

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United  
Methodist Church

## February 2017

FEBRUARY AT NEW HOPE UMC

# What Does It Take?

- Feb. 5 "What does it take to Shine?"
- Feb. 12 "What does it take to Grow?"
- Feb. 19 "What does it take to Love?"
- Feb. 26 "What does it take to Witness?"



NEW HOPE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERIES

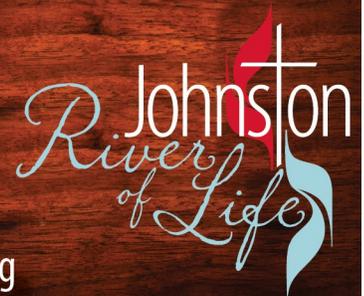


# nership

Saturdays 5pm &  
Sundays 10am

Beaver Creek Elementary

[JohnstonRiverOfLife.org](http://JohnstonRiverOfLife.org)



On Sunday, February 26, we will have a **CELEBRATION** on this last Sunday before the season of Lent begins. We are calling it **MARDI GRAS SUNDAY!**

Mardi Gras is the name for the day before Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1 this year). Being on a Tuesday, Mardi Gras is a French phrase meaning Fat Tuesday. This name is because of the practice of having one last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. This is why it is often celebrated with the serving of pancakes.

The day is also called Shrove Tuesday (widely known as Pancake Day). The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "confess". Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what areas of life and spiritual growth they need to ask God's help in dealing with.

Mardi Gras is known for parades, pageants, costumes, masked balls, and people dancing in the streets. Wearing of masks and beads is a tradition of Mardi Gras. The colors of Mardi Gras are **purple** (representing justice), **green** (representing faith), and **gold** (representing

power).

Mardi Gras celebrations we hear about in New Orleans and elsewhere can get carried away, but churches celebrate it in its religious intent to celebrate God's blessings and prepare for the more subdued and introspective season of Lent.

Our celebration of Mardi Gras at New Hope will be through our music, message, and decorations on Sunday, February 26, at all three services (8:30, 9:30, 10:45). We encourage you to invite your relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and everyone to celebrate with us! This will be a joyous and uplifting service as we prepare for Lent.



# 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

Laura Myers; Forrest McCleary; Amy Larsen; John Rains; Margaret Hemphill; Gary Ruleman; Cheryl Lillegraven; Doris Ummel; 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 the friends and family of Deane Glen.

## Thank You

Thank you to the New Hope Care Team and the ladies that made the delicious meal for me and my family. We truly appreciated it! Mike, Cheryl & Mason Lillegraven



## Boy Scouts Sunday, February 12

All Boy Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Boy Scout uniforms for Boy Scout Sunday on February 12.

## 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



ALSO, we appreciate receiving your updated contact information. Thank you!



## Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) 2017

### Happy 2017!!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Vicki O'Brien and I attend the 8:30am service at New Hope. My family and I have been members of New Hope for about 27 years. My husband, David and I have two children, our son Travis and his wife Christy and our daughter Deborah. We also have six grandchildren, Natalie (14), Hayden (10), Vivienne (5), Jocelyn (3), Evelyn (2) and Jameson (1).

Last year, I was asked to be a part of the SPRC committee and during that time learned a great deal about the workings of our Church and strengthened relationships with some congregation members. In November of 2016, I was asked to Chair this committee as Byron Williamson was preparing to step down in 2017 after 7 years in this leadership role.

I look forward to taking on this role and working with the other members of the SPRC in building strong relationships between our congregation, staff members and our district superintendent. I'd love to get you know you better, please feel free to reach out to me at church or on email at [vickiobrien1@netzero.com](mailto:vickiobrien1@netzero.com).  
Vicki

### Members of the SPRC for 2017:

Vicki O'Brien, New Hope Chairperson  
Jon Verner, New Hope  
Jessica Hass, JROL  
Mary Swalla Holmes, Hopkins Grove  
Althea Holcomb, New Hope

Mark Baldwin, New Hope  
David Rogers, JROL  
Rod Cook, New Hope  
Carl Egger, New Hope  
Don Clark, JROL



## Faith and Family Night with the Iowa Energy Sunday, March 5th Game starts at 3pm

Join your friends from New Hope & JROL as we share in some fellowship time with the Iowa Energy! **For only \$10.71** you get a seat with your church friends, a hot dog, popcorn and soda, as well as a postgame Christian concert featuring Zach Williams. Sign up today and bring a friend! Contact Sarah Jacobson

([sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)) to register.

**All money is due to the church no later than noon on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> (otherwise you'll be responsible for purchasing your own ticket which wouldn't guarantee you a seat with our group).**

## All Church Rummage Sale!

Plans continue for the 2017 New Hope Rummage Sale on April 27-29. Remember, with early planning, we are giving all members time to get dates on their calendar, plan the times they can volunteer during the week, and choose the job they would like.

The present organizational structure looks like this:

- Rummage Sale Coordinator----Carol Harter
- Set-up and Clean-up/Take-down----Gleean Coates and Denise Zoss
- Internal church communications ---Sandy Cannon
- Donations----Sue Soards
- Advertising/Marketing----Linda Yaske
- Check out area----Kandra Dickerson
- Printing/Supplies----Judy Stout



In order to make the best use of our volunteers, we are trying something new this year. Volunteers will have 2 choices:

1. Work at setting up an area which will include sorting, pricing, and displaying.
2. Work during the sale which will include welcoming customers and answering questions. To cut down on the number of volunteers needed, the sale volunteers will float from area to area. (On opening day, we will need someone in each area)

**(Of course, the 3rd choice would be volunteering for both 1 and 2)**

We will start with people to be in charge of setting up the following areas:

- \* Household items—Linda Kielsmeier
- \* **Home Decor**—
- \* **Sports, hardware, and garden**—
- \* **Toys**—
- \* **Bed, bath, and linens**—
- \* Books—Mona Kirkpatrick
- \* **Small electrics**—
- \* **Furniture**—
- \* **Holiday**—
- \* Men's clothing—Marilyn Osborn
- \* **Women's clothing**—
- \* Children's clothing—Linda Cooley
- \* **Bake Sale**—
- \* Jewelry and women's accessories— Terah Robinson
- \* Crafts—Diane Densmore

**Many thanks to the people that have volunteered. Hurry , before your first choice is taken.**

*Which job would you like? The hope is with advance planning people can work a few hours into their schedule during the week of April 23. Remember we start setting up on Sunday, immediately after church. This gives those who can't help during the week an opportunity to volunteer. With enough help, we can be more than half done just working on Sunday.*

Please prayerfully consider what part you can play in this all church Rummage Sale. Remember the Rummage Sale is a mission of outreach for New Hope. Also, it is advantageous for us to increase the church's reserve fund. Working together, this can be the year we reach \$10,000. We've come so very close before. We hope to see many happy smiles and thankful hearts from those who look forward to our sale and come back every year to shop.

If you can help with one of the above, please call Carol Harter at 274-1467 or email at [carolannharter@gmail.com](mailto:carolannharter@gmail.com).

### ***A prayer for volunteering.***

**I am so thankful for this opportunity to donate my time and energy to a worthy cause, Father. Thank You for giving me the perfect example of self-sacrifice in Your Son, Jesus. Guide me in making my actions speak louder than my words today. Amen**

# groups gathering together

## Blood Pressure Check

First Sunday of each month.  
February 5, 9:30-11:00am will be  
the next BP checks in the Narthex.

## Veterans Helping Veterans

All veterans, spouses and  
supporters:  
Join us for breakfast on the 3rd  
Saturday of the month at 8:30am:  
March 18, May 20; July 15,  
Sept 16, Nov 18  
Please mark your calendars!  
Thank you to all of our veterans  
for their service! Questions?,  
please contact Billy Nuzum, Lay  
Leader  
[bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com)

## Chancel Choir

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

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 11  
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

## Women's Fellowship

Next meeting will be on Thurs.,  
February 16, 9am at New Hope.  
Questions? Contact Susan Clark at  
964-5119 or Sharon Smith at 419-  
7082

## 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.

## New Hope Needlers

Friday, February 17, 9am-3pm  
in the 3rd grade classroom. Please  
note that the Needlers will meet the  
3rd Friday of each month. All are  
welcome!  
Please bring your sewing machine  
and current project. Dress kits will  
be available. Lunch will be at  
Panera. Contact Diane Densmore,  
[ddindsm1@mchsi.com](mailto:ddindsm1@mchsi.com) or 270-1974  
with questions.

## SMALL GROUPS

### Friday Bible Study

**Urbandale Pizza Ranch**  
**\*\*Friday, February 10 & 24**  
**1pm\*\***

**Leader - James Louk**

The theme of our study this year  
will be the "one anothers" of Scrip-  
ture. Please bring your  
Bible and a note pad.

### 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.

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

**Small Group**

Sundays, 5:30 PM  
@ Pastor Craig's House  
6850 - NW 54th Ct.

Join a group of friends and dig into  
the book of Ephesians.

### Men's Bible Study

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

## 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.



Carol Harter, Roberta Cave,  
Diane Densmore, and Jan Davisson  
volunteered their time to organize  
the church library. Join them on  
February 14!



## Library Invitation

Join the library committee on the  
second and fourth Tuesday from  
1:00 to 3:00pm. (Feb 14, 28)  
Volunteer to organize the church  
library! Questions? Contact  
Carol Harter at 274-1467 or  
[carolannharter@gmail.com](mailto:carolannharter@gmail.com).

# 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)

WE WANT TO THANK ALL THE CHRISTIAN LEARNING TIME TEACHERS AND CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS FOR EVERYTHING THEY DO TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD WITH OUR CHILDREN.

If you are a CLT or children's worship leader this year,  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR:  
AN APPRECIATION BREAKFAST IN YOUR HONOR  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
10:45AM  
IN THE RUBY CHAPEL**



**All CLT classes will remain as scheduled with substitutes teaching the lesson.**



### 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 "Featuring The Greatest Commandment Part 2."

The parent resource article for this month is titled "Your Kids Are Watching Your Marriage." If you have any ideas for Parent Resources or other topics you'd like more information on, please contact [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)

### Coming Soon...



### VBS 2017

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

Start thinking now how YOU can help to make this another great year of VBS!

Our VBS Team (Andy Sutton, Elaine Sheer, Abbi Herrick and Sarah Jacobson) is excited to get plans set for this event and we hope that you'll join us on this journey.

We will have volunteer roles for all ages and abilities.

More information to come this spring.

### confirmation schedule



**Feb. 12, 4:30 p.m.**

Topic: "John Wesley and the origins of Methodism"

**Feb. 14, 3:30 p.m.** Hand of Luke service project

**Feb. 19, 4:30 p.m. (Mentor night)**

Topic: "American Christianity & the Church Today"

# 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!

### Weekly Schedule

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

## This month at TGIW...

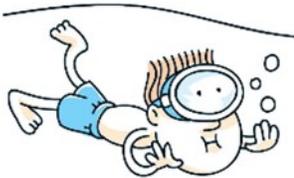
**February 1<sup>st</sup>:** Mission Night-making blankets for animal shelters

**February 8<sup>th</sup>:** Family Night at Urbandale Pool (more details below)

**February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Travel Guide to the Parables- Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20)

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Game Night

**There will be No TGIW on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> due to Ash Wednesday. Join us for a Pancake Supper (provided by the youth) and an Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm.**



### TGIW Family Night at the Urbandale Pool

**Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*Swimming from 7-8pm\*\***

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

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

2 years of age & under is FREE with paid adult

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

**No meal will be provided this night** and this will replace the TGIW program. Any children/youth not coming with their parent or another adult will need to be 8 years or older, and able to swim on their own. They will also need to be picked up at the pool by 8pm unless they are supervised by a parent.



Thank you to all of the volunteers that organize, prepare and serve the Wednesday night meals for TGIW! They are DELICIOUS and APPRECIATED!!

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



This year our youth group will be heading to Eureka Springs, Arkansas (**June 25th – July 1st**). If you did not know; Eureka Springs is a small towns and rural areas in the Ozark Mountains are people who quietly live in deplorable conditions with little hope of change. Our youth group will find this mission area heartbreaking at first as we see the destitute conditions in which people live, but that work will soon become heartwarming as we see the difference that we can make in someone's life. Reaching out to help these struggling families fix and maintain what little they have brings them a message of Christian caring and service that will open their eyes to Christ's love.

In order to secure your spot on this trip; we need an initial deposit of \$90 for anyone considering being a part of this trip by **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**. Additionally, we will be hosting a parent's and kid's informational meeting on **Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** at 6:00 pm. Please plan to attend this informational meeting and bring your questions about our upcoming trip.

Additionally, we are excited about a new Youth Coalition that the area United Methodist Churches are forming with our youth groups. We are partnering in this coalition with JROL, Hopkins Grove, Woodward, Granger, and Grimes. The first event for this newly formed group will be to watch the Super Bowl together at Granger United Methodist Church. Our group will be playing games, eating, and having a short devotion during halftime. We will be meeting at New Hope at 5pm to travel to Granger to attend this party.

The next event for the youth is to go swimming with TGIW group at the Urbandale pool. We will be meeting at the church at 5:45 pm to carpool to the pool. The admission price is \$4.

Finally, we will be making up the BLAST Lock-In that had to be cancelled in January due to weather. We will be attempting the Lock-In again on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Please plan to invite friends to this event; we are planning to watch a movie, play games, eat, etc.

Here are the youth events for the next two months:

- **Feb. 1st @ 6pm** ~ Mission Trip Meeting
- **Feb. 5th @ 5pm** ~ Super Bowl Party at Granger
- **Feb. 8th @ 5:45pm** ~ Swimming with TGIW
- **Feb. 12th @ 8am** ~ BLAST Breakfast
- **Feb. 15th @ 5:30pm** ~ TGBD
- **Feb. 19th @ 7:30pm** ~ BLAST Lock-In
- **Feb. 22nd @ 5:30pm** ~ TGBD
- **Mar. 1st @ 5pm** ~ Ash Wednesday Dinner
- **Mar. 8th @ 5:30pm** ~ TGBD
- **Not Meeting on Mar. 15th; Due to Spring Break**
- **Mar. 22nd @ 5:30pm** ~ TGBD
- **Mar. 26th @ 8am** ~ BLAST Breakfast
- **Mar. 29th @ 5:30pm** ~ TGBD



Senior BLAST youth playing the passing game as they learned more "Change" and what Jesus says about worrying. Jan. 25, 2017

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

# missions



## FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

BIDWELL RIVERSIDE Mission Focus for February: A private non-profit, Bidwell Riverside has been serving people in poverty since 1893. Bidwell seeks to build hope for low-income individuals and families through three major focus areas: Children, Families, and Community.

Being in poverty is a full-time job. Bidwell Riverside is constantly looking for new and innovative ways to assist families to relieve the strain and allow them more time to do other important things. Our goal is to help in a way that will allow them to break the cycle of poverty.

**Distribution Center:** Our distribution center provides families with food, clothing, and household items. Our food is provided primarily through the Des Moines Area Religious Council. Good quality clothing items are available for free (up to 15 items per month, per family member). In addition, any gently used household items that we receive are available as well.

\*\*\*Bidwell has the only food pantry on the South side. They keep a stock of items that can be given out between the regular monthly DMARC offerings, **so the Mission Team is accepting donations of peanut butter during the month of February. Please put these donations on the Mission Table at the rear of Fellowship Hall.** You will notice that the DMARC cart is now in the hallway by the entrance door to the Fellowship Hall. These are two separate giving opportunities.



**Child Development Center:** Bidwell Riverside provides a comprehensive education and care program for children 18 months - 5 years. The center is open every weekday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The center utilizes Creative Curriculum and has received a 5-star designation through the Quality Ratings System of Iowa. For more information please visit the Child Development Center's website at: [www.bidwellkids.org](http://www.bidwellkids.org)

**Family Services:** An array of services are available to families seeking to become more self-sufficient. Resource and referral services are available during regular distribution center hours. Our newest program, Pathways to Self-Sufficiency, partners a family with a staff person to identify and reach goals. Families enrolled in Pathways also have access to funding to provide stability for the family as they make long-term changes. When available, funds are also available to assist with emergencies such as eviction, utility shut-off, and other essentials. **\*\*\*If you would like to help in this endeavor, please indicate on the memo line of your check: Bidwell-Self-Sufficiency.**

### Upcoming events:

**March:** Spring clothing drive for Bidwell children. (chance to donate your child's outgrown gently used clothing)

**June 25<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor Lee Schott (pastor at Women at the Well Prison Ministry) speaks at all 3 New Hope services

**August 13<sup>th</sup>:** 7<sup>th</sup> annual Meals from the Heartland on-site packaging event at New Hope

**November 9<sup>th</sup>:** Visit to Women at the Well worship service.



**Save Your Pop Tabs!** Those pop tabs on your soda can make a real difference. According to Kendall Owen, Operations Manager for the Des Moines Ronald McDonald House, during 2016 the pop tabs they received generated \$8,000. That was enough to pay their water bill for the entire year! You may drop off your pop tabs at any McDonald's Restaurant, at Ronald McDonald House or at the Mission Table in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



**Hand of Luke (HOL):** Hand of Luke, our program for cooking and serving a meal at the Central Iowa Shelter down-town on the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month is very thankful for the faithful givers of time and food items. The sign up sheets are on the sign up table in the fellowship hall near the doors to the Family Life Center.

## Mission's Year End Report: 2016 (shown in Rainbow Covenant areas)

*The following includes monetary and in-kind gifts donated by the all ministries of New Hope & JROL.*

### **RED:** (WORLD SERVICE:)

<u>PET Personal Energy Transportation:</u>	\$400.00
<u>WELLS FOR SOUTH SUDAN:</u>	145.00
<u>CHURCH WORLD SERVICE-BLANKETS AND TOOLS:</u>	400.00
<u>IMAGINE NO MALARIA:</u>	327.00

### **ORANGE:** (UNITED STATES SPECIAL PROJECTS):

<u>McCURDY MISSION SCHOOL:</u>	500.00
<u>REDBIRD MISSION SCHOOL:</u>	500.00
<u>RED BIRD MISSION SCHOOL BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:</u>	100.00

### **YELLOW:** UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

<u>INGATHERING KITS, SHIPPING , &amp; TOOTHPASTE:</u>	1,238.00
<u>Disaster Response:</u>	2,140.00
<u>EQUAL EXCHANGE: (10 % of Fair trade goes orders to UMCOR)</u>	88.46

### **GREEN:** (INTERNATIONAL HUNGER/POVERTY)

<u>HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: (Congregation and VBS)</u>	1,280.02
<u>DMARC: (cash, in-kind giving)</u>	7,952.16
<u>MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND:</u>	5,772.80
<u>HAND OF LUKE: MEALS FOR HOMELESS AT CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER)</u>	9,000.00

### **BLUE:** (IOWA ADVANCE SPECIALS)

<u>IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP ARTEMISIA SEEDS FOR MALARIA:</u>	400.00
<u>CFUM BACKPACKS:</u>	936.89
<u>BIDWELL RIVERSIDE &amp; in-kind (women's fellowship, missions)</u>	775.00
<u>JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS:</u>	300.00
<u>IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP: (needlers kits, missions, congregation)</u>	2,020.00

### **PURPLE:** (SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS):

1,067.00

### **INDIGO:** (PARISH DEVELOPMENTS):

<u>TRINITY UMC</u>	300.00
<u>LAS AMERICAS:</u>	300.00
<u>WOMEN AT THE WELL PRISON MINISTRY:</u>	1,189.00
<u>SELF HELP INTERNATIONAL:</u>	400.00

### **THIRD MILE GIVING:**

<u>Missionary Covenant, Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, Kathryn Parker:</u>	2,700.00
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### **(LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL GIVING):**

<u>Camp Wesley Woods scholarships:</u>	1,266.00
<u>HOPE MINISTRIES:</u>	30.00
<u>Angel Tree:</u>	500.00
<u>Women's Fellowship: Aging Resources:</u>	100.00
<u>Women's Fellowship: New Hope Discretionary fund:</u>	500.00
<u>Women's Fellowship: Central Ia. Shelter fruit crisps</u>	100.00
<u>Women's Fellowship: Alzheimers' Assoc.</u>	100.00
<u>Women's Fellowship: Camp Hertko Hollow:</u>	100.00
<u>OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES: (TGIW, Missions &amp; congregation):</u>	1,323.00
<u>Honduras Mission Trip: (Missions, JROL)</u>	5,326.00
<u>JROL: PRAYER BEADS:</u>	300.00
<u>JROL: COAT DRIVE:</u>	345.00
<u>JROL: NOAH PROJECT:</u>	500.00
<u>JROL: MARSHALLTOWN MINISTRY OF FAITH:</u>	200.00
<u>TGIW: UNICEF:</u>	29.17
<u>JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP BACKPACKS:</u>	811.03
<u>Mission Apportionments: (10% of total Mission Apportionments due, taken from Pledges)</u>	2,092.42

## **TOTAL**

**\$53,853.95**

## Third Thursday Study & Group Building

On the Third Thursday, January – May, Pastor Craig will be holding educational classes intended as preparation for those who are going to Israel in June, but open to anyone. During these sessions we will discuss some of the locations we will see, some of the historical significance, and cultural relevance. Don't know much about Qumran, this is the class for you. Below are the dates and locations, all meetings are at 7 PM. Put these dates on your calendar now.

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Hopkins Grove  
March 16<sup>th</sup> – New Hope  
April 20<sup>th</sup> – Hopkins Grove  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – New Hope



*Israel 2017 - June 12<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
**Deadline to sign up – March 12, 2017**

Join Pastor Craig and more than 30 others from the community as we explore the Holy lands together June 12-22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:pastorcferguson@gmail.com))

## MISSION UGANDA

### Uganda, Africa Mission Trip June 2-15, 2018

A meeting will be held with Dr. Brian Hesse, Cowabunga Safaris, and Denise Hartford at two times:

- **Saturday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Craig & Jody Ferguson, 6850 NW 54th Ct., Johnston, (a light meal will be served)
- **Sunday, February 12** at New Hope UMC in the “purple” classroom at 9:15 a.m. Please feel free to contact Denise, [denisehartford@gmail.com](mailto:denisehartford@gmail.com) or [515-890-1406](tel:515-890-1406) with questions.



## Habitat for Humanity Work Day Saturday, April 22, 8:30 a.m.

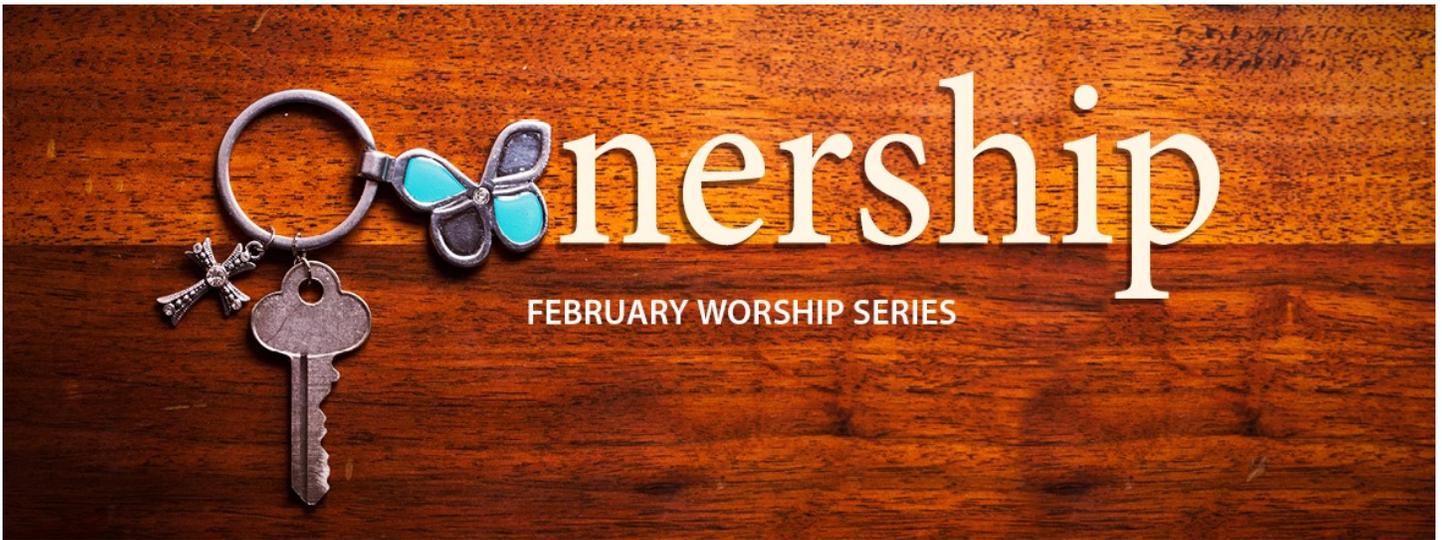
If interested or have questions, please contact Denise Hartford at 515-890-1406 or [denisehartford@gmail.com](mailto:denisehartford@gmail.com).



## God's Conversation Hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- **TRUE LOVE:** What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- **MINE:** Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- **FOREVER:** God loves us with an “everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).
- **LOVE ME:** The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- **TRUST ME:** “Let not your hearts be troubled.” We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- **SWEET TALK:** God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- **#1:** “We love because [God] first loved us” (1 John 4:19).



## Ownership

From my earliest years I remember the excitement of Ownership. The thrill of knowing something was mine. I think the first time it really clicked was with a rocket that I built all on my own. I cut, glued, painted every detail just the way the instructions stated, or slightly better for a little personal flair. I thought it was a masterpiece; bought with my own money, created by my own hand, and ready for the launch pad!

I remember the joy of my investment, the excitement, the pride. I was ready to watch it fly 200+ feet into the air, release the parachute and glide back to earth gently into my hands. I connected everything just right to ignite the engine and hit the button, up went the rocket, just as high as I had imagined. I could barely make it out. Then as the parachute should have ejected, I heard a pop, but nothing happened. Well, that is not completely true, it was gravity's turn to participate in my fun, and without the help of a parachute, the little rocket plummeted to earth. When I reached the point of impact I realized that all the kings horses and all the kings men could not put my rocket back together again. (But that is just what I did – put it back together)

I learned a hard lesson that day. Ownership has ups and downs, pride, and pitfalls, enthusiasm, and heartbreak. Ownership requires, work, patience, diligence, perseverance, and commitment.

We all own something that has value to us, that we invest in, and brings us joy. What is the first thing that comes to mind for you? Your House, Car, Clothing, or a Personal Collection? There are other forms of ownership too, small business, rental properties, farm, or family heirlooms. Everything we own has a significance or level of priority to us.

But Jesus tells us that earthly possessions are of no value, moth and rust destroy. In our spiritual journey toward eternity we are reminded that nothing of creation will last. But we are told to store up treasures in heaven. What does this mean exactly?

I have found one earthly investment worth the cost of Ownership. One thing worth the ups and downs, the enthusiasm and heartbreak, the perseverance and commitment. It is not perfect, in fact, it is broken. It soars at great heights, and it has fallen apart more times than can be counted. It belongs to no one and everyone. It builds up and destroys each of us. It has never taken a breath, but breathes life into all.

The church (not a building – but the people) is something God has entrusted to each one of us. The message of hope will last even when the world is no more. What is your understanding of Ownership in the Church?

Like a child building a rocket, will you invest in all the parts, take time and toil over its assembly, pour your heart into every detail, smile as you watch it soar, weep on the days it falls low, and build again?

May you take Ownership of the Gospel and may you learn to “Be Christ in Community.”

Join us this February for a sermon series on the joy and cost of Ownership.

Pastor Craig Ferguson



**Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, March 1**  
**6:00pm Pancake Supper**  
**7:00pm Ash Wed. Service**

**Come for Pancakes, 6:00 pm** pancake supper. Free-Will Offering. Prepared and Served by Sr. High BLAST. Help Sr. High BLAST in raising money for their summer mission trip.

**Stay for worship, 7:00 pm**, Ash Wednesday worship. Confirmation students will be helping to lead the worship service.

**(Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and lower.)**

Join us this Ash Wednesday for food, fellowship, and prayer.

**Financial Update**

Below is the December 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**

**Johnston River of Life Financial Update**

	<b>Dec 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$37,165.29
Total Expenditures	<u>26,766.54</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$10,398.75</u>
	<b>YTD 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$319,525.04
Total Expenditures	<u>331,724.94</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$12,199.90)</u>

	<b>Dec 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$8,979.17
Total Expenditures	<u>8,992.31</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$13.14)</u>
	<b>YTD 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$136,555.30
Total Expenditures	<u>116,644.27</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$19,911.03</u>

**New Hope Sunday morning  
Worship attendance**

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Jan 1	20	55	64	139
Jan 8	30	95	75	200
Jan 15	24	96	81	201
Jan 22	22	89	77	188

**Johnston River of Life  
Worship attendance**

Sat		Sun		total
Jan 7	36	Jan 8	74	110
Jan 14	44	Jan 15	39	83

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](http://www.newhopedsm.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.

# 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 February.

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 5 12 19 26	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 5 Evans family 12 19 Andy & Ally Sutton 26	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 5 Linda Yaske, Roberta Cave 12 Patrick & Banny 19 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 26
<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 5 12 19 Vicki O'Brien 26	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 5 Ally Sutton 12 Kris Wakeman 19 Allie Christensen 26 Melanie Henry	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 5 Jon Verner 12 Sharon Smith 19 Lynn Davisson 26 Sharon Smith
<b><u>Traditional Service Callers</u></b> 5 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 12 Norma Sutton 19 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 26 Norma Sutton	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 5 Pam Frey 12 Sr. BLAST 19 Cindy & Clyde Rail 26 Pam Frey	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 5 12 Sr. BLAST 19 Roberta Cave 26 Andy Sutton
<b><u>Contemporary Service Callers</u></b> 5 Nancy Monthei 12 Eldon Cross 19 Nancy Monthei 26 Eldon Cross	<b><u>9:30 Computer Support</u></b> 5 Pam Frey 12 Nicole Weisskopf 19 Nancy Monthei 26 Caleb/Kevin Christensen	<b><u>Money Counters</u></b> 5 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Robin Harlow 12 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 19 Clark Howland, Larry Wood, Rick Homard 26 Kim Traylor, John Burrough Jerry Kielsmeier
<b><u>Office Volunteers</u></b> 3 Shirley Johnson 10 Marilyn Monroe 17 Ellen Hester 24 Theresa Flickinger	<b><u>9:30 Welcome Center</u></b> 5 Jerry & Linda Kielsmeier 12 Jim & Lynn Louk 19 Carol & Bob Harter 26	



# February 2017

## 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 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST - Mission Trip Mtg 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	2 7p, JROL Mtg.	3 Office Vol. Shirley Johnson	4
5 Holy Communion 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure 5:30p, Sr. BLAST Super Bowl party	6 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	7 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7p, Worship Cluster Mtg. Pastor's office	8 6-7pm, Family Night at Urbandale Pool 6p, Jr. BLAST 5:45p, Sr. BLAST -Urb. Pool 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	9 6:15p, Girl Scouts, 3rd grade classroom	10 Office Vol. Marilyn Monroe 1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	11 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 12-3p, FLC reserved
12 Boy Scout Sunday Sr. BLAST breakfast fundraiser 9:15a, Uganda Mission Mtg., purple classroom 10:30a, Teacher breakfast 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall	13	14 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 1-3p, Library Helpers 3:30p, Hand of Luke 6:30p, Finance Mtg, F.Hall	15 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	16 <b>Deadline for March LINK</b> 9:00a, Women's Fellowship, F.Hall & R.Chapel 7p, Israel Study, @ Hopkins Grove	17 Office Vol: Ellen Hester 9a-3p, Needlers at church	18
19 Food Pantry Sunday 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall Sr. BLAST lock in	20 President's Day <b>Church Office Closed</b>	21 9:30a, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers, Sanctuary Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7:00p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	22 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	23 6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall 7p, AD Council mtg., R.Chapel	24 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger 1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	25 3-6p, FLC reserved
26 Mardi Gras Sunday	27	28 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 1-3p, Library Helpers				



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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Judy Peterson, Nicole Weisskopf                           | 16 Scott Rowland, Corey Miller,   |
| 2 Kay Goff, Wendy Musgrave,<br>Harrison Fiala, Violet Fiala | 17 Ron Cooley, Olivia Johnson   |
| 3 Ron Rubek, Erika Weih                                     | 18 Vicki Hover-Williamson   |
| 5 Dawn Pritchard  | 18 Ava Henry, Kaitlyn Grow, Linda<br>Sesker, Michael Gerovac            |
| 6 Dale Monthei, Linda Kielszmeier,<br>Penny Dolberg         | 19 Susan Egger, Heather Kerndt,<br>Makenna Meyer                        |
| 7 Sandy Wilges  | 20 Kim Trillet, Jessica Hass, Derek Marsh,<br>Courtney LePera           |
| 8 Jacob Naumann   | 21 Jeff Balk  |
| 9 Barb Conrad, Freda Ruleman,<br>Ben Higdon                 | 22 John Michael Dickerson, Kristi Miller,<br>Nathan Roff, Julie Hartung |
| 10 Clark Howland  | 23 Lyle Pritchard, Jeff Evans   |
| 11 Steve Sutton, Evelyne Villines,                          | 24 Marte Carlson  |
| 14 Sheryl Faulkner  | 25 Earl Lewis   |
| 15 Grayson Wigant, Shirley Curtis                           | 27 Avery Peterson, Clarissa Short,<br>Kinney Carnahan                   |
|   | 28 John Huber   |
|   | 29 Doris Pugh   |



- 1: Dean & Judy Peterson
- 9: Ron & Clarice Rubek
- 24: Larry & Kim Buske
- 24: David & Carole Followwill
- 27: Robin & Jolene Harlow
- 28: Clark & Le Howland

*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), so we can update our files.*

## *Common Faith and Worship of God*

As a family I know prepares to head to Mexico for a vacation, it reminded me of the time I joined eight other pastors from United Methodist Churches around Iowa to spend three weeks in Cuernavaca, Mexico to study the Spanish language. Our Bishop at the time was encouraging pastors to learn Spanish as a way for us to reach out to Spanish speaking people in our Iowa communities.

My own desire to learn Spanish also came from having had a little brother in the Big Brother/Big Sister program who was from Mexico. Although he spoke English, his mother did not. I'm sure he was translating what I said to her correctly, but I thought it would be nice to be able to do it myself.

Cuernavaca, Mexico is located about fifty miles south of Mexico City. This was the first time I was in a country where I was unable to understand or speak the predominate language. It was a new, humbling, and challenging experience. I now sympathize much more with people who come to the United States and don't know English. It can be frightening and frustrating.

Most of the people I met were very helpful in giving assistance and directions. However, what a challenge simple tasks were, such as trying to inquire at the bus station about a coat I left on a bus. Even after writing out my request in Spanish, it took finding someone who knew English to let me know that they had not found my coat (I still wonder why they were laughing at what I wrote).

The highlight of the trip for me was attending a worship service on a Sunday morning. A group of us started out by taxi to find the Metodista Iglesia (Methodist Church), which was suppose to be just a short distance away. After being directed to a Presbyterian Church and going by a number of Roman Catholic Churches, we decided we had an incorrect address or an invisible church. After thirty minutes of what was supposed to be five minute ride, we passed a pavilion that had a worship service (Nazarene) in progress. We had the taxi driver let us out and we joined in their worship.

There were about forty people seated in eight wooden pews with no space for the four of us to sit together. However, before we even had a chance to try and slide into the single empty places here and there, a whole row of people cleared enough space for all of us and welcomed us in. They handed us hymnals and Bibles with the pages open to the right places. They sat next to us and explained parts of the service in English for those of us (like me) who couldn't follow in Spanish. At one point in the service they asked us and another visitor to stand up front so they could sing a welcome to us as they passed by and shook our hands. What a visitor friendly church!

And what transcended any language barrier was the music, as we sang a number of hymns familiar to me. The words were in Spanish but the music was the same and it helped me stumble through the Spanish words. We sang "Victory in Jesus," "Spirit Song," and of course, "Amazing Grace."

After the service, they visited with us at great length and asked us to pray for them. It was one of the most meaningful worship experience I have ever had and it only lasted two hours (actually the whole service lasted over two hours as we found out that we had missed the first part of the service).

Our common faith and worship of God transcended all our barriers and may it be so for us here as well.

Grace and peace, Pastor Jon



### **February/Epiphany Theme-- "What Does It Take?"**

Feb 5	<u>Title:</u> "What Does it Take to Shine?"	<u>Script.:</u> Matthew 5:13-20	Holy Communion
Feb 12	<u>Title:</u> "What Does It Take to Grow?"	<u>Script.:</u> 1 Corinthians 3:1-9	
Feb 19	<u>Title:</u> "What Does It Take to Love?"	<u>Script.:</u> Matthew 5:38-48	
Feb. 26	<u>Title:</u> "What Does It Take to Witness?"	<u>Script.:</u> 2 Peter 1:16-21	



#### Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

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

#### Johnston River of Life Casual Worship Services

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

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

Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

[www.newhopedsm.org](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)

Craig Ferguson: [craig@newhopedsm.org](mailto:craig@newhopedsm.org)  
Nancy Monthei: [nancy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nancy@newhopedsm.org)  
Sarah Jacobson: [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)  
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.*

the link  
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