

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United Methodist Church

## March 2018

MARCH AT NEW HOPE UMC

## FOR ALL PEOPLE

- 
- March 4 "A Sign For All People"
  - March 11 "A Love For All People"
  - March 18 "A Call For All People"
  - March 25 "A Savior For All People"
  - March 29 5:30pm Soup Dinner;  
7:00pm Maundy Thursday drama



**NEW HOPE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays at New Hope UMC 8:30am • 9:30am • 10:45am  
[newhopedsm.org](http://newhopedsm.org)



Threads of  
**Grace**

LENT AT JOHNSTON RIVER OF LIFE



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
Saturdays 5pm & Sundays 10am  
Beaver Creek Elementary  
[JohnstonRiverOfLife.org](http://JohnstonRiverOfLife.org)



**March 25. Palm Sunday** at New Hope UMC. Children's Palm parade: 9:30 & 10:45. We will lead the children into service, and then they may sit with families.

**Thurs., March 29.** 5:30-6:45pm, **Soup Dinner**, Fellowship Hall.

**Maundy Thursday Drama**, 7:00pm at New Hope UMC. Maundy Thursday Drama will be one of the most impactful events of the year. Expect dramatic scenes, music,

communion, and ending with the congregation gathered around the crosses. We hope you will come for this special worship service, and as always, invite a friend to come with you.

**Fri., March 30, Good Friday Prayer Vigil.** 7am-7pm, Ruby Chapel. We will have a 12 hour prayer vigil in the Ruby Chapel at New Hope or you may pray at home or work. This is a chance for the church to be in prayer on the day we remember the death of Christ, and what His sacrifice means to us. *Sign-up sheets are found in Fellowship Hall.*

**Sun., April 1, Easter Sunday**

8:30 & 10:45 Traditional Services

9:30 Contemporary Service

10:45 Easter Celebration for CLT students ages 3 years- 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Activities include a Easter lesson, games and egg hunt.





# 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.

## Prayer Concern

Army Larsen; Sheldon Stout; Ambrose Moses; John Rains; Vickey Cary; Linn Redding; Olive Walker; Bishop Laurie Haller; District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon; District Field Outreach Minister, Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.

Prayers for the following military personnel: Kelsey Bartley; Dawn Bernal; Jason Homard; Cory Larson; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Mike McGhee; Todd McGinnity; Tyler McGinnity; Derek Monthei; Christopher Moore; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Tim Rains; Devan Stanton; Jared Stanton; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

## Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers and encouragement I received from my New Hope family when I had eye surgery. The e-mails, cards, and phone calls meant so much. A special thank you to the New Hope Needlers for the beautiful quilt and banana bread that Charlotte Schultz brought to me. Pat Papenheim

Thank you to all of my church family for their prayers, cards, and support after Laura's passing. Thank you to the kitchen crew for the funeral luncheon. I appreciate each and every one of you. Dale Myers

## New Member

Congratulations to Janet Herrold for becoming a member of New Hope UMC on February 18. Janet joins New Hope by transfer from Epworth UMC. Welcome Janet!!

## Birth

Congratulations to Tony & Amanda Thompson on the birth of their daughter, Maren Harkin Sodee Thompson. Maren was born on January 31, 2018. She weighed 6 pounds 5.2 ounces and was 18.75 inches long. Maren joins big brother, Nolan, at home.

## Church Communications

Stay connected with New Hope UMC!!

Weekly announcements and the monthly newsletters are sent out to everyone via email.

**CONTACT information** If you have not been receiving these emails, please contact Nancy Monthei in the church office at 278-2097 or [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org). ALSO, we appreciate receiving your updated contact information. Thank you!



## Special Charge Conference on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm.

District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon will be presiding at the Charge Conference on March 8, 7pm at New Hope UMC. The charge conference will be voting to discontinue the associate pastor's position, which will open the way for Craig's appointment at New Hope to end on 4/1/18, the date his appointment at JROL will begin.

There will then be church conferences at JROL: a "Chartering Church Conference" (to formally create a new church and accept members) and a "Constituting Church Conference" (to elect leaders) on Easter weekend. They will be doing one of each at both the Saturday night service and the Sunday morning service.

## New Charter—Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 AM, @ Crown Point in Johnston.

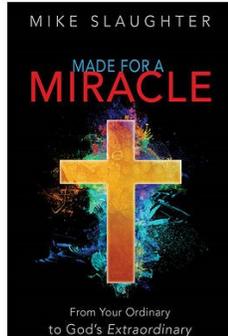
Easter will be a special service for Johnston River of Life. JROL will be Chartering as a new congregation. District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon will be presiding at the Charge Conference. JROL invites you to come and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, and help us live into our mission of "Being Christ in Community."

## Made for a Miracle

I will be leading a Bible study during Lent. We will meet on **Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the church, through March 25.**

The study will be based on the book "Made for a Miracle", by Pastor Mike Slaughter. Here is the teaser for the book:

Did you know that when we hope for the impossible, it involves more than praying for God's transcendent power? There are two components to every miracle: divine action and human responsibility. Each of us has been given specific talents and abilities. For a real miracle to take place, God expects us to apply these talents and abilities—acting *with* God to perform divine work. By examining biblical examples of how to use your God-given gifts for God's glory, author and pastor Mike Slaughter helps you discover that you, too, were *Made for a Miracle*.



I invite you to join us as we dig deeper into God's call for our lives in this season of Lent.

Pastor Jon



## Easter Lily Orders

**Deadline: March 18**

You may order an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of loved ones.

The Lilies will decorate the Altars at both the Traditional and Contemporary worship services on Easter Sunday.

An order form will soon be in the tear-off section of the bulletins.

Cost is \$10.00 per Lily. *Deadline is March 18.*

After the Easter worship service you attend, you may take your plant home.



## Girl Scout Sunday March 11

All Girl Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Girl Scout uniforms for Girl Scout Sunday on March 11.



Daylight Saving time begins **March 11, 2018**  
Spring forward one hour!

## Easter Boxes

Junior High Blast is teaming up with the Servicemen Care Team to hopefully make Easter much brighter for the 6 overseas Servicemen connected with our church. Jr. High Blast has been active in many missions this year, but we know that this one could be far reaching, all the way around the world. We can only do this with **YOUR** help. Would you be willing to pick up an item next time you are at the store? We can make it easier, if you donating money, we will use it purchase postage and with any extra we will buy additional supplies for the Easter boxes. Here are some of the items the soldier like to receive:

- |                |                   |                           |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Hard Candy     | Lip balm          | Flavored water packets    |
| Beef Jerky     | Gum               | Eye glass cleaner         |
| M & M's        | Puzzle books      | Sunflower seeds           |
| Sunday Comics  | Batteries AA or D | Snacks in hard containers |
| Summer sausage | Small games       | Personal Care items       |

These are just a few ideas. Our kids would like to make the boxes so big, they have to share with their service coworker. If you would like to generously help Jr. High Blast make the best Easter baskets this year, please have donations to New Hope by **March 4th**. We will package and mail the Wednesday after, so they can receive them in plenty of time for Easter.

Please contact Tami Wise, 251-2987, or Judy Stout, 986-4389, with any questions.





## 2018 RUMMAGE SALE

Believe it or not, time to start thinking of the 2018 annual New Hope Rummage Sale! This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year and an important outreach event for New Hope.

Please **SAVE THE DATES OF APRIL 26-28** and plan to join us. Start saving and sorting your items. **Sunday, April 22 is our donation day.**

Please join this *awesome* rummage sale team. With everyone's help, we can again serve the community while having a successful fund raiser. (Our goal is \$10,000. We almost made it last year.)

Thank you all for helping.  
Carol Harter

As most of you know our annual rummage sale is quickly approaching. We need **YOU** to help us pull off another GREAT sale! Volunteer sign up sheets will be in the main hallway starting Sunday, March 11th.



We will be looking for checkers, general helpers, area supervisors, sorters etc...

Carol left us big shoes to fill as we take over volunteer recruitment so we are adding an INCENTIVE to make sure we don't fail.

We are giving away a \$25 shopping spree to the Rummage Sale to one lucky volunteer!

Each hour you sign up to volunteer will be one entry into the drawing!

Sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0849a9ab2ba31-rummage> or sign up the first day we have sheets out (**Sunday, March 11th**) for *DOUBLE* entries!

**THANK YOU** in advance to all of the volunteers that will share their time and talents this year! We appreciate each one of you!

Questions about any/all things volunteer related?  
Jackie Johnson (515)710-3239/jackiejohnson81@aol.com  
Jenn Higdon (515)441-4725/jenn@higdon-family.net

These are a few pictures from the 2017 Rummage Sale. By looking at the pictures, you can tell that A LOT of organizing goes into the Rummage Sale.

It is so *successful* due to the generous donations from everyone, and the volunteers who share their time to help!



## Blood Pressure Check

Next BP checks will be March 11 9:30a-11a in the Narthex.

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 10  
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

## Women's Fellowship

Thursday, March 15, 9am.  
Questions? Contact Susan Clark at 964-5119 or Sharon Smith at 419-7082

## Veterans Helping Veterans

The next Veterans Helping Veterans will be Saturday, March 17, 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com)

**Bidwell-Riverside Center:** We have new arrangements worked out for those of us who want to volunteer each month at Bidwell Riverside. We will work the **2nd Thursday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Those who want to carpool should meet at the church at 12:30. Both women and men are invited (and urged) to come, as we will be the only group there. They need 2-3 to guide persons through the food pantry "grocery store" and help them make selections, 2-4 to sort donations, 4-6 to stock on Thursday afternoons (because a truck comes in that day), and someone to run the clothing counter. If a larger group comes, 8-10 can be kept busy unpacking in the Bed Bath and Beyond building.

Bidwell is a United Methodist Mission project which has been serving people in the Des Moines area since 1893. It is the largest DMARC food pantry in Des Moines and distributed more than 540,000 food items to families in need last year, as well as having a community garden. More than 6,000 clothing items are dispersed to families each month. Their child development center provides a quality education for 48 children, and family services include assistance with short-term emergencies and guidance to self-sufficiency. Clients are treated with respect and Christian compassion.

Please notify Lynn Louk if you are planning to go. Contact her at 276-7900, [jimlynnlouk@mac.com](mailto:jimlynnlouk@mac.com)



## Faith & Family Night

at the Iowa Wolves Basketball Game!

Post-game faith-based concert!

Where: Wells Fargo Arena

When: Sunday, March 4

Time: Doors open at 1:45pm

Game: Tip off at 3pm

Post-Game Concert by Christian contemporary recording artist Plumb.

Tickets are \$12 and comes with a food voucher for hot dog, popcorn & chips!

Tickets (individual and group) must be reserved in advance. To purchase call, Madeline at 515-564-8559 or [Madeline.Pavlik@IAwolves.com](mailto:Madeline.Pavlik@IAwolves.com)

## Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets quarterly. Next meeting is on Thurs., April 12 at 10am in the F.Hall.

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. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

## New Hope Needlers

Join us on Fri., March 16, 9am-3pm in the 3rd grade classroom. Please note that the Needlers will meet the 3rd Friday of each month. All are welcome!

Please bring your sewing machine and current project. Dress kits will be available. Lunch will be at Panera. Contact Jody Rains, 278-8282, with questions.

## Friday Bible Study

The Friday Bible Study at the Pizza Ranch at 1pm. (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. Study leader: Jim Louk

Join us in **March** for our study:

**March 9:** "The Ripple Effect"  
Text: John 1:35-42, Psalm 34:1-22  
Christianity is contagious. The disciples were filled with joy and gladness, healing and wholeness. They began the "Each one teach one," "Each one bring one," "Each one tell one" method, and the circle widened.

**March 23:** "Left Behind"

Text: Luke 19:1-10

We all need a second chance. What do you want most to put behind you this Lenten season? Christ is the One who can empower you to do just that!

## Adult Discussion Group

Join us at New Hope on Sundays at 9:30am in the Ruby Chapel. Group discussions are based from "The Wired Word" that weaves current events into the Bible study.

## 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.



**World Water Day** is an annual event celebrated on March 22.

This day focuses attention on the importance of universal access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in developing countries. More information will be in the April LINK.

# Children's Ministries

## Children's 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)** 10:45-11:45 on Sunday mornings. No CLT on March 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> because of Spring Break.

**Children's Worship News** Thank you to all of the children who have attended Children's Worship during the 9:30 service. We have enjoyed learning about God and sharing worship time together. On Sunday, March 11, 2018, Children's Worship will not be held. Happy Spring Break!

Children's Worship will not be held on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018. We encourage families to share Easter worship together.

If you are interested in leading Children's Worship, please contact Charity Johnson. The last date for Children's Worship is May 20, 2018.

## This month at TGIW

<http://www.newhopedsm.org/pdf/TGIW-Schedule.pdf>

We will not meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> because of Spring Break. The **LAST** Wednesday Night for TGIW will be April 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Join us for Thank God It's Wednesday "TGIW"! All kids 3 yr. old—5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Puppets:** 5:15-6:00pm. Questions??? Contact Melanie Henry, melhenry0@gmail.com, or Linda Dean, deanlinda2@aol.com

**Dinner:** 5:45-6:15pm

**Kids Activities:** 6:15-7:00pm



### COME ONE COME ALL FOR A FAMILY NIGHT

Join us on **April 18<sup>th</sup>** for a Superhero Talent Show. Come show us all the talent that New Hope has in the congregation. We have a DJ heading up the night. Come and Join the fun!



## VBS 2018 July 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>

If you have not signed up to be a lead person please sign up to be a Shepard, help at Registration table, help to distribute T-shirts, youth helper in an area (6<sup>th</sup> grade and above), decoration helper, help with food donations.

We need everyone to help make this Hero Central amazing for these kids; they enjoy learning from everyone and they enjoy showing you all what they are learning about God.

So take a SUPER HERO LEAP and help with VBS! Thank you!

# BLAST—Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

March 2018

**Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade)** Leaders: Jackie Johnson & Tami Wise:  
Email: JrBLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

**Junior High Blast has a month full of activities!**

- March 7** Pack Military Easter Baskets/Boxes. Please have all donations to church by Sunday March 4th to be included in the box.
- March 14** Spring Break - No BLAST- Enjoy your Spring Break!!
- March 21** Bowling - Kids you asked, so here it is. We will need an additional driver, please let us know if you are available.
- March 28** Preparing for EASTER!!!!

**Sr. BLAST (8th-12th grade)** Leaders: Chris Higdon, McKayla Johnson, and Pam Frey –  
[BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)



Thanks you to everyone who supported Senior High BLAST in February with our recent breakfasts and Ash Wednesday pancake meal. We were able to raise over \$900 between the events, which will go directly to support our Summer Mission Trip to Houston, June 9-16, in which we will be taking 13 people; 9 youth and 4 adults!!!!

Back in late January; the youth attended Winter Jam in Des Moines. Which was a Christian Concert where 10 bands performed. It was a great night of fellowship and worship.

Looking forward to March; we have several exciting activities planned for the Youth. We will be finishing our study on Wednesday nights around the Gospel of John through the use of the Visual Bible and the Adam Hamilton's study of John: The Gospel of Light and Life. We will also be planning to complete a yard work service project on March 24<sup>th</sup>, if the weather cooperates.

Finally, it is your last chance to get Younker's Community Day coupon books for \$5. The coupons are good for March 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>. And the first coupon in the coupon book is \$10 off a \$10 or more purchase!!! All proceeds raised from the sale of the coupon books goes directly to our Youth Group to fund their upcoming summer mission trip.

Here are the youth events for the next two months: . More information about the events will be sent out in email and posted on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>).

**Feb. 28th @ 6pm** ~ Positive Social Media Speaker  
**Mar. 1st-3rd** ~ Younker's CommunityDay Sales  
**Mar. 4th @ 8am** ~ BLAST Breakfast  
**Mar. 7th @ 6pm** ~ TGBD  
**~ Not Meeting on Mar.14th (Spring Break) ~**  
**Mar. 21st @ 6pm** ~ ChildServe  
**Mar. 24th** ~ Yard Work Service Project  
**Mar. 28th @ 6pm** ~ TGBD

**April 4th @ 6pm** ~ TGBD  
**April 11th @ 6pm** ~ TGBD  
**April 15th @ 8am** ~ BLAST Breakfast  
**April 18th @ 6pm** ~ ChildServe  
**April 25th @ 6pm** ~ TGBD  
**April 28th @ 6pm** ~ New Hope Rummage Sale



# missions

## MARCH MISSION NEWS

Our March Mission focuses are:

**Habitat for Humanity**

and the

**Women's Prenatal Shelter and Clinic at the Mutambara Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe.**

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Our next Habitat Build is March 17, from 8am to 4pm. All levels of skills are utilized, so don't be afraid to sign up, a job will be waiting for you. If you can help in this worthy effort, please contact Denise Hartford, [denisehartford@gmail.com](mailto:denisehartford@gmail.com), call or text 515-890-1406.

**THE WOMEN'S CLINIC AND SHELTER AT MUTAMBARA MISSION HOSPITAL IN ZIMBABWE:**

Our Missionary, Emmanuel Mefor, and his nurse wife, Florence Mefor, in addition to running the hospital and doing surgery, created a clinic and shelter to lower infant mortality rates. Women who are in the last few months of their pregnancy are brought to the shelter, where they are monitored, fed healthy food, and taught skills such as sewing and knitting. The food they serve is bought from farmers in South Africa and near-by areas, so the cost increases with the addition of transportation expenses. They recently started a garden to supplement the food served, but the costs of fencing to prevent roaming animals of eating or destroying the garden is a problem. Other needs include repairs and painting of hospital wards and the shelter.

An average of 100 patients are seen daily in their Out Patient Department, however, Florence and Emmanuel also go out into the villages and countryside to check on patients.

*We will be holding another "Noisy Can" collection Sunday, March 18, to help with this wonderful mission.*

**SOUPER BOWL REPORT:** Thank you to all those of you who participated in our "Souper Bowl" food drive for the DMARC Food Pantries. A special thanks to Jackie Johnson for creating the posters and decorating tables, overseeing the counting of the items as well as delivering all to DMARC. We collected: 1,253 items! Our game was a HUGE success because of our wonderful New Hope family. Activities like this help our church tackle hunger in our community, one donation at a time. Philadelphia Eagles won the Souper Bowl with 698 points vs. the Patriots' 555 points!! Of course the REAL WINNER is the FOOD PANTRIES!

**CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** The camp booklets are out! Send your kids to camp for a wonderful, fun filled, and spiritual experience. Missions will continue to support ½ of the cost and if the cost is still too great, the UMC Conference also gives scholarships to help. Select the camp, call the camp Registrar and tell them about New Hope paying ½ the amount. Then call Nancy at church to report: the student, the camp, the date, and the amount. If you need help in securing a Conference scholarship, please contact Sharon Smith: 515-419-7082, [wicketsblooms@aol.com](mailto:wicketsblooms@aol.com).

**SAVE THE DATE: MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND:** Please put August 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual on-site food packaging at New Hope.

**FRIDAY BACKPACK BUDDIES:** Missions has committed to buying and assembling food sacks through the school year for hungry children that often don't get fed over the weekend. We are partnering with Zion Lutheran Church, who will deliver the food to 40 students at Samuelson Elementary School, near New Hope. If you feel called to help with this project, let Sharon Smith or Susan Clark know. If you want to donate to help defray the costs, make out your check to New Hope with Backpack Buddies on the memo line. Thank you.

**HAND OF LUKE—ministry of a meal for Central Iowa Shelter and Services**

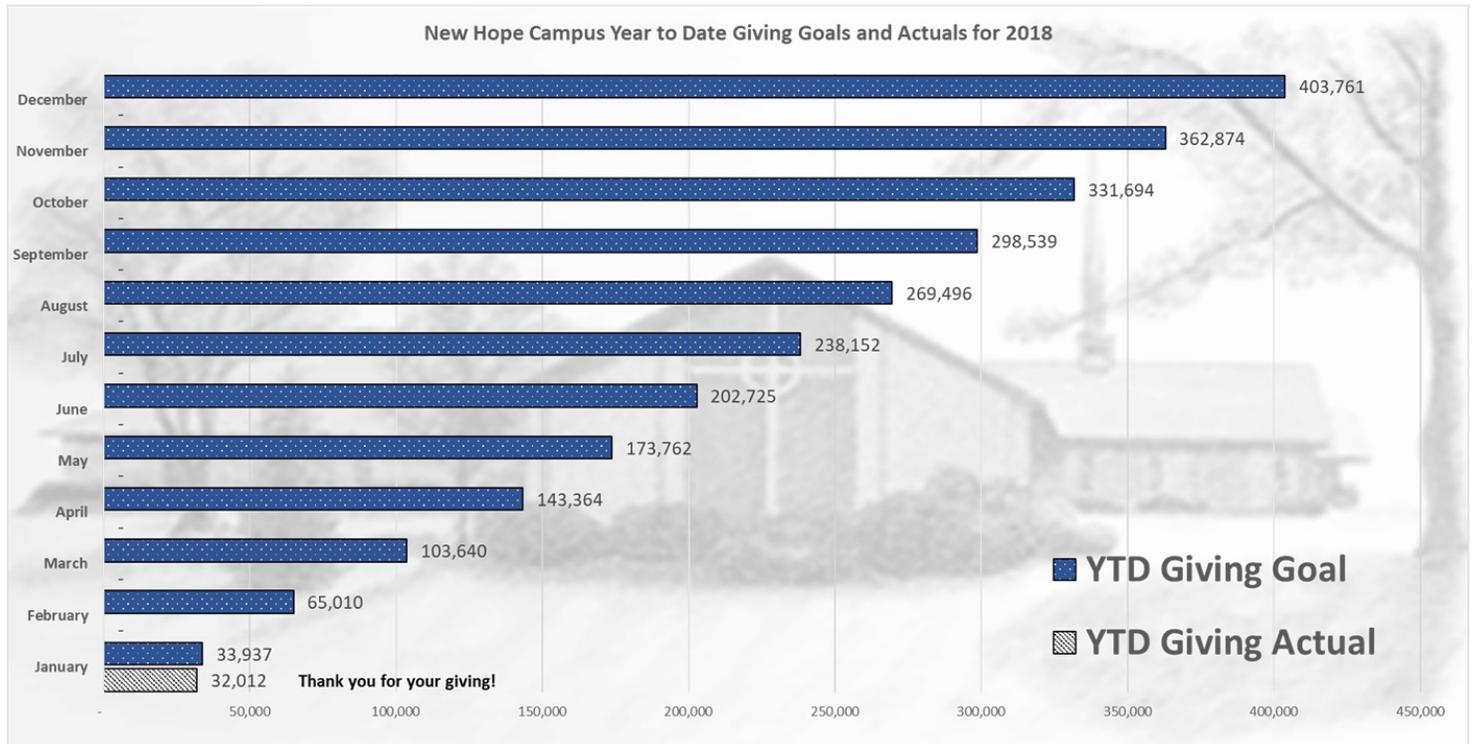
*Thank you* for the monetary donations given in February to purchase pizzas for our February 14 meal at the Central Iowa Shelter and Services. Your generous donations were greatly appreciated!

If you would like to contribute to our ministry of a meal for Wednesday, March 14, please sign up on the Hand of Luke sheet in the Fellowship Hall, to donate food, cook, and/or serve.



Contact Denise Hartford, [denisehartford@gmail.com](mailto:denisehartford@gmail.com), call or text 515-890-1406 for information on how to sign up.

1. Habitat for Humanity Work Day on Saturday, March 17 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2. Oklahoma Mission Trip for Adults: June 10-15, 2018.



**New Hope Sunday morning  
Worship attendance**

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
January 28	32	89	77	198
February 4	42	86	87	215
February 11	32	73	79	184
February 18	30	81	69	180

**Johnston River of Life  
Worship attendance**

Sat	Sun	total
Jan 27 41	Jan 28 57	98
Feb 3 44	Feb 4 37	81
Feb 10 44	Feb 11 43	87

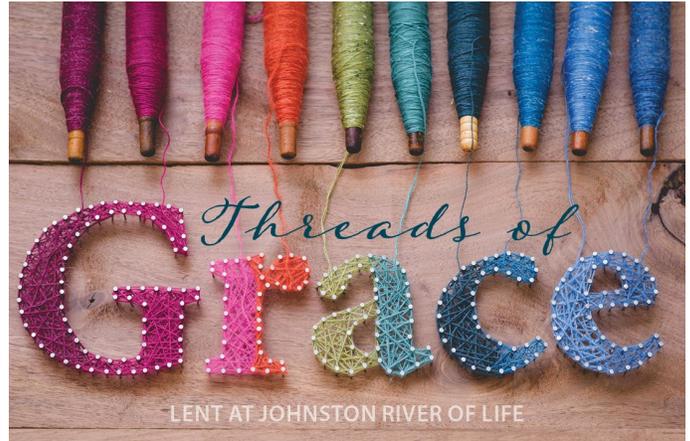


### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

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](http://www.newhopedsm.org) OR [www.johnstonriveroflife.org](http://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.



## Easter & April Fools

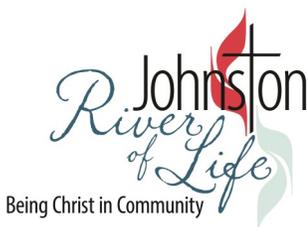
I have heard a lot of humorous comments about the fact that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines day and Easter falls on April Fools day this year. The fact is, it is neither rare nor common. In the last three hundred years this phenomenon has occurred 8 times. (1725, 1804, 1866, 1877, 1923, 1934, 1945, and 1956.) Easter is one of those odd holidays that fluctuates radically based upon the moon and the new year. Easter can fall anywhere from March 22<sup>nd</sup> until April 25<sup>th</sup>.

But lets not get lost in the mystery and rarity of when Easter falls on April 1. Instead, let's meditate for a moment on the monumental miracle of Easter morning that merits 2,000 years celebration. Maybe the disciples thought there was a prank being played on them. (of course there was no April fools at that time, and we don't know the actual date) But the questions were flying.

Why is the stone rolled away?  
Where is the body?  
What did they do with him?  
Is he really alive?  
How is this possible?

So many questions and so much doubt. There was confusion and fear. The disciples went into hiding, afraid their bodies might come up missing too. But as word began to spread, as disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, others encountered Jesus in a locked room, and 500 heard Jesus give the Great Commission and ascend, the reality of the miracle began to take hold.

Today, 2,000 years later, we still celebrate the miracle of Easter. We may get excited about egg hunts and chocolate candy. We may love the Easter baskets, and Cadbury Eggs. Who knows, some of us may have a lot of fun with Easter on April Fools day. But the real miracle of Easter is found in the empty tomb, and the promise of Jesus' love. This Easter make sure you celebrate the miracle somewhere.



Easter will be a special service for Johnston River of Life. We will be Chartering as a new congregation. We invite you to come and celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, and help us live into our mission of "Being Christ in Community".

**We hope to see you on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 AM, @ Crown Point in Johnston.  
Join us for great music, worship, friends, activities, and even a free meal.**

Pastor Craig 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 worshippers.

**Lectors** read the scripture lessons for the day at the worship services.

**Hosts** bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies (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, Office Admin at 278-2097.

## Those who serve New Hope in March

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	<b><u>Greeters</u></b>
4	4	4
11	11	11
18	18	18
25	25	25
<b><u>Lectors</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>	<b><u>Lectors</u></b>
4 Vicki O'Brien	4	4 Spencer Sutton
11 Cathy Short	11	11 Lynn Davisson
18	18	18 Jon Verner
25	25	25 Barb Mather
<b><u>Traditional Service Callers</u></b>	<b><u>Hosts</u></b>	<b><u>Hosts</u></b>
4 Norma Sutton	4 Sr. BLAST	4 Sr. BLAST
11 Norma Sutton	11	11 Linda Yaske
18 Norma Sutton	18 Glenna Ross	18
25 Bob & Marlys Borcharding	25	25 Linda Kielsmeier
<b><u>Office Volunteers</u></b>	<b><u>9:30 Computer Support</u></b>	<b><u>Money Counters</u></b>
2 Gayle Easton	4 Rick Homard	4 Tracy Hoffman, Joe Hoffman, Glenna Ross
9 Marilyn Monroe	11 Caleb/Kevin Christensen	11 Clark Howland; Rick Homard, Larry Wood
16 Theresa Flickinger	18 Kelly Mohrman	18 Randy Jansen, Patty Nearmyer, DeVonne Douglas
23 Sue Blank	25 Nic Wigant	25 John Burrough, Tami Wise, Jerry Kielsmeier
30 Norma Sutton	<b><u>9:15 Welcome Center</u></b>	
	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	

**Thank you** to all the Scouts and leaders for presenting the Color Guard on Scout Sunday, February 4, at all 3 services!



# March 2018

## 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 Office Vol, 9a-Noon: Gayle Easton  7:00p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	2 Office Vol, 9a-Noon: Gayle Easton	3
4 <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Communion Sr. BLAST breakfast fundraiser  4:30p, Lenten Bible Study, R.Chapel	5  7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	6 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	7 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6p, Mission Mtg., R.Chapel 6:15-7p, TGIW 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	8  1-4p Bidwell Riverside volunteer work  7p, Special Charge Confer- ence	9 Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe  1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	10  7:30a, Men's Breakfast
11 <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> Guest Preacher: Pastor Neil Cross No CLT & Children's Worship Girl Scout Sunday 9:30-11a, Blood Pressures *UMCOR (offering) 4:30p, Lenten Bible Study, R.Chapel	12  6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	13 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  6:30p, Finance Mtg., R.Chapel	14  3:30p, Hand of Luke  No TGIW or Youth Groups 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	15  9a, Women's Fellowship, F.Hall, R.Chapel	16 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger <b>Deadline for April LINK</b>  9a-3p, Needlers	17  8:30a, Veterans Breakfast, F.Hall  8a-4p, Habitat for Humanity Day
18 <b>5th Sunday in Lent</b> Noisy can collection No CLT 9:30a, Lincoln Herrick baptism Easter Lily orders deadline 4:30p, Lenten Bible Study, R.Chapel	19	20 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  7p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	21 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST—Childserve 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	22  6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	23 Office Vol: Sue Blank  F.Hall, FLC reserved all day  1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	24  F.Hall, FLC reserved all day  Sr. BLAST yard work service project
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Food Pantry Sunday (offering)  4:30p, Lenten Bible Study, R.Chapel	26  6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	27 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	28 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	29 <b>Holy Thursday</b>  5:30-6:45p, Soup Dinner 7:00p, Maundy Thursday service	30 Office Vol: Norma Sutton  <b>7am-7pm, Good Friday Vigil</b>	31  5pm, JROL chartering charge conference



**\*UMCOR Sunday, March 11:** Your generous gift supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to the program of the giver's choice. Your contribution ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis.

*"May God's many blessings, be yours the year through."*

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Keith Craighton, Deanne Rowland,  | 16 17 Rick Gier, Mark Baldwin, Dan       |
| 2 Laura Cross                       | Larsen, Becky Baker, Taylyn Berry        |
| 3 Ashlyn Meyer, Tess Siffin,        | 18 Nina Moses                            |
| Dane Jacobson                       | 19 Marjorie Carnahan, Tyler Nearmyer,    |
| 4 Kevin Upah, Kristin Welter,       | Myles Redies, Denise Hartford,           |
| Emma Lemke                          | Jocelyn O'Brien                          |
| 5 Rex Haugland, Patricia Wadsworth  | 20 Leah Scherer, Norma VandenBerg,       |
| 6 Vicki O'Brien, Tami Wise,         | Nic Wigant                               |
| Janet Herrold; Edie Musgrave        | 21 Matthew Henry, Lauren Gregg,          |
| 8 Pam Johnson, Robert Krause        | Mason Jacques                            |
| 9 Beth Merrill; Henry Roff          | 22 Amanda Herring                        |
| 10 Ted Christensen, Darlene Gier,   | 23 Richard Cobb, Chad Meyer, Hannah      |
| Caitlyn Trillet                     | Short                                    |
| 11 Diane Densmore, Andrew Higdon    | 24 Bryce Weih, Robert Nuzum              |
| 12 Betty Holwegner                  | 25 Dee Jeffries, Lacey Fulton, Caleb Neu |
| 14 Norma Pecinovsky, Shari Mongar   | 26 Shelley Larsen, Diane Madison, Keith  |
| 15 Monica Balk, Brianna Johnson     | Beadersdt                                |
| 16 Charlotte Schultz, Aaron Homard, | 27 Cathy Cate, Levi Sheer,               |
| Connie Armstrong, Steve Dann        | David Followwill                         |
|                                     | 28 Natalie VanderLinden, Margaret Miller |
|                                     | 29 Noah Kerndt                           |
|                                     | 30 Don Ummel, Brody Egger                |



- 1: Elmer & Theresa Flickinger
- 5: Larry & Patrice Webber
- 11: Damon & Tracy DeBates
- 20: Linda & Larry Sesker
- 25: Stephen & Cathy Cate

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

You may think I'm getting ahead of myself, but I want to talk about Easter. This year Easter is April 1, so, by the time you read the April newsletter, Easter will be upon us or will have already happened. So, let's talk about Easter.

What memories do you have of past Easters? My memories include: coloring Easter eggs (especially the smell of vinegar used to dissolve the color tablets); wearing my best or even new clothes to church (my sister always got a new hat--an "Easter bonnet"--and I was jealous); eating chocolate bunnies (ears first of course); eating jelly beans (trying to keep an even number of all the different colors); and eating Easter eggs (the ones we decorated ourselves tasted the best).



As an adult, I am embarrassed to say that my most significant memories of past Easters have to do with my annoyance at the lingering presence of green plastic "Easter grass." That stuff would keep showing up all around the house for months afterwards. Even through the fall and into the winter, we would occasionally come across a piece of Easter grass and I would cry out in shock and dismay, to the amusement of my kids. They loved to find some of the grass just to tease me with it and get a reaction. It may be that they had a supply of it and were "planting" it to torment me, but I could never prove it.

As I reflect on such memories, it surprises me that they are not very significant memories given the importance of the holiday. I realize that the biggest and most important Christian holiday has not held nearly as prominent a place in my memories as others, such as Christmas. Now Christmas is a very important Christian holiday (my favorite), but when I stop to think about it, the birth of Jesus would not be celebrated or even remembered if it weren't for what happened on Easter.

It is the Resurrection of Christ that makes his birth worth remembering. It's the Resurrection of Christ that makes our union with God and new life possible. It is the Resurrection of Christ that makes us who we are--Resurrection people.

So, what memories do you have of past Easters? I'd love to hear about your memories and any ideas you have for making Easter extra special. Please let me know if you have suggestions and stay tuned for the following announcement:

**ANNOUNCEMENT!** It is appropriate that our Johnston River of Life outreach ministry will charter as a new United Methodist congregation on Easter Sunday, April 1. We announced earlier the plan for JROL to be chartered in September. However, in the process of preparing for this with the transfer of property and accounts, it was realized that JROL needed to be chartered to have the legal standing necessary for these changes. So, with the advice of our District Superintendent, Heecheon Jeon, the chartering was moved up to Easter Sunday, April 1.

May we keep **Johnston River of Life** in our thoughts and prayers as they step out in this new journey of faith and witness. May we know that we will always be connected and continue to find ways that we can work together to do more than we can alone.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jon



### **March Theme-- "For All People"**

<b>March 4</b>	<u>Title:</u> "A Sign for All People"	<u>Script.:</u> John 2:13-22
<b>March 11</b>	Guest Preacher: Pastor Neil Cross <u>Title:</u> "A Love for All People"	<u>Script.:</u> John 3:14-21
<b>March 18</b>	<u>Title:</u> "A Call for All People"	<u>Script.:</u> John 12:20-26
<b>March 25</b>	<u>Title:</u> "A Savior for All People" Palm/Passion Sunday	<u>Script.:</u> Mark 11:1-11



#### 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](http://www.newhopedsm.org) • [www.johnstonriveroflife.org](http://www.johnstonriveroflife.org)

#### Church Staff

Pastor: Jon Gaul  
Outreach Pastor: Craig Ferguson  
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei  
Director of Music: Eric Mohlis  
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Charity Johnson  
Nursery Attendants: Anita Gaul & Jackie Johnson  
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

#### Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri: 8:45am-4:45pm

#### E-mail Information

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
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#### Find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

The LINKnewsletter 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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