



# Hope

## United Church of Christ

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: JULIE BUSTARD

VICE PRESIDENT:

CARIDAD RAMOS

FINANCIAL CLERKS:

JAN BIRDSSELL & JENNY HOOKEY

TREASURER: BOB TALLITSCH

RECORDING CLERK:

DONNA WERNER

HISTORIAN/REGISTRAR:

DONNA WERNER

### WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

JAN VARGA

JUDY HAWOTTE

NANCY STEVENS

LISA POWELL WILLIAMS

### TRUSTEES MINISTRY

JUDY PIPER

GRADY BIRDSSELL

BOB POOR

DEAN HERBST

BOB CHURCH

JENNY HOOKEY

ERIC LEUTH

### MISSION & OUTREACH MINISTRY

KATHY HOBSON

SUE GRCHAN

GINNY ANDERSON

KATHY NEGAARD

CAROLE KEENAN

### COUNCIL AT LARGE

JO ANN OLSON

TRACY MOCKMORE LEUTH

JAN BIRDSSELL

### STAFF

REV. SANTINA POOR, PASTOR

REV. PARKER LEWIS, PASTOR

EMERITUS

MARY TALLITSCH, HANDBELL

DIRECTOR

JACK STREMLow, MINISTER OF

MUSIC

CONNIE HULETT,

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

### PASTORAL

### RELATIONS/PERSONNEL

### MINISTRY

REV. SANTINA POOR

DONNA WERNER

JENNY HOOKEY

BOB TALLITSCH

### Our Sabbatical Season

It's almost humorous to go back and read what I wrote in the January newsletter about my sabbatical plans. I was definitely dreaming big and stretching myself out of my comfort zone with our plans to go to Italy and the United Kingdom. For many reasons, we decided to stay closer to home during this sabbatical season, and now, as we continue to navigate our grief and loss, that decision to stay close to home feels even better. As I wrote in January, a clergyperson's sabbatical leave is meant to be a time of spiritual renewal and rest. As I prepare to begin this sabbatical, I will add another element to the time away that Bob and I will have this summer: recovery. While we will never fully 'recover' from losing Charley, we will take time this summer to focus on our ongoing healing and processing our grief as a family. Additionally, I will be working with a Spiritual Director and therapist as I strengthen and recover and renew my spiritual strength. I promise you all I will be ready to fully return to the pulpit and all of my pastoral duties when I return to the office of August 26. I am so grateful for the time and space and grace you have given me – both immediately following Charley's death and with this sabbatical leave. In many ways, you have saved my life. How can I ever thank you all?

When we decided back in early February that we were not going overseas, I needed to come up with new sabbatical plans. I did not want to waste this precious gift of time away. That was when I saw my 2024 Star Word on my desk: *Blossom*. This felt like a call to be outside and experience the beauty of creation and the renewal nature provides for me. So the bulk of my sabbatical will be spent working in our backyard, creating my long yearned for vegetable garden, spending time outdoors as a family, praying, reflecting, journaling, reading, exercising and perfecting my pasta dough, pizza crust, and pie crust. I will also spend quite a bit of time preparing worship series plans for the fall and Advent/Christmas. I am still planning to begin this time with my attendance at the Festival of Homiletics, but I will attend virtually instead of in person. Bob and I have some very simple plans this summer, our goal is just to hold space each day with love and gratitude.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Our Sabbatical Season (continued)

I am grateful for your prayers and support during this precious time away. You are giving an amazing gift to your pastor and her family with this sabbatical – but please remember, this time of sabbatical is also meant to be a time of growth and renewal for you, the congregation, as well. What will you discover about your call as a congregation – individually and as a community of faith – during this sabbatical? How is God speaking to you and how do you feel called to serve in new and different ways going forward? I invite you to spend time reflecting on ideas you have for mission and programs for the new program year. I would love to hear ideas you have about what you'd like to hear and study in Bible studies, book studies, and in worship – any sermon topics especially! You know I love worship series themes – is there something you'd like to experience in worship, a topic you'd like to explore through Word, prayer, praise, music, and preaching? Where is God's Spirit calling us to engage with our local and global community in deeper and meaningful ways?

I will return to the office on Monday, August 26th but please be assured that all of you, and this extraordinarily beautiful and special community of faith of Hope UCC, will be in my thoughts and daily prayers throughout this sabbatical season.

With prayers for renewal, refreshment, and recovery,  
and deep and abiding love for you all,  
Pastor Santina

BLOSSOM



THANK YOU

Just as there are not adequate words to describe our grief and heartbreak at the loss of our beloved Charley, there are not adequate words to express our deep gratitude and thanks for all love, support, and prayers we have experienced and received in the hours, days, and weeks since his death. Your messages, notes, texts, emails, calls, and cards have given us all strength and hope during this time. The many delicious meals and treats and snacks you provided to us, fed our bodies and our Spirits. You all have sustained us in so many ways and have helped guide us and keep us grounded in our love and faith through this journey. We do not know what we would do or how we could 'be' without you, our Hope UCC Family. We love you.

As we continue to thank God for the gift that Charley will always be to us and for the life and too short of time we were able to share with him, we will thank God for all of you who love and cared for him too.

With our love and thanks and may God bless you always,  
Pastor Santina, Bob, Lewis, Julian, and MJ





**Quad Cities Flutes Unlimited Concert Friday May 3rd at Hope UCC**

Please mark your calendar for the Flutes Unlimited Concert at Hope UCC on Friday, May 3 at 7:00pm. Janet Stodd, founder of the choir, is returning from Connecticut where she now resides, to join with 22 colleagues for this 40th anniversary concert. The choir is so grateful to Hope UCC for sharing the church for rehearsals. Please come and bring friends.



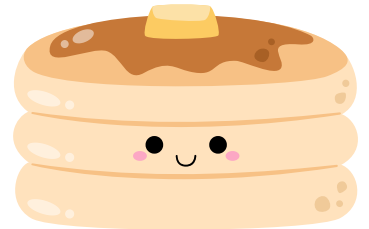
**May Birthdays**

*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.*

Hunter Toye	May 03
Peter McDermott	May 09
Gilbert Norris	May 13
Carole Lysell	May 21
Grady Birdsell	May 23
Riley Johnson	May 27
Leona Powell	May 29

**Men's Fellowship Saturday, May 4th Breakfast!**

The Men's Fellowship group will be meeting on May 4th, 8am at Deerfield Family Restaurant in Silvis. Please contact Josh Powell at (309) 737-8378 to RSVP or if you have any further questions.



**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.**

## **Hope UCC Yard Sale!**

Save the dates and gather your treasures! Hope UCC will hold its annual yard sale on Friday, June 14th and Saturday June 15th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Please bring in donated items beginning May 20th – they can be placed in classrooms 1 and 2 (please do not place items in the Chapel). We are not accepting clothes, but shoes, hats, jewelry, purses, and bags are acceptable. Please make sure donated items are clean and in saleable condition.

We'll need help setting up tables following coffee hour on June 9th as well as help that week with sorting, organizing and pricing. Of course, we will have a sign-up sheet for volunteers for these events as well as for clean up after the sale.

This is always a great fundraiser for Hope UCC and is also a lot of fun to work at together in fellowship. There will be treats and coffee too!! Please see Kathy Lewis (309-737-0791) or Linda Brown (309-721-1075) with any questions. Thank you!



## **CELEBRATIONS!**

### **Happy Anniversary, Jan and Grady!**

*"40 Years Later and Still Together! 5/26/1984 -5/26/2024"*

Jan and Grady would like to invite everyone to celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary with them on Sunday, May 26th following worship to enjoy cake and laughter in Fellowship Hall.

### **Happy Birthday to Gil Norris**

On May 13th, our dear friend Gil Norris will turn 95 years young! We would like to shower him with messages of love and happy milestone birthday wishes! Please mail your cards for Gil to the church office or to Julie Bustard. Any questions? Please contact Julie and many thanks!

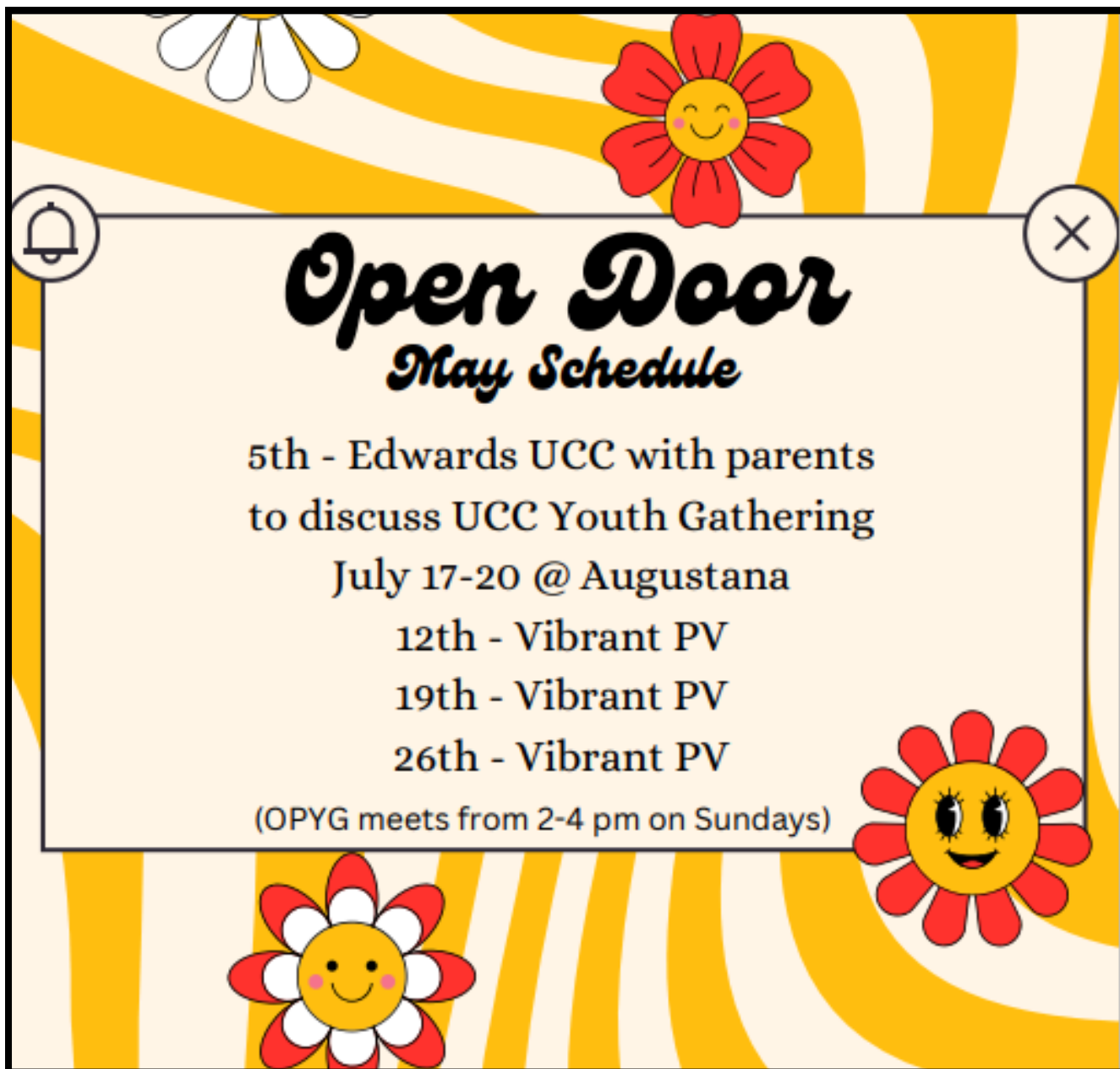
### **Celebrate Jack's Graduation!**

Jack and his family would like to extend an open invitation to Hope UCC to celebrate his graduation with them.

Please plan to attend Jack's graduation party on May 18th from 4:00-7:00 P.M. at the Duck Creek Lodge in Davenport at 3300 E. Locust Street



## Open Door Youth Ministry May News and Schedule!



**Open Door**  
*May Schedule*

5th - Edwards UCC with parents  
to discuss UCC Youth Gathering  
July 17-20 @ Augustana  
12th - Vibrant PV  
19th - Vibrant PV  
26th - Vibrant PV

(OPYG meets from 2-4 pm on Sundays)

### Welcome Rev. Michael Swartz!

We are excited to welcome Rev. Michael Swartz as our Sabbatical Interim Minister. Rev. Swartz will preach and provide pastoral care while Pastor Santina is on her sabbatical. Many of you already know Pastor Michael from his many years in the Quad Cities, when he served as Pastor at Church of Peace UCC in Rock Island and First Congregational UCC in Moline. Pastor Michael is a gifted preacher and pastor and we are looking forward to spending this summer with him when he begins his time with us on Sunday, May 19th.

WELCOME

A logo consisting of four musical notes: a purple eighth note, a yellow eighth note, a green eighth note, and a purple quarter note.

# Music Ministry NEWS

## **Welcome Laurel Filzen Etzel and Greg Etzel – Hope UCC’s New Co-Ministers of Music**

We are excited to welcome Laurel and Greg to the Hope UCC family as they join our staff as our new Co-Ministers of Music! As Jack prepared to begin his first year at St. Louis University, Mary Tallitsch was busy working her wonderful connections throughout the Quad Cities in order to find the right match to serve as our Minister of Music. Happily, Greg and Laurel have accepted the position and will begin, with some overlap with Jack, in mid-August. We will have their complete biographies for you in coming weeks (my apologies for not having it ready at the printing of the May newsletter – Pastor Santna). Please welcome Greg and Laurel and their children Selah and Madie as you see them at church in the coming weeks.

## **Thank You, Mary!!!**

As many of you heard announced at church in April, our beloved Bell Choir Director, Mary Tallitsch, has decided to retire from directing the Bell Choir, effective in August. We will celebrate Mary and the MANY musical gifts she has brought (and will continue to share!!!) to Hope UCC in August – so get ready to celebrate! And fear not, Hope UCC’s Bell Choir will still be going strong in September because Greg and Laurel will be taking on directing Bell Choir in their roles as Co-Ministers of Music.

## **Help Keep the Blessing Box Stocked!**

Can you spare a few minutes to help our neighbors? Sign up to help restock the Blessing Box in front of Hope UCC? It doesn’t take much time at all and it makes a BIG difference in the lives our friends and neighbors. Please see Julie Bustard for more information or Kathy Hobson to sign up. Thank you!!

