



Hope UCC Weekly Update: February 8, 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.

Soup'er Bowl Sunday, February 8th 2026!

Enjoy some soup, goodies and a good time? Bring your money to “vote” for your favorite team (or commercials). The proceeds will go to the “Hope UCC Scholarship Fund”.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 18

We will begin this Lenten Season together on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with a worship service with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 P.M. This will be a combined service with our friends from First Congregational UCC in Moline and will be held at Hope UCC.

Begin your Lenten journey with this quiet worship service as we consider our humanity, frailty, and the gift of moving toward God's grace and mercy. The first step of this journey calls us to confession and examination of our lives in light of God's grace. This service includes the imposition of ashes and time for contemplative prayer.

Singles and Doubles Game Night February 28 at 5:00pm

Singles and Double will be holding their annual game night on Saturday, February 28th. This event will begin at 5:00 pm. We will be having pizza (donation jar will be out) and some desserts. You should bring your own drink. Bring whatever games that you enjoy, or just show up and plan to play cards, dominoes, or whatever else your church friends have brought. This is always a fun night. Please plan to join in. This is for all adults in the church, and of course you may bring a friend. Please let me know if you plan to attend, so we have enough pizza and goodies for all. Thank you, Barb Hawotte

Ruth Circle Annual Dinner on February 16th at 5:30pm

Ruth Circle will have their annual February Dinner on Monday, February 16 at 5:30pm at the Olive Garden in Moline. All women of the church are invited to join in this evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Please RSVP by February 13 to Laura, 309-714-0669.

Hope UCC Book Club: February 23, 2:30pm at Hope UCC

Join the Book Club to discuss this month's selection **Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney**. This novel was a national best seller. It's funny, touching, irresistible and like taking a tour through New York City. We meet on February 23rd at 2:30 P.M. at Hope UCC and all are welcome. See you there!

Transfiguration Sunday on February 15: Shine On!

The Sunday before Lent begins is traditionally 'Transfiguration Sunday' – the day that our scripture readings share the story of Jesus taking his disciples up to the mountain top where they witness the incredible transformation of Jesus appearing to shine as his clothing becomes dazzlingly bright white. Similar to Pentecost Sunday when we wear something red, we thought it would be fun if on Sunday, February 15, we wear something shiny, sparkly, or bright and sunny to celebrate the Transfiguration (why should Pentecost have all the fun?). So on February 15, find that bedazzled hat, sequined shirt, shiny scarf, or any brightly and sunny colored piece of clothing and wear it to church. Have fun and shine, shine, shine!



Youth Group on Sunday, February 8th Calling All Youth! (Grades 6th-12th)



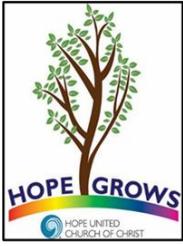
Get ready for a cozy, creative, and meaningful afternoon. On February 8th, from 12-4 pm, we're ditching the knitting needles and using our hands to create something beautiful for those in need. We are thrilled to have Stacey Demarest join us to lead a Hand Knitting Class. Whether you're a DIY pro or have never touched yarn in your life, Stacey will show you how to craft these ultra-soft, "chunky" prayer shawls that provide comfort and warmth to our Hope Family. See Lindsey Svetlick - MiD for questions.



**PREPARE
TO DRAW NEAR
FROM THE WILDERNESS
TO THE CROSS**

**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**WORSHIP WITH
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
7:00 P.M. AT HOPE UCC**



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin February 8, 2026
Discovering the Gifts of God
The Gift of Light

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 *The Servant Song*

*Will you let me be your servant,
 let me be as Christ to you;
 Pray that I may have the grace to
 let you be my servant, too.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We delight to draw near to you, gracious God.
 We rejoice in the many gifts you have given us.

Many: We lift up our hearts and voices in praise.

We humble ourselves before the God of all worlds.

One: We gather to remember God's commandments.
 We seek for ourselves the wisdom God imparts.

Many: The wisdom of God is not like any other.

It draws us away from the world's agenda.

One: God sends us into the world with new priorities.
 We are grounded in the Spirit that we might be discerning.

Many: We are filled with the mind of Christ.

We are already citizens of God's realm.



OPENING HYMN

You Are the Salt of the Earth O People

NCH #181



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

May our voices rise like trumpets to greet you, holy God. May our ears be attuned to know your ways. May our hearts be steady, focused on you. Praise be to you, O God, whom we worship with awe and delight. Guide us, we pray, in this time of worship. Touch us at the points of our deepest need. Stir us amidst our entrenched complacency. Make us strong to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the things of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free. Then your light will break forth like the dawn and we will experience your healing care. Amen.



*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you call out to us, saying “Here I am,” but we do not listen. You pour out on us spiritual gifts, but we do not discern them. You call us to build a more just society but we cling to our advantages. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to change. Help us so to know and understand Jesus Christ that we might reflect the God of glory in our daily living. Create in us a generosity that reflects your own. Pour out your spirit on this congregation that we might understand and use it to build and repair and restore. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*SHARING GOD’S PEACE

INSTALLATION OF 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS



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 58:1–9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?
 Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
 Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."
 If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Psalm 112:1–9

- ¹ Praise the LORD!
 Happy are those who fear the LORD,
 who greatly delight in his commandments.
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
 the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches are in their houses,
 and their righteousness endures forever.
- ⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
 they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
- ⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend,
 who conduct their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For the righteous will never be moved;
 they will be remembered forever.
- ⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings;
 their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.
- ⁸ Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;
 in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.
- ⁹ They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;
 their righteousness endures forever;
 their horn is exalted in honor.

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 5:13–20

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

SERMON

The Gift of Light

SERMON HYMN

Siyahamba (We Are Marching)

NCH #526

Please scan this QR Code for a link to Hope UCC's donations page.

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

How generous are the gifts of God, poured out on us that we might know the joy of giving! The psalmist reminds us that it is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice and give to the poor. Our offerings proclaim God's will in word and deed.

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**

Righteous God, accept our gifts of gratitude for the dawning awareness among us of your healing presence. You have satisfied our need in parched places and made our bones strong. Now we wish to offer to the world the amazing wonders we have experienced. Let our righteousness and generosity exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees. Fill us with yearning for the Spirit of Christ that we might become salt and light and be empowered for good works, to you honor and glory. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN***This Little Light of Mine*

NCH #524

*BENEDICTION

One: The wisdom of God empowers us to live wisely.
 God's generosity prompts us to be generous.

**Many: We go forth to share what we have learned.
 We reach out to give as we have received.**

One: The Spirit has touched our spirits and changed us.
 Our spiritual awareness has been deepened.

**Many How amazing are the gifts of God to us!
 We cannot hide the light God entrusts to us.**

One: God will guide us continually.
 God will satisfy our thirst with living water.

**Many: We cannot hold back our shouts of joy!
 We have received the Spirit that is from God. Amen.**



*POSTLUDE As we transition into the postlude of our service, please feel free to remain seated, or if you prefer, you are welcome to exit or head into the Fellowship Hall at this time. Blessings to you as we go forward into the world sharing God's love.

Salt and Light

by L'ECUYER and L'ECUYER Arr: INMAN

*You make me want to be like You
 Your holiness, I will pursue
 I want the heart of Jesus
 Show me the meaning of Your grace
 I want to give the world a taste
 Of the love of Jesus*

*Make me salt
 Make me light
 Let Your holy fire ignite
 Reveal Your glory in my life
 I am not ashamed
 To lift up Your holy name
 Make me salt
 Make me light*

*As a city on a hill
 A lamp on a stand
 Mold me in Your image
 The work of Your hand*

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

Liturgist: Stacy Demarest

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Robyn Carter

Greeter: Nanc Kinley

Fellowship Hour: Jane Courtright, Dave Ward, Julie Bustard, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

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

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

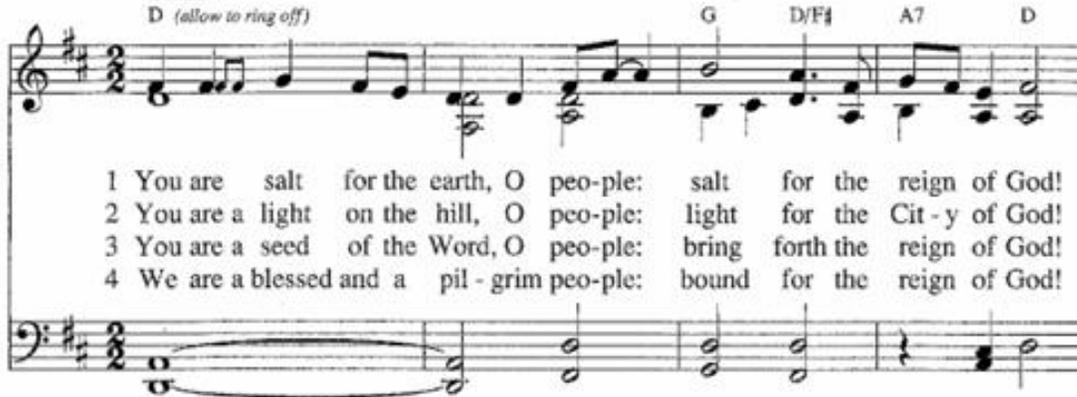
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Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

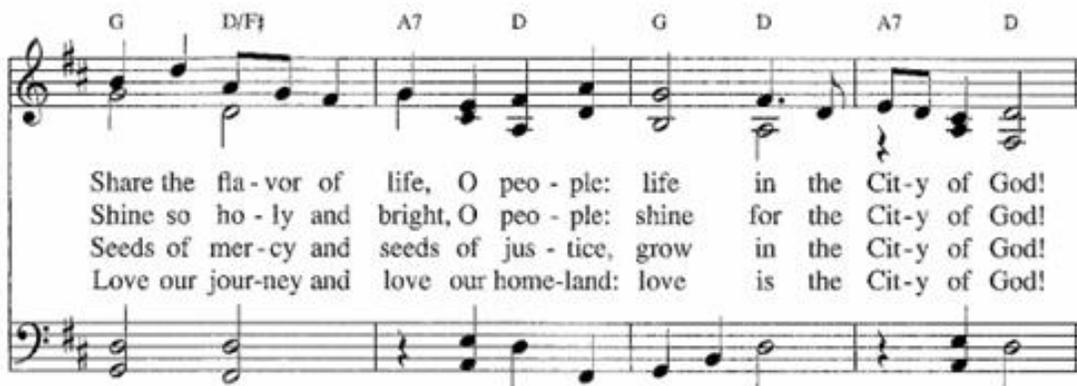
Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

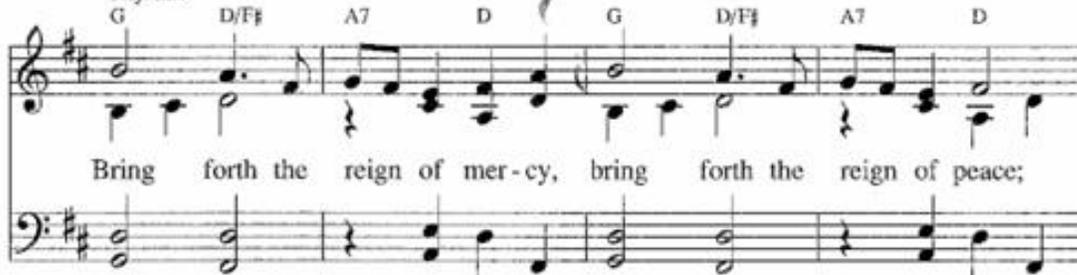


1 You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim people: bound for the reign of God!

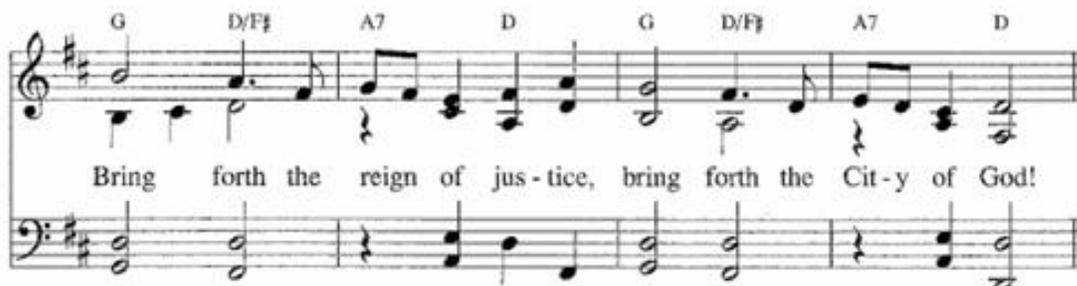


Share the fla-avor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;



Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1986

526

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
light of God, kha - nyen' kwen-khos', We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
the light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are

ham - ba, Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
march-ing, Oo, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection *Freedom Is Coming* brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.
South African song

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This Little Light/This Joy I Have

Matt. 5:14-16

African-American spiritual

1 This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 1 This . . . joy I have, the world did-n't give to me.

I am gon - na let it, let it shine,
 oh, the world did not give to me,

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
 This joy I have, the world did-n't give to me.

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,
 This . . . joy I have, the world did-n't give to me.

Hal - le - lu - jah,
 Hal - le - lu, the

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, (oh let it shine.)
 No, the world did-n't give it, the world can't take it a - way.

The texts of these two spirituals may be used interchangeably with the tune This Joy. For an alternate version, this melody may be sung with the accompaniment of "Glory, Glory Hallelujah." A more traditional setting of "This Little Light" is provided with the tune Lattimer.

Tune: THIS JOY Irr.
 African-American spiritual
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993
 See also LATTIMER

"This Little Light" continued:

- 2 Ev-ery-where I go . . .
- 3 All-through the night . . .

"This Joy I Have" continued:

- 2 This love I have . . .
- 3 This hope I have . . .
- 4 This faith I have . . .
- 5 This peace I have . . .