HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, Continued.

A weekly guide for living the message

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | PASTOR VERN BRYANT



This Week in Scripture

LECTIONARY READING

Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV)

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

SERMON TEXT

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Message in Brief

The Apostles' Creed begins with a declaration: "I believe in God." Pastor Vern reminds us that this means more than believing God exists; it means trusting God and building our lives upon God's character, goodness, faithfulness, and promises. Genesis begins with God as Creator - present before anything else and unchanged by the shifting world around us. Creation bears witness to God's beauty, purpose, and care. Because every person is created in God's image, every person has dignity and worth that do not depend upon achievement, appearance, possessions, or the opinions of others. Our lives and everything entrusted to us are gifts from God. Faith therefore changes how we live: we trust God when we cannot see tomorrow, care for creation, love one another, seek justice, practice lovingkindness, and remember that we are known, loved, and never alone.

> **To believe in God is to trust God with the life God has given us.**

Questions to Carry

1. Where am I acknowledging that God exists without fully trusting God with my life?
2. What changing circumstance do I need to place upon the unchanging character of God?
3. How should the God-given dignity of every person shape the way I treat someone this week?

Live It This Week

Practice the Creed. Each morning, say slowly: "I believe in God." Then name one situation you will entrust to God that day. Each evening, notice one sign of God's goodness in creation or in another person, and thank God for the gift.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God, we thank You for this day and for the gift of life. Lord, You created the heavens and the earth, and You created each of us in Your image. Help us trust You not only with our words, but with our whole lives. When the world around us changes, remind us that You remain faithful. Teach us to see Your goodness in creation, to recognize the worth of every person, and to use the gifts You have entrusted to us with love and purpose. These things we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.