



# Hope United Church of Christ

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CAROL KEENAN

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SHEILA GODERIS

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REV. PARKER LEWIS, PASTOR EMERITUS  
BRIDGET RAMIREZ, OFFICE ADMIN.  
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REV. SANTINA POOR  
\*KATHLEEN LEMASTER  
\*SHEILA GODERIS  
\*BOB TALLITSCH  
\*NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## Our Identity in the United Church of Christ

I appreciate very clear directions. I like to know exactly how to do something – that way I don't have to guess about whatever it is and I'll have less of a chance to mess it up. I'm not a perfectionist or anything like that – I just want to do things correctly the first time. I appreciate directions and clear descriptions of what I'm getting into. I appreciate knowing the boundaries and limits of something and I'm really okay with tests that demonstrate my knowledge about a theory, organization, or system. Knowing that about myself, how in the world did I end up as an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ? How did a direction-loving, 'show me the boundaries' rules follower and test taker like me end up in a denomination that removes the 'rules' from identifying oneself as a follower of Christ? I wonder how many of us UCC'ers wonder the same thing. As a denomination, the UCC claims to be a church of testimony not of tests. We are assured that we do not have to pass a test or sign off on a specific set of beliefs to be a member or friend of a congregation. I thank God that I found my way to this denomination. While some in our congregation, myself included, came to the UCC later in life, many in our congregation were born into the UCC (or one of the denominations that became the UCC in 1957). Like many things in life, our faith journeys are varied and filled with interesting and formative experiences. How wonderful that our journeys have brought us together here, at Hope UCC.

As I met with our newest members in July, we discussed the history of the UCC. In that meeting I was reminded of the importance and substance of the UCC Statement of Faith. It was then that I knew our worship series theme this Fall would focus on the UCC Statement of Faith and what it means to us as followers of Christ. I look forward to exploring our Statement of Faith together for the next six weeks.

With peace,  
Pastor Santina

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

**Amen.**



08 Marcella Park  
09 Paul Bowman  
12 Ginger Hostetter  
12 Reagan Hawotte  
14 Dean Herbst  
28 Rev. Santina Poor



## September Scripture

September 4	Jeremiah 18:1–11 Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
September 11	Luke 15:1–10
September 18	Jeremiah 8:18–9:1 Matthew 25:31–41
September 25	Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15 Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16 Luke 16:19–31

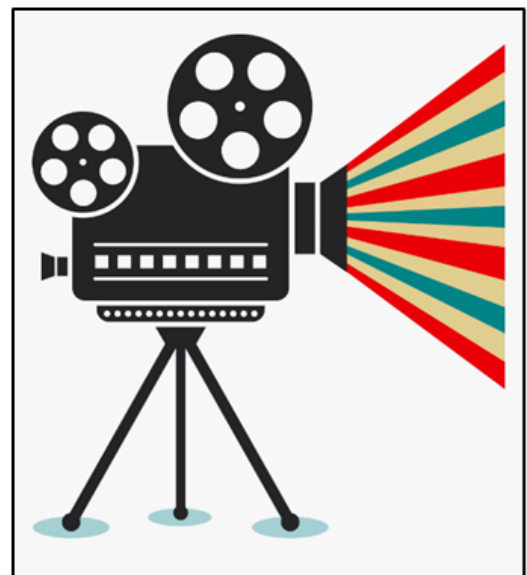
### Weekly Lectionary Bible Study Returns September 13

Join us for our weekly discussion and study of the scripture that will be the focus of Sunday worship. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. for this time of learning, exploration, and fellowship. Our meeting schedule is Tuesdays at 10 A.M. EXCEPT on the 3rd week of the month when we meet on Wednesday at 10 A.M. This is not a 'formal' Bible study and sometimes we leave with more questions than when we started, so if that sounds about right to you, please consider joining us! Please see Pastor Santina if you have any questions or would like more information about the Lectionary study group.

**Singles and Doubles** will be getting together (finally!) for a wiener roast at the church. This will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15th. We will have our bonfire back in the garden area. If we have bad weather that day, we will still hold this, but move to inside the church. We will be blessed to have Bob Poor play his guitar and we can all sing along to some favorite songs. He has asked for requests!!! More details will follow in the October Newsletter. If you have any questions at this time, please contact me. All adults of the church are welcome. Barb Hawotte

### Reel Theology Resumes September 9

All ages are welcome to join us on the 2nd Friday of each month for dinner, a movie, and a discussion! Bring your dinner at 5:30 and we will begin the film at 6:00 with the discussion about the film, its theme, spiritual/theological implications and other aspects as well. This is a great chance to catch up on some of the amazing films that have been released in theatres or through streaming platforms you may not have access to. Even if you've already seen the movie, come and watch it again with your friends and consider their larger themes, symbolisms, and reflections of society and our emotions, dreams, and behaviors. We'll watch and discuss new releases, older films & classics, musicals, documentaries, foreign films. Some of the films we'll be watching this year are *Peace by Chocolate*, *Top Gun Maverick*, *Katrina Babies*, *Charley and the Robot*, *We Feed People*, *Once*, *13th*, *Lilies of the Valley*, *American Factory*, *Minari*, *Worth*, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, and *the Florida Project*.



# KICK OFF SUNDAY

## SEPTEMBER 11

### 10:00 A.M.

## BEN BUTTERWORTH PARK

### EAST PAVILION



- CELEBRATE THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR!
- WEAR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM'S JERSEY/COLORS
- SIT AT THE PICNIC TABLES OR BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET TO SIT ON THE GRASS
- BRING YOUR LUNCH TO STAY FOR A PICNIC FOLLOWING WORSHIP

### **Special Guest September 18: Dr. Sharon Varallo of the Augustana Prison Education Program**

We are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Sharon Varallo to Hope UCC on September 18. Dr. Varallo will speak during worship about Augustana College's Prison Education Program, a four-year degree program for incarcerated men at East Moline Correctional Center. Dr. Varallo will be available following worship for further discussion about this vital program happening in our community. Invite a friend to worship to learn more about this transformational outreach.

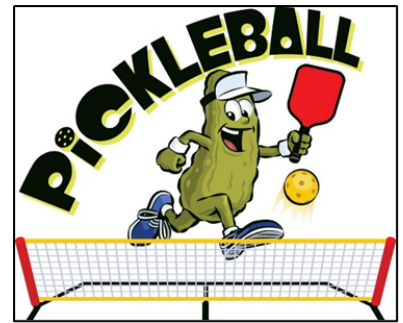
### **Kick Off Sunday at Ben Butterworth Park September 11, 2022**

Join us for outdoor worship at Ben Butterworth Park as we celebrate our Kick Off of the new program year! Now that football season is starting, let's have some fun by wearing your favorite team's shirt, accessory, jersey, colors, or hat. Professional, college, high school teams all count. If you're like me, you don't have a favorite team (you do not even watch football). HOWEVER, I will definitely be enjoying the spirit of the day and getting ready to kick off a great new year with our church family!

We will gather at the Eastern Pavilion at Ben Butterworth Park for our 10:00 a.m. worship. The Pavilion is accessible from the parking lot by a completely paved walkway. There are tables to sit on in the Pavilion, but if you're comfortable navigating the grass, you're welcome to bring a chair or blanket for your seating. We'll have coffee and treats available and if you'd like to stay and enjoy the park after worship, bring a picnic lunch. Remember to invite a friend! Of course, in case of rain, we will meet in Hope UCC's sanctuary. Questions? Please contact Pastor Santina in the church office or any of our Worship and Music Ministry team members.

### **Pickleball Extravaganza Fundraiser: September 17!!**

Get ready to have a fun Saturday morning full of fellowship, laughter, cheering, some good clean competition, and of course, tasty food on Saturday, September 17th at Hope UCC. We happen to have a Pickleball Pro in our congregation – Caridad Ramos – and she and her Pickleball Pals are organizing this fun event as a fundraiser in support the next Youth Group Service Learning Trip. The events of the day will include an exciting Pickleball demonstration, lessons, an exhibition game, lunch, and baked goods. A free will donation gets you a courtside seat and if you would like lunch, tickets for a delicious meal are \$5. There will be a variety of baked goods available for sale. Also, as soon as we figure out how the scoring works in Pickleball, we may even have the opportunity to make a 'donation' based on who you think will be victorious in the exhibition game. The Youth Group will be there serving lunch and will be part of the exhibition game as they challenge the Pickleball Pros. We are converting the rear parking lot into a Pickleball stadium and a great time is guaranteed – even if you've never heard of Pickleball before! By the time this event is over, you will definitely know what all the fuss is about and why this game is getting so popular for players of all ages and abilities!





### **All Church Service Trip: September 24!**

All ages are welcome to join Mission & Outreach as we travel to Aurora to serve at Feed My Starving Children. We will meet at Hope UCC at 9:45 a.m. and carpool to the worksite in Aurora, have lunch and then begin our shift that begins at 2:00 and concludes at 3:45. There are jobs for everyone, whether you are able to stand for the entire shift or need to sit while you help. This is a wonderful opportunity for our love for others to be shared out in the world. The food we help pack on this trip will be sent to one of the many partner organizations Feed My Starving Children works with as they help bring nutritious meals to areas facing food insecurity which is, sadly, an ever increasing crisis due to war, climate crisis, and disease. Join us to serve together, living out our call to love God and love others. Sign up by calling the church office or seeing Barb Hawotte following worship. Any questions? Please see Pastor Santina or any of the members of the M&O Ministry team: Barb, Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Kathy Hobson, Sue Grchan, Brian Williams, Ginny Anderson.



**Book Club**  
**September Book of the Month**  
"The Sweetness of Water"  
By Nathan Harris  
Can be found at Moline Public  
Library in the Book Club Section



### **Reel Theology September 9: Katrina Babies**

Sixteen years after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, an entire generation still grapples with the lifelong impact of having their childhood redefined by tragedy. New Orleans filmmaker Edward Buckles Jr., who was 13 years old during Katrina and its initial aftermath, spent seven years documenting the stories of his peers who survived the storm as children, using his community's tradition of oral storytelling to open a door for healing and to capture the strength and spirit of his city.

Hurricane Katrina hit in late August of 2005 and caused the deaths of at least 1,836 people. We are kicking off Reel Theology with this documentary as we commemorate the 17th anniversary of this natural and national disaster.

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. All ages are welcome!



### **Youth Group News**

Summer Vacation is officially over. We can't wait to see you and get back together to hear how you are doing and how school is going so far. We're looking forward to welcoming new friends to our group and getting started – we have A LOT planned for the next few months!!

Youth Group meets from 3:00-4:15 Sunday afternoons, unless otherwise noted for special events. Your friends are ALWAYS welcome to join you at any Youth Group event.

**September 4:** We kick off our new year together! We'll get to know each other, set goals, and plan events. We're going to learn a new song together because we've been asked to provide a video for the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration worship service. Yay!!

**September 11:** Kick Off Sunday! Join us for worship at Ben Butterworth Park at 10 a.m.

Youth group meets at 3 at church: Come back to church at 3 to work on that video and prepare for the Pickleball Extravaganza!

Week of

**September 11:** Date TBD depending on everyone's schedule: The Great Youth Group Bake Off!

We'll get together to prepare the treats for the bake sale at the Pickleball Extravaganza!

**September 17:** PickleBall Extravaganza Day!

Set up at 9:00 a.m. Come ready to work and play Pickleball. Bring a friend as you help welcome guests, work at the bake sale, serve lunch, and defeat the Pickleball Pros in the great Pickleball Match of 2022. All funds raised will go towards your next Summer Service Learning Trip.

**September 18:** Come to church at 10:00 a.m. to learn about the Augustana Prison Education Program and to help at Bake Sale Part 2 following worship.

Youth Group meets at 3:00. We'll make our music video and evaluate/discuss the Pickleball Extravaganza. Thank you notes will be written and left over baked goods will be eaten!

**September 24:** Feed My Starving Children All Church Service Trip

Meet at church at 9:45 a.m. and we will return by 6:30 p.m. Bring spending money if you would like to shop in their Fair Trade Market.

**September 25:** Youth Group at 3:00-6:30. We are responsible for preparing the meal for the Gathered Dinner Church Service that evening. Please plan to stay for the Gathered service.