

The Beacon August 2026

Hopewell Methodist Church
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The Beacon August 2026

Message from the Pastor

*"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."
—2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)*

One of the greatest privileges God has given His people is the opportunity to represent Him to the world. The Apostle Paul reminds us that every follower of Christ is an ambassador—a representative of the King. As Christ's ambassadors, we carry the message of reconciliation, inviting others to experience the forgiveness, hope, and new life found in Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we think evangelism requires extraordinary gifts or extensive biblical knowledge. More often than not, however, it begins with something much simpler: an invitation. A personal invitation to worship. An invitation to a Bible study. An invitation to a conversation over coffee. A caring invitation can become the first step in someone's journey toward Christ.

This month, Hopewell Methodist Church will offer a workshop entitled **The Difference Maker**, based on Nelson Searcy's practical system for helping churches create a culture of intentional invitation. This workshop is designed to equip every member—not just pastors or ministry leaders—to become more confident in inviting friends, neighbors, coworkers, and family members to church. Our prayer is that this training will help us become a congregation where inviting others is a natural expression of our love for Christ and our love for people.

That same heart for reaching others is reflected in our plans to launch a **Good News Club** at Jacobs Road Elementary School this fall. Through this ministry, children will have the opportunity to hear the gospel, learn God's Word, and experience the love of Christ in a welcoming environment. We are praying that God will use this ministry not only to reach children but also to build meaningful relationships with families throughout our community.

Whether your invitation is extended to a neighbor, a coworker, a child, or a young family, remember that God often works through simple acts of faithfulness. We cannot change a person's heart—that is the work of the Holy Spirit—but we can faithfully extend the invitation. God delights in using ordinary people who are willing to say, "Come and see."

As we enter this new ministry season, I encourage you to pray for one person God would have you intentionally invite. Ask the Lord to open a door for conversation, to give you courage, and to prepare hearts to receive His truth. You never know how one invitation may change a life—or an entire family—for eternity.

May Hopewell continue to be a church that not only gathers to worship Christ but also joyfully goes into our community as His ambassadors, faithfully inviting others to be reconciled to God.

In Christ,

Pastor Bob



Music Minute

Summer is so bright and cheerful. It invites it us to stay outside a bit later as the sunshine stretches the day longer. We sometimes like to complain, "It's sure hot outside," but we still enjoy the feelings of freedom and relaxation that summer gives. Summer is one of our favorite seasons. Trees are in full leaves, flowers and vegetable gardens are in full bloom, and shorts and a t-shirt rule the day. Daylight is plentiful and it appears that there is more time for everything. Don't you remember. as a kid, playing outside until well past dark, chasing lightning bugs and enjoying the songs of the cicadas?

Summer brings fun opportunities for laughter and happiness – the picnics, the vacations, and the get-togethers. Author Barbara Johnson says, "Human beings thrive on laughter. Since most of us can't afford vacations in Hawaii, we have to learn to make our own fun! The best way to do that is to keep your state of mind green and golden: find, recycle, or produce joy wherever and however you can."

Scripture is abundant with reminders about the place that joy should have in our lives: "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'" – [Psalm 126:2](#) "Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them." – [Psalm 111:2](#) "Shout for joy to God, our source of strength! Shout out to the God of Jacob!" – [Psalm 81:1](#)

Joy grows from a deep place in our souls where we meet with God honestly and humbly. A place where we learn more about Him and how our relationship can grow stronger. In this place we discover a peace that is 'beyond all understanding' ([Philippians 4:7](#)). Through this peace we can begin to experience a joy that is not dependent on the happenings of the moment – because our strength is not in ourselves, but in Christ.

Summer is a great time for us to experience the joy that living in Christ brings us, allowing us to enjoy all that God provides. As we experience God's joy through the beauty of nature, the sound of children's laughter, or recounting a funny story with friends and family, be sure to share it. Our joy is multiplied when we do.

Two joyful events taking place this month are. firstly, our "Christmas in August" preview of the Christmas cantata on August 6th at 7 p.m. In the Sanctuary. Come check it out, and then join us for weekly rehearsals beginning August 27th. The second event is the arrival of our 3rd octave of hand bells due to arrive around the middle of the month, thanks largely in part to an exceptionally generous anonymous donation. We will have our final fund raiser to cover the remainder of the cost on Sunday, August 9th immediately following worship. We'll have "Breakfast for Lunch: and a wonderful time of fellowship! Your support of this fund raiser will ensure that all of the bells and related equipment and materials are at no cost to the church.

We also want to take the opportunity to thank our amazing A/V Team. Without them, you don't hear or see much at all! They have been working hard to train and grow in service to Christ and to our church. Not only are they serving on Sundays, but also at every choir rehearsal and special service. We are grateful for their servant's hearts and their dedication!

Enjoy this last full month of summer, and be sure to seek and create joy, and then share it with those you meet!

JOYfully Serving,

Ellen Stephenson

Director of Music Ministries



Men's Alliance is Waiting for You!

Looking for a way to connect to the men of the church that is not your typical men's ministry or Bible study? Not sure where to find a community or a group of brothers to tackle the challenges of life together? Then maybe Men's Alliance is what you are looking for.

What is Men's Alliance? It is a Discipleship Ministry for Christian Men who want more. It is designed to challenge you both spiritually and physically. It is a ministry with a mission to sharpen men to become the husbands, fathers, and leaders that God designed us to be.

The Tribe is open to all men starting at age thirteen and all physical levels. The only limitations are the ones you put on yourself. Therefore, we invite all the men of Hopewell to come out and experience Men's Alliance for yourself. Redeemer Tribe meets each Saturday at 7 am, regardless of the weather, to continue sharpening, encouraging, and praying for one another. Visit <https://www.mensalliancetribe.com/tribes/redeemer> for more information, to join the tribe, or reach out to any tribe member. We look forward to seeing you around the fire!



Back to Church Sunday: Find Your Place

"For as the body is one and has many members... so also is Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)

Everyone is looking for a place to belong. God created us for community, and His Church is where people find hope, encouragement, purpose, and lasting relationships through Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, September 20, Hopewell Methodist Church will join thousands of churches across the nation in celebrating Back to Church Sunday. This year's theme, "Find Your Place," is a reminder that everyone has a place in God's family and that the local church is where lives are transformed through worship, discipleship, and fellowship.

This is the perfect opportunity to invite someone you know. Think about a family member who has drifted away from church, a neighbor searching for hope, a coworker facing life's challenges, or a friend who simply needs a place where they will be welcomed and loved. Your invitation could be the first step in God's work of changing a life.

Following our morning worship service, we'll continue the celebration with our End of Summer Picnic. It will be a wonderful time to enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun as a church family. We hope you'll invite your guests to stay, share a meal, and begin building relationships with the people of Hopewell.

Please begin praying now for those God is placing on your heart. Then, take the next step—extend an invitation. You never know how God may use one simple invitation to help someone find their place in His family.





From Consumers to Producers: Embracing Intentional Faith Development

When I was an undergraduate history student, a professor who would later serve as my graduate thesis committee chair shared a piece of wisdom that has stayed with me ever since. He told us that as we matured in our study of history, we had to move from being *consumers* of history to *producers* of history. In the beginning, students simply read, absorb, and consume the historical research and writing that others have already done. But as you grow in the discipline, the expectation shifts. You are no longer meant to receive passively what someone else prepared; you are called to dig into the sources yourself, construct thoughtful historical insights, and produce something meaningful for those coming behind you.

I was reminded of that classroom lesson recently while reading a book by a pastor who addressed a common issue in local churches. He described a situation where longtime believers were leaving a congregation because they felt they "were not being fed." On the surface, that phrase sounds deeply spiritual. But as I reflected on it, I realized it carries a subtle and dangerous assumption: that spiritual growth is entirely passive—that it is the job of the pastor to spoon-feed us, while our only role is to sit back, open wide, and consume.

As we grow in our walk with Jesus Christ, our relationship with God cannot remain passive. When we are new in the faith, we certainly rely on others to help feed us the basic truths of God's Word. That spiritual milk is essential for brand-new believers. But as time goes on, we are called to move from passivity to active pursuit. We must stop waiting to be fed, step up to the table, and feast actively on the Word of God for ourselves.

Scripture is wonderfully clear on this distinction between spiritual childhood and spiritual maturity. In Hebrews 5:12–14, the writer offers a loving but firm rebuke to believers who had stalled in their growth:

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Notice that solid food belongs to those who, "by reason of use," have exercised and trained their spiritual senses through constant practice. Mature faith requires intentional effort. We see a vibrant model of this active engagement in Acts 17:11, describing the believers in Berea:

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

The Bereans did not just passively listen to the Apostle Paul—the greatest theologian of the early Church! They eagerly took what they heard and then personally plunged into the Scriptures every day to study, verify, and absorb those truths. Centuries earlier, God gave a similar command to Joshua as he took on the heavy burden of leading Israel:

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Lay leader Message Continued

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it." (Joshua 1:8)

God did not tell Joshua to wait around for a prophet or a teacher to hand him spiritual insights once a week. He told him to immerse *himself* in the Word day and night.

We often speak of *Intentional Faith Development* as one of the core practices of a fruitful congregation. Intentional faith development does not mean waiting for someone else to develop your faith for you; it means taking personal responsibility to engage actively in the spiritual habits, studies, and fellowships that sharpen your heart and mind. As someone educated as a teacher, I know that real learning never happens passively. It takes curiosity, initiative, and practice.

Fortunately, right here at Hopewell Methodist Church, we have a wealth of opportunities available for anyone ready to pull up a chair to the table and dig deeper into their faith walk:

Biblical Worldview Class: Led by Pastor Bob, this Sunday school class helps us examine modern life and culture through the lens of God's truth.

Adult Sunday School Classes: We offer three distinct adult classes—a Men's class, a Women's class, and a Co-ed class—providing spaces for deep discussion and community.

Men's Bible Study: Gathering on Sunday evenings for focused Scripture study and fellowship.

Women's Group Bible Study: Integrated into the ongoing programming and ministry of our women's group.

Wednesday Night Fellowship & Prayer: A mid-week gathering starting with a shared dinner, followed by Bible study and a prayer service where we commune with God, lift up those in need, and thank Him for His abundant blessings.

Discipleship Training: Mark your calendars for **August 22nd**, when we will host a special training session focused on equipping us to grow as followers of Christ and make disciples of others.

October Pastor Appreciation (30 Days of Prayer): Looking ahead to October for Pastor Appreciation Month, we are planning a special 30 days of prayer dedicated specifically to lifting up Pastor Bob. As part of this initiative, we will read through *When the People Pray* by Thom Rainer together.

Whether you have questions, fresh ideas for new Bible studies, or a desire to get more involved, please reach out to me, one of our Deacons, or Pastor Bob. We would love to walk alongside you as you cultivate your own spiritual growth—and as you help produce environments where others can do the exact same thing.

Let us commit this month to feasting together on the Word of God.

In service and surrender,

Tyler

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OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."
Jeremiah 3:15

30 Days of Prayer for Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and this year our congregation is joining churches across the Congregational Methodist Church (CMC) for a powerful prayer initiative centered on Thom Rainer's book, *When the People Pray*.

Designed as a 30-day journey, each short daily reading features a specific prayer for our pastor. Starting October 1 and wrapping up on October 30, churches throughout the CMC will be praying simultaneously. In keeping with our Methodist value of connectionalism, we believe our churches are stronger together—and that aligning our prayers across the denomination amplifies the impact of our intercession.

How to Join Us:

We encourage everyone in our church family to participate! Please take a moment to sign up here: <https://hopewellchurch.breezechms.com/form/30Days2026> so we can prepare materials and embark on this 30-day journey together.

To support our church family on this path, copies of the text will be made available to all participants; however, we gratefully welcome any contributions intended to help offset the expense of these materials.



At the July meeting, the Hopewell Women's Ministry welcomed guest speaker Diann Dickenson, founder of The Village – Be Kind group. Diann was full of energy and excitement for The Village. After she spoke about their beginnings and what they do daily, we helped assemble teacher kits for back-to-school. We then enjoyed hamburgers from the grill and fellowship— thanks, Owens, for preparing the burgers!

In August, the Women's Ministry will host a Pottery and Pizza Party at our meeting! We will first briefly handle any necessary business. Then artists from Create It Pottery will bring all the supplies so we can choose and paint an original piece of pottery. They will take it back to their shop to be fired before we add it to our home decor. We will follow this time of fun and fellowship with a pizza lunch. The cost for the event will be \$20 per person, covering the pottery and lunch. Space is limited, so be sure to let Ann McNinch or Ellen know ASAP if you can join us!

We're getting ready and excited for our Annual Craft Show on October 3. It will be here before you know it. If you're interested in helping, please see Ellen.

The Hopewell Women's Ministry meets from 10 to noon on the third Saturday of every month. Ladies, if you are not part of our group, we'd love to have you!

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The Upper Room's Walk to Emmaus weekend is a 72-hour, Christ-centered weekend, intended to build Christian leaders for effective ministry in the local church. On the weekend, participants are introduced to Jesus in a whole new way. Just as the two disciples walked the road to Emmaus, Jesus joined them on the journey to reveal Himself and to ignite a fire within them.

The Emmaus experience has had a profound impact on those who have attended, including me, leading to a deeper love for God and others. Several of your church family have experienced the Walk to Emmaus and would be happy to share their experience with you and answer any questions you may have. The next Men's Weekend is scheduled for **October 15 - 18, 2026**, and we would love for you to experience it for yourself. Just contact a member of the Hopewell Emmaus Community or me for an application.

In addition, if you would like to help others in the church experience the Walk to Emmaus and, in turn, build servants for the body of Christ at Hopewell, you can give to this designated fund. The cost to sponsor a member is \$250, and to serve as a facilitator is \$300. And the Emmaus fund will help cover half the cost for each participant. Therefore, I encourage you to pray about supporting this important ministry, centered on the grace of God in each of our lives.

DeColores!



Sunday Morning Prayer

One of the greatest privileges of the church is the opportunity to gather before the Lord in prayer. Throughout Scripture, God's people prepared their hearts through prayer before worship, seeking His presence, guidance, and blessing. As Jesus taught, His house is to be called a house of prayer.

Beginning Sunday, September 6, we invite everyone who is able to join us each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., prior to the start of Sunday School, for a special time of congregational prayer before our worship service.

Pastor Bob will open our time together with prayer, and those who wish will have the opportunity to offer prayers for our worship service, our church family, our community, and the hearts of those who will be attending that morning. Together, we will seek God's presence, ask for His blessing upon our worship, and pray that lives will be touched by the power of the Gospel.

Prayer is not simply a preliminary activity before worship—it is an essential part of worship. As we begin this new emphasis, we encourage everyone to come with expectant hearts, believing that God hears the prayers of His people and delights to work through them.

Join us as we prepare our hearts and seek the Lord together each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. beginning September 2.

the
difference
maker
Using Your Everyday Life
for Eternal Impact
Free Seminar!
Saturday, August 22
10 am - noon
Call the office to register by August 15th.

Be a Difference Maker

Every Invitation Matters

Jesus has entrusted every believer with the privilege of sharing His love and inviting others to know Him. While not everyone is called to preach from a pulpit, every Christian is called to be an ambassador for Christ. Sometimes the simplest act of obedience is extending a personal invitation to a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member.

To help us grow in this important ministry, Hopewell Methodist Church will host The Difference Maker on Saturday, August 22, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Based on the outreach principles developed by Nelson Searcy, this practical workshop will equip you with simple, effective ways to invite others to church and share the hope of the gospel with confidence.

Our goal is to prepare every member to prayerfully invite someone to join us for Back to Church Sunday on September 20. One invitation may seem small, but God has often used a simple invitation to change a life for eternity.

Please make plans to attend this encouraging and practical training. Together, let's pray that God will use our faithful invitations to draw many people to Christ and to the fellowship of His Church.



Meals for Missions: More Than a Meal—A Ministry Opportunity

Beginning in September (date to be determined), Hopewell Church will launch Meals for Missions, a new Wednesday evening ministry designed to bring our church family together while supporting local mission efforts.

Each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., a delicious meal will be available for just \$10 per person, with options to dine in or take out before our 7:00 p.m. worship service. Every dollar raised will help support local mission projects and outreach opportunities in our community.

But this ministry needs more than diners—it needs servants!

We are looking for volunteers to become part of a rotating team that will help with meal preparation, serving, setup, and cleanup. Whether you can help once a month or more frequently, your involvement can make a meaningful difference. By serving together, we not only provide meals but also create opportunities for fellowship, hospitality, and ministry.

If you enjoy cooking, organizing, serving others, or simply lending a helping hand, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining the Meals for Missions team.

Together, we can share good food, build stronger relationships, and support the mission of Christ in our community—one meal at a time.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Pastor Bob or the church office.



Can You See Our Church Through First-Time Eyes?

One of the greatest challenges for any church is that we become so familiar with our surroundings that we stop seeing them the way guests do. What is obvious to us may be confusing to a first-time visitor. What feels welcoming to longtime members may feel intimidating to someone walking through our doors for the very first time.

To help us become an even more welcoming church, we are seeking volunteers to serve as **Church Facilities Auditors**. Using principles from Thom Rainer's book *How to Be a Welcoming Church* and a detailed facility audit checklist, volunteers will evaluate our church campus, signage, website, parking areas, children's spaces, restrooms, sanctuary, and overall appearance from the perspective of a first-time guest.

The goal is not criticism—it is hospitality. By viewing our church through fresh eyes, we can identify opportunities to remove barriers, improve communication, and create an environment where guests can focus on encountering Christ rather than navigating confusion.

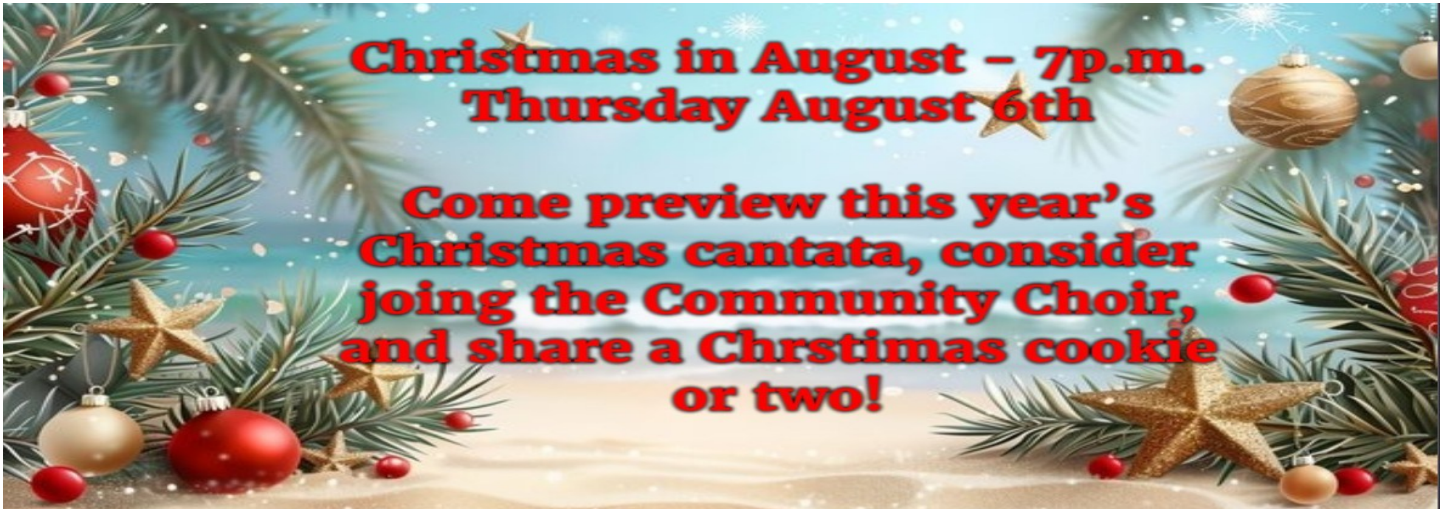
Auditors will complete the assessment individually and then share their observations with church leadership. Together, we can discover simple improvements that make a lasting impact on every person who visits our church.

If you would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Pastor Bob. Your perspective may help us become a more welcoming church for the people God is sending our way.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions is **Monday, August 17th**. If you have an article, valuable information, or exciting ideas to share, we want to hear from you. Send your contributions to Carolyn Bohannon at secretary@hopewellcmc.org by the deadline, and help us make this newsletter a great resource for everyone!

Opportunities this Month



Breakfast for Lunch Handbell Fundraiser

Sunday, August 9th after worship
Your support and generosity
are appreciated!



Gospel Music Night



Join us Every Third
Friday for Great Gospel
Music Night
Admission is Free



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We invite you to explore scripture with us and help strengthen our faith community.
Together, we can engage meaningfully and enrich our spiritual lives.

August Bible Challenge

1- Isaiah 64-66	11 - Jeremiah 14-17	22 - Jeremiah 46-48
2- 2 Kings 20-21	12 - Jeremiah 18-22	23 - Jeremiah 49-50
3 - 2 Chronicles 32-33	13 - Jeremiah 23-25	24 - Jeremiah 51-52
4 - Nahum 1-3	14- Jeremiah 26-29	25 - Lamentations 1-2
5 - 2 Kings 22-23 & 2 Chronicles 34-35	15 - Jeremiah 30-31	26 - Lamentations 3-5
6 - Zephaniah 1-3	16 - Jeremiah 32-34	27 - Ezekiel 1-4
7 - Jeremiah 1-3	17 - Jeremiah 35-37	28 - Ezekiel 5-8
8 - Jeremiah 4-6	18 - Jeremiah 38-40 & Psalm 74,79	29 - Ezekiel 9-12
9 - Jeremiah 7-9	19 - 2 kings 24-25 & 2 Chronicles 36	30 - Ezekiel 13-15
10 - Jeremiah 10-13	20 - Habakkuk 1-3	31 - Ezekiel 16-17
11 - Jeremiah 14-17	21 - Jeremiah 41-45	

August Birthdays

- 3 Jean Sharpe
- 3 Bill Noxon
- 4 Betsy Lewerenz
- 9 Kristen Smith
- 12 Jennifer Schmidt
- 13 Maxwell Roy
- 15 Troy Allen
- 15 Karen Burke



- 17 Teresa Noxon
- 19 Tim Monday
- 22 Linda Koertge
- 26 Andi Taylor
- 29 Carlton Hudson

August Anniversary

- 7 Jeff & Mary Ann Carlson
- 19 Roger & Jeanette Gross
- 25 Albert & Alma Lancaster



Women's Bible Study

Join us Mondays at 6:30 as we study the Bible through it's stories. Learn how God weaves, why He created us and His plan to restore us back to Him. You may see the Bible as God's love letter to us for the first time.



POTTERY & PIZZA PARTY

August 15th @ 10 am - Noon



August Women's Meeting

PRAYER

*Let us approach the throne of grace
with confidence...*

HEBREWS 4:16

Alitzer Family	Tom Dunkum	Markey Family	Mary Sharpe
Wayne Anderson	Carol Sue Durfee	Rebecca McClelland	Mike Sharpe
Ashman Family	Jarad Earley	Elizabeth Melancon	Shepperson Family
Rebecca Bane	Dorcas Eubank	Mark Melancon	Marion Smith
Troy Barnette	Sara Frattone	Tekisha McWms-Roy	Andi Taylor
Katie Beattie	Kathleen Frick	Billy Miller	Helen Taylor
Maury Beck	Kevin Frick	Ann Moseley	Preston Taylor
Kim Brown	Gentile Family	Gary Moseley	John Terry
Karen Burke	Kathleen Goodwin	Kate Mulreny	David Tyree
Wanda Caisse	John Heckendorn	David Nebenzhi	Watkins Family
Brandon Carter	Rachel Heckendorn	Curtis Nines	Eric White
Alec Conarro	Hance Hofler	Odhwani Family	Sarah White
Dale Condrey	Ashley Holt	Ed & Diane Patton	Garry Williams
Croctic Family	Carlton Hudson	Erin Pierce	Brenda Young
Tim Davey	Rose Hudson	Stacey Rideout	Youth Ministry
Sue Davey	Ricky Jackson	Jen Ridout	Empty Pew
Elizabeth Davis	Howard Johnston	Ricky Robertson	
Denise Dubrule	Kerns Family		



Congregational Care Members

Marie Barnett	Christine Price
Phyllis Boyd	Roger Gross
Jennie Burks	John Reynolds
Doris Dean	Debbie Reynolds
Peggy Dinelli	Jean Sharpe
Jeannette Gross	Buz Walters

Our Military

Daniel Brown
Jason Helhm
Ryan Helhm
C.J. Kovas
Devin Lewerenz
Sam Power
Tyler Smith

Always be in Prayer For

Teachers
Our Children
All 1st Responders
All Government Leaders
Our President, Our Country,
Our Military
Virginia
Israel

Do you have a prayer request? Let us pray for you!

We've created two ways for you to submit your request at any time. First, if you download the app, you'll have an opportunity to submit a prayer request and to commit to praying for the request located on the "Prayer Wall." In addition, we've created a QR Code that you can scan and enter your prayer request. Upon receipt, the person's name will be added to our list in the bulletin. All names on our prayer list will remain for four weeks. If someone needs to remain on the prayer list, please let us know. To submit that request, scan the QR Code.



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Giving Gladly

General Fund Stewardship for the last 4 weeks :

HMC Income Statement 06/30/2026

June Income	\$ 27,298.45
June Expenses	\$ <u>24,727.06</u>
Over /(short)	\$ 2571.39
Income YTD 06/30/2026	\$ 181,416.33
Expenses YTD 06/30/2026	\$ <u>180,389.17</u>
Over/ (Short)	\$ 1037.16
Mortgage Loan Balance 06/30/2026	\$ 101,861.92
Additional Principle Applied YTD 2026	\$ 7,325.00

Last 4 Weeks Worship

Attendance Average

Wednesday Night Prayer: 14

11:00 Worship: 69

Online: 257

WORSHIP ONLINE

Watch the live stream on our website!

<https://hopewellcmc.org>

Let us know you're with us by saying "Hi!" in the comments.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Visit <https://hopewellcmc.org>

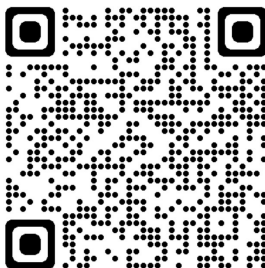
Click the button

to give your tithes & offerings
easily online.

We also have other
giving options:

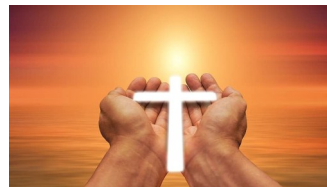
<https://hopewellcmc.org/give>

Text "GIVE" to: (804)485-1593



Wednesday Night Prayer Service

Join us weekly on Wednesday
nights at 6:30 pm for an evening
of praise, prayer, and
communion.



Joyfully Serving for August 2026

Roles	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 16	Aug 23	Aug 30
Lay Reader	Koertge, Tom	Noxon, Billy	Earley, Nikki	Lutz, Jeannie	Reid, Judy
Ushers	Sharpe, Mike	Reynolds, Frances	Rapalee, Mike	Reynolds, Frances	Scheivert, Robin
	Koertge, Linda	Reynolds, Bill	Rapalee, Janet	Reynolds, Bill	Scheivert, Mike
	Croctic, Judy	McNinch, Owens	Noxon, Billy	McNinch, Owens	Holmes, Jerry
	Croctic, Dennis	McNinch, Ann	Hague, Steve	McNinch, Ann	Holmes, Gloria
Greeters	Higgins, Mike	Jacobs, Carolyn	Craddock, Tyler	Scheivert, Robin	Shand, Gil
	Cunningham, Cindy	Eubank, Kathy	Craddock, Tracy	Reid, Judy	Hamby, Beth
Children's Church	Shand, Gil	Sharpe, Mike	Sharpe, Mike	Schmidt, Jennifer	Smith, Gayle
	Hamby, Beth	Carlson, Mary Ann	Jacobs, Carolyn	Scheivert, Mike	Craddock, Tracy
AV Sound	Hague, Steve	Smith, Paul	Dedmon, Cody	Hague, Steve	Dedmon, Cody
		Smith, Henry			
AV Camera	Scheivert, Mike	Wright, Landon	Smith, Gayle	Kweeder, Jim	Sharpe, Mike
		Dedmon, Cody			
AV Computer	Purdy, Irene	Smith, Dylan	Smith, Robbie	Purdy, Irene	Craddock, Tyler

Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

A Stewardship Thought

When things start possessing us, God is moved to the periphery, and things we want to possess prohibit our spiritual growth. Matthew 6:21 says, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

How distressing it is to find that the things we earnestly pursued and believed we needed for our welfare, once attained, turned out to be the cause of growing emptiness.

Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify what parable the following person represents?



If you said the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), you were right. Jesus told a story of ten virgins who, according to the wedding customs of the day, prepared themselves for the arrival of the bridegroom. The ten girls were to accompany the bride with

their lamps to the house of the bridegroom's parents where the wedding would be held. Five of the virgins failed to plan for the possibility that the bridegroom would be delayed and didn't bring extra oil for their lamps. On the other hand, the five wise virgins were prepared with extra oil and were ready when the bridegroom arrived to take them to the celebration.

In the parable, the bridegroom is Jesus. In the coming of the bridegroom, Jesus is talking about his own return. The five foolish virgins are not referred to as being guilty of evil but of unfaithfulness in being prepared for his coming. The oil, which represents their faith, was missing. The wise girls are the faithful people who nurture God's gift of faith through Word and Sacrament.

Through the reading and studying of God's Word and through the participation in the Lord's Supper, we also prepare our minds and hearts for faithful stewardship.

On the Lighter Side

A one-dollar bill met a twenty-dollar bill and said, "Hey, where have you been? I haven't seen you around here much."

The twenty answered, "I've been hanging out at the casinos, went on a cruise, and did the rounds on the ship. Then, for a while, I went back to the United States, went to a couple of baseball games, to the mall, that kind of stuff. How about you?"

The one dollar bill said, "You know, same old stuff ... church, church, church."

*We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give.*

Living a Fruitful Life

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:4-5).

Fruit characterizes the life of the Christian steward. It is interesting to note that, in the passage above, Jesus did not say, "You should bear fruit." He stated that, when we abide in him, it follows naturally that we will bear fruit.

Paul explained to the Galatians what that fruit is: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control." "Since we live by the Spirit," Paul exhorted, "let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other" (Galatians 5:25-26). As children of God, we have this fruit because his Spirit lives in us. We do not bear fruit as a result of our own efforts, but we do cease to bear fruit when we give in to our sinful



natures, becoming, in Paul's words, "conceited, provoking and envying each other."



Just as fruit needs light for its growth and maturation, so do Christians need to have their lives illumined by Christ. Then they are able to produce spiritual fruit and shed that light on the world around them. Ephesians 5:11 says, "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness." God calls us to "Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord" (verse 8).

We discover God's will through his word and through prayer. As Paul prayed for the Colossians, we, too, can ask God "to fill [us] with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding . . . in order that [we] may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work . . ." (Colossians 1:9-10).

God has plans and uses for our lives. When we abide in Christ, we will be fruitful. We will discover and follow his plan, and we will use the gifts he has given us in ministry to the people of the world.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

The Beacon August 2026



August 2026



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Monthly Reoccurring Meetings - Outside Events AA Meetings - Monday @ 5:45 pm; Wednesday @ 12:00 pm & 5:45 pm; & Saturday @ 10:00 am & 8:00 pm Knitting Gals – Second Thursdays and Fourth Wednesdays @ 11:00 am Richmond Emmaus Board Meeting - RM2 – Second Saturdays @ 4:00 pm						1 7am - Men's Alliance 5 pm - Family Game Night
2 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	3 6:30 pm - Women's bible Study 6:30 pm - Church Logo Committee meeting	4 6:30 pm - Finance Committee Meeting	5 10am - Village Sandwich Crew 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm.2 6:30 pm - Prayer Service	6 6:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Christmas in August Community Choir 7:30 pm - Handbell Rehearsal	7	8 7am - Men's Alliance
9 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 12 pm - Breakfast for Lunch - Handbell Fundraiser 5 pm - Men's Bible	10 6:30 pm - Women's bible Study	11 Blood Drive noon - 6 pm 6:30 pm - Deacon's Meeting	12 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm.2 7:30 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm - Prayer	13	14	15 7am - Men's Alliance 10am - Women's Ministry Lunch
16 9:00 am- Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 12:00 - Youth Group 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	17 "Newsletter Deadline" 6:30 pm - Women's bible Study	18 7 pm - Administrative Council	19 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm 2 6:30pm Prayer Service	20 9am - CPR Training 6:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 - Handbell Rehearsal	21 7pm - Gospel Music Night - Just Us	22 7am - Men's Alliance 10 am - Difference Maker Training
23 9:00 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship- 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	24 6:30 pm - Women's bible Study	25 7 pm - Methodist Men	26 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm 2 6:30pm Prayer Service	27 6:00 pm - Hand Bell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 - Cantata Rehearsal	28	29 7am - Men's Alliance
30 9:15 am - 5th Sunday Brunch 10:30 am - Sunday Worship- 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	31 6:30 pm - Women's bible Study					