



JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 2025

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Hope

United Church of Christ

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A Time to Rest

This year has been filled with new challenges for me, both personally and professionally. As all of us know too well, working through grief and trying to navigate the world in new way is filled with surprises – positive and less positive. What I have come to understand about my own experience is that I have been affected in my ability to focus and that I do not have the energy I had before losing Charley last year. It is almost like my brain and/or physical activity simply shut down from time to time. My therapist assures me this is 'normal' (whatever normal is!). Our bodies and minds respond to life's traumas with fight, flight, and freeze responses and I am experiencing that freeze response when this happens. All this is to say, if you are finding yourself feeling this same way as you journey through your life experiences too – I am with you! Mental Health is so important and recognizing the need for help and support is crucial. I am grateful for my therapist and the support she has offered. I am happy to speak with anyone about the experience and help with how to connect with a therapist that fits your needs.

I am very grateful for the loving and caring community that God connected my family and I to when you called me as your pastor. I want to be the best pastor I can be for you and for our community. Thankfully, when I met with our amazing leadership at Hope UCC and explained how I was feeling, they were supportive of a time of rest for me. They have affirmed my ministry with you by allowing me to take the month of July off so that I can find a little time to regroup mentally and emotionally and ministerally too. This time off will no doubt provide me with lots of time to reflect, plan, pray, and renew my spirit. I am so very grateful.

My beloved friend and sister in ministry, the Rev. Carol Holz Martin, who along with her husband, the Rev. Dr. Dana Martin are also dear friends to our whole congregation, will be filling in for me during the month of July. She will preach on Sundays and will be in the office for office hours 2-3 days a week. She will be available for visits. However, I will be in town that month and we have agreed that if there is an emergency, I will be called in for that. .

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(A Time to Rest continued)

Since this was not something I had planned or something that our church has budgeted for, I suggested, and thankfully it was agreed to, that I would not take my salary for the month of July. This money will instead be used to compensate Pastor Carol for the ministry she will share. The financial reports for the month of July and August may look a little different, however in our efforts to always provide financial transparency, this change will be reflected in those reports. And so, my beloved church family, I thank you for the opportunity to rest my brain, heart, body, and spirit during the month of July. I thank you for being a place of healing love for me and for my whole family. I thank you for your letting me come back to serve as your pastor on August 1st – renewed and rested and, if I am honest, still carrying my grief – just hopefully carrying it with a little more strength. I am looking forward to our June together which is filled with so many beautiful celebrations.

I love you all so much,
Pastor Santana



June 1st is M & M Sunday !

Join us this Sunday to celebrate our beloved Music ministry and to celebrate Mary Tallitsch's retirement as Director of our Hand Bell Choir. We will have special music as the focus of this worship service and an opportunity to show our profound thanks to Mary for her stewardship of this ministry for many years.



Thank you for your support of the Artists for the Lost Paws Fundraiser! Our Confirmation class raised over \$800 thanks to the love and generosity Hope UCC and Church of Peace UCC.



Tuesday Morning Lectionary Bible Study Summer Break

Our Tuesday morning Lectionary Bible Study will be on summer break starting June 1st. We will resume in September and we hope you all will join us then!

Confirmation Celebration on Pentecost Sunday June 8 at Hope UCC!

We are excited to celebrate this special day with our Confirmands during worship on June 8.

Please note a change in the location:

WE WILL HAVE WORSHIP AT HOPE UCC ON JUNE 8.

Church of Peace will join us here at Hope for this special celebratory worship welcoming our youth into the full life of their church. We will have a lite lunch reception following worship to celebrate our Confirmands. Please remember to keep them in your prayers and we encourage you to bring a note of encouragement and love for them as well. There will be baskets in Fellowship Hall for these notes and cards. Our Confirmands this year are Selah Filzen Etzel, Eli Powell, and Kinley Sederquist. Remember to wear red on Sunday, June 8 as we celebrate Pentecost and this exciting time in the faith journeys of our youth!



Graduation Celebration: Sunday June 15

Please join us in celebrating and congratulating our graduates on June 15. We will have a time during worship where we offer them a blessing as they embark on new journeys and challenges.

Reagan Hawotte – Rock Island High School

Abby Beug – United Township High School

Laurel Filzen Etzel – Western Illinois University MA in Teaching in Music Education

Riley Johnson – John Deere MS: promotion from 8th grade

June is Pride Month! Please join us in one or all of the following celebrations:

Sunday, June 1 at 8:00 P.M.

***Light Up Pride at the Spotlight Theatre
with the Affirming Congregations of the Quad Cities!***

Join local city, business, non-profit, and religious leaders to celebrate the first night of Pride Month. The evening will be a night of unity and celebration that will culminate in the beautiful rainbow-lights of the Spotlight Theater shining bright. Sponsored by the Affirming Congregations of the Quad Cities.

Saturday, June 14 at 11:00 A.M.

QC Unity Pride Parade with the Affirming Congregations of the Quad Cities!

Join our contingent with 9 of our sibling congregations as we march together along the coolest parade route in the US! We start in Davenport and end in Rock Island on this 2.5 mile parade route. Our contingent will have a float you can ride on if that walk is too much for you. Each of the churches in our contingent is wearing a different color shirt - Hope UCC is wearing purple. We will have more information about what time to meet and what our staging location is but please plan to join the fun and march with us. Watch for a sign-up sheet or simply let Pastor Santina or Lindsey know you will be walking or if you need to ride on the float. Need a purple shirt? Let us know!

Saturday, June 28 at 3:00 P.M.

***Pride Party at Bass Street Landing
with the Affirming Congregations of the Quad Cities!***

Join us for a fun afternoon filled with music, celebration, fellowship, and good cheer! Our Affirming Congregations group will have a booth set up to offer information, kindness, and little giveaways. Sign up to help at the booth and there is plenty of time to also enjoy the festival. Sign-up sheet for helping in the booth will be available following worship on June 15. See Pastor Santina or Lindsey for more information.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!

Hope UCC Youth Service Learning Trip to Chicago July 23rd - 27th!

Who: Charlie, Selah, Miriam, Jaiden, Bek, & Lindsey.

What: Our youth need to explore where God is showing up in our marginalized communities, and Chicago is a wonderful melting pot of many cultures. We will be exploring the city with the Chicago City Pass, learning at the LGBTQ+ Community Center on Halsted, helping with clean up on Chicago's beach, and having some fun while learning and exploring.

YOU CAN CAN YOU HELP US GET TO CHICAGO!

**Please join us on June 22nd at noon, following worship
for Ice Cream Camp!**

You'll make your own Ice Cream Sundays, participate in the youth fundraiser, and sing some great tunes! Your free will offering is welcome. Invite your friends, family, and community members from all around. See you there!!!!



Strengthen the Church Annual Offering.

The Strengthen the Church offering is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Hope UCC will receive this offering on Sunday, June 15 although your donations for this fund are welcome anytime this month. Please make checks payable to Hope UCC and note 'STC' on the memo or on the envelope if you choose to offer a cash donation. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry of the United Church of Christ.





Hope UCC Men's Breakfast

*Join us for our monthly
First Saturday gathering at
Deerfield Restaurant in Silvis.
Saturday, June 7
8:00 a.m.*



Hope UCC Ruth Circle

Please join us Tuesday, June 10th for "\$2 Tuesday" at the River Bandits baseball game. \$2 will get you your general admission ticket and sodas and hot dogs are all \$2 also. The game starts at 6:30 P.M. All are welcome to join the fun! This is a great all ages event! Bring a friend!



*There will be no regular Ruth Circle meetings in July and August.



June 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.

Nancy Callahan	June 01
Robert Tallitsch	June 03
Cheryl Mickelson	June 03
Emma Goderis	June 04
Lindsey Svetlick	June 05
Judy Piper	June 08
Mary Boquist	June 15
Greg Etzel	June 15
Della Findlay	June 17
Kathleen LeMaster	June 18
Bek Svetlick	June 22



July 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.

Dennis Beug	July 01
Robert Morales	July 03
Dave Newton	July 04
Ed VanWychen	July 05
Eli Powell	July 06
Sherry VanWychen	July 09
Ken Curtis	July 11
Kathy Lewis	July 13
Marsha Peterson	July 13
Linda Brown	July 18
Sheila Goderis	July 19
Mary Tallitsch	July 20
Angie Hammond	July 27
Marilyn Rada	July 28
Sue Grchan	July 30



August 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.

Larry Ohrberg	August 05
Karie Bowman	August 08
Ruth Pisman	August 08
Josh Powell	August 09
James Grafton	August 16
Debbie Rottman	August 18
Leatha Boyer	August 24

Please note that this newsletter is a combined June-July-August newsletter. We will have weekly announcements in the worship bulletins, our website, social media, and via email. Please contact the church office with any questions or updates! Thank you!