HOCKESSIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday Meet-Up Recap

Sunday, Continued: What to Do in Your Problems?

NOVEMBER 9, 2026 | PSALM 73:1–11, 23–28



Following Pastor Vern's November 8 sermon, **What to Do in Your Problems?**, the Monday, November 9 conversation explored Psalm 73 and the difficulties that can unsettle our faith. The group talked candidly about family tensions, unforeseen setbacks, comparison, and what it means to trust God's presence even when the answers are not immediate.

No One Is Exempt from Problems

Pastor Vern began with the psalmist's struggle: why do some people who disregard God appear to prosper while faithful people suffer? Participants observed that challenges touch every life, even when someone else's circumstances look effortless from the outside.

The conversation acknowledged that family conflict, loss, uncertainty, and unexpected changes can be especially difficult. Having faith does not eliminate hardship, and facing a problem is not proof that God has abandoned us.

> **When life feels like slippery ground, God is still our sure footing.**

Knowing When to Step Back

A particularly meaningful exchange concerned the desire to fix other people's problems. Participants reflected on the challenge of loving family members while allowing them to make their own decisions, experience consequences, and work through disagreements.

Pastor Vern spoke about the wisdom of staying out of conflicts that are not ours to resolve. The group agreed that prayer, patience, and healthy boundaries can be expressions of care rather than indifference. Sometimes the most faithful response is to resist taking control.

Comparison Rarely Tells the Whole Story

The group returned to the danger of comparing our circumstances with others, especially through social media. What appears to be an ideal life may conceal struggles, loneliness, or pain. We see only a portion of another person's story.

Psalm 73 reminds us that envy can distort our perspective. Instead of measuring our lives against someone else's outward success, we can turn toward God for lasting security and a clearer view of what matters.

A Setback May Change the Path

Stories of job loss and major transitions prompted a thoughtful conversation about uncertainty. Looking back, people sometimes recognize opportunities that were impossible to see in the middle of a painful experience. That perspective does not erase the hurt or guarantee an easy outcome, but it can make room for hope and patience.

Listening Can Be an Act of Ministry

When people share their burdens, they may need a listener more than advice. Listening without trying to fix everything can offer comfort and help them process what they are facing.

Pastor Vern recalled times when listening and praying with someone were more helpful than offering a solution. Sometimes our presence is the ministry.

Faith Grows in Community

Participants spoke appreciatively about worship, small groups, and Christian friendships. Hearing others share their experiences can be freeing: even people smiling on Sunday carry burdens of their own.

The group valued having a safe place to share, being surrounded by people who genuinely care, and recognizing God's presence through fellowship in difficult seasons.

Making Space for God Each Day

Pastor Vern encouraged beginning each day with God, even with a brief Scripture reading or prayer. God's timing is not always ours; trust may require waiting when we long for an immediate answer.

In Psalm 73, the writer's perspective changes as he draws near to God. Faith helps us face problems with a steadier awareness of God's presence.

Practice for the Week

THE STEADY-FOOTING PAUSE

1. Pause. Name what troubles you.
2. Read Psalm 73:23–28. Notice God’s nearness.
3. Discern: act, listen, wait, or step back?
4. Take one faithful step. Release comparison.

Pray for wisdom to know what is yours to do—and what to entrust to God.

Where the Message Met Everyday Life

Participants also reflected on the discomfort of change and ways to encourage people going through difficult times. The group shared joys and concerns in prayer. Private health and family details are omitted from this public recap.

Looking Ahead

Monday Meet-Up gathers **Mondays at 7:00 PM via Zoom**. To be added to the group, contact **churchoffice@hockessinumc.org**.

Scripture & Prayer for the Week

“Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.”

Psalm 73:23–28 and the full prayer continue on the next page.

Scripture & Prayer

Sunday, Continued: What to Do in Your Problems?

NOVEMBER 9, 2026 | PSALM 73:23–28

Psalm 73:23–28

NIV

23 Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

28 But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, we love you and pray for your presence in our daily lives. When problems leave us uncertain, remind us that You are near. Please give us patience when answers take time, wisdom to know when to act and when to step back, and hearts willing to listen to others with compassion. We ask to be freed from envy, comparison, and judgment. Lord, we ask for wisdom and discernment through Scripture, prayer, worship, and the fellowship of Your people. Father, give us the roots we need to remain steady through all circumstances - keep us wrapped in Your love always. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.