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Hope

United Church of Christ



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Easter Blessings!

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

I cannot wait for us to make this proclamation together on Easter Sunday! Easter is my very favorite day of the year and I am looking forward to celebrating our Lord's resurrection with you on April 20 at Hope UCC. We need Easter now more than ever - we need its message of hope found in Christ's resurrection. Death and brokenness, hate and despair- these will not be the final words. God's promises of renewal, new life, and love will reign.

On Easter Sunday we will lift our voices and sing the beautiful hymn 'Because You Live, O Christ.' The words that we sing must stay on our lips beyond Easter Sunday. *"Because you live o Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower, the shadows of the tomb are flooded with your resurrection power."*

We must continue saying these words and remembering God's promise of new life every day because we live in a world that is in desperate need of hearing and believing the Easter message of hope, healing, and renewal. The daily headlines as well as our personal challenges can lead us to despair. But God has given us a gift by calling us into this journey of faith we all travel. It is a blessing to share this journey with you all. Our focus of repentance and returning to God does not end on April 21. As followers of Christ we strive to live as those who continue to hold the promise of Easter every day. I pray you will know God's renewing and transformative love in your lives and that it spreads through you out into a world that so desperately needs it.

(continued on page 2)

Easter Blessings (continued)

The journey we take is not meant to be taken alone, but to be shared with others as it has been shared with us. That promise of new life is a promise that is meant to be shared. Who will you share the Good News of Easter with?

"Because you live, O Christ, the rainbow of your peace will span creation, the colors of your love will draw all humankind to adoration."

I cannot wait to share the glory of Easter Sunday with you!

Yours in the journey,

Pastor Santana



*Repent and Return
in Troubled Times*
HOLY WEEK AT HOPE UCC



Maundy Thursday April 17 - A Sunset Service of Shadows

We will join with our friends from First Congregational Moline to celebrate this special service together. We will gather at 6:00 P.M. at the West Pavilion at Ben Butterworth Park for this outdoor service. We will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:00 P.M. that will transition into a service of Holy Communion as we remember Jesus's last dinner with his friends before his arrest. The Service of Shadows will follow as we read, sing, pray, and reflect on the events leading up to the arrest of Jesus amidst the shadows of nightfall and betrayal. In case of bad weather, we will hold the service to Hope UCC.

Good Friday April 18 - The Seven Last Words of Christ



We will again join with our friends from First Congregational Moline to share this special service. We will gather at 7:00 P.M. at Trimble Funeral Home for this service. We chose this location for a very specific reason. In today's society, we gather to mourn our beloveds, process our loss, make arrangements, and celebrate the lives of our beloveds in funeral homes. As we share the Good Friday service and hear the scriptures, reflections, and sing the hymns that all explore the death of Jesus on the cross, we are reminded that his family and dear friends (and even those who despised him) were all impacted by his death and felt the same kind of grief, shock, and pain we have all experienced. As we reflect on the death of our Savior, we also remember that Jesus was this man whose death was mourned by so many because he was also a beloved son, brother, friend, and teacher. We hope you will join us for this special service.



Order Easter Lilies and Flowering Bulb Plants

Order Easter Lilies and Flowering Bulb Plants in memory or in honor of a loved one for Easter morning. All orders are due to church office by Monday, April 14th. Please fill out the information below and return with your payment. Please note 'Easter Flowers' either on the memo of your check or on the envelope. All plants are \$15 each and you are welcome to take your plant home with you following the Easter Service on April 20th.

Thank you!



Easter Lily and Flowering Plant Order Form

Order your Easter Lily and Flowering Plants in memory of and/or in honor of a loved one.

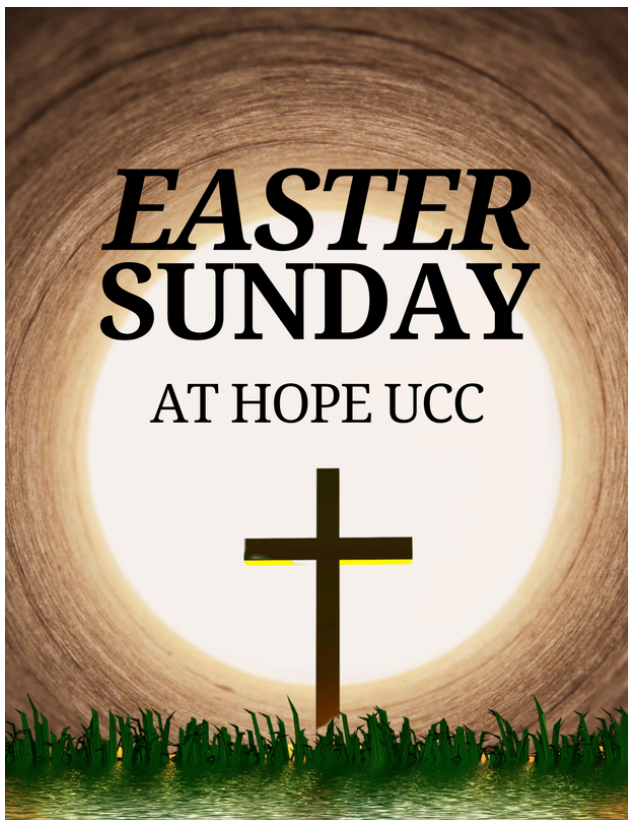
All orders are due by Monday, April 14.

Quantity (\$15 each) _____

Your Name _____

In honor of/in memory of (please circle one):





Easter Sunday at Hope UCC

April 20 at 10:00 A.M

Join us at 10:00 A.M. on Easter morning for our Festival Celebration Worship Service! This service is a joyful time together where all ages are welcome to celebrate the Good News of our risen Savior. We will praise God through music, Word, prayer, and the sacrament of Holy Communion at this special service. This service will also be livestreamed on Hope UCC's Facebook page. Easter Sunday is a great day to invite a friend to worship. We hope to see you here!

April Scripture Selections

April 6 Giving and Receiving
Isaiah 43:15-21; Psalm 126; John 12:1-8

Palm Sunday, April 13 Time to Cry Out
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

April 20 Easter Sunday
Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:1-18

April 27
Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; John 20:19-31

May 4
Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

Pastor Santina will be on vacation April 21-27.
She will return to the office Tuesday, April 29.
Thank you!

Special Offering for World Relief Quad Cities

Thank you for your kind and generous support of World Relief Quad Cities. Your donations combined with funds donated by Hope UCC from our Memorial and Mission and Outreach Designated Funds totaled \$9,365. We will present the check to World Relief when we meet with them at Hope UCC on Thursday, April 3. George and Samantha will be here at 5:30 to meet with volunteers from Hope UCC interested in helping as accompaniers and drivers.

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)



April 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.

Caridad Ramos April 01

Jan Varga April 02

Duane Goderis Sr April 04

M.J. Poor April 05

Kim Powell April 19

Barbara Babcock April 24

Rebecca Morse April 28

Virginia Anderson April 28



Hope UCC *Men's Breakfast*

*Join us for our monthly
First Saturday gathering at
Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.
Saturday, April 5
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 April 21st 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, April 28th 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.



Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun for these two great events:

1

**Confirmation Class Service Project
Fundraiser for Rock Island County Animal Shelter**

On Sunday, May 25 the Confirmands will host "Artists for the Lost Paws" an art show and taco lunch and bake sale. All proceeds will be donated to the RI County Animal Shelter. Lunch will be from 12:00 - 2:00 P.M. at Church of Peace. We hope you'll make the trip over and enjoy lunch with our sister congregation and support our kids!

2

Hope UCC Annual Yard Sale!

Date TBD

Linda, Kathy, and Judy are busy figuring out the best weekend to hold the Yard Sale. Start looking around your house, basement, attic, and garage to find those items you are ready to part with that will find a great second home with a new person. The Yard Sale will either be in May or July - watch for more information.



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?