



Hope UCC Weekly Update: November 30, 2025

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.

Advent Devotional Available November 30

Hope UCC's 2025 Advent Devotional will be available Sunday, November 30. You can pick up your copy at church anytime. Please contact the church office if you would like one mailed to you.

Advent Angel Tree for Family Resources



This year we are once again partnering with Family Resources to support a local family for Christmas. There are still gift tags available on the trees in Fellowship Hall that will help support this family during this holiday season. Please bring your unwrapped gifts back to hope by Wednesday, December 10. Please also make sure that tag is attached. Thank you for sharing joy through the Advent Angel Tree Ministry.

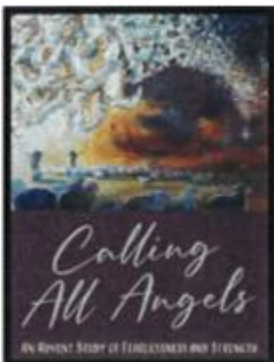
Visitation Committee, Wednesday, December 3rd at 11:30am

UCC's Visitation Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 3rd at 11:30am. This will be the last Visitation Committee meeting for 2025. We will resume our regular meeting schedule in January.

Argrow's House at Hope UCC on November 30

On Sunday, November 30th, Hope UCC will welcome a representative from Argrow's House of Healing and Hope who will tell us about their mission and healing work in our community. Argrow's House offers a variety of free services for women healing from violence and abuse. Services range from domestic violence support groups, yoga, spiritual direction, massage therapy, art therapy, and a workforce development program. They have also started a bath and body business where women healing from abuse can create beautiful, all natural bath and body products that provide a living wage for themselves in a safe space that celebrates who they are. Following worship, Argrow's House will have a variety of these products available for sale in Fellowship Hall – do some Christmas shopping and support a great cause!

Advent Devotional Study: Calling All Angels Tuesdays, December 2, 9, & 16 at 6:00 P.M.



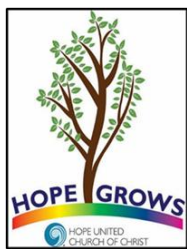
"What would we do if we weren't afraid? What would change in our relationships, in our vocations, in our congregations, maybe even in our communities and in our world – if God's people led with a courage and vision that was always, first and foremost, unafraid?"
Erin Wathen

Where might you journey? Where might our congregation journey? Where might we sojourn together?

Join Member in Discernment, Lindsey Svetlick, for an Advent Devotional Study starting Tuesday, November 18th at 6pm. We are reading "Calling All Angels: An Advent Study of Fearlessness & Strength" by Erin Wathen. Hope UCC office have books available for purchase of \$11.00. Class meeting dates are Tuesday, November 18, December 2, 9, and 16th. Financial assistance is available. Please see Lindsey with any questions.

Church Directory

Because we have had numerous changes and additions to our membership, an updated Directory will be available for you to pick up at the Welcome Table. If you have any corrections, deletions or additions please let the Church Office know. Thank you.



**Hope United Church of Christ Moline, IL
Worship Bulletin Novembre 30, 2025**

First Sunday of Advent

Rev. Santina Poor, Pastor

Thank you for joining us for worship today.

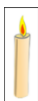
We are glad you are here!

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

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



PRELUDE



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE The Candle of Hope

The Hopeful Era: The merger of Plymouth Congregational and Gordon Memorial

One: Today, we light the candle of Hope. We think of Hope as anticipation of something in the future, but in truth, Hope can be the incarnation of trust. We trust in our Wonderful Counselor – that when we seek guidance, we will find answers. We trust that when we are exhausted, our Emmanuel will send someone to carry our burdens for a while. We trust our Creator to renew our faith in community, in the goodness of others, and in the power of our empathy and action.

Many: We trust in our Beloved God, that, when everything around us seems too difficult, too broken, too devastating for us to put to rights on our own, Hope will appear, and we rush forward, arms open wide to receive grace.

As Candle of Hope is lit, please join in singing *We Will Rejoice in Love*

**We will rejoice in Hope,
Lift up our voice in Hope,
Make every choice in Hope,
We will uphold your world in Hope.
We will delight in Hope,
Share and invite in Hope,
Till all unite in hope,
We will enfold your world in Hope.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Awaken to a season of anticipation.

God is offering peace within and among us.

Many: How good it is to gather in God's house!

God draws us together for this time of worship.

One: God calls us to celebrate our diversity.

Differences shall no longer divide us.

Many: We want to see one another through God's eyes.

We will look for the good in our neighbors.

One: Seek the highest and best for each other.

Come to the mountain of God's love

Many: We will follow in the paths where God leads.

Our ears are open to hear God's instructions.



OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort O My People

NCH #101



*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

You have wakened us from sleep and led us to this place, wondrous God. Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word. Surely you have blessed us. You have drawn us together and bound us firmly to one another. We give you thanks for giving us an identity as relatives and friends through Jesus Christ. In this season we remember your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. You make yourself known to us again and again. May we know you now! Amen.



*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, you have brought us to this moment of confrontation. We cannot escape your judgment of our hidden deceits. You know when we are jealous of others. You observe our quarrels with one another. You see how we seek self-gratification rather than the ways you intend for us. Our physical desires are more important to us than the spiritual hungers we suppress. Come among us now to turn us toward the paths where you want to lead us. 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 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the LORD!

Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
² Our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.
³ Jerusalem—built as a city
 that is bound firmly together.
⁴ To it the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD,
 as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
 the thrones of the house of David.
⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 "May they prosper who love you."
⁷ Peace be within your walls
 and security within your towers."
⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends
 I will say, "Peace be within you."
⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
 I will seek your good.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:5-25

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am

an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ “This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

SERMON

Preach Without Words

SERMON HYMN

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

NCH #112

INVITATION TO OFFERING

We are stewards of God’s household, managers of the earth’s treasures for a little while. This time of offering gives us opportunities to invest in causes consistent with God’s will for us, to offer the light of God’s love to sisters and brothers living in despair. Let us not withhold what is already God’s own.



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 the privilege of sharing your bounty with those in need. Thank you for blessing our work and witness. We seek to walk in your light and follow the pathways where you lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts and by the way we live. May all generations be made ready for Christ’s coming. Amen.



*CLOSING HYMN

Awake, Awake Greet the New Morn

NCH #107

*BENEDICTION

One: Let us live honorably as in the day.

May we have nothing to hide from God or others.

Many: We seek to live in the light of God’s love.

We want to be ready when Christ comes.

One: We have been privileged to ascend God’s mountains.

We are honored by God’s call to us.

Many: It has been good to meet together in God’s house.

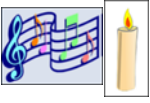
It is good to serve together in God’s world.

One: May we carry the peace of God wherever we go.

Let us share that peace with all whom we meet.

Many: For the sake of all, we say, “Peace be with you.”

To all the world, we promise, “We will seek your good.” Amen.



*POSTLUDE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

arranged by Melody Bober

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

Liturgist: Linda Brown

Ministers of Music: Laurel Filzen Etzel, Greg Etzel

Accompanist: Robyn Carter

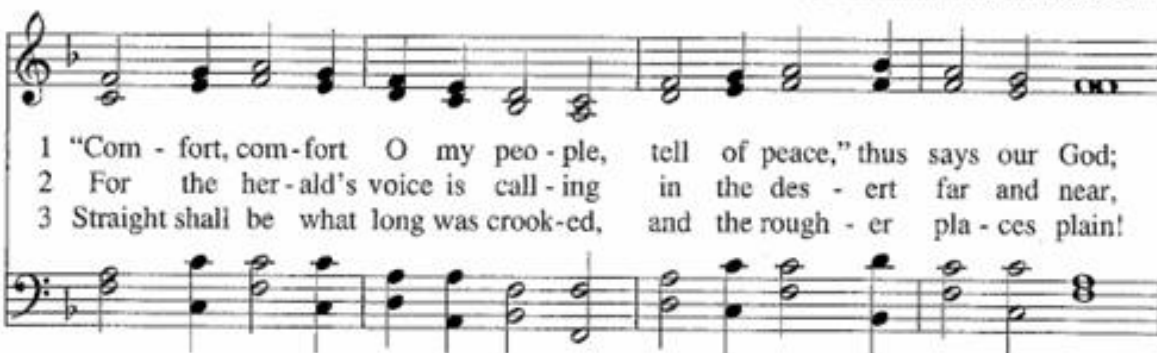
Greeter: Christine Ragsdale

Fellowship Hour: Ruth Circle, Ken Curtis, Bob Morales

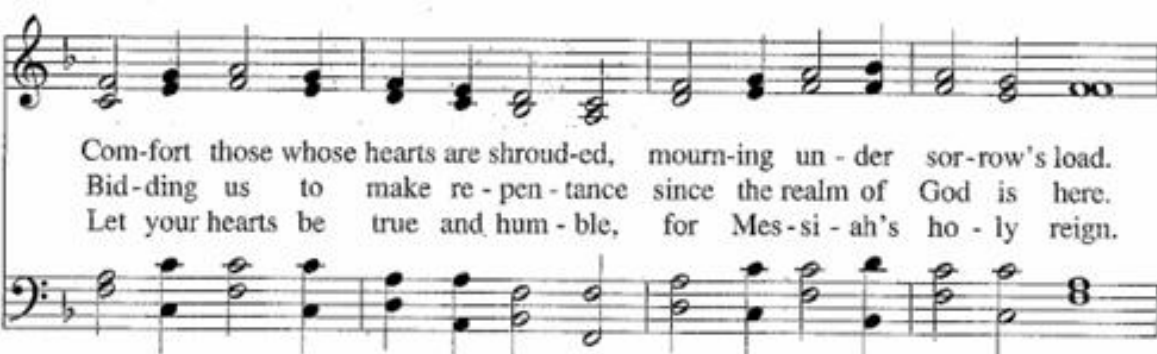
Audio-Visual Ministry: Jenny Hookey, Donna Werner, Bob Tallitsch, Kathy Hobson,
Bob Poor, Bek Svetlick

Comfort, Comfort O My People

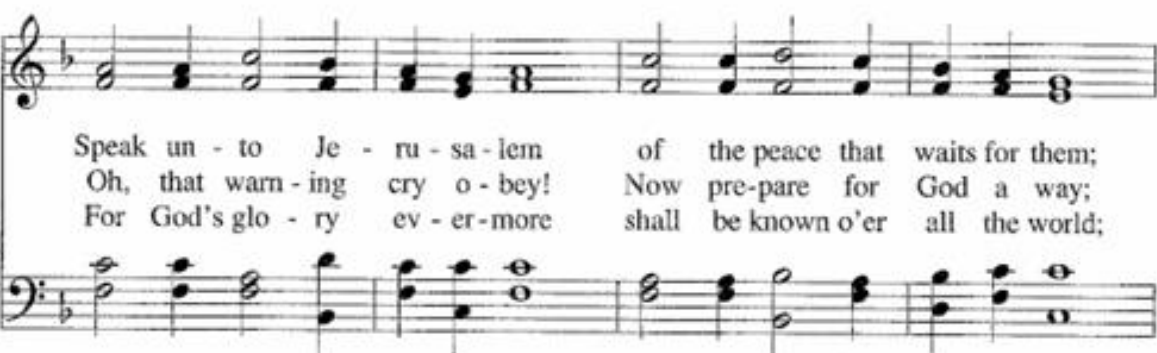
Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.


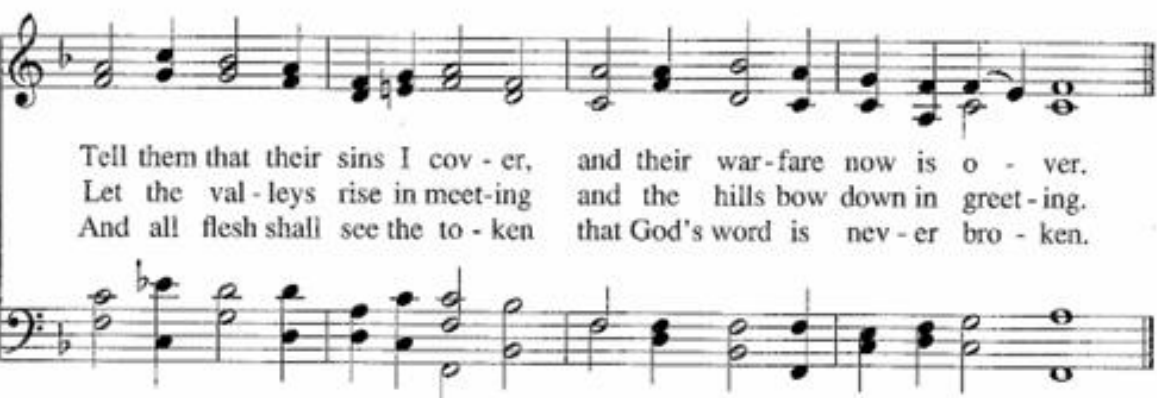
1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!



Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.



Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor, held a faculty appointment at Wittenberg University as well as church administration positions in his region.

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
(FREU DICH SEHR)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

112

Keep Awake, Be Always Ready

*Im. 2:1-3; 8:13-3; 64:1-2; Matt. 24:36-40;
Rev. 19:11-14; 1 Cor. 1:3-8; 1 Thess. 3:6-13*

Arthur G. Clyde, 1993

1 Keep a-wake, be al - ways re - dy, God's time ap - proach-es
2 Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose love will quench all

sure and stea - dy, God's strength will keep your heart from blame.
na - ture's thirst - ing to be made whole for - ev - er more.

Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis - perse, God's pur - suit
On that day to end all weep - ing, death's swords trace - formed to

light re - veal - ing; cre - a - tion will its Sov-er-ign name. Dry
roads of weep - ing, the God of might will mer - cy pour. In -

*This new text, written to reflect the readings for the first
Sunday in Advent, is set to a traditional tune of the season
by sixteenth-century Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai.*

*TUNE: WACHET AUF ERREBENDE
PHILIPP Nicolai, 1599
Harr. J. S. Bach, 1771*

branch - es burst forth green, God's ad - vent signs are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah!
 eat - nate, God up - takes em - brace - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah!

Christ's judg - ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gan.
 God's maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Isa. 12:6; 26:9; 35:6; Matt. 11:5

Marty Haugen, 1983; rev. 1993

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing,
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

Liturgical composer Marty Haugen wrote both words and music for this Advent hymn with the twofold aim of providing an easy congregational chorale and utilizing the images of the Isaiah passages.

Tune: REJOICE, REJOICE 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9.
 Marty Haugen, 1983

D D/F# G D Em Am D
 Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
 One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em
 geth - er, to o - pen wide the heaven - ly door, and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry, may God fill ev - ery day we share, and

Am7 D7 G 1-3 G/B C 4 G/B C G
 lives now in-side us for ev - er. . . .
 shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice. . . .
 weap-ons are bro-ken a - sun - der. . . .
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry. . . .