



Hopeful Connections

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Looking Forward to a Future Filled with Hope!



Raise your hand if you thought that by now we would be back to 'normal.' I certainly did. Were we naïve to think that an Easter regathering was possible? Pentecost? No – we were not naïve, we were (and are) *hopeful*. When it was apparent that these special worship services would not be celebrated in person, we settled in for the long haul of remote, virtual, livestream, and now, parking lot, worship services and meetings. I am thankful that we are able to continue to gather and meet these challenges – this season continues to teach me that God is

present in all the ways we are God's people. I continue to give thanks for the grace-filled response from the Hope UCC faith community as we have tried new ways of gathering and living as disciples of the risen Christ.

This congregation's ability to adapt with grace is not a surprise. The history of Hope UCC is filled with examples of these gifts as we have grown and changed, merged and renewed, and prayed, planned, visioned, and strategized. Each pioneer in each season of Hope UCC's life – from Gordon Memorial, Plymouth, Union, and so many other origins - has looked to God for guidance, strength, and wisdom in the ideas, discussions, and decisions that have been made. And we continue to make prayerful, conscientious decisions today in that same tradition. Our mission as Hope UCC will always reflect that we believe that all we have is a gift from God and what we do with these gifts reflect our love for God and the call to share those gifts.

November 11th is the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of the sanctuary at Hope UCC. As we approach this important milestone of the dedication of our beautiful sanctuary and the completion of this campus, it offers us an opportunity to reflect on the gifts that have been shared with us and how we will use these gifts in the next 30 years – and beyond – all to the glory of God. 30 years has brought many changes to the religious landscape of the United States and it certainly has brought changes to us here at Hope UCC. Covid has brought us into an even newer reality of the need to remain flexible and adapt to changes with creative and faithful planning and ideas. Hope UCC has remained faithful to its mission throughout these past 30 years and it is exciting to imagine what new adventures God's Spirit will lead us into in the next 30 years (and beyond!). I pray that you will continue to keep your hearts and minds open to God's call and the Holy Spirit's (not so gentle) nudge in our lives going forward – together.

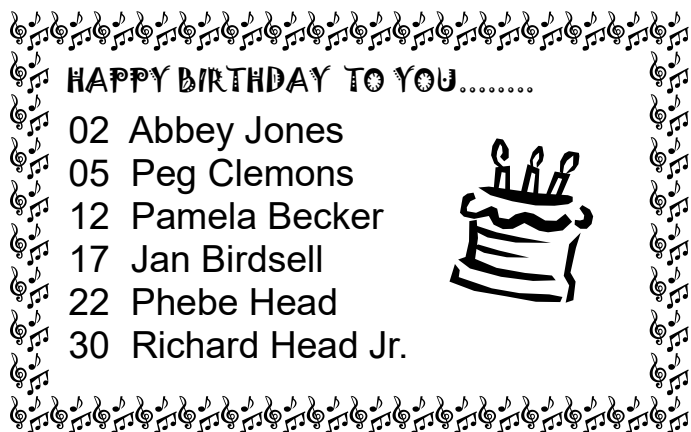
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On Sunday, October 11, we will kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign as we plan for 2021. Our theme centers on Jesus's call for us to share God's love. Scripture offers us this gentle wisdom from 1John 4:7, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." The ways we share God's love in our congregation reflects our commitment to be God's hands and feet in making a more just world for all. The work of Hope UCC – our mission - to live and make God's love known in the world is possible because of the generous financial and volunteer support of our members and friends. Because of you, our church expresses God's love in our community. In your stewardship materials you will find the proposed 2021 budget as well as an explanation of how this proposed budget supports our mission at Hope UCC and how your participation in and commitment to our mission will strengthen our congregation as a beloved community. With your help, we can show the world what love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation looks like today. Together, we can answer Jesus' call to love as God loves us.

As our 30 year history as Hope UCC (and the hundred+ years' history of our founding and contributing churches) teaches us, we have MUCH more to do in this community as the people of God. God is still speaking and Hope Grows!

Together in the journey,
Pastor Santina

 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....
02 Abbey Jones
05 Peg Clemons
12 Pamela Becker
17 Jan Birdsell
22 Phebe Head
30 Richard Head Jr.



Thank You
We would like to sincerely thank our church family for your cards, prayers and words of sympathy in the passing of our beloved mom.
Love,
Dan, Barb and Judy

October Scripture

Oct. 4	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Matthew 21:33-46
Oct. 11	Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Matthew 22:1-14
Oct. 18	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 Matthew 22:15-22
Oct. 25	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 Matthew 22:34-46
Nov. 1	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 Matthew 23:1-12

DVD Copies of Worship Services Available

If you are unable to join us through our live stream or recorded services on YouTube or attend outside in person, we now have the ability to record the worship services on DVD. If you have a DVD player and would like to watch the service on this media, please let the office know and we will have a DVD of each Sunday's service for you Monday.

These Days Daily Devotional Booklet

The new edition of These Days Devotional Booklet for October, November, & December is now available. They are on the table in front of the church office. If you would like one delivered, please contact the church office and let us know – Barb Hawotte is ready to deliver!!

Feast of St. Francis: Blessing of the Animals on October 4

In celebration of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day on Sunday, October 4, please bring your pets to church at Hope UCC for a special blessing. St. Francis is well known for his love and care for all creatures and Creation and we are happy to have a time in worship to honor our pets and their importance in our lives. If you are attending our Parking Lot Worship Service in person, simply bring your pet with you to church. Please make sure your pet is on a leash or in a transport container and that he/she is comfortable around other pets and people. If you will not be attending worship in person and would like to have your pet blessed, Pastor Santina will be at church until 12:00 so you can drive in and have your pet blessed individually, masked and safely distanced.

Four Session Discussion on How to Be an Antiracist

Our book study of Ibram X. Kendi's book, How to Be an Antiracist will begin at 7:00 p.m. on October 5. If you would like to join the study and need assistance ordering the book, please contact Pastor Santina. We will gather on Mondays in October in a hybrid Zoom/in person meetings at 7:00 p.m. Please use this time to order the book and start reading for this schedule:

October 5: Chapters 1-4

October 12: Chapters 5-9

October 19: Chapters 10-13

October 26: Chapters 14-18

If you need technical assistance ordering the book or financial assistance, or have any questions, please contact Pastor Santina.

Please register for this program by calling or emailing the church office: 309-762-1419 or office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com

Save the Date for Virtual NAMI & CROP Walks: October 10!

Hope UCC will once again have a team walking in the NAMI and CROP Walks. Each is a vital show of support of these important programs. NAMI supports our friends, family, and neighbors who live with mental health issues and the CROP Walk supports programs to alleviate hunger in our region. Have you already registered for our teams? If you would like to join our teams or make a donation to either organization, please go to the registration websites and sign up:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=37798> and

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/quadcities/Team/View/131860/Hope-United-Church-of-Christ>

This year both of the walks will be virtual so Hope UCC's team will gather and walk together in our area to show our support for NAMI and CROP. If you would like to walk with us, please meet at Hope UCC on Saturday, October 10 at 9:00a.m. We will walk over to the path across the street next to the medical center and get our steps in! Please wear your Hope UCC tee shirt.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Santina about the NAMI Walk or Kathy Hobson about the CROP Walk. Thank you for supporting these two important events!

9 Volt Battery Collection for Rock Island Academy Families

A working smoke alarm is a very essential piece of home equipment. Recently, teachers at Rock Island Academy became aware of the need for batteries in the smoke alarms of their students' homes. Our Mission and Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a 9 Volt Battery collection for the families at the school. Please consider donating a new pack (or two) of 9 Volt batteries – any brand is fine. We will collect the batteries through October 11th. You can bring them to the church office during the week or bring them on Sunday if you attend our outdoor parking lot service. Any questions? Please see any of the members of this ministry: Jenny Hookey, Charley Poor, Donna Werner, Brian & Lisa Williams, Barb Hawotte, and Kathy Hobson, or Pastor Santina. Thank you in advance for helping our neighbors stay safe in their homes!

UCC Special Offering: “Neighbors in Need” October 11

The Neighbors in Need campaign is an annual special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the funds collected during this campaign support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. These grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations funding projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

We will collect this special offering during worship on October 11. You can make a contribution in a variety of ways:

By check: Please make the check payable to Hope UCC and write “NIN” in the memo

Cash: Please indicate “NIN” on the envelope

Electronic Giving: Please use the ‘Donations’ tab at the top of the page and use the pull down menu to indicate the donation is for Neighbors in Need.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Church.

I Still Believe Advent Devotional Booklet

Have you ever had an experience that reaffirmed your faith in God and in humanity, or just gave you the encouragement you needed to get through a stressful or challenging time? What has given you the reason to still believe and have hope in what is good and possible?

We invite you to share these experiences and tell us why and how you still believe, as we combine our stories and experiences in our first annual Hope UCC Advent Devotional: I Still Believe

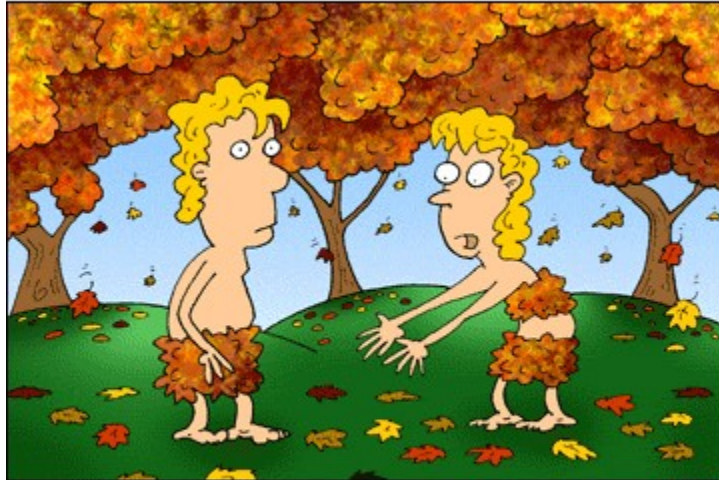
Your stories are necessary! This congregation will be the authors of this devotional! Please consider sharing your story. Contact Kathy Hobson to sign up and get more details. We need authors' names by October 1st and the stories will be due to Kathy by October 24th. If you have a story and would like help writing it for publication, we can help with that. Handwritten and dictated stories are welcome too! Also, we need help with the overall publication so if you would like to help with writing prayers, reviewing, editing, or construction of the devotional, please let us know.

To sign up to write a devotional reflection or to help in any way, please contact the church office: 309-762-1419 or office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com or Kathy Hobson: kathleenhbn72@yahoo.com.

Hope UCC's I Still Believe Advent Devotional will be distributed two weeks prior to the beginning of Advent.

Celebrate Our Saints

All Saints Sunday is November 1st. We will honor the memory of the saints in our lives during worship by adding to our ‘Circle of Saints’ wreath that we created 2 years ago. The Circle of Saints is a wreath that holds ribbons with the names of beloved people in our lives who have died - our saints - and each year we add to the circle. You can repeat the name(s) you included last year as well as adding any new names this year. Ribbons will be available beginning October 15 and we invite you to take one (or many) and write the names of the people in your lives whose memories you wish to honor. We are happy to mail them to you as well. Simply call or email the church office and let us know how many you would like. Please return the ribbons to church before or on the morning of November, and they will be attached to the circle. Ribbons will be available at church during the weeks leading up to November 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Santana or Pam in the church office.



10-06-2006

WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?