

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

January 2015

JANUARY AT NEW HOPE UMC

Getting Wet

The Three R's of Baptism



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

newhopeds.org



JANUARY WORSHIP SERIES

PLAYLIST

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

JOIN US
Saturdays 5pm & Sundays 10am
Beaver Creek Elementary
johnstonriveroflife.org



FamilyLife brings you The Art of Marriage, an all-new video-based marriage event created to help couples fully experience God's plan for marriage.

Now, in this fresh new video guided event, couples have the opportunity to look at their relationship in a whole new way. Weaving instruction from respected pastors and Bible teachers together with compelling stories, humorous vignettes, man-on-the-street interviews and more, The Art of Marriage will help couples apply what the Bible teaches about marriage in a powerful way. It's practical, funny, and straight to the heart.

The six-session video event will be held at New Hope UMC on February 6 & 7, 2015. Cost is \$52.24. Deadline is January 26, 2015. Register today by going to www.johnstonriveroflife.org, click on Connect and then on Events to find the Art of Marriage. For more information, please contact Bill Gibbons at 515-770-2146, bpgibb1975@gmail.com.

the art of 
marriage[®]
getting to the heart of God's design



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

Joan Davis, mother of Diane Fine; Olive (Polly) 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.

Baptism

Congratulations to Lucille Rose Thomsen who was baptized on November 30. Lucille is the daughter of Mark and Megan Thomsen and little sister to Jax.

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Wayne & Sandy Johnson and family on the passing of Wayne's father, Blayne Johnson.

Our Sympathy to William and Katie Rock and family on the passing of Katie's grandmother.

Thank You

A big "Thank You" from our church staff to the New Hope and Johnston River of Life congregations for their very generous Christmas gifts and greetings.

You have overwhelmed us with your thoughtfulness and support through the past year.

Blessings to all of you may this New Year be filled with joy, laughter, and love for all!



Email Address Updates

Betty Holwegner
grandmabett6@gmail.com

Doug & Kathy Fairchild
daf7612@gmail.com



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of **Michele Krebs** to oversee the Nursery at New Hope UMC.

This follows the resignation of Tamara Evans who has overseen the Nursery for the past several years. Tamara is looking forward to working with our three year olds during Christian Learning Time and getting back to worship with her family. We thank her for all the work she has done with the Nursery and look forward to her continuing work with kids here at New Hope.

Michele Krebs is active at Johnston River of Life and attends the Saturday night services there. She has an extensive background in child care and currently works in pre-school at the Des Moines Christian School.

We welcome Michele and look forward to the sharing of her gifts in our Nursery.

confirmation schedule



January 11, 4:30 p.m.

Students only

Topic: "I Believe & Membership Vows"

January 25, 4:30 p.m.

Students and Mentors

Topic: "Church History in One Easy Lesson"

WIDOWS LUNCHEON

Come join us for conversation and lunch on

Friday, January 9th, 11:30am

at Perkup Café, 7003 Douglas Ave
(intersection of 70th & Douglas)

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

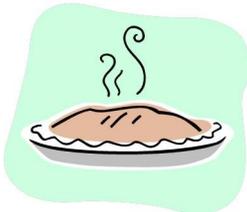


Habitat For Humanity Work Day,

Sat., January 10.

Volunteer to be a Habitat for Humanity Winter
Warrior!

If you are interested contact Denise Hartford
denisehartford@gmail.com or 890-1406.



The Women's Fellowship is
having a pie sale on
Sunday, January 25
after each worship
service.

Buy a whole pie to support
the Women's Fellowship mission projects.

We appreciate donated pies from all mem-
bers. Pies may be delivered to the church on
Saturday, January 24, from 2 - 4pm.

Thanks to all of you!

Questions? Please contact Sharon Lewis,
254-1692.



Veterans Helping
Veterans will be
meeting for breakfast
on **Saturday,**
January 17, at
8:30am in the

Fellowship Hall.

We will have a delicious breakfast and a guest
speaker. Any Veteran and their spouse are
invited. Please reach out to your fellow veterans to
come and share some time in brotherhood. Please
RSVP to Billy Nuzum, 238-2302.



We are in need of more cooks to help make
the meals for the church members who have
had surgery/ been in the hospital, or those who
just had new babies. You would be called up
on occasionally to prepare part of a meal with
another person and deliver it to the
parishioner.

The Care Team could also use some more
members to do visitation to our shut ins and to
do a visitation when a death occurs in one of
our church family members homes.

If you can help, please call Clarice Rubek
at 515-965-8897.



2015 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 flowers are \$35.00 per Sunday and you may
take your flowers home after the 10:45 service.*

Books, Collectibles, and Bake Sale

Thanks to the many, many New Hope volunteers who donated items, worked during set-up and takedown, and helped staff the event on Saturday, December 6. Our first Books, Collectibles, and Bake Sale was a success!

Proceeds from the Books and Collectibles sale were \$ 1449. Sales were evenly split between collectibles and books. Unsold collectibles were stored and we plan to include them in our sale next year. A few highly collectible items are being listed on eBay or craigslist for potential sale. Unsold books were donated to the Johnston Lions Club for their spring book sale.

Proceeds from the Books and Collectibles sale are added to the Rummage Sale proceeds and help support ministries of the church. \$100 from the proceeds will be given to Sr Blast in recognition of their assistance in takedown and clean up at the conclusion of the sale.

Again, thank you so much to all the volunteers who assisted us. We couldn't have done it without you!
Kim Buske and Kathy Russi

Yes! Thank you for your donations to our Bake Sale. Your items for sale were beautiful and delicious. We thank you for participating in our first Books, Collectibles and Bake Sale. The bake sale brought in over \$700 which will go to missions.

Carole Followwill and Linda Kielsmeier



The Venture Crew

The Venture Crew is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for any young adult boy/girl who are 14 - 20 years. The purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults.

Sign up by contacting Brianna Johnson at bri.johnson315@gmail.com.

The following is the Venture Crew calendar for January 2015:

1/4- Crew Service Project Meeting 4:30pm-6:30pm

Ronald McDonald House Meal
1441 Pleasant Street, Des Moines

1/18- VOA Meeting- 2pm, Maytag Scout Center

1/24- Winter Survival Training, 8-4:30pm IS University Armory

1/25- Crew Meeting- 1-2:30pm, NHUMC

Arts and Crafts Meeting



Hand of Luke - January 14

Potato Cheese Soup and Southwestern Vegetable Soup

Corn Muffins or Dinner Rolls

Tossed Salad

Cookies

Over 15 years ago another church in the Des Moines vicinity was kind enough to allow some New Hope members join them in serving at what was then known as Churches United Shelter. This was a start in the process of launching a new mission project for New Hope.

Recently an adult student of Grandview University experienced serving at the shelter. This student requested the opportunity to introduce the project to her church and will be taking several members to the shelter on January 14th. **New Hope will prepare the meal and members of Emmanuel will do the serving.** We wish them a positive and fulfilling experience.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to make food donations or sign up to cook. 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

Another year of New Hope UMC providing monthly hot meals to Central Iowa Shelter and Services has past. I want to take a moment to thank every one that donated supplies, provided monetary contributions, assisted in preparing the meal, serving the meal and taking time to wrap serving pieces. It is very much appreciated!

For those of you that cannot commit to food preparation or serving well in advance, feel free to place your name on a call list. If it appears I will be short volunteers a few days in advance or have an unforeseen cancellation I would be happy to call you and check on your availability. In addition I occasionally need someone to prep foods in advance (for example, brown hamburger or boil pasta). That can be done on your own time. Contact me at 253-9115 or rdoxon@gmail.com if you wish to be added to my list.

Merry Christmas, have a fantastic 2015 and thank you for maintaining your support of the Hand of Luke mission project.

Ruth Doxon

Santa's Attic

The children of New Hope would like to thank everyone who donated items to Santa's Attic. They had a great time finding the perfect gift for family members. The elf wrappers want to say a huge thank you for the supplies, especially the gift bags which made wrapping so much easier.

We raised \$111 for the Miracle League, so handicap kids can play just like we love to. Thanks again!!



Women's Fellowship met on Thursday, December 18. Carole Followwill, host, set the tables with beautiful Christmas decorations. The women (and Pastor Jon) enjoyed the delicious treats made by Carole and the reading she shared. Women's Fellowship will not meet in January 2015. Join them on Thursday, February 19, 9am at church.



Jr BLAST had a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 17th. Participants had fun with a gift exchange.



Advent by Candle light was held on Monday, December 1 for women of the church and their friends. Thank you so much for a beautiful Advent by Candlelight. Thank you to all the hostesses who were so willing to make it a special evening for all of our guests. Thank you to all of the wonderful musicians for providing the beautiful music for the evening. Thank you to our sound booth and Spotlight assistant, Paul Weisskopf and Jon Gaul. And thank you for the team who were able to work together to organize the event: Cathy Cate, Billy Nuzum, Shirley Frus, Barb Mather, and Nancy Monthei. What a wonderful way to start this beautiful season of joy and grace.
 Billy Nuzum, Lay Leader



The beautiful music from "He Is Here" was performed on Sunday, December 14 by the New Hope UMC Seasonal Choir; directed by Eldon Cross; accompanied by Brenda McConahay; and Spencer Sutton and William Rock, Narrators.



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.



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.

Gathering Time will go back to the normal schedule of 3 yrs-K meeting in the Purple classroom from 10:45- 11am each week. The older elementary aged children (grades 1-5) will meet in the Orange classroom from 10:45-11am on the 1st Sunday of each month (Jan 4th, Feb. 1st, March 1st, April 5th - NO GATHERING TIME/EASTER SUNDAY and May 3rd).

Part-time CLT teachers/subs needed!!!

Are you someone who doesn't want to commit to teaching CLT on a regular basis, but would still like to try it from time to time? Are you currently one of our subs looking for more opportunities to teach? Or are you neither of these, but still looking for a way to get involved in our children/youth Christian Learning Time opportunities? If these statements describe you, then know you are VERY MUCH NEEDED for our CLT ministries. We currently are in need of at least 1 regular part-time teacher for the 4-5th grade class for the winter (and especially spring) semesters, and perhaps 1-2 regular or part-time teachers for our Jr. High (6-8th grade) CLT class. The curriculum is easy to follow, it's fun to teach, and the youth are eager to learn. Training and support is available! If you are interested in this opportunity or know of someone who is, please contact Sarah Jacobson.

Check out the Children and Family Ministries Information Spot!

This month in the Parent Link and on the bulletin board you will find the meal time devotion titled "Eating It Up", an activity puzzle for kids and part 1 of 5 in a series focused on Protecting Our Families. This article is titled "Combatting Cultural Influences." If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources or topics you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.



Children's Christmas Program

God gives us new hearts! The children gave their gift to honor Jesus as they presented the 9:30am Christmas worship service on Sunday, December 14.

It warmed my heart to have so many working together to bring the timeless message once again. Many thanks go to everyone who assisted in various ways. The Needlers presented newly created wisemen garments. Christian Education teachers gave some of their lesson time so we could learn our songs. We had a backstage wardrobe crew, the techs in the soundbooth, our music people, those who donated time and material for costumes. The 9:30 fellowship was even designed to support the Apple Red Happiness with tasty treats! Special thanks to Pastor Jon and Nancy, Office Admin.

The children gave the greatest gift of love from their hearts. Carole Followwill, Children's Christmas Program Director

Dear God, we worship with glad hearts our one true King, Jesus. Give us new hearts and spirits so that we may remain faithful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

More pictures can be found on New Hope United Methodist Church's Facebook page.





Please Note the TGIW Schedule Changes for Spring 2015

A decision was made by our key TGIW volunteers, with the feedback and support of the New Hope Staff and the Children and Youth Ministry Cluster team:

Due to the inconsistent schedule of Wednesday meetings in March and beyond (i.e. Spring Break 3/18, Holy Week 4/1, and Rummage Sale set up 4/22), and the lack of volunteers to run the program effectively, we will be ending the TGIW program for this school year with a Family Night on March 11, 2015. This is not a decision that was made lightly. There was a lot of time spent thinking through the pros and cons, but ultimately we felt this was the best decision at this point.

Please note all individual ministry changes:

- Wednesday night meals will not be served beyond March 11th.
- Children's Bell choir will meet through March 4th with a performance on Sunday, March 8th. If you have any questions, contact Kristen Welter.
- 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.
- The Jr. Blast group will also determine their own schedule beyond March 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Ryan Jacobson.

If there are any remaining questions or concerns about this decision, please direct those to the Children's Ministry Coordinator, Sarah Jacobson.

TGIW Volunteer Opportunities:

Activity Leaders/Shepherds: Our TGIW program does not exist and cannot continue without the help of our dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for parents or other members of the congregation to get involved with our kids on a one time basis or even weekly. We are currently looking for volunteer activity leaders and shepherds for January through March to help keep our weekly TGIW program running smoothly with the correct adult to child ratios. Please consider signing up in the Fellowship Hall or contacting Sarah Jacobson if you know of somewhere you'd like to help. We have activities such as Basketball, Bible Video, Crafts, Outdoor Winter Rec, etc. Some activities are listed as TBD, so if you have a creative idea for a 20 minute activity you'd like to lead/plan, sign up!

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. There is no requirement to be present every Wednesday night. You just need to have an interest, a passion and a time commitment of 1-2 hours/week for 1 year. If interested, contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

TGIW Family Night at the Urbandale Pool

Wednesday, January 14th

Swimming from 7-8pm

Meet at the Urbandale Public Pool (7201 Aurora Ave) for our January Family Night.

Admission (**anyone entering the pool area**):

2 years of age & under is FREE with paid adult

3 years of age & older is \$4/person, unless you have a pass.

No meal will be provided this night and this will replace the TGIW program. Any children/youth not coming with their parent or another adult will need to be 8 years or older, and able to swim on their own. They will also need to be picked up at the pool by 8pm! Please sign up on the TGIW registration table if you plan to join us so we can give an approximate number to the Urbandale Pool.



Save the Date!!!!

TGIW Family Mardi Gras Party

Wednesday, Feb 11th

Dinner at 5:30pm; Activities 6-7pm

youth programs

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

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, January 7: Regular Jr. Blast meeting

Wednesday, January 14: Family Night

Wednesday, January 21: Regular Jr. Blast meeting

Friday, January 23 - Junior Blast (along with Senior Blast) will go to Winter Jam at Wells Fargo Arena

Wednesday, January 28: Jr. Blast will be doing an off-site service project at the Meals from the Heartland packaging center in West Des Moines. We will leave from the church at 6:00 p.m. (so everyone can still eat supper before we leave), and then we will return to the church around 8:30. (Note: The puppets group will not meet that night.) Drivers are needed for this event, so please email Ryan Jacobson at ryantjacobson@hotmail.com if you can volunteer as a driver.

(9th-12th grade) Sr. BLAST Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity & M Johnson, and Pam Frey
BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org. More information about Sr. BLAST events will be sent out in email and posted on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>).

2014 has been a busy year for the Sr. BLAST group; this year the group cooked numerous Sunday morning breakfasts, cleaned the Iowa Event Center, volunteered at the church for many events, volunteered in the community, worked at an Autism Camp in Oklahoma, had fun fellowship at our weekly bible study and annual BLAST events.

However, we are ready for 2015 to begin and will be looking forward to our Memphis mission trip this summer... This year the group will be enjoying many of the same activities; however we have a few changes for 2015. To begin with, the group will be moving our weekly gathering from Sunday to Wednesday nights. This will align with the rest of the church's children activity night. So starting Wednesday, January 14th at 6pm; the Senior High BLAST group will be meeting.

Due to overwhelming response to our BLAST t-shirt; we have extended the order period until **Sunday, January 11th**. So if you have not gotten your joint congregational t-shirt ordered; please get your preorder placed soon. (See page 11 for the order form.)

Finally, January activities include a pancake breakfast on **Sunday, January 11th**. Followed by a BLAST Lock-In on **Sunday, January 18th**; given Monday is a no-school day because of Martin Luther Jr. Day. Don't forget that Winter Jam is coming to town on **Friday, January 23rd**; this year the tour is being headlined by Skillet and Jeremy Camp (<http://2015.jamtour.com>).



Here are the some upcoming Youth events for the next couple of months:

Jan. 11th ~ New Hope BLAST Breakfast

Jan. 14th @ 6 pm ~ Wednesday Night Activities

Jan. 18th ~ BLAST Lock-In

Jan. 21st @ 6 pm ~ Wednesday Night Activities

Jan. 23rd @ 3:30 pm ~ Winter Jam at Wells Fargo Arena

Jan. 28th @ 6 pm ~ Wednesday Night Activities

Feb. 1st ~ New Hope BLAST Super Bowl Breakfast

Feb. 1st @ 5 pm ~ Super Bowl Party at the Higdon House (8144 Durham Circle, Johnston, IA)

Feb. 4th, 11th, 25th @ 6 pm ~ Wednesday Night Activities

Feb. 15th @ 5 pm ~ Sweetheart Dinner at New Hope

Feb. 18th @ 5 pm ~ Ash Wednesday Dinner

New Hope & JROL T-Shirt Order



\$15 - Adult Sizes

Name: _____

Small – Qty: _____

Medium – Qty: _____

Large – Qty: _____

X-Large – Qty: _____

2X-Large – Qty: _____

3X-Large – Qty: _____

Total \$ _____

**Order By
Dec 7th**

Cash

Check

Pay on Delivery

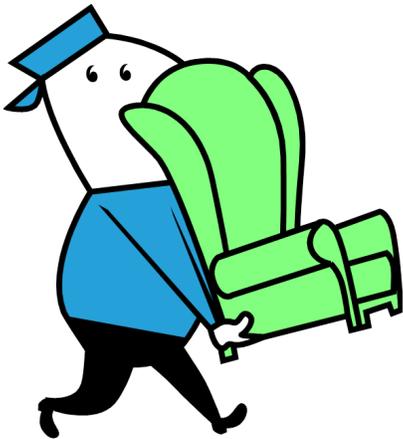


Save the Date for the
“God’s Girlfriends” Women’s Retreat
Saturday, March 7 * 9am-4pm at New Hope UMC
For 16 yrs. old and up.

Bring your girlfriends for a day of laughter, sharing, singing, scriptures and devotions, and lunch!

Watch for registration forms coming out soon! Questions? Please contact either Carole Followwill, Barb Mather, Sharon Smith or Nancy Monthei.

It's time to start thinking about the 2015 Rummage Sale!



1. Beginning with the 2015 Spring Rummage Sale, **we will not be pricing anything over \$100.** For this kind of a sale, it is not about what an item may or may not be worth, it's about what we can actually get for it. Most items priced over \$100 do not sell until the half-price sale starts. If you are planning to donate an item that you believe is worth more than \$100, you should consider selling it yourself and donating part or all of the proceeds to the church.

2. We will **not be selling books or collectibles at the Spring Rummage Sale.** The Books and Collectibles sale was in December.

3. **No TVs, computers, printers, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, or garlands** will be accepted. Please don't bring these items and make us be the bad guys who have to tell you to lug them back home.

4. **As you prepare your donations, please organize them into separate containers.** For example, put children's clothes in one sack or box, women's clothing in another, men's clothing in another, kitchen items in another, etc. Most of you have been doing a great job of this. It is a tremendous help if all items are sorted when they come in. That way we do not have to spend precious time sorting and will have more time to work on pricing and displaying the thousands of items that are donated.

5. **All items must be clean and ready to display.** No donations should be broken or torn. Check all electrical items to assure they are in working order and marked with a tag that says "works." All bedding should be folded and sets fastened together and marked with the size (twin, double, queen, or king). Bringing your items to the sale sorted, clean, unbroken and labeled regarding size, etc. saves many hours of volunteer time during the set up and pricing process. Our sale is noted for its well-organized, neat and clean environment. Please help us to maintain that image.

6. **This sale is an important part of our community outreach.** Many people come every year to our Rummage Sale to get nice, clean clothing for their kids and tell us they couldn't afford to do this without us. Please keep this in mind as you select items and prepare them for the sale.

We need YOU to help us organize the 2015 Rummage Sale. Various volunteer positions are available. 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, aganbarjim@gmail.com
Linda Kielsmeier at 689-9680,
lapals@hotmail.com

groups gathering together

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 10
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

New Hope Women's Fellowship will not meet in January. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, February 19 at 9am.** Questions? Call Sharon Lewis 254-1692 or Lee Ross 276-9790.

Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. **January 4, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship

Life Groups Informational Meeting: Sun, Jan 11 or Sun, Jan 18 at 5 p.m. Are you interested in joining a small group, or maybe just finding out more? Join an informational meeting at the home of Dana and Teresa Garside to get more information. Contact Teresa at dtgarside@q.com if you are interested in attending one of these meetings.

Alpha - Small Group Opportunity, Starts Tues, Jan 13 • Camp Dodge. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. Contact Pastor Craig if you are interested in participating.



Women's Bible Study

January 12th, we will begin a study on prayer called: **When God's People Pray** by Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle. This is an interactive study using a DVD in conjunction with a participant's book during each of 6 sessions ending on February 16th. We will meet in the Ruby Chapel at 1:00 and 6:30 each of those 6 Mondays. Drop in as you are able at the time that suits your schedule.

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, January 8, 1:30pm** at New Hope. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

New Hope Needlers - Monthly Gatherings

Just a reminder, but there is **NO Needlers meeting in January.** Thanks. Questions? Call Kim at 515-334-5448.

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. Join us in the Ruby Chapel for group discussions and Bible Study.

Friday Small Group

The Friday Small Group meets 2nd and 4th Friday of every month. **January 9 & 23.** 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

2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 4pm. Childcare is provided. Contact Sherri & Nick Bogue, bogues@gmail.com with questions.

missions



JANUARY MISSION: Equal Exchange, a Fair Trade Co-Op.

We can enjoy delicious fairly traded products while supporting small-scale farmers across the world. Together we can create stronger local communities, a more just food system and a healthier planet. Farmers are able to support their families as they get a fair wage, not having to sell to large corporations and get pennies on the dollar for all their hard work.

We will order again and have items for sale on the Fair Trade shelves in the hall by the door to the Fellowship Hall. Look for new items as they reflect the survey taken during our liquidation sale of coffee. One item you will enjoy is the single cup servings and the containers you can fill for your single cup coffee makers. We will be doing a special promotion...stay tuned!

Other Mission Updates...

Thank you to all those who have participated in the Angel Tree Project, those buying gifts and those who delivered. You have made some parents and children very happy.

Also, thanks to those purchasing a share or a whole goat for Goats Give Back in Nepal, the project we chose from Heifer International this year. Next month we will have the totals of the amount given for this project.

Our Re-entry Team for Women at the Well has received our first woman. We will meet with her once a week for one year.

In February you can expect a Year End Report of all mission giving at New Hope and JROL. If you haven't reported giving that can be included, please contact Sharon Smith.

Newsletter from Emmanuel and Florence Mefor, Missionaries

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

We send you Christmas and New Year greetings from Mutambara, Zimbabwe. Let us always remember and acknowledge the presence of God in our lives at every moment. God is faithful to his words that he will always be with us and will never get his eyes off us. Psalm 121 says it all and in verse 34 ...may your guardian not fall asleep. The guardian of Israel neither sleeps nor slumbers. Please join us in giving thanks to God for his love and protection to us always. From the numerous testimonies we have, this time God is permitted us to testify once again on his favours.

It all started weeks before when we told you in the last newsletter that we were expecting for VIMs. We were to go them from the airport but there has always been that feeling on Emmanuel not to go; but if he has to, do not drive. Based on that, some other person had to go get the VIMs. On November 7th 2014 there were two needs requiring Florence and Emmanuel to be in Harare that week. One was to clear something regarding our Passports with the Nigerian Embassy, and also to take our School of Nursing staff members who were scheduled to attend a graduation ceremony of another school of Nursing in Harare. The 2nd was to collect the brand new Program vehicle for the Mother and Child Survival/Community health program of the hospital supported by the Norway UMC. There was also need to collect some drugs from the National Pharmacy in Harare. The setup necessitated going with one vehicle and coming back with two vehicles (the 2nd was to be the new vehicle). We proceeded to Harare.

After the business in Harare, Emmanuel and Florence had to come with the new vehicle. The vehicle was taken to the UMC HQ for presentation before departing to Mutambara. The church officials were there to inspect the vehicle and prayers and thanks were offered before we departed for Mutambara. In 24 years of Emmanuel's driving experience, one and half hours drive to Mutambara, about 8pm the worst happened. Fully awake, driving at 90km/hr, full good lighting for a brand new vehicle, talking with Florence, a white lone-cow appeared on our lane, crossing from the other lane. It was too late to avoid it, and Emmanuel drove direct into the cow. The impact was so much that the cow was sent flying back to the direction it was coming from and it landed on that side of the road and died instantly. It seemed that Emmanuel was the only one who saw the white cow in what appeared to be a dim light. Florence did not see what happened for she kept on asking, Emmanuel what happened, what did the car hit? She only complained of the impact of the airbag on her face. And for Emmanuel, he only felt the strong breeze from the burst airbag. No injuries, no other damages except for what is seen in this picture. The situation could be likened to Daniel thrown in the lion's den, Daniel 14: 31-42 and Chad-rack, Mishek and Obadinego, Daniel 3: 19-33/100. And what more can we tell the Lord than to repeat the words of David in Psalm 23:5.

We are now on leave and have just finished a short term course in Optometry in Canada. We thank God for the short term course and thanks to the UMCOR/GBGM for assisting in supporting us to undergo that course. It will definitely assist us in the management of patients who have poor vision due to refractive errors and have need for glasses. We also left our colleagues behind working on the sinking of 3 boreholes for clean portable water in the communities we serve and 2 Blair toilets in two other communities. This is part of the Mother and Child survival/Community health program of the hospital. Please join us in prayer for the completion of these by the time we return to work early January.

We send you greetings from Chukwuebuka, Rachel and our granddaughter (Ifunanya chukwu-Gods love), Osita and Anulika. We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all of us.

Yours in Christ,

Emmanuel and Florence Mefor : UMC missionaries: #13990Z and #13991Z respectively.

2015 Stewardship

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2015 Pledge Sheet, there is time to do so. Extra copies of the pledge sheet are at the nametag tables or contact the church office and a form can be emailed to you.

Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office.

We thank you for your contributions which continue to support New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life.

Financial Update

Below is the November 2014 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life. Based on last fall's stewardship campaign, a deficit was projected for the New Hope budget this year. Gratefully, the deficit has not been as large as projected. Thank you for your giving and faithfulness in supporting the work and ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life. We ask for your continued support in this last part of the year and hope that we can decrease the deficit as we finish the year.

New Hope Financial Update

	November 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	27,760.36
Total Expenditures	<u>27,997.97</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(237.61)
YTD November 2014	
	Actual
Total Receipts	264,630.91
Total Expenditures	<u>307,542.71</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(42,911.80)

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	November 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	9,770.42
Total Expenditures	<u>7,624.53</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	2,145.89
YTD November 2014	
	Actual
Total Receipts	114,487.56
Total Expenditures	<u>103,510.75</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	10,976.81

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Nov 30	43	108	98	249
Dec 7	32	116	119	267
Dec 14	49	183	130	362
Dec 21	63	118	119	300

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat	Sun	total
Nov 29 61	Nov 30 39	100
Dec 6 69	Dec 7 37	106
Dec 13 60	Dec 14 42	102
Dec 20 258 (Christmas at the Barn)		
	Dec 21 95	353

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



The kind of music we hear can reveal a lot about a person or our environment. As I sit in Rich's Brew on a Saturday morning, I am well aware that there is a Farrell's class next door with the booming bass and, I assume, sweaty bodies aggressively moving to beat of staying in shape. You know when you are at a theme park or a carousel just by the sound of the Calliope. The sound of an organ or liturgical chanting sets some in the mood for meditation and prayer. Music is a window to where our soul currently finds rest. Our playlist is veritable verbiage and expression of what is going on inside. But what we listen to is also a formative foundation upon which we create our understanding and engagement with the world around us.

When my teenage son gets in the car with his iPhone and plugs into my stereo, I know I am listening to the syncopated beat and lyrical words that will shape much of his generation. Just like as a teenager I was unaware of the words I sang over and over molding me, this music will create a web of reality upon which our lives begin to find residence, and our world take shape.

See if you can name these songs:

Oh, where do we begin? The rubble or our sin?

I want to hide the truth, I want to shelter you. But with the beast inside, there's nowhere we can hide.

I can fake a smile, I can force a laugh, I can dance and play the part if you that's what you ask.

We're far from home, its for the better. What we dream is all that matters.

I was all out of hope and all out of fight. Couldn't fight back my tears so I fell on my knees.

First person to email (pastorferguson@gmail.com) with all five right answer wins a special gift

This January at Johnston River of Life we will be playing these songs and looking closely at the lyrics, our culture, our spiritual interpretation and formation through words like these. Can we find faith emerging from these songs?

I hope you will check out our playlist this January.

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 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
<p><u>Greeters</u> 4 11 18 25</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 4 Cathy Short 11 18 Maurine Myers 25 Cathy Short</p>	<p><u>Greeters</u> 4 DeVonne Douglas 11 Clyde & Cindy Rail 18 25</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 4 11 18 Andy Sutton 25</p> <p><u>*Hosts</u> 4 John & Joyce Turek 11 Sr. BLAST 18 Tracy & Tony Hoffman 25 Melisa & Larry Forbes</p>	<p><u>Greeters</u> 4 11 Lee Ross 18 25</p> <p><u>Lectors</u> 4 11 18 25</p> <p><u>*Hosts</u> 4 Roberta & Neal Cave 11 Sr. BLAST 18 Sharon & Earl Lewis 25 Linda & Jerry Kielsmeier</p>
<p><u>Traditional Service Callers</u> 4 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 11 Norma Sutton 18 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 25 Norma Sutton</p> <p><u>Contemporary Service Callers</u> 4 Eldon Cross 11 Rod & Lynette Cook 18 Eldon Cross 25 Rod & Lynette Cook</p>	<p><u>Money Counters</u> 4 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, John Burrough 11 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 18 Ron Zoss, DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen 25 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood</p> <p><u>Pal Friday: 9 a.m.</u> 2 9 16 23 30</p>	

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).

January 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 Happy New Year! Office Closed 	2 Office Vol:	3
4 Guest Preacher: Barb Mather Epiphany Sunday 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday	5 7:00p, Trustees Meeting, Ruby Chapel	6 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	7 5:30p, Dinner 6:00p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	8 1:30p, Care Team Mtg., F.Hall 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall 7p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel 7p, Worship Cluster, Pastor's office	9 Office Vol: 11:30, Widow's luncheon 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	10 7:30a Men's breakfast 11a-6p, F.Hall & FLC reserved 1pm Ruth Eckles memorial, at Scottish Rite
11 Communion Sunday Breakfast by Sr. BLAST 1-3p, Venture Crew 4:30p, Confirmation Class	12 10a, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	13 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Finance Meeting	14 3:30p, Hand of Luke 7-8p, TGIW & Jr. BLAST Family Night, Urbandale Pool 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	15 Feb LINK deadline 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	16 Office Vol:	17 8:30a, Veterans Helping Veterans breakfast at church
18 Human Relations Day (offering) Sr. BLAST lock in	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed 10a, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	20 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 10a-2p, FLC reserved	21 5:30p, 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	22 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall 7p, Administrative Council Meeting, R.Chapel	23 Office Vol: 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch 3:30p, Jr. & Sr. BLAST to Winter Jam	24
25 Food Pantry Sunday Pie Sale after each service Noon, Evangelism Cluster Meeting, R.Chapel 4:30p, Confirmation Class	26 10a, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	27 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	28 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST - offsite 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	29	30 Office Vol:	31 10a-4p, Fellowship Hall reserved

***Human Relations Day, Jan. 18:** 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!

Happy Birthday to you!!

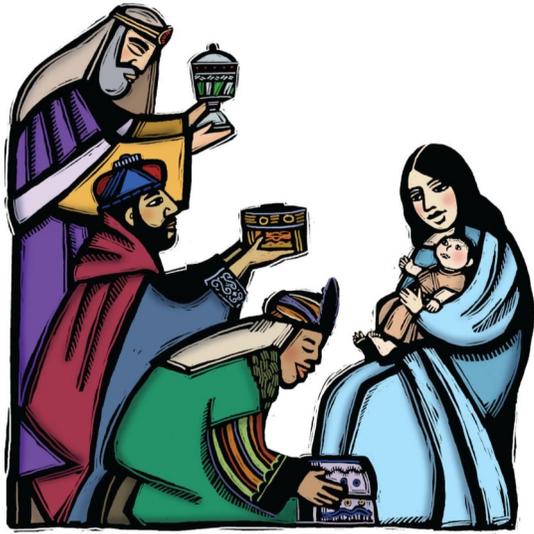
"May God's many blessings, be yours the year through."

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 David Kinsey, Rick Roquet,
Patrick Kyenkya | 19 David O'Brien, Taylor Jackson |
| 3 Zach Price | 20 Nolan Martz |
| 5 Kasi Dickerson, David Reierson | 21 Brenda McCulley, Melissa
Haase, Taylor Evans |
| 6 Matthew McCulley | 22 Dustin Henry |
| 7 Henry Strauss | 23 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,
Wade Zimmerman | 31 Denise Zoss, Kenny Ukabiala |
| 17 Joan Clay, Nate Nuzum, Gerald Perdue | |
| 18 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, so we can update our files.



Children often instruct us in the Christian way of life. One of the early lessons I received from our daughter, Anna, came when she was about three years of age. She asked me if I could reach the top shelf of a book case we had that reached nearly to the ceiling. I demonstrated for her that I could easily reach it and then began to leave thinking I had satisfied her curiosity. But then she asked if I

could reach the middle and even the bottom shelves.

At first I thought how funny it was for her to not realize that if I could reach the top shelf, then I could certainly reach all the other shelves as well. However, after thinking about it, I realized that this is not always the case. At times, we can become so preoccupied with reaching up toward high and lofty goals that we do not stoop down to reach out to situations and even people we somehow think are unimportant or who we just overlook.

The Magi, who visited the baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showed us the error of this way of thinking. Who would have thought that people of such apparent wealth and position would bow down to a new born infant found in such humble surroundings and offer to that child their reverence, respect, and valuable gifts? Yet, in this seemingly unimportant setting, the Messiah, who came for all people, was recognized and worshiped.

As we begin the work of the church for a new year and reach up to meet lofty goals, let us not overlook situations and people of great need and of great worth all around us, for this is our primary goal.

Grace and peace!

Pastor Jon

January Sermons

January 4 Guest Speaker: Barb Mather Epiphany Sunday *Title: "Until Next Time"*
Text: Matthew 2:1-12

"Getting Wet—The 3 R's of Baptism"

January 11 Communion Sunday *Title: "Baptism's Call to Remember"*
Text: Acts 19:1-7

January 18 *Title: "Baptism's Call to Respond"* *Text: John 1:43-51*

January 25 *Title: "Baptism's Call to Repent"* *Text: Jonah 3:1-5, 10*



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: Tamara Evans
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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