

Hope United Methodist Church

July 19, 2026

Wait with Eager Longing

Pastor Jim Denton

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Thou Hidden Love of God (UMH 414)

Prayer Hymn: Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (UMH 348)

Closing Hymn: Lord of All Hopefulness (TFWS 2197)

Prayer Concerns:

Claude, Shirley, Rosalie, Angela, Phyllis, Breanna, Dean, Mary, Amanda, Larry, Nancy, Jerry, Sheryl, James, Tim, Heidi, Pam, Lexi, Deanne, Dave, David, Elaine, Lisa, Mary Jo, Liliana, Tom, Don, Yvonne, Mikey, Daniel, Ramah, Francis, Jenny, Faith, Betty, Andrea, Steve, Dana, Michael, Jacqueline, Don, Stephanie, Katie, Linda, Richard, Julio, Jim, Jacob, Patrick, Kristen

Our homebound: Adele, Mary, Fran, Irene, Nina, Shirlee, Betty, Diane

Worship Order

Welcome and Community Life

Prelude

Centering Words

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn*

Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Change for Change Collection

Time of Prayer | Prayer Hymn

Prayer of Illumination

Psalm Reading

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Apostle's Creed

Lesser Thanksgiving

Offering Our Gifts to God

Doxology | Prayer of Dedication*

Closing Hymn *

Breakthrough Prayer*

Dismissal with Blessing*

*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

Serving Today

Greeters: Irma Mora, Estelle Vasek

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: RJ Heady

Children's Message: Carrie Ward

Liturgist: Carrie Ward

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: Marcos Pontes & David Bieschke

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Irma Mora, Estelle Vasek

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: Bellamy Avina

Children's Message: Pat Mosley

Liturgist: Maureen Tedesco

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship:

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 19

Bells @ 9:30am, Sanctuary

CLC Meeting after worship, Children's

Sunday School Room

Laity Retreat @ 3-6pm, Hebron, IN

Monday, July 20

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement

Book Club @ 1:00pm, Zoom

Tuesday, July 21

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Wednesday, July 22

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex

Brianna's Hope @ 6:00pm,

Narthex/Library

Thursday, July 23

Knit & Crochet @ 12:30pm, Library

Hope United Methodist Church

Announcements and Community News

July Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC - Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Indiana - is a wonderful non-profit organization that's all about making a difference in Lake County by providing affordable housing and revitalizing communities. They believe in the power of community and work tirelessly to help local families find strength, stability, and self-reliance through sustainable homeownership. For more info: <https://nwihabitat.org>

The Next **Messy Church** event is on **Tuesday, July 28** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hope UMC, Community Center.

Justice and Mercy for All (JAM): The Social Justice Ministry group will take a short break during July. Meetings resume via Zoom in August on the **second and fourth Thursdays** at **7:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact the church office or Joe and Mary Jo Shea.

Praise Bells & Hymn Sing - Have you ever wanted to try ringing handbells? You're invited to join us on the **third Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m.** for a special Hymn Sing during worship. Everyone is welcome—no experience is necessary! Come enjoy the fun of ringing handbells as we make music together in worship.

Picnic – Cookie Donations & Volunteers Needed - As we prepare to welcome our community at Hope UMC's **Community Picnic on August 9**, we are seeking donations of **2 dozen cookies of any kind**, packaged in individual baggies with **2–3 cookies per baggie**, depending on the size. If you are able to donate cookies or help with setup or cleanup, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office.

The altar flowers in worship this morning are given by **David and Irm Mora** in honor of their **45th wedding anniversary**.

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page if you are social media:
www.facebook.com/INHopeUMC. And make sure you visit the website: inhopeumc.org/

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NEW HERE



**TITHE &
OFFERING**



**EXPANDED
BULLETIN**

Hope United Methodist Church

*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

Welcome and Community Life

Prelude

Centering Words

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we gather to join our voices with winds and seas, sunshine and rain, mountains and grassy plains to worship God, our Creator.

People: We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Leader: We gather to join our hearts with creatures who creep and crawl, slither and squirm, swim and soar, to worship God, our Creator.

People: We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Leader: We gather as witnesses of the harm that has been done to God's creation, to the groanings of the earth and all the earth's inhabitants who long for peace and flourishing.

People: We gather as children of God, stewards of God's creation.

Leader: Come, let us worship God who strengthens and equips us, guiding us to live out our faith as good stewards of God's good creation.

People: Come, let us worship God who inspires and empowers us to be stewards of hope and redemption in wounded and hurting world! Amen.

*Opening Hymn – Thou Hidden Love of God (UMH 414)

1 Thou hidden love of God, whose height, whose depth unfathomed no one knows, I see from far
thy beauteous light, and inly sigh for thy repose; my heart is pained, nor can it be at rest, till it
finds rest in thee.

2 'Tis mercy all that thou hast brought my mind to seek its peace in thee; yet while I seek, but find
thee not, no peace my wandering soul shall see. O when shall all my wanderings end, and all my
steps to thee-ward tend?

3 Is there a thing beneath the sun that strives with thee my heart to share? Ah, tear it thence and
reign alone, the Lord of every motion there; then shall my heart from earth be free, when it hath
found repose in thee.

Hope United Methodist Church

4 O Love, thy sovereign aid impart to save me from low-thoughted care; chase this self-will from all my heart, from all its hidden mazes there; make me thy duteous child that I ceaseless may "Abba, Father" cry.

5 Each moment draw from earth away my heart that lowly waits thy call; speak to my inmost soul and say, "I am thy love, thy God, thy all!" To feel thy power, to hear thy voice, to taste thy love, be all my choice.

Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Memory Verse: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me (Psalm 51:10)

Prayer Hymn – Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (UMH 348)

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

[Refrain] Come home, (Come home), come home; (come home); you who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me; shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. [Refrain]

4 O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]

Prayers of the People

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Prayer Response – Hear Us, O God (UMH 490)

Hope United Methodist Church

Prayer of Illumination

Transforming Spirit, Speak to us through the scriptures read today and help us to wait in hope with patient endurance as the seed of your word sprouts and grows within us.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 (Responsive)

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

People: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it all together.

Leader: You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

Leader: Whither shall I go from your spirit?

People: Or whither shall I flee from your presence?

Leader: If I ascend to heaven you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

People: If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Leader: If I say, "Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,"

People: even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with you.

Leader: Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts;

People: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me and the way everlasting!

Romans 8:12-25

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hope United Methodist Church

Sermon – “Wait with Eager Longing”

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;* the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Lesser Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Offering our Gifts to God

*The Doxology (UMH 94)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn** – Lord of All Hopefulness (TFWS 2197)

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy: Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: Be there at our labors, and give us we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace: Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm: Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

***Breakthrough Prayer**

God of new beginnings and second chances. When your son, Jesus the Christ gave his life for us, the veil of separation was torn. Breakthrough all that would keep us separate from one another, from our

Hope United Methodist Church

neighbors, and from you that we may be one just as you and the Father are one. Lead us now into your beloved community where our identity is rooted in Christ alone.

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude