



### **Hope UCC Weekly Update: September 14, 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.*

#### **Welcome Elena!**

We are excited to welcome Elena Huegel, the Global Ministries mission worker in Chiapas, Mexico, back to Hope UCC on September 14.

#### **Flute Rehearsal Dates For Our Fall Concert From 7:00-8:30 pm at Hope UCC**

Sept. 15 - Welcome Back!

Sept. 22

Sept. 29

Oct. 6

Oct. 13 - No rehearsal

Oct. 20

Oct. 27

Nov. 3 - Dress Rehearsal.

Nov. 7 - Concert at 7:00 pm at Sound Conservatory, Moline.

#### **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](mailto:gregory.etzel@gmail.com) or call/text 309-737-4029 or [laurel.filzen@gmail.com](mailto:laurel.filzen@gmail.com), or text/call 309-256-256-7993.

#### **Feed My Starving Children**

We will be going to pack bags for Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL on Saturday, September 20th. We will go to Harner's Bakery and Restaurant to eat before we go to pack the bags. We need many volunteers for this. Please consider joining us and bringing a friend. See Barb Hawotte to volunteer or get more information. Thank You.

#### **Lectionary Bible Study Returns September 9 at 10:00 A.M.**

Join us for our weekly discussion and study of the scripture in the Conference Room on Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M.

#### **Reel Theology: The Ballad of Wallis Island**

Reel Theology returns on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Dinner at 5:30pm (please bring your own dinner), film at 6pm.

#### **Kick Off Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>**

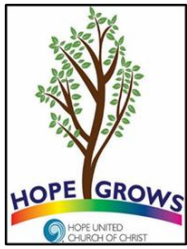
We will kick off the start of our new program year with our Bell Choir providing special music, and following worship, a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall.

**Ruth Circle Meets Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**

Get together with the ladies of Hope UCC for a time of laughter, fellowship, and adventure on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Contact Dorothy Burdick for more information.

**Book Club Meets Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm**

UCC's Book Club meets on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm in Hope UCC's Conference Room. All are welcome to read our current book, ***Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure***, and meet to discuss this wonderful book. Contact Dorothy Burdick for more information.



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL**  
**Worship Bulletin September 14, 2025**  
**Fourteenth 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**

*People Get Ready*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God looks on humankind to see if any are wise.  
 Who is seeking after God above all else?

**Many: We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth:  
 we reach out to be strengthened for service.**

One: The winds of God blow among us to winnow and cleanse.  
 They sweep through our midst in judgment.

**Many: Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our sin.  
 Do not let your wrath burn against us.**

One: Remember your promises to us, O God.  
 Create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits.

**Many: We seek to know you and to grow in understanding.  
 Confront us here and light our way out of the void.**



**\*OPENING HYMN**

**NCH #18**

*Guide Me O, My Great Redeemer*



**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Hear our cries, O God, for we recognize our need for your mercy. We are fearful to encounter you, yet we cannot live without you. We are like lost sheep who have wandered away from the best we know and cannot find our way back. We want you to find us, but we fear your punishment. Come, Good Shepherd, to rescue us from ourselves. Amen.**



**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We have been fools. We have said in our hearts, "There is no god." Our deeds deny you. Our plans do not include you. We grumble and complain, criticizing those who embody your love for all people. We have turned aside from the way you commanded. Our greed is robbing this fruitful land and creating a desert. The world is full of suffering people whom we ignore. O God, is there any hope for us? 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



Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

<sup>11</sup> At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, <sup>12</sup> a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

<sup>22</sup> "For my people are foolish;  
they do not know me;  
they are stupid children;  
they have no understanding.

They are skilled in doing evil  
but do not know how to do good."

<sup>23</sup> I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos,  
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

<sup>24</sup> I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking,  
and all the hills moved to and fro.

<sup>25</sup> I looked, and there was no one at all,  
and all the birds of the air had fled.

<sup>26</sup> I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert,  
and all its cities were laid in ruins  
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

<sup>27</sup> For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.

<sup>28</sup> Because of this the earth shall mourn  
and the heavens above grow black,  
for I have spoken; I have purposed;  
I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

## Psalms 14

<sup>1</sup> Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt; they do abominable deeds;  
there is no one who does good.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind  
to see if there are any who are wise,  
who seek after God.

<sup>3</sup> They have all gone astray; they are all alike perverse;  
there is no one who does good,  
no, not one.

- <sup>4</sup> Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers  
who eat up my people as they eat bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?
- <sup>5</sup> There they shall be in great terror,  
for God is with the company of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> You would confound the plans of the poor,  
but the LORD is their refuge.
- <sup>7</sup> O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!  
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup> We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, <sup>9</sup> persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, <sup>10</sup> always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup> For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death is at work in us but life in you.

SERMON                      Treasures in Clay Doves and Jaguars  
*Elena Huegel, Global Ministries Mission Co-Worker in Chiapas, Mexico*

SERMON HYMN                      NCH #539                      *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

We have the opportunity to join with God in providing for the poor and oppressed. Our Gifts carry God's mercy to people who have not known God's love or discovered the joy of living in harmony with God's good earth and with their sisters and brothers.



*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



**Because we have been blessed by you, O God, we are delighted to share. Because there are many who do not enjoy your bounty, we search for ways to help them. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, we pray. Amen.**



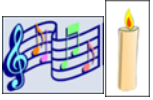
\*CLOSING HYMN

NCH #394

*In Christ There Is No East or West*

\*BENEDICTION

Elena Huegel



\*POSTLUDE

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

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### **Serving in Worship Today**

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

**Preaching:** Elena Huegel *Global Ministries Mission Co-Worker in Chiapas, Mexico*

**Liturgist:** Kathy Hobson

**Ministers of Music:** Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

**Accompanist:** Bob Poor

**Greeter:** Linda Brown

**Fellowship Hour:** Youth Group, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

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

## 18

## Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing  
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;  
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.  
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.  
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.  
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.  
 (repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.  
 Richard Gillard, 1977  
 Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

## 394

## In Christ There Is No East or West

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.  
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com - mu - nion find;  
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;  
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.  
For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.  
One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: McKEE C.M.  
African-American melody  
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939  
Alternate setting: ST. PETER