

Hope United Methodist Church

June 14, 2026

A Miracle Called Laughter

Karen Williams

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise (UMH 116)

Prayer Hymn: Spirit Song (UMH 347)

Closing Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord Is King (UMH 715)

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, Michael, Jacqueline, Don, Stephanie, Kennedy, Katie, Linda

Our homebound: Adele, Mary, Fran, Irene, Nina, Shirlee, Betty, Diane, Jo Ann

Worship Order

Welcome and Community Life
Prelude
Centering Words
Call to Worship
Opening Hymn*
Opening Prayer
Children's Message
Change for Change Collection
Time of Prayer | Prayer Hymn
Prayer of Illumination
Psalm Reading
Scripture Reading
Sermon
Apostle's Creed
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: Irma Mora, Estelle Vasek
Ushers: Irma Mora
Acolyte: R.J. Heady
Children's Message: Maureen Tedesco
Liturgist: Pat Mosley
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: United Women in Faith

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Irma Mora, Estelle Vasek
Ushers: Irma Mora
Acolyte: Bellamy Avina
Children's Message: Pat Mosley
Liturgist: Carrie Ward
Organist: David Bieschke
Fellowship: Harold Fink & CLC

Weekly Calendar

Monday, June 15

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement
Book Club @ 1:00pm, Zoom

Tuesday, June 16

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Wednesday, June 17

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex
Bible Study @ 10:30am, Library
Brianna's Hope @ 6:00pm,
Narthex/Library

Thursday, June 18

Knit & Crochet @12:30pm, Library

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Announcements and Community News

June Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC - The Welcome Network – Located in Hammond, IN. The Welcome Network helps immigrants and refugees by providing legal aid, housing, and community support for families starting a new life. They depend on both donations and volunteers to continue serving people in need. For more information: visit www.thewelcomenet.org.

Pastor Jim Vacation - Pastor Jim is on vacation through **June 21**. Pastor Pete is available for any pastoral care needs that arise, and Brenda will be in the office during her regular hours for all administrative needs. Please contact them should you need anything while Pastor Jim is away.


Foam Party Outreach Event, Saturday, June 20 from 1pm-3pm: Join Community Preschool and Childcare, Messy Church, and Hope UMC for a Foam Party on the church lawn! Enjoy music, fellowship, and foam-filled fun as we welcome families from our community. Bring a towel—you may get wet! This outreach event is funded by the CPCC Popcorn Sale and a memorial gift in honor of Pauline Luthi. For more information, contact Karianne at (219) 844-3030, Ext. 305 or email director@communitypreschoolandchildcare.org.


Hope Leadership Planning Retreat, Saturday, June 27, 9am-12pm. All members of the Guiding Council and Expanded Council will devote a full morning to the discussion, selection, and calendaring of Hope UMC ministry events and community activities for Fall 2026 through 2027. We will gather in the narthex, where a light brunch will be provided. Even if not on Council, if you are serving in any of Hope's ministry areas or just want to be involved in event scheduling, your participation is welcome, too. Contact Council Chair Jane Harper-Alport (219/718-8328) for more information and to let her know you plan to attend.


Today we welcome **Karen Williams** in leading us in worship. A lifelong Hoosier and the oldest daughter of a farmer and a music teacher, Karen has been an Indiana public school English educator for 37 years—long enough to remember red gradebooks, real snow days, and overhead projectors! After graduating from Butler University, she married her high school sweetheart, Wayne, who serves as Senior Pastor at Hebron UMC and Administrative Pastor at Whiting UMC. They are the proud parents of three grown children. Karen has served actively in church through teaching, administrative, and church music roles. Since 2023, she has been active in laity education, serving as the Hebron LSA registrar, teaching courses, and becoming a Certified Lay Speaker. In August of 2025, she was appointed as the Northern Lakes District Director of Lay Servant Ministries, a role that enables her to help grow competent and confident disciples of Jesus Christ who will go out and transform the world.


The altar flowers are **in honor of the United Women in Faith**, given by Yvonne Jackson.

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

Prelude

Centering Words

Call to Worship

Leader: God appears in unexpected moments, speaking hope into impossible situations.

People: We come with open hearts, ready to hear the promises of our faithful God.

Leader: To Sarah, God said, "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?"

People: With laughter and wonder, we proclaim the God of the impossible.

Leader: Let us worship the God who brings joy and life out of despair.

People: We worship in faith, trusting God's eternal promises.

*Opening Hymn – The God of Abraham Praise (UMH 116)

1 The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of Everlasting Days, and God of love; Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

2 The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend. I shall, on eagle wings up-borne, to heaven ascend. I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore, and sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

3 The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest; a land of sacred liberty, and endless rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

4 The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing, and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King! Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be: Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Memory Verse: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

Prayer Hymn – Spirit Song (UMH 347)

1. O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole.

[Refrain] Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

2. O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy. Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name. O give him all your tears and sadness; give him all your years of pain, and you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. [Refrain]

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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)

Prayer of Illumination

May we hear God's promises with open hearts and with receptive minds.

May we receive God's promises with laughter and tears.

May we trust God's promises, even when they seem far away.

A Psalm Reading (Responsive) - Psalm 116:1-2, 12:19

Leader: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice and my supplications,

People: and has inclined his ear to me whenever I called.

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all my benefits?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

People: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

Leader: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid. You have loosed my bonds.

People: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: I will pay my vows to the Lord, in the presence of all his people,

People: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Scripture Reading - Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant."

They responded, "Fine. Do just as you have said."

So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, "Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!" Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. Then Abraham took butter, milk, and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah?" And he said, "Right here in the tent."

Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!" Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, I'm no longer able to

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have children and my husband's old. The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?' Is anything too difficult for the Lord? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son." Sarah lied and said, "I didn't laugh," because she was frightened. But he said, "No, you laughed." The Lord was attentive to Sarah just as he had said, and the Lord carried out just what he had promised her. She became pregnant and gave birth to a son for Abraham when he was old, at the very time God had told him. Abraham named his son—the one Sarah bore him—Isaac. Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old just as God had commanded him. Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born. Sarah said, "God has given me laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me." She said, "Who could have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse sons? But now I've given birth to a son when he was old!"

Sermon – "A Miracle Called Laughter"

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering our Gifts to God

*The Doxology (UMH 94)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn** – Rejoice, The Lord Is King (UMH 715)

1 Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore; mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

2 Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

3 His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

4 Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come, and take his servants up to their eternal home. We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

***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