

KOINONIA

HILLSBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER
2025**

PASTOR MESSAGE

**BEYOND THE VALLEY
A SERMON SERIES**

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

**RISE AGAINST HUNGER
MEAL PACKING EVENT**

WELCOME FALL

Photo by: Gary Gale

WELCOME VISITORS AND NEWCOMERS

Consider being a part of what God is doing here at
Hillsboro Presbyterian Church!

Visitors and Newcomers are invited to
everything in this newsletter.

We welcome YOU in the
Name of Jesus who welcomes us!

**SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER
2025**

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CALENDAR

Birthdays

September

Chris Wesley	4
Nona Scott	7
Joanna Swanson	9
Susan Mellema	13
Dave Thomas	17
Sandy McFerran	18
Steve Dever	28
David Westerfield	30

October

Jackie Upton	3
Stephanie McVean	4
Sandy Fulk	9
Barry Thomas	15
Grace Stramel	18
Phil Kidby	19
Laura MacMillan	21
Becky Wilson	27

Anniversaries

September

Laura & Thad MacMillan	5
Nancy & Brian Johnson	12

October

Dana & Gary Gale	8
Aimee & Jameson Dolan	22

PASTOR MESSAGE

Rev. Rachel Guevara

I recently visited a parishioner in one of the local facilities, and as I arrived, I realized there were Covid warnings all over the front doors. Upon entry, the staff had all donned N-95 masks, and various warnings were posted on doors for those patients who were sick with this virus we are now all-too familiar with. I was struck immediately by memories of the pandemic. I served as a hospital chaplain early in the pandemic, after my church had closed for what would be one year. Later – still identified as “the pandemic” – I served hospice patients. I have many memories of staff’s fears, of patients who died, and of course of the personal and family impact this all was, including upon churches like this one.

This is grief, isn’t it? We so often think of “grief” as just sadness when someone we love passes away. But it sure is more complicated than that. I know my own body, mind, and spirit hold tremendous grief from the pandemic that I will carry for a long time and still find difficult to talk about. As I walked through this facility, I remembered one of the important tasks of the grief process is to integrate that loss with what our lives are now. We never go back to how things once were – before we lost our loved one, for example. While their death becomes a landmark or a “before and after” for us, this loss will forever be part of our lives, and our lives will be different. There are a number of ways to remember our loved one or to breathe in what is new (which God promises), while still holding on to what was lost.

Grief is an epidemic. These days, we are all grieving, all the time. In my sermon series this month, we will consider the issue of grief and hopefully find ourselves “Beyond the Valley.” There are some other special events coming up I want to highlight:

- We are launching a grief support group in early October. Please read the accompanying article to find out more! This is a tremendous opportunity for us to receive support – whatever your loss is – and to invite someone (the community is welcome) who needs that support. I guarantee you know someone who is grieving.
- September 7th in worship we have a special announcement, as we welcome a “Ministry Intern” to HPC, who has a great desire to grow in our ministry to babies and children. We will also pray for our children as they begin school.
- I will be taking Study Leave September 9th to the 13th. I am available for emergencies but look forward to a time of study and devotion.
- September 14th is New Members and Baptism Sunday! It is also Birthday Sunday!

PASTOR’S MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- September 21st Youth Group begins! Please see the information in this newsletter.
- As I will be preaching in October on stewardship and living out our lives in a whole-hearted way with Jesus Christ, our stewardship elder, Dana Gale, will bring us some information and encouragement on September 28th.
- World Communion takes place on Sunday, October 5th. We have a special service and fellowship time planned for that day, and you won't want to miss it.

The season is changing, and we are transitioning to fall. As you experience grief and anxiety, or uncertainty, know God is good. Know God is always good all the time. And know you are known, seen, and loved by Our Creator!

In Christ,
Pastor Rachel

Finding Healing Together "Agape" Grief Group: A New Grief Support Group at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church

"Life is full of questions and pain."



These words echo the heart of what many of us experience in times of loss. In moments of grief, we ask hard questions—Where is God? Why am I suffering? How do I find peace? These questions don't often need answers as much as they need a listening heart.

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church is excited to explore a new opportunity in partnership with Agape Hospice: the start of an **in-person grief support group** right here in our church, open to the community and of course all those who attend HPC.

The goal of this group is to provide a safe, welcoming space for anyone navigating loss of a loved one, spouse, friend — whether recent or long past. Together, we will seek healing, not through easy answers, but through presence, compassion, and community.

We hope you'll consider joining us—or inviting someone who might benefit—as we walk this sacred path together.

This group begins in October, and we will meet the **First and Third Thursdays of the month. Join us in the Green Room from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, for fellowship, light refreshments, and mutual support. We begin on October 2nd.**

One time registration is required – please phone the church office at 503-648-5660, or register online.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September



Sun	7th	Rev. Rachel Guevara Beyond the Valley: From Loss to Life
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Sun	14th	Rev. Rachel Guevara Beyond the Valley: From Guilt to Grace
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Sun	21st	Rev. Rachel Guevara Beyond the Valley: From Anger to Ease
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Sun	28th	Rev. Rachel Guevara Beyond the Valley: From Fear to Future
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October

Sun	5th	Rev. Rachel Guevara World Communion Sunday
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Sun	12th	Rev. Rachel Guevara Wholehearted (a series on Malachi) Only the Best Will Do
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Sun	19th	Rev. Rachel Guevara Wholehearted (a series on Malachi) Open Hands and Hearts
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Sun	26th	Rev. Rachel Guevara Wholehearted (a series on Malachi) With Trust and Thanksgiving
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Find Us on Social Media and the Web!

You may have noticed we are updating our profile online, recognizing those who look for a church to visit often look online first! We appreciate your help as you familiarize yourself with some of what we have updated and have to offer. These are resources for you and for your family or friends.

HPC Website

<https://hillsboropres.org/> Did you know you can find our online service at the top of our website? You are able to watch it live here and also connect to our channel on YouTube this way, where past services are listed. Pastor Rachel has a blog on this website, and we are refreshing many pages, including new info about our worship services and what we believe, as well as a page pointing to our ministries. Thank you for your patience as we get it all fixed up! And thank you to the website team, who updates it. We appreciate you!

HPC Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/HillsboroPresbyterianChurch> If you have a Facebook account, be sure to connect with us. This is a public page and it is now updated regularly. (The account which only reads "Hillsboro Presbyterian" is not public and is not updated regularly.) Check out our Facebook at the web address above, as this is just one way visitors will find us. This is not, of course, for private or internal communications like prayer requests. You can also review our church on Facebook, and we would appreciate it as the reviews there are very dated. Look toward the top of the public profile - Hillsboro Presbyterian Church - and click on "reviews."

HPC Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/hillsboro_presbyterian_church/ Our HPC Instagram account is also back up and running and is updated regularly. "Follow" us there if you are on Instagram.

HPC Youth Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/hillsboro_presbyterian_youth/ We also have an Instagram page for our youth group, and if you have an account, you are welcome to connect with us there.

MISSIONS NEWS

by Jill Appel

In **October**, we will join Old Scotch and Bethany Presbyterian to pack 20,000 meals for **Rise Against Hunger**—an organization dedicated to providing shelf-stable meal packets to those in need around the world.

Last January, devastating wildfires swept through Los Angeles County, reducing entire neighborhoods to ashes and displacing hundreds of thousands of people. Rise

was there, delivering essential over-the-counter medications, hygiene kits, bottled water, and rehydration supplies to help affected families.

Beyond disaster relief in the U.S., Rise is also making a global impact in Africa and Central America. They work to ensure children have access to nutritious meals and equip communities with the tools and resources to plant sustainable community gardens, fostering long-term food security.

Join us Saturday, October 4th at Bethany Presbyterian for this meaningful Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event and be part of the effort to fight hunger at home and abroad.

Next Mission Committee Meeting, Sunday, September 7th after service. We will discuss November's Service Sunday. Come with your ideas.



 **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**
September 7 - October 5, 2025

Peace & Global Witness

Support peacemaking, reconciliation, and global witness.



making dinner & making a difference for at risk youth

Looking Ahead

Thursday, November 6th, we will be making dinner for HomePlate.

HOME PLATE
Youth Services

CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

At HPC, we joyfully dedicate 10% of all undesignated income to support missions around the world. Beyond financial giving, we are committed to making a difference through in-kind donations and hands-on service, living out our mission to bless others and spread hope.



"WE ARE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS, CALLED TO LOVE AND SERVE THOSE IN NEED."

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

by Dana Gale

For our first get together, we met on July 26th at Sue Dever's house. It was a great time of fellowship and eating yummy food.

Did you know that several women were majorettes in their youth? And did you also know several women have martial arts skills? We are uniquely designed by God and each of us is amazing!

Mark your calendar for Saturday Oct. 11th at 9 a.m.

We will meet at HPC in the Fellowship Hall for a Continental Breakfast potluck. Bring a favorite dish to share - baked goods, fruit, or...? It should be something that doesn't need to be heated. We will have coffee and tea.

Please wear your favorite hat. We'll be talking about the different hats we wear as women of God.

We'll have a short meeting to discuss the future and direction of this group. Things to think about before we gather:

How often would you like to meet? (monthly, quarterly, etc.)

What day and time would work best for you?

Would you like to have a Bible study or book to discuss?

Would you like to have each meeting have a new topic?

Other ideas?

Please talk to Chris Wesley, Sue Dever, or Dana Gale if you have suggestions or questions.

We will see you on October 11th!



YOUTH GROUP

HPC Youth - Yep We're Back!

Middle school and high school students are invited to join us at Youth Group, which begins Sunday, September 21st at 6:00 pm! Join us until 7:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month! Friends are always welcome. Our theme for the first night is "The Frito is my Friend," and while we don't know really what that means, we do like Fritos and are open to learning through the most random experiences. 😊

Check out the schedule below and more details:

Sunday, September 21st - 6-7:30 pm Youth Group, The Frito is My Friend

Sunday, October 5th - 6-7:30 pm Youth Group

Sunday, October 19th - 5:00 pm Youth Group trip to the Corn Maze!

Stay tuned for more details.

Help is needed to provide snacks for youth group for our regular meeting nights. A new sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall.



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

by Elaine Baker

Fellowship Commission has a new name:

Fellowship and Outreach. We are coming full circle – we heard this was the name back in the day.

We had a wonderful Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 24 after worship. Thanks to the Johnson kiddos who served ice cream! And to those who encouraged and waved to neighbors, brought equipment, etc. It was fun seeing HPC friends and family in addition to our “regulars”.

We have wonderful times of fellowship in our meetings. Our last meeting was a reminder of how HPC reaches out and prays for others we don't always see in the sanctuary or fellowship hall – folks online, friends, family, millennials (and more) who attended youth group growing up. The arms of HPC reach farther than we realize.

Upcoming events:

– **World Communion Sunday:**

October 5. We will celebrate during Fellowship with breads of the world. Bring your favorite unique bread or one celebrating your heritage.



– **Annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale:**

Saturday October 25. Sue reports that vendor booths are sold out! See Nancy if you have questions about bringing your baked items for the “sale” (donations will be accepted for baked goodies).

Events on the horizon:

– We aim to have a Blessing of the Animals outreach event. Please reach out to Elaine or Nancy if you are interested in helping to plan or volunteer for this future event.

DEACONS' BEACON

by Jacquie Hrrison

Autumn is soon approaching as summer is coming to an end. Children are going back to school and our prayers go with them for a fun and productive school year. With summer ending for the grown-ups as well, this is when we get back to a routine of bible study and reconnection with our neighbors and friends here at HPC. Be sure to check in with those who you may not have seen or talked with for a while. We have a few HPC friends who are returning, as they can, to Sunday service and it is so wonderful to see them. Some are still not able to be in service personally but are watching online. They appreciate the weekly waves and smiles they see on the camera.

We have lost a few good friends this summer but we can rejoice that Jesus greeted them with open arms. We can rest assured that heaven is a wonderful place and we can smile when we remember these lovely people. The Deacons are here for you as a vessel for God's grace and love. We will be checking on you periodically in many ways - during fellowship time or reaching out in other ways - and offering our support as you need or want it. May God bless each and every one of you and bring you peace. And enjoy the upcoming change of the season. Life is change; change is life. God is with you every step of the way.

DEACONS
LEADING THROUGH SERVING

Children's
TIME



WORSHIP

by Nona Scott

As a public school teacher, this time of year meant a time of reflection and preparation. A time of anticipation. What would these new students bring to my life. What would I bring to their lives? Would I be adequately prepared, would they be adequately prepared?

The church in the fall is rather like the beginning of the school year. The Choir is beginning rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 3 at 6:45 pm.** If you have wondered about joining the choir, please come join us in preparing to share our gifts with the congregation as we worship in song. The Praise Band is preparing for the next sermon series. The Pastor is preparing her sermons leading to Advent and Christmas. The sound team continues to tweak the electronics so we can hear and see the essential parts of the service, both in the sanctuary and online. The ushers meet us at the door, make sure the sanctuary is prepared for service and then clean up after the service. Some members prepare the elements of communion and others participate as Worship Assistants. All of the above are separate parts of what makes our Sunday Service special. Now all is ready for the most important part: members of the congregation; worshipping, praying, singing...then fellowshiping.

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR AS MANY SUNDAY SERVICES AS YOU ARE ABLE!

EDUCATION

by Rick Harrison

BIBLE STUDY & CONVERSATION

Beginning on **Sunday, September 7th**, we will be offering a Bible Study that will track along with Pastor Rachel's Sermons. Pastor Rachel, Todd Guevara and I will be providing topical exploration of the Scriptures presented and also some questions for you to think about. With the urging of the Holy Spirit, you may want to ask more questions about the topics presented each week. The Sermons are regarding **"Grief and Hope in Jesus Christ."**

PLEASE NOTE: We will meet at **9:00 AM** on Sunday Mornings from now on. There will be no 11:30 am Bible Study.

We are excited to do this... It is good conversation and opportunities for further knowing each other. The first Sunday Sermon is "Beyond the Valley - from Loss to Life." You may, if you choose, read all of Psalm 13 and John 11:38-44.

PROPERTY

by Steve Dever

Property Active Project Status of as of 23-Aug-2025

A BIG THANK YOU to those who have made Donations and volunteered to help complete these projects.



1. **Parking Lot Resealing and Restriping.** Completed 17-18 July-2025 - at a cost of \$9,756.00 Work done by EAGLE PAVING & CONSTRUCTION.

2. **Tree Trimming** - this is for safety of property and personal. Completed 28-July-2025 Work done by Quality Tree Service & Landscape Maint. LLC



3. **Inside Painting** -
HPC members will start painting in October.
The Ed Wing Yellow, Green, Blue Class rooms and the Office.
The Fellowship Hall will be painted in November by Itech Painters.

4. **Replace Chancel Spotlight system:**
Replacement is scheduled for early September; the cost will be around \$12,000. A donation has been made to cover the full cost of the replacement. Work to be done by Mike's Electric

SACRED STEWARDS

by Dana Gale

We have reached the time of year when Session starts to prepare the budget for the next year. There will be more information coming with the start of the annual Stewardship campaign. Please be in prayer to learn how God would have you give for 2026.

As a reminder, we have some people in our congregation who contribute to the church using their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their IRA.

At age 73, the IRS requires a person to take a certain amount of money out of their IRA. There's a formula for figuring out how much money a person would actually need to take each year.

The money that is removed from the IRA is taxed as ordinary income on an individual's tax return. One way to not be taxed on this money is to have it sent directly to a charitable organization, like HPC. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). If you want further information about QCDs, how they work, and how they may benefit both you and the church, I recommend you speak to your tax preparer or your financial advisor.

Disclaimer: This topic is to give basic information only. I am not an expert, and I am not trying to advise anyone on what they should or shouldn't do regarding their finances.

This is where we are financially as of the end of July. Income includes pledges, offerings,

building use income, interest income, and designated income.



	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$159,959	\$124,431	\$35,528
Total Expense	<u>\$113,948</u>	<u>\$117,827</u>	<u>\$ -3,879</u>
Net Income	\$46,011	\$ 6,604	\$23,086

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 3rd
Choir starts, 6:45pm

Saturday, September 6th
50 & Under BBQ 2pm

Saturday, September 14th
Birthday Sunday, Baptism,
New Members

Monday, September 15th
Blodd Drive, 6-8pm

Tuesday, September 16th
Ladies Bunko 1pm
Session Meeting 7pm

Sunday, September 21st
Fellowship Lunch
Youth Group 6-7:30pm

Monday, September 29th
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30-6pm

Thursday, October 2nd
Agape Grief Group, 1:30pm

Saturday, October 4th
Rise Against Hunger
Bethany Presbyterian, 10am

Sunday, October 5th
Youth Group, 6-7:30pm

Saturday, October 11th
Women's Ministry 9am

Tuesday, October 14th
Men's Group Pizza Night 6pm

Thursday, October 2nd
Agape Grief Group, 1:30pm

Sunday, October 19th
Fellowship Lunch
Youth Group Corn Maze

Tuesday, October 21st
Ladies Bunko 1pm
Session Meeting 7pm

Saturday, October 25th
Craft Fair 9am-3pm

Thursday, November 6th
Making Dinner for HomePlate
4-8pm

HPC ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available and ready to use for your convenience!

There are several ways you can donate online:

- 1. Download the free "Vanco Mobile" app on your iPhone or Android
- 2. Scan the QR code to the right.
- 3. Go to our website; www.hillsboropres.org and click on the "donate now" button.



You can set up a profile so it is easier each time you log in to give, or you can donate as a guest user each time. Donations can be from a checking/savings account, or a bank card.

We hope the option of donating online helps many of us who don't carry checks or cash every day, but still want to financially support HPC.

1. We don't "pass the plate" any longer, but we have a box inside the doors as you enter the sanctuary and you may place your donation there on Sunday.

2. You may set up a regular "bill-pay" through your bank that will automatically send a check to the church.

3. You can use our online giving "Vanco" and set up a regular payment with your credit card or with your bank account.

4. You may set up an automatic RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) or other automatic payment from your retirement account.



Men's Group

Pizza Night

Tuesday, October 14th, 6pm

For more information contact Todd Guevara


Third Sunday Brunch.



If you would like to join us on the **3rd Sunday** for a meal out, contact Donna.

SEPTEMBER

HPC Calendar - 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	2 4:30 Praise Team	3 6:45 Choir	4 8pm AA	5	6 50 & Under Group BBQ 2pm
^B 10am Worship Communion 9am Bible Study 11am Mission Committee Meeting 1-5pm IJC	8 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	9 4:30 Praise Team	10 6:45 Choir	11 8pm AA	12 6-8pm IJC	13
¹⁴ 10am Worship New Members & Baptism 9am Bible Study Birthday Sunday 1-2pm IJC	¹⁵  Blood Drive 1:30-6pm 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	¹⁶ 1pm Ladies Bunko 4:30 Praise Team 7 pm Session	¹⁷ 6:45 Choir	¹⁸ 8pm AA	¹⁹ 6-8pm IJC	²⁰ Pat Ehresmann Memorial 1pm
²¹ 10am Worship 11:30 Deacons' 9am Bible Study 3rd Sunday Brunch 1-2pm IJC 6-7:30 pm Youth Group	²² 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	²³ 4:30 Praise Team	²⁴ 6:45 Choir	²⁵ 8pm AA	²⁶ 6-8pm IJC	²⁷
²⁸ 10am Worship 9am Bible Study 1-2pm IJC	²⁹ 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	³⁰ 4:30 Praise Team				



HPC Calendar - 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 6:45 Choir	2 Agape Grief Group 1:30-3 pm 8pm AA	3 6-8pm IJC	4 9:30 am Rise Against Hunger Packing Event at Bethany Presbyterian
5 10am Worship Communion 9am Bible Study 1-5pm IJC 6-7:30 pm Youth Group	6 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	7 4:30 Praise Team	8 6:45 Choir	9 8pm AA	10 6-8pm IJC	11 Women's Breakfast 9 am
12 10am Worship Birthday Sunday 9am Bible Study 1-2pm IJC	13 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	14 4:30 Praise Team Men's Group Pizza Night 6pm HPC	15 6:45 Choir	16 Agape Grief Group 1:30-3 pm 8pm AA	17 6-8pm IJC	18
19 10am Worship 11:30 Deacons' 3rd Sunday Brunch 9am Bible Study 1-2pm IJC 4-8:30 pm Youth Group Corn Maze	20 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	21 1pm Ladies Bunko 4:30 Praise Team 7 pm Session	22 6:45 Choir	23 8pm AA	24 Craft Fair Set Up 6-8pm IJC	25 Craft Fair 9am-3pm
26 10am Worship 9am Bible Study 1-pm IJC	27 6-8pm IJC 8pm AA	28 4:30 Praise Team	29 6:45 Choir	30 8pm AA	31	

Worship: Sunday, 10am In-person and Live Streamed

Rev. Rachel Guevara
Nancy Johnson
Laura Cunard
Nona Scott
Donald Scott

Pastor
Office Assistant
Worship Music Leader
Choir Director
Custodian

Deacons:
A-E Tammy McVean
F-K Sue Dever
L-Q Nancy Johnson
R-S Dennis Baker
T-Z Jacquie Harrison

Session:

Jill Appel
Dana Gale
Rick Harrison
Nona Scott
Steve Dever
Elaine Baker
Sandy McFerran
Gary Gale

Missions
Stewardship
Education/Discipleship
Worship
Property
Fellowship/Events
Operations
Clerk of Session



503-648-5660



OfficeAssistant@hillsboropres.org

*The Vision of HPC is for all to EXPERIENCE that
GOD is able to do MORE by His Spirit at work within us.*

Therefore:

Our Mission is to continue to build

A CARING, CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY that is excited to -

KNOW Jesus

GROW Spiritually &

SHOW God's love

...all for His glory and purpose.

Ministers: The Members

"God is able"

Ephesians 3:20



Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday; 9:00-12:30 pm

Thank you for reading!

HILLSBORO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	503-648-5660
www.hillsboropres.org	172 NE 32nd Ave Hillsboro, OR 97124