



## THE PARISH VISITOR MARCH 2026

### *From the desk of Pastor John*

Soon after you receive this newsletter, World Day of Prayer will be close behind: March 6. The primary scripture focus is a call to Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you...” The yoke is the symbol of Jesus who shares the yoke of burdens together with Christians around the world. The World Day of Prayer program was prepared this year by Christian women from Nigeria who experience yokes of systemic oppression, poverty, shame, and religious persecution. Another symbol of the Program is a calabash bowl (a hand-made bowl from the gourd of a calabash tree) that represents Divine daily sustenance and God who provides. Their prayers are our prayers, also, for all who live under poverty and oppression who bear harsh realities. Jesus provides rest and renewed strength through faith and community in support of one another in critical times of need.

On March 6, Christians all over the world are encouraged to pray for the women of Nigeria as well as women living under similar burdens across the African continent.



John Omerod,  
Pastor



### NEED TO CONTACT US?

Church Office:  
630.556.3986

Pastor's Cell:  
815.761.3910

Pastor's email:  
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's  
email:  
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Church website –  
www.ecucc.org

Like us on  
Facebook 

## 2026 CHILI COOK OFF



**Special Thanks** to all who helped make the “Chili Cook Off” a success! The following provided the chili: Kim Augustine, Jack Bartoszek, Roger Hatfield, Ginny (Pastor John) Omerod, and Mike Peters. The winner was Mike Peters (pictured here in his Chili Cook-Off reward chef’s apron).

Also, thanks to the Sunday School students, Nathan & Evalynne Drawz, Madison McCann, Holden O’Donnell, and friend Aiden under the supervision of Melissa Peters. They made the additional snacks and served the samples of chili to the “judges”.

Desserts were provided by Mary Hauge, Marcia Lee, Marilyn Lasecki, and Sherri Sorensen.

The Nurture Committee

Amy Ashby, Darla McCann, Sherri Sorensen and Mary Dalton



The **Hinckley Area Food Pantry (HAFP)**, located at 190 W. Lincoln Hwy. in Waterman, serves the communities of Big Rock, Hinckley, Maple Park, and Waterman and provides food assistance to our neighbors in these communities.

We welcome and appreciate your support and donations to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry! The Hinckley Food Pantry needs include: kidney beans, chili beans, ramen noodles, pasta sauce, canned pasta, macaroni, noodles, sugar, flour, Bisquick, baking supplies, canned meats, Jell-O, pudding, lunch box stuff (individual serving sizes fruit, desserts, chips, etc.), toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste, laundry soap, bath soap, condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish) and juice.

If you wish to make a direct monetary donation to the Hinckley Area Food Pantry, their address is: Hinckley Area Food Pantry, PO Box 463, Hinckley IL 60520. They will also send a tax donation letter to you at the end of the year.

**They can actually buy MORE food with your monetary donations!  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**MARCH 15th**

**OUR LOVE OFFERING TO THE WORLD**



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.



## **ECUCC PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Rhett Byington** - recuperating from hip surgery

**Requested by Jeri Covelli - Brianne Trenado** (daughter - battling cancer)

**Requested by Darla McCann - AJ, 4 month old great-grandson** (the Go Fund Me Page is titled: **Donate to AJ's Journey Towards Recovery**)

**Requested by Sharon Wolbers - Alissa** (daughter) and **Deb** (sister)

**Ralph Shelkey**

**Requested by Renee Robertson - Atlas, 3 year old grandson of close friend** (to contribute, please go to the Go Fund Me website and search for **"Support Atlas's Fight Against Neuroblastoma"**)

**Mary Welton**

**Jean Czinki**

**Clara Babel and - Jimmy Thicksten** (grandson), **Sharon and Karen** (sisters),  
**Jaymie Babel** (battling cancer), **Jim Sage, and John and Caraneta Adlington**

**Kathleen DeMerrit Gonzalez**

**Lester and Joyce Landmeier and their daughter Julie Moon** (Mailing address for Joyce and Julie is: 9200 E. Mohawk Ln., Scottsdale, AZ 85255)

**Those affected by silent & invisible pain, their friends & families, the rest of our families of ECUCC, the UCC around the world, the Big Rock Community, our leaders at all levels of government, and all of our servicemen and women.**

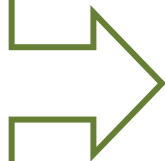
\*\*\*Please notify us when changes are needed to your prayer requests.

Thank you.

# Volunteers for March

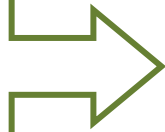
ROGER HATFIELD, LITURGIST

**March 1st**  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10:15am  
Communion  
**CHANGE UP  
SUNDAY**



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Coffee: Leftover Treats  
  
Communion Servers: Vice Moderator, Youth, Outreach  
Lock Up: Teaching and Learning

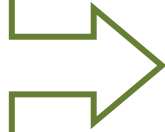
**March 8th**  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10:15am



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Coffee: Roger Hatfield  
  
Lock Up: Worship



**March 15th**  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10:15am  
*One Great Hour of  
Sharing special  
offering*



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Coffee: Jim and Amy Ashby  
  
Lock Up: Youth

**March 22nd**  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10:15am



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Coffee: Volunteers are needed  
  
Lock Up: Moderator

**March 29th**  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10:15am  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
  
Nick Ashby Memorial  
Collection for Eden  
Seminary



Ushers: The Ashby and Peters Families  
Coffee: Alan & Lavon Nehring in memory of Berdena Sorensen  
  
Lock Up: Treasurer

# March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><b>1</b> Sunday School—9am Worship 10:15am Communion Change Up</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> Lifespring Pizza Night at 6pm in Aurora World Day Of Prayer</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> 
<p><b>8</b> Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am One Great Hour of Sharing Collection</p>	<p><b>16</b> Executive Council Meeting 6:30pm</p>		<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> Sunday School— 9am Worship 10:15am  Nick Ashby Memorial Collection for Eden Seminary</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>				

# March Birthdays



March 2—Mike Dugan  
March 10—Michelle Dugan  
March 15—Matt O'Donnell  
March 17—Sharon Wolbers  
March 18—Amy Ashby  
March 23—Mallory Dugan  
March 28—Debbie Stiles



**2am on Sunday, March 8th!!**

Turn your clocks forward on Saturday evening so you don't miss our service on Sunday!!

ENGLISH  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

301 Rhodes ~  
PO Box 156  
Big Rock IL 60511

Church Office:  
630.556.3986



Pastor's cell: 815.761.3910  
Pastor's email:  
jckburbnk@yahoo.com

Church Secretary's email:  
ecuccsecretary@gmail.com

Like us on  
**Facebook** 



**"A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS, A  
COMMUNITY OF SERVICE"  
2026 VISION STATEMENT**