

THE HOPE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM HOPE METHODIST CHURCH



A Powerful Truth

"Our unity is how the world will know Jesus is real."



From the Desk of Pastor Marshall

I've been praying for us. I have been praying not for our programs or our budgets, but for the very soul of our church, community and our nation. I believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to a deeper place, a place of profound holiness, forgiveness, and unshakable unity.

One of the greatest hurdles to living in unity is our refusal to forgive. It is easy to hold on to old hurts, nursing grievances and allowing them to become bitterness. But Jesus was crystal clear on this matter. He made our forgiveness of others a direct reflection of His forgiveness for us.

He said, "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15)

This is a powerful and sobering truth. Our ability to let go of anger is directly tied to our grasp of God's grace. When we meditate on the immense debt Christ canceled for us on the cross, it becomes much harder to hold others to their small debts against us. This is the very reason we are called to "let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." (Ephesians 4:31). We see our nation struggling in this time of death, politics, and finger pointing but we can show them the path to forgiveness, the path Jesus gives us. Meditating on Christ's forgiveness gives us the strength to put those sins away. Often times we as humans have to ask over and over again for the Lord to help us to forgive but this is an act that God has called us too. I have found walking through the hurt in your mind and handing over it to the Lord one piece at a time is very helpful and I would encourage you to try this if you are doing the work of forgiveness in your life.

Forgiveness isn't just for our own peace; it is the essential building block of the Church. Our unity is not optional—it is a testimony to the world of Christ's very divinity.

In His final prayer, Jesus begged His Father for this truth to be a reality among us, saying, "that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21).

Our unity is how the world will know Jesus is real. We should not be one that refuses to forgive. We should not be the one that holds malice. The world offers a fleeting peace, but Jesus offers so much more. He said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27). This peace is the blessed result of a heart that has forgiven and a life that is unified.

I urge you to take these verses to heart this week. Meditate on the forgiveness you have been given and the peace you have been promised. Let these truths transform your heart, and by doing so, let us become a beautiful, living testimony of Christ's power to a world in desperate need of hope.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Sunday Services 9:45- Sunday School 10:50- Worship	9-10am- Yoga 5:30pm- Bible Recap	9-10am- Yoga 10am- Bible Recap	1 10am- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth	2 6:15pm- Bible Recap	3 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	4 1-4pm- Operation Christmas Child Training-Intro. Workshop
5 Souper Sunday  <i>World Communion</i> SUNDAY 	6 9-10am- Yoga 5:30pm- Bible Recap	7 10am- Bible Recap	8 10am- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth	9 6:15pm- Bible Recap	10 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	11 9am-Noon Threads of Faith
12 6pm-2nd Sunday Supper 	13 5:30pm- Bible Recap	14 10am- Bible Recap	15 10am- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth	16 6:15pm- Bible Recap	17 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	18
19 12:15pm- Ad. Board meeting	20 5:30pm- Bible Recap	21 10am- Bible Recap	22 10am- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth	23 6:15pm- Bible Recap	24 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed PM- Feed Bobcat Band @ HHS	25
26 5-7pm 	27 5:30pm- Bible Recap	28 10am- Bible Recap	29 10am- Class Meeting 6pm- Choir 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth	30 6:15pm- Bible Recap	31  6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

EVENTS @ HMC & IN OUR COMMUNITY



Souper Sunday

Sunday, October 5

All funds raised for THE CALL to help support foster families in Hempstead & Nevada counties. Contact Marlon Ward for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Feed the Bobcat Band**

Friday, October 24

We will feed the HHS Band @ Hope High School before the football game on Friday, October 24.

* **HMC Fall Festival**

Sunday, October 26

Join us for this awesome community event from 5-7pm! See Rose for more details!

* **Bible Recap Study**

Meeting Weekly

Monday @ 5:30pm

Tuesday @ 10am

Thursday @ 6:15pm

Daily scriptures in bulletin each Sunday



Introductory Training for

Operation Christmas Child

On Saturday, October 4, our church will host a Leadership Training for those involved in Operation Christmas Child. The training will last from 1-4pm and will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

ALL ARE WELCOME @ TRAINING! If you have questions about this event or are interested in becoming involved in Operation Christmas Child, please speak with Jim or Deb Herman!

Seeking Volunteers

Our Fall Festival was a big hit last year in our community. We're working hard to make this year's event even better and we need YOUR help to do that. Please contact Rose or Jessica if you're interested in volunteering to help make this a successful festival! Thank you!



CHILDREN'S NEWS

2nd Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26, 2025

5pm - 7pm

Bounce houses, caramel apple tacos, sno-cones, games, treats, train rides, a photo area, and maybe a few surprises!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Please see Rose if you are able to assist with either set-up, work during, or clean-up.

Festival is free and open to the community!
Come out and enjoy some fun on Sunday afternoon!

Needed:

**Individually wrapped candy for
treat bags for Fall Festival.**

Please bring candy to Rose's office

YOUTH NEWS

September mission extended through October

Due to the number of missions going on in September, the children/youth mission project will be extended to October 26.

Please bring items to Rose's office.

Youth & Children will collect items like socks, bottles of water, non-perishable/dry food items - crackers, small jars of peanut butter, protein bars, restaurant gift cards, etc.

We will be preparing bags with items to place in blessing boxes and to hand out as needed when we see someone on the street.

Packing night will be October 29, 2025!



RETREAT

Oasis Retreat - Nov. 14-16, 2025

Camp Tanako

Theme "Presence"

Fall retreat will be with other Methodist churches from the Arkansas area.



hempsteadcounty@thecallinarkansas.org

THE CALL in Hempstead
& Nevada Counties

Souper Sunday
October 5, 2025



Souper Sunday 2025

Why is Souper Sunday
important?

- Only annual fundraiser for THE CALL in Hempstead & Nevada counties

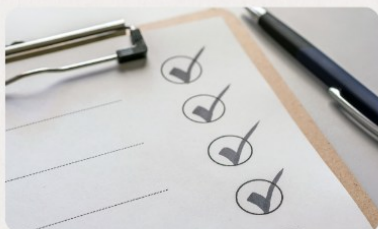
Proceeds from Souper Sunday
are used in the following ways:

- Recruiting New Foster Families
Hosting recruitment events
- Training New Foster Families
Quarterly training with regional partners, training materials & supplies
- Supporting Foster Families
Paperwork/certification support for families opening their home, diapers & wipes, start-up supplies for new placements

Contact Marlon Ward for more information about Souper Sunday @ HMC!

LIGHT FROM THE WORD

"STILL OTHERS ASKED, 'HOW CAN THE MESSIAH COME FROM GALILEE? DOES NOT SCRIPTURE SAY THAT THE MESSIAH WILL COME FROM DAVID'S DESCENDANTS AND FROM BETHLEHEM?'" -JOHN 7:41-42



John 7:25-43

Fact-
check
what you
hear
against
God's
truth.



The Truth Is What Counts

Have you ever been deceived? The devil likes to confuse people just like he did Eve at the beginning of time. First, he questioned God's authority. Then, he slipped in an untruth that seemed so real, it must be true. She fell for the deception, looked at the forbidden tree, desired the fruit, then took a bite. Next, she convinced Adam that he should take a bite. That deception changed the world forever. Did she fact-check what the devil was saying? No. She went with her feelings.

Do you believe all the news on the internet? Are you duped into purchasing something because it will make your life "like new"? People can take untruths or partial truths to heart and believe they are real. Some people in Jerusalem believed such an untruth. Because they thought Jesus was from Nazareth, they could not believe he was truly the Messiah. They did not stop to check that he was born in Bethlehem. Therefore, they did not believe he was their Savior. Centuries prior to Jesus, Isaiah was so perceptive in his writings. In chapter 44:18-19, he concluded: "They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. No one stops to think."

Let's read and listen to God's Word. Then we will know the truth.

OUTREACH



Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

—Proverbs 3:27

HMC MINISTRIES



Thank you to everyone who donated children's jeans on our recent Blue Jean Sundays!



October 12 is our next 2nd Sunday Supper! Join us for chili & s'mores at 6pm!



Friday, October 24, we will feed the Bobcat Band at Hope High School!



Sunday, October 5 is Souper Sunday! All proceeds benefit The CALL!



Garage Sale Success!

Outreach Garage Sale Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in any way to help make our 1st garage sale fundraiser so great! To all those who donated items, helped organize, helped set-up, clean-up and work this event-- your hard work made this event possible! Outreach raised around \$1,400 to help continue our ministries and we are so thankful to you for all you did!

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

—Hebrews 13:16

Get Involved!

If you are interested in being a part of our ministries @ HMC, please contact Jessica in the church office to see where you might "fit-in" or if you'd just like to be part of Outreach, contact Cathryn Looney to attend a meeting & hear about upcoming plans!

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY!

9:45- SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:50 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP



PRESCHOOL NEWS

We've had a wonderful start to our school year! In September, we learned lots of new things, made friends, and celebrated Western Day! It's been so fun getting to know each other!

Looking into October, we are excited to have a Fall Break (long weekend), a field trip to Miracle Farms & our annual Fall Parade and class parties at the end of the month!

