



Hopeful Connections

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Sweet Summertime & the Road Ahead

As I write this reflection, we are just about to officially begin summer. At this time last year, we had just started to livestream our worship service from our sanctuary at Hope UCC, concluding 3 months of streaming from the Poor House Chapel. The timing of our state's lifting of the stay at home order was miraculously aligned with Ben Holmes joining our staff. Ben, who is our Minister of Music, brings many gifts to our Sunday worship. As our little crew gathered in the empty sanctuary each Sunday during the pandemic

closure to livestream worship, Ben and Mary's musical offerings filled our empty sanctuary with so much joy and hope and praise. As Pastor, I'm not sure how I would have gotten through each Sunday without the spiritual nurture that their musical offerings provided.

What a difference a year makes. Today, we are able to regather in person for worship in the sanctuary. The prayers and music fill a space that sounds different with the buzz of the congregation instead of echoing off empty walls and pews. Hooray! We have transitioned from masked and spaced worship and all the limitations involved in that, to the gifts that the vaccinations have offered: unmasked (except when singing!) worship for those fully vaccinated and feel comfortable doing so, the return of coffee hour, and the opportunity to gather for the many ministry, formational, and fellowship activities and programs of Hope UCC. It is absolutely important that we understand that not everyone is comfortable with leaving the masks behind. We trust that anyone who has not received the vaccination yet, and there are many reasons for this, will continue to wear a mask in church. AND we offer no judgment on anyone who continues to feel safer wearing a mask regardless of their vaccination status. Loving God, loving others, and loving ourselves is lived out in many ways, and masks are now a big part of that activity.

I hope that you will take some time in the days (weeks, and months too) ahead to reflect on all that has happened over the past 15 months. There is no doubt that there will be ups and downs regarding positivity rates and concerns over virus resurgence or even new viruses in the future. I believe taking time to reflect and remember what we learned during this historical season will help us going forward. I offer these questions to you to use in your reflections (spoiler alert, this may come up in a future worship service and Church Council and ministry meetings):

over→

(continued from pg. 1)

- What did you discover that was good during the pandemic?
- What did you miss the most about the world during the shutdown when in-person activities were suspended?
- What did you miss the most about church during the shutdown when in-person activities were suspended?
- What *didn't* you miss?
- In what way did you encounter God/Christ/Spirit during the time we were in the shutdown that wasn't related to church?

Perhaps you will use these questions in your journaling or as a way to reflect to begin your daily prayers. Use them often and discover what grows out of your responses. Bless you in this discovery.

As we regather at Hope UCC – in person and online – as a hybrid congregation, I offer this prayer of thanks, hope, and love.

God we thank you for all the sanctuaries in our lives: places where you are present and so very close and real to us. Walls cannot contain you, and although they are special places that hold so many memories, let us always remember that buildings are the symbols of your presence. We are the Body of Christ, together – those who are regathered in the pews of the church building together with those who remain in their homes – joined together on this faith journey. You are with us - very real, very close in the buildings we have constructed and outside of them too. This was true yesterday, is true today, and will be true tomorrow. So we will worship you in all the places and spaces of our lives – together both in person and virtually gathered. Together as one Body, we will give thanks for this combined space and offer you our praise and thanks. Bless this Body, Lord, and light our path as we share your love as followers of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Santana

Congregational Sympathy

Congregational sympathy is extended to the family of Ruth Meyer, who passed away June 15th. Our love and prayers are lifted for Ruth's daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Larry Eads, and their children in this time of loss.

 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU.....**

01 Dennis Beug
04 David Newton
05 Ed VanWycken
09 Sherry VanWycken
11 Ken Curtis
13 Kathy Lewis
13 Phyllis Dull
15 Denny Black
15 Lisa Powell Williams
18 Linda Brown
18 Marjorie Gottwalt
19 Sheila Goderis
20 Mary Tallitsch
28 Marilyn Bustard
28 Marilyn Rada
30 Sue Grchan
31 Tina Voss



Holiday Closing

Hope UCC's office will be closed on July 5 in observance of the 4th of July holiday. Thank you and Happy 4th!

July Scripture

July 4	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
July 11	Psalm 1
July 18	Psalm 51
July 25	Psalm 73

Thank You

We would like to thank those who were able to come to the celebration of life that we held on May 30th for mom and dad (Irma and Bill Hawotte), and sister Sue. It meant a lot to us to see so many familiar faces and for all the kind words and sweet stories you shared with us. We have such a fantastic church family.

Judy Hawotte and Barb & Dan Hawotte

Hope UCC's Adopt-a-Park Program Update

Our Mission and Outreach Ministry is discerning ways that Hope UCC will care for McCandless Park, which we 'adopted' through our city's Adopt-a-Park Program. We invite you to fill in a City of Moline Waiver Form so that no matter what the activity is planned for the park, you will be able to participate. The city requires this form to be on file for anyone participating in activities through the Adopt-a-Park Program. The waiver is available in the church office and on our website: www.hopeuccqc.org. We encourage you to fill one out to have on file – you never know what activity will stir your soul to participate in at the park!! ☺



Thank You!

Many thanks to Dan Hawotte, Dean Herbst, and Bob Church for keeping Hope UCC's campus looking so welcoming and lovely. No matter how hot it is out there, on any given day during the spring, summer, and fall months, you will find one of these amazing stewards of our landscaping cutting the grass, blowing the leaves, planting flowers, watering the plants, and tending to the Memorial Garden. If you haven't been back to the Memorial Garden in a while, you will see a few landscaping changes. This design using Hostas graces the corner of the garden now.

Thank you, Dan, Dean, and Bob! We are grateful for your loving care of Hope UCC and all of our green spaces!



Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering is one of the 5 special offerings our congregation collects for the United Church of Christ. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your

generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Hope UCC's Mission and Outreach Ministry thanks you for your support of this special offering which will be received on July 11 during worship (or can be delivered to church at any time this month). Please note "STC" on the memo line of your check or on the envelope. Thank you again for your support.

Youth Group News: Summer Plans!

Youth Group meets from 3:00-4:30 Sunday afternoons, unless otherwise noted for special events.

June 27: Meet at Church. We will plan when to paint the Blessing Box

We will be painting the Blessing Box at times other than our Sunday meeting time.

July 4: No Youth Group

July 11: Meet at Church: Psalms Study. What songs do you love?

July 18: Weather Permitting we will go to McCandless Park and decide on a park stewardship plan for youth group to carry out. Meet at Hope UCC at 3:00 and we will return to church by 4:30.

July 25: Meet at Church: Prep for Summerfest

July 26-29 Summerfest!! Youth Group will be helping this week

Aug 1: No Youth Group

Aug 8: No Youth Group

August 14: Day of Service at Church of Peace UCC Food Pantry

Meet at Hope UCC at 7:30 a.m. to go to Church of Peace to work at their food pantry. We'll conclude with a little neighborhood clean up around the church and then go have lunch. We should return to Hope UCC by 1:00-1:30.

August 15: Meet at Church
New Year! Let's talk about goals.

August 22: Meet at Church

August 29: Meet at Church



Summerfest at Hope UCC

3324 41st Street Moline

www.hopeuccqc.org

July 26-29

5:45-7:30 P.M.

***Families of one and families of many are invited to explore
and discover God's treasures at Summerfest 2021!***

**For the younger kids: A VBS program exploring how God is at work
in Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments**

**For the 'big' kids/kids at heart: A Bible study exploring the stories of
the well-known and not-so-well-known women in the Bible.**

**For everyone: Dinner and opening and closing worship together
each evening.**

Schedule:

**5:45-6:15: Dinner - a free will offering is welcome for the meal. Just
want to come for dinner and the opening worship? That's fine! Want
to skip dinner and just come for the program? That's fine too.**

6:15-6:30: Opening worship

6:30-7:15: Break into our small groups

7:15-7:30: Closing worship

**Throughout the week, we will collect items for
Hope UCC's Blessing Box Ministry.**

Summerfest 2021 Registration

Name of participant(s):

Phone Number:

Email address:

Dietary needs/restrictions:

Please write participants' names next all that apply:

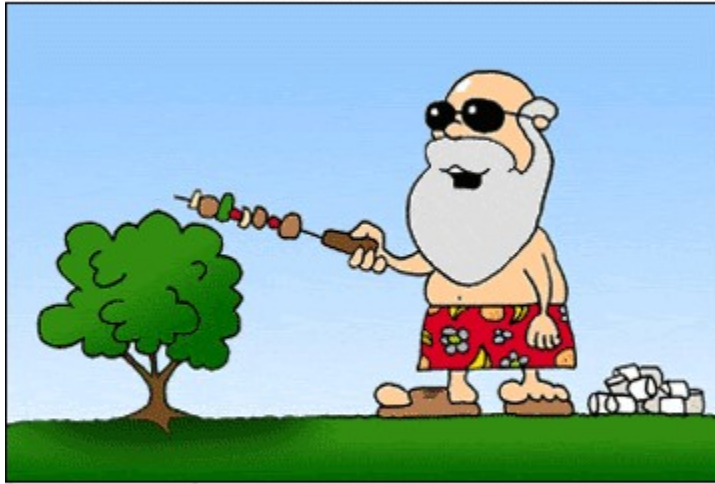
Dinner:

Children's VBS Program:

Adult Bible Study Program

Anything else we should know?

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(See Acts 7:30-34)

06-13-2006

C'MON BUSH ... DO THAT BURNING THING
AGAIN