



Hope United Church of Christ

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Make Way for the Ducklings (Hopefully)

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BOB TALLITSCH
*NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A few weeks before Easter, Bob Church told me the exciting news that a duck family had made their nest in the bushes behind the bell. I cannot describe how excited I was to hear this and how surprised I was that the ducks have been part of our campus for a while. I had never seen them around Hope UCC before, but as soon as Bob told me about them, I was on high alert looking for them on our grounds. Finally on Palm Sunday, I saw one of them as I pulled into the parking lot! At least I think I did. It was down by the Memorial Garden, and by the time I ran over there, it was gone. I've joked that as soon as the weather is warmer, I am going to move my desk out by the bell so that I can keep watch for these ducks and their ducklings. The anticipated arrival of this 'badling' of ducks (I looked it up – this is the name for a group of ducks!) is adding to my Springtime joy as the trees start to green up and all the flowers begin to bloom. I love that these ducks seem to know that Hope UCC is a place where they will be safe and that they will have a home here. Am I giving ducks too much credit? Am I forgetting that raccoons also make their homes on or near our campus and are predators of the ducks? Am I forgetting the mess that a crew of baby ducks can make? The answer to all of those questions is yes, however, the anticipated arrival of these ducklings and the hope and joy it carries outweighs these things for me.

Spring reminds me that hope is alive. Spring is a tangible experience of resurrection. As creation wakes up from its grey, wintery rest, all of our senses tell us that renewal is happening. We can see it with all the green, touch it on the slick green daffodil leaves and feel the warmth of the sun on our arms again, smell it as the hyacinth are blooming, hear it as the birds return and the lawn mowers start up again, and even taste it as the first batch of rhubarb is ready to be taken out of the garden.

Our Easter Sunday worship was a beautiful celebration together. The glorious music from Ben and Mary and our Bell Choir was inspiring! The sanctuary decorations were beautiful (thank you, Mary!). We welcomed over 100 people at the 10:00 service and it was thrilling to have a full sanctuary again. Resurrection is real. At both the sunrise and at 10:00 a.m. services I felt the power of what it means to gather as a faithful people to offer our thanks and praise to God in witness to God's Good News of new life and love for God's creation. I hope that we will remember that we continue to celebrate Easter together as Spring abounds all around us. The Easter promise of new life is as real as the beauty of nature that we witness. God's love renews us. God's love heals us. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen!

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santina

P.S. Be on the lookout for baby ducks!





May Scripture

May 1	Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30 John 21:1-19
May 8	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 John 10:22-30
May 15	Acts 11:1-18
May 22	Acts 16:1-16 John 14:23-29
May 29	Acts 16:16-34



Congregational Sympathy

Congregational love and sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Denny Armstrong. Denny passed away April 14th, 2022. We are thankful that Denny shared his faith journey with us and our love and prayers are lifted for Denny's beloved family and friends in this time of loss.

Youth Group Bake Sale Fundraiser

Hope UCC's Youth Group will hold a bake sale on Saturday, May 14 and following worship on Sunday, May 15. The funds raised will be divided between the UCC's Ukrainian Relief Fund and to defer the cost of their Summer Service/Learning Trip. Please spread the news to your friends and family in the area that if they are looking for delicious baked goods, Hope UCC is the place to be on May 14th! Thank you for your support!



Blessing Box: Help Wanted!

Our Blessing Box is a hit! Many people in our community able to find the items they need within it and our Mission and Outreach Ministry (M&O) has been able to keep it stocked with items this congregation has lovingly donated. Thank you! Now that the weather is warming up again, we are able to once again provide a variety of food items in the blessing box. We'll let you know what is needed in upcoming newsletters. M&O has worked hard to figure out a 'system' for the best way to keep it stocked and is ready to train volunteers from the congregation to help with this ministry. If you have a little time during the week or weekend to offer, please consider volunteering for this ministry. It takes as little as 30 minutes a week to help bring relief and kindness to our friends and neighbors in this community. Please see anyone on M & O for more information and to sign up to help: Jenny Hookey, Ginny Anderson, Sue Grchan, Donna Werner, Lisa & Brian Williams, Kathy Hobson, and Barb Hawotte.



Music Appreciation Sunday: May 15th

Hope UCC is blessed to have such a gifted music staff in Mary Tallitsch and Ben Holmes as well as a wonderful Bell Choir. On May 15 our service will be focused on the ways that sacred music creates a deeper sense of praise and wonder in our spiritual journey during worship. Special music will be featured during this service and we look forward to this time together. We will celebrate and thank all those in our Music Ministry with cake during Fellowship Hour.

OGHS and Ukrainian Relief Update

Thank you for your incredible response to both our annual One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering and the UCC's Ukrainian Relief special collection. This year's OGHS offering totaled \$2,172 and the Ukrainian Relief donations are \$1,165 (so far). Thank you for your generous donations to these important funds. You can still make a contribution to either one of these offerings by sending your donation to the church office with the memo indicating the name of the designated offering. Thank you again for helping to make a difference in the lives of our global community.

Reel Theology on May 19: Belfast

Join us to watch and discuss Belfast, a film described as a "A soaring cinematic triumph," on May 19th at 6:00 P.M. Belfast is a 2021 British coming-of-age drama film written and directed by Kenneth Branagh. The film, which Branagh has described as his "most personal film", follows a young boy's childhood in Belfast, Northern Ireland, at the beginning of The Troubles in 1969. The film chronicles the life of a working-class Ulster Protestant family from the perspective of their nine-year-old son Buddy.

This film is rated PG-13. As usual, bring your own dinner at 5:30 if you would like to eat together before the film begins at 6:00.



May Book of the Month for Book Club:

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray.
Book Club will be held Monday, May 23rd due to Memorial Day.

Youth Group News for May-June

Youth Group meets Sundays from 3:00-4:15 P.M. unless otherwise noted.

May 1: Saul's conversion discussion; plan for fundraiser

May 8: Mother's Day – No Youth Group

May 13: Friday at 4:00 – Bake Sale prep! We'll be baking treats for Saturday's sale as well as pizza for our dinner together. We should be finished by 7:30-8:00.

May 14: Saturday at 8:00 a.m.- set up Bake Sale outside (weather permitting). Bake sale begins at 9:00 and should be finished by 12:30.

May 15: Bake Sale following worship and meet at 3:00 to discuss the story of Lydia in Acts and finalize plans for Service/Learning Trip.

May 22: Prepare for Pentecost Sunday

May 29: No Youth Group



June 5: Worship at 10:00: Honor Graduates and offer blessing to Youth Group for their Service/Learning Trip during worship. Meet at 3:00 for final planning details for trip.

June 7: Meet at church at 9:00 a.m. for departure to Elmhurst

June 10: Return to Hope UCC

June 12: Worship at 10:00: offer presentation on Service/Learning Trip experience. No Youth Group

June 19: Father's Day -No Youth Group

June 26: Youth Group at 3:00 p.m. – Discuss Elijah and Elisha's story. Plan for August Welcome Retreat.

Youth Group will take a break during the month of July

