



Hope

United Church of Christ

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May Flowers Are Blooming

We shared a meaningful Lenten season together this year which led to a beautiful celebration of Jesus's resurrection observed on Easter Sunday. Thank you for this special season together. Easter Sunday is 'the Sunday of Sundays' and the beautiful music, the gorgeous flowers, and the Holy energy present truly made that sentiment true. Thank you all for bringing that Holy energy to Hope UCC every Sunday (and the days in between). It is an energy that is shared by all who gather – on line and on site. Everyone in our congregation - near and far, longtime members and new friends – you all make this Body of Christ the Body of Love that it is. Thank you for sharing your faith journey with us.

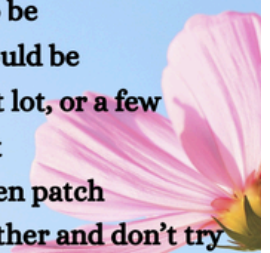
Easter is not one day – it is a season. As the flowers continue to bloom and our landscape in this region gets greener by the day (so stunning!), our spiritual lives continue to bloom and grow as well. How are you experiencing resurrection in your life? Where do you see God's Light illuminating something beautiful and hopeful for you? I realize this sounds like a question that is not meant to be really answered – does it sound too 'churchy?' But I mean it and hope you seek these answers daily (or even weekly!). This reflection is a spiritual practice that deepens our connection to the Holy in our lives – lives that can get so busy and stressful that we forget to notice the beauty and promise of hope, the presence of God, which is all around us. To say this past year has been the hardest year of my life is an understatement, but I can promise you that without this practice, this year would have been unbearable for me. The struggle continues, and God is present within all of it. There is hope. There is Light. Love leads us - always.

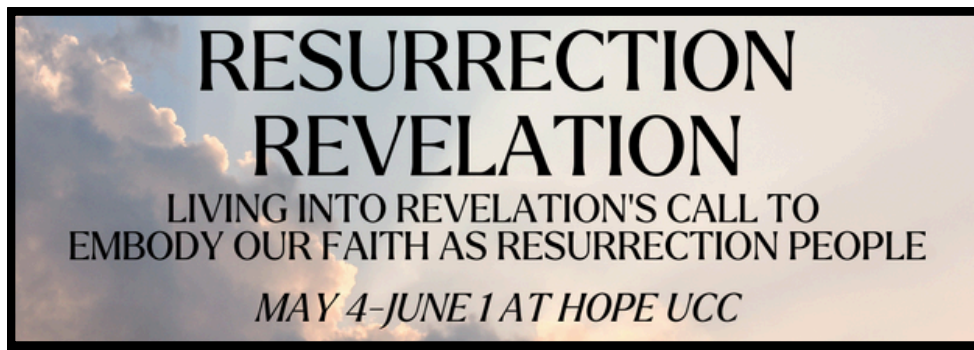
Together with you in
this journey,
Pastor Santina

Praying

by Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.





New Worship Series May through Pentecost: Resurrection Revelation

Throughout the month of May we will explore readings from the Book of Revelation, which contains some of the most cryptic language and most fanciful imagery in the entire Bible. Texts from this book have been used for many purposes throughout its history from offering hope to early Christians and inspiring faithful strength and endurance during their persecution to trying to forecast the events of the 'end times.' We will take a different approach at Hope UCC. For us today, exploring it together during the season of Easter draws us to another contemporary application of this book: reading it as a guide to experiencing the resurrected life and focusing on some of the core characteristics that define who we are called to be as Resurrection People. How can our lives reflect the good news of this ongoing new life? John's vision as told through Revelation allows us to see the world, the church, and the Christian life in the way God envisions it: not for how it is, but for how it can be. And each week, through the power of the One who makes all things new, we are called to make those possibilities a resurrection reality. We hope to see you in church for this new worship series as we study this interesting book of scripture together.



Tuesday Night Bible Study in May: Revelation for Everyone

If you are like your pastor, you have avoided the Book of Revelation unless it was required for a seminary class. That is all about to change! Let's get together and explore it – bravely asking questions without any judgement. How else will we learn more about this interesting part of our Bible? Please join us for our new Tuesday evening Bible study where we will explore the Book of Revelation.

One of the reasons I have avoided Revelation is because of the way it has been interpreted as foretelling doom and all the talk about rapture and end times. However, we will discover it is much more complex than this and offers much inspiration through its symbolic language and imagery. There is a good reason it has captured the imaginations of both religious and secular communities and is referenced not only in religious studies but also in popular culture in art, film, and literature.

Our study will be based mainly on the work of New Testament scholar, theologian, and Anglican Bishop N.T. Wright. I hope it will open up this fascinating book of our Bible for all us to new understandings and strengthening our faith and spiritual journeys.

We will meet Tuesdays: May 6, 13, 20, 27 and June 3 from 6:30-8:00 P.M. Please let Pastor Santana or the church office know if you have any questions or that you will attend some or all of the sessions so that we have enough materials.

RESURRECTION REVELATION

LECTIONARY READINGS

May 4 Beginning with the End: A Vision of Worship: Psalm 30, Revelation 1:4-8, 5:11-14

May 11 A Vision of the Church: Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17

May 18 God of New Beginnings: Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6

May 25 Heaven Here and Now: Psalm 67, Revelation 21:1-10, 22-22:5

June 1 Come, Lord Jesus: Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Thank you for a Beautiful Lent and Easter

Thank you to all who helped make Lent and Easter Sunday such a special season at Hope UCC. So much happened throughout the past 6 weeks and none of it would have been possible without the many volunteers and amazing staff members here. A big thank you to Connie in the office who kept everything running smoothly. Thank you to our Ministers of Music, Greg and Laurel, for the inspiring and beautiful musical offerings and to Mary and Bob for their piano artistry accompaniment. Thank you to the Bell Choir and Vocal Choir for their glorious anthems. Thank you to Mary and Stacy for the beautiful sanctuary decorations and visual elements for both Lent and Easter. Thank you to the many people who provided soup and fellowship for the Tuesday evening gatherings. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped decorate the sanctuary for Lent and then prepare its transformation for Easter Sunday. What a glorious celebration we had both in worship and during Fellowship Hour with the delicious brunch that was lovingly prepared and set up. Thank you to the wonderful crew that made that special meal together following worship possible. What a joy to share that time together around tables. Thank you all for making Hope UCC the very special place it is.





One Great Hour of Sharing: Be the Light

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Our congregation will support this ministry with a special offering on May 18, although your donations for this fund are welcome anytime this month. Please make checks payable to Hope UCC and note OGHS on the memo or on the envelope if you choose to offer a cash donation. Thank you for supporting this crucial and greatly needed ministry of the United Church of Christ.



Confirmation Class Fundraiser on May 25 **Artists for the Lost Paws Taco Lunch and Art Sale**

Please join our Confirmation class in supporting the Rock Island County Animal Shelter with their fundraiser on May 25th. The Confirmands will be offering a walking taco (or taco salad) lunch and dessert for a free will offering. They also plan to have some of their artwork available for purchase. They will also provide entertainment during this program. As part of their Confirmation curriculum the students were asked to create a service project plan for a cause they all feel strongly about. They chose the RI Animal Shelter as they all care deeply about animals and their humane treatment. Since we are a combined class with Church of Peace, the lunch will take place in Church of Peace's Fellowship Hall, following worship at 12:00 P.M. Church of Peace is located at 1114 12th St, Rock Island, IL 61201. Thank you for supporting our Confirmands as they support this great local organization.



New Dishwasher in the Hope UCC Kitchen

We get to say goodbye to styrofoam coffee cups and paper plates at Fellowship Hour! Thank you to our Trustees Ministry and especially to Bob Church who made the installation of our new dishwasher possible. Bob installed an upgraded electrical socket, repaired and corrected the water line connection, and then made sure the electrical panel was all set too. Wow! Thank you, Bob!





Annual Yard Sale: May 30-31!

A big thank you to Linda Brown, Kathy Lewis, and Judy Piper for offering to lead the yard sale project again this year. Save the date and start putting aside those the things that you are done with but someone else will find a good use for. We will be selling clothing items this year and ask that any clothing donations are clean and usable. We are looking forward to organizing and sharing all the other treasures you are ready to part with. You can bring your treasures beginning May 4th during office hours (or contact Judy or Linda for other arrangements). Volunteers are needed beginning Sunday, May 25th for set up throughout the week as well as during the sale: Friday May 30 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday May 31 from 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

New Worship Kits for Children and Sensory Toys Available

Have you noticed the Welcome Table looks a little different? Thank you to Lindsey for spearheading this project to keep our younger friends engaged in worship as they learn more about the patterns and rituals and meaning of our time together on Sunday mornings. The worship kit boxes contain many items that engage the children in the various parts of our worship service as well as activity sheets that connect them to the stories and prayers and music that we are all sharing together. You will notice small icons in our bulletins from now on – these icons coordinate with the various elements in the children’s worship kits and help them connect what is in their box with what they are experiencing in worship. The worship kits are returned following worship and restocked with supplies before the next Sunday. Both the worship kits and the basket of sensory toys are offered in our ongoing call to be an intergenerational, affirming congregation welcoming all to worship together in a way they can thrive and grow in their unique spiritual and faith journey.

If you would like to help make sure the worship kits are restocked are ready to go on a Sunday, please see Lindsey Sveltlick, our Member in Discernment for Ordination and our beloved youth minister at Hope UCC, or Pastor Santina and we will make sure to show you where all the supplies are and get you on the volunteer calendar.

Thank you for supporting all of our friends at Hope UCC –
Together Hope Grows!

SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for Our All Church Service Trip to Feed My Starving Children: September 20!

We are once again going to make our annual trip to Aurora, Illinois to volunteer to pack bags for Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, September 20th. We have 25 spots reserved so feel free to invite a friend to join us. We will leave from Hope UCC around 9:00 a.m. and will again be having a delicious meal before we go to pack at Harner's Bakery & Restaurant in North Aurora. We will be packing from 2:00 pm till 3:45 pm and should be back in town before 6:00 pm. See me if you have any questions. Please put this wonderful event on your calendar – it is a great intergenerational activity for young and old. Let me know if you will be able to go this year. Thank You, Barb Hawotte

Please Keep Our Confirmands in Your Daily Prayers

We have a great group of young people discerning and learning (and teaching this Pastor!) all about their faith and spiritual journeys. What a special time in their lives and what a special time in our faith community at Hope UCC. Please keep them in your prayers as they work throughout the year confirming their faith together.

Our Confirmands this year are:

- Kendall Johnson & mentor Judy Hawotte & Caridad Ramos
- Eli Powell & mentor Julie Bustard
- Emily Campbell and mentor Caridad Ramos
- Selah Filzen Etzel and mentor Bek Svetlick
- Evelyn Smith and mentor Barb Hawotte
- Kinley Sederquist and mentor Audrey Sederquist (Kinley attends Church of Peace UCC with whom we are partnering with for Confirmation)

World Relief Volunteer Meeting **Sunday, May 11 Following Worship**

We will have a short meeting for those who are interested and able to volunteer to accompany a newly arrived family. We will go over the information World Relief gave us and decide how to proceed. At this meeting we will review the many ways we each can share our time and gifts with this family and set up dates to meet with the folks from World Relief for orientation and training.



Hope UCC *Men's Breakfast*

*Join us for our monthly
First Saturday gathering at
Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.
Saturday, May 3
8:00 a.m.*

Remember, Men's Breakfast meets the first
Saturday of every month at Deerfield Restaruant.
Same time too! See you there!



Ruth Circle May 19st at 1pm

Please join us for our monthly meeting at Hope UCC. Bring a friend for a time of fellowship, planning, and good energy together.



Hope UCC Book Club **Monday, May 26th at 2:30pm** **at Hope UCC**

Look for announcement of book selection. This is always a wonderful gathering filled with laughter, good discussions, and great insights. See you there and please contact Dorothy Burdick if you have any questions.



May Birthdays

As always, if you note any inaccuracies or missing birthdays of any friends or members, please do not hesitate to let the office know, and we will correct and update our information in an expeditious, speedy, quick, prompt, swift, and efficient manner.

Hunter Toye	May 3
Pete McDermott	May 9
Grady Birdsell	May 23
Leona Powell	May 29



Sharing Our Gifts Survey - Part 2!

Waaaay back when - all the way back in October - we sent out a survey along with all the Stewardship materials. That survey was a way for all of us to find ways to share our gifts and talents with this community as we live into our mission. Stewardship is more than our financial support of the church and stewardship is a year-round adventure. We are asking that you take a look at the survey once again and fill out the items in which you felt called to participate. If you already filled one out back in October, thank you! We are hoping you will take a look at this form once again and fill it out again, just in case anything has changed for you. If you haven't filled one out yet, here's your chance!

Please return completed surveys to the office: either drop it off during office hours, mail it in, or bring it to church on Sunday. We are so grateful for everyone taking the time to fill this out and we are SO blessed to share the mission and love that is Hope UCC together. Together we are the Body of Christ and together, Hope Grows!!

survey is attached to the following pages



SHARING YOUR GIFTS SURVEY 2025

Imagine together a new way of being in ministry together. Imagine a world of church ministry stewardship that does not require a monthly meeting. That's right – monthly ministry meetings are (mostly) not required for the ministry opportunities listed here.

Please indicate where you see yourself serving at Hope UCC by either circling the item(s) where you would like to volunteer and completing any information required if that ministry has more specifics asked. Whole-life Stewardship takes place year-round – your holy imagination knows no bounds! Remember, there are many ways to join the mission even if you live away from Moline!

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

PRAY TOGETHER

1. Prayer Partners Ministry

Volunteers covenant to engage in daily prayer for those on our prayer list. Prayer Partners will meet on the 4th Sunday of the month following worship (Zoom available) to pray together and update our prayer list. Begins in November.

2. Prayer Shawl Ministry

Volunteers crochet, knit, sew, or quilt prayer shawls or lap blankets to be given to our homebound or ill members and friends. This group meets once a month (or more often if you'd like) in order to create together (although this is not required). Shawls and lap blankets can be made at home too and brought to Hope UCC.

3. Sanctuary Decoration/Visual Arts Ministry

Volunteers help set the sanctuary and church building for special seasons/occasions such as Advent, Lent, Pentecost, and various worship series. This may include setting the poinsettias and Easter lilies in addition to other decorating and brainstorming activities throughout the year. If you enjoy creative collaboration, please join us here. You will be called on at different times throughout the year.

4. Communion Preparation

Volunteers prepare the monthly communion service by purchasing and cutting gluten free bread and filling the communion cups with juice as well as the larger loaf the pastor uses in the liturgy. Volunteers also keep note of the inventory of all Communion elements. All expenses are reimbursed through the Worship and Music Budget. These volunteers also set up the Chancel area with the Communion Table for Communion Sundays.

5. Sunday Volunteer

Can we call on you to serve on a Sunday as a greeter and/or liturgist? (Circle one or both)

Instructions will be supplied.

6. Music Ministry

Do you play an instrument? Do you love to sing? Would you like to share your musical gifts – vocal or instrumental - during worship in some way?

7. What are your ideas for ways to be engaged in helping uplift and enrich the spiritual life of Hope UCC members and friends.

SERVE TOGETHER

1. Christian Care Dinners

Volunteers prepare dinner for the guests at Christian Care. Meals are planned and prepared here at Hope UCC and then brought over and served on site. All ingredient costs are reimbursed by Hope UCC through our Mission and Outreach Budget

These are the planned dates (please note, if there is high interest, we can schedule more dates):

June 29 (circle one or both) I will cook serve

August 31 (circle one or both) I will cook serve

November 30 (circle one or both) I will cook serve

2. Blessing Box

Volunteers help keep our Blessing box filled and the supplies inventoried.

Please circle one:

Shopping for supplies (all reimbursed through our Mission and Outreach Budget)

Helping to refill the Blessing Box

3. Rock Island Academy Partnership

Volunteers help organize and track Charley's Pantry donations to include food and clothing donations or other items needed there. Volunteers also are needed for various events at the school such as Read Across America Day. We don't have official days/times but if you are generally interested in helping with this program, please indicate here.

4. Food Pantry Assistance at Church of Peace

Volunteers are often needed at Church of Peace to help prepare the items that are distributed on Saturdays and/or help unload the delivery trucks on Monday mornings.

We do not have specific dates where help is needed but please indicate if you are available to be called to help for the following: Mondays, Friday mornings, Saturday

5. Creation Care Crew

Volunteers gather 2nd Sunday of the month May – October, following worship, for trash clean ups around the community, weather permitting. November – April clean up days will be determined at a later time.

6. Feed My Starving Children All Church Service Project

Volunteer to attend this wonderful experience preparing high protein meal kits for communities at risk around the world. One Saturday event – leave Hope UCC by 9:00 a.m. and return by 6:00 P.M.

_____ Fall Trip: Mid-September

_____ Late Spring Trip: Late May after school is out

7. Community Connections

Volunteers are needed to help make Hope UCC a visible and helpful presence in the Quad Cities Area. Can you serve as a Hope UCC's Point of Contact for one of the following organizations and/or events so they know who to connect with when they need help or would like our congregation to participate in their events? Circle all that apply:

Project Now, World Relief, Moline Parks Department Trunk or Treat, NAMI, CROP Walk, Pride Fest & Parade, Other ideas? (please list)

8. What are your ideas for Hope UCC to serve our community?

GATHER TOGETHER

1. Visitor Connector

Keep an eye out and welcome any new folks who are visiting or maybe have started attending regularly. Monitor our Visitor Welcome Bags to make sure all they are stocked and ready to be given to visitors. Share welcome by inviting visitors to Fellowship Hour and sharing that time with them at a table with others.

2. Visitation Ministry

This special crew gets together the 4th Wednesday of each month to visit our homebound members and friends. They meet for lunch first to share the visit list and update information and deploy to visits by 1:00 p.m. If you are unable to make it at that time, you can arrange with Barb to visit at another time. By signing up, you are not committing to visiting each month, but if Barb knows when you're available, it helps her arrange the visits.

3. Building and Church Campus Fix It Crew

Help keep the warm welcome of Hope UCC going by helping keep our campus clean and inviting. Do you like to do little (or big) projects and home repairs? Maybe you would like to help keep our facilities spruced up with a twice yearly deep cleaning party? If you would like to be added to a list of folks for us to call in times of needed help, please circle this item!

4. Card Ministry

Send cards and notes to our homebound, ill, or out of state members and friends. These notes can be for their birthdays, holidays, or just to say hello. You can provide your own cards or we can provide them for you. Names and addresses will be provided (and you can always add people to the list too!) We can get together to do the cards and you can do them on your own as well.

5. In-reach Ministry

Let's make sure everyone is doing okay. Help us keep in contact with friends we have not seen in a while. Together with the pastor, we'll call, email, or mail notes to our beloveds.

6. Fellowship Team

___ Can you help set up and/or clean up Fellowship Hour on Sunday?

*you can let us know if you can do it specific dates or maybe for a month?

___ Can we call you by Wednesday to bring refreshments (store bought is great!) if we see nobody has signed up to bring refreshments for that Sunday?

___ Would you like to help organize/set up all church potlucks?

___ Would you like to be on the list to help with funeral and memorial receptions?

7. Meal Delivery

Can you prepare and deliver a meal to members and friends who are going through a rough time due to new baby arrival, illness, death in the family, or generally a challenging time in their lives? We can put your name on the list and will contact you when the need arises.

8. Open Door Youth Group Support

If Lindsey needs another adult to chaperone or attend/drive/generally support activities with our youth, can she contact you?

9. What are other ways for Hope UCC to extend our authentic welcome to all?