

# Hope United Methodist Church

May 3, 2026

## You Know the Way

Pastor Jim Denton

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 and  
John 14:1-14

## Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: The Church's One Foundation (UMH 545)

Prayer Hymn: Just A Closer Walk with Thee (TFWS 2158)

Choir Anthem: The Holy City

Praise Bells Anthem: Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho (Offertory)

Closing Hymn: When We All Get to Heaven (UMH 701)

## 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, Kennedi, Katie, Linda and for the families of Pauline and Wayne on their recent loss. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

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

## 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  
Choral Anthem  
Gospel Reading\*  
Sermon  
Rite of Confirmation  
Holy Communion  
Offering Our Gifts to God  
Doxology | Prayer of Dedication\*  
Closing Hymn \*  
Breakthrough Prayer\*  
Dismissal with Blessing\*

## Serving Today

**Greeters:** Donald French  
**Ushers:** Irma Mora  
**Acolyte:** Sofia Smith  
**Children's Message:** Pastor Jim  
**Liturgist:** Pat Mosley  
**Organist:** David Bieschke  
**Fellowship:** CLC

## Serving Next Sunday

**Greeters:** Donald French  
**Ushers:** Irma Mora  
**Acolyte:** RJ Heady  
**Children's Message:**  
**Liturgist:** Marcos Pontes  
**Organist:** David Bieschke  
**Fellowship:** CLC

## Weekly Calendar

### Sunday, May 3

Celebration of the Confirmands @  
10:15am, Sanctuary  
Worship Committee Mtg. @ 11:30am,  
Children Sunday School Room.

### Monday, May 4

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement  
Operations Team Mtg. @ 5:00pm, Library  
Mary's Circle @ 11:00 am, Les Café

### Tuesday, May 5

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library  
LWV of Calumet Area @ 5:30pm, Narthex

### Wednesday, May 6

Bible Study @ 10:30am, Library  
Praise Bells @ 7:00pm, Sanctuary  
Communications Mtg. @ 4:30 pm, Library  
Brianna's Hope @ 6:00pm,  
Narthex/Library

### Thursday, May 7

Prayer Breakfast @ 8:00am, Hammond  
Sportsplex  
Knit & Crochet @12:30pm, Library  
SPRC @ 5:30pm, Library

\*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

# Hope United Methodist Church

## Announcements and Community News

**May Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC** - Haven House – is an emergency shelter and support for survivors of domestic violence and their children. They are in need of donations, including twin bedding, household items, wipes, paper towels, and canned or frozen food. To learn more or donate, visit:

<https://www.havenhousedvs.org>

**Confirmation Sunday** - Join us following worship for a time of celebration in the Narthex. We will honor our confirmands—Bellamy, Andres, Leya, RJ, Ameya, Sam, and Sofia—as they are welcomed into full membership at Hope United Methodist Church. Cake will be served. All are invited to share in this special occasion.

**National Day of Prayer Breakfast** - The City of Hammond will host its **Annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 7 at 8:00 AM** at the **Hammond Sportsplex, 6630 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, IN 46320**. If you are interested in attending, please stop in the church office for a ticket.

**Certified Lay Speaker Info Session (Zoom)** - Interested in becoming a Certified Lay Speaker in the Northern Lakes District? Join our new CLSP Cohort to grow in faith through spiritual formation and preaching opportunities. Zoom session will take place on **Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 p.m.** Email Karen Williams at [mrs.karen.wms@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.karen.wms@gmail.com) for a zoom link and to learn more.


**Messy Church** – The Next Messy Church event is on **Tuesday, May 26** 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>.


**United Women in Faith & Mary’s Circle** - will meet for their final get-together before summer at Les Café on **Monday, May 4 at 11:00 am**.

The altar flowers in worship this morning are **in honor and celebration of our new confirmands**, given by Hope UMC congregation.

Remember to like and follow our Facebook page if you are social media:  
[www.facebook.com/INHopeUMC](http://www.facebook.com/INHopeUMC). And make sure you visit the website: [inhopeumc.org/](http://inhopeumc.org/)

 7320 Northcote Ave, Hammond, IN

 (219) 844-3030

 [www.inHopeUMC.org](http://www.inHopeUMC.org)

 [admin@inhopeumc.org](mailto:admin@inhopeumc.org)

**Pastor Jim Denton - (219) 281-1054**  
[james.denton@inumc.org](mailto:james.denton@inumc.org)



**NEW HERE**



**TITHE &  
OFFERING**



**EXPANDED  
BULLETIN**

# Hope United Methodist Church

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\*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

## Welcome and Community Life

### Prelude

### Centering Words

### Call to Worship

Leader: Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

**People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

**People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

**People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

**People: I am the way, the truth, and the life.**

Leader: Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.

**People: Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn – The Church's One Foundation (UMH 549)

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth; her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

### Opening Prayer

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## Children's Message

Memory Verse: Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:31)

### Prayer Hymn –Just a Closer Walk with Thee (TFWS 2158)

1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

### 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

God, be our refuge and strength, God, be our refuge and strength, an ever-faithful rock in the the shifting sands of life. Christ, be our firm foundation, nourishing us to grow more and more like you. Holy Spirit, be our wisdom and guide, empowering us to be God's people in the world.

### Scripture Reading

#### Psalm 31: 1-5,15-16 (Responsive)

Leader: How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

**People: With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.**

Leader: I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

**People: I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.**

Leader: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

**People: I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

Leader: Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word.

**People: Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.**

Leader: I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.

**People: My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times.**

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**Choral Anthem** - The Holy City

**John 14:1-14**

“Don’t be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. My Father’s house has room to spare. If that weren’t the case, would I have told you that I’m going to prepare a place for you? When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. You know the way to the place I’m going.” Thomas asked, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him.” Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father; that will be enough for us.” Jesus replied, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I have spoken to you I don’t speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me does his works. Trust me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on account of the works themselves. I assure you that whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. They will do even greater works than these because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. When you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

Leader: The Word of God

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** – “You Know the Way”

**Rite of Confirmation**

Presentation of the Candidates: Bellamy, Andres, Leya, R.J., Ameya, Sam, Sofia

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith to the Congregation:

Leader: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**People: We do.**

Leader: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this person now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in her service to others.**

**We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.**

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Leader: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

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## Commendation & Welcome

Leader: Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

**People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

## Holy Communion

...Friends, hear the good news: Jesus came not to condemn us, but to love us and save us and show us the way. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

....

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

....

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## Prayer After Communion

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have fed us with grace, strengthened us for the journey, and bound us together as the body of Christ.**

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**On this Confirmation Sunday, we thank you for the young people who have claimed the promises of their baptism and stepped forward in faith. Continue to surround them with your love. Let the gifts of your Spirit—wisdom, courage, joy, and compassion—take root and flourish in their lives.**

**Make us, their church family, faithful companions on the way: encouraging them, praying for them, and walking beside them as they grow in discipleship.**

**Send us now into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Offering our Gifts to God – Praise Bells (Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho)**

\*The Doxology (UMH 94)

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*Closing Hymn – When We All Get to Heaven**

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus; sing his mercy and his grace. In the mansions bright and blessed he'll prepare for us a place. When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway, clouds will overspread the sky; but when traveling days are over, not a shadow, not a sigh. When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

3 Let us then be true and faithful, trusting, serving every day; just one glimpse of him in glory will the toils of life repay. When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

4 Onward to the prize before us! Soon his beauty we'll behold; soon the pearly gates will open; we shall tread the streets of gold. When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

**\*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**