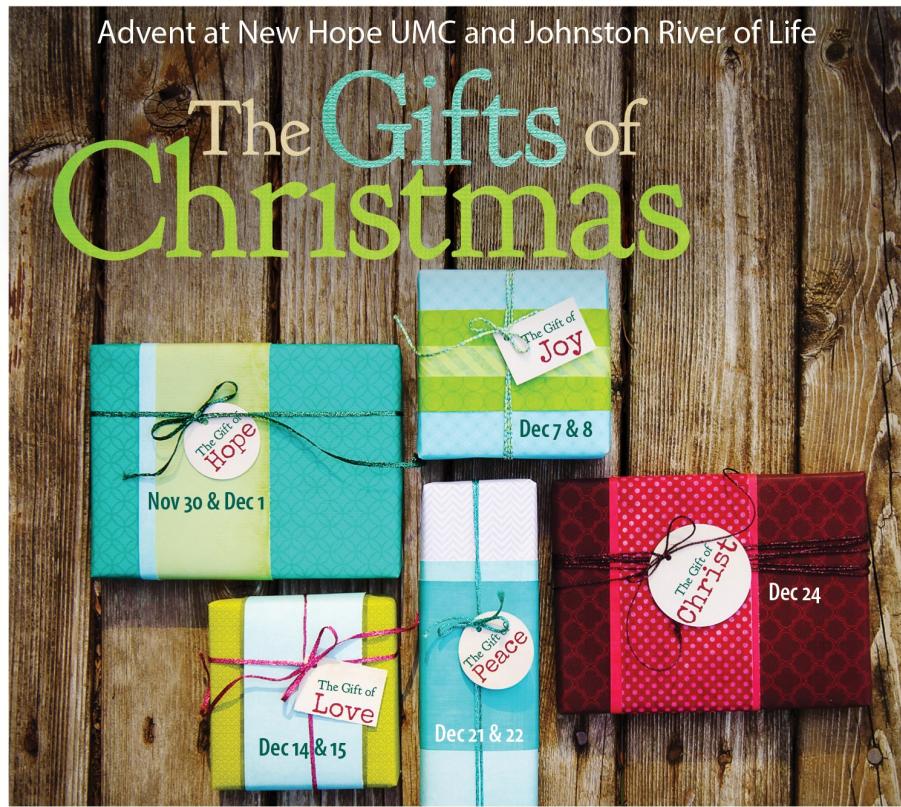


A monthly publication  
of New Hope United  
Methodist Church

2013

DECEMBER AT NEW HOPE

the link



come share  
*Christmas* with us...



Mon, Dec 2      **Advent by Candlelight** 7 pm (reservations required)

Sun, Dec 8      **Cookie Walk** after each service

Sat, Dec 14      **Community Christmas At the Barn** 5pm & 7pm  
sponsored by Johnston River of Life.  
The Johnston Barn, 6169 Northglenn Drive

Sun, Dec 15      **Christmas Cantata** 8:30 & 10:45 am in the Sanctuary  
(9:30 will be a contemporary service)

Sun, Dec 15      **Christmas Program by Children's Ministries participants**  
6:30pm in the Family Life Center

Thurs, Dec 19      **Heartbeat Bell Christmas Concert** 7:30 pm

Mon, Dec 24      **Christmas Eve Services** 5:30, 7:30, & 10:00 pm



# 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

Laura Myers; Deb Henry; Cheryl Lillegraven; Bhanu Moses; Judy Shepherd; Lesta Lobaugh, mother of Le Howland ; Bishop Julius Trimble; District Superintendent, David Weesner; District Field Minister, Karen Nelson; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.

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

## Births

Congratulations to Seth & Lacey Fulton on the birth of their son, Oliver Michael Fulton. Oliver was born on October 23 and was 9 lbs, 13 oz and 22" long. He joins big brother, Liam, at home.

Congratulations to Ryan & Jessica Hass on the birth of their baby girl, Katelyn Grace Hass. Katelyn was born on November 19 and was 6lbs 2oz and 19 1/4" long.

## Baptism

Congratulations to Maxwell Lane Hitchcock was baptized on November 17 at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Maxwell is the son of Dan and Tracy Hitchcock and little brother to Jacob and Abbey.

*May your world be filled  
with warmth and good  
cheer this Holy season, and  
throughout the year!  
New Hope UMC Staff*

## Thank You

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the shower of beautiful cards I received for my birthday. It made my birthday extra special. Thanks for your kind thoughts and prayers and thank you Neil for your phone calls.

Dale and Laura Myers

I wish to thank everybody for the cards & gifts, telephone calls, food, flowers, and visits that came our way during Jann's surgery and recovery. And most of all, we want to thank our church family for their prayers and care.

Lynn & Jan Davisson

Thank you to New Hope Members who were vendors in the Nov. 9th 4th annual "Garlands of Gifts" craft/gift fair. Thank you to everyone that supported this event by coming out that day and enjoying all that the vendors had to offer. Thank you to everyone that donated baked goods for the Bake Sale. Also, thank you to everyone that helped set up for the event, work the bake sale, and clean up/tear down afterwards. The entire event was a huge success due to everyone's participation!!

A special thank you to the committee: Tamara Evans and Deb Henry

## Thank You

Thank you to all our New Hope friends for your support during my recent surgery. Of course a special thanks to Pastor Cross for spending time with my family the day of surgery.

Roberta Cave

This holiday season I am grateful for the New Hope Community who have surrounded my father and me with care and kindness, during both times of celebration and times of recent need. Let us prepare room in our hearts, sharing our comfort and blessings with others, as we wait for the coming of newborn love. JOY TO THE WORLD!

Most Sincerely,  
Jean and Robert Vesely

## 2014 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (8:30 & 10:45), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office.

*The cost is  
\$30.00 per  
Sunday and  
you may take  
your  
flowers  
home after  
the 10:45 service.*



## Stewardship Update

During the first week of our Fall Campaign, 92 pledge sheets were turned in for the 2014 budget year. These pledges amounted to a total of \$226,800 which breaks down to \$157,254 to the general fund, \$14,762 to the mission fund, \$39,132 to the mortgage, and \$15,652 to Johnston River of Life. If you have not yet had the chance to complete your pledge sheet, please do so. You may turn it in to the church office or in the offering plate.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee sincerely thanks everyone in their continued support of New Hope United Methodist Church and Johnston River of Life. Your financial support, your presence, as well as your gifts of time and talents are invaluable to the sharing of and growing the ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life as we are one church, with five services, and two campuses.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee



## Dedication of the Greens

On Sunday, December 1, during all worship services, we will be dedicating the greenery and Christmas decorations.

Each family will receive a Christmas ornament to hang during the service, which will hang in the church until Christmas Eve, when the family may take the ornament home as a gift from New Hope.

Join us for this meaningful way to start the Advent season.



## Seasonal Choir “Notes”

The Seasonal Choir, along with the Handbell Choir and a violinist will be honoring the birth of Christ through a different setting this Advent/Christmas season.

A service of Lessons and Carols will be shared on Sunday, December 15 at the 8:30 and 10:45 Traditional Services.

Combining Old and New Testament scripture readings, you will hear familiar, as well as new selections that will inspire you and quickly become your favorites.

Plan to join us on the 15th and please invite your friends to either service for this celebration of Christ's birth in scripture and song.

Thank you to Brenda McConahay for her recommendation that we share this with the congregation.

Eldon Cross  
Director of Music

## Heartbeat Bell Choir

Thursday, December 19

7:30 p.m.

HeartBeat Handbell

Ensemble will

perform a

Christmas

concert in the

Sanctuary.

Please plan to

join us for an evening of Christmas cheer!



CHRISTMAS EVE



## Christmas Eve Services

**5:30 p.m.** – Family oriented Christmas Eve service, in the Family Life Center, will have fun elements for children and families. There will be interactive and dramatic readings, traditional carols, special music, candle lighting and the celebration of communion on this Holy night. Come one, Come all to celebrate! “For unto us a child is born!”

**7:30 p.m.** – We will be worshiping in the sanctuary for a Candlelight Service of Christmas carols, Scripture Lessons, a special time for the children and a visit of the Holy Family to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and under will be invited to choose a prop and to become a part of the live Nativity scene with Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. The Chancel Choir and individual musicians will be offering special music as well.

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

## Santa's Attic

TGIW has a huge need for gently used items for Santa's Attic. We do not have many "gifts" for the children to "purchase" compared to years past. Anything would be appreciated, as the kids shop for Moms, Dads, Brothers, Sisters, Grandparents, and other special people in their lives. Please contact Tami Wise at 251-2987 or [markandtami@the-wises.com](mailto:markandtami@the-wises.com) with any

questions. If your child has expressing interest in a specific charity, please let me know. We try to have the proceeds go to a charity the kids have suggested.

Please keep in mind December 11th is the shopping event. If you would like to help a young child shop and wrap, please join us. Watching the children's faces as they decide is priceless. Wrapping paper, boxes, bags would also be appreciated. Thank you!!



## COOKIE WALK

**Sunday, December 8**

The Women's Fellowship is having a Cookie Walk on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 after all three Services with the proceeds going to our mission work.

We will display all donated **home-baked cookies** and you will walk around the table to choose your favorite cookies, placing them in a Styrofoam box (size 9 1/2 x 9 1/2 x3), which we provide for a mere \$10.00 per box. You get the whole box full for \$10.00 as long as you can close the lid.

Please join us on December 8th to fill your box with delicious cookies to Go. Everyone is welcome to participate and enjoy.



Note: Home-baked cookies(no bars) are provided by the women of the New Hope Women's Fellowship. **We are a small group so we greatly appreciate any donation of cookies (especially decorated cookies) for this event from all of our New Hope Family Members/Friends.** Sign up forms are on the sign up table in the Fellowship Hall.

The more cookies that we have to sell, the more fun for everyone and the more money for our mission work. Thanks to all in advance – Chair, Clarice Rubek



## Heartbeat Handbell Choir presents...Bell-O-Grams

Need a special gift for the person who has everything?

How about some holiday cheer for a loved one?

A Bell-O-Gram is the perfect gift!



**What's a Bell-O-Gram?** A small ensemble of 3 or 4 handbell ringers will come right the recipient's home, apartment, or office and perform a special holiday song just for them. **This a unique twist on the classic tradition of Christmas caroling and is sure to surprise anyone who receives it!**

**Why Bell-O-Grams?** Even the person who has everything has never received a Bell-O-Gram!! It's better than any knickknack you can order from a catalog. It's low in calories, and it won't collect dust on shelf all year.

**Great for:** Family members & friends, Elderly or sick loved ones who have to spend the holidays in a hospital or nursing home, Bosses & coworkers... How about a special appearance at the company Christmas party? Anyone who doesn't need fruitcake...again...this year!

**There are two gifting options:** **The Ultimate Christmas Surprise (\$50):** two songs, a card, and a plate of baked goods. **For the bargain shopper (\$30):** one song (giver's choice and a card. Songs performed will be "Angels we Have Heard on High" and "Up on the Housetop."

**Contact us today to schedule your Bell-O-Gram! (515) 306-3901 or [HeartbeatRingers@gmail.com](mailto:HeartbeatRingers@gmail.com)**

All proceeds go toward the Heartbeat Handbell Choir for maintenance of the handbells and expansion of community outreach efforts.

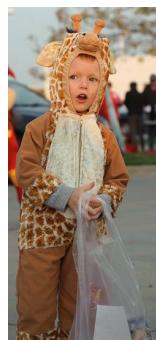


We are looking for one or two individuals (volunteers) who can write/format procedures, safety plans and processes. This is a very worthwhile and a necessary endeavor to comply with various insurance suggestions which will put New Hope on the cutting edge to keep our insurance costs as low as possible. Questions should be directed to Pastor Neil, 278-2097 or John Rains, Chair, Board of Trustees, 278-8282. The goal date to have this accomplished would be October 30, 2014. Please volunteer for this endeavor!

## Halloween Thank You

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Halloween Costume Party at the Johnston Barn. It was well attended and supported by local businesses and city officials. Check out the photos on Facebook or on the kiosk at church.

Many of you donated items, games, and time. You dressed up, you handed out candy, you smiled, and you shared your love of Jesus and your commitment to New Hope and JROL. Thank you for "Being Christ in Community."



## QUARTERLY WORK DAY

**Saturday, January 18,  
9:00 a.m. to finish**

The Board of Trustees are having a quarterly work day at New Hope UMC.

Please come and assist in doing projects for the betterment of New Hope UMC. The tasks are from the complicated to the mundane; i.e. cleaning, trimming, painting, rebuilding, etc.

We look forward to seeing you on January 18th!

## 2014 RUMMAGE SALE COMING

**May 1, 2, 3**

Yes , it's true.

We are in the beginning process of planning the 2014 Rummage Sale. We will be using the computer volunteer program, as well as the regular sign-up sheets. This year, during the sale, we hope to have people signing up for 3 hour shifts and be placed in the area of most need. You will be able to have a sit down job if you request it. If you wish to work in a specific area, you can also request that. More coming on volunteers.



**THE IMMEDIATE NEED** is 6 volunteers to be in charge of an area before the sale begins. It is crucial to identify these leaders at this time so they are involved in the planning. Their job would involve receiving donations, displaying and marking.

Workers would be assigned to assist you. It would not be necessary to be present during the sale unless you chose to. (Although, it would be helpful to have these leaders present on Thursday aft. from noon to 4:00pm).

Areas in need of a leader are: Women's Clothing, Men's Clothing, Holidays, Bed/ Bath/Linens, Crafts, Furniture, Sports/Garden.

**IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER NOW TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING UP ONE OF THESE AREAS BEFORE THE SALE, PLEASE CONTACT: Gleean Coates at 491-9070 or 270-8538.**

# christian learning opportunities

## Children's Ministries

### Mission Statement

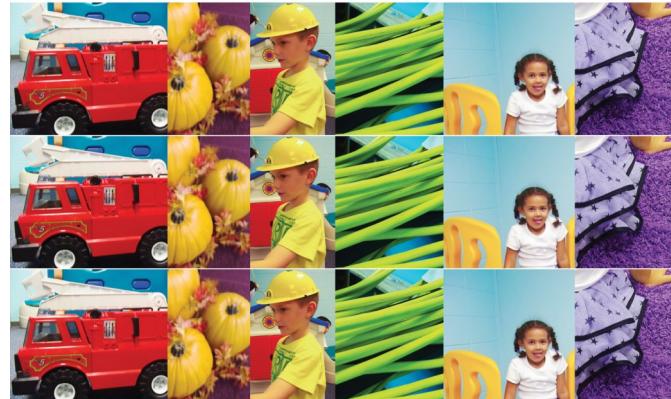
A church family working together to teach children to know, grow, and show the love of Jesus Christ.

**Christian Learning Time (10:45-11:45):** There will be no CLT or Children's Worship on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW)

Since we are in the season of being thankful, I'd like to celebrate some of the things our TGIW kids have done this fall.

Photography was our main focus. Our kids learned about the rules of thirds, composition, camera angle, light and shadow, shapes, and went on a scavenger hunt to capture the colors of the rainbow. Here is some of their work.



Our mission focus led to some great projects for the kids. These included learning about the different missions our church supports, working with the New Hope Needlers on a quilt for the Harvest Dinner/Fundraiser, helping with some gardening and other outdoor projects around the church, making decorations for the Trunk or Treat event at JROL, and wrapping the Operation Christmas Child gifts. Our kids LOVE the opportunities we've given them to serve.

The quartet of brand new bell players have been working hard and had the opportunity to show off what they've learned in the 10:45 service.

The Puppet Ministry was also rekindled this fall and the performance they had was AMAZING! Praise God for that!



#### Here is our TGIW schedule for the remainder of the year:

Dec 4	<b>NO MEAL</b> Christmas Program Practice 6-7:15pm (Full Practice with all ages) Bells 6:30-7pm Puppets 7:15-8pm
Dec 11	<b>NO MEAL</b> Christmas Program Practice/Santa's Attic 6-7:15pm Bells 6:30-7pm Puppets 7:15-8pm
Sun., Dec. 15	6:30pm, Christmas Program
Dec 18	<b>Meal @ 6pm</b> 6:30-7:30pm Family Christmas Party
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup> and Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Christmas Break- No Program</b>



## Join us for the TGIW Family Christmas Party

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> \* Dinner at 6pm**

Christmas games, crafts, devotions and other activities to follow from 6:30-7:30pm

We have so many GREAT things going on in TGIW right now, and many more to come. We are looking forward to the kick-off of our new TGIW Family Nights starting on January 8th. We will also get to do our Dresses for Africa mission project that was postponed. Look for more updates coming soon.



= TGIW Family Nights

## Join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> TGIW Family Night

**Wednesday, January 8, Dinner at 6pm**

**Family Activity (TBD) to follow 6:30-7:30pm**

TGIW Family Nights are open to any family or individual, age doesn't matter! They will always fall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Nursery care will be provided. More activity details will become available in mid- December.

Thanks  
Many Thanks  
Thank  
Thanks  
Thank

A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped to make the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing event a huge success! New Hope has responded VERY well to this mission. A total of **70** boxes were packed, wrapped and prayed over. This Christmas season, because of your effort, many children all over the world will be reached for Christ.

## The Children's Ministry Presents....

### “Stranger in a Manger”

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**

Here is the upcoming rehearsal schedule:

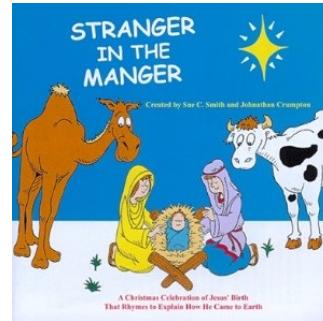
Sun. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30-11am (all ages)  
FLC 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade, PURPLE ROOM 3 yrs - K

Wed. Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm (**Full Hour Practice with all ages in FLC**)

Sun. Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30-11am  
ORANGE ROOM 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade, FLC 3 yrs - K

Wed. Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm (split by age group: 3 yr old - 6<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend these nights)

Sun. Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 10:30-11:30 am (**Dress Rehearsal for all ages in FLC**)



**Please encourage your children to practice their music and speaking parts at home so we can make the most of our short rehearsals at church. Thanks!**

**Parents and Families:** Make sure to check out the bulletin board outside of Sarah's office this month. There are lots of free resources for you to take including a meal time devotion titled "Wanted: Gifts That Visa Can't Buy," an activity sheet for kids, The Parent Link, and some helpful tools to have "Table Time Conversations" with your kids. During this busy time of year, consider sitting down with your family and using some of these resources.

# youth programs



The focus of Jr. High BLAST this year is to share the love of Christ through fun fellowship activities and service projects. In November, we helped wrap shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We helped paint and redecorate the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade and Jr. High classrooms, then enjoyed our new space with an evening of games.

Mark your calendars for our December activities. Further details will be sent through weekly e-mails. Be sure to invite your friends to our Wednesday night meetings and fellowship activities. Wednesday night meetings are from 6:00-7:15.

- ◆ **Wednesday, December 4 @ 6:00** – Bake cookies/design cards for New Hope shut-ins
- ◆ **Saturday, December 7 @ 12:30-3:00**—Package and deliver cookies. NEED PARENT DRIVERS.
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:00** – Jr. High BLAST will plan and present a devotion and game to end Santa's Attic that evening.
- ◆ **Saturday, December 14 @ 5:00** -- Help with JROL Christmas at the Barn
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 18 @ 6:00**—Jr. High BLAST Christmas Party



## Children's Ministry Cluster

Fall has been a blessing for the Children's Ministry Cluster. This cluster consists of the many children and youth ministries that New Hope sponsors- from Children's Worship with three-year olds to Sr. Blast with high schoolers. The Children's Ministry Team that oversees this cluster is excited to work on long-term goals for the children/youth programming including continual assessment and program improvement. We are also developing a volunteer system that helps to train and celebrate our many adult volunteers needed to make youth ministries a positive experience.

We are excited to share with the congregation the many activities in which our youth are involved, so keep an eye out for pictures and updates. If you have never attended a youth activity/program or if it's been awhile, we invite you to join us- even if it is just for a few moments- to experience the joy of kids learning and growing in faith.

Some of the many opportunities include Children's Worship during the 9:30 service, CLT during the 10:45 service, TGIW/ Jr. Blast/Sr. Blast all on Wednesday nights, JROL kid programs on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings, and special events such as the Christmas program and the Easter party. We welcome new volunteers and provide training and support for anyone who is interested in working with New Hope youth. Please contact Sarah Jacobson, Sherri Bogue [boguesa@gmail.com](mailto:boguesa@gmail.com)), or the office if you would like to volunteer.



## Toys and Books Collection

Please bring new and gently used toys and books for our Children's Activity Bags. These Activity Bags are used by the children during New Hope's worship services. We request toys that do not make noise and are small and safe for children age 2 to 7 years old. Please no toys resembling guns. Books can be with regular pages or cardboard pages. A box to collect the toys and books is on the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall. We thank you for your help in this project.

confirmation  
schedule

**December 8, 4:00 p.m.**  
Topic: "New Testament 101"



# youth programs

**Sr. BLAST** (9th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity Johnson, and Pam Frey – [BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)  
Thank you to all who supported our first fundraiser for our 2014 Mission Trip on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Navajo Taco meal was very successfully. Here is the recipe for the fry bread: <http://tinyurl.com/ab6eva>.



Our next year's mission trip is to head to Tahlequah, Oklahoma and will be working at Camp Grey Squirrel with children who have autism. During our trip, the youth will be working on repairs and improvement projects at the children's home, as well as interacting with the children that live there through games and outreach activities. Additionally, the youth will have opportunities to serve the local community by helping home repair, painting, and maintenance on the homes in the community.

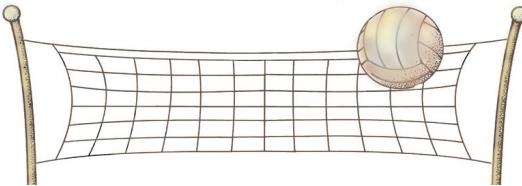


In December, the youth are inviting members of the congregation to join in with them at the BLAST Christmas Caroling in the Community on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. We will be meeting at the Church and are planning to carol at local nursing homes. Finally, are you looking for an easy way to get your Christmas presents wrapped this year... The youth will be wrapping gifts at the Church on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

Important Dates to Remember:

- Dec 4th @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Dec 11th @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Christmas Caroling in the Community
- Dec 18th @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Gift Wrapping Event
- Dec 14th @** ~ Johnston Community Christmas Service at the Barn
- Jan 8th @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Jan 12th** ~ Brunch After Church Services
- Jan 15th @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Jan 19th @ 4pm** ~ BLAST Christmas Party at the Higdon House (8144 Durham Circle, Johnston, IA)
- Jan 22nd @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Jan 29th @ 5:30 pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Feb 2nd @ 3pm** ~ Super Bowl Party

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



## Volleyball

**Starts...Monday, January 13**

New Hope UMC has volleyball equipment that can be set up in the Family Life Center. We would like to start a Monday night volleyball for teens and adults. It would begin on Monday, January 13 at 6:30 pm.

Please contact Nancy in the church office to let her know that you would participate or just show up!

It is great fun and exercise!



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30PM in the 3rd/4th CLASSROOM**

**The Ripple Effect of Giving Continues!!**

Our small but mighty New Hope Prayer Shawl Ministry, which began with seed money from goodwill donations for rhubarb and flowers in the church parking lot, received another boost of goodwill donations from the Des Moines Knitting Guild.

New Hope received a sizable donation of wool and acrylic yarn earlier this fall and the wool yarn was passed on to the Des Moines Knitting Guild. The Knitting Guild, in turn, offered the yarn to their members in exchange for donations to our ministry,

which totaled \$120! A HUGE shout-out to the DM Knitting Guild!

The New Hope Knitting Ministry meets at 6:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in the 3-4 class room to work on shawls and pray for the recipients of their work. You can become a part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry by getting involved in **making** shawls or by **giving** a shawl to a friend or loved one you know that is in need. If you wish to present a shawl, simply choose one from the basket on the Prayer Shawl Ministry table labeled "Blessed Shawls", wrap it in a box, and include a "Prayer For Comfort" - Everything is located on the table. Also, please write a note in the prayer shawl journal, located near the shawls, to share your inspiration for presenting the shawl.

## Chick Lit. Book Club/Film Club and Prayer Group

**Please join us for appetizers, fellowship, and insightful conversation as we view and discuss the documentary film "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide"**

**DATE: Thursday, December 19th at 6:00**

**WHERE: Ruby Chapel**

**"Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide**

is a PBS primetime documentary film and national broadcast event inspired by the widely acclaimed book of the same name by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Filmed in 10 countries, the series follows Nicholas Kristof and celebrity activists America Ferrera, Diane Lane, Eva Mendes, Meg Ryan, Gabrielle Union and Olivia Wilde on a journey to tell the stories of inspiring, courageous individuals. Across the globe oppression is being confronted, and real meaningful solutions are being fashioned through health care, education, and economic empowerment for women and girls. The linked problems of sex trafficking and forced prostitution, gender-based violence, and maternal mortality — which needlessly claim one woman every 90 seconds — present to us the single most vital opportunity of our time: the opportunity to make a change. All over the world women are seizing this opportunity."

In **January** we will begin a series entitled "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things." Our January book will be... Unbroken: a World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption by Laura Hillenbrand.



## Yoga

Take some time for yourself and join us every Tuesday at 5:30pm, thru December 17th in the Family Life Center. \$5 per session.

Please bring the correct cash or a check written out to New Hope UMC.

Yoga will be led by New Hoper, Karen Campell. Karen is a licensed Yoga instructor. Invite your friends, co-workers, family, neighbors, etc.



# God's Gift of Advent

## In November we are thankful.

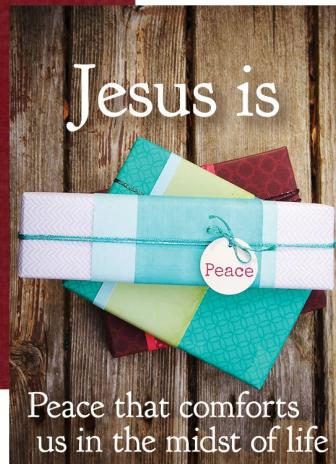
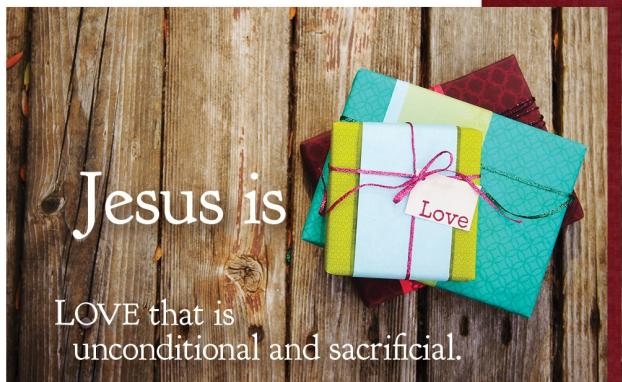
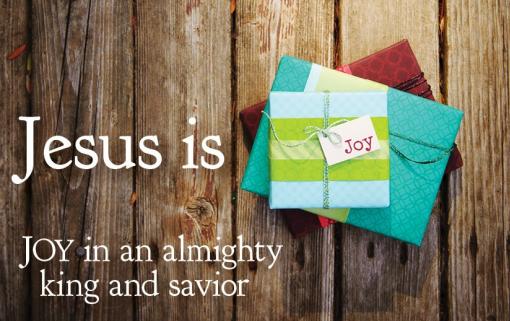
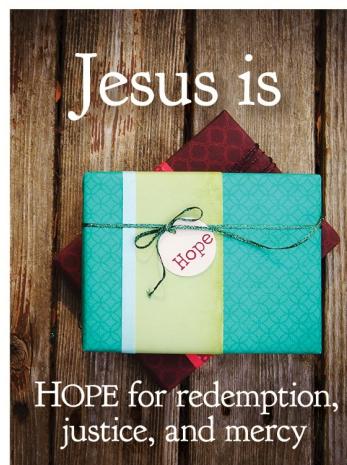
I read many friends' Facebook pages this last month and celebrated with them over the many things that they are thankful for; things like friends, family, children, parents, co-workers, church friends, etc. November is a great month to give thanks for all of these things.

However, as I look back over those lists of what people are thankful for, I realize no one mentioned they were thankful for a Christmas present, or a material gift at all. As much as we love our iPhones, video games, Craftsman tools, new clothes, knick-knacks, or toys, we realize that they are things that will all pass through our hands and not make a significant change in our lives. What a great thing for us to remember as we enter the Christmas Season, it is not things in our lives that we appreciate, it is the people.

December is the month of Advent in the Church. Advent means the arrival

or the start of something new. It is a time of preparing our heart for the coming of the messiah – Jesus Christ. And we realize that Jesus is the gift of God to the entire world. There are four major themes during the season of Advent: Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem he embodied these gifts to the world.

These Gifts of Christmas are not packages that are wrapped under the tree. They are not something you can hold. They are not exclusively for those who can afford them, they are for all people and they are free. They are the inspirational gifts of the spirit that God has given to each of us through the child born in a manger two thousand years ago.



We invite you this December to worship with New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life as we celebrate the "Gifts of Christmas." Attend one of our five weekly worship services at New Hope or Beaver Creek Elementary. Join us for the Johnston Community Christmas at the Barn December 14th at 5 & 7pm. Don't miss the special candle light services on Christmas Eve at New Hope UMC, 5:30, 7:30, and 10:00pm.

May your Christmas be filled with the gifts of Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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 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 (no peanuts/nuts), 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 December

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
1 8 15 Armenta Buckingham 22 29	1 Kinnetz family 8 Glenna Ross 15 Roff family 22 DeVonne Douglas 29	1 8 Bob & Ann Krause 15 22 29
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>*Hosts</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
1 Cathy Short 8 Maurine Myers 15 Cathy Short 22 Vicki O'Brien 29 Vicki O'Brien	1 Bill & Pam Gibbons 8 Cookie Walk 15 Clyde & Cindy Rail 22 Kinney Carnahan 29 Larry & Paulette Wood	1 8 Jon Verner 15 22 29
<b>Traditional Service Callers</b>	<b>Money Counters</b>	<b>*Hosts</b>
1 8 Mark & Leah Scherer 15 Bob & Marlys Borcherding 22 Jim & Norma Smith 29 Norma Sutton	1 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, Kari Baccam 8 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood 15 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 22 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 29 Open, Kim Traylor, Kari Baccam	1 Glenna Ross 8 Cookie Walk 15 Spencer & Andy Sutton 22 Lee Ross 29 Larry & Paulette Wood
<b>Contemporary Service Callers</b>	<b>Pal Friday: 9 a.m.</b>	
1 Eldon Cross 8 Melisa Forbes/Pam Frey 15 Eldon Cross 22 Melisa Forbes/Pam Frey 29 Eldon Cross	6 13 Norma Smith 20 Shirley Frus 27 Ann Krause	

**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).



\* Hosts...please note that several New Hopers have peanut allergies. Therefore, please refrain from using peanut butter or any peanuts/nuts in your cookies. THANK YOU!

# groups gathering together

## Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month.

**December 8, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship service.

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 a.m.** at New Hope.

## Women's Fellowship

**Thurs., December 19, 9am.**

If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Frus at 279-1130.



## New Hope Needlers - Monthly Gatherings

The New Hope Needlers are not planning a sewing date in December. Instead the group will be meeting for lunch only on the December 6th (place to be determined). If interested in joining, please contact Kim Buske at [515-334-5448](tel:515-334-5448) or [Kim.Buske@gmail.com](mailto:Kim.Buske@gmail.com). The group will resume their sewing dates with a new schedule in 2014.

The New Hope Needlers spent the day at the church on November 13th to sew Little Dresses for Africa. Part of the group is pictured below with a sampling of the 15 dresses they were able to produce for this important mission project.



## Care Ministry Team

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

## New Hope Chancel Choir

**Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.**

Join in the music ministry at New Hope. Questions? Contact 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.

## Small Groups

### Adult Sunday School

9:30 & 10:45 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

### Friday Small Group

The Friday Small Group meets every other Friday. Next gathering is on **Dec. 13**.

We will meet in the private meeting room of Cindy's Corner Cafe, 2731 100th St., Urbandale at Noon for lunch with study and discussion to follow, ending at 1:30 PM.

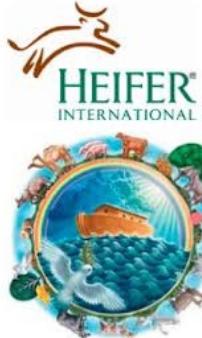
If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kielsmeier, 515-689-9680

**2nd and 4th Saturdays** of the month at 4pm. Childcare is provided. Contact Sherri & Nick Bogue, [boguesa@gmail.com](mailto:boguesa@gmail.com) with questions.

## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will **resume in January with a holistic look at Holy Living** based on John Wesley's belief that God cares about body and soul and that the spiritual and physical are interdependent. We will draw from scripture and Bible studies as well as local talent.

# missions



## Mission Focus for December: Heifer International

Heifer International is New Hope's Mission focus for both November and December. Heifer is a special organization, not only because of the animals it gifts to families, but the support, training, and follow-up they do with each of these families. They teach proper care, because this animal may enable them to feed, and educate their children with income of milk/wool/eggs/, etc. Then when the first offspring is born, the family gifts that to another family in their village. The gifting family then trains the new recipient family how to care for it. Thus, it has been proven that Heifer has raised whole villages out of poverty.

We are urging you to consider buying an animal or a share of an animal in honor of a loved one for Christmas. Honor cards and collector cards are on the Mission table to be included with your Christmas card. Please take one of the booklets to read with your family. Included in the booklets are true stories about the impact of Heifer International.

*Your money for the animal(s) may be placed in the offering plate with Heifer International noted on the memo line of your check.*

### ***Choose from these animals:***

<b><u>Heifer:</u></b>	\$500
share of Heifer:	\$ 50
<b><u>Water Buffalo:</u></b>	\$250
share of W. Buffalo:	\$ 25
<b><u>Llama:</u></b>	\$150
share of Llama:	\$ 20
<b><u>Goat:</u></b>	\$120
share of Goat:	\$ 10

<b><u>Sheep:</u></b>	\$120
share of Sheep:	\$ 10
<b><u>Pig:</u></b>	\$120
share of Pig:	\$ 10
<b><u>Trio of Rabbits:</u></b>	\$ 60
share of Rabbits:	\$ 10
<b><u>Honeybees:</u></b>	\$ 30
<b><u>Flock of Chicks:</u></b>	\$ 20
<b><u>Flock of Ducks/Geese:</u></b>	\$ 20
<b><u>Tree Seedlings:</u></b>	\$ 60
share of Seedlings:	\$ 10

## INGATHERING UPDATE

Charlene Cobb and Sharon Smith delivered the following to the Ingathering:  
50 Health Kits, 14 Layette Kits, 5 Sewing Kits,  
1 Knitting Kit

### Offerings to:

- Church World Service Blankets and Tools: \$1,000
- Iowa Nigeria Partnership Artemisia Seeds used in the relief of Malaria symptoms: \$1,000
- Self-Help International Feeding Project: \$1,000
- P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation bikes for victims of landmines.) \$1,000
- Imagine No Malaria: \$1,000

**Total giving including shipping and toothpaste for Health Kits = \$6,187.**

## Hand of Luke

Saturday, December 14

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes & gravy  
Green beans, dinner rolls, pie

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.

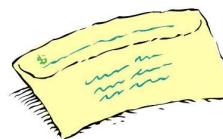
When dropping off your non perishables, please see that they are **clearly labeled HOL and clearly indicate who it is from** and leave them on the kitchen counter. Frozen items may be placed in the new industrial freezer, on the upper two left shelves. If possible, please indicate on the sign up sheet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



## Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2013 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2013** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2013.  
Thank you!

## 2014 Offering Envelopes



Please pick up your 2014 offering envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall on December 22. *If you did not indicate on your 2014 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office by December 8.* The money counters appreciate you using the envelopes.

### new hope financial update

Below is the General Fund operating budget report for October 2013 compared to our 2013 budget and October 2012

	Oct 2013 Actual	Oct 2013 Budget	Oct 2012 Actual
Total Receipts	25,256.82	22,821.16	23,226.17
Total Expenditures	27,120.20	28,267.51	25,303.81
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(1,863.38)	(5,446.35)	(2,077.64)
	YTD Oct 2013 Actual	YTD Oct 2013 Budget	YTD Oct 2012 Actual
Total Receipts	272,709.65	251,237.21	259,250.29
Total Expenditures	297,805.79	309,944.83	276,817.16
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(25,096.14)	(58,707.62)	(17,566.87)

### sunday morning worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Nov 3	36	131	114	281
Nov 10	37	114	99	250
Nov 17	36	140	108	284

River of Life Worship Attendance		
Sat	Sun	total
Nov 2	36	Nov 3 32 68
Nov 9	40	Nov 10 51 91
Nov 16	50	Nov 17 41 91

**Newsletter:** Please let us know that we can email you The LINK, or you will pick up THE LINK from church. Thank you for helping us save a tree and also save on our expenses. If you haven't already, please contact the church office to let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter.

**Friday Email Announcements:** New Hope UMC sends out a weekly email with upcoming announcements. If you have not been receiving the email, please let us know! Please send an email to [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org) and we will add you to the distribution list.

### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Donate

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.

# december

2013  
AT NEW HOPE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion *UM Student Day (offering) Dedication of the Greens Set up for Advent by Candlelight Noon, "Ask the Pastors"	2  7:00p, Trustees, Ruby Chapel  7:00p, Advent by Candlelight	3 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga 6:30p, Prayer Shawl/Knitting group	4 No Meal 6-7:15p, Christmas program practice Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Bells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	5	6 Office Vol: 9a-3p, Cookie Drop off Needlers lunch (TBD)  Noon, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale	7 12:30-3p, Cookie Drop off 12:30-3p, Jr. BLAST
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Cookie Walk 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure  4p, Confirmation Class	9	10 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  5:30p, Yoga	11 No Meal 6p, Christmas Program practice / Santa's Attic Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Bells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	12	13 Pal: Norma Smith  3:30p, Hand of Luke	
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Food Pantry Sunday 8:30 & 10:45a, Christmas Cantata  6:30p, Children's Christmas Program	16 Deadline for Jan. LINK  7p, SPRC Meeting	17 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  5:30p, Yoga 6:00p, Finance 7:00p, AD Council	18 6:00p, Meal 6:30p, Family Christmas Party Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Bells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	19 9a, Women's Fellowship at church  6:00p, Book Club  7:30p, Heartbeat bell concert at New Hope	20 Pal: Shirley Frus  Noon, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  Christmas Eve Services: 5:30p, 7:30p, 10:00p	25 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day	26	27 Pal: Ann Krause	28
29 Guest Preacher: Barb Mather No CLT or Children's Worship	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	January 1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	January 2	January 3  Noon, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale	4

\*United Methodist Student Day offering—Dec. 1: **New Hope honors our members who are college students.** Your offering on United Methodist Student Day nurtures persons to serve their churches and their communities. Please give generously. Your gift makes a world of difference!

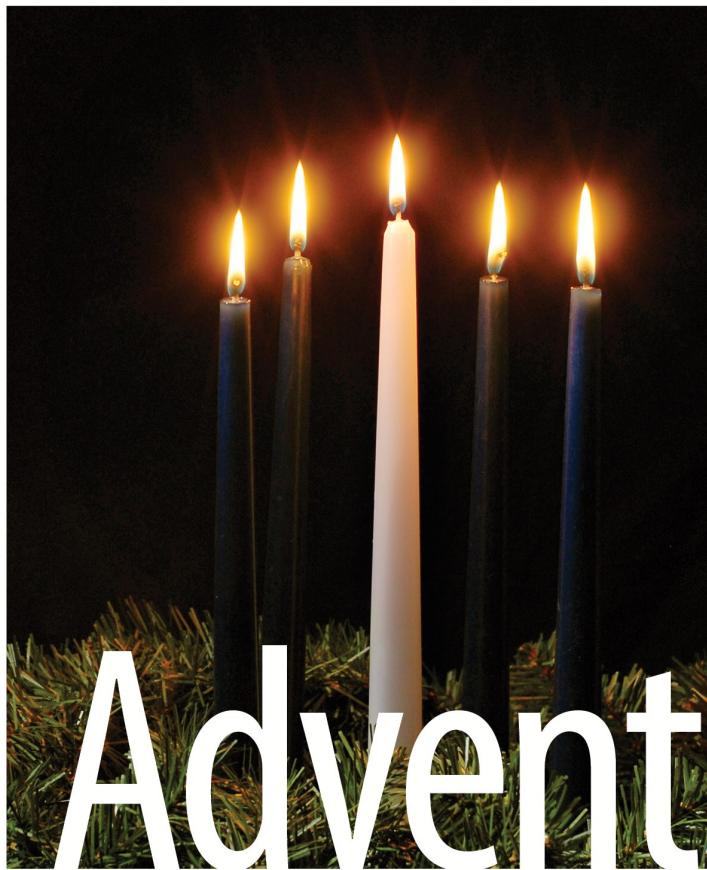
## Happy Birthday to you!! "May God's many blessings, be yours the year through."

- 1 Dean Peterson, Jason Juran
- 2 Brandon Thompson
- 3 Linda Dean
- 4 Charity Johnson, Leah Breitsprecher
- 5 Alec Beck-Cross
- 6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren, Stacey Wigant
- 7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney
- 8 Kristi Hegwood
- 9 Kaylee Stubbs, Lexi Dean, Max Gerleman, Liz Grow, Keith Trillet
- 12 Obi Ukabiala, Matthew Stern, Mary Grace Leyda
- 13 Emma Naumann
- 14 Nolan Monthei
- 15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short, Alexis Evans
- 16 Lindsey Robertson
- 17 Mary Ann Rice, Austin Cook, Andy Sutton
- 18 Sheri Thompson, Andrew Doxon, Alexis Harlan
- 19 Neil Cross, Brady Jansen, Kyle Hegwood, Spencer Sutton, Kylie Perez
- 20 Teri Reijerson, Larry Buske, Sarah Wiles, Carter Naumann
- 21 Matt Stringham, Adam Hartung, Zoe Wilson
- 22 Paulette Wood
- 23 Susan Baldwin, Ellie Naumann
- 25 Renee Haugland, Jennifer Riley
- 26 Joan Clary
- 27 Kim Buske, Charlotte Roff
- 28 Ashley Marsh
- 29 Liam Fulton, Richard Kile, Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher
- 30 Jeffrey Merrill, Jaedyn Cale
- 31 Quinn Merrill, Michele Hamilton, Miyoko Hikiji

## Happy Anniversary!!!

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

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



The season that we are in for the four weeks before Christmas is called "Advent" not Christmas. Advent is a Latin word meaning "the coming." It was officially established by church leaders in the sixth century. It was originally meant to be a time of preparation for Christmas Day, for Christians to contemplate, individually and as a church, what the coming of Jesus Christ meant for the world.

Even in the early church, clergy and laypersons looked for tangibles ways to help believers remember the season of Advent. In the very earliest days of the Christian faith, there was not the emphasis on Christmas as there is today, because the early Christians were more focused in on the Resurrection and because there was a belief that only sinners celebrated their birthdays, not saints. A part of this might have been Roman Emperors used to have big celebrations for their birthdays to let everyone know how great they were.

#### worship themes for december

Nov 30- Dec 1	<b>The Gift of Hope</b> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>
Dec 6-7	<b>The Gift of Joy</b> <i>Luke 1:8-17</i>
Dec 14-15	<b>The Gift of Love</b> <i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
Dec 21-22	<b>The Gift of Peace</b> <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>
Dec 24	<b>The Gift of Christ</b> <i>Luke 2:1-20</i>
Dec 28-29	<b>The Gift of Light</b> <i>Luke 2:21-32</i>

However, beginning around the 3rd century A.D., we begin to see the first evidences of the early church celebrating Christmas. Clement of Alexandria, around 200 A.D. writes of the early church having a feast for the celebration of both Epiphany (Christ's coming into the world) on the same day as they celebrated the Nativity (Christ's birth).

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" by Aurelius Prudentius, is thought to be the earliest Christmas hymn in recorded history, dating back to the 4th century A.D.

In 1223 St. Francis introduced the custom of having a Nativity scene as a decoration for Advent season and for Christmas. As the Christian faith spread into northern Europe, various customs were added to the Advent season. The Vikings who had converted to Christianity really resonated with the theme of the light of Christ overcoming the darkness. Because of the long Norse winters, they wanted to symbolize the light for their Advent celebrations, so they created the Advent wreath. Each Sunday they would light a candle to symbolize a particular theme of Advent.

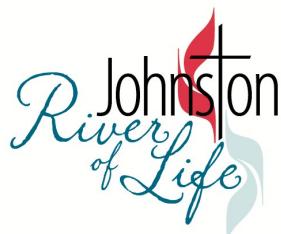
The tradition of the evergreen tree used at Christmas time also came from northern Europe. Some traditions say it was Martin Luther who came up with the idea, but that is disputed by others. But it is true that in the midst of long harsh winters Christians in northern Europe saw the evergreen tree as a sign of faith. Here was a plant that even winter couldn't stunt or stop and it kept its green color of life throughout the winter. Martin Luther is said to have influenced the tradition of decorating the Christmas tree each year.

My prayer this Advent season is for us to use the Advent season as a time to prepare in our hearts and lives for the coming of Jesus Christ.

- First Sunday in Advent  
Second Sunday in Advent  
Third Sunday in Advent  
Fourth Sunday in Advent  
Christmas Eve Services

*Cookie Walk  
Christmas Cantata*

**5:30pm, 7:30pm** *Luke 2:1-20, 10:00pm* *John 1:1-14*



#### 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:** Neil H. Cross  
**Outreach Pastor:** Craig Ferguson  
**Director of Music:** Eldon Cross  
**Children's Ministries Coordinator:** Sarah Jacobson  
**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)  
Sarah Jacobson: [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@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.

New Hope United Methodist Church  
4525 Beaver Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

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