

Hope United Methodist Church

April 26, 2026

Knowing That Voice

Pastor Jim Denton

Psalm 100 and John 10:1-10

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail (UMH 549)

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

Choir Anthem: We Shall Walk Through The Valley In Peace

Closing Hymn: Lord of the Dance

Prayer Concerns:

Claude, Shirley, Rosalie, Angela, Jim, Phyllis, Breanna, Dean, Mary, Amanda, Larry, Nancy, Jerry, Sheryl, James, 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, Kennedi, Katie, Linda

For family of Pauline on their recent loss. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

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: Irma Mora

Ushers: Fran Vukovich, Richard Miller

Acolyte: Georgia Heady

Children's Message: Cyndi Slaboski

Liturgist: Maureen Tedesco

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: Messy Church

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Donald French

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: Sofia Smith

Children's Message: Pastor Jim

Liturgist: Pat Mosley

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: CLC

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 26

Confirmation Class @ 11:30am,
Basement

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library
Messy Church @ 6:00pm, Community
Center

Wednesday, April 29

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

Thursday, April 30

Knit & Crochet @12:30pm, Library

Sunday, May 3

Celebration of the Confirmands @
10:15am, Sanctuary
Worship Committee Mtg. @ 11:30am,
Children Sunday School Room.

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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>.


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>.


National Day of Prayer Breakfast - The City of Hammond will host its **Annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 7 at 8:00 AM** at the **Hammond Sportsplex, 6630 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, IN 46320**. If you would like a ticket to this free event, please see Brenda in the Church office.

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, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Leader: We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Leader: We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

People: We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Leader: Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

People: We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.

*Opening Hymn – Where Charity and Love Prevail (UMH 549)

1 Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess; and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease; be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son; as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

6 Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's name; our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

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. 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. 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. 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 – We Shall Walk Through The Valley In Peace

Prayer of Illumination

Keeper of our souls, call us back to you flock when we go astray. You are ever our shepherd and our guardian. May your words of life resonate within us like a drum in the valley, and may its echo never fade. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 100 (Responsive)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

People: Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!

Leader: Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.

People: We are the Lord's; we are the people of God, the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise!

People: Give thanks and bless God's name!

Leader: For the Lord is good;

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People: God's steadfast love endures forever; God's faithfulness to all generations.

John 10:1-10

I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice." Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying.

So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon – “Knowing That Voice”

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

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*The Doxology (UMH 95)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn – Lord of the Dance (UMH 261)**

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came to me and the dance went on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3 I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame, the holy people said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4 I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5 They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

***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