

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: Cheryle 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

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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/

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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.

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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.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 95 (Responsive)

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

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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*

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Leader: The Word of God

People: Thanks be to God

Sermon - "Companion for the Journey"

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Reception of New Member

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 – 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.

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Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude