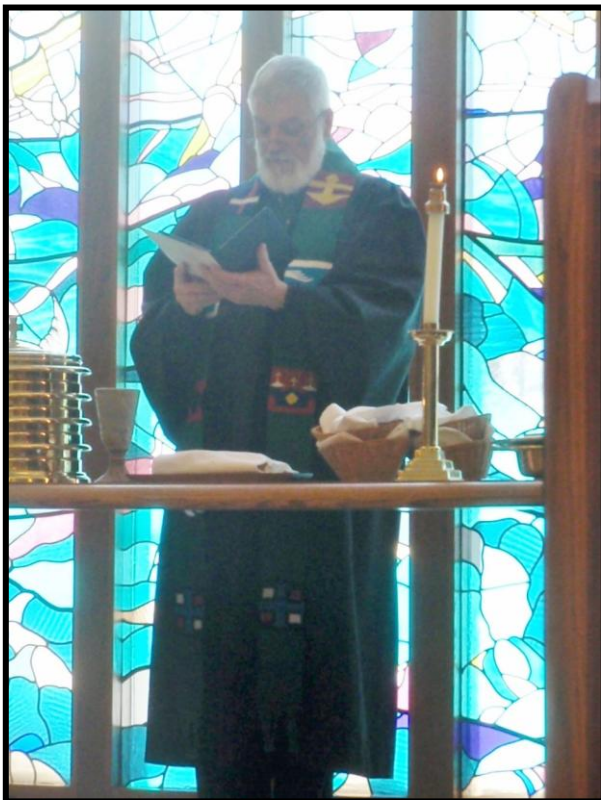




THE WINDOW

◆ HOPE UCC ◆ 150 NINTH AVENUE ◆ HIAWATHA IA 52233 ◆ VOL. 11 NO 3 ◆ March 2011 ◆

Hope Church says Good Bye to Long-Time Pastor, Fritz Mellberg



On February 27, Hope Church will celebrate and honor their pastor of 17 years, Fritz, as he retires. We are thankful for his commitment to Hope, the experiences we have shared and the memories we will keep.

*Fritz and Gretchen,
Thank you and Best Wishes
For a Wonderful Retirement!
Your Hope Friends*

Photo by Nancy
Lehman

Hope Church welcomes Interim Pastor Sue Weier!

Sue moves to Cedar Rapids the week end of February 26th, has her first day in the office on March 1st and first service March 6th. Be sure to wear your name tag and give her a hearty Hope Church welcome!

Save the Date!

3rd Annual

“First Breakfast”

March 6, 2011 - 9 am in the
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy a yummy breakfast provided
by the Membership Committee and
fun conversation with fellow Hope
members. We'll also welcome
Pastor Sue!

Free will donations will be accepted.

From the Minster's Desk:

LAST WORDS

When the Mexican revolutionary Poncho Villa was dying he said "Don't let it end like this, Tell them I said something."

I feel a bit like that. What does one say after 17 years of being a part of so many lives? So many moments of happiness and sadness?

Lady Astor woke on her deathbed and saw her family gathered around her and said "Am I dying or is it my birthday?"

We all have mixed feelings about retirement. It means leaving people you have worked with for many years and that means letting go of "a life." But retirement also has a birthday party feeling to it. I am looking forward to years of creativity and relaxation.

Thomas Edison's last words were "It is very beautiful over there." I hope we both can feel that way about our separate futures. You are a growing vital congregation and the best years are still ahead. It truly is beautiful over there.

"I am ready" were Woodrow Wilson's last words. I am ready too. I think you are also. It's time to move ahead and I sense the excitement you have about the future of Hope.

Henry Ward Beecher, the famous preacher said, "Now comes the mystery!" and so it does for us. But the mystery is beautiful and beckoning.

The best last words I can think of come from Jesus; "Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

May the loving and creating presence of God surround us all.

Peace be with you.

Fritz

Hope Church Takes Another Step in GOING GREEN!

Hope Church is taking an important step in our mission to be more earth and budget friendly. If you are reading this newsletter online, you are one of over 100 people who have agreed to receive the newsletter electronically! Hope Church and the earth thank you! **Join the crowd!** Contact the office to receive an email alert each month when the newsletter is ready to be viewed online.

If you are reading this newsletter in paper format, this may be the last one you receive!

If you have not contacted the office to request continued postal mailing of our newsletter, we will assume that you are reading it at your convenience at hope-ucc.com. You will no longer have the newsletter mailed to you, unless you contact the church office at 393-2400 or fill out a form in church.

If you have contacted Hope's office to indicate you would like to receive the newsletter through the US postal service, we will continue mailing it to you as in the past.

Here are the reasons we are taking this earth-friendly step:

- 1) Mailing fewer newsletters will **save money** on postage and paper, not to mention toner for the copier.
- 2) Having the newsletter online will allow you to see **clearer, color photos**.
- 3) You can **view the newsletter online as soon as it is ready**-not having to wait for the folding, labeling and post office.
- 4) Having newsletters online means **you can refer back to information from months past with just a couple clicks**.
- 5) You can **share Hope's newsletter with friends and family** from afar by referring them to the link.
- 6) Using less paper for the newsletter is **good for the environment**.

If you have questions about this important mission, call Mary in the church office at 393-2400 or email at hopeucc2@q.com.



Super Subs Sales Spectacular!



A big **Thank You** to everyone who bought subs for the Hope Youth Super Sub fundraiser!
We raised over \$200 to use for youth activities.
Thanks also to the kids for working so hard to assemble the subs, you did a great job!

HOPE UCC COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

PRESENT: Fritz Mellberg, Betty Hohensee, Jim Wooldridge, Kayla Buck, Adrian Evans, Denise Mineck, Dan Evers, Cathy Evers, Joan Meier, Reta Saylor, Ruth Vial, Karla Grauberger

Call to Order: Adrian Evans

Opening Prayer: Fritz Mellberg

Community Building

Minutes from Previous Meeting: motion/2nd/approved by vote to accept

Treasurer's Report: motion/2nd/approved by vote to accept after discussion

Committee Reports:

Building/Property: working on starting a list for mowing crew. Women's Fellowship is coming in March 7 to do windows and the 14th the Narthex carpet will be cleaned. Women's Fellowship will be paying for this.

Worship/Music: looking into music and will be coordinating that with the new pastor after she arrives.

Membership Enrichment: mentoring lunch this coming Sunday, look for the Breakfast for all members that is coming up on March 6. There will be a free will offering to help defray expenses on this.

Stewardship: moving the meeting date so more members can come. Looking into a better recycling program for the church, in hopes that everyone will pitch in. April 3 will be the One Great Hour of sharing offering. Researching auto pay for offering. Are thinking on having a protection policy in place for the treasurer, by having Deb and one other person count the money each week.

Christian Ed: made Valentine cards to sell and also bake sale, money raised will go to the Heifer program.

Mission: Financial Peace University is going over very well. Mission brochure is being worked on and will be out soon. Looking into social network program. Possible someone to go out to a meal with, help someone out and then someone help you. These are just a few ideas that have been thought of.

Friendship: had a renewal of vows on Feb. 13, there were about 16 couples that did it. Then had a nice coffee time with special treats afterwards. Planning Fritz's retirement party.

Old Business:

1. Create a release letter for Susie Lucas to sign as evidence of her termination of employment.

Motion/2nd/approved by vote to do so.

2. Electronic sign: thoughts are to have a "Buy a Brick" with your name on it, or in honor or as a memorial to someone to help defray the cost of the sign. More information will be in bulletin and the newsletter.
3. Michelle Grauberger is still in contention for a scholarship to receive money to help her to be able to go with People to People this summer. She has already received one, but none of this is thru our church.

Pastor's Report: doing lots of visits, cleaning out the office and readying it for Pastor Sue to take over. Will be in LA Feb. 17-18 for conference. Council decided the date for his final exit interview to be 2/21/11 anyone is welcome to attend.

New Business:

1. New job descriptions have been drawn up for the janitor, secretary and Christian Ed director. Will vote on accepting these at next month's meeting.

For the Good of Hope: Fritz was speechless...as it was his last council meeting

Closing Prayer

Adjourn motion/2nd/approved by vote

Next meeting March 15 at 7pm

Women's Fellowship February 2011 Minutes

There were 13 women in attendance for our fellowship on February 7th. Lois Bennett began the meeting with a history lesson – on aprons. It was fun and gave us ideas for a future spring meeting. Nancy Kotalik gave the secretary/treasurer's minutes. They were accepted as read.

Old Business: Plans for the **Ministry Lunch** is coming together. Pie for dessert has been requested and we aim to please.

Bev Daws has already sewn 50 potato bags for the **Boutique**. That inspired all of us to start thinking about what we might make for the Boutique. It is scheduled for April 30th -- just around the corner.

Retirement Reception – the reception committee needs funds for food, flowers, invitations & stamps. Betty Hohensee and Vivian Martin made a motion to help fund the reception. Motion was passed.

New Business: There are 5 member-related weddings scheduled for the Church between March and Sept. Hope always purchases a small gift for the newlyweds. Vivian Martin and Irene Faye volunteered to buy gifts. We also need to do a bit of spring cleaning (carpets, windows, pews, etc.) to brighten the Church up for the festivities. We plan on scheduling March 7th or 8th to clean and then have Actually Clean take care of the carpet on March 14th.

Our **March meeting** will be a social event – eating dinner at Scotty's on Blairs Ferry (fka Happy Chef-yum!

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Kotalik

Save these 2011 dates

March 7th -cleaning church

March 8th 5:30- supper at Scotty's

March 13th after worship- help move narthex furniture for carpet cleaning

March 14th- carpet cleaning

April 30th - Spring Boutique



Use Facebook to keep up with your friends at Hope.

To join Hope's Facebook group:

- 1) Log on to Facebook and search "Hope United Church of Christ, Hiawatha".**
- 2) Click on Hope's page, then click on the 'Join' button and you're in!**
- 3) Use this page to post personal photos and messages to Hope Friends!**



**HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MISSION COMMITTEE
February 14, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by chairperson, Denise Mineck. Members present were Lois Bennett, Margaret Debner, Irene Fay, Betty Hohensee, Denise Mineck and Vayla Waddington.

Denise provided a thoughtful quote by Lord Alfred Tennyson.

Agenda accepted.

January 10, 2011 minutes were accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE: Linn County Food Bank sent a thank you for the food donations received by Hope Church in 2010.

FINANCIAL: Checkbook balance as of January 31, 2011 was \$2903.18.

OLD BUSINESS: **The Financial Peace classes are being well received from enrolled participants. **Mission Committee Brochure information was checked for accuracy. Publication of the brochure is hoped to be done by May 2011.

NEW BUSINESS: **A possible skill-share project within the congregation was discussed. The basic thought of this project would be matching skills of some people with the needs of other people, in an equitable way. **Awareness of solid waste management and recycling is another project that Mission hopes to present to the congregation in the future. **Fair Trade Coffee will be sold at the Spring Boutique.

The following donations were made:

- (1) Linn County Food Bank--17 bags of groceries in January 2011.
- (2) Linus Project—9 quilts on February 14, 2011.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment was at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting will be March 14, 2011.

Vayla Waddington, Secretary

Coming SOON!

A proposal for an outdoor Hope sign along 10th Avenue!

Office News...

I am enjoying working in the office at Hope. I will do my best to keep things running as smoothly as possible. I am learning and going to make lots of mistakes. Thank you for your patience and understanding as I try to keep the Hope boat afloat!

There are a few big office projects in progress.

I am working on updating the directory information pages and sheets with new member information. I hope to have those pages ready for you to take home within a couple of weeks.

I am identifying who has keys to church getting them labeled.

Going Green with the newsletter is a large task; sorting out addresses and emails. We may experience some quirks and bumps here in the beginning, but with your patience, we'll work it out. It will be well worth trouble!!

If you have suggestions for improvement or solutions to share, you can contact me at church at 393-2400 or email hopeucc2@q.com.

Thanks, Mary

Hope Happenings

Amy Hatcher and Nick Friesen are engaged! The wedding will be sometime late Spring/early summer of 2012.

Reta Saylor would like to thank everyone who sent up prayers for her sister and sister-in-law this past month. Her sister is in the middle of 6 weeks radiation and chemo and could use continued prayers to help her cope with those treatments. Reta's sister-in-law will be starting chemo soon as she spent another 2 weeks in the hospital with complications from her original diagnosis. She needs prayer as well. Again, thanks for all your prayers and support during this time.

Larry Davis was hospitalized recently, had a procedure and is back talking as much as ever.

Congratulations to **Ben Mayer** for passing from white belt to yellow belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Our sympathy to **Dixie and Dave Carothers** at the death of Dixie's dad, Jim Lovell. He was a sweet and honorable man and his service was Thursday, February 25 at Murdoch's in Center Point. The church provided a luncheon following.

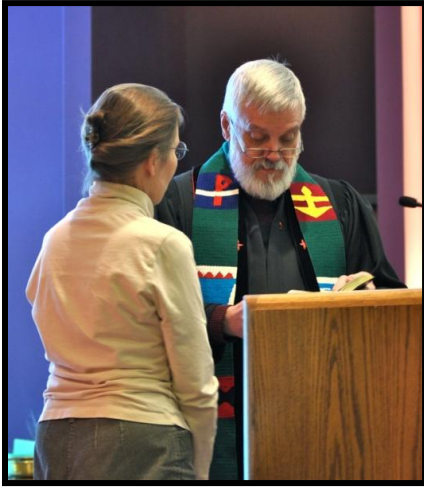
Boneata Kautz was named Resident of the Year at the Retirement Housing Foundation 50th anniversary convention in Los Angeles last week. But Boneata was not there, and was at Mercy Hospital with a heart problem. She is recovering well. The RHF honor is a biggie as they have 17,000 residents across the country. This UCC started organization is the largest non-profit low income housing agency in the nation.

Fritz was named Board Member of the Year, too. He enjoyed saying thank you at the banquet in LA last Friday and actually spoke to the crowd for less than 2 minutes!

Sunday School Kids!

Remember attendance counts! Each time you come to Sunday school, put your name in the drawing for end of month prizes and a SUPER HUGE end of the year prize! See you at 9am on Sunday morning!

Hope Couples Renew their Wedding Vows!



What a great way to celebrate Valentines! We had 18 couples join as a group to renew their marriage vows on Sunday, February 13th after worship. Afterwards there was a reception in the Fellowship Hall. This might be a nice tradition to start at Hope. Thanks to all those who helped to make it a nice day!

Betty Hohensee
Friendship Chair

It's time to update the Hope Prayer Chain. Contact Lois Bennett 393-8997 or Linda Toomsen 395-9329 if you would like to be on the chain. Ask them how it works.

.....
How are you doing with your New Year's resolutions? Going so well that you would like to add a few more? Need some new ones? Get another fresh start with these springtime resolutions!

- 1) I will live in the present moment. I will not obsess about the past or worry about the future.
- 2) I will seek liberty and justice for all. I will work for a free and a fair world.
- 3) I will give up trying to hide, deny or escape from my imperfections.
- 4) I will practice hospitality in a world where too often strangers are feared, enemies hated and the "other" is shunned. I will welcome guests with graciousness.
- 5) I will be thankful for all the blessings in my life.

***“The Quiltmaker’s Gift”
by Jeff Brumbeau
inspires Sunday school
students to make
and give a blanket
of their own.***

The Quiltmaker's Gift by Jeff Brumbeau is a story that parallels what Jesus said to the Rich Young Man when he asked how to get into heaven. Jesus said, "Give up all your possessions, and follow me." Sunday school students created a fleece tie blanket. The blanket was then given to Andrea Nus, who works at the Catherine McCauley Center in Cedar Rapids. The Catherine McCauley Center provides temporary shelter to women and children who are in crisis. Pictured above are (from left) Andrea Nus, and Sunday school students: Laura Nus, Jessica Grauberger, Nolan Thompson, Madelynn Mayer and Grace Neumann.



You are invited to
The Installation Service for
REV. TEDD BRYANT
as Pastor of
Eden United Church of Christ
at 351 8th Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52410
Saturday, March 19, 2011
2:00 p.m.
Refreshments will be served

THANK YOU

Gretchen and I want to thank you so much for the wonderful Retirement Sunday you provided. I am writing this before the event and have no idea what you have cooked up, but we know it will be something special. I was to announce that the Sunday service would be short because we have a plane to catch for the Virgin Islands at 12:30, but when I mentioned it to Betty, she punched me in the arm and said; "you better not!" So thank you all for the good years, the growing, the fun and the mutual ministry!

Fritz and Gretchen

From your Stewardship committee:

We are inviting you to commit to something different for Lent. The New England Regional Environmental Ministries of the UCC is sponsoring a Carbon Fast for Lent rather than the usual giving up of chocolate, etc. to bring us closer to Christ. All of the information necessary to participate is in the article below. We encourage you to consider this in addition to or as an alternative to your usual fast for Lent. Your Stewardship Committee believes that part of stewardship is being a good steward of our environment and this is one way to do that.

Please Join Us in a Lenten Fast . . . From Carbon

As we write this invitation, the World Meteorological Organization along with NOAA and NASA all have data showing 2010 tied with 2005 for being the hottest year on record. We also read that in December 2010, Arctic sea-ice cover was the lowest on record. Just as humanity now recognizes climate change as a predominant scientific, economic and political issue, we also realize it is a profound moral issue. Life on earth as we know it is mortal – it is susceptible to change, hurt and, yes, death.

Ash Wednesday (March 9, 2011) invites us into the season of Lent – a time within the church year to acknowledge that we are mortal, limited. Lent awakens us to hope in God whose "steadfast love endures forever" and to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. The Lenten disciplines of repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love are guides for returning to the steadfast love of God. During Lent we confess our mortality, our limits and our vulnerability so that we might be transformed and become the new life God calls us to be.

We invite you to join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent. Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity. Each daily email will also have a section suggesting a weekly focus for the congregation. To sign on, visit <http://www.macucc.org/> and click on the Ecumenical Carbon Fast 2011 logo.

Next Stewardship Meeting, March 14 at 7pm.

After March, Stewardship will meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM

Ending on a good note with HOPEful Accolades

Thank you to the Special Person who donated the 2 high chairs! They are wonderful!

Thank you to those that made the new page markers for the hymnals. They look nice!

Thanks to Vivian, for having the tires on the wheel chair repaired.

Thank God we know that everyone is welcome at Hope-We may need to stretch a bit, but we can and must do it! –Margaret Debner

To the many who make sure others are taken care of and comfortable-Thank you.

I am so thankful for my Sunday school teachers! They make it so fun! –Kate Nus

If you have something great to say about Hope Church, write it on a pink HOPEful Accolade sheet found in each pew and place it in the offering plate. Or just call the office

MARCH 2011 Duty Schedule

Date	Liturgist	Friendship	Nursery	Scrip	SS Snacks	Snack Helper
3-6	Wooldridge	Hasler	R. Vial	Saylor	Evans	Rosendale
3-13	B. Daws	B. Thompson	Ogreen	Lander		Hatfield
3-20	G. Toomsen	Thoren	Grauberger	Krause	Wooldridge	Adams
3-27	R. Saylor	Urbanowski	S. Hatfield	Saylor	Hope Bakers	Hatcher

Head Usher: Cieslek

Communion Leader: Cordes

Ushers: Cordes, Mann, Strother, Classon, Garrison, Monska,

Greeters: Daws, Cieslek, Klima, Moretz, Kempel

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THE WINDOW

Vol. 11 No. 3

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

150 9th Avenue

HIAWATHA, IOWA 52233-1710

Office Phone (319) 393-2400

Fredrich Mellberg, Minister

Home- 363-6577

Worship 10:30 AM

Email: hopeucc@q.com

Web: <http://www.hope-ucc.com>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED