

**Hope Presbyterian Church**  
**Adult Faith Formation Sermon-Based Bible Study**

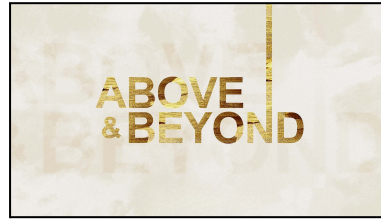
**September 20, 2026**

**“Reverence”**

#1 in the series *Above and Beyond*

**Scripture Texts (NRSVUE)**

Ephesians 3:14-15, Psalm 95:6-7



1. The phrase *above and beyond* has military roots, coming from the longer phrase *above and beyond the call of duty*, used to describe extreme bravery by soldiers. We now use the shortened version to describe actions taken by some in many different situations.
  - What's an example of going *above and beyond* that you've experienced or observed?
  - How does it feel to be acknowledged for going *above and beyond*?
2. When we think about going *above and beyond*, we understand it as exceeding an expectation.
  - Why are we often inclined to want to exceed expectations?
  - How might always pushing to exceed expectations prove to be detrimental?
3. **Read Ephesians 3:14 and Psalm 95:6-7.**

Imprisoned, likely in Rome, Paul writes to the church at Ephesus to encourage them, whether Jew or Gentile, to live in unity, and to urge them not to lose heart over his suffering.

  - How was Paul's bowing before God an act of reverence - showing a deep feeling of respect and love?
  - Is expressing reverence an example of going above and beyond?
  - In what ways do we express reverence within and outside a spiritual context?
4. **Read Ephesians 3: 15.**

To underscore his call to unity, Paul reminds the Ephesians that God is the Father to "every family" in heaven and earth.

  - Why are we sometimes inclined to separate ourselves from others within our communities and even within our families?
  - How can showing reverence help us understand the ways God goes above and beyond in his love and care for all who call him Father?
5. Kate Bowler, co-author of [Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection](#), encourages us to let go of impossible standards, reminding us that "Perfection is impossible, but transformation isn't."
  - How does Bowler's advice connect to the practice of reverence and understanding the meaning of going above and beyond??
6. How can we pray for you?