

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

*Celebrating
50 years
1965 - 2015*

July 2015

JULY AT NEW HOPE UMC

the ReNewing *of the spirit*

- July 5 "A New Strength"
- July 12 "A New Family"
- July 19 "A New Approach"
- July 26 "A New Power"



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

newhopedsm.org

JULY WORSHIP SERIES



OUR FAITH IN ACTION

You are invited to a Freedom Service
at the Johnston Barn • Sunday, July 5th • 10am

*No regular worship service on Saturday, July 4th

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturdays 5pm
Sundays 10am

Beaver Creek Elementary

JohnstonRiverOfLife.org



New Hope's Vacation Bible School is set for
Sunday, July 19—Thursday, July 23
Dinner at 5:30pm,
Activities from 6-8 pm
and SonSparks Lab is the theme!

Click on the VBS 2015 tab of the New Hope UMC

website: www.newhopedsm.org to print the participant and volunteer forms or pick up forms at the VBS table in the Fellowship Hall.

The Registration deadline is Sunday, July 12th! Having as many registrations as possible by this day will ensure we have the correct t-shirt sizes. Make sure to sign up today!

This year we will find out the solution to the equation $GP4U = J$. We will explore Bible verses and fun science activities to see how God has a plan for us!

We always welcome volunteers and extra hands to help make this a great experience for our kiddos! If you are interested in volunteering in the areas of crafts, storytelling, games, snacks, evening meals, or shepherding, please sign up or speak directly with Kristi Miller ([515-418-1202](tel:515-418-1202)) or Andy Sutton ([515-554-4055](tel:515-554-4055)).

Also, please check the VBS bulletin board to find out what needs to be donated to help make VBS a successful event! Thank you!!



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

Carol Upah; Connie Adams; Melissa McGhee; Olive Walker; Bruce & Barb Flickinger; 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:

To our New Hope Family:

There are not enough words to express our gratitude for the outpouring of support and love that you all provided our family during this most heartbreaking moment in our lives. We are truly blessed to have such a loving church family. A special thank you to Pastor Gaul, Pastor Cross and Nancy Monthei, our church secretary. Nancy's attention to detail and her organization which provided for a comforting service, was simply amazing! Once again, there are not adequate words to express our gratitude to the musicians and singers that provided beautiful music, the bereavement committee for all the delicious food, and the many volunteers that helped with the meal, seating arrangement, and the traffic. Just know in your hearts that the good Lord is smiling down on the Christian efforts that were made for our family to ease our heartache. By your love and support, it is evident that Matthew's presence in this church, from birth through youth, has touched so many. He was our GIFT from God and so cherished. We are thankful he was loved by so many. Our life is suddenly forever changed and your prayers, kind words, and love help so much to ease the pain in our hearts.

God Bless,

The Family of Matthew Ryan McCulley

Tim and Brenda
Lindsey, Seth, and Tara

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5, Verse 4

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Tim and Brenda McCulley and their children Lindsey and her fiancé Seth, and Tara on the passing of their son & brother, Matt McCulley.

Our Sympathy to Dodee Pugh and family on the passing of Helen Pugh. Helen was the step-mother of Ray Pugh.

Our Sympathy to Roberta and Neal Cave on the passing of Roberta's brother, Jim Short.

Baptism

Congratulations to Dane Micah Jacobson, who was baptized on June 7th. Dane is the son of Ryan and Sarah Jacobson.

Congratulations to Marshall Michael Moellers, who was baptized on June 28th. Marshall is the son of Mike & Jamie Moellers and little brother to Madilyn.

Wedding

Congratulations to Amanda Samuelson and Tony Thompson on their May 30th wedding.

Congratulations to Chelsey Beason and Tad Stansberry on their June 20th wedding.

Directory Update

Tamara & Jason Evan's new phone contact: [515-710-9238](tel:515-710-9238).

Thank You:

New Hope Family,
Thank you for the cards and calls regarding my brother's passing. It is very comforting to know we have the support of our New Hope family at a time of need. Thanks so much!
Neal and Roberta Cave

JULY SEW-IN

Saturday, July 11th, 9:30am

The New Hope Needlers will be gathering / sewing on Saturday, July 11th at the church beginning at 9:30am, after Men's Breakfast. Thanks to the men who volunteered to help set up for the sewing. We are planning a pot-luck lunch at noon and will probably wrap up around 3:30pm.



The group will be working to sew components for the sanitary kits that will go to the Iowa Nigeria Partnership as part of our New Hope Missions giving. We will also be working on Little Dresses and Little Britches for Africa.

Please feel free to join us for all or part of the day. Bring your machine or let us know ahead if you need to borrow one of ours. **If you have questions, please contact Kim Buske @ 515-491-5402.**

Collectibles, Books, and Bake Sale

October 23 & 24

Please...

- Start putting aside collectibles and books to donate to New Hope's second Collectibles, Books, and Bake Sale. Collectible items should be clean, unbroken, and recognized as collectible. Examples include: Lladro, Nippon, Fenton glass, and Longaberger. No furniture or large antiques will be included in the sale.

- Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The sale will be Friday, October 23 from 1:30-7:30 PM and Saturday, October 24 from 9AM- 1 PM.

- Consider volunteering to help with set-up or staffing the sale.

Proceeds will be added to the rummage sale proceeds. **If you have questions or if you'd like to volunteer to assist with the sale, contact Kathy Russi @ 515-333-1764 or Kim Buske @ 515-491-5402**



The Altar Guild Needs You!

The Altar Guild is responsible for ensuring that the Altar paraments align with the seasons of the church in the Sanctuary, Family Life Center and the Ruby Chapel as necessary. We make or purchase banners or other decor to support the various worship themes and coordinate any seasonal decorating. We have very few actual meetings and while our work usually only takes a few hours each month, we could really use a few additional people. **If you are willing to be part of this team, please contact Kim Buske, 515-491-5402 or Pam Frey, 515-490-8440.**

If you enjoy the banners / decorations but are not able to be part of the team, you can always add a few dollars to your giving and designate it for the Altar Guild, then watch to see what new banners / decorations arrive.

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 Learning Opportunity on Sunday, July 12th

This summer, our children ages 3 years through 2nd grade have an incredible opportunity to learn about nutrition, exercise, and how God wants us to take care of our bodies. Abbi Herrick will lead our session on Sunday, July 12th during the 9:30 service. Parents are encouraged to stay and participate in the contemporary service while the children meet in their class.

Youth in grades 4 and up are welcome to help. If you have any questions about this unique opportunity, contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

Children and Youth Volunteers Update:

Thank you to everyone who has already committed to helping our children and youth ministries in some way for the next school year. We have many positions filled already and are very grateful for your support! But we can always use more volunteers! See below the list of positions we are still looking to fill:

CLT teachers for
1st & 2nd grade (1)
3rd grade (2)
4th & 5th grade (2)
6-8th grade (2)

Children's Worship Leaders (2-3)

TGIW
Activity leaders (details listed below)
Shepherds/extra floating adults
Kitchen helpers (contact Kim or Mica Wills)
Jr. Blast helpers (contact Pastor Jon)

We are also looking for new members for the Children/Youth Ministry Cluster group

Please be in prayer about if/how you might be able to help in these areas and contact Sarah Jacobson, Sherri Bogue or Beth Roff with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.



TGIW 2015-2016

September will be here soon and we are anxiously awaiting the start of our new Wednesday night programs for k-5th grade! We have some great activities planned this year, but to make that happen we need some great volunteers too!

Here are some ways you can help:

Our Power Express curriculum will allow our kids to experience Bible stories through activities such as games, science, storytelling, art, videos, music and cooking. The older kids will also have opportunities for on-site and off-site mission projects. If you are interested in leading any of these activities or are available to help during a certain month, please contact Sarah Jacobson or Anita Gaul and we will get you plugged in. Thanks in advance for your help!

Children and Family Ministries Information Spot:

The meal time devotion for this month is titled "Aromatherapy." The Parent Resource article for the month is titled "Motivating Kids to Clean Up." If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources or topics you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org



Calling all kids to VBS 2015!!!

This science-themed VBS will focus on how Jesus is God's plan for the world.

Sunday, July 19th - Thursday, July 23rd

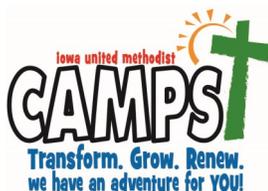
5:30 Dinner

6-8pm Activities

The Registration deadline is Sunday, July 12th!

Having as many registrations as possible by this day will ensure we have the correct t-shirt sizes.

Registration forms can be found on the church website or in Fellowship Hall. Make sure to sign up today!



Church Camp! Brochures are at the sign up table in the Fellowship Hall or go to www.iaumc.org/camps.

Camperships are available from New Hope UMC. The Mission committee is encouraging kids/youth to attend any United Methodist camp and will support them with a scholarship of 1/3 of the cost paid from the Mission Fund. Our funds are less this year so we had to reduce the amount contributed by missions from 1/2 to 1/3. If there is a reason this would keep a child

from going to camp because of the cost, please contact Sharon Smith at 277-7125 or

wicketsblooms@aol.com. We had a tremendous increase in children attending camps last summer, which was very inspiring so we want to continue helping children attend. Please inform the church office when you have registered your child(ren). If anyone from our congregation would like to donate to a campership fund, please call the church office with your pledge. Thank you!



Special Music this Summer

Please consider sharing your talents with the congregation for the 8:30 or 10:45 services (or both) this summer. Soloists, duets, quartets and small groups (vocal and instrumental) are welcome. They do not even have to be a part of our congregation!

The third Sunday of the month, Summer Choir will sing at the 10:45 services.

Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall, so look at your calendars and make plans today. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Youth Groups

Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade) We are needing volunteers to lead the Jr. BLAST group. Your help is greatly appreciated by all the youth and you can contact the church office at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org.

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

Who is ready to head to Memphis, Tennessee? I know of at least 12 people that are getting excited (*Chris Higdon, Charity & McKayla Johnson, Pam Frey, Nathan & Hannah Ferguson, Brady Jansen, Brianna Johnson, Kate Lichter, Hannah Hoffman, Clarissa Short, and Jordan Williamson*). The Senior High BLAST group will be leaving for their mission trip during the 8:30 am service at New Hope on Sunday, July 19th. The group will be driving straight to Memphis from Des Moines; and is planning to arrive around 8 pm that night.

This will start the groups fun filled service week; where the group will be working in urban city ministries. The group has been informed that they will be partnered with Mid-South Food bank to sort food, pack lunches, and stuff school backpacks.

To help close our fundraising gap; the group is liquidating our remaining Hy-Vee coupon books. While supplies last; people can purchase these coupon books for \$3. Additionally, the group will be serving their annual Sloppy Joe lunch on Sunday, June 28th; after the 9:30 and 10:45 services at New Hope. Please come out and support our youth for these two fundraising events.



Finally, to all of the BLAST Parents that have kids going on the Mission trip; we are having a mandatory parent's meeting on July 11th for JROL parents and on July 12th after the services at New Hope. During this meeting; you will be receiving details on exactly what the youth will be involved with during the week in Memphis. Additionally, we need you to sign some paper work that authorizes the kids to work with TeamEffort and Mid-South Food Bank. If you are not able to join the meetings on either July 11th or July 12th; please let one of the sponsors know (*Chris Higdon, Charity & McKayla Johnson, or Pam Frey* - BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org).

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

- June 28th** ~ Sloppy Joe Lunch after 9:30 and 10:45 services
- July 11th and 12th after services** ~ Mandatory Mission Trip Parent's Meeting
- July 19th @ New Hope 8:30 am Service** ~ BLAST Mission Trip send off
- July 25th** ~ Return from Summer Mission
- Aug. 21st @ 7pm** ~ Back to School Lock-In
- Aug. 30th** ~ Memphis Celebration Lunch at New Hope
- Sept. 12th** ~ Iowa VS Iowa State Service Project and Game

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, July 11
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

Join them on **July 16**, 9am for breakfast at Okoboji Grill in Johnston. All women of New Hope and JROL are invited. Questions? Call Betty Holwegner at 278-8115.

Widow's Luncheon

Come join us for food and conversation at Panera in Johnston (off of Merle Hay Road) on

Friday, July 17 at 11:30.

Also, please be thinking of a new name for our group. If you need a ride or have questions, you can contact

Sharon Smith 515-277-7125 or
Shirley Frus 515-279-1130.



Veterans Helping Veterans

Join us for the following summer gatherings:

July 18, 8:30am breakfast at New Hope UMC followed by a tour of the Central Iowa Shelter.

August 15, 8:30am breakfast with Sgt. Patrick Perkins and he will be speaking about the Hero's

Hunting Foundation. All Veterans and spouses are welcome to join us! If you have questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com

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, July 9, 10:00am** 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.

July 5, 9:30-11:00am will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex 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 Sunday Evening Life Group (small group):

1. "All the Places to Go...How

Will You know?" by John

Ortberg. Sundays 5:30 PM.

Held at (rotating locations) Pastor

Craig & Jody Ferguson's

6850 NW 54th Ct. Johnston

515.984.0482

or Charity Johnson's

6243 NW 49th St. Johnston

515.720.8299

2. "Chosen by God" by R.C.

Sproul. Sundays 6:00 PM. Held at

Dick & Netha Piphos

712 SE 4th St. Grimes

515.986-4071

Women's Bible Study will

be on hiatus until fall.



Summer Softball League, through the end of July. Tuesdays or Thursdays 6 or 7pm.

If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Craig Ferguson, craig@newhopedsm.org. All games are played at Grace Church, 4200 E 25th St., Des Moines.

Join us for the remaining schedule:

June 30, 6pm

July 16, 6pm

Aug. 4, 7pm

July 9, 6pm

July 30, 7pm

missions

JULY MISSION: Meals from the Heartland

Our Mission focus for July will be Meals from the Heartland as we plan on our annual on-site packaging of 26,000 meals, **August 2nd at New Hope**. Sign ups for one-hour shifts after the 8:30, 9:30 and 10:45 shortened services, will be on the Mission table at the back of Fellowship Hall. Watch the progress of donations on a chart in the Fellowship Hall.

At just 20 cents a meal, every donation helps feed the starving.

- \$20 funds the cost of 100 meals
- \$50 funds the cost of 250 meals - the cost one typical volunteer uses in an average shift!
- \$100 funds the cost of 500 meals

Last year, we focused on giving a box of meals, which is \$45.00 for 216 meals. That is also a good giving goal. We must raise \$5,200 for the meals. We also need to pay for the truck and fuel to transport the necessary raw food materials and then to take the completed meals in boxes to Meals from the Heartland's warehouse.

Meals from the Heartland is a large donor to the Food Bank of Iowa and the DMARC food pantries. They also partner with the Convoy of Hope to distribute meals around the world to needy areas. In 2015, their goal is to package 15 million meals and beyond!



Other Mission News

1. **Mission Camperships** are still available at 1/3 the total cost per camp. Register, then the camp registrar will call New Hope for our contribution. You will pay the remaining amount. If the costs are still too high for your child, contact Sharon Smith, 515-277-7125, wicketsblooms@aol.com, as there are extra sources that can help.

2. **June Java Drive for Hope Ministries**, serving the Homeless since 1915. Coffee is a staple item at Hope's emergency shelter and long-term recovery facilities. You can help "fill their cup" by **providing donations of coffee**. Folgers REGULAR (not decaf) 33.9 oz and larger sizes preferred. ***Please place your donations in the basket on the Missions Table.*** As of June 21, 20 cans of coffee have been donated to help "fill their cup" at Hope Ministries!

3. **Storybook Project:** Remember, our goal is one book per day for the summer, for a total of 94 books! As of June 21, 32 books have been donated to the Storybook Project!

4. On the Mission table, you will find a container to place needed things for clean up kits and other needed items at our Midwest Distribution Center for **UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief**.

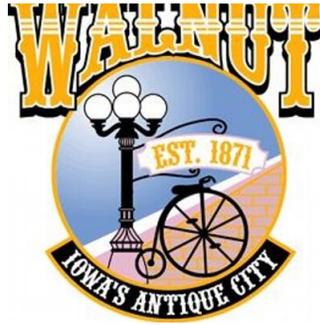
Needed things are:

Blue or black stick ink pens; Wash cloths; Hand towels (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels); Cloth diapers —pre-folded or plain (no disposable diapers); Baby gowns/sleepers

UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Kit Contains:

5 gal. bucket with re-sealable lid; 1 household cleaner: 12 to 16 oz. bottle— mixable in water (no spray); 5 scouring pads; 7 sponges; 1 scrub brush; 8 cleaning towels (reusable wipes); liquid laundry detergent-(two 25 oz. or one 50 oz. bottle); dish soap, 16 to 28 oz. bottle; clothes line (two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.); 5 dust masks (sealed in a bag); 2 pair reusable waterproof gloves (playtex type); 1 pair work gloves (leather palm necessary); 24-bag roll of heavy duty trash bags, 33-45 gal. remove roll from box & roll into 2 sets of 12); 1 insect repellent spray (not killer), 6 to 14 oz. can (aerosol spray or pump with protective cover); 1 can air freshener (aerosol or pump); 50 clothes pins. Cleaning Agents: All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic bottles. No powders.

Place all items in bucket. Sizes are important as all items must fit in bucket.



Save the Date!

All Church Women's
Annual Trip to Walnut,
Iowa.
Thursday, September 3.
More details to follow.



Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 14 at
New Hope UMC.

This open to the public craft & gift fair will have
crafters or national direct sales companies as
vendors.

Interested in being a vendor?

Please contact Tamara Evans at [515-710-9238](tel:515-710-9238) or
tamaraevans2@gmail.com.

50th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, November 22, 2015, 3 p.m.

In the Beginning Under the Oak Tree. On behalf of the entire New Hope leadership team, we would like to
invite you and your family to attend our
50th Anniversary Celebration Event.

Bishop Julius Trimble will be our special guest at the
three Sunday morning services (8:30, 9:30 and 10:45).

**The 50th Anniversary Celebration Event will take
place on Sunday, November 22 at 3pm.**

RSVP to the committee
at: newhopeumc50@gmail.com or call 515-289-1343.



Also, we are needing volunteers for the following: Decorations, Music, Videographer, and Set up/take
down. Please email or call to let us know you can help. Thank you!



STORYBOOK PROJECT BOOK DRIVE

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this summer mission opportunity and donate new and/or gently used books to the STORYBOOK PROJECT.

Our goal is to collect 94 books!

One book for each day of the summer!

What is the Storybook Project?

The Storybook Project gives mothers, fathers, and grandparents at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women at Mitchellville, and the Iowa Correctional Release Center and Newton Correctional Facility in Newton the opportunity to connect with their children/grandchildren age birth through 17 through reading. Stories are read into a recorder and then the book and CD are mailed to the children. A new book is chosen for each child, each month. The goal is to maintain and strengthen the parent/child bonds during separation.

Who benefits from the Storybook Project?

- Mothers, fathers and grandparents are grateful for the opportunity to maintain strong ties with their children while separated.
- Children feel close to their parents when listening to them read stories along with a few added personal words of affection. They also receive educational benefits from reading.
- Volunteers have a rewarding experience by providing support to mothers and fathers in a prison setting. The program brings much joy to everyone.
- Contributors have the satisfaction of knowing their donations help keep mothers, fathers, grandparents and children connected during their separation.

Place your donated book(s) in the basket on the Mission Table.



Hand of Luke - July 14

**Meatballs in white sauce
Ranch Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans, Rolls & butter
Ice Cream Sandwiches**

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 refrig.”). Baked goods should be transferred to a disposable container if possible. *Thank you!!*

Mission Trip for Adults

Mission Trip to Honduras, February 6-13, 2016. We are looking for more team members to sign up by September 1. Questions? Or to sign up, please contact Denise Hartford, denisehartford@gmail.com, text or call 515-890-1406.

Financial Update

Below is the May 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

	May 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$26,831.25
Total Expenditures	<u>25,764.80</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$1,066.45</u>
	YTD 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$136,685.32
Total Expenditures	<u>134,585.55</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$2,099.77</u>

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	May 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$7,324.13
Total Expenditures	<u>7,490.04</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$165.91)</u>
	YTD 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	\$59,561.76
Total Expenditures	<u>51,543.42</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$8,018.34</u>

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
May 31	37	98	92	227
June 7	34	82	97	213
June 14	30	82	85	197
June 21	44	81	90	215

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat	Sun	total
May 31 36	May 30 26	62
June 7 48	June 6 47	95
June 14 36	June 13 43	79
June 21 30	June 20 38	68

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.

Donate



Living with Purpose

I am writing this while I am at 35,000 ft, traveling to rock climb with my sister and son in the High Sierra. I find myself looking down at the snow-capped Rocky mountains, and once again, realizing how small I am in comparison to the grandeur of God's creation. I guess you could say it is a recurring thought in the 3 pounds of gray matter stuck neatly in my skull. Why me? Why do I have this gift of life? What is my purpose in the grand scheme of things? Or is it all just random? I guess it is a question we all ask periodically if we take time to look beyond the small confines we have built to experience the day to day; home, work, family, and community.

Over the past several months, I have been going through a time of intentional prayer and discernment for both life and ministry. Here is what the Lord has impressed on me.

We all have a purpose that is bigger than we imagine. Most of us are content to walk through life, work a job, and raise a family; good things, but if we could see our life from 35,000 ft, could we see a God-given larger purpose? I believe we need to stop merely going through the routine. I am convinced that God has given you a purpose that you may not know yet, a purpose that is meant to be used for and in service to community.

In the month of July, JROL will be doing The Big Give: a month of focusing on mission and service to community, a month of employing our combined gifts. If you have a project that we can help with or if you want to help make a difference, contact me at www.johnstonriveroflife.org.

I think our concept of Church is too small (like looking at a computer screen rather than the Grand Canyon out the window of my 737.) We may think Church is only about singing, praying, and listening to a sermon. But the Church is the people, and our purpose is to serve community and the global Kingdom of God.

Maybe God has been speaking to you about finding your larger purpose. One possibility might be to jump on board The Big Give at JROL.

Pastor 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 bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies and use 3 to 5 dozen cookies from the tall, silver freezer in the supply room. (no peanuts/nuts), and serve coffee and water 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 July

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<u>Greeters</u> 5 12 19 26	<u>Greeters</u> 5 12 Weisskopf family 19 26	<u>Greeters</u> 5 12 19 26
<u>Lectors</u> 5 12 Lector 19 Cathy Short 26	<u>Lectors</u> 5 12 19 26	<u>Lectors</u> 5 Jon Verner 12 19 Billy Nuzum 26
	<u>*Hosts</u> 5 Melisa & Larry Forbes 12 Pam Weisskopf 19 26	<u>*Hosts</u> 5 Andy Sutton 12 Lee Ross 19 Lynne & Jan Davisson 26
<u>Traditional Service Callers</u> 5 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 12 Norma Sutton 19 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 26 Norma Sutton	<u>Money Counters</u> 5 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, John Burrough 12 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood 19 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, Ron Zoss 26 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross	
<u>Contemporary Service Callers</u> 5 Eldon Cross 12 Rod & Lynette Cook 19 Eldon Cross 26 Rod & Lynette Cook	<u>Pal Friday: 9 a.m.</u> 2 Marlys Borcharding 10 Shirley Johnson 17 Marilyn Monroe 24 Theresa Flickinger 31 JoAnn Decker	

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).

July 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 7:45p, Praise Team	2 Office Vol: Marlys Borcharding 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day 10a, Urbandale Parade 
5 Holy Communion 9a-11a, Blood Pressure	6 7:00p, Trustees Mtg, @ Parsonage	7 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	8 7:45p, Praise Team	9 10a, Care Team Meeting, F.Hall 6p, Softball 7:30p, SPRC Mtg., R.Chapel	10 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson	11 7:30a, Men's Breakfast at church 9:30a-3:30p, Needlers sew in, F.Hall Sr. BLAST parent mtg at JROL
12 9:30a, Children's Worship Sr. BLAST parent mtg for Mission Trip Noon, Cluster Mtg., Ruby Chapel	13	14 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 7:45p, Praise Team	16 9a, Women's Fellowship at Okoboji Grill 6p, Softball	17 Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe 11:30a, Widow's Luncheon at Panera in Johnston	18 8:30a, Veteran's Breakfast at church
19 Food Pantry Sunday 8:30a, Sr. BLAST send off for July 19-25 Mission Trip VBS, July 19-23 5:30p, Dinner 6-8p, Activities	20 Deadline for August LINK Pastor Jon on vacation VBS 5:30p, Dinner 6-8p, Activities	21 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA Pastor Jon on vacation VBS 5:30p, Dinner 6-8p, Activities 7:00p, Stroke Club, Sanctuary	22 Pastor Jon on vacation VBS 5:30p, Dinner 6-8p, Activities 7:45p, Praise Team	23 Pastor Jon on vacation VBS 5:30p, Dinner 6-8p, Activities	24 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger Pastor Jon on vacation	25 Pastor Jon on vacation
26	27	28 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Finance Meeting, R.Chapel	29 7:45p, Praise Team	30 (tentative) 7p, Administrative Council Meeting, Ruby Chapel 7p, Softball	31 Office Vol: JoAnn Decker	August 1 Set up for Meals from the Heartland

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Ron Zoss | 15 Jody Rains, Rece Haugland |
| 2 Sally Corcoran, Terry Dolberg,
Jody Ferguson | 16 Cheryl Moore, Patty Nearmyer,
Chris Higdon |
| 3 Mark Scherer, Greg Mohrman, Chinyere
Ukabilia, Cindy Meyer, Besty Heiser,
Nicholas Bogue | 17 Ronan Rock |
| 4 Chad Strauss | 18 Brad Johnson |
| 5 Steven Alcorn, Kyden O'Neill | 19 Laura Zimmerman, Allyson Louzek |
| 6 Forrest Mc Cleary, Bailey Egger,
Dana Garside | 20 Kim Wills, Pam Gibbons, Robin Harlow |
| 8 Roger Moore, Marc Davis, Jason Balk | 21 Allen Davis, Hanna Ferguson, Jim Mather |
| 9 Ryan Herrick, Beth Roff | 22 John Burrough |
| 10 Kathy Fairchild, Charlene Cobb, | 23 Eldon Cross, Adam Jaschen, Gabrielle
Dean, Max Roquet, Chris Sundell |
| 11 Sawyer Merrill, Tom Schultz | 24 David Baldwin, Tony Hoffman,
SaLynn Lemke |
| 12 Jane Wagner, David Davis, John Hartford | 25 Jan Davisson, Elaine Lesch |
| 13 Michelle Roquet | 26 Mackenzie Hewitt, Sarah Speck |
| 14 Cathy Homard, Mike Wakeman, | 27 Deb Henry, Brenda McConahay |
| | 29 Shayna Stubbs, Erik Notz,
Hannah Hoffman, Sarah Jacques |
| | 31 Caleb Williamson |

Happy Anniversary!

- 5 Bob & Carol Harter
- 8 Lynn & Jan Davisson
- 8 Rick & Michelle Roquet
- 8 Matt & Erika Weih
- 8 Mark & Julie Sahlin
- 9 Mark & Megan Thomsen
- 13 Dan & Tracy Hitchcock
- 15 Roger & Tammy Dann
- 16 Terry & Penny Dolberg
- 18 Greg & Kelly Mohrman
- 19 George & Armenta Buckingham
- 19 Jeff & Monica Balk
- 22 Jason & Elaine Sheer
- 23 Nate & Sarah Jacques
- 28 Trent & Monica Johnson
- 29 Joe & Judy Nemmers
- 29 Spencer & Andy Sutton

*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.*



Johnston River of Life/New Hope has a team in a church softball league. We've only played two games so far, as several have been rained out. We've had a lot of fun though (translated that means we've lost both games, but it's having fun that counts). In the first game, I got on base two out of three times (one on an error), but this last game I had two fly outs and one ground out, so I'm not burning up the field.

However, it does remind me of the time I really impressed my kids with my ball playing skill. I had already faced the fact that they were beginning to realize I wasn't the strongest and smartest person in the world, as they once thought (really, they did). They were getting older and wiser and realized I was just human after all. But then we started practicing ball for their upcoming season.

We took a couple of turns with parents getting a chance to bat and I hit some fly balls my kids thought would have been major league homeruns. My son was convinced that I could have been a professional ball player.

When I tried to explain that I was really not that good, he wouldn't hear it and named players he watched on TV who were not as good as I was (according to him of course). I finally gave up trying to correct him and just accepted his praise, for I knew it wouldn't last long (and it didn't).

We all need to be needed and feel that we are special to someone. None of us is totally without family or friends who care about us, but there are times we do feel alone. When that happens we need to know there is someone who cares about us and to whom we are very special. Even when we may feel most alone, we need to remember that we are always special to God.

We don't have to hit homeruns, be a professional athlete, or anything else to be special to God. God loves us and cares for each one of us just as we are and wants to help us become the best person we can be.

However, if you know of any baseball scouts in the area, please let me know (just kidding—actually some of my most embarrassing moments in my adult life have happened playing church league softball).

Now let's cheer on our Johnston River of Life/New Hope team!

Pastor Jon

July Theme -- "The ReNewing of the Spirit"

July 5	<u>Title:</u> "A New Strength"	<u>Script.:</u> 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10; Holy Communion
July 12	<u>Title:</u> "A New Family"	<u>Script.:</u> Ephesians 1:3-14
July 19	<u>Title:</u> "A New Approach"	<u>Script.:</u> Ephesians 2:1-10; Guest Speaker: Barb Mather
July 26	<u>Title:</u> "A New Power"	<u>Script.:</u> Ephesians 3:14-21



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
Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org
Sarah Jacobson: sjacobson@newhopedsm.org
Eldon Cross: eldon@newhopedsm.org

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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