

A monthly publication
of New Hope United
Methodist Church

FEBRUARY AT NEW HOPE

2011

the link



February at New Hope

getting to the core

- Feb 6 **The Existence of God**
- Feb 13 **Christ—The Indwelling God**
- Feb 20 **The Spirit of Life**
- Feb 27 **The Gospel in a Nutshell**

Father & Daughter dinner & dance

- ♥ Thursday, February 17 ♥
- ♥ 5:30 pm Doors Open, Keepsake Photos Taken ♥
- ♥ 6:00 pm Dinner Begins ♥
- ♥ Magic Show & Dance Following Dinner. ♥

This evening is for that special father,
father-figure and daughter(s) of all ages.
A free-will offering dinner will be held, followed by a
magic show, dancing, and lots of fun!
The event ends at 8:00 p.m. Bring friends!
Reservations are required by February 10th.
Please call New Hope UMC at 515-278-2097 or e-mail
at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org.



membership news

prayer chain request

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

To be added to the e-mail prayer chain distribution list, please call the church office or Jan.

prayer concerns

Bob Nuzum; Betty Clark; Ann Krause; Evelyne Villines; Bishop Julius Trimble; District Superintendent, David Weesner.

Prayers for the following military personnel: **Joshua Ruleman; SPC Michael Lindenberg, Jeff Clifton,** and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

thank you

Thank you all so very much for all your prayers, phone calls and cards while Bob was in the hospital. The **Care Team** brought a beautiful quilt from the **New Hope Needlers** and he uses it every day. **Neil & Craig**, thank you for your calls and visits. You all mean so much to us. Blessings to all our New Hope family, **Billy & Bob Nuzum**

To our Favorite People - **Our New Hope Friends,**

Many thanks for your concern and loving care again. Karen and I truly enjoyed the food, cards, and phone calls that you provided for us. Thank you to **Betty Holwegner** for her nursing skills that she gave to Karen the morning of my surgery. Blessings to all of you.

Norma & Karen Smith

Thank you to everyone who took a Spiritual Gifts Survey on Sunday January 16th; an extra thank you to everyone who attended the discipleship class, "Serve God," on Saturday January 22nd. It is an essential part of our mission statement and discipleship process. We hope that you enjoyed receiving your results and learning a little more about yourself. We encourage you to be in prayer about how you may use those gifts to "Serve God" at New Hope.

If you missed the opportunity to take the Spiritual Gifts Survey and would like to, you may pick one up in the church office and return it at your leisure.



hang on!

When a couple received a rose bush as a gift, they planted and cared for it, eagerly waiting for it to bloom. A few months later, a bud finally appeared. Day by day, it began to fill out. The couple's anticipation grew when they could see that the rose would be bright red.

One day, they were surprised to notice that the green around the bud had been pulled away and the flower petals were torn apart. They asked their young daughter if she knew what had happened. "I just couldn't wait any longer," she said, "so I blossomed it myself."

The psalmist tells us to "Wait for the LORD ... " (Psalm 27:14, NRSV). Instead of trying to help God along, let him bring things to fulfillment in his perfect time.

christian learning opportunities

sunday adult bible study classes:

Doing Faith Together

9:30 and 10:45 a.m.,

This will be a Pastor led informal discussion on various topics and sections of scripture. We want to make this applicable and relevant to daily life and the American culture we live in. Pastor Craig will be the primary teacher with others stepping in on the weeks he preaches.

You will find this time enjoyable, conversational, yet encouraging and challenging for your spiritual growth. There is no need to "know" scripture or be able to "locate" verses to fit with this group. Just come and enjoy the New Hope community of friends as we look at how faith changes the way we look at the world around us.

Nooma

10:45 a.m.,

in the Ruby Chapel. A video series produced by Rob Bell that addresses different areas of life in our culture. The analogies presented are powerful and evoke a spirited conversation.



LIFE
groups

Life Group sessions are also listed on the following link:
<http://pastorcferguson.wordpress.com/johnston-life-groups/>

friday night fellowship:

Kevin & Jodi Christensen's home, 8417 Weybridge, Johnston

1st and 3rd Friday of each month starting Friday, February 4 • 5:30-7:00

There is a new Life Group starting Friday, February 4 from 5:30-7:00. It will meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month (no meeting on March 18--Spring Break). This will be a very informal, relaxed gathering, where everyone brings food and drink to share. Kids are welcome. There will be time for fellowship from 5:30-6:00 and then have the actual Study discussing current events and Christian application from 6:00-7:00. You don't need to know about scripture or have an experience in a small group (although we encourage you to bring a Bible.) You can join for one session or whatever sessions fit with your schedule, it is not a sequential or progressive study. If you have questions or plan to attend, please contact Kevin & Jodi Christensen at 277-6695, or jokevchristensen@gmail.com

NOOMA

Billy Nuzum's home

Saturdays at 4:30pm

A video series produced by Rob Bell that addresses different areas of life in our culture. The analogies presented are powerful and evoke a spirited conversation. Join us on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. at Billy Nuzum's home, 8050 NW 63rd Court, Johnston. Everyone is welcome...bring a friend. Contact Billy at 515-238-2302.

Paradigm *Shift* →



The first real job I had growing up was working at cabinet factory. I was 18, and it was the summer after my freshman year in college. I clearly remember the day that my boss told me to take his truck to a work site and install a set of cabinets for a family. He asked, “you do know how to drive a stick?” I was so excited about the responsibility to be sent to do this alone that the question hardly registered in my brain. Then I sat down in the truck.

What was that third pedal for? Why won't the engine start when I turn the key? I had a flash recall of mowing with a clutch tractor, and riding a motorcycle that had a hand clutch. I thought for a moment that I should go and confess I really didn't know how to drive a stick, but that was a very brief thought indeed. (Pride held me in front of that wheel) I figured out I had to push the clutch to start the vehicle, and every time I wanted to change gears. I also learned that, if not done correctly that the truck would stall, jerk, or grind. Hills and stoplights were fun, and God was certainly watching out for me.

I have learned many things from this one silly life experience. Getting into first gear is always the hardest. Too much gas and you spin the wheels, not enough and it dies, and pray you're not parked on an incline. I have learned first gear is really only intended to get you to a higher gear, and somewhere along the way you need to press the clutch, and shift the gears. Here you can grind gears, stutter the car, or miss

The problem with one gear is that it is not meant to get us where we need to go. We end up blocking traffic, or racing through busy streets, or not able to stop when needed. A healthy church needs to be able to shift gears to keep pace with traffic, to adjust our speed as the road conditions change.

I think anyone who has driven a stick would say that the danger is not being in a gear, the danger is in poor shifting,

One of the questions we should always be asking is, “where is God leading us to shift next?”

the shift all together. And so it is with each gear, the challenge is in shifting. One thing that I have grown to recognize is that church life is like a stick shift. Getting into first gear is always the biggest challenge. It takes the most work, just the right amount of gas, slowly releasing the clutch. I have also learned that many churches find a comfortable gear and stay there. They identify the ministries, finances, resources, and people of their church family and they keep doing the same thing, the same way, for the same people, year after year.

or not shifting. So it is with church.

From what I know of the history of New Hope, shifting gears is something we do well. Yes there is always a challenge in shifting, but we have always accepted the challenge of the shift. One of the questions we should always be asking is, “where is God leading us to shift next?”

sunday school

LIVE BIG. News

Our B.I.G. Idea for February

We believe that the Bible helps us discover what God wants us to do and be.

Our Bible Verse for February

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" -Deuteronomy 6:5



a prayer for parents (Author unknown)

Dear God, make me a better parent.

It is the most important job in the world and one for which there is no prior training.

Help me understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say and to respond to their questions kindly.

Keep me from interrupting and contradicting them. Help me to be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and the generosity of spirit to ask them for forgiveness when I know I have done wrong. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes or resort to shame and ridicule.

Oh, Lord, reduce the meanness in me. May I cease to nag. When I am out of sorts, help me, please, to hold my tongue and keep my temper under control.

Blind me to the insignificant shortcomings of my children and help me to see the good things they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise.

Make me ever mindful that they need the nurturing that comes with encouragement and appreciation for their small successes.

Help me remember that my children are only children so that I may not expect from them the judgment of adults.

Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves, to think for themselves and to make their own mistakes.

Forbid that I should punish them as a means of ridding myself of anger and frustration. Help me exercise reason and control.

May I grant them all wishes that are sensible and give the courage to withhold a privilege when I know it might do them harm.

Make me fair and just, considerate and companionable, so they will have genuine esteem, respect and affection for me.

Make me fit to be loved and imitated by my children, for this is the greatest compliment of all.

When we read the Bible, we learn what it means to be faithful to God. The Bible stories the children will hear this month include a sampling of important teachings from the Bible describe what God wants us to be and do.

Shema is a name given to the Bible verse for the month. These words remind the Israelites to love God more than anything else and to diligently teach their children to love God.

The Golden Rule reminds us to "Do to others as you would have them do to you"

The Lilies of the Field is a story from Jesus that reminds us that God loves us and cares for us as God cares for the birds and the flowers.

The Beatitudes, from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, teaching that we must live in order to have a fulfilled life, being who God wants us to be, and doing what God wants us to do.

youth programs

T.G.I.W.

The place to be
Wednesday nights!

Please join us on Wednesday February 2nd at Skate North (Incrediroll) on Meredith from 5-7 for a night of skating. If you are not skating you do not pay. Come join the fun!!! Bring Friends!!!

Menu for February

- Feb 2 No meal with roller skating
- Feb 9 Hot dogs
- Feb 13 both choirs sing at the 9:30 and 10:45 services
- Feb 16 Breakfast
- Feb 23 Mac & cheese

Sr. High BLAST february

Here's the basics of our schedule this month. We'll take some time early on to do some planning with the group to decide what other discussion topics, fund raisers and service projects we'd like to do this spring. We'll keep everyone posted via email and facebook.

Sunday, February 6th

Super Bowl Sunday - no meeting

Sunday, February 13th - 6-7:30

Meeting at church

Sunday, February 20th

We'll try to go visit the youth group at First Ankeny UMC during their evening meeting. This is the group we hope to travel with on the mission trip this summer so it will be fun to meet and interact with their group. Times TBA

Sunday, February 27th 6-7:30

Meeting at church

Please contact us if you have any questions!

Dani, Julie, Keith and Dave

confirmation schedule for February

February 6, 4:00 p.m.

Topic: "Being a Disciple"

February 14

Cook and Serve for Hand of Luke

February 20, 4:00 p.m.

Topic: "Living Our Commitment"

Jr. High BLAST february

February 13th

Join us for a mall scavenger hunt. We will be going to Jordan Creek Mall. This is not your average scavenger hunt.....you will not be purchasing items or taking pictures. We will meet at the church at 4pm and return at 6pm. Please bring money if you would like a snack at the food court. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or let one of the leaders know that you will be going. Hope to see you!
Brian & Stacie Bridges,
Tony & Tracy Hoffman

great resource for family devotionals

Josh McDowell has a website with "daily devotionals that cover a variety of topics relevant to today's youth and families. These devotionals are an excellent resource for thinking through difficult choices and applying Biblical standards in daily decision-making." He has two different devotionals, one geared toward younger kids and one for

adolescents. His archives hold more than 700 devotionals. Check it out! Choose a topic that is relevant to your family, print it off, and talk about it at dinner time. They are sure to spark a great conversation with your children.

Go to www.josh.org or Google "Josh McDowell Today's Family Devotions" to go directly to the devotional page.

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.

Acolytes are youth who light the altar candles before the worship service begins, and then extinguish the altar candles at the end of the 8:30 worship service.

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

Hosts buy or bake six dozen cookies, and serve coffee and lemonade after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. New Hope purchases seven dozen cookies to also be served with the hosts' cookies. 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 January

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
Greeters 6 Mike & Kris Wakeman 13 Margaret Hemphill 20 Jerry Stastny 27 Kathy Russi	Greeters 6 Pam & Nicole Weisskopf 13 Aaron Klugherz & Shannon Stanley 20 Dolberg family 27 Hoffman family	Greeters 6 13 Lee Ross 20 27
Lectors 6 13 Maurine Myers 20 27 Maurine Myers	Hosts 6 Deanne Rowland 13 John & Joyce Turek 20 Michele Hamilton 27 Cindy Rail	Lectors 6 Cathy Cate 13 Jon Verner 20 27
Acolytes 6 13 20 27	Children's Church 6 Elaine Sheer 13 Elaine Sheer 20 27	Hosts 6 Judy Stout 13 Lee Ross 20 27
	Nursery Sherry Faulkner	Nursery Sherry Faulkner
Traditional Service Callers 6 Mark & Leah Scherer 13 Jim & Norma Smith 20 Billy Nuzum 27 Betty Holwegner & Norma Sutton	Money Counters 6 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 13 Cam & Jamie Christensen, Jon Verner 20 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 27 Jerry Kielsmeier, Mike Sandberg, Kim Traylor	
Contemporary Service Callers 6 Peggy Philips 13 Michele Hamilton 20 Eldon Cross 27 Melisa Forbes & Pam Frey	Pal Friday: 9am-Noon 4 Shirley Frus 11 Norma Sutton 18 Darlene Caldwell 25 Alice Hedman	

thank you for volunteering to help with the worship services.

If you can't attend on the Sunday you are assigned, please contact another church member to switch with you and call the church office with the changes (278-2097).

missions

mission focus for february: nothing but nets

Nothing But Nets is a grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria through mosquito net distribution. Malaria is a leading killer of children in Africa. The United Methodist Church works in partnership with the UN Foundation and other organizations in this initiative. The United Methodist Church has a goal of eradicating malaria by 2012.

Each net costs just \$10 to buy and deliver to individuals in need. One bed net can safely last a family for about four years, thanks to a long-lasting insecticide woven into the net fabric.

When giving to Nothing But Nets, please add the Advance # 982015 on the memo line of your check.



Malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.

NothingButNets.net

mission updates

Look for a Year End Report in the March Link. We have contributed to all areas of the Rainbow Covenant so will be receiving our Rainbow Covenant award for 2010.

missionary support

Help us with our 2011 goal of supporting a missionary by contributing over \$2,000 to their needs through the Conference.

food pantries

Note that we will no longer be collecting personal items for the Urbandale Food Pantry in 2011. They can buy items cheaper so the Mission Committee will instead send \$100 each month to help with their needs. A new Food Pantry in Johnston has been established so our committee will also send them \$100 to help each month. The Urbandale and Johnston Food Pantries are part of the larger DMARC's Food Pantry system. We will still be collecting food items and monetary donations from the congregation monthly for DMARC.

hand of Luke

Central Iowa Shelter & Services

Monday, February 14

Chair: Ruth Doxon

menu

Pizza Casserole

Garlic Bread

Tossed Salad

Decorated Cupcakes

If you would like to contribute to our ministry by making food donations, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

When individuals drop off their non perishables, we ask that they **clearly label them HOL and clearly indicate who it is from** and leave them on the kitchen counter. Frozen items may be placed in the new industrial freezer, on the upper two left shelves. If possible, please indicate on the sign up sheet where you placed your item(s) (for example, "in pantry", or "in the refrig.").

thank you!

COOKS & SERVERS: Confirmation students & their mentors will prepare and serve the meal. Please meet at the church between 3-3:30 pm, transport to shelter at 5:30 pm and return to the church by ~8:00 pm.

food pantry report

Our monetary donations to help the Emergency Food Pantry in January was \$330 and 105 food items. Thank you for your monetary donations and food donations!

February 20 is Food Pantry Sunday



The love for equals is a human thing — of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing — the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing — to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich ... The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy — love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world.

—Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

sunday morning worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Dec 26	20	41	55	116
Jan 2	32	105	92	229
Jan 9	24	127	122	273
Jan 16	39	124	101	264
Jan 23	24	100	104	238

continuing our journey
- embracing our future
=\$224,846



Pledges received as of Jan. 23, 2011

new hope financial update

Below is the General Fund operating budget report for December 2010 compared to our 2010 budget for December 2009

	Dec 2010 Actual	Dec 2010 Budget	Dec 2009 Actual
Total Receipts	31,679.04	27,263.00	32,394.23
Total Expenditures	25,024.88	27,244.95	26,294.89
Net Surplus (Deficit)	6,654.16	18.05	6,099.34

	YTD Dec 2010 Actual	YTD Dec 2010 Budget	YTD Dec 2009 Actual
Total Receipts	324,843.55	319,594.85	320,907.20
Total Expenditures	300,596.37	317,835.60	309,093.44
Net Surplus (Deficit)	24,247.18	1,759.25	11,813.76

upcoming events

volleyball

Mondays, 7-8 pm

Feb 7 through the end of March

Get out of the cold and warm up by playing volleyball at New Hope! Beginning on Monday, February 7, teens and adults can come play volleyball, 7:00-8:00 pm in the Family Life Center through the end of March. It is great fun and exercise! Sorry, no nursery service will be provided.

boy scout sunday:

Sunday, Feb 13

All Boy Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Boy Scout uniforms for Boy Scout Sunday on February 13.

all church rummage sale

May 5 - 7

Womens Fellowship will again be in charge of the all church rummage sale on May 5 - 7, but they are in need of some help. We need 3 or 4 church members (not members of Womens Fellowship) to join the team to organize the sale. There will be one meeting in January and one meeting in February. Please call Carol Harter at 274-1467 if you could help us out and would like more information.



Please join us!

Come to Women of Faith. Listen to the speakers, sing along with the singers, and get involved in the drama presentations. Women of Faith will be Friday and Saturday, May 13 & May 14, 2011 at Wells Fargo Arena. New Hope has 25 tickets reserved and invites you to attend this event with us.

Each ticket will be \$89 instead of \$99 because we are going as a group. Each \$89 ticket includes all day Friday, all day Saturday, and a box lunch each day. The schedule is: Friday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year Women of Faith will be at Wells Fargo Arena, which promises to have great acoustics and less walking to and from the food and merchandise area. Because New Hope reserved tickets early, we are promised to be able to sit together in good seating with few stairs to climb.

Last year was my first time to attend Women of Faith and I learned so much. I bought a book there, which I consider to be one of my favorite books. I also enjoyed sharing my days with my fellow New Hopers and their friends. I do hope you will consider going with us. We will car pool to Wells Fargo Arena each day, so if you don't like driving in downtown Des Moines, don't

worry about it. You can relax and let someone else do the driving.

If you plan to attend WOF with us, please write your name and phone number on the sign up sheet by the Women of Faith poster in fellowship hall. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 4. Please make your check out to Linda Kielsmeier and give your check to Nancy in the church's office. Or you can register and pay online on the Women of Faith website.

To register online:

1. Go to the website <http://gps.womenoffaith.com>
2. On the GPS home page click "FIND A GROUP"
3. Enter the group name
New Hope United Methodist Church and click on SEARCH
4. Click on the group name (underlined in blue)
5. Click on JOIN GROUP on the right

Also information on how to register online is available by the Women of Faith poster in Fellowship Hall. Our tickets will be mailed to New Hope. If you have any questions please contact Linda Kielsmeier at 515-689-9680 or at lapals@hotmail.com.

Thank you, Linda Kielsmeier

groups gathering together

chancel choir

The Chancel Choir practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The choir performs at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. If you are interested in joining, please contact Dan Wilmoth, Director of Music, at 331-3176.

friday small group

Friday small group meets biweekly at 1:00 PM for lunch with discussion following at HyVee Deli at 1990 Grand Ave., West Des Moines. That is one the corner of Grand and E.P. True Parkway as Grand comes down through West Des Moines. February gatherings will be on the 11th and 25th. Contact Donnafred Hinman for further information at 226-2141.

men's breakfast

Men's breakfast is Saturday, February 12@ 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

women's bible study

Beginning February 28th we will be doing a study from Joyce Meyer that includes the following:

"Attitudes of the Heart"
"Never Say...No Way!",
"Run Your Race",
"Armed and Dangerous",
"Destiny Altering Decisions",
and "Simple Prayer, Simple Life".

Choose either:

Monday, 9:00 AM, or
Monday, 6:00 PM

Please call the office to reserve a spot for yourself.

Address Questions to Sharon Smith,
wicketsblooms@mediacombb.net or
277-7125.

women's fellowship

The first meeting in 2011 will be on February 17 at 9 a.m. at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Frus at 279-1130.

blood pressure check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. February 20 will be the next BP checks. Come to the Ruby Chapel after each worship service.

scrapbooking

A scrapbooking group meets monthly at Denice Sutton's home and the next gatherings are February 18 and March 25. Questions? Please contact Denice @986-5973.

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 the next meeting is Mon., April 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice

supporting friends

(a depression support group):

Occasionally or frequently feeling blue? Then this might be the group for you! Would you like a safe, supportive place to share your concerns with others who care? Come talk or just listen. You will find opportunities to share, hands to hold, ears to listen, and understanding hearts. If you have an interest in participating in this group occasionally or regularly; please call Carol Harter at 274-1467 for a time to be arranged.

support groups

Al-Anon

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Wesley Room.

Des Moines Area Parkinson's Support Group

1st Wednesday of the month (March - November) at 3:30 p.m.

Stroke Club of Iowa

3rd Tuesday of the month (February - October) at 7:00 p.m.

februray

2011
AT NEW HOPE

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Prayer Team	2 5:00p, TGIW— rollerskating at Skate North 7:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Jubilation Bells 7:45p, Praise Team	3 7:00p, Worship Design Mtg.	4 Pal: Shirley Frus 5:30-7:00p, Life Group at Christensens	5
6 Holy Communion 4:00p, Confirmation	7 7:00p, Trustees Mtg. 7:00p, Volleyball	8 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	9 5:30p, TGIW 7:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Jubilation Bells 7:45p, Praise Team	10 1:00-3:00p, New Hope Needlers at church	11 Pal: Norma Sutton 1:00p, Friday Sml Grp at Hy-Vee, 1990 Grand Ave., W.DSM	12 7:30a, Men's Breakfast
13 Boy Scout Sunday 9:30 & 10:45, Children's Choirs perform *Disabilities Awareness Offering Noon, Compassionate Callers 4:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST	14 3:30p, Hand of Luke 7:00p, Volleyball	15 <i>March LINK deadline</i> 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Stroke Club 7:00p, Finance Mtg.	16 5:30p, TGIW 7:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Jubilation Bells 7:45p, Praise Team	17 9:00a, Women's Fellowship at church 5:30p-8:00p, Father/ Daughter Dinner & Dance	18 Pal: Darlene Caldwell 5:30-7:00p, Life Group at Christensens	19
20 Food Pantry Sunday Blood Pressure Sunday 4:00p, Confirmation TBA, Sr. BLAST	21 5:00p, Missions Mtg. 7:00p, Volleyball	22 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, AD Council Mtg.	23 5:30p, TGIW 7:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Jubilation Bells 7:45p, Praise Team	24	25 Pal: Alice Hedman 1:00p, Friday Sml Grp at Hy-Vee, 1990 Grand Ave., W.DSM	26
27 6:00p, Sr. BLAST	28 9:00a, Women's Bible Study 6:00p, Women's Bible Study 7:00p, Volleyball	March 1 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	2 3:30p, Parkinson's Support Group 5:30p, TGIW 7:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Jubilation Bells 7:45p, Praise Team	3	4 Pal: Norma Smith	5

Looking Ahead:

Mar. 9: 7:00p, Ash Wednesday Service; NO TGIW
Mar. 13: Daylight Savings Time begins; Girl Scout Sunday
Mar. 16: NO T.G.I.W. (Spring Break)
Mar. 30: Last T.G.I.W.

*Disabilities Awareness Sunday

calls the churches of the Iowa Annual Conference to increase their understanding of the difficulties faced by people with physical and mental disabilities and how we can better serve all people through Christ's love and care. Monies from the special offering will be used for grants to local churches in the Iowa Annual Conference to help with projects to enhance accessibility of church facilities and parsonages, for camperships for persons with disabilities, and for educational events for district representatives and local churches to better serve all people.

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Judy Peterson, Nicole Weisskopf | 15 Shirley Curtis |
| 2 Kay Goff, Wendy Musgrave | 16 Scott Rowland, Elaine Stubbs |
| 3 Ron Rubek, Erika Weih | 17 Bob Conroy, Ruth Eckles,
Vicki Hover-Williamson, Evan Stone |
| 4 Abby Ness | 18 Jann Williams, Ava Henry, Hugh Myers,
Kaitlyn Grow |
| 5 Dawn Pritchard, Cody Zoss | 19 Susan Egger, Dan Wilmoth,
Heather Kerndt, Makenna Meyer |
| 6 Dale Monthei, Don Schipman,
Linda Kielszmeier, Penny Dolberg | 22 John Michael Dickerson, Julie Hartung,
Brock Zenor |
| 7 Sandy Wilges | 23 Lyle Pritchard, Jeff Evans |
| 8 Jacob Naumann | 24 Marte Carlson, Gina Frizzell |
| 9 Barb Conrad, Freda Ruleman,
Delanee Ensley, Jaden Miller,
Kari Walker, Benjamin Higdon | 25 Earl Lewis |
| 10 Clark Howland | 26 Anne Negus |
| 11 Steve Sutton, Evelyne Villines,
Aimee Thomas, Max Notz | 27 Avery Peterson, Clarissa Short,
Kinney Carnahan |
| 13 Mike Urquhart | 28 John Huber, Ray Pugh |
| 14 Sheryl Faulkner | 29 Doris Pugh |



Happy Anniversary!

- 1: Dean & Judy Peterson
9: Ron & Clarice Rubek
24: Larry & Kim Buske
28: Clark & Le Howland

If you see that your name is not listed, please call the church office at 278-2097, so we can update our files.

Love, Loyalty, Friendship



"No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends." - John 15:13

One of the places we visited in Ireland was Galway on the west coast of Ireland. Galway is a city of more recent fame, since President John F. Kennedy once spoke in the city square. They have a memorial to him on the spot where he spoke.

But Galway has a much more ancient history, and is famous for a number of other things, including the origin of one of Ireland's cherished symbols, the Claddagh Ring. The Claddagh features two hands clasping or holding a heart, and usually surmounted by a crown. These elements are said to symbolize the qualities of love (the heart), friendship (the hands), and loyalty (the crown). The way it was explained to us at the Claddagh Jewelers in Galway was that the open hands holding the heart means that the person you give the ring to holds your heart in their hands, and that the ring symbolized the love, the loyalty, and the

friendship that you have for the person to whom you give the ring.

Legend has it that in the late 1600's an Irish fisherman by the name of Richard Joyce, from the village of Claddagh, had pledged his love and became engaged to a young lady in the village. Claddagh was an ancient fishing village just outside the city walls of Galway (Michelle and I saw the ancient city walls on our trip to Galway). Richard then went to sea for the fishing season. But he was captured by pirates at sea shortly before he was due back to be married. Richard was sold into slavery in Algeria, where he became the property of a rich Moorish goldsmith, who, sensing his potential, began to train him in his craft. In time Richard Joyce became a fully proficient master craftsman and with thought of the girl he had left behind close to his heart, he fashioned the first Claddagh Ring.

In 1698, after an agreement with King George III to release all his subjects held in slavery, Richard Joyce found himself once more a free man. His master, who by now had grown very fond of him, offered his only daughter in marriage and half of his wealth, if Richard would stay in Algiers. But Richard declined and returned to Ireland and to his fiancé to whom he had pledged his love and loyalty. Upon his return, Richard had found that his love had remained loyal to him. Presenting her with the Claddagh Ring, they were married. Richard went to great lengths to show his love for his beloved.

February is a good time for a love story. But an even older love story that is true is the love story that God tells us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, we are shown how deeply we are loved by God, and to what extent God will go to show His love for us. In the February sermon series we will be exploring the various ways in which God manifests His love for us.

worship themes for february

- Feb 6 **The Existence of God** *Isaiah 40:21-31*
- Feb 13 **Christ-The Indwelling God** *Colossians 1:15-23*
- Feb 20 **The Spirit of Life** *Romans 8:9-16*
- Feb 27 **The Gospel in a Nutshell** *Ephesians 2:1-11*

(Neil)
(Neil)
(Craig)
(Neil)



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www.newhopedsm.org

A CHURCH FAMILY
CALLED TO SERVE GOD,
LOVE OTHERS
AND FOLLOW
JESUS CHRIST.

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Services: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Contemporary Service: 9:30 a.m.

Children's Church: 9:30 a.m.

Christian Learning Time: 10:45 a.m.

Church Staff

Pastor: Neil H. Cross

Outreach Pastor: Craig Ferguson

Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei

Director of Music: Dan Wilmoth

Nursery Attendant: Sherry Faulkner

Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

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Designed by Wendy Musgrave

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.

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