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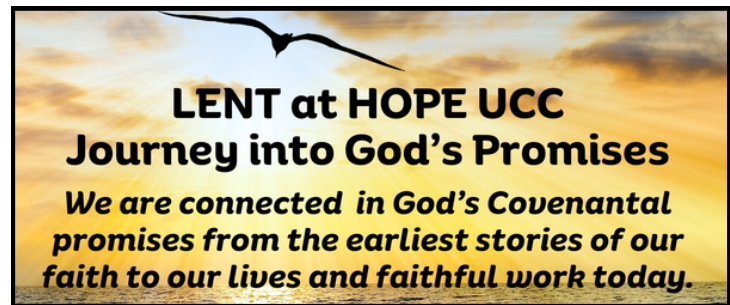
MINISTRY

REV. SANTINA POOR

DONNA WERNER

JENNY HOOKEY

BOB TALLITSCH



Our Lenten Journey Begins

This year we find ourselves preparing for Lent even though we are still recovering from the Christmas holidays. We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14 which causes us to feel like this season of Epiphany was much too short. However, we know this new season in our church year and our lives of faith brings new opportunities to seek out new understandings of our faith journey and spiritual formation and how the promise of resurrection and new life shapes our journey and formation. Our worship theme this year is A Journey into God's Promises. During Lent we will explore the covenantal relationship between God and God's people throughout time. We will affirm the ways in which we continue to share that covenantal relationship today as we continue this faith journey that leads us to the pain of the tomb and ultimately to the joy of resurrection and new life. What does that journey look like in our everyday, contemporary lives? We will explore this theme in a variety of ways during Lent:

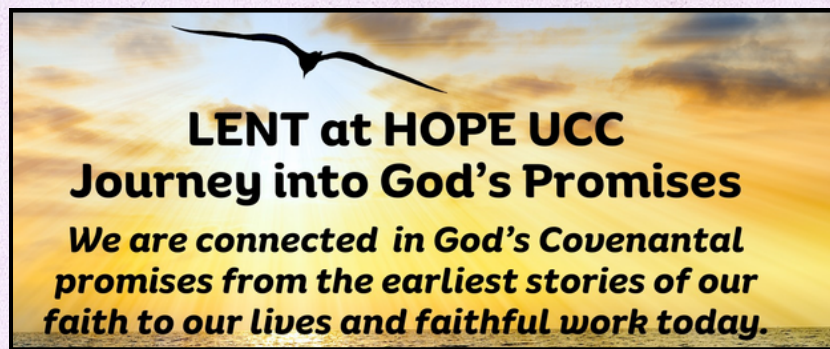
Through Worship: We will offer opportunities during worship on Sundays and meditative prayer services on Wednesdays.

Through Study: We will join with our friends from Riverside Methodist Church and Edwards Congregational UCC in the work of *Becoming Beloved Community*. Repentance is an essential part of the Lenten journey and this study will bring us into sacred conversation and holy work of deepening our awareness of racial issues within ourselves, organizations, and social structures. Repentance comes with this awareness so that change can and will happen and a new way ahead can be created.

Through Spiritual Practices: We will offer an opportunity to be part of "40 Questions in 40 Miles for 40 Days of Lent" which is a devotional created by Rev. Stephen W. Smith of Potter's Inn.

More information about each of these Lenten offerings is offered in the newsletter. I hope you will find one or more ways to connect with any of these ministries during Lent. I pray that as we take this prayer journey together, our hearts are further opened to seeking and discovering the Holy in our lives.

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santina



Lent at Hope UCC: Our Lenten Journey into God's Promises

We hope you will join us for any and all of the events planned throughout this Lenten season. Our theme this year will lead us to explore the covenantal relationship between God and God's people throughout time. We will affirm the ways in which we continue to share that covenantal relationship today as we continue this faith journey that leads us to the right up to the pain of the tomb and then ultimately to the joy of resurrection and new life. Join in any or all of the activities, programs, and worship experiences that lead us to discern what that journey looks like in our everyday, contemporary lives. What a blessing to take this journey together.

- Ash Wednesday Service February 14 at 6:30 P.M.
- Monday – Friday, February 14 - March 29 at 2:00 P.M.: *40 Questions 40 Miles 40 Days Walking Group at South Park Mall*

If you would like to engage in this spiritual practice in community, please meet in front of Ashley Furniture at 2:00 P.M. (Monday – Friday only)

- 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.

- Tuesday Study: Becoming Beloved Community at 6:00 P.M. (Please note this begins before Ash Wednesday)

February 13 at Riverside Methodist Church

February 20 at Riverside Methodist Church

February 27 at Edwards UCC

March 5 at Edwards UCC

March 12 at Hope UCC

March 19 at Hope UCC

- Wednesday February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, & 27: Light Dinner and Taize Prayer Service
Dinner 5:30-6:00 and the service begins at 6:00
- Palm Sunday March 24
- Maundy Thursday March 28 *Service time will be announced*
- Good Friday March 29 *Service time will be announced*
- Sunday March 31 Easter Sunday!
6:30 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.



Lenten Study: Becoming Beloved Community every Tuesday, February 13 - March 19

Please plan to join together with our siblings in faith from Riverside Methodist Church and Edwards UCC for this special Lenten Study. This 6 week program is designed to deepen self-awareness as well as organizational awareness of racial issues as we increase intercultural competence with the intention of experiencing transformational change. This 6-session study will require about 3 hours outside of class for 'homework' plus the class time. Course participants will gather as a community of learning on Tuesdays from February 13-March 19 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. (snacks included!).

This six-week dialogue workshop and training is led by Kaleidoscope Institute (KI) facilitator and pastor of Riverside Methodist Church, Reverend Dr. James A. Fielder. It is designed to help us embrace and enact the vision of Becoming Beloved Community, a lifelong spiritual and faith journey. KI believes change happens in the space between comfort and fear – what Eric Law has described as the Grace Margin. Our work is based on respectful communication and building relationships where persons can change and learn in developmentally appropriate ways. Together we will explore historical and contextual instances of oppression and racism in which we all participate. We will use a variety of conversations and processes to explore bias, power, and the systems of injustice and inequality. Together we will engage in dialogue, noticing and wondering together, questioning assumptions, telling the truth about ourselves and our organizations, and modeling alternatives to current patterns and problems. There will be ample time for guided personal reflections as well as group reflections and interactions. The following topics will be explored and discussed utilizing worksheets, short readings and videos:

Session 1: Community Building & Cultural Awareness

Session 2: Tell the Truth: Exploring Personal and Corporate Elements

Session 3: Proclaim the Dream - Intercultural Competency

Session 4: Practice the Way of Love - Doctrine of Discovery

Session 5: Practice the Way of Love - Power and Privilege

Session 6: Repair the Breach - Integrations and Sending Forth

To prepare for participation in the study, we are asking that all participants SELECT AND READ ONE of these books during the course (please begin as soon as possible):

Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America by Catherine Meeks, ed.

My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menachem

Seeing My Skin by Peter Jarrett-Schell

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Me and White Supremacy by Layla Saad

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Ra

This is an opportunity to put into actual practice what we believe is possible and what we seek in our Lenten journeys. We know change and healing are possible. We know that change happens when

- We are in relationships with others who ask us challenging questions
- When we explore history and share stories
- When we interrupt patterns of behavior and accepted assumptions
- When we feel safe and are offered time to change
- When we model different behavior with our actions
- When we notice what remains unchanged
- When we ask about why others may refuse to change

This Lent, practice resurrection and be the change we need as together we Journey to Becoming Beloved Community.

Please contact Pastor Santana to register or if you have any questions.

Here is our meeting schedule and locations:

Feb 13 & 20 - Riverside United Methodist Church, Moline IL

Feb 27 & March 5 - Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ, Davenport IA

March 12 & 19 - Hope United Church of Christ, Moline IL

Lenten Prayer Practice: 40 Questions in 40 Miles for 40 Days of Lent

This year we are offering an additional way to engage in a spiritual practice during Lent. Rev. Stephen Smith from the Potter's Inn, has created this resource for engaging our Spirit, mind, and body in prayer and reflection. The challenge is to 'move' one mile for each of the 40 days of Lent (Sundays are 'off'). Each day has a meditation prompt to think and pray about while you are moving. There is a different prompt each day. You can do this on the treadmill, out on your favorite walking path, or even if you're riding a bike (stationary or out on the road!). Walking? Great! Jogging? Great! Skipping rope? Great! Sitting in your favorite chair? Great! You can sit still and reflect on the prompt and that is perfect too! The challenge is that you stay focused on the prompt for the time it would take to walk a mile -Rev. Smith recommends at least 15 to 30 minutes, but take as much time as you would like or need – this is not a race. However you 'move' for 1 mile is absolutely great.

If you are like Pastor Santina and would like a little encouragement and accountability as you engage in this practice, you can meet her Monday through Friday at 2:00 P.M. at the South Park Mall, inside in front of Ashley Furniture, to walk that mile. We'll all walk at our own pace, but it is nice to engage in this practice in community.

The devotional material will be available starting Sunday, February 11 at church and on our website. Please contact Pastor Santina with any questions or to let her know you'll see her at the mall.

Wednesday Evening Gathering: Soup Dinner and Taize Prayer Service During Lent

We hope you will join us February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 for a light soup dinner and Taize prayer service. We will serve dinner from 5:30-6:00 and the service will begin at 6:00 P.M. Thank you to Mary Tallitsch and our Bell Choir for adjusting their start time to 7:00 P.M. to accommodate this program.


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.



**Centering Prayer at Hope UCC
will be paused during February
through the Lenten season.
Centering Prayer will resume
following Easter in April.**



Thank you to all who were able to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting. The 2024 Budget was approved. Copies of the full report are still available on line and in the church office. Thank you for your stewardship of our church.



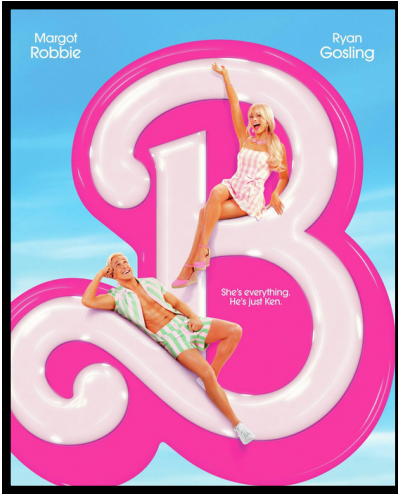
February Birthdays

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

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 in an expeditious, speedy, quick, prompt, swift, and efficient manner.

Reel Theology February 9: Barbie (Snow Reschedule!)

Join us to watch and discuss the 2023 hit film *Barbie*. This fantasy comedy film is directed by Greta Gerwig from a screenplay she wrote with Noah Baumbach, and tells the story of Barbie and Ken as they take a journey of self-discovery following an existential crisis. Whether you loved playing with Barbie or never played with one of these toys, this film has SO much more to discover and discuss. Themes of self-esteem, equality, and identity are just a few of the hidden gems in this film. Barbie is rated PG13 and all ages are welcome to attend Reel Theology. If you would like to eat together before the film, please bring your own dinner at 5:30. The film will begin at 6:00 with the discussion to follow.



February Scriptures

Feb 4: Isa 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39
Feb 11: 2Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, Mark 9:2-9
Feb 18: Gen 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15
Feb 25: Gen 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31, Mark 8:31-38
March 3: Ex 20:1-17, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22

Coffee Fellowship Hour- Volunteers Welcome!



**Sign up to provide snacks and help set up and clean up.
Your help is greatly appreciated!
Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.**

Stone Soup All Church Lunch Sunday, February 11

There is an old European folk tale that tells the story of hungry soldiers seeking a meal in a village. When the villagers tell them they have nothing to share, the soldiers introduce the villagers to “Stone” soup. When the villagers saw the stone in a pot of water, they added their own ingredients of vegetables and spices creating a delicious soup for the whole village to enjoy. This folk tale reminds us that more is accomplished when we join together and create something special together. Hope UCC will live into this fun call to join together and create something special together – not only in our worship and fellowship – but also in sharing food together. On Sunday, February 11 we will create our own Stone Soup. Please bring your favorite soup ingredient - vegetables, grains, or protein – chopped and ready to add into the broth to the kitchen before worship. Our kitchen elves will be ready for you and will add it to the pot so it is ready to eat following worship during Fellowship Hour. Don't worry if you forget to bring an add-in – that is the beauty of Stone Soup: there is always enough for everyone!!



Out with the Old and In with the New (Hot Water Heater!)

Over the holidays, after thirty long years of faithful service, we had to replace our church kitchen's hot water heater. Toward the end of December it began to leak, and so the Trustees worked with the team at J.L. Brady to find a suitable replacement. Many thanks to the Trustees for their help. In particular, Bob Church went above and beyond to coordinate bids from plumbers, meet with the plumbers from Brady, oversee their efforts, and ensure they had the access they needed to our church's spaces. Please thank him if you get a chance. And please feel free to stop by the kitchen janitorial closet and check out our new faithful hot water heater.

Singles and Doubles Game Night on Saturday February 24th

Singles and Doubles annual game night will be on Saturday February 24th at 5:00 P.M. All adults of the church are invited and encouraged to bring friends. Please bring your favorite game to share: board games, cards, dominoes, or whatever!! This year we will have snacks and finger foods. Please bring something to share and also bring your own drinks. February 24th is National Tortilla Chip Day. Just saying!!!! If you have any questions, please contact Barb Hawotte. We are hoping to see a large turnout for another fun evening of games and laughter!



Hope UCC Book Club: February 26th at 6:00 P.M.

Join the discussion and fun of the Hope UCC Book Club when we meet to discuss *Mother, Daughter, Traitor, Spy* by Susan Elia MacNeal. The book takes place in June of 1940 and is inspired by a real-life mother-daughter duo who stumble upon an underground Nazi cell in Los Angeles during the early days of World War II—and find the courage to go undercover. Questions? Contact Dorothy Burdick and see you at book club!

