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United Church of Christ

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Lent at Hope UCC – Sharing Our Lenten Prayer Journey

You all know how much I love the season of Lent. It is only surpassed by my love of Easter. As people of faith, the beauty and surprise and hope-filled message of the promise of Jesus's resurrection is foundational in our faith formation and journey. This is why Lent is so important. It is during Lent that we prepare for the great mystery and joyful celebration of Jesus's resurrection. Easter by itself is a beautiful and profound experience, yes, but this story is deepened in its meaning for us by walking with Jesus and his friends on Jesus's journey to the cross – our Lenten journey. Lent is the season that invites us to look at our lives to see how we can more closely follow God. We pray, we study the Bible, we reach out to others who need our help, and we focus on what we need instead of what we want. During Lent, we move forward together, from bright light into a space of decreasing light, yet staying focused on the Light that will always glow, leading us forward to live into God's word in our lives.

Our theme this year is a Lenten Prayer Journey. Throughout Lent we will engage in a different prayer practice each Sunday during worship. Information about each practice will be included in the weekly bulletin with the hope that you will continue to engage with them at home and perhaps find a practice that connects with your spiritual needs. We will also have the opportunity to participate in a Taize worship service each Wednesday throughout Lent. Taize worship is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Simple, repetitive, Mantra-style songs, prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment.

We hope that this season of Lent draws you forward in your faith journey. What a blessing to take this prayer journey together.

Together in the journey,
Pastor Santina

Prayer Practices during Lent:
February 26: Centering Prayer
March 5: Visio Divina
March 12: Examen
March 19: Lectio Divina
March 26: Breath Prayer
April 2: Body Prayer

Lent at Hope UCC

A Lenten Prayer Journey



We hope you will join us for any and all of the events planned throughout this Season of Lent. Our theme this year reflects the place of prayer in our journeys and how that important part of our faith is understood, as well as the many ways to practice and engage in prayer. Prayer lies at the heart of who we are and our deepening awareness of *whose* we are. At times, understanding prayer feels ambiguous or complex—and, if we are honest, sometimes confusing. But as followers of Christ we look to Jesus's example of seeking out God in the midst of chaos and crowded places as well as listening for that still small voice of God in the quiet moments or in our solitude. What a blessing to take this journey together. Lent is a wonderful time to invite someone to join us for any or all of the scheduled events or Sunday worship - online or on site!

- **Each Sunday during Lent**

Our worship theme will be focused on prayer and in each service we will have an opportunity to engage in a prayer practice together.

- **Wednesday March 8, 15, 22, 29, & April 5: Light Dinner and Taize Prayer Service (*Dinner 5:30-6:00 and the service begins at 6:00*)**

A Taizé service is a meditative prayer service that combines elements of traditional liturgy (reading scripture & prayers) with elements of contemplative meditation and simple musical chants. The result is a gradual movement of prayer moving from our heads to our hearts. Not sure about this? Come and give it a try! It's Lent – let yourself be open to new faith development opportunities.

- **Palm Sunday April 2**

- **Maundy Thursday April 6** *Service time will be announced*

- **Good Friday April 7** *Service time will be announced*

- **Saturday April 8 10:00-12:00** Community Easter Story Book Walk at Hope UCC

- **Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday!**

6:00 A.M. Sunrise Service at the Memorial Garden

10:00 A.M. Festival Worship

Please remember that you are welcome to come in anytime to use the Small Chapel for a time of personal prayer and reflection.



Calling All Fellowship Hour Volunteers!

Please consider signing up to help provide refreshments and to clean up following Fellowship Hour on a Sunday. The sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall - sign up with a friend or with your ministry team or just go solo! If you're not sure what all is involved, we will provide you with lots of information and help. Don't worry if you don't like to bake - store bought items are welcome! Please see Phebe Head or Caridad Ramos if you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions. Thank you!!



Lent Soup Dinners-
Chefs Needed!

Please consider signing up to provide soup for one of Lent Wednesday gatherings. We'll serve 10-15 people. Please see Jan Varga or Pastor Santana to sign up or for more info. Thank you!



Blessing Box

Volunteers Needed:

Are you able to help keep the Blessing Box filled? Volunteers needed for the quick job of keeping the BB stocked. Sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.
Thank you!

Youth Group News for March

Youth Group meets Sundays from 3:00-4:15 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

Confirmation Class meets Sundays from 1:30-3:00 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

Throughout Lent, Youth Group will also be engaged in developing and strengthening our spiritual practices. March 5: Praying with Trust

March 12: Praying with Hope

March 19: Praying to Notice New Things

March 26: Praying for Renewal

****Please plan to be part of the Community Easter Book Walk that Hope UCC will sponsor on Saturday, April 8. We will be at church by 8:00 A.M. to set up and will conclude by 12:30 P.M. We'll take you to lunch following clean up!**



Youth Group Confirmation Class

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they continue their Confirmation journeys. Riley Johnson and Avie Birdsell are faithfully discerning their way forward and are wonderful to work with. They greatly appreciate your prayers for their discernment and growing faith and your ongoing support of their journeys. Thank you!



*Did we miss your birthday?
Please let us know if we
have missed one so we
can update our records!*

***Judy Hawotte: we are
sorry for leaving you off
of February! Happy
birthday on February 23!***

March Birthdays

03 Eleanor Niska

04 Carole Keenan

08 Debby Duke

15 Bob Rada

16 Brian Hawotte

17 Kathy Hobson

22 Barb Hawotte

22 Beth Carvey

24 Stacy Demarest



Book Club Monday, March 27th

This month, the Hope UCC Book Club will be meeting in the Bronze Room at the Moline Public Library on Monday night, March 27th, at 6:00 P.M. March Book selection coming soon! Please join us for this evening of fine art, great conversation, and fellowship!



Blessing Box Requests

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! Due to cold weather the following items are most needed:

- hygiene supplies
- dry/powdered milk, soups, and grain mixes
- toilet paper

March Scripture

March 5	Genesis 12:1-4 Psalm 121 John 3:1-17
March 12	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 John 4:5-42
March 19	1Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 John 9:1-41
March 26	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 John 11:1-45



Ruth Circle News!

Ruth Circle's First Afternoon Meeting at 1:00pm, Monday, March 20th
Ruth Circle's first afternoon meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20th. We look forward to seeing all of you there, in the warmth and light of the early spring afternoon sun!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering

Sunday March 19th.

It's time to share! The United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering involves us in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, we are part of the immediate response and long-term recovery. We will provide special OGHS offering envelopes on Sunday, March 12th, and ask that they be returned by Sunday, March 19th. Thank you so much for your generosity!



March Dates to Remember

****hybrid: zoom & in person***

Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, 26: Confirmation Class 1:30 p.m. & Youth Group at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 7, 14, 28: Lectionary* 10:00a.m.

Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29: Dinner and Taize Service*

Friday, March 10: Reel Theology 6:00 p.m.

March 14: Trustees* 3:30 p.m.

TBD: Mission & Outreach*

March 15: Worship & Music Ministry* 4:30 p.m.

Monday, March 20: Ruth Circle 1:00 p.m.

March 23: Church Council* 6:30 p.m.

March 27: Book Club meets at Moline Public Library 6:00 p.m.

Easter Lilies

You are cordially invited to purchase an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of a beloved family member or friend. Lilies are \$12 and can be taken home following worship on Easter Sunday.

Please order your Easter Lilies by Sunday, April 2.

(If you are writing a check, please make it out to Hope UCC and put Easter Lily in the memo.)

COST: \$12 each. QUANTITY: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: (please circle one)



Reel Theology March 10th:

We Feed People

We Feed People is a 2022 documentary directed by Ron Howard about chef Jose Andres' journey from ebullient celebrity chef to global humanitarian. This is a genuinely inspiring film sharing the mission of his World Central Kitchen.

Howard masterfully jumps from one emergency location to the next by exposing the hard reality of Andres' actions often based on decisions that need to be made on the spot and on the chef's unbending spirit in keeping everyone motivated.

Families of one and families of many are welcome to join us. As usual, bring your own dinner at 5:30 if you would like to eat together before the film begins at 6:00. Our discussion follows the conclusion of the film.