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# Hope

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IN MEMORIAM:

REV. A. PARKER LEWIS, PASTOR

EMERITUS

### PASTORAL RELATIONS/PERSONNEL MINISTRY

REV. SANTINA POOR

DONNA WERNER

JENNY HOOKEY

BOB TALLITSCH

Hello Friends,

Last week I noticed the trees along Interstate 74 were starting to change color from all the brilliant shades of green to shades of brown and orange. I really love the change of seasons, and I do love fall here in the Midwest, but I have to admit, seeing the trees starting to change gave me a moment of melancholy when I thought about summer ending. Just a moment though. What helped was lifting a prayer of thanks for the beauty of nature all around us here.

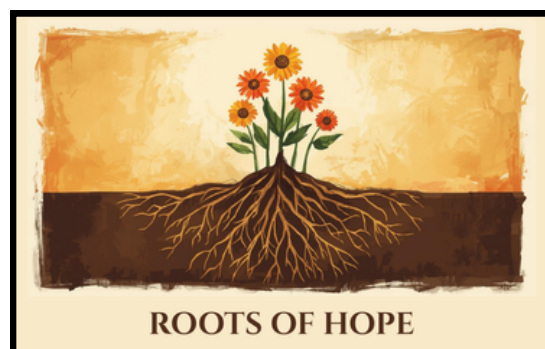
Happily, this close encounter with fall reminded me of all the great things we have planned for the September start of the new program year at Hope UCC. We traditionally celebrate the start of the new program year with a special service and activities we call "Kick Off Sunday." If you have experience with other congregations you may have called this celebration Homecoming Sunday or Rally Day. We're looking forward to celebrating our Kick Off Sunday here at Hope on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Our new worship series, "Roots of Hope," will explore the many ways that hope abides within us, is active all around us, and grows stronger through us. As we align our faith with God's hope for us, we begin to understand the how we must have hope for personal transformation and for beloved community. As Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith shares in his book, *Hope Is Here!*: "Love and hope are God's essential transformative forces for beloved community. A community based on hope requires love, and a community based on love requires hope."

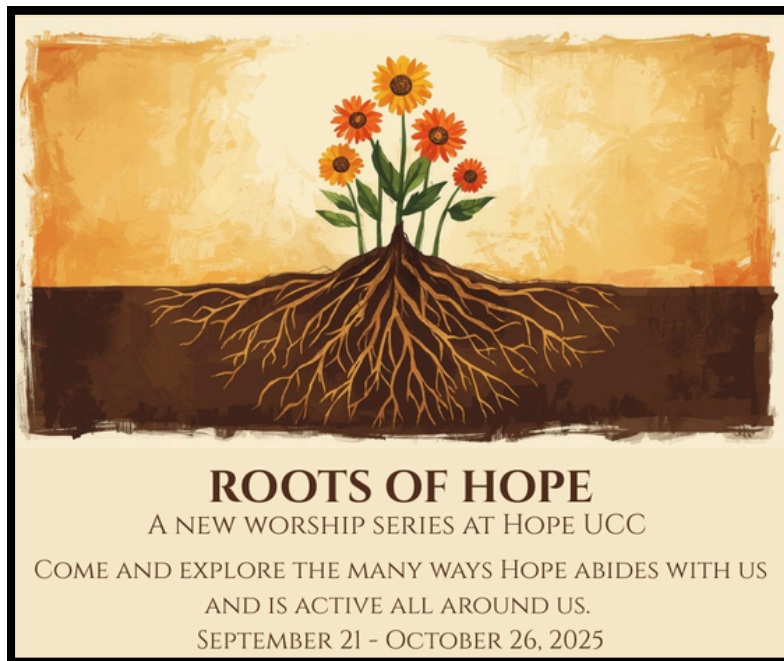
Amen to that! I'd like to thank Kathy Negaard for the inspiration to develop this worship series. Last May when we were studying the Book of Revelation, we found that hope was a recurring theme throughout the language and imagery of that book. Kathy suggested that studying the idea of 'hope' further would be helpful. I agree, Kathy! As a congregation that intentionally took the name and identity of Hope UCC 35 years ago when they built this building and reincorporated as Hope, it is clear the idea of what hope means and how it reflects God's activity in our lives is very significant. The roots of hope that took hold when Hope UCC was planted here continue to grow and deepen with all of us.

This will be an interesting worship series that will include a weekly book study using Rev. Dr. Smith's book. I hope you will join us for Kick Off Sunday and all our events this month as we deepen our Roots of Hope together.

With much love,

Pastor Santina





**Special Guest Speaker on September 14: Elena Huegel, Global Ministries Chiapas Mexico**

We are excited to welcome Elena Huegel, the Global Ministries mission co-worker in Chiapas, Mexico, back to Hope UCC on September 14. Elena will preach during our worship service and has much to share about the situation in Chiapas, the good work that is going on in that critical part of the world, and Indigenous Maya healing practices in the face of trauma. She will help us to understand the critical realities of cartel power, migration pressures, and how organizations are coping. We will enjoy a catered lunch together following worship during Fellowship Hour when we will be able to continue the conversation with Elena.

**Reel Theology Returns on Friday, September 12: *The Ballad of Wallis Island***

Join us to watch and discuss this lovely film about friendship, relationships, loss, love, and music. *The Ballad of Wallis Island* follows Charles, an eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island and dreams of getting his favorite musicians and band, McGwyer Mortimer, back together. His fantasy turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig. All are welcome to enjoy and discuss this film which is rated PG-13. If you would like to eat together before the film, please bring your own dinner at 5:30. Dessert will be provided to enjoy during the discussion. The film will begin at 6:00 with the discussion to follow. All ages are welcome!



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

Join us for our weekly discussion and study of the scripture that will be the focus of Sunday worship. We meet weekly in the Conference Room on Tuesdays at 10:00 A.M. for this time of learning, exploration, laughter, and fellowship. Our meeting schedule is every Tuesday at 10 A.M. EXCEPT on the 3rd week of the month (no class the 3rd week!). This is not a 'formal' Bible study. This is a very friendly group where we can ask honest questions about scripture. Sometimes we leave with more questions than when we started, so if that sounds about right to you, please consider joining us!

Please see Pastor Santina if you have any questions or would like more information about the Lectionary study group.





### **Roots of Hope: Weekly Themes and Scripture Selections**

September 21: Hope in a Challenging World: Luke 16:1–13; Jeremiah 8:18–9:1; Psalm 79:1–9; 1 Timothy 2:1–7

September 28: Hope Beyond the Grave: Luke 16:19–31; Jeremiah 32:1–15; Psalm 91; 1 Timothy 6:6–19

October 5: Hope in a Seed: Luke 17:5–10; Lamentations 1:1–6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1–14

October 12: Hope that Heals: Luke 17:11–19; Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7; Psalm 66; 2 Timothy 2:8–15

October 19: Hope that Won't Let Go: Luke 18:1–8; Jeremiah 31:27–34; Psalm 119:97–104; 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

October 26: Hope for the Humble: Luke 18:9–14; Joel 2:23–32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18



### **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 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. Lunch is on us as we'll meet following worship on Sunday, October 5 at Los Agaves Restaurant. 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](mailto:office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com) or 309-762-1419.

### **Kick Off Sunday: September 21, 2025 at Hope UCC**

Join us for a great Sunday together as we kick off the start of our new program year. Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. with our Bell Choir providing special music. Following worship we will enjoy a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. During lunch we'll have information available about the many ways to be involved at Hope UCC. We will also kick off our new Sojourners Sunday program during our Fellowship Lunch. Please use the potluck items sheet in the office and in Fellowship Hall to let us know what you'll be bringing. Get ready to have a great Sunday together. Wear your Hope UCC tee shirts!



### **MUSIC NEWS**

#### **Come and Sing at Hope UCC!**

Attention anyone who likes to sing! Our trial pick-up choirs have been pretty successful and we would like to continue having a fun time singing and worshipping through song! We will be starting a choir that will rehearse for 30 minutes once per week on Wednesday from 6-6:30 pm. The plan is for the choir to sing once per month in worship, typically the 4th Sunday of the month. Join us if you can - ALL are welcome even if you don't read music! If you have any questions contact Greg Etzel at [gregory.etzel@gmail.com](mailto:gregory.etzel@gmail.com) or call/text 309-737-4029; or Laurel Filzen Etzel at [laurel.filzen@gmail.com](mailto:laurel.filzen@gmail.com), or text/call 309-256-256-7993.

#### **The Bells Are Ringing!**

Bell Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 pm. ALL are welcome to join bell choir, even if you don't read music and have never played handbells before. Bell Choir usually plays in worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month. If you have any questions contact Greg Etzel at [gregory.etzel@gmail.com](mailto:gregory.etzel@gmail.com) or call/text 309-737-4029; or Laurel Filzen Etzel at [laurel.filzen@gmail.com](mailto:laurel.filzen@gmail.com), or text/call 309-256-256-7993.

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### **All Church Service Trip to Feed My Starving Children September 20, 2025**

We will once again be going to Aurora to serve at Feed My Starving Children. This trip will take place on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We will again have lunch at Harner's in North Aurora before we go to pack the bags. Our shift begins at 2:00 and concludes at 3:45. We'll meet at Hope UCC close to 9:30 a.m. to caravan to Aurora. We should be back in the Quad Cities after 6:00 P.M. All ages over 5 are invited to this wonderful service project. Carpools will be available if you are not comfortable driving to Aurora. Wear your Hope UCC tee shirts! Please see Barb Hawotte to sign up to go, or to get more information.

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### **Hope UCC Book Club Meets Monday, September 29**

#### **Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip by Matthew Algeo**

All are welcome to read and meet to discuss this wonderful book. We meet at 2:30 in Hope UCC's Conference Room. Any questions? Please see Dorothy Burdick for more information.

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### **Ruth Circle Meets Monday September 15 at 1:00 P.M.**

Get together with the ladies of Hope UCC for a time of laughter, fellowship, and adventure. We'll meet in September to do some planning and scheming and hope you'll join us! See Dorothy Burdick for more information.

## Sojourners Sundays

Hope UCC is starting a new adventure! 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.

September 21<sup>st</sup> is Kick Off Sunday and our first Sojourners Sunday. There is a Potluck sign-up in Fellowship Hall by the kitchen. This is an exciting opportunity! We will see you for lunch and good times!

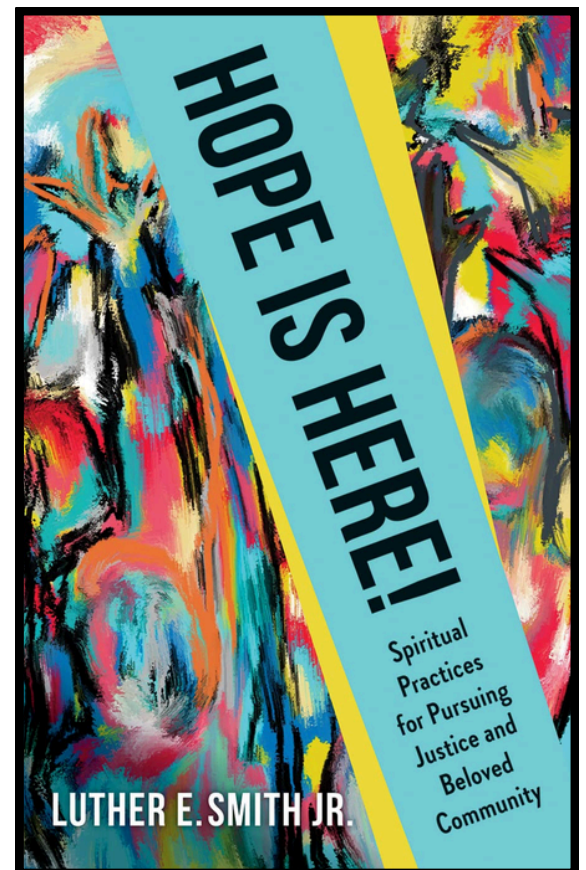


### Tuesday Evening Book Study:

*Hope Is Here! Spiritual Practices for Pursuing  
Justice and Beloved Community*

**Begins September 16**

Please join us for a closer look and discussion of *Hope Is Here! Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community* by Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith. We'll meet Tuesdays beginning September 16 from 6:30-8:00 P.M. Each week we'll discuss a chapter and spend time engaged in spiritual practices which nurture and renew our hope. The book is available for purchase through Amazon, Thrift Books, and a variety of other online retailers. Please see Pastor Santina if you would like help ordering the book or if financial assistance is needed in purchasing the book. We will discuss Chapter 1 at our first meeting.







### September 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.

Marcella Park	September 08
Paul Bowman	September 09
Becky Pisman	September 09
Ginger Hostetter	September 12
Reagan Hawotte	September 12
Rev. Jane Courtright	September 12
Dean Herbst	September 14
Jack StremLOW	September 19
Barb Spies	September 22
Richard Timmer	September 23
Rev. Santina Poor	September 28



## Hope UCC Men's Breakfast

*Join us for our monthly  
First Saturday gathering at  
Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.  
Saturday, September 6  
8:00 a.m.*

### Hope UCC T-Shirts Available! Get yours in Fellowship Hall \$20 each

Many sizes available but if you don't see yours, please let Lindsey know and we'll get it ordered. Wear your shirt and let everyone know you're part of this wonderful faith community!

### Men's Breakfast Group: Saturday, September 6

Get together with the men of Hope UCC the first Saturday of each month for breakfast and conversation. We meet at Deerfield Restaurant at 8:00 A.M. for laughter and fellowship (and not as much adventure as Ruth Circle but we do okay).



### Volunteer and Join in Mission at Hope UCC

There are a variety of ways to share in Hope UCC's mission and ministries. Please look for more information about these and other opportunities at Kick Off Sunday:

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Would you be able to knit or crochet a small wrap that will be given to a member or friend who is ill or struggling in some way?

Prayer Ministry: Would you like to be part of a group who covenants to pray for those in need of prayer? We pray individually and we will gather for a monthly meeting together via Zoom. This is a great group for someone who is not able to be at Hope for meetings because we will communicate by email and Zoom.

Blessing Box: Would you like to help keep the Blessing Box filled either by keeping our inventory organized or by coming by to check the Blessing Box and refilling it as necessary (or both?). Refills happen 3 or 4 times a week but you can just sign up for a once a week section.

Befrienders Ministry: We will be working with World Relief Quad Cities to help accompany and befriend recently resettled refugees. There are many ways to help!



### **Did You Know...?**

Did you know that Hope UCC is blessed to be the church home to a wonderful person who is in the process of completing all the academic, administrative, and spiritual requirements to be eligible for ordination in the United Church of Christ? Lindsey Svetlick has started her second year as a Member in Discernment (MiD) for Ordination. In our denomination this process is guided by our Western Association of our Illinois Conference's Committee on Ministry. Lindsey is completing the academic coursework required of all individuals seeking ordination in the UCC – and she's doing this while working and raising her daughter, Jaiden! Hope UCC is her home church and we are her nest, safe space, encouragers, and her laboratory too – it is here she can try out what she is learning in her coursework with all of us! Lindsey has a Local Church Discernment Committee made up of Hope UCC folks that meets regularly with her to encourage and offer feedback and support in her journey. Our plan is that Lindsey will lead worship and preach at least once a quarter and we are looking forward to this on September 28. Please continue to pray for Lindsey as she continues this wonderful journey toward ordination – and please remember to pray for her wife Bek and daughter Jaiden too! Lindsey, we are so thankful God led you to Hope UCC and you listened to that call into ministry that God set upon your heart.



### **OPEN DOOR YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

#### **Calling All Youth!!**

All youth in 6th through 12th grade are invited to join us for fun and fellowship! We'll be meeting once a month right here at Hope UCC. Come hang out, play games, and enjoy some snacks! We'll also spend time talking about how our lives and our faith walk together, and we'll plan service projects that make a difference in our community. This is a great chance to connect with friends, old and new. We can't wait to see you there!

Here is the schedule (but it may be subject to change). All meetings are from 3:00-5:00 PM unless otherwise noted:

October 19<sup>th</sup> ; November 16<sup>th</sup> ; December 14<sup>th</sup> ; January 25<sup>th</sup> ; February 22<sup>nd</sup> ; March 22<sup>nd</sup> ; April 19<sup>th</sup> ; May 17<sup>th</sup> ; June: Pride Month Activities

#### **Our Whole Lives/OWL Program Continues**

This fall, our church will continue its Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for the same group of youth who participated last year. This class will pick up where they left off, continuing their exploration in this comprehensive, lifespan, age-appropriate sexuality education curriculum.

Because this is an ongoing program, we are unable to add new youth to the class at this time.

Please note that our Member in Discernment, Lindsey Svetlick, will continue to serve as the teacher for this group.

Here is the schedule (but please note that changes are possible). All meetings are from 1:00-3:00 PM unless otherwise noted:

October 5<sup>th</sup> ; November 2<sup>nd</sup> ; December 14<sup>th</sup> ; January 11<sup>th</sup> ; February 8<sup>th</sup> ; March 8<sup>th</sup> ; April 5<sup>th</sup> ; May 3<sup>rd</sup> ; June: Pride Month Activities