HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday Meet-Up Recap

Sunday, Continued: The Church and Communion of Saints

OCTOBER 19, 2026 | GALATIANS 6:2



Beginning with Galatians 6:2 and the Apostles' Creed's affirmation of the holy catholic church and the communion of saints, the conversation centered on the Holy Spirit's work in everyday life. Participants explored an authentic walk with Christ: recognizing the Spirit's guidance, living faith through relationships, and allowing conversations about God to grow naturally from ordinary experiences.

The Holy Spirit in Everyday Life

Pastor Vern recalled feeling prompted to pray for a friend before learning that the friend had been hospitalized. This experience opened discussion about paying attention to the Holy Spirit's nudges to pray, reach out, or respond to another person's needs. Members reflected on how listening for the Spirit can shape both their actions and their conversations.

The group also explored spiritual gifts, including prophetic discernment, as expressions of the Holy Spirit's work. Participants distinguished this understanding from fortune-telling and reflected on God's grace when self-critical thoughts make it difficult to receive His love.

> **An authentic walk makes room for the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and our conversations.**

An Authentic Walk with Christ

Living faith authentically was a central theme. Participants emphasized the witness of a person's kindness, welcome, hope, and everyday relationships. These lived expressions of faith can invite questions and create room for honest conversation. Members were encouraged to pray for natural opportunities and trust the Holy Spirit's guidance as those opportunities arise.

The group questioned the need for a rehearsed elevator speech. Personal examples showed how ordinary conversations about hope, grief, and life's struggles can open into meaningful exchanges about God. Listening, responding honestly from one's experience, and allowing questions to unfold made sharing faith feel organic and relational.

The Church Living Its Calling

The church is holy because it belongs to God; catholic in the Creed means universal. Members described a spiritual family where people can question, learn, and find support. Keeping Christ's mission at the center calls for unity, Scripture, peacemaking, and loving accountability when the community drifts from its purpose.

The group named compassion, encouragement, small groups, and pastoral leadership among HUMC's gifts. Members recognized Dawn's relational approach to outreach and the dedication of volunteers. They considered what neighbors would miss without HUMC, including the preschool, Clothes Closet, Pumpkin Patch, Easter egg hunt, holiday services, Emmanuel Dining Room ministry, and space for AA and Al-Anon meetings.

Inclusion also shaped the discussion. Michele shared how the congregation embraces her daughter and raised interest in a dedicated ministry for people with disabilities. The conversation invited members to consider both the welcome already offered and opportunities for deeper community engagement.

An Idea to Explore Together

AA and Al-Anon groups meet at HUMC six nights a week. Participants explored offering a small gesture of care, such as candy or donuts, especially around the holidays. The idea remains exploratory, with attention to participants' privacy and the groups' preferences. Michele offered to communicate with group leaders, and Sheila was asked to keep the idea in prayer. No organizing group was assigned.

Making Room for Renewal

Members acknowledged that caring for others can leave a person emotionally, spiritually, or physically depleted. Pastor Vern recalled Jesus withdrawing to pray, and the group encouraged giving oneself grace and making room for renewal. Quiet time with God helps sustain the care offered to others.

Practice for the Week

> Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you toward someone who feels overlooked, disconnected, or burdened. Take one concrete step: listen without judgment, offer practical help, or serve alongside someone else. A text, card, or phone call can begin an honest, caring conversation.

Community and Prayer

The group celebrated Vanessa's continued recovery from surgery and the support surrounding her family through a meal train, friends, and neighbors. Prayer was offered for Valann's husband, Michael, ahead of his back procedure at Penn. Prayers also continue for Nancy, Donna's sister, for healing and strength. Sheila shared the joy of her granddaughter's first visit to Sunday school and the Pumpkin Patch and requested prayer for her family's openness to regular church participation.

Follow-Up

- All participants: Listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance and reach out to someone who feels overlooked, disconnected, or burdened.
- Pastor Vern: Send the sermon recording to Susan Stith. Broader online availability was suggested for consideration.
- Michele: Explore a small gesture of care with AA/Al-Anon group leaders, respecting their preferences and privacy.
- Sheila: Keep the AA/Al-Anon outreach idea in prayer as a potential group action.
- Michele: Bring a copy of her sister's Give It Up, a 21-day growth journey, to the church office for interested members.

Looking Ahead

Continue praying for the concerns shared by the group and for natural opportunities to live and share your faith. Monday Meet-Up gathers at 7:00 PM on Zoom; participants already registered do not need to register again.

Prayer for the Week

> Gracious God, thank You for calling us together as Your church. By Your Holy Spirit, guide our actions and our conversations. Help us walk honestly with You, listen for Your nudges, and recognize natural opportunities to share Your love. Teach us to carry one another's burdens and welcome those who feel overlooked. Give us compassion for our neighbors and wisdom to rest when we need renewal. Bring healing and strength to Nancy, continue Your healing work in Vanessa and Michael, and surround Sheila's family with Your love. Guide our next steps in service, and make Your love visible through us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.