



MARCH, 2024 VOLUME 30 ISSUE 3

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# Hope

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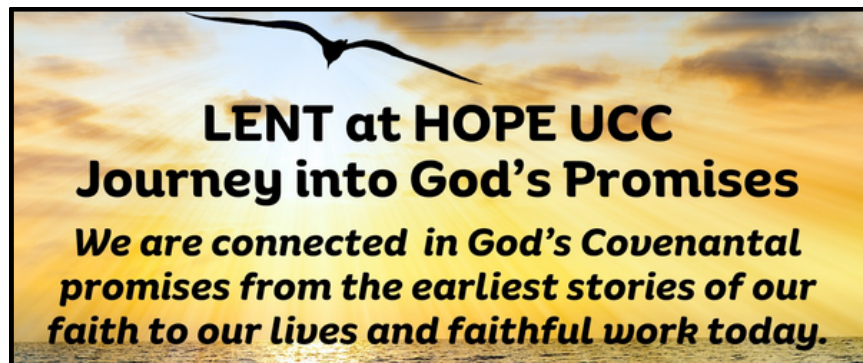
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### Lent at Hope UCC – Journey into God's Promises

You all know how much I love the season of Lent. It is only surpassed by my love of Easter. As people of faith, the beauty and surprise and hope-filled message of promise of Jesus's resurrection is foundational in our faith formation and journey. This is why Lent is so important. It is during Lent that we prepare for the great mystery and joyful celebration of Jesus's resurrection. Easter by itself is a beautiful and profound experience, yes, but this story is deepened in its meaning for us by walking with Jesus and his friends on Jesus's journey to the cross – our shared Lenten journey. Lent is the season that invites us to look at our lives to see how we can more closely follow God. We pray, we study the Bible, we reach out to others who need our help, and we focus on what we need instead of what we want. During Lent, we move forward together, from lightness into a space of decreasing light, yet staying focused on the Light that will always glow, leading us forward to live into God's word in our lives.

This month we will continue to explore the promises of God – ancient promises that can still be found and made real and true today in our modern lives of faith. We are reminded that these promises are timeless and our faith and spiritual journeys are magnified through them. I hope you find your place in these stories of faith and awesome mystery as you continue your Lenten journey.

Together in the journey,  
Pastor Santina





# Holy Week at Hope UCC

*There will be no Wednesday night soup dinner or Taize Prayer Service during Holy Week*

## **Palm Sunday, March 24 "The Promise Comes to Us"**

10:00 A.M.: Our worship service will focus on the story of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem

## **Maundy Thursday, March 28 "Promise of Remembrance"**

6:00 P.M. Fellowship Meal in Fellowship Hall

A communal dinner of soup, salad, and bread will be served that will transition into the service of Holy Communion around our tables.

6:45 P.M. Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service in Fellowship Hall

Hear the words of betrayal as candles are extinguished. We will move outside for the conclusion of the service around a fire ring (weather permitting).

**\*\*If you choose not to come to dinner, please arrive by 6:30 in order to participate in Holy Communion.**

## **Good Friday, March 29 "Sorrow-Filled Promise"**

6:30 P.M. We will gather in the sanctuary to reflect on the story of the events following the arrest of Jesus. We will reflect on the story using visual imagery, scripture, hymns, and prayer.

## **Easter Sunday, Sunday March 31 "The Promise of New Beginnings"**

6:30 A.M. Easter Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden

Bundle up for this informal service which is a beautiful time to celebrate our risen Savior! Holy Communion will be shared.

10:00 A.M. Easter Celebration Service

Our most joyful service of the year. Plan to invite friends and family to celebrate! Holy Communion will be shared.



### Wednesday Evening Gathering: Soup Dinner and Taize Prayer Service During Lent

We hope you will join us March 6, 13, & 20 for a light soup dinner and Taize prayer service. We will serve dinner from 5:30-6:00 and the service will begin at 6:00 P.M. Thank you to Mary Tallitsch and our Bell Choir for adjusting their start time to 7:00 P.M. to accommodate this program.

A Taizé service is a meditative prayer service that combines elements of traditional liturgy (reading scripture & prayers) with elements of contemplative meditation and simple musical chants. The result is a gradual movement of prayer moving from our heads to our hearts. Not sure about this? Come and give it a try! It's Lent – let yourself be open to new faith development opportunities.



### **March Birthdays**

Eleanor J. Niska	March 03
Carole Keenan	March 04
Debbie Duke	March 08
Robert Rada	March 15
Brian Hawotte	March 16
Kathy Hobson	March 17
Deana Reed	March 21
Elizabeth Carvey	March 22
Barbara Hawotte	March 22
Stacy Demarest	March 24
Kathy Negaard	March 29
Elaine Guy	March 31

*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.*

### March Scriptures

**March 3:** Ex 20:1-17, Psalm 19, John 2:13-22

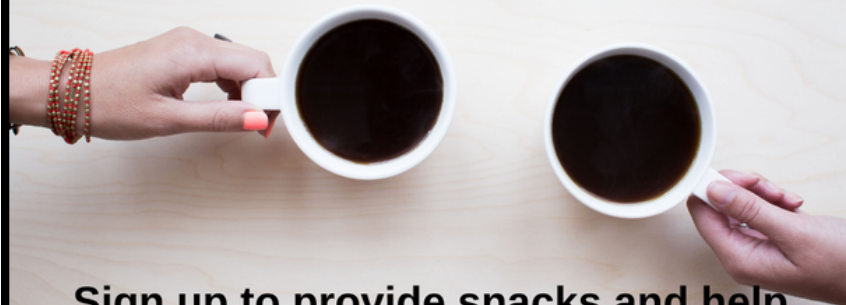
**March 10:** Psalm 107, Eph 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

**March 17:** Jer 31:31-34, Psalm 51, John 12:20-33

**March 24:** Psalm 118, Mark 11:1-11

**March 31:** Psalm 118, Joh 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

### **Coffee Fellowship Hour- Volunteers Welcome!**



**Sign up to provide snacks and help  
set up and clean up.  
Your help is greatly appreciated!  
Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.**



# open Door March dates

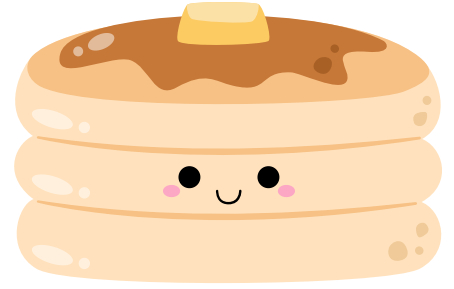
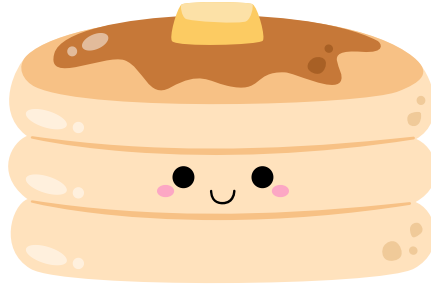
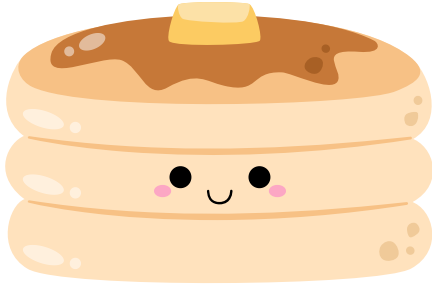
**MARCH  
3RD, 10TH, 17TH & 24TH  
FROM 2-4PM @  
STARBUCKS  
931 MIDDLE RD  
BETTENDORF, IA 52722**

*No ODYG on March 31st  
Happy Easter!*

## See you there!

**Men's Breakfast Fellowship Saturday, March 2 at 8:00 A.M.**

Let's restart this time together and let someone else do the cooking. We'll meet at at Deerfield Family Restaurant in Silvis at 8:00 a.m. Please see Josh Powell for more information.



**Reel Theology March 8**

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

Honestly, who tells a Bible story better than the talented writers, actors, singers, and dancers of Broadway??

Join us to watch, sing along, and discuss the Broadway musical adaptation of the story of Joseph and his 11 brothers and their many issues and ultimate reunion. This will be a fun night for all ages as we watch Donny Osmond sing and dance his way through Joseph's story. Singing along is encouraged! If you would like to eat together before the film, please bring your own dinner at 5:30. The film will begin at 6:00 with the discussion to follow.



**Hope UCC Book Club March 25**

**Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool**

Join the Hope UCC Book Club at 6:00 P.M. in the church Conference Room to discuss Moon Over Manifest. This novel is powerful in its simplicity and rich in historical detail and is a gripping story of loss and redemption. It follows the story of a young woman learning about her family as she hops trains in Depression-era America. Please see Dorothy Burdick for more information.





### **Help Keep the Blessing Box Stocked!**

Can you spare a few minutes to help our neighbors? Sign up to help restock the Blessing Box in front of Hope UCC? It doesn't take much time at all and it makes a BIG difference in the lives our friends and neighbors. Please see Julie Bustard for more information or Kathy Hobson to sign up. Thank you!!



### **One Great Hour of Sharing 2024 Special Offering March 17 - "Share the Light"**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering invites us to support disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS our denomination engages in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Hope UCC will take this special offering during worship on March 17 (but you can make a donation any time). Please indicate "OGHS" on your check memo or your donation envelope. Thank you!

