

THE HOPE CONNECTION

NEWS FROM HOPE METHODIST CHURCH



MEDITATION: TAKING TIME TO THINK

In our fast-paced lives, we often treat Bible reading like a quick email--something to be scanned and checked off a list. We want the info, but we rarely take the time to truly let it settle in our hearts & minds. But what if God is inviting us to something more? The Bible calls us to meditate on His Word, & this is a profound invitation. Meditation, in the biblical sense, isn't an empty mind; it's a full one. It's the intentional act of thinking deeply about a concept, a passage, & all the small, intricate details about it. It's like a cow chewing its cud, taking the same truth and ruminating on it again & again until its nutrients are fully absorbed.

The Puritan pastor, Thomas Watson once wrote, "The reason we come away so cold from reading the Word is because we do not warm ourselves at the fire of meditation." His words are a powerful reminder. Reading the Word gives us the light; meditation brings the heat, allowing that truth to melt its way into our hearts. David in Psalm 39:3 says, "My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned." Meditation can help us to truly understand and internalize God's truth in our lives.

God Himself gives us the command in Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it." And Psalm 1:1-3 paints a beautiful picture of the person who does this: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."

The promise is clear: when we meditate, our lives become fruitful & prosperous, rooted in the living water of God's truth. So, how do we begin? A Simple Guide to Meditating on God's Word--Select a Passage: Don't try to read a whole chapter. Pick a single verse or short paragraph. Pray Through the Passage: Before you even start, ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart & mind to what God wants to show you. Read It Over & Over: Read the verse aloud. Read it silently. Read it multiple times in different translations if you can. Let the words wash over you. Think Through Each Word & Concept: Now, slow down. Ask yourself questions like: What is the central truth here? What does that word mean? What promise is God making? What command is He giving? What does this reveal about His character? Apply What You Learn to Your Life: This is the most crucial step. Ask, "How should this truth change me today?" Don't just understand it; let it shape you. Focus Your Mind on How You Will Apply It: Visualize it. If the passage is about patience, think of a situation you'll face today & picture yourself responding with patience.

Brothers & Sisters, this is a discipline that will transform your faith. It will turn cold, routine reading into a vibrant, warm encounter with the living God. Let's commit to not just reading His Word, but to warming our souls at the fire of meditation.
In His Grace, Pastor Marshall

SEPTEMBER

2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
Regular Sunday Services 9:45- Sunday School 10:50- Worship	LABOR DAY Office Closed 5:30pm- Bible Recap	Back to School @ HMCP 9-10am- Yoga 10am- Bible Recap	3 10am- Class Meeting 6-7pm- HMC Kids & Youth	4 6:15pm- Bible Recap	5 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	6 SALE 7am- Garage Sale @ HMC
7 HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY	8 5:30pm- Bible Recap	9 9-10am- Yoga 10am- Bible Recap	10 10am- Class Meeting 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth 6pm- Choir	11 6:15pm- Bible Recap Remembering 9/11	12 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	13 9am-Noon- Threads of Faith
14	15 5:30pm- Bible Recap	16 9-10am- Yoga 10am- Bible Recap	17 10am- Class Meeting 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth 6pm- Choir	18 6:15pm- Bible Recap	19 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	20
21 12:15pm- Ad. Board meeting	22 5:30pm- Bible Recap hello fall	23 9-10am- Yoga 10am- Bible Recap	24 10am- Class Meeting 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth 6pm- Choir	25 6:15pm- Bible Recap	26 6:30am- Men's Book Study Office Closed	27
28 6pm- Bitsy Carter Testimony	29 5:30pm- Bible Recap	30 9-10am- Yoga 10am- Bible Recap	31 10am- Class Meeting 6-7:30pm- HMC Kids & Youth 6pm- Choir			



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

8 BRAYDEN PERKINS	24 ELLA LAFFERTY
15 ADAM BEAVER	JOHN DAVID
16 WYNN WILSON	MONTGOMERY
19 DIANA KEITH	26 JUNEANNE PRICE
23 JIM TYSON	28 REBECCA WASSON
	29 LEON PRINCE

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY

We have recently started a 13-week Bible Study, diving deep into the New Testament. If you do not want to sign-up for the class, we will be sharing scripture each week in the bulletin that you can study on your own. Everyone can participate in their own way and we will all get into the Word together! See Betsy Still for more information! WE HAVE ONE EXTRA BOOK IN OFFICE!

STUDY GUIDE

THE BIBLE RECAP

Daily Questions to Deepen
Your Understanding of
THE ENTIRE BIBLE

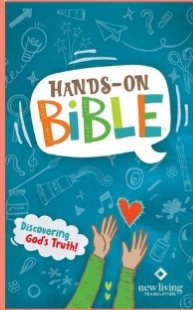
TARA-LEIGH COBBLE



CHURCH WIDE GARAGE SALE

Outreach is hosting a garage sale on Saturday, September 6 in the Fellowship Hall. The sale will begin at 7am. Please spread the word around the community and let's help Outreach fundraise! See Cathryn Looney for more details!

CHILDREN'S NEWS



3rd - 5th Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, September 7, 2025

during Service of Worship

Kids receiving Bibles:

Pierce Burton, Harper McMahan, Wes Price, Ellie Sears,
Brixx Richardson, Carter Wilcox

FALL FESTIVAL MEETING

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

The Children's Team will meet in the Pairs & Spares class immediately following the Service of Worship to start planning this year's Fall Festival. Anyone is invited to come and help plan this community based event. Bring your ideas!!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will participate in helping to fill 400 boxes.

PACKING DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

5:30PM

SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT

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 1, 2025

YOUTH NEWS

HMC YOUTH

SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT

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 1, 2025



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will participate in helping to fill 400 boxes.

PACKING DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025

5:30PM

RETREAT

Oasis Retreat - Nov. 14-16, 2025

Camp Tanako

Theme "Presence"

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

GARAGE SALE

September 6, 2025
beginning @ 7am

Clothing ♦ Kitchenware
Books & Toys
Home décor ♦ Furniture

And more surprises!

HOPE METHODIST CHURCH
2300 SOUTH MAIN ST.
HOPE, AR 71801





LIGHT FROM THE WORD

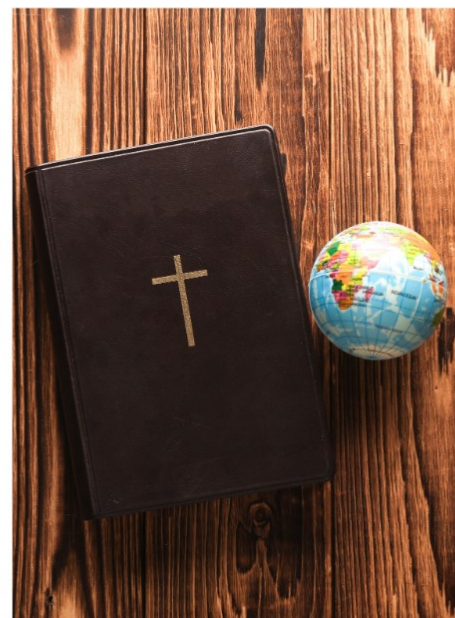
“Don’t Stop Believin”

“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony.”

-John 4:39

Years ago, a student in my Sunday school class asked for a meeting, where she said I was a poor teacher in whose class she could barely remain awake. She lobbed harsh criticisms at me. She had been a member of a new age cult for twenty years and seemed skeptical of basic scriptural teachings. I had tried to share the good news but didn’t believe it was getting through.

The Samaritans practiced a form of Judaism, using a modified Torah and worshipping God on Mt. Gerizim, not the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Their temple had been destroyed by the Jewish high priest. There were centuries of distrust between the sects. They would be skeptical of a Jewish rabbi sharing a theological conversation with a Samaritan woman. But Jesus did, she shared the good news as the first Christian evangelist, and many believed.



My student messaged me an apology a year later. I shared that I hoped she had continued to seek God. She had joined the church’s recovery ministry, had grown in her faith, and was stepping into a leadership role. Not everyone whom Jesus taught believed in him, and we also may not see whether our evangelism will be productive. May you experience the growth of that long-dormant seed sown and watered in faith that only God can germinate (1 Corinthians 3:6).

John 4:39

BELIEVE THAT GOD CAN USE YOU TO SOW THE GOOD NEWS.

OUTREACH

Missions of HMC

OUTREACH GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6
BEGINS @ 7am @
HMC

**FEEDING
BOBCAT BAND**
FRIDAY, OCTOBER
24 @ HOPE HIGH

**FEEDING
BOBCAT
FOOTBALL TEAM**
FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 7 @
HMC

**Thank you to
everyone who
helped work in our
water tent at the
Watermelon
Festival!**



HOPE METHODIST CHURCH

2300 South Main Street
PO Box 400
Hope, Arkansas 71802
870-777-8816
hopemethodistchurch@yahoo.com
www.hope-methodist.com

Worship with us each Sunday!
9:45-Sunday School
10:50- Traditional Worship

PRESCHOOL NEWS

School starts Tuesday, September 2 and we are ready! The classrooms look great, the teachers and staff have worked hard to prepare for a great year, and we are all excited to have students back in our classrooms! Sabrina Lambert will be teaching 3s, Nicole Sumpter will be teaching 4s, Haleigh Honea will be teaching After School Care, and Jessica Beaver will be Preschool Director. Please pray for this year to be productive and for God to be with us each day, as we teach & love our precious kids!

