

## Congregation Letter 9/8/2023

Greetings Hope Family!

Summer is winding down; vacations are over; the kids are back in school! We trust you had a good summer, filled with fun times and memories. The start of the school year has always been a time to set new goals and begin new routines. This doesn't need to change just because we are finished with school. A goal we all can have is: to draw closer to the Lord in the upcoming season. One way to help achieve this is by a new and better routine of making Sunday worship a priority in your life. Surprisingly, there are some who have not returned to church since the end of the pandemic (national statistics say that only @ 80% of people have returned to church since the end of COVID. If you are staying away, we want to encourage you to return, and enjoy the **new Sunday morning format** at Hope.

We meet at 9:45 – 10:20 for Fellowship, Worship, Prayer and Communion. This is a rich time of connecting with the Hope family. You will want to be part of this encouraging time! At 10:30 we begin our Live-stream and have more worship and our teaching time. We hope this new way of "doing church" is meaningful and encouraging to you!

On **Saturday September 30** we will have a **Work Day** at Hope starting at **8:00 am** and finishing up @1:00 pm. We will serve **brunch in the middle of the day** to give you energy for the tasks before us! All skill levels are welcome as there are always jobs from the simplest to more skill-required. These work days are always a great way to connect with others and to contribute to the church. Your help is wanted and deeply appreciated!

Starting this **Thursday September 14**, Pastor Kevin will begin a new mid-week class on **Comparative Religions**. This class will explore the history, beliefs, practices, and how they differ from Christianity. This class will make you more aware of the beliefs your co-workers, neighbors and family members hold to. We will meet from **7:00pm - 8:15pm** and you can participate by clicking on the zoom link at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89393354000?pwd=TDVyNXI2b1p1ZjUyemhvbzh4cXNrdz09> or by going to zoom and using Meeting ID: 893 9335 4000 and using the password: Compare  
\* Note: This class is not to degrade, belittle or disrespect any other religion or belief, but to inform the people of Hope of the differences.

Thanks for your faithfulness to hope! It is wonderful to be part of such a loving group of people!

Yours in Christ,  
Kevin McCauley  
Ray Wolff