

From the Pastor...

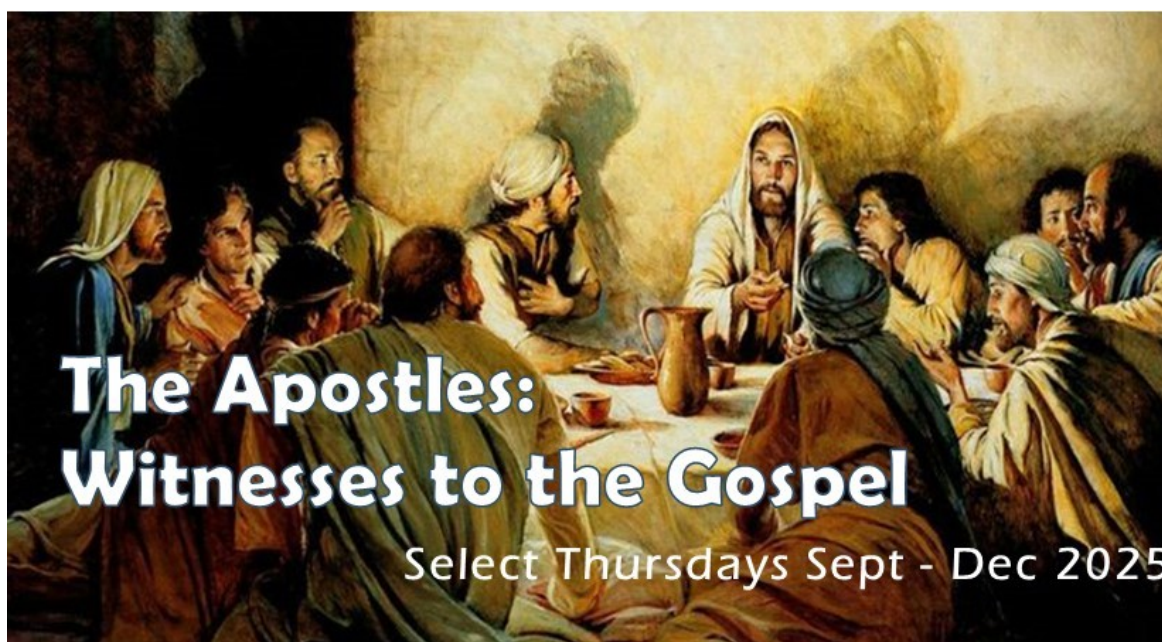
Mid Aug - Sept 2025 Newsletter

The end of summer is near. I can tell by the way activities have suddenly increased at our house, the number of school supplies sitting around waiting to be packed up and loaded into lockers at school, and of course, the kids starting to find ways to milk every last minute out of their break as possible.

It also means that here at the church things shift a bit too. We'll keep Bible Study going as we have throughout the summer, but we'll also start our adult education series. Over the past few years, we've developed a pattern of having adult education time on the First and Third Thursdays at 1:30 pm. This time is a chance to delve a little deeper into specific topics and ideas that we can use in growing our faith.

This fall we will be looking at the Apostles, their lives, the Biblical witness to them, and what tradition has claimed about them. Over the six sessions (September 18, October 2 & 16, November 6 & 20, and December 4) we will look at what it meant to be an apostle, how they came into that role, what they did that helped to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior, and how we might be able to learn from them and follow their example.

...continued



At our first gathering on September 18th, we will discuss what it means to be an apostle, who is called an apostle in Scripture, and use one of the lesser-known disciples as an example. In the following gatherings, we will examine two or three of the apostles and see their unique witness. Please join us in person, on our YouTube channel, or Channel 966 in Dixon Hollow. You do not need to attend worship at Living Hope in order to participate. You also don't have to attend all of the classes either. In the event that you are unable to make one of the classes, they will be recorded and available on the church's YouTube channel so you can go back and watch it at your leisure.

I hope that you will join us for our Fall Adult Education Series, Apostles: Witnesses to the Gospel.

In Christ,



18-Sep	Introduction and Simon the Zealot
2-Oct	Simon Peter (Cephas) and Andrew
16-Oct	James and John, Sons of Zebedee
6-Nov	Philip, Bartholomew (Nathanael), and Thomas (Didymus)
20-Nov	Matthew (Levi), James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus (Lebbaeus, Judas not Iscariot)
4-Dec	Judas Iscariot, Matthias, and Paul

Coming Soon for Special Offerings

The 226th General Assembly (2024) approved several changes to the churchwide Special Offerings to take effect January 1, 2026. We will be moving from 4 special offerings to three. The Pentecost offering has been split between the other three. With this change, we also will not be directing a portion of the funds to a local ministry (Pentecost and Peace and Global Witness.)



Next Year's Three Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing — Offering season Feb. 18–April 5, 2026

Traditionally received on Palm Sunday or Easter

Causes supported: disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, immigration, migration and refugees

World Communion Offering — Offering season Sept. 6–Oct. 4, 2026

Traditionally received on World Communion Sunday - first Sunday in Oct.

Causes supported: racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith relations

As part of this Offering, a grant program is being created that allows any council of the PC(USA) — session, presbytery or synod regardless of participation in the World Communion Offering — to apply for funds to support their own efforts to do ministry around these cause areas.

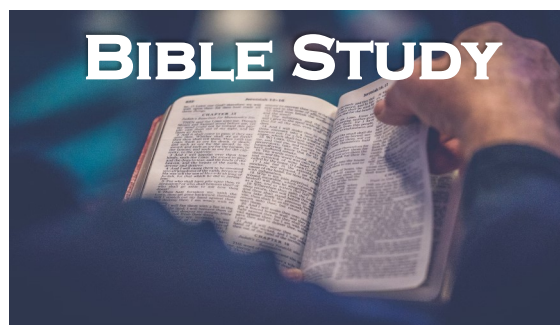
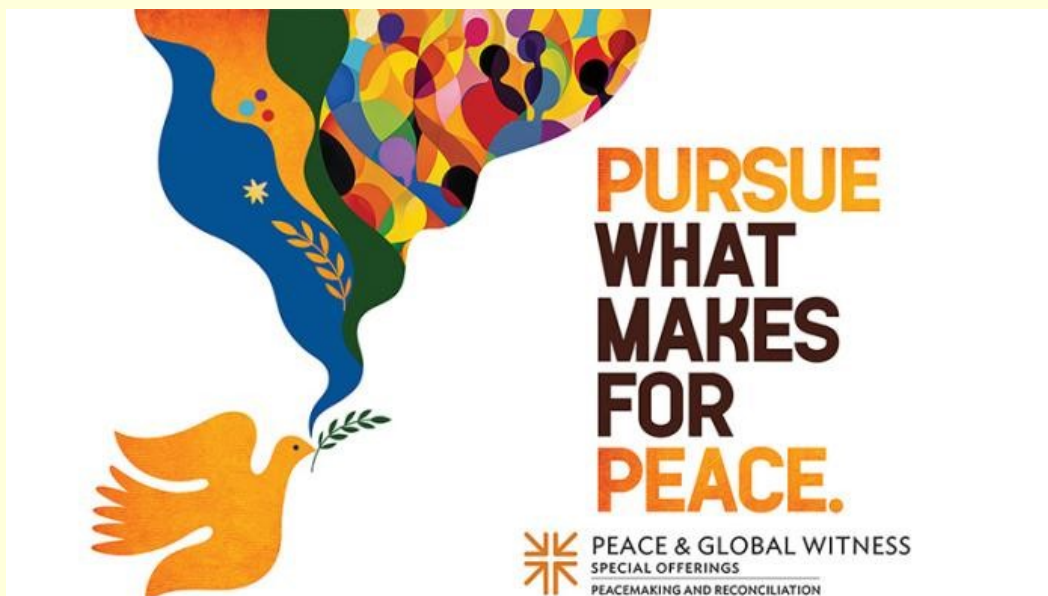
Christmas Joy Offering — Offering season Nov. 29–Dec. 19, 2026

Traditionally received on the fourth Sunday of Advent or Christmas Eve

Causes supported: children-at-risk, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, servants of the Church in need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

Living Hope will collect this offering on Sunday, October 5 - World Communion Sunday.



Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:45 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966.

Sept 1	No Bible Study - Labor Day	
Sept 8	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Luke 15:1-10	for Sept 14
Sept 15	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Luke 16:1-13	for Sept 21
Sept 22	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Luke 16:19-31	for Sept 28
Sept 29	Jeremiah 31:27-34; Luke 17:5-10	for Oct 5



We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

August Prayer Calendar

September Prayer Calendar

AUGUST/SEPT 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
17 10 AM Worship 11 AM Coffee Hour 	18 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	19	20 Office hours	21	22	23
24 10 AM Worship	25 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	Will is on vacation Tues 26- Fri 29. Please call his cell. Lisa is on vacation Tues 26 - Mon Sept 1.				
31 10 AM Worship	1 Sept Office Closed	2 	Fall Office Hours Mondays and Thursday 8:30-12:30			6
7 10 AM Worship with Communion 	8 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	9 Home Communion	10	11	12	13
14 10 AM Worship 11:10 AM Deacon Meeting	15 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	16	17	18 1:30 pm Apostles Study	19	20
21 10 AM Worship 11:10 AM Session	22 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 AM Worship	29 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	30	1 Oct	2 1:30 pm Apostles Study	Peace and Global Witness Offering - Oct 5.	



Average June 22 - July Attendance

In person: 33
Zoom/livestream: 8
 Total Average Attendance: 41

Anniversary Wishes to:

The Care and Concern of the Congregation is with:

Did we miss your birthday
 or anniversary? Please let the office know so we
 can update our files.

FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of July 31, 2025									
					Actual		Budget		Fav/(Unfav) Variance
Total Income - YTD					\$112,209.13		\$ 76,615.00		\$ 35,594.13
Total Expense - YTD					\$104,210.08		\$ 108,682.00		\$ 4,471.92
Net Income - YTD July 31, 2025					\$ 7,999.05		\$ (32,067.00)		\$ 40,066.05
Unrestricted Funds as of July 31, 2025					\$344,673.80				

Communion Bread Update

Starting in September, Living Hope is going to experiment with going gluten-free at communion. Before COVID, we had a gluten free option for people taking communion by intinction. After COVID, we made changes and adjusted how we did communion and also dropped the option for gluten-free bread. Now, in an effort to be inclusive of folks with gluten intolerance, the Worship Committee has decided to try using only gluten-free for distribution at communion. We will evaluate it over the next few months and see if this is something that we want to continue or if we need to find a different option.

Please let us know your thoughts after trying the new bread.



Food Pantry Sundays

Sept 7 Oct 5 Nov 2

Our food pantry collection bin is now inside the church office hallway. You can give a monetary donation any Sunday. Thank you!

LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2025 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2025 Deacons: (A-D) Ann Tennyson
(M-R) Karen Stephan -Co-Moderator

(F-H) Ken DeBoer
(S-T) Martin Gahle

(I-L) Cherie Andrus – Co-Moderator, Secretary
(V-Y) Jan Isbister At Large - Kathy Mathews