Hope United Methodist Church

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The Blessing of Small Things

Sometimes we look for big moments to remind us how blessed we are, but God's goodness is often found in the little things we experience every day. A beautiful sunrise, a phone call from a friend, laughter shared with family, or someone offering a helping hand can bring unexpected joy to our lives.

As we move through November and prepare for Thanksgiving, let's slow down and notice those everyday blessings. We don't have to wait for a special occasion to give thanks. Every day offers a new reason to be grateful. May we never overlook the small things that make life beautiful, and may we always find time to thank God for them.





Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia orders are due by **Sunday, November 29**. Please see the insert in this Sunday's bulletin for ordering details.

Make checks payable to Hope United Methodist Church. Complete the order form and place it, along with your payment, in the basket on the table in the lobby. **Questions?** Contact the Church Office at 717-738-3774. Thank you!



Nativity Displays

If you have a Nativity display that you would like to share, we invite you to bring it in and display it on a sanctuary windowsill or in the lobby throughout the Christmas season.

Please have all displays set up by **Sunday, November 22**.

Thank you for helping us fill our church with the beauty and meaning of the Christmas season!



Staff Christmas Gifts

Once again, we will be showing our appreciation to our church staff by presenting them with monetary Christmas gifts. If you would like to contribute, please see Paul Trella.

The last day to make a donation will be **Sunday, December 13**.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us show our staff how much they are appreciated!



Army
Larry Bickhart – Corporal 1962-1965
Steve Smith – Captain 1985-1995

National Guard
Vernon Bear – Specialist - 1955-1963

Navy
Jack Smith – Machinist Mate 1952-1956
Bill Peters – Fireman 1953-1955
Jerry Gerhart (deceased) – Radarman 3rd Class 1953-1957
Ron Lindberg – Boiler Technician 3rd Class 1963-1967
Bruce Tucker – Fire Control Technician 1967-1973
John Seifert – Aviation Metalsmith and Aviation Store Keeper 1975-1979, and Navy Reserves 1979-1980

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

The Shoeboxes are now on a table in the lobby. They are due back by **Sunday, November 15**. See Sandy Schmid, if you have any questions, Thank you.

Fellowship Sunday

(the 3rd Sunday each month)

Fellowship Time follows morning worship service on the **3rd Sunday of each month.** Do you have a special snack that you enjoy? Bring it for all of us to enjoy on Fellowship Sunday! As a congregation, we are all responsible for the goodies we munch on while we visit and catch up with each other. Write it on your Calendars:

“Bring a snack to share at church!” (In lieu of a snack, donate drinks and paper products.) ─ Thank you for taking part in Fellowship Sunday! Next Fellowship Sunday will be on **Sunday, November 15.**

Hope United Methodist Church Charge Conference

Hope’s Charge Conference will be held on **Saturday, November 21, from 2:30–3:30 p.m.** The annual meeting will include voting on the pastor’s salary and nominations, reviewing the church’s ministries, and discussing the overall state of the church. The meeting will be led by Rev. David Ryan.

All Church Council members are invited to participate and have voice and vote during the meeting. For more information about the Charge Conference and who should attend, visit the **United Methodist Church’s Book of Discipline: The Charge Conference.**

Bishop Days on the District

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi will be visiting the Lebanon area for **Bishop Days on the District** on **Saturday, November 14, at 12:45 p.m.** at Cornwall UMC. All are invited to attend!





The Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree will be going up on **Monday, November 23**, just in time for the First Sunday of Advent on November 29.

This year, we will be sponsoring 3–4 families. All food and gifts should be returned by **Sunday, December 13**.

All gifts will be delivered to the families by **Wednesday, December 16**, in time for Christmas.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping make Christmas a little brighter for those in our community!



Christmas Card Recipients

Bags will be set up in the lobby beginning **Sunday, November 29**, for collecting Christmas cards for members of our church family who are homebound or may be unable to attend worship regularly.

Please have all cards submitted by **Sunday, December 13**.

Thank you for helping us spread some Christmas cheer and let our church family know they are loved and remembered!



IMPORTANT: An Update Regarding Water at the Church

Regulations from the Department of Environmental Protection for property water have changed, so we can no longer use the property well for drinking or cooking. Rest assured, our well has been tested regularly and deemed safe, but to comply with the new regulation, we will use bottled water for drinking and cooking for the foreseeable future.

Safety remains our top priority, and the church Trustees are actively working toward a permanent resolution by connecting the property to public water or making the necessary well updates.

A notice with details is posted at every water source within the building.

Additionally, we turned off all wall-mounted water fountains and installed additional fresh water dispensers that feed from 5-gallon bottles of spring water (one in the narthex, one in fellowship hall, and one in the preschool hallway). We also have boxes of gallon water bottles in the kitchen for cooking/coffee, and 8 oz bottles of water for events or when refillable water bottles/cups aren't available (though we ask that we use these sparingly to cut down on waste). Please continue to wash hands and dishes with faucet water without concern - the notice only applies to the well water for cooking and drinking.

This might be shocking to some of you, but I want to reiterate that everything is testing safe, but this is in response to new-to-us regulations. The Trustees are already working diligently to address the concern and are exploring many different avenues and seeking advice. Providing fresh water through bottles is an acceptable solution for now, and while it may be inconvenient, it allows us to continue as normal. I'm thankful we have a great group already rolling with this adjustment to meet the immediate need and evaluate a long-term solution, both at the preschool and church levels. Thank you all for your understanding, and please let us know if you have any questions.



This Week's Message

November 8 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Part 2 – "What Hinders Beloved Community"
Matthew 23:1-5 37-39

Upcoming Sermons

Beloved Community

November 15 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Part 3 – "Living Out the Beloved Community"
Romans 12:9-21

November 22 Christ the King Sunday
Morning message by Rev. Steve Morton
Part 4 – "More Glad to Give Than to Receive"
Acts 20: 32-38a

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 8	**Veterans Sunday** Sunday School Worship Service	 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday, November 9	Monday Night Bible Study Licensing Task Force Meeting	6 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 11	**Veterans Day** 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, November 12	Women's Book and Bible Study Finance Meeting	10 a.m. 6 p.m.
Friday, November 13	Men of Hope	7:30 a.m.
Sunday, November 15	**Fellowship Sunday** Sunday School Worship Service	 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday, November 16	Monday Night Bible Study SPRC Meeting	6 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17	Crochet Group	10 a.m.
Wednesday, November 18	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, November 19	Women's Book and Bible Study Church Council Meeting	10 a.m. 6 p.m.
Friday, November 20	Men of Hope	7:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 22	**Christ the King Sunday** Sunday School Worship Service Servant Stage Christmas Show	 9 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7 p.m.



Card Shower

Vernon Bear will be celebrating a milestone birthday on **November 26**!

A basket for cards is in the office.



Upcoming Birthdays

November 10 - Ainsley Voshell
November 11 - Esther Enck
November 12 - Cole Brobst
November 14 - Len Fake
November 16 - Judy Hachkowski
November 20 - Sue Fisher



Upcoming Anniversaries

November 21 - Terry & Bonnie Seidel

News and Notes

Thank you – For all the thoughtful cards, prayers, and well wishes I received during my knee replacement surgery and recovery. I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by such a caring church family - Tony Hachkowski

Thank you – For all the thoughtful cards, prayers, and well wishes I received during my surgery and recovery. Your kindness, love, and support meant so much to me. I am truly grateful - Jim Pitman

Current Curriculum

Seekers Sunday School Class - Studying *"Prophets and Kings"* by Ray Vander Laan.

The Way Sunday School Class - Studying the *"Book of Revelation:.*

The Wide Awake Sunday School Class - Studying *"Fall 2026 Adult Bible Studies - Faith and Faithfulness"* by Clara K. Welch.

Monday Night Bible Study - Studying *"Christian"* by Andy

Thank you – For all the thoughtful cards, prayers, and expressions of sympathy following the passing of Andrew's grandmother. Your kindness and support have meant so much to us and our family during this difficult time. We are grateful for your prayers and for such a caring church family - Andrew & Amanda Yoder

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 **November 1,** we have collected **$518.00**. Thank you.

CPR & First Aid Classes - The Preschool will be offering two sessions of CPR and First Aid training for staff:

- Monday, November 23 at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, November 24 at 9:00 AM

Church members and staff who are interested in taking the class are welcome to participate. The class will take approximately 6 hours. If you are interested, there's a signup sheet on the table in the lobby. **The class fee is $22.00**.

Stanley.

Men of Hope - 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.

Women's Book and Bible Study 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: November 3, 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

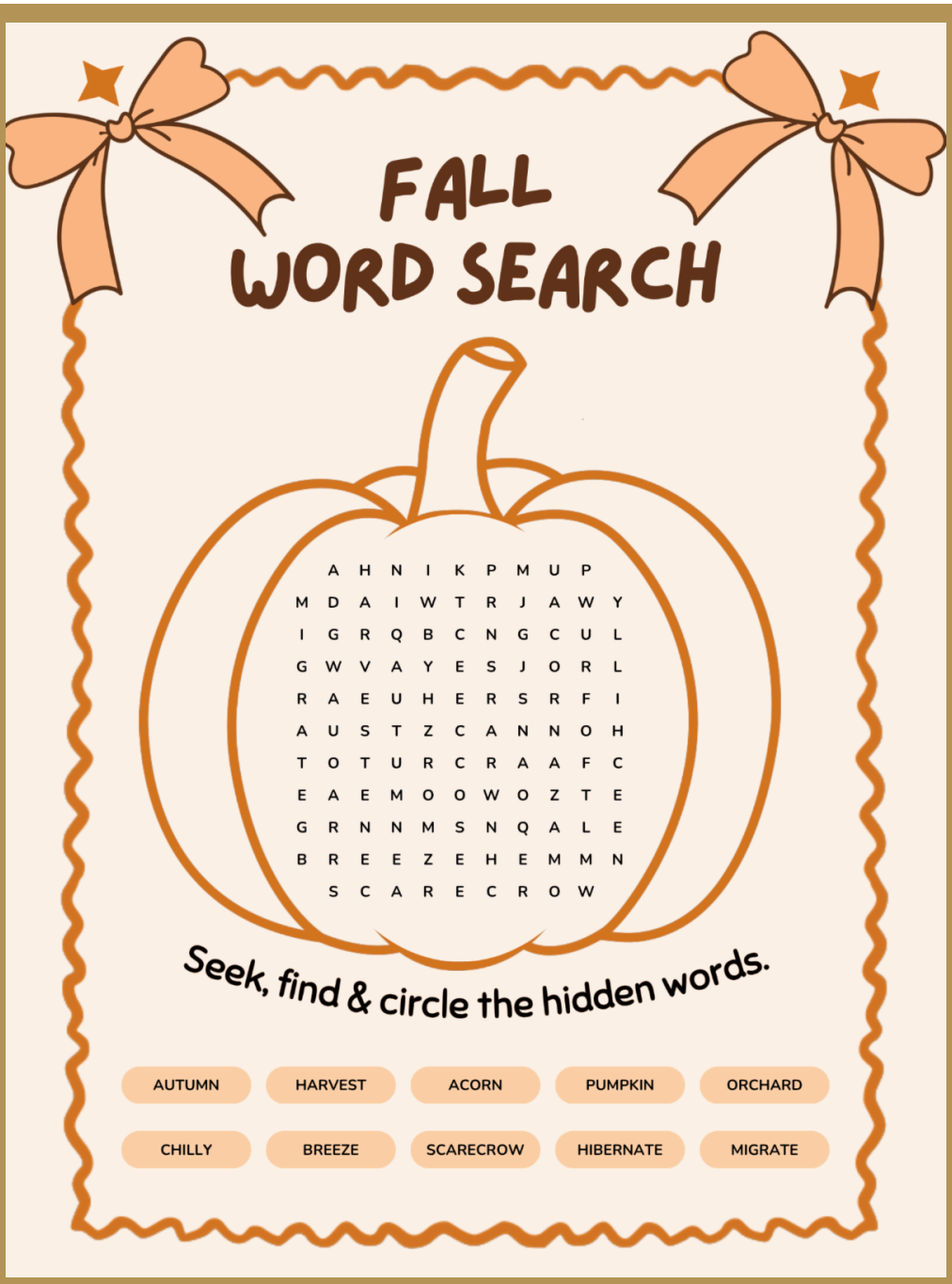
Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano

Serving in Worship This Week

Bulletin Folder(s): Diane Hornberger
Children's Church Team: Cindy Rehlich and Mary Saylor
Greeter: Kathy Brenton
Liturgist: Tom Texter

Director of Music: Lisa Helock
Organist: Dave Luck
Sexton: Doreen Deamer

Sound: Tony Hachkowski
Ushers: Dave Schmid and Tom Texter
Video: Tim Sumner



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

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