



# Hope

## United Church of Christ

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DONNA WERNER

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MINISTER OF MUSIC

GREG ETZEL,

MINISTER OF MUSIC

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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RELATIONS/PERSONNEL

### MINISTRY

REV. SANTINA POOR

DONNA WERNER

JENNY HOOKEY

BOB TALLITSCH

### LET US SEEK THE LIGHT

I hope and pray that as you read this note you are still feeling the love and joy expressed and shared at our Thanksgiving service on November 24. It was a beautiful culmination of our Imagine Together worship series because it was a living testimony to the importance and reality of each of the themes we explored during that series: Enough for Everyone, Healing Love, Being Made Whole, Vitality & Spiritual Growth, and Awe. If you were able to join us for the delicious lunch following worship, these themes were experienced in abundance too.

Every Sunday as I stand up to begin worship with all who are gathered online and on site, I am in awe of God's presence within this worship space. Everything else – the worries, stresses, distractions, fears, and doubts – they get to take a rest. The Holy Spirit has other plans for us at 10:00 as we begin worship together, and I am thankful for her presence within and among us all.

This month we begin a new season in the church year: Advent. Sunday, December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent and together we will focus on *light* as we take this journey preparing for the arrival and return of God with Us – Emmanuel. Our worship series, *Let Us Seek the Light*, will explore the the following themes through scripture, reflections, prayer, and song:

Dec. 1: Prepare the Light of Hope

Dec. 8: Passionately Carry the Light of Peace

Dec. 15: Be Present to the Light of Joy

Dec. 22 Hold Fast and Proclaim the Promise of the Light of Love

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: Receive the Light of Emmanuel: God with Us!

Jan. 5: Follow the Light

*(continued on next page)*



**Let Us Seek the Light** (continued)

As I prepare for Advent this year and reflect on our worship theme, I am drawn in to reflect on the words of the hymn, Come O Come Emmanuel, particularly verse 6:

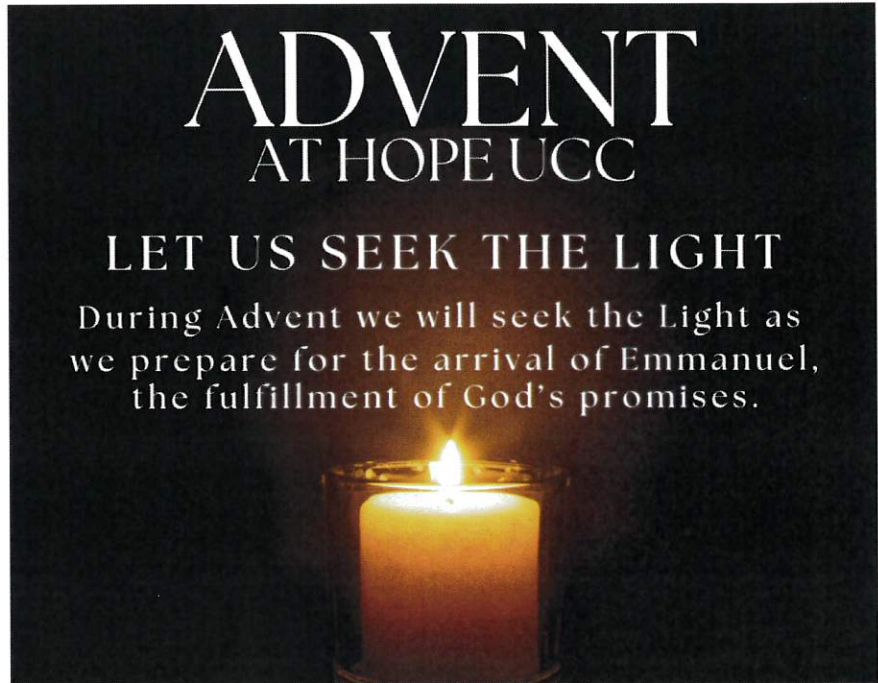
*O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.*

We look forward to sharing this special and meaningful season with you as together, we seek the light of love that is so very close to each one of us.

Advent blessings to you all,  
Pastor Santana



**All Church Thanksgiving Lunch - Thank You!!**

Thank you so much to the kitchen crew who made our All Church Thanksgiving Lunch such a special feast and time of fellowship. Marcella, Julie, Judy H., Caridad, & Kathy Lewis are truly kitchen magicians coordinating, planning, cooking, and serving this delicious lunch to all of us. We are so grateful for your stewardship of this event. Thank you all for staying and enjoying this time together.



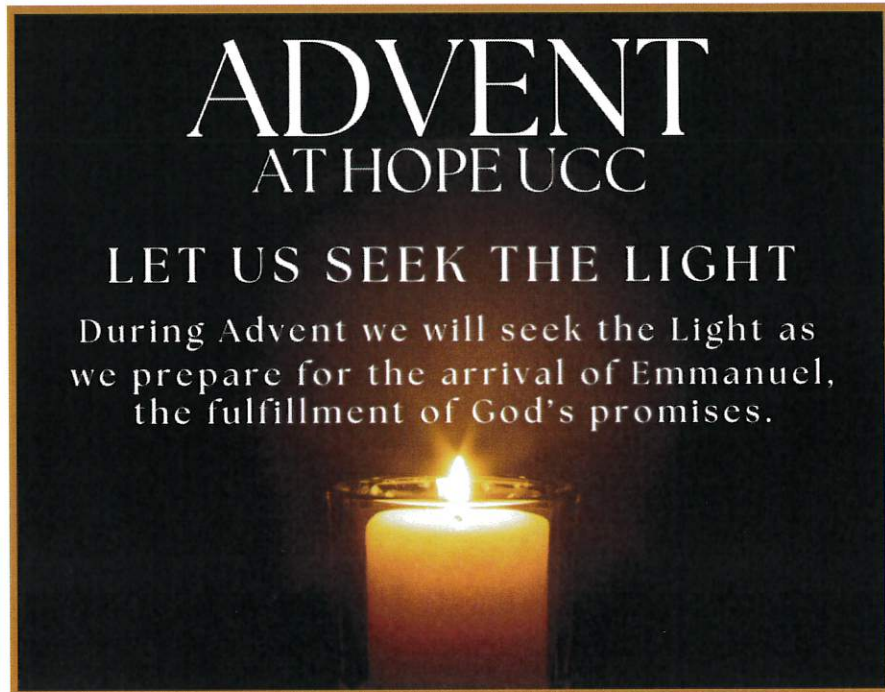
## **Advent at Hope UCC**

December 1: Prepare the Light of Hope Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Luke 21:25-36

December 8: Passionately Carry the Light of Peace Malachi 3:1-4, Phil 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

December 15: Be Present to the Light of Joy Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Phil 4:4-7

December 22: Hold Fast and Proclaim the Promise of the Light of Love Micah 5:2-5a,  
Luke 1:39-55



### **Christmas Eve Services at Hope UCC**

#### **Receive the Light of Emmanuel: God with Us!**

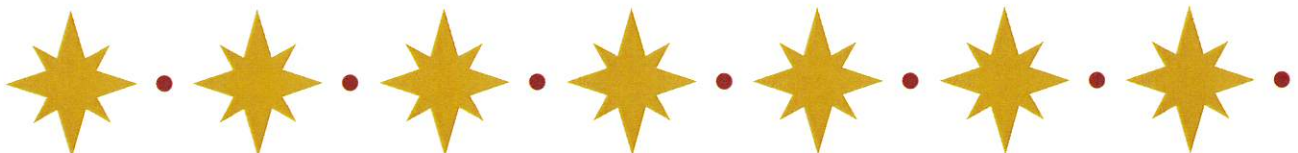
Please join us for either or both of our services on Tuesday, December 24 as we celebrate Christmas Eve together.

2:00 P.M. Candlelight and Communion

This is a traditional service with hymns, message, and sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion together.

5:00 P.M. Lessons and Carols and Candles

This service of Lessons and Carols will feature many Christmas hymns that we will sing together as well as special music from our Handbell Choir and vocal choir, interspersed with the scripture readings from both the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament that tell the story of the promises and arrival and anticipated return of the Messiah. We will conclude by singing Silent Night together as we share the Light that has come to us.





### Advent Reflections Books Available

Thank you to Sara for collecting and putting together our 2024 Advent Reflections Book! Each day is a special treat that has been offered for us to read and ponder during the Season of Advent. If you are not able to pick one up at church, please let the church office know you need one delivered via US Mail. We will get them out this week!

### December & January Newsletter

This month we are combining the December and January newsletters. Since we get a little busy at the end of December in the church office, we thought we'd try out a combination newsletter so we don't forget to put January's together (yes, that has happened!). Thank you for letting us try something different this month.

### Thank You for Your Support of the Fall Harvest Project for 'Charley's Pantry'

Thank you all so much for your support of our Fall Harvest Project. Your donations to Charley's Pantry were amazing and greatly appreciated by the families that received the much needed groceries. Nurse Heather was able to connect 15 families at Rock Island Academy with the groceries they need to stay filled and nourished during the Thanksgiving break. Food insecurity is an on-going crisis for children all over the United States; what a blessing to be able to help alleviate a small fraction of that insecurity for children in our neighborhood. We will continue our support of Nurse Heather's food initiative in the months to come, and we are grateful for your support.



### Thank You!!

A big thank you to Dan Hawotte, Dean Herbst, and Bob Church for their stewardship of Hope UCC's grounds and building. The well-lit parking lot and beautiful green spaces continue to create a welcoming campus that lets everyone who comes onto our grounds that Hope UCC is cared for and that we care about the people who are using and gathering in the building. When the weather is decent you will see Dan, Dean, and Bob flexing their landscaping skills, but now that the weather is getting colder, they've made sure the campus is ready for the colder, snowy temperatures. Thank you so much Dan, Dean, and Bob!





### **Grief Support Group**

**December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:00 P.M.**

Save the date and join us for 3 gatherings at Hope UCC in December where we will share our grief journeys. We will come together for a gentle time to remember and honor our experiences with grief. Grief comes to us in many shapes and forms and is caused by all types of loss and hurt. If you have experienced loss and would find this time together helpful, please join us. Also, please share this information and invitation with someone you know who might find comfort in a short term group like this. Please contact Pastor Santana with any questions.

### **Advent Angel Tree for Family Resources**

This year our Advent Angel Tree will be focused on the needs of a family of four who are clients of Family Resources here in the Quad Cities. Family Resources provides important services to our neighbors in the Quad Cities and have offices on both sides of the River. They provide free, confidential services to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, human trafficking, homicide, and other violent crime. Social workers on their staff coordinate comprehensive care for these individuals and families with housing and domestic support, mental health counseling and related services, foster care and adoptions connections, and ongoing support for children in the foster care system.

Please take a tag from the tree in Fellowship Hall that lists an item for one of our family members. Monetary donations in support of the Angel Tree are also welcome. Please note "Angel Tree" on the memo line or on the envelope and your donation will be used to purchase items for this family. All gifts must be unwrapped and please make sure you attach your Angel Tree tag to the gift. We will need all gifts back to Hope UCC no later than Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your support of the Advent Angel Tree.







### Christmas Eve Choir

**All voices welcome!** Are you interested in being part of our Christmas Eve vocal choir? We will offer an anthem at our 5:00 P.M. service on Christmas Eve. Please contact Greg or Laurel to let them know you're ready to "...join the chorus! - fa la la la la, la la la la!"

Greg: gregory.etzel@gmail.com

Laurel: Laurel.Filzen@gmail.com

## Youth Group Confirmation

December Schedule

### 1ST

- 12:30 - 2PM CONFIRMATION @ HOPE UCC
- 2 - 4PM OWL-PERSONAL CONCERNS ABOUT PUBERTY (7TH - 10TH GRADE ONLY)

### 8TH

- 12:30 - 2PM CONFIRMATION @ HOPE UCC
- 2 - 4PM VIBRANT COFFEEHOUSE BETTENDORF (LINDSEY WILL DRIVE YOUTH TO COFFEEHOUSE)

### 15TH

- 12:30 - 2PM CONFIRMATION @ HOPE UCC
- 2 - 4PM OWL-BODY IMAGE (7TH - 10TH GRADE ONLY)

### 22ND

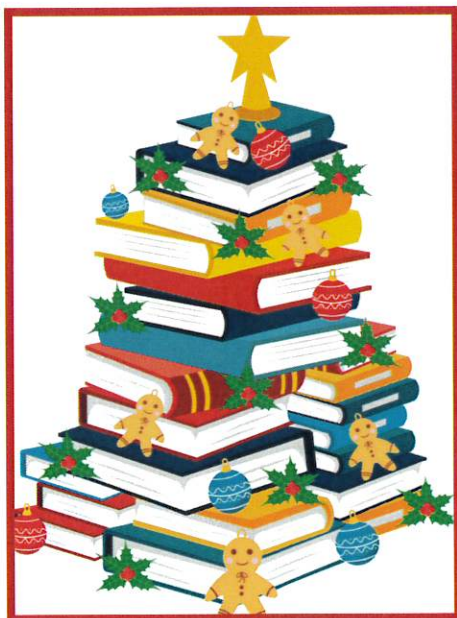
- NO EVENTS

### 29TH

- NO CONFIRMATION
- 2 - 6PM SERVING AT CHRISTIAN CARE (LINDSEY WILL DRIVE YOUTH TO CHRISTIAN CARE)

*See you there!*

PS-COFFEEHOUSE SUNDAYS 6TH-12TH GRADE



### Gifts of Books: A Ruth Circle Christmas Extravaganza!

December 23rd at 1:00 P.M.

Spring Valley Community Center

Everyone is welcome to join Ruth Circle for the great Gifts of Books Christmas Extravaganza on December 23. During the Holiday Party at Spring Brook and Spring Valley Community Center, our Ruth Circle group provides a huge variety of books for readers of all ages. We could not do this without our wonderful donors of these books – thank you!. The children at the party can come and pick out books to give as gifts. They get wrapped up and the kids can then take them to the people on their gift list. Volunteers are needed to help kids pick out their books and also to get the books wrapped up in holiday paper the day of the event.

Any "Extravaganza" will need help to get ready! Your help is appreciated on Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. to set up the books. We will meet in Spring Valley's Community Room for the book set up and go for lunch when we finish. Please contact Barb Hawotte with any questions about this fun and meaningful event

## **Ruth Circle News**

December: Please make sure you join in the preparations and/or the Book Extravaganza!

January: Regular meeting on Monday, January 20 at 1:00 p.m. at Hope UCC

February: Save the Date of February 17 for our Olive Garden outing. We will meet at Olive Garden in Moline at 5:30. Bring a friend!

## **Men's Breakfast December 7 and January 4**

Join us for breakfast as Deerfield Family Restaurant in Silvis on the first Saturday each month at 8:00 A.M. Please see Josh Powell for more information

## **Please Keep Our Confirmands in Your Daily Prayers**

We have a great group of young people discerning and learning (and teaching this Pastor!) all about their faith and spiritual journeys. What a special time in their lives and what a special time in our faith community at Hope UCC. Please keep them in your prayers as they work throughout the year confirming their faith together.

Our Confirmands this year are:

- Kendall Johnson & mentor Judy Hawotte
- Eli Powell & mentor Julie Bustard
- Emily Campbell and mentor Caridad Ramos
- Selah Filzen Etzel and mentor Bek Svetlick
- Evelyn Smith and mentor Barb Hawotte
- Kinley Sederquist and mentor Audrey Sederquist (Kinley attends Church of Peace UCC with whom we are partnering with for Confirmation)



## **December 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.*

Joanne Bowman December 02

Kim Beug December 03

Lewis Poor December 11

John Anderson December 16

David Birdsell December 20

Eric Leuth December 20

JoAnn Olson December 27

Karla Hawotte December 29



## **Hope UCC Annual Meeting Sunday, January 26**

Please plan to stay for Hope UCC's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26 following worship. We will discuss and vote to approve Hope UCC's 2024 Annual Report and our 2025 Proposed Budget. These will be available for preview prior to the Annual Meeting. All are welcome to stay for the meeting: EVERYONE has voice in these meetings, however, members of Hope UCC may vote.

Reports for the Annual Report are due to Connie in the church office by January 17th. Thank you!



## **Office Holiday Schedule**

Hope UCC's office will be closed December 24-26 and December 31-January 2. Office will also be closed Monday, January 20 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



## **Epiphany Sunday January 5**

Epiphany is celebrated on the 12th day of Christmas which, this year, falls on Monday, January 6. We will celebrate it in church together on Sunday, January 5. On Epiphany we celebrate the light that is revealed through Jesus's birth. The scripture text associated with this celebration is Matthew 2:1-12 which tells the story of the Magi's visit to Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. As has been our annual tradition, we will again celebrate Epiphany by receiving Star Words for the New Year.

Star Words are a spiritual tool to help guide us through the year. Star Words are available for everyone – young and old. Keep the star word close all year and use it as a spiritual practice to let the word guide your prayers and bring you into a new conversation with God. Trust that your word will have something to offer, some new understanding or insight for you this year. Watch and see how the word appears and makes itself known to you in different ways. Perhaps keep a journal to hold your reflections and the epiphanies that come from this spiritual practice. We will receive our Star Words during worship on January 5th.

Star Words will be available throughout January, and we are happy to mail them to anyone not able to be in the area this month. Simply notify the church office via email, phone, call, Facebook Messenger, or let Pastor Santina know you would like to have one mailed to you – please provide an address so we can get it to you.

Hope Grows as we follow the Light into the new year.





### **Hope UCC Book Club**

The Book Club does not meet in December but will meet on January 27. Bring your favorite book to share and discuss. Please contact Dorothy Burdick for more information.

### **Imagine Together: Hope UCC Stewardship 2025**

We thank you all for your participation in our ongoing Stewardship of Hope UCC's mission. This community of faith has a long history of caring for others as we live into God's call to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. This is a call that continues today and will for years to come. As we complete our financial planning for the new year, we are grateful for your commitment to support the work of your faith community, Hope UCC, through your pledge. For those who have completed and returned your pledge card, thank you! **For those who are still discerning how you might support Hope UCC, we invite you to return your pledge card now. Our Church Council will be preparing our proposed budget for your vote at our Annual Meeting in January and your information is vital in our planning. We also look forward to receiving your "Sharing Our Gifts" survey sheet letting us know how you envision participating in the many ministry opportunities at Hope UCC.** As we continue to Imagine Together the many ways we will serve God in this new year, we continue to thank God for each one of you. Together Hope Grows!

### **New Directory and Congregation Information Collection!**

We need to update our files and information about you all! You will find a paper-based information sheet to fill out and return to the Hope UCC office OR you can scan this QR Code which will take you to an electronic version that can be filled out and automatically returned to the office. Questions? Please contact Connie in the church office. Thank you!





**HOPE UCC COMMUNICATION PREFERENCE SURVEY**

**Please help us get an all inclusive look at the preferences for communication within Hope UCC. Please complete the information and return to the church office: drop off, mail in, or scan and email to office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

We will ask for information for additional family members living at this address later in this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number (Circle one: Mobile or Land Line): \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES**

We will address communication preferences for several types of church notifications for quick and inclusive notification. (These definitions will be used for all communication preference sections.)

Definitions:

Automated: Looking at opportunity for an automated mass communication platform that could notify the congregation in multiple methods quickly.

Text message: - either personal or automated (mass) text to cell phone

Phone Call - Personal: A representative of the Church will make individual calls to the preferred phone number (traditional method used at Hope)

Phone Call - Automated: This would be a call initiated through an automated mass communication platform

News Letter: Current News Letter

Email: Sent to your personal email address from a Church representative

Snail Mail: Notification sent via USPS to your address

Preferred method for General Church Business Communication: Please circle top choice

- Text Message
- Phone Call - personal
- Phone Call - automated (if it were available)
- News Letter
- Email
- Snail Mail
- Other:

Preferred method for Prayer Chain Communication: Please circle top choice

- Text Message
- Phone Call -personal
- Phone Call -automated
- News Letter
- Email
- Snail Mail
- Other:

Preferred method for LAST MINUTE Change to service or program (ie. service canceled due to weather)

- Text Message
- Phone Call - personal
- Phone Call -automated
- Email
- Other:



**HOPE COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY CONTINUED**

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER(S) LIVING AT THIS ADDRESS (or children attending with you)

Please complete for every additional member

Additional Member at This Address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Member at This Address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Member at This Address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

May we include your contact information in the church directory?

Please circle and answer accordingly:

Yes – all is fine to include

Yes, but only the following information: \_\_\_\_\_

No, but you may keep my info on file for office use only.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. We will compile the information and make plans moving forward.**

**Please complete the information and return to the church office: drop off, mail in, or scan and email to [office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com](mailto:office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com)**



# January

## Hope United Church of Christ

# 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>01</b> NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b> 8am Men's Fellowship Deerfield Family Restaurant/Silvis
<b>05</b> 10am Worship Service with Communion Livestream & In Person 12pm Confirmation Class 2pm OWL	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b> 10am Lectionary	<b>08</b> 1pm M & O Birthday: Walter Lysell	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b> Birthday: Brian Williams	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10am Worship Service Livestream & In Person 12pm Confirmation Class 2pm Open Door Youth	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10am Lectionary 12:30pm Trustees	<b>15</b> 10am WAM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10am Worship Service Livestream & In Person 12pm Confirmation Class 2pm Open Door Youth	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 11:30am Visitation Committee	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Church Council	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Birthday: Dorothy Burdick
<b>26</b> 10am Worship Service Livestream & In Person 12pm Confirmation Class 2pm Open Door Youth Hope UCC Annual Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10am Lectionary Birthday: Becky Newton	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>01</b>