

Back to...?



Though school supplies have been filling shelves at Target since mid-July, it's finally time to sharpen pencils and get backpacks off closet floors. Students and educators will head back to classrooms with a mixture of excitement and anxiety. Parents will breathe a sigh of relief at the return to routine while also grieving the loss of space for families to just be.

Even if you're not a student, a parent, or a teacher, you stand at the cusp of a new season. (And no, I'm not talking about Pumpkin Spice everything time.)

As days grow shorter and leaves start to fall, what will you go back to?


Maybe you'll return to a regular rhythm of exercise. Maybe you'll integrate a new skill or practice you gained this summer into your daily activity. Maybe you'll return to church and find God calling you to a new path.

This summer, I had the opportunity to try a new path while hiking in the Alps of northern Italy and Switzerland. According to the signage, one trail we took was "easy."

About 5 minutes into the hike, it was clear my definition of "easy" was not the same as those who made the yellow directional signs. What carried my companions and me to the top wasn't prior physical training or glimpses of captivating scenery—it was the presence of one another. We persisted in our journey by offering each other encouragement and space to breathe. Hiking in the Alps reminded me of the different paths we take on our journey of faith and the way community carries us on each of those paths. We need each other to follow Jesus on the paths to which he leads us.

What path is Jesus inviting you to experience this fall? How will community bless you along the way? We'll answer these questions together as we kick-off our Fall sermon series, *Walk This Way: Different Paths on Our Journey with Jesus*. Join us September 10, as we celebrate the beginning of our fall ministry season. If you're an educator or have a student in your family, we'll be blessing backpacks during the worship service (bringing backpacks is optional 😊). After worship, we'll reconnect with food and fellowship.

Whatever you're coming back to this fall, I hope to see you at Hamblen as we continue our journey together!

Peace, 

September 10: Kickoff Sunday

Join us for worship at **9:00 AM on Sunday, September 10**, for Kickoff Sunday and our Blessing of the Backpacks (and briefcases!) as we start our program year. Children's Sunday School begins during worship and Oasis High School youth group begins that evening. **After worship, stick around for a light brunch provided by the Deacons** and visit with friends you maybe haven't seen over the summer. Caravan Middle School youth group begins Monday PM. We look forward to seeing you then!

WORSHIP WITH US

September Sermon Series



Walk This Way:

Different Paths on Our Journey with Jesus

When Jesus calls us to follow him, he invites us to a journey that is full of diverse paths. Whether we encounter ease, challenge, or change, each path draws us closer to God. Join us Sunday mornings this fall as we explore the unique ways we are led by Jesus the Way.

September 10 - *The Way of Joy*

September 17 - *The Way of Wilderness*

September 24 - *The Way of Change*

October 1 - *The Way of Wonder*

October Sermon Series

It may not be a topic for polite dinner conversation, but the Bible has a lot to say about money and our relationship to it. In addition to scripture, individuals and communities are shaped by the “money stories” that invoke fear, trust, wisdom, confusion, generosity, and wholeness.

During our fall stewardship series, we will explore Old and New Testament texts that move us to deep and honest engagement with the ways we practice, or fail to practice, faithful stewardship. We'll consider how we are set free to receive and share God's provision. Join us Sunday mornings at 9 AM in the sanctuary.



- October 8: *Remember*
- October 22: *Reimagine*
- October 15: *Release*
- October 29: *Restore*

Worship Team? Me?

Yes, You!

There are many ways to participate in worship at HPPC, and you are invited! Consider serving as an Usher, Greeter, Communion Assistant/Server, or Reader for Scripture/Call to Worship. If you sing or play an instrument, the HPPC Praise Band and Chancel Choir are always happy to welcome new members. Contact Scott Dicken at scottd@hamblenpres.org to get started.

Special Worship Sundays

The new Program Year is quickly approaching, and we're excited to welcome back our choir and handbells to Sunday worship. Here are some special Sundays this fall that you'll want to put on your calendar:

September 10 - Kickoff Sunday

Welcome back, Chancel Choir!

October 1 - World Communion Sunday

October 29 - Bluegrass Sunday

GET INVOLVED

Bell Choir

The bell choir attended a regional handbell conference in June and received instruction from highly acclaimed hand bell teachers from around the country. We also heard a massed choir of eight bell choirs, as well as a premier group who used a variety of advanced techniques. We were inspired by what we learned and heard and are excited to try them out ourselves. **Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 14, 4:30 PM, in the choir room.**

Come Sing with the Choir!

Do you love to sing? Then we have a place for you! The Chancel Choir starts again this September and sings through mid-June. Even if you can't commit to the entire program year, come sing with us on weeks that you are able.

Rehearsals are on Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm in the sanctuary, and we gather at 8:30 on Sunday mornings (a half hour prior to worship). Childcare is available upon request.

If you are interested in joining this great community or would like more information, contact Kyla Fague at 509-270-6848 or kylaf@hamblenpres.org. **We begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 7.** The choir's first Sunday in worship will be September 10. We hope to see you in the choir loft!

Nursery Worker Training — September 17, 10:30 AM

Do you enjoy caring for infants and toddlers? Would you be interested in joining our team of nursery workers for one or more Sundays a month? **We are currently hiring ages 14 to adult.** Training will be held Sunday, September 17, 10:30-11:30, in the Skylight Room. **This is a paid position, and the current rate is \$15.74/hour.** A background check is required for those over 18 years old. Questions? Contact Heather Notske at 509-385-0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org.

Help Fund Deacons Neighborhood Outreach Projects

As Deacons of Neighborhood Outreach, we would like to explain that this program is donation driven. There is no set budget. Therefore, the many ways we support Hamblen Elementary, Liberty Park Community Development Center, Bite2Go, and Adams Elementary are dependent on your willingness to give.

As we begin this school year, we have already purchased school supplies for both Hamblen and Adams. Items they have requested include paper, scissors, markers, crayons, binders, and clothing/underwear for 'accidents'. This does not cover all the requests but is our 'drop in the bucket' from Hamblen Presbyterian.

Bite2Go begins in September and runs throughout the entire school year at a cost of \$400 or \$500 per month for the 20 students we help sponsor at Hamblen. As we move into winter, we will provide gift cards to Hamblen & Adams at Christmas time and help organize/purchase toys for the 'Toy Store' at Liberty Park. In the spring, we purchase shirts and shorts for the Preschool at Liberty Park.

There are times we are asked if we can do more... It all depends on the funds we have. We are asking you to consider helping us build up the Neighborhood Outreach Fund by generously donating. **Your gifts can be designated to go toward Bite2Go specifically or the general Neighborhood Outreach Fund.**

Gratefully yours, Karen Kelly and Kristin Markham

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle is a ministry and fellowship group that meets on the first Monday of each month to make hats, quilts, and lap robes to share with those in need.

We will begin our 2023/24 year on Monday, September 11, 9:30-12:00, and we would like to invite all women to join us. Snacks and coffee will be provided. Questions? Contact Kathy Williams at 949-370-8025 or kathylwms@gmail.com.

Thank You for Helping with NNO

Thank you to everyone at HPPC who helped make National Night Out a huge success! We estimate 400 people attended the event, with roughly 100 people from our church and 300 from the neighborhood. It takes a LOT of volunteers to pull this off and we are grateful for everyone who contributed financially; donated food/drinks/a canopy; helped set up/serve/tear down; and those who came out to meet the neighbors. **If you are interested in helping plan next year's event, please contact Pam Richardson at 509-710-1392 or mcveypamila@comcast.net.** Here is a note from some of our guests:

Thank you for the lovely summer evening dinner. The food was delicious, the music was a really nice "accompaniment" to the meal/event. We neighbors came out of our houses! It was special to see each other and share a meal. The church members' efforts to provide such an event are so very appreciated. Thank you for being such a good neighbor!
Sincerely, Tom & Mary Brown



Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church Family,
Thank you all so very much for
your continued prayers, love, and generosity
to those families in need—

We were able to celebrate a family
last week who after 3 years of
being homeless, secure permanent
housing for their 2 children!
What a blessing!

Thank you for your part
in making their dreams
a reality!
We truly appreciate you!

"I want to help other families
navigate their own journey. I don't
want them to feel alone. My
journey was scary and it would've
been much worse had I not had
the support of Family Promise."

~ Hailey Venthuizen

God Bless,

Shawn

Thank You from Family Promise

We received this card along with a letter from Family Promise thanking the HPPC congregation for their generosity. Our \$5,867 donation will go towards the area of highest need, equipping communities to end the cycle of homelessness and changing the future for families without a place to call home. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing of the Backpacks (and Briefcases!)

Our annual Blessing of the Backpacks will be held on **Sunday, September 10**. Bring to worship the bag that you take to school or work. We will say a prayer for students, teachers/school employees, and anyone who wants some extra encouragement as we enter into the fall season. We will provide tags to attach to your bag as a reminder that God's got your back!



Security Updates

This summer we have been able to update our security cameras and lockdown system. Our previous cameras were very outdated and had less coverage than our new setup. We are also installing a system at the front door that will require visitors to the church to be buzzed in during preschool hours. This is becoming the norm at churches and preschools nationwide. Children's safety is a priority and we are doing everything we can to protect our preschool kiddos and their teachers. If you drop by the church during preschool hours, follow the instructions on the sign at the front door and we will let you in. This project was funded with portions of generous bequests from Joan Biddison and Rod & Carole Walker.

Holiday Bazaar Item Donations Needed

Calling all Creative Types! Deborah Circle is looking for crafters of all ages to **participate in this Holiday Bazaar by donating handmade items to sell at the event**. These donations can be any kind of handcrafted items—jewelry, pottery, quilted or sewn items, paper art, needlework, photography, potted plants, soap, metal or wood work, baked goods, jams, cards, aprons, pillowcases, or anything else you have a talent to make. Pinterest has some great ideas! The Bazaar, held **Saturday, November 4, 9am-4pm in the Fellowship Hall**, will also include a bake sale and a silent auction for unique items.

The money raised will be used for Deborah Circle outreach projects and ministries within our city, nationally, and abroad. Questions? Contact Terrie Roberts: 509-868-6286/sunnycreeksinger@gmail.com

Top of the Hill

Join friends new and old for lunch and hear about how Spokane agencies are helping in our community. We start eating at 11:30, program begins at 11:45. Sign up with Heather Notske by the Friday before each event. **Our next speaker will be Brian Seppi, Medical Director for Hospice of Spokane, on September 12**. Save these dates for future events: **October 10, November 14, & December 12**.

Thank You for Helping Send 50 Kids to Camp Spalding!

Thanks to your generous support, we were able to provide scholarships for 50 kids this summer – a total of \$12,755. We are living out our mission statement to “grow active followers of Jesus Christ”.

CONNECT AND GROW IN A GROUP

Holding Space for Grief

Join us monthly in Room 1 on **Tuesdays at 6 PM** for a group providing support for those who have experienced loss and/or those who are walking through grief with a friend or family member. Group will be facilitated by Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, an ordained Presbyterian minister and a board-certified chaplain, currently working with Gentiva Hospice. Here are the upcoming dates:

- **September 19**
- **October 24**
- **November 21**

Questions? Ask Heather Notske, 509-385-0627 or heathern@hamblenpres.org.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

All adults are welcome to join the Sunday Morning Bible Study beginning **September 10, 7:30-8:30 AM on Zoom** as we study Acts. For Zoom link, please contact Bob Nofsinger at nofsingerbm@gmail.com. Please sign in by 7:25 AM.

Fall '23 Book Club Selections

The HPPC Book Club meets October-May on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM. All are welcome to attend! Questions? Contact Betty Thompson at bettythomps@aol.com. Here is what we are reading:

October: *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

November: *The Book of Longing* by Sue Monk Kidd

January: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger

February: *Snow Treasure* by Marie McSwigan

Stewardship Sermon Series Discussion Group

Join Heather Notske Sunday mornings after church, October 8, 15, 22, and 29, in the Skylight Room to dive deeper into the stewardship sermon series with a study journal: ***Our Money Story: Art, Poetry, & Prompts for a Season of Stewardship***. It is hard to talk about the impact of money and possessions in our personal life so we often shy away from doing so. Jesus talked about these topics more than faith and prayer, meaning how we relate to money and things is actually a spiritual practice. The devotional guide is thoughtfully written, beautifully formatted, and free! Look for copies at the Information Center after Labor Day weekend.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study *The Psalms: Human and Holy*

Anger, hope, despair, joy, wonder, fear, longing, praise- the book of Psalms expresses the depth and breadth of human life and human relationship with God. Psalms is perhaps the most human and holy book in the Hebrew Scriptures. In it we hear the deepest cries of our hearts and the deepest cries of God's heart. This fall, as we explore some of the Psalms, we'll look at unique and traditional translations of these biblical texts. Together, we'll see how these ancient prayers can shape our contemporary conversations with God. **Join us Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the Skylight Room starting September 20.**

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

**Tuesdays
at 7:30 AM**

The Men's Breakfast & Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall beginning **September 5**. We will be studying 2 Corinthians.

PRESCHOOL



Hamblen Park Preschool
— curious learners and caring neighbors —

Back to School

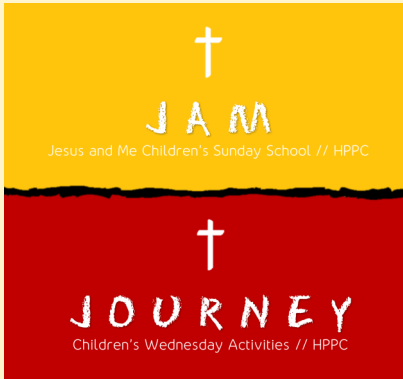
Preschool begins September 5, and our team cannot wait to welcome 64 students into the Hamblen community. If you could peek into the classrooms, you'd be inspired by the care and encouragement each student is shown. The hum of learning and laughter is constant. Thank you Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church for supporting this beautiful gift of early learning in our neighborhood.



Summer Camp

Hamblen Park Preschool held two camps for our preschoolers and neighborhood children this summer. The first was full of nature walking, insect searching, and flower art. The second was all things water; the children enjoyed activities like mixing bubble solutions, excavating toy animals in ice, and shaking up their own ice cream.

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES



Children's Ministry Update from Pastor Jennie:

As we move forward into a new season of Children's Ministry at Hamblen, we would love to hear from families. **If you haven't already, please complete a short survey to share your experiences, thoughts, and hopes at: bit.ly/HPPCFamilySurvey**

We will share the results of the survey at two vision sessions (childcare will be provided at both!):

- **Sunday, September 10, 10:30 AM**
- **Thursday, September 14, 6:30 PM**

If you are unable to attend one of these sessions, please reach out to Pastor Jennie (jennieb@hamblenpres.org) or Elder Allan Scruggs (Allan.scruggs@gmail.com), chair of the Children's Ministry Team.

Following the Vision Sessions, the Children's Ministry Team, the Personnel Team, and the Session will continue the work of discernment regarding our staffing needs for Children's Ministry. Each of these groups has determined it is important for Pastor Steve to be a part of the hiring process, so any formal hiring decisions will be made once Pastor Steve returns from sabbatical in October. Until then, staff members and volunteers will be stepping into leadership roles within the Children's Ministry programs. I believe this fall is an opportunity for all of us to honor the vows we make when children are baptized. **I invite you to pray about the ways God might be calling you to encourage and support our kids on their journey of faith and growth.** Please reach out to me with any questions you have. It is a joy to serve alongside you!

Gratefully, Pastor Jennie



Children's Ministry Fall 2023

Sunday School:

- **Kick Off!** Sunday September 10, with a celebration for all kids, age 3 yrs - 5th grade. Join us in the Skylight Room after the Children's Sermon.
- **Regular Classes:** Beginning September 17, kids age 3 yrs - 5th grade are invited to participate in classes following the Children's Sermon during the 9 AM worship service.

Journey (Wednesday evening program 5-7 PM):

- Join us for a fun evening of games, music, a meal, and a message. **Journey starts Wednesday, October 4.**

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Volunteers Needed!

Our awesome Children's programs require awesome volunteers! We've got opportunities big and small, from making dessert once a month for Journey, to teaching Sunday School. Please email Pastor Jennie at jennieb@hamblenpres.org if you are interested in serving with Children and Families this fall!



Vacation Bible School 2023

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Oasis + Caravan Fall Kickoff

Sunday, Sept 10, and Monday, Sept 11, mark our Oasis and Caravan Fall Kickoffs! We'll be kick-starting our school-year programs with food, games, and a time to get to know each other! Regular Oasis (9th-12th grade) and Caravan (6th-8th grade) will start the following week—**Oasis: 6-8pm on Sundays; Caravan: 6-7:30pm on Mondays.** For details, contact Mitchel Pierce at mitchelp@hamblenpres.org or 206-739-6126.

Save the Dates: Fall Camp 2023

Each Fall we return to Camp Spalding for a weekend retreat of fun, games, a space away, and diving deep into faith together!!

Keep an eye out for more info soon, for now save these dates:

- Caravan: 10/27-29
- Oasis: 11/10-12

Oasis Local Mission Week

For our annual high-school Mission Week, we stayed local and spent the week working with different local organizations and ministries, hanging out together, and sleeping at the church. Nine students and three leaders spent the week exploring conversations around justice and partnership, all within the context of local Spokane organizations meeting needs in our city. Partners include: Inland NW Land Conservancy, Spokane Riverkeeper, Growing Neighbors, Jonah Project, If You Could Save Just One, Family Promise, and Feast World Kitchen.

Sunday Sessions

We're back with more Sunday Sessions this Fall! After the worship service, we hangout, have donuts, and have a chance to dive deeper in how we understand the Bible. All youth 6th-12th grade are welcome. **Beginning Sept 24**, happens each Sunday after worship in the youth room until 11:00am.

Welcome Our New Intern!

We're so excited to welcome our new intern this Fall! Starting Sept 10, Kat will be joining us for the whole school year as our new intern and girl leader! Here's a bit about her:

"Hello my name is Kat Wilkins-Luton and I am starting as an intern at Hamblen starting in September. I am a junior at Whitworth and majoring in theology with a minor in creative writing. In my free time I like to go camping, paint, write and bake. I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to know the Hamblen family."



GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP 2023

Changing Children's Lives in Guatemala

On August 19, a team of seven representing Hamblen Park Presbyterian departed for Guatemala. We traveled by bus from Guatemala City to Coban. In Coban, we spent a day with the teachers and staff at Escuela La Libertad, the elementary school where we sponsor the Libros Abiertos Project.



The students and teachers had prepared a welcome program for us, followed by a tour of every classroom. They were all very excited and proud to show us what they have learned through reading. We brought them new books and school supplies.

Our emphasis this visit was on space and flight. Joe Bruce brought a telescope and the students could view the sun. He also taught everyone about eclipses. We brought other activities for the students, featuring space and flight.

We also visited schools in Chicoj and Limon Sur, a rural school and a remote school with five classrooms. The students gave demonstrations and we shared activities. These were three joyful days, celebrating reading and learning.

In addition, we were privileged to meet with a group of pastors representing PresGOV and a group of pastors from the Chisec Presbytery. They shared with us their faith, joy, frustrations, and hopes for the future.

The Director of Education for the Coban School District and 25 other interested educators met with us in Coban. They made a formal request to expand the Libros Abiertos Project in their schools. This meeting left us feeling challenged and inspired in equal measure.

The team returned to Spokane impressed and encouraged by the results we've seen from the Libros Abiertos Project and the efforts of the teachers and students. We are now in a period of discernment and planning for the future. Thank you for all your generous and joyful support of this project, one that is changing children's lives for the better.





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August 2023

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 5

Preschool Begins

Thursday, September 7

7 PM Choir Rehearsal Resumes

Sunday, September 10

9 AM Kickoff Sunday

Blessing of the Backpacks During Worship

10:30 AM Children's Ministry Vision Session

Tuesday, September 12

11:30 AM Top of the Hill Resumes

Thursday, September 14

4:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal Resumes

6:30 PM Children's Ministry Vision Session

Sunday, September 17

10:30 AM Nursery Worker Training

Tuesday, September 19

6 PM Grief Support Group

Sunday, September 24

10 AM Youth Sunday Sessions Resume

Sunday, October 1

9 AM World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 8

10:15 AM Season of Stewardship Group Begins

Thursday, October 19

1 PM HPPC Book Club Resumes

Tuesday, October 24

6 PM Grief Support Group

Sunday, October 29

9 AM Bluegrass Sunday

Saturday, November 4

9 AM Holiday Bazaar

Tuesday, November 21

6 PM Grief Support Group