



Hope UCC Weekly Update: July 25, 2021

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.

Summerfest at Hope UCC - July 26-26, 5:45-7:30 P.M.

Families of one and families of many are invited to explore and discover God's treasures at Summerfest 2021! For the younger kids: A VBS program exploring how God is at work in Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments.

For the 'big' kids/kids at heart: A Bible study exploring the stories of the well-known and not-so-well-known women in the Bible.

For everyone: Dinner and opening and closing worship together each evening.

***If you plan to attend, please have your registration form turned in by July 23.**

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

We are so happy to be able to once again gather for coffee hour together. Many thanks to Dick and Phebe Head who have been taking care of setting up and cleaning up each week. We are hoping to get volunteers to help provide the snacks and to clean up following this fellowship time. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway or by calling or emailing Pam in the church office. We thank you for your help in providing this important time together.

Celebration of Life for Sam Brown

Linda Brown would like to invite you all to a Celebration of Life for her beloved husband Sam. Sam passed away in March of 2020 when all the Covid restrictions were in place. She is looking forward to celebrating this great guy with their family and friends!

Please join Linda on Saturday, August 21 at this open house from 1:00-4:00 P.M. at City View Celebrations at Trimble Pointe 701 12th St. in Moline.

Sharing of Sam stories will begin at 2 p.m. Please wear bright clothing or Bears attire as Sam was a colorful guy! Please bring a written memory of Sam so the family can enjoy them later!

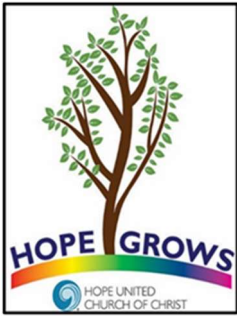
Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Fellowship will restart in August. The first breakfast will be on Saturday, August 7th at 8:00 a.m. We will continue to hold these breakfasts on the first Saturday of each month. All men in the church are invited. Hope to see you there. Any questions, give me a call. Dan Hawotte

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering is one of the 5 special offerings our congregation collects for the United Church of Christ. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Hope UCC's Mission and Outreach Ministry thanks you for your support of this special offering which will be received on July 11 during worship (or can be delivered to church at any time this month). Please note "STC" on the memo line of your check or on the envelope. Thank you again for your support.



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin July 25, 2021
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
 you are welcome at Hope UCC!*

***Those who are able, please stand**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the hour to bend our knee before God. This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

Many: We gather before God, who sees all our deeds. We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.

One: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." We come together proclaiming, "God is with us!"

Many: We come to be strengthened in our inner being. We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.

One: God's presence evokes our joyous worship. The Holy Spirit empowers our service.

Many: To God be highest glory in the church. To God be endless adoration in the world.

***OPENING HYMN** *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet* #70 (see end of bulletin)

***INVITING GOD INTO OUR MIDST**

We are seeking after you, loving God, for you are our refuge. Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware. We want to respond, not as fools, but as faithful friends of Jesus. We have come to discover the riches we did not know we possessed. We are here to offer our best for the good of all. Use us, we pray, to accomplish in and through this church, far more than we can ask or imagine. All glory be to you, amazing God, in this and every hour, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you know our secret hearts. You are aware of our distortions, our jealousies, our lust. You observe our unfaithfulness, our treachery, our unwarranted fears. We are corrupted by greed, self-indulgence, and desire to be entertained. We do not take responsibility for our misconduct, our abuse of power, our lack of trust in you. We have little sense of vision to see beyond immediate circumstances or to embrace new possibilities. We miss the signs of your grace and resist the empowerment of your Spirit. Mighty God, still the storms within us with your transforming peace and boundless forgiveness, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING OF PEACE**

We are created in the image of God and are blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. Thus God honors us with high expectations and confidence in our willingness to seek out life's best for all people. We are loved. We are forgiven. Our baptism is renewed.

Let us offer one another the gift of peace. May the Lord's peace be with you!

(If you are using this liturgy as a private devotion or participating in the live stream worship, please hold out your hands in blessing for all you are joined with in spirit. If you are participating in the live stream worship, please type in your peace greeting.)

SPECIAL MUSIC *Davenport Blues* - Bix Beiderbecke

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: May 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.

Psalms 73:1-5, 10-17, 21-28

- ¹ Truly God is good to the upright,[£]
to those who are pure in heart.
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;
my steps had nearly slipped.
- ³ For I was envious of the arrogant;
I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- ⁴ For they have no pain;
their bodies are sound and sleek.
- ⁵ They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not plagued like other people.
- ¹⁰ Therefore the people turn and praise them,[£]
and find no fault in them.[£]
- ¹¹ And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"
- ¹² Such are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.
- ¹³ All in vain I have kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.
- ¹⁴ For all day long I have been plagued,
and am punished every morning.
- ¹⁵ If I had said, "I will talk on in this way,"
I would have been untrue to the circle of your children.
- ¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,
- ¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I perceived their end.
- ²¹ When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,
- ²² I was stupid and ignorant;
I was like a brute beast toward you.

- ²³ Nevertheless I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
- ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me with honor.[£]
- ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you.
- ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength[£] of my heart and my portion forever.
- ²⁷ Indeed, those who are far from you will perish;
you put an end to those who are false to you.
- ²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
to tell of all your works.

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 6:1-21

¹After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.[£] ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages[£] would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they[£] sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles,[£] they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I;[£] do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

SERMON "Hope Beyond Belief"

SERMON HYMN *Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless* #461 (see end of bulletin)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We have gladly taken more than our share of the world's good. Let us give in proportion to the blessings we have received. May the church be at the forefront of feeding, healing, caring for, and loving God's people. We are the church, the body of Christ, making a difference in the world.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We join with Jesus in giving thanks for the little things we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we have not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by your grace so there is more than enough for all—more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

One: Go out to share what you have received. God will multiply the gifts that you give away.

Many: We will turn away from fears of scarcity. We will celebrate and share our abundance.

One: God meets you amid the storms of life, God goes with you through the terrors of the night.

Many: We are embraced by God's steadfast love. We will look up and not be afraid.

One: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your inner being.

Many: To God be glory in the church forever. May Christ be honored in all we say and do.

POSTLUDE

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God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.
 Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

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461 Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless

Ps. 126:5-6; Rom. 4:18; 1 Cor. 13

David Beebe, 1989

1 Let us hope when hope seems hope - less, when the
2 Faith and hope in love's com - pas - sion will sur -
3 Like a child out - grow - ing child - hood, set - ting

dreams we dreamed have died. When the morn - ing
vive though knowl - edge cease, though the tongues of
child - hood things a - way, we will learn to

breaks in bright - ness, hun - ger shall be sat - is - fied.
joy fall si - lent, dull the words of proph - e - cies.
live in free - dom, in the life of God's new day.

Emma Lou Diemer, organist since the age of thirteen, studied composition at Yale University and Eastman School of Music, and has published orchestra, chamber, choral, and organ works. David Beebe wrote this text while teaching a course on creative writing. A minister of the United Church of Christ, Beebe has served on the staff of the denomination's Stewardship Council.

Tune: LET US HOPE 8.7.8.7.D.

Emma Lou Diemer, 1994

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

One who sows the fields with weep - ing shall re - trace the
 Faith shall see and trust its ob - ject; hope shall set its
 Now we see as in a mir - ror. Then we shall see

sor-row - ing way and re - jice in har - vest
 an - chor sure; love shall bloom in Love e -
 face to face, un - der - stand how love's com -

boun - ty at the break - ing of the day.
 ter - nal. Faith and hope and love en - dure.
 pas - sion blos - soms through a - maz - ing Grace.