



Hope UCC Weekly Update: September 15th, 2024

There is always something happening at Hope UCC, so we thought we would add a weekly announcement feature to the bulletin that is mailed and emailed out to everyone. This Weekly Update will provide you with announcements, information, and updates on all that is going on in our community – at church and beyond.

Ruth Circle Meeting on Monday September 16th at 1:00pm

Ruth Circle's next meeting is scheduled for 1pm on Monday, September 16th. Once again Linda Prior will be our speaker discussing Monarch Butterflies. We look forward to seeing all of you there. All women of the church are invited.

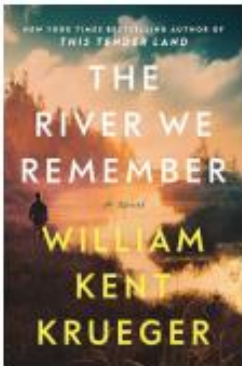
All Church Service Trip on September 21, 2024

We will once again be going to Aurora on Saturday, September 21st, to serve at **Feed My Starving Children**. Please see Barb Hawotte to sign up to go, or to get more information. Carpools will be available.

NAMI Walk on September 28, 2024, 8am-12pm

Save the date, register to walk with Hope UCC's Team, and support NAMI – the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Mississippi Valley Chapter. Join us on Saturday, September 28 at 8:00 A.M. to walk together as we raise mental health awareness and raise funds for NAMI's mission. By walking together in this important community event, we are letting our friends, family, and neighbors who live with mental health issues and their loved ones know they are not alone!

To register to walk on Hope UCC's team and/or to make a donation, please go to:
<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=68289>

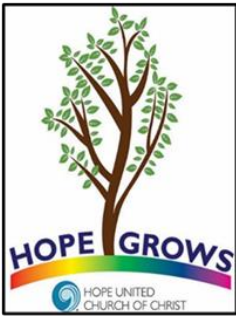


The Hope UCC Book Club September 30th at 6pm

All are welcome to join the Hope UCC Book Club on Monday, September 30th at 6pm. We meet in the Conference Room at Hope UCC. September's selection will be *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger. The novel is a complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of midcentury American life. *The River We Remember* is an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call home. You do not want to miss this discussion! Please contact Dorothy Burdick with any questions about Hope UCC's Book Club!

October Newsletter & Bulletin Announcements Deadlines

Please submit any announcements or articles of interest for the **OCTOBER NEWSLETTER** to Hope UCC's office no later than **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH**. Also, if you have announcements for the weekly Bulletin they must be received by Tuesday prior to the Sunday Bulletin. Thank You!



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
 Worship Bulletin September 15th, 2024
 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Thank you for joining us for worship today.
 We are glad you are here!
 Because you are who you are,
 you are welcome here!*

***You may stand.**



PRELUDE Trust and Obey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD HYMN NCH#438 *When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)*

*1 When peace like a river, uphold me each day,
 when sorrows like sea billows roll,
 whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
 "It is well, it is well with my soul."*

Refrain:

*It is well with my soul;
 it is well, it is well with my soul.*

COMING TOGETHER AS A WORSHIP COMMUNITY

One: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

Many: For once we were lost and felt so far away;

One: now we have been found and welcomed home.

Many: Know that God's love is lavished upon us forever.

One: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Many: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

*OPENING HYMN NCH #459 *Come O Fount of Every Blessing*

*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

God of abundant and healing grace, may your Holy Spirit be with us now as we worship you this day. Open our eyes to truly see one another, that we might discover your presence in the smile of a neighbor. Open our ears to the needs of the world, that we might hear your wisdom in the words spoken around us. Open our hearts to your grace and love, that we might find guidance and strength for the journey, for ourselves and for one another. Amen.

*OFFERING OUR CONFESSION

God of Grace and Mercy, We have been the one who hurts others as well as the one who has been hurt. When we hear the words of the prodigal son, the father, and the angry brother we can see ourselves in all of the characters. We have been selfish, sorrowful, angry, forgiving, and guilty of creating conflict. We are no different from these characters, in our own unique way. Yet, in your infinite love, God, we also are forgiven and healed. We are called to turn our lives back to your care, which is always mercifully extended to us. Forgive us and heal us, gracious God. Open our hearts and our spirits to truly receive the blessings of your healing love. For it is in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, that we pray. AMEN.

*RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF GOD'S MERCY

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYING AS GOD'S PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Each of us has a unique experience with the Lord's Prayer. Please use the words you are most comfortable using as we share this prayer together. We can pray with one voice using a variety of words.

One: May the Lord be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

One: Let us pray: ...

With the assurance Jesus offers, together we pray the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:6-13

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there until they have watered the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy
 and be led back in peace;
 the mountains and the hills before you
 shall burst into song,
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
 instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
 and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
 for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

SERMON

Forks

SERVICE OF ANOINTING

Holy Scripture teaches us that in acts of healing and restoration Jesus and his disciples laid hands upon people and anointed them. By so doing, they made known the healing power and presence of God. As we continue to explore the gift of God's healing love, today we will celebrate that healing by sharing the ritual of anointing. If you choose to receive this blessing, please come forward during the Sermon Hymn to receive the oil and blessing on the back of your hand. If you are unable to come forward, please know we will come to you in your pew.

SERMON HYMN

NCH #547

Amazing Grace

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Through the gifts we share, we let those who are far from home know that we are their brothers, sisters, and siblings. Through our gifts, we welcome them to our home, to God's home. We are the ambassadors for Jesus, our brother and savior, spreading the news of a home of love, healing, and hope.

Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

Bless these gifts, Generous God, that they may be used to find your children— children who wander in hunger, children who long to come home. Through our gifts, may all who wander set off for home, and may we celebrate and rejoice in their homecoming. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

NCH #23

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*BLESSING OUR JOURNEY

One: My friends, go into the world:

Many: We go knowing that it is God who loves us, Christ who strengthens us, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us for service.

One: Go forth in renewed strength, knowing who you are:

Many: The children of God— celebrated, rejoiced in, welcomed, dearly loved.

One: Wear your robe and ring with joy!

**Many: We will be glad in God and rejoice, and go into the world to share this peace and joy!
Amen**

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

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Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Carole Keenan

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Greeter: JoAnn Olson

Slide Ministry: Lindsey Svetlick

Fellowship Hour: Fellowship Ministry

Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
Bob Poor, Bek Svetlick