

ISLE OF HOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1851



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY
BY UNITING IN PURPOSE AND SERVING IN LOVE

AUGUST 30, 2026

OUR PURPOSE: TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

A Word of Welcome

We are glad you are here! Whether you are a long-time member or a first-time guest, we pray this time of worship draws you closer to God.

Please note our worship locations: we gather in the Sanctuary on the first, third, and fifth Sundays, and in the Ministry Center on the second and fourth Sundays. No matter the space, the Spirit meets us there!

Welcome to Isle of Hope United Methodist Church!

Hearing Devices Available

For full participation in worship, hearing devices are available in the Narthex, if needed. Please see an usher for assistance.

About Our Worship Series: 'You Asked For It'

Faith has always made room for questions. In this worship series, 'You Asked For It,' we're exploring some of the questions you've asked about God, faith, Scripture and life - especially the ones without easy answers.

Together, we'll listen to Scripture, draw on the wisdom of our faith, and remain open to the mystery of God as we wrestle honestly with what we believe and why it matters.

+ indicates that the congregation will stand.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

GATHERING MUSIC

Anchor Band

All Who Are Thirsty
Vineyard Music

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Meg Procopio

+THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Procopio

Holy God, you meet the thirsty with living water
and the searching with truth.

Open our hearts to hear your Word.

Christ calls us to listen – even when his words challenge
and unsettle us.

**Give us courage to examine our lives
and faith to follow where He leads.**

Come, let us worship the God whose justice is sure,
whose mercy endures, and whose kingdom is forever.

We come to worship with open hearts and attentive spirits.

+THE OPENING HYMN

No. 79

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Tune: GROSSER GOTT

+THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Procopio

**We believe in God,
whose holiness calls us to truth
and whose mercy calls us home.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
who confronts the powers of sin and death
and opens to us the way of life.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who awakens our hearts,
strengthens us to love our neighbors,
and leads us in the way of Christ.**

**We believe that our lives matter to God,
that love is stronger than evil,
and that God's kingdom shall have no end. Amen.**

+THE GLORIA PATRI
No. 70

Glory Be to the Father
Tune: MEINEKE

+THE GREETING
Rev. Procopio

GOD SPEAKS GOD'S WORD TO US

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN
Dr. Frank Parr

All children ages 3 through 2nd grade are invited to attend Children's Church at this time.

THE HYMN
No. 340

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
Tune: RESTORATION

THE ANTHEM
Isle of Hope Choir

Poor Man Lazrus
Jester Hairston

+THE SCRIPTURE LESSON
Rev. Josh Roberts

Luke 16:19-31

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON
Rev. Roberts

You Asked For It: Is Hell Real?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES
Rev. Roberts

THE OFFERTORY
Anchor Band

Is He Worthy?
Andrew Peterson

About the Anthem

'Poor Man Lazrus' is an African American spiritual based on Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. With driving rhythms and vivid storytelling, the spiritual recounts the great reversal at the heart of the parable: Lazarus, ignored in life as he suffered at the rich man's gate, is comforted after death, while the rich man confronts the consequences of his indifference.

Jester Hairston (1901-2000) was an acclaimed composer, arranger, conductor, actor, and leading interpreter of the African American spiritual. Through arrangements such as this one, he helped preserve the spiritual tradition and bring it to generations of singers and listeners. 'Poor Man Lazrus' reminds us that Jesus' teaching about judgment is not merely speculation about the afterlife. It is also an urgent call to see and serve those who suffer at our gates.

Digging Deeper

Here are additional resources to help you dig deeper into today's sermon topic.

Wresting with Doubt
by Adam Hamilton

"Of Hell" Sermon 73
by John Wesley

Scripture: Mark 9:43-48,
Matthew 25:31-46, Romans
5:12-21, Revelation 20:11-15

About the Offertory

Nashville-based Andrew Peterson is a singer-songwriter, author, and founder of the Rabbit Room, an organization devoted to cultivating Christ-centered community through music, story, and art. Known for his thoughtful, poetic approach to faith, Peterson is also the author of the award-winning 'Wingfeather Saga.'

About the Closing Hymn

Martin Luther composed 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God' during the late 1520s, most likely in 1527 or 1528; its first known printing appeared in 1529. Written during the upheaval of the Protestant Reformation, the hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 46: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.'

The hymn does not deny the reality of evil. It pictures a world 'with devils filled' and acknowledges forces that threaten to undo us. Yet fear and evil do not have the final word. The hymn directs our confidence toward Christ and concludes with its central affirmation: God's truth abides, and God's kingdom is forever.

About the Postlude

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707) was one of the great organist-composers of the North German Baroque and an important influence upon the young Johann Sebastian Bach. For nearly forty years, he served as organist of St. Mary's Church in Lubeck, where his imaginative and expressive music attracted admirers from across northern Europe.

Buxtehude's 'Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott' is a chorale prelude based on the tune of our closing hymn. In this setting, Luther's familiar melody is elaborately ornamented above interweaving accompanying voices. The postlude thus allows the hymn's final affirmation to continue beyond the congregational singing: amid every power that threatens us, God remains our refuge and strength.

Acolytes:
Liam & Ford Crosland

+THE DOXOLOGY

No. 95

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Tune: OLD 100th

THE MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Procopio

WE ARE SENT TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

+THE CLOSING HYMN

No. 110

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Tune: EIN FESTE BURG

+THE BENEDICTION

Rev. Roberts

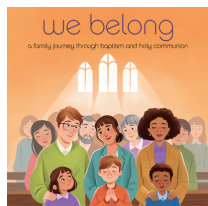
+THE POSTLUDE

Rev. Jared Wilson, organ

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott
BuxWV 184
Dieterich Buxtehude

Sympathies to Christine Cheng on the death of her father, Chhin-Yang Tsai, who died in Taiwan last week.

HOPE NOTES



We Belong: Family Sunday School Gathering

Today
10:30 AM | Ministry Center

You won't want to miss our family Sunday School today in the Ministry Center!

Children in Grades 1-5 are invited to come with their parents to explore the ways they belong to the church, to God, and to their families through baptism and communion. You'll even receive a great book to take home entitled, "We Belong."

We look forward to seeing you there!



Good Samaritan Circle Meeting

Friday, September 4
10:00 AM | Green House

Let the cooler times roll! Fall is on the way and it's time for our first Good Samaritan Circle meeting. We will gather on Friday, September 4th at 10:00am in the Green House.

We are blessed to have our very own Senior Minister, Josh Roberts, as our speaker, possibly along with his wife, Loren.

Absolutely everyone is welcome! And if you are new to IOHUMC, we wholeheartedly welcome you!



Lunch Bunch Circle Meeting

Wednesday, September 9
11:45 AM | Tabby House

Join us for our first circle meeting on Wednesday September 9th at 11:45am in the Tabby House.

We are pleased to welcome our Missions Director, Sara Fullerton, as our speaker. She is aware of our various mission outreaches and invites us to consider, "What breaks your heart for the Lord? What needs in our community and world do you feel especially drawn toward?"

We look forward to seeing everyone!



Savannah Sings: The Story of Sacred Music in Georgia's First City

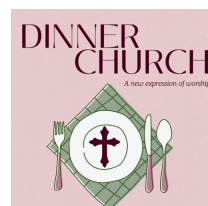
Starting Sunday, September 13
4:00 PM | Tabby House

From Charles Wesley's ministry in colonial Georgia to Lowell Mason's influence on American church music, Savannah has played a remarkable role in shaping the songs of faith that continue to inspire worshippers today.

This four-week course explores the people, churches, traditions, and music that have helped define Savannah's rich sacred music heritage. Through stories, listening experiences, local history, and discussion, participants will discover how sacred music has shaped both the faith and culture of Georgia's First City.

We will meet on September 13, 20, 27, and October 11. Open to all members of the community. No musical background is required.

Register online at iohumc.com.



Dinner Church

Wednesday, September 23
5:30 PM | Ministry Center

You are invited to join us as we embark on a new expression of worship - Dinner Church.

Dinner Church is a different kind of church gathering that is centered around a shared meal, meaningful conversation, and worship. Around the table, relationships are formed, stories are shared, and faith is explored in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

Whether you are new to church, are returning after time away, find the traditional Sunday morning experience challenging, or are simply curious, there's a seat for you here.

Please register online at iohumc.com by September 16 to ensure we have enough food for everyone.



Student Ministries Sunday Dinner Volunteers

We are saying goodbye to summer and hello to a new fall rhythm! As you get settled in to your routine, be sure Sunday Night Student Ministries is part of it! All current 6th-12th graders are invited to bring a friend and meet us at the Green House on Sunday nights from 5:00-6:30 pm for a meal, games, and meaningful time together!

Parents, or church members, if you would like to provide a meal for our students and volunteers one week this semester, that would be a huge help! You can sign up at iohumc.com/student-ministries/sunday-nights.

HOPE NOTES

MISSION MOMENT



Blood Drive
Monday, September 14
2:30-7:00 PM | Tabby House

The American Red Cross has declared the second national blood crisis in its history.

All blood types are needed, but the situation is especially dire for type O. The blood supply fell nearly 25% in June, and blood donations are now at a four-year summer low.

Donors are asked to take action immediately to help save lives. Please register online at iohumc.com.



WCC Grand Opening:
Steam Spot for Kidz
Thursday, September 17th
5:00 PM | WCC

On September 17th, join Wesley Community Center from 5:00–6:30pm for the grand opening of STEAM Spot for Kidz!

This milestone has been years in the making, and Wesley is deeply grateful to everyone who has supported the journey toward reopening. All are welcome to come celebrate!



Volunteer at Kids Cafe

Help Second Harvest prepare free, nutritious after-school meals for children and teens across Coastal Georgia through the Kids Cafe.

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm. To get involved, contact Chef Sarah at maier@helpendhunger.org or Sara Fullerton at sfullerton@iohumc.com.



HUGS Fundraiser:
Play it Forward
Friday, September 25
7:00 PM | Off-Site

HUGS is a Savannah-based nonprofit counseling center committed to making exceptional behavioral health care accessible to all who seek it. By training and using compassionate volunteer professionals, HUGS helps meet critical counseling needs throughout our community.

The HUGS Play it Forward Fundraiser is on Friday, September 25th, hosted at American Legion Post 135 (1108 Bull Street). Purchase a ticket or become a sponsor at iohumc.com.



Support Union Mission

Union Mission offers a variety of ways to help bring hope to people experiencing homelessness in Savannah.

Volunteers are needed at the new resource center for laundry, shower and hospitality assistance, kitchen support, and more, with several shifts and days available. You can also purchase everyday shelter essentials through Union Mission's Amazon Wishlist (link at iohumc.com)

Donations may be dropped off at 125 Fahm Street Monday–Thursday from 10:00am - 4:00pm, or contact Sara Fullerton at sfullerton@iohumc.com to arrange delivery.



Lend a Hand, Build a Bed

Sleep in Heavenly Peace needs a few more strong, able-bodied volunteers to help deliver and assemble beds for local children who do not have one of their own.

Your time and a little muscle can help ensure every child has a safe, comfortable place to sleep. No special experience is needed—just a willingness to help!

Contact Sara Fullerton at sfullerton@iohumc.com if you're interested.



Volunteer with Mary's Place

Mary's Place has both one-time and ongoing service opportunities. Volunteers are needed Saturday, September 12, after 2:00 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes to pack giveaway bags for the Hispanic Networking Resource Fair. Exact time to come!

Mary's Place is also seeking Crisis Line Advocates and Hospital Advocates to provide compassionate support to survivors and their loved ones. Flexible shifts are available after required training. Ready to make a difference? Contact Sara Fullerton at sfullerton@iohumc.com.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, August 30, 2026

9:15 AM - Worship Service
10:30 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Student Breakfast
10:30 AM - We Belong Family Sunday School
11:30 AM - Confirmation Leader Meeting
5:00 PM - Student Ministry

Monday, August 31, 2026

9:00 AM - Cooking Angels
11:00 AM - Meals on Wheels
11:00 AM - Rummikub
4:00 PM - Yoga

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

10:00 AM - Care Partners Support Group
10:00 AM - Hope Arbor
5:30 PM - Missions Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

10:00 AM - Hope Arbor
11:00 AM - Meals On Wheels
1:00 PM - Mahjongg for Fun
5:30 PM - Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM - Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 3, 2026

10:00 AM - Sassy Sowers
10:00 AM - Hope Arbor
2:00 PM - SonRise Casserole Crew
6:30 PM - Anchor Band Rehearsal

Friday, September 4, 2026

All Day - Church Office Closed
10:00 AM - Good Samaritan Circle Meeting
10:00 AM - Men's Prayer Meeting
11:00 AM - Meals On Wheels

Saturday, September 5, 2026

8:30 AM - SonRise Servers

CONNECT WITH US

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today. Scan the QR code to let us know you're here, tell us more about yourself, learn about our upcoming events, and give online.



WAYS TO GIVE

Giving is an essential part of worship—an act of love that shapes our hearts as much as it supports the work God is doing. Here are ways you can support His work through IOHUMC:

- **Mobile:** Text "GIVE" to 855-712-6960
- **Online:** Scan the QR code above
- **In-Person:** On Sunday mornings, place your gift in the plate that is passed or in one of the designated boxes

You can also give through the mail, online with recurring transactions, with Required IRA Distributions, and by giving stock. Visit iohumc.com or contact Marla Grady at mgrady@iohumc.com for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered at 10:30am every week. This hour is a time of Bible study and fellowship for all ages, and acts as a community group for children, youth, and adults. All are welcome and encouraged to join!

Adult Sunday School Classes

Seekers
SALT
New Horizons
Good News
Sisters of Strength

Children & Youth Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School
Student Ministries Breakfast Club



To help extend our worshipping community, our services are livestreamed and recorded; those present may appear in the video.

Pastoral Care Response*

Rev. Josh Roberts - 770-891-2578
Rev. Meg Procopio - 912-663-5512
Rev. Jared Wilson - 931-624-1418

*If you are in need of a pastor due to hospitalization, death in the family, or other emergency.

THE STAFF OF ISLE OF HOPE UMC

Rev. Josh Roberts, Senior Pastor
jroberts@iobumc.com

Marla Grady, Church Administrator
mgrady@iobumc.com

Rev. Meg Procopio, Associate Pastor
mprocopio@iobumc.com

Marjo Zelinsky, Office Manager
mzelinsky@iobumc.com

Rev. Jared Wilson, Associate Pastor for Music & Worship
jwilson@iobumc.com

Marla Williamson, Facilities Manager
mwilliamson@iobumc.com

Rev. Frank Parr, Pastor Emeritus
fmparr@gmail.com

Allie Daniel, Director of Communications
adaniel@iobumc.com

Beth Parr, Director of Children's Ministries
bparr@iobumc.com

Lisa Sharpley, Technical Director
lsharpley@iobumc.com

Wez Childers, Director of Weekday Ministries
wchilders@iobumc.com

Tricia Windom, Wedding Director
triciawindom@comcast.net

Alden Fowkes, Director of Student Ministries
afowkes@iobumc.com

Eliza Brooks, Hope Arbor Program Director
ebrooks@iobumc.com

Sara Fullerton, Director of Missions
sfullerton@iobumc.com

Traci Dent, Hope Arbor Activities Director
tdent@iobumc.com

Kathy Smith, Associate Director of Music & Worship
ksmith@iobumc.com

Beth Christiansen, Hope Arbor Assistant Activities Director
bchristiansen@iobumc.com

Kourtney Funderburk, Associate Director of Music & Worship
kfunderburk@iobumc.com

