

hope UNITED METHODIST CHURCH newsletter

Issue 29

August 2026



Hope United Methodist Church, 7320 Northcote Avenue, Hammond, IN 46324

Join Us in Worship – Sundays at 10:15



Hope UMC Community Picnic Sunday, August 9 at 11:30am

Come enjoy a wonderful afternoon of sunshine, fellowship, and community as we gather at the church. Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us as we celebrate together!



**Delicious food
Games
Fun for all ages**



From Pastor Jim

Grammar Lessons

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. The United Methodist Church Vision Statement 2025

Leading up to the celebration of Hope UMC's first anniversary, our worship series will be *Embracing an Adverbial Faith*. This six-week series explores the UMC's new vision statement by looking at the adverbs in the vision statement. Adverbs are a part of speech that modifies a verb. The verbs in the statement are love, serve, and lead modified by the adverbs boldly, joyfully, and courageously.

The takeaway for the series will be that faithfulness and fruitfulness are not only about what we do, the verbs, but about the spirit in which we do them, the adverbs. It is God's Holy Spirit that modifies our actions giving our actions impact and power.

To love boldly, we passionately (another adverb!) love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life.

To serve joyfully, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy.

To lead courageously, we follow Jesus' example as we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

This vision calls us to:

- Grow in our own discipleship as we form others into disciples.
- Develop Christ-like leaders.
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and most vulnerable.
- Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation.

John Wesley and the first Methodists made an enormous impact by going into the mission field to bring good news to the people in bold, joyful, and courageous ways. Join us as we continue this mission with passion, spirit, and with hope!

Blessings,

Jim

Opportunities to Grow Our Faith



Messy Church Will Have Back-to-School Theme

Our next Messy Church will be Tuesday, August 25, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. “Brave Like Joshua” includes a back-to-school theme for the August Messy Church. Please spread the word!



Register for Lay Servant Academy

Fall Lay Servant Academy registration is off to a great start, but we'd love MORE of you to join us on Sundays this September! Browse our six course offerings at the link below. Two are classes we have not offered previously. Take a look at the class descriptions and registration details at: inumc.swoogo.com/hebronfall2026 or see page 7 of this newsletter.



You're Invited!

UWFaith Having Potluck Lunch

All United Women in Faith members and friends will share in our annual potluck on August 24 at noon at the church. All interested women are invited!

Mary's Circle will not meet until then and will resume their regular schedule in September. Adam's Rib continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm at Hartsfield Village.

UWFaith Collecting for Cancer Care Packages

United Women in Faith is still collecting items for cancer patients in the box labeled “Phil’s Friends” in the narthex. Several people we know have received gift packages from Phil’s Friends and been cheered by the thoughtfulness.

However, the organization is in great need of donations right now, so please support them.

Suggested items are:

- Throw blankets, crocheted or fleece-tied
- Hats, crocheted or knitted
- Fuzzy socks for women
- Tissues
- Journals
- Puzzle books
- Lotion - fragrance-free, 6 oz. or smaller
- Lip balms
- Toothbrush and travel size toothpaste
- Playing cards, no casino decks
- Gift cards or monetary gifts so Phil’s Friends can purchase needed items

All items need to be new and unused, as friends with cancer have compromised immune systems.

Reaching Out to Our Community

JAM- Justice and Mercy for All

JAM – Justice and Ministry
Education was one of John Wesley's core commitments during his life and ministry. He was passionate about enabling both children and adults to learn, as seen in the founding of schools, the encouragement of class meetings, and the distribution of many books and pamphlets for study and further discussion.
(<https://www.newroombristol.org.uk/education-for-everyone>)

Support of education has been a characteristic of Methodism from the beginning. Study and instruction help children to reason clearly and can help prepare them to grow spiritually.

Unfortunately, funding cutbacks to education have affected our local schools. Therefore, the Hope Social Justice Ministry (JAM) has been active in supporting the teachers and children at O'Bannon Elementary School and our own Community Preschool and Childcare.

Funded by the Hope Endowment Fund, we prepared gift bags for 38 teachers and 40 staff members at the two schools. Our goal is to show these educators that their efforts are appreciated and to bolster morale at both schools.

We are continuing our efforts to ensure fair elections by offering voter registration at the Preschool Foam Party and the church picnic, thanks to Linda Trinkle and the League of Women Voters!

The Welcome Network is working to support children in their Welcome Homes by providing back-to-school clothes. Recent families who have entered the Welcome Network homes as refugees have brought very few personal items. JAM is collecting donations of money or Target gift cards so that the families can purchase some back-to-school clothing for their children.

We will resume our regular Zoom meetings in August, on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. We would love to have you join us for spirited discussions of public affairs and plans to counteract injustices at the local, state, and national levels. Contact the church office or Mary Jo Shea.

Brianna's Hope is August Mission

In our community, Brianna's Hope serves as a beacon of hope for those seeking recovery. This faith-based ministry is a lifeline for overcoming addiction and building new lives, offering more than just a recovery program—it's a community. Each meeting includes a shared meal to acknowledge the financial struggles of many participants. These meals foster connection, compassion, and dignity, creating a sense of belonging.

Over time, the ministry has deepened its ties with the church community. Some members, once unfamiliar with faith, are now actively involved in church life, bringing hope to the congregation. The church supports their growth as they strive to become better versions of themselves. Brianna's Hope highlights the importance of church support in recovery. When faith and community unite, lives are transformed—not just for those in recovery, but for everyone involved. Thank you for your support in the missions of our church and community. God bless you!
Marcos and Mission Team.

The Vine Food Pantry

June 2026

Two volunteers served 108 hours

Days Open:18

Pounds of food distributed: 5,932

New individuals served46

Returning individuals served.....348

Total.....394

New households served.....20

Returning households served.....174

Total.....194

Year to Date

1207 households served

2504 individuals served

41,043 pounds of food distributed

Building Relationships

Relational
Vitality



1 Anna Frankland
3 Aaron Kozlowski
6 Gwen Sonner
7 Bonnie Kay Watson
7 Shirley Farmer
11 Jo Ann Arnold
12 Judy Anderson
14 Jan Pazdur
17 Richard Austin
17 Dick Mackin
18 Pam Lewis
22 Dale Kahn
22 Karen Little
24 Nicole Serna
25 Jim Denton
27 Amanda Serna
27 John Wilson
30 Kevin Shelton

Book Club - What We're Reading Next

Our selection for August is *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar. It is a dual-timeline novel based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law, and modern-day Emsley Wilson, an auctioneer, who ends up with the diary of Johanna Bonger. It is an interesting and inspiring story of two strong women. Please join us as we discuss this book on Monday, August 17 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. You may call the church office for a Zoom link. We welcome new participants!



Paws for Peace

Did you know that Paws for Peace began as a ministry of Woodmar UMC? We will be taking our dogs to Hartsfield Village on August 12 at 2:00 pm. We will meet at the Assisted Living Center. We would love to have more dogs join us. We ask that your dog have its necessary shots, such as rabies. Anyone who is interested in joining us should contact Suzanne Wasmund at 219-865-6453. The residents love to pet the dogs and talk about their memories of pets they have had.

Finance and Administrative



Financial Report

Greetings from the Finance Committee,

We have not yet closed the books for June; however, I can provide some tentative information. A preliminary review indicates that for the month of June, we will incur approximately \$24,000 in losses, bringing our year-end loss to approximately \$55,000.

The Finance committee meets monthly to review our balance sheet and profit and loss statements, discuss options to reduce our deficits, and analyze where our giving is coming from and what anticipated changes we could expect in our monthly giving.

For instance, we have completed a six-month comparison on 2026 giving versus 2025 giving. For the period between January 2025 and the end of May 2025, we had 117 giving units that gave \$112,787. For the same period in 2026, we had 114 giving units that gave a total of \$111,747. That analysis shows we only have a difference of three giving units for a total of \$1,039. However, we have also determined that due to deaths, we will lose approximately \$20,000 in giving income for the remainder of 2026.

We continue to focus on (1) increasing giving, and (2) managing expenses. Because we have very little discretionary spending, we will focus more on how we can increase our giving. Our goal will be to run a stewardship campaign this fall that challenges you to review your level of giving and prayerfully consider how you can increase your annual giving to Hope UMC. Any increase in your annual giving will have a direct impact on the ministries that Hope UMC will be able to offer our community. In the meantime, we will continue to review all expenses to reduce unnecessary spending.

Blessings, Pastor Pete

Finance Chair

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Phone (219) 844-3030
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30

Web: INhopeumc.org
Facebook.com/INHopeUMC
Brenda's email: admin@inhopeumc.org
Pastor's email: james.denton@inumc.org

Pastoral care needs may keep Pastor Jim out of the office during office hours. It is always advisable to call to schedule a time to meet with him. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Jim or Brenda.



Fall '26 Lay Servant Academy

@ Hebron United Methodist Church

202 W. Church Street, Hebron, IN 46341

In-Person Courses

Sundays in September: 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, and 9/27 2-5 pm (CT)

\$10 per participants + cost of text

Introduction to Lay Ministry - led by Pastor Sheri LoCascio

Discover how your unique story and talents fit into God's greater mission for the world. This course moves beyond the church walls to show you how to lead with impact, whether you are serving in a boardroom or a soup kitchen. Step into your calling as a Lay Servant and learn to transform your community through the power of intentional, Christ-centered leadership! Course text - *Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course Participant's Book* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson. ISBN DR626*978-0-88177-626-3 (\$13)

Disciples in the Marketplace - led by CLSP Karen Williams

Most Christians spend the majority of their waking hours at work, yet we often leave our faith at the door. Join us as we explore David C. Teel's transformative approach to finding God in the "ordinary" world of business, service, and labor. Course text - *Disciples in the Marketplace: Seeing Grace at Work* by David C. Teel. ISBN 979-8-9929609-9-0 (\$11)

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts - led by Pastor Tom Clark

Unlock your unique purpose and move from the sidelines to the front lines of God's work. Discover how your specific spiritual gifts are the "missing piece" designed to empower the entire Body of Christ. Reclaim the ministry that isn't just for the pulpit—it's a calling meant for every believer! Course text - *Each One a Minister* by William J. Carter. ISBN DR375*978-0-88177-375-0 (\$14)

Embracing Personal Prayer - led by Pastor Annie Headen

Deepen your connection with God by moving beyond "routine" prayers into a life-giving, personal conversation. This class provides the practical tools and biblical foundation you need to overcome the hurdles of a busy mind and a crowded schedule. Discover how to transform your daily prayer life from a spiritual chore into a powerful source of peace and strength! text - *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* by Margie Burger. ISBN DR570*978-0-88177-570-9 (\$10)

Leading Worship - led by Pastor Jim Denton

Understand the "why" behind our traditions so you can lead meaningful, spirit-filled services that truly connect your congregation to God. This course gives you the confidence to step into leadership roles, ensuring you are prepared to guide the community through the beauty and flow of United Methodist worship! text - *Worshiping with United Methodists* (Revised) by Hoyt Hickman. ISBN AB526*978-0-687-33526-8 (\$14)

Preaching 1 - led by Pastor Wayne Williams

Don't let the "pulpit" intimidate you; this class gives you the practical tools and confidence to step in and share a meaningful message when your pastor is away. Learn to turn your unique faith journey into a grounded, heart-centered sermon that speaks peace and truth to your congregation! This course is required for the certified lay speaker track of study. Course text - *From Pew to Pulpit* by Clifton F. Guthrie. ISBN AB6660*978-0-687-06660-5 (\$12)

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER ONLINE BY 9/6/26.

<https://inumc.swoogo.com/hebronfall2026>

Questions? Contact Director Karen Williams @ 219-869-2324 or mrs.karen.wms@gmail.com



August 2026



Hope UMC Events

Aug 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10:15am - Sunday 2pm - Neighborhood Meal	27 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Knitting and 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	28 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 1pm - Staff Meeting @ 6pm - Messy Church @	29 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office	30 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 10am - CPCC Board 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	31	1
2 10:15am - Sunday	3 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 6:30pm - Operations	4 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 1pm - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - League of	5 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office	6 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 11am - CPCC Board 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	7	8
9 10:15am - Sunday 11:30am - Community Picnic	10 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Knitting and 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	11 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 1pm - Staff Meeting @	12 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible	13 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	14	15
16 10:15am - Sunday	17 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	18 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 1pm - Staff Meeting @ 7pm - Ministry and Care	19 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office	20 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet 6pm - Guiding Council @	21	22
23 10:15am - Sunday 2pm - Neighborhood Meal	24 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Knitting and 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	25 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 1pm - Staff Meeting @ 6pm - Messy Church @	26 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office	27 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	28	29
30 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10:15am - Sunday	31 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	1 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 1pm - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - League of	2 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office	3 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 11am - CPCC Board 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	4	5