



Hope United Church of Christ

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: CARIDAD RAMOS
VICE PRESIDENT: DONNA WERNER
FINANCIAL CLERKS:
JAN BIRDSSELL & BOB TALLITSCH
TREASURER: JENNY HOOKEY
RECORDING CLERK:
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HISTORIAN/REGISTRAR:
JULIE BUSTARD

TRUSTEES MINISTRY

JUDY PIPER
GRADY BIRDSSELL
BOB POOR
DEAN HERBST
BOB CHURCH
JENNY HOOKEY

COUNCIL AT LARGE

JO ANN OLSON: Gathering Together
BEK SVETLICK: Praying Together
JAN BIRDSSELL: Serving Together

STAFF

REV. SANTINA POOR, PASTOR
LAUREL FILZEN ETZEL,
MINISTER OF MUSIC
GREG ETZEL,
MINISTER OF MUSIC
LINDSEY SVETLICK,
OPEN DOOR YOUTH MINISTER
CONNIE HULETT,
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
IN MEMORIAM:
REV. A. PARKER LEWIS, PASTOR
EMERITUS

PASTORAL RELATIONS/PERSONNEL MINISTRY

REV. SANTINA POOR
DONNA WERNER
JENNY HOOKEY
BOB TALLITSCH



New Learning Opportunity in February:

Navigating Paths of Transition in Life's Journeys

*Tuesday Nights - February 4, 11, 18, 25 at 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.
Soup Dinner 5:30-6:00 Meeting 6:00-7:30 P.M.*

Join Rev. Jane Courtright as she leads us through this opportunity to explore change and healthy ways to navigate it.

Change is inevitable in everyone's life journey, some transitions are more difficult than others. Navigating through those paths of change is the focus of this 4-week series.

By telling our stories of the past, including the difficult paths, recognizing the 'in-between' stages, and then looking toward the future, we will learn to implement practical & useful strategies for coping with transitions.

Rev. Jane has designed the program around her personal history of transitions through which she has been mentored by spiritual director Jeannie Bowman, Quaker educator and spiritual companion. Rev. Jane will lead participants through a month of spiritual practices, rituals, meditations, and journaling exercises designed to inspire relaxation and healing. Join us in exploring the concept of navigating paths as we continue to face change in our world and lives that inevitably come with unknown twists and turns. We will do all this, together, recognizing all that is sacred and holy in these changes.

Please contact the church office or see Rev. Jane at church to let us know you will be attending.



Hope UCC Annual Meeting Summary

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. We are so thankful for this congregation's faithful stewardship of all our programs and ministries. We are stronger together in our mission when we all know what is happening here and have the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and move forward while building consensus and caring for this community. At this year's meeting our new lay leadership team was affirmed and begin their terms right away. We are so thankful for Julie Bustard's leadership as President for the past 2 ½ years, as well as Bob Tallitsch's financial leadership as Treasurer for the past almost 5 years. We offer our deep thanks for all who have served in so many roles and all those who continue in their roles at Hope. We cannot 'Be the Church' without you.

Here are our new and returning officers at Hope UCC:

President: Caridad Ramos

Vice President: Donna Werner

Recording Secretary/Registrar: Julie Bustard

Treasurer: Jenny Hookey

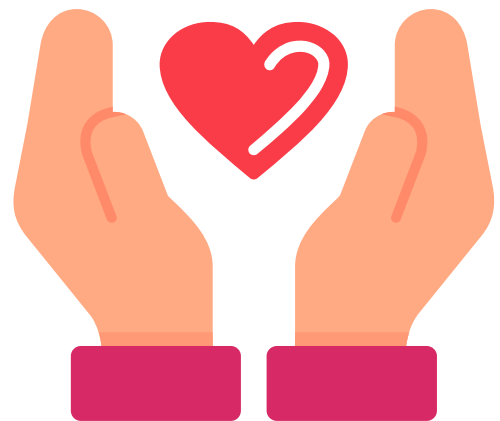
Council at Large: Jan Birdsell

Council at Large: JoAnn Olson

Council at Large: Bek Svetlick

Financial Clerk: Jan Birdsell

Financial Clerk: Bob Tallitsch



There are many ways for everyone to participate in the life, mission, and ministries of Hope UCC. As we continue to collate the information you shared regarding the ways you would like to serve and share your gifts at Hope, we'll be contacting you with more information. Thank you all for being important pieces of the big picture at Hope UCC. Together, Hope Grows!

Ruth Circle News

Save the date of February 17 for our dinner at Pagalo's outing. We will meet at Pagalo's in Rock Island at 5:30 P.M. Bring a friend! Please let Dorothy Burdick know if you will be attending.

Pastor Santina Away in February

Pastor Santina and Bob will be away from church for a few days in February. She will take study leave and a few personal days off February 10-19.



Helping Our Neighbors

On January 28 our country learned that federal dollars that provide funding for many necessary programs, including the majority of funding for the resettlement of refugees who are legally admitted to the United States through World Relief of the Quad Cities, would be frozen. The chaos this decision is causing is immeasurable. World Relief is decimated: 80% of their funding is impacted, resulting in almost a 90% reduction in their staffing. The staff that will be terminated include the caseworkers assisting hundreds of refugee families in the Quad Cities. This funding also impacts the rental assistance World Relief provides to newly arrived refugees for the short amount of time between their arrival, transition to this new community, and job placement. World Relief needs our help. They are seeking groups to volunteer to walk alongside their families and help with the services that the caseworkers would be doing. This includes helping people get to appointments, accompanying on errands to help them learn the systems here, and simply help people feel more at home in this community. We will find ways to help World Relief financially as well, but providing support for their many families, without re-traumatizing them, is a priority. We will have a meeting following worship on Sunday, February 2 to discuss how we can help. Please consider how you might join this mission to support our neighbors and live into our call to serve as God's hands, feet, heart, and voice in this world.



Please Keep Our Confirmands in Your Daily Prayers

We have a great group of young people discerning and learning (and teaching this Pastor!) all about their faith and spiritual journeys. What a special time in their lives and what a special time in our faith community at Hope UCC. Please keep them in your prayers as they work throughout the year confirming their faith together.

Our Confirmands this year are:

- Kendall Johnson & mentor Judy Hawotte
- Eli Powell & mentor Julie Bustard
- Emily Campbell and mentor Caridad Ramos
- Selah Filzen Etzel and mentor Bek Svetlick
- Evelyn Smith and mentor Barb Hawotte
- Kinley Sederquist and mentor Audrey Sederquist (Kinley attends Church of Peace UCC with whom we are partnering with for Confirmation)

LIVING OUR BAPTISM

NEW WORSHIP SERIES
AT HOPE UCC
JANUARY 12-MARCH 2

February 2 Practicing the Love of Baptism
Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1Cor 13:1-13
February 9 Amazing Grace
Isaiah 6:1-13, Psalm 138, 1Cor 15:1-11
February 16 Blessed to Be a Blessing
*Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, Luke 6:17-26
February 23 Unconditional Love of Baptism
Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40,
Luke 6:27-38
March 2 Exodus 34:29-35, 2Cor 3:12-4:2,
Luke 9:28-43a



Hope UCC Men's Breakfast

*Join us for our monthly
First Saturday gathering at
Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.
Saturday, February 1
8:00 a.m.*



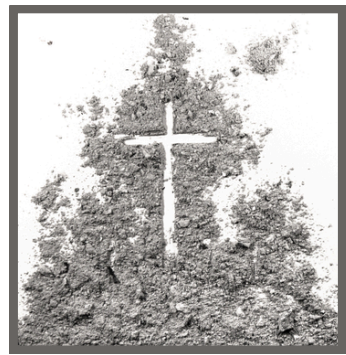
February Birthdays

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.

Nancy Stevens February 01
Karen Ohrberg February 03
Abby Beug February 07
Sally Herbst February 16
Judy Collins February 20
Daniel Hawotte February 20
Judy Hawotte February 23
Laura Black February 25
Tracy Leuth February 27

Lent 2025: Repent and Return in Troubled Times

This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. We hope you will plan to join us as we gather for worship on Ash Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. We will have more information about the special programs and activities planned during the Lenten season available soon.



Vocal Choir Opportunity!

During Lent, Hope UCC will once again offer the opportunity to join together for a vocal choir. The choir will offer anthems at different services in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Please see our Ministers of Music, Greg and Laurel, if you'd like to sign up. Remember, no choir experience is necessary!

Transfiguration Sunday on March 2: Shine On!

The Sunday before Lent begins is traditionally 'Transfiguration Sunday' – the day that our scripture readings share the story of Jesus taking his disciples up to the mountain top where they witness the incredible transformation of Jesus appearing to shine as his clothing becomes dazzlingly bright white. Similar to Pentecost Sunday when we wear something red, we thought it would be fun if on Sunday, March 2, everyone is invited to wear something shiny, sparkly, or bright to celebrate the Transfiguration (why should Pentecost have all the fun?). So on March 2, find those sequined pants you wore that one time, and wear them to church! Okay, maybe you don't want to wear those again – what about a scarf? A shiny hat? Have fun and shine, shine, shine!

