



## HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Hopeful Connections

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## Poor Musings...

### Mid-Year Reviews: Not Just for Finances!

Welcome to summer! In San Diego, we used to complain about "May Gray" and "June Gloom" because it was always so cloudy and cold during these months. This really makes me laugh now. This spring has been so beautiful and I have no doubt that summer in Moline will bring us more sunshine and many reasons to get outside and enjoy God's glorious creation. I can't wait!

It doesn't seem possible that we are halfway through 2019. When we met in January for our Annual Meeting, we discussed and approved our 2019 balanced budget. We did this with the understanding we would meet again for a mid-year review of how we are doing. Our Vision Council has approved the date for that meeting and our Council President, Bob Tallitsch, has a note about it in this month's newsletter. I encourage you to attend.

It was also in January that we received our Star Words on Epiphany Sunday. Everyone was invited to take a star from the Christmas tree that had a word on it. We were instructed to keep the star close all year and use it in the spiritual practice of letting the word guide our prayers and bring us into a new conversation with God. The hope is that our word might offer each of us some new understanding or insight this year as our word appears and makes itself known to us in different ways. Perhaps you have been keeping a journal or jotting down notes on your reflections or experiences you have had with your Star Word. Now that we are halfway through the year, I would like to propose a mid-year review of our Star Words. I recently read an article in which the author suggested using our Star Words in a weekly practice which works perfectly for the months of June and July. Here you go:

Week 1: Consider how to use your word as your lens through which God may be calling you to look at your life. Write your reflections.

Week 2: Look for a scripture text that resonates with you in light of your word. Look for a text that makes no sense at all to you in light of your word. Consider why your word made sense in one text and not the other. Write down your reflections and continue to explore the text that troubles you.

Week 3: Find as many antonyms for your word as you can. Reflect on what the exact opposite of your word is. Be ready to recognize when you find yourself in that opposite space and try to pull yourself out.

Week 4: Find a hymn (traditional or contemporary) that you believe reflects your word. Challenge yourself to sing it at least once this week!

Week 5: Read the Nicene Creed, Apostles Creed, and the UCC Statement of Faith (in our hymnal). Reflect on how your word fits into these creeds and calls you into relationship with God.

Week 6: Read the Communion Liturgy (in our hymnal) and reflect on how your word calls you into Holy Communion.

Over→

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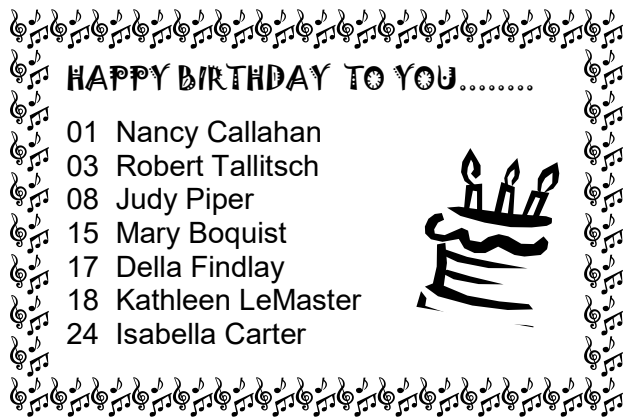
Week 7: Look at the baptismal covenant (in our hymnal) and reflect on how God is calling you to be a disciple through your word.

Week 8: Reflect on ways your word challenges you. Identify a way(s) to meet those challenges.

Week 9: Use artistic expression to reflect on your word. What does your word look like to you?

If you have forgotten your Star Word, misplaced it, or did not receive one in January, fear not! There are plenty more, just let me know and I'll get you one. I will also engage in these activities in June and July, and I hope this mid-year spiritual review lifts us all into a new understanding of God's activity in our lives.

Bless you all on this journey,  
Pastor Santana



### Camp Registration for Pilgrim Park

Camp registration forms are available on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. You can also register online at [www.il-outdoorministries.org](http://www.il-outdoorministries.org).



Thank you to Bell Choir who served coffee hour for the month of May. Union and Friends will serve for the month of June.

Average church attendance for May  
81

### June Scripture

June 2	Psalm 97 Acts 16:16-34
June 9	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Acts 2:1-21
June 16	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
June 23	1 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Luke 8:26-39
June 30	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Luke 8:26-39

### Please Support Hope UCC's Youth Group – and Enjoy a Tasty Lunch!



Join us on June 23 following worship when Hope UCC's Youth Group will be serving up a lunch that can only be described as *DELICIOUSO!!* The youth will be cooking up a fantastic walking taco lunch, but you can also opt for salads. Beverages and desserts will be available too! Your free will donation will help to support Hope UCC's Youth Group programs.

Hope UCC's wonderful Youth Group has some wonderful adventures planned this summer and fall that will not only shape their faith formation and spiritual development, they will grow together as a team and family of faith – and even have a little fun while they're doing it! Thank you for supporting our youth with your prayers and love – and staying for lunch after church on June 23!

### Notice of special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, August 4th. The items to be considered at that meeting will be the following:

- Revision of Hope UCC's constitution and Bylaws
- Information about the current financial status of the congregation

In February Hope UCC applied to the Illinois Conference to be part of the Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations Program (TPiRC). We just received word we have been accepted!!! This 5 year program provides our congregation with many resources that will help us strengthen, strategize and faithfully live into our mission as a community of faith. Our TPiRC committee is led by Pastor Santana and includes Kathleen LeMaster, Carole Keenan, Bob Tallitsch, Grady Birdsell and Dan Hawotte. We are excited to enter this process with our Illinois Conference!

# Hope Happenings

## **Centering Prayer at Hope UCC Beginning June 6, 4:00 – 4:30 P.M.**

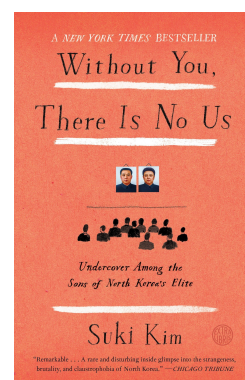
During Lent, we had the opportunity to come together and practice the spiritual discipline of Centering Prayer, a form of Contemplative Prayer. This method of prayer uses the practice of meditative silence to quiet our minds in order to more fully engage in prayer as a personal relationship with God as we filter out the thoughts and other distractions that prevent us from that spiritual engagement. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, as a form of Contemplative Prayer, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer - verbal, mental or affective prayer - into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

Happily, the folks that gathered during Lent expressed an interest in continuing this practice, so we will have a regular Centering Prayer meeting every Thursday from 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. We will meet in the sanctuary. All are invited to participate – you can attend once just to see what it is all about or you can attend every week. You can attend if you have never practiced any kind of spiritual discipline or if you have written a book about spiritual disciplines! Really, all are welcome! Just come in, try it once! Who knows – you might really find it helpful and renewing.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or speak to Kathy Hobson, Sue Grchan, or Jenny Hookey.

## **Hope Book Club**

We invite you to read *Without You, There Is No Us*, a memoir by Suki Kim then join us for discussion June 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Platinum Room at the Moline Public Library.



## **Youth Group News**

School is out and Confirmation class has ended, but all of Youth Group will continue to meet and have some fun together this summer. This year our Confirmation class met on Sundays from 4-5 p.m. which worked with everyone's schedules. We will continue to meet Sundays from 4-5 – we'll have the summer meeting dates available soon. Please contact Pastor Santina with any questions and save the following dates and sign up for these events:

### ♥ **June 23: Youth Group Fundraiser: "Walking Taco" Lunch after Worship**

It's all hands on deck to help prepare, serve, and clean up in order to raise funds for our various programs this summer. Please be at church at 8:00 a.m. to help get this party started! We will get everything ready, go in to worship, then serve, and clean up. We should be done no later than 1:00 p.m.

### ♥ **June 28-29: Hope UCC Yard Sale – Bake Sale Helpers**

Youth Group will be in charge of the baked goods that will be sold during the garage sale. We'll be baking as well as selling items that have been donated by our congregation. Get ready to have a great time – everyone is always happy when they're buying a baked treat at a church yard sale!

### ♥ **June 30: Youth Group Trip to Skellington Manor Escape Room Experience**

We will leave following worship and have lunch. Then it's time to solve a series of puzzles to try to solve a mystery. It's a lot of fun and a great team-building experience too. The cost is \$15 per person for the Escape Room and additional cash for lunch at McDonalds, but financial assistance is available (please speak to Pastor Santina).

### ♥ **July 13: Help at the Church of Peace Food Pantry**

We will meet at Hope UCC at 8:00 a.m. and drive over to Church of Peace UCC in Rock Island to help distribute food items at their weekly food pantry. We will finish around 11:00 and should be back at Hope by 11:30.

### ♥ **Trip to Jubilee Farms UCC (Date TBD)**

We will head out to this beautiful family farm in Clinton, IL that is also a local congregation of the United Church of Christ. We will learn about the sustainable farming practices and the many ways Rev. Cyndy Ash and her team tend and care for God's creation.

### ♥ **Lock-In at Hope UCC (August, specific date: TBD)**

Games, movies, music, yummy food & snacks, not enough sleep: all the ingredients for a great night together. We'll spend the night here at Hope. Totally exhausting, but totally fun.

### **Confirmation Sunday: June 9**

On Pentecost Sunday, seven of our terrific youth will be confirmed during our worship service. We thank you for the prayers that have been lifted for our Confirmands as they have prepared for this moment in their faith journeys. We invite you to send messages of encouragement and love as a special gift from their church family. Even if you have not made their acquaintance personally, please consider writing a note to these youth. Each of us has a special role in nurturing their faith and what a nice way to express that on this special day. Please drop messages off in the church office or in the basket at the rear of the sanctuary before June 9. We will give the Confirmands your messages on Confirmation Sunday, June 9.

Our Confirmands are:

Abby Beug	Dennis Beug	Colton Jones	Hunter Toye
Reagan Hawotte	Riley Hawotte	Tyler Demarest	

Thank you for praying for and nurturing the faith journeys of our youth at Hope UCC

### **Annual Garage Sale: June 28 & 29**

Hope UCC will hold its annual Garage Sale the weekend of June 28 and 29. We will need plenty of volunteers for this event so please consider signing up to help. Please bring your treasures to Hope anytime Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. between now and June 27. What kind of treasures will we be selling? All the treasures! We will also have a bake sale so if you would like to bake a special treat to sell, thank you!! Baked goods should be brought in Thursday or Friday morning or Saturday morning. Special thank you to Judy Piper and Linda Brown for organizing this year's sale! If you would like to volunteer to help or if you have any questions please contact Judy or Linda or call the church office. Thank you!!

### **Mission and Outreach at Hope UCC**

When our Faith Exploration Ministry surveyed our congregation about ways we might be more deeply engaged in service and outreach in our community, many suggestions and thoughts were shared. The responses were varied and reflect a genuine desire to share God's love in our community and beyond. Helping relieve food insecurity is one of the themes that emerged from the conversations. Hope UCC currently works with Churches United of the Quad Cities in administering their Meal Site program at our church. Churches United also provides food pantries at various locations throughout the Quad Cities. Our sister congregation, Church of Peace in Rock Island, administers one of these pantries. They serve the community every Saturday, and they could use a hand. Serving at Church of Peace helps to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need with no questions asked. Just as with our Meal Site program, the food pantry feeds the spirit as well as the stomachs of those who attend. We hope you will sign up to help with any of the opportunities at Church of Peace's Food Pantry. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary. Please contact the office at Hope UCC if you have any questions.

#### **Food Pantry at Church of Peace – Ways to Help**

##### **Pantry Food Distribution**

We could use 2-4 volunteers for the following dates in June, July and August. Would need to be at Church of Peace (12th Street and 12th Avenue, Rock Island, IL) at 8:45. You will be done about 11:00 a.m. Please park in 12th Avenue Parking lot and come in 12th Avenue door.

June 1, 8, 15 & 22 - July 6, 13 & 20 - August 3, 10, 17 & 24

##### **Stocking the Pantry**

We "stock the pantry" on Friday mornings (around 8:30 at church). We pick up food at Riverbend Food Bank at 8:00 a.m. We would always welcome folks to help with this. We are usually done by 9:30.

##### **USDA Food Delivery**

We have a USDA Delivery the 3rd Monday of every month. Can use all the help we can get to unload and store the food we receive (from 3,000 to 6,000 pounds a month). Delivery is at 8:00 a.m. and usually done by 9:30 or so.

June 17 - July 15 - August 19



06-19-2009

THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ALWAYS  
PICK UP THE CHECK ON FATHER'S DAY