

Hopewell Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Bob Moseley
<https://hopewellcmc.org>
secretary@hopewellcmc.org
Office: 804-745-8773

The Beacon September 2026

Message from the Pastor

“Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’
Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’” (John 1:46)

In John 1:46, Nathanael responds to Philip’s excitement about Jesus with skepticism: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip does not argue with him, try to answer every objection, or offer a lengthy explanation. He simply says, “Come and see.” There is something wonderfully simple about that invitation. Sometimes we make sharing our faith more complicated than it needs to be because we feel as though we must have all the answers or know exactly what to say. Philip reminds us that our responsibility is often much simpler. We can invite someone to come near enough to encounter Jesus for themselves and trust that God is already at work in ways we may not be able to see.

Those words have always carried a personal meaning for me because they remind me of my own journey back to church. God had already begun working on my heart, although I did not fully recognize it at the time. I had questions; I was searching, and there was a growing sense that something was missing in my life. Even so, I was not ready to walk into a church by myself. For those of us who have been in church for many years, it can be easy to forget how intimidating that first visit can feel. You do not know where to go, where to sit, what is expected of you, or whether everyone else will somehow recognize that you are the newcomer. Then, after we had begun dating, Anne invited me to attend church with her. That simple invitation made all the difference because I did not have to go alone. I knew someone, I had someone to sit beside, and I had someone I trusted who could answer my questions when I did not understand something.

Looking back, I realize that she did not create the work God was doing in my life; she simply became part of it. She did not have to convince me of everything before I walked through the church doors. She simply invited me to “come and see.” As we approach our upcoming Back to Church Sunday on September 20th, I believe there are people all around us who may be in a similar place. They may be thinking about God more than we realize. They may have considered returning to church after years away, or they may be wondering what faith could mean for their lives. Yet they may not be ready to walk into an unfamiliar church alone. A neighbor, coworker, friend, family member, or someone you regularly see may simply need a familiar face beside them when they take that first step.

That is why I want to encourage each of us to begin praying about one person God may place on our heart to invite. We do not need to pressure anyone, and we certainly do not need to have an answer for every question they might ask. We can simply offer the same invitation Philip offered Nathanael: “Come and see.” Nathanael accepted the invitation, encountered Jesus, and Jesus took it from there. Perhaps God is already working in the heart of someone you know, and your invitation could be the encouragement they need to take that next step. I know from my own life how much difference one invitation can make.

Who might God be asking you to invite to come and see?

In Christ,

Pastor Bob



Music Minute

Have you ever stopped to consider the perfection of a sunflower? In late summer and early fall, these glorious blooms are plentiful and are prominently featured in fall decor everywhere. In addition to their physical beauty, they are a source of healthy, edible seeds and oils. But God also has designed the sunflower to speak to us with wisdom and instruction.

The sunflower is a living picture of devotion. Young flowers follow the sun from east to west, constantly moving to keep the sun in view. They remind us to keep our focus steady on what is good and true. Imagine our lives if we all followed the Savior the way a sunflower follows the sun! As we focus on His example, our hearts would be filled with light, energy and knowledge. With His light, we can “see” things as we hadn’t seen before, and “feel” things as we never felt them before. Then through added knowledge we can know the importance of being that “light” He has asked us to be for those around us.

The mature flowers anticipate the dawn by facing eastward through the night. They stand ready and trust that the sun will rise again. Isn’t this a beautiful metaphor for believers who are anticipating the return of Christ? We stand ready and in faith, awaiting the time that He will come and restore us to glory. These flowers also stand TALL in the fields. A tall sunflower requires a robust root system to support its weight and withstand summer winds, mirroring a faith grounded deep in truth. The bright face and rich seeds provide food for local pollinators, wildlife, and people, showing that perfection in nature is inherently generous and life-giving.

But wait...there’s MORE! Sunflowers are perfect examples of the Geometry of Grace! The seeds of the sunflower grow in what is called the Fibonacci Sequence, where the seeds grow in precise, interlocking spirals that mathematically optimize space and strength. They grow in an intricate order ~ nothing in the center of the blossom is random; every seed has a designated place in a larger, beautiful pattern. This inner perfection reminds us that our own lives are knit together with purpose, order, and meticulous care by the Creator of the Universe.

If God the Creator designed a simple (or not so simple) flower with this much thought and care, how much more must He have considered the design of those He created in His own image? Genesis 1: 27 tells us that “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him.” In Psalm 139: 14, the psalmist says, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Ecclesiastes 3:11 notes that God has “made everything beautiful in its time”. If you are struggling with physical ailments, emotional distress, or spiritual uncertainty, consider the sunflower in its perfection, and remember that God has created and gifted you with so much more than that!

The Fall rehearsal season has now begun! We will resume weekly rehearsals on Thursdays for Hand Bells, Sanctuary Choir, and the Community Choir. There will also be two Praise Team rehearsals on Wednesdays each month. If you are interested in serving in one of these groups, please speak with me. And, a special thank you to all those who supported the “Breakfast for Lunch” fund raiser! Through your generosity, we were able to raise more funds to help offset the cost of the third octave of hand bells and the related supplies and equipment to go with them.

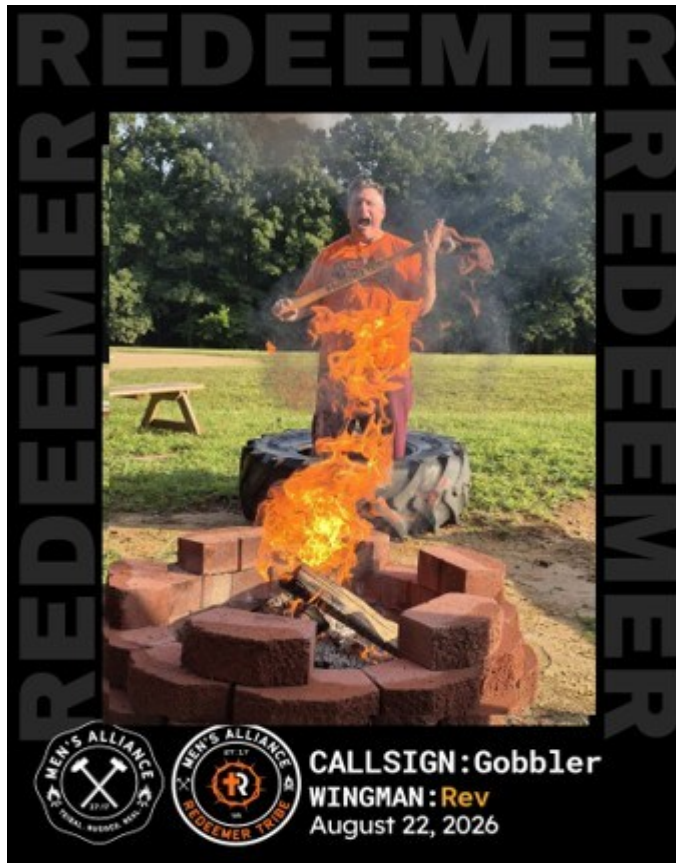
LOOKING AHEAD: Please mark your calendars NOW for this year’s Christmas program, “Glorious Christmas Night” on **Sunday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m.** There will be only this one presentation. The Hand Bell Choir will start the program, and the cantata will follow after a short intermission. The Community Choir is the largest it has ever been this year, and we are looking forward to welcoming many community members to the program. Stay tuned for more information to come regarding reserving tickets (FREE) and our cookie and cider reception.

Enjoy these last few weeks of summer! I pray that the changing of the seasons will bring fresh blessings and new perspectives to you and those you love!

JOYfully Serving,

Ellen Stephenson

Director of Music Ministries



Redeemer Tribe Update

Redeemer Tribe continues to grow! Though the summer weather can have its challenges, the men of Redeemer have lived up to our motto: Tribal. Rugged. Real. This past month, after participating in three tribe gatherings and successfully reciting the Men's Alliance motto and memory verse, we celebrated Tyle Craddock receiving his callsign, "Gobbler." The men of Redeemer experience rugged workouts and real-life devotions that strengthen them to become godly husbands, fathers, and leaders.

This past month, we also helped Heritage Baptist Church launch Tower Tribe for men ages 13 to 73. The Tribe is open to men starting at age thirteen, and the only limitations are the ones you put on yourself. Don't let the thought of a workout keep you from discipling a brother in Christ. 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 [Redeemer Tribe Men's Group in Chesterfield, VA | Men's Alliance](#) 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

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.

This is also a perfect opportunity to serve. If you do not have a guest attending with you, we ask members to help with setup prior to the service and cleanup afterward. You can reach out to Beth Hamby or Kathy Eubank to see how you can help.

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. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, and we'll ask the congregation to provide the sides and desserts.



Whose Work Is It?

For those who had the opportunity to join us for the evangelism class, some of this may be slightly repetitive. For those who did not, this will build off one of the takeaways from that class.

Pastor Bob cited Acts 1:8, which reads: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

That passage holds a special place in the hearts of many of us. You'll notice several of us wearing armbands with that scripture inscribed on them, representing our commitment to go to the ends of the earth to share the witness of Christ and our support for CMC missions.

Pastor Bob was sharing it in the context of carrying the message of Christ from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. But whatever the context in which you read it, the message is clear: receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, and being witnesses for God.

It is very easy, because we are human, to focus on the part we are supposed to do. Be witnesses. Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the ends of the earth. But the first part of that verse is the key part. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. That power is a necessary component of everything we do in the Lord's work.

In our class, Pastor Bob gave an excellent breakdown of what belongs to us and what belongs to God. We are called to pray, to love, to listen, to invite, to share our testimony, and to share the Gospel. What we are to leave to God is to convict, to draw, to open hearts, to save, to transform, and to give spiritual life.

Here was the part that stuck with me: it was trying to do God's things that causes most of our fear and difficulty in the mission field. We get anxious about outcomes that were never ours to produce.

There is an even larger reminder in that, one I need constantly, and I am sure others do as well. The work we do and the things we accomplish as a congregation are God's accomplishments. He is working through us.

Think about it in your life. Our salvation is not of our own doing. It is God's. He draws us to Him. We confess.. Then He transforms us. We do not change ourselves; God changes us.

Charles Spurgeon, the 19th-century minister, had little patience for people who told it any other way:

"I have heard men tell the stories of their conversions and of their spiritual lives in such a way that my heart loathed them and their stories, too. They have mentioned the love of God, not with a tear of gratitude, not with a heart of thanksgiving, but as if they exalted themselves as much as they exalted God. Oh, when we tell the story of our own conversion, I would have it done differently."

Spurgeon's complaint is not that those men talked about themselves. It is that they made themselves the main character in a story where God did all the saving. That is a warning worth taking to heart, because the instinct that rewrites our conversion story will rewrite our ministry too.

So what is our part?

Look at that list again. It begins with prayer, and the third item is listening. Those two are not throat-clearing before the real work begins. They are how we know what real work is. Skip them, and we end up doing good things God never asked us to do, in our own strength, and then wondering why we are so tired.

Lay leader Message Continued

Paul tells the Philippians that "it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Even the wanting comes from Him. And Jesus is blunt about the arrangement in John 15:5: "apart from me you can do nothing."

Praying is how we ask. Listening is how we hear the answer, and listening is the harder of the two, because it requires us to be quiet long enough to stop making our own plans. A congregation that prays and listens before it acts is a congregation that can be worked through.

So my encouragement as we head into this season of ministry is simple. Do your six things. Pray. Love. Listen. Invite. Share your testimony. Share the Gospel. Then leave the other six to the One they belong to. You are not the one who convicts a heart, and you were never meant to be. You are a witness, and the power to be one has already been promised to you.

In service and surrender,

Tyler



**Hopewell
Methodist Church**
Chesterfield, VA



30 Days of Prayer

Pastor Appreciation Month • October 1–30, 2026

Join Hopewell and other churches in the Congregational Methodist Church for a shared 30-day journey through Thom Rainer's *When the People Pray* - one short daily reading and a specific prayer for Pastor Bob.

THE JOURNEY

30

daily readings

1

brief prayer each day

Read and pray together from Oct. 1-30.

THE BOOK



WHEN THE PEOPLE PRAY
Thom S. Rainer

Copies will be available to every participant. Contributions to help offset material costs are welcome.

HOW TO JOIN

- 1 Sign up
- 2 Receive your book
- 3 Read and pray daily

Materials will be prepared for everyone who registers.

Sign Up Today

Help us prepare books and materials for the 30-day journey.

hopewellchurch.breezechms.com/form/30Days2026
Or scan the QR code

**HOPEWELL METHODIST CHURCH | CHESTERFIELD, VA**hopewellcmc.org

The Beacon September 2026



In August, the Women's Ministry hosted a Pottery and Pizza Party! After a brief devotion, we welcomed Create It Pottery to our meeting. We each picked out a piece of pottery and painted it. Create It Pottery took our creations back to the store to fire them into beautiful pottery.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 19, beginning at 10:00 am with brunch. We have a lot to talk about since our 3rd Annual Craft & Vendor Show is on October 3. We will also be finishing up our Bad Girls of the Bible book.

If you're interested in helping out with the craft show, please see Ellen or Ann.

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!



Jacob's Road Elementary Backpack program update

Since the beginning of January Hopewell Methodist Church has provided more than 245 weekend food backpacks for Jacobs Road Elementary School students identified by school counselors as needing assistance.

The inaugural semester of this program has provided about 15 backpacks per week for 17 weeks at a cost of about \$3,725. The Fall semester program will begin after Labor Day and is expected to provide backpacks for an additional 16 weeks or a total of 33 weeks for the calendar year.

Initial pledges from individuals or groups were able to support 15 students with backpacks for 2026. With careful shopping and additional individual donations, we have expended about \$15 per backpack. We are within our planned budget and could even provide up to 18 backpacks per week for the remaining part of year through December 2026, if requested by school counselors. I have asked the counselors at Jacob's Road to provide me with the number of students who would benefit from receiving this food for the Fall.

We want to thank all those individuals and groups who have already committed to funding this mission program through December 2026 and ask that they and others prayerfully consider their willingness to commit for January-December 2027 when the time and need presents. I will add that the PTA for Jacob's Road Elementary School has included supporting one backpack for the year in their draft budget.

Blessings,

Tom and Linda Koertge



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.



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 6.



Annual Christmas Luncheon

Plans for 2026

We are pleased to announce that this year's Christmas luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 13 following the morning service. The luncheon will be held at King's Korner Banquet Hall located at the Chesterfield Airport. The luncheon is open to all members and regular attendees of Hopewell Church at no cost.

Then following the luncheon, we will return to Hopewell Church for the Handbell and Community Choir Christmas Cantata. The Cantata will begin at 3:00 pm with a holiday handbell performance followed by a brief intermission before finishing our celebration with this year's Community Choir.

Having the event offsite allows for everyone to enjoy this special celebration without the need to prepare, set up, and clean. We are grateful for all who have done so in the past and look forward to celebrating *with* them this year. So, mark your calendars and let's celebrate our Savior's birth together!



We're excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to RightNow Media—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has more than 20,000 videos taught by leaders like Jennie Allen, J.D. Greear, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include free discussion guides and handouts.

Our church believes that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith in every area of your life—at home, at work, and in your community. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime.



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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions is **Monday, September 21st**. 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

Find Place
YOUR
BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

**A NEW SEASON.
A FRESH START.
A PLACE FOR YOU.**

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- MATTHEW 11:28

Join us for our
FALL PICNIC
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE!

September 20th

WORSHIP TOGETHER | **GROW TOGETHER** | **SERVE TOGETHER**

All Are Welcome!

Hopewell Methodist Church Women's Ministry presents

2026 Craft and Vendor Fair

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD 9 a.m. til 2 p.m
HOPEWELL METHODIST CHURCH
6200 COURTHOUSE ROAD

Join us for day filled with almost 40 vendors, a Bake Sale, Silent Auction baskets, food available for purchase, and tons of fun and fellowship. Such a great way to shop for the holidays (or yourself) and support local crafters and vendors!

Brunswick Stew Sale

OCTOBER 24

Benefit Our Children's & Youth Ministries

\$12 PER QUART
OR
\$33 FOR 3 QUARTS

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

Bible Reading Challenge

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Ezekiel 18-20 | 11- Ezekiel 46-48 | 21 - Zechariah 5-9 |
| 2 - Ezekiel 21-22 | 12 - Joel 1-3 | 22 - Zechariah 10-14 |
| 3 - Ezekiel 23-24 | 13 - Daniel 1-3 | 23 - Esther 1-5 |
| 4 - Ezekiel 25-27 | 14 - Daniel 4-6 | 24 - Esther 6-10 |
| 5 - Ezekiel 28-30 | 15- Daniel 7-9 | 25 - Ezra 7-10 |
| 6 - Ezekiel 31-33 | 16- Daniel 10-12 | 26 - Nehemiah 1-5 |
| 7- Ezekiel 34-36 | 17 - Ezra 1-3 | 27- Nehemiah 6-7 |
| 8 - Ezekiel 37-39 | 18 - Ezra 4-6; Psalm 137 | 28 - Nehemiah 8-10 |
| 9 - Ezekiel 40-42 | 19 - Haggai 1-2 | 29 - Nehemiah 11-3;
Psalm 126 |
| 10 - Ezekiel 43-45 | 20- Zechariah 1-4 | 30 - Malachi 1-4 |



September Birthdays

- 2 - Phyllis Robinson
- 3 - Karan Wilson
- 4 - Carolyn Jacobs
- 14 - Rebekah McClelland
- 24 - Brenda Fones
- 27- Robin Reed Johnston
- 27 - Thomas Roy



September Anniversary

- 14 - Bill & Frances Reynolds
- 19 - Alan & Missy Markey



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.



Gospel Music Night

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



PRAYER

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

HEBREWS 4:16

Alitzer Family	Tom Dunkum	Rebecca McClelland	Saweikis Family	Youth Ministry
Wayne Anderson	Carol Sue Durfee	Matthew McClurin	Scheivert Family	Empty Pew
Ashman Family	Jarad Earley	Elizabeth Melancon	Jessica Schmidt	
Rebecca Bane	Dorcus Eubank	Mark Melancon	Mary Sharpe	
Troy Barnette	Sara Frattone	Billy Miller	Mike Sharpe	
Katie Beattie	Kathleen Frick	Ann Moseley	Shepperson Family	
Maury Beck	Kevin Frick	Gary Moseley	Marion Smith	
Kim Brown	Kathleen Goodwin	Kate Mulreny	Andi Taylor	
Karen Burke	Sharon Harris	David Nebenzhi	Helen Taylor	
Anna Buttenbusch	John Heckendorn	Curtis Nines	Preston Taylor	
Donald Buttenbusch	Rachel Heckendorn	Odhwani Family	John Terry	
Wanda Caisse	Hance Hofler	Pamela Panaccio	David Tyree	
Brandon Carter	Ashley Holt	Ed & Diane Patton	Watkins Family	
Church Family	Inge Family	Erin Pierce	Eric White	
Alec Conarro	Ricky Jackson	Mary Frances Richeson	Sarah White	
Tim Davey	Howard Johnston	Stacey Rideout	Garry Williams	
Sue Davey	Kerns Family	Jen Ridout	Brenda Young	
Elizabeth Davis	David Leehy	Ricky Robertson	Columbia	
Denise Dubrule	Markey Family		Napal	



Congregational Care Members

Marie Barnett	Carlton Hudson
Phyllis Boyd	Rose Hudson
Jennie Burks	Christine Price
Doris Dean	John Reynolds
Peggy Dinelli	Debbie Reynolds
Jeannette Gross	Jean Sharpe

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.



Giving Gladly

General Fund Stewardship for the last 4 weeks :

HMC Income Statement 07/31/2026

July Income	\$ 21,896.80
July Expenses	\$ <u>23,129.73</u>
Over /(short)	\$ (1,232.93)
Income YTD 07/31/2026	\$ 230,313.13
Expenses YTD 07/31/2026	\$ <u>203,518.90</u>
Over/ (Short)	\$ (205.77)
Mortgage Loan Balance 07/31/2026	\$ 101,184.59
Additional Principle Applied YTD 2026	\$ 7,525.00

Last 4 Weeks Worship

Attendance Average

Wednesday Night Prayer: 12

11:00 Worship: 79

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>

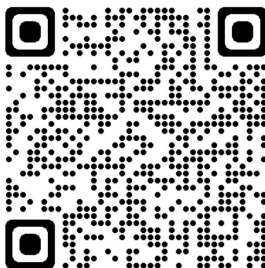
Click the button

to give your tithes & offerings
easily online.

We also have other
giving options:

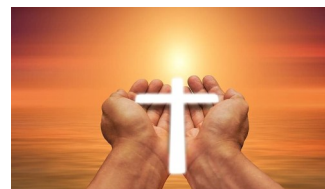
<https://hopewellcmc.org/give>

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 September 2026

Roles	Sep 6	Sep 13	Sep 20	Sep 27
Lay Reader	Koertge, Tom	Johnston, Howard	Rapalee, Mike	Lutz, Jeannie
Ushers	Reynolds, Frances	Hatfield, Ricky	McNinch, Owens	Morris, Frankie
	Reynolds, Bill	Hatfield, Laura	McNinch, Ann	Morris, Linda
	Morris, Frankie	Croctic, Judy	Lancaster, Alma	McCann, Alan
	Morris, Linda	Croctic, Dennis	Lancaster, Albert	Frick, Kevin
Greeters	Sharpe, Mike	Holmes, Jerry	Smith, Lewis	Morris, Frankie
	Hamby, Beth	Holmes, Gloria	Camp, Peggy	Morris, Linda
Children's Church	Sharpe, Mike	Shand, Gil	Smith, Marion	Smith, Gayle
	Jacobs, Carolyn	Craddock, Tracy	Schmidt, Jennifer	Carlson, Mary Ann
AV Sound	Hague, Steve	Smith, Henry	Dedmon, Cody	Sharpe, Mike
AV Camera	Kweeder, Jim	Wright, Landon	Scheivert, Mike	Smith, Robbie
AV Computer	Purdy, Irene	Smith, Dylan	Smith, Gayle	Schmidt, Wyatt

Graceful Generosity

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

Labor Day

The Labor Day holiday is a day that is set aside to recognize and give thanks for the blessings that work gives people. We receive a day of rest from our labors. Most of this newsletter will focus on the gifts and abilities that God gives us for work as well as the desire and ability that God gives us to work.

God Blesses Us with Talents and Abilities

God has created us in his image (Genesis 1:26). He has given us tremendous talents. We are given intelligence, organization skills, creativity, decision-making powers, problem-solving capabilities, leadership abilities, and mechanical abilities, etc. God has given us labor so that we can use our God-given talents and provide for our needs. *"The Lord God took [Adam] and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" Genesis 2:15*). Work is part of God's master plan for all people. Through our work, we not only take care of our needs, we receive fulfillment and growth as well as the joy of accomplishment.

Have you ever stopped to consider the differences in people? There are thousands of occupations in today's world, each requiring special talents. There are needs for carpenters, cooks, mechanics, tailors, pastors, teachers, farmers, servers, students, police officers, etc. The important thing to note here, however, is that, for every need, God has given to someone the ability to fulfill that need. Some people are able to take apart engines of cars, while others hardly know where to add the oil. Some can build houses, while others can barely nail boards together.

Some women sew fashionable clothes for their family and buy their bread at the store, while others cook and bake beyond compare but don't even own a sewing machine. God has made us

all unique. Along with all of our talents and abilities, God adds to them our desire and ability to work.

As Christians, we need to remember that our talents and abilities have come from God.



"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

Financial Equation

Earning income at our work is an essential part of the following financial equation:

***Earned income = giving,
saving, and spending.***

From the income that we earn, we give, save, and spend. For the financial equation to balance, we need to earn an income.

The Blessing of Work

Working is a blessing that God gives his people. God is not pleased with laziness or an indifferent attitude toward work. Solomon wrote, *"Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth."* (Proverbs 10:4). We are encouraged to be as ambitious, wise, and industrious as the ant. *"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest"* (Proverbs 6:6).

God is concerned with our quality of work. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"* (Colossians 3:23). Because we are serving the Lord in all that we do, including our work, we are to give our very best effort. When we add value to our employers, we not only put ourselves in a position for promotions and raises, God is glorified.



The Apostle Paul reminds us, *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"* (2 Corinthians 9:6).

This sowing and reaping principle that Paul shares applies to our work. What is your attitude toward your work? Are you there to receive as much as you can while putting out the least amount of effort? Do you begrudge the hours your employer asks you to work, or are you willing to come in early and stay late at times? Are you learning more than you have to and doing more than you have to?

Another question to ask yourself about your work is how you plan to use this "wealth" that your "diligent hands" bring you. Is it your purpose to hoard it like the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), so that you can *"take life easy; eat, drink and be merry"*? If you've read the parable, you know that plan is not pleasing to the Lord.

Our work is a gift from the Lord. As good stewards of that gift, we will work to the best of our ability so that we can care for our needs and give to the Lord by helping others in need. Paul talks about the service we can provide through our work: *"At the present time your plenty will supply what [others] need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality"* (2 Corinthians 8:14).

Besides providing for ourselves, God gives us two additional reasons for work:

- ✠ **Provide for our families:** *"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"* (1 Timothy 5:8).
- ✠ **Provide for the needy:** *"[He] must work . . . doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need"* (Ephesians 4:28).

Give thanks to God for your work. Work to the best of your ability. Share with others the rewards of your work.

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

The Beacon September 2026

September 2026

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 8am - Lifeline Screening 11am - Kingdom Seekers	2 10am - Village Sandwich Crew 11am - Nominations Meeting 6:30 pm - Prayer Service 7:00 pm - Finance	3 6:00 pm - Hand-Bell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - Cantata Rehearsal (Community)	4	5 7am - Men's Alliance 5 pm - Family Game Night
6 9:00 am - Prayer Time 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	7 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - Library	8 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm.2 6:30 pm - Deacon's Meeting	9 6:30pm - Prayer Service 7:30 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal	10 9 am - CPR Training 6:00 pm - Hand-Bell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - Cantata Rehearsal (Community)	11	12 7am - Men's Alliance
13 9:00 am - Prayer Time 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible	14 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - Library	15 7 pm - Administrative Council	16 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm.2 6:30pm - Prayer Service 7:30 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal	17 6:00 pm - Hand-Bell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - Cantata Rehearsal (Community)	18 7pm - Gospel Music Night - Nikki Headley	19 7am - Men's Alliance 10am - Women's Ministry Lunch 5pm - Children's Ministry - Movie Night
20 9:00 am - Prayer Time 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship 12 pm - Church Fall Picnic 12:00 - Youth Group 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	21 "Newsletter Deadline" 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - Library	22 7 pm - Methodist Men	23 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm.2 6:30pm - Prayer Service 7:30 pm - Backpack Packing	24 6:00 pm - Light the Night 6:00 pm - Hand-Bell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - Cantata Rehearsal (Community)	25 Trail Life Camperine 	26 7am - Men's Alliance 9am - Kairos Team Meeting
27 9:00 am - Prayer Time 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am - Sunday Worship- 5 pm - Men's Bible Study Trail Life Camperine	28 6:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - Library	29 6:30 pm - VBS Planning Meeting - RM 2	30 11am - Kingdom Seekers - Rm.2 6:30pm - Prayer Service 7:30 pm - Praise Team Rehearsal 7:30 pm - Backpack Packing	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		