

ISLE OF HOPE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

EST. 1851



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY
BY UNITING IN PURPOSE AND SERVING IN LOVE

SEPTEMBER 13, 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!

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 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

GATHERING MUSIC

Anchor Band

This Is Amazing Grace

Phil Wickham

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Josh Roberts

+THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Roberts

We come not because we have done no wrong, but because God's grace is greater than our sin.

We come seeking mercy that tells the truth, heals our wounds, and changes our hearts.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited into new life.
Let us worship the God whose mercy makes us whole.

+THE OPENING SONG

Holy Water

We the Kingdom

+THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Roberts

We believe in God,
whose mercy is deeper than our sin
and whose love never abandons us.

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who tells the truth about what is broken,
bears the wounds of the world,
and opens the way to forgiveness and new life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who suffers hardened hearts,
heals wounded lives,
and frees us from the power of the past.

We believe forgiveness does not call evil good
or pretend that harm does not matter.
By God's grace, we can seek justice without vengeance,
remember without surrendering to fear,
and trust that what has happened
will not have the final word.

We believe nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
This is our faith. Amen.

+THE GREETING

Rev. Roberts

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN

Dr. Frank Parr

*At the conclusion of the Children's Message,
all children ages 3 through Grade 2 are invited to go to Children's Church.*

THE ANTHEM

Isle of Hope Choir

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive
Robert Hobby

The congregation is invited to sing the following as directed:

Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And
bid re - sent - ment cease. Then, bound to all in
bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Rev. Meg Procopio

Twenty-five years ago, acts of terror took the lives of nearly three thousand people and left wounds carried by families, communities, and nations. Today, we remember those who died, those who rushed toward danger to help others, and all whose lives were forever changed.

We remember them before God.

We remember truthfully. Forgiveness does not ask us to excuse what happened, or to forget those who were lost.

God of truth, receive our grief and hold our memories.

We pray for all who continue to bear the wounds of violence and fear – and for a world still longing for peace.

God of mercy, heal what remains broken within us and among us.

By your grace, do not allow hatred to possess our hearts or the wounds of the past to command our future. Teach us to remember without surrendering to fear, to seek justice without vengeance, and to become instruments of your peace.

What happened will not be forgotten, but it will not have the final word.

About the Anthem

'Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive' takes its opening words from the prayer Jesus taught his disciples. Written by Rosamond E. Herklots, the hymn explores one of the Lord's Prayer's most challenging petitions: our request to be forgiven as we forgive others. It does not suggest that we earn God's mercy through our own goodness. Instead, it asks whether a heart consumed by resentment can fully receive and embody the grace it has been given.

Robert Hobby's setting uses the tune DETROIT, an early American folk-hymn tune found in 'The Sacred Harp.' Its stark, modal character gives the prayer an unusual honesty and urgency. The anthem reminds us that forgiveness does not declare a wrong acceptable, or erase what happened. It asks God to free us from bitterness so that the wrong no longer controls our hearts.

Remembering September 11

This week marks twenty-five years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In worship today, we remember those who died, those who risked their lives to rescue others, and all who continue to carry the grief and trauma of that day.

Christian remembrance tells the truth: the violence was real, the loss cannot be undone, and forgiveness does not make evil acceptable. Yet followers of Jesus also believe that hatred, vengeance, and fear must not be allowed to have the final word. We remember the past without surrendering our future to it, praying that God will heal what remains wounded and lead us in the way of justice and peace.

Today's litany was written by Rev. Jared Wilson.

About the Response

'The Silence and the Sorrow' was originally titled 'Pieta,' recalling the image of Mary holding the body of Jesus. From within that grief, the song gives voice to a deeply human longing: that someone will draw near, share our sorrow, and help us bear what cannot be changed. The music offers no easy explanation for suffering and does not hurry grief toward resolution. Instead, it reminds us that sorrow need not be carried alone.

About the Reflection

Written by Zach Williams, 'There Was Jesus' became widely known through the Grammy Award-winning recording by Williams and Dolly Parton. The song looks back upon seasons of waiting, searching, hurting, and uncertainty to recognize a presence that may not have been apparent at the time: Jesus was there.

This testimony does not mean that God caused every painful experience or that everything that happened was good. It means that suffering and failure were never the only realities present. Christ remained near, offering grace when it was needed and companionship when the way forward could not yet be seen. Following today's sermon, the song reminds us that the person who wounded us, and the wound itself, never possessed absolute authority over our story. There was Jesus, and there Jesus is still.

Acolytes:

Bill & Nonagene Daniel

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THE SONG OF RESPONSE

*Sara Fullerton, soloist
Kathy Smith, piano*

*The Silence and the Sorrow
Liam Lawton*

GOD SPEAKS GOD'S WORD TO US

+THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Rev. Jared Wilson

Luke 7:36-50

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

THE SERMON

Rev. Wilson

You Asked for It: If I Forgive, Am I Saying It Was Okay?

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anchor Band

*There Was Jesus
Zach Williams*

THE MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Procopio

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

+THE CLOSING SONG

*Make It Well
MercyMe*

+THE BENEDICTION

Rev. Roberts

+THE POSTLUDE

Kathy Smith, piano

*When We Were Living
Arr. by John Carter*

HOPE NOTES



Spiritual Stewardship

Did you know that over the next 30 years, America will experience the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of the world?

Do you have a will or trust? Did you realize there are ways to give beyond cash, check, or credit card that can have tax benefits?

Next weekend, the Rev. Dr. Tim Deatrick will visit IOHUMC to help us dig deeper into these questions and more. Tim is a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy and will help us learn how to best steward our gifts and resources as we continue to grow as a congregation.

For more information and to register for a one-on-one advisory session, please visit iohumc.com.

Saturday, September 19

Ministry Center

9:00am: Raising Literate Heirs Workshop

10:30am: Wills & Trusts Workshop

1:00 - 5:30pm: One-on-One Financial Advisory Sessions
(Registration Required)

Sunday, September 20

Ministry Center

10:30am: Tax Smart Giving Workshop

(All adult Sunday School classes will meet in the Ministry Center for this workshop)

1:00 - 5:30pm: One-on-One Financial Advisory Sessions
(Registration Required)

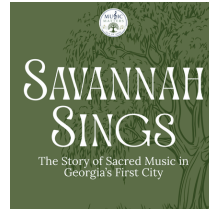


We've Saved You a Seat - New HS Girls Small Group

***Starting Today at 10:30 AM |
GH Room 123***

Our new high school girls small group starts today at 10:30 AM in the Green House Living Room! Led by Rev. Meg Procopio and Loren Roberts, it should be a beautiful exploration into what it means to build authentic, Christ-centered friendships. Together, we'll talk about vulnerability, encouragement, forgiveness, healthy boundaries, and serving others, with Jesus as our example and Scripture as our foundation.

For questions or for more information, contact Rev. Procopio at mprocopio@iohumc.com.



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

***Starting Today at 4:00 PM |
Tabby House***

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.

Contact Rev. Jared Wilson at jwilson@iohumc.com with any questions.



Blood Drive

Monday, September 14

2:30 - 7:00pm | 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.



Small Group for Moms

Thursdays at 8:30 AM | Bridal Parlor

All mothers are invited to gather each Thursday from 8:30-10:15am in the Bridal Parlor for a time of fellowship, encouragement, and Bible study.

During our first eight weeks, we'll explore The Art of Parenting book and video series together.

Childcare is not provided, but babies are always welcome to join us!

Contact Heather Batchelor at hbatchelor@icloud.com with any questions.

HOPE NOTES



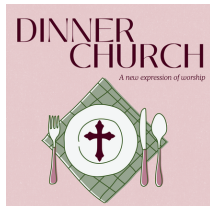
Holding Hope Grief Group *Starting Thursday, September 17* **10:30 AM | GH Room 123**

Holding Hope is a grief support group created especially for those who have been caregivers to a loved one.

You don't have to walk through grief alone. Together, we can hold onto hope, find comfort in community, and take the next steps toward healing.

Holding Hope will begin on September 17 and continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM in the Green House Living Room (Room 123).

Contact Rev. Meg Procopio at mprocopio@iohumc.com for more information.



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're new to church, 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.



WIF Dinner Party *Thursday, October 1 at 6:00 PM |* **Ministry Center**

There is always room for one more at the table!

United Women in Faith invites you to step away from the busyness of the week and enjoy an evening centered around a shared meal, lively conversation, and the simple joy of being together. Come as you are—and leave with a few new friends.

Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by September 28. Childcare is available for children under age 6 and should be reserved when purchasing your ticket. Get your ticket today at iohumc.com.



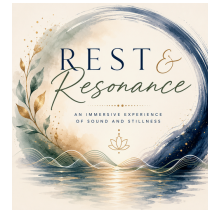
Mahjong for Missions *Thursday, October 15 at 6:00 PM |* **Ministry Center**

Grab your mahjong friends - or come ready to make some new ones - and join us for Mahjong for Missions!

Players of all skill levels are welcome, and table leaders will be available throughout the evening to help keep play moving. Enjoy light food and drinks, try your luck with some great raffle items, and spend the evening playing for a great cause.

All funds raised will support the Christ Child's Nest, an orphanage in Guatemala overseen by two Catholic nuns who provide love and excellent care for almost 50 children currently living there - many of whom are differently-abled. Isle of Hope UMC is the primary source of funding for their daily living expenses.

Tickets are \$50 until 10/1 and \$60 afterwards. Buy your ticket today at iohumc.com!



Rest & Resonance *Sunday, October 18 at 4:00 PM |* **Ministry Center**

Step away from the noise and busyness of daily life and enter a space designed for rest, reflection, and renewal.

Through resonant sounds, gentle tones, moments of silence, and thoughtfully selected readings, participants will be invited to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with a sense of peace, wonder, and presence. This is not a concert, lecture, or worship service. Rather, it is an opportunity to rest, listen, and be present in a carefully curated environment of sound and stillness.

Let us know you're coming by registering at iohumc.com.



'All Things New' Worship Night *Sunday, October 25 at 5:00 PM |* **Ministry Center**

Join us for *All Things New*, an evening of music, prayer, Scripture, and creative worship centered on God's renewing love. This worship experience is being designed by our Student Ministry Creative Collective team as a gift to the whole church and community. The evening will feature music led by the Anchor Band, along with creative contributions from our students, musicians, and tech team. Come ready to worship, reflect, and experience the hope of God's love in a fresh and meaningful way.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:15 AM - Worship Service
10:30 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Student Breakfast
10:30 AM - High School Girls Small Group
10:30 AM - Explore IOHUMC Brunch
4:00 PM - Cub Scouts Pack Meeting
4:00 PM - Savannah Sings
5:00 PM - Student Ministry
5:00 PM - The 412 (3rd-5th Grade Ministry)

Monday, September 14, 2026

11:00 AM - Meals on Wheels
11:00 AM - Rummikub
11:15 AM - UWIF Board Meeting
2:30 PM - Blood Drive
4:00 PM - Yoga
5:30 PM - Finance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

10:00 AM - Care Partners Support Group
10:00 AM - Hope Arbor

Wednesday, September 16, 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 17, 2026

8:30 AM - Small Group for Moms
10:00 AM - Sassy Sowers
10:00 AM - Hope Arbor
10:30 AM - Holding Hope Grief Group
6:30 PM - Anchor Band Rehearsal

Friday, September 18, 2026

All Day - Church Office Closed
10:00 AM - Men's Prayer Group
11:00 AM - Meals On Wheels

Saturday, September 19, 2026

9:00 AM - Raising Literate Heirs Workshop
10:30 AM - Wills & Trusts Workshop
1:00 PM - Individual Financial Advisory Sessions

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 for adults, youth, and children at 10:30 am every Sunday. Sunday School is a time of Bible study and fellowship for all ages, and acts as a community group for 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

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