



HOPE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Hopeful Connections

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Stories of God by the People of God

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Faith is an integral aspect of our spiritual journeys, and yet "faith" looks, feels, and is experienced in many different ways. No two faith journeys are the same – and this is a wonderful gift. As we sojourn together, we are able to grow and develop spiritually and faithfully as God calls us to be.

During the month of August we will explore faith in a different way. Our scriptures will focus on the Gospel and Luke and the Letter to the Hebrews. Each Sunday, the texts focus on the ways faith guides us to live with trust in God and recognize how we are empowered by faith to see the unseen and trust God to accomplish things we can only imagine. We will celebrate faith and its many joys and challenges in our sermon series: The Stories of God by the People of God. For 4 weeks, we will hear from members of our congregation as they share their stories of how they have experienced faith in their lives and how their faith has shaped them. As we gather as the people of God, we are blessed to hear our friends share their stories:

August 11: Harmon Bowman

August 18: Josh Powell

August 25: Barb Hawotte


September 1: Jan Varga

I am grateful Harmon, Josh, Barb & Jan have agreed to take this leap of faith to speak in church and share a bit about their own faith. I am blessed to be part of a community of faith that sees the face of God when they look into the eyes of others. How wonderful to share this journey with you all.

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santina

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

02 Candy Herbst
 05 Katelyn Birdsell
 05 Larry Ohrberg
 16 Cliff Findlay
 16 James Grafton
 18 Debbie Rottman



August Scripture

Aug. 4	Luke 12:13-21
Aug. 11	Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Aug. 18	Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56
Aug. 25	Luke 13:10-17

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Did you know that the pastors of Hope UCC have long maintained a Pastor's Discretionary Fund? Thanks to the generous donations of individuals throughout the years, each of the pastors of this church has been able to provide assistance to people in a variety of ways. Members and friends of Hope, as well as individuals and families who have no connection to our church, have received vouchers for groceries and gasoline as well as rental and utility bill assistance through this fund. The discretionary fund has paid for motel rooms for people who need shelter and has also provided funds for individuals who simply need a little assistance making it to the end of the month or who need help with unexpected expenses. The discretionary fund has also been used to help pay for unbudgeted church expenses and programs. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund at Hope UCC is similar to funds held at other churches in all denominations and is set up so that the money is spent at the pastor's discretion. Council approval of expenditures is not required. This is a fund that is managed by the pastor who is expected to thoughtfully and prayerfully use this money in a way that reflects our mission. The pastor is not required to submit an accounting about where or to whom the funds are used or given, but good stewardship requires the pastor to track the expenses and offer the balance to be listed on the church financial report.

If you would like more information about the Pastor's Discretionary Fund or if you would like to make a donation to it, please see Pastor Santana.

Sunday School News

As we prepare for a new Sunday school year, please consider volunteering to teach our little ones. No teaching or Sunday school experience is necessary – the only requirement is a willingness to learn more about your own faith as you lead our children on their faith journeys. Faith Exploration will provide all the materials and resources. Sunday School will begin September 8. All classes meet from 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. You don't have to miss church to help out! Members of Faith Exploration will be available every Sunday to answer your questions & get you signed up to volunteer. Thank you!

Notice of special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, August 4th. The items to be considered at that meeting will be the following:

- Revision of Hope UCC's constitution and Bylaws
- Information about the current financial status of the congregation

Thank you to Faith Exploration who served coffee hour for the month of July. Worship Ministry will serve for the month of August.



Average church attendance
for July
75

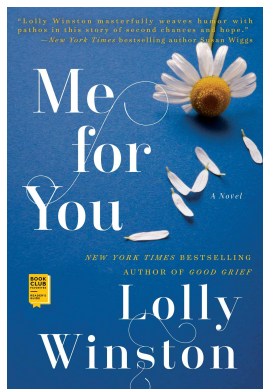
Reverend Poor,
 I just wanted to send this note to thank you and your parishioners for the wonderful cards, drawings and notes when folks like yourselves take time to share kind words and let them know their efforts are noticed, it makes our team that much more energized to accomplish their mission.
 Thanks to you and the Hope UCC congregation for this generous act of kindness.
 J.O. Schulte



Hope Happenings

Hope Book Club

We invite you to read *Me for You* a novel by Lolly Winston, then join us for discussion August 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Platinum Room at the Moline Public Library.



There Is Music in the Air!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
-Colossians 3:16

During the month of September, we will explore how God and Spirit are expressed and experienced through a variety of music. We are venturing away from our hymnal (only for September!) and into music that is not typically sung in a worship service, and yet has a deep, spiritual message. Sometimes God is found in the most surprising places!

To do this, we need your help! If you like to sing, we invite you to be part of our vocal choir that will be leading the congregational singing in September. We will begin practice on August 21st at 6:30 and meet for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings (before Bell Choir practice) through September. You do not need any previous choir experience and all ages are welcome to join. Please see Pastor Santina or Mary Tallitsch to sign up or if you have any questions about the September Choir.

Enjoy Fellowship and Music at Murphy Park at The Bend in East Moline: August 7 at 6:00 p.m.

Families of one and families of many, please join us for an all-church fun night out together at the free summer concert series at Murphy Park in East Moline. We'll gather on Wednesday, August 7 to hear *Terrapin Flyer*, a Grateful Dead inspired band from the Chicago area. We'll meet beginning at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7 p.m. Bring a chair and/or blankets, food, snacks, beverages but please do not bring coolers or ice chests (they are not allowed in the park for the concerts). There will also be food and beverages available for purchase at the park. Look for the Hope UCC group and join the fun! Murphy Park is located at The Bend in East Moline, in front of the Hyatt Hotel off 12th Avenue and 3rd Street.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Santina in the church office. Hope to see you at Murphy Park!

https://www.facebook.com/events/1623851914414100/?event_time_id=1623851941080764

Mission and Outreach at Hope UCC

Our sister congregation, Church of Peace in Rock Island, administers a busy food pantry at their church. They serve the community every Saturday, and they could use a hand. Serving at Church of Peace helps to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need with no questions asked. Just as with our Meal Site program, the food pantry feeds the spirit as well as the stomachs of those who attend. We hope you will sign up to help with any of the opportunities at Church of Peace's Food Pantry. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary. Please contact the office at Hope UCC if you have any questions.

Ways You Can Help:

Pantry Food Distribution

Church of Peace could use 2-4 volunteers for the following dates in July and August. Would need to be at Church of Peace (12th Street and 12th Avenue, Rock Island, IL) at 8:45. You will be done about 11:00 a.m. August 3, 17 & 24

Stocking the Pantry

Church of Peace "stocks the pantry" on Friday mornings (around 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.).

USDA Food Delivery

Church of Peace receives a USDA Delivery the 3rd Monday of every month and can use all the help they can get to unload and store the food received (from 3,000 to 6,000 pounds a month). 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

August 19

Summertime “Third Sunday” for Kids

This summer Faith Exploration will have a time for children ages 8-13. On August 18 the children will go with a volunteer to have some time together creating something fun following the Children’s Message in the worship service. If you would like additional information or would like to volunteer to assist, please see Faith Exploration Ministry members Xavior, Laura Black, Beth Carvey, Bob Poor, Mary Tallitsch, and Lisa Powell-Williams.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!! End of Summer Activities

August 6: Trip to Jubilee Farm UCC

Jubilee Farm UCC is a ‘farm church’ in Clinton, IL. We will meet the Rev. Cyndy Ash who is the owner/farmer/pastor of this amazing place, and she is going to put us to work! Jubilee Farm is a working farm whose mission is to provide the community with locally grown produce, farmed sustainably. We will help out with some farm chores and learn about this special place where God is doing a new thing! And, as Pastor Cyndy said, “...wear clothing that they don’t mind getting stained.”

WHEN: Meet at Hope UCC at **6:00 A.M.** on Tuesday, August 6.

We will be back to Hope UCC by 4:00 P.M. that afternoon.

BRING: A sack lunch – Pastor Santina will bring bottles of water.

A hat, sunscreen, wear long pants, and closed toe shoes.

RSVP: To Pastor Santina **by August 4** so that transportation can be confirmed.

Email, text, or call her to let her know you’re coming on this trip.



August 10-11: 27 Hours of Service and FUN!

This is a great opportunity to get to know each other better, welcome new friends to Youth Group, and have fun together while growing in our spiritual formation. Join us for a day of service, games, water fights, a cook out with a fire ring, worship, discussion, and a sleepover at church. Did I mention there will be lots of good things to eat? We will meet at Hope the morning of Saturday, August 10 and go to Church of Peace. Half of us will work at the food pantry and the other half of our group will go to the kitchen and prepare lunch for volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. We will all go deliver and serve the lunch after we’re done at Church of Peace. When we get back to church we will have a bunch of different things to do, before hitting the hay, I mean the floor, to get a “good night’s sleep” – hmm....

Activities back at church include:

Games: Water balloon volleyball, pool noodle Marco Polo, Nose Dive, Sardines, and more

Worship: We will have a time of prayer and worship

Cook Out: Mr. Hawotte will set up a fire ring and we will have a cook out: hot dogs, etc. and s’mores.

Movie: To be determined

Sunday morning we will have breakfast, clean up, and attend worship with the congregation. You’ll go home following church. Wow.

WHEN: Meet at Hope on Saturday, August 10 at 8:00 a.m.

You will go home after worship on Sunday, August 11.

BRING: Sleeping bag, pillow, air mattress if you want extra cushioning for sleeping on the floor, pajamas, toiletries, extra clothes just in case because we’re going to have some water balloons – if you don’t want to hang out in wet clothes, & something to wear to church.

RSVP: To Pastor Santina **no later than Wednesday, August 7** so that we can purchase all the necessary supplies. Call, text, or email her to let her know you’ll be there.

August 18: Youth Group Planning Family Meeting

Following worship, youth and their families will meet to decide when Youth Group will meet for their weekly time together. We need to hear from you – please plan on attending so we can find the time that works best as we begin our new program year!

