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A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

November 2016

NOVEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC

CHOSEN BY GOD

- Nov. 6 "First Fruits"
- Nov. 13 Guest Speaker
- Nov. 20 "First Born"
- Nov. 27 "First Light"



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERIES



Everyday
SAINTS

Saturdays 5pm & Sundays 10am
Beaver Creek Elementary

JohnstonRiverOfLife.org



Thanksgiving Stewardship Celebration

Through the month of November, as we give thanks and celebrate the ministries and missions of New Hope, we will ask for your prayerful consideration of the financial support you feel led to give for our 2017 budget.

On Sunday, November 13, we will have a special guest speaker share with us, Rev. Bob Ward. Pastor Bob, along with his wife, Martha, co-led the Ankeny United Methodist Church, our largest United Methodist Church in Iowa, for nearly sixteen years. Through their leadership, Ankeny continued to grow and expanded into a multi-site church, with three campuses.

Following the 10:45 a.m. worship service that day, we will have a chance during our coffee hour to hear more from Pastor Bob and myself, as we plan for the future of New Hope. I most highly encourage all of you to attend one of our services that morning and then join us at 12:00 noon for this special sharing.

On Sunday, November 20, we will have the opportunity to share our estimates of giving for 2017 and celebrate our "**Harvest**" of blessings as we look forward to the new year.

Thank you all for being a part of the New Hope blessings and please plan to join us for these special services!

Pastor Jon



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; Margaret Hemphill; Carol Evans; Bob Nuzum; Esther Stout; 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 Corey and Deanne Miller and family on the passing of Deanne's father, Russell "Rusty" Buckley.

New Hope Prayer Ministry

In the Fellowship Hall I'm sure you have all noticed the beautiful prayer shawls that are in a basket waiting to be delivered to someone who is in the hospital or very ill. There has been something new added. On this same table are index cards that have prayer requests on them. These prayer requests have come from women who are incarcerated in Mitchellville and attend worship service at The Women at the Well. New Hope is in partnership with Women at the Well and one of the things we can do as a congregation is offer prayer from these requests. Each week Pastor Jon receives an e-mail from Women at the Well with the requests, he forwards the list to me and as I write each request down I pray for that person, but we can do more. Won't you take a card and pray for that person also?



Also, there are yellow sticky notes, if any of you have prayers that you would like lifted up for people in our community please write them down and put them in the leaf basket, they too will be prayed for.

A big thank you to Jan and Mary Ann for your faithfulness in sending the New Hope Family prayer concerns. We all know the power of prayer!

Blessings,
Barb Mather

Sun., Nov. 6
Daylight Saving Time ends



Wedding

Congratulations to Aaron Corcoran and Meagan McCullough on their October 1st wedding.

Baptisms

Congratulations to August Beed Cannon Abbott and Conifer Calvin Cannon Abbott, sons of Kent Abbott and Sandy Cannon, who were baptized on October 9.

Beaver Drive

According to the Iowa DOT website...the Beaver Drive bridge over I-35/80 is **estimated for completion by November 10, 2016!**

Watch for the road closure signs to come down around that time. Fingers crossed!!



Church Communications

Stay connected with New Hope UMC!!

Weekly announcements and the monthly newsletters are sent out to everyone via email.

If you have not been receiving these emails, please contact Nancy Monthei in the church office at 278-2097 or nhfamily@newhopedsm.org.

CONTACT information We appreciate receiving your updated contact information. Thank you!





Fall Cleanup November 5th

The Board of Trustees have planned a “Fall Campus Cleanup Day” on Saturday, November 5th, 9:00 a.m. until finished. *Lunch will be provided with pie.*

We will be trimming bushes, cleaning up leaves, and further beautifying our church campus. ***We need your help, please plan to attend by volunteering your time and talents! Please bring gloves, rakes, trimmers, leaf blowers, etc. if you have them.*** Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



Honoring our Veterans

On Sunday, November 6, during each of the worship services, we will be honoring our veterans who have served in the military at any

time in their lifetime. If you are a veteran, we would very much like to recognize you on that Sunday.

We are grateful for the service our veterans have given to our country, and want to have a chance to share our thanks.

Adorning our church for the most blessed season!

Please stay after the 9:30 & 10:45 services on **November 20th** to participate in the *hanging of the greens* for our Advent season.

Many hands make light work!

Thank you from your Altar Guild.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Frey, 515-490-8440 or yayafrey@gmail.com



garlands of

Gifts

Saturday, November 12 9:00AM-3:00PM

Craft & Gift Fair with over **40** vendors showcasing jewelry, candles, home décor, beauty items, children’s items, food, cleaning products, and much, much more!

Baked goods for purchase.

See it, touch it, buy it and find it, all in one day!

FREE Admission!!

Community Thanksgiving Service

Saint James Lutheran Church
5665 Merle Hay Road – Johnston, Iowa
Sunday, November 20, 6:30 PM



Express your gratitude for all of God’s blessings with all of Johnston’s believers.

In addition to joining us for Worship, you are invited to join a community choir that will practice and share fellowship together:

- “ 5 PM - choir members arrive and get oriented
- “ 5:10 PM - rehearsal begins
- “ 5:55 PM - sandwich & nourishment break
- “ 6:20 PM - we ask singers to get into their places
- “ 6:30 PM – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

For more information contact Saint James Lutheran Church at 515-276-0134.



Family Advent Party

Sunday, November 20
Noon—1:30pm

Come join us for a time to prepare your family for advent through:

- ◆ Crafts
- ◆ Devotions
- ◆ Music

More details to come.

Poinsettia Orders

Deadline is November 20

You can order a poinsettia, in honor or in memory of a loved one, which will be utilized to decorate the New Hope sanctuary and the FLC stage during the Advent and Christmas season.



Please complete the poinsettia order form on the tear-off form of the bulletins and place your reservation along with your check with the offering. Deadline is November 20.

The cost is \$8.00 per plant.



**Advent by
Candlelight**
Monday, November 28
7:00 p.m.

Enter the season of advent in a spirit of love and joy rather than stress and anxiety.

Dessert will be served by table hostesses; followed by a program of music, scripture, verse, and stories. All women of the church (including high school students) and their guests are invited to attend.

SIGN-UP: Sign-up sheets for those wishing to attend and those volunteering to hostess are in the fellowship hall.

Changes this year affect how you sign-up.

If 4 or more friends want to share a table, one or two of your group should sign-up to hostess the table. As attendance for our special evening grows each year, it is increasingly difficult to seat groups of friends with a random hostess.

Solution? Hostess your own table!

Someone takes care of dessert and the others take care of the table. There is no reason to go over-board with decorating, since the best part is sharing our evening together.

Hostesses are expected to register their list of guests with Cathy Cate to assure everyone has a seat.

Deadline to sign up is November 13.

**Women's Chorus
Advent by Candlelight**



Singers are wanted for Women's Chorus for Advent by Candlelight.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Practice times are Nov. 13 & 27, after the 10:45 service, in the Sanctuary. Linda Reaney will be directing.

Come join us in this musical contribution to the Advent season.



Display Your Nativity Set

Please join in on our annual Nativity display at New Hope UMC!

We will provide place cards and additional paper if you have a story to share about it. You may leave your Nativity set(s) up throughout the Advent season.

NEW this season... if you have kid friendly Nativity sets, we could use them on a table that the kids can touch and play with.

Please bring your Nativity set(s) to church on November 27.

Thank you from your Altar Guild. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Frey, 515-490-8440 or yayafrey@gmail.com

Christmas Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 11, 2016
After all three worship services

Share some Christmas cheer by donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy to the New Hope Cookie Walk!

Sign up on the forms in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will donate. The more cookies that we have, the more fun for everyone!



Due to peanut allergies, please do not use any nuts or peanut butter.

Examples of home-baked items to consider to donate are: sugar cutout & decorated Christmas cookies, gingersnaps, chocolate chip, chocolate, oatmeal, lemon, candy cane, Oreo balls, Kringla, dipped pretzel rods, etc.



We also invite you to make bars (pre-cut) and candy such as caramels, fudge, and toffee.

These are only suggestions and we know you will have many, many more yummy ideas!!

Here's how the event will bring Christmas cheer to everyone:

- * **Sign up** to donate home-baked cookies, bars or candy
- * **Deliver** the home-baked goods to the church on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2-4pm.
- * **Purchase.** On Sunday, Dec. 11, everyone is welcome to participate in the Christmas Cookie Walk! Walk around the table to choose cookies, placing them in a provided Styrofoam box (size 9 1/2 x 9 1/2 x 3), and purchase \$10.00 per box. The whole box full for \$10 as long as the lid can close.
- * **Enjoy!** It's that easy for some Christmas cheer for you or to give as a gift!

Join us in this very special event! Questions? Please contact Nancy Monthei, in the church office, at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org or 515-278-2097.

2016 HARVEST DINNER & AUCTION FUNDRAISER WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all of you who participated in this year's event!
Whether you came for the fellowship, donated something, bought an item or two, or worked in any way to make this year's event a success, we thank you and appreciate you!

- HARVEST DINNER COMMITTEE



groups gathering together

Friday Bible Study

Urbandale Pizza Ranch, 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." 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.

Please bring your Bible and a note pad.

November 11
December 9

Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 1pm, Ruby Chapel

"James forces us to face the implication of faith. Be inspired to put your faith into action in practical ways as you get to know both the man and the Book of James." quote from Beth Moore.

Armenta Buckingham and Roberta Cave are going to lead a group on the study of James. They will be using a Beth Moore study called James, Mercy Triumphs. We are not using the workbook, but will be discussing the topics.

The class will be held on Monday's at 1:00 starting October 24th. Hope you can join us. Please bring your Bible with you.

New Hope Needlers

Friday, November 18, 9am-3pm in the 3rd grade classroom.

We will not be sewing. Instead, we will assemble "Days for Girls" kits with the components we have already made. We will carpool to Panera for lunch. If you have questions, contact Diane Densmore at ddindsm1@mchsi.com or 270-1974

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 12
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

Next meeting is Thurs., Nov. 17, at 9am in the Fellowship Hall for our gathering time with coffee and treats. At 9:30am we gather in the Ruby Chapel for devotions followed by an educational program on a local mission need. Following the program, our business meeting begins where we make our plans to meet our local mission needs.

All women of our church are welcome to join us!

Questions? Contact Betty Holwegner at 278-8115 or Lee Ross at 276-9790.

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. 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.
November 6, 9:30-11:00am will be the next BP checks in the Narthex.

Veterans Helping Veterans

Our next breakfast will be **Saturday, November 19, 8:30am**
All veterans, their spouses and supporters are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Billy Nuzum, bbnewz54@gmail.com

Adult Discussion Group

Join us at New Hope on Sundays at 9:30am in the Ruby Chapel. Group discussions are based from "The Wired Word" that weaves current events into the Bible study.

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!

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

Chancel Choir

Practice on Wednesdays at 6:30p.
Seasonal choir rehearsals at 7:30pm for the Dec. 18 Christmas cantata. Join us! Contact Eldon Cross, Director of Music, elcatalia4@gmail.com or 515 250-1476.



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)

Children and Youth led Christmas Services

Sunday, December 4th
8:30, 9:30 and 10:45am

This year our children, youth and families will have an opportunity to choose which service they would like to take some leadership roles in. We have opportunities for acolyting, special music, advent candle lighting/reading, communion helpers, ushers/greeters, reading scripture and more. Our puppets group will be performing at all three services as well. **If your child or family would like to help in a certain way, please contact Sarah Jacobson!** We want to get as many children, youth and families involved as possible. We hope you'll consider joining us as we celebrate the Christmas season with our young people.

Note: There will be No Children's Worship on this day, but CLT will remain as scheduled for those who will not be involved in the 10:45 service.

What's new on the Children and Family Ministries Resource Board???

This month in the Parent Link and on the bulletin board you will find an activity puzzle for kids, and a meal time devotion titled "King on the Mountain." The parent resource articles for this month are titled "How Do We Teach Children Stewardship?" and "Kids and Communion: 10 Things to tell them." If you have any ideas for Parent Resources or other topics you'd like more information on, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas. In fact, for our TGIW program, this is the biggest part of our year, **AND WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!!!!**

Santa's Attic: If you are looking to clean out your house of some gently used items, we ask that you would please put them aside for our Santa's Attic event. On December 14th, our children will get an opportunity to do some "Christmas shopping" for their family members. We especially need great gifts for dads! **Santa's Attic items can be brought to Sarah's office starting in November!**



Operation Christmas Child: Are you looking for something to do in your free time? If so, we would love to have your help with prepping for our Operation Christmas Child Event in November. We need shoe boxes wrapped and gift items purchased to stock the boxes. Check out the TGIW table for more information, or contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org if you'd like to help with this. **Save the date for our Packing event: Wed, November 9th!**

Mark your calendars now for VBS 2017!!!



Sunday, July 16th – Thursday, July 20th

confirmation schedule



Nov 6, 4:30 p.m.
Topic: "Way of Salvation & Quadrilateral"
Nov 20, 4:30 p.m. (Mentor night)
Topic: "Worship & Sacraments"

TGIW

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 year of TGIW!!!

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

This month at TGIW...

- November 2nd - Mission Night: Packing Ingathering Kits
- November 9th - Operation Christmas Child Packing Event (more details below)
- November 16th - Travel Guide to the Parables: The Parable of the Lost Sheep
(Based on Matthew 18:10-14)
- November 23rd - No TGIW/Thanksgiving Break
- November 30th - Music Night



Join us for our Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Packing Event

*****Wednesday, November 9th, 6-7pm, during TGIW *****

What can you do to help?

Volunteers are needed on this date to help the children with their shopping and writing of notes. Consider pre-wrapping your box, or volunteer some time to do so. Contact Sarah to help with this.

WE NEED DONATIONS OF:

- **Empty shoe boxes**- lid and box wrapped separately or unwrapped
- **Toys** that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars/trucks/airplanes (wheels need to be larger than Match-box size), stuffed animals, kazoos, marbles, harmonicas, jump ropes, balls (specifically soccer balls with a pump provided), toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.
- **School Supplies** such as pens, pencils and sharpeners, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- **Non-Liquid Hygiene Items** such as toothbrushes/toothpaste (with a holder), bar soap (with a plastic soap dish), combs, washcloths, band-aids, etc.
- **Accessories** such as **PLAIN** t-shirts with no writing, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.
- **Other items** such as hard candy and gum, good quality mealtime plate, bowl and/or cup.
- **A monetary donation to cover the cost of purchasing remaining gift items**- check made out to the Missions fund with "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line.

Please note that many of these items will go to non-english speaking countries so try not to pack or purchase gifts (example-games) that only have directions written in English.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

All shoe boxes need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 13th!!!

If your family chooses to pack their own box, pick up an Operation Christmas Child shoebox and follow the instructions online at www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child. If you choose to pay for the shipping online, you will get a tracking number to see what country your gift will go to.

Youth Groups

BLAST—Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

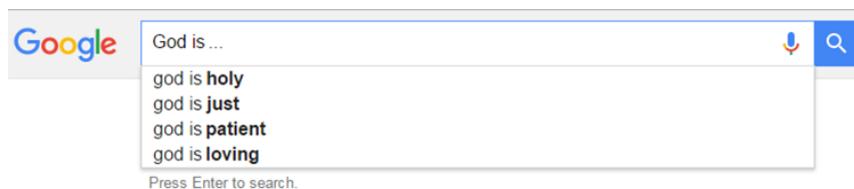
Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade) Leaders: Nancy Wiles and Jennifer Riley
Join the Jr BLAST fun on Wednesdays at 6pm at church!



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

The leaves are changing... the weather is getting cold... We are finally going into fall; which also means a busy time for Senior High BLAST. However, October was a very busy month for our group. We started the month serving breakfast and working at Pizza Ranch. We ended the month by hosting two trunk or treat events at both New Hope and Zion Lutheran Church. We couldn't have done these activities with the hard work from both the parents and youth. Thank you, for all of your help this past month and we look forward to your continued involvement in our upcoming events.

Our month of November has a lot of events planned. The group will be continuing to meet on Wednesday nights to looking to different aspects of God ("Holy", "Just", "Patient", "Loving"). We started this discussion in October with exploring the concept that "God is Holy".



With our new approach to Wednesday night bible study; the Senior BLAST leaders would like to invite New Hope and JROL members to come into our study and talk to the group about a specific topic. This could be on any topic you are passionate about (*Prayer, Mission, etc.*). If you are willing to come in and talk; please come talk to either Pam Frey, Chris Higdon, or McKayla Johnson.

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

- Oct. 26th @ 5pm** ~ Trunk or Treat with Zion Refugees
- Oct. 28th** ~ BLAST Halloween (*Haunted House & Zombie Burger*)
- Nov. 2nd @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST Discussions** – **TGBD**
- Nov. 6th @ 8am** ~ BLAST Breakfast
- Nov. 9th @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST Discussions** – **TGBD**
- Nov. 16th @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST Discussions** – **TGBD**
- Nov. 30th @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST Discussions** – **TGBD**
- Dec. 3rd @ 4:30pm** ~ JROL Soup Dinner
- Dec. 7th @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST Discussions** – **TGBD**
- Dec. 11th @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Christmas Party
- Dec. 14th @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for **BLAST Discussions** – **TGBD**

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

missions

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS



Heifer International: For generations, Heifer has provided resources and training for struggling small-scale farmers in order to give them a chance to change their circumstances. Solving hunger and poverty on a global scale requires focus on sound, community-based work aligned with a long-term commitment to achieving self-reliance.

Heifer mobilizes people by linking small-scale farmers to markets, empowering economic growth and stability across entire regions.

By using mentoring programs, they are training project partners in the skills they need to develop production experience and business expertise. The partnerships with governments, private organizations, non-profit coalitions and other networks enable them to find effective solutions with substantial impact.

New Hope Missions has supported Heifer each November and December because we believe in the mission of their giving animals and training plus ongoing support and mentoring to enable entire poverty stricken villages to become self sustaining and prospering members of their country's economy. **We encourage every member to give a share or an animal in honor of a loved one(s). You can pick up honor cards from the Mission table and send in place of a Christmas card to let them know your love for them continues on in a gift that keeps on giving.**

UMAFASHA: We have ESL teachers ready to go and are waiting to set up the classes when it is convenient for all.



Hand of Luke (HOL): We will be meeting soon with our cooking teams to select menus and schedules. We are still needing a team of 2 cooks to help. If you would like to be on a rotating schedule of cooking for 2 months out of the year for Hand of Luke, our shelter feeding mission, please call /text or email Sharon Smith (515-419-7082 wicketsblooms@aol.com) or Linda Dean (515-707-2384 deanlinda2@aol.com).

Please also sign up to donate food items for the November 14 HOL service project. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanksgiving Ingathering: The TGIW children will be assembling kits November 2nd, to be delivered to our ingathering site at Greenfield, UMC on Saturday, November 5th. If you would like to contribute to a kit or partial kit, pick up a list of items for the kits on the Mission table at the rear of Fellowship Hall. These kits are used during disaster relief or for micro economic programs through the United Methodist Church's outreach around the world. Place your items in the appropriate basket before November 2nd. We will be taking a quilt lovingly made by Kathy Russi, and several great wooden craft items from the workshop of Steve Sutton to be auctioned off for funds supporting our district's mission projects. If you have other items for this auction, please let Sharon know. We have received grants from this fund to help with our Meals from the Heartland for the last 2 years.

Disaster Relief: UMCOR: With the tragic Hurricane Matthew related flooding and devastation in the Caribbean region and our Eastern Seaboard, our United Methodist Committee on Relief is busy helping victims recover. Every cent that we give is used for the relief as our apportionments cover administration costs, so you can be assured no money is wasted through this wonderful program. UMCOR stays in an area until no longer needed. When you give to disaster relief, just label your check as UMCOR and our treasurer will direct it to the correct area.



Angel Tree: Late in November, watch for the Angel Tree tags that will be available for gifting children of parents in prison.



Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)

The Des Moines Hungry Turkey Half Marathon & 5K is being held on Saturday, November 26 (the day after Thanksgiving) from 7:00 A.M. to Noon. DMARC has been named the charity beneficiary of the run and is responsible for providing 40 volunteers. It can also receive bonus funds for providing extra volunteers. DMARC will receive \$1,000 for the first 40 volunteers and an additional \$15 for each extra volunteer, up to a total of 60. Volunteers of all ages are welcome, but only those age 13 and above will be included in the official count. Additional volunteer details will be released closer to the event date. **You may sign up to volunteer online at signup.com/go/VWmHZR.**

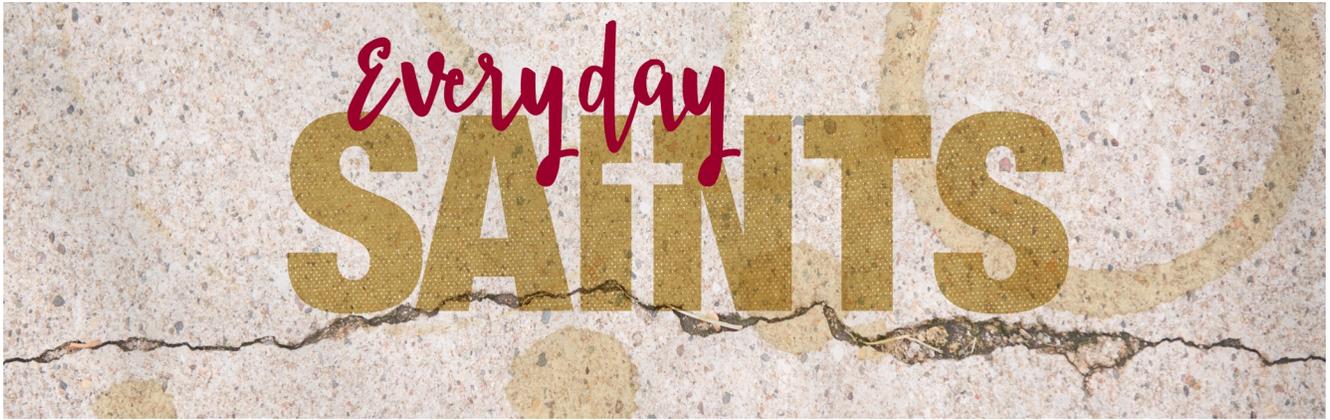
In July, DMARC started a Mobile Food Pantry. This was made possible by the Polk County Board of Supervisors and the Partnership for a Hunger-Free Polk County. Other donors include Stivers Ford Lincoln, Schneider Graphics, Snappy's Trailer Store, H & H Trailers and two individual bequests. In October, a new Mobile Food Pantry site began at the Polk County Health Department building at 1907 Carpenter Avenue in Des Moines. The Mobile Food Pantry will be there from 9:30-11:30 A.M. on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. Other Mobile Food Pantry locations are:

Levitt B&G Club	4:00-6:00 P.M.	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday
John R Grubb YMCA	10:00 A.M to Noon	Wednesday
South Suburban YMCA	2:30-5:00 P.M.	Wednesday
Highland Park Lutheran Church	9:00-11:00 A.M.	Thursday
Norwoodville Senior Center	1:00-3:00 P.M.	Thursday
The Crest at Baker Creek	9:30-11:30 A.M.	2 nd and 4 th Friday

Volunteers are needed to help with the Mobile Food Pantries. To sign up to volunteer, please contact Joe Dolack, Mobile Food Pantry Manager, at 515-318-9228 or jdolack@dmarcunited.org.

*Thank you to everyone that participated in the **Fall Family Festival, October 19.** Families enjoyed a delicious meal, games & activities and a trunk or treat! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this a wonderful event for the church family!*





Saints are all around us. It is not about being dead and doing miracles. It is more about the every day stuff, character traits that display the image of God: Love, Prayer, Humility, Grace, and Generosity.

One book that has made an impact on me and continues to shape my thoughts and life is from a Carmelite Monk of the 17th century, Brother Lawrence. His book is a compilation of letters and conversations that focus on developing an awareness of *Practicing the Presence of God*. Here is a quote that oft brings pause for thought.

“The difficulties of life do not have to be unbearable. It is the way we look at them - through faith or unbelief - that makes them seem so. We must be convinced that our Father is full of love for us and that He only permits trials to come our way for our own good.

Let us occupy ourselves entirely in knowing God. The more we know Him, the more we will desire to know Him. As love increases with knowledge, the more we know God, the more we will truly love Him. We will learn to love Him equally in times of distress or in times of great joy.”

— **Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God**

Sometimes in the mist of life's challenges we struggle to know what to do. I know several persons who are looking for jobs, finances are tight, have health concerns, or tense relationships. Do these challenges define us? Do we focus on them, stress, and vent?

In stressful times we often have two choices. First, to fuel the fire in *unbelief* and allow our emotions and stress to amplify a situation. Or, secondly we can do as Brother Lawrence teaches us, *through faith*, that the current situation is of God and for our own good.

Now, this is not an easy course. It is one I have traveled many times. It requires an abundance of the Love of God, deep Prayer, personal Humility, extensive Grace, and sacrificial Generosity with others. Above all Brother Lawrence teaches us that if we “occupy ourselves in knowing God,” our faith reveals the unbearable to be a blessing in disguise.

May we count it a joy to encounter difficulties that God intends to transform us.

Being Christ in Community,

Pastor Craig Ferguson

2017 Lilly Renewal for Pastor Craig

New Hope/JROL/Hopkins Grove have received a grant of \$49,707 to enable pastor Craig Ferguson to participate in the 2016 National Clergy Renewal Program. We are among 146 congregations across the United States selected to participate in this competitive grant program, which is funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Established by the Endowment in 2000, the program's grants allow Christian congregations to support their pastors with the gift of extended time away from their ministerial duties and responsibilities.

Pastor Craig will be spending his renewal time in Scotland reconnecting with his heritage, practicing spiritual disciplines, traveling the countryside to visit historic family sites, and spiritual retreat centers. There will be time for musical education on the Bagpipes, spiritual renewal and practice of disciplines in beautiful and ancient settings. There will be days of hiking and fishing, leisure with family, and engaging the religious culture of Scotland.

Christian congregations were invited to apply for program grants of up to \$50,000. The application process was participatory in nature, involving congregations and their pastors in the design and development of the renewal experience. Up to \$15,000 of the grant could be allocated to fund interim pastoral leadership, as well as renewal activities within the congregation. Pastors were encouraged to include their families in the renewal activities.

Ministers whose congregations are awarded the grants use their time away from the demands of daily ministry to engage in reflection and renewal. The approach respects the "Sabbath time" concept, offering ministers a carefully considered respite that may include travel, study, rest, immersive arts and cultural experiences, and prayer.

Craig's agenda is as follows:

June 23 - 25	Relaxing and packing before the trip
June 26 – July 5	Whole Family in Scotland, exploring the culture and history
July 6-16	Glasgow Bagpipe Intensive I
July 17 – 23	Isle of Iona Spiritual Retreat
July 24 – Aug 4	Prayer Walking Great Glen Way
Aug 5 – 6	Tartan Heart Festival
Aug 7-13	Riding ScotRail seeing the Highlands
Aug 14 – 20	Gerrannan Black House & Callanish Stones
Aug 21 – 26	Prayer Walking Isle of Skye
Aug 26 – Sept 1	Isle of Eigg Spiritual Retreat
Sept 2 – 3	Braemar Gathering Games
Sept 4-10	Hiking & Fly Fishing in the Cairngorm Mountains
Sept 11 – 26	Scottish Civic Trust Doors Open Days Family Heritage Research
Sept 27 – Oct 5	Glasgow Bagpipe Intensive II
Oct 6 – 13	Home and Reconnecting with Family

"Lilly Endowment intends for this program to enable pastors to live for a while at a different pace and in a new environment, in Sabbath time and space," said Dr. Christopher L. Coble, the Endowment's vice president for religion. "We can think of no better way to honor these hardworking, faithful men and women than to help them experience personal growth and spiritual renewal in ways that they themselves design and find meaningful. We regularly hear that these renewal experiences are transformative for pastors, their families and their congregations."

There will be Q&A sessions early in 2017 as well as a send off event on June 9th and return celebration on October 20th 2017.



Israel 2017 - June 12th - 22nd Deadline to sign up – March 12, 2017

Have you always dreamed of taking a trip to Israel? "The trip of a lifetime!"

Walk where Jesus walked,

See the **Bethlehem** and see the **Shepherds field**

Step into the **Jordan river** where Jesus was baptized

Pray on the **Mount of Olives** and look at the **Temple Mount**

Meditate in the **Garden of Gethsemane**

Enter the cell in the **House of Caiaphas** Jesus was held in
and the **Garden Tomb**

Pray at the **Western Wall (Wailing Wall)**

Walk the **Via Dolorosa**

Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

Sail on the **Sea of Galilee**

Don't miss **Masada** and the **Dead Sea**

Experience **Yad Vashem** (Israel's Holocaust Museum)

Visit **Jericho, Cana, Qumran, Tel Megiddo, Caesarea,**

Capernaum, and so much more!!!

Join Pastor Craig and more than 30 others from the community as we explore the Holy lands together June 12-22nd 2017. 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)

Come spend Christmas with us....



Sunday, December 4

Children and Youth led Christmas Services

Sunday, December 11

Christmas Cookie Walk after all three services

Saturday, December 17

5:00 & 7:00 p.m.: A Johnston Community Christmas sponsored by Johnston River of Life. The Simpson Barn in Johnston, 6169 Northglenn Drive

Sunday, December 18

8:30 & 10:45 a.m., Christmas Cantata in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24—Eve Services

5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day Service

10:00 a.m.

Financial Update

Below is the September 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

	Sept 2016
Total Receipts	\$22,270.77
Total Expenditures	<u>27,328.61</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$5,057.84)</u>

	YTD 2016
Total Receipts	\$231,301.90
Total Expenditures	<u>246,514.52</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$15,212.62)</u>

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	Sept 2016
Total Receipts	\$8,015.38
Total Expenditures	<u>10,011.76</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$1,996.38)</u>

	YTD 2016
Total Receipts	\$109,222.67
Total Expenditures	<u>84,431.33</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$24,791.34</u>

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Oct 2	27	87	78	192
Oct 9	32	121	82	235
Oct 16	27	92	85	204

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat	Sun	total
Sept 24 46	Sept 25 56	102
Oct 1 52	Oct 2 46	98
Oct 8 49	Oct 9 45	94
Oct 15	Oct 16	

Donate

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.

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 worshippers.

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 November:

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<u>Greeters</u> 6 13 20 27	<u>Greeters</u> 6 13 20 27	<u>Greeters</u> 6 13 20 27
<u>Lectors</u> 6 Cathy Short 13 20 27	<u>Lectors</u> 6 Sherri Bogue 13 20 27	<u>Lectors</u> 6 Jon Verner 13 20 27
<u>Traditional Service Callers</u> 6 Norma Sutton 13 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 20 Norma Sutton 27 Bob & Marlys Borcharding	<u>Hosts</u> 6 Sr. BLAST 13 Larry & Paulette Wood 20 27	<u>Hosts</u> 6 Sr. BLAST 13 Larry & Paulette Wood 20 27 Andy Sutton
<u>Contemporary Service Callers</u> 6 Rod & Lynette Cook 13 Eldon Crosss 20 Rod & Lynette Cook 27 Eldon Cross	<u>9:30 Computer Support</u> 6 Nancy Monthei 13 Pam Frey 20 Nic Wigant 27 Terry Dolberg	<u>Money Counters</u> 6 Kim Traylor, John Burrough Jerry Kielsmeier 13 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 20 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 27 Clark Howland, Larry Wood, Rick Homard
<u>Office Volunteers</u> 4 Kay Goff 11 Marilyn Osborn 18 Ellen Hester Wed., 23 Norma Sutton		



Three kinds of giving

There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving.

Grudge giving says, 'I have to';
duty giving says, 'I ought to';
and thanksgiving says, 'I want to.'

The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."

November 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 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Worship Cluster Mtg., Pastor's office	2 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	3 7p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	4 Office Vol. Kay Goff	5 9a, Fall Clean up at church 5p, AA, F.Hall
6 Daylight Saving Time ends Holy Communion *Peace with Justice offering Sr. BLAST breakfast Veterans Honored 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall	7 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	8 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7p, Finance Mtg., R.Chapel	9 5:30p, Family Night 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	10 5p, Set up for Garlands of Gifts, F.Hall, FLC 6:15p, Girl Scouts, 3rd grade classroom	11 Veteran's Day Office Vol. Marilyn Osborn 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch 5:30-8pm, Vendors set up for Garlands of Gifts event	12 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 9a-3p, Garlands of Gifts at New Hope 5p, AA, F.Hall
13 Guest Speaker: Bob Ward Food Pantry Sunday 11:45a, Women's Chorus practice, Sanctuary Noon, future of New Hope discussion	14 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 8a-4p, Retired Pastor's gathering (Iowa Annual Conf.) F.Hall, FLC reserved 7p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	16 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	17 Deadline for December LINK 9a, Women's Fellowship, F.Hall 6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	18 Office Vol. Ellen Hester 9a-3p, Needlers at church	19 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast, F.Hall 5p, AA, F.Hall
20 Thanksgiving Offering Deadline for Poinsettia Orders Hanging of the Greens Noon, Family Advent party 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall 6:30p, Community Thanksgiving, St. James Lutheran Church	21 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	22 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Chancel Choir 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7p, AD Council mtg., R.Chapel 7:30p, Seasonal Choir	23 Office Vol: Norma Sutton 7:45p, Praise Team	24 OFFICE CLOSED  Thanksgiving	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 5p, AA, F.Hall
27 1st Sunday of Advent 11:45a, Women's Chorus practice, Sanctuary	28 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 7p, Advent by Candlelight	29 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	30 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	Dec. 1	Dec. 2 Office Vol: Marlys Borcharding	Dec. 3 11a-4p, F.Hall reserved 5p, AA, F.Hall 5p, Sr. BLAST soup dinner fundraiser at JROL

***Peace with Justice—Nov. 6:** Your contribution gives witness to God's demand for a faithful, just, and secure world. The United Methodist Peace with Justice Sunday offering makes a difference through ministries in the United States and round the world. Thank you for your generous gifts!

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

2 Matthew Weih, Jerzie Carlson
 3 DeVonne Douglas, Jo Renee Hartung,
 Taylor Peterson
 4 John Dickerson, Joe Fairchild
 5 Denice Sutton, Kelly Mohrman, Michael
 Collet, Barbara Williamson
 6 Zachary McClain, Bryce Rowland
 8 Gavin Hawthorne, Barb Agan
 9 Karen Skovgard, Andrea Stern, Kinsey
 Evans
 10 Norma Sutton
 11 Craig Thompson, Ryan Armstrong
 12 Jacob Hitchcock, Calid Armstrong,
 Jameson O'Brien
 13 Cheryl Cross
 14 Peggy Philips, Kim Traylor, Maliya Carlson,
 Jason Evans
 15 Larry Forbes
 16 Nathan Zoss, Lily Larsen
 17 Doris Ummel, Luke Bogue

19 Mark Wise, Katelyn Hass
 21 Carol Harter, Emma Heiser, Julie
 Sahlin, Madison Kerndt
 22 Amanda Soards, Brynna Johnson
 23 Linda Kasper, Don Doxon, Tamara
 Evans
 24 Jared Robertson, Jackson Gregg
 25 Kay Gier, Julie Craighton, Sarah
 Jacobson
 26 Jason Kerndt
 27 Evelyn Kruse, Dave Mongar, Laura
 Siffin, Maysie Johnson
 28 John Rains, Lee Ross, Steve Cate
 29 Lynn Clary, John Speck, Jason
 Homard, Marilyn Monroe, Fred
 Buzale, Olive Walker
 30 Damon DeBates, Jaela Wills,
 Raynette Meyers, Jax Thomsen

Happy Anniversary!!

2 James & Suzanne Neu
 5 David & Karen Davis
 7 Brian & Suzie Martz
 12 Larry & Paulette Wood
 18 Chris & Julie Boyles
 20 Chris & Jenn Higdon
 22 Don & Doris Ummel
 23 Scott & Deanne Rowland
 23 Ron & Linda Cooley

*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.*

“Passed Forward From a Bishop”

We have designated **November 20** as our **Stewardship Sunday**. As we prepare for this season of Thanksgiving, I pray that we will respond to God’s blessings with a “grow it forward” response.

Bishop Michael Coyner shared the following, which I think we are already doing at New Hope and Johnston River of Life. I pray that we will continue and increase our efforts as this year winds down and a new year approaches:

“The movie ‘Pay It Forward’ a few years ago told the story of a young boy whose school project was to ‘pay it forward’ – to encourage people to do good deeds for others, and then to see how those good deeds were forwarded on to others. It sounds counter-intuitive, but it seems to be a principle of the Kingdom of God, as stated by Jesus, that it is better to give than to receive. Our giving is then often (no guarantees) rewarded by our receiving both the joy of giving and other blessings which come back to us.

I believe a similar principle is involved in the life of our congregations. I see so many United Methodist churches which are reaching out to others, providing free meeting space to community groups, engaging in direct mission projects, literally giving their money, and going forward in faith. All of this can be quite counter-intuitive in tough economic times. These churches sense that God calls us to stretch, grow, and give when times are tough, and I see those churches being ‘rewarded’ with a good spirit and a new energy.

Recently one county-seat, downtown church shared with me their excellent financial report and their growing budget pledges. When I asked how that happened, their lay leadership said to me: ‘It all started when we began our community meal on Sunday nights to feed hungry people in our town. That seemed to inspire all of us to see the needs, to give, and to be blessed by that giving. A new spirit of generosity has come into our church, and even our budget is doing better.’ Wow! What a great testimony. I see it repeated in many of our congregations – they are ‘growing it forward.’

Unfortunately I have also seen that the reverse is true. When congregations get scared by our tough economy, when they cut back on their budgets and their giving, and when they try to save themselves – then often the result is further decline and less giving to their ministries. As one other lay leader commented to me about this sad state of affairs in his church, ‘We learned that excellence is not achieved by cut-backs.’ Again, Jesus himself spoke to that truth when he said, ‘Those who try to save their lives, will lose them.’

We are called by Jesus and the whole movement of the Kingdom of God to ‘grow it forward.’ That may even include acting like a bigger and better church than we already are – in order to grow forward and to become that church we envision. It might include individuals setting personal mission goals (if you want a book resource for that, let me suggest [The Path](#) by Laurie Beth Jones). It could include forgiving someone who has not really ‘earned’ our forgiveness, and discovering how we are freed by letting go our animosity toward that person. It certainly includes taking seriously ‘risk-taking mission and service’ and ‘extravagant generosity’ – two of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.

Yes, the words of Jesus and the principles of the Kingdom of God are clear: do you want to grow in your faith and your ministry? Then grow it forward!”

I couldn’t have said it better myself, so I “pass this forward” to you.

Pastor Jon



The Season after Pentecost: Theme - “Chosen By God”

Nov 6	<u>Title:</u> "First Fruits"	<u>Script.:</u> 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	Holy Communion
Nov 13	Bob Ward, Guest Speaker		
Nov 20	<u>Title:</u> "First Born"	<u>Script.:</u> Colossians 1:11-20	
Nov 27	<u>Title:</u> "First Light"	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14	



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: Anita Gaul
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

E-mail Information

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Find Us

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find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

The Link newsletter is a monthly publication.
Editor: Nancy Monthei, Reporters: New Hope Church family
Please contact the church office at 278-2097 if you have a change in address or would like to be taken off the LINK mailing list.

the link
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