



Hope UCC Weekly Update: August 24, 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.

That's What Friends Are For:

Learning about the Sacred Traditions of Our Friends with Friends!

Field Trip to Putnam Museum's Sacred Places Exhibit, Sunday August 24 1:30-4:00 P.M.

Join us as we gather with our friends from our Riverside Interfaith Group to visit the Sacred Places exhibition and with one another at the Putnam Museum. We will gather at the museum (carpooling from Hope UCC is available) for interfaith engagement as we view the exhibit. We will then gather with our friends from the other faith communities for conversation and discussion about the exhibit at a small reception. Admission to the museum is \$5 for this event with tickets purchased at the museum ticket counter that afternoon. (Please let Pastor Santina know if financial assistance is needed.) This is an all ages event! Please let Pastor Santina know if you will be joining us for this field trip!

Summer Choir

Sing in Worship

August 24, 10 am

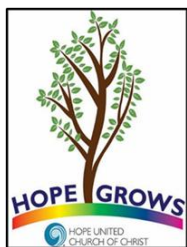
Feed My Starving Children

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.





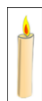
Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin August 24, 2025
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

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 *Count on Me* Words & Music by Bruno Mars, Ari Levine, and Philip Lawrence

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MEDITATION

That's What Friends Are For
(Please Sing Along)

Bacharach & Bayer Sager

**Keep smiling, keep shining;
 Knowing you can always count on me, for sure.
 That's what friends are for.
 For good times and bad times.
 I'll be on your side forever more.
 That's what friends are for.**



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.
 Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

Many: **We will worship the Almighty and sing praises.**
We will proclaim good news to others.

One: Beloveds, we are called to love as God loves us
 We are to love one another as sisters, brothers, and siblings; friends old and new.

Many: **Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**
We seek to let God's love be perfected in us.

One: God's righteousness is everlasting, and God's instruction is truth.
 Listen to what God would teach us; let us hear together the word of God.

Many: **We seek to grow in faith and in love for one another.**
We would learn to do good and to live as God calls us to live as God's people: together.



***OPENING HYMN**

NCH #309

We Are Your People



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Amazing God, Open our senses to your direction so that we may be alert to the opportunities you give us. Fill us with good news to share as we gather together as people who seek your presence in our lives. We are here because we need to hear and feel the Good News. There is much in life that we do not understand so we seek to know you as we join with friends in this beloved community. Together, we recall the promises of our baptism, and together we are led by you to reconfirm our covenant promises that connect us to you and to one another. May our worship glorify your name and may this grace-filled community reflect your love for Creation. Amen



*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All- knowing God, we confess our participation in the negativity that is consuming this planet. We gladly accept for ourselves the power and advantages that come our way. We seldom consider how our own prosperity comes at a cost to others. We may look the other way when hunger, homelessness, and poverty consume people we do not know. We think our small efforts are sufficient to make a difference. Wash away, O God, the evil that paralyzes us, so that we may assist and care for the oppressed and those who seek justice. Create in us a right spirit that prompts us to live by faith and to dare great things for you. 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.



*GOSPEL LESSONS

Luke 19:1-10

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

John 15:1-15

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

SERMON

Transformed by Loving Friends

SERMON ANTHEM

You’ve Got a Friend in Me
Hope UCC Choir

Newman

*INVITATION TO OFFERING



Jesus Christ came into the world to seek out and to save the lost. Sometimes those who have much are lost in their possessions. Let our offering become a part of worship that helps us see the steadfast love of God so that our possessions become instruments of grace, for ourselves and others, so that all may have an opportunity to thrive.

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



Holy God, all that we have is yours. Your children are our brothers, sisters, and siblings. We are all inheritors of your grace. You have blessed us abundantly. Now bless what we have been moved to share, that our love for one another may increase. Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN

NCH #506

What a Friend We Have In Jesus

***BENEDICTION**

One: As we depart as friends, place your hand in the hand of God.

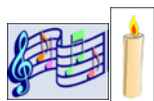
Many: We go forth into this world in complete assurance of God's presence and love, bringing hope, healing, and peace to all we meet.

One: Go in peace, love and care for one another in the name of Christ;

Many: We go out now, proclaiming to all how much Jesus has done for us.

One: Be one with each other as we are one in Christ. Wait for the Lord, and be ready to hear God's voice and see the face of God in one another.

Many: We will tell the stories of our faith by living and loving as God has created us to live and love all of God's Creation. Amen.



POSTLUDE

Thank You for Being a Friend
Hope UCC Choir

words and music by Andrew Gold

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Serving in Worship Today

Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Caridad Ramos

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Bob Poor

Greeter: Julie Bustard

Fellowship Hour: Jan Varga, Judy Hawotte, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

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

We Are Your People

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1993

Unison

1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
 2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
 3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
 4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see

you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
 may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
 clos - er than neigh - bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
 in all life's chang - ing, where Christ is lead - ing,

1 & 6 *Last time, end* 2-5

of ev - ery cul - ture and place.
 will - ing to lead and be led.
 a - ble to clash and for - give.
 where our best ef - forts should be.

5 Give, as we ven - ture
 jus - tice and care
 (peace - ful, in - sist - ing,
 risk - ing, re - sist - ing),
 wis - dom to know when and where.

6 Spir - it, u - nite us,
 make us, by grace,
 will - ing and read - y,
 Christ's liv - ing bod - y,
 lov - ing the whole hu - man race.

Originally written in 1973 for the hymnal of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales, New Church Praise, this text was revised by Brian Wren in 1993. The tune is named for the composer's father-in-law, who served as chair of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

Tune: WHITFIELD Irr.
 John Wilson, 1975

What a Friend We Have in Jesus


506

Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.


Phil. 4:6-7



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
 Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

No stranger to sorrow himself, Joseph Scriven wrote this hymn to comfort his mother in Ireland. Scriven, who moved to Canada as a young man, attempted to follow literally the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Charles C. Converse, 1868