



Hope UCC Weekly Update: January 11, 2026

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.

Save the Date for Hope's Annual Meeting on January 25

Please plan to stay for Hope UCC's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25 following worship. We will discuss and vote to approve Hope UCC's 2025 Annual Report and our 2026 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 18th. Thank you!

New Ministry Opportunity! Monthly Dinner at Christian Care

For the past few years, Hope UCC has prepared and served dinner for our neighbors at Christian Care on the 5th Sunday of the month. After witnessing the importance of this program and discerning our ability to increase our participation in it, we are excited to be able to now provide dinner on the 3rd Sunday of the month, beginning January 18. We will have a sign up sheet available for volunteering for this great opportunity. We have lots of information about recipes for a crowd and our 2026 Mission and Outreach budget has increased to reflect this ministry and the costs associated with it so that ingredients for the meal will be covered. Thank you for hearing God's Spirit calling you to care for our neighbors!

Welcome to Our Friends from World Relief Citizenship Classes!

Beginning this month, we are thrilled to welcome a group of neighbors into our building who are working on their US Citizenship. Through a program offered through World Relief QC, this free class provides the preparation to find success in achieving US Citizenship. World Relief QC provides the teacher (Anita – she's wonderful!) and the materials, and our church will provide the space and possibly volunteers to help Anita and her students with some conversations to help overcome language barriers. Classes will be held in the Conference Room on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. each week.

Reel Theology January 9: Train Dreams

Join us to watch and discuss the beautiful and critically acclaimed film Train Dreams. Based on Denis Johnson's beloved novella, Train Dreams is the moving portrait of Robert Grainier, a logger and railroad worker who leads a life of unexpected depth and beauty in the rapidly-changing America of the early 20th Century. This film is rated PG-13; all are welcome to join for this evening of fellowship and conversation. 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 and dessert to follow. All ages are welcome

Ruth Circle: January 19th at 1pm

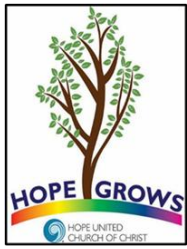
Ruth Circle will be meeting Monday, January 19 at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship.



January 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.

David Ward	January 02
Walter Lysell	January 08
Marcia Free	January 14
Dorothy Burdick	January 25
Becky Newton	January 28
Carolyn Jeanine Burke	January 29



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
 Worship Bulletin January 11, 2026
 Discovering the Gifts of God
 The Gift of Identity

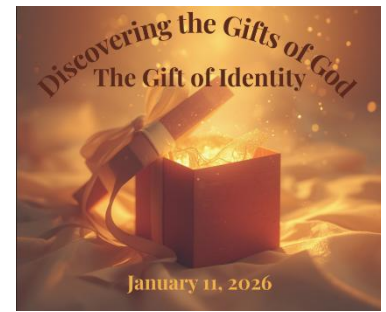
Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

We are glad you are here!

*Because you are who you are,
 you are welcome here!*

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



PRELUDE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Arr. Laurel Filzen Etzel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A voice of power and majesty calls out to us:

I am your God; I have called you in righteousness.

Many: We are amazed that God knows us and calls us.

By God's breath and spirit, we receive life.

One: God takes us by the hand and leads us.

In covenant with God, we extend tight to the world.

Many: Eyes are opened and prisoners are freed.

Justice and peace prevail, by God's strength.

One: Worship with joy and give glory to God's name.

Listen for the new thing God declares.

Many: We remember that we have been baptized.

May we live as those with whom God is pleased.



OPENING HYMN

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Come, Holy Spirit, to dwell in us and among us. Make us more than dimly burning wicks, that we might share enough light to make a difference in your world. Where there is injustice, help us as we work to change the minds and hearts of those who benefit from it. Show us again the new possibilities you have in mind for us. May we reflect your peace amid the frantic busy pace of the marketplace. Amen.



*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, we confess that our lives have not glorified you. God of justice, we admit our complicity with systems of injustice. God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create that keep others from seeing you. All-inclusive God, we repent of our narrow vision and our tendency to exclude. Purge us of the idols that keep us from full commitment to the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE



PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

One: 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.



HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 42:1–9

- ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
- ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
- ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 10:34–43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:13–17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

SERMON

Known as God’s Beloved

SERMON HYMN

I Come With Joy

NCH #349

INVITATION TO OFFERING

How can we share the message that God is impartial, that justice and peace are God’s intention for all humankind? We combine our individual efforts through the church, joining in programs, projects, and outreach that reflect God’s light into the world. Our gifts of gratitude are one way of sharing.



Hope UCC thanks you for the gifts you share with this congregation. Your offering enables us to live into our mission. Offering plates are located near the Sanctuary doors.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION



We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by opposition. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN

Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song

NCH #270

***BENEDICTION**

One: The voice of power and majesty has spoken to us.
 God gives strength and blesses us with peace.

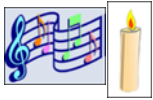
**Many: Though we are bruised reeds, we will not break.
 Our dimly burning wicks will not be quenched.**

One: We face another week with renewed strength.
 The light we received will continue to shine.

**Many: God has healed and forgiven us.
 We believe God loves us and is pleased with us.**

One: Let your lives testify to the goodness of God.
 Ascribe to God glory and majesty and power.

**Many: We are witnesses from the baptized community.
 God sends us out to embrace others in Christ's name. Amen.**



*POSTLUDE

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
arr. Lee Ladensack

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Serving in Worship Today: Reverend Santina Poor, Pastor Hope UCC

Liturgist: Marilyn Rada

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Mary Tallitsch

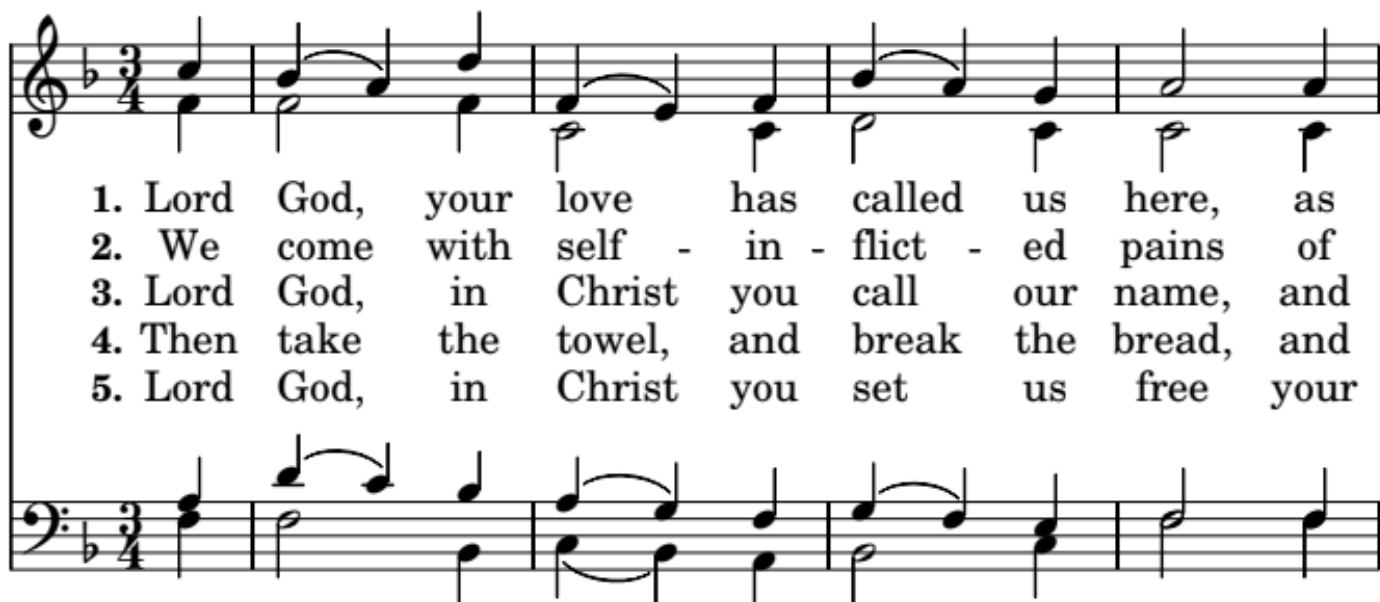
Greeter: Barb Hawotte

Fellowship Hour: Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
 Bob Poor, Bek Svetlick

579

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here



1. Lord God, your love has called us here, as
 2. We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of
 3. Lord God, in Christ you call our name, and
 4. Then take the towel, and break the bread, and
 5. Lord God, in Christ you set us free your

5



we, by love, for love were made; your liv - ing
 bro - ken trust and cho - sen wrong, half - free, half -
 then re - ceive us as your own; not through some
 hum - ble us, and call us friends; suf - fer and
 life to live, your joy to share; give us your

579

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

10

like - ness still we bear, though marred, dis - hon - ored,
bound by in - ner chains, by so - cial forc - es
mer - it, right, or claim, but by your gra - cious
serve till all are fed, and show how grand - ly
Spir - it's lib - er - ty to turn from guilt and

15

dis - o - beyed; we come, with all our heart and
swept a - long, by powers and sys - tems close con -
love a - lone; we strain to glimpse your mer - cy
love in - tends to work till all cre - a - tion
dull de - spair, and of - fer all that faith can

20

mind, your call to hear, your love to find.
fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
seat, and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
do, while love is mak - ing all things new.

349

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

270

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Isa. 38:14; Rom. 8:26; 12:4-5; John 15:1-5

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:

Carl P. Daw, Jr., wrote this text for The Hymnal 1982 (Episcopal), and expressly for the tune Bridegroom. Born and educated in England, composer Peter Cutts has served as music director for churches in Massachusetts and on the faculty of Andover Newton Theological School.

Tune: BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.
 Peter Cutts, 1969