

A monthly publication  
of New Hope United  
Methodist Church

MARCH AT NEW HOPE

2013

the link

# THE STORY



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## join us in march

Fri, March 8 • 6-8pm • *New Hope UMC*  
**Family Disco Night**

Sat, March 23 • 5:00pm • *Johnston River of Life*  
**Palm Saturday**

Sun, March 24 • 8:30, 9:30, 10:45am • *New Hope UMC*  
**Palm Sunday Service**  
**10:45 Children's Easter Celebration**

Children's Palm parade: 9:30 & 10:45 services. Please have children gather in the Pre K/K (purple) classroom 5-10 minutes before each service. We will lead the children into service, and then they may sit with families.

After the Palm Parade during the 10:45 service, children are welcome to attend an Easter party during our normal Christian Learning Time. We will have an egg hunt, crafts, and special snack. Bring a friend to celebrate with us!



Thurs, March 28 • 6:30pm • *New Hope UMC*  
**Seder Meal & Maundy Thursday Drama**

This service will begin with a special Seder Meal (Traditional Passover meal) with teaching. It will be followed by dramatic scenes, music, and ending with the congregation gathered around the crosses. We hope you will come for this powerful time of worship and as always, invite a friend to come with you.

Fri, March 29 • 7am – 7pm • *Ruby Chapel, New Hope UMC*  
**Good Friday Prayer Vigil**

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, in the Fellowship Hall, for a half hour time frame of prayer.

Sat, March 30 • 5:00pm • *New Hope UMC*  
*Johnston River of Life's*  
**Community Easter Celebration**  
Share in a worship service, egg hunt & meal

Sun, March 31 • Easter Sunday • *New Hope UMC*  
**8:30 & 10:45 Easter Cantata**  
**9:30 Contemporary Service**



# membership news

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

Linda Dean; Laura Myers; Blaine Goff; Carol Harter; Carole Followwill; Jann Williams; Forrest McCleary; Amy Sams, mother of Cheryl Cross; Vern Bradley, husband of Merry Bradley; Mason Helwig, friend of Mica Wills; Bishop Julius Trimble; District Superintendent, David Weesner; District Field Minister, Karen Nelson; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.

Prayers for the following military personnel: Jason Homard; Tyler Nearmyer; Zach McClain; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

## Sympathy

*Our Sympathy* to Ron & Denise Zoss and family on the passing of Ron's father, LuVerne Zoss.

*Our Sympathy* to Ruth Otto & family on the passing of her husband, Harley Otto.

## Email update

Jann Williams' new email: [whimzy.11@gmail.com](mailto:whimzy.11@gmail.com)

## Baptisms

*Congratulations* to Maddox James Alcorn who was baptized on February 3rd. Maddox is the son of Steven & Stephanie Alcorn and little brother to Chase.

*Congratulations* to Lorelai Aileen Roff who was baptized on February 10th. Lorelai is the daughter of Nathan Roff and Cierra Jones and sister to Charlotte and William.

*Congratulations* to William Allen Roff who was baptized on February 10th. William is the son of Nathan and Beth Roff and little brother to Charlotte and Lorelai.

*Congratulations* to Mark Gordon Thomsen and Jax Ethan Thomsen who were baptized on February 17th. Jax is the son of Mark and Megan Thomsen.

## Thank You

The Sr. BLAST youth group would like to thank Tony and Shannon Scharfenkamp for cooking the prime rib dinner for the Senior High BLAST Sweetheart dinner. Additionally, the youth group would like to thank everyone that came out for this fundraiser; this event raised \$300 that will go to help offset our costs during our mission trip to Navajo Nation in June.

Thank you so much to my church family for their prayers during my surgery and the prayers for a quick healing. Billy Nuzum

## THANK YOU -- Habitat for Humanity Offering

Thank you for your donations on February 9 & 10! The offering from Johnston River of Life and New Hope UMC was \$390.78. With the match from the Missions committee, the total was \$781.56. Denise Hartford presented the check to Danielle Corsaut with Habitat for Humanity on Sat., Feb. 16. Those on the work team from New Hope & JROL were: Brian Boulting, Dennis, Sally & Adam Corcoran, Pam Frey, Bill & Pam Gibbons, John & Denise Hartford, Clark Howland, Nate & Sarah Jacques, Jerry & Linda Kielsmeier, John Rains, Mark & Leah Scherer, Gary Stubbs and Steve Sutton.



## Easter Lily Orders

Deadline: March 24



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 is on the tear-off section of the bulletins. Cost is \$9.00 per Lily. Deadline is March 24. After the Easter worship service you attend, you may take your plant home.

## Girl Scout Sunday

Sunday, March 10

All Girl Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Girl Scout uniforms for Girl Scout Sunday on March 10.



## Prayer Shawl / Knit Group

Tuesday, March 5th @ 6:30pm

Join us on the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm, in the Ruby Chapel. Come learn how to knit and to learn more about Prayer Shawls.

Questions? Contact Jean Vesely, 274-5082.

## Calling on Basketball fans...

On **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, plan to watch the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament at **Buffalo Wild Wings on Merle Hay road** and a portion of your bill will go to help support the Senior High BLAST group.

Just tell your server that you are there to support New Hope BLAST group that day.



## RUMMAGE SALE COMING SOON

---READY---SET---GO---

The New Hope all church rummage sale is coming soon -- **April 11, 12, & 13**

It's time to start cleaning out your attic, basement, garage, and closets. As you prepare your donations, please organize them into separate containers. For example, put children's clothes in one sack or box, books in another, kitchen items in another, etc. Sorting boxes of mixed items is very time consuming and it is extremely helpful when we all help with the sorting.

Just a few reminders: All items should be clean and ready to display. No donations should be broken or torn. Please check all electrical items to assure they are in working order and marked with a tag that says "works." All bedding should be folded and sets fastened together and marked with the size (twin, double, queen, or king).

As in the past NO TVs, computers, printers, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, or garlands.

We have been told we have the best rummage sale in town. This is primarily due to the quality of our merchandise, as our members remember to bring only items that they would be willing to buy. In other words, we do not have junk.

Since it worked so well for us last year, we will only be accepting donations on the Sunday and Monday before the sale. DONATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7 FROM NOON TO 8 P.M. OR MONDAY, APRIL 8 FROM 8 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

If you have a question about a donation, you may contact either Carol Harter at 274-1467 ([carolannharter@gmail.com](mailto:carolannharter@gmail.com)) OR Glean Coates at 270-8538 ([glean1947@hotmail.com](mailto:glean1947@hotmail.com)).



## BOOK CLUB (a.k.a. Chick Lit. Book Club)

TUESDAY, March 26 at 6:30 in the Ruby Chapel

**LIVE:** Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust, by Immaculee Ilibagiza

“**Immaculee Ilibagiza** grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Immaculee’s family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans.

Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them.

It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God. She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love—a love so strong she was able seek out and forgive her family’s killers.

The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman’s journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss.”

**GRATITUDE** (April 25): Choosing Gratitude: Learning to Love the Life You Have, by James Autry

**PRAYER** (May 23): Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers, by Anne Lamott

**HOPE** (June 27): Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

**FAITH** (July 25): The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner

Questions? Contact Jean Vesely at 274-5082



### News from the Trustees

The New Hope UMC Fix-it Team will meet every other Wednesday, 9am-noon (March 6 & 20).

We welcome anyone who can attend. You do not have to attend each time, just come

when you can and help out around the church, enjoy a cup of coffee and some fellowship with fellow members.

**TABLES:** We have approx. 10 8 ft. heavy duty tables (masonite tops with metal frames and legs) for sale. They are priced at \$25 for any member who would like one or more. If someone would like all of them, we will sell 10 for \$200.

Please contact Spencer Sutton at [spencer@thesuttons.us](mailto:spencer@thesuttons.us)

John Rains  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Tamara Evans, Nursery Attendant is requesting donations of gently used Little People figures and playsets for the church nursery.

Please see Tamara in the nursery on Sundays for more information or to drop off your donations. Thank you!



# THE STORY

We are using a resource called *The Story* to read through the Bible in a year. If you do not have a copy of *The Story*, you can follow along with your Bible.

**March 2-3: Rebuilding the Walls.** Nehemiah 1-2, 2:17-20, 4, 6-8; Ezra 7, Malachi 1-4

**March 9-10: The Birth of the King.** John 1:1-8, Matthew 102, Luke 102

**March 16-17: Jesus' Ministry Begins.** Matthew 3-4, 11; Mark 1-3; Luke 8; John 1-4

**March 23-24: No Ordinary Man.** Matthew 5-7, 9, 14; Mark 4-6; Luke 10, 15; John 6

**March 28 (Maundy Thursday): The Hour of Darkness.** Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; John 13-14; 16-19

**March 30-31: The Resurrection.** Matthew 27-28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 19-21

**Small Groups** will follow the church-wide curriculum, *The Story*. Please join any of the following groups:

- ◆ Sundays, 9:30 or 10:45 am in the Ruby Chapel
- ◆ Mondays, 10:30 am in the Ruby Chapel. Led by Jodi Christensen
- ◆ Mondays, 7:00 pm, at Mark & Leah Scherer's home. Contact Mark & Leah, 270-2385.
- ◆ Thursdays, 7:00 pm at Jane Wagner's home, led by Eldon Cross. Contact Jane at 278-0055.
- ◆ 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 4pm at New Hope UMC, hosted by Nic and Stacey Wigan. Childcare is provided. Contact Sherri & Nick Bogue, boguesa@gmail.com with questions.



## Recent Activities of the Confirmation Class

This year's Confirmation class consists of 13 students and 13 Mentors who have been meeting in class every other week since September. In addition to the classes, the students and Mentors

participate in several activities outside of class, to help the students gain experience in various activities of the church, both within the church and outside the church. For example, the Confirmation youth helped with the Halloween Party at the Barn in Johnston as a part of our Johnston River of Life ministry in Johnston. Most recently, the Confirmation class helped to lead our Ash Wednesday Service, with students leading the liturgy and helping with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

In March, the Confirmation class will be having a busy schedule. Pastor Craig Ferguson will be teaching the lesson on Church History on March 3. Then on March 7, the Confirmation Class and Mentors will be going on the Tour of Faith. We do this tour every year as a way to help the Confirmation class learn about other faith traditions. This year we will be going to St. John's Lutheran Church, the Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal), the Basilica of St. John's, the Temple B'Nai Jeshurun (of the Jewish faith), and St. George's Greek Orthodox Church. In addition we will also be touring Methodist Hospital, and our Iowa United Methodist Conference Center.

On March 14, the Confirmation class will be helping to cook and serve the meal at the downtown shelter for our Hand of Luke ministry to the shelter. This is a great opportunity for our Confirmation students to experience helping others in such a vital ministry.

Each of our Confirmation students also meets with one of our teams or committees. Our confirmation students have been in meetings with the Administrative Council, the Trustees, the Johnston River of Life Dream Team, the Mission Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Worship Design Team. This gives our students some experience with some of the "behind the scenes" work of the church.

The Confirmation Dinner is one of our final experiences for the group, in which we ask last year's Confirmation parents to help serve a meal for this year's Confirmation students, parents, and Mentors. This year's Confirmation Dinner is on April 5 at 6 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday will be April 14. The Confirmation class will be received into membership at the 10:45 a.m. service and they will be leading the worship service.

# youth programs

**Jr. BLAST** (6th-8th grade). Coordinators: Penny Dolberg & Renee Haugland.

Watch your emails for notices of upcoming gatherings. Questions? Contact Penny Dolberg at 201-7643 or [penny.dolberg@gmail.com](mailto:penny.dolberg@gmail.com) or Renee Haugland 252-8632 or [drhaugland@msn.com](mailto:drhaugland@msn.com).

**Sr. BLAST** (9th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris & Jennifer Higdon and Charity Johnson –

[BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)

Even though this past month only had 28 days; the month of February was very busy month for the Senior High Blast group. The youth watched the Super Bowl the first weekend, the second weekend was the Sweetheart Dinner and Pancake Feed, the third weekend they attended Wesley Woods IGNITION gathering, and the final weekend in February they attend a lock-in at the Church.

The Senior High BLAST group was able to raise over \$600 for the mission trip to Navajo Nation in Arizona. The group would like to thank Tony and Shannon Scharfenkamp for cooking the delicious prime rib dinner for the Sweetheart dinner. Additionally, the youth group would like to thank everyone that came out for our fundraiser that occurred in February.



Our next event for the Senior High BLAST group is Iowa Energy Faith & Family Night. The Iowa Energy will be having their annual Faith & Family day game on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. Not only will the group get to watch a great basketball game, but following the game there is a faith concert featuring Christian artists Jason Gray and Des Moines native John Cheatem. This event costs \$10.71 and preregistration is appreciated. Please let us know if you will be attending the Iowa Energy game (515.216.0009 or [BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)).

Calling on Basketball fans... On **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**; plan to watch the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament at **Buffalo Wild Wings on Merle Hay road** and a portion of your bill will go to help support the Senior High BLAST group. Just tell your server that you are there to support New Hope BLAST group that day.

Here are the some upcoming Youth events for the next two months:

**March 10th @ 3pm** ~ Iowa Energy Faith & Family Night

**March 24th** ~ BLAST Day at Buffalo Wild Wings

**April 15th** ~ BLAST Day at CiCi's Pizza

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



# christian learning opportunities

Children's Ministries  
Coordinator: Kelly Mohrman  
[gmohrman@mchsi.com](mailto:gmohrman@mchsi.com)



**Children's Ministries Mission Statement:** A church family working together to teach children to know, grow, and show the love of Jesus Christ.

**Children's Worship:** Children's Worship is a meaningful time for children ages 3 years through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to worship and connect with God. Children will participate in an engaging worship service geared just for them in the Sanctuary. The service will follow a traditional format, with praise songs, prayers, joys/concerns, offering, scripture reading, and a message. We will include a time for fellowship at the end of our service where kids will gather back in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom and share in a healthy snack and have time to visit with friends.

Please contact Kelly Mohrman. If you would like a chance to lead Children's Worship, Please contact Kelly Mohrman, at [gmohrman@mchsi.com](mailto:gmohrman@mchsi.com)

**Christian Learning Time:** The first Sunday of the month we will be having donuts in CLT. This is an informal way of celebrating the breaking of the bread and sharing in fellowship with peers. Kids of Hope will now be "Bucket Fillers." Students will work to fill a bucket in their classroom. "Drops" into the bucket will be added for each child that attends Christian Learning Time, participation in class, and when a child "fills" another person's heart with a compliment or help. When a classroom's bucket is filled we will decide how we want to celebrate as a class. He said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all of your mind." Matthew 22:37

So whatever you wish others would do for you, do also for them, for this is the law and the Prophets. Matthew 7:12

**Our mission for the month of March** will be for the CLT students to participate in the Fair trade Ministry. We will have candies to sell and children will be learning about child labor in underdeveloped countries.

There will be **no Christian Learning Time on March 17 (Spring Break) and March 31 (Easter).**

**Palm Sunday/Easter Party:** During the 9:30 and 10:45 services on March 24, all children are invited to take part in a Palm Parade into the service. Please have children who wish to partake in the parade, gather in the Pre K/K (purple) classroom 5-10 minutes before each service. We will lead the children in and then they may sit with families. After the Palm Parade during the 10:45 service, children are welcome to attend an Easter party during our normal Christian Learning Time. We will be having an egg hunt, crafts, and special snack. Feel free to bring a friend with you to worship that day and partake in the Easter festivities.



**Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW):** During the season of Lent will be taking a break from "What's In The BILBE?" and we will be inviting EVERYONE to experience Wednesday nights at New Hope. March 6 and 13, will be for ALL New Hope parishioners. A family meal will be served at 5:30, followed by worship and program at 6:00, and Hands on Activities at 6:30-7:30. Let go of the Cabin Fever and join us for some fun!

**Handbells** are practicing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, during TGIW time. We would still love to include children's choir into our mid-week activities. If you would be interested in leading a children's choir, please contact Eldon Cross.

**March 20: Spring Break NO TGIW**

**March 27: Holy Week, NO TGIW**

We will resume with regular TGIW on April 3. April 17, will be the last day of TGIW and we will be holding a blessing of the Pets that night.

**Vacation Bible School:** The dates have been set for VBS. We will be having an EVERYWHERE FUN FAIR on **July 14-18, 2013**. This year's VBS will be led by Sherry Bogue and Kelly Mohrman. If you would like to help with Vacation Bible school, please contact us, or look for sign ups coming soon!

# 3 Questions I dare you to answer!

## 1 Why God?

Why do you believe in God? Do you realize it is a choice for each person? What makes you claim faith in a divine creator instead of chance? Do you find evidence in the beauty and magnitude of creation that defies randomness? Do you find strength and hope in the words of other believers who have preceded you? Why do you choose to believe in God? Or better yet, why would you choose to reject belief in God?

## 2 Why Church?

Many people today don't feel the need for church. They still feel deep spirituality, but they don't feel it is important to attend church. Or they intentionally avoid church because of a bad "experience".

But under the surface most people recognize that we are meant for community. God created us to be in relationship with each other, to support, love, and care for each other. God also knew that there would be times that we need that support and encouragement in return. Part of the Christian life entails study, prayer, worship, service, and fellowship; all of which are better within the support network called Church.

## 3 Why This Church?

What is it that makes someone pick a church to call home? Is it the pastor, the sermon, the music, the mission, the theology or denomination, or is it the friendships? Do we pick a church based upon how it makes us feel or if it meets our needs? Of course all of these components play a role in helping us decide where we will invest ourselves. Hopefully we also understand the importance of participating in the mission of God through the church we claim.

New Hope UMC / Johnston River of Life is 1 Church, 2 Campuses, with 4 Worship Services. Our mission summary is, "Being Christ in Community," by "Loving God, Serving others, and Following Jesus." As members, we want you to do more than just fill the pews and attend events. We want our members to go deeper in their faith; to make a difference in their community; to live out the gospel and build the Kingdom of God. This is not a passive or complacent task. Our membership vows include the commitment to participate in your local church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

We are in this together! Let's give our best to God, to each other, and to church!

*(Adapted from the New Hope UMC / Johnston River of Life article in the March 2013 issue of the Johnston Living.)*



# 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** buy or bake six to eight dozen cookies, and serve coffee and lemonade after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. New Hope purchases three to five 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 March

### 8:30am Traditional Service

#### Greeters

- 3 Merry Bradley
- 10 Mark, Megan & Jax Thomsen
- 17 John & Jody Rains
- 24 Deane Glen
- 31 Roger Moore

#### Lectors

- 3 Kirk Hartung
- 10 Maurine Myers
- 17
- 24 Cathy Cate
- 31

#### Traditional Service Callers

- 3 Craig Ferguson
- 10 Mark & Leah Scherer
- 17 Jim & Norma Smith
- 24 Norma Sutton
- 31 Craig Ferguson

#### Contemporary Service Callers

- 3 Melisa Forbes/Pam Frey
- 10 Eldon Cross
- 17 Melisa Forbes/Pam Frey
- 24 Eldon Cross
- 31 Melisa Forbes/Pam Frey



**Sunday,  
March  
10th**

### 9:30am Contemporary Service

#### Greeters

- 3 Kinnetz family
- 10 Hoffman family
- 17 Pam Frey
- 24 Danny Craighton & Rebekah
- 31 Tara Notz & Max

#### Hosts

- 3 Melisa & Larry Forbes
- 10 Pam Frey
- 17 Cindy & Clyde Rail
- 24 Pam Weisskopf
- 31 DeVonne Douglas

#### Money Counters

- 3 Clark Howland, Larry Wood, Rick Homard
- 10 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss
- 17 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross
- 24 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, Larry Wood
- 31 Clark Howland, Kari Baccam, Rick Homard

#### Pal Friday: 9 a.m.

- 1 Norma Sutton
- 8 Barb Easton
- 15 Norma Smith
- 22 Ann Krause
- 29 Marge Carnahan

### 10:45am Traditional Service

#### Greeters

- 3 Paulette & Larry Wood
- 10 Lee Ross
- 17 Mel & Ginny Ghee
- 24 Jim Mather
- 31

#### Lectors

- 3 Patty Cook
- 10 Sally Corcoran
- 17 Jon Verner
- 24 Barb Mather
- 31 Mark Scherer

#### Hosts

- 3 Sharon & Earl Lewis
- 10 Carol & Bob Harter
- 17 Linda & Jerry Kielsmeier
- 24 Lee Ross
- 31

#### Acolytes

- 3 Tyler Mohrman, Samantha Strauss
- 10 Taylor Evans, Sarah Sahlin
- 17 Spring Break
- 24 Tyler Mohrman, Samantha Strauss
- 31 Sheldon Astley, Lexi Dean

**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).

# groups gathering together

## Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month.

**March 17** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship service.

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, March 9**  
at 7:30 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

## Women's Fellowship

**Thursday, March 21**  
at 9:00 a.m. at church  
If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Frus at 279-1130.

## Hearing Assisted

**Device.** There are 4 hearing assistant devices for the Sanctuary (Traditional Services). Contact an usher to receive one for the worship service.

## Exercise Classes thru March 14th

Mondays: 5:30pm, Cardio  
Tuesdays: 5:30pm, Yoga  
Wednesdays, 11:30am,  
Resistance bands  
Thursdays: 5:30pm, Cardio

Go at your own pace...low impact or high impact...with the Cardio workouts. These are fun and easy to follow. Yoga is a wonderful way to stretch and relax. Resistance bands are provided by New Hope.

## 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 **April 18 at 10:00am at New Hope.**

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

## Church Library

The library committee will meet on **the 2nd and 4th Wed. mornings of the month from 10:00 to 11:30.** Please contact Carol Harter, 274-1467, if you would like to join us.

## Volleyball thru March 25

Teens and adults...join us on Mondays at 6:30pm for volleyball night!



**Save the Date:**  
Blood Drive at  
New Hope UMC  
July 31, 3-7pm

## New Hope Chancel Choir

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.  
Eldon Cross, Director of Music,  
[elcatalia4@gmail.com](mailto:elcatalia4@gmail.com)  
or 515 250-1476.

## 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.

## Friday Small Group

### Fridays, March 8 & 22

The Friday Small Group meets every other Friday at Incredible Pizza, 3799 NW 86th St. Urbandale at 1:00 PM for lunch and discussion following, ending at approx. at 3:00 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact Donnafred Hinman, 226-2141.



Everyone having fun learning to knit or knitting a prayer shawl.

Join the Prayer Shawl / Knit Group on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Ruby Chapel.

# missions

## March Mission of the Month: For All Those Who Love Making A Difference: **FAIR TRADE**

### COMING FOR MOTHER'S DAY...

Every time you buy a bag of coffee, a box of tea or a chocolate bar from Fair Trade, you are putting your Christian values into action. You are making a difference in the lives of farmers across the globe who are rebuilding their communities, educating their children, and protecting their forests. The profits from Fair Trade items go directly to the farmers because there is no middleman.

"You don't have to go to Nicaragua, you don't have to go to Africa, you don't have to go to India to do mission work. You can do mission work every morning when you make your pot of coffee. It's mission in a cup!" (Sandra Pascoe Robinson, Bemidji UMC, Bemidji, MN.)

*We are highlighting Fair Trade so be ready to order a Fair Trade basket of goodies for Mother's Day which will be ready for pick up on May 5<sup>th</sup> or May 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*Orders may be placed March 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. You can choose from selections containing coffee, tea, chocolate, nuts and dried fruits.*

BTW: Fair Trade co-ops such as UMCOR's Equal Exchange do not use child slave labor like many of the Brand companies do.

### Joplin, MO Adult Mission Trip

An adult mission trip to help rebuild in Joplin, MO following the tornado there in 2011 is planned for Monday, August 5-Saturday, August 10.

We are signed up to bring up to 30 team members, from the North Central District and Johnston River of Life/New Hope UMC. The only costs for this trip are for housing in a church, food and transportation.

Please email me to sign up or for more information [john12hartford@gmail.com](mailto:john12hartford@gmail.com) or call 515-890-1406.

## Hand of Luke

Thursday, March 14

Pizza casserole

Garlic bread

Tossed salad

Decorated cupcakes

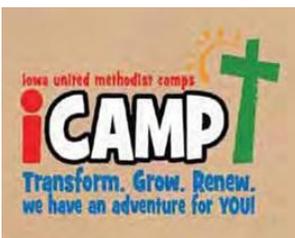
If you would like to contribute to our ministry by making food donations, cooking or serving, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Cooks meet at the church between 3:00-3:30pm.

Servers transport the food to the Central Iowa Shelter & Services at 5:30pm and return by 8:00pm.

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!!!**



Camps and Retreat Ministries is pleased to announce that the new summer online camper registration program is now up and operational. To access the online registration, you may go to [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps).

There are also, 2013 camp catalogs in the Fellowship Hall for your use.

**Camperships** are available from New Hope UMC: **\$100 per child**, to any **week long** United Methodist Church camp. Please inform the church office when you have registered your child(ren).

## Mission's Year End Report: 2012 (shown in Rainbow Covenant areas)

*The following list includes monetary and in-kind gifts donated through the Mission Fund, Women's Fellowship, T.G.I.W., Youth groups, CLT, Hand of Luke, Mission Apportionments and Special Offerings.*

**RED:** (International Advance Special Projects) Personal Energy Transportation \$500

Imagine No Malaria \$1220.00

Self Help International \$500.00

Water and Sanitation \$1265.00

**ORANGE:** (United States Advance Special Projects) Red Bird Mission \$250.00

McCurdy Mission School \$338.00

Habitat for Humanity \$250.00

**YELLOW:** UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) U.S. Disaster Response \$50

Haiti Solar Ovens Project \$250.00

International Justice \$442

UNICEF \$5.00

Church World Service Blankets and Tools (Missions and Sunday School) \$960.00

School and Sewing Kits \$656.00

Shipping for Kits \$130.00

**GREEN:** (International Hunger/Poverty Projects) DMARC + Urbandale and Johnston Food Pantry \$12183.00

Annual Conference DMARC gift cards \$500.00

Heifer International \$5532.00

Meals from the Heartland \$4979.00

**BLUE:** (Iowa Advance Special Projects) Iowa Nigeria Partnership (Artemesia Seeds,) \$500.00

Bidwell Riverside (Missions, Women's Fellowship) \$425.00

New Directions/Hawthorn Hill (Missions, Women's Fellowship) \$50.00

CFUM \$1220.00

Justice for our Neighbors \$250.00

Disaster Relief Fund of Iowa \$100.00

Hope Ministries \$1694.00

**INDIGO:** (Parish Development Projects) Trinity UMC \$780.00

Las Americas \$500.00

Women at the Well Prison Ministry \$250.00

**PURPLE:** (Special Sunday Offerings) \$2101.00

**THIRD MILE GIVING:** Missionary Covenant, Emmanuel Mefor \$3089.00

Missionary Karen Jjereh \$389.00

Missionary with JFON: \$1000.00

Drake University Wesley Foundation \$407.00

Camp Wesley Woods \$407.00

Camp Scholarships \$500.00

**OTHER GIVING NOT RAINBOW COVENANT ELIGIBLE ITEMS**

Mission Apportionments (Part of 1<sup>st</sup> mile giving) \$1250.00

Hand of Luke \$7250.00

Angel Tree \$750.00

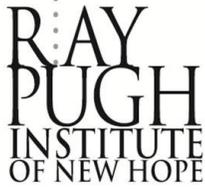
Oceanic Society for VBS \$326.00

Give 2 the Troops \$94.00

Note: Women's Fellowship were not able to meet at the end of the year to disperse at least \$3,000 to local missions in 2012.

**TOTAL: \$52867**

2013



**Save the Dates  
for the Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope!**

The **Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope** at New Hope United Methodist Church, celebrates its 19th year!

Three outstanding individuals, invited to our 2013 Institute podium will share their life experiences and insights about how events in their lives shaped their pathways in life.

Joining us to share their stories at the 2013 Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope are:

- Sunday, April 14:** **John Rains**, member of New Hope UMC and the 2010 Johnston Citizen of the Year.
- Sunday, April 21:** **Mike Havlik**, full time naturalist at Y Camp and will share his philosophy about getting kids back to nature.
- Sunday, April 28:** **Phil Pfaltzgraft**, staff accompanist at Wayne State College and has recorded a series of seasonal and thematic solo CD's on the piano and organ under the title of "Specializing in Improvisation".

More details will be coming in April.  
All sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center at New Hope UMC.  
No collection will be taken.

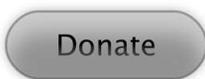
| sunday morning<br>worship attendance |      |        |       |       |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|
|                                      | 8:30 | 9:30   | 10:45 | total |
| Jan 27                               | 12   | 68     | 35    | 115   |
| Feb 3                                | 39   | 192    | 101   | 332   |
| Feb 10                               | 37   | 167    | 108   | 289   |
| Feb 17                               | 53   | 120    | 104   | 277   |
| Feb 24                               | 30   | 139    | 94    | 263   |
| Feb 13 • Ash Wednesday               |      |        |       |       |
| 129                                  |      |        |       |       |
| River of Life Worship Attendance     |      |        |       |       |
| Jan 26                               | 23   | Feb 2  | 36    |       |
| Feb 9                                | 30   | Feb 16 | 36    |       |
| Feb 23                               | 60   |        |       |       |

| new hope financial update                                                                                       |                        |                        |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Below is the General Fund operating budget report for January 2013 compared to our 2012 budget and January 2012 |                        |                        |                        |
|                                                                                                                 | Jan 2013<br>Actual     | Jan 2013<br>Budget     | Jan 2012<br>Actual     |
| Total Receipts                                                                                                  | 20,848.44              | 22,002.10              | 27,863.53              |
| Total Expenditures                                                                                              | 27,511.33              | 27,304.26              | 30,234.71              |
| Net Surplus (Deficit)                                                                                           | (6,662.89)             | (5,302.16)             | (2,371.18)             |
|                                                                                                                 | YTD Jan 2013<br>Actual | YTD Jan 2013<br>Budget | YTD Jan 2012<br>Actual |
| Total Receipts                                                                                                  | 20,848.44              | 22,002.10              | 27,863.53              |
| Total Expenditures                                                                                              | 27,511.33              | 27,304.26              | 30,234.71              |
| Net Surplus (Deficit)                                                                                           | (6,662.89)             | (5,302.16)             | (2,371.18)             |

**Newsletter**

With the increased expense of paper needed to mail the monthly newsletter and the increase in postage, we THANK YOU for your prompt responses in letting us know that we can email you The LINK, or you will pick up THE LINK from church. If you haven't already, please contact the church office to let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter.

**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.

# March

2013  
AT NEW HOPE

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                              | MONDAY                                                       | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                                                        | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                                    | THURSDAY                                                                           | FRIDAY                                                                                                                                 | SATURDAY                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                    | 1<br>Pal: Norma Sutton                                                                                                                 | 2<br>5:00p, Johnston River of Life worship at Beaver Creek Elementary                                                           |
| 3 3rd Sunday in Lent<br>Noon, Cluster Meeting<br>4:00p, Confirmation class                                                                                          | 4<br>5:30p, Exercise<br>6:30p, Volleyball<br>7:00p, Trustees | 5<br>9:30a, Sr. Singers practice<br>9:30a, Alanon<br>Noon, AA<br>5:30p, Yoga<br>6:30p, Prayer Shawl/<br>Knitting, Ruby Chapel<br>7:00p, AD Council,<br>3rd/4th grade classroom | 6 9:00a, Work Team<br>11:30a, Exercise/<br>Resistance<br>5:30p, TGIW/Lent<br>6:30p, Chancel Choir<br>7:30p, Seasonal Choir<br>7:45p, Praise Team                             | 7<br>8am, Tour of Faith for Confirmation Class<br>5:30p, Exercise                  | 8 Pal: Barb Easton<br>1:00p, Small Grp at Incredible Pizza<br>6-8pm Family Disco Night<br>Dysart youth to spend the night at New Hope. | 9<br>7:30a, Men's Breakfast<br>4-6pm, Small group at church<br>5:00p, Johnston River of Life worship at Beaver Creek Elementary |
| 10 4th Sunday in Lent<br>Daylight Savings Time<br>Girl Scout Sunday<br>*One Great Hour of Sharing (offering)<br>Noon, Compassionate Callers<br>4pm New Member class | 11<br>5:30p, Exercise<br>6:30p, Volleyball                   | 12<br>9:30a, Alanon<br>Noon, AA<br>5:30p, Yoga<br>7:00p, Worship Design                                                                                                        | 13 11:30a, Exercise/<br>Resistance<br>5:30p, TGIW/Lenten<br>6:30p, Chancel Choir<br>7:30p, Seasonal Choir<br>7:45p, Praise Team                                              | 14<br>3:30p, Hand of Luke<br>5:30p, Exercise                                       | 15 <b>April LINK deadline</b><br>Office volunteer,<br>9a-Noon: Norma Smith                                                             | 16<br>5:00p, Johnston River of Life worship at Beaver Creek Elementary                                                          |
| 17 5th Sunday in Lent<br>No CLT<br>Food Pantry Sunday<br>Blood Pressure Sunday<br>New Members to be received                                                        | 18 Office volunteer,<br>9a-Noon: Jan Davison                 | 19 Office volunteer,<br>9a-Noon: Sharon Lewis<br>9:30a, Alanon<br>Noon, AA<br>7:00p, Stroke Club<br>7:00p, Finance Meeting                                                     | 20 Office volunteer,<br>9a-Noon: Charlene Cobb<br>9:00a, Work Team<br>4:30p, Missions Mtg.<br>NO TGIW<br>6:30p, Chancel Choir<br>7:30p, Seasonal Choir<br>7:45p, Praise Team | 21 Office volunteer,<br>9a-Noon: Cathy Cate<br>9:00a, Women's Fellowship at church | 22 Office volunteer,<br>9a-Noon: Ann Krause<br>1:00p, Small Grp at Incredible Pizza                                                    | 23<br>4-6pm, Small group at church<br>5:00p, Johnston River of Life worship at Beaver Creek Elementary                          |
| 24 Palm Sunday<br>Deadline for Lily Orders<br>4:00p, Confirmation                                                                                                   | 25<br>6:30p, Volleyball<br>7:00p, SPRC Meeting               | 26<br>9:30a, Sr. Singers<br>9:30a, Alanon<br>6:30p, Book Club, Ruby Chapel<br>7:00p, AD Council Mtg.,<br>3rd & 4th grade classroom                                             | 27<br>NO TGIW<br>6:30p, Chancel Choir<br>7:30p, Seasonal Choir<br>7:45p, Praise Team                                                                                         | 28<br>6:30p, Seder Meal & Maundy Thursday drama                                    | 29<br>Pal: Marge Carnahan<br>7a-7p, Prayer Vigil                                                                                       | 30<br>5:00p, Easter Celebration @ Johnston River of Life worship at Beaver Creek Elementary                                     |
| 31 Easter Sunday<br>No CLT                                                                                                                                          |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                 |

**\*One Great Hour of Sharing, March 10:** Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts lay the foundation for UMCOR to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. Please give generously.

#### Looking Ahead:

Apr. 14: 10:45a, Confirmation Service  
Apr. 14, 21, 28: Ray Pugh Institute, 6pm  
April 11-13: Rummage Sale

## Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- |                                     |                                           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 Keith Craighton, Deanne Rowland,  | 17 Rick Gier, Mark Baldwin, Dan Larsen    |
| 2 Laura Cross, Natalie Van Dyke     | 18 Nina Moses                             |
| 3 Ashlyn Meyer                      | 19 Linda Burnett, Marjorie Carnahan,      |
| 4 Kevin Upah, Kristin Welter,       | Tyler Nearmyer, Myles Redies,             |
| Emma Lemke                          | Denise Hartford                           |
| 5 Rex Haugland                      | 20 Leah Scherer, Norma Vandenberg,        |
| 6 Vicki O'Brien, Tami Wise,         | Nicholas Wigant                           |
| Jacob Hegwood, Edie Musgrave        | 21 Matthew Henry                          |
| 8 Pam Johnson, Robert Krause        | 22 Amanda Herring                         |
| 9 Beth Merrill                      | 23 Lisa Jackson, Richard Cobb,            |
| 10 Ted Christensen, Darlene Gier,   | Chad Meyer, Hannah Short                  |
| Marge Robinson, Caitlyn Trillet     | 24 Bryce Weih, Robert Nuzum               |
| 11 Erica Eaves, Diane Densmore      | 25 Dee Jeffries, Lacey Fulton, Caleb Neu, |
| 12 Betty Holwegner, Lisa Peterson   | Adam Hubert                               |
| 14 Jeff Gronstal, Norma Pecinovsky, | 26 Shelley Larsen, Diane Madison          |
| Betty Hoeksema, Shari Mongar        | 27 Cathy Cate, Levi Sheer,                |
| 15 Monica Balk                      | David Followwill                          |
| 16 Charlotte Schultz, Aaron Homard, | 29 Noah Kerndt                            |
| Connie Armstrong                    | 30 Don Ummel, Brody Egger                 |

#### Staff:

Nancy Monthei, Office Admin., will be on vacation  
March 15-22, returning to the office on the 25th.



*Happy Anniversary!*

- 5: Larry & Patrice Webber  
11: Damon & Tracy DeBates  
20: Linda & Larry Sesker  
22: Jennifer & Tim Berger  
25: Stephen & Cathy Cate  
31: Dale & Laura Myers

*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.*



**What a wonderful feeling it is to be sought out.** I can still remember the time when I was sought out at a dance. I was a freshman in high school, and in the winter time, on a lot of Saturday nights, there would be a dance for high school students at the Legion Hall in Dows. I didn't dance all that well, and felt awkward around girls, so most of the time I sat on one of the chairs along the wall and listened to the music. One evening, one of the girls in my class came across the dance floor from the other side of the room and headed in my direction. When she stood in front of me, I realized that she had actually come over to talk to me. And she asked me to dance – which I did. And she was very gracious about it, even if I did step on her foot twice!

Sometimes, when I visit with couples who are going to be married, they tell me the story of how they met. And sometimes it is the case that one of them sought the other one out. And in some cases the “seeking out” had taken a long time. I remember a wedding from a while back, where she admitted that when she first met her husband to be, he came up to talk to her, but she was not all that impressed. For a fairly long period of time, she resisted any attempt he made at going out on a date. But then there were a couple of things that happened that changed her mind about him,

and looking back, she admired how persistent he was. It is of this sense that the prophet Isaiah talks about God and God's desire to be with us, to have a relationship with us, to seek us and to save us. In this part of Isaiah, Isaiah is writing to a people who were defeated by the Assyrians and the Babylonians, who were in Exile in Babylonia for a whole generation, and now are looking forward to coming back to their homeland. Isaiah tells them that God has not abandoned them, but has continued to seek them out, to re-establish His relationship with them, to bring them back home. The people of Israel are to be known as “Sought Out,” as the people who the Lord sought out, through all those years.

During Holy Week and Easter, we are reminded of the One who has sought us out in Jesus Christ, who has come into our very midst to seek us, who has suffered and died on our behalf, and who has defeated death for us in His Resurrection. Easter reminds us of the great love of God, who seeks us out, claims us as His people, redeems us, and sends us forth as His redeemed people. May this Easter be a grand celebration of the great love that God has for you in Jesus Christ.

**worship themes for march**

- March 3 **Rebuilding the Walls** *Nehemiah 2:17-20*
- March 10 **The Birth of the King** *John 1:1-8*
- March 17 **Jesus' Ministry Begins** *Matthew 3:13-17*
- March 24 **No Ordinary Man** *Matthew 14:22-33*
- March 28 **The Hour of Darkness** *Matthew 26: 20-30*
- March 31 **He Is Risen** *Matthew 28:1-10*

- Third Sunday in Lent
- Fourth Sunday in Lent
- Fifth Sunday of Lent
- Palm Sunday
- Maundy Thursday
- Easter Sunday

- Neil
- Craig
- Neil
- Neil
- Seder Meal & Drama
- Neil

# 1 church, 2 campuses, 4 worship services.

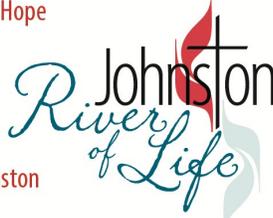


## Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

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

## Saturday Worship Service in Johnston

- 5:00pm Casual Service
- Currently meeting at Beaver Creek Elementary,  
8701 Lyndhurst Drive



Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

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

## Church Staff

**Pastor:** Neil H. Cross  
**Outreach Pastor:** Craig Ferguson  
**Director of Music:** Eldon Cross  
**Children's Ministries Coordinator:** Kelly Morhman  
**Office Administrator:** Nancy Monthei  
**Nursery Attendant:** Tamara Evans  
**Custodian:** Chuck VanDyke

## Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

## E-mail Information

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
Neil Cross: [ncross@newhopedsm.org](mailto:ncross@newhopedsm.org)  
Craig Ferguson: [craig@newhopedsm.org](mailto:craig@newhopedsm.org)  
Nancy Monthei: [nancy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nancy@newhopedsm.org)  
Kelly Mohrman: [kelly@newhopedsm.org](mailto:kelly@newhopedsm.org)  
Eldon Cross: [eldon@newhopedsm.org](mailto:eldon@newhopedsm.org)

## Find Us

**Phone:** (515) 278-2097  
4525 Beaver Avenue • Des Moines, IA 50310

## 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.*

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