HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday Meet-Up Recap

Sunday, Continued: I Believe in the Holy Spirit

OCTOBER 12, 2026 | JOHN 16:13



Participants gathered online for HUMC's Monday Meet-Up to continue reflecting on Pastor Vern's Apostles' Creed series. This week's Sunday, Continued conversation focused on "I Believe in the Holy Spirit" and John 16:13. The group explored the Spirit's role as guide, comforter, and advocate, connecting spiritual discernment and growth with the ways we serve one another.

The Message Revisited

Participants described the Holy Spirit's guidance as an inner nudging or a gentle tap on the shoulder. These quiet prompts can draw attention to a situation, encourage a compassionate response, or help a believer recognize a next step. The discussion connected listening for the Spirit with the discernment needed in everyday decisions and relationships.

The group also considered the language used in worship. "Holy Spirit" was discussed as a preferred term in liturgy because "Holy Ghost" can carry negative associations with the word "ghost." The focus remained on the Spirit's presence and guidance in the life of faith.

**Make room to listen for the Spirit,
then notice where you are being invited to serve.**

Growing in Grace

Pastor Vern outlined the movement of grace in a believer's life: **prevenient grace**, at work before a person knows God; **justifying grace**, connected with accepting Christ; **sanctifying grace**, the lifelong work of spiritual growth; and **perfecting grace**, growing toward being perfect in love.

This progression helped frame maturity as continuing growth in faith and love. The conversation connected that growth with the fruit of the Spirit and the ways God's guidance becomes visible in daily life.

Where the Message Met Us

The group identified spiritual maturity through the fruit of the Spirit: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** These qualities offered a way to consider how faith is shaping a person's character and interactions with others.

Participants also discussed the **Wesleyan Quadrilateral** as a framework for discerning truth and making decisions. They named **Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience** as the four elements considered together in that process. The discussion connected this framework with the need for thoughtful discernment when responding to the Spirit's nudges.

Many Gifts, One Community

The conversation emphasized the value of diverse spiritual gifts. Leadership, greeting, and physical work such as moving pumpkins were all recognized as essential contributions. Different gifts allow people to serve in different ways, and each role contributes to the life and ministry of the church.

HUMC's Pumpkin Patch offered a concrete example of community outreach. Pastor Vern reported a record-setting Saturday and described a nudge for the church to become more active in the community. He also noted an increase in emails from people interested in joining the church. The group connected these developments with the Patch's role in welcoming neighbors and creating opportunities for connection.

Practice for the Week

LISTEN AND NOTICE

Pause Take a quiet moment each day and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Notice Pay attention to nudges toward compassion, service, or reconciliation.

Leave room to listen. Consider how a quiet nudge may connect with a person, a need, or an opportunity to serve.

Community and Prayer

The group lifted up **Nancy, Donna's sister-in-law**, who is recovering in a rehabilitation facility following unsuccessful procedures for a leaking lung. They shared encouraging updates that **Vanessa** is recovering well from surgery and **Mike** is making great progress in his recovery. These concerns and signs of healing remained part of the group's prayers.

The group also shared the personal update that Wayne Merritt had successfully traveled to Aruba.

Looking Ahead

The next session will explore the meaning of the "Holy Catholic Church" in the Apostles' Creed, including a brief overview of church history. The next Monday Meet-Up is October 19 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Participants who have already registered do not need to register again.

Follow-Up

- Take a quiet moment each day to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- Notice nudges toward compassion, service, or reconciliation.
- Consider how your gifts can contribute to the church and community.
- Continue praying for Nancy, Vanessa, and Mike.
- Join the next Monday Meet-Up for the conversation about the Holy Catholic Church.

Prayer for the Week

Gracious God, thank You for the Holy Spirit, our guide, comforter, and advocate. Quiet our hearts so we can listen, and help us recognize the gentle nudges that lead us toward compassion, service, and reconciliation. Grow Your fruit in our lives, and teach us to use our different gifts with love. Bring healing and strength to Nancy, Vanessa, and Mike. May HUMC's welcome extend into our community, and may our faith continue to grow as we follow You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.