

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

Dear members and friends of Hope Community Presbyterian Church,

As we step into the beautiful month of September, with its gentle reminder of the transitioning seasons, it brings to mind the ideas of change, growth, and renewal in our lives. This month, as we celebrate at an outdoor worship service on September 10, let's reflect on the timeless encouragement we can find in the words of Psalm 10:17.

“O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear.”

In this Psalm, we are reminded of a beautiful truth: The Lord hears us. In moments of struggle, despair, or uncertainty, how often do we feel as if our cries go unnoticed? Yet, this verse is a gentle whisper from heaven, assuring us that God does not merely hear us, but God listens intently to the desires of our hearts.

Here are some reflections based on this beautiful verse:

1. **God Hears Our Desires:** More than our words, God hears the desires and longings of our hearts. We don't always have the right words to pray, but God knows our heart's intentions. It's comforting to know that our deepest yearnings do not go unheard.
2. **Strength in Vulnerability:** When we approach God in our affliction, we are at our most vulnerable. But it is in this space that God promises to strengthen our hearts. Remember that in our weakest moments, God's strength becomes evident.
3. **God's Attentiveness:** “You will incline your ear” is not just about listening. It signifies God's undivided attention, God's care and God's involvement in our lives. Even in moments when it feels like God is silent, God is attentively listening to us.

So, as we navigate through this month, let's remember Psalm 10:17 and the profound encouragement it brings. No matter where we are in our journey, whether we're facing challenges or basking in blessings, God hears us, strengthens us, and is ever attentive to us. As a church family, let's be inspired to be active listeners for one another. Just as God inclines God's ear to us, may we be there for our brothers and sisters, offering support, encouragement, and a listening ear.

May this month be filled with the beautiful reassurance of God's unwavering love and attention to us.

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Wendy

Lectionary Readings for September 2023

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
9/3/23	Ex. 3: 1-15	Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26 & 45b	Romans 12: 9-21	Matt. 16: 21-28
9/10/23	Ex. 12: 1-14	Psalm 149	Romans 13: 8-14	Matt. 18: 15-20
9/17/23	Ex. 14: 19-31	Psalm 114	Romans 14: 1-12	Matt. 18: 21-35
9/24/23	Ex. 16: 2-15	Psalm 105: 1-6 & 37-45	Phil. 1: 21-30	Matt 20: 1-16

Happy September Birthdays

4 – Anne Badanjak 24 – Sam Judnick
5 – Cynthia (Schandorf) Krull
10 – Bob Umhauer 24 – Dawn Trexel-Kroll
13 – Brian Stevens 29 – Winston Schandorf

Session Highlights

- Youth for Christ will be moving to a location closer to the new Rock Ridge High School and will no longer rent the upstairs of the CE building from us beyond September.
- Session has decided to pursue the option of selling the CE building in addition to keeping options open to continue renting part or all of the building.

In Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of Jo Paulson who passed away on August 23. A graveside service will take place at Greenwood Cemetery in Virginia.

Outdoor Service and Picnic

We will have an outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 10 at 10 a.m. at the Kline-Cuppoletti building (old gun club) on Silver Lake. Instruments of Hope will provide music. The service will be followed by a potluck picnic. The Worship Committee will provide sloppy joes. Everyone else is welcome to bring side dishes or desserts. The service will not be livestreamed, but a recording will be made available later in the week.

Food for Thought

Weekly Food for Thought discussions will start up again on Monday, September 11 at 1:30 p.m. The first discussion topic will be the history of antisemitism.

Weekly Bible Study

Rev. Wendy will continue weekly Bible Studies through the fall on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. The fall study guide will be distributed on September 5.

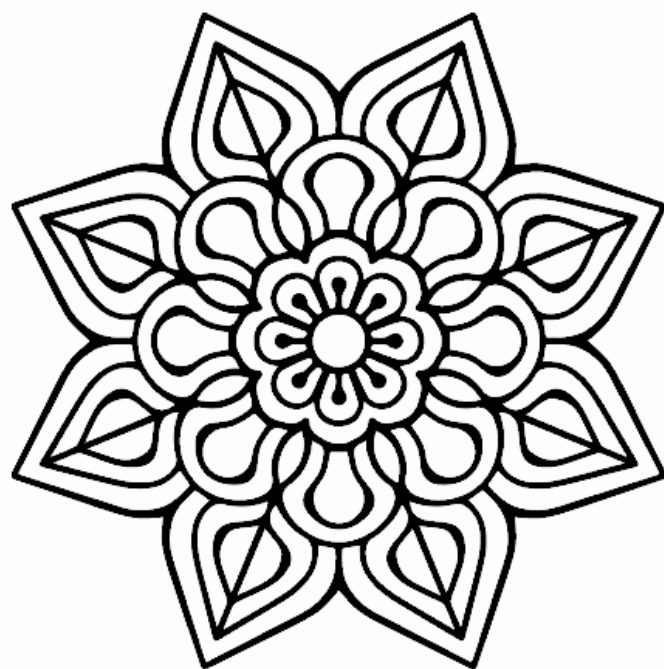
Peace & Global Offering

The Peace & Global Witness special offering is collected during the month of September, which will culminate on World Communion Sunday on October 1. 25% goes towards local peacemaking efforts (most likely to our Little Free Pantry, as it was allocated last year). Another 25% will go towards peacemaking efforts in our region. And 50% of the offering supports peace and reconciliation work being done by Presbyterians around the world. If you would like to donate to this offering, please put Peace & Global in the memo of your check. There will also be special offering envelopes available at the church.

CE Building

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, Youth for Christ will no longer be renting the upstairs of the CE (Christian Education) building after September. Session has decided to pursue the option of selling the building in addition to keeping options open to continue renting part or all of the building. Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in renting or purchasing the building.

Enjoy the meditation of coloring this mandala!





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2023



Outdoor Worship

On Sunday, September 10th we will have our church service outside on the shores of Silver Lake at the Kline-Cuppoletti building (the old Gun Club).

Following church we will enjoy a pot luck lunch.
Please come and join us!



September Weekly Thoughts

September 3
Matthew 16:21-28

God's plans are not always what we'd expect, but God knows what He is doing and we can trust Him to be Good.

September 10
Matthew 18:15-20

God is with us whenever we gather in His name.

September 17
Matthew 18:21-35

False forgiveness is not worth anything. We need to show mercy just as God is merciful to us.

September 24
Matthew 20:1-16

Life isn't always fair but God's wants us to do what we believe in our hearts is right.

Jesus said, "Follow Me."

Help the disciples to know Jesus.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



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Backpack Blessing

As in the past, we plan to have a backpack blessing tentatively on Sept. 3, so bring your backpack to church for a special back-to-school prayer.



Christian Education Calendar

Sunday Sept. 3	Monday Sept 4	Sunday Sept. 10	Sunday Sept. 17	Sunday Sept. 24
Matthew 16:21-28 Trust in God Always Backpack Blessings	Labor Day	Matthew 18:15-20 Know God is always with us	Matthew 18:21-35 Forgive from the heart	Matthew 20:1-16 Life isn't always fair