

Hope United Methodist Church

April 19, 2026

Astounded Us

Pastor Jim Denton

Psalm 34:1-10 and Luke 24:13-35

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Christ Is Alive (UMH 318)

Prayer Hymn: Just a Closer Walk with Thee (TFWS 2158)

Choir Anthem: I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me

Closing Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See (UMH 454)

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
A Psalm Reading
A 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: Don French
Ushers: Irma Mora, Richard Miller
Acolyte: Ameya Serna
Children's Message: Pat Mosley
Liturgist: Carrie Ward
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: Praise Bells

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Irma Mora
Ushers: Fran Vukovich, Richard Miller
Acolyte: Sofia Smith
Children's Message: Cyndi Slaboski
Liturgist: Maureen Tedesco
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship:

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 19

CLC @ 11:30am, Library
Missions @ 11:30am, Children Sunday
School Room

Monday, April 20

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement
Book Club @ 1:00 pm, Zoom
Food Pantry Committee Mtg. @ 12:30 pm,
6635 Hohman Avenue

Tuesday, April 21

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

Knit & Crochet @12:30pm, Library
Social Justice Ministry @ 7:00pm, Zoom

Sunday, April 26

Confirmation Class @ 11:30am,
Basement

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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.

Fruitful Journey's Retreat – Pastor Jim will be out of the office **April 21 through April 24**. During this time, Pastor Pete is available for all pastoral care needs, and Brenda will be in the office during her regular hours for all administrative needs. Please contact them should you need anything while Pastor Jim is away.

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.


Confirmation Sunday - Join us on **May 3**, as we celebrate our confirmands—Bellamy, Andres, Leya, RJ, Ameya, Sam, and Sofia—being welcomed into full membership at Hope UMC. Please plan to be there for this special day!


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 tomorrow 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 Cletus West, given by Barb Iler.

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**

*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

Hope United Methodist Church

Welcome and Community Life

Prelude

Centering Words

Call to Worship

Leader: Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

Leader: We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.

Leader: We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.

Leader: Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

**People: May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God!
Amen.**

*Opening Hymn – Christ Is Alive (UMH 318)

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every place and time.

3 Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4 In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and all creation ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer

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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 –Just a Closer Walk with Thee (TFWS 2158)

1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

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 – I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

Prayer of Illumination

Risen Lord, speak to us this day, that our hearts may burn within us.
Reveal anew the mystery and the power of your glorious resurrection.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 34:1-10 (Responsive)

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad.

Leader: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together!

People: I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: Look to God and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.

People: The poor cried out, and the Lord heard, and saved them out of all their troubles.

Leader: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear God, and delivers them.

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People: O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy are those who take refuge in God.

Leader: O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear God have no want!

People: The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?" They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon – "Astounded Us"

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

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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 95)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn – Open My Eyes, That I May See (UMH 454)**

1 Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my [eyes, ears heart], illumine me, Spirit divine!

2 Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. *[Refrain]*

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. *[Refrain]*

*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