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United Church of Christ

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**Thankful**

As I reflect on the past two months at Hope UCC I am filled with gratitude for our congregation. Our church has been a busy place and we have shared a warm welcome and ensured that everyone attending the events felt the authentic hospitality that is at the heart of this faith community.

Hosting the Western Association of the Illinois Conference's Fall Meeting at the end of September got things off on a high note. As the clergy and representatives from our sibling congregations throughout the Western Association gathered here, in person and virtually, volunteers from our congregation made sure all the guests were welcomed and fed both through fellowship and good food! Following that our Fellowship Hall was rented for local group's event, then we held a wedding with over 100 people, and after all that we hosted the Cornerstone Chorale and Brass concert. Each of these events required us to use the rooms, offices, and spaces in the church building very creatively and I thank our Bell Choir and especially our Bell Choir Director, Mary Tallitsch, for being so accommodating with the storage of the bell tables and equipment and the use of the Music Room for the wedding party and then the Brass group!

Speaking of the Bell Choir: a big thank you to all the ringers in that wonderful group who helped our Worship and Music Ministry (WAM) with all the logistics for the Cornerstone Chorale and Brass Concert. The Bell Choir and WAM and Trustees took the lead on making sure all the needs of the event and Chorale group were met. I cannot thank them all enough. There were so many details to take care of to make this concert happen: welcoming the group, tickets, publicity, food prep, ushering, computer help, room clean up, and I know I'm forgetting something, but it all went so smoothly and was an inspiring concert.

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Thankful (continued)

At each event, I heard the same comments and feedback: “This church is so beautiful.” “This building is so accessible – thank you.” “Your congregation is so welcoming and friendly.” “Your building and grounds are so lovely and well cared for – what a beautiful place!” I’m not going to lie: I am so proud of this congregation!! As the Cornerstone Chorale was finishing lunch before they left the Quad Cities to begin their tour, their director, Dr. Bruce Vantine, thanked all the volunteers at Hope, saying the hospitality his group received here was so greatly appreciated and was beyond what they have experienced at many of the larger churches who have hosted the group.

There are many ways that organizations measure ‘success.’ Churches have a tendency to look at numbers: attendance, membership, endowment balance, or how many clicks their website or videos get. High totals in all these areas are fine, however I am finding more and more that what really indicates ‘success’ in a faith community is the engagement of all who are here. And it makes my heart so happy to see Hope UCC engaged! We are engaged in sharing our gifts and offering that authentic warm welcome to visitors to this campus. We are engaged by sharing love and comfort to others through fellowship and visitations. We are engaged by joining together in worship and prayer – being the church in so many ways. As we begin our Stewardship Campaign this month and reflect on our theme “Because of YOU our church changes lives!” all of these events and things for which I give thanks at Hope UCC reflect back to this message. Hope UCC is a place of transformative love, hope, and care. Thank you for making this transformation possible.

With love,

Pastor Santana

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY **NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

To remember and give thanks

On Sunday November 5, we will remember, honor, and thank God for the lives of those whom we have lost this year. We will celebrate their memories during our All Saints Remembrance Day. We invite you to bring a photo or a touchstone item that reminds you of that beloved person in your life to place on the table that will be in the chancel area of the church. We will also honor the memory of the saints in our lives during worship by adding to our ‘Circle of Saints’ wreath.

The Circle of Saints holds ribbons with the names of beloved people in our lives who have died. Each year we add to the circle as we honor their memories. You can repeat the name(s) you included last year as well as adding any new names this year. Ribbons will be available in the church office and on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. We invite you to take one (or a few) 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 5th, and they will be attached to the circle. We will have a processional time during worship when you can come forward and place the ribbons on the wreath yourself if you wish to do so. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Santana.



**GATHERED AT THE TABLE:
THE HOLY EXPERIENCE
OF SHARING FOOD**

**WE WILL NOT BE MEETING IN
NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.**



November Scriptures

November 5: Micah 6:1-8

November 12: Matthew 25:1-13

November 19: Matthew 25:31-46

November 26: Mark 13:24-37

December 3: Isaiah 40:1-11,
Mark 1:1-8



**Celebrate the Life of
Reverend Parker Lewis,
Pastor Emeritus of
Hope UCC**

**Pastor Parker's memorial service will be held
at Hope UCC on Saturday, November 18th.
Visitation will be from 10:00-11:00 A.M. and
the service will begin at 11:00 A.M.
Please plan to stay for lunch following
the service.**

Open Door Youth Ministry News

It's November and that means we'll be meeting at Edwards UCC! We'll kick off the month on November 5th with a Taco Dinner Extravaganza from 5:00-7:00 P.M. – the whole family is invited to have dinner, get to know each other, plan for the future together. You are invited even if you do not have a youth in youth group: we want you to get to know everyone too! That is the wonderful thing about sharing this important ministry with our sibling congregation, Edwards UCC – it is a great way for all of us to get to know each other better!! Please contact our Open Door Youth Leader, Lindsey Svetlick (lindseysvetlick@gmail.com) with any questions you have or if you'd like more information about Open Door Youth Ministry.



TACOS





Stewardship 2024: Because of YOU Our Church Changes Lives

This is a bold and yet simple statement. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that Hope UCC sees our mission as one that provides a warm welcome to every individual on their faith journey, because the gospel message of love calls us to share that love and to welcome others as we are loved and welcomed.

This theme is thought provoking because it allows us to consider the many meanings of the use of the word 'you' in that sentence. You can mean us – all who are in the pews at Hope UCC today. It can mean those who came before us and built this institution, and it can also mean all who will come to this place after we are long gone. And it can, of course, mean God. We know God is making all things new and possible in our lives of faith and in this beloved community.

We hope that YOU see yourself in this statement and in the mission and life of Hope UCC. We certainly do! Hope UCC would not be the same without you and our mission is not possible without you. Your sharing your faith and spiritual journeys here as well as your time, talents, and gifts create and help to grow the mission and ministry of Hope UCC.

We will celebrate the beginning of our annual stewardship campaign on November 5th. That Sunday you will hear a little bit about this year's mission plan and our proposed 2024 budget. Your Mission Plan packets with the stewardship materials will be distributed that day. Within this packet you will find Hope UCC's proposed 2024 budget along with your invitation to faithfully discern how you will help to create and renew our mission to be the church of Jesus Christ. Throughout the 5 weeks of our stewardship campaign you will hear the stories of members and friends of Hope UCC who will share how the church has made a difference in their lives and why they share their gifts with our congregation in support of our mission. With your support and faithful participation, we will conclude our campaign by December 3rd. We hope you will prayerfully discern how you feel God's Spirit calling you into creating and renewing our mission on this shared faith journey as together at Hope UCC our church changes lives. If you have any questions about Hope UCC's 2024 stewardship campaign or questions about sharing your gifts with Hope UCC, please contact the church office or our Treasurer, Bob Tallitsch.





Centering Prayer at Hope UCC: Wednesdays, 2:00-2:45 P.M.

Join us every Wednesday for a time of Centering Prayer, a form of Contemplative Prayer. This method of prayer uses the practice of meditative silence to quiet our minds in order to more fully engage in prayer. We will have a regular Centering Prayer meeting every Wednesday from 2:00-2:45 P.M. and you can join Pastor Santina in the sanctuary or by Zoom. All are invited to participate – you can attend once just to see what it is all about or you can attend every week. Please contact the church office or Pastor Santina for more information or for the Zoom link



Save the Date for Las Posadas: Saturday, December 9 at 2:00 P.M.

Families of one and families of many – all people are invited to join the Las Posadas Celebration! Las Posadas is a tradition that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and their search for shelter. Las Posadas means “the inns” and this tradition was brought to Mexico from Spain in the 1500’s, and is still celebrated throughout Mexico and all over the world today.

Our procession will travel to the UCC and sibling churches in the Quad Cities, stopping at each one to ask for a room until our final stop receives us. At each stop we will sing Christmas carols and hymns and at the final stop we’ll enjoy a meal together.

More information will be coming soon, but make sure to save the date so you don’t miss this special event!





November 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.

- 02 Jan Frey
- 03 Edward Hostetter
- 06 Paul Powell
- 11 Alyssa Newton
- 12 Bob Poor
- 16 Donna Werner
- 17 Riley Hawotte
- 19 Judy McCollum
- 22 Julie Bustard
- 25 Jenny Hookey
- 28 Elisabeth Demarest



RUTH CIRCLE MEETS NOVEMBER 20!

Come join with the women of Hope UCC for an afternoon of Holiday fun! Ruth Circle meets at 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall




Reel Theology Will Not Meet in November and December

We won't be meeting for Reel Theology for a couple months due to other programs and events. But please mark your calendars for January 12 when we start up again! Thank you!



Hope UCC Book Club Meets November 27

Join the conversation with folks from Hope UCC at the monthly Book Club gathering November 27 at 6:00 P.M. at the Moline Public Library. This month everyone is to read their own book selection and share information about it at the gathering!

