



Hope

United Church of Christ

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Come to the Table

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

The first time I ever heard about 'Kick Off Sunday' was when Bob and I began attending our UCC church in San Diego. We never had any special day like this in my church of origin. Nothing 'new' ever began in September – at least nothing brought to my attention. Perhaps I was not paying attention? However, since beginning my journey with the UCC, I have grown very fond of this tradition of celebrating the new program year that begins each September when everyone is back following the summer break, ready to resume the ministries, activities, programs, and fellowship opportunities in the new year. Whether we call it Kick Off Sunday, Homecoming Sunday, or Rally Day, the sentiment is the same: Let's Celebrate Being the Church Together!

What a perfect time to begin a new worship series celebrating the idea of gathering together at the Table. Throughout September, our worship will focus on the theme "Come to the Table" and hear the call to dine with Jesus. This invitation to come to the Table means much more than a simple eating experience. It never was a simple experience with Jesus. The table was the place where he fed people and also challenged them to consider and engage in acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. When we say "yes" and take a seat at Christ's table, we accept a way of life that embraces God's definition of love, peace, grace, and joy.

Throughout September, with this worship series, let us celebrate the depth of communion into which we are called as followers of Christ. I hope you find it a transformational experience as we worship together at the Table. There is always room for another chair at Hope UCC's Table – invite a friend to join us for worship and any of the opportunities for shared ministry, mission, and fellowship.

With Peace,
Pastor Santina



You're invited to join us for
“Trusting the Journey: What’s Next?”

A women’s retreat for spiritual and personal growth, examining the themes of Exodus in relation to our own life’s journey

Hosted by Church of Peace
and Hope United Church of Christ



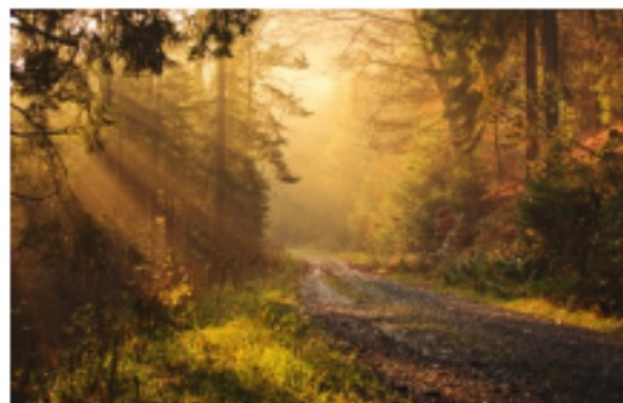
Saturday, October 21st, 2023
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Benedictine Sisters of St. Mary's Monastery
2200 88th Ave. W., Rock Island, IL 61201

Guests are welcome to attend
Registration required

You're invited to join us for
**"Trusting the Journey:
What's Next?"**

A women's retreat for spiritual and personal growth, examining the themes of Exodus in relation to our own life's journey



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Mary's Monastery**
2200 88th Ave. W., Rock Island, IL
61201

Guests are welcome. Invite a friend to attend with you!

\$25 cost* includes: worship, prayer, meditation, music, snacks & lunch
(*Please see pastor of your church regarding financial assistance.)

Return registration form to your church* by October 8.

*Forms can be mailed to:

Church of Peace
1114 12th St.
Rock Island, IL 61201

Hope United Church of Christ
3324 41st St.
Moline, IL 61265

Women's Retreat Registration Form & \$25 cost – to be returned to your church by Oct. 8.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ (mobile home)

Email: _____

Dietary restrictions? _____



Kick Off Sunday at Riverside Park September 17, 2023

Join us for outdoor worship and fellowship in the East Pavilion at Riverside Park as we celebrate our Kick Off of the new program year! We will gather at 10:00 a.m. for worship and enjoy a potluck lunch following worship.

The Pavilion is accessible from the parking lot by short walk on a completely paved walkway. There is plenty of seating available at the picnic tables in the covered Pavilion. If you're comfortable navigating the grass, you're welcome to bring a chair or blanket for your seating.

Just for fun (and in keeping with the 'Kick Off' theme) you're invited to wear your favorite sport team's shirt, accessory, jersey, colors, or hat. All teams count: professional, college, high school, little league, intramural, club – whatever! All sports can be represented – including Pickleball! If you're like me, you don't have a favorite team (or even watch football, etc). 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'll have coffee and treats available and if you'd like to stay and enjoy the park after worship, bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch. We'll provide the water, plates, silverware, and napkins. 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: Jan Varga, Judy Hawotte, Lisa Williams, Mary Tallitsch, or Jack StremLOW

**GATHERED AT THE TABLE:
THE HOLY EXPERIENCE
OF SHARING FOOD
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
AT 5:30 PM
WE WILL SHARE A POTLUCK MEAL
TOGETHER – PLEASE BRING A DISH TO
SHARE AS YOU ARE ABLE TO DO SO.**



Join in Service: All Church Service Trip Saturday, September 23!

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, (we'll stop and have lunch together on the way) 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 to share our love for others 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 or Pastor Santina following worship. Carpools are available if you are not comfortable driving to Aurora. Any questions? Please see Barb or Pastor Santina.



Strategic Plan - In Progress and Underway!

Have you filled in your initial survey and returned it yet? How about adding your artwork to our Hope UCC Community Quilt project? Forms and supplies are still available. Tyson will soon begin scheduling the small group discussions - watch for dates and times and sign up for the group that works with your schedule. Remember, your voice matters! Whether you have attended Hope UCC for 2 weeks or 42 years, your experiences, memories, expectations, and hopes and dreams for Hope UCC are vital for this project. Thank you!



Diaper Drive for Church of Peace UCC's Food Pantry

Throughout August and September, Hope UCC will collect baby diapers that will be distributed at Church of Peace UCC's weekly food pantry. They are in need of all sizes, but sizes 4, 5, and 6 are especially needed. The diapers can be left in the church office or placed by the baptismal font in the sanctuary. Please see anyone on the Mission and Outreach Ministry with any questions: Kathy Hobson, Kathy Negaard, Ginny Anderson, & Carole Keenan. Thank you for your generous support of this diaper ministry.



Ruth Circle Gathering September 18 at 1:00 P.M.

Join us as we catch up, enjoy an ice cream social, and engage in a little service project together. All women of Hope UCC are invited - bring a friend!

Sunday Flowers!

We have resumed our beloved tradition of volunteers providing a bouquet of flowers for our Sunday Worship services. Prior to the pandemic, this tradition was one of our favorites. Do you have a special birthday, anniversary, or memory of a loved one for which you would like to provide flowers for our worship service? Please feel free to sign-up on the Flowers poster on the bulletin board in our main hallway, across from the church office.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study

Resumes September 5

Every Tuesday at 10:00 A.M.

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 every Tuesday at 10 A.M. EXCEPT on the 3rd week of the month (no class the 3rd week!).

This is not a 'formal' Bible study. This is a very friendly group where we can ask honest questions about scripture. 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.

WELCOME BACK

When is Youth Group starting again?

We're glad you asked!
Youth Group resumes Sunday, September 17. We will meet on Sundays, from 2:00-3:30, unless otherwise noted for special events. Your friends are ALWAYS welcome to join you at any Youth Group event. As we kick off our new year together, we'll get to know each other, set goals, and do some planning. We've got some BIG changes in store this year for Youth Group and we hope you'll be part of this new season together.



September Scripture

September 3: Romans 12:9-21 & Matt 16:21-28

September 10: Romans 13:8-14 & Matt 18:15-20

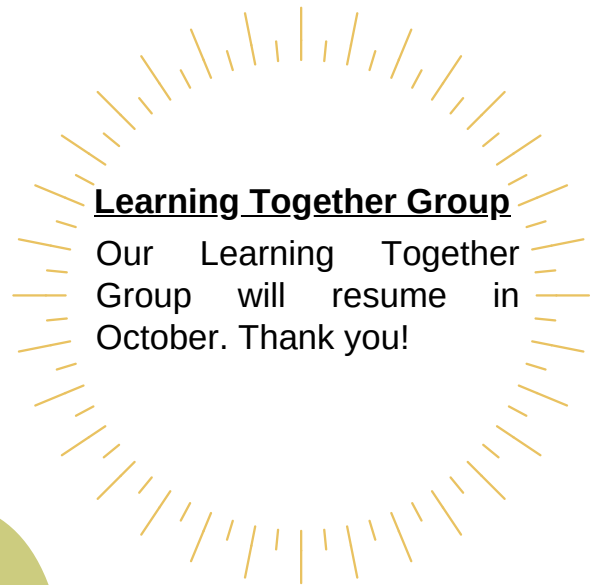
September 17: Romans 14:1-12 & Matt 18:21-35

September 24: Philippians 1:21-30 & Matt 20:1-16

October 1: Philippians 2:1-13 & Matt 21:23-32

Learning Together Group

Our Learning Together Group will resume in October. Thank you!

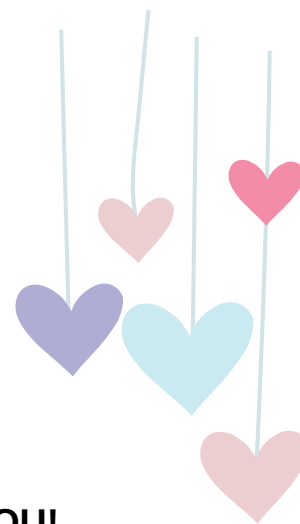




September Birthdays

08 Marcella Park
09 Paul Bowman
09 Becky Pisman
12 Ginger Hostetter
14 Dean Herbst
19 Jack StremLOW
28 Pastor Santana

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



THANK YOU!

We'd like to offer a big thank you to Bob Church and Dan Hawotte for helping to make Hope UCC's campus a safer and more welcoming place. Bob made and installed the new signs in the parking lot directing visitors to the rear parking lot. Dan painted the safety strip and caution sign on the back entry doors to help prevent us from tripping on that elevated doorway. Thank you, Bob and Dan!

Reel Theology Returns September 15

Searching for Sugar Man

Searching for Sugar Man is a fascinating and compelling documentary film about a South African cultural phenomenon. It details the efforts in the late 1990s of two Cape Town, South Africa fans to find out whether the rumored death of American musician Sixto Rodriguez was true and, if not, to discover what had become of him. Rodriguez's music, which had never achieved success in the United States, had become very popular in South Africa, although little was known about him in that country. This inspiring documentary won numerous international awards as well as the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. This film examines themes of grace, hope, finding peace, and wrestles with questions of how we search for meaning in this life.

Sixto Rodriguez passed away this past August after a renewed career in music following this documentary's success.

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!



Bruce Vantine's Cornerstone Chorale & Brass presents
Perfect Love Casts Out Fear
At Hope United Church of Christ
Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

All ages are welcome to join us for a unique and inspiring concert program that encourages faith and hope.

The Cornerstone Chorale & Brass presents a powerful message of reconciliation, healing and social justice through narration and a wide variety of traditional music -- all woven together with newly composed musical interludes to focus on faith and God's call to reach out in service to those in need. "Perfect Love Casts Out Fear" is a musical program that encourages each of us to move forward in our concern for the future of our nation and world into well considered action based on our faith and in response to God's endless gifts of love and grace.

Cornerstone's 20 paid professional singers, brass quintet, pianist, and narrator are recruited from all over the United States -- and have performed 481 concerts since 1988 across North America. This is their only Quad Cities performance. The 2023 Tour will culminate in Cornerstone's 500th performance!

Tickets: \$5 (general admission) All ticket sales benefit Hope UCC's Handbell Choir
There will be a free will donation for Cornerstone Chorale & Brass. Seating is limited; reserve your tickets by contacting Hope UCC: office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com or (309)762-1419 Or through the website: www.hopeuccqc.org.

Hope UCC is located at 3324 41st Street Moline, IL 61265
and is an accesible building





Western Association of the Illinois
Conference Fall Meeting at Hope UCC!
Saturday, September 30

Hope UCC will be hosting the Fall Meeting of our Western Association on Saturday, September 30. From 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. our friends from our sibling congregations in our Association will be here for worship, meetings, and workshops. If you are able to help welcome our friends and assist with serving lunch, please contact Caridad Ramos or Pastor Santina. You are also welcome to attend the meeting and workshops. Thank you!

Blessing Box
Volunteer Opportunities Available!

Sign up to help keep the Blessing Box restocked. Thank you for helping our neighbors have access to items to help them get through the day.

Sign up sheets are posted on the supply closet doors in Fellowship Hall.



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



Information about the 2023 General Synod of the UCC

Our denomination held its General Synod earlier this month. Our Illinois Conference sent 55 delegates representing each of our Associations. Mary Newcomb, a member of FCC Moline, was one of the representatives from our Western Association. She will be sharing her reports of the activities and resolutions of the 2023 General Synod with us over the next few months. It is always interesting and helpful to keep updated on what is happening in our denomination. Thank you, Mary, for your stewardship!

From Mary:

If you have ever participated in a new member class, Confirmation class, UCC Polity course, or perhaps an Ecclesiastical Council, you might have learned about the four streams which contributed to the formation of the UCC at the Uniting Synod in 1957. It was explained to us at General Synod 34 that this history overlooks the contribution of the Afro-Christian Convention as the fifth stream into the formation of the UCC. A formal apology was issued during Monday July 3's plenary.

For more information, please read this article and be sure to watch the embedded apology: <https://www.ucc.org/from-synod-stage-dorhauer-apologizes-to-afro-christian-convention-for-rewriting-of-our-history/>

You might also consider reading Afro-Christian Convention, edited by Yvonne Delk, for even more information. This book sold out at Synod. Ordering information and a downloadable study guide is available here:

<https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/products/afro-christian-convention-the-fifth-stream-of-the-united-church-of-christ?variant=40392862400579>

Scheduled in late June, Synod is often a time to consider a response to rulings from the US Supreme Court as their term winds down. The long awaited decision about affirmative action regarding college and university admission policies was released on June 29 and was a topic of conversation as delegates gathered. Two things occurred. One, the UCC Officers released a statement calling the ruling "egregious". Two, a motion of support for that statement was introduced on July 3 and affirmed by the General Synod. You can read more here: <https://www.ucc.org/following-scotus-ruling-statement-supporting-affirmative-action-endorsed-by-general-synod/>

Please remember that every action of General Synod is intended to speak to and not for the United Church of Christ. This is another element of how the UCC was formed and continues to function.

And Remember...

You can still sign up to help with Fellowship Hour! Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

