



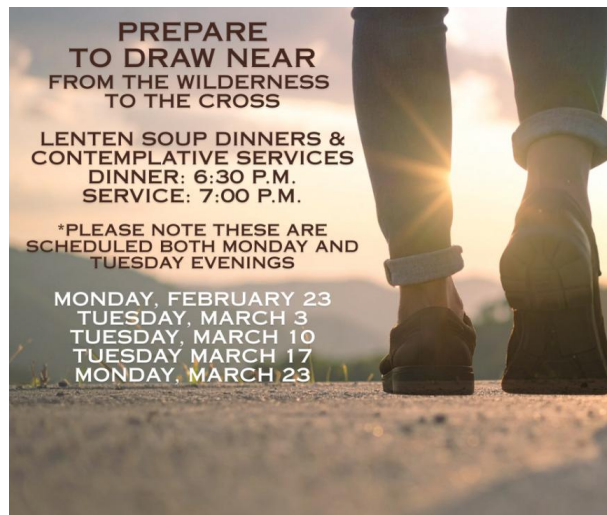
Hope UCC Weekly Update: March 1, 2026

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.

Lent Weekly Soup Dinners and Contemplative Service

Join us to spend time in fellowship and quiet contemplative prayer and worship together during Lent. We begin with a soup dinner at 6:30 P.M. and then transition to the sanctuary contemplative style service, engaging our senses through prayer, music, meditation, scripture, and movement. The service begins at 7:00 P.M. If you choose to skip the dinner, you are welcome to join the service at that time.

Please join us and share this time in community and deepening of our commitment to a Lenten spiritual practice. Here is the schedule for these gatherings *Please note: there are 2 weeks that our gatherings are on Monday and 3 weeks we will meet on Tuesdays.



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: March 16 at 1pm

Ruth Circle will be meeting Monday, March 16 at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited to come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship.

Hope UCC Book Club: March 30, 2:30pm at Hope UCC

Join the Book Club to discuss this month's selection **Apples Never Fall** by **Liane Moriarty**. We meet on March 30th at 2:30 P.M. at Hope UCC and all are welcome. See you there!



Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin March 1, 2026

Prepare to Draw Near
Stepping Out in Faith

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.**



arr. by Stephen DeCesare



PRELUDE

The Glory of These Forty Days

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD HYMN

O Lord Hear My Prayer

O Lord Hear My Prayer
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
come and listen to me.



*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: People of God, where do we put our trust?
Where do we find wholeness and meaning?

Many: We lift up our eyes to the hills.

Our help comes from the Creator of heaven and earth.

One: We are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah.
We trust in God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Many: We are followers of Jesus, who proclaimed God's realm.

We are born of the Spirit, born from above.

One: Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us.
By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.

Many: God loved the world in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Through faith in Christ, we receive eternal life.



OPENING HYMN

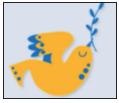
Guide Me O My Great Redeemer

NCH #18



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Let the winds of the Spirit blow in our midst today, loving God. Let us hear the sound and feel the power. Open our hearts in new ways to the promise of your healing grace so we may be a blessing to one another and to your world. We need courage to face the challenges and struggles of life. We seek reassurance that you will be with us in our going out and our coming in. Strengthen our faith to withstand the trials and temptations that lead us away from a faithful journey with Christ. Amen.



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, we confess that we have been far more ready to say we believe than to trust you to lead us to new ventures of faithfulness. We are afraid of the evil that surrounds us. We fear rejection, failure, and ridicule. We admire Jesus, but it is difficult to follow in footsteps that lead to a cross. In the midst of life as we know it here, how can we catch glimpses of eternity? Save us, we pray, from our timidity, and use our doubts as an entry to deeper faith. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SHARING GOD'S PEACE**



PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

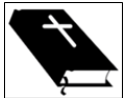
One: The Lord be with you.

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.



OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Psalm 121

Many: ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—

from where will my help come?

**² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

**³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.**

**⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.**

**⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

**⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.**

**⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

*GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON

Both - And

SERMON HYMN

When Peace, Like a River

NCH 438

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



INVITATION TO OFFERING

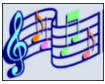
The faith that sustains us is not a commodity to be hoarded and protected. Rather, faith is an active, dynamic relationship which God calls us to share with one another, not just in the church, but with everyone. Our offerings make possible faithful ministries within the church and our outreach in the world.

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



Thank you, God, for glimpses of eternity in the daily experiences of life. We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We rejoice in the teaching and care you have provided to us. Bless now the gifts we return to you for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to share our faith with the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that inspires us to give our best. Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN

Guide My Feet

NCH 497

*BENEDICTION

One: We rejoice that God has gathered us for worship.
Now we depart to go where God sends us.

Many: We are God's messengers wherever we go.

We are called to be Christian in all our dealings.

One: In our work and in our leisure, may we serve faithfully.
By God's grace, we are empowered so to do.

Many: Winds of the Spirit will daily refresh us.

Faith finds new birth in us every day.

One: God promises to be our helper whenever we call.
God's love surrounds us even when we do not ask for it.

Many: With joy, we will go forward in faith to where God sends us. 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.

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

arr. by Mark Hayes

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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: Kathy Hobson

Fellowship Hour: Good Neighbor Team

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

GOD

18

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2**William Williams, 1745**St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.**St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.*

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

*John Hughes, 1907**Alternate setting: ZION*

438

When Peace, Like a River

(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
 2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
 3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
 4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
 this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
 sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
 help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with refrain
 Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Guide My Feet

497

African-American traditional; alt.

Heb. 12:1-15

1 Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
 3 I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
 4 Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.

while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
 while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
 while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
 while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.

For I don't want to run this race in vain.

This stanza may be added following stanza 1:
 Wheel with me while I run this race . . .

The words and music of some African-American spirituals have been widely adapted during the twentieth century, especially in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The alternate words were suggested by a fifth-grade church school class to include those who must "run this race" in a wheelchair.

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10.
 African-American traditional
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992