

A monthly publication  
of New Hope United  
Methodist Church

JANUARY AT NEW HOPE

2014

the link

Join us in January as we explore the questions

What about  
**Doubt?**  
January 4 - 5

How can I know  
**God's Will  
for me?**  
January 11 - 12

Why are there so many different  
**Denominations?**  
January 18 - 19

Is the Bible still  
**Relevant?**  
January 25 - 26

## "Questions from the Pew" Sermon Series

In January, we are going to have a sermon series on questions about the faith that were shared with us from a survey we circulated in November. We asked for some of the questions that you have about the faith. We received several responses and we will base the sermon series on those questions. We will also be basing our February sermon series on one question that was shared with us, and that is forgiveness. We felt that this was such an important topic, with many different dimensions, that we felt it

was important to base a whole sermon series on the topic of forgiveness.

Some feel that perhaps it's not okay to even raise questions about the faith, that you should be unquestioning about one's faith. One should "just believe," just trust, in the areas you have questions and in which you don't understand. But Jesus taught that we are to "love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength." God has given us the gift of our minds to understand more deeply the Christian faith. And I have found

that it is sometimes through the times of doubt and questioning that my faith is strengthened, and I understand more deeply.

In our January sermon series, we will be dealing with the topics of doubt, of God's will, of how we understand the Bible in the midst of a modern world, and how the various denominations came to be. We hope and pray that this will be an exciting sermon series, one to encourage you to think more deeply about the faith and more deeply believe.



# 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

Marte Carlson; Phoebe Landis; 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.

## Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Kirk Dickey and family on the passing of his father, Richard Dickey.

## Baptism

Congratulations to Kyden Gabriel O'Neill who was baptized on December 15. Kyden is the son of Jeff and Monica Balk.

Congratulations to Jason Balk who was baptized on December 15 and was received into membership.

## Thank You

Cheryl, I, Michelle and Laura want to thank all of you for the gifts, the cards, the Christmas wishes and the many ways you have blessed our lives in this past Christmas season.  
*Neil Cross*

We would like to thank our New Hope family for all the prayers and support during Cheryl's recent health change. Special thanks to the care team for the wonderful meal and the New Hope Needlers group for the Prayer Shawl. It is so comforting to know we have such a wonderful church family. It really means a lot.  
*Mike, Cheryl and Mason Lillegraven*

Angels among us at New Hope. Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope."

The women's restroom remodel is completed! We have a fresh new look. Many thanks for those that helped and the angels that provided us with "love gifts" that completely funded the update.

May our church be warmed by the love of our Savior, your hearts wrapped in His peace, and your new year filled with His overflowing joy.

The Altar Guild would like to say a special thank you to all who helped decorate and un-decorate the church. As they say.... 'many hands....'  
Thanks so much!

## Thank You

Thanks to all who participated in the 2013 Cookie Walk on Dec. 8th. Unfortunately the snow kept some of our church family from being able to participate on the 8th.



We had wonderful cookies brought in for the sale and we are very grateful to all of you who so willingly donated both the decorated and undecorated. This year our profit was \$937.00 and that is lower than usual due to the bad weather. Our women's fellowship will use the money for our local missions.

A special thanks to my co-chair, Lee Ross, for all her support and assistance. And also a big thank you to all the Church Angels that helped to set up on Saturday and who worked on Sunday to display, sell and clean up. We have a wonderful church family who continues to donate their talents, time and funds. We are blessed.  
Blessings to All:  
Clarice Rubek  
Chair of Cookie walk 2013

A huge thank you to all those who donated items for Santa's Attic. We were able to offer a huge amount of choices for the kids to select presents for their family. We hope those family members who opened the presents enjoyed the thoughtful gifts the children choose. The money raised for the presents will be sent to Smile Train, to spread even more smiles. Thanks again!!!



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!



We are looking for several volunteers who would be interested in spreading the hospitality of New Hope to visitors. The job requirements would be to do a one time home visit for anyone attending our church and following up with a phone call. It does not require a lengthy conversation,

but a short, "we're glad you came", give them a gift and let them know that we care to see them back again. This is such an important job in our efforts to continue reaching into our community and share the love of Jesus with all. There is not an age requirement for this.

Please contact me if this is something you would be willing to help with. The more people that are involved in this, the more it can be rotated.

Thank you for showing an interest. Please contact Billy Nuzum, Lay Leader, [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com)



### 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.



### 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!



### Lay Servant Ministry

Join us on January 19 at 4pm in the Ruby Chapel.

We will be talking about Passionate Worship. We would love to have all that are interested join us.

### 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.*



### confirmation schedule



**January 12, 4:00 p.m.**  
Topic: "Church History"  
**January 26, 4:00 p.m.**  
Topic: "Being a Disciple"



Thank you to all of our New Hope Care Team who so willing give of their precious time to be the hands of God on Earth.

They do visitation, calling, hospital visits, cards, prayers, meals and whatever else needs to be done to show our New Hope love and care for the parishioners.

They are always prompt to respond when a call is made for action.

I especially want to thank Paulette Wood who chairs the meal preparation team. Paulette is always ready and able to respond quickly and with great organization. She leads a wonderful team of New Hope Angels who provide many wonderful meals for our parishioners when they are in need of some tender love and good heart-warming food.

Those angels on this very special team are:

Nina Moses, Julie Craighton, Esther Stout, Marlys Borcharding ,Kristin Welter, Norma Smith, Freda Ruleman , Jody Rains, Ginny Ghee, Jan Davisson , Karen Skovgard and also Paulette Wood.

Thanks to all my care team for all the wonderful love and care you give to our parishioners. -- You are the hands of God on earth.

With my Deepest Gratitude  
Clarice Rubek  
Care Team Ministry

## 2014 RUMMAGE SALE COMING May 1, 2, 3, 2014

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:

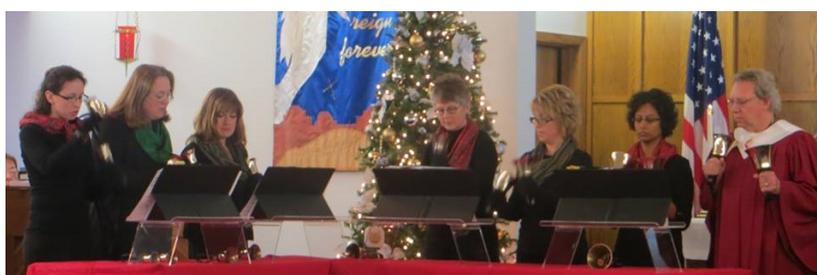
Women's Clothing, Men's Clothing, Holidays, Bed/Bath/Linens, Crafts, Furniture, Sports/Garden.

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

**Advent by Candle light** was held on Monday, December 2 for women of the church and their friends. It was a peaceful and beautiful evening. Thank you to the hosts, attendees, organizers, and performers.



**"Service of Lessons and Carols"** performed on Sunday, December 15th by the New Hope UMC Seasonal Choir; directed by Eldon Cross; accompanied by Handbell Choir; Amanda Robinson, violin; Brenda McConahay, piano; and Paulette Wood, Narrator.



# 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)

CLT classes meet every Sunday from 10:45-11:45am. We have classes for ages 3 years, all the way to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. In January, our children will be learning about the life of Jesus and his ministry in the New Testament. Our youth will continue discussing current events and how those relate to our faith. January is your chance for a fresh start so why not come back to CLT if you've been gone for a while. You may not know this but CLT can be a very valuable experience for our children and youth and it gives them the fundamentals they need to grow in their faith and become mature, Christ-following adults who are the future of this church. Please invest in them by encouraging our children and youth to attend Christian Learning Time.

**Teacher Needed:** CLT is needing another teacher for the 5th/6th grade. Please contact Sarah Jacobson to volunteer. Thank you!

**Acolytes:** If you are in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade and would like to serve as an acolyte at the 10:45am worship service over the next several months, please sign up outside Sarah's office.

### 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 after the Children's Message during the 9:30 service.

We are in need of some new volunteers to help lead Children's Worship. We'd like to have enough helpers that we can rotate our volunteers so our regulars don't get burnt out. Please consider how you can help make this ministry possible. If you would like to help with this program please contact Sarah Jacobson. If you've never done it before, consider observing and seeing what it's all about. Training and resources will be provided.

**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 "When Life is the Pits," an activity sheet for kids (they can do this during worship, on a car ride, or just to keep them busy at home), The Parent Link, and a helpful tool called "A Child's Ten Commandments to Parents." Consider this your One- Stop- Shop for all information about Children's Ministries.



We are so very proud of the work our children and youth did with the Children's Christmas program. Through singing and storytelling, puppets and bells, our church saw the true meaning of Christmas through a child's perspective. We want to thank all of the children and youth who participated, and their families who supported them. An even bigger thank you goes out

to all the people who made this program possible, the teachers, the parents, and the music instructors for your efforts in helping our children prepare music and practice for the program. YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!!!!!!

(More pictures on New Hope's Facebook page.)



## Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW)

If you've never come to TGIW before, January would be a good opportunity for you start joining us for fun, fellowship, food, and learning. TGIW has some new directors we'd love for you to meet. They have so many creative ideas for developing this program. Please make sure to welcome Jeff and Monica Balk as our new TGIW directors, and introduce yourself on a Wednesday night.

TGIW will start again on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> with TGIW Family Game Night. The **registration fee is \$3/child or \$8/family** and this will help cover the costs of our programs through the end of April. Our regular TGIW nights are for kids in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Dinner will be provided at 5:30 for a free will donation.



### Join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> TGIW Family Night Wednesday, January 8

**Registration starts at 5:30pm \* Dinner at 5:30pm \* Family Game Night 6:00-7:15pm**

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.

Join us for Bible Bingo, relay races and other team building games! Bring a favorite board game if you want to enjoy a less active game night experience. TGIW Family Nights are open to any family or individual, age doesn't matter!

Here is our upcoming TGIW schedule (full winter/spring schedule available on Sarah's bulletin board)

**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** Registration & Meal 5:30pm; TGIW Family Game Night 6-7:15pm  
Puppets 7:15-8:00

**Jan 15<sup>th</sup>** Registration & Meal 5:30pm  
Dresses for Africa Mission 6-7:15pm (Please bring new or gently used pillow cases); Bells 6:30-7:00; Puppets 7:15-8:00

**Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>** Meal 5:30pm  
TGIW Activities (Ten Commandments) 6-7:15pm  
Bells 6:30-7:00; Puppets 7:15-8:00

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** Meal 5:30pm  
TGIW Activities (Ten Commandment) 6-7:15pm  
Bells 6:30-7:00; Puppets 7:15-8:00

Are you looking for a small way to serve your church? Do you feel that leading devotions for kids might be where God is calling you? If so, then we have a place for you. Every Wednesday at TGIW we close with a short 10 minute devotion time. This includes a song, prayer, maybe a bible verse or object lesson of some kind. If interested contact [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org) for more information. Training and materials will be available.

**Wednesday Night Cancellations:** Just a reminder to that if the Urbandale or Johnston schools are canceled or release early due to winter weather, our activities will be canceled. Notices will also be on the tv stations.



The focus of Jr. High BLAST this year is to share the love of Christ through fun fellowship activities and service projects.

In December, Jr. High BLAST enjoyed baking hundreds of cookies in the kitchens at New Hope. We packaged them up and made special deliveries to members of New Hope. It was fun to see the surprise and gratitude on the faces of the recipients. We helped the younger members of our church with Santa's Attic. We ended December with a fun Christmas Party.

We look forward to many more fun times together in 2014. We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 - 7:15pm at New Hope beginning again on Wednesday, January 8. Be sure to invite your friends to our Wednesday night meetings and fellowship activities.

**Jr High Blast will be doing lots of physical things in January and February.  
Workouts and learning about nutrition.**

# youth programs

**Sr. BLAST** (9th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity Johnson, and Pam Frey – [BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)  
We are excited to announce the dates for our 2014 Senior High BLAST trip. We will be heading to Tahlequah, Oklahoma and will be working at Camp Grey Squirrel with children with autism. Our trip will take place July 13<sup>th</sup> through July 19<sup>th</sup>. During this trip, our youth will be working on repairs and improvement projects at the children's home, as well as interacting with the children who live there through games and outreach activities. Additionally, the youth will have opportunities to serve the local community by helping with home repair, painting, and maintenance on the homes in the community.

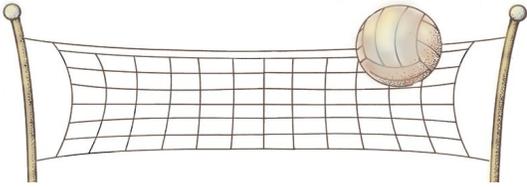


Throughout the next couple of months; the youth will be doing a lot of fundraising events both inside the church and outside the church. Our next event is the biscuit and gravy breakfast on January 12<sup>th</sup> after each of the New Hope services that day. Finally, the youth are starting to plan their annual sweetheart dinner fundraiser. We will again have a professional chef (*Chef Tony Scharfenkamp*) prepare a 3 course meal that night. Plan now to attend this event on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

Import Dates to Remember:

- Jan 8th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Jan 12th** ~ **Biscuit and Gravy Breakfast (after each service)**
- Jan 15th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Jan 19th @ 4pm** ~ **BLAST Christmas Party at the Higdon House (8144 Durham Circle, Johnston, IA)**
- Jan 22nd @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Jan 29th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Feb 2nd @ 3pm** ~ **Super Bowl Party at the Higdon House (8144 Durham Circle, Johnston, IA)**
- Feb 5th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Feb 9th @ 6pm** ~ **Sweetheart Dinner at New Hope**
- Feb 12th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Feb 19th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Feb 26th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
- Mar 5th @ 5pm** ~ **Ash Wednesday Pancake Feed**

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!



## Yoga

Take some time for yourself and join us every Tuesday at 5:30pm, January 14 - February 25 in the Family Life Center. \$5 per session or 7 session for \$35. 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.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

“Maybe it isn’t always prayer of a conventional sort, but I believe prayer seeps through our fingers, into the yarn, and around our needles each time we pick up a shawl to knit it.” Knitting Into the Mystery, Copyright Ó2003 by Susan S. Izard and Susan S. Jorgensen

**What:** BLESSING OF THE SHAWLS

**When:** Sunday, January 12 at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:45 services

Dear New Hope Community,

Knitted or crocheted by hand and threaded with prayers of love and hope, these shawls are a gift to you. May they bring blessings of comfort, and gifts of warmth and knowledge that you are loved. Peace be with you.

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets at 6:30 the first Tuesday of each month, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> classroom**

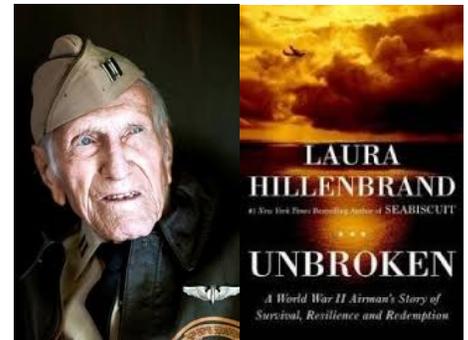
## Chick Lit. Book Club/Film Group/Prayer Group

Please join us for fellowship and insightful conversation as we begin a new series entitled, “Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things.”

**JANUARY BOOK:** Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption, by Laura Hillenbrand

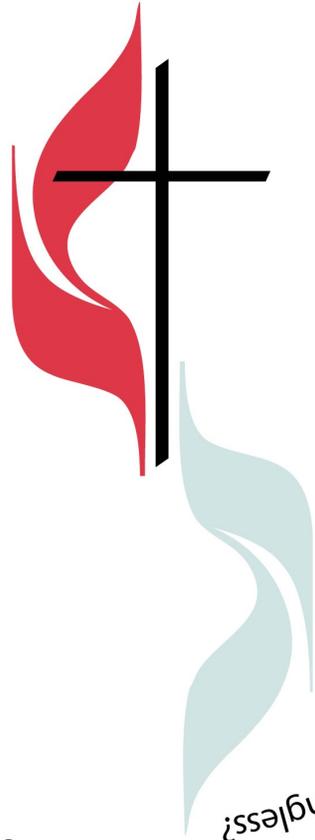
**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30

**WHERE:** Ruby Chapel



“From Laura Hillenbrand, the bestselling author of Seabiscuit, comes *Unbroken*, the inspiring true story of a man who lived through a series of catastrophes almost too incredible to be believed. In evocative, immediate descriptions, Hillenbrand unfurls the story of Louie Zamperini--a juvenile delinquent-turned-Olympic runner-turned-Army hero. During a routine search mission over the Pacific, Louie’s plane crashed into the ocean, and what happened to him over the next three years of his life is a story that will keep you glued to the pages, eagerly awaiting the next turn in the story and fearing it at the same time. You’ll cheer for the man who somehow maintained his selfhood and humanity despite the monumental degradations he suffered, and you’ll want to share this book with everyone you know” --*Juliet Disparte*

**Help get me off this merry-go-round...** Have you ever felt like **life is going in circles**, like you get dizzy from the speed of things or have seen it all before? 1999, 2000, 01, 02... 10, 11, 12, 13, 14... and **each year goes faster** and holds the same thing: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall, Holidays, Birthdays, School, New Year's Resolutions, and don't forget Taxes. It's as if you know what the scenery will look like and what to expect when you get to a side of the circle. Even the things we love look the same, Christmas lights, Easter Bunny, Fireworks, Trick or Treat, and Turkeys. What is the point? Is it all meaningless? **what holds it all together, what is at the center, and where the ride will stop.**



The good news is that when I step back from the fast paced edge, move toward the center, take a calming breath I see that there is something solid that everything else moves around. There is something that holds the universe together, something that binds the fabric of creation, life, seasons, faith, hope, love. That something is the one we worship, the King in a manger, the lion and the lamb, Jesus Christ. Join us in 2014 as we look at the questions this merry-go-round of life kicks up.

*Craig Ferguson*



# Thank you

to everyone who helped with the Community Christmas at the Barn. It was a great community outreach event. We hosted over 200 people in a traditional setting with special music from the Johnston High School Music program and the New Hope Cantata. Santa Clause was a big hit and family photos captured the spirit of the season. Check out a full set of event photos on the Johnston River of Life facebook page.



The New Hope Cantata performing "Noel Festival"



The Johnston High School "Duly Noted" a capella group poses with Santa between services.



Family photos with Santa!



Yummy treats at the cookie table.

# 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 January.

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b>Greeters</b> 5 12 19 26	<b>Greeters</b> 5 Glenna Ross 12 Wills family 19 Nate & Sarah Jacques 26	<b>Greeters</b> 5 Sheldon & Esther Stout 12 Lee Ross 19 26
<b>Lectors</b> 5 Cathy Short 12 19 26	<b>*Hosts</b> 5 Weisskopfs 12 Sr. BLAST 19 Pam Frey 26 Clyde & Cindy Rail	<b>Lectors</b> 5 Clarice Rubek 12 19 26
<b>Traditional Service Callers</b> 5 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 12 Mark & Leah Scherer 19 Norma Sutton 26 Mark & Leah Scherer	<b>Money Counters</b> 5 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood 12 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 19 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 26 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, Kari Baccam	<b>*Hosts</b> 5 Glenna Ross 12 Sr. BLAST 19 Andy & Spencer Sutton 26 Sharon & Earl Lewis
<b>Contemporary Service Callers</b> 5 Eldon Cross 12 Rod & Lynette Cook 19 Mark & Susan Baldwin 26 Eldon Cross	<b>Pal Friday: 9 a.m.</b> 3 Norma Sutton 10 Marlys Borcharding 17 Marge Carnahan 24 Ann Krause 31 Norma Smith	



**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 Hoppers 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.

**January 19, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship service.

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, January 11 at 7:30 a.m.** at New Hope.

## Women's Fellowship

**Thurs., February 20, 9am.**

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

## 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

meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the Corner Cafe (Address: 2731 100th St, Urbandale, IA

50322, Phone:(515) 868-0200) at 12 noon. Our Bible study is from the James W. Moore books. No

preparation is needed on your part before we meet. We welcome any-

one who would like to join us. If you have questions please call Linda Kielsmeier at 515-689-9680 or Jan Davisson at 515-251-4894.

### 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.



## New Hope Needlers - Monthly Gatherings

The New Hope Needlers plan to meet on Monday, Jan 13th at 11:30 at Panera in Johnston for lunch, then sewing from 1- 4 pm at Kim Buske's. Any sewers are welcome to join for one or both parts of the day. Questions? Call Kim at 515-334-5448.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Because our next study is a combination from several resources, the Bible Study Planning Team is using January to finish the planning. The new study: **Holy Living** will include a Lenten "Daniel Fast". This is based on Daniel's choosing to eat specific foods to stay true to God while a captive in Babylonia.

Throughout the study we will emphasize how Prayer and the Word help to keep our lives balanced.

February we will begin by studying Joyce Meyer's Four part: **Healthy Living**, which includes: Spiritual, Mental, and Physical Health. We also will take time to study John Wesley's views and writings on Holy Living.

This will be an interactive experience using cooking, demonstrations, prayer bracelet making, and scrapbooking a journal cover for recording progress during the fast.

A survey will be in the bulletin for you to respond as to when would be the best time to meet. Please prayerfully consider joining us in a holistic way of living for our Lord, a plan for Holy Living.



# missions

## Mission Focus for January is Women at the Well.

Women at the Well is a United Methodist Church within the walls of the Mitchellville Prison for Women. The pastor is Rev. Lee Schott, who formerly was pastor at Polk City UMC. Because of this 7 year old ministry, many women have learned how to live a Godly life. Rev. Schott will be a guest preacher at New Hope, **January 5<sup>th</sup> at all 3 services. A noisy can collection will be taken that day to help support Women at the Well.**

It is our hope that New Hope can form a team for the re-entry of women leaving Mitchellville to give support in forming their new life out of prison. We will have a sign-up form on the Mission Table if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

If you would like to attend a worship service at Women at the Well, we will have sign-ups at the end of August and through the first part of September, as we have reserved the date of September 25<sup>th</sup> to visit.



You can learn more about our conference's newer church at: [www.womenatthewellumc.org](http://www.womenatthewellumc.org)

**Angel Tree:** Thank you to all who purchased and those who delivered presents for Angel Tree in December. Seventeen families were blessed because of your compassion. Thank you, also, to Suzie Martz who organized everything.

**Heifer International:** A special thanks to all who made it possible to raise an Ark for Heifer International. Just think about how many families and villages were impacted because of your gift.

If you would like to **join the Mission Committee**, please contact Nancy at the church office, : 278-2097, or Sharon Smith: 277-7125. Our first meeting in 2014 is a joint planning session January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall for a small meal and then move to the Ruby Chapel. Regular meetings are held on Wednesday nights at 5:30: March, June, September, and November.

## Daytime volunteer opportunity

Can you spare a couple hours during the day once every month or two or three? With the growth of Hand of Luke in recent years there are instances when advance prep for the evening meal is valued. For example, in December the meatloaf mixture was prepared in the morning allowing the cooks to focus on shaping and cooking the loaves and other side dishes. The January menu includes soups and cornbread. Having the sausage and onions sauteed in advance would be very beneficial and allow focus on combining the soup ingredients and baking the cornbread. Every month 200 knives and forks need to be wrapped in a napkin. It is desirable to have a roster of individuals that could occasionally spare a few daytime hours on the 14th of the month. Requests for service would be made as needed. Serving is always the 14th of the month. Napkins can be wrapped any day in advance, meat preparation is generally the same day.

If you are interested in participating in the Hand of Luke mission yet your schedule limits evening participation this volunteer opportunity may be for you. Contact Ruth Doxon at [rdoxon@gmail.com](mailto:rdoxon@gmail.com) or call 253-9115 to be added to the call for assistance list. Thank you.

## Hand of Luke

**Tuesday, January 14**

Potato Cheese soup & Southwestern Vegetable Soup  
Corn Muffins or Dinner Roll  
Tossed Salad  
Dessert Bars

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!!!

## Stewardship Update

Currently we have received 120 pledge sheets for the 2014 budget year. These pledges amount to a total of \$291,164 which breaks down to \$190,834 to the general fund, \$21,546 to the mission fund, \$50,182 to the mortgage, and \$28,602 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

### new hope financial update

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

	Nov 2013 Actual	Nov 2013 Budget	Nov 2012 Actual
Total Receipts	29,626.44	28,820.16	29,770.27
Total Expenditures	32,117.72	32,570.25	30,018.32
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(2,491.28)	(3,750.09)	(248.05)

	YTD Nov 2013 Actual	YTD Nov 2013 Budget	YTD Nov 2012 Actual
Total Receipts	302,365.77	280,057.37	289,020.56
Total Expenditures	329,953.19	342,515.08	306,835.48
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(27,587.42)	(62,457.71)	(17,814.92)

### Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Nov 24	31	142	120	293
Dec 1	33	120	105	258
Dec 8	46	113	111	270
Dec 15	71	129	141	341
Dec 22				

### River of Life Worship Attendance

	Sat	Sun	total
Nov 30	41	Dec 1 42	83
Dec 7	53	Dec 8 46	99
Dec 14	204	Dec 15 19	223
Dec 21		Dec 22	

**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 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.

# january

# 2014

AT NEW HOPE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed NO TGIW	2	3 Office Vol:	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Guest Preacher: Rev. Lee Schott	6 7:00p, Trustees	7 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Prayer Shawl/ Knitting 7:00p, Nominating Committee Mtg.	8 5:30p, TGIW/Meal Family Night 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	9 7:00p, Worship Design, Ruby Chapel 7:00p, Boy Scouts	10 Office Vol: Noon, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale	11 7:30a, Men's Breakfast
12 Holy Communion Blessing of Prayer shawls Sr. BLAST brunch fundraiser after each service Noon, Compassionate Callers 4p, Confirmation Class	13 11:30a, Needlers @ Panera and then to Kim Buske's 6:30p, Volleyball	14 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 3:30p, Hand of Luke 5:30p, Yoga	15 <b>Feb. LINK deadline</b> 5:30p, TGIW/Meal 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:15p, Bells 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	16	17 Office Vol:	18 9a, Quarterly Work Day at church  FLC reserved for Boy Scouts
19 *Human Relations Day (offering Blood Pressure Sunday Noon, "Ask the Pastor" Food Pantry Sunday 4p, Lay Servant Ministry 4p, Sr Blast to Higdon	20 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 6:00p, Mission Meeting 6:30p, Volleyball	21 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga 7:00p, Finance Meeting	22 5:30p, TGIW/Meal 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:15p, Bells 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	23 6:30p, Book Club, Ruby Chapel	24 Office Vol: Noon, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale	25
26 4p, Confirmation Class	27 6:30p, Volleyball	28 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga 7:00p, AD Council	29 5:30p, TGIW/Meal 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:30p, Chancel Choir 6:15p, Bells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	30	31	Feb. 1

**\*Human Relations Day, Jan. 19:** A Church-wide Special Sunday of The United Methodist Church. Your generous gifts on Human Relations Day support: Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services programs, related to the General Board of Global Ministries, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, General Board of Church and Society. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!

**Looking Ahead:**  
Feb. 9: Sweetheart Dinner fundraiser by Sr. Blast  
Feb. 9: Boy Scout Recognition

## Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 David Kinsey, Rick Roquet             | 19 David O'Brien, Taylor Jackson                |
| 3 Zach Price, Quentin Ickowitz          | 20 Nolan Martz                                  |
| 5 Kasi Dickerson, David Reierson        | 21 Brenda McCulley, Melissa Haase, Taylor Evans |
| 6 Matthew McCulley                      | 22 Dustin Henry, Harold Schuler                 |
| 7 Henry Strauss                         | 23 Linda Holloway, Katie Paulson, Kate Cossa    |
| 8 Maurine Myers, Doug Hewitt            | 24 George Buckingham                            |
| 9 Kari Baccam                           | 26 Amanda Samuelson                             |
| 10 Gayle Easton, Norma Wallin           | 27 Margaret Holmgren                            |
| 13 Vivienne Lee                         | 29 Bob Robinson, Bill Gibbons, Lori Marsh       |
| 14 Doris Harvey                         | 30 Dale Myers, Barb Mather, Kirsten Sahlin      |
| 16 Marilyn Mc Cleary, Mark Thomsen      | 31 Denise Zoss, Kenny Ukabiala                  |
| 17 Joan Clay, Nate Nuzum, Gerald Perdue |   |
| 18 Devin Ensley, Ann Krause             |   |

## Happy Anniversary!!!

- 1: Ryan & Abbi Herrick
- 2: Michael & Joelyn Gerovac
- 15: Bob & Marlys Borcharding
- 17: Keith & Julie Craighton
- 24: Neal & Roberta Cave
- 24: Arny & Shelley Larsen
- 28: Ryan & Connie Armstrong
- 29: Sheldon & Esther Stout

*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.*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. – Philippians 1:3-5

# Retirement

**Most of you know that I announced that I am going to retire from full-time ministry in June, 2014.** In June, I will have served as an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church for 40 years. It has been a great blessing to serve in the United Methodist Church for all these years. I am especially blessed to have served at New Hope UMC for what will be 17 years at the end of June. You folks have been the church family for me, Cheryl, Michelle, and Laura for these past 17 years, and I am so grateful to have been with you. I really like what Paul had to say to a church he loved, and I could echo the same thoughts. We really have shared much in the Gospel together, and have accomplished marvelous things together for Christ's ministry. And I really am confident that the One who began a good work in all of us will bring it to completion in His day.

Both Michelle and Laura will receive degrees from the University of Northern Iowa this coming May – Michelle with

a professional certification in school psychology and Laura with two Bachelor of Arts degrees – one in bio-chemistry and one in psychology. Michelle currently works for the Great Prairie Area Educational Agency in southeast Iowa. Laura is currently applying for a Masters Degree program in genetic counseling. At this point, we don't know where Laura will be next year, as she is applying to universities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Utah, and maybe a couple of other places. But being retired will allow us to have more of a chance to visit her wherever she ends up.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be working in this transition period for the appointment of your next Senior Pastor. In the meantime, I will be keeping you all in my prayers, in this time of transition and always. I love you all and you will always be in my heart.



## worship themes for january

- Jan 5 **What About Doubt?** *Mark 9:20-28*  
Jan 12 **How Can I Know God's Will?** *Ephesians 1:3-14*  
Jan 19 **Is the Bible Still Relevant?** *Luke 4:16-21*  
Jan 26 **Why Are There Different Denominations?** *Romans 12:1-8*

(Lee Schott will be preaching at New Hope)  
**God's Foolishness** *1 Corinthians 1:15-31*



#### 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.*

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