

Hope United Methodist Church

March 8, 2026

Companion for the Journey

Pastor Jim Denton

Psalms 95 and Romans 5:1-11

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (UMH 298)

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

Choir Anthem: Come to the Water

Closing Hymn: Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love (UMH 422)

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

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

Worship Order

Welcome and Community Life
Prelude | Time of Contemplation
Call to Worship
Opening Hymn*
Opening Prayer
Children's Message
Change for Change Collection
Preschool Teacher
Appreciation
Prayer of Confession
Prayer of Illumination
A Psalm Reading
Choral Anthem
A Scripture Reading
Sermon
Reception of New Member
Time of Prayer | Prayer Hymn
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: Estelle Vasek, Don French

Ushers: Richard Miller, Irma Mora

Acolyte: Bellamy Avina

Children's Message: Maureen
Tedesco

Liturgist: Marcos Pontes

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: SPRC

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Estelle Vasek, Don French

Ushers: Richard Miller

Acolyte: Ameya Serna

Children's Message: Pat Mosley

Liturgist: Joan Link

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: Cheryl Seljan & Irma
Mora

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 8

Adult Bible Study on Spring Break

Monday, March 9

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement

Phil's Friends @ 10:00am, Library

Food Pantry Committee @ 1:00pm,
Library

Tuesday, March 10

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Wednesday, March 11

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex

Bible Study @ 10:30am, Library

Brianna's Hope @ 6:00pm, Narthex/Library

Praise Bells @ 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 12

Knit & Crochet @ 12:30pm, Library

Girl Scout Leaders @ 6:30pm, Narthex

Social Justice @ 7:00pm, Zoom

Friday, March 13

CP&CC Someone Special Dance @
5:30pm, Community Center

Sunday, March 15

Confirmation Class @ 11:30 am,
Basement

Hope United Methodist Church

Announcements and Community News

March Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC - The Community Preschool & Childcare

Please consider supporting our Community Preschool for the Second Mile Giving for this month of March. Due to the changes associated with our church name (Woodmar to Hope) the federal program that reimburses CPCC for food, required us to reapply as a new program and we will have 2-3 months without receiving reimbursement from the program. Your donation is much appreciated and it will be used to purchase snacks for our children.

Someone Special Dance – The Community Preschool & Childcare will be hosting a Someone Special Dance on **March 13 from 5:30 pm to 7:00pm**. The dance will take place in the Community Center. There will be snacks, music, dancing and fun.

Messy Church – The Next Messy Church event is on **Tuesday, March 24** 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.

Better Way Trip 2026 - The *Better Way* Civil Rights tour of Alabama is open to current 8th through 12th grade youth throughout Indiana and is sponsored by the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. When: Saturday, July 11th to Friday, July 17th, 2026. *Registration deadline is Monday May 18*. You may also visit their website at <https://www.inumc.org/2026/01/30/better-way-trip-2026>.

Ecumenical Lenten Mid-Week Services – Wednesdays at 7pm at Griffith Lutheran Church, 1000 N. Broad Street, Griffith, Indiana, (219) 838-1626.

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast – Hope UMC Trustee's will host a **free Pancake Breakfast** on Palm Sunday, March 29, from **8:30 AM–1:30 PM**. A **bake sale** will also be held, with all proceeds supporting the *Hope UMC Choir*. Everyone is welcome—come enjoy good food and fellowship!

The altar flowers in worship are in memory of Joe 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

A Time of Contemplation

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

People: We are the sheep of God's pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts!

People: We receive God's love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.

Leader: Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

*Opening Hymn – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (UMH 298)

1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Memory Verse: What time I am afraid, I will trust in You, (Psalm 56:3)

Preschool Teacher Appreciation

Leader: Today, we gather to celebrate the gentle hearts and guiding hands of our preschool teachers — those who plant the very first seeds of learning, kindness, and wonder.

All: We give thanks for their patience, their joy, and their boundless love.

Hope United Methodist Church

Leader: For the songs that brighten mornings, for the stories that spark imagination, for the hugs that comfort and the smiles that encourage.

All: We honor their care, their creativity, and their dedication to every child's growth.

Leader: May their days be filled with laughter, their hearts with peace, and their work with the knowledge that they are shaping the foundation of a lifetime.

All: We pray for their strength, their joy, and their continued inspiration.

Leader: Preschool teaching is more than a job — it is a gift, a sacred calling to nurture young hearts and minds in their very first steps of learning.

All: We commit to cherishing, supporting, and celebrating our preschool teachers, today and always.

Leader: Go forth in gratitude, carrying the lessons of kindness, curiosity, and love they have shared, and may those lessons grow into a future filled with hope and light.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Illumination (Responsive)

Leader: God, we pray that our ears will be opened to hear your voice speaking through these words.

People: God, open our ears.

Leader: We pray that our eyes will be opened to see your vision illuminated by these words.

People: God, open our eyes.

Leader: We pray that our minds will be opened to understand your wisdom contained in these words.

People: God, open our minds.

Leader: And we pray that our hearts will be opened to believe that in these words, in our prayers, and in the hearts of all who are gathered together, you are here with us today.

People: God, open our hearts. Amen.

Hope United Methodist Church

Scripture Reading

Psalm 95 (Responsive)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

People: Let us make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods, in whose hands are the depths of the earth and also the heights of the mountains.

People: The sea belongs to God who made it, and the dry land, because God formed it.

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,

People: let us kneel before the Lord, our maker!

Leader: For the Lord is our God,

People: we are the people of God's pasture, the sheep of God's hand.

Leader: Here the voice of the Lord today! Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

People: For 40 years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who err in heart, and they do not regard my ways." Therefore I swore in my anger that they should not enter my rest.

Choral Anthem – *Come to the Water*

John 4:5-30; 39-42

He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

Hope United Methodist Church

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!” Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.” “You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.” Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”

Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s word when she testified, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon - “Companion for the Journey”

Reception of New Member

Prayer Hymn – Sprit of the Living God, x2 (UMH 393)

Hope United Methodist Church

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** – Jesus Thine All-Victorious Love (UMH 422)

1 Jesus, thine all-victorious love shed in my heart abroad; then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.

2 O that in me the sacred fire might now begin to glow; burn up the dross of base desire and make the mountains flow!

3 O that it now from heaven might fall and all my sins consume! Come, Holy Ghost, for thee I call, Spirit of burning, come!

4 Refining fire, go through my heart, illuminate my soul; scatter thy life through every part and sanctify the whole.

***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