



The WINDOW

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



Thanksgiving Dinner Everyone is invited to join our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th.

We invite the people from the Abbey Center for a morning of worship followed with our Thanksgiving Feast .

See the signup sheets on the table in the narthex

Dear Friends and Members of Hope UCC,

The fall colors are beautiful. We have been truly blessed with enjoyable weather for almost all of October. I hope you had a chance to take it in. We are wonderfully busy here at Hope. There are many opportunities for ministry and working together.

On November 6th, the youth are doing a fund raiser for the "Freedom Journey" Mission trip to Memphis Tennessee. My goal in planning this event was to try to keep cost down and experiences high. My latest estimate is \$250 a person (which includes meals, housing, program, fees for admittance into Slave Haven and Civil Rights Museum). Mission Committee has committed a \$100 per person up to a \$1000. Thank you all for giving to missions and thanks to missions committee for helping us out. Before we leave, we will have a schedule of where we'll be and what we are doing, I would really appreciate you praying for us while we are traveling and while we are there. (November 21 - 26th) I have been on several youth and mission trips and for one or more of the youth they have been life-changing. I believe prayer makes a big difference in that happening.

Also, regarding this trip to Memphis. Do you have a van we can use? If you have a van that we can use, please call me (Pastor Sue) right away. The cost of rental is so high that it makes it difficult to raise enough money before the event. It is more possible for us if you have a van we can use, for us to rent a car for you to use while we are gone. We can try and work something out. Let me know. Thanks.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dorothy Fiet's family. On October 24th she passed on. Her Spirit, her love, the afterglow of her life remains with us. Sunday November 6th, we will be remembering all our Hope UCC members who have completed their lives of service to God. We will have a service of remembrance and celebration of the ministry here at Hope. If you have persons that were members of Hope that you want especially mentioned on this "All Saints Day" Celebration, please write them down and give them to me before the 6th, thanks.

There are many of our people that would appreciate our on-going prayers... especially, Dean Hatfield, Thelins, Betty Lewis, Boneata Kautz. Thanks to Cathy Evers for putting together notebooks for our search committee. She has undergone some medical procedures this week (as I write this). Please keep her in your prayers as well.

Thanks to Gwen Klima, our Hope Time Line and a table of pictures to have some fun with is for your viewing and for you to add your name to in the fellowship hall. Add when you joined Hope's family, when you or your children were baptized here, married here or confirmed here or all the above. Celebrate being a part of Hope's family.

There are some people who have mentioned that they are not getting mid-week news or the newsletter. Rather than tell me on Sunday morning where I may or may not remember to leave a note for Karen, please, please e-mail her. Let us know whether or not you get the newsletter and if you miss a week of mid-week news, e-mail Karen and she can resend it to you. The computer issues are getting resolved so we are hoping that you don't continue to have problems. All of us, me too, can take a step toward healthier communication. Thanks for your patience and consideration. Along those lines, we have a second phone line into the church.

The only access to the second line is in the pastor's study and church's office. This is needed for confidentiality purposes and will be needed for the search committee's phone interviews

(when that time comes). In the meantime, if you have a confidential matter to talk to me about call 319-393-1117.

Since I began, at least shortly after I arrived, several parents or other concerned adults have expressed unhappiness with the confirmation program at Hope. There are strong feelings and struggling going on. I currently have a Confirmation Pilot Project going on for this church to experience. It now seems apparent to me that we need a congregational conversation where our whole church can share, "vent", and generally talk about their experiences of confirmation. I really don't want us "problem solving" at least not yet. Please join us after worship, **November 13th** for this very important time of sharing.

Council and I are making arrangements for someone to come and lead us in a discernment process where concrete expectations regarding confirmation can be formed and specific direction as a church can be given that allows not only for our youth in middle school to benefit now, but also be clearer about where Hope is headed in the future for the next pastor to join the journey without so much unrest. The first available time for Angie (teaches all their confirmation classes at Plymouth UCC in Des Moines) is in January. She is willing to give her expert opinion but mostly will guide all interested people in a discernment process to find the "right" fit for Hope. In prayerful thought, it occurred to me though that if we don't have something for our youth after confirmation, then we are doing a disservice to them and the whole church. Nicole (Conference Staff person for Youth and Young Adult Ministries) could do a day long workshop for us to discern what we can do to have a ministry with and for youth and young adults. We currently have nothing up and running. Are we willing to commit an entire Saturday? If Angie came in January (for a half a day) to specifically work on confirmation, can we have Nichole come the end of February for a whole day to work with our youth and young adult ministry?

The faith retreats I have offered so far have all gone well. The last faith retreat connected our stories with that of others throughout history. Because some of our youth are going on our Freedom Journey trip to Memphis, I shared some stories of youth their age that were involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Some of them watched the movie, A Long Walk Home and I am asking our High School Youth to watch Mississippi Burning before we go. Our youth decorated a room for our younger children to go through at the Halloween Party. Thank you to Ruth Vial for staying the night with us, good to have another adult on the premises.

Mission 1 has been launched early. Though the National UCC is asking for the focus to be Nov 1 - 11 we have already begun to bring our food items. So please consider participating in this. It is nice to be a part of something bigger than Hiawatha and surrounding area ... even bigger than Iowa. Look for more information elsewhere in the newsletter on MISSION 1.

Christmas is a Sunday morning and of course that means New Year's Day is also. For our planning, if you can be here for worship those two Sundays, could you let me know? Some folk have talked about our not having services here. I am a bit uncomfortable with that, but if I am the only one here then it doesn't make sense to try and have a musician or taped music. We can make those days special, but a heads up would help a lot. Thanks. This is my first time through what has become "tradition" for Hope folk. I am used to having two Christmas Eve services, one around 6 or 6:30 p.m. that is geared toward children and a traditional candlelight service at 11:00 p.m. that ends at midnight with the singing of Silent Night. Is there a desire for this or do you want to go with one service at the usual time? Again, it really helps if you give us feedback. Thanks.

Thank you Paul Nus for helping the church as a whole use technology a little more effectively. Sometimes I am sure it is like leading a dinosaur with a dog rope. Thanks again.

May our love for God and one another continue to grow!

Pastor Sue



TRIVIA NIGHT!

Get your teams together for the **1st Annual Hope UCC Trivia Night!** The proceeds will benefit Hope Christian Ed. This event will be held **Friday, November 4th** with social hour at 6:30 pm and trivia beginning at 7:30.

What is a trivia night? It is a gathering of teams comprised of 8 adults (18+ please) working together to answer questions related to any topic on the planet. Our event will be hosted by Andrew Buck & John Nus and is sure to be a lot of fun! This is an event for all adults, so invite your neighbors, friends, coworkers, and family

wish to participate as a couple or individual, we will assemble a team for you.

Cost is \$10 per person (please pay that evening), which includes a sandwich, games, payouts for the top 3 teams and a

ARE YOU TIRED OF SOME OF YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS???

“Once Again Christmas” is fast approaching on December 3, 2011. Everyone’s help is needed in any big or small way to make this a huge success.

Bring your gently used, never used, Christmas ornaments, decorations lights, trees, garland, crafts, etc. to church ANYTIME FROM NOW TO NOVEMBER 30TH! (Mark your boxes or bags with “once again Christmas”)

Don’t have anything to donate? That’s ok; bring your favorite holiday baked goods, cookies, breads, candies, etc.

Don’t bake? That’s ok..Come and shop for new decor stocking stuffers or secret pals. Purchase the all new: “Hope on The Range” Cookbook, on sale starting December 3rd!

Contact: Lois Bennett, Fay Cieslek, or Rhonda Kaczinski with any questions, ideas or volunteering.

Come and enjoy and put yourself in the spirit.

Worship & Music

Happy Harvest Season Hope! The Worship & Music Committee has been busy preparing for many special services, beginning to explore options regarding our aging organ, and for Advent. This year, we will have a special All Saints service on Nov. 6th, remembering those who have gone before us from our Hope family of faith. Nov. 13th is the culmination of Mission 1, the UCC's largest mission undertaking ever! If you haven't already brought 11 non-perishable food items or basic household/hygiene supplies, there are still a couple of weeks left! Don't forget to write your offering checks for amounts ending in 11 cents! November 20th will be our Hope Thanksgiving, which is shared with the residents at Abbe Community Center...we've been told that around 30 residents will be joining us this year! Stay tuned for more details and to assist with transportation of folks to/from the Abbe. To supplement the , we are asking members and friends of Hope to bring ornaments starting on Nov. 27th, the first Sunday of Advent to be placed on a tree that will be representative of our Hope family. Bring an ornament to represent your own family, and bring one, if you wish, in memory of a Hope member or friend who is no longer with us. These ornaments will be up through Advent, and then you may take them home. November is a very busy month, and with the Youth Mission Trip during Thanksgiving week, we have had to get creative with timing our holiday church decorating. We invite everyone to stay after church on Nov. 27th to join in a time of shared celebration & work to prepare our physical space as well as our hearts for the birth of Jesus. We will have some snacks available, and everyone is welcome to share the blessing of their Thanksgiving leftovers...you know, all the turkey, sweet potatoes, and green bean casserole that you can't bear to throw out, but know you won't finish it all yourself! :) Don't stress over preparations for a potluck or formal meal...this is meant to be a fun time and our focus is on donning the halls with boughs of holly and tinsel and lights, not the food!!! Many hands make for light work; we'd love to have you participate!!! We'll have more updates after our next meeting. We'd love to have you at our meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 8th at 7pm! Come to help us plan for Advent and beyond!!!



Namaste.

Karla Grauberger, Worship & Music Chair



Mission Moments for November 2011

MANY THANKS once again for your generosity toward Harrison School, Crossroads Mission, and Lions eyeglass recycling. Some needs have been met and new needs have arisen.
Harrison: NO mittens, hats, scarves at this time. NEED bike locks, lip balm, and hand lotion
Crossroads Mission: NEED adult gloves, socks, razors, personal size toiletries, jackets, and blankets
Lions continue to collect used eyeglasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries. Last year the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions collected over 3000 pairs of glasses--900 pairs went directly to Nigeria and 600 pairs were shipped to Sierra Leone. Blessings from the Mission Committee

MISSION 1--a million pounds of food from churches all over the U.S.

Hope UCC is doing its share to feed the hungry by donating foods from October 30-November 13. The Sunday school children are donating \$.11 each and collecting 11 items of food to add to the huge pile of groceries that will fill the sanctuary.

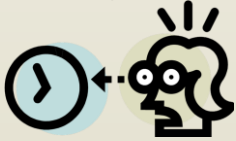
Using the theme H-O-P-E pick up items at the grocery store that begin with those letters; **H**=Hot cereal, Hamburger Helper, Honeycomb cereal; **O**= Oatmeal, Orzo, Cheerios, SpaghettiOs, dried Onions, Olive oil; **P**= Peanut butter, Pears, Peaches, Pasta, Pasta sauce, Protein; and **E**= Elbow macaroni, Everything else such as canned meat, Chili, Tuna, Spam, Stew, powdered milk, salt, sugar, flour, and cleaning products.

Sunday, November 13 will be Neighbors in Need Sunday. I think we all know the needs are great here and around the world. The earthquake in Turkey is just one event that can use our donations. Please be as generous as you are able.



ATTENTION...

Set your clocks back
Saturday night Nov. 5th



and
come join us on Sunday
Nov. 6th from 9:00 a.m. –
10:15 a.m. for a



pancake breakfast
sponsored by Hope
middle and high school
kids. Free will donations
will be accepted and the
proceeds will go to help
defray costs associated
with the “Freedom
Journey” mission trip to
Memphis, Tennessee
Nov. 21st – Nov. 26th.
We look forward to
seeing you at breakfast
on Sunday, November
6th.

“ADOPT A PLOT” PROGRAM TO START IN JANUARY AT HOPE

The Membership Enrichment Committee is beginning a program at Hope that will help us beautify the exterior of our building. In November and December, you can sign up for a chance to Adopt a Plot at Hope for 2012 growing season. Caretakers of the plots will be announced in January at the annual meeting.

There are 5 areas that will be up for adoption:

- 1. Area under sign on 10th avenue**
- 2. Area under sign by garage**
- 3. 2 planters at steps**
- 4. 2 planters at doors**
- 5. Area under Pastor’s window**

Hope members who “Adopt a Plot”, will be responsible for planting in the spring, weeding and watering through the summer, and cleaning up their adopted area in the fall. During the adoption period, the family/person’s name will be posted in the plot that they have adopted. For example, a marker may read “This garden has been adopted by the John Wayne family for 2012”.

In late summer, we may even have a “garden tour” of the plots and planters to celebrate the Gardening Parents’ hard work. It will be fun to take pride in our Hope yard!

In January of 2013, a new group of people will be chosen to take care of these plots. The objective of this program is to beautify the outside of Hope, one little space at a time.

Membership Enrichment Committee News

Save the date for Membership Recognition Sunday which will be held on Sunday, January 22nd (same day as the annual meeting). We'll recognize all Hope members and their years of membership.

Membership and Secretary Karen Seltrecht are working on a directory update. If you know that you need to update any of your contact info (address, phone, e-mail etc), please send corrections to Kayla Buck or Karen in the church office.

Welcome to our newest members, Eric & Charlotte Butikofer and their children Aaron & Andrew and Cindi Ohrt. Wyatt Dagit will also be joining in November. Please get to know these great new additions to Hope!

Don't forget to turn in your photo (5x7 or smaller) to the church office. A bulletin board of Hope members and families will be going up soon!



REVISED PRAYER CHAIN

The prayer chain is being revised to add to the list. Any question contact either Linda Toomsen 395-9329 or Lois Bennett 393-8997.

Linda Toomsen
Betty Venus
Vivian Martin
Ben Daws
Linda Richards
Laura Ogreen
Ryan & Karla Grauberger

Lois Bennett
Irene Fay
Donna Hines
Marlene Hunt
Denise Mineck
Betty Hohensee
Ginny Yossi

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

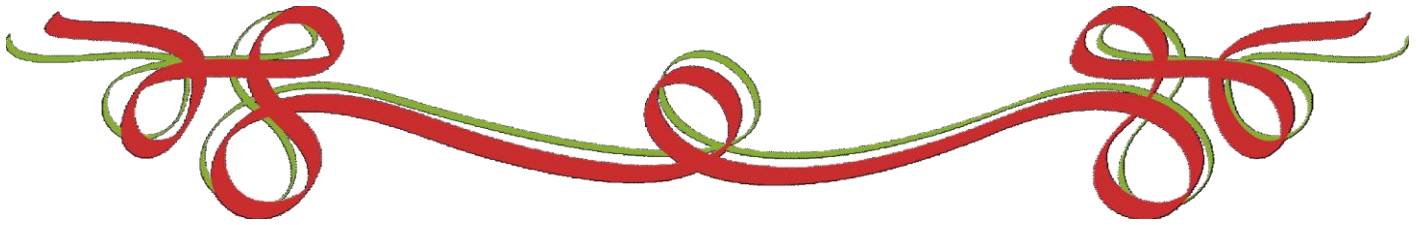
Sunday, November 13 will be Neighbors in Need Sunday. I think we all know the needs are great here and around the world. The earthquake in Turkey is just one event that can use our donations. Please be as generous as you are able.

Friendship Committee Report

Sunday, November 13, a silent auction, fund raiser, will start with bids on the various baskets, etc. The proceeds will go towards the organ fund. The bidding will cease Sunday, December 11th. Sunday, November 20th, we will help with serving Thanksgiving dinner to our guests from Abbe Center and Hope church family as well.
Betty Hohensee, Chair

The Search Committee is underway so please keep them in your prayers;

Chad Ludovissy, Andrew Buck, Melena Urbanowski, Erin Cordes, Viv Martin, Betty Hohensee, Gary Toomsen and Bob Cieslek



Christmas Shopping with Scrip

It's hard to believe but Christmas is coming up fast. If you give gift cards for Christmas, please check with the scrip table to see if we have or can get the gift cards you want. That way your gift does double duty – it makes the recipient happy, and it adds money to the church's scrip account. Several merchants have special offers at this time of year, so a higher percentage of the purchase price ends up in our scrip account. None have started just yet, but we'll list current ones at the scrip table and in the next newsletter.

And you don't HAVE to give away the cards. You can also use them yourself, like cash, to do your Christmas shopping. Again the card does double duty. You spend money you would anyway, and the church's scrip account adds a few dollars.

Scrip program pay back example:

You buy a \$25 card for Barnes & Noble. You get the FULL VALUE of \$25 at Barnes & Noble to use whenever you would like and however you would like. Barnes & Noble gives Hope 9% of the \$25 you purchased. This means that Hope gets \$2.25 because you purchased this card through the scrip program! Easy money for Hope!!

Maybe \$2.25 doesn't sound like much, but if 10 people buy \$25 Barnes & Noble cards from scrip, Hope now gets \$22.50!! It can really add up. And if Barnes & Noble has a special offer, that amount could increase even more!!

If you shop at Kohl's, it is the only merchant that allows you to pay your charge account using gift cards. It's a little inconvenient since you have to go to the customer service desk to pay but it earns the church 4% of the value of the cards you buy. Now that many merchants have reinstated layaway, you may be able to use scrip gift cards to make those payments. It would be best to check with the individual store first.

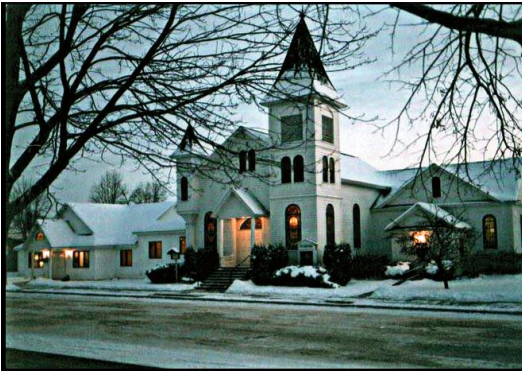
Also, due to federal legislation in the past couple of years, gift cards are no longer allowed to expire. So if you've avoided them in the past for that reason, be assured that they will still be good if you happen to forget about them for a while.

So please consider using scrip cards for at least some of your Christmas shopping or giving. If you'd like a list of cards that is pertinent to this area and/or online, please stop by the scrip table before or after Sunday service. And please remember that if we have to order something for you, we need at least a week notice.

Hope Happenings.... news from your Hope Friends!

Ann Bromley had a total right hip replacement on September 29, and is doing well.

Our sympathies Boneata Kautz in loss of her son Jim and to Gilbert & Norma Thoren in the loss of Gilberts brother Ralph. And to the family of Dorothy Fiet who passed away on October 24th.



My Sunday School Church was in Bloomer Wisconsin, up in the Northwest corner of the state.

Perhaps a project such as this would be worth pursuing, by either Do you have a picture of the church you grew up in?

Robert Ghering

HOPEful Accolades!

Thanks to the voices in the choir!

Kudos to the committee who provided the beautiful fall decorations on the altar

Serving Hope in November 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Friendship</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Scrip</u>
11/6	R. Grauberger	Neumann	I. Faye & L. Bennett	Saylor
11/13	M. Garrison	Knapper	T. & T. Brendes	Krause
11/20	A. Evans	D. & A. Grywell	D. & A. Gruwell	Lander
11/27	A. Gruwell	Evans	D. & J. Neumann	Saylor

Head Usher: Bill and Becky Thompson

Communion Leader: Margaret Debner

Ushers/Greeters: Bill, Becky & Rachel Thompson, Margaret Debner, Vicki Brendes, Betty Venis, Larry & Peggy Knapper, Garry Knapper, Melody Knapper, Vayla Waddington, Bob Burget, Bob & Kathy Lander.

Serving Hope in December 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Friendship</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Scrip</u>
12/4	D. Wooldridge	Meier	B. & R. Thompson	Krause
12/11	J. Nus	Kotalik	S. & C. Rosendale	Lander
12/18		D. Hatfield	A. & A. Evans	Saylor
12/25	G. Sohl	Classon	S. & C. Rosedale	Krause

Head User: Lloyd & Betty Hoensee

Communion Leader: Dan & Cathy Evers

Ushers & Greeters: Don & Stephanie Rosendale, Mark & Angie Lehman, Alice Anderson, Laura Ogreen, Lloyd & Betty Hohensee, Dan & Cathy Evers, Jesse & Melena Urbanowski, Lavern & Donna Hines, Julie & Chad Ludovissy

Sunday school 9 AM
 Worship 10: 30 AM
 Email: hopeucc@q.com
 Web: <http://www.hope-ucc.com>
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



God is Still Speaking