

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United  
Methodist Church

## September 2016

SEPTEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC


# MOLDED BY GOD

Sept. 4  
"Molded by the Potter's Hands"

Sept. 11  
"Molded by Mercy"

Sept. 18  
Guest Speaker

Sept. 25  
"Molded by Hope"



NEW HOPE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays at New Hope UMC 8:30am • 9:30am • 10:45am  
[newhopedsm.org](http://newhopedsm.org)

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

# EXILE

## HOPE AWAY FROM HOME

Saturdays 5pm &  
Sundays 10am  
Beaver Creek Elementary



Johnston  
River of Life  
[JohnstonRiverOfLife.org](http://JohnstonRiverOfLife.org)



**Please join us at New Hope UMC for the kick off to the fall season!  
Sunday, September 11!**

**One Worship Service:** 10am-11am in the Family Life Center. Featuring both Traditional and Contemporary music

**All-Church potluck:** 11:00am-12:30pm. Please bring your favorite dish(es) to share

**Games:** 11:00am-12:30pm for all ages

**Invite your friends to church!!**





# 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.

## Prayer Concern

John Rains; Mark Homard; Pat Homard; Margaret Hemphill; Joann Pugh; Olive Walker; Bishop Laurie Haller; District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon ; District Field Outreach Minister, Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary. Prayers for the following military personnel: Kelsey Bartley; Dawn Bernal; Jason Homard; Cory Larson; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Zach McClain; Todd McGinnity; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Devan Stanton; Jared Stanton; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

## Sympathy

Our sympathy to Chris & Jenn Higdon and family on the passing of Chris' grandmother, Millie Higdon.

## Wedding

Congratulations to Diane Fine and Nick Anderson on their August 6th wedding at New Hope UMC.

## Thank You

Thanks everyone for your cards, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and rehab.

Margaret Hemphill

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns during Bob's recent hospitalization and stay in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

We certainly appreciated the cards, visits, and the delicious meals from the care team! We are very grateful for your loving care.

Bob and Linda Reaney

A special thanks to all the generous members who stepped up to help furnish Pascal and Jeanne's apartment. They are very grateful and feel very welcomed by our New Hope Family.

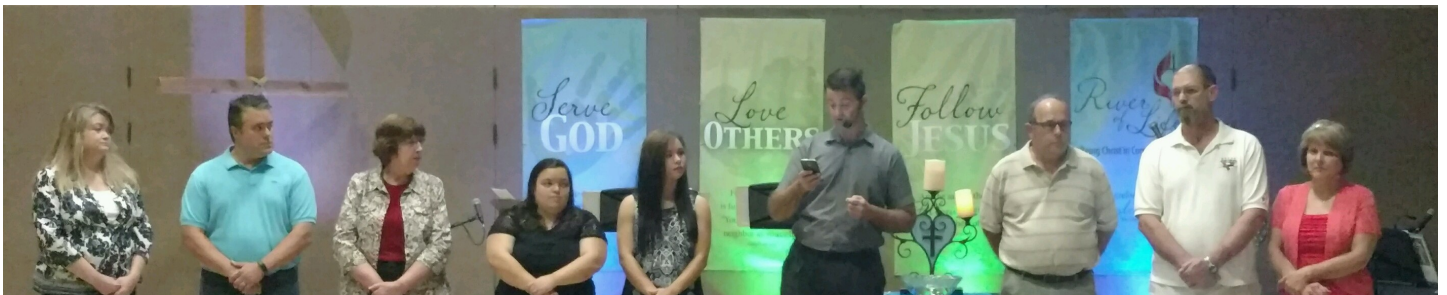


Meals  
FROM THE  
Heartland

Thank you everyone who donated and volunteered at our successful 7th Annual Meals from the Heartland on-site meals packaging at New Hope Sunday. Thanks especially for those that did double shifts and those that stayed after the last shift to finish and clean up! Our goal was 26,000 meals and we ended up with 27,864 meals!

If you couldn't give to this endeavor before and would still like to, merely write "Meals" on the memo line of your check to New Hope UMC.

FYI: Meals staff choose the neediest area to contribute the food and ours has been given to the local food pantries more than once. They publish some recipes to make it more tasty with an addition of tomato sauce and spices, or taco seasoning, etc.



On July 23, we welcomed new members at JROL. We would like to celebrate the growing community and ongoing connection of ministry between campuses.

Welcome to the new members at JROL: Don and Libby Clark, Faye Cowell, Hannah Klatt, McKayla Johnson, Bob Culbertson, Dave and Sherrie Rogers. (missing in photo: Julie Culbertson, Kacy Gruenkemeyer)





## The FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

### Urbandale Pizza Ranch, Fridays at 1pm

#### Leader - James Louk

The theme of our study this year will be the “one anothers” of Scripture. Thirty-five times in the New Testament we see a recurring word pattern: an action verb followed by the words “one another.” For example, “*Comfort one another*” (2 Corinthians 1:4), “*Forgive one another*” (Colossians 3:13), and “*Accept one another*” (Romans 15:7). The Bible says Jesus went about doing good. What good did Jesus do? The “one anothers” show the world how love behaves and what love looks like.

Our first study will be on Friday, September, on the 11th Commandment. The testament will be John 13:34-35: “I give you a new commandment, that you **love one another**. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Please bring your Bible and a note pad. Mark your calendars for study dates for the rest of 2016:

**September 9**  
**September 30**  
**October 14**  
**October 28**  
**November 11**  
**December 9**

See you on September 9th, 1pm at the Urbandale Pizza Ranch!



### Confirmation Class Begins September 11!

The Confirmation class will have their first class meeting on **September 11, 4:30-6:00 p.m.** The Confirmation program is designed to enable the Confirmation students to combine intellectual learning and experiential learning as we spend time together learning about and growing in the Christian faith.

Some of the key components that we have as a part of the program: students help lead in a worship service, they serve in such programs as the Hand of Luke meal to the shelter, and they have a chance to tour other churches and agencies to learn about other expressions of the Christian faith and mission work.

Another key component of our Confirmation experience is the “Mentor” process, in which we ask adult mentors to be with the youth during the class sessions. As one Christian leader said, the Christian faith is more caught than taught, and it is so very helpful for our Confirmation youth to spend some time with and have the Christian faith modeled by an adult who is also on their faith journey. I am so very grateful for the adults who are helping with this year’s Confirmation program.

We look forward to a year of learning, experiences and fun together in our Confirmation program.

**Pastor Jon Gaul**



New Hope needs YOU to help represent our church in our community in the Beavertdale Parade! Please prayerfully consider walking with us on **Saturday, September 17th**, to show your pride in our church! Parade starts at 10am.

To volunteer, contact Eldon Cross, [elcatalia4@gmail.com](mailto:elcatalia4@gmail.com) or 515 250-1476.

<http://www.fallfestival.org/menu.asp>



### Needlers Sewing Day

**Friday, September 30, 9 am – 3 pm**

The Needlers will meet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom to work on quilts for the Care Team as well as Little Dresses, Little Britches and Days for Girls kits for the Iowa Nigeria Partnership mission. Non-sewing tasks are also available.

Stitchers of all abilities are welcome to join us for all or part of the day. Bring your sewing machine, thread, scissors, etc. if possible. If you need a project for the day, please let me know so that I can bring it. We will go to Panera in Johnston for lunch. If you have questions, please contact Diane Densmore, [ddindsml@mchsi.com](mailto:ddindsml@mchsi.com) or 515-270-1974.



### *Israel 2017 Q & A Session September 8<sup>th</sup> 7 PM*

Have you always dreamed of taking a trip to Israel? “The trip of a lifetime!” To walk where Jesus walked, to see the place of his birth, baptism, preaching, miracles, Crucifixion, or places like the Dead Sea, Jericho, and the Sea of Galilee?

Join Pastor Craig and more than 20 others from the community as we explore the Holy lands together June 12-22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. We plan to have about 40 of us filling a bus.

If you have thought about it but are not yet decided you are invited to contact Pastor Craig directly (319-939-6788 / [pastorcferguson@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcferguson@gmail.com)) or plan to attend a Question & Answer session at his house September 8<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM at his house (6850 NW54th Ct. Johnston, Iowa)



It is the season for a spiritual reboot, time to reconnect with God. As students and teachers gear up for a new season of learning it is a great time for each of us to get re-engaged. Join us for kick off as we set the stage for a new season.

JROL Season Premier is scheduled for **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Get involved and find out what purpose and plan God has for your life this year. Come and see the amazing things God is doing in Johnston! Join the celebration with worship, meal, games, music, bounce house, and fun.



### **Save the Date!**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Beggars Night!**

This Year expect a plethora of Fun!

- Community businesses,
- Lots of trunks
- Community Police & Fire
- Goodies, and activities
- + an hour of Pokeman Go lures



# 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 (CLT)

CLT starts on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> and is from 10:45-11:45am for 3 year olds thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Any youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above are welcome to assist in the classrooms. Parents, don't forget to register your children for Christian Learning Time during the month of September! CLT Registration forms are available at the TGIW table in the Fellowship Hall or in the education classrooms. You won't want to miss the fun year we have planned with a brand new rotating curriculum.

On September 11th, the following 3rd graders will receive the "Children's CEV" Bibles during worship:

*New Hope UMC*

*Johnston River of Life*

Olivia Harris

Kaden Krebs

Brook Larsen

Lorelai Roff

William Sheer

Jaela Wills

Kaegan Wigant

### Christian Learning Time Teachers

3 year old- K : Tamara Evans

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Janet Carrigan, Nick Bogue, Abbi Herrick

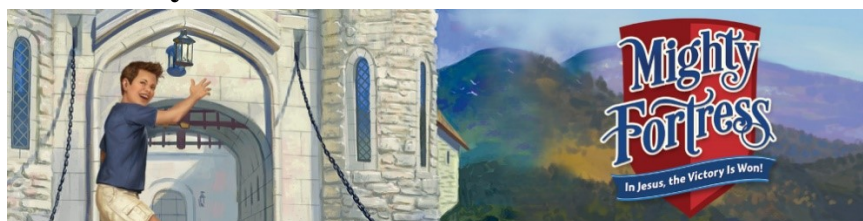
3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sherri Bogue, Andy Sutton

We are using a rotation curriculum with our 3 yr. olds-2<sup>nd</sup> graders this year that involves teaching the Bible stories through art, storytelling, games, cooking, video, science and music. We are always looking for one-time leaders for these activities. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sarah Jacobson at [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)

**Acolyte Training:** For all children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up that want to learn what it means to be an acolyte, there will be a short acolyte training at 10:45 on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you wish to serve our church by acolyting in the 10:45 service, please sign up on the list outside the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom door.

**Children's Worship:** Children's Worship will resume **ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>**. Children's Worship is a meaningful time for children ages 3 years through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to worship and connect with God. Children will participate in an engaging worship service geared just for them in the Sanctuary after the Children's Message during the 9:30 service. We will end our time together in the Orange classroom. We are always looking for youth helpers in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older. If you have any questions or if you would like to help with this program please contact Sarah Jacobson at [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)

## Mark your calendars now for VBS 2017!!!



Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>





## THANK GOD IT'S WEDNESDAY!

A midweek ministry dedicated to children & adults of all ages,  
teaching the Word of God in Scripture, Music and Fun!

### **Join us for an exciting new year of TGIW!!!**

Dinner:	5:30-6:30pm
Kids Activities/Youth Groups:	6:00-7:00pm
Jr. Ringers (for 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade and up):	6:00-6:30pm
Puppets:	7:00-7:45pm

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday= Mission Night  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday= Family Night  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday= Travel Guide to the Parables Curriculum  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday= Game Night  
5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday= Music Night

Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> will be our first official night of TGIW. All kids in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be combined for 15 min of gathering time and 45 min of activity time.

Registration forms are on the TGIW table in the Fellowship Hall. Please make sure to complete a form for your child(ren) and youth. The registration fee is \$10/family for the whole year.

**Jr. Ringers-** Is open to all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and up who want to play bells. They will meet from 6:00-6:30pm every week that TGIW is offered, EXCEPT Family Nights (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month). They will have about 3 performances throughout the year. Starting on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, come learn the basics and determine if you want to join this group. Questions??? Contact Kristin Welter, [t.welter@mchsi.com](mailto:t.welter@mchsi.com).

**Puppets-** Is open to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and up who want to share the gospel message with our congregation through the art form of puppeteering. They will meet from 7:00-7:45pm every week that TGIW is offered, unless otherwise decided by the directors. There will be about 4 performances throughout the year. They can always use parent help with crowd control. Practices start on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Questions??? Contact Melanie Henry, [melhenry0@gmail.com](mailto:melhenry0@gmail.com), or Linda Dean, [deanlinda2@aol.com](mailto:deanlinda2@aol.com), if your child is interested in participating!

**Join us for the...**  
**TGIW Kick-Off Family Picnic & Potluck!!!**  
**Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30-7:00pm**

Join us for a great time of fellowship and activities for the whole family! Hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share, as well as a lawn/outdoor game or activity. We hope to be outdoors for this fun event!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Wednesday, October 12th**  
**TGIW Family Fall Party**

# Youth Groups

## **BLAST—Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens**

### **Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade)** Leaders: Nancy Wiles and Jennifer Riley

Join us for our kick-off gathering on **Wednesday, September 14**. Join the Family Picnic & Potluck at 5:30pm and then stay for the Jr. BLAST fun!



### **Sr. BLAST (8th-12th grade)** Leaders: Chris Higdon, Pam Frey and McKayla Johnson

[BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)

**CALLING ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS;** we are inviting you to join New Hope Senior High BLAST group. This group is open to any High School students and 8<sup>th</sup> graders that are interested in fellowship, learning more about the gospel of Jesus Christ, and giving back to the community.

**Fellowship:** Allow the youth to develop relationships with each other and prepare them to become leaders now and tomorrow in our church.

**Education:** Share the gospel of Jesus Christ to the youth through our activities and Bible study events. Work to integrate the youth into the larger church body, through our active involvement with other church activities.

**Service:** Living out our faith by providing opportunities for the youth to give back to the community/church through meaningful service projects and activities.



We are kicking off the 2016-2017 year on Saturday, September 10th with the Iowa vs Iowa State football game. We are planning a scavenger hunt and pregame tailgate party. We will be meeting at the Church at 4:30 pm on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Finally, please invite and bring your friends to this event; we will have a special surprise for your guest and you for bringing them to this event.

Similar to previous years, the leadership team has already planned the events for the first half of the year. We will have a schedule for you at our kick-off event on September 10<sup>th</sup>. In planning the schedule for the first half of the year, we have kept a lot of the events the same; including our weekly gathering on Wednesday nights at 6pm. During this time, we will be have a Bible study and fellowship time. Come early on Wednesdays -5:30pm - to have dinner with the rest of the TGIW kids.

This year we are switching our group messaging program to "Group Me". If you want to continue getting updates and text messages; please re-scribe using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/zxdssgc>.

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

- Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 pm** ~ Iowa VS Iowa Kickoff
- Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussions – TGBD
- Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>** ~ Rapid City Celebration Lunch at New Hope
- Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussions – TGBD
- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussions – TGBD
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** ~ BLAST Breakfast
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussions – TGBD
- Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ Help at Harvest Dinner at New Hope
- Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ ChildServe
- Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussions – TGBD
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>** ~ BLAST Halloween (*Haunted House & Zombie Burger*)

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, September 10  
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

## Women's Fellowship

Next meeting is Thurs., Sept. 15,  
9am at New Hope.  
Questions? Call Betty Holwegner  
at 278-8115.

## New Hope Needlers

September 30, 9am-3pm. At New  
Hope. Lunch at Panera

If you have questions, contact  
Diane Densmore at  
[ddindsm1@mchsi.com](mailto:ddindsm1@mchsi.com) or 515-270-  
-1974

## Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

by Joanna Weaver

Are you like Martha or are you  
more like Mary? We aren't that  
different from these two women in  
the New Testament. We long to  
spend time with Jesus, but find the  
demands of our day stopping us.  
Hopefully this book will show us  
how we can draw closer to our  
Lord.

Join us on **Mondays thru  
Sept. 19, 1pm in the Ruby  
Chapel for a Bible study** using  
the book, Having a Mary Heart in  
a Martha World. It will be led by  
Armenta Buckingham.

## Care Ministry Team

**Thursday, Oct. 13, 10am**

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 Thurs., October 13,  
10am at New Hope. If you would  
like to join the Care Ministry team,  
please contact Clarice Rubek or  
Mary Ann Rice.

## Blood Pressure Check

First Sunday of each month.  
September 4, 9:30-11:00am will be  
the next BP checks in the Narthex.

## Chancel Choir

Practice on Wednesdays at 6:30pm.  
Join us! Contact Eldon Cross,  
Director of Music,  
[elcatalia4@gmail.com](mailto:elcatalia4@gmail.com) or 515 250-  
1476.

## Veterans Helping Veterans

Our next breakfast will be  
Saturday, September 17, 8:30 a.m.  
at New Hope.

All veterans, their spouses and  
supporters are invited to attend.

## Friday Bible Study

Urbandale Pizza Ranch  
Friday, September 9 at 1pm  
Leader - James Louk

## 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.

### Johnston River of Life Life Group (Bible Study):

Are you looking for a place to  
connect with friends, build your  
faith, and get support?  
Join a small group!

### Faith at Work Study

Thursdays • 6pm • Aflac Office  
Contact Kacy with questions,  
[kagruek@yahoo.com](mailto:kagruek@yahoo.com)

### Photography as a Contemplative Christian Practice

Thursdays • 7pm •  
Wendy Musgrave's Home

### 1 Peter Inductive Bible Study

Sundays • 5:30pm •  
Rotating Locations  
Contact Charity with questions,  
515.720.8299

### Men's Bible Study

Contact Patrick with questions,  
[phmulloy@gmail.com](mailto:phmulloy@gmail.com)

## Detroit Mission Trip

The August 7-12 mission trip to Detroit, MI was very much a blessing to all of us on the team. We helped with rebuilding in 5 different houses and served a meal through the NOAH Project at Central UMC in downtown Detroit. We were also honored to meet our new Iowa Bishop, Bishop Laurie Haller and her husband Pastor Gary while we were there. Pictured L-R are:

Clark Howland, New Hope UMC, Des Moines

Bishop Laurie Haller

Laura Siffin, Johnston River of Life, Johnston

Chelsea Williams, The NOAH Project

Denise Hartford, Johnston River of Life, Johnston

Pastor Gary Haller

Matt Thornton, Johnston River of Life, Johnston

Bruce Dykstra, Garner UMC, Garner

Boyd Crees, Goldfield UMC, Goldfield

Pastor Craig Ferguson, Johnston River of Life & Hopkins Grove UMC

Joe Borchart, Johnston River of Life, Johnston

John Hartford, Johnston River of Life, Johnston





# missions

## SEPTEMBER MISSION NEWS



**WOMEN AT THE WELL** a United Methodist congregation which is located within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, in Mitchellville, Iowa. They are a diverse community composed of women incarcerated at ICIW, men and women from around the State of Iowa who choose to worship with us, and many volunteers who regularly support our ministries and programs. They gather together to share the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to experience the life transforming Spirit of God.

Worship time is on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Place Chapel.

New Hope UMC is a partner to Women at the Well. We have signed a commitment to support them with our:

Prayers: We lift them up in prayer every Sunday worship and encourage our members to pray for them daily.

Presence: We visit once every year to one of their worship services.

Gifts: We give \$1 per member as part of our partnership.

Witness: We have 2 reentry teams that have helped and supported women to return to society after incarceration.

We are presently waiting for new re entry gals.

Service: Women at the Well encourages people to volunteer helping with a variety of things and also teaching arts and crafts.



**LOUISIANA FLOODS:** Because of the devastating floods in Louisiana, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has activated help in that area. You can give to this disaster by indicating "Floods" on the memo line of your check to New Hope UMC.

**THANKSGIVING INGATHERING:** If you are crafty and have items that you would like to donate to an auction or Bazaar at Greenfield such as quilts, wooden items, etc. please contact Sharon Smith. The money raised goes to Iowa mission projects.



**HAND OF LUKE, SEPTEMBER 14:** Another church wanted to serve on September 14th so we won't be cooking or serving, however, this is a good time to stock up on some staples, so please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to help us. When placing frozen things in the freezer, please put your name and the date on the item. Make sure hamburger is wrapped appropriately for freezing. Thank you!!

*We are currently asking for teams of 2 cooks and 2 servers who can rotate taking charge of 2 to 3 months of the year. Additional cooks and servers will sign up as is presently done. Volunteers can contact Sharon Smith at [wicketsblooms@aol.com](mailto:wicketsblooms@aol.com) or 515-419-7082.*



**UMAFASHA:** ESL classes with the UMAFASHA group will tentatively begin during the week of September 18th.

We are planning 2 afternoon classes a week for 4 months and 2 evening classes in the same period.

Childcare is needed and Missions will pay but if anyone would be willing to give to this endeavor, please address your check to New Hope U.M.C. and put UMAFASHA on the memo line. Thank you! Also, if you or someone you know would like to provide child care, please let Sharon Smith or Linda Dean know.

We may also need volunteers to transport students from the area and Oakridge to Urban Heights Covenant Church on 7605 Aurora Ave, Urbandale.

We have been gifted a large amount of teaching materials which we can store at the Urban Heights Covenant Church, the home for the UMAFASHA group. The classes will be held there.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

# EXILE

HOPE AWAY FROM HOME

It is the end of summer, the Sate Fair is over, vacations have ended, teachers and students are preparing for school, and the local stores have all their summer items on clearance.

I love asking people what they did for the summer. The list is always diverse: Disney, Camping, Cruise, Family, None, New York, California, Europe. I am usually jealous cause I love to travel, to experience diversity, new cultures, and although some have a hard time believing it, I actually do like to slow down and relax. But one of the most common statements I hear when people share their story is, "It was a wonderful place to visit, but I would not want to live there." This statement teaches us the value of home, the importance of having a place where we belong, where the people, the landscape, the community, and culture all feel as if they are intimately woven into the fabric of our identity.

A group of us went to Detroit last month on a mission trip and experienced this in a profound way, but I think we also witnessed the other side of reality. The individuals whose homes we worked on felt completely at home even in the midst of a broken system, abandoned businesses, depreciated home values, and low or no income. It made me wonder what the Israelites might have felt during the Exile when God told them to put down roots in a foreign land while some remained at home in a land of ruins. I began asking myself the question where is the hope? How should we handle stress tension and conflict? How do we endure in a situation of life that makes us feel like we are living in a foreign land?

You don't have to move from one nation to another to feel this tension or discomfort with where life has plopped you, it may have snuck up on you when you weren't looking, you may have been busy at work and didn't notice the changing surroundings of home, life, friends, or family.

Maybe a more challenging subject for some is the awareness of the growing number of refugees and immigrants seeking a new home. Can we relate to what these families have gone through? Do we understand the pain and loss? Is it possible to grapple with the concept of feeling like we don't fit anywhere, our family is not safe, and we have nowhere that feels like home anymore?

How can the Church offer Hope, be a Home, and an inclusive family for all people wherever we travel? How do we become something more than borders, ethnicity, lifestyle, and language? How do we become the Kingdom of God, filled with Hope away from Home? Join the Biblical and challenging discussion of being an Exile.

Being Christ in Community ,



## Financial Update

Below is the July 2016 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life. 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

	July 2016
Total Receipts	\$26,990.92
Total Expenditures	<u>29,977.14</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$2,986.22</u>
	YTD 2016
Total Receipts	\$183,603.00
Total Expenditures	<u>191,421.23</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$7,818.23)</u>

### Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	July 2016
Total Receipts	\$10,776.83
Total Expenditures	<u>10,009.40</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$767.43</u>
	YTD 2016
Total Receipts	\$92,732.66
Total Expenditures	<u>66,005.36</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$26,727.30</u>

#### New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
July 31	23	72	87	182
August 7	24	46	47	117
August 14	26	71	66	163
August 21	29	73	94	196

#### Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat		Sun		total
July 30	60	July 31	40	100
Aug 6	47	Aug 7	52	99
Aug 13	33	Aug 14	47	80
Aug 20	70	Aug 21	52	122

## 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.newhopedsn.org](http://www.newhopedsn.org) OR [www.johnstonriveroflife.org](http://www.johnstonriveroflife.org) and click on the donate button. This will direct you securely to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Changes can be made confidentially at any time. Or if you like, paper authorization forms are located on the table in fellowship hall. Please contact the church office for additional information.

If you decide to give electronically, please feel free to pick up a card that says **"I give electronically"** to put in the offering plate if you would like to participate in the offertory.

## The labor to which we're called

In words attributed to Mother Teresa, "Many people mistake our work for our vocation. Our vocation is the love of Jesus." As we celebrate Labor Day, what does such a distinction mean?

*Vocation* comes from Latin for "calling." Christians understand vocation as that for which God created you, involving activities you do well, enjoy and feel good about doing, and that serve others. If you're blessed to earn a paycheck doing something that fits those categories, then your profession or occupation — your work —likely is your vocation.

Other people work a paying job because an opportunity presents itself and the income is needed, even if it isn't their favorite thing to do. Perhaps they live out their truest vocation during non-employment hours: singing with a choir, raising children, building houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Christians in any capacity, paid or not, can live out Jesus' calling to love God and neighbor with our whole being (Luke 10:27). When God is "CEO" of our lives, it shows in how we treat our fellow laborers.

-The NewsletterNewsletter





# Save the Date

## 2016 Harvest Dinner & Auction Fundraiser

Sunday, October 16, 2016  
4 to 8 p.m.

**We need your donations!**  
Some possible ideas are:  
homemade canned goods or baked goods  
knitted, crocheted, sewn or quilted items  
artwork, woodwork, or homemade furniture  
sporting event, handyman or dinner vouchers

General Store: less than \$50 value  
Contact Patrice Webber:  
lpwebber@mchsi.com

Auction: minimum \$50 value  
Contact Melisa Forbes:  
515-276-0695 or mel4bs@aol.com

Tickets go on sale Sept. 18 after each service  
12 years and up: \$10      5-11 years: \$5      Less than 5 years: FREE  
Childcare will be provided during the Auction for children 4 and under



Perhaps you had heard about Self Help International from New Hope's Mission Team, but didn't know much about who they are or what they do. In September, my sister and I, along with six others will be traveling with Nora Tobin, the director of SHI, to Ghana to witness for ourselves what the organization is doing there. Self Help Int. has been "Helping People Help Themselves Since 1959". At present they are working in

Ghana and Nicaragua. Some examples of their work include helping farmers raise more and better crops, supporting women who start small businesses, sponsoring schools and teen clubs for youth, helping girls have better school attendance with personal hygiene kits, helping provide safe drinking water and doing whatever they determine will help people be healthier and more self-sufficient.

**SAVE THE DATE!** On **Sunday, October 23**, the mission committee plans to serve a typical Ghanaian meal after the 10:45 service and then we will share our experiences. More details to come!

New Hope gives annually to this Waverly, IA based mission with our Thanksgiving Ingathering offering.

Karen Skovgard



Mark your calendars for Saturday,  
November 12, 9am-3pm 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 Deb Henry at 515-282-0547 or mssci@aol.com.

# 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 worship services.

**Hosts** bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies (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 September:

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 4 18 25	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 4 11 (10am) Cindy & Clyde Rail 18 25	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 4 18 25
<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 4 18 Cathy Short 25	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 4 11 (10am) 18 25	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 4 Jon Verner 18 25
<b><u>Traditional Service Callers</u></b> 4 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 18 Norma Sutton 25 Bob & Marlys Borcharding	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 4 11 (11am) Rally Day Potluck 18 Sr. BLAST 25 Pam Frey	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 4 Soards family 11 (11am) Rally Day Potluck 18 Sr. BLAST 25
<b><u>Contemporary Service Callers</u></b> 4 Eldon Cross 11 (10am) Rod & Lynette Cook 18 Eldon Cross 25 Rod & Lynette Cook	<b><u>9:30 Computer Support</u></b> 4 Nic Wigant 11 (10am) Kelly Mohrman 18 Nicole Weisskopf 25 Nancy Monthei	<b><u>Money Counters</u></b> 4 Clark Howland, Larry Wood, Rick Homard 11 (10am) Kim Traylor, Jerry Kielsmeier 18 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 25 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss
<b><u>Office Volunteers</u></b> 2 Marilyn Osborn 9 Ellen Hestter 16 Norma Sutton 23 Marlys Borcharding 30 Gayle Easton		



## HOSTS NEEDED!!!

We are in need of volunteers to host after the 9:30 and 10:45 services. If no one volunteers, there will not be coffee and/or cookies served after the services.

Hosting is easy to do. Either bake or purchase 6 dozen cookies.

9:30 Hosts set up and provide treats. 10:45 Hosts provide treats and clean up. You can split the hosting duties with others.

The signup sheets are either on the hosting table or on the counter. There are signup sheets for every month. We really don't want to see this gathering time end. Please signup!

# September 2016

## 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 9a-Noon Vol: Marilyn Osborn	2 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	3  5p, Anderson/Warner Wedding rehearsal
4 Communion 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday  4:30p, Anderson/Warner wedding	5 <b>Office Closed</b> Labor Day	6 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	7  6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team	8  7p, Nominating Committee Mtg., R.Chapel	9 Office Vol. Ellen Hester  1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	10 7:30a, Men's Breakfast  Sr. BLAST service project and ISU/IA game
11 Rally Day! 10am Worship Potluck Games	12 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel  7p, Worship Cluster Mtg., Pastor's office 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	13 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  7p, Finance Mtg., R.Chapel	14 3:30p, Hand of Luke 5:30p, Family Night—Picnic & Potluck 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team	15  9a, Women's Fellowship, F.Hall	16 Office Vol. Norma Sutton  <b>Deadline for October LINK</b>  4:30p, F.Hall & FLC reserved	17 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast, F.Hall  8a-4:30p, F.Hall & FLC reserved
18 Guest Speaker: Brenda McConahay  C.E.Offering Food Pantry Sunday	19  1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 7p, SPRC Mtg., R.Chapel	20 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  7p, Stroke Club, Sanctuary	21 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	22  7p, AD Council Mtg., R.Chapel	23 Office Vol: Marlys Borcharding	24
25  Sr. BLAST lunch	26	27 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	28 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	29	30 Office Vol: Gayle Easton  9a, New Hope Needlers at church  1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	Oct. 1

**\*UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY, SUNDAY, SEPT. 18** Your generous gifts support United Methodist scholarships and the United Methodist Student Loan Fund, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

## Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- 1 Levi Kinnetz, Zoie Lamp, Madysan Johnson, Samuel Gaul
- 2 Craig Ferguson
- 4 James Neu
- 5 Tim Carrigan, Madilyn Moellers, Angie Eaves
- 6 Marlys Borcharding, Taylor Martz
- 7 Eugene Pecinovsky, Maddox Alcorn
- 8 Eli Goodson, Trenton Cracraft
- 9 Jerry Kielsmeier, Jenn Higdon, Trent Johnson, Charlie Strauss
- 10 Kirk Hartung, Ambrose Moses, Grace Rowland, Grace Beasley
- 11 Lindsey McCulley, Nathan Grow, Elaine Sheer
- 12 Emma Monthei, Byron Hover-Williamson
- 13 John Kirkpatrick, Abbey Hitchcock
- 14 Randy Jansen, Deane Glen

- 15 Sharon Lewis, Eddy Johnston, Kristine Wakeman, Judy Nemmers
- 16 Nancy Monthei, Emma Weih
- 17 Ruth Doxon
- 18 Dennis Haugland, Allyson Sutton, Sherri Bogue
- 19 Jordan Thompson, Ty Dolberg, Megan Thomsen, Joe Borchardt
- 20 Maya Johnston
- 21 Glenda Millard, Zane Sutton
- 22 Clarice Rubek, Brian Hartung
- 23 Donna Gronstal, Karla Rankin, Patty Gressman
- 24 Janet Carrigan
- 25 Jeffrey Huber, Matt Trillet
- 27 Valerie Hawthorne, Kyle Redies, Julie Boyles, Nora Mundy
- 28 Bryan Haase, Susan Clark
- 30 Joe Nemmers

## Happy Anniversary!!!

- 6 Greg & Raynette Meyers
- 8 Gene & Elaine Lesch
- 9 Dustin & Melanie Henry
- 9 Chad & Cindy Meyer
- 10 Bob & Marge Robinson
- 14 John & Joyce Turek
- 14 John & Carolyn Burrough
- 15 Jerry & Becky Baker
- 18 Scott & Lisa Peterson
- 18 Jason & Tamara Evans
- 19 Tom & Ann Schultz
- 21 Steve & Liz Grow
- 22 Corey & Deanne Miller
- 23 Dennis & Renee Haugland
- 26 Jamie & Marte Carlson
- 30 Joe & Kim Traylor

*If you see that your name is not listed,  
please call the church office at 278-2097,  
or email at [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org),*



## Where did summer go?



It's hard to believe that summer has wound down and another school year is beginning. As I reflect back on my summer, although it seems to have gone so fast, there was a lot that went on.

It began with our annual statewide United Methodist Conference the first weekend of June. This was the last conference with our current bishop, Bishop Julius Trimble. He has completed two four year terms with us and has now been reassigned to serve the Indiana Conference. Our new bishop is Bishop Laurie Haller, who will begin her service in Iowa on September 1. She is coming from Michigan and members of our New Hope/JROL mission team that worked in Detroit the second week of August got to meet and have a meal with her and her husband, who is also a pastor. We look forward to her coming and leading our conference.

Also in June, JROL held Vacation Bible School and the Senior Blast youth group went on their annual mission trip. The Senior Blast went to Rapid City, South Dakota the week of June 26 to July 2. I went along with them this year and had a very meaningful time working with our youth and adult leaders as we served people in need. We served a meal at a community center started by the downtown United Methodist Church as a place for those who are homeless to do activities, store belongings, receive mail, and receive help looking for jobs. We met some Native Americans who shared craft work with us, a woman who grew up in Carlisle, Iowa (who asked us to say "Hi" to Carlisle for her), and a woman from Arizona with a puppy who had been abandon in Rapid City. We also helped sort donations at a Salvation Army Thrift Store, meeting and working with many people there. We helped with activities at a church affiliated nursing home, helped clean an historic church, and helped sort and salvage donations at a Habitat for Humanity Restore. One of our fearless leaders, Chris Higdon, led the group in raising over \$800 for the Restore by scrapping metal! We also had sightseeing trips to historic locations (two trips to Mt. Rushmore) and finished our work by serving over 200 people at an outdoor cookout. We chose to do a high ropes course and zip line for our "fun" activity. Stay tuned as the group will share an appreciation meal and further description with pictures of our trip at New Hope soon.

THANK YOU the following that were part of the youth mission trip: Chris Higdon, Charity & McKayla Johnson, Pam Frey, Hanna Ferguson, Brianna Johnson, Caroline Christensen, Drew Wise, and Brandin Johnson.

In July, New Hope held Vacation Bible School the week of July 17. Many adults helped provide the kids with a very meaningful experience. I enjoyed leading an adult class in a study of the major world religions, comparing them with Christianity. I can make handouts and videos available to those who are interested.

I took some personal time at the end of July and the first two weeks of August. If you don't know, the last full week of July is annually reserved for Ragbrai, the bike ride across Iowa. I don't go every year, but I have gone the last nine years in a row and have gone twenty-one times out of the forty-four Ragbrais that have been held. It's become a "bad habit" for me (that's actually a good habit I think).

The first two weeks of August, Anita and I and our son, daughter-in-law, and grandson took a drive to the great state of Washington! Our daughter-in-law has an aunt and cousins there and Anita and I have special family friend near Seattle that we got to see. I'll have to tell you about that friend, Marge, another time. There's a lot to learn from her!

So, Fall is coming and that when things really start happening again (I don't think summer slowed down one bit). Stay tuned for all of the great fall activities to come!

Blessings,

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

## The Season after Pentecost: Theme - "Molded by God"

Sept. 4	<u>Title:</u> "Molded by the Potter's Hand"	<u>Script.:</u> Jeremiah 18:1-11	Holy Communion
Sept. 11	<u>Title:</u> "Molded by Mercy"	<u>Script.:</u> 1 Timothy 1:12-17	Rally Day
Sept. 18	Guest Speaker, Brenda McConahay		
Sept. 25	<u>Title:</u> "Molded by Hope "	<u>Script.:</u> Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	



#### Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

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

#### Johnston River of Life Casual Worship Services

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

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

Sundays at 10am

Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

[www.newhopedsm.org](http://www.newhopedsm.org) • [www.johnstonriveroflife.org](http://www.johnstonriveroflife.org)

#### Church Staff

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

#### Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

#### E-mail Information

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
Jon Gaul: [jgaul@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jgaul@newhopedsm.org)

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Eldon Cross: [eldon@newhopedsm.org](mailto: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.

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