

# hope UNITED METHODIST CHURCH newsletter

Issue 27

June 2026



Hope United Methodist Church, 7320 Northcote Avenue, Hammond, IN 46324  
**Join Us in Worship – Sundays at 10:15**

JOIN US FOR A  
**FREE**  
**FOAM  
PARTY**  
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!  
**JUNE 20 | AT 1-3**  
7320 Northcote Ave  
Hammond, IN 46324  
Door G-Across from OLD YMCA

COMMUNITY  
Preschool & Childcare

hope  
UMC

**Messy  
CHURCH**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[Director@communitypreschoolandchildcare.org](mailto:Director@communitypreschoolandchildcare.org)  
(219)844-3030 EXT 305

IN LOVING  
*Memory*  
OF  
Pauline Luthi

**What is a Foam Party? Why are we  
having this? See page 6 for answers!**



## Thoughts from Pastor Jim

### (Extra)Ordinary Time

Each year we cycle through the liturgical, or church, calendar. Beginning with Advent we move into Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. Each of these has a very specific purpose in our faith life. But then we come to Ordinary Time and we may be unclear about its purpose.

At first glance, it would be reasonable to assume that this is just the “ordinary” Sundays when we are not focusing on anything in particular. In fact, Ordinary Time does have a particular focus and purpose just as do Advent and Lent. But we get led astray by the word “Ordinary” which in this case does not refer to the “run-of-the-mill” or the “typical.” The ordinary in Ordinary Time refers to ordinal numbers. Ordinal numbers are counting numbers like first, second, and third. In Ordinary Time we count the Sundays after Pentecost.

Hopefully, you are now wondering what is the purpose of Ordinary Time. Beginning in Advent, we anticipate God making all things new and at Christmas we celebrate God coming to us in Jesus to begin this process of re-creation. Epiphany is about our recognition that Jesus is God with us. Lent reminds us of our need for God’s presence and Easter is the celebration of God’s victory of sin and death. Then comes Pentecost, when God gives his presence and power to the church. Ordinary Time is the logical conclusion of all of God’s mighty acts on our behalf. It is about the church living in the world as God’s missionary people who are reconciled to God through Jesus’ victory over the cross and who are filled with God’s Holy Spirit. The first half of the Christian year is about what God does for us and this half of the year is about how we now live differently because of what God has done and is doing with us through Jesus and the Spirit.

To me this means that Ordinary Time is very extraordinary! Rather than life being business as usual and “ordinary,” Ordinary Time is about how God is present in and at work through the church, through you and I. How extraordinary!

As we continue to become Hope UMC, we have a holy calling to build the Kingdom of God, to bring people into a relationship with Jesus, and to be the Body of Christ on Earth. Ordinary Time reminds us that God is truly with us, that we have been giving all of the gifts we need to fulfill the purpose God has given us, and to discover the wonderful Good News again and again.

How extraordinary indeed!

Blessings,  
Jim

# Opportunities to Grow Our Faith



## Praise Bells and Hymn Sing

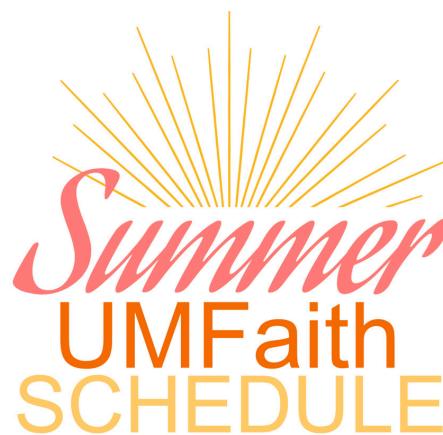
As summer begins, our Praise Bells handbell group will be taking a short break from regular rehearsals. But the music doesn't stop! On the third Sunday of each month, we will gather for a special Hymn Sing during worship, and everyone is invited to join in the fun of ringing handbells.

If you've ever wanted to try handbells, this is the perfect opportunity! We'll meet at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings to review the hymns before worship—no experience necessary. Come give it a try and make a joyful noise with us this summer!



## Date Change for June Messy Church

Instead of our usual fourth Tuesday in June, Messy Church will be held on **June 20**. We are excited to coordinate Messy Church with the Foam Party! (See page 6 for more about this special event.)



## United Women in Faith Summer Schedule

- Mary Circle will not meet during the summer.
- Adam's Rib will meet on June 9, at 5:00 pm. Cheryle will provide a short program, and Georgia will bring a snack. Plans for July and August will be made at this meeting.



## Wednesday Bible Study Summer Schedule

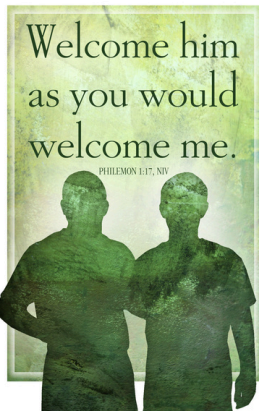
During the summer months, Wednesday Bible Study will meet on the following Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the library:

- June 17
- July 15
- August 19

**Please bring your lunch on these dates.**

Bible Study will resume its regular fall schedule on September 9.

# Reaching Out to Our Community



## JAM- Justice and Mercy for All

The social justice ministry of Hope UMC has been actively working for the just treatment of immigrants. May 31 was the United Methodist Church Peace-With-Justice Sunday. We supported the Welcome Network by inviting Jared Aleman to speak about the group's efforts to house, advise, and assist local immigrants. We hosted a small reception after church, so Hope members could meet with immigrants who have been assisted. We also invited representatives of the Northwest Indiana Community Response Team to answer questions about their efforts to aid immigrants.

JAM meets on Zoom for one hour on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 7:00 pm. We discuss instances of injustice at the local and national levels and, whenever possible, take action against them. We also coordinate action with the social justice issues that the United Women in Faith are addressing. Everyone is welcome to join us – just call the church office or contact Joe and Mary Jo Shea for a Zoom link.



## Paws for Peace

Paws for Peace will be going to Hartsfield on Wednesday, June 10, at 2:00 pm. Please meet at the Assisted Living Building. Our furry friends are looking for more pets to join us. Contact Suzanne Wasmund for more information at 219-865-6453. We ask that you show proof that your pet's shots are up to date.

## Second Mile Giving

Our Second Mile Giving for June will support The Welcome Network! This program is dedicated to creating meaningful connections and support for those in need, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

The Welcome Network is a nonprofit organization based in Hammond that helps immigrants and refugees in Northwest Indiana and South Chicago. Founded in 2014, the organization provides legal services, refugee resettlement, temporary housing, and volunteer support to help newcomer families build safe and stable lives. Through partnerships with churches and community volunteers, The Welcome Network promotes hospitality, compassion, and inclusion for people seeking a fresh start. They not only need our financial support but also rely on volunteers who can help meet the needs of the people they serve.

As we step into this new month, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported Haven House throughout May. Your generosity, commitment, and prayers are the heart of what makes the difference in God's mission for the people. Thank you!  
Marcos Pontes and the Missions Committee.



## The Vine Food Pantry

### April 2026

Days open: 18

Two volunteers served 99 hours

Pounds of food distributed: 7,851

New individuals served .....62

Returning individuals served.....396

Total.....458

New households served.....23

Returning households served.....198

Total.....221



- 1 - Joan Link
- 7 - Dave Hein
- 9 - Mary Lou Hughes
- 11 - Leya Castro
- 12 - Phyllis Preda
- 13 - Margaret Hagerman
- 13 - Nicholas Tompulis
- 13 - Ramah McCabe
- 13 - Alan Geurts
- 16 - Sue Craig
- 18 - Lora Ward
- 18 - Selena Camacho
- 18 - Dee Meeker
- 20 - Heather Meja
- 21 - Jenna Province
- 24 - Aaron Kruse
- 25 - Steve Preda
- 26 - Valorie White
- 28 - Estelle Vasek
- 30 - Matthew Hawkins
- 30 - Jacob Kosarko

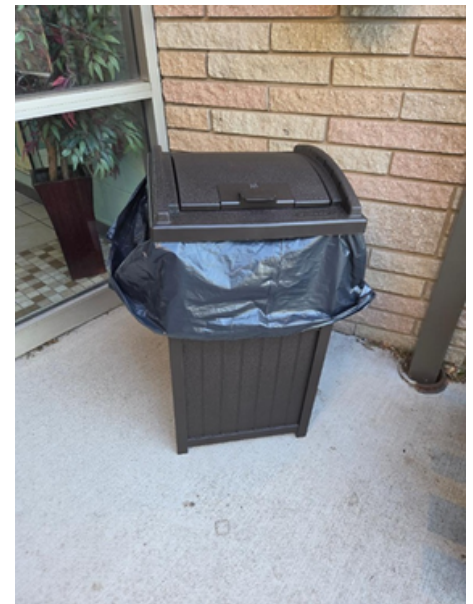
## We Are Grateful!

Caash Charity of Northwest Indiana was formed in 2017 by a group of Clark High School coaches and athletes with the goal of giving back to the community where they lived, worked, and went to school. In 2025, using a grant available from the City of Hammond, Caash Charity donated \$500 worth of cleaning supplies to Hope UMC. We recently received another similar donation that included cleaning supplies, yard waste bags, and two outdoor receptacle bins to be used at our entrances (see pictures).

One of the many acts of their generosity, Caash Charities distributes turkeys and hams to those in need, including to some of our congregation during the holidays.

Hope United Methodist Church sincerely thanks Caash Charity for blessing our church and congregation, and for all the good work they are doing in our community.

Thank you so very much!



## Lose Yourself in a Book

The next selection for Hope UMC Book Club is *The Impossible Fortune* by Richard Osman. From Goodreads: “The Thursday Murder Club Mystery is the series that just keeps giving and giving, and *The Impossible Fortune* is yet another marvelous installment. This time, our gang is celebrating the wedding of Joyce's daughter. With so much grief in their lives recently, it's nice to see our septuagenarians come together for something joyful instead. Soon enough, though, the groom's best man has disappeared, and that's just the beginning of the chaos and mayhem that awaits our group.”

Please join us as we share our thoughts about the capers of the Thursday Murder Club on Monday, June 15, at 1:00 pm via Zoom. You may call the church office for the link. We welcome you to participate!



## Summer Fun at Foam Party Saturday, June 20, 1:00–3:00 pm

### What is a Foam Party?

A Foam Party is a fun community event that will bring families from our community to our church lawn. A vendor brings a foam cannon to fill an area with mountains of light, airy, biodegradable suds. Reviews say, “It feels like dancing through clouds.” The suds are safe for skin, eyes, and grass. The vendor will also bring music. Participants may get wet, so don’t forget to bring a towel!

### Why are we doing this?

We will share some of our ministries while building relationships with families in our community. This is an opportunity to shine the light of Christ with our community.

### Who is organizing this?

Our amazing staff of Community Preschool and Childcare, along with Messy Church leaders, and Hope UMC leaders. Members of The Vine, Justice and Mercy, or JAM, Missions and Prayer ministries are asked to participate. Funds from the CPCC popcorn sale and a donation in memory of Pauline Luthi will cover the cost of this exciting outreach to our community.

## Sunday School & Youth Mission News

**Change for Change:** Thank you for your continued financial support! Our children are currently discussing which mission project to fund next, keeping them at the center of the giving process. Stay tuned for an update on their selection.

**Summer Schedule:** Sunday School will take a summer recess beginning in June to allow our team time to plan for the fall.

**Looking ahead to September:** We aim to launch two distinct classes this fall to better serve our younger and older students.

**Join our Volunteer Team:** To support our expanded fall program, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers. If you would like to learn more about serving, please connect with our Sunday School team: Carrie Ward, Pat Mosley, Maureen Tedesco, and Cyndi Slaboski.





## Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Updates

**Leadership Search: Outreach Director** - The Staff-Parish Relations Committee continues its search for a temporary Outreach Director. This vital role will provide strategic leadership and guidance as we continue to navigate our transition and work toward Hope UMC's success.

**Upcoming Child Protection Training** - We are currently finalizing the date and time for our second Child Protection Training session. Please stay tuned for additional details.

**Staff Spotlight** - We want to extend a warm thank-you to our new maintenance custodian, Andrew, who has been hard at work keeping Hope looking beautiful. If you haven't had the opportunity to greet him yet, please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome him to the Hope UMC family. To help you get to know him better, the SPRC invites you to read a brief profile about Andrew below. Staff Parish Relations Committee.

**Meet Andrew Velez**

**Andrew's schedule:**  
Sunday-Thursday  
8:00-2:00

- Favorite Movie:** Billy Madison
- Favorite Meal:** Pizza Puff
- Go to Starbucks Order:** Cafe Latte
- Dream Destination:** Seychelle Islands
- Favorite Quote:** The Marriage of Heaven and Hell
- Favorite Activity:** Snowboarding
- Best part of working at Hope:** Landscaping

# Finance and Administrative



## Finance Report

### CASH ON HAND

BMO CHECKING	\$52,018.72
BMO -WOODMAR	\$34,901.60
OLD NATIONAL	\$16,018.71

TOTAL ASSETS \$102,939.03

PROFIT & LOSS FOR APRIL`	-\$17,193.72
PROFIT AND LOSS YEAR TO DATE	-\$44,511.13

VANGUARD BALANCE \$779,792.15

### HEARTLAND FOUNDATION

HOPE UMC (HAMMOND) ENDOWMENT FUND	\$609,055.53
HOPE UMC (HAMMOND) ANDERSON FUND	\$48,923.28
HOPE UMC (HAMMOND) HOPE UMC ACCOUNT	\$206,574.79

We have received information that Hope UMC is one of the beneficiaries of two estates. We are awaiting information from the law firms regarding those two estates.

The finance committee will continue to analyze the monthly loss to identify how to address it. It's important to realize that part of that loss is due to the expense of maintaining 6635 Hohman Avenue until the sale of that property.

In addition, we continue to review giving for 2026 compared with the same period in 2025 to identify any issues that could be addressed immediately. For instance: In 2025, we had 115 giving units from January through April. In 2026, we had 108 giving units. Of those giving units, 26 gave \$12,154.80 in 2025 but have not given anything in 2026 . Conversely, we had 18 giving units that gave \$9,392.30 in 2026 but did not give anything in 2025. A deeper review is needed to determine why giving changed during that period.

The finance committee is here to answer any of your questions you may have while maintaining the confidentiality of individual giving units.

Blessings, Pete Ward, Chairman of the Finance Committee

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](http://INhopeumc.org)  
[Facebook.com/INHopeUMC](https://www.facebook.com/INHopeUMC)  
Brenda's email: [admin@inhopeumc.org](mailto:admin@inhopeumc.org)  
Pastor's email: [james.denton@inumc.org](mailto: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.



# June 2026



Hope UMC Hammond Hope UMC Events

Jun 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Choir Rehearsal 10:15am - Lared Aleman Visit 10:15am - Sunday Worship @ 11:30am - Adult Bible	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Lounge - Crochet 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parity @ 8:30pm - Operations Team @ Hope	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors @ Hope 5:30pm - League of Women Voters 5:30pm - Neighborhood- Legal	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food Parity @ 10:30am - Book/Bible Study @ 1pm - Pastor's Office Open @ Hope 6pm - Bhattara's Hope @ Hope UMC 7pm - Praise Bells Rehearsal @	<b>Annual Conferences</b> 8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parity @ 11am - CPCC Board Meeting @ 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet @ Hope		
9am - Choir Rehearsal 10:15am - Sunday Worship @ 11:30am - Adult Bible	<b>Pastor Jim Vacation</b> 8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Knitting and quilting for 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parity @	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors @ Hope 7pm - Ministry and Care Team @	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food Parity @ 10:30am - Book/Bible Study @ 1pm - Pastor's Office Open @ Hope 6pm - Bhattara's Hope @ Hope UMC 7pm - Praise Bells Rehearsal @	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parity @ 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet @ Hope 6pm - Guiding Council @ Hope 6pm - Guiding Council @ Hope	7pm - Social Justice Ministry Zoom	1pm - Community Team Parity
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# You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!



**Hope United Methodist Church  
7320 Northcote Ave.  
Hammond, IN 46324**

**Wednesday, July 8, 2026**

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

*Trusted by over 11 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend: Anyone age of 40+**

**Special Pricing for \$129**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

## 4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



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and use promo  
code: HABC001

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Text the word  
"circle" to  
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.