



Hope UCC Weekly Update: September 1st, 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.

Weekly Lectionary Bible Study Resumes September 3, 2024

Our weekly lectionary Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 3rd at 10:00 A.M. Join us for our weekly discussion and study of the scripture.

Kick Off Sunday at Riverside Park September 8, 2024

Join us for outdoor worship and fellowship in the West 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 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! Even if you don't have a favorite team or sport, come along and enjoy the spirit of the day as we kick off great new year with our church family! We'll have coffee and treats available before worship begins, and if you are able, please 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, Nancy Stevens, and Mary Tallitsch. Kick Off Kick Off Sunday! Sunday!

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.



September 28, 2024

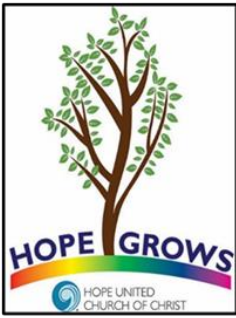
8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

The Bend Expo Center

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!

This year's walk will be held once again in East Moline at the Bend Expo Center. Hope UCC's team will 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. It's a great way for us to be present in the community, representing our church, and supporting those who are facing this critical health issue. The walk just happens to be on Pastor Santina's birthday – so come and celebrate with her as we walk in support of the great cause together!

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>



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin August 25th, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Coming Home

*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 *Just As I Am*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

COMING TOGETHER AS A WORSHIP COMMUNITY

One: When we pass through the waters,

Many: God is there with us.

One: When we suffer and feel hopeless,

Many: God is there with us.

One: When we are joyful and celebratory,

Many: God is there with us.

One: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated,

Many: God is there with us, always. Come, let us worship together with Emmanuel, God with us.

*OPENING HYMN NCH#422 *Come O Thankful People Come*

*INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST

Ever present God, You are the first and the last, our redeemer and our rock, our refuge and our home, the one and only God. We have gathered together to worship you, to offer you our praise and thanksgiving, to feel your renewal in our lives. We gather to once again affirm that you are our God, and that we are your people, created by you long ago for your purposes. Open our eyes and hearts to your presence among us. Through your Word and Spirit, challenge us to greater faithfulness so that we may be the people you created us to be and accomplish the work you have set out for us. Amen.

*OFFERING OUR CONFESSION

One: Merciful God, you plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun. We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,

Many: Forgive us.

One: When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,

Many: Forgive us.

One: When we label others as good or bad rather than accept them for who they are,

Many: Forgive us.

One: When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

Many: Forgive us.

One: When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,

Many: Forgive us.

One: O God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

Many: You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

One: You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

Many: So we pray that you will help us to reach out to the uprooted and rejected, the lonely and the outcast, and to develop and grow the good in ourselves, in others, and in the world. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

*RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF GOD'S MERCY

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

Pastor: 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 43:1-5a, 15-19

¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight
 and honored and I love you,
 I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
¹⁵ I am the LORD, your Holy One,
 the Creator of Israel, your King.
¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down; they cannot rise;
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
 He leads me in right paths
 for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 my whole life long.

*GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 13:24-32

²⁴ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

SERMON *Coming Home*

SERMON HYMN NCH #528 *You Are the Seed*

SHARING OUR GIFTS

God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God — we share our time, our gifts, and our treasure, and in so doing, we say "yes" to God's invitation to join in God's kingdom building here on Earth.

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

O God who gathers more, and still more, people to your table — a table that is not contained by our one church, but extends across varied worship spaces, across diverse cultures and communities — bless the gifts that each of us brings today. May they used to heal and strengthen bodies and nourish spirits, and always for your glory. Amen.

GATHERING AT THE TABLE: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Remember

One: Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding each other and creation:

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Consecration

One: Let us pray...

Many: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen

Breaking Bread and Pouring the CupSharing Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated through an open table at Hope UCC. All are invited to share this holy meal. Please come forward to receive a piece of bread and then take a cup from the tray. If you are unable to come forward to receive Communion, Pastor Santana will bring it to you in your pew.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *All Good Gifts (We Plow the Fields)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence and the holy renewal in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us as we find healing and renewal at this table so that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that we may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*SENDING OUT AFFIRMATION HYMN NCH#106 *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

*BLESSING OUR JOURNEY

One: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped and shared this sacred time together.

Many: Now we go back out into the world.

One: We came together to build relationships,

Many: Relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus.

One: We go out as people who are strengthened, renewed, and re-created by our connections and these relationships.

Many: We are ready to love and to serve. We are ready to carry God's love to the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Caridad Ramos

Ministers or Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Greeter: Linda Brown

Communion Preparation: Judy Hawotte, Jan Varga

Fellowship Hour: Marcella Park

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