

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

March 2015

MARCH AT NEW HOPE UMC

Wanderings

Mar. 1 "Wandering Cross"
Mar. 8 "Wandering Wisdom"
Mar. 15 "Wandering Love"
Mar. 22 "Wandering Covenant"
Mar. 29 "Wandering Victory"



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays at New Hope UMC 8:30am • 9:30am • 10:45am
newhopedsm.org



Johnston
River of Life

johnstonriveroflife.org

Saturdays 5pm
& Sundays 10am
Beaver Creek Elementary

OPEN THE DOOR.
EXPLORE THE

Brilliant DARKNESS

LENT 2015



New Hope Needlers Saturday, March 21

The Needlers group is planning a sewing afternoon at church on Saturday, March 21. The sewing event will start with a potluck lunch at 11:30 AM and then be followed by sewing from 1-4:30 PM.

Participants can sew Little Dresses or Little Britches for Africa or work on quilts. Anyone with a little sewing experience is welcome to join our group. We're especially hoping that members who can't normally join us for our weekday sessions will be able to join us for this sewing event.

Bring your own sewing machine or contact Kim Buske at Kim.Buske@gmail.com to request one of the church's sewing machines for the afternoon.

March 21 is National Quilting Day so plan on joining us for this fun afternoon of sewing for great causes while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow quilters.



membership news

Prayer Chain Request

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

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

Prayer Concerns

Mica Wills; Marilyn Monroe; Susan Clark; John Burrough; Glenna Ross; Lyle Meyer, brother of Carol Evans; Gary Ruleman, son of Freda Ruleman; Alan Reilly, son-in-law of Freda Ruleman; Olive Walker; 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; Tim Rains; Collin Traylor; Devan Stanton, Jared Stanton and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Thank You

We would like to thank our New Hope family for all the cards, prayers, and loving concern for our family after the loss of Linda's mother, Velma Anderson. We are blessed with the care you showed during her long illness, and we appreciate it very much. *Bob and Linda Reaney*

We want to thank our wonderful New Hope family for all the prayers, cards, emails, food and many other kindnesses at the time of John's surgery. The quilt from the Needlers was very thoughtful, and we are very grateful for all the support from Pastor Jon and everyone at New Hope. *John and Carolyn Burrough*

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Bob & Linda Reaney and family on the passing of Linda's mother, Velma Anderson.

Our Sympathy to Eldon Cross and Cathy Beck-Cross and family on the passing of Cathy's mom, Joy Beck.

Our Sympathy to Lee Ross, Glenna Ross, and DeVonne Douglas on the passing of their close relative, Vanessa Timmerman.

Confirmation schedule



March 8, 4:30 p.m.

Students only

Topic: "Christianity and other religions"

March 22, 4:30 p.m.

Students and Mentors

Topic: "Going Forth"

Thurs., March 26

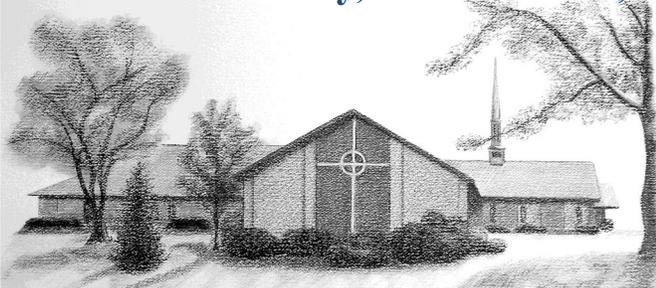
Students and Mentors

Tour of Faith, 8am-3:30pm

Thank you to all of the Confirmation Students and Mentors for serving during the Ash Wednesday service (more pictures are on our Face book page).



Save the Date! **Sunday, November 22, 2015**



New Hope UMC 50th Anniversary will be celebrated in the services and in the afternoon. Stay tuned!



Daylight Saving
time begins
March 8, 2015
Spring forward one
hour!



Girl Scout Sunday
Sunday, March 8
All Girl Scouts and leaders
are encouraged to wear their
Girl Scout uniforms for Girl
Scout Sunday on March 8.



Easter Lily Orders
Deadline: March 22

You may order an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of loved ones.
The Lilies will decorate the Altars at both the Traditional and Contemporary worship services on Easter Sunday.
An order form will soon be in the tear-off section of the bulletins.
Cost is \$10.00 per Lily.
Deadline is March 22.
After the Easter worship service you attend, you may take your plant home.



Spring Clean-Up
at New Hope Campus
Saturday, April 4th

Please consider volunteering to help with the maintenance and

beautification of our campus grounds on Saturday, April 4th. There will be tasks for all skill levels: picking up twigs and debris, raking leaves, weeding, mulching, trimming where needed, and other general landscaping. Please bring work gloves, leaf rakes, pruning shears, etc.
We will work from 9am to completion. Lunch will be provided. Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



TGIW Family Movie
& PJ Night
Wednesday, March 11th
Light Supper at 5:30pm
Movie 6-7:30pm

Wear your favorite PJ's, bring your pillow/blankets for a movie night in the FLC. Popcorn will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own covered drink.

Please RSVP to Sarah by March 4th so we know how much food to prepare.



Please join us **Friday, March 13th, 11:30am**, for lunch and conversation at the Perkup Cafe, 7003 Douglas Avenue. (intersection of 70th & Douglas)

Questions? Contact Sharon Smith 515-419-7082, or Shirley Frus, 515-279-1130.



Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, March 14, at 8:30am.**

We are so excited that Miyoko Hikiji will be a guest speaker.
Please come, bring your spouse and another vet if you would like, have a delicious breakfast, share the brotherhood, and enjoy Miyoko's sharing of her experiences in Iraq and her current work with veterans.
Breakfast is served at 8:30 am. All veterans are welcome.
For more information, please contact Billy Nuzum @ bbnewz54@gmail.com

Fundraiser/Mission Trips/Work Day for Adults

Team members: Pastor Craig Ferguson, Bill Gibbons, Jessica Hass, Jim Jensen, Wendy Musgrave, Laura Siffin, John & Denise Hartford, along with other team members from the North Central District will be busing tables (and collecting tips as well as a percentage of profits the restaurant takes in during our scheduled time) on **Monday, April 20 at Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St., Urbandale from 5:30 - 9:00 pm.** The money raised will help pay for materials the team will need to begin building a house for a Honduran family in need. *No cooking that night! How easy is that?*

Habitat for Humanity Work Day will be approximately Saturday, April 25, depending on the progress of the house. The team will be painting the exterior.

Mission Trip to Honduras, February 6-13, 2016. Team meetings are being held monthly and we are getting a start on learning some Spanish. There is still room for more team members, but it would be great, if you're interested, to please sign up soon.

Questions? Or to sign up for any of these events, please contact Denise Hartford, denisehartford@gmail.com, text or call 515-890-1406.



March 28 & 29. *Palm Services* at Johnston River of Life

March 29. *Palm Sunday* at New Hope UMC
Children's Palm parade: 9:30 & 10:45. We will lead the children into service, and then they may sit with families.

Thurs., April 2. 7:00pm, New Hope UMC
Maundy Thursday Drama

Maundy Thursday Drama will be one of the most impactful events of the year. Expect dramatic scenes, music, communion, and ending with the congregation gathered around the crosses. We hope you will come for this special worship service, and as always, invite a friend to come with you.

Fri., April 3, 7am-7pm, Ruby Chapel
Good Friday Prayer Vigil

This is a chance for the church to be in prayer on the day we remember the death of Christ, and what His sacrifice means to us. Sign up, in the Fellowship Hall, for a half hour time frame of prayer.

Sat., April 4, 4pm, Johnston River of Life
Community Easter Celebration
Egg hunt, worship service & meal

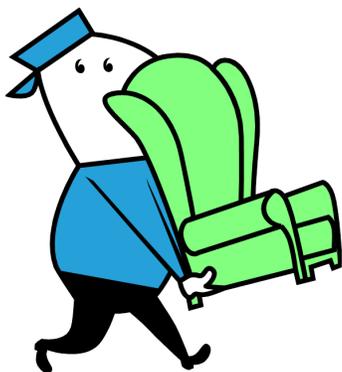
Sun., April 5, 10am, *Easter Sunday*, Johnston River of Life at the Barn, 6169 Northglenn Dr., Johnston

Sun., April 5, Easter Sunday, New Hope UMC
8:30 & 10:45 Easter Cantata, "Upon This Rock" by Pepper Choplin.

9:30 Contemporary Service

10:45 Easter Celebration for CLT students ages 3 years- 5th grade. Activities include a short Easter movie, crafts and egg hunt.





2015 Rummage Sale!

April 23, 24 and 25

We need people to supervise the following areas:

- * Bed/Bath/Linens
- * Cashiers/Sackers/Checkers
- * Furniture
- * Greeters
- * Home Décor
- * Men's Clothing
- * Nursery
- * Parking Lot/Security
- * Shoes
- * Sports/Garden/Hardware
- * Women's Clothing

The Rummage Sale provides low cost merchandise for our community. It is like a giant garage sale and it has become a yearly tradition in our community. Proceeds from the Rummage Sale help fund New Hope's ministries.

If you would like to help out, please contact **Barb Agan** at 255-8292 or aganbarjim@gmail.com or **Linda Kielsmeier** at 689-9680 or lapals@hotmail.com



Join us at Wesley Woods on Saturday, May 2, 10am-2pm!

New Hope UMC was selected as one of Iowa UMC Camp Challenge Winners for 2014! With this honor, we receive an all-expense paid day of fun and fellowship at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center.

Everyone of any age is encouraged to attend, any time from 10am to 2pm. There will be a wagon ride tour of the camp, archery for ages 10 yrs and older, hot dog roast with all the fixin's, and much more!

Please save this date on your calendar! **Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Deadline to sign up will be by April 12** so that we can give the camp ample time to let them know how many people to expect. We can also set up carpooling from New Hope UMC. We hope you join us on May 2!

Update from The Board of Trustees

Caring for Church Property – The church carpet was recently cleaned. The areas cleaned were the Family Life Center (FLC); Nursery; Nancy's office; Ruby Chapel (spot cleaned); Center aisle and alter area of Sanctuary; the bottoms and backs of the pews and kindergarten room (spot cleaned). The cost of the cleaning was \$1167, so as you will note because we have a large area of carpet this process is not cheap. We did have a member significantly donate to this cause which was and is always greatly appreciated! THANK YOU! PLEASE BE CAREFUL when having drinks in these areas! There are already two large coffee stains in the FLC, which will have to be spot cleaned.

Large projects in 2015 – The major repair projects for 2015 are - finish repairing parking lot (approx. \$400); new concrete approach to Parsonage (\$2600); new fireplace insert for Parsonage (approx. \$3-4,000); new roof over office area (\$2000 minimum) and replacing the door closer next to the Ruby Chapel (\$1,000+) . If you would like to donate to these projects please indicate on the memo line of your check "Capital Improvements". There is now a Capital Improvement line in the budget on the designated gift page. The Board of Trustees will accomplish these projects in order of priority, making the roof and door closer the 1st priority.

Thanks in advance to everyone for the care demonstrated toward New Hopes property! Also, thank you to all the many members who donate a large portion of their time and talents to New Hope UMC, making our church one of the top priority churches in the Iowa Conference!

John Rains
Chair, Board of Trustees

christian learning opportunities

Children & Youth Ministries Mission Statement

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



Children's Worship (Ages 3 years through 2nd grade): Children's Worship is a meaningful time for children to worship and connect with God. They participate in an engaging worship service geared just for them in the Sanctuary after the Children's Message during the 9:30 service. Parents or other adults, please prayerfully consider helping as a second adult at least one time between now and the middle of May. You will not be responsible for anything but crowd control and assisting the Children's Worship Leader for the week. Sign up on the bulletin board in the education hallway.

Christian Learning Time (Sundays 10:45-11:45): Everyone is welcome to join us for Christian Learning Time opportunities. We have classes for all ages starting at 3 years old through 12th grade, and even adult classes in the Ruby Chapel at both 9:30 and 10:45am.

Palm Sunday: All children of any age are invited to participate in our Parade of Palms on Palm Sunday, March 29th. Meet in the purple classroom 10 minutes prior to the 9:30 and 10:45 services to receive your palm branches. We will march around the Family Life Center at 9:30 and sit with our families, and march around the sanctuary at 10:45 and return to our CLT classes.



Join us for the CLT Easter Party Sunday, April 5th, 10:45-11:45am

For all CLT students ages 3 years- 5th grade

Activities include a short Easter movie, crafts and the egg hunt



Looking for help with the Easter Party! Children's Ministry Director Sarah Jacobson will still likely be recovering from having a baby (sometime in March), so she is looking for someone (or multiple people) to help lead the CLT Easter Party on Sunday, April 5th. All the planning is done, it would simply require you to 1) be an activity leader- looking for a minimum of 6 leaders, or 2) float and make sure things are running smoothly or 3) help with the egg hunt prep. If this is something you are interested in, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org for more information.

What you can find at the Children and Family Ministries Information Spot: The meal time devotion for this month is titled "Getting to Know You." You will also find part 3 of 5 in a series focused on Protecting Our Families. This article is titled "Resolving Disputes over Family Entertainment." Along with this article, I have included a guide titled "Ten Commandments for Family TV Viewing." If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources or topics you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.



Mark Your Calendars!



Children's Ministry is so excited to announce this year's VBS: **SonSpark Labs**. This science-themed VBS will focus on how Jesus is God's plan for the world and is scheduled for **Sunday, July 19th through Thursday, July 23rd, 5:30pm-8:00pm**. Please keep an eye out for more information!

Also: We **LOVE** volunteers!
If you would like to offer your talents, please contact
Kristi Miller @ Kristi.mundy@gmail.com.





Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers who have helped make our TGIW program a huge success this year. Without your help, our Wednesday Night ministries would not be possible! A special THANK YOU goes out to Suzanne Neu, Linda Dean, Mel Henry, and their team of dedicated volunteers who have stepped up to carry on the TGIW program for K-5th graders through the remainder of the school year.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the following schedule, from March 25th and beyond, please contact Suzanne, Linda or Mel.

Please note the following changes:

- * The regular Wednesday night meals will only continue through April 1st.
- * Jr. Ringers will finish their schedule with a performance on Sunday, March 8th.
- * The final Jr. Blast event will be the Family Night on March 11th. They are welcome to join the continuing TGIW activities if they choose. Otherwise we would welcome any parents or other adults that want to step up and lead a program for this age group for the remainder of the school year.
- * The Puppet Ministry will continue to meet and determine their own schedule beyond March 11th.
If you have any questions, contact Linda Dean or Melanie Henry.

Schedule for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year:

March 4th	5:30 Dinner 6-7:15 Activities (Crafts, Video, Outdoor Recreation- weather permitting)	April 1st	5:30 Dinner 6-7pm Easter Activities
March 11th	5:30 Light Supper 6-7:30 Family Movie and PJ Night	April 8th	Off-site event (more details TBD)
March 18th	No TGIW- Spring Break	April 15th	5:30 Dinner (Pizza provided) 6-7pm Make items for ARL and Hope Animal Rescue
March 25th	5:30 Dinner 6-7pm Easter Activities	April 22nd	Project with ARL or Hope Animal Rescue (more details TBD)
		April 29th	5:30 Dinner (hot dogs provided, bring a side to share) 6-7pm Blessing of our Pets Program

TGIW Going Forward...

One thing we ask of the congregation is to prayerfully consider where you might see yourself serving with the Wednesday Night Children and Youth Ministry Programs for the 2015-2016 school year. If your child or youth is involved with these programs, we especially look for your help to maintain these programs.

As many of you know, it takes MANY volunteers to have a successful Wednesday Night program for the amount of kids and youth that we have interested. To continue with a weekly TGIW program for K-5th grade, we will need a minimum of 5 volunteers every week (this does not include the kitchen volunteers). To continue with a successful Jr. Blast program, we will need a minimum of 2 coordinators to help with the planning and making events/activities happen, a minimum of 2 adults present each week, plus extra helpers for off-site events.

Hopefully this gives you an idea of what our needs are going forward. As we begin to develop these schedules over the coming months, we'll have a better idea of specific volunteer positions we will be looking to fill for next year, but in the meantime, we ask that you be in prayer about how you can take part in maintaining these successful ministries for the future of our church. Keep your eyes open for more information to come in April!

Looking for a TGIW Co-Director: Are you an organizer? Do you like to do behind-the-scenes event planning? Are you passionate about the Wednesday Night Program and would like to see it be continually offered for our children, youth and families? If so, we are looking for a new TGIW Director to work with Sarah Jacobson in starting to plan this summer and continue into the 2015-2016 school year. You just need to have an interest, a passion and a time commitment of 1-2 hours/week for 1 year. Filling this co-director role is very important to continue the TGIW program. If interested, contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

Sr BLAST

(9th-12th grade)

Jr. High BLAST (6th-8th grade) meets on **Wednesday evenings from 6-7:15pm**. Join us for fun, fellowship, and growing in faith! Leader: Ryan Jacobson, ryantjacobson@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, March 4th: Jr. Blast at 6:00 - Game night... bring a snack/treat to share and a group game to play (ex: board game, card game, etc.)

Wednesday, March 11th: Family night - Movie night

Save the Date: The next scheduled Junior Blast event will be on Tuesday, April 14th - Junior Blast will help with Hand of Luke.

Sr. BLAST (9th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity & McKayla Johnson, and Pam Frey
BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

Thank you to everyone who supported the Senior High BLAST in February with our Sweetheart dinner and Ash Wednesday pancake meals. We were able to raise over \$900 between the two events, which will go directly to support our Summer Mission Trip to Memphis. The group would like to thank our cooks this year; Melissa McGhee, McKayla Johnson, Vicki Hover-Williamson, and Ellen Hester; we couldn't have done this without your help. Finally, the group will like to thank Brenda McConahay and the youth that provided entertainment, and the parents that came to help clean up after the meal.



Just a reminder, the mission trip deposit deadline is March 5th; at this time a \$90 nonrefundable deposit is due. This year the Senior High BLAST group will be heading to Memphis, Tennessee the week of July 19th –

25th. Did you know that Memphis is the poorest city in the nation in cities that have a population less than 1 million? This year the team will be doing urban ministry in the struggling neighborhoods in and around downtown

Memphis, where many families are struggling to just get by, and area ministries are working hard to reach out to the community. Specifically, our group will be able to meet some of the needs of families and individuals through hands on home repair and maintenance projects. Our group will also have opportunities to serve with food & clothing ministries and shelters to help them serve those in need and show the love of Christ to the area.

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

Mar. 5th ~ Mission Trip Deposit Deadline

Mar. 8th ~ New Hope BLAST Breakfast

Mar. 11th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities

Mar. 25th @ 4:30 pm ~ Work at Pizza Ranch

Apr. 1st, 8th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities

Apr. 12th ~ New Hope BLAST Breakfast

Apr. 15th @ 6 pm ~ ChildServe Volunteer

Apr. 22nd @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities

Apr. 25th ~ Work the Rummage Sale

Apr. 26th ~ BLAST day at Buffalo Wild Wings

Apr. 29th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities



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

groups gathering together

Men's Breakfast

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

Women's Fellowship

New Hope Women's Fellowship will have their next meeting on **Thurs, March 19**, 9-10am social hour; 10-11am meeting with a speaker. All women of New Hope and JROL are invited. Questions? Call Betty Holwegner at 278-8115.

Quarterly Structure

Meeting: March 14 at noon in the Ruby Chapel. A light lunch will be served.



ite hymns and musical selections. The Study dates are Mondays through March 30th. You may choose either 1:00 or 6:30 for both studies. Drop in as you are able. We do not mean to exclude men, so all are welcome.

Women's Bible Study

Brenda McConahay will lead a Lenten study on "The Music of Lent and Easter". It will include the study of the origins, composers, and the meaning of the words of your favor-



Women's Bible study: Bible Study Fellowship is an in-depth, interdenominational Bible class for women of all ages and backgrounds.

In September, 2015 Bible Study Fellowship will be offering Revelation. The Revelation Bible class will begin Tuesday, September 15 from 9:15 to 11:05 a.m. at Valley Church, 4343 Fuller Road in WDM, 50265; or you can attend the evening Bible Study Fellowship at Meredith Drive Reformed Church, on Meredith Drive on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:20 p.m.

You can learn more about Bible Study Fellowship at www.bsfiinternational.org. If you have any questions about this Bible class or want to register for Revelation please talk to Armenta Buckingham ph. 515-278-9505 or Linda Kielsmeier ph. 515-689-9680 or lapals@hotmail.com. Registration for Revelation begins in April.

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 9, 1:30pm** at New Hope. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. **March 1 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Nar-thex after each worship service.

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

Life Group (Bible Study):

Are you looking for a place to connect with friends, build your faith, and get support? Join a Life Group (small group). Contact Teresa Garside at dtgarside@q.com or 515-986-4600

Adult Sunday School

9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Join us in the Ruby Chapel for group discussions and Bible Study.

Friday Small Group

The Friday Small Group will meet on **March 6 & 27**. Join us at 1pm at the Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St, Urbandale. The Pizza Ranch has a buffet and as you arrive, pay for your buffet, load up your plate and join us in our reserved room.

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

missions

MARCH MISSION: **Imagine No Malaria**

United Methodists are committed to bring an end to death and suffering from malaria.

To date, we have raised just over \$65MM of our \$75MM goal. Together, we can eliminate malaria.

Good News, Malaria is 100% Preventable! Unlike many other diseases that are awaiting a cure, malaria was eliminated in the U.S. in the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a person every 60 seconds. But there is hope! Imagine No Malaria is part of a global partnership and together with our partners, our generation can beat malaria once and for all.'

What Exactly is Malaria?

Malaria is caused by a parasite, which is transmitted to humans through the bite of the female anopheles mosquito. This mosquito flies and feeds at night (which is why bed nets are an effective prevention tool).

When an infected mosquito bites a person, the parasite enters the bloodstream and heads for the liver, where it multiplies. It then re-enters the bloodstream, attacking red blood cells. Typically, someone with malaria experiences a high fever, chills, joint pain and headaches. Left untreated, symptoms eventually advance to organ failure. Nearly 90 percent of malaria's victims are children under the age of 5 and pregnant women.

Our approach includes:

- Education, prevention and treatment programs for affected communities;
- Revitalizing health facilities;
- Supporting hospital and health care human resource development.

In addition to bed nets, our efforts support other areas in the fight against malaria: environmental clean-up (stagnant water and trash), basic sanitation (latrines and water), treatment, education, training more health care workers, and improving our existing hospitals and clinics.

****Because \$10 will buy a bed net or buy 2 treatments for Malaria, the Mission Committee will sponsor a table in the Fellowship Hall where you can contribute towards bed nets or treatment. Leave a post it note signifying that you have helped in the elimination of Malaria.***



Hand of Luke - March 14

Chicken & Rice Casserole

Broccoli

Dinner Roll

Dessert Bars

The 14th of each month, New Hoppers donate food, cook a meal and serve it at the Central Iowa Shelter & Services, downtown.

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, 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 place on the kitchen counter. Frozen items may be placed on the marked shelves in the industrial freezer. If possible, please indicate on the sign up sheet where you placed your item(s) (for example, "in pantry", or "in the re-frig."). Baked goods should be transferred to a disposable container if possible. *Thank you!!*



A celebratory **Mardi Gras Sunday** was held on February 15. Along with Pastor Jon's message, it was a morning of Mardi Gras music, decorations, beads, and marching to "When the Saints Come Marching In".

More pictures can be seen on our Face book page.



Financial Update

Below is the January 2015 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life. Due to your generosity and the increase in pledges last year, we were able to reduce the size of the projected deficit this year. Thank you for your giving and faithfulness in supporting the work and ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life.

New Hope Financial Update

	January 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$22,138.66
Total Expenditures	<u>28,935.38</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(6,796.72)

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	January 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$11,698.32
Total Expenditures	<u>8,361.00</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	3,337.32

Discretionary Fund has been established. The fund will be used by Pastor Jon for parishioner's extreme needs or occasionally when people come to the church for help. Your donations toward this fund is greatly appreciated. Please place your donation in the Wishing Well located by the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Feb. 1	All services canceled due to weather			
Feb. 8	86	123	100	309
Feb. 15	34	108	69	211
Ash Wed, Feb. 18				121
Feb. 22	32	105	102	239

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

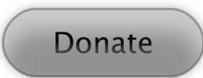
Sat	Sun	total
	Feb. 1—canceled due to weather	
Feb. 7 53	Feb. 8 46	99
Feb. 14 41	Feb. 15 50	91
Feb. 21 44	Feb. 22 28	72

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

New Hope wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your offering.

To setup online Giving go to www.newhopedsm.org OR 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.





We have grown up with the concept that a new day begins at sunrise. If you look at the clock, a day begins in the middle of the night. But if you read the creation story we find that the chronological order of a day is evening, then morning. The Hebrews believed the beginning of the new day was when the first three stars were visible in the sky.

Every day we experience the hand off between moon and sun we call twilight. Twilight acts like bookends, weaving a flow between light and dark, day and night. Twilight is actually on both sides of the day; before sunrise, and after sunset.

A few days ago, I sat and watched the sun rise, and the sun set. The colors between the day and night mingled, playing with the clouds, trees, ground, and sky. The hues seemed to dance from light to dark; red, purple, yellow, orange. The rainbow of colors seemed to dance across the sky, fusing earth and air, blending the shades of light and dark that God separated on the first day as if pulling apart two lovers on a dance floor.

The Hebrew word for twilight is Nesheph. It is the same word that is used to describe the remnant of light after the sun sets and the emergence of the first colors before dawn. According to Scripture, Passover begins on the 14th day of the second month at twilight. Passover is the pinnacle of Jewish festivals, celebrating the freedom of the Jews from Egypt. Passover is also the festival which Jesus broke the bread and declared this is my body, and began his journey to the cross. After his crucifixion, Jesus' resurrection took place at the twilight of the third day.

Most of us live our lives in a rush. Can you remember the last time you sat down to enjoy this beautiful dance we call twilight? We hurry from home to work, from work to home. We measure our days by our to do lists and getting from one obligation to the next on time. We barely notice the transition of colors in the sky over our head, let alone the twilight of emotions and spirituality taking place in our lives. We notice when our lives feel buried in heavy darkness, or when the light seems overwhelming, but rarely do we pay attention to this subtle shift, the interplay of faith, life, emotions, and spirituality. If we can learn to be mindful of the twilight, the space where God and life collide in dazzling splendor, if we can pay attention to the twilight that God has made our dance, we can begin to enjoy the full richness of experience God has intended for us.

For more on the Brilliant Darkness series, please check out the videos on the JROL Facebook page.

Handwritten signature of Craig Lewis

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. After fellowship time the hosts wash, dry, and put away the cookie platters, rinse out and dry the coffee canisters, and take the trash out to the trash bin. When you sign up to host, a letter from New Hope will be mailed to you before you host with instructions on how to host.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please call Nancy Monthei, church secretary, at 278-2097.

Those who serve New Hope in March

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
1	1 Kinnetz family	1
8	8 Pam Weisskopf	8
15	15	15
22	22 Sandy Cannon	22
29	29	29
<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
1	1 Meg Kinnetz	1 Jon Verner
8 Cathy Short	8 Any Sutton	8 Sally Corcoran
15 Maurine Myers	15	15 Cathy Cate
22	22	22
29 Cathy Short	29	29
<u>Traditional Service Callers</u>	<u>*Hosts</u>	<u>*Hosts</u>
1	1 John & Joyce Turek	1 Sharon & Earl Lewis
8 Norma Sutton	8 Sr. BLAST	8 Sr. BLAST
15	15 Paulette & Larry Wood	15 Paulette & Larry Wood
22 Norma Sutton	22 Mel & Larry Forbes	22 Lee Ross, Host; Jan Davisson, Cookies
29	29 Cindy & Clyde Rail	29 Kathy Crees, Julie McClain
<u>Contemporary Service Callers</u>	<u>Money Counters</u>	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).
1 Eldon Cross	1 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, John Burrough	
8 Rod & Lynette Cook	8 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross	
15 Eldon Cross	15 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss	
22 Rod & Lynette Cook	22 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood	
29 Eldon Cross	29 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, John Burrough	
	<u>Pal Friday: 9 a.m.</u>	
	6 Theresa Flickinger	
	13 JoAnn Decker	
	20 Norma Sutton	
	27 Marge Carnahan	

March 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

New Hope UMC, Sunday mornings: 8:30, 9:30, 10:45
Johnston River of Life
 5pm Saturdays and 10am Sundays at Beaver Creek
 Elementary in Johnston

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 2nd Sunday in Lent Receive New Members 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday	2 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 7:00p, Board of Trustees Meeting, 3rd grade room	3 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Worship Cluster Meeting, Ruby Chapel	4 5:30p, Dinner 6:00p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	5 7:00p, JROL Mtg., F.Hall	6 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	7 9a-4p, Women's Retreat
8 3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins Girl Scout Sunday Sr. BLAST breakfast Jr. Ringers perform 10:45 Hager baptism 4:30, Confirmation Class	9 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel	10 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	11 5:30p, Family PJ & Movie Night 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	12 Deadline for April LINK 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	13 9a-Noon Office Vol: JoAnn Decker 11:30, Widow's luncheon at Perkup Cafe	14 7:30a Men's breakfast 8:30a, Veterans Helping Veterans breakfast at church 3:30p, Hand of Luke
15 4th Sunday in Lent Food Pantry Sunday Guest Speaker: Barb Mather *One Great Hour of Sharing (offering) Noon, Structure Cluster Mtg., R.Chapel	16 9a-Noon Office Vol: Barb Agan 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel	17 9a-Noon Office Vol: Barb Agan 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Finance Meeting, R.Chapel 7:00p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	18 9a-Noon Office Vol: Kim Buske NO TGIW 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	19 9a-Noon Office Vol: Denise Hart- ford 9:00a, Women's Fellowship	20 9a-Noon Office Vol: Norma Sutton	21 11:30-4:30, New Hope Needlers Sew Day
22 5th Sunday in Lent Deadline for Easter Lily 4:30p, Confirmation Class	23 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel	24 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	25 4:30p, Sr. BLAST, working at Pizza Ranch 5:30p, TGIW 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	26 8a-3:30p, Confirmation— Tour of Faith 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall 7p, Administrative Coun- cil Meeting, R.Chapel	27 Office Vol: Marge Carnahan 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	28
29 Palm Sunday Puppets to perform 10:45, Bell Quartet	30 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel	31 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	April 1 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	2 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	3 Office Vol: Pat Papenheim	4 9a, Spring Clean Up of church campus 4p, Community Easter at Johnston River of Life

***One Great Hour of Sharing, March 15:** Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts lay the foundation for UMCOR to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. Please give generously.

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

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

STAFF: Nancy Monthei, Office Admin., will be on vacation Friday, March 13—Friday, March 20. Office volunteers will be in the office 9am-Noon.

Happy Anniversary!!!

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

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



Once in awhile I am reminded of my very first attempt at varnishing a piece of unfinished furniture. I was totally inexperienced, but the store where I bought the supplies gave me a few tips and told me it was easy. I also did a little reading in a book and then jumped right into the project.

When the first coat of finish looked rough and uneven, I wasn't too worried, since I was going to do three coats anyway. I sanded it smooth and began the second coat. However, when the second coat ended up with runs, sags and drips, I began to panic. I called the store and explained my problems. They gave me some helpful

suggestions and conclude by saying, "Just remember, you always have a friend to call on here if you need help."

Those are nice words to hear when you're in need. It reminded me of the words to a familiar hymn by Joseph Scriven: "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"

I like the way this hymn acknowledges that we are not free from experiencing difficulties and hardships in life, but we do have a friend with whom we can find peace and comfort and who will share all our sorrows. That's comforting to know in the midst of life's frustrations and disappointments.

Here at New Hope, we share prayer concerns and joys in our newsletter, during worship, and through our prayer chains. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, which can be by email or phone. This year we also began having prayer partners for our children in the Christian Learning Time classes. We hope to expand this for next year. I would also like to get some prayer groups started that will uplift the prayer requests we receive and the ministries here at New Hope and Johnston River of Life. As one person put it, every activity in the church, including the worship services, should be uplifted in prayer.

Our Monday Bible Study, led by Sharon Smith, just completed a study of prayer. It concluded by encouraging us to develop a new prayer ministry or strengthen the existing prayer ministry in our church. If you feel led to be involved in strengthening our prayer ministry here, please let me know.

Personally, I have a practice of praying through our church membership to lift up each family in prayer. If you have any issues, concerns, or requests that you would like me to include in my prayers for your family, please let me know so I can focus my prayers for you.

By the way, as I attempted putting on my third coat of finish, following the suggestions from my "friend" at the store, there were no runs or drips! However, it was the roughest and most uneven coat yet! I reached once again for the phone . . . "help!"

Blessings, Pastor Jon

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Maul".

Lent Theme-- "Wilderness Wandering"

Mar. 1	<u>Title:</u> "Wandering Cross"	<u>Script.:</u> Mark 8:31-38
Mar. 8	<u>Title:</u> "Wandering Wisdom"	<u>Script.:</u> 1 Cor. 1:18-25
Mar. 15	Guest Speaker: Barb Mather <u>Title:</u> "Wandering Love"	<u>Script:</u> John 3:14-21
Mar. 22	<u>Title:</u> "Wandering Covenant"	<u>Script.:</u> Jeremiah 31:31-34
Mar. 29	Palm Sunday <u>Title:</u> "Wandering Victory"	<u>Script.:</u> Mark 11:1-11



Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

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

Johnston River of Life Casual Worship Services

Currently meeting at Beaver Creek Elementary,
8701 Lyndhurst Drive, Johnston

- Saturdays at 5:00 pm
- Sundays at 10am

Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

www.newhopedsm.org • www.johnstonriveroflife.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Jon Gaul
Outreach Pastor: Craig Ferguson
Director of Music: Eldon Cross
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Sarah Jacobson
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Nursery Attendant: Michele Krebs
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org
Jon Gaul: jgaul@newhopedsm.org

Craig Ferguson: craig@newhopedsm.org
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Sarah Jacobson: sjacobson@newhopedsm.org
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Find Us

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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.

the link
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