
HOPE HEADLINES

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Name-calling in Church

Many of you have asked me how I'd like to be addressed: Pastor Ruth?

Reverend

Ruth? Rev?

Ruth? Ruthie?

Or as is noted in this adorable card from a little one—Paster Ruth.

My answer often depends on my mood or setting. In general, please feel free to address me as Ruth—no title necessary. And if addressing me as Pastor Ruth is important to you—and I know that is the case with some people—please feel free. Some women have told me that they never thought they'd see the day when their pastor was female, so by golly, they are going to use a title and proudly!

I'm less fond of being addressed as "kiddo," "sweetie," or "Babe Ruth" (which has not happened at Hope). When and if addressed like that, I used to come back with, "that's Reverend Kiddo to you, thank you very much." As I get older, however, I hope to be more direct and state what I am and am not comfortable with.

We can all think of names we've been called—some we like and some we don't like—some we choose and some we would never have chosen. And as I navigate this new place and learn new names, I hope I have the wherewithal to ask you how you prefer to be addressed. Let's all feel free to speak up about our preferences and be at the ready to respect said preferences.

As for my name Ruth, I'm thrilled there are now two of us at Hope! Neither Ruthie Goering nor I are used to having another Ruth(ie) in such proximity at church. My blood pressure has already spiked when seeing Ruthie as accompanist in the bulletin. I haven't dedicated a baby named Ruth, yet, although I hear the name Ruth is having a bit of a comeback.

I'll end with a poem that I learned from Maggie and Suzzy Roche. They sing these words on their album Zero Church...



Each of us has name
given by God
given by our parents

Each of us has a name
given by our stature and our smile
given by what we wear

Each of us has a name
given by the mountains
given by our walls

Each of us has a name
given by the stars
given by our neighbors

Each of us has a name
given by our sins
given by our longing

Each of us has a name
given by our enemies
given by our love

Each of us has a name
given by our celebrations
given by our work

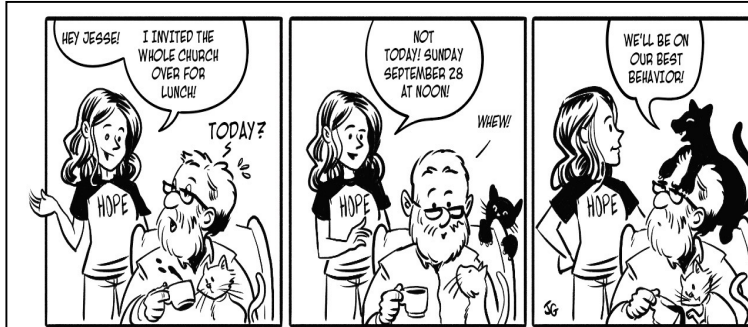
Each of us has a name
given by the seasons
given by our blindness

Each of us has a name
given by the sea
given by our death

Excerpted from *The Book of Blessings: New Jewish Prayers for Daily Life, the Sabbath, and the New Moon Festival* (Harper, 1996; Beacon, 1999).

P.S. Jesse's grandpa Ransom was the only one that I have ever allowed to call me Pumpkin. And still to this day, I like to give out Baby Ruth bars on my birthday in September, just like my parents did the day I was born. 💎🍬]
...Ruth Harder

"Each Of Us Has A Name"



An invitation from Pastor Ruth and her husband Jesse: As we put away the last of the moving boxes, it's time for an open house and noon lunch at our house/yard in Indian Hills. For now, save the date (with details to come soon)—noon hour Sunday, September 28.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY – Fall signup

The purpose of small groups at Hope is to gather in a smaller setting for deeper relationships, fellowship, and/or study. Now is the opportunity for new possibilities for small groups. Everyone is invited to consider participating. Options include:

- *I am interested in beginning a relationship with a small group.
- *I would like to continue with my current small group.
- * I am currently part of a small group but are interested in a new group.
- * I am not interested in a small group at this time.



If you are interested in a new small group, there is additional information you can share, including preference of a study group, social/fellowship group; other.

Look for the forms soon.

On Sunday, September 7 you are invited to a reception following the church service to honor the dedications of Charlotte Kaufman, Emberlyn Stucky, and Cason Sechrist. Please join in the joy of celebrating their births and dedications to our Lord, and their presence in our Hope Church family!

Showing God's Love

By Ryan Henneberg

I've been trying to get back into my routine of spending some time with God to start my day. For a while, I had been journaling the Verse of the Day from YouVersion and BibleGateway, but got out of this practice a couple of months ago. This morning, I sat down with my cup of coffee and opened my YouVersion Bible app.

He loves righteousness and justice; the Lord's faithful love fills the whole earth.

Psalm 33:5 (CEB)

This seems like a perfect verse for a skeptic to use in order to argue the exact opposite of what the Psalmist has written. "Why do bad things happen to good people" is at the top of many people's list of issues they have with the idea of God being a God of love, grace and peace. All it takes is a quick perusal of headlines on your phone or tuning into the nightly news (does anyone still do this?) to realize that our world has problems. Where is God's righteousness and justice found in the midst of the anger, oppression, conflict and violence that surrounds us?

How can we understand, let alone agree and celebrate, the notion that "the Lord's faithful love fills the whole earth"? It would seem more appropriate to declare "humanity's despicable thoughts, beliefs and actions infect the whole world". How is God's faithful love filling the world?

The answer to the question, "Where is God's righteousness and justice?" is "Right Here". God can be found in all of us. The Christian tradition holds that once we have experienced the loving grace offered through the substitutionary death of Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. Beneath that experience, though, is the underlying foundation that the Bible teaches that we, humans, are created in the image of God. Aspects of God's character, such as his love for righteousness and justice, are found in each of us. Circumstance and choice may make it more difficult for this love to be seen; however, the lack of evidence does not equate to absence.

We can answer the second question, "How is God's faithful love filling the world?" by stating "In Us". It is not just believers, who have an active relationship (or even a relationship on the slide, as I have recently experienced) with the Holy Spirit, who are made in God's image. It is ALL people (even the bad guys!). I am going to go out on a limb and say that all people have the ability to feel and show love, even if it is hidden, truncated or neglected, because we are all made in God's image. It is humanity's presence, throughout the world, that brings at least a bit of God's love to creation.

As we, who have been called by His name, go about our daily tasks, let us work in a way that demonstrates God's love to the world, and demonstrates our, and His, love for righteousness and justice.



Fall Choir

You are invited to join the Hope choir...whether you have sung with us before, taken a

break, or wish to dust off your vocal cords...you are welcome. We rehearse 3 times a month and sing one Sunday a month. If you can't make all of the rehearsals, that is just fine. Our director, Trae Gehring, knows that not everyone can be at every rehearsal. Come as you are able. If you have questions, please contact Cynthia Loganbill, the choir liaison.

Here is the fall schedule:

Rehearsals

September 3,10

SING – September 14.

Rehearsals

September 17(?),24

October 1,8

SING October 12-40th anniversary

Rehearsals

October 29

November 5 & 12

SING - November 16

Rehearsals

December 3,10,17

SING - December 21



Witness and Outreach Commission

--Did you know???

In January 2025, Witness and Outreach was given \$7,500 from the 2024 budget surplus. Those funds have now been distributed to the following agencies (\$1,500

to each one)—each of these agencies have some connection to Hope Mennonite Church attendees--

--Simply Hygiene-Wichita (written about in the April Hope Headlines)

--Recovery Hub- Wichita

(<https://www.wichitarecoveryhub.org/>)

--MCUSA-Executive Board (written about in the August Hope Headlines)

--Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church in Oklahoma (written about in the August Hope Headlines)

--ICT Street Team—Wichita --a local organization that, among other services, provides free medical care/medications to unhoused and insurance-less persons--there are also options for specialty care referrals when needed—there are 3 weekly street clinics and also staffing at Open Door and the MAC (Second Light) Center several

mornings a week (<https://nursesglobaloutreach.org/ict-street-team/>) or on Facebook(ICT Street Team)

Recycling opportunities at Mennonite Central

Committee in North Newton, KS! MCC accepts the



following materials for recycling, cardboard, books, and paper. We also recycle soft plastics (any plastic packaging that you can stretch with your finger, including Amazon mailers and bubble wrap). We also accept and

process wearable clothing, shoes and purses/bags.

However, it is best to donate those items to an Et Cetera Shop first, if possible. When you arrive at MCC, follow the signs toward the warehouse and you'll find bins outside under the covered roof for each recyclable item. MCC is located at 121 E. 30th Street in North Newton, questions can be directed to duaneunruh@mcc.org or 316.283.2720.

EMFs – electromagnetic fields

Over 230 scientists and 40 countries have expressed

serious concerns regarding the increased exposure to EMFs – electromagnetic fields– generated by electric and wireless devices. Exposure is virtually unavoidable in our world today, so protecting yourself as much as possible is essential.

Physical effects include increased cancer risk, accelerated aging, genetic changes, fertility issues, and neurological/brain disorders. Children are particularly vulnerable. Damage goes beyond humans to plant life and animals.

Sources include Wi-Fi, TV, cell phones, appliances, utility meters, Bluetooth, security systems and other smart devices, electric cars, gaming stations, baby monitors, and LED lights.

Some very basic ways to protect yourself are to limit screen time, increase the distance from the device (use the speaker mode instead of holding the phone to your ear and lay the I-pad or laptop on a pillow instead of your lap), disable the Wi Fi when not needed, put phone on airplane mode when not in use, and keep all electronics out of the bedroom. Diets rich in antioxidants, chlorophyll, and magnesium can help mitigate damage to the body. More extensive information on avoidance and mitigation can be found at mercola.com, Dr. Wendy Myers, and Dr. Dietrich Klinghardt websites. ~submitted by Annette Chlumsky



40th anniversary weekend

Plans continue to move forward as we anticipate our anniversary October 11-12.

Pastors Marvin Zehr (Jeannie), Matt Frisen (Teri), Linda Ewert (Morris), Doug Luginbill (Paula), Brett Dewey (Esther) and Carole Stevens (representing Dave) will all be here to celebrate with us. Join us on Saturday from 2-3 pm for personal stories from each pastor followed by a time of food and fellowship. On Sunday morning Hopeful Blues will begin playing at 9 and our worship service will begin at 9:30 am. Each pastor will be participating in the service. We will conclude with a catered lunch from Chipotle. Cuppa Hope will be up and running on both days, serving your choice of coffee. You will also have the opportunity to purchase one-pound bags of Hopeful Brews, a specialty coffee made especially for Hope from The Spice Merchant at the incredible price of \$20 per bag!



For September:

Worship

September 7

Worship L.-Renetta
Scripture-Ryan
Pianist-Vicki
Song L.-Galen
Prep-Connie
Tech-Scott
Host-Brenda L.

September 14

Worship L.-Lori M.
Scripture-Clinton
Pianist-Amy
Song-Trae
Prep-Lori M.
Tech-Mike V.
Host-Renetta

September 21

Worship L.-Lori M.
Scripture-Margaret
Pianist-Cynthia
Song L.-Lowell
Prep-Russ G.
Tech-Grant
Host-Kendal/Marjie

Greeters

Sept 7-Myron & Lori
Sept 14-Jan W. & Wendy
Sept 21-Travis & Charity
Sept 28-Jerold & Donna

Nursery

Sept 7-Clinton & Katie
Sept 14-Justin & Tiffany
Sept 21-Shelby & Tyler
Sept 28-Jared & Natalie

Mowing

Sept 7-Jim B.
Sept 14-Scott
Sept 21-Randy P.
Sept 28-Jerold

September 28

Worship L.-Natalie H.
Scripture-David S.
Pianist-Vicki
Song L.-Adam K.
Prep-Ruthie
Tech-Michelle
Host-Barb V.

Sanctuary Greeters

Jerold/Donna; Chris T.
Clinton & Katie
Jim & Barb
Greg & Dawn

Coffee

Cindy
Joanna
Chris B.
Scott & Connie

Memorial Garden

Aug 24-Sept 6-Connie
Sept 7-20-Joanna
Sept 21-Oct 4-Ruthie

