

Hope United Methodist Church

April 12, 2026

Unless I See

Pastor Pete Ward

1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (UMH 384)

Prayer Hymn: Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See (UMH 468)

Choir Anthem: Walk by Faith

Closing Hymn: Easter People, Raise Your Voices (UMH 304)

Prayer Concerns:

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

Our homebound: Wayne, 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
Choral Anthem
Prayer of Illumination
Scripture Readings
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
Ushers: Fran Vukovich
Acolyte: Bellamy Avina
Children's Message: Maureen Tedesco
Liturgist: Marcos Pontes
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: Sandi Arendt

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Irma Mora
Ushers: Fran Vukovich
Acolyte: Ameya Serna
Children's Message: Pat Mosley
Liturgist: Carrie Ward
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: Praise Bells

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 12

Confirmation Class @ 11:30am, Basement

Monday, April 13

Phil's Friends @ 10:00am, Library
Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement

Tuesday, April 14

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library
Property Fund Mtg. @ 1:00pm, Children Sunday School Room
Adam's Rib @ 6:00pm, Hartsfield

Wednesday, April 15

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex
Praise Bells @ 7:00pm, Sanctuary
Brianna's Hope @ 6:00pm, Narthex/Library

Thursday, April 16

Knit & Crochet @12:30pm, Library
Expanded Council @ 6:00pm, Library

Sunday, April 19

CLC Meeting @ 11:30am, Library

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Announcements and Community News

April Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC - Messy Church

A monthly program that unites creative and unique approaches to church and community life. The program reaches out to families and individuals who may not traditionally attend church services.


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


Impact 2818 – is the outdoor ministry of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. To engage, equip, and empower young people through meaningful outdoor experiences where they encounter God’s transforming love through camps, retreats, and conferences. To learn more, visit their website at <https://www.inumc.org/outdoor-ministries>. **Register by April 20** to take advantage of the early bird discount.


The Welcome Network Brunch – “Faithful Through the Storm” - You are invited to attend *The Welcome Network Brunch* on **Saturday, May 2, 2026**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Croatian Center (8550 W. Taft St., Merrillville). **The Justice and Mercy (JAM) Ministry of Hope UMC** encourages you to support this worthwhile organization by joining our table for a morning of inspiration, fellowship, and purpose. Cost: \$70 per person. To reserve your seat, please contact Cyndi Slaboski, Mary Jo Shea, or the church office. For more information, visit their website at: <https://www.thewelcomenet.org/welcome-brunch>.


The altar flowers in worship are in memory of Louise Downing Long, given by Bob & Lynn Underwood.

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/

 7320 Northcote Ave, Hammond, IN

 (219) 844-3030

 www.inHopeUMC.org

 admin@inhopeumc.org

Pastor Jim Denton - (219) 281-1054
james.denton@inumc.org



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: Easter people, Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What's the proof? Is Resurrection real?

People: Within our questioning, Christ appears.

Leader: We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ's resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

People: Within our certainty, Christ appears.

Leader: Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God's salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

People: We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.

*Opening Hymn – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (UMH 384)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son, Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond

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our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

Children's Message

Memory Verse: I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Prayer Hymn – Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See (UMH 468)

1 Dear Jesus, in whose life I see all that I would, but fail to be, let thy clear light forever shine, to shame and guide this life of mine.

2 Though what I dream and what I do in my weak days are always two, help me, oppressed by things undone, O thou whose deeds and dreams were one!

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)

Choral Anthem – Walk by Faith

Prayer of Illumination

Eternal God, as we listen for your word, even in the midst of life's endless distractions, capture us; convict us; convert us; surprise us; and renew us. Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him

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now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon – "Unless I See"

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

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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 95)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn** – Easter People, Raise Your Voices (UMH 304)

1 Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring. Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

2 Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below. For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

3 Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

***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 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