



Hopeful Connections

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Spreading Love, Hope, Joy and Thanks at Hope UCC!

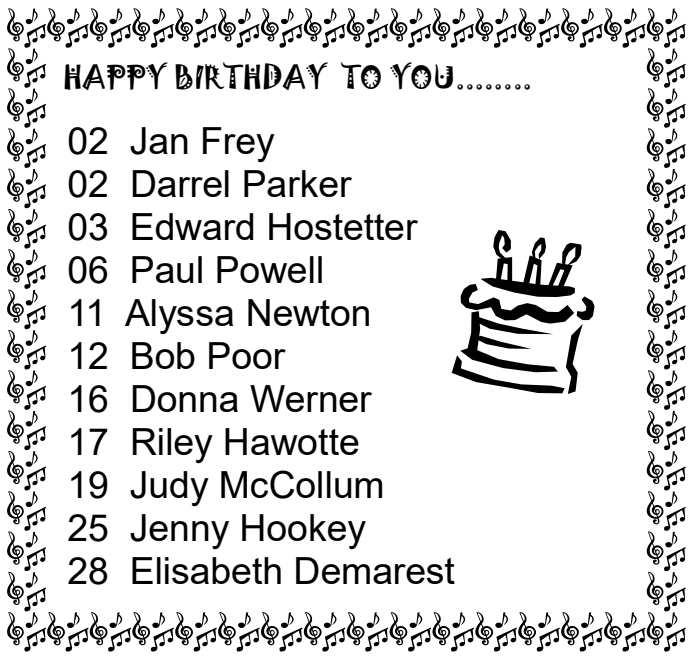
If 2020 is teaching us anything, it is that we have to keep learning. We have to keep learning how to pivot. We have to keep learning how to show kindness and patience. We have to keep learning about the deep importance of, and need for, empathy. We have to keep learning how to be hopeful. My experience in late October forced me to slow down and rest and re-group. Exposure to a person who was positive for Covid deposited all these lessons directly into my lap in a different way than they had for the previous 6 months. I am so thankful for our wonderful staff and church members for filling in so seamlessly when I had to suddenly stay home. A big thank you to Lisa Powell Williams for taking on the stress of writing a sermon and leading worship with very little prep time – which she did without batting an eye – was amazing. Mary and Ben were so wonderful with their musical offerings and helping with the tech. I am thankful for Pam also; her ability to remain unflustered by any disruptions is a gift to our congregation. I am grateful for the support and prayers and so, so thankful for the negative results.

I am not going to lie, like so many others in our country, I have had a lot of stress and anxiety as we approach November. This election is like no other. I have prayed for our country and its leadership because of the division and negativity and hatred that have grown and the anxiety and fear that results. I am holding a lot of anger and grief for all that has been lost these past 7 months. So many lives have been lost and for survivors, theirs are forever changed. This fear and frustration has felt so unreal. In my worship planning, I hit a wall when I tried to plan for November because of these fears. A clergy friend offered me a great idea to help get past some of that fear. He suggested using the 'super spreader' idea in a positive way. In other words: be a super spreader of joy, love, peace, grace, kindness. So, thanks to Tim, throughout November, no matter who is elected, Hope UCC will focus on sharing and spreading love & memories, hope, joy, and thanksgiving. We must be a source of healing and trust in God, and I pray that Spirit is present in our worship together and brings us the hope and strength we seek. No matter who is elected, we have A LOT of work to do to bring healing and love to our community – local and global. We will continue to live as the people of God, serving and loving all of God's creation. God is doing something special at Hope UCC and I pray we continue to listen and let God's Spirit keep guiding us forward.

Let us, in all we do: in our daily activities, with our votes, in the words we use, through our interactions with others, and in our care for all of God's Creation, hold fast to and faithfully strive to follow and live by Jesus's greatest commandment, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"* – Matthew 22:27-29 Hope Grows!



Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santina



November Scripture

Nov. 1	Psalm 34:1-10, 22 Revelation 7:9-17
Nov. 8	Amos 5:18-24 1 John 4:7-21
Nov. 15	Psalm 90:1-12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Nov. 22	Psalm 103 Colossians 3:12-17
Nov. 29	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is extended to the family of Lowell Tidwell who died October 26th. Lowell was a long time and beloved member of Union Congregational UCC and we were blessed to be able to get to know Lowell when Union and Hope came together as one family of faith.

Dearest Church Family,

Your prayers for strength have been answered. Thank you all for them. And Santina's daily phone prayers. I've read all of my cards at least three times or more, slept with my prayer shawl in hand last night, and enjoyed all the special notes and calls. I'll tackle the adult coloring book some time on a calm day. I'm scheduled for one to two more weeks at Lindon Grove, and will stay a couple more weeks with my son and his wife before I make the two hundred mile trip home.

Love, Della

PS: Thanks for the food shared with Cliff too!



Get Your Flu Shot

This year it is even more important than ever it get your flu shot. If you need assistance finding a location to get your vaccination or help getting there, please contact the church office – we can help.



Quiet Table Contemplative Service

Time Change

Beginning in November, our weekly contemplative service will take place from 5:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. All are welcome. We meet via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87907973969>

Meeting ID: 879 0797 3969

Youth Group News for November & December

Youth Group meets from 3:00-4:30 Sunday afternoons, unless otherwise noted for special events. In order to faithfully and safely gather, all activities require properly worn masks and social distancing guidelines are enforced. Please stay home if you do not feel well or think you have/have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for Corona Virus. Thank you for complying with the safety guidelines – it is an act of caring and loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

November 1: All Saints Day – Spread Memories and Love

Matthew 5:1-12

Come prepared to tell a story about a special person in your life and how they made a difference in your life or how you witnessed them making a difference in someone else's life. We will create a special memorial tribute to take home.

November 8: Spread Hope

John 1:1-5

How to be a light in the darkness. We will create luminaries using upcycled materials that we will use to decorate Hope UCC's sanctuary during Advent.

November 15: Spread Joy

Philippians 1:1-11

Celebrate the joy you bring to this world and the joy your faith brings you as it grows. We will create cards and letters for our homebound members and friends.

November 22: Spread Thanks

Matthew 25:31-46

We will have a Thanksgiving party and do a 'praying in color' exercise.

November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent- Hope: "I Still Believe in Love"

Isaiah 64:1-9

What does Advent teach us about hope?

We will create a Christmas decoration symbolizing hope.

December 5: Las Posadas – 1:00 p.m. Details in November newsletter and we will discuss in Youth Group

December 6: No Youth Group (I hope you can join us for Las Posadas!)

December 13: Caroling for homebound members and friends: This is an all church event. Details in December newsletter and we will discuss in Youth Group

December 20: Christmas Party and gift exchange: Please bring a wrapped gift to share in a gift exchange game. All gifts should be under \$10.

December 27: No Youth Group

2020 Officers, Board Members, Ministries and Committees

Due to 2020 being such an unusual year for Hope Church and all our members dealing with the Covid and not being able to gather together, I have proposed asking all members that are now on the Board or any Ministry whose term is up this year, to please stay in place for one more year. Many still have a year to fulfill but there are a few that would be leaving a Ministry. This way we do not have to try to go through the process of contacting many people to replace anyone. All Officers are still in place for another year and most Council members, it is mostly the various Ministries that have a few people that would have changed. I would appreciate everyone's consideration to stay in place for the next year. If anyone has a question or wants to discuss this, please call me.

Thank you, Kathleen LeMaster



First a confession — I took the question “What are you thankful for?” very, very seriously and, to be honest, it was hard to narrow my response down to one thing. But it ultimately came down to a simply and obvious answer: I am very thankful for my wife Mary. All of my accomplishments — all of my successes — almost everything that I have done in my personal and professional life couldn’t have been done without the support, love, and encouragement from Mary. She worked to put me through graduate school. She supported my dream of becoming a college professor. Then she provided insight and support as I sought (and found) employment — ultimately working at Augustana College for 43 years! Throughout my career she supported me and helped me to do things I never thought possible (such as traveling to Asia more times that I can remember). In addition Mary put up with my long hours at the office, shared in my successes and provided moral support and comfort when things didn’t go according to plan. Mary was, and continues to be, an integral part of the “other things” associated with being a college professor, such as the seemingly constant stream of former students crossing our threshold and spending time in our home. I couldn’t have done any of it without her — and she continues to be my most important and loudest cheerleader. Thank you Mary...I am very, very thankful that you are a ginormous part of my life.

Bob Tallitsch



I am thankful for Family, Friends, Hope Church and Pastor Santana

Although this has been a challenging year for everyone, there are still many things to be thankful for. I have found it has been easy for me to complain and feel sad or sorry for myself when being in such isolation. Then, I snap myself back to reality and look for the blessings in my life. My family is on the top of my list; I am so thankful for all of them each day even when I am not able to see them as much as I would like. I am also thankful for all my friends, including everyone at Hope UCC for staying connected through cards, calls, text, Facebook or even a few outdoor coffee’s when the weather permitted. I have watched our own Pastor Santana work double time to be sure everyone is being taken care of and staying connected as we travel through this difficult time. I know for sure, if I did not have my faith it would be so much more difficult. Santana has made sure we all remember this and that she is here to help us through whatever we may need. I hope Santana and her family know we want to do the same for them. Thank you to Santana and her family, Pam, all members of Hope UCC, and especially my family. I am thankful for all of you.

Kathleen LeMaster



I am thankful for my mother for raising nine boys, and at 91 is still healthy and active. My brothers and I learned to work together and help each other.

I am thankful for my wife and our family. We have three children, spouses, and seven grandchildren all healthy and happy.

I have been blessed with a good life, good health, good friends, and a good church family. As I write this, I am blessed to be able to go trout fishing with my friends.

Denny Black



I'm thankful for.....music!

During this time when we can't be together in person, singing in the usual way is forbidden, and hand bells were silenced when our worship practices changed, it may seem strange to be thankful for music. But, I say "not so fast." During this long pandemic music at Hope is something that gives me joy! Bob Poor stepped up weekly from the "Poor Family Chapel" to bless our worship with his gifts. Behind the scenes little did we know that contacts were still at work to secure a new accompanist and what a gift Ben Holmes has been to worship! His voice fills our silence, his organ and piano playing are uplifting and his guitar playing and guest musicians have been a source of inspiration to worshippers near and far. Let's not forget about our faithful bell ringers. As we "re-tooled" our plans, members were just waiting for the opportunity to be able to play. We are rich with music at Hope UCC. Thank you to each of you who so generously give of your gifts! I feel personally blessed and thankful to be a part of this HOPE-filled team and that in these uncertain times music continues to bring us joy.

Mary Tallitsch



The year 2020! Wow, so much negativity, sickness, loss and pain, yet, there is so much I am and need to notice and be thankful for in my life!

I am beyond thankful for my family, friend and my church family/friends! I am surrounded by people who love, care and pray for me daily. I am sure there are people who pray for me that I don't even know they are!

Our world does not look the same as it used to before, but there are ALWAYS things to be Thankful for. As I look around our world, gaze at the beautiful blue skies, the luscious green grasses and the colorful leaves falling from the trees, I am thankful! Looking at the joyful smiles on children's faces, stranger's faces and on my loved ones faces, I am thankful.

And of course I would be remiss if I didn't mention my number one, I am thankful for, and I am in awe of, The Lord Jesus Christ my Savior! Without Him, I would be nothing!

I can't deny the joy and thankfulness that comes to me every day of my life. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel!

Choose joy, Choose happiness and always be thankful!

Julie Bustard



I am Thankful for My Family that they are always there with their love and support.

I am Thankful for My Church, Hope UCC for being able to pivot in these extraordinary times and stay connected to our Church Family.

I am thankful for Gods Love to bring us through these trying times.

Grady Birdsell





Quad Cities UCC-DOC Partnership Churches

Las Posadas Celebration: December 5 at 1:00 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 DOC 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 (outside, safely masked & distanced).

Las Posadas reminds us of the challenges faced by displaced people around the world and our call to share the sacred gifts of hospitality and welcome.

Las Posadas in the time of Covid will be different. We will travel to each church in our cars and when we arrive, we’ll stand together, safely distanced and with masks properly worn, outside, to sing. Traditionally, the Posada concludes with a fiesta at the final destination. Christmas cookies can still be enjoyed, even during a pandemic! Please bring your Christmas cookies in individually wrapped servings. We can do this! ☺

The Las Posadas Route:

Start: First Christian Church, Davenport: 510 East 15th Street, Davenport, IA

Next: Edwards UCC: 3420 Jersey Ridge Rd. Davenport, IA

Next: Faith UCC: 1630 W 38th St, Davenport, IA

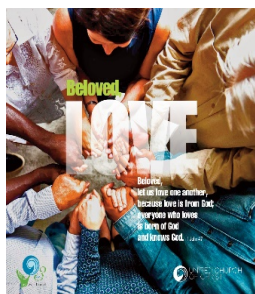
Next: Church of Peace UCC: 1114 12th St. Rock Island, IL

Next: Hope UCC: 3324 41st St. Moline, IL

Final Stop: First Congregational UCC Moline, 2201 7th Ave. Moline

Children – young and old – are invited to wear angel and shepherd costumes!

Questions? Please contact Pastor Santina: office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com or 309-762-1419



Stewardship 2021 Update

The 2021 budget is set and stewardship packets have been mailed out and distributed. If you haven’t received your packet please let the church office know and we will get one to you! As I mentioned during my Stewardship Moment earlier in October, yes, stewardship is about paying the bills at Church but — more importantly — it is about the mission of the Church. Your contribution, be it large or small, a yearly pledge or weekly giving, enables Hope UCC to carry out God’s mission through our congregation. Our mission statement says “Hope United Church of Christ is a family of faith where all are welcome. Through worship, mission and fellowship, we strive to grow spiritually and

share God’s love through Christ for all creation.” That is our mission, and that is what your stewardship allows us, as a Church, to accomplish.

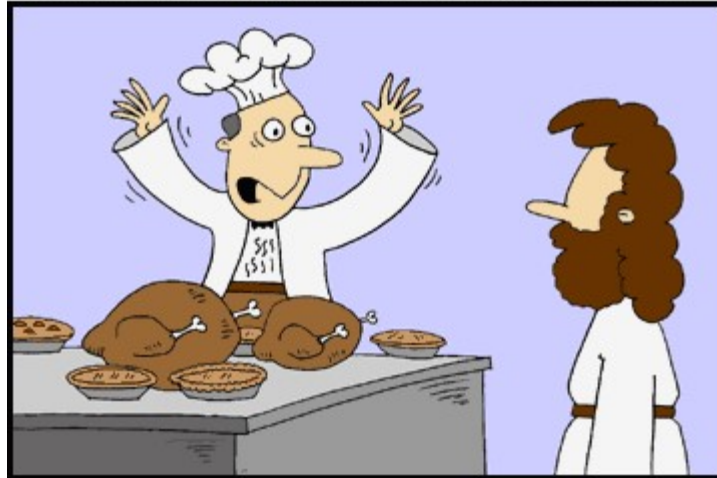
Stewardship totals thus far:

- 30 pledges submitted
- \$58,500 pledged thus far

If, because of these unsure times, you can’t commit to a pledge, we completely understand and ask you to offer an estimate of your weekly giving so that we may use that for budget planning and, if necessary, adjustments. If you can pledge please make sure that your pledge is turned on by Stewardship Sunday, November 8.

Thank you,

Bob Tallitsch, Treasurer of Hope UCC



(See Matthew 14:14-21)

11-24-1999

HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES
AND 2 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK
FOR THE 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE
INVITED?!?