



Hope United Methodist Church

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A Note From Pastor Kris:

Where did the summer go? I guess the question doesn't apply today, as the forecast shows a high of 86, but still, time is flying. So often, time flies because we are busy. *(Fill in your own list here; you know what's on it.)* The truth is that busyness often is a reflection of our commitment or our gifts. So we can look at the busy as something to cherish and value. But I have to say, at least for me, that is often very little comfort when I'm overwhelmed and sinking in a task list that grows more than it shrinks.

I'm drawn, then, to remember a class I took last summer on stepping away from the busyness through rest as a theological endeavor. Rest is, of course, something we can do to care for ourselves, and caring for ourselves is a holy act when we see God as the source of our own image. Caring for what God loves is a blessed action. But do you notice the potential slip there? Caring is, in itself, an action. Which means even when we care for ourselves, when we rest, we are still taking action — not simply stopping or not doing. The world seemingly demands that if we want to rest and slow down, we have to create it — go on vacation, close the door, and refuse to answer the phone.

Sometimes that just feels like too much. But I want to encourage you. God sees this and has been right beside you, holding you up. The Scripture reminds us: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10). The triune God doesn't call for stillness from a distance; the Spirit is already present with each of us, no action required. Resting and stepping away from busyness is not against God; in fact, it could be one of the greatest ways to see God and know what God wants for you. God's presence asks nothing of us. Making room to notice it usually does, and that's where we need each other.

I reflect on this because I wonder: if action is always there, what can we do for each other? If we feel busy, how can someone else help? What burden can we remove for someone else traveling a restless journey? Living in hope together sometimes means a sacrifice for each other, but that doesn't mean you can't also receive. We can get so focused on what we do that we neglect what we need. What burden can someone else carry with us or for us? There

is not a perfect answer to all of this. God created a diverse world, and that result includes many different perspectives, experiences, and needs.

But that overwhelming sense of need shouldn't hold us back from doing something. Find one way, for one person. Even if that person is you. Take a nap instead of doing that next chore. I expect it will be there when you wake up, or maybe you'll find that someone else is able to help so it isn't! Spend time with nothing and let God fully fill the space. Rest and escaping the busyness might just be the opportunity you need to see a destination in the overwhelming journey. God uses rest just like God can have purpose in your work. Don't forget to embrace both, and let's help one another find that balance, too.

Assistance Fund Collection

This Sunday, we will be collecting donations for the **Assistance Fund**. Two baskets will be available at the front of the sanctuary. As you come forward for Communion, you may place your donation in one of the baskets. Thank you for your generosity and support!



Preschool R&K Sub Sale

The Preschool is holding its **Annual R&K Sub Sale!**

Look for order forms on the **table in the lobby beginning Tuesday, September 29. Orders are due Friday, October 9.**

Be sure to get your order in and support our Preschool!

Thank you for your support!

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. To show our appreciation, for Pastor Kris, starting on **Sunday, October 4 through Sunday, October 25**, a basket will be in the lobby to collect small tokens of thanks. These tokens may be notes of encouragement, small gift cards, small snacks, sunshine gift items or anything else you'd like to put in the basket. Pastor Kris will receive the basket at the end of October. Any questions, please see Paul Trella. Thank you.

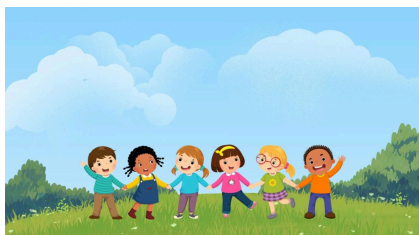


HARVEST HOME

We are collecting canned goods, boxed foods, paper products, and other essential items to support **Community Hive (formerly EASS)**, as well as families connected with Hope Church and our Preschool from **Sunday, September 13 through Sunday, October 25.**

Your donations will help provide much-needed items to individuals and families in our community. Please place all donations in the baskets located under the coat rack in the lobby.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us care for our neighbors in need!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church began on **Sunday, September 13th.** We need 3 or 4 more new volunteers to help make this program work at its best. Please contact Melissa Readman at 717-413-9844 or the Church office to sign up to be a part of this vital ministry. A sign-up sheet will also be available in the lobby on Sunday mornings.

SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming events at Hope!

December 13, 2026

🎄 Christmas Brunch*

*Events will take place immediately following worship service.

This Week's Message

October 4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 7 – "Whose Kingdom It Really Is"

Romans 11:25-36

Upcoming Sermons

Always Give Thanks

October 11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 1 – "Chosen"

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

October 18 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Part 2 – "Tested"

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

October 25 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Part 3 – "Witnesses"

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 4	Sunday School Holy Communion/Worship Service The Gap Male Chorus	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7 p.m.
Monday, October 5	Monday Night Bible Study	6 p.m.
Wednesday, October 7	Bells of Hope Co-Dependents Anonymous Senior Choir Al-Anon	6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 8	Women's Book and Bible Study Finance Meeting	10 a.m. 6 p.m.
Friday, October 9	Men of Hope	7:30 a.m.
Sunday, October 11	Sunday School Worship Service	9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday, October 12	Columbus Day Monday Night Bible Study	 6 p.m.
Tuesday, October 13	SPRC Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 14	Bells of Hope Co-Dependents Anonymous Senior Choir Al-Anon	6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 15	Women's Book and Bible Study	10 a.m.
Friday, October 16	Boss's Day Men of Hope	 7:30 a.m.
Saturday, October 17	Hope's Bingo Bash	5 p.m.
Sunday, October 18	Fellowship Sunday Laity Sunday	



Upcoming Birthdays

October 7 - Cammy Freed
October 10 - Doreen Deamer
October 12 - John Nagle
October 13 - Barbara Tucker
October 16 - Cindy Kamide
Anna Oyer



Upcoming Anniversaries

October 4 - Keith & Terrie Floyd
Jeremy & Amanda Robinson
October 14 - Dave & Bonnie Luck
October 16 - Kevin & Melissa Readman

News and Notes

The Gap Male Chorus - will be performing at Hope UMC on **Sunday, October 4** at 7 p.m.

Hope's Bingo Bash - Join us on **Saturday, October 17**. Doors open at 4:30pm, bingo starts at 5pm! Bring a wrapped prize worth up to \$5.00. Hot dogs, bagged snacks, soda and water will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there for a night of fun, fellowship, and prizes!

All Saints' Sunday - November 1
- If you would like to add a name, please submit it along with your connection (e.g., a family member, friend, etc.), and the date of their passing to the church office no later than **Sunday, October 18**.

Crochet Group – The Crochet Group will begin meeting on **Tuesday, October 20** at 10:00 AM and will continue to meet every other Tuesday. Whether you're experienced or just enjoy

Current Curriculum

Seekers Sunday School Class - Class commenced on September 13. Studying "*Promised Land*" by Ray Vander Laan.

The Way Sunday School Class - Class commenced on October 4. Studying the "*Book of Revelation*."

The Wide Awake Sunday School Class - Class commenced on September 13 with Sandy Schmid as the teacher. Studying "*Fall 2026 Adult Bible Studies - Faith and Faithfulness*" by Clara K. Welch.

Monday Night Bible Study - Class commenced on September 14. Studying "*Christian*" by Andy Stanley.

Men of Hope - Class commenced on September 18. Studying "*How (NOT) To Read the Bible*" by Dan Kimball. The group will continue to meet on the first Friday of each month at Gus's.

crocheting with others, all are welcome to join us for a morning of fellowship and creativity!

One Great Year of Sharing -

Through **December 27**, we will be collecting for City Gate. You can contribute by placing your donation in the jar in the sanctuary or in your weekly or monthly giving. Please remember to mark your envelopes accordingly. As of **September 27**, we have collected **\$423.00**. Thank you.

Salem Bus Trip - Salem Lutheran Church invites you to join us for a bus trip to Bethlehem, PA, "The Christmas City," on December 3, 2026. Start the day with two hours of shopping at Christkindlmarkt, a one-of-a-kind holiday event. Lunch will follow at Edge Restaurant, where you will experience a gourmet meal in a casual upscale atmosphere. Then free time on Main Street in Bethlehem. For the afternoon, we meet our certified step-on guide from Historic Bethlehem, who will share the stories of the community, and the Moravian traditions that helped shape the city. Cost is \$159.00 per person. For more information and registration form, call or text, Laurel Kluck 717-701-0266. Registration deadline is October 13th.

Women's Book and Bible Study

Class commenced on September 24. Studying "*Everything You Need*" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

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Hope UMC Church Directory

[Click here to view our updated Church Directory.](#)

Please remember that the directory is intended for use by our church family and contains personal contact information.

Please do not share the directory or link publicly.

Updated: September 24, 2026

Church Hours Next Week

Office: Tuesday - Friday - 9am to 1pm

Pastor Kris: Thursday - 9am to 3pm

Church Staff and Lay Ministry

Pastor: Kris Pursel
prkrispursel@gmail.com
(cell) 717-983-8466

Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano

Director of Music: Lisa Helock

Serving in Worship This Week

Bulletin Folder(s): Doreen and Amy Raezer
Children's Church Team: Laura Luciano
and Leona Luciano
Greeter: Amy Raezer
Liturgist: Mary Saylor
Sound: Paul Trella



Fall Word Search

l	e	a	v	e	s	e	p	s	c	a	n
s	q	z	s	u	c	r	u	a	l	u	t
d	h	a	y	o	o	n	m	v	e	t	w
g	o	x	v	m	r	g	p	t	x	u	a
h	l	e	p	k	n	h	k	l	h	m	u
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o	s	c	a	r	e	c	r	o	w	m	a
o	w	o	i	o	h	a	r	v	e	s	t
l	p	r	b	d	e	s	a	t	y	m	o
c	a	n	d	y	j	f	a	l	l	s	p

Scarecrow
Cool
Acorn
Thanksgiving
Hay
Corn

Candy
Autumn
Fall
Harvest
Leaves
Pumpkin



Hope United Methodist Church | 3474 Rothsville Rd | Ephrata, PA 17522 US

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