

The Grapevine



Hopewell United Methodist Church

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January 2021

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!”

Isaiah 43:18

Greetings Hopewell United Methodist Church Family!!

As we begin a new calendar year, we all can look back at the many challenges we have faced, both personally and as a church. We are now entering our 10th month of the pandemic and the changes that have come because of it. We all long for the day that we can “get back to normal.” But is that where God is calling us to? Is that a place where we have seen growth, not just in numbers, but in our spirituality?

Our relationship started in the midst of the pandemic and the church building having been closed down for 3 months. It was a challenging time to have a pastoral change and to be jumping into full-time ministry. However, in looking back over the last 6 months, I do not think I would have wanted it any other way. Yes, it would have been easier to come in and just pick up where things were. However, God provided us with an opportunity to pause, evaluate, and think about doing church differently. And in response, you have risen to the challenge!

The Healthy Church Team (HCT) began meeting in June as the Virginia Conference was laying out guidelines for congregations to begin gathering for worship in-person. When the guidelines were published, I asked the HCT, “Can we get these in place for my first Sunday in July?” It was not an easy task, but the team rose to the occasion and provided a safe environment to gather and worship as a family once again. And the response to those efforts has been encouraging with many Sundays having well over 40 in attendance.

While we are gathering in-person, we understood not everyone was able, or ready, to return. Therefore, the leadership also looked at ways we can reach those who are in high-risk categories or not comfortable with gathering in person. Seeing the long-term need to provide a quality in-person and virtual worship experience, the church has invested in technological enhancements for the sanctuary that include TV monitors to provide visuals to the worship service, and video cameras for live-streaming services and other events, and most recently added a call-in option for those without the internet.

2020 has certainly thrown a wrench into the way church was done, not just at Hopewell, but across the globe. However, the needs of the congregation and our community still remain. I am encouraged by the response from the leaders and members of the congregation, but there is still more to do. So, as we enter this new year, I encourage you to look for innovative ways we can provide the needs of those we have served previously. The missions committee will be meeting January 7 to begin planning out where to place our hands and feet in our community. If you know of a need that is not being met or have a mission that you would like others to share in, please let us know. Let’s show the community that God is doing a new thing at Hopewell UMC!

**God Bless you,
*Pastor Bob***



CALL-IN SERVICE: for those without internet, we offer a call-in service to be able to listen to the worship service each week. To join over the phone call: 518-318-7925.

Serving Joyfully:

Acolytes:

01/03 - TBD
 01/10 - TBD
 01/17 - TBD
 01/24 - TBD
 01/31 - TBD

Lay Readers:

01/03 - Mary Frances Richeson
 01/10 - Howard Johnston
 01/17 - Gayle Smith
 01/24 - Jim Kweeder
 01/31 - Carolyn Jacobs

Ushers:

During the current in-person worship, the role of usher/greeter will be shared by Jim Kweeder, Mike Sharpe and Mike & Janet Rapalee.

Nursery: Not available at this time.

Giving Gladly: General Fund Stewardship in December (required): \$16,219.00
 (received): \$14,144.00
 (over/short): (\$2,075.00)



Food Ministry: You can drop off your food items each Saturday from 10 am—3 pm in the bins located outside the church or during Sunday worship.

Ring the Rails: Was a wonderful success!! Thank you to everyone who contributed.

MISSIONS MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The church responded to God’s call to help others during 2020 in many ways. We were able to continue our support for UM Missionary **Clara Biswas** in Cambodia and the sent over a ton of food to the **food ministry** at the City of Refuge Church. We also supported **Heart Havens**, the **Society of St. Andrew**, **Hunters for the Hungry**, and the **CCHASM Thanksgiving food drive** (33 bags) We collected 35 **health kits** for conference, school supplies for **Mercy Mall** and toothbrushes and toothpastes for the **Chesterfield Christmas Mother**. During Advent we collected the needed items that were requested by **UMFS**, **Fisher House**, **Safe Harbor** and **Friends of Barnabas**. Our Christmas Eve offering was given to support the mission work of the **Friends of Barnabas** in Honduras. The Methodist Women gave to **Days for Girls**, the **Chesterfield Food Bank**, and **Mercy Mall** in addition to meeting their district **Pledge to Mission**. All of this was accomplished during a worldwide pandemic! So **THANK YOU!!!** And may you be blessed as you have offered these many blessings to others in Jesus’ name.

- - - Missions Committee

December Worship

Attendance Average:

In-person 33 Online 47



- Calculating attendance for online worship is difficult with our current technologies. As we look at new solutions for our online platform, if you watch the service during a different time than when live please comment or send us an email to let us know.
- Currently, we are not able to hold Sunday School on Sundays at the normal time. If you would like to consider holding class at a different time (i.e. day or time), please contact Pastor Bob to discuss.

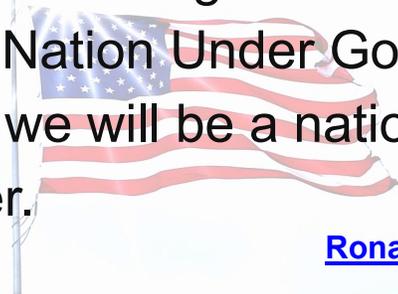
Kingdom Seekers Study Group

Resuming Wednesday, January 6th
They will meet each Wednesday at
10:00 am in Room 7.

- - MISSION POSSIBLE! - -

The missions committee will be meeting January 7 to begin planning out where to place our hands and feet in our community. If you know of a need that is not being met or have a mission that you would like others to share in, please let us know.

If we ever forget that we are
One Nation Under God,
then we will be a nation gone
under.



[Ronald Reagan](#)

Church Directory

We are still working on the new church directory and hope to have it updated and available SOON! Please let us know if you have any updates or changes.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan:

Join me in a plan to read the Bible in its entirety this year in chronological order.

This plan provides an easy to follow plan to read the Bible in the order that the events happened.

1/1/2021	Genesis 1-3	1/11/2021	Job 29-31	1/21/2021	Genesis 27-29
1/2/2021	Genesis 4-7	1/12/2021	Job 32-34	1/22/2021	Genesis 30-31
1/3/2021	Genesis 8-11	1/13/2021	Job 35-37	1/23/2021	Genesis 32-34
1/4/2021	Job 1-5	1/14/2021	Job 38-39	1/24/2021	Genesis 35-37
1/5/2021	Job 6-9	1/15/2021	Job 40-42	1/25/2021	Genesis 38-40
1/6/2021	Job 10-13	1/16/2021	Genesis 12-15	1/26/2021	Genesis 41-42
1/7/2021	Job 14-16	1/17/2021	Genesis 16-18	1/27/2021	Genesis 43-45
1/8/2021	Job 17-20	1/18/2021	Genesis 19-21	1/28/2021	Genesis 46-47
1/9/2021	Job 21-23	1/19/2021	Genesis 22-24	1/29/2021	Genesis 48-50
1/10/2021	Job 24-28	1/20/2021	Genesis 25-26	1/30/2021	Exodus 1-3
				1/31/2021	Exodus 4-6

CELEBRATIONS
Happy Birthday

- 3 - Kent Toms
- 5 - Lois Thomas
- 8 - Jeanette Gross
- 8 - Kortney Sparkman
- 18 - Beth Gann
- 31 - Marthanna Moss

Did you know...

The Month of January was named for the Roman god Janus, known as the protector of gates and doorways, which symbolize beginnings and ends. Janus is depicted with two faces, one looking into the past, the other into the future—a fitting symbol for this first day of the year.

January Birthstone
Garnet

January Flowers
Carnation & Snowdrop



PRAYING DAILY

For the HOMEBOUND: For ALL Military, Including:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Marie Clark | Daniel Brown |
| Larry Howell | Shannon Brown |
| Helen & Bill Leneave | Jason & Ryan Helhm |
| Lorraine Ratliffe | C.J. Kovas (deployed to Afghanistan) |
| Sarah Scott | Devin Lewerenz |
| Jean Sharpe | Sam Power |
| Lois Thomas | Tyler Smith (home) |
| | Jonathan Williams (U.S.N. Ykosuka, Jp) |



For Missionary in Covenant Relationship with HUMC:

Clara Biswas - serving as a community worker in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

For Leaders of the UMC, our Bishop and District Superintendent

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Teachers | First Responders | Our Police | Our Country |
| All Children | Healthcare Providers | Those affected by COVID | Our President |
| | | | Government Leaders |

Also pray for:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Rose Burton | Judy Reid |
| Cindy Dooley | Mary Sharpe |
| Irene Eagles | Mike Sharpe |
| Scott Fones | Dorothy & Lewis Smith |
| Janet Greene | Wayne Smith |
| Jeannette Gross | Joseph Sparkman |
| Roger Gross | Dorma Thompson |
| Blake Jacobs | Lynnwood Thomspson |
| Sean Livingston | Dale Toms |
| Sylvia Meadows | Earl Toms |
| Anne Moseley | Russell Williams |
| Robin Reed | Walter Williams |
| Al Reid | Katheryn Wilson |
| Andrew Ferguson (Anna Taylor's grandson) | |
| Mallory (Teresa's daughter, due mid-January) | |

DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are working to publish an updated directory. Please let us know if your information has changed.

- * Name
- * Address
- * Phone Numbers
- * Email Address
- * Birthdate / Anniversary



Also, are you receiving the ALL CALL?

If not, please let us know.

Also let us know if you do **not** want to receive the call.

Would you like to contribute to The Grapevine? We welcome your news, articles, recipes, quotes, and jokes! To be included in the February Newsletter, please have your submissions to the church office no later than Monday, January 25th. THANK YOU!!

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						2 10am -3pm Food Bank Collection
3 11am Sunday Worship	4	5 10am Kingdom Seekers	6 10am Kingdom Seekers	7 7pm Missions Team Meeting	8	9 10am -3pm Food Bank Collection
10 11am Sunday Worship	11	12	13 10am Kingdom Seekers	14 10am Kitting Gals	15	16 10am -3pm Food Bank Collection
17 11am Sunday Worship	18	19	20 10am Kingdom Seekers	21 7pm Administrative Council Meeting	22	23 10am -3pm Food Bank Collection
24 11am Sunday Worship	25	26 7pm Methodist Men FH	27 10am Kingdom Seekers	28	29	30 10am -3pm Food Bank Collect
31 11am Sunday Worship						

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