

Hope United Methodist Church

December 14, 2025

Sunday Service

Signs and Truths

Pastor Jim Denton

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Today's Music:

Opening Hymn: Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting) (UMH 210)

Prayer Hymn: O Day of God, Draw Night (UMH 730, verses 1, 3, 5)

Closing Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (UMH 203)

Choir Anthem: Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

Pray 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

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

Weekly Calendar:

Sunday, Dec. 14

Adult Bible Study, Library

Monday, Dec. 15

Dart Ball @ 11:30 am, Basement

BookClub @ 1:00 pm, via Zoom

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Sonrise Seniors @ 10:30 am, Library

Messy Church @ 6:00 pm, Community Center

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Quilters @ 10:00 am, Narthex

Bible Study @ 10:30 am, Library

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

Praise Bells @ 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, Dec. 18

Community Preschool Christmas Pageant @ 1:30 pm

Guiding Council Meeting @ 5:00 pm, Library

Sunday, Dec. 21

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, Community Center

Adult Bible Study, Library

Serving Today

Greeters: Irma Mora

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: Ameya Serna

Children's Message: Maureen Tedesco

Liturgist: Katie Isaacs

Fellowship:

Serving Next Sunday

Greeters: Irma Mora

Ushers: Irma Mora

Acolyte: Georgia Heady

Children's Message:

Liturgist:

Fellowship:

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Hope United Methodist Church

Announcements and Community News

December Second Mile Giving for Hope UMC: The Bishop's Christmas Offering

Messy Church — The Next Messy Church event is on Tuesday, **December 16** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Hope UMC, Community Center.

CP & CC Christmas Pageant — The Community Preschool & Childcare will be having their annual Christmas Pageant at Hope UMC on **December 18** at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This beloved tradition is a heartwarming way for our community to come together and experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Scrip Cards - If you would like to order gift cards in time for Christmas. Please note orders need to be placed no later than Sunday, **December 14**. Questions, please contact Nancy Jarmula.

Hope UMC Church Directory - We're updating our Hope Directory and have started taking photos for our directory. Please stay after worship and have your picture taken by Lynn and Bob Underwood if you have not had an opportunity this morning. Photos will be taken in the Library, and if necessary on December 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services — Hope UMC will be having two worship services at 3:00pm and 7:00 pm. More details to come soon.

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long - There will be a Christmas Carol sing-a-long on December 21 after worship in the Community Center. We will have cookies and hot chocolate. We would like a few volunteers to sign-up to bring a dozen cookies for this Christmas event. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Questions, please reach out to Nancy Craig or the church office.

Charge Conference Vote/Guiding Council Meeting - The Charge Conference to approve the sale of the property at 6635 Hohman Ave will be on December 18 at 5:00 p.m. The Guiding Council meeting will follow immediately after the charge conference. This meeting will take place in the library and for those who are not able to attend via zoom. Please note that only voting members of the Guiding Council who are physically present can vote in the charge conference.

Connect with us

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Mon - Thursday

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NEW HERE



**TITHE &
OFFERING**



**EXPANDED
BULLETIN**

Hope United Methodist Church

Welcome and Community Life

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

People: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace

People: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

People: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Leader: Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

People: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

*Opening Hymn - Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting) (UMH 210)

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel," For his name is "God with us," our brother shall be, with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain; open new highways, new highways for the Lord. He is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared, yet, feel his presence throughout the earth today, for he lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

Advent Candle

Reader: So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Children's Message

Memory Verse: But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."
Luke 1:30

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Hope United Methodist Church

Prayer Hymn - O Day of God, Draw Nigh UMH 730 (verses 1, 3, & 5)

1. O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power; come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.
3. Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure, and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.
5. O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth; let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.

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)

Choral Anthem - Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Romans 12:12 ~ Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Hope United Methodist Church

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon - “Signs and Truths”

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 95)

*Prayer of Dedication

Hope United Methodist Church

***Closing Hymn - Hail to the Lord's Anointed (UMH 203)**

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove; his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

***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