HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, Continued.

A weekly guide for living the message

JULY 26, 2026 | PASTOR VERN BRYANT



This Week in Scripture

LECTIONARY READING

Romans 8:26-39 (NIV)

Read the complete passage as part of this week's reflection.

SERMON TEXT

Proverbs 16:17-19 (NIV)

The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their ways preserve their lives. Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

The Message in Brief

Life is full of battles. Some battles, including the fight for justice, faithfulness, and the protection of others, are worth fighting. But Proverbs reminds us that some victories come only through surrender. Pastor Vern identifies three battles we need to lose: pride, which builds walls where God wants bridges; complacency, which dulls the urgency of our faith; and the attempt to cut God down to our size by reshaping God around our preferences. When we stop fighting to be right, release our will and our way, and choose humility, attentiveness, and trust, losing becomes the best kind of victory.

> **"The greatest victories often come through surrender."**

Questions to Carry

1. Where am I fighting to be right instead of righteous?
2. Which battle do I most need to surrender: pride, complacency, or limiting God?
3. What wall or barrier might God be asking me to replace with a bridge?

Live It This Week

Begin each day with open hands as a physical sign of surrender. Name one area you have been trying to control, then ask God to guide your response. Before the week ends, choose one specific act of humility, attentiveness, or trust.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God, we thank you for this day. We ask you, Lord, to reveal where pride, complacency, or our own expectations have taken root in our lives. Help us surrender to you, trust you more fully, and remove the barriers that keep us from walking closely with you. Lord, guide us to choose humility and to remain not only awake but active in our faith. We surrender every part of our lives to you. These things we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.