



## **Hope UCC Weekly Update: May 28, 2023**

*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.*

### **Confirmation Sunday is May 28!**

We have been blessed to share this Confirmation journey with our sister congregation, Edwards UCC in Davenport and on Pentecost Sunday we will not only celebrate the birthday of the church, we will also celebrate Riley Johnson, Joley Sullivan, and Nora Van Howe as they confirm their commitments to their faith journeys and their new understandings and commitments to life in ministry to God. Joley, Nora, their families, and their pastor, the Rev. Lisa Gaston, will join us at Hope UCC on May 28 so that Joley, Nora, and Riley will be able to be confirmed together. We look forward to this special worship service and encourage you to hold the Confirmands in your prayers and celebrate this important faith milestone with these youth and their families. We will follow worship with a lunch reception in Fellowship Hall. Congratulations and blessings to our Confirmands!

### **Strengthen the Church Offering on Confirmation and Pentecost Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Thank you for your support of this special offering. Today's Strengthen the Church Offering will help plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

### **Lectionary Final Meeting Before Summer Break: May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Our Tuesday Lectionary Study Group will take a summer break following our final meeting this Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We will resume the Tuesday morning gathering in September. Enjoy your summer vacations!

### **Hope UCC at Quad Cities Pride June 17 (after the Yard Sale!)**

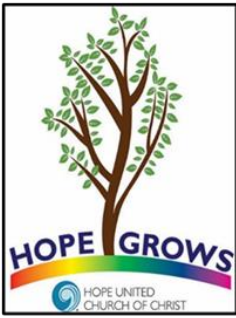
Plan to join us at the joyful celebration at Quad Cities Pride for the parade and the Festival at Bass Street Landing. We'll be joined by our ONA sister congregation, Edwards UCC, and we'll have a float to ride on for the parade (or you can walk) and a booth at the Festival following the parade. Volunteers are needed for the booth. Sign ups and more info coming soon, but save the date and plan to join together to show our love for our LGBTQ+ family and friends!

### **Library Clean-Out and Transition to Meeting Room**

Memorial Day week will see the beginning of our cleaning up and transitioning the Church's Library space into a more purposeful meeting room. Trustees will begin the process of emptying out the Library on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, removing the built-in bookcases in June, and repairing the walls, ceiling and carpeting over the course of the summer. Please stay tuned for updates as we move forward on this exciting project! If you would like to help or have any questions about this project, please don't hesitate to ask one of our trustees: Bob Poor, Bob Church, Eric Leuth, Jenny Hookey, Dick Head, Judy Piper, Dean Herbst or Grady Birdsell.

### **It's Back! Hope UCC Yard Sale June 16 & 17!**

A big thank you to Linda Brown and Judy Piper for leading our effort. We will begin taking donations on Thursday, 1 June, storing items in a classroom at that time. More details soon about volunteer sign ups, but save the date and begin setting aside those treasures that you no longer need but someone else can use. We will not be selling clothing items at this yard sale, but we look forward to organizing and sharing all the other precious items with which you are ready to part.



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL  
Worship Bulletin May 28, 2023**

**Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday**

*Thank you for joining us for worship today.*

*We are glad you are here!*

*No matter who you are or where you are on*

**\*Those who are able, please stand**

*We have had a special and holy collaboration with our sister congregation, Edwards UCC, for Confirmation preparation. Today we welcome Joley and Nora, their families, and the Reverend Lisa Olsen Gaston to Hope UCC as we join together to celebrate our Confirmands Riley, Joley, and Nora!*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The peace of God be with you today. Receive with joy the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Many: Today is a day of a promise fulfilled. With joy we celebrate Pentecost and feel the wind of God blowing among us.**

One: Pentecost – a day when power and comfort flowed. Pentecost – a day of hope and inspiration.

**Many: The breath of God fills us with confidence. The Spirit creates new life within and among us all.**

One: The fire of the Holy Spirit lives on in all of us.

**Many: May the glory of God endure forever. We will sing praise to God as long as we live!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** NCH #264 *Holy Spirit, Come Confirm Us* (see end of bulletin)

**\*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

**Loving God, may this day be a new Pentecost – a day in which you will pour out your Spirit and put a new heart within us. Let this be a day in which our faltering spirits will be revived, and our enthusiasm will be renewed. Let this be a day in which you will equip us for service, and send us out to change your world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, we are frightened by what we do not understand. We want to manage our own lives and assure our own safety. We are afraid that you will ask more of us than we are willing to risk. We would rather to keep our faith to ourselves so others do not consider us strange or fanatical. We are skeptical of your Word for us. We look away from those you call us to love. We want to believe, but we are fearful of the vulnerability and change that your love will bring to our lives. Forgive us for our settling for small but safe comfort zones instead of your vision of the just and peaceful world you called us to build together. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus, God honors us with high expectations

and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you! *(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Place Called Love*

by Ron Sexsmith

Vocalist: Jack Stremlow

Accompanist: Bob Poor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May the Lord be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray ... Loving God, We ask for the gift of your Holy Spirit to help us pray as we ought.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit help us.**

One: We ask for the energy and vision of your Spirit for those who are tiring in the battle against injustice and oppression and for those exhausted by the struggle with poverty and hunger.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit energize us.**

One: We ask for the hope and comfort of your Spirit for those whose lives are overshadowed by illness or pain; for those whose lives are darkened by sorrow or grief.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit comfort us.**

One: We ask for the peace and joy of your Spirit for those living in the shadow of war and violence; for those consumed with guilt and anxiety and those for whom a life of faith is dry and hardened.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit embolden us.**

One: We ask for the guidance and strength of your Spirit for those uncertain how to use their time, talents and gifts; for those tempted to do what is wrong.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit strengthen us.**

One: We ask for the love and courage of your Spirit for those reaching out to comfort the distressed; for those reaching out to help others as Jesus taught us.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit renew help us.**

One: Loving God, we ask for the assurance of your Spirit to know your presence with us in our daily lives: in our relationships; in our work and service; in our worship; in our times of joy and pain.

**Many: O God, let your Spirit unite us.**

Lord's Prayer...

**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.**

INTRODUCTION OF OUR CONFIRMANDS

## OUR CONFIRMATION CREED *by Joley Sullivan, Nora Van Howe, Riley Johnson*

We believe in the Almighty, creator God. Our God loves all of Creation and cares for the poor and weak, and we are to do the same. God created Jesus, blesses us, understands us, and hears our prayers. Many people look up to God, and we believe God is always by our side, helping us and leading us forward to discover answers to our questions and guiding us on our paths in life.

We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is God's Messiah and as a teacher he taught a message of kindness and love. We believe Jesus was peace and even though he was non-violent, his death was a sacrifice for us to learn about forgiveness and hope. We believe Jesus is love – and his love shows us to care about others, show empathy, and how to love our enemies. Jesus made great friends and started a special community and a big movement and we believe we are part of that movement today.

We believe in the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the consciousness of God and is all the love of God and Jesus bundled up. We believe God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all one and connected. We believe the Holy Spirit is in each of us and is the good part of us even when we make mistakes. We believe the Holy Spirit is a sacred Spirit and is the hope and light inside each of us. The Holy Spirit is everywhere around us, like air and is experienced in our passion and love for others. The Holy Spirit is like a beautiful sunset, a mother cat, and a peaceful forest – all wonderful and amazing things that remind us of the holy presence. We believe the Holy Spirit brings us hope.

We believe in the ways that the Church, when it is living in the ways God calls us to live, can be a wonderful and beautiful place. We believe that the Church creates a holy community and is a place where we think, worship, give thanks, and explore our faith. Church is a welcoming place where we connect with God and with the world, and with each other. In Church, we believe, we can be 'one.' We believe Church is a building but we believe Church is really the people and can be found anywhere where God's people join together.

We believe Church is a big part of our lives and is important to us and to each other and all the rituals, traditions, and life events that happen in Church shape us and change us and strengthen us and our faith. We believe that all creation reflects the image of God and so we will work to increase respect, love, and care for all of God's Creation.

We believe that life and death do not have to be scary, because we believe in the Holy presence in all of it; we believe Heaven is a sacred and happy place for God's Creation and that the 'end' is the beginning of something new. We believe that we are strengthened in this life by our love for God our Creator, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit who guides us. We believe we are called to continue to learn and grow in faith, ask questions, and live our lives in ways that show that we follow Jesus Christ so that other people can learn and grow in love too. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS

*Riley Johnson*

Romans 8:31-39 (Message Translation)

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us — who was raised to life for us! — is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one. None of this fazes us because

Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing — nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable — absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

*Nora Van Howe*

1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (NRSVUE)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

*Joley Sullivan*

Psalm 30:11-31:8 (NRSVUE)

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever. In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me; take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols, but I trust in the Lord. I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have taken notice of my adversities and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; you have set my feet in a broad place.

CELEBRATION HYMN      NCH #287    *Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God* (see end of bulletin)

## RITE OF CONFIRMATION

*Invitation and Questions for the Candidates*

*Rev. Gaston and Rev. Poor*

*Pastor Lisa:* Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptisms and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

*Pastor Santina:* Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine, you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

P: Confirmands, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

C: I do.

P: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to walk in the ways of Jesus, to include all peoples in all walks and ways of life, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

C: I promise with the help of God.

P: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

C: I promise with the help of God.

P: Let us pray:

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

One: Let us pray:

**Many: We give thanks for the faith God has worked within you. We welcome you right where you are on your faith journey with our love, acceptance, and respect. We pledge to work together as a community of faith to provide opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, celebration, and service. We promise to give spiritual and emotional care and support in times of need; and to be faithful as fellow stewards of God's grace. Together we will work for peace and social, economic, and environmental justice and strive to bring about the world that we believe that God intends. We pray that you will strengthen and sustain them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### ACT OF CONFIRMATION WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Sponsors are invited to lay hands on their child and pray and the congregation is invited to hold their hands up in communal blessing. The blessing of the individual Confirmands is followed by a communal blessing.*

### COMMUNAL BLESSING

**Many: Let us, the members and friends of Edwards and Hope United Churches of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ. We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and work of the church together. May we continue to grow together in God's love and wisdom. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

Pastor Lisa & Pastor Santana

### INVITATION TO OFFERING AND UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: God's love is everywhere — let's reflect it to others. In all the ways we offer our gifts, we share God's world-changing love with others here in our community, across our country, and around the world. Let us pray:

**Many: Loving God, we praise you for the blessings of love and care that we have received and for the opportunity to share them with others. We offer all our gifts and ask that you bless them in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*This Little Light of Mine*

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
    This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
    This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine  
    Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
2. Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine ...
3. All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine ...
4. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine ...

## \*BENEDICTION

One: Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

**Many: We go with the assurance of God's blessing.**

One: Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

**Many: We go with the assurance of God's grace.**

One: Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

**Many: We go with the assurance of God's love. Thanks be to God!**

\*SENDING OUT AFFIRMATION      NCH #81 *God Be With You* (see end of bulletin)*Verse 1*

God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
 With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
 Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

## POSTLUDE

***Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall as we continue our celebration for Riley, Joley, and Nora.***

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# Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us

264

Brian Foley, 1971; alt.

John 14:25-27; 15:26-16:15



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, con - firm us in the  
 2 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, con - sole us, come as  
 3 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, re - new us, come your -  
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, come, ful - fill us, you the

truth that Christ makes known; We have faith and un - der -  
 ad - vo - cate to plead; Lov - ing Spir - it stand be -  
 self to make us live; Make us ho - ly through your  
 love of Three in One; Bring our lives to full com -

stand - ing through your help - ing gifts a - lone.  
 side us, grant in Christ the help we need.  
 pres - ence, ho - ly through the gifts you give.  
 ple - tion through your work in us be - gun.

*Author Brian Foley has served as a Roman Catholic priest in his native England since 1945. This text is a distillation of several scriptural passages, an example of his conviction that hymns should be based on theology, not mere sentiment.*

Tune: FOR THE BREAD 8.7.8.7.  
 V. Earle Copes, 1960



## HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

287

## Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Shirley Erena Murray, 1990

Unison

1 Come, teach us, Spir - it of our God, the  
 2 Ex - cite our minds to fol - low you, to  
 3 En - gage our wits to dance with you, to  
 4 In - spire our spark to light from you to  
 5 De - light our hearts to wor - ship you, to

lan - guage of your way, the les - sons  
 trace new truths in store, new flight paths  
 leap from log - ic's base, to cap - ture  
 catch cre - a - tion's flair, new ar - tis -  
 learn com - pas - sion's code, to live in

that we need to live, the faith for ev - ery  
 for our spir - it space, new mar - vels to ex -  
 in - sight on the wing, to sense your cos - mic  
 try to cel - e - brate, new har - mo - nies to  
 con - text of your love, great teach - er who is

day; the faith for ev - ery day.  
 plore: new mar - vels to ex - plore:  
 grace: to sense your cos - mic grace:  
 dare: new har - mo - nies to dare:  
 God! Great teach - er who is God!

## God Be with You

81

*Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,  
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,

With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 Smite death's threat-en-ing wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,

till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,

*Written during his last pastorate, at First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Rankin's hymn spread quickly throughout America and England by way of Moody and Sankey's revival meetings. Rankin later served as the seventh president of Howard University.*

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU 9.8.8.9. with refrain  
 William G. Tomer, 1880