



# HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Hopeful Connections

3324 41ST STREET  
MOLINE, IL 61265  
PHONE 762-1419 FAX 762-4119  
HOPEUCCQC.ORG  
OFFICE.HOPEUCCQC@GMAIL.COM  
PASTOR.HOPEUCCQC@GMAIL.COM

Volume 25 Number 1

January 2019

## OFFICERS:

President: Bob Tallitsch  
Vice President: Grady Birdsell  
Financial Secretary: Jo Ann Olson  
Treasurer: Paul Bowman  
Rec. Secretary: Kathleen LeMaster  
Historian/Registrar: Becky Morse

## FAITH EXPLORATION

Laura Black  
Abbey Jones  
Annette Carter

Mary Tallitsch  
Beth Carvey

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Sue Grchan  
Marcia Curtis  
Marilyn Knittle  
Mary Boquist  
Kathy Hobson

## SERVING MINISTRY

Joanne Bowman  
Dave Birdsell  
Marilyn Rada  
Bob Rada  
Dave Newton  
Ken Curtis  
Harmon Bowman

## COUNCIL AT LARGE

\*Jan Birdsell  
\*Barb Hawotte  
\*Sheila Goderis

## MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Della Findlay  
Joanne Bowman  
Darrel Parker

## AUDITING COMMITTEE

Judy Piper  
Linda Brown

## STAFF

Rev. Santana Poor, Pastor  
Pamela Becker, Secretary  
Mary Tallitsch, Handbell Director  
Mark Prebyl, Organist  
Michael DeTroye, Custodian

## PASTORAL/PERSONNEL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Bob Tallitsch  
Kathleen LeMaster  
Sheila Goderis

## \*NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## Poor Musings...

### Happy New Year!

As we enter 2019 together, I am profoundly grateful for all that has brought us here. January 8 marks my 1-year anniversary as Pastor of Hope UCC and it has been a remarkable journey. I have no doubt that Hope UCC will experience a Spirit-led and exciting 2019 in which we continue to discern and live out our call to serve God. Hope adopted a new mission statement in 2018 and it is an important reminder of why and how we live as a community of faith:

*Hope United Church of Christ is a family of faith where all are welcome. Through worship, mission and fellowship, we strive to grow spiritually and share God's love through Christ for all creation.*

How will we live into our mission in 2019? At our final Vision Council Meeting of 2018, I asked our church leadership to share their hopes and dreams for the New Year for our congregation. Their responses were varied: engage in more mission and outreach, see more growth, complete the ONA process, get more volunteers for Sunday school, see more children in Sunday school, continue to offer an authentic welcome and affirm all people, and get to know new members and friends better. We would like to hear from the congregation too. Same question: What are your hopes and dreams for 2019 at Hope UCC? There will be a large paper hung in Fellowship Hall for you to write your response (feel free to sign your name if you choose, but it's not required). Each of these responses represent a vital part of our mission, because each person at Hope UCC is a vital part of our community and our mission. Hope us not the same without you.

We will celebrate Epiphany on the first Sunday of the New Year. As we celebrate the light that was revealed through Jesus' birth, we will have an activity to help guide us through the year as we take a Star Word from the Christmas tree. Star Words will be available for everyone – young and old. Keep the star close all year and use this spiritual practice to let the word guide your prayers and bring you into a new conversation with God. Trust that your word will have something to offer, some new understanding or insight for you this year. Watch and see how the word appears and makes itself known to you in different ways. Perhaps keep a journal to hold your reflections and the epiphanies that come from this spiritual practice.

Although Christmas day has passed, as a community of faith, we will continue to share the light and love of God. The great African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, the Reverend Dr. Howard

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Howard Thurman offers this powerful meditation to remind us that Christmas continues.

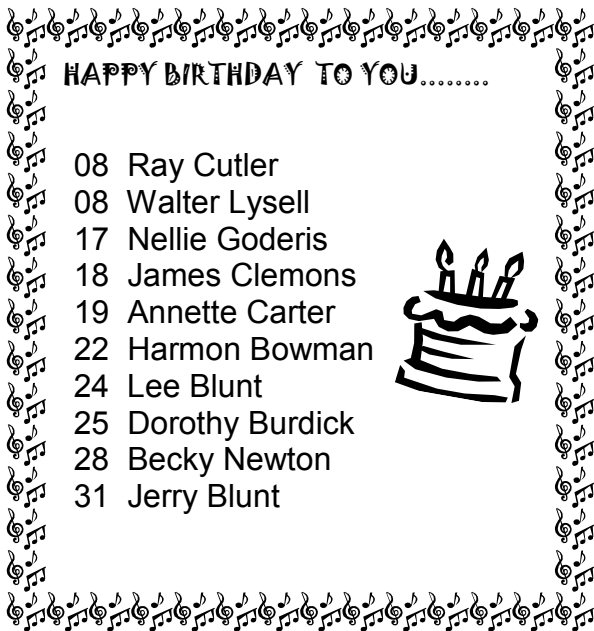
*The Work of Christmas* by Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.


Yours in the journey,  
Pastor Santana

### January Scripture

Jan. 6	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 13	Isaiah 43:1-7 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 20	Psalm 36:5-10 John 2:1-11
Jan 27	1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Luke 4:14-21

 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

- 08 Ray Cutler
- 08 Walter Lysell
- 17 Nellie Goderis
- 18 James Clemons
- 19 Annette Carter
- 22 Harmon Bowman
- 24 Lee Blunt
- 25 Dorothy Burdick
- 28 Becky Newton
- 31 Jerry Blunt



Average church attendance for December  
90



Thank you to Volunteers who served coffee hour for the month of December. Ruth Circle will serve for the month of January.

### **New Year's Resolution: Find Ways to Get More Involved at Church!**

Are you looking for a way to share your gifts at Hope UCC? Please consider serving as a liturgist, greeter, communion preparer or projector attendant. Each of these roles helps to bring the congregation into a fuller and more expansive worship experience at Hope UCC. No experience is required and we will provide you with all the information, resources, support, and encouragement you need to fulfill these duties. The sign up sheet is available in the hallway outside of the sanctuary. If you have any questions or would like more information on ways to serve in worship, please speak to any of the folks on the Worship Ministry: Kathy Hobson, Sue Grchan, Marcia Curtis, and Mary Boquist, or see Pastor Santana. Thank you!



# Hope Happenings



## Reel Theology January 12, 2019

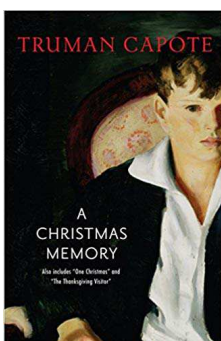
### *The Greatest Showman*

Join us to watch and discuss this fun and lively musical, *The Greatest Showman*. Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, *The Greatest Showman* is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. This movie is rated PG and it is a movie all ages will enjoy watching and discussing together.

We will have a potluck at 6:00 p.m. and the film will begin at 6:30. We will have our discussion immediately following the film. Please contact Pastor Santina if you have any questions. See you at the movies!

## Hope Book Club

We invite you to read *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote, then join us for discussion January 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Platinum Room at the Moline Public Library. This was the book for the November meeting, but due to a winter storm book club did not meet that month.



## Annual Meeting January 20, 2019

This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019. Please start preparing your reports and have them in the office by January 6, 2019.



## Installation of Board Members and Officers

The installation of new board members and officers will take place during the January 27th

## Children's Sunday School Schedule for January

<u>January 2018</u> Joseph and His Brothers	<u>Jan. 6</u>	<u>Jan. 13</u>	<u>Jan. 20</u>	<u>Jan. 27</u>
Pre K-Kinder	Art	Science	Music	Cooking
1st -2nd Grade	Cooking	Art	Science	Music
3rd -4th Grade	Music	Cooking	Art	Science
5th - 6th Grade	Science	Music	Cooking	Art

## Inquirer's Class: Sunday, February 24

If you have been attending Hope UCC and would like to find out more about this community, please join us for an Inquirer's Class on Sunday, February 24 following worship. Pastor Santina and members of the congregation will provide information about the mission and life of Hope UCC. This class is a lovely opportunity to get to know other people who are new to the church as well as those who have been around for many years. If you are considering joining Hope UCC or would just like to learn more, please let Pastor Santina or the church office know.

### **From your Vision Council President**

January 7, 2018. Do you remember what happened on that day? That was Pastor Santina's first day as the newly called pastor for Hope United Church of Christ, and what a wonderful year it has been! Attendance is up! Enthusiasm is up! We had a very successful stewardship campaign! In addition, and most importantly, Pastor Santina has introduced us to new ways to worship and contemplate our faith with outdoor worship, the Blue Christmas service, drop-in prayerful meditation on Good Friday, Labyrinth Meditation, the successful PrayGround, and a new and successful Sunday School format. These are just a few of the new things Hope has experienced in 2018 as a result of the hard work of Pastor Santina and the ministries of Hope UCC!

As I look forward to 2019, I envision an even more exciting year to come for our church! We will be presenting a *balanced budget* to the congregation at the annual meeting on the 20th of this month. We will start the process of Hope UCC being formalized as an ONA (Open and Affirming) congregation, and I am excited as I hear members talking about the prospects of Hope's mission expanding more and more into the Quad Cities.

As we prepare for 2019 it is important for all members and friends of Hope to begin thinking about how we would like our church's mission to expand and grow. In the tradition of the United Church of Christ those suggestions and ideas need to come from the congregation — from members and friends of Hope UCC. So...as we begin 2019 as a revitalized congregation please think about how you would like to see our church's mission grow and expand, and what you would like Hope UCC to participate in. Maybe Habitat for Humanity? Neighborhood revitalization projects? Student tutoring? How do you envision Hope's mission expanding? We can't expand and grow without your help and your input, so start thinking and talking and let's continue into 2019 with the wonderful enthusiasm that has been shown in 2018!

Happy New Year!  
Bob Tallitsch



### **Thank You for Supporting Hope UCC's Mission**

We are grateful for the faithful financial stewardship and support offered by Hope UCC's members and friends in 2018. Your pledges, plate offerings and gifts have provided us with the ability and confidence to strengthen our ministry and mission. This congregation's strong response to our 2019 Stewardship Campaign demonstrated that Hope UCC is ready to live into our mission! We are thankful to be able to begin 2019 by presenting a proposed balanced budget for a congregational vote at our Annual Meeting on January 20 following worship. See you there!

### **Financial Giving at Hope UCC in 2019**

Hope's Serving Ministry and Vision Council continue to find ways to engage in good financial practices and stewardship of our resources. This has led to the decision to no longer order the boxed sets of giving envelopes. The giving envelopes are a very costly item and they are not currently utilized by members and friends of the congregation as they have been in the past. There will still be generic giving envelopes available in the pews if you would like or need to use an envelope. All giving will still be tracked by our Financial Secretary, Jo Ann Olson. All she needs to keep record of your giving is your name and if the offering is designated for your regular giving/pledge or for a special collection (noted in the memo line of your check or on an envelope with your name if you are giving in cash). Generic giving envelopes will be available in the pews, in the back of the sanctuary, or in the church office. Also, feel free to use *any* envelope you have available – just please be sure to write your name on it, especially if you are giving a cash offering and would like it tracked by our Financial Secretary. Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support of Hope UCC's ministries and mission.



12-29-2014

MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS  
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
DOING LAST YEAR