HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday Meet-Up Recap

Sunday, Continued: I Believe in God

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 | GENESIS 1:1



Participants gathered online for HUMC's Monday Meet-Up to continue reflecting on Pastor Vern's first message in the Apostles' Creed series. Beginning with Genesis 1:1 and the words, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth," the group explored what this confession asks of us in daily life.

The Message Revisited

Believing in God means more than agreeing that God exists. It means trusting His character, goodness, faithfulness, and promises enough to build our lives upon them, including when tomorrow is unclear. Calling God Father speaks of a personal relationship, although the group recognized that the word can carry pain for people whose experience of an earthly father was difficult.

The Creator who gives life also gives every person inherent worth. The group's conversation connected the opening words of the Creed to the way we care for creation, treat our neighbors, and recognize God's image in people whose lives or abilities differ from our own.

> **Faith is lived when we entrust what we cannot control to the God who knows us and remains with us.**

The Stories That Shape Faith

Participants remembered how family members, spouses, church communities, and formative moments first opened the door to faith. Their paths were different, but each story showed how faith can begin through ordinary relationships and deepen into a continuing conversation with God.

They also described unexpected kindness during painful seasons - someone offering prayer at exactly the moment it was needed. Such experiences helped the group name God's presence as something they have encountered through the compassion of others.

Where the Message Met Us

The group spoke candidly about the urge to solve every problem, plan every outcome, and measure oneself against impossible standards. Pastor Vern and others reflected on moments when releasing the role of fixer made room for humility and trust. Faith does not erase responsibility; it helps us recognize which burdens are ours to carry and which outcomes we must place in God's hands.

Belief in God as Creator also shaped the discussion of stewardship. Caring for creation includes practical respect for the world we have been given. Participants widened the idea of stewardship to include our conduct, our use of gifts, and the ways we care for other people - far beyond financial giving.

The conversation then turned to human dignity. If every person bears God's image, respect must be expressed in everyday relationships. One participant emphasized that dignity includes genuine inclusion and appropriate accountability for people with disabilities, rather than pity or condescension. Even the small moment of irritation with a stranger becomes an invitation to remember their God-given worth.

Recognizing God in Hard Seasons

Members recalled times when prayer and the presence of another person brought comfort in grief or uncertainty. They also shared personal reasons for believing - signs of God's care in their own lives - while acknowledging that sincere questions about God and creation remain. The group made room for testimony and curiosity together.

Practice for the Week

TRUST AND NOTICE

Morning Say "I believe in God" slowly. Name one situation you will entrust to God today.

Evening Notice one sign of God's goodness in creation or another person, and give thanks.

After you pray, pause. Leave room to listen rather than rushing into the next task. Prayer is a conversation with God.

Community and Prayer

Before the study, the group shared joys and concerns. They gave thanks for healing in Michele's family and celebrated her daughter's birthday. They prayed for Vanessa ahead of surgery on October 8, for Mike and Val, for Michele's recovery from a hand injury, and for safety and welcome through HUMC's Pumpkin Patch ministry. Pastor Vern gathered these concerns in opening prayer.

Looking Ahead

The next Sunday, Continued conversation will focus on the next words of the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in Jesus Christ." The next Monday Meet-Up is October 5. Participants who have already registered do not need to register again.

Follow-Up

- Each morning, entrust one specific situation to God.
- Each evening, notice God's goodness and offer thanks.
- Pause after prayer and make space to listen.
- Continue praying for the concerns shared by the group.
- Join the next Monday Meet-Up for the conversation about Jesus Christ.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God - creator of Heaven, Earth, and all things - thank You for knowing us and for giving each person dignity and worth. Help us trust Your goodness when we cannot see the way ahead. Free us from the need to control every outcome, and teach us to care for Your creation and for one another with love. Lord, we want to feel Your presence, and ask you to quiet our hearts long enough to listen. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.