

Hope United Methodist Church

September 20, 2026

Striving Side by Side

Pastor Jim Denton

Psalm 105:1-6,37-45
Philippians 1:21-30

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Maker, in Whom We Live (UMH 88)

Prayer Hymn: We Gather Together (UMH 131)

Choir Anthem: The Servant's Song (TFWS 2222)

Closing Hymn: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (TFWS 2241)

Prayer Concerns:

Claude, Shirley, Rosalie, Angela, Phyllis, Breanna, Dean, Mary, Amanda, Larry, Nancy, Jerry, Sheryl, James, Tim, Heidi, Pam, Lexi, Deanne, Dave, David, Elaine, Lisa, Mary Jo, Liliana, Tom, Don, Yvonne, Mikey, Daniel, Ramah, Francis, Jenny, Faith, Betty, Andrea, Steve, Dana, Michael, Jacqueline, Don, Stephanie, Katie, Linda, Richard, Julio, Jim, Jacob, Patrick, Kristen, Aiden, Karen

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

Scripture Reading

Sermon

Apostle's Creed

Lesser Thanksgiving

Offering Our Gifts to God

Doxology | Prayer of Dedication*

Closing Hymn *

Dismissal with Blessing*

*Please stand, as you are comfortable.

Serving Today

Greeters: Anna Frankland, Irma Mora

Ushers: Irma Mora & Fran Vukovich

Acolyte: Georgia Heady

Children's Message: Pat Mosley

Liturgist: Carrie Ward

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship: Irma Mora

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Anna Frankland, Irma Mora

Ushers: Irma Mora & Fran Vukovich

Acolyte: RJ Heady

Children's Message: Cyndi Slaboski

Liturgist: Carrie Ward

Organist: David Bieschke

Fellowship:

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 20

Missions @ 11:30am, Library

CLC @ 11:30am, Sunday School Room

Youth Group @ 11:30am, Downstairs

LSA @ 2:00pm, Hebron UMC

Monday, September 21

Dart Ball @ 11:30am, Basement

N.A. @ 11:30am, Sunday School Room

Book Club @ 1:00pm, Zoom

Tuesday, September 22

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

N.A. @ 11:30am, Sunday School Room

Messy Church @ 6:00pm, Community Center

Wednesday, September 23

Quilters @ 10:00am, Narthex

Bible Study @ 10:30am, Library

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

Thursday, September 24

Knit & Crochet @ 12:30pm, Library

J.A.M. @ 7:00pm, Zoom

Friday, September 25

N.A. @ 11:30am, Sunday School Room

Sunday, September 27

Youth Group @ 11:30am, Downstairs

LSA @ 2:00pm @ Hebron UMC

Neighborhood Meal @ 5:00pm, (UWFaith)

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Announcements and Community News

September Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC – Phil's Friends, is an organization that provides free, customized care packages and heartfelt support to cancer patients. Their mission is to spread love, hope, and strength during one of life's toughest battles—reminding those facing cancer that they are never alone.

Northern Lakes Fall Lay Servant Academy – The Next Class will meet on **Sunday Sept. 20 & 27**, from **2:00–5:00 p.m.** at Hebron UMC, 202 W. Church St., Hebron, IN.

The **Next Messy Church** event is on **Tuesday, September 22** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hope UMC, Community Center.

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry - 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. Attendance at all 4 sessions is required for credit. This class begins on October 11 and runs **October 11, 18, 25, and November 1, 1-4pm** at **Hope UMC, 7320 Northcote Ave., Hammond, IN.** **Register by October 8:**

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

The altar flowers in worship are given by and **in memory of Wilbur J. Downing, Jr.**, given by Bob & Lynn Underwood.

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

(Breathe in) We are God's people; (breathe out) together, we press on

Call to Worship

Leader: In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...

People: We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Leader: In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...

People: We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Leader: In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...

People: We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Leader: Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...

People: As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

*Opening Hymn –Maker, in Whom We Live (UMH 88)

1 Maker, in whom we live, in whom we are and move, the glory, power, and praise receive for thy creating love. Let all the angel throng give thanks to God on high, while earth repeats the joyful song and echoes to the sky.

2 Incarnate Deity, let all the ransomed race render in thanks their lives to thee for thy redeeming grace. The grace to sinners showed ye heavenly choir proclaim, and cry, "Salvation to our God, salvation to the Lamb!"

3 Spirit of holiness, let all thy saints adore thy sacred energy, and bless thine heart-renewing power. Not angel tongues can tell thy love's ecstatic height, the glorious joy unspeakable, the beatific sight.

4 Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above, let all on earth below record and well upon thy love. When heaven and earth are fled before thy glorious face, sing all the saints thy love hath made thine everlasting praise.

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Opening Prayer

Children's Message

Prayer Hymn - We Gather Together (UMH 131)

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known. The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!

3 We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

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

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, may your word and your Spirit guide us to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ.

A Psalm Reading – Psalm 105:1-6,37-45 (Responsive)

Leader: O, give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples!

People: Sing to the Lord, sing praises! Tell of all God's wonderful works!

Leader: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!

People: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek the Lord's presence continually!

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Leader: Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles and judgments God has uttered,

People: O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

Leader: Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,

People: and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

Leader: Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

People: He spread a cloud for a covering and fire to give light by night.

Leader: They asked and he brought quails and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

People: He opened the rock, and water gushed out; It flowed through the desert like a river.

Leader: For he remembered his holy promise and Abraham, his servant.

People: So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

Leader: He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

People: That they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

Choral Anthem – The Servant's Song (TFWS 2222)

1 Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've know together of Christ's love and agony.

Scripture Reading – Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with

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Christ, for that is far better, but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Sermon – “Striving Side by Side”

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.**

Lesser Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Offering our Gifts to God

*The Doxology (UMH 94)

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn – The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve (TFWS 2241)**

1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

2 We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free; where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

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3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and, all our days to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim. God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude