

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

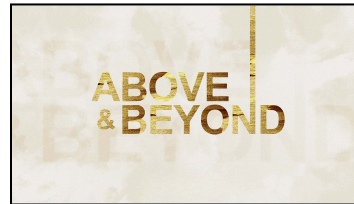
**October 11, 2026**

**“Expectation”**

#4 in the series *Above and Beyond*

**Scripture Text (NRSVUE)**

Ephesians 3:20-21



1. Consider what it means to have an expectation - that something will happen in a particular way.
  - What are some things you have clear expectations about?
  - What does it feel like when you meet an expectation?
  - What happens when expectations are not met?
2. **Read Ephesians 3:20.**

Paul continues his prayerful encouragement to the church at Ephesus, acknowledging that God can “accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.”

  - Have you ever asked God to do something and His response far exceeded your expectation? What happened?
  - How do you respond to the idea: *Expectation is trust in God, not certainty about outcomes?*
3. **Re-read Ephesians 3:20.**

Focus on Paul's words: “by the power at work within us is able.”

  - How would you explain what Paul means by this phrase?
  - Have you ever sensed God's power at work in your life? What happened, and how did the experience affect your understanding of what it can mean to trust God?
4. **Read Ephesians 3:21.**

Paul urges the Ephesian church to “glory” in what God has done through Jesus for all generations to come.

  - How might the ministries of Hope have an impact on the lives of people long after we are gone?
  - Have you ever been blessed by the prayer(s) of someone you may not know? What happened?
5. Consider the Sagrada Familia, a Catholic church in Catalonia, Spain, whose construction began in 1882 and was finally completed in 2026. In June 2026, during his visit to Spain, [Pope Leo XIV](#) blessed the church, which had earlier been designated a basilica and has the world's tallest tower.
  - What motivates us to commit ourselves to a project that we may never see completed?
  - How does the example of building a church over 134 years help us understand that sometimes, when God goes above and beyond our expectations, His timeline may not match ours?
7. How can we pray for you?