

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hopeful Connections

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Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble.

These powerful words of the well-known hymn, *Were You There*, can be challenging to sing. Like so many other churches, we include this hymn in our Holy Week services as we consider the darkness of the final hours of Jesus's earthly life. It is tempting to move through Lent to Palm Sunday with its celebratory images, straight to Easter Sunday with all the joy and beauty that comes to us with the Good News of the Resurrection. But Holy Week offers us the intentional focus on Jesus's actions in his final days: gathering his community, offering assurances to them, lifting fierce prayers for strength, questioning what he is called to do, and facing his future with love and trust in God. Sharing these stories and finding their meaning for us today is an essential time for us to spend together. Holding time in the reality of the sadness and fear and violence of Jesus's final days, we are made more aware of the true glory that is the Good News for all of us in the story of the resurrection.

I have often heard (and have said it myself) that the reading of the Passion in the Gospels is uncomfortable, especially when we are all asked to say the words the crowd said, "Crucify him!" I don't want to think that I am capable of denying Jesus like this. I do not want to feel complicit in the denial and abandonment of Jesus. This discomfort and the uneasiness with the idea that we are complicit in the denial and abandonment of Jesus can be unsettling. As we are invited to journey to the cross during Lent, we are challenged to sit with this discomfort and honestly assess where we have denied Jesus. But, more importantly, we are invited to renew our sense of who we are as followers of Christ. The focus on repentance during Lent does not disappear during Holy Week, in fact it helps us understand it more deeply. Hearing the stories that are hard to hear make the resurrection central to our faith because the arc of this story helps us experience the amazing love and grace of God through our relationship with the radical love of Jesus.


The stories of Jesus's arrest, abandonment, trial, and death on the cross, help us to fully appreciate the glorious miracle of the resurrection. It isn't until Easter Sunday that we add the final verse when we sing *Were You There* and recognize the joyful news of the resurrection: "*Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?*" As we consider this miracle, we can fully appreciate the composer's lyrics, "*Sometimes it causes me to tremble.*"

I do hope you will join us as we gather during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday for the services we have planned. You will find more information about these services in the newsletter. What a special time to consider the many ways we have been given new life through our relationship with the Holy One. May the Good News bring you peace.

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santana

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....

01 Caridad Ramos
 02 Janet Varga
 02 Charley Poor
 04 Duane Goderis
 05 MJ Poor
 24 Barbara Babcock
 28 Suzanne Cutler
 28 Rebecca Morse



April Scripture

April 7	Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8 Psalm 126
April 14	Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
April 21	Luke 24:1-12 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
April 28	Acts 5:27-32 John 20:19-31

Average church attendance for March
83

Thank You

Our family would like to thank everyone for all the cards, visits to the care centers, taking time to go to visitation and/or the funeral, gifts to church, flowers and all involved with the luncheon—servers, cleanup crew, making food and setting up tables and chairs. Mom is pleased and happy because of you.


Family of Betty Blunt



Thank you to Men's Breakfast who served coffee hour for the month of March. MealSite and Friends will serve for the month of April.

EASTER LILIES

Order your Easter Lilies now for Easter morning.
 Please fill out the information below and return the form and payment to the office as soon as possible.
 All orders are to be collected by April 14.
 (If you are writing a check please make it payable to Hope UCC.)



COST: \$10.00 each QUANTITY: _____
YOUR NAME: _____
IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: (circle one)

Hope Happenings

Holy Week at Hope UCC

You are invited to be part of any and all of the special services during Holy Week as we deepen our understanding of the Holy Presence in our lives. Please be sure to invite friends and family to any and all of these events.

✠ **Palm Sunday, April 14: "Invited to Shout Out"**

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

✠ **Maundy Thursday, April 18: "Invited to Serve and Remember"**

5:30-6:00 p.m. Service of Foot Washing in Sanctuary

Arrive anytime during this portion of the evening and participate in the ritual of foot washing based on the Gospel of John (we will also wash your hand if that is your preference).

6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal in Fellowship Hall

A communal dinner of soup, salad, and bread will be served that will transition into the service of Holy Communion around our tables.

6:30 p.m. Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service in Fellowship Hall

Hear the words of betrayal as candles are extinguished. At the conclusion we will strip the communion table as we leave in silence. If you choose not to come to dinner, please arrive by 6:20 in order to participate in Holy Communion. We hope all will join us for this meaningful moment during Holy Week.

✠ **Good Friday, April 19: "Invited to Follow to the End"**

7:00-8:00 p.m. We will gather in the sanctuary to reflect on the story of the events following the arrest of Jesus. We will reflect on the story using visual imagery, scripture, hymns, and prayer.

✠ **Saturday, April 20: "Invited to Play" Easter Festival**

10:00-11:30 a.m. What a fun way to spend the morning! Families of one and families of many are welcome to come and enjoy activities and fellowship. We will paint flower pots, decorate frames, make bird feeders, dye Easter eggs, and much more! Invite a friend and join the fun!

✠ **Easter Sunday, Sunday April 21: "Invited to New Beginnings"**

6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden

Yes, it will be a bit chilly, but bundle up and join us for this informal service which is a beautiful time to celebrate our risen Savior! Communion will be served.

10:00 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

Our most joyful service of the year. Plan to invite friends and family to celebrate! Communion will be served.

Tuesday Evening Programs: "Invited to Journey"

During Lent, join us each Tuesday for a simple dinner together (6:00-6:30) followed by a program designed to deepen our understanding of ourselves, our faith journeys, and how God is calling us to build the Kingdom of God. A small, free will offering to help offset the cost of the meal is appreciated but not required.

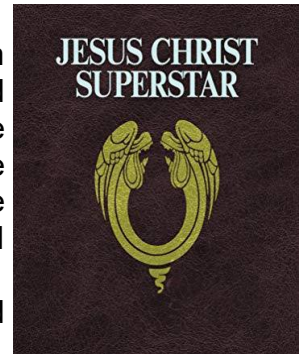
April 2: Meet John D. De Taeye, Director of Development, from Humility Homes and Services and learn about the great ministry this organization provides to the Quad Cities.

April 9: Kim Powell and Amber Bruning will share their journeys with us and lead us in discovering more about Autism Spectrum Disorder. Kim is an educator and "Autism" mom and Amber is a speech and language pathologist with experience working with children on the Autism Spectrum. They will provide a general overview of autism spectrum disorder, the early intervention and identification of those on the spectrum, and will speak about the educational and language needs of children on the spectrum, and share ideas about how to support special needs individuals and families in the church setting.

Reel Theology April 13: Jesus Christ Superstar

What better time to join together and watch (and sing along?) this classic film of the 1970 rock opera with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. The story is **loosely** based on the Gospels' accounts of the last week of Jesus's life, beginning with the preparation for the arrival of Jesus and his disciples in Jerusalem and ending with the crucifixion. This movie is rated G – there is some violence during the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. Please bring the family and invite your friends!

Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. with the movie, singing (!!), and discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Open Mic Night April 27th at YMCA Spirit, Mind, and Body Center



Are you ready to share your musical gifts with a supportive crowd? Do you enjoy music and want to support amateur musicians in their artistic journeys? Would you like a fun night out with friends and family that will include live music and joyful fellowship? If your answer is yes to any of these questions, Dickerson Music Studio has something special planned for you. As part of their mission to support local musicians, Dickerson Studios will host an Open Mic Night on April 27th at the YMCA Spirit, Mind and Body Center at 1811 53rd St. Sign up to perform beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the show will begin at 6:00 p.m. Performances include instrumental music, singing, but all visual and performing artistic talents are welcome. This is a family friendly event and all ages are welcome. For more information, please contact Dickerson Studios at (309) 764-1933. Thank you for supporting live music and local artists!

Flower Calendar

Would you like to commemorate a special date, occasion, or person in your life? If you would like to do this by providing flowers in the worship service, there is a calendar available to sign up for any Sunday. Simply sign up for the Sunday(s) you would like to bring flowers and Pam, our office administrator, will contact you as the date gets closer to remind you and to find out your dedication, which will go in that Sunday's bulletin. The sign up for the flower calendar is on the bulletin board across from the office door. Thank you.



Hope Book Club

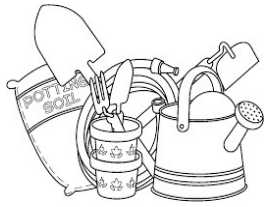
We invite you to read *The Nightingale*, a novel by Kristin Hannah, then join us for discussion April 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Platinum Room at the Moline Public Library.



April Sunday School Schedule

***There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday**

Holy Week and Easter	April 7	April 17	April 21 Easter Sunday No SS	April 28
Pre K-Kind	Art	Science		Cooking
1st-2nd	Cooking	Art		Music
3rd & 4th	Music	Cooking		Science
5th-6th	Science	Music		Art



Once again Hope Church will be partnering with the Silvis Hy-Vee Garden Center the week of April 29-May 5, 2019 for a fundraiser benefiting the church. Please remember this date for all your spring garden purchases.



A "Fun" Fundraiser for Our Church

Silvis Hy-Vee Garden Center will donate 10% of your purchases to Hope United Church of Christ.

Between the week of **April 29-May 5** purchases made of Plants, Rocks, Trees, Shrubs, Mulch, Soils, etc. will go towards the fundraiser.

Just bring this flyer to the Garden Center, and they will write the total on it and keep it until the end of the week; or you can just tell the clerk that you want the purchases to go to Hope United Church of Christ (in case you lose this paper).

Beautify your yard and shop as many times this week as you need!!!!

Purchase Total: _____

Easter Egg Giving Tree

During Lent, Hope UCC will collect items for the Humility of Mary Homes and Kings Harvest Ministry. Items are listed on eggs you can take from the tree in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating one or more of the following items:

- Travel size toiletries: shampoos, soap, lotion, etc.
- Laundry supplies: laundry detergent, fabric softener
- Cleaning supplies: hand dish soap, multi-surface cleaners, window cleaner, spray polish, magic erasers, scouring pads, bath cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, kitchen size trash bags
- Paper products: toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissue
- Toiletries (regular size): bath soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors
- Diapers & pull ups: Diapers; newborn through size 5. Pull ups size 3t-5t
- Baby Supplies: baby wash, baby lotion, baby shampoo, baby oil, baby wipes
- Oral Hygiene: toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes
- New socks & underwear for men & women
- Towels, Washcloths, Twin sheets sets, & Blankets
- Cleaning Tools: sponge mops, replacement sponges, brooms, dust pans, toilet bowl brushes and holders
- Bus passes



From Your Council President

On Saturday, March 30th, it was announced at the Spring meeting of the Western Association that Hope UCC was one of two churches to receive the Western Association's Leonhart grant. Hope UCC submitted its grant proposal in January, and in this proposal Hope UCC had to explain "The purpose and expected outcome of the project and how it relates to the Mission Statement of Hope UCC." What follows is a portion of what Pastor Santina and the Faith Exploration Committee wrote in the grant application:

"As Hope UCC strives to offer an "authentic welcome to all," our goal is to ensure that all of our spaces are accessible, comfortable, and inclusive for the members and friends of the congregation, even for our youngest friends. We will upgrade our Pray Ground space and Sunday school classrooms to include seating and quiet toys that are designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and/or other special needs. Hope UCC strives to be a church where all families know they are welcome and that their presence here represents the depth and breadth of the beauty of the Body of Christ.

Hope UCC adopted Union Congregational Church in early December 2018. One of our new families has a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In December 2018, members of our Faith Exploration Ministry met with that family in order to learn how best to ensure an inclusive and affirming welcome for their son as well as other families with children with ASD. We learned that in general, church is a challenging place for families with ASD and they were happy to offer suggestions regarding the spaces and how to extend our authentic welcome to all.

Hope UCC will purchase specially designed adaptive seating and activities for the Pray Ground and three of our Sunday School classrooms to ensure that our building and all our spaces are welcoming, accessible, and affirming for all family and children of all abilities."

The grant application continues by saying:

"Learning and growing will be an ongoing process for our congregation. To live into our ONA covenant we will strive to always offer an authentic and Spirit-filled welcome to all of God's beautiful creation. We will continue to participate in learning opportunities and meet with those who specialize in teaching and nurturing children with special needs in order to grow and develop in our affirmation and inclusion of children of all abilities into the full life of the church."

At the Western Association meeting on Saturday, March 30th Pastor Santina represented Hope UCC and received the \$1,000 Leonhart Grant award. Congratulations and thank you to Pastor Santina and the Faith Exploration Committee for their work on the submission of this successful grant application!

Bob Tallitsch



Please save the date of Thursday, May 9 for the Mother Daughter Banquet. Please watch for further details in upcoming bulletins.



(See John 19:17-37)

04-09-1998

SO JESUS, HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS FOR
EASTER YET?