

hope UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Newsletter

Issue 26

May 2026



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

Special Sundays in May



May 3 - Youth Confirmation

We will be celebrating the confirmation of our newest young members. Plan to be here to welcome them into full membership in Hope UMC! Our confirmands are: Bellamy Avina, Andres Castro, Leya Castro, R.J. Heady, Ameya Serna, Sam Smith, and Sofia Smith.



May 10 - Mother's Day

In honor of Mother's Day, ushers will distribute red carnations to celebrate and recognize all mothers. Following the service, please join us in the narthex for cake and a time of fellowship.



May 24 - Pentecost and Memorial Day weekend.

Pentecost commemorates the holy spirit coming down with wind and fire and filling believers with the Holy Spirit. It is considered the birthday of the church. **Plan to wear something red!**



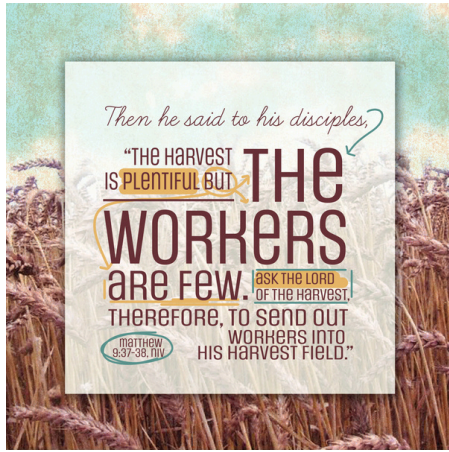
May 31 - United Methodist Church Peace With Justice Sunday

“On this day, we come together to support ministries that work for peace and fairness around the world. It's a day when the church speaks out against violence and inequality and renews its commitment to be peacemakers-just as Jesus taught.”

During our Sunday service, Jared Aleman of the Welcome Network will describe the organization's local efforts to house, advise, and assist local immigrants.

Our Justice and Mercy Committee (JAM) members will briefly summarize what we have done to support justice, including attending the Welcome Network fund-raising brunch on May 1 in Merrillville.

After the service, please join us in the narthex for refreshments provided by JAM. Representatives of the Northwest Indiana Community Response Team will be there to answer questions about their efforts to aid immigrants. JAM members will also be available to explain our mission and distribute printed literature and response cards.



Thoughts from Pastor Jim

Laborers in the Vineyard

Then he said to his disciples, "The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38 (CEB)

Before the Great Depression, my grandfather, Pawpaw, was in charge of building roads in Scott County, Mississippi. When the depression hit, the county ran out of money to build roads, so Pawpaw's crews were out of work. Times were hard, and he worried a great deal about the welfare of his men.

Then the federal government created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) designed to provide work for people through building public amenities. The state and county arranged for the CCC to build a state park in Scott County. Pawpaw's men built the roads in the park, foresters cleared trees, a dam was built across Line Creek to create Shadow Lake, carpenters built cabins and the lodge, electricians and plumbers brought utilities into the park. Hundreds of men worked from 1935 until 1940 building Roosevelt State Park.

When the park opened, all of that work ceased. It only took a dozen or so people to run and maintain the park. Fortunately, the local economy was recovering, and many of the men who built the park were able to find work and enjoy the beauty of what they had built.

So, why am I writing about building a state park in 1930s Mississippi? We, too, are constructing something new, Hope United Methodist Church. Our work is not building roads or creating a lake, rather we are building systems, ministries, and relationships. Just like the construction of the park, this takes a lot of work and a lot of people to accomplish this work. But the goal in our case isn't to provide the work; it is to build a faith community that can serve our community and our God by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

But, just like Roosevelt State Park, there is a lot of work to be done in the building phase. I know that we have a lot of committees and meetings right now, but the ultimate goal is to reduce the number of committee meetings and free people to be in ministry and mission, to enjoy the beauty of the park, so to speak.

The harvest that Jesus speaks of will not be found in committee meetings, but all of these meetings are building up our ability to be in mission to our community. The work now enables the harvest then. I pray that we all join in this work according to our calling and our abilities and build something lasting and beautiful that will bring many people into relationship with Jesus Christ and welcome them with love into our faith community.

Blessings,
Jim

Opportunities to Grow Our Faith

Discipleship
and Spiritual
Vitality



Certified Lay Speaker
ZOOM INFO SESSION

Ready to become a Certified Lay Speaker (CLSP) in the Northern Lakes District? Join our new CLSP Cohort to experience

- a supportive community that learns and grows together
- spiritual formation retreats
- multiple preaching opportunities

Zoom Hosts: Pastor Tom Clark, Cohort Chairman, and Karen Williams, District Director of Lay Servant Ministries

 **SUN
MAY 17**  **3 PM CENTRAL
4 PM EASTERN**

JOIN US!
Email to receive the Zoom link and learn more!
mrs.karen.wms@gmail.com



Leadership Development

Lay Servant Academies and stand-alone classes are making a comeback! These Zoom and in-person classes can be used for leadership development.

A Zoom Class:

[Exploring a Culture of Care for a Caring Congregation](#), deadline 4/9/26

Upcoming In-Person Academies and Stand-alone classes:

[Claypool UMC Lay Servant Academy](#), deadline 4/27/26 (Offering Introduction to Lay Ministry (Basic), Spiritual Gifts, Soul Reset, and Leading Worship)

[Kniman UMC Introduction to Lay Ministry \(Basic Class\)](#), deadline 4/27/26

[Hebron UMC Leading Public Prayer](#), deadline 7/22/26

Drawing Near - A Laity Retreat

[Hebron UMC Drawing Near Laity Retreat](#), deadline 7/13/26

You can find links and updated information on the Facebook page:

[Northern Lakes District Lay Servant Ministries](#)

Reaching Out to Our Community



Second Mile Giving

In honor of Mother's Day, the Second Mile Giving for this month will support Haven House. Since 1983, Haven House NWI has provided emergency shelter for domestic violence victims and their children in Hammond. Haven House stands out as the only domestic violence shelter in Hammond and the sole facility of its kind in northern Lake County. Over the last decade, Haven House has successfully supported more than 1,700 survivors and their children, helping them find safety and rebuild their lives.

They have a 24-hour crisis line at 219-931-2090. They are not only in need of monetary donations but also welcome supplies such as twin bedding, household items, wipes, paper towels, and canned and frozen food.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support with our mission projects. If you have any questions, please contact me or any member of the missions committee.

Blessings,

Marcos Pontes and Missions Committee



Paws for Peace

The Paws for Peace ministry members were invited to attend a Volunteer Luncheon at Hartsfield on April 24. This is always a very nice event with excellent food, and a thank-you to those who volunteer their time. Our pets especially love greeting the residents, as they often give them treats.



School Supplies Needed

Our church is collecting gently used school supplies for the children of Honduras. Teachers there often lack even basic materials to distribute to their students, and many families cannot afford to provide the proper tools for learning. Midwest Missions, of Pawnee, Illinois, is heading up this mission.

Please bring gently used school supplies from the following list: backpacks, pencil cases, markers (color, dry erase, permanent), highlighters, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, colored pencils, crayons, glue, scissors, spiral or composition notebooks, construction paper, rulers, compass sets, geometry kits.

We will collect items until the end of the school year and hope to bring the donations to the Annual Conference on June 3. Contact Marcos Pontes or Lora Ward for more information, or visit www.midwestmission.org to learn about this mission and many other initiatives.



The Vine Food Pantry

March 2026

Days open: 18

Two volunteers served 108 hours

Pounds of food distributed: 7,676

New individuals served	29
Returning individuals served.....	424
Total.....	453

New households served.....	10
Returning households served.....	212
Total.....	222



- 1 Richard Yehnert
- 1 Brian Lewis
- 2 Jill Kahn
- 3 MillieRose Watson
- 5 Nancy Tatum
- 5 Jane Duncanson
- 5 Bev Hornak
- 8 Jim Wind
- 8 Irma Mora
- 10 Judy Viehweg
- 11 Heidi Wicklund
- 11 Bob Underwood
- 12 Shirlee Craig
- 13 Cindy Carty
- 13 Sheri LoCascio
- 14 Sharon Matthews
- 17 Sandi Arendt
- 18 Cindy Jones
- 19 DJ Williams
- 19 Irene Maurer
- 21 Mary Zaikis
- 22 Rudy Zeke Serna
- 23 Roberta Cherl Berg
- 26 Paul Arnoild
- 29 Charlotte Wysocki
- 31 C.Thomas Merrick



United Women in Faith will hold our spring luncheon on Monday, May 4, at noon at Les Cafe, 2708 Highway Avenue in Highland. Both circles (and anyone else who is interested) are invited to attend. Please contact Donna Benirschke to reserve a place.

The group will plan our annual August potluck. Mary's Circle will not meet until then. Adam's Rib will meet on the fourth Tuesday in May at Hartsfield Village. Please contact Lora Ward for more information. United Women in Faith wishes the Hope congregation a joyful, blessed summer!

Readers Gonna Read

Hope UMC Book Club will meet via Zoom on Monday, May 18 at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*.

From Goodreads: "Goodwin illuminates Lincoln's political genius in this highly original work, as the one-term congressman and prairie lawyer rises from obscurity to prevail over three gifted rivals of national reputation to become president. This brilliant multiple biography is centered on Lincoln's mastery of men and how it shaped the most significant presidency in the nation's history."

Please join us on May 18 as we share our thoughts and comments on this extraordinary book. You may call the church office for the Zoom link.



Messy Church

Tuesday, May 26 is the next Messy Church. Join in at 6:00 pm as we celebrate Pentecost!

Congregational Buddies

A new ministry kicked off! The goal of Congregational Buddies is to connect our preschool children with the love of Christ through our congregation. On the third Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 am, we will celebrate the birthdays of children and teachers for that month. Thanks to the mission giving of the Wednesday Bible Study, each child receives a book that reminds them that God loves them, and so do we. Teachers receive a loot bag of snacks and a birthday card. Join us on Wednesday, May 20, in the Narthex for 30 minutes of celebrating and spreading the love of Christ.



Community Preschool and Childcare

May is a special month as we celebrate our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week (4-8)! We have some special things planned to show our gratitude for all they do each day. ❤️

We would also like to share our updated tuition rates for the 2026–2027 school year. These changes will take effect at the start of the new school year. Updated Rates:

- Full-Time Preschool & Childcare: \$215 per week
- Preschool Only (4 days, ages 2–4): \$330 per month
- Preschool Only (5 days, ages 4–5): \$390 per month

We remain committed to providing high-quality care and education for your children. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our program!

🎉 May Birthdays: Evelyn (4), Jasiah (25), Ms. Karyme (25), Jalen (28).





Staff Parish Updates Maintenance/Custodial Position

We have hired Andrew Velez as our new Maintenance/Custodial Staff member! He has been hard at work cleaning and learning the job. If you see him around, please welcome him to Hope. He will be featured in our next newsletter so you can learn even more about him. - Staff Parish Relations Committee

This month, Staff Parish is inviting you to enjoy learning a bit more about Pastor Jim.

Meet Pastor Jim Denton

- Favorite Movie:** The African Queen
- Favorite Meal:** Shrimp Sautee and Vesuvio Potatoes from John's Pizzeria
- Best part of working at Hope:** The people!
- Dream Destination:** Costa del Sol, Spain
- Favorite Activity:** Cooking
- Favorite Quote:** "Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit enabling us to love, believe, and obey God." – John Wesley

Jim's schedule:
M, T, Th 10am-3pm,
W 1pm-4pm*

*except for Messy Church Tuesdays and Council Thursdays when it is 1pm-4pm

Finance and Administrative



In the name of our Lord and Savior and in Jesus Christ his only Son, greetings.

For the month of March, Hope UMC had a net loss of \$5,572. Our year-to-date finances show a net loss of \$27,317.

Our overall income was \$34,508 while our total expenses were \$40,081. The Finance Committee expects that Hope UMC will continue to experience a monthly net loss until we sell the former First Church property at 6635 Hohman Avenue. Our monthly expense to maintain 6635 Hohman Avenue is just under \$10,000. These expenses include utility costs, insurance costs, alarm monitoring, pest control, and internet costs. We continue to evaluate these costs monthly to determine whether we can take steps to reduce them. The Finance Committee is working closely with the Trustees to complete the sale of 6635 Hohman Avenue as soon as is practical.

The Finance Committee is also reviewing overall giving on an individual basis to determine how it has changed since the merger of First Church and Woodmar UMC.

Remember, the finance committee is here to serve you. If you have any questions about our budget, expenses, or income, please feel free to reach out, and we will do our best to get you an answer as soon as possible.

Blessings,

Pastor Pete, Finance Chair

Hope United Methodist Church
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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.



May 2026



Hope UMC Hammond Hope UMC Events

May 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9am - Choir Rehearsal 10:15am - Sunday Worship @ 11:30am - Adult Bible 11:45am - Confirmation Class	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Knitting and quilting for 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parly @	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors @ Hope 6pm - Messy Church @ Woodmar	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food Parly @ 10:30am - Book/Bible Study @ 1pm - Pastor's Office Open @ Hope	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parly @ 11am - CPCC Board Meeting @ 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet @ Hope		
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9am - Choir Rehearsal 10:15am - Sunday Worship @ 11:30am - Adult Bible	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Knitting and quilting for 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parly @	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors @ Hope 6pm - Messy Church @ Woodmar	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food Parly @ 10:30am - Book/Bible Study @ 1pm - Pastor's Office Open @ Hope 6pm - Brianna's Hope @ Hope LMK	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parly @ 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet @ Hope		
9am - Choir Rehearsal 10:15am - Jared Allenman 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 Parly @ 6:30pm - 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 - Natflex/Lobby- Legal	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food Parly @ 10:30am - Book/Bible Study @ 1pm - Pastor's Office Open @ Hope 6pm - Brianna's Hope @ Hope LMK	8:30am - Church Office Open @ 10am - Pastor's Office Open @ 10am - The Vine Food Parly @ 11am - CPCC Board Meeting @ 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet @ Hope		