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Hope

United Church of Christ

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The Story of Hope: New Ways to Use Our Spaces

We are blessed to have a fully accessible campus that is welcoming and safe. An acquaintance from another congregation once described our campus as 'right sized.' I took that as a compliment because he described our congregation that way in comparison to his building which is much larger than ours (although their attendance is similar in number to ours), older, and in need of many structural and expensive repairs. When Hope UCC was built over 35 years ago, the building committee was very thoughtful in how they discerned this building would be used and designed it accordingly. What a gift they gave all of us today. To those of you who were there during this important time in our history, thank you. Today we carry that dream of what God is doing in this place forward in new ways.

You may notice some room rearranging in the weeks ahead. We really need a space to meet that is smaller than Fellowship Hall, more adjustable than the sanctuary, and larger than the classrooms that are available. A few years ago we did remodel the old Library room to be a Conference Room, and fortunately, we have outgrown that space for holding Bible or book Studies or small meetings or services. Consequently, we did some measuring and, thankfully, our Music Ministry team are very accommodating folks! Here is what we're doing:

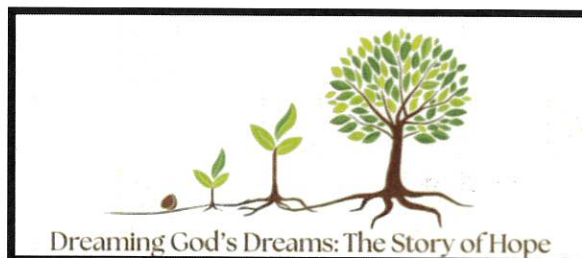
The music office will now be our Conference Meeting Room. This room will be painted and Bob Church has already rewired the thermostat and fixed the lighting. Thank you, Bob!!

The former Conference Room (former Library) will be Lindsey's office.

Classroom 1 and 2 will hold the Bell Choir tables and materials.

Classroom 3 will now be the Music Ministry Office, holding the piano, music files, and of course, our wonderful Ministers of Music and Accompanist.

We are grateful for a staff that is flexible and a congregation that is willing to try new configurations of our spaces. Thank you also to the Bell Choir for being willing to walk a little farther down the hallway to put those tables away. *(continued on page 2)*



(New Ways to Use Our Spaces, continued)

We hold on to the hopes, dreams, and vision of all that Hope UCC means to this community that our founders did when they broke ground for this building as well as the hopes, dreams, and vision of the founders of our parent congregations, Plymouth Congregational and Gordon Memorial Congregational. Our past speaks to our present which shapes our future. Together Hope Grows.

With love and Hope,

Pastor Santana



Congregational Sympathy

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Karen Ohrberg upon the death of her beloved husband, Larry. Larry died peacefully at home on Thursday, October 23, 2025. Our love and prayers for peace and comfort are lifted for Karen in this time of loss.



Special Offering for Church of Peace UCC Food Pantry

Our friends at Church of Peace UCC in Rock Island have offered a weekly food pantry every Saturday for many years. They have seen a significant increase in the number of people attending each week; some weeks as many as 140 households have come through for much needed food and hygiene items. There were already challenges with maintaining the inventory to meet the demands, and now with the impending restrictions and cuts to SNAP benefits as well as the lack of funding for SNAP due to the government shutdown, they are expecting an increase in need. They could use our help to meet the expected increased demand. Hope UCC will be taking a special collection for Church of Peace's pantry program from October 30- November 16. All donations are welcome and will be forwarded to Church of Peace following worship on November 16. Please indicate 'Church of Peace' on your check or, if it is a cash donation, please use the designated envelope or make sure it is noted on the envelope you use. Church of Peace welcomes volunteers for their Pantry Saturdays or the days when they prepare the food for distribution. Please see Kathy Lewis for more information about this or Pastor Santana to connect you with their leadership of the pantry. Thank you for supporting our neighbors and helping to ensure our community is cared for.

Hope UCC Book Club Meets Monday, November 24th at 2:30 P.M.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

Make sure you save the date so you can join the discussion of Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver. All are welcome to read and meet to discuss the book selection. We meet at 2:30 in Hope UCC's Conference Room. Any questions? Please see Dorothy Burdick for more information.





Thank you for your thoughtful commitments to the story of hope. Our annual stewardship campaign has been a meaningful and story-filled journey so far. We appreciate that many of you have returned your commitment cards! If you have not sent that in yet, we encourage you to do so and remember that your stated financial commitment is not necessary unless you feel able to do so. Please see our Council President, Caridad Ramos, or Council Treasurer, Jenny Hookey with any questions you have about the stewardship campaign or your commitment card. Thank you!

thank you 

To My Dear Anonymous Supporter,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your extremely generous financial contribution toward my tuition. I want to assure you that the funds were immediately applied, and I have now successfully enrolled in and started Introduction to Spiritual Health (Pastoral Care). This course will provide me with many tools to continually support the Hope UCC family. Your gift will also provide for 3 more classes that I will start taking in the winter/spring terms.

Your support has not only provided essential financial relief but has also filled me with a great sense of ease and excitement as I pursue my studies. Thank you for this wonderful gift; your kind and loving heart has made a tangible difference in my continued educational journey.

Peace, Love & Jesus,
Lindsey Svetlick



Sojourner Sunday: All Church Thanksgiving Lunch and Potluck

Sunday November 23 Following Worship

Join us for an early celebration of Thanksgiving as we enjoy a feast together. Turkey, dressing, and mashed potatoes will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you would like to help prepare food and/or help with set up, serving, and clean up, please contact the church office and let us know you are ready to help. We'll be here Saturday, November 22 for the preparations.

Bring a friend to church and give thanks together with your church family at lunch that day!



Befriending Ministry with World Relief QC: November 4 at 5:30 P.M. at Hope UCC

God bless our friends at World Relief QC! In a year filled with stress, changes, and daily pivoting due to funding cuts and changes to immigration policies, they continue to faithfully and lovingly help our neighbors as they move here, find refuge, and adapt to a new life in the Quad Cities. Our congregation has been prepared to participate in World Relief's Befriending Ministry and now they are ready for us! We are so grateful for your patience as you have filled out background checks and attended information meetings. David from World Relief will be here at Hope to meet with anyone – whether you have been to any of the previous meetings or this is your first time meeting with him – to reboot Hope UCC's process to provide partnership with a recently resettled refugee family. Please plan to join us for the meeting here at Hope UCC on November 4 at 5:30 P.M. to learn the new details and how to be part of this special (and long-awaited) ministry! Remember, attending doesn't commit you to this ministry, you are welcome to attend to simply learn more about this program.



The Story of Hope: Helping Our Friends at Moline High School

Moline High School is collecting personal care and hygiene products for their students who are experiencing challenges. If you can help provide any of these items, we will collect them at church and bring them to the school. We will have a basket for collection in the front of the sanctuary through November 16th. Thank you for supporting the young people in our community!

Deodorant (spray or roll-on)

Body Wash

Powdered Laundry Detergent

Wash Cloths

Dryer Sheets

No Rinse Body Wipes

Welcome New Members

It is a joy to welcome new members to Hope UCC. On November 2 we will welcome the following friends into membership during our 10:00 a.m. worship service:

Barb Spies

Robyn Carter

Nanc Kinley

Aaron Rider

Christina Rider

Michael Free

Marcia Free

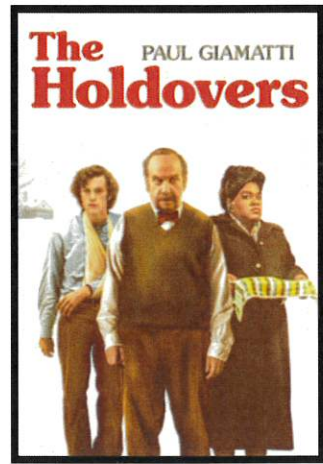
Zoie Fuller

Christine Ragsdale



Reel Theology November 14: The Holdovers

Join us to watch and discuss *The Holdovers*, an Academy award nominated and winning holiday comedic drama about a very grumpy instructor at a New England prep school who remains on campus during Christmas break to babysit a handful of students with nowhere to go. He soon forms an unlikely bond with a brainy but damaged troublemaker, and also with the school's head cook. The film explores themes of family, chosen family, loss, grief, and renewal. This film is rated R – which is a big change from our usual Reel Theology selections. This rating is given due to frequent profanity, brief sexual material, and alcohol and marijuana use. This is such a great film that we decided to share and discuss it even though the rating is stronger than our usual selections. If you would like to eat together before the film, please bring your own dinner at 5:30. The film will begin at 6:00 with the discussion and dessert to follow.



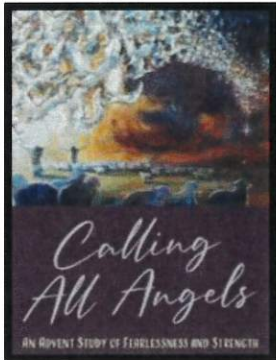
Advent Devotional Study: Calling All Angels

Tuesdays, November 18, December 2, 9, & 16 at 6:00 P.M.

"What would we do if we weren't afraid? What would change in our relationships, in our vocations, in our congregations, maybe even in our communities and in our world - if God's people led with a courage and vision that was always, first and foremost, unafraid?" ~ Erin Wathen

Where might you journey? Where might our congregation journey? Where might we sojourn together?

Join Member in Discernment, Lindsey Svetlick, for an Advent Devotional Study starting Tuesday, November 18th at 6 pm. We are reading "Calling All Angels: An Advent Study of Fearlessness & Strength" by Erin Wathen. Hope UCC office has books available for purchase of \$11.00. Class meeting dates are Tuesday, November 18, December 2, 9, and 16th. Financial assistance is available. Please see Lindsey with any questions.



Share Your Story for Our Advent Devotional

Unseen Wings: Our Messages of Inspiration, Support, Encouragement, and Love

As we look toward the Advent season, a time of hope, reflection, and anticipation, we're creating something special together: this year's Advent Devotional, *Unseen Wings: Our Messages of Inspiration, Support, Encouragement, and Love*. We'd love your help in making it meaningful by sharing your stories. Have you ever felt God's quiet encouragement in a difficult time? Experienced love or support in an unexpected way? Found strength, comfort, or peace that you knew came from God? These are the moments that we hope you will share with us in this Advent devotional.

We're gathering short, heartfelt stories and reflections (they can be anywhere from 200-600 words) from our Hope UCC community—our experiences of hope and trust in God's presence, kindness, and faithfulness. Devotionals are a wonderful daily spiritual practice and your story could be just what someone else needs to read this Advent.

It's easy to be part of this special Advent tradition here at Hope! Please send your story to the church office by November 19th. You can email it to office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com and of course, handwritten submissions are welcome too! Either drop it off or mail it to our church office. All submissions are due by November 19. The Hope UCC 2025 Advent Devotional will be available the first Sunday of Advent, November 30.

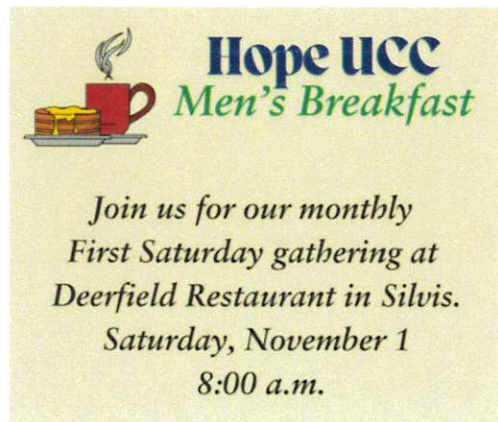
Let's encourage one another and remind our community that even when we don't see it right away, God is always at work, with messengers and messages that lift us, guide us, and love us as we are enfolded in the shelter of God's loving care.



November 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.

Edward Hostetter	November 03
Al Newton	November 11
Bob Poor	November 12
Camilla Johnson	November 12
Donna Werner	November 16
Riley Hawotte	November 17
Judy McCollum	November 19
Julie Bustard	November 22
Jenny Hookey	November 25
Laurel Filzen Etzel	November 25
Elisabeth Demarest	November 28



Join us for our monthly
First Saturday gathering at
Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.
Saturday, November 1
8:00 a.m.

Visitation Ministry Date Changes

Visitation Ministry will not be meeting in November due to the holiday schedule. We will gather and visit our homebound friends on Wednesday, December 3rd. We will meet at Culvers for lunch and then go out on our visits.

Men's Breakfast Group: Saturday, November 1

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 in Fellowship Hall throughout the month of October

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!

Film Screening: What I Wish My Parents Knew

Saturday, November 22, 10:00 A.M. at First Congregational UCC De Witt

Our friends at First Congregational UCC in De Witt, Iowa have invited us to attend the screening of the documentary film, What I Wish My Parents Knew on Saturday, November 22, at 10am. This documentary was created in the aftermath of the death by suicide of the Jason Reid's (the filmmaker) son. In this documentary, ten brave youth share their personal stories of living in crisis and open up about what they wish their families would have known.

First Congregational UCC will host a screening and discussion of What I Wish My Parents Knew and we will be joined by two mental health professionals—Rebekah Clark, LISW, LCSW, and Miriam Prichard, LMHC—who will guide our discussion, offer support, and provide information about other resources. Light refreshments will be provided and the entire event should take about ninety minutes.

This screening and discussion are offered with the hope that our congregations and community can better understand and support youth experiencing mental health crises.



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 19th ; November 16th ; December 14th ; January 25th ; February 22nd ; March 22nd ; April 19th ; May 17th ; 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 5th ; November 2nd ; December 14th ; January 11th ; February 8th ; March 8th ; April 5th ; May 3rd ; June: Pride Month Activities