



**HOPE** UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Hopeful Connections

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## Kicking Off a New Year!

All three of our boys are back in school. Summer vacation is now a memory – a wonderful, relaxing memory. I am grateful for the weeks when the kids are out of school and there are no alarms ringing at 6:00 a.m., no lunches to pack, no homework or projects to keep track of, and the chauffer duties are a little less hectic. But, as much as I appreciate the easy living that summer provides, I know the structure and academic challenges of the school year are important for our kids. I am grateful they have the opportunity to attend Moline High and Elmhurst University where they are growing and developing into great adults.

Our new year is beginning at Hope UCC as well. Just like the young folks returning to school and continuing their academic journeys, we are beginning our new program year here at Hope and continue to develop and grow in faith on our spiritual journeys. We have been able to rest a bit this summer: Sunday school, youth group, the weekly Lectionary study, Reel Theology, and other studies and programs have taken a refreshing and renewing break. But on September 8, we will start everything back up again with returning programs as well as a few new offerings. I hope you will discover a new way to be part of this special community this year! Keep reading this newsletter and find out what programs are starting soon and ways for you to be more involved at Hope!

God proclaims, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19) We are invited to continually be surprised by God doing new things in our lives. There are many ways this happens and in September our worship services will center on the theme: *Finding God in Surprising Places*. One such place will be in our music during worship. For four Sundays this month we will use music we do not typically sing and hear in church, yet has surprisingly deep spiritual messages and meanings. Our vocal choir has started practicing and they will lead us in congregational singing to a variety of pieces by modern singers and songwriters. We will not have a 'praise band' nor is the music 'contemporary Christian' but we will have music and singing that inspires us to see and experience the Holy in a new way. Each of the songs we'll sing and hear have been carefully selected because of the language, imagery, and message each contains.

Here is what is planned for September:

September 8: The Music of Carole King

September 15: The Music of Motown

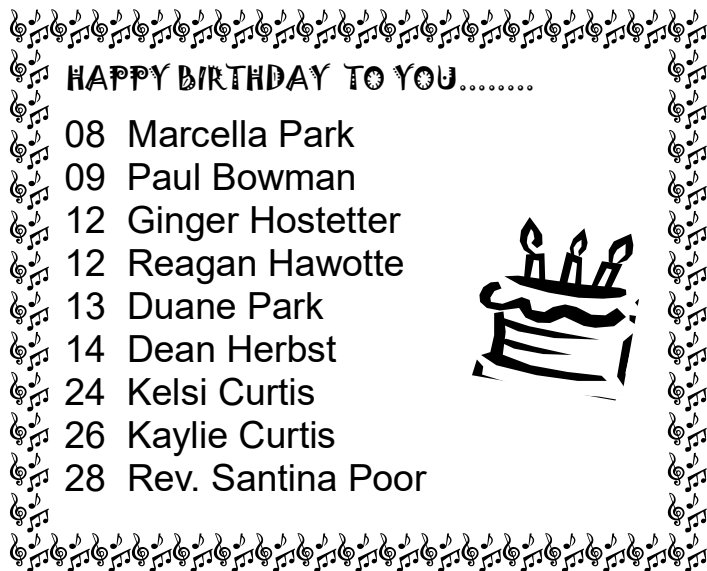
September 22: The Music of the Beatles

September 29: The Music of James Taylor & Friends



I am excited to start this new year with all of you as we take this journey together and find God in surprising places.

Yours in the journey,  
Pastor Santana



## September Scripture

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Sept. 1  | Luke 14:1, 7-14                                      |
| Sept. 8  | Jeremiah 18:1-11<br>Luke 14:25-33                    |
| Sept. 15 | Exodus 32:7-14<br>Psalm 51:1-10<br>Luke 15:1-10      |
| Sept. 22 | Jeremiah 8:18-9:1<br>1 Timothy 2:1-7<br>Luke 16:1-13 |
| Sept. 29 | Psalm 126<br>1 Timothy 6:6-19<br>Luke 16:19-31       |

## Helping Our Neighbors with Humility Homes and Services

Humility Homes and Services Inc. provides emergency shelter, transitional, and permanent supportive housing programs that offer opportunities for men and women experiencing homelessness in the Quad Cities to become emotionally, mentally and physically more stable. This summer, there has been an increasing number of single adults and families needing emergency shelter and supportive services. In June alone, 313 individuals - - single adults and children - - participated in their housing programs and services. You can help them keep up with the demand for everyday household items and personal items and make a huge difference in the life of your neighbor. When you are shopping please consider picking up any of these items to donate. The collection basket is in the sanctuary. Thank you!

Women's and men's new underwear - - all sizes

Women's and men's deodorant

Laundry soap, Hand soap, Dish soap

Coffee, sugar and creamer



Thank you to Worship Ministry who served coffee hour for the month of August. Nominating, Audit and Memorial Committees will serve for the month of September.

## Youth Group News

Youth Group will resume Sunday, September 8! Our weekly meeting time will be Sundays, from 4:00-5:30 at Hope UCC. Students in 6th – 12th grade are welcome to join us for a time of games, fellowship, discussion, and, of course, snacks. Questions? Please see Pastor Santina.



Average church attendance  
for August  
70

## Continuing our ONA Progress at Hope UCC

As we begin our new program year, we also continue our journey toward becoming an official Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation of the United Church of Christ. Since our covenant will include many groups historically marginalized by the church, we spent our first year focusing on the aspects of mental health, race, and physical abilities. We had programs, studies, and discussions on these issues. This year we will offer programs and conversations focused on sexual orientation and gender identity as we move toward the creation of our ONA Covenant and begin the important conversations about the Covenant with this congregation, culminating with the congregational vote. Our ONA Committee will gather in early September to prayerfully organize the events, speakers, and gatherings. We always welcome new ideas and voices - if you are interested in joining this committee, please see Bob Tallitsch or Pastor Santina. Please be watching for announcements about the programs, speakers, and events regarding ONA and plan to join the conversations! Thank you!



# Hope Happenings

## **Lectionary Bible Study Returns September 3!!**

Please join Pastor Santina every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to explore the Bible texts that will be used in the upcoming Sunday's worship. This is a great opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with Scripture and each other! This weekly gathering is a perfect place to discuss the Bible text whether you have memorized the Bible or have never opened the Bible- it really is for everyone: no matter who you are or where you are on your Bible journey, you are welcome here! These conversations will help prepare all of us for worship on Sunday. We hope you will join the conversation on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m.



## **Kick Off Sunday: September 8, 2019!!**

Our wonderful children's faith formation program resumes on Sunday, September 8. The children's program will once again meet every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. We are thrilled to continue the Spark Activate Faith Rotation Sunday School curriculum – both the children and the teachers enjoyed this curriculum last year. Faith Exploration can use your help! Please consider volunteering your time and talent as part of this special ministry by signing up to teach or assist in a class. Please see any of the members of the Faith Exploration Ministry if you have any questions about Sunday school: Beth Carvey, Lisa Powell-Williams, Mary Tallitsch, Bob Poor, and Laura Black.

## **Kick Off Sunday All Church Lunch**

What better way to begin our new program year than with fellowship over a tasty lunch? Please plan to stay for lunch on Sunday, September 8 – Faith Exploration will be grilling hot dogs! Please bring a side dish and/or a dessert to share. \*Please note that the lunch on the 8<sup>th</sup> takes the place of our usual 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Potluck.

## **NAMI Walk: September 21, 2019**

Join "Team Hope UCC" for this annual 5K to raise awareness about mental health issues. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support and works to improve the lives of persons living with serious mental health conditions and their families. Hope UCC's team will once again walk together and all funds raised will go directly to NAMI's programs helping our friends and neighbors in the Quad Cities. If you are unable to walk that distance, consider cheering us on from the sidelines or making a donation to our team. Sign up to walk with us! Please see Pastor Santina or go to:

<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=31614> and sign up to walk on our team or make a donation. Thank you for supporting NAMI and for helping to raise awareness about helping people living with mental health conditions.



## **Reel Theology Returns September 21!**

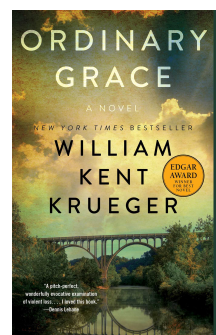
Join the fun on September 21 when we gather to watch and discuss the film *Love, Simon*.

This film is a romantic comedy-drama centering on Simon Spier, a closeted gay high schooler who is forced to balance his friends, his family, and the blackmailer threatening to out him to the entire school, while simultaneously attempting to discover the identity of the anonymous classmate with whom he has fallen in love online. It is the perfect film to begin our

program year as we continue our journey to become an official ONA congregation! Critics praised the film for its "big heart, diverse and talented cast, and revolutionary normalcy", describing it as "tender, sweet, and affecting" and a "hugely charming crowd-pleaser" that is "funny, warm-hearted and life-affirming." All ages are invited to join us, but this film is rated PG13. We will have a potluck from 5:00-5:30 p.m. We will begin the movie at 5:30 and following the film, we will have our discussion. See you at the movies! \*Please note and mark your calendars that Reel Theology is usually scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month for the rest of the program year!

## **Hope Book Club**

We invite you to read *Ordinary Grace* a novel by William Kent Krueger, then join us for discussion Sept. 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Platinum Room at the Moline Public Library.





### **Read the Bible - the WHOLE Bible??**

#### **Yes! Community Bible Experience Begins this Fall!**

This year we will read the Bible, the whole thing, starting with Genesis and moving all the way through to Revelation. Learning happens best in community, over time, and all are welcome to be part of this program. The Community Bible Experience is a new way to talk about the Bible: less like a Bible study and more like a book club. This church-wide program welcomes everyone no matter how much (or little) of the Bible we have already read. We will meet monthly to discuss what we have read.

This program breaks the scriptures into four books and the reading plan works out to reading 12-15 pages a day, 5 days a week for 8 weeks (per book). The format of each of the books provides a more accessible text. Rather than the traditional format of columns, chapter, verses, and footnotes, the text is simply written in book form. This format is a fresh yet ancient presentation of Scripture. It strips away centuries of added formatting so we can read and enjoy just the Bible text.

There will be a cost for materials, but financial assistance is available. The books range in price from \$7.00-13.00 (hardcover) or \$10.00 for the e-books.

Please plan to come to an information meeting about this program following worship on September 8 or September 15. At this time you can get more information, see samples of the materials, register, and get your questions answered (hopefully!!).

### **From the Council President**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August our congregation held a special congregational meeting. The agenda contained only two items:

1. The presentation of the amended version of Hope UCC's Constitution and Bylaws for discussion and approval. First, a list of amendments that were sent to the Council in July was presented to the congregation. This list was discussed and a few modifications were made; the list was approved by a unanimous vote of those present. Then the complete and amended version of the current Constitution and Bylaws was presented to the congregation. I am happy to report that the new Constitution and Bylaws for Hope UCC were unanimously approved! These new documents become effective on the first of January, 2020!

A copy of the new constitution and bylaws was e-mailed out with the September newsletter and calendar. If you didn't receive a copy by e-mail but would like to obtain a copy please contact Bob Tallitsch or the church office, and one will be provided for you.

2. At the Church Council's goal setting in January it was stated that our congregation would like the financial procedures to be more transparent. As a result of that request the status of our congregation's finances was presented to the congregation and discussed. This type of meeting will become an annual event in late July/early August. If you would like a copy of the financial report that was discussed please contact Bob Tallitsch and one will be provided for you.

On behalf of your Church Council and Trustees I would like to thank everyone that participated in the proofreading of the numerous drafts of the constitution and bylaws, as well as thank all of those that participated in the special congregational meeting. In addition, a HUGE thank-you goes out to all members and friends of Hope UCC for participating in the life of our congregation!

Sincerely,  
Bob Tallitsch



### **Inquirer's Class: September 22**

If you are new to Hope UCC or have questions about this faith community, Pastor Santana and our church leadership invite you to our next Inquirer's Class. These classes are a nice opportunity to get to know each other a little better and share information about Hope UCC's ministries and mission. You can ask any question you've ever had about the UCC, but were afraid to ask! But seriously, this is a great opportunity to spend some time together and have a conversation about faith and our shared journey. We will meet following worship on September 22. If you cannot make it that date, Pastor Santana can arrange a time that works with your schedule. If you discern that this is the time for you to become a member of Hope UCC, we will welcome new members during worship on Sunday, October 13.

If you have any questions about the Inquirer's Class or would like to sign up to attend, please speak with Pastor Santana or call or email the church office: [office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com](mailto:office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com) or 309-762-1419

### **Faith Exploration News**

Building on the success of our rotational Sunday school curriculum used last year, Faith Exploration is working hard for 2019-2020! The beauty of the curriculum is that it is creatively written and well-prepared to be teacher friendly requiring very little preparation. Faith Exploration hopes that these FAQ's will help inspire you to step up and help teach our kids!

#### **What does rotational curriculum mean?**

Rotational curriculum means that each month of lessons is based on one theme or Bible story. During the month, students rotate into the different areas such as cooking, science, art, games, music, or drama using various approaches to teach the lesson.

#### **How are students divided into groups?**

Students come to each area by age groupings.

Lower elementary (Pre-Kindergarten, kindergarten, first grade)

Upper elementary (Grades 2, 3, 4 and 5)

#### **What is involved in teacher preparation?**

You will receive the complete curriculum packet for just your area and you read and prepare the lesson for "lower" and "upper." You will know who is coming to you on a given Sunday and you proceed with the lesson.

#### **May I just teach one Sunday?**

Yes and no. We need **non-bell choir** volunteers for every 3rd Sunday of the month.

On that Sunday, all ages will participate together in pre-planned lessons.

#### **What about the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays?**

For consistency with the children and how you best get to know one another, it is best to volunteer to do a "month" of Sundays.

#### **How do I volunteer?**

Pam has sign up sheets in the church office. You can also speak to any Faith Exploration Ministry member or Pastor Santana.

Very likely someone in your childhood took the time to nurture you. Our children need the same. This is place where no one ages out and the benefits to both you and our kids are immense.

Faith Exploration team – Laura Black, Bob Poor, Lisa Williams, Beth Carvey and Mary Tallitsch

### **From Hope UCC's President**

At our last Council meeting we decided that it was time for our Nominating Ministry to start its work and find qualified individuals who are willing to serve Hope UCC on its various Ministries. But...we often get a question that contains one or more of the following: "What does the Ministry do?" "How long do I serve?" "Can I get re-elected?" So...at the suggestion of Pastor Santina, here is a listing of Hope UCC's ministries and the answers to any and all questions you might have. If, after reading the information below, you feel that you have the skills and desire to serve on any of Hope UCC's ministries please contact me by phone (764-8507) or e-mail [roberttallitsch@augustana.edu](mailto:roberttallitsch@augustana.edu)

It takes a lot of people to do God's work, but the more that chip in, the easier the tasks. Hope UCC has experienced a considerable growth in enthusiasm and participation, and your willingness to serve on any of the Ministries outlined below will only help to make that enthusiasm grow. And remember, you can also volunteer to step in and help with any ministries and activities, even if you're not officially serving on a ministry. Extra help is always happily accepted. So, I would ask you to look inward and determine what strengths and interests you have, and then see how they dovetail with the needs of Hope UCC and volunteer to serve on one of the Ministries outlined below.

**Church Council:** The Church Council sets the policies of the church and coordinates the activities of the congregation. We have three "At Large" members that serve for one-year terms, and they may serve for no more than three consecutive terms. We have three positions to fill on the Church Council.

**Trustees:** The Trustees are the legal representatives of Hope UCC, as determined by the laws of The State of Illinois. They are responsible for the finances of the church and for maintenance of the building and grounds of the church. The trustees will be looking for at least one new member, so if you have an interest in finance or are good with understanding the needs for the maintenance of the building and grounds of the church then Trustees is for you! We would be excited if you would volunteer for a three-year term.

**Faith Exploration and Education:** Simply put, Faith Exploration is responsible for all of the educational programs of the church: adult, youth, and children's. Although, as a member of this Ministry you would not be required to teach in Sunday school, it would be an added treat and an additional way to serve Hope UCC and this Ministry. This Ministry will be looking for at least one new member to serve a three-year term.

**Mission and Outreach:** This is the newest Ministry for Hope UCC. As stated in the constitution, this Ministry is responsible for promoting interest and participation in the ministries of the Church and shall work with the pastor and the Faith Exploration and Education Ministry. The Ministry shall work to promote the Church's rendering of loving service to all people and strive for justice and peace. This work shall be in conjunction with community and welfare agencies and the Faith Exploration and Education Ministry. This Ministry will need at least three new members to serve either one-, two- or three-year terms.

**Worship and Music:** This Ministry works with Pastor Santina as she evaluates worship format and plans worship services outside the normal worship services. This Ministry is also responsible for arranging the for preparation of Communion, arranging for greeters, liturgists, ushers, communion servers etc. This Ministry will be looking for at least one new member who would be willing to serve for three years. Again, I would ask you to look inwardly and determine what strengths and interests you have, and then see how they dovetail with the needs of Hope UCC and volunteer to serve on one of the Ministries outlined below.

Thank you in advance,  
Bob Tallitsch