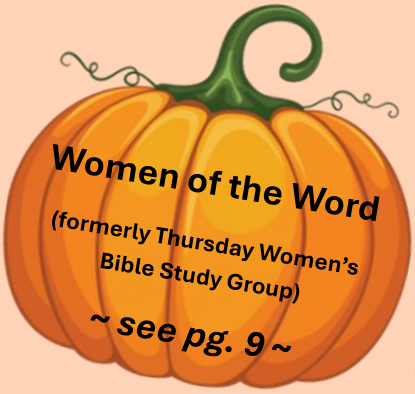
HOPE Lutheran Church

470 Winter Street Ext.
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 283-1372
www.HOPELC.ORG

We are a community empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to bring God's comfort, to work for God's justice, and to share the hope and love of Jesus with all.

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

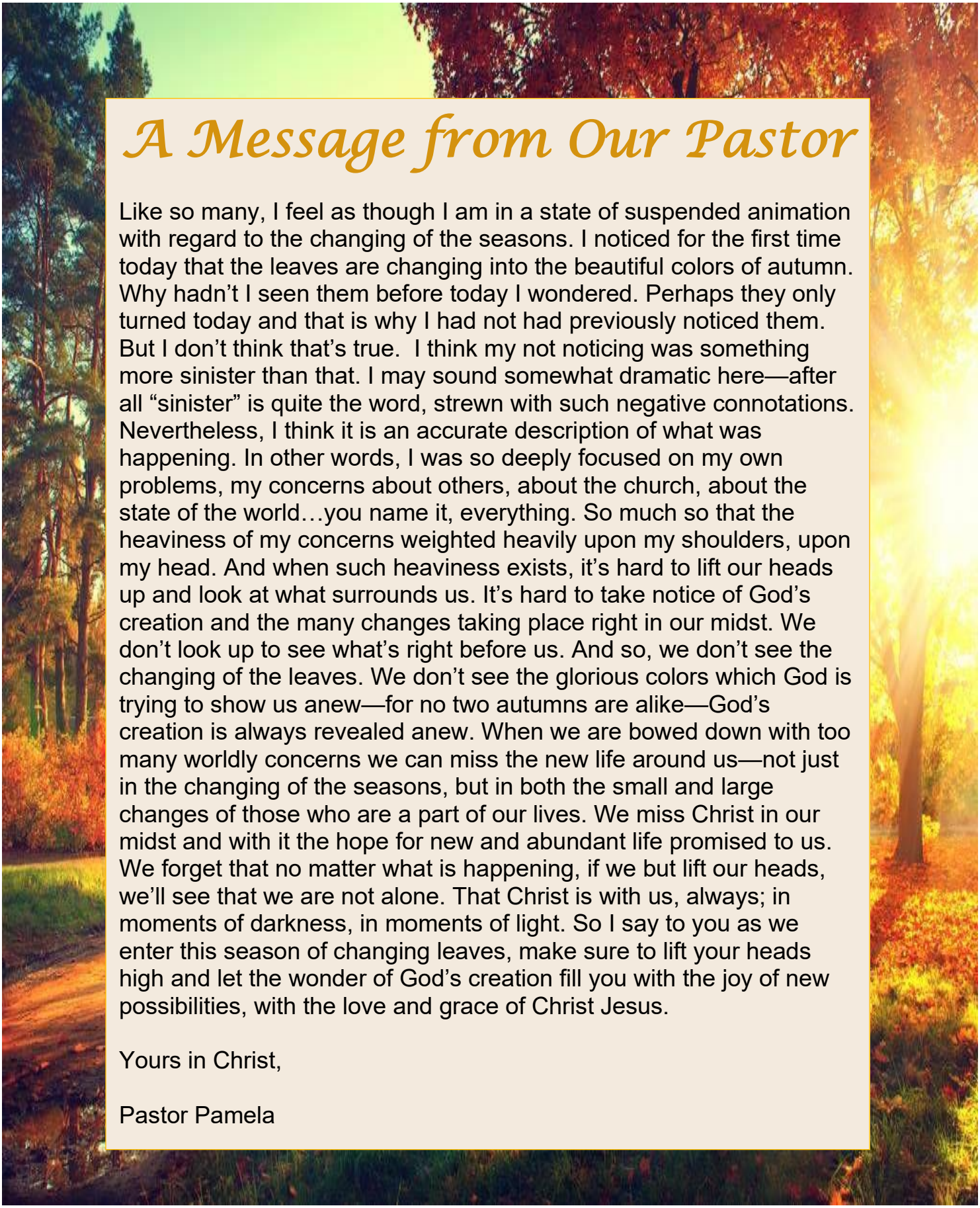




Our Core Values



faith
acceptance
compassion
gratitude
love



A Message from Our Pastor

Like so many, I feel as though I am in a state of suspended animation with regard to the changing of the seasons. I noticed for the first time today that the leaves are changing into the beautiful colors of autumn. Why hadn't I seen them before today I wondered. Perhaps they only turned today and that is why I had not had previously noticed them. But I don't think that's true. I think my not noticing was something more sinister than that. I may sound somewhat dramatic here—after all "sinister" is quite the word, strewn with such negative connotations. Nevertheless, I think it is an accurate description of what was happening. In other words, I was so deeply focused on my own problems, my concerns about others, about the church, about the state of the world…you name it, everything. So much so that the heaviness of my concerns weighted heavily upon my shoulders, upon my head. And when such heaviness exists, it's hard to lift our heads up and look at what surrounds us. It's hard to take notice of God's creation and the many changes taking place right in our midst. We don't look up to see what's right before us. And so, we don't see the changing of the leaves. We don't see the glorious colors which God is trying to show us anew—for no two autumns are alike—God's creation is always revealed anew. When we are bowed down with too many worldly concerns we can miss the new life around us—not just in the changing of the seasons, but in both the small and large changes of those who are a part of our lives. We miss Christ in our midst and with it the hope for new and abundant life promised to us. We forget that no matter what is happening, if we but lift our heads, we'll see that we are not alone. That Christ is with us, always; in moments of darkness, in moments of light. So I say to you as we enter this season of changing leaves, make sure to lift your heads high and let the wonder of God's creation fill you with the joy of new possibilities, with the love and grace of Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Pamela



"Shoulder to Shoulder": Creating Connections and Purpose

Hello community!

Please join us for a particularly powerful episode on *Men's Sheds* and their role in addressing the loneliness epidemic: especially for men. But this is a valuable episode for women also because 50% of *Men's Sheds* are started by women, women can join a *Men's Shed*, and there are *She Sheds*.

Till next time!

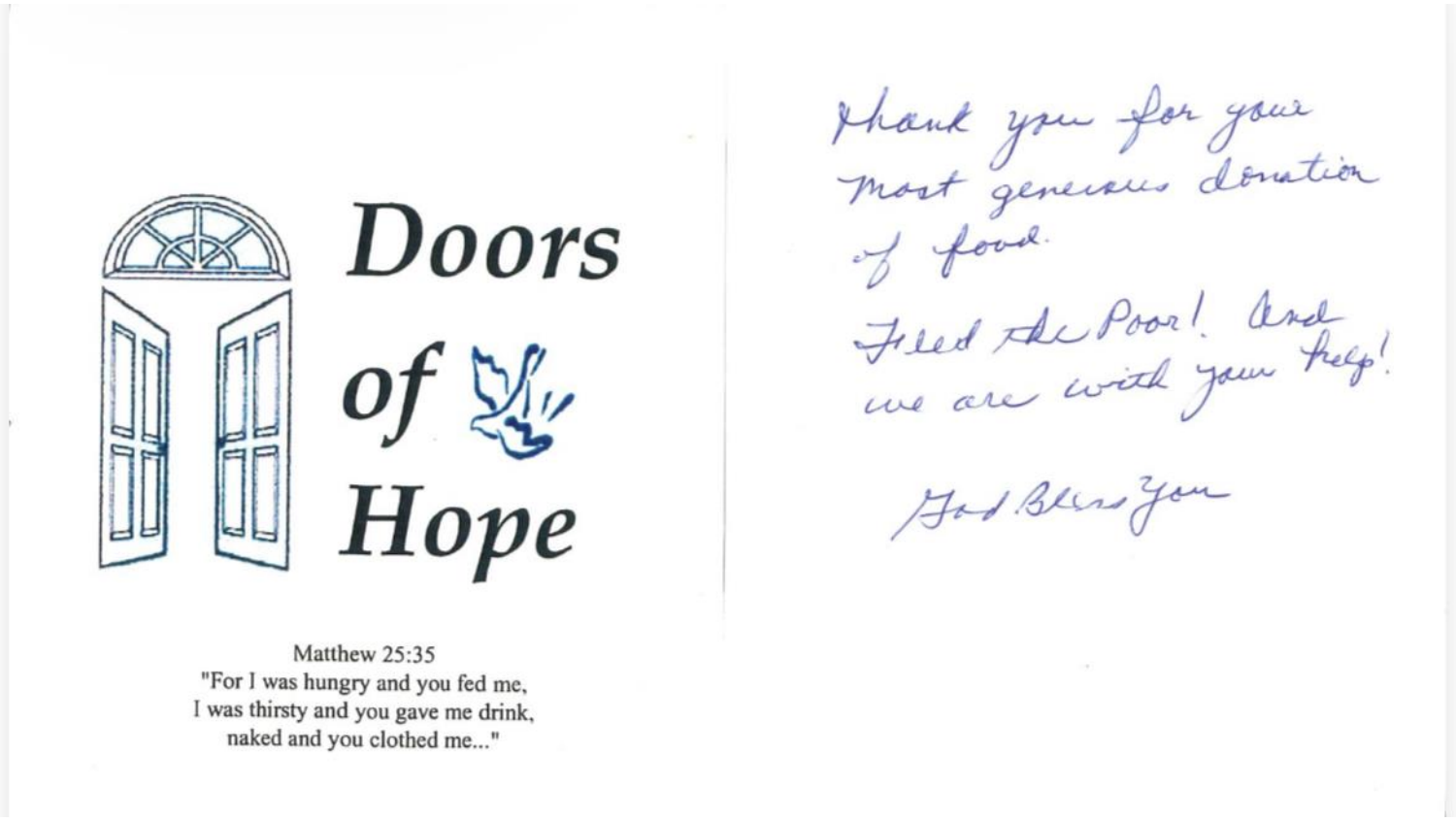
Catherine

What begins as a place to work on a project can become a place to feel alive again. In this hope-filled episode of the "hello community®" podcast, Catherine Jura speaks with Mark Winston and Yvette Goslin about how Men's Sheds create friendship, purpose, and hope for individuals feeling lonely and isolated.

- Why retirement, loss, and changing roles can leave individuals without connection or a clear sense of purpose: especially men
- How shared projects help conversations and friendships form naturally, "shoulder to shoulder"
- The story of a man with clinical depression who found community and said the shed gave him his life back
- How senior centers, garages, community buildings, makerspaces, and even virtual gatherings can become sheds
- Why women, families, and intergenerational relationships are vital to the Men's Shed movement

Mark and Yvette remind us that the real magic of a Men's Shed is not the building or the project—it is being together. The friendships formed there can strengthen emotional wellbeing, families, and entire communities. This conversation offers an encouraging—and practical--path toward belonging. Please share this episode with someone who may need a place to begin.


Thank you!


Doors of Hope
Matthew 25:35
"For I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
naked and you clothed me..."
Thank you for your most generous donation of food.
Feed the Poor! And we are with your help!
God Bless You

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
TRI-COUNTY SERVICES

SISTER BETSY VAN DEUSEN, CSJ
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JENN HYDE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CoNSERNS-U

Date: 8/15/2026

Dear Hope Lutheran Church,

CoNSERNS-U, a program of Catholic Charities Tri-County Services, is most grateful to those who support our mission of helping individual families meet their basic needs.

We thank you very much for your generous donation of

food.

Your kindness is much appreciated and furthers our commitment to help people meet the challenges of day to day living. Your donation will enable us to continue our mission of serving those who come to our doors seeking help.

On behalf of the staff, volunteers and clients of CoNSERNS-U, I thank you again for your support of our food pantry.

Sincerely,

Michael Doyle and Austin Illosner
Outreach Coordinator
CoNSERNS-U
P.O. Box 28
201 Academy St.
Rensselaer, New York 12144
mdoyle@ccalbany.org

LIKE US ON facebook



Prayer Calendar OCTOBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
			Linda Turner	Lynda Seiling	Pr. Elaine Berg's Birthday	Dave Armento
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Donna St. John	Eugene St. John	Lucas Boyer	Lisa Boyer	Ken Newberry	Charlie Huff	Zina Huff
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Judy Cosgrove	Catherine Jura's Birthday	Peggy Farrell	Pam Dodson	Dickie Dodson	Wayne Felt	Dale Felt
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Kathy Zorian	Victoria Dooley	Mateo Dooley	Mike Daus' Birthday	Richard Dooley	Lisa Rogers	Cydney Rogers
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Denise Rogers	Bodie Rogers	Karen Hill's Birthday	Edith Easterling	Jim Freehart	Jake Freehart	



EACH MONTH WE LIST NAMES FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY BRINGS UNIQUE GIFTS FOR OUR MISSIONARY JOURNEY. OUR PRAYERS SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. (A REMINDER...THESE ARE NOT PRAYERS FOR HEALING.)



We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Birthday …

Pr. Elaine Berg ~ October 3rd

Catherine Jura ~ October 13th

Mike Daus ~ October 22nd

Karen Hill ~ October 28th





A big THANK YOU to our September Mowing Crew!!!

Keving Willis Charlie Huff Peggy Farrell Mike Daus

Debbie Favro Wayne Palka Kelly Jaeger

and to Bob Crowley for Weed Whacking

October Schedule:

(Sept. 28th – Oct. 3rd: Kelly Jaeger & Charlie Huff)

Oct. 5th – 10th: Rick Covey

Oct. 12th – 17th: Kevin Willis

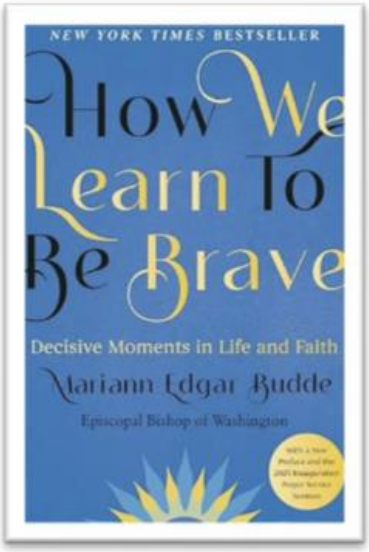
Oct. 19th – 24th: Mike Daus & Debbie Favro

Announcement Prayers Return October 4, 2026



After a five-month hiatus Announcement Prayers return on Sunday, October 4. Announcement Prayers are our thankful response to God's generosity for the various ministries supported by Hope congregation within the Winter Street doors and out of the parking lot to the local, national and worldwide community. They include prayers for ministries that recognize our unity in response to God's love.

The Prayers are prayed by the gathered congregation at the end of worship announcements and before the Sending Hymn and Benediction. Each week someone will be asked to lead the prayer, indicating it is a prayer of the people of Hope. If you are wiling to lead the prayer, please speak with Pastor Elaine Berg, coordinator of Hope's Prayer Ministry or Pastor Pamela Hoh before worship.



Women of the Word

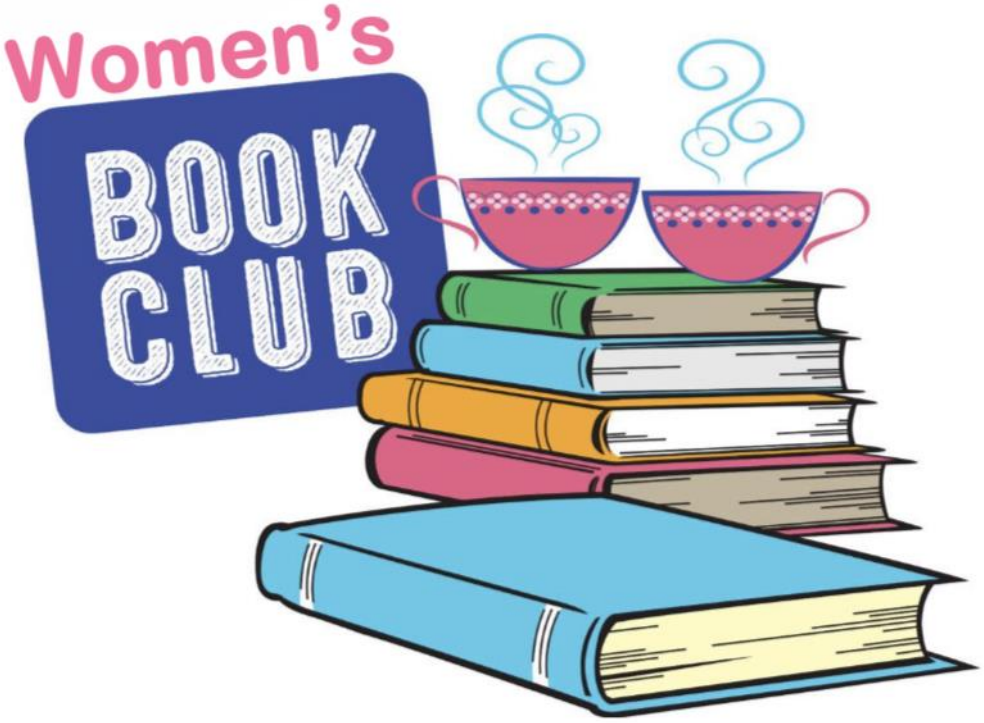
(formerly Thursday Women's Bible Study Group)

A group of women meet each Thursday evening at the home of Marilyn Dyer and Pastor Elaine Berg (47 Deerhaven Lane, Rensselaer 12144) at 7:00 p.m. for study and conversation. Recently the group studied some of the Psalms, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, the 10 Commandments and Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. This summer the group made the decision to study some contemporary books by Christian authors. The last book was: **Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Beginning October 8, the group will begin discussion of **How We Learn to Be Brave** by Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, DC and leader of the Washington National Cathedral. The book is available at bookstores, local libraries and through Amazon

Later this fall the group will learn more about other faiths through the book **Holy Envy** by Barbara Brown Taylor.

. If you want to know more about the group, please contact Pastor Elaine Berg (315.882.3732 or meb312@aol.com).



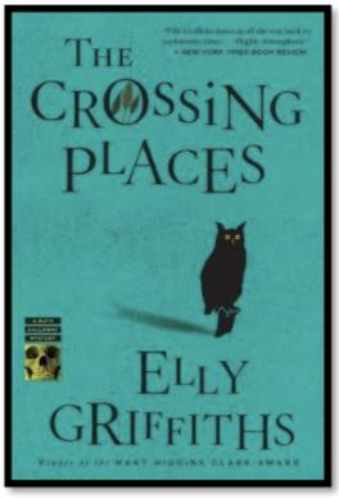
The next Women's Book Club

will meet on October 28th at 6:30 PM

at the home of Marilyn and Pr. Elaine.

Pastor Pamela will be coordinating this group.

We will be reading *The Crossing Places* by Elly Griffiths.



We'd love for you to join us!

Worship Volunteer Duties for October 2026

Please find your own replacement if you cannot be available on date of assignment.

	4-Oct.	11-Oct.	18-Oct.	25-Oct.
	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am	Worship 10:00am
Altar Guild/ Comm. Asst. 2	Debbie F	Charlie H	Bonny M	Donna S
Greeter	Jim M	Anna-Lisa H	Ja'net M	Chris N
Usher	Marion D	Janis Z	Diane C	Debbie F
Lector	Sandra G	Pam D	Luis C	Bonny M
Communion Assistant	Athena B	Pam D	Luis C	Bonny M
Snack Set-Up	Susan C	Charlie H	Maureen H	Maureen H
Offering Counters	Ja'net M & Sandra G	Janis Z & Pam D	Luis C & Pam D	Anna-Lisa H & Sandra G
Goodie Brigade	Chris N	Pam D	Bonny M	Janis Z



Upcoming Events for October of 2026

We have 'In-Person' Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 AM.
We also live-stream our services on our website, Facebook and YouTube.

Sharing the hope and love of Jesus with all

3rd: Regional Food Bank Packing, 10:30 AM – Noon, Meet at RFB.

4th: Prayers of Hope meets in the small classroom following worship service.

6th: Co-Ed Bible Study @ Noon in the small classroom; (every Tuesday this month).

Beginner-Plus Tai Chi @ 7 PM with Pam Dodson in the sanctuary; (every Tuesday this month).

7th: Beginner-Plus Tai Chi @ 10 AM with Pam Dodson in the sanctuary; (every Wednesday this month).

Qigong @ 1:30 PM with Pam Dodson in the sanctuary; (every Wednesday this month).

8th: Women of the Word @ 6:30 PM at the home of Marilyn & Pr. Elaine.

14th: Worship & Music Committee Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the small classroom.

15th: Grief Support Group @ 5:30 PM in the large classroom.

20th: Hope's Hands meets @ 10 AM in the small classroom.

21st: Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM in the large classroom & via Zoom.

25th: *Reformation Sunday*.

26th: Newsletter Articles Due to Tonya.

28th: Women's Book Club @ 6:30 PM at the home of Marilyn & Pr. Elaine.

31st: Happy Halloween.

