

hope UNITED METHODIST CHURCH newsletter

Issue 30

September 2026



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

Join Us in Worship – Sundays at 10:15

Lay Servant Ministry Class

Right Here at Hope UMC!

Have you hesitated to attend Lay Servant Academy because it always seems to be at a far-away church? Now is your chance to attend, because the basic course is being offered right here at our church! See the article in the next column for details.



Happy Birthday to Hope

Come celebrate Hope UMC's one-year anniversary on Sunday, September 13, as we gather for a special time of worship, fellowship, and gratitude. We look forward to sharing this joyful occasion with our church family and friends.

Northern Lakes District Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry The Basic Course

October 11, 18, 25, November 1
2:00-5:00 pm (CDT, which is "our" time)
Hope United Methodist Church, Hammond

You are invited to join us for the Lay Servant Ministries course to begin or continue training for living out the call to make disciples for the transformation of our churches, communities, and world. This is an in-person Lay Servant Academy event. Your presence is valued as we grow together in faith and ministry. Attendance at all 4 sessions is required for credit.

- Cost is \$10. Visa and MasterCard accepted. Please print a copy of your confirmation for your receipt.
- Registration deadline: Thursday, October 8 at 12:59 pm (CDT).
- Cancellations must be received via email to erin.belbutoski@inumc.org by 12:59 pm (CDT) on October 8 to receive a refund less processing fee. No refunds after this date.

Introduction to Lay Ministry: the BASIC Course - Are you feeling a persistent nudge to step deeper into your faith? Introduction to Lay Ministry (Basic) is your practical, welcoming invitation to discover how your everyday life, skills, and story align with God's purpose for the church. Discover and employ your personal spiritual gifts, learn the worth of servant leadership, and be rooted in good spiritual practices. Course text is *Lay Servant Ministries: Basic Course Participant's Book* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson. Available through [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Cokesbury](https://www.cokesbury.com).

Register at
<https://inumc.swoogo.com/introlayministry2026>

Opportunities to Grow Our Faith

Discipleship
and Spiritual
Vitality



Our next Messy Church will be Tuesday, September 22, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in our community center.

There are still dates available to sign up for altar flowers. The sheet is on the counter just outside the church office. If you choose to honor or remember a loved one, that information is printed in the bulletin. After our worship service, you take the flower home to enjoy all week!

We also have openings on the sign-up sheet to bring fellowship treats. (Also just outside the church office.) We will love anything you bring!

Our Charge Conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 17 at 3:30 PM. It will be at Christ United Methodist in Gary.

Looking way ahead: We have tentatively scheduled Vacation Bible School for June 21-27, 2027.

We can now better learn who is who with our beautiful new nametags! If you are attending Hope UMC and didn't receive a tag, please let the church office or Sarah Ward know.



Remember our Blessing Box

The Blessing Box is a place where we can donate food for anyone to pick up at anytime, no questions asked. Ours is located in our northwest parking lot near the library kiosk. It serves a real need for those who cannot afford a meal that day. People in our community are frequently seen donating or picking up items.

There is always a need for donations for food that is nonperishable. A good rule to follow: If the food is normally stored in a refrigerator or freezer, it does not belong in the box! Examples of safe foods are: canned goods, boxed items like mac and cheese, peanut butter, crackers, cereal, nuts, granola bars, and cheese and cracker packs.

Items that are NOT safe for the box are: any meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, eggs, cheese, or anything that spoils quickly without freezing or refrigeration. Perishable food left in the box has spoiled and caused serious problems. And, of course, we always want the food we are providing to be safe to eat!

Products that are especially appreciated: canned foods that are a meal, such as chili, hearty soups, Beefaroni, beans and franks, and stew. Pop-tops are preferred since some people don't have a can opener.

Reaching Out to Our Community

JAM Supporting Education, Voting Rights, and ICE Protests

JAM (Justice and Mercy) the social justice ministry of Hope UMC, is continuing to support quality education for all children. Unfortunately, funding cutbacks to education have affected our local schools. To raise the morale of students and to show our appreciation of educators, JAM delivered gift bags to 38 teachers and 40 staff members at the start of school at O'Bannon Elementary School and our Hope preschool.

During our JAM discussions we share information about national, state and local laws and practices that might negatively affect the just offering of quality education to all children.

We are also focusing our efforts on ensuring fair elections. We are closely following efforts to limit voter registration by mail, and we are encouraging voter registration. In addition, we support the protests calling for an end of ICE detention at the Miami Correctional Facility at Bunker Hill.

We will continue our regular Zoom meetings in September on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Please join us for spirited discussions of public affairs and planning to counteract injustices at the local, state and national levels.

Contact the church office or Mary Jo and Joe Shea to receive a link to our meetings.



JAM Receives Thank You Note

JAM has received a note from O'Bannon Elementary School: *Thank you so much for your generous donation. We appreciate your thinking of us and your continued support. We couldn't survive without partnerships like yours.*

September Mission is Phil's Friends

This month, our Second Mile Giving will be dedicated to Phil's Friends! This organization, started in 2006 by Phil Zielke, is a faith-based nonprofit that helps cancer patients and their families all over the US. They offer free care packages filled with things like cozy fleece blankets, Bibles, uplifting cards, and prayer support.

In addition to our currently small group, Crochet for Phil's Friends, our church is excited to support this ministry! To mark the one-year anniversary of Hope UMC, on September 13, we will be putting together special packages for Phil's Friends. What a wonderful way to give back, just like Jesus did for us.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support in all our church Mission Ministries. God bless you!

Marcos and Missions Team

The Vine Food Pantry

July 2026

Volunteers hours:123

Days Open:18

Pounds of food distributed: 5,932

New individuals served44

Returning individuals served.....348

Total.....392

New households served.....18

Returning households served.....174

Total.....192

Year to Date

1,399 households served

2,896 individuals served

47,402 pounds of food distributed



1 Larry Alport
1 Lisa Mendoza
2 Chandra Ware
4 Bob Heady
6 Berto Valdez
6 Brian Goodrich
10 Janet Voorheis
10 Georgia Heady
13 Carrie Ward
16 Ellena Mainz
16 Pam Wendell
17 Angela Hawkins
17 David Tapper
20 Star Vestal
20 Katherine Malloy
20 Cheryl Echlin
22 Jane Harper-Alport
22 Kenneth Vincent
23 David Dean
25 Richard Miller
26 Don Nelson
27 Fran Miklos
28 Wanda Stevenson



Preschool/Childcare Starts School Year

September is here, and with it comes a wonderful opportunity for new beginnings, new friendships, and new routines! As our classrooms settle into the school year, we are excited to see our children learning, growing, and becoming more comfortable in their daily routines.

September is also an important time for building classroom communities. Children are learning how to share, take turns, use kind words, follow routines, and make new friends. These social-emotional skills are an important part of early childhood development, and we are proud to support each child as they grow in confidence and independence.

Thank you to our families for helping us establish consistent arrival and classroom routines. A predictable routine helps children feel safe, secure, and ready to learn. We appreciate your partnership as we work together to make this school year a successful one for every child.

September Birthdays: Ms. Andii, Ifekristi, Kai'Rion, Ms. Trina, and Aramis

Best,
Karianne Padilla (Director)

United Women in Faith Cancelled August Potluck

Due to storm damage and impaired communications, United Women in Faith cancelled our annual potluck. We will reschedule the event in September. New officers will take their positions at our next meeting, which is at noon on September 14 at the church and on Zoom. The UMFaith board will meet before this at 11:00 a.m.

In October, Mary's Circle will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month at noon. For information about the next meeting of Adam's Rib contact Lora Ward. All women of faith, whether members of Hope Church or not, are invited to join us.



UWFaith Collects for Cancer Care Packages

United Women in Faith supports Phil's Friends all year long by collecting items for cancer care packages. Here is a list of recommended items you can place in the box in the narthex.

- 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.

Turn the Page With Us

Hope UMC Book Club has selected the title *The Poet and the Silk Girl* by Ina Satsuki for our September read. We will discuss the book on September 21 at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom. Please call the church office for a link to our meeting.

Here is a description of the book from Goodreads, "*The Poet and the Silk Girl* illustrates through one family's saga the generational struggle of Japanese Americans who resisted racist oppression, fought for the restoration of their rights, and clung to their full humanity in the face of adversity. With psychological insight, Ina excavates the unmentionable, recovering a chronicle of resilience amidst one of the severest blows to American civil liberties. As she traces the legacies of trauma, she connects her family's ordeal to modern day mass incarceration at the U.S.-Mexico border. Lyrical and gripping, this cautionary tale implores us to prevent the repetition of atrocity, pairing healing and protest with galvanizing power."

This selection should provide good and timely discussion. We welcome you to join us on the September 21 at 1:00 p.m.

**United Women in Faith
Northern Lakes District**

Mission Unstoppable

September 19, 2026

Fall Gathering-12-4:15 EST★

11-3:15 CST★

First UMC Valparaiso 103 Franklin

**Parking on the N side of
church-Enter on Franklin**

11:00-3:15 Mission fair with local charities information

11:45-12:30 Mission report of a youth trip to ASP

12:30-1:15 Lunch will be served

1:15-2:00 Business meeting including honoring those who have passed this last year (Send info to Janenne Stuber-219-477-8748)

2:00-3:00 Jess Kern from Raindrops Rising Foundation will be speaking about Human Trafficking and answering questions

3:00-3:15 Offering, Closing, and Send off

Bring adult coloring books, markers, colored pencils, women's hair brushes and children's detangler for Raindrops Rising

To Register Call, Text or Email Lora Ward at
708-650-6417 or lward4203@aol.com

\$10 registration fee payable at the door



Note Time difference

Finance and Administrative



Why I Give Financially to My Church

I choose to give financially to my church because I believe in the mission and the impact it has on both our congregation and the wider community. My church is more than just a place of worship- it is a source of hope, guidance, and support for people in all walks of life. Through its ministries, outreach programs, and acts of service, it meets both spiritual and practical needs. By giving, I'm helping to ensure that these programs continue to thrive, that our doors remain open to anyone seeking comfort or direction, and that we can extend God's love beyond our walls.

My giving is also an expression of gratitude and faith. I see it as a way to honor God with the resources he has entrusted to me, acknowledging that everything I have ultimately comes from Him. Contributing financially allows me to be a part of something bigger than myself – a shared effort to spread kindness, truth, and compassion. It's not just about meeting a budget; it's about investing in eternal impact, knowing that my gift, combined with others, can change lives and strengthen our community in ways that truly matter.

This fall, we will have a stewardship campaign that I hope will challenge your giving contribution to Hope UMC. Maybe you are an emerging giver. An emerging giver is one who gives occasionally, or doesn't participate financially at all. The stewardship campaign goal would be to help introduce you to giving as part of discipleship and offer you an accessible first step in financial giving to Hope UMC.

Maybe you are a growing giver, one who already participates in the financial life of the church. The stewardship campaign goal for you would be to help you identify the next faithful step in financial contribution.

Finally, you may already be an engaged giver, one who has established a meaningful pattern of financial support to Hope UMC. The stewardship campaign would invite you to consider if this is the season to take another faithful step forward.

Next month, I will share with you some broad details on the giving pattern of the congregation of Hope UMC so that you may consider how your present level of giving compares with other members of Hope UMC.

Faithfully yours,
Pete Ward, Finance Chair

Hope United Methodist Church
7320 Northcote Ave, Hammond, IN 46324
Phone (219) 844-3030
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30

Web: INhopeumc.org
[Facebook.com/INHopeUMC](https://www.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 - *Worshipping 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



September 2026

Hope UMC Events

Sep 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

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

