



May 2023 VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5

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United Church of Christ

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Spring Renewal

Spring in the Midwest is a magical time. Trees, shrubs, and flowers seem to leaf up and bloom before our very eyes. I recently left for the grocery store and when I came home, the Rhododendron on our corner had blossomed into a bright purple orb in the short time I was away. Incredible. All of the beauty of nature around us is inspiring and renewing. That new life sprouting from those gnarly branches of the trees and emerging from the cold mushy soil (or piles of remaining fall leaves as in our backyard) are reminders that there is new life possible. What we see on the surface does not always reveal the energy and activity happening beneath the surface. Spring is a beautiful reminder of potential - our individual and our communal potential. Spring seems to inspire the questions of what can we do, what can we be? Sometimes the answer to those questions is a spring cleaning project (by the way, we will have a yard sale at church in June!). And sometimes the answer leads us to remember that the gifts God has given us are meant to be shared – nurturing new life to grow in surprising and renewing ways.

How do we faithfully follow this call? In an effort to answer this, our Mission and Outreach Ministry is kicking off an important project this month (described in an article within this newsletter) that invites all members and friends of Hope UCC to faithfully consider how God is calling us to serve and care for our community – locally and globally. Everyone will have the opportunity to indicate where we discern Hope UCC can provide renewal and love through our resources, advocacy, and support. In a time when there is no shortage of the need for sharing God's light and love in this world, this project will help us focus our resources and energy in order to rekindle within each of us and as a faith community, that light and energy that brings forth God's love and promise of a just and peaceful world. Theologian Fredrick Buechner wrote about vocation and discernment and offers this beautiful description of that work in which will we enter into together, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

As we watch, enjoy, and find fulfillment in the beauty of God's Creation being renewed all around us, listen to, notice, and be mindful of what God is renewing within your heart and in the heart of Hope UCC.

Yours in this renewing journey,
Pastor Santina



Beer & Hymns

GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD
MUSIC, GOOD TIMES!

Beer (and Soda) & Hymns with Hope UCC
at Pour Brothers Craft Taproom Event Room
Saturday, May 6 from 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Families of one and families of many are invited to join us for this fun, all ages event of community fellowship, singing hymns we know by heart (or read from the provided page), good food, and of course, good drinks. It's a potluck so bring a dish to share.

For more info go to www.hopeuccqc.org

A poster for a Spring Concert. The background is light blue. On the right, there is a large, dark brown tree with green leaves and pink blossoms. Several small brown birds are perched on the branches. In the top right corner, the text "Join us!" is written in a light green, cursive font. The main title "QC Flutes Unlimited" is in a black, serif font. Below it, "Spring 2023" is written in a large, pink, cursive font. The word "CONCERT" is in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font. Below the title, the text "Presenting a 'Flute Bouquet'" is in a pink, cursive font. Underneath that, a paragraph describes the theme: "Featuring the signs of Spring: flowers blooming, birds singing, young love, and dancing under the flower moon." The date and time "Monday, May 1, 7 p.m." are in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below that, the location "Hope United Church of Christ" and "3324 41st St., Moline, IL" are in a black, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, there is a silhouette of a person playing a flute, with musical notes floating around it.

QC Flutes Unlimited
Spring 2023
CONCERT

Presenting a
"Flute Bouquet"

Featuring the signs of Spring:
flowers blooming, birds singing,
young love, and dancing under
the flower moon.

Monday, May 1, 7 p.m.
Hope United Church of Christ
3324 41st St., Moline, IL

Join us!

Thank You!

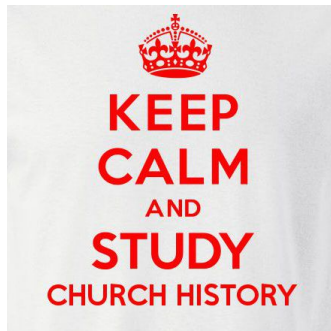
A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Lent and Easter Sunday such a special and meaningful season and day. Thank you for deepening our spiritual journey together.



Lectionary Final Meeting

Before Summer Break: May 30

Our Tuesday Lectionary Study Group will take a summer break following our final meeting on May 30. We will resume the Tuesday morning gathering in September. Enjoy your summer vacations!



Adult Confirmation Class: May 16

Our Adult Confirmation Class will meet on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30 P.M. We will examine the exciting and often confounding topic of church history. If you have ever wondered how we ended up with so many denominations and ways to worship, join us as we navigate this rocky road. Remember, you don't have to come to all of these gatherings, simply join us for the topics that are of interest to you. Zoom participation is available for this class. For more information, please contact Pastor Santina or leave a message with the church office.



No Reel Theology in May

We will not hold a Reel Theology event in May. We look forward to seeing all of our movie fans again in June!



May Scripture

May 7	Acts 7:55-60 psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 John 14:1-14
May 14	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20
May 21	Acts 2:1-21
May 28	Confirmands' Selections
June 4	Psalm 8 2Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

Be Part of Hope UCC's Trivia Team for Christian Care!

Join us for a night of trivia and fun in support of Christian Care. Mission and Outreach is sponsoring a team (or teams if enough people sign up!) to represent Hope UCC at Christian Care's Trivia Night fundraiser on Friday, May 19 at 6:00 P.M. This fundraiser supports Christian Care's mission to serve our neighbors in the Quad Cities who need assistance and help to provide them with housing, support, and resources. Please contact Kathy Hobson or the church office for more information or to sign up for our team.

Save the Date and Your Treasures:

Hope UCC Yard Sale June 16 & 17!

It's back! A big thank you to Linda Brown and Judy Piper for offering to lead the effort. We'll have more details soon about when and how to drop off your items and volunteer sign ups, but save the date and start putting aside those the things that you are done with but someone else will find a good use for. We will not be selling clothing items at this yard sale, but we look forward to organizing and sharing all the other treasures you are ready to part with.



Hope UCC Book Club Monday, June 5th (Not May 29!)

The Hope UCC Book Club will be meeting in the Bronze Room at the Moline Public Library on Monday night, June 5th, at 6:00pm, rather than May 29th, due to its being Memorial Day. The book will be *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar. When Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belonged to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world. Join us for this fun discussion!



Ruth Circle's Afternoon Meeting: Monday May 15th at at 1:00 P.M.

Ruth Circle's next afternoon meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Monday, May 15th. We look forward to seeing all of you there, in the warmth and light of the spring sun!



As always, if you note any inaccuracies or missing birthdays, 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.

May Birthdays

03 Hunter Toye
09 Peter McDermott
13 Gil Norris (#94!!)
14 Kelsey Birdsell
21 Carole Lysell
23 Grady Birdsell
29 Leona Powell

Addresses for Homebound Members & Friends

Staying connected to one's faith community happens in many ways. Attending worship and programs in person or online is often not possible. Our Visitation Ministry does a wonderful job in ensuring phone calls and visits are offered (please make sure you contact Barb Hawotte if you'd like to share in this ministry!), but we want to make sure everyone who would like to send a note or connect in some way with our homebound members and friends have their most recent contact information. If you would like an updated list, please contact the church office after May 14 when the new list will be available. Thank you for caring for your community!

A Note about Birthdays and Other Information

We appreciate your patience as we try to update our church files. Birthday information is especially tricky because it is based on the information we receive on the 'New Member Covenant' forms which are filled out and turned in when a person joins the church. Consequently, if you have been attending for a week or for years, but have not filled out that form, we, unfortunately, do not have that information. We have discovered that we are missing information, not only for friends, but for long time members as well. We'd like to fix this issue but we need your help please. On May 21st we will send out (another!) form for you to fill out so that we have your most current information: address, phone number, birthdate, preferred contact method for weekly/monthly information, etc. We will use this information to update our files, refine our postage budget, and also produce a new directory by June. We thank you for your cooperation, patience, and support in this endeavor.

Let There Be Light!

Have you noticed the new lighting in the restrooms? The newly installed motion-sensitive light switches will help Hope UCC conserve energy by automatically turning on when entering the restroom and, most importantly, shutting off within 15 minutes. You would be surprised how often the lights are left on in the restrooms! We offer a huge thank you to Bob Church for installing these switches so quickly and skillfully.





Blessing Box Volunteers Needed:

Are you able to help keep the Blessing Box filled? Volunteers needed for the quick job of keeping the BB stocked. Sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.
Thank you!



Blessing Box Requests

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! With the nicer weather, we can restock some necessities:

- canned fruit
- canned meats and fish and other protein
- individually wrapped snack items like granola bars
- hygiene supplies
- shelf stable milk
- soups, and grain mixes
- toilet paper

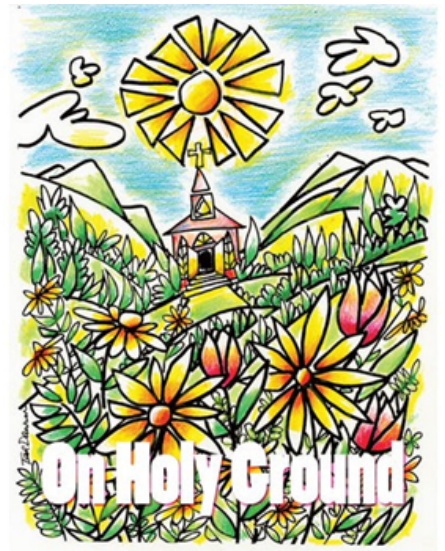


Mission and Outreach Mission Focus Project

Throughout the month of May, Hope UCC's M&O Ministry will offer all of our members and friends the opportunity to determine our Mission Focus for the coming months. Do you have a heart for economic justice issues or concerns about food insecurity? What about your desires for our congregation to be more involved in the issues impacting children and families of all types? Would you like to work together to support projects that provide affordable and dignified housing to our neighbors? What about involvement in issues and advocacy supporting our LGBTQ+ siblings and their families in our community as well as the many refugees and immigrants who are making their new homes here? How can we do more to care for the environment and advocate for Creation Care? These are all items that we will survey and discuss so that are able to best determine how to channel our faithful commitment to these issues into action and loving care. If you are not able to come to the church building to provide your input on the issues, we will provide the information electronically or via mail in the May 7 bulletin so that you can respond via email or phone. Thank you for participating in this important project. Please contact any members of the Mission and Outreach Ministry for more information: Kathy Hobson, Ginny Anderson, Carole Keenan, Kathy Negaard, and Sue Grchan.

Strengthen the Church Offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We plan to receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.



A Little History Note about Hope UCC's Notes

Receiving a note in the mail is always a joy. And when that note is on stationery with a beautiful drawing of a special place (like our church), it is even more special. Did you know that the Hope UCC note cards that we use for correspondence use an illustration of our church drawn by our Pastor Emeritus, the Rev. Parker Lewis? In addition to his career as Pastor to congregations in Rhode Island, North Carolina, and Illinois, Parker is also a gifted artist, creating paintings, illustrations, and jewelry. What a special gift he gave to Hope UCC when he shared his artistry with us. Parker recently shared other pieces of his building illustrations portfolio with me – what a stunning collection of artwork. Kathy has brought in the original drawing of Hope UCC – you will find it framed in our hallway later this month. Thank you, Parker, for this special gift.

Clean Up and Transition of the Church's Library

Memorial Day week will see the beginning of our cleaning up and transitioning the Church's Library space into a more purposeful meeting room. Trustees will begin the process of emptying out the Library on Tuesday, May 30th, removing the built in bookcases in June, and repairing the walls, ceiling and carpeting over the course of the summer. Please stay tuned for updates as we move forward on this exciting project!

If you would like to help or have any questions about this project, please don't hesitate to ask one of our trustees: Bob Poor, Bob Church, Eric Leuth, Jenny Hookey, Dick Head, Judy Piper, Dean Herbst, or Grady Birdsell.



Music Appreciation Sunday: May 21

Our Bell Choir won't take their summer break without first offering us a variety of special music in their final service of the program year. Join us for a special worship service thanking our Music Ministry staff and volunteers for the gifts they have shared with us this year. Mary and Jack have prepared a variety of lovely pieces for this service that will also feature some special guests. We will celebrate our Music Ministry Team - Mary and Jack and all our volunteers following worship with a reception. We look forward to celebrating and praising God through song and music on May 21!



Confirmation Sunday: May 28

We look forward to sharing the joy of Confirmation on Sunday, May 28. We have been blessed to share this Confirmation journey with our sister congregation, Edwards UCC in Davenport. On this Pentecost Sunday we will not only celebrate the birthday of the church, we will also celebrate Riley Johnson and Joely Shaw as they confirm their commitments to their faith journeys and their new understandings and commitments to life in ministry to God. Joely, her family, and her pastor, the Rev. Lisa Gaston will join us at Hope UCC on May 28 so that Joely and Riley will be able to be confirmed together. We look forward to this special worship service and encourage you to hold Riley and Joely in your prayers and attend and celebrate this important faith milestone with these youth and their families. We will continue the celebration following worship with a reception at Fellowship Hour with sandwiches and cake. Congratulations and blessings to our Confirmands!

Dinner Church Resumes May 28



Now that the days are longer and warmer, we will resume our Dinner Church gatherings on Sunday, May 28 at 5:30 P.M. We will share a potluck meal this month, so please bring a dish to share. All are welcome at this gathering where we share Holy Communion, a meal, and sacred conversation around the table. Bring a friend and share this invitation with anyone you meet who might enjoy some fellowship around our Open Table. Please let Pastor Santina know if you have any questions.

Some Special Correspondence



Dear Hope UCC,

Thanks and eternal gratitude for all my Hope family who helped with Parker's transition to Friendship Manor and for everyone's caring, concern and help before the move. We are entirely blessed by all your prayers, support and love. Parker is in room B220 in the memory care unit and visitors are more than welcome anytime.

He might not know who you are, but you know who he is and he will be so happy to see you.

In Christ's Love,

Kathy & Parker Lewis

And from the Beug Family:



UTHS

CLASS OF 2023

COME CELEBRATE WITH

DENNIS BEUG

WHEN: JUNE 4, 2023 FROM 3-6PM

WHERE: 1206 - 16TH STREET CT, SILVIS

(DAVE & BECKY'S HOUSE)

BURGERS AND CAKE WILL BE SERVED!