Elementary Pre-K, K, 1	Science	Cooking	Bible Games All ages together in one class	Art
Upper Elementary Grade 2, 3, 4, 5	Cooking	Art		Science

October Scripture

Oct. 6	Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Luke 17:5-10
Oct. 13	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Luke 17:11-19
Oct. 20	Genesis 32:22-31 Luke 18:1-8
Oct. 27	Luke 18:1-8

Thank you to Nominating, Audit and Memorial Committees who served coffee hour for the month of September. Youth Group will serve for the month of October.



Fellowship Hour in October

Youth Group met in September and discussed goals for the year and issues they would like to focus on. Creation Care was listed as a #1 concern so they are putting their money where their mouths are. Ruth Circle has kindly switched months for Fellowship Hour and the youth will provide the refreshments in October. They will put out regular plates and will be responsible for washing, drying, and putting them away for the month. They feel using the disposable plates and utensils, especially Styrofoam, is bad for the environment and they would like to model what they hope becomes the norm here at Hope UCC.

Community Bible Experience

We will have our first gathering to discuss what we have read so far on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. See you in the Library!

Average church attendance
for September

71



Words cannot express enough thanks to my church family for the prayers, love, thoughts, and concerns I have received during Tim's illness and passing. What a blessing to know he is celebrating in heaven in perfect health. Love, Sheila

CROP Hunger Walk 2019

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. 25% of the money raised in the Quad Cities CROP Walk remains right here to help end food insecurity in the Quad Cities. Churches United and Humility Homes and Services are two of the beneficiaries of the CROP funds.

Although Hope UCC will not have team of walkers in this year's CROP Walk, we can still make donations supporting this very important cause. If you would like to donate, please make your check payable to Hope UCC with 'CROP Walk' in the memo line. Thank you for helping to alleviate food insecurity in the Quad Cities.

Hope Happenings

Prayer Shawl Ministry at Hope UCC

We are excited to share that Hope UCC is starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry! The purpose of this ministry is to create and share prayer shawls, which are made with loving care, much prayer, laughter, and fellowship. They are created and given to anyone who might benefit from the blessing of a warm, caring "hug." All are welcome to be part of this ministry, no matter your yarn skill level. Can't knit or crochet? Great, we'll teach you; it's easy!! There will be an informational meeting following worship on Oct. 6th. Grab your potluck lunch and we'll sit together, eat, and brainstorm about how we will get this ministry kicked off. Hope to see you then!! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Santina or Karen DeLathower.



We will receive the Neighbors in Need offering on October 6, 2019. Thank you for supporting the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.



New Hope UCC Tee Shirts!

Hot off the presses – our new church tee shirts have arrived and we are ready to take your orders! Show your Hope UCC pride and represent our wonderful church community at public events - when we are together and even when you are simply out running errands. Our shirts are a graphic way to let folks know that this faith community is helping to grow and care for God's Kingdom. We will have order forms and sample sizes available in the church office and Fellowship Hall beginning October 6. Sizes S-XL: \$12 & XXL-XXXXL: \$15



Reel Theology October 12: Yesterday

Join us to watch and discuss the wonderful film *Yesterday*. This romantic comedy tells the story of a struggling musician, who, after an accident, finds himself the only person who remembers the Beatles and becomes famous after taking credit for their songs. Families of one and families of many are welcome to join us, but the film is rated PG-13. We will begin with a potluck at 5:00 and the movie will begin at 5:30 with the discussion following the film. See you at the movies!



Youth Group News

Please remember that Youth Group is responsible for snacks, set up, and clean up for Fellowship Hour during the month of October. Please arrive at church by 9:30 to help set up and plan to stay after to help clean up (washing, drying, and putting away the plates and utensils). Please remember to bring food for the snacks each Sunday.

As discussed in our meeting in September, Youth Group will be going to "Terror at Skellington Manor" in October. We will attend this horrific haunted house on October 19. We'll meet at Hope at 6:00 and head over to Skellington Manor for the 7:00 tour. There may be long line so our return time is uncertain. Cost will be \$15, but financial aid is available- please speak to Pastor Santina. **Please RSVP to Pastor Santina NO LATER THAN October 13.**





Continuing our ONA Progress at Hope UCC: Small Group Discussions

As we begin our new program year, we also continue our journey toward becoming an official Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation of the United Church of Christ. Our ONA Committee invites you to sign up for one of the ten small group gatherings scheduled in October. These small groups will offer a space for everyone who wishes to ask questions, gather information, and discuss what it means to be an ONA congregation. Please plan to

join the conversation! Sign Up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for small group gatherings on the following dates & times:

October 7 at 9:30 a.m.

October 8 at 7 p.m.

October 10 at 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

October 13 at 11:30 a.m.

October 14 at 9:30 a.m.

October 15 at 7 p.m.

October 17 at 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

October 20 at 11:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please see any of the members of Hope UCC's ONA Committee: Jan Birdsell, Caridad Ramos, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson, Sue Grchan, Walt Lysell, Becky Newton, and Beth Carvey.

Save the Date: November 2 -Support Churches United QC at the 'Church Casserole Cook Off'!

Come taste the QC's best church casseroles and have a great time supporting Churches United! Tickets are \$15 and the price includes tasting all the entries AND a catered meal as well. There will be a silent auction and other opportunities to support this great organization. The Casserole Cook Off will be Saturday, November 2 from 4-7 p.m. at Bethel Wesley United Methodist Church. Tickets are available in the church office or please see Caridad Ramos. Thank you!

Celebrate Our Saints

All Saints Sunday is November 3. We will honor the memory of the saints in our lives during worship by adding to our 'Circle of Saints' wreath that we created last year. The Circle of Saints holds ribbons with the names of our saints, and each year we will add to the circle. You can repeat the name(s) you included last year as well as adding any new names this year. Ribbons will be available beginning October 13 and we invite you to take one (or many) and write the names of the people in your lives whose memories you wish to honor. Please return the ribbons to church before or on the morning of November 3, and they will be attached to the circle. Ribbons will be available at church on Sundays as well as in the office during the weeks leading up to November 3. If you have any questions, please see members of the Worship Ministry or Pastor Santana.

Singles & Doubles Wiener Roast **Saturday October 26th at 5:00 PM**

Singles and Doubles, which is Hope UCC'S social group for adults, will be having a wiener roast on Saturday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. All adults of the church (and friends) are welcome. Hot dogs/buns/condiments/ and fixings for smores will be furnished. Also potato chips will be provided as well as paper plates and napkins. Please bring your own drinks, chairs, and wiener forks if you have any, and if you want, you may also bring a side dish or dessert. A donation jar will be available. Please let me know if you plan to attend. This will once again be held in the back of the church in the Memorial Garden. Thanks, Barb Hawotte



Candlelight Pork Chop Dinner

Saturday, November 2nd, 2019

Hope United Church of Christ

Seatings at 5:00 & 6:30 PM

Delicious pork chops, vegetables, potatoes, salads, dessert & beverage!

Cost is \$15.00 per person

Reservations are required and may be made with Jenny Hookey 309-644-2916

Deadline for reservations is Oct. 28th.



A Note from Your Council President

As I mentioned in church on Sunday, during August two representatives from the Holy Ghost Assembly Church, Pastor Daudet Kasongo and his translator Leonie Mensah stopped by the church and asked to talk to Pastor Santana.

At that meeting Pastor Santana found out that Daudet is the pastor of Holy Ghost Assembly Church. His church is a small group that currently meets in his home, but it is too large for that space. This

church, as he and Leoni describe it, is an assembly of African immigrants who join for worship. Pastor Daudet and Leoni are Congolese, but they welcome all people to their church. Members are from Tanzania, Sudan, Togo, and Congo. Pastor Daudet speaks mostly French, and Leoni translates for him. Their services are in French, with some English translations. Pastor Daudet is looking for a church space in which their church can meet for worship. In church terminology, this is commonly known as having a 'nesting congregation.'

Pastor Santana scheduled a meeting so that Pastor Daudet and Leoni could meet with the Chair of our Trustees, Gil Norris, and myself.

Here are some issues that were discussed in our meeting with him on 8/29:

1. We made clear that this is a decision that will be made after much conversation. **As of the printing of this newsletter, it has been discussed with Trustees and the Church Council, and we will have additional meetings as necessary. Nothing is finalized yet.*
2. It is important for the Holy Ghost Assembly Church understand the inclusive theology of Hope and of the United Church of Christ — particularly as it pertains to ONA. We explained our ONA process and what will be included in our covenant. As Hope strives to be a safe, welcoming, and affirming place for LGBTQ people, it is necessary for all our partners to be aligned in a similar way – especially those using our sanctuary and facilities. Pastor Daudet and Leoni affirmed that Holy Ghost Assembly does not preach/teach a message in opposition to our ONA covenant.
3. This meeting also determined that Pastor Daudet's congregation had very little income, and that Pastor Daudet is VERY part time and bi-vocational, currently serving as this church's pastor while working at Tyson.
4. Pastor Santana talked about the possibility of their offering any small amount of money to help offset any of the building costs. We took a tour of the church campus: Sanctuary, classrooms, library, bathrooms, fellowship hall, and kitchen.
5. Pastor Santana inquired as to what their needs and hopes are, and what space(s) were they hoping to use in our building.
6. Pastor Daudet informed Pastor Santana that their services are on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. It was discussed that Holy Ghost Assembly would like to use the sanctuary from 1:00 – 3:30 on Sundays. They currently have about 10 people coming to worship and a few children. Other needs/requests include: use of the sound system (microphone, but projector only rarely); use one of the classrooms for a supervised nursery/Sunday School class; the library so Pastor Daudet could prep for worship. They do not need the Fellowship Hall or kitchen, unless it is prescheduled for a special occasion.
7. During this meeting it was discussed that Holy Ghost Assembly would, on occasion, join Hope UCC for worship.

Our next step is the development of a very clear building-use covenant. This covenant would clearly specify Hope UCC's expectations regarding building use. This covenant would be signed by both churches. Because of Holy Ghost Assembly's financial status, we would not expect any financial commitment from them. However, if and when the time comes that they have ability to do so, such a donation would be welcome. (continued...)

(A Note from Your Council President, continued.)

If this arrangement is approved by both our Trustees and Church Council, a covenant of use would be created **so that this nesting is successful for all involved**. We want Holy Ghost Assembly to be a thriving worship community, and we want Hope UCC to continue to grow and thrive as well. We want a healthy relationship with and between both congregations. It was made very clear that this is a conversation that needs to be held at multiple levels of Hope's leadership, and nothing is definite yet. Holy Ghost Assembly would like to be using our facility sometime in October, but understands if this happens later.

As Hope embraces our mission and progresses through the ONA process, we should think about the following and reflect on how these things fit into Hope's wider Mission and its walk and progress towards an ONA covenant:

- How is Hope UCC's mission enriched by sharing our space with this nesting congregation? What are ways that we might be building the Kingdom of God in this partnership?
- Offering space to a nesting congregation is a recognition that our unity in Christ is bigger than our cultural differences.
- How does offering space to this nesting congregation an opportunity to serve the community?
- Mission and ministry are foremost. Understanding this nesting relationship as mission helps us remember that it is not a means of balancing our budget or providing a source of revenue. Offering space to Holy Ghost Assembly is outreach!
- This is an opportunity for Hope UCC to get to know our neighbors in a way that we might not otherwise, with opportunities for combined potlucks (after church for us, before church for Holy Ghost Assembly), ESL classes, combined worship services on occasion, cultural exchanges, and other almost endless possibilities.

This is a lot to consider, but it is a positive and Spirit-led opportunity to discern our way through answering this question: How is God continuing to call Hope UCC into living as disciples and sharing God's light and love in our community?

Questions? Feel free to talk to myself or Pastor Santana.

September Was So Special!

What a wonderful series of worship services we experienced in September. The goal of having a vocal choir in September was to provide leadership for the congregation in singing our special music and lead they did! Thank you to everyone who participated in our choir and special thanks to our Vocal Choir Director Mary Tallitsch and her accompanists Bob Poor and Mark-Edward Prebyl, whose extraordinary talents are truly a gift to Hope UCC. To each of you in the pews - we sensed your inspired singing and thank **you** for taking this worship journey with us. – from Worship & Music Ministry ☺

Hope Book Club

We invite you to read *Her One Mistake* a novel by Heidi Perks, then join us for discussion October 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Platinum Room at the Moline Public Library.



Save the Date: Quad City Interfaith Fundraising Breakfast November 21

Watch for more info in our November newsletter!



10-30-2006

SOME COSTUME CHOICES RESULTED IN VERY
AWKWARD EVENINGS FOR MANY A GUARDIAN
ANGEL