

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

Celebrating
50 years
1965 - 2015

**December
2015**

DECEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

- 
- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 6 | Harvest of Righteousness |
| Dec. 13 | Christmas Cantata (8:30, 10:45)
Children & Youth Christmas Service (9:30) |
| Dec. 20 | Fruit of Righteousness |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Services
5:30, 7:30, 10:00 |
| Dec. 27 | House of Righteousness |



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays at New Hope UMC 8:30am • 9:30am • 10:45am
newhopedsm.org

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERIES



Christmas LIGHTS

WORSHIP WITH US
Saturdays 5pm & Sundays 10am
Beaver Creek Elementary

JohnstonRiverOfLife.org

Come spend Christmas with us....

Sunday, December 13

8:30 & 10:45 a.m., Christmas Cantata in the Sanctuary

9:30 a.m. Children and Youth led Christmas Service in the Family Life Center

Saturday, December 19

5:00 & 7:00 p.m.: A Johnston Community Christmas sponsored by Johnston River of Life. The Johnston Barn, 6169 Northglenn Drive.

Thursday, December 24—Eve Services

5:30 p.m.—Family oriented Christmas Eve service, in the Family Life Center, will have fun elements for children and families. There will be interactive and dramatic readings, traditional carols, special music, and candle lighting on this Holy night.

7:30 p.m.—We will be worshiping in the Sanctuary for a Candlelight Service of Christmas carols, Scripture Lessons, a special time for the children and a visit of the Holy Family to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Chancel Choir and individual musicians will be offering special music as well.

10:00 p.m.—We will be worshiping in the Sanctuary for a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Special music will be offered. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion.



membership news

Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Jan Davisson at 251-4894 or the church office at 278-2097.

To be added to the e-mail prayer

Prayer Concerns

Alice Hedman; Bob Reaney; Jill Jacobson; Marcia Clemmens; Gus Skovgard; Mica Wills; Terri Lowe; Olive Walker; Bishop Julius Trimble; District Superintendent, David Weesner; District Field Minister, Karen Nelson; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary. Prayers for the following military personnel: Kelsey Bartley; AJ Blackman; Jason Homard; Zach McClain; Todd McGinnity; Tim Rains; Devan Stanton, Jared Stanton; Skylar Wright and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Sympathy

Our sympathy to Chris and Julie Boyles on the passing of Julie's brother, Michael Conaway.

Our sympathy to Billy & Bob Nuzum on the passing of their granddaughter, Amber Marie Brown.

Birth

Congratulations to Deborah O'Brien on the birth of her son, Jameson Patrick O'Brien born on November 12. He weighed 8 lbs and was 20 1/2" long. He joins big sister, Vivienne, at home.

**May the peace and hope
of Christ's birth be with
you now and
in the days ahead.
Merry Christmas!
New Hope UMC Staff**

Baptism

Congratulations to Samuel David Gaul who was baptized on November 29, at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Samuel is the son of Josh and Amanda Gaul.

The United Methodist Women's newsletter, published 4 times a year, can be emailed to anyone who would like to receive it. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please contact Lynn Louk at jimlynnlouk@mac.com

Thank You

We sincerely appreciate Pastor Gaul visiting Ambrose at the hospital, Administrator Nancy for assisting us, and all the prayers, calls and cards. Best of all, the delicious meal brought to us. Thank you.

Ambrose and Bhanu Moses

Thank you to our New Hope family for the cards, prayers, love and support after the death of our granddaughter. Bob and Billy Nuzum

Thank you to all of New Hope for your support of our veterans at their fundraiser. God bless America and God Bless New Hope. Billy Nuzum

Garlands of Gifts

The events committee would like to thank everyone who participated in Garlands of Gifts this year. We had great weather and a great event. We hope to see you again next year!

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
November 1	29	103	90	222
November 8	28	96	99	223
November 15	32	99	92	223
November 22	49	135	123	307

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat	Sun	total
Oct 31 67	Nov 1 52	119
Nov 7 40	Nov 8 40	80
Nov 14 39	Nov 15 51	90
Nov 21 40	Nov 22 45	85

Display Your Nativity Set

This year we will be placing tables throughout the church for you to bring your favorite Nativity to display.

We will provide place cards and additional paper if you have a story to share about it. You may leave your Nativity set(s) up throughout the Advent season.

Thank you from your Altar Guild. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Frey (yayafrey@gmail.com or 515-490-8440).



Santa's Attic

Santa's Attic is just around the corner!

As you are doing some fall cleaning, please consider donating your new or gently used items for Santa's Attic **by December 6th**. Any donations can be left in the 3 year old Sunday School Classroom.

Please mark your calendars for that date if you would like to help the TGIW children shop and wrap presents for their family.

If you have extra gift bags, we would greatly appreciate them, as it make

wrapping all the gifts much easier. Please contact Tami Wise with any questions at 251-2987 or markandtami@the-wises.com. Thank you!!!



Jr. BLAST Fundraiser

Please support Jr. High BLAST on **Sunday, December 6** for their Hot Drink Mix fundraiser. The drink mix, assembled by the youth, will make great Christmas gifts for teachers, bus drivers, co-workers, friends, family, or enjoy it yourself. Thank you!

5th annual Community Christmas at the Barn

Saturday, December 19 • 5PM & 7PM
6169 Northglenn Drive, Johnston (by the Johnston Public Library)

You are invited to a Christmas service of traditional carols, a live nativity, a visit from Santa, cider, cookies & community.



Have your picture taken with Santa!
4PM & 6PM
Santa, Cider & Goodies



2016 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (8:30 & 10:45), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a

birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office. *The flowers are \$35.00 per Sunday and you may take your flowers home after the 10:45 service.*



Revised New Hope UMC Cookbook to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of our church.

The 2003 version of the *Taste of New Hope* cookbook has been reprinted with additional recipes.

Purchase your cookbook on Sundays for \$15 each at the Welcome Center.

Cash or a Check payable to New Hope UMC and please add Cookbook to the memo line.



Hand of Luke - December 14

Meatball Sandwich

Broccoli with cheese

Applesauce

Ice Cream Sandwiches

The 14th of each month, New Hoppers donate food, cook a meal and serve it at the Central Iowa Shelter & Services, downtown.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Cooks meet at the church between 3:00-3:30pm. Servers transport the food to the Central Iowa Shelter & Services at 5:30pm, return by 8:00pm.

When dropping off your non perishables, please see that they are **clearly labeled HOL and clearly indicate who it is from** and place on the kitchen counter. Frozen items may be placed on the marked shelves in the industrial freezer. If possible, please indicate on the sign up sheet where you placed your item(s) (for example, "in pantry", or "in the refriger."). Baked goods should be transferred to a disposable container if possible. *Thank you!!*

Message from the Board of Trustees

Sanctuary

During the week of November 16, the Board of Trustees hired a contractor to repair the cracks in the walls and ceiling of the Sanctuary. The estimate for this project was \$750. You may or may not notice the repairs.

The Board of Trustees are discussing a plan to paint the entire (walls and ceiling) sanctuary probably sometime in January or February. Thanks to a generous member, the cost of the project was donated.

Thank You

The Board of Trustees would like to say "Thank You" to Ruth Doxon and Kathy Russi for the unselfish dedication to the Landscaping of New Hope.

The seasonal decorations at the East entrance are only an example of their work. These two ladies are the Co-Chairs of the Landscape Committee, and pretty much are the committee. When they do major work on the landscaping they do call certain individuals and a special thank you to those members for helping when asked.

When you see Ruth and/or Kathy, tell them "Thanks" and explain how much you appreciate all they do.

If anyone would like to volunteer for the Landscaping Committee please identify yourself to Ruth, Kathy or John Rains.

Also, a big **"Thank You"** to Betty Holwegner for her dedication and attention to detail in the kitchens.

Betty is the Chair of the Kitchen Committee which consists of herself and Linda Kielsmeier. These ladies do a lot of work and spend a great many hours making sure the kitchen meets the needs of the New Hope. Please tell both ladies thank you when you see them. If anyone would like to serve on the Kitchen committee, please identify yourself to either Betty Holwegner, Linda Kielsmeier or John Rains.

John Rains

Chair, Board of Trustees

christian learning opportunities

Children & Youth Ministries

Mission Statement

A church family working together to teach children to know, grow, and show the love of Jesus Christ.



Christian Learning Time (CLT) Sundays 10:45-11:45am



**Join us for a
Children and Youth led Christmas Service
Sunday, December 13th
9:30am in the Family Life Center**

This will be followed by Fellowship Time overlapping into the CLT hour. **We will have CLT on December 13th from 11:00-11:45am (starting 15 minutes later).**

NOTE TO PARENTS: Our children- and youth-led Christmas service will soon be here. On December 13th at 9:30 the CLT classes will be serving as greeters, singing songs, reading scripture, leading a Christmas litany, taking the offering, and performing a drama. **We will be having an important rehearsal during CLT time on Dec 6th.** **Please have your children attend this rehearsal.** Questions? See Sherri Bogue (277-0725 or boguesa@gmail.com).

On December 20th we will be having a **CLT Christmas Party**. Come join us for some crafts, music, a movie and popcorn!!!

No CLT classes will be held on Sunday, December 27th. Have a great Christmas Break! Classes will resume on Sunday, January 3rd.

Mission Updates

UNICEF: Thank you to everyone who participated in or contributed to our Trick or Treat for UNICEF fundraiser. We were able to send a total of \$29.17 to be used in helping children get clean water, food and medication in poor countries around the world.

Operation Christmas Child: Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child mission project in various ways. For those who donated items or money, wrapped shoe boxes, filled the shoeboxes, and helped to make cards... we couldn't have done it without you all! Our church will be providing 54 shoe box gifts to be sent to children all over the world. New Hope and JROL should be very proud that we will be putting smiles on the faces of 54 children this Christmas season!

Children's Worship (Ages 3 years through 2nd grade):

Children's Worship is a meaningful time for children to worship and connect with God. They participate in an engaging worship service geared just for them in the Sanctuary after the Children's Message during the 9:30 service.

Schedule Changes: There will be **NO Children's Worship on Sunday, December 13th or 27th.**

What's new on the Children and Family Ministries Resource Board???

This month in the Parent Link and on the bulletin board you will find a meal time devotion titled "Simon Says- God Says", an activity puzzle for kids, and an article titled "How Should Parents Define Happiness?" Also new this Advent season, you will find a Family Advent Calendar filled with daily activities your family can do to help celebrate Jesus- the real reason for the season! If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources or topics you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.



TGIW 2015-2016

Wednesdays

5:30pm Dinner, 6-7:15pm Rotation Activities (Jr. Ringers 6:10-6:40pm)

We have some great activities planned this year, but to make that happen we need some great volunteers too! Here is how you can help:

For December:

Santa's Attic helpers 12/9 and a Volleyball leader 12/9
Craft and Video leaders for our Christmas Party on 12/16

Lots of activity leaders for January and beyond (take a look at the schedule to see what is available)

Extra Kitchen helpers are always needed!!! (contact Kim Wills)

Sign up on the TGIW bulletin board if you can help, or contact Sarah Jacobson with questions.

NO TGIW will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 23rd and 30th due to Christmas Break. We will resume with our regular TGIW schedule starting Wednesday, January 6th.

TGIW Christmas Party Wednesday, December 16th

Dinner 5:30pm

Activities 6-7:15pm

Come join us as we celebrate the real reason for the season at TGIW! You won't want to miss out on the fun! We will have a storyteller, a craft, cookie decorating and a movie from our "What's in the Bible" series from last year, titled "Why do we call it Christmas?" We hope to see you there!



**Come Join us for
VBS!!!
July 17-21, 2016**

confirmation schedule

December 6, 4:30 p.m.

Topic: Holy Life & the three "R"s

December 20 4:30 p.m.

Topic: Accept & Confess



New Hope Puppet Troupe Wednesdays, 7:15-8pm

Join the New Hope Puppet Troupe! The group meets directly following TGIW in the 5th and 6th grade classroom downstairs. If you have a child interested in participating this year please contact Melanie Henry, 515-318-3216, melhenry0@gmail.com or Linda Dean, 515-707-2384, deanlinda2@aol.com.

Youth Groups

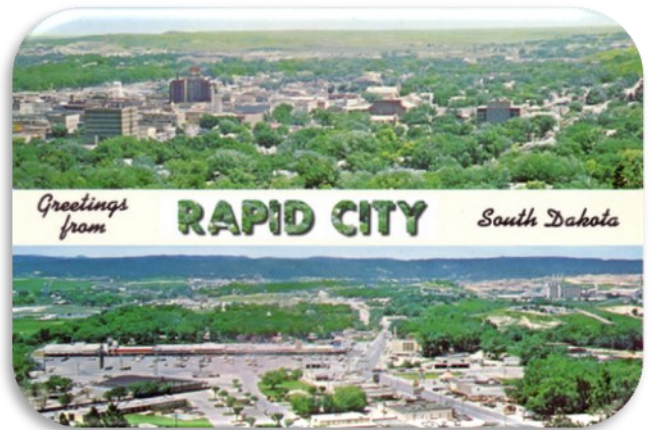
Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade): Leaders: Nancy Wiles, Jennifer Riley
Wednesdays, 6-7pm.

You may join the TGIW dinner at 5:30pm and then stay for the Jr. BLAST fun. Please plan to meet Jr. BLAST leaders, Jennifer Riley and Nancy Wiles, in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm.

Dec. 2 - Fundraiser assembly Dec. 9 - Santa's Attic (All Church)
Dec. 6 - Fundraiser sale Dec. 16 - Christmas Party/Gift Exchange
Not Meeting on Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th; Due to Christmas Break

Sr. BLAST (9th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity & McKayla Johnson, and Pam Frey
BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

The Senior High BLAST group is excited to announce the date and place for their 2016 Summer Mission Trip. Next summer, the group will be traveling to **Rapid City, South Dakota to work with Black Hills Works (BHW)**; which is a progressive and adaptive center for mentally and physically challenged adults in Rapid City. BHW works to help their patrons become as independent and productive as they can be. Their center provides job training, paid work, practical life classes, and a plethora of other services. Beyond working with Black Hill Works; the group will be serving at a food shelter, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, children's program, or elderly care facilities.



Next year the trip is set for **June 26th through July 1st.**

We need an **initial deposit of \$90** for anyone considering being a part of this trip next year by January 7th to reserve their spot. Additionally, the group has a new policy around how students will receive the remaining funding for the trip. In order to receive funding from the Senior High BLAST mission trip fund; the student must participate in at least 60% of the all BLAST events. This include our weekly meetings, volunteer opportunities, fundraisers, and social outings.

Beyond our upcoming fundraising breakfasts and JROL soup dinner to raise money for our mission trip; the group will be continuing their "Letter from a Skeptic" Bible Study in December. Also, the BLAST group is planning to go Christmas Caroling in the Community before they have their annual Youth Christmas party on Sunday, December 20th. Looking ahead, the youth leaders are planning a lock-in event on Sunday, January 17th; because Monday is a no school day because of the Martin Luther Jr. holiday.

Here are the some upcoming Youth events for the next couple of months:

Dec. 2nd & Dec. 9 @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD

Dec. 12th @ 5pm ~ Soup Dinner fundraiser at JROL

Dec. 13th @ 9:30am Service ~ New Hope Christmas Program

Dec. 16th @ 6pm ~ Christmas with the Zion refugees

Dec. 20th ~ BLAST Breakfast

Dec. 20th @ 4pm ~ BLAST Christmas Party

Not Meeting on Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th; Due to Christmas Break

Jan. 6th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD

Jan. 7th ~ \$90 Mission Trip Deposit Deadline

Jan. 10th ~ BLAST Breakfast

Jan. 13th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD

Jan. 17th ~ BLAST Lock-In at New Hope

Jan. 20th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe Volunteer

Jan. 22nd ~ Winter Jam at Wells Fargo Arena

Jan. 27th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD

More information about the above events will be sent out in email and posted on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>).



New Hope's 50th Anniversary Celebration started with the three morning services where Bishop Julius Tremble, Superintendent David Weesner and Outreach Minister Karen Nelson all took part of the services.

The celebration continued that afternoon. Where approximately 200 guests came to enjoy the program and meet old friends. The event featured a time line of events that have occurred during the past 50 years. We were entertained with performances by the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, The Heartbeat Bell quartet and Puppet Troupe.

Charter members were recognized and presented a gift of an oak leaf ornament for being a faithful servant the past

50 years. Those members were: Joan Clay, Lynn and Joan Clary, Jack & Marilyn Schoop, Don and Doris Ummel. David Wells accepted the gift on behalf of Jim Wells who was unable to attend.

Former Pastor Neil Cross along with Pastor Craig Ferguson and Pastor Jon Gaul all spoke during the event. During the course of New Hope's history we had 3 members who attended seminary and became ministers: Jerry Oakland, Denny Coon, and Dick Cobb. Jerry and Dick spoke about their callings and how New Hope helped them in becoming a minister.

Dodee Pugh gave highlights of the Ray Pugh Institute that was held at New Hope for 20 years. Cathy Beck-Cross spoke about how the Hand of Luke program evolved to what it is today. Jody Rains and Diane Densmore spoke about the New Hope Needlers and the projects they sew throughout the year.

At the end of the event we asked the guest to stand if they had at any time volunteered for the 50 groups and/or organizations that New Hope hosts. It appeared as if everyone in attendance was standing. That in itself speaks volumes as to why New Hope is the church it is today.

Guests were treated to cake and ice cream after the event.

I would like to thank the following people for their help in organizing this event. Pastor Jon Gaul; Joan Clay; Dick and Charlene Cobb; Cathy Cate; Denice Sutton; Larry, Patrice and Laura Webber; Clarice Rubek; Patty Nearmyer; Nancy Monthei; Lee Ross; Glenna Ross; DeVonne Douglas; Nicole Weisskopf; and Paul Weisskopf.

THANK YOU! Pam Weisskopf

Bishop Julius Trimble



Charter Members: Don & Doris Ummel, Joan Clay, Lynn Clary, Marilyn & Jack Schoop



groups gathering together

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 12
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

Join them on **Thursday, December 17**, 9am at church. All women of New Hope and JROL are invited. Questions? Call Betty Holwegner at 278-8115.

New Hope Needers

The group will not meet in December. Please join them on **Friday, January 15** at 10:30am at the church, 3rd grade classroom. Lunch will be at Panera and then back to the church for more sewing. Questions? Contact Jody Rains at 278-8282.

Bible Study for All!

We will begin a new study in January so watch the Newsletter and Bulletin for more information coming. Questions? Contact Sharon Smith at 277-7125, wicketsblooms@aol.com.

Veterans Helping Veterans

Our next breakfast is at 8:30am on Sat., December 19.

All veterans, their spouses, and friends are invited. All Veterans and spouses are welcome to join us! If you have questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com

Thank you to all of New Hope for your support of our veterans at their November 8th ice cream fundraiser! Thank you for the volunteers that helped with the fundraiser!



Care Ministry Team

This team ministers to congregation members who have had new babies, have been in the hospital, have been ill or are dealing with grief. This team meets on a quarterly basis and will meet on **Thursday, January 14, 10:00am** at New Hope. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. **December 6, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks in the Narthex.

Chancel Choir

Practice on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Join us! Contact Eldon Cross, Director of Music, elcatalia4@gmail.com or 515 250-1476.

Bible Study: "The Power of Simple Prayer" by Joyce Meyer. We will be finishing the Simple Prayers by Joyce Meyer on December 7, so will decide if we do the same study for 1:00 and 7:00 or not. Will let you know.

Support Groups

Al-Anon

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.

Stroke Club of Iowa

3rd Tuesday of the month (February - October) at 7 p.m.

Small Groups

2015-2016 Friday Small Group

The Friday Small Group will meet on **December 11 only** (the second & fourth Friday of each month, unless otherwise noted). Join us at 1 pm at the Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St, Urbandale. The Pizza Ranch has a buffet and as you arrive, pay for your buffet, load up your plate and join us in our reserved room. I will be reading from a James Moore book and we will be discussing Revelations. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kielsmeier, 515-689-9680.

Life Group (Bible Study):

Are you looking for a place to connect with friends, build your faith, and get support?

Join a Sunday Evening Life Group (small group):

1. Sundays 5:30 PM.. Contact Pastor Craig Ferguson at 515.984.0482 or Charity Johnson at 515.720.8299. This group will be held at different home each week.

And

2. Sundays 6:00 PM. Held at Dick & Netha Piphos
712 SE 4th St. Grimes
515.986-4071

missions



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: *Giving to Heifer makes 9X The Impact To End Hunger & Poverty*. Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Families who receive your gift become donors as they pass on the gift to other families in their community. This allows them to help others as you have helped them. Lists are at the Mission table in the

Fellowship Hall. When giving to Heifer, write the check to New Hope and put Heifer on the memo line along with gift name.

<u>ANIMAL</u>	<u>FULL</u>	<u>SHARE</u>	<u>ANIMAL</u>	<u>FULL</u>	<u>SHARE</u>
Goat	120	10	Heifer	500	50
Water Buffalo	250	25	Llama	150	20
Sheep	120	10	Pig	120	10
Fish	300	30	Rabbits	60	10
Honeybees	30	10	Flock of Ducks	20	
Flock of Chicks	20		Flock of Geese	20	

Make out your checks for the level and animal you want to donate and write Heifer on the Memo line. For instance, if you want to donate a sheep, write the check for \$120 to New Hope UMC, and put **Heifer** on the memo line. Same if you want to donate one or more shares. Say you have 8 grandchildren you want to honor and you desire to “purchase” sheep, you would write the check to New Hope UMC for \$80 and put **Heifer:** on the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity!



We are at 90% of Our \$75 Million Goal to Imagine No Malaria!

Congratulations! Thanks to the efforts of United Methodists across the connection, we've reached 90% of our goal of \$75 million to combat suffering and death from malaria. At a special press conference on Nov. 16 at Camp Hill United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, three United Methodist bishops announced that the denomination has raised \$68 million in cash and pledges for Imagine No Malaria.

We're almost there. Today, Imagine No Malaria launched a campaign to kick off the final phase of fundraising with the #Give10 Challenge. By donating \$10 or more, the people of The United Methodist Church will work together to reach the last 10 percent of the goal. Contribute by writing your check to New Hope UMC and putting Imagine No Malaria on the Memo line. Imagine No Malaria is committed to ending death and suffering from malaria through prevention, communication, trained health workers and facilities, and grass-roots education.

Note: Missions will not do a separate mittens/hats, etc. collection this year. Instead give to DMARC. Our food pantries are feeding more people with less money. Again, write your check to New Hope and put DMARC on the memo line. Also, Bidwell Riverside is in desperate need of funds. If you can also give to them, please do.

Thank you for all your giving above and beyond your pledge. You have made New Hope UMC a mission minded church! Praise the Lord!

Thanksgiving Ingathering. Cheryl Moore, Charlene Cobb and Sharon Smith attended the 2015 Thanksgiving Ingathering. We heard inspirational music and messages as well as attended the auction for quilts and items whose income goes to hunger needs for our area. Quilts sold for anything from \$30 to around \$600! We are hoping New Hope will contribute quilts and crafts next year. However, we did deliver the following: a check for \$1,525 which went towards: Church World Service Tools and Blankets, IA-Nigeria Partnership, Self Help, P.E.T. (the wooden trikes powered by hand for the handicapped and victims of land mines), shipping and toothpaste for kits; 100 Health Kits; 14 School Kits; 7 Sewing Kits; 3 Knitting Kits

The kits are valued at \$1,525, so our giving totaled: \$3,575! Thank you to all our generous givers at New Hope!

ANNUAL Stewardship CAMPAIGN

2016 Stewardship

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2016 Pledge Sheet, there is time to do so. Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office.

We thank you for your contributions which continue to support New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life!



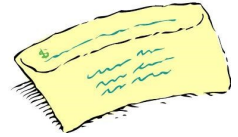
Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2015 statements should be received

no later than December 31, 2015 to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2015. Thank you!

2016 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2016 offering envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall on December 20.



*If you did not indicate on your 2016 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office **by December 13.***

Financial Update

Below is the October 2015 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life.

Due to your generosity and the increase in pledges last year, we were able to reduce the size of the projected deficit this year. Thank you for your giving and faithfulness in supporting the work and ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life.

New Hope Financial Update

	October 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$23,023.49
Total Expenditures	<u>26,736.30</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$3,712.81)</u>

	YTD 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$260,633.70
Total Expenditures	<u>272,282.69</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$11,648.99)</u>

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	October 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$6,486.13
Total Expenditures	<u>3,959.54</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$2,526.59</u>

	YTD 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$91,032.35
Total Expenditures	<u>86,900.28</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$4,132.07</u>

Discretionary Fund has been established. The fund will be used by Pastor Jon for parishioner's extreme needs or occasionally when people come to the church for help. Your donations toward this fund is greatly appreciated. Please place your donation with the offering and note "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line of your check.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

New Hope wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your offering.

To setup online Giving go to www.newhopedsm.org OR www.johnstonriveroflife.org and click on the donate button. This will direct you securely to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Changes can be made confidentially at any time. Or if you like, paper authorization forms are located on the table in fellowship hall. Please contact the church office for additional information.

If you decide to give electronically, please feel free to pick up a card that says **"I give electronically"** to put in the offering plate if you would like to participate in the offertory.

Donate



Although I may not be known for my love of driving around to look at lights, one of my memories of Thanksgiving was visiting my cousins in Kansas City and attending the lighting of the Plaza. Its not just that there are a lot of lights, but it is the precision and detail that make it a 15 block site to behold.

What started with a single strand of Christmas lights strung over a store entrance in 1925 has turned into a living legend as the most spectacular holiday lighting display in the nation. The first Plaza Lighting Ceremony took place in 1930.

Putting up the lights is no small task. Starting after Labor Day each year, a crew of four electricians from Capital Electric begins stringing the lights while the weather is still warm.

Special trucks with lifts let workmen reach tall places. To ascend the domes and towers, workers use ropes and shoes just like mountain climbers to keep their footing.

As Thanksgiving approaches, midnight “light runs” test the lights to guarantee they all come on at once. During the holiday season, workmen are kept busy replacing the many thousand bulbs that burn out. Removal of the lights begins right after the holiday season ends, this season on Jan. 13.

All lights are down by March and taken into the shop where they are checked, coiled, tied, wrapped and cataloged for storage until the next year’s event. (visitkc.com)

As we ponder the Christmas tradition of decorating and lighting a tree, house, or a city, we should be reminded, that is the point. Jesus came to be a Light unto the world.

What started as a child born in an lowly manger has become a bright light of hope for all nations. When we place our faith in Christ, we become like another light hung for the Glory of God.

This Christmas season our task should be to shine the light of Christ brightly in our lives for all to see.

Pastor Ferguson

serve

Sign up to help!
Look for the sign-up
sheets at the entrance
of the Narthex and the
Family Life Center.

sunday volunteers

Greeters arrive at worship service fifteen minutes early to welcome worshipers.

Lectors read the scripture lessons for the day at the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services.

Children's Church meets during 9:30 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary & 1st/2nd grade classroom. Volunteers read a Bible story to the children and supervise craft and play time.

Hosts bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies and use 3 to 5 dozen cookies from the tall, silver freezer in the supply room. (no peanuts/nuts), and serve coffee and water after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. After fellowship time the hosts wash, dry, and put away the cookie platters, rinse out and dry the coffee canisters, and take the trash out to the trash bin. When you sign up to host, a letter from New Hope will be mailed to you before you host with instructions on how to host.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please call Nancy Monthei, church secretary, at 278-2097.

Those who serve New Hope in December

8:30am Traditional Service

Greeters

6
13
20
27

Lectors

6
13 Cantata
20
27

Traditional Service Callers

6 Bob & Marlys Borcharding
13 Norma Sutton
20 Bob & Marlys Borcharding
27 Norma Sutton

Contemporary Service Callers

6 Eldon Cross
13 Rod & Lynette Cook
20 Eldon Cross
27 Rod & Lynette Cook

9:30am Contemporary Service

Greeters

6
13 3rd grade CLT
20
27

Lectors

6 Jodi Christensen
13 3rd grade CLT
20
27

*Hosts

6 Nan Tollakson
13
20 Sr. BLAST
27

9:30 Computer Support

6 Pam Frey
13 Nic Wigant
20 Kelly Mohrman
27 Terry Dolberg

thank you for volunteering to help with the worship services. If something comes up and you have a conflict, please contact another church member to switch with you and call the church office with the changes (278-2097).

10:45am Traditional Service

Greeters

6
13
20
27

Lectors

6
13 Cantata
20
27

*Hosts

6 Sharon Lewis
13 Linda Yasko/Roberta Cave
20 Sr. BLAST
27 Andy Sutton

Money Counters

6 Jerry Kielsmeier,
Kim Traylor, John Burrough
13 Tony & Tracy Hoffman,
Robin Harlow
20 DeVonne Douglas, Randy
Jansen, Ron Zoss
27 Clark Howland, Rick
Homard, Larry Wood

Pal Friday: 9 a.m.

4 Shirley Johnson
11
18 Marge Camahan
Wed., 23 Theresa Flickinger
Wed., 30 Norma Sutton

December 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

New Hope UMC, Sunday mornings: 8:30, 9:30, 10:45

Johnston River of Life

5pm Saturdays and 10am Sundays at Beaver Creek Elementary in Johnston

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8:30a-Noon, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers Noon, AA 7:00p, Worship Cluster Mtg., Ruby Chapel	2 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	3 6:30-9p, Venture Crew, F.Hall 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	4 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson	5
6 Guest Preacher: Lee Schott 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday Jr. BLAST Fundraiser 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday 4:30p, Confirmation Class	7 7:00p, Bible Study on Prayer, R.Chapel 7:00p, Trustees Mtg, 3rd grade classroom	8 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Finance Mtg., Ruby Chapel	9 5:30p, TGIW - Santa's Attic 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	10 6-8p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	11 Office Vol: 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	12 7:30a, Men's Breakfast Sr. BLAST soup dinner fundraiser at JROL
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10:45, Cantata 9:30, Children&Youth led Christmas Service	14 Deadline for Jan. LINK 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Nominating Committee Mtg., R.Chapel	16 5:30p, TGIW—Christmas Party 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	17 9:00a, Women's Fellowship at church 6:00-8pm, Girl Scouts 6:30-9pm Venture Crew	18 Office Vol: Marge Carnahan	19 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast at church 6-9:30p, Boy Scouts, FLC 5p & 7p, JROL Christmas Worship at the Barn
20 4th Sunday of Advent Sr. BLAST breakfast fundraiser Food Pantry Sunday CLT Christmas Party 4p, Sr. BLAST 4:30p, Confirmation class	21	22 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	23 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger NO, TGIW NO, Youth Groups 6:30p, Choir practice 7:30p, Praise Team	24 Office Closed Eve Services: 5:30p, 7:30p, 10:00p	25 Office Closed 	26
27 No CLT	28	29 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	30 Office Vol: Norma Sutton NO, TGIW NO, Youth Groups 6:30p, Choir practice 7:30p, Praise Team	31 Office Closed	January 1 Office Closed 	2

Happy Birthday to you!!
"May God's many blessings, be yours the year through."

1 Dean Peterson, Jason Juran, Kara Garside
 2 Brandon Thompson
 3 Linda Dean
 4 Charity Johnson, Leah Breitsprecher
 5 Alec Beck-Cross
 6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren, Stacey Wigan
 7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney
 9 Kaylee Stubbs, Lexi Dean, Max Gerleman,
 Liz Grow, Keith Trillet, Violet Siffin
 10 Vickie Friedow
 12 Obi Ukabiala, Matthew Stern,
 Mary Grace Leyda
 13 Emma Naumann
 14 Nolan Monthei
 15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short, Alexis Evans,
 Tom Stanfield
 16 Lindsey Robertson
 17 Mary Ann Rice, Austin Cook, Andy Sutton
 18 Sheri Thompson, Sue Soards,
 Georgette Kyenkya, Alexis Harlan

19 Neil Cross, Brady Jansen,
 Spencer Sutton, Kylie Perez
 20 Teri Reiersen, Larry Buske,
 Sarah Wiles, Carter Naumann
 21 Matt Stringham, Adam Hartung,
 Zoe Wilson, Kate Peterson
 22 Paulette Wood
 23 Susan Baldwin, Ellie Naumann
 25 Renee Haugland, Jennifer Riley
 26 Joan Clary
 27 Kim Buske, Charlotte Roff
 28 Ashley Marsh
 29 Liam Fulton, Richard Kile,
 Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher
 30 Jeffrey Merrill, Jaedyn Cale
 31 Quinn Merrill, Miyoko Hikiji

Happy Anniversary!!!

17 John & Denise Hartford
 18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue
 21 Gus & Karen Skovgard
 22 Bob & Linda Reaney
 27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson
 27 Jon & Anita Gaul
 28 Ethan & Maya Johnston
 28 Nicholas & Stacey Wigan

*If you see that your name is not listed,
 please call the church office at 278-2097,
 or email at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org,
 so we can update our files.*

Creche, Nativity set, and manger scene—terms that all mean the same thing to me—cherished memories!

When my parents moved to Arizona many years ago, they got rid of almost all their belongings. This was great for us because we were just setting up our household after finishing seminary and so we claimed many of their furnishings for ourselves. We still use most of those items and I am reminded daily of my childhood by that furniture in our house. However, the one item that means the most to me is the one I almost didn't get. The old manger scene, as we called it, was a pressed paper stable with straw glued on top and small ceramic figures of shepherds, magi, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, assorted animals, and an angel. By that time, the straw had mostly fallen off the stable, the stable itself was bent, and the ceramic figures were chipped in many places. My parents were just going to get rid of it thinking that no one would want it. Fortunately, I found out before it disappeared and claimed it as well.

There is a reason that old manger scene was in the condition it was. As a child, I just could not let it alone. I spent many happy hours gazing at the figures, picking them up and rearranging them around the stable (no doubt the cause of the numerous chips). That scene drew me close to the true meaning of Christmas as I marveled at that tiny ceramic figure of the baby Jesus.

As you worship with us during this Christmas season, you will see beautiful decorations throughout our church building. Our church altar guild (the group that decorates the church) is inviting any who would like to share their personal manger scenes (Nativity sets, etc.) to be displayed around our church this Christmas season. Don't worry, I will be extra careful to try to not chip or break any of them. I will not be able to share my favorite one with you because my daughter came to cherish it as much as I and she now shares it with her kids. I will share some others I have, as I love to collect them. I hope the figures and all the decorations will bring you closer to the true meaning of Christmas.

Come and enjoy worship with us throughout this Christmas season and beyond! "Christmas at the Barn" in Johnston will be Saturday, December 19, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Our Christmas eve services will be at New Hope on Thursday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. (family service), 7:30 p.m. (Chancel choir), and 10:00 p.m. (Communion).

Have a blessed Christmas season!

Grace and peace, Pastor Jon



Season of Advent: God's Righteousness

November 29	Title: "Branch of Righteousness"	Script.: Jeremiah 33:14-16
December 6	Title: "Preparing the Way"	Script.: Luke 3:1-6
December 13	Christmas Cantata (8:30 & 10:45) and Children & Youth Christmas Service (9:30)	
December 20	Title: "Fruit of Righteousness"	Script.: Luke 1:39-55
December 24	Title: "Are you missing Baby Jesus?"	Eve Services: 5:30, 7:30, 10:00
December 27	Title: House of Righteousness"	Script.: Luke 2:41-52



Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

8:30am Traditional Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
10:45am Traditional Service

Johnston River of Life Casual Worship Services

Currently meeting at Beaver Creek Elementary,
8701 Lyndhurst Drive, Johnston

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

Sundays at 10am

Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

www.newhopedsm.org • www.johnstonriveroflife.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Jon Gaul
Outreach Pastor: Craig Ferguson
Director of Music: Eldon Cross
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Sarah Jacobson
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Nursery Attendant: Anita Gaul
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org
Jon Gaul: jgaul@newhopedsm.org

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Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org

Sarah Jacobson: sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

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find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

The Link newsletter is a monthly publication.

Editor: Nancy Monthei, Reporters: New Hope Church family

Please contact the church office at 278-2097 if you have a change in address or would like to be taken off the LINK mailing list.

the link
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