



Hope United Methodist Church

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Hello and Happy Fall!

By Shannon Brown

School started this week and it has been a good start. We welcomed 122 students into our building this year. The new classrooms and all of the renovations that were completed over the summer and look amazing and the teachers did a wonderful job of creating welcoming environments.

Through the month of September the classroom themes are "All About Me and Family". Many of the classes have talked about being part of a classroom family and made matching bracelets. The first weeks of school are always a time of adjustment and settling in and the staff has been very busy making each child feel like part of the Hope Preschool family. Lots of time has been spent on the playground enjoying the beautiful weather as well. We are looking forward to a Grandparent event at the end of the month with our Pre-K classes.

Student artwork will soon brighten all of the hallways and I invite you to come down to enjoy it.

Enjoy the final days of summer!
Mrs. B



Children's Winter Coat Collection

We will be collecting monetary donations to purchase children's winter coats for **Community Hive (formerly EASS)** from **Sunday, September 6 through Sunday, September 27**. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope marked "**Winter Coats**" and place it directly in the offering plate. Checks should be made payable to **Hope UMC**. Thank you for helping provide warmth to children in our community this winter. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



HARVEST HOME

Beginning Sunday, **September 13 through Sunday, October 25**, we will be 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.

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 will begin 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.

PICNIC/POTLUCK LUNCH

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 20**, and join us for our Picnic/Potluck Lunch immediately following worship! Sign-up sheets are on the table in the lobby for **dessert and side dish donations**, as well as a **participant sign-up sheet**. Please take a moment to sign up so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone.

Come enjoy some great food, fun, and fellowship with your Hope family. We look forward to sharing this special time together!

SAVE THE DATES!

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

October 17, 2026

🎉 Hope's Bingo Bash!

Doors Open at 4:30 PM • Bingo Begins at 5:00 PM

December 13, 2026

🎄 Christmas Brunch*

*Events will take place immediately following worship service.

This Week's Message

September 13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 4 – "Forgiven People Forgive"

Matthew 18:21-35

Upcoming Sermons

The Lord's Prayer Series

September 20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 5 – "Lead Us Not"

James 1:12-18

September 27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Message by Rev. Kevin Readman

Part 6 – "Rescue"

John 17:12-19

October 4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Part 7 – "Whose Kingdom It Really Is"

Romans 11:25-36

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13

Grandparents' Day

Sunday School

Worship Service

9 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Monday, September 14

SPRC Meeting

Monday Night Bible Study

6:30 p.m.

7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16

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, September 17

Church Council Meeting

6 p.m.

Friday, September 18

Men of Hope

7:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 20

Picnic/Potluck Lunch

Sunday School

Worship Service

9 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Monday, September 21

Monday Night Bible Study

7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

First Day of Autumn

Ephrata Fair

Wednesday, September 23

Ephrata Fair

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Al-Anon

6:30 p.m.

8 p.m.

Thursday, September 24

Ephrata Fair

Women's Book & Bible

Study

10 a.m.

Friday, September 25

Ephrata Fair

Men of Hope

7:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 26

Ephrata Fair



Upcoming Birthdays

September 18 - Pastor Kris
September 21 - Gary Simmons
September 22 - Grace Gerhart
Dolly Hurst



Upcoming Anniversaries

September 21 - Tyler & Abby Welty
September 23 - Rodger & Cindy Landes
September 26 - Kyle & Jennifer Brobst

News and Notes

A Heartfelt Thank You - to everyone who helped make Holly's Celebration of Life such a beautiful and meaningful day. From the wonderful food and beautiful flowers to all the time, care, and love that went into making the day so special, your kindness meant more than words can express.

I'm also deeply grateful for the many phone calls, cards, prayers, and expressions of love and support that I received during this difficult time. Knowing that so many people cared for Holly and continue to surround me with love and prayer has been a true source of comfort.

Thank you to the Hope Church family for your kindness, generosity, and for being there when it was needed most.

Thank you - a heartfelt thank you to **Jim and Jeanette Pitman** for

New Address for Vernon Bear -

Please update your records with Vernon Bear's new address:

Vernon Bear
Maidencreek Place
105 Dries Drive, Apt. 11
Reading, PA 19605

Vernon's phone number and email address remain the same.

We're sure Vernon would appreciate hearing from his Hope Church family!

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Current Curriculum

Seekers Sunday School Class -

Class will commence on September 13. *Studying "Promised Land"* by Ray Vander Laan.

The Way Sunday School Class -

Class will commence on October

their faithful service as Communion Stewards at Hope. Your dedication and willingness to serve have been a meaningful part of our worship and ministry. We are truly grateful for the time, care, and commitment you have given to Hope.

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 6**, we have collected **\$413.00**. Thank you.

4. *Studying the "Book of Revelation".*

The Wide Awake Sunday School Class - Class will commence 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 will commence on September 14. *Studying "Christian"* by Andy Stanley.

Men of Hope - Class will commence on September 18. The group will continue to meet on the first Friday of each month at Gus's.

Women's Book and Bible Study - Class will commence on September 24. *Studying "Everything You Need"* by Dr. David Jeremiah.

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

Organist: Dave Luck

Sexton: Doreen Deamer

Serving in Worship This Week

Bulletin Folder(s): Diane Hornberger
Children's Church Team: Kathy Brenton
and Cindy Rehlich

Greeter: Donna Fetzer

Liturgist: Bonnie Luck

Sound: Paul Trella

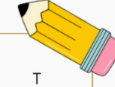
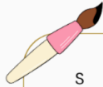
Ushers: Dave Schmid and Tom Texter

Video: Tim Sumner

BACK TO SCHOOL WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden in the wordsearch below!



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

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