



# Hope

# United Church of Christ

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**Seeking from the Heart**

The Poor House finally put away most of our Christmas decorations last week, although I am still finding little Christmas things around the house that we didn't notice earlier. In all honesty, those things will most likely remain in place until next Christmas. Hopefully we'll get them stowed away next year. That is fine with me – I am happy to be reminded of the wonderful memories shared during the Christmas holiday all year long. One of the decorations that I noticed was left out are the Three Kings trio that we put downstairs. When I noticed it there last night, I was particularly thankful for the reminder of what these Magi symbolize and represent in our faith story: seeking. What an important reminder to have year round: to continue seeking God's light and to continue to be open to the wonder and awe of God's presence among us.

In our worship together 'seeking' has been a theme throughout this season of Epiphany. As we prepare to begin for the season of Lent and the journey we take together in this holy season, we continue to seek out the light even as the darker days of Jesus's ministry feel like they are closing in on us. What a stark contrast to Advent when the days are getting shorter and darker earlier yet we add more light each Sunday by lighting an additional candle. During Lent, our days are getting longer with each additional minute of daylight bringing more and more light to each day; and yet, during worship we will extinguish a candle each Sunday as we move toward Good Friday. Still, we remember and continue to seek the Light that is ever present. With hearts filled with the promise of God's presence with us always, we faithfully take this Lenten journey to explore and discover deeper meaning and, often, more questions about our faith.

I anticipate a holy and renewing Lenten journey with you. Our theme this year is Our Lenten Prayer Journey. Together, throughout Lent we will focus on the essential place of prayer in our lives as followers of Jesus. Prayer lies at the heart of who we are, yet how we understand prayer is varied, complex—and sometimes confusing. We will spend time with prayer throughout the season, both in reflection and action during worship. Each Sunday we will spend time with a different prayer practice as part of the worship service. Additionally, we will gather on Wednesday evenings for a Taize prayer service following a light meal together. I pray that as we take this prayer journey together, our hearts are further opened to seeking and discovering the Holy in our lives.

Yours in the journey,

Pastor Santina

## Lent at Hope UCC

### A Lenten Prayer Journey



We hope you will join us for any and all of the events planned throughout this Season of Lent. Our theme this year reflects the place of prayer in our journeys and how that important part of our faith is understood, as well as the many ways to practice and engage in prayer. Prayer lies at the heart of who we are and our deepening awareness of *whose* we are. At times, understanding prayer feels ambiguous or complex—and, if we are honest, sometimes confusing. But as followers of Christ we look to Jesus's example of seeking out God in the midst of chaos and crowded places as well as listening for that still small voice of God in the quiet moments or in our solitude. What a blessing to take this journey together.

- **Ash Wednesday Service February 22 at 6:30 P.M.**

- **Each Sunday during Lent**

Our worship theme will be focused on prayer and in each service we will have an opportunity to engage in a prayer practice together.

- **Wednesday March 8, 15, 22, 29, & April 5: Light Dinner and Taize Prayer Service**

***Dinner 5:30-6:00 and the service begins at 6:00***

A Taizé service is a meditative prayer service that combines elements of traditional liturgy (reading scripture & prayers) with elements of contemplative meditation and simple musical chants. The result is a gradual movement of prayer moving from our heads to our hearts. Not sure about this? Come and give it a try! It's Lent – let yourself be open to new faith development opportunities.

- **Palm Sunday April 2**
- **Maundy Thursday April 6** *Service time will be announced*
- **Good Friday April 7** *Service time will be announced*
- **Saturday April 8 10:00-12:00** Community Easter Story Book Walk at Hope UCC
- **Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday!**

6:00 A.M. Sunrise Service at the Memorial Garden

10:00 A.M. Festival Worship

*Please remember that you are welcome to come in anytime to use the Small Chapel for a time of personal prayer and reflection.*



# Navigating Our Grief

## *New group forming*

### Wednesday, February 8

### 3:00 P.M. at Church of Peace

Hope UCC and Church of Peace UCC will navigate our grief together, sharing the journey in beloved community.

The first meeting will be held at Church of Peace on Wednesday February 8 at 3:00 P.M. Please see Pastor Santina for more information or if you would like to carpool with her.



## February Scripture



**Lent Soup Dinners-**  
**Chefs Needed!**

Please consider signing up to  
provide soup for one of Lent  
Wednesday gatherings.  
We'll serve 10-15 people.  
Please see Jan Varga or  
Pastor Santina to sign up or  
for more info. Thank you!

### **Church Office Hours**

Our office will be closed in observance of Presidents Day, February 20th.

Meanwhile, the church office is still looking for volunteers. The office is open 9:00am – 12:00pm Monday – Thursday. If you are interested in volunteering to help in the church office, please let Pastor Santina or Bob Poor know and we can work out the volunteer schedule. Thank you!



February 5	Psalm 112:1-1 1Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20
February 12	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37
February 19	Exodus 24:1-18 Psalm 99 2Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
February 22	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 26	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-11

### **Reel Theology February 10: Devotion**

Join us on Friday, February 10 to watch and discuss this moving film based on the book *Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship, and Sacrifice*. This film retells the inspirational true story of Jesse Brown, the first Black aviator in U.S. Navy history, and his enduring friendship with fellow fighter pilot Tom Hudner. Helping to turn the tide in the most brutal battle in the Korean War, their heroic sacrifices ultimately make them the Navy's most celebrated wingmen.

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 – this film is rated PG13.



### **Youth Group Confirmation Class**

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they continue their Confirmation journeys. Riley Johnson and Avie Birdsell are faithfully discerning their way forward and are wonderful to work with. They greatly appreciate your prayers for their discernment and growing faith and your ongoing support of their journeys. Thank you!

### **Adult Confirmation Class February 21: God/Jesus/Holy Spirit: Understanding the Trinity**

Our Adult 'Confirmation' class continues! Join us February 21 to discuss the theology of the Trinity. Wow - no small task to undertake a subject that has been debated, explained, and argued over for centuries in 1 1/2 hours! However, we'll talk it over and see what we can discover together. We'll meet from 6:30-8:00 P.M., in person and on Zoom. All are welcome to participate in one or all of the sessions. Come to the sessions with the topic that interests you – we will discuss a different topic each month. For more information, please contact Pastor Santina or leave a message with the church office.

We'll meet in person and on line with Zoom:

Meeting ID: 876 8492 8683

Passcode: 869176



### **Thank You for a Wonderful Annual Meeting!**

After worship on Sunday, January 29, 2023, Hope UCC held its Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall. After our Vice President, Julie Bustard, called us to order, the quorum approved the minutes from our two congregational meetings last year: the Annual Meeting on January 23, 2022 and the Special Meeting to approve the roof replacement on June 5, 2022. We held a Moment of Remembering in memory of those we lost in 2022.

We reviewed, discussed and approved the following:

- The Annual Committee and Officer Reports, including the Treasurer's Report for 2022
- The 2023 Nominating Slate (with two additions from p.24 of the printed Annual Report: Carole Keenan to Worship & Music and JoAnn Olson as a Church Council Member-at-Large)
- The 2023 Church Budget

And, lastly, we discussed and approved the updates to the Hope UCC Constitution & Bylaws. These included several instances of updated language in the document (e.g., changing "secretary" to "clerk(s)"), integrating bookkeeping into the description of the administrative assistant's role, and minor changes in the description of committees and council).

Thank you to all members and friends who joined in person and online through our Zoom program.





*Did we miss your birthday? Please let us know if we have missed one so we can update our records!*

## February Birthdays

3: Karen Ohrberg  
5: Avie Birdsell  
7: Abby Beug  
16: Sally Herbst  
19: Carole Lysell  
20: Judy Collins  
20: Dan Hawotte  
25: Laura Black

### Hope UCC Book Club

Hope's Book Club January selection is *The Story Keeper* by Lisa Wingate. All are welcome to join the discussion on February 27 at 6:00 P.M. in the Bronze Room at the Moline Public Library.



### **Blessing Box Requests**

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! Due to cold weather the following items are most needed:

- hygiene supplies
- dry/powdered milk, soups, and grain mixes
- toilet paper



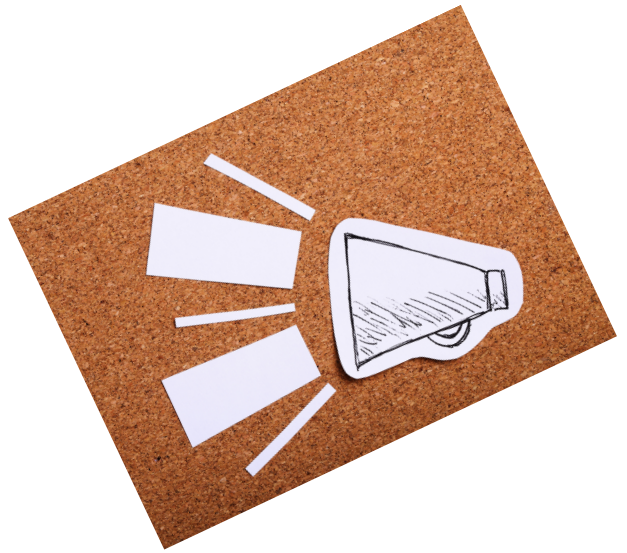
### **Blessing Box Volunteers Needed:**

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!

**Singles and Doubles Game Night**  
**Saturday, February 25 at 5:00 P.M.**

Please join us for Singles and Doubles Game Night in Fellowship Hall at 5:00pm on Saturday February 25th . Pizzas and dessert will be furnished. Please bring your own drinks and any games you wish to play. Desserts will be welcomed and a donation jar will be available to offset the costs of the food. Please let Barb Hawotte know if you plan to attend or have any questions about this fun evening!



**RUTH CIRCLE SPRING FLING DINNER**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH AT 6:00PM**  
**OLIVE GARDEN, MOLINE**



***See Dorothy Burdick to sign up!***



**February Dates to Remember**

***\*hybrid: zoom & in person***

Tuesday, February 7, 14, & 28: Lectionary\* 10:00a.m.

February 8: Grief Group Begins: Church of Peace 3:00 p.m.

February 9: All Ministry & Council Kick Off Meeting\* 6:30 p.m.

February 10: Reel Theology 6:00 p.m.

February 14: Trustees\* *time tbd*

Mission & Outreach\* 6:00 p.m.

February 15: Worship & Music Ministry\* 4:30 p.m.

February 20: Office Closed for President's Day

Ruth Circle Spring Fling at Olive Garden 6:00 p.m.

February 21: Adult Confirmation Class\* 6:30 p.m.

February 22: Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

February 23: Church Council\* 6:30 p.m.

February 27: Book Club meets at Moline Public Library 6:00 p.m.