

Hope United Methodist Church

February 22, 2026

**Mercy on the
Wilderness Road**
Pastor Jim Denton

Psalms 32 and Matthew 4:1-11

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (UMH 269)

Prayer Hymn: Spirit of the Living God, x2 (UMH 393)

Choir Anthem: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Closing Hymn: Have Thine Own Way, Lord (UMH 382)

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

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

Worship Order

Welcome and Community Life
A time of contemplation
Prelude
Call to Worship
Opening Hymn*
Opening Prayer
Children's Message
Change for Change Collection
Prayer of Confession
A Psalm Reading
Choral Anthem
A Gospel Reading
Sermon
Time of Prayer | Prayer Hymn
Offering Our Gifts to God
Doxology
Prayer of Dedication*
Closing Hymn *
Breakthrough Prayer*
Dismissal with Blessing*

Serving Today

Greeters: Yvonne Jackson, Don French
Ushers: Irma Mora, Fran Vukovich
Acolyte: Georgia Heady
Children's Message: Cyndi Slaboski
Liturgist: Maureen Tedesco
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: David Bieschke & Marcos Pontes

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Yvonne Jackson, Don French
Ushers: Irma Mora, Fran Vukovich
Acolyte: RJ Heady
Children's Message: Pastor Jim
Liturgist: Pat Mosley
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: Pam Longhi & Fran Vukovich

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 22

Adult Bible Study, @ 11:30am, Library
Endowment Committee @ 11:30am,
Children Sunday School Room

Monday, Feb. 23

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

Tuesday, Feb. 24

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

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex
Bible Study @ 10:30am, Library
Brianna's Hope @ 6:00pm,
Narthex/Library
Praise Bells @ 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, Feb. 26

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

Sunday, Mar. 1

Adult Bible Study, @ 11:30am, Library

*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

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Announcements and Community News

February Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC - The Vine Food Pantry

Messy Church – The Next Messy Church event is on **Tuesday, February 24** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hope UMC, Community Center.

Northern Lakes District Spring 2026 Lay Servant Academy - This is an in-person LSA and you must attend all four sessions to receive credit. The first class will take place on **February 22** and will continue on **March 1, March 8, and March 15**. Training will take place at Hebron UMC, 202 West Church Street, Hebron, Indiana.

Raise Right for Community Preschool and Childcare - Please consider purchasing a **Visa gift card** to donate to Community Preschool and Childcare. Your donation will be used to purchase nutritious snacks for our children. Due to the changes associated with our name change from Woodmar to Hope, the federal program that reimburses CPCC for food required us to reapply as a new program.

Pre-School Staff Appreciation Sunday - Hope UMC is blessed to have a caring staff leading our preschool mission. The staff is dedicated to sharing God's love with the children of our community. We will honor their dedication on Sunday, March 8. Additionally, we'd like to present each staff member (there are ten total) with a self-care themed gift bag during the reception after worship. We have the gift bags--- we are asking our congregation to donate items to fill them! Please consider donating relaxing items-- comfy socks, blankets, lotion, bubble bath, snacks, or any other items you think of! We are also accepting monetary donations to purchase small gift cards as well. **Donations are due by March 1**. Thank you in advance for supporting our preschool team!

The altar flowers in worship are in memory of Ruth Jarmula, given by Nancy Jarmula.

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

Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

People: We follow, trusting in God's mercy.

Leader: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

People: We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.

Leader: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

People: We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

Leader: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

People: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn – Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (UMH 269)

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

2 As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

3 As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

4 And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Memory Verse: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Prayer of Confession

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Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 32 (Responsive)

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty, and whose spirit there is no deceit.

Leader: When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long period

People: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Leader: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

People: I said "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; Then you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Therefore let those who are godly offer prayer to you;

People: At a time of distress, the rush of great waters shall not reach them.

Leader: You are a hiding place for me, you preserve me from trouble; to encompass me with deliverance.

People: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Leader: Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

People: Many are the pangs of the wicked; But steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the lord.

Leader: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous;

People: Shout for joy, all you upright and heart!

Choral Anthem – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

*Matthew 4:1-11

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread."

Jesus replied, "It's written, People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God."

After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone."

Jesus replied, "Again it's written, Don't test the Lord your God."

Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me."

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Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.” The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon - “Mercy on the Wilderness Road”

Prayer Hymn - Spirit of the Living God, x2 (UMH 393)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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)

Offering our Gifts to God

*The Doxology (UMH 95)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn** – Have Thine Own Way, Lord (UMH382)

1 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

2 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Search me and try me, Savior today! Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.

3 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!

Wounded and weary, help me I pray! Power, all power, surely is thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

4 Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway.

Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!

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***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