



Hope UCC Weekly Update: October 5, 2025

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.

Singles & Doubles Annual Wiener Roast

Singles and Doubles will have their annual wiener roast on **Saturday 18 October at 5:00pm**. However, there will be some changes this year. We will not be having this out in the garden due to the unpredictable weather and also because of the danger of standing around the huge fire pit. We are getting older and more wobbly!!! So, instead we will be having it inside in fellowship hall. We will be having a very simple menu. Hot dogs.....chips.....S'more bars and drinks. There may be something else, but will have to wait and see. I suggest a \$5.00 donation and you bring your own drink. Chairs this year are optional!!!! We will be singing some campfire songs as we did last year. Hoping to have a nice turnout for this fun evening. All adults of the church are invited. Feel free to bring a friend. Please let me know if you plan to attend so we know about how many will show up. Any questions, see me. Barb Hawotte

Inquirer's Gathering Sunday October 5

If you are new to Hope UCC or have been attending and have questions about this faith community, Pastor Santina and our church leadership invite you to our next Inquirer's Gathering. This time together is a good opportunity to get to know each other a little better and share information about Hope UCC's ministries and mission. This is a great opportunity to spend some time together and have a conversation about faith and our shared journey. We'll provide a great lunch for our gathering together at 12:30 and we hope you'll join us. If you have any questions about the Inquirer's Gathering or would like to sign up to attend, please speak with Pastor Santina or call or email the church office: office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com or 309-762-1419.

NAMI Walk October 4 – Join Hope UCC's Walking Team!

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, October 4 at 9:30 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. Whether you are walking or cheering, remember to wear your Hope UCC tee shirt! To register to walk on Hope UCC's team and/or to make a donation, please go to <https://www.namiwalks.org/teams/78361>

Or contact the church office for more help to connect.

Sojourners Sunday on October 19

Every 3rd Sunday after worship, our Hope UCC family – all ages – are invited to be sojourners as we move together through worship, mission, and fellowship, while growing our connection to God and sharing God’s love through Christ to one another and the local community. Lunch will be served after worship and Pastor Santina and Lindsey Svetlick (MiD for ordination) will lead an exciting program filled with laughter, exploration, storytelling, and mission. Each month will be a little different, but each month will be fun and interesting together.

Reel Theology: American Factory

Reel Theology meets on Friday, October 10th. Dinner at 5:30pm (please bring your own dinner), film at 6pm.

Ruth Circle Meets Monday, October 20th at 1pm

Get together with the ladies or Hope UCC for a time of laughter, fellowship, and adventure on October 20th at 1pm. Contact Dorothy Burdick for more information.

Book Club Meets Monday, October 27th at 2:30pm

UCC’s Book Club meets on Monday, October 27th at 2:30pm in Hope UCC’s Conference Room. All are welcome to read our current book, ***Be Ready When the Luck Happens by Ina Garten***, and meet to discuss this wonderful book. Contact Dorothy Burdick for more information.

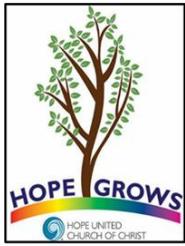
Come and sing and/or Ring!

Our Hope Choir and Hand Bell Choir are back in action and would love for you to join us. All vocal and musical experience and abilities are very welcome. Vocal Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 and Hand Bell Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30. Please contact Greg and Laurel (Ministers of Music): gregory.etzel@gmail.com or call/text 309-737-4029 or laurel.filzen@gmail.com, or text/call 309-256-256-7993.

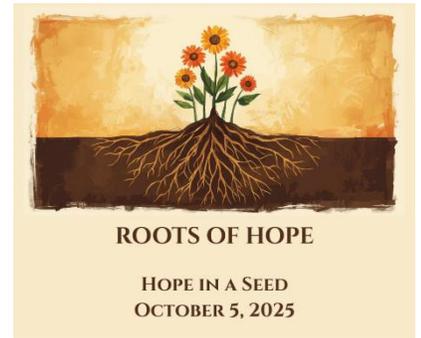
Annual Blessing of Our Pets, Saturday, October 11 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.



We’re a week late, but we will honor the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, with a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday October 11 from 11:00 – 2:00. All pets and their humans are invited to come any time between 11:00-2:00 to meet with Pastor Santina for a blessing. We’ll be set up in front of church by the front entrance. All pets are welcome to receive a blessing! Bring your pets and tell your friends to bring theirs to Hope UCC for a special blessing that day. If your sweet pet is unable to make the car ride to church, please let Pastor Santina know and she is happy to arrange a house call!



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
 Worship Bulletin October 5, 2025
 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor
 Thank you for joining us for worship today.
 We are glad you are here!
 Because you are who you are,
 you are welcome here!
 *Those who are able, please stand.



PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's mercies never end; they are new every morning.

We gather in gratitude, that our faith may increase.

Many: We will sing our songs of praise.

We will proclaim the good news of the gospel.

One: Take delight in God, who is with us wherever we go.

Trust God, even when we do not feel like singing.

Many: We will commit all our ways to God.

We will wait patiently for answers to our prayers.

One: By God's grace, we are gathered for worship.

In God's love, we are no longer exiles and strangers.

Many: We have been called together by the Holy Spirit.

We will treasure this special time in sacred space.



*OPENING HYMN

God of Great and God of Small



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Make your presence known among us, O God, for the foundations of our lives are shaking. We grieve in loneliness amid the crowds. We huddle in fear because of the violence that surrounds us. We are exiled from the homeland of our dreams. Draw us to yourself, gracious God, that we may experience your reign among us. Amen.



*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we face our world with cowardice. We would rather avoid danger than take a stand against injustice. We want to enjoy privileges not available to others. We wish to keep away from all the cries for help that bombard us. The problems around us are overwhelming. The distress within us is staggering. Too often we lash out at others rather than turning to you for guidance and strength. Now, in these moments together, we cry out for help. We want to be your people filled with hope. We want to live with a clear conscience and right spirit. Remake us, loving God. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE



PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also, with you.

One: 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

Lamentations 1:1–6

¹ How deserted lies the city,

once so full of people!

How like a widow is she,

who once was great among the nations!

She who was queen among the provinces

has now become a slave.

² Bitterly she weeps at night,

tears are on her cheeks.

Among all her lovers

there is no one to comfort her.

All her friends have betrayed her;

they have become her enemies.

³ After affliction and harsh labor,

Judah has gone into exile.

She dwells among the nations;

she finds no resting place.

All who pursue her have overtaken her

in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn,

for no one comes to her appointed festivals.

All her gateways are desolate,

her priests groan,

her young women grieve,

and she is in bitter anguish.

⁵ Her foes have become her masters;

her enemies are at ease.

The LORD has brought her grief

because of her many sins.

Her children have gone into exile,

captive before the foe.

⁶All the splendor has departed
from Daughter Zion.
Her princes are like deer
that find no pasture;
in weakness they have fled
before the pursuer.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Timothy 1:1–14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my dear son:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. ⁸ So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. ⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

¹³ What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 17:5–10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

⁶ He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

⁷ “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? ⁸ Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

SERMON *Our Hopeful Purpose*

SERMON HYMN *God of Little Things*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our wealth allows us the joyous opportunity to invest in ways that will make a difference in the lives of others. If we see the treasures we have received as private property, to be used only for our own benefit, they will entrap us. In the church, we are committed to sharing our faith and the blessings of the Holy Spirit.



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.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION



We are grateful to you, O God, for the faith we have inherited. We give thanks for the courage and faithfulness of ancestors who suffered for the gospel that we might know your love. We join with them in putting our trust in you. May we match their generosity and self-discipline, seeking above all else to know your will and do it. To that end, we dedicate our offerings. 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

...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 Cup

Sharing 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 Santina will bring it to you in your pew. *All of the bread is gluten free.

COMMUNION HYMN

I Come With Joy

NCH #349

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.



*CLOSING HYMN

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

NCH #433

*BENEDICTION

One: We have a holy calling from God, to be lived each day.
Let us serve faithfully, trusting in God's grace.

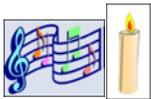
**Many: We have received the promise of life in Christ Jesus.
We want to live with joy and a clear conscience.**

One: God's hands of blessing rest upon each one of us.
The gifts of God are rekindled within and among us.

**Many: We are not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
We will share the good news, relying on God's power.**

One: Your faith, however small, holds powerful potential.
Your trust in God will grow as you employ it.

**Many: We will sing the praises of our God.
We will seek to know and live God's hopes for Creation. Amen.**



*POSTLUDE

In Our Lives Plant Seeds of Hope

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Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Kathy Hobson

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Robyn Carter

Greeter: Carole Keenan

Communion Preparation: Jan Varga, Judy Hawotte, Jim Grafton

Fellowship Hour: Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

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

God of Great and God of Small 19



1 God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all,
 2 God of land and sky and sea, God of life and des - ti - ny,
 3 God of si - lence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found,
 4 God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth,



God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things be - long,
 God of nev - er - end - ing power, yet be - side me ev - ery hour,
 God of day and dark - est night, God whose love turns wrong to right,
 God of now and days be - fore, God who reigns for - ev - er - more,

Refrain



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise be to your name.

Although it uses remarkably simple language, this text affirms a great mystery: beyond all our powers of explanation, God holds together all the opposites that seem to pull us in one direction or another. Yet God is present to them all and also to us; for that we give praise.

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

God of Little Things

CHANEY • 5 6 8 6 6 6 6 6

Text: David Bjorlin, b.1984; 2021

Music: Benjamin Brody, b.1975; 2021

God of little things—
the seed we barely see
that sprouts up from a tiny shoot
to form a mighty tree—
accept our seedling faith,
the scarcity we sow;
and God of little things,
come help our smallness grow.

God of little things—
the sparrow in her flight
whose rise and fall, though seen by few,
is precious in your sight—
inspire our fledgling faith
to open and take wing;
for God of little things,
you make our smallness sing.

God of little things—
a lunch of fish and bread
that, blessed and broken by your child,
can keep five thousand fed—
receive our meager faith,
the truth we trust the least;
and God of little things,
from smallness make a feast.

God of little things
who nurtures what seems small
to raise and tend a boundless reign
with room enough for all:
expand our bounded faith
beyond its narrow scope,
for God of little things,
in smallness blossoms hope.

In one of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s sermons, he preached, "We must not be tempted to confuse spiritual power and large numbers. Jumboism . . . is an utterly fallacious standard for measuring positive power . . . A larger membership does not necessarily represent a correspondingly increased commitment to Christ. Almost always the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better" (*Strength to Love*, Harper & Row, 1963). In our age of consumerism/late capitalism, King's words are more relevant than ever. This is my attempt to show the biblical tradition's commitment to, and belief in, the little things of the world that have, can, and will transform it.

Scripture

Matthew 10:16–31; Matthew 13:31–32; Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 4:26–32; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 12:4–7;
Luke 13:18–19; John 6:1–15

Theme

Faith

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has four verses of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords labeled D, A/C#, G/B, and D/A.

1. God of lit - tle things— the seed we bare - ly see that
 2. God of lit - tle things— a lunch of fish and bread that,
 3. God of lit - tle things— the spar - row in her flight whose
 4. God of lit - tle things who nur - tures what seems small to

D A/C# G/B D/A

sprouts up from a ti - ny shoot to form a might - y tree— ac -
 blessed and bro - ken by your child, can keep five thou - sand fed— re -
 rise and fall, though seen by few, is pre - cious in your sight— in -
 raise and tend a bound - less reign with room e - nough for all: ex -

GADD2 D/F# Em A SUS4 A

cept our seed - ling faith, the scar - ci - ty we sow; and God of lit - tle
 ceive our mea - ger faith, the truth we trust the least; and God of lit - tle
 spire our fledg - ling faith to o - pen and take wing; for God of lit - tle
 pand our bound - ed faith be - yond its nar - row scope, for God of lit - tle

Bm DADD2/A G Daug/F# GADD2

Last time

things, come help our small - ness grow.
 things, from small - ness make a feast.
 things, you make our small - ness sing.
 things, in small - ness blos - soms hope.

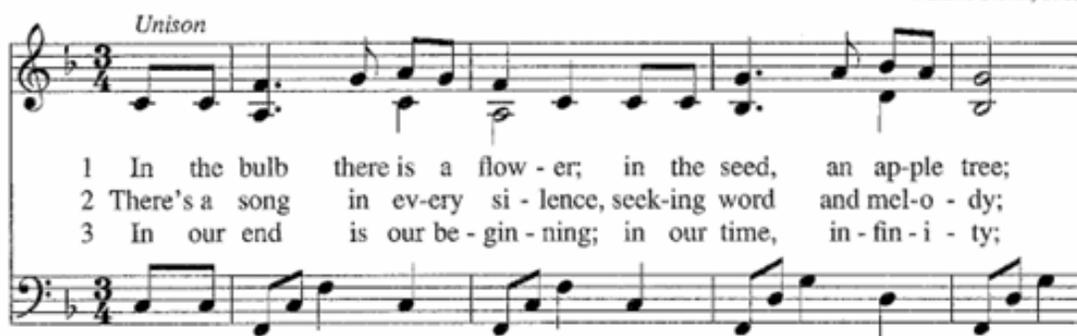
D/F# C D CADD2 Am/E Am D

433

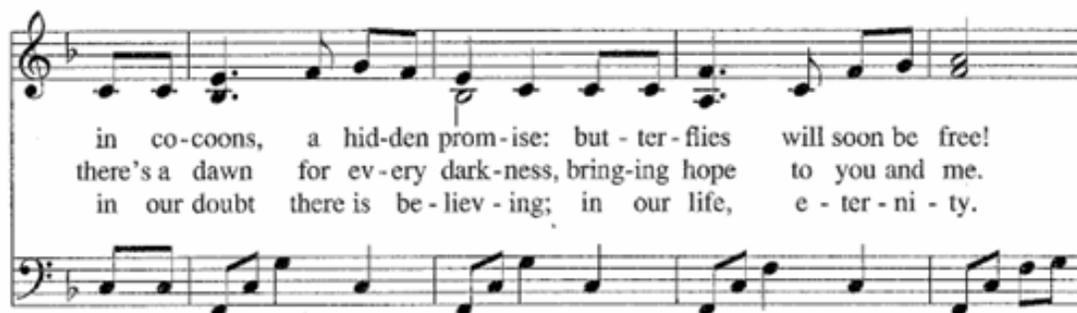
In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

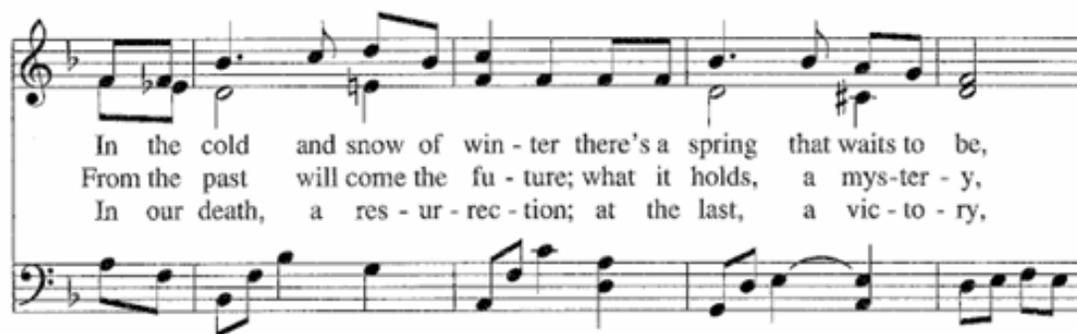
Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985