

Hope United Methodist Church

March 15, 2026

Journeying in Grace

Pastor Pete Ward

Psalms 23 and Ephesians 5:8-14

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (UMH 381)

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

Choir Anthem: How Can I Keep from Singing

Closing Hymn: He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought (UMH 128)

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
Prayer of Confession
Prayer of Illumination
A Psalm Reading
Choral Anthem
A Scripture Reading
Sermon
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

Acolyte: Ameya Serna

Children's Message: Pat Mosley

Liturgist: Joan Link

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: Cheryl Seljan & Irma Mora

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Estelle Vasek, Don French

Ushers: Richard Miller

Acolyte: Sofia Smith

Children's Message: Cyndi Staboski

Liturgist: Nancy Craig

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship:

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 15

Confirmation Class @ 11:30 am, Basement

CCC @ 11:30 a.m., Children Sunday School Room

Monday, March 16

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement

Book Club @ 1:00pm, Zoom

Tuesday, March 17

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Wednesday, March 18

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex

Bible Study @ 10:30am, Library

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

Praise Bells @ 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, March 19

Knit & Crochet @ 12:30pm, Library

Expanded Council @ 6:00pm, Library

Saturday, March 21

Memorial Service for Beth Moll

Visitation @ 10-11am, Service @ 11am

Sunday, March 22

Neighborhood Meal @ 5:00pm (Power of Living)

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Announcements and Community News

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

Easter Flowers - We would like to have spring flowers beautify the church again the Easter. If You would like to order a flower, please complete this form and place it, along with your payment, in an envelope by mail, in the church offering plate, or at the church office **no later than March 21. (See Bulletin Insert)**

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 honor of Jim & Jeanette Lawson, given by The Heady Family.

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: Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

People: We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

Leader: The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

People: We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.

Leader: The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

People: We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.

Leader: Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.

People: Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together! Amen.

*Opening Hymn – Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (UMH 381)

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2 We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3 Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

4 Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will; blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

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Opening Prayer

Children's Message

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

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Illumination

We come broken to hear a story of hope.
We come fearful to hear a story of peace.
We come cynical to hear a story of liberation.
We come empty so we will listen for the story of life. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23 (Responsive)

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

People: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures,

Leader: leads me beside still waters, restores my life,

People: leads me in right paths for the sake of the Lord's name.

Leader: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

People: for you are with me; Your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

People: You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;

People: and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord as long as I live.

Choral Anthem – How Can I Keep from Singing

Ephesians 5:8-14

for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

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“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Leader: The Word of God
People: Thanks be to God

Sermon - “Journeying in Grace”

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** – He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought (UMH 128)

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom, bywaters still, o'er
troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]

3 Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis
my God that leadeth me. [Refrain]

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4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. *[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