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# Hope

# United Church of Christ

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## Reflecting on 2025

As I prepared for our Annual Congregational Meeting, I found myself to be overwhelmed with gratitude for you all. This congregation is a special place for Bob and I and we want to thank you all for all the joy and wonder that we experienced with you in 2025.

2025 was a year of adjustment, healing, and discernment for me as well as our congregation. It was also a year filled with deep gratitude and powerful signs of God's work among us. Hope UCC continues to be a welcoming, healing community where faith is explored, ministry is shared, and joy is found together, as the Body of Christ. Through worship, service, and connection, our congregation showed up with compassion and generosity—living into our stewardship theme of continuing the Story of Hope.

This year, Hope UCC made a meaningful impact through mission and outreach, including support for refugees and immigrant families, partnerships with local food pantries and Christian Care, the Angel Tree ministry, and generous responses to urgent community needs. Worship remained a source of renewal, strengthened by an expanding music ministry and the addition of accompanist Robyn Carter. We also celebrate the leadership and growth of Lindsey Svetlick, our Member in Discernment, and the launch of our Good Neighbor Team supporting a newly arrived family.

Looking ahead in this new year, I am committed to strengthening communication, deepening engagement within the congregation, fostering faithful conversations about long-term sustainability, and launching the Hope UCC Scholarship Fund.

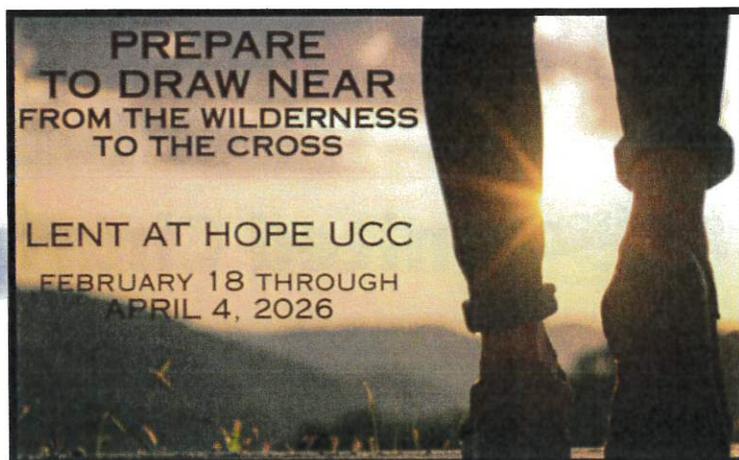
With gratitude for our staff, volunteers, and congregation, we move forward together—grounded in faith, guided by love, and hopeful for all that God is still unfolding through Hope UCC.

Thank you for a wonderful year. The Story of Hope is a beautiful story thanks to you all.

With love,  
Pastor Santina



**Lent at Hope UCC**  
**February 18 - April 4, 2026**



### **Prepare to Draw Near: From the Wilderness to the Cross**

As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited into a sacred journey—one marked not by distance or despair, but by movement toward God. Lent is often misunderstood as a time to stay away from God in shame or self-judgment. Yet at its heart, Lent is a season of preparation: a time to make space, to be honest, and to draw near to the healing love God longs to share with us.

This year, our Lenten worship theme, “Prepare to Draw Near: From the Wilderness to the Cross,” invites us to walk this journey together with openness and hopeful expectation. Faith is never static. It asks us to move—to step into the wilderness places of our lives, to listen for God’s voice, and to trust that God meets us even in uncertainty and struggle.

Each week of Lent, we will explore what we encounter along the path from the wilderness to the cross. As we immerse ourselves in the story of our faith, we will reflect on God’s presence in moments of testing, transformation, and deep love. This is not a journey we rush through, but one we walk attentively, allowing God to shape and renew us along the way.

Lent is an invitation to draw near—to God, to one another, and to the truth of who we are. May this season prepare our hearts, deepen our faith, and lead us more fully into the life, hope, and healing revealed at the cross.

We hope you will join us in worship as we journey together through this meaningful season.

### **Ash Wednesday - February 18**

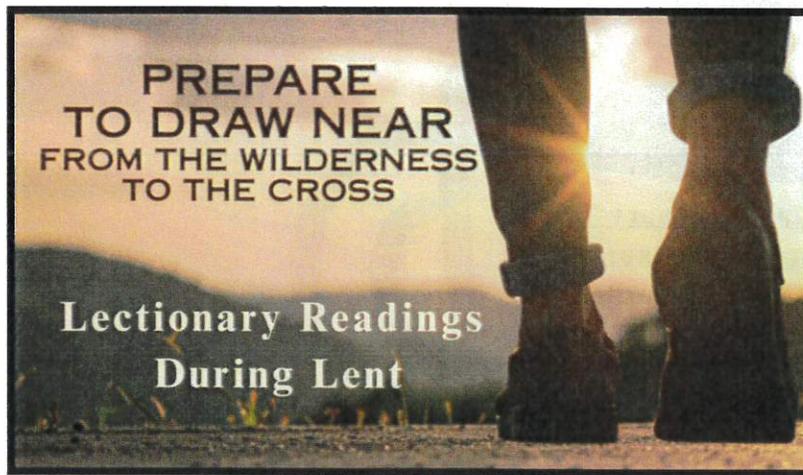
We will begin this Lenten Season together on Ash Wednesday, February 18 with a worship service with Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 P.M. This will be a combined service with our friends from First Congregational UCC in Moline and will be held at Hope UCC.

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.

### **Tuesday Night Soup Dinners and Contemplative Worship Services**

Tuesdays throughout Lent: Soup Dinner at 6:30 P.M. Service begins at 7:00 P.M. Join us for a weekly time together to spend time in fellowship and quiet contemplative prayer and worship. If you would like to come early for a light soup dinner together, be here at 6:30. We will then transition to the sanctuary for contemplative style service, engaging our senses through prayer, music, meditation, scripture, and movement. Join us and share this time in community and deepening of our commitment to a Lenten spiritual practice.

**\*Please note: our 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Soup Dinner/Contemplative services will be Monday, Feb. 23 and Monday, March 23 at 6:30. All others will be Tuesdays at 6:30.**



**February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday**

**Prepare to Draw Near: Remember You Are Dust**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**February 22, 2026 Lent 1**

**Prepare to Draw Near: Trusting God in the Wilderness**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**March 1, 2026 Lent 2**

**Prepare to Draw Near: Stepping Out in Faith**

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

**March 8, 2026 Lent 3**

**Prepare to Draw Near: Meeting God at the Well**

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

**March 15, 2026 Lent 4**

**Prepare to Draw Near: Learning to See**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**March 22, 2026 Lent 5**

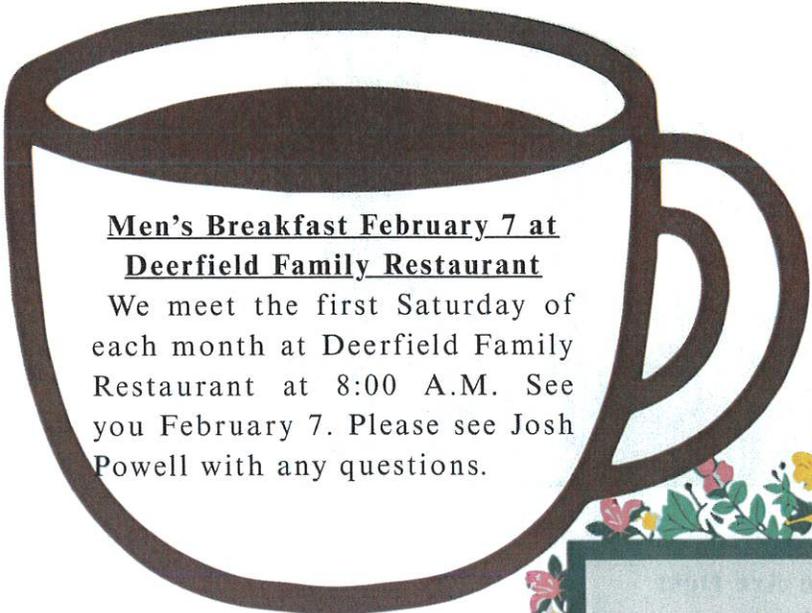
**Prepare to Draw Near: From Death Toward Life**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**March 29, 2026 Palm Sunday**

**Prepare to Draw Near: Following Jesus to the Cross; Matthew 21:1-11**





**Men's Breakfast February 7 at  
Deerfield Family Restaurant**

We meet the first Saturday of each month at Deerfield Family Restaurant at 8:00 A.M. See you February 7. Please see Josh Powell with any questions.



**Ruth Circle**

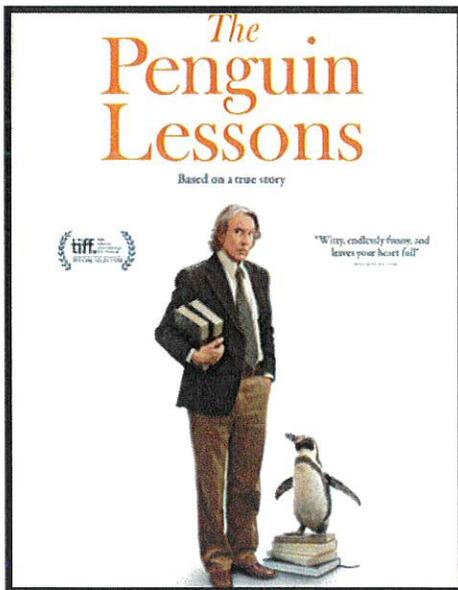
Ruth Circle will have their annual February Dinner on Monday, February 16 at 5:30 at the Olive Garden in Moline. All women of the church are invited to join in this evening of food, fun, and fellowship. Please RSVP by February 13 to Laura, 309-714-0669.

**Singles and Doubles Game Night February 28 at 5:00 P.M.**

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





### Reel Theology February 13: The Penguin Lessons

Join us to watch and discuss *The Penguin Lessons*, a charming and poignant film based on the memoir of Tom Michell. It is the story of a disillusioned Englishman who goes to work in an elite boarding school in a politically divided Argentina in 1976 and finds his life transformed when he rescues an orphaned penguin from the beach. Themes of love, loss, power dynamics, colonization, imperialism, and relationships are at the heart of this film. *The Penguin Lessons* is rated PG13 and all ages are welcome to join the viewing and discussion. 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.

### New Grief Support Group

A new Grief Support Group has started meeting at Hope UCC. We have had our first gathering however, if you are interested in being part of this group, we welcome you. We will meet on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:15 P.M. Meeting dates are February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 17, 24, 31, April 7, and 14 (no meeting on March 10).

Grief comes to us in many shapes and forms and is caused by all types of loss and hurt. We invite you to navigate your grief in community using the excellent materials "Understanding Your Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart" by Alan D Wolfelt PhD. Please share this information with anyone you know who you think might benefit from sharing their journey with this group. Please know that even if you've been part of this group or another in the past, you are absolutely welcome to be part of this new group. All are welcome. Please see Pastor Santina for more information or to sign up.

### Soup'er Bowl Sunday, February 8th 2026!

Are you ready to enjoy some soup, goodies and a good time? Join us for a fun Fellowship Hour on February 8 for a delicious soup lunch. There will be a few options, each representing one of the teams playing in the Super Bowl that afternoon. You can 'vote' for your favorite by putting a donation in that soup's jar. The proceeds will go to the soon to be created "Hope UCC Scholarship Fund". Even though neither the Bears nor the Packers are playing this year, at least we can still enjoy some delicious soup and wonderful fellowship! Thank you to Julie Bustard for organizing this!



# Doing Ministry Together



## 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!

## Hope UCC's Good Neighbor Team Ministry

This wonderful new ministry at Hope has given us the great blessing of partnering with World Relief QC to accompany, befriend, and support a recently resettled refugee family. In December we were partnered with a family of 4 who resettled in East Moline. Lindsey Svetlick has been coordinating this ministry project and there is always room for more volunteers who would like to help with the many adventures this ministry brings. Being part of this ministry also offers the opportunity to volunteer in other ways with World Relief as well, such as helping at their monthly food pantry, ESL classes, and many other ways. Please see Lindsey for more information or email her: [lindseysvetlick@gmail.com](mailto:lindseysvetlick@gmail.com)

*ALSO: There will be Good Neighbor Team meeting on Tuesday, February 3 at 6:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.*

### **Blessing Box Requests**



Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! If you are at the store and would like to pick up a few extra items for the Blessing Box, we would be grateful! Thank you for your donations of the following items:

- canned fruit
- canned meats and fish and other protein
- smaller size jars creamy peanut butter
- individually wrapped snack items like granola bars
- hygiene supplies
- shelf stable milk
- soups, and grain mixes

### **Blessing Box Volunteers Welcome!**



Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry! One very important way to support this ministry is by volunteering to help keep the Blessing Box filled. You can do this either by keeping our inventory organized or by coming by to check the Blessing Box and refilling it as necessary (or both?). Refills happen 3 or 4 times a week but you can just sign up for a once a week section. Please see Julie Bustard, Caridad Ramos, or Donna Werner for more information and to volunteer. Thank you!!

## Bulletin Board Designers Needed

Do you enjoy seeing pictures and announcement for all to see? We have an opportunity for you! You can use your talents and time to refresh our bulletin boards on a monthly schedule. Please contact Lindsey Svetlick, MiD, for further details.

# SOJOURNER SUNDAY

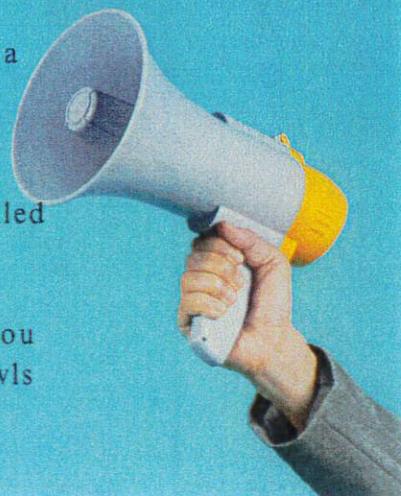
FEBRUARY 15, 2026

## PREPARING FOR LENT TOGETHER

JOIN US FOLLOWING WORSHIP DURING FELLOWSHIP HOUR AS WE ENGAGE OUR CREATIVITY TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE LENTEN SEASON. WE WILL CREATE STORY STICKS THAT WILL BE USED AS A VISUAL DESIGN ELEMENT IN THE SANCTUARY DURING LENT. THIS IS AN ALL AGES ACTIVITY!

### Hope UCC Youth Group Weaving Hope on 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.



### February 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.*

Nancy Stevens	February 01
Karen Ohrberg	February 03
Abby Beug	February 07
Dan Beug	February 09
Sally Herbst	February 16
Carole Lysell	February 19
Judy Collins	February 20
Daniel Hawotte	February 20
Judy Hawotte	February 23
Laura Black	February 25
Tracy Leuth	February 27

# February

## HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>01</b> 10am Worship Service with Communion Birthday: Nancy Stevens	<b>02</b> 6pm Citizenship Class Birthday: Dan Beug	<b>03</b> 10am-Lectonary 5pm Grief Support Grp 6:30pm Good Neighbor Team Mtg Birthday: Karen Ohlberg	<b>04</b> 6pm-Girl Scouts 6pm Citizenship Class 6pm Vocal Choir 6:30pm-Bell Choir	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b> Reel Theology Dinner 5:30pm Film 6pm	<b>07</b> 8am-Men's Fellowship at Deerfield Family Restaurant-Slivia Birthday: Abby Beug
<b>08</b> 10am Worship Service Souper Bowl Sunday 12pm Youth	<b>09</b> 6pm Citizenship Class Birthday: Dan Beug	<b>10</b> 10am-Lectonary 12:30pm-Trustees 5pm Grief Support Group	<b>11</b> 6pm Citizenship Class 6pm Vocal Choir 6:30pm-Bell Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10am Worship Service Sojourner Sunday Christian Care Dinner	<b>16</b> 5:30pm Ruth Circle Annual Dinner 6pm Citizenship Class Birthday: Sally Herbst	<b>17</b> 5pm Grief Support Group	<b>18</b> 6pm Citizenship Class 6:15pm Vocal Choir 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	<b>19</b> Birthday: Carole Lysell	<b>20</b> Birthday: Judy Collins Birthday: Dan Hawotte	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10am Worship Service	<b>23</b> 2:30pm-Bock Club 6pm Citizenship Class Birthday: Judy Hawotte	<b>24</b> 10am-Lectonary 5pm Grief Support Group 6:30pm Church Council	<b>25</b> 11:30am-Visitation 6pm Citizenship Class 6pm Vocal Choir 6:30pm-Bell Choir Birthday: Laura Black	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Birthday: Tracy Leuth	<b>28</b> 5pm Singles & Doubles
<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>