



HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

February 9, 2026

Beloved Friends in Christ,

It is with deep love and prayerful discernment that I write to share with you my decision to retire as your pastor, effective January 9, 2027. That date will mark my ninth anniversary with this remarkable congregation, a milestone that feels both tender and fitting as I look back with gratitude and ahead with trust.

Since our very first day here, you have been more than a congregation to Bob, our kids, and myself. You have been companions in faith, bearers of hope, and agents of healing. As many of you know, Charley's death two years ago set us on a long and ongoing journey of grief. Grief is not a straight path, and while I continue to experience God's presence and grace, I have come to recognize that this season has significantly affected my spiritual health and the energy I am able to bring to the work of pastoral ministry. After much prayer, reflection, and conversation, I believe it is time for me to step into a season of rest and healing.

I want you to know how profoundly grateful we are for the love, care, and compassion you have shown us. You have surrounded our family with prayers, patience, and gentleness. You have given us space to grieve and strength to keep going. In ways large and small, you have been instruments of God's healing, and I will carry that gift with me always.

These past eight years have been a joy beyond words. Together we have grown and thrived, deepening our faith, expanding our sense of community, and responding faithfully to God's call. I have often said that when you named this church Hope, you were exactly right. This faith community is filled with hope—hope rooted in love, shaped by courage, and sustained by your ongoing discernment of where God is leading you. I am confident that you will continue to grow in spirit, in love, and in service to this community and to the world.

Though my role will change, my affection for you will not. I will always give thanks for the privilege of serving as your pastor and for the ways our lives have been woven together by God's grace. In the months ahead, I look forward to continuing our ministry together, savoring our time, and preparing well for what comes next—for you and for Bob and me.

May the God who has been faithful to us in every season continue to bless you, guide you, and fill you with hope that continues to grow.

With abiding love and gratitude,

Rev. Santina Poor

3324 41st Street Moline, IL 61265
(309)762-1419

www.hopeuccqc.org
office.hopeuccqc@gmail.com