

HOPE UMC NEWSLETTER

Issue 019

October 2025



Worship with Us – Sundays at 10:15

Hope United Methodist Church, 7320 Northcote Avenue, Hammond, IN 46324



New!
Church Calendar
See page 8.



You are invited!
Four adult classes
starting. See page 3.



Children's Event
October 28, 5:30 pm
See page 6.



Celebration Worship and Dinner on October 26

We will be celebrating the official kick-off of Hope UMC with a joyful worship service led by Rev. Dr. Marty Lundy, our District Superintendent. A catered meal will be served directly after the worship service on October 26. There are attendance sign-up sheets on the counter outside the church office. Please sign up, as we need to provide a final head count to the caterer **by October 19**.

Volunteers are needed for dessert donations, set-up, and clean-up. Let's gather with joy to celebrate Hope!

Make Checks Out to Woodmar

Please make out your offering checks to Woodmar until the end of year. Consolidating two churches into a third, new church is a complicated process. We continue to receive bills for both Woodmar and First. New accounts need to be set up with our vendors and utilities for Hope UMC and that will be an ongoing process for a couple of months. In the meantime, to maintain clarity on our financial situation and keep things simple, it makes sense to pay all bills out of just one of the previous church's bank accounts until all the billing accounts for Hope UMC are set up.

To make this transitional period as smooth as possible, please make out the checks for your offering to Woodmar UMC until the end of the year, or until we give you different guidance. This will help us to have all our accounting and giving data in one system until we are in a position to begin fully operating as Hope UMC.

Priority of Transitioning to Hope UMC

As we build a firm foundation for Hope UMC, we must pull together to prepare the property of First UMC for sale.

Maintaining two properties is not sustainable in our current financial state. Teams have been determining which items will be transferred to Hope UMC. Moving those items has begun, but there is still much to be moved. Please get in touch with Pete Ward or the church office if you are willing to assist in any way.

Thoughts from Pastor Jim

Hope United Methodist Church is a Sacred Community rooted in faith, hope, and love where people experience God's love and grace in Jesus Christ. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we Learn, Love, Go, and Act to unite people, bring peace and justice, and share God's love to our community and the world.

This is the vision statement of Hope United Methodist Church. By its nature, a vision statement is an aspiration, a hope, for what we may become. Yet this is not just a nice sounding wish for an ideal future, a vision statement is a guide for us in the present. As we are in these early days of becoming Hope United Methodist Church and figuring out who we are and how to act, our vision statement will guide us.

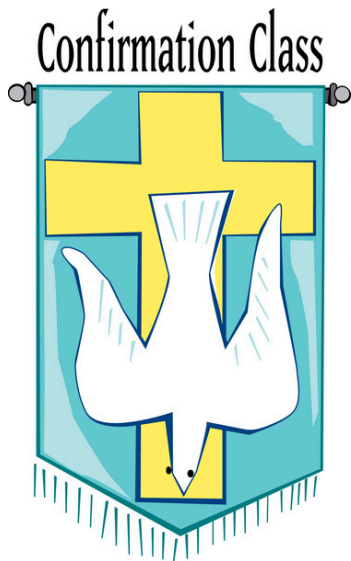
First, each one of us is called to be rooted in faith. The key to a vibrant future for Hope UMC is for each of us to be seriously working on our faith development. Faith is not just a strong belief, it is a reliance on God in all that we do. The amazing thing about faith is that it is alive and it must be fed through study, prayer, and service. If we are not actively feeding our faith, it will wither and die even if we still believe just as strongly as ever!

Second, we are called to be hopeful. Hope is not wishful thinking at all. Hope arises out of a strong faith. Hope is what lets us live into the future that God is calling us toward. To cultivate hope we must take risks. Hope grows when we act in faith and experience God's blessings. Hope keeps us going even when our best efforts seem to be fruitless, because hope arises out of God's nature and not our successes.

Third, we are called to love. I refer you to 1 Corinthians 13. Paul says it better than I ever could. Test yourself daily to see if you are showing the characteristics of love that Paul lists. When we fall short, and we will, then we know what to pray for.

If we feed our faith through the means of grace, risk being hopeful, and grow in love then, because we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will keep learning, loving, going, and acting. In this way, we will see our vision become our reality and our community will see it too!

Blessings, Jim



Confirmation Classes Forming

We believe that it is essential for children to receive an education, enabling them to thrive in society. We also believe that it is important for our children to grow strong and healthy through regular physical activity and good nutrition. I believe that it is as important for our children to grow spiritually and to develop an informed understanding of God, Jesus, and the Christian faith.

There are many influences in the world that can negatively affect our children's development. Everything from drugs to hurtful ideologies are out there and we do all that we can to prepare our children to successfully navigate this world as they grow into adults. Confirmation classes help children to wrestle with their faith questions, learn the core beliefs of the Christian faith, develop the inner resources they will need in life, and to have the opportunity to decide for themselves to center their lives in Christ.

On October 19, following worship, there will be an information meeting for children ages 11 and up and their parents and/or grandparents to learn more about upcoming confirmation classes. If you are unable to be present on October 19, you can meet separately with Pastor Jim.

Opportunities to Grow Our Faith



Twelve Ordinary Men, *How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do With You*, by John MacArthur. The Wednesday morning Bible Study will be reading and discussing this fascinating book. Donna Beifuss wisely facilitates this active group on Wednesdays from 10:30 -12:00. The Bible Study is currently meeting at First UMC and will move to Hope UMC soon.

Invitation to the New Testament, a short-term, in-depth Disciple Bible Study, begins October 11, on Sundays after worship. Maureen Tedesco leads this small group ministry. Daily reading assignments lead the group discussions as we wrestle with the implications of the story of Jesus as it relates to our calling to discipleship and to community. Would you like to commit to a small group study? Please let Pastor Jim know that you are interested. Forming additional small groups for discipleship is crucial to the vision of Hope UMC.

The **social justice ministry** of Hope Church is starting a new group that will examine our role as Christians in our current world, a world beset with problems of homelessness, immigration, climate change, prejudice, insufficient medical care, etc. We will start each session with a short discussion of current events. We will then relate biblical teachings and events to those events. Finally, we will pray for guidance. We will ask, “What should we do as followers of Jesus?” And then we will do it.

We will strive to establish times and formats that accommodate everyone’s needs. All are welcome, and all opinions will be treated with respect. Please call us - Mary Jo Shea and Joe Shea - at 219-781-6693 or the church office to join our attempt to fulfill our Christian responsibilities in the modern world.

Lay Servant Academy

Perhaps you have felt God calling you to become more involved in our church and community. Or perhaps you have discerned the need to develop your leadership skills. If so, Lay Servant Ministries courses can help you.

Lay Servant Ministries courses will prepare you for a multitude of missions and ministries, or improve your teaching and leadership skills, guide you in improving your devotional time, help you become an accountable disciple, or help you develop confidence in leading prayer.

If you choose to commit to the development of your leadership and ministry skills by becoming a lay servant, you will be enriched and encouraged by the network of other lay servants.

Here at Hope United Methodist Church, Pat Mosley and Pauline Luthi have completed several of these courses. This fall, Pauline took the course Soul Reset where she learned about the power of rest through practices that create spiritual wholeness. Pat Mosley took Living Our United Methodist Beliefs and Leading Public Prayer. The next in-person session of Lay Servant Academy begins in February.

Lay Servant Academy is offering a series of online classes now. The online course for October is Justice in Everyday Life: Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. CLS Kim Arnott will lead online sessions on the following Wednesdays: October 8, 15, 22, and 29. Please get in touch with Karen Williams at 219-869-2324 or at mrs.karen.wms@gmail.com. Our Lay Leader, Pat Mosley can also assist you.

Reaching Out to Our Community

Evangelism
and Outreach

Community
Impact and
Missions

UWFaith Will Host Screening of “Pushout”

Social Justice Support for African American Girls - UWFaith District Lora Ward has secured the rights to the documentary film “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools,” which is a United Women in Faith emphasis for 2022-2026.

We invite you to join this important conversation. United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) is hosting a special screening of Pushout, followed by a light meal and small group discussion with administrators and teachers from our shared communities. The event will take place on Thursday, October 23, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Hope UMC. Cost is free. Please RSVP by October 16. If you have any questions, please contact Lora Ward at lwward4203@aol.com or 708-650-6417.

Blessing Box and Little Free Library

Non-perishable foods and hygiene products are always needed in the Blessing Box. Books for all ages can be added to the Little Free Library. The Blessing Box and Little Library are located along the sidewalk near entrance G of the north parking lot and playground.



Paws For Peace to Visit Hartsfield

Paws for Peace will take their dogs to Hartsfield Assisted Living on October 22 at 2:00 pm. Please join this joyful group! The residents brighten up when they see us coming. They like to share their memories of pets they once had. Please call Suzanne Wasmund at 219-865-6453 for details.

Mission News

The Mission focus for October is Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking. For information about this organization and its mission, please visit www.endsexualassault.com. If you are unable to donate financially, please pray for the volunteers supporting the Coalition and those it serves.

Community Garden

Thank you to Thomas Blejski and Paul Shkroba for maintaining the Community Garden. The garden has been a free pick to our community. We will be cleaning and putting the garden to rest for the winter. If Hope UMC can move forward with a Community Garden in the future, we will need a dedicated leader and team to facilitate.

Blankets and Hats for Phil's Friends

Crocheted, cut, and tied fleece blankets, as well as knitted or crocheted hats, are soft and warm additions to the care packages delivered by Phil's Friends. Through the packages, individuals impacted by cancer receive Christ-centered hope, comfort, and support. Recently, Hope UMC delivered several fleece blankets, as well as other donated care package items, to Phil's Friends Home Office and the Hope Center in Crown Point. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 10:00 to 12:00 pm in the library to work on the blankets and hats. Please join us.

Building Relationships

Relational
Vitality

Feed Your Need to Read

The book chosen for October's discussion is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. It is a Goodreads Choice Award winner. "Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is not such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960's and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality." Please join the discussion via Zoom on October 20, at 1:00 pm. Call or email the church office to receive a link for Zoom.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The next Staff Parish Committee meeting will be October 9 at 5:30 pm at Hope UMC.

The SPRC committee is working to update all policies to align with our vision as Hope UMC.

We invite you to continue to reflect on how else you can support Pastor Jim and our church family as Hope UMC is now official. Whether it's through prayer, volunteering (remember to check the sign-up sheets near the office), or simply offering a kind word, every act of support strengthens our community and helps us move forward together as Hope United Methodist Church. Thank you for being an integral part of our church family.



Sign Up for Altar Flowers

Do you know you can donate for Sunday altar flowers to honor or celebrate a loved one? Flowers are placed on the altar each Sunday and are acknowledged in the bulletin. These flowers can be taken home following worship. Cost is \$15. Sign-up sheets are on the counter outside the office.



Sign Up for Fellowship Treats

There are open Sundays that need volunteers. Sign up with a fellow congregant. Simple or lavish, sweet or savory, it's up to you. Ask any fellowship treat volunteer if you have questions or need assistance. The church provides coffee, paper products and serving dishes.

Free Family Concerts South Holland Master Chorale "You Do Not Walk Alone"

A mix of sacred and secular works reflects moments of celebration, joy, wonderment, consolation, beauty, the hereafter, and now. October 12 - 4 p.m. at John Neumann Parish, 17951 Dixie Highway, Homewood, IL

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith have resumed our regular meetings for the fall. We will now have two circles: Mary Circle and Adam's Rib. Mary Circle will meet in the lounge and on Zoom on the first Monday of the month at noon. Adam's Rib will meet in the evenings at the church on a date and time to be determined.

During our meetings, we often have short programs on topics of interest. Currently, Jackie Lewis is presenting a summary of the book *They Walked with God*. The author, Max Lucado, examines the lives of 40 Bible characters who provide inspiration for our lives today.

Children's Ministries

Birthdays
Children
Miscellaneous



10/01 Scarlet Holycross
10/02 Kathleen Stricker
10/02 Lori Jones
10/03 Mary LeVan
10/07 Beth Moll
10/08 Donna Beifuss
10/08 Mollie Bodie
10/08 Isabella Castro
10/10 Analicia Valdez
10/12 Lisa Dodd
10/12 Barney Stahl
10/13 Terry Dodd
10/13 Penny Zeiler
10/21 Gary Williams
10/22 Cathleen Gonzalez
10/24 Dave Watson
10/25 Sofia Smith
10/25 Roseanne Watson
10/25 JoAnn Wilkinson
10/25 Christian Calkins



Trick or Treating Event - Tuesday, October 28

Hope UMC, Messy Church and Community Preschool and Childcare will combine to provide a Trick or Treating Event for our community on Tuesday, October 28, 5:30 -7:00 pm. The Community Center will be lined with festive tables decorated by each preschool teaching team and Messy Church leaders. Would your ministry area like to host a festive table? Please contact Cyndi Slaboski or Carrie Ward.

Candy donations are needed! A bin for candy donations is located next to the Welcome Center. Please bring the candy by Sunday, October 26.

Community Preschool & Childcare Fall Fundraiser is October 1-22

Butter Braid Pastry items, Joyful Traditions, Croissant Crowns, and Amish Pretzels are some of the many catalog items available. The profits earned from our fall fundraiser will boost our general budget. We appreciate any order, small or large. Return orders with cash or check payment by October 22. There will be an order form on the counter in the narthex. Contact Cyndi Slaboski or Karianne (219) 844-3030, Ext. 305 for details or questions. Thank you for supporting our childcare ministry.

Children's Ministry Update

Our Sunday School room is not quite yet ready, but we have started meeting again and are excited for the things we will be doing this year!

Remember, Sunday School will not happen on the first Sunday of the month. **If you are in church the first Sunday of the month and looking for children's activities, be sure to grab a bag before heading into the sanctuary.** Each week, we'll have special activity sheets prepared to help keep children engaged and happy during worship.

Last month, the children began collecting quarters and other change from the congregation for our 'Change for Change' children's missions. Thanks to the congregation's generous support, we currently have over \$200 and have started discussions on which missions the children want to help support. We will update everyone here once final decisions are made. Let's see how God can use our small gifts to do something BIG!

Remember to join us October 28 for Trunk-or-Treat in the Community Center from 5:30-7:00!

Finance and Administrative



Stewardship/ Finance and Transitioning to Hope | Meeting Space Reservations

Please get in touch with Brenda at the church office to reserve meeting space. We plan to continue including a church calendar in future newsletters, so please reserve a spot.

Transition Team Updates

Teams have been organized to provide key action steps and timelines for transitioning items from First to Hope UMC. The following progress has been communicated:

Property Team – This team has begun relocating items from First UMC to Hope UMC, including the grand piano, bells, chairs in the Narthex, office equipment, and furniture. Painting has been done in the office that will be Pastor Jim's new office. The team is currently prioritizing what will be moved and scheduling when and how to move the items. If anyone is able and willing to help move items from First to Hope, please get in touch with Pete Ward.

Office Team - Completed the removal and archiving of Woodmar's office files.

Kitchen Team – Dishes and other kitchen items have been moved to Hope UMC.

Worship Team – Finalizing the sign for outside, rotating choir loft/piano locations, screen location and upgrade. A new bulletin is in progress. Waiting for the branding to roll out the new bulletin, hopefully on October 26.

Finance

This report is a summary of the financial activity for First United Methodist Church, Woodmar United Methodist Church and Hope United Methodist Church.

- After receiving the EIN (Employer Identification Number) for Hope UMC, a bank account was opened with BMO for both the church and the Community Preschool and Childcare, with an initial deposit of \$2500 in each account.
- The bank account for FUMC (Old National) and the bank account for Woodmar UMC (BMO) will remain active until 12/31/2025. Beginning 01/01/2026, all financial activity will be conducted using the bank account established at BMO for Hope UMC.
- All financial transactions for expenses for Woodmar UMC and FUMC will be processed from the bank account with BMO for Woodmar UMC. This will make financial reporting for the year-end transactions easier to complete. All financial transactions for expenses and income will be reported as either for Woodmar UMC or FUMC.
- The Profit & Loss (P&L) for September shows a net loss of \$21,658.94. The net loss for each church is: \$11,268.04 for FUMC and \$10,390.90 for Woodmar UMC.
- The net loss for the Community Preschool was \$12,905.88. There was a third payroll of \$13,000 for the month of September.
- FUMC had a September beginning balance in its checking account of \$162,006.09. During the month they received income from Sunday offerings in the amount of \$10,958 plus \$1,544.41 from electronic deposits from Tithe.ly. Finance will work to ensure that all financial transactions have been properly recorded in QuickBooks.
- During the month of September, \$35,000 was transferred from the FUMC checking account to the Woodmar UMC checking account to cover bills for expenses and salaries.
- In June of 2025 FUMC established a foundation account with Heartland Methodist Foundation. The balance in that account as of the end of August is \$203,090.91.



October 2025



Hope UMC Events

Oct 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10-15am - Sunday 11-30am - Invitation to the	29 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	30 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors	1 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office 6pm - Brianna's Hope @	2 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 11am - CPCC Board 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	3	4
5 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10-15am - Sunday 11-30am - Invitation to the	6 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	7 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors	8 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office 6pm - Brianna's Hope @	9 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	10	11
12 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10-15am - Sunday 11-30am - Invitation to the	13 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Knitting and 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	14 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors	15 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office 6pm - Brianna's Hope @	16 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet 6pm - Guiding Council @	17	18
19 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10-15am - Sunday 11-30am - Invitation to the	20 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	21 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors	22 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office 6pm - Brianna's Hope @	23 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet 5pm - Pushout Screening	24	25
26 9am - Choir Rehearsal 10-15am - Hope United 11-30am - Invitation to the	27 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Knitting and 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food	28 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10:30am - Sunrise Seniors 6pm - Messy Church @	29 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Quilters 10am - The Vine Food 10:30am - Book/Bible 1pm - Pastor's Office 6pm - Brianna's Hope @	30 8:30am - Church Office 10am - Pastor's Office 10am - The Vine Food 12:30pm - Knit & Crochet	31	1