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A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

April
2017

APRIL AT NEW HOPE UMC

From Where Will Our
HELP

Come

April 2	"Help in the Dry Valley"
April 9	"Help on a Donkey"
April 16	"Help From a Gardener"
April 23	"Help Through Hope"
April 30	"Help From a Stranger"



You are invited to a community



• BOUNCE HOUSE • KIDS GIFTS • PRIZE DRAWINGS •

Sat, April 15

Beaver Creek Elementary
8701 Lyndhurst Drive, Johnston

- 4 pm Event Registration
- 4:30 Egg Hunt with a Special Needs Area
- 5 pm Free Meal & Activities

Johnston
River of Life
JohnstonRiverOfLife.org



April 8 & 9. Palm Services at Johnston River of Life

April 9. Palm Sunday at New Hope UMC. Children's Palm parade: 9:30 & 10:45. We will lead the children into service, and then they may sit with families.

Thurs., April 13. Maundy Thursday Drama, 7:00pm at New Hope UMC. Maundy Thursday Drama will be one of the most impactful events of the year. Expect dramatic scenes, music, communion, and ending with the congregation gathered around the crosses. We hope you will come for this special worship service, and as always, invite a friend to come with you.

Fri., April 14, Good Friday Prayer Vigil. 7am-7pm, Ruby Chapel. We will have a 12 hour prayer vigil in the Ruby Chapel at New Hope or you may pray at home or work. This is a chance for the church to be in prayer on the day we remember the death of Christ, and what His sacrifice means to us. Sign-up sheets are found in Fellowship Hall.

Sat., April 15, Community Easter Celebration, 4pm, at Johnston River of Life. Egg hunt, worship service & meal

Sun., April 16, Easter Sunday, New Hope UMC

8:30 & 10:45 Traditional Services

9:30 Contemporary Service

10:45 Easter Celebration for CLT students ages 3 years- 5th grade. Activities include a Easter lesson, games and egg hunt.





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

Mark Sahlin; Kim Traylor; Arny Larsen; Freda Ruleman; Margaret Hemphill; Cheryl Lillegraven; Doris Ummel; 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 family of friends of Joe Borchardt on his passing.

Birth

Congratulations to Nathan & Beth Roff on the birth of their son, Henry Arthur Roff. Henry was born on March 9 and weighed 8lbs 11oz. and 20 inches long. Henry is a little brother to Charlotte, Lorelai and William.

Congratulations to Nate & Sarah Jacques on the birth of their son, Mason Thomas Jacques. Mason was born on March 21 and weighed 6lbs 10 oz and 19 3/4 long.

Baptism

Congratulations to Cadence Marie Hager who was baptized on March 26. Cadence is the daughter of Tony & Stephanie Hager and little sister to Cash.

Thank You

To my New Hope Family, I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and helpful phone calls while Tom was ill and after he passed away. Your kindness always amazes me, I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Thank you,
Glenna Ross

New Hope UMC—
Words are powerless to express how thankful we are for the love and support the congregation of New Hope UMC has shown my husband and mother-in-law. Your prayers and support have made an extraordinarily difficult time a little easier.

Gary was so touched by the support he received during his illness. You gave him the gift of hope and encouragement and for that I will be forever grateful. Gary was the love of my life, and such an amazing husband and father. Thank you so much for being there for him when we could not.

We are also thankful for the love, kindness and support given to Freda during this difficult time. She is not only a wonderful MOM-in-law but a friend as well. It has been such a blessing and a great comfort to know that she is surrounded by such love and support. Thank you.

I'm having a hard time putting my gratitude into words, but I hope you know how much I am moved by your thoughts, prayers and support. Thank you for being there for my family.

Sincerely,
Lori Ruleman

Children's Ministries Coordinator

As many of you may already know, Sarah Jacobson, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, left New Hope to pursue a children's Christian education position with West Des Moines United Methodist Church. Her decision to leave New Hope was based primarily on her new position being closer to her home.

Sarah has given over three years to our New Hope children, helping to develop and educate them in Christ's teachings by creating exciting and engaging programs in which they can learn. She has been responsible for establishing an outstanding team of volunteers and parents to assist in these efforts. It is this team of volunteers that will continue to carry the programs that Sarah created, throughout the remainder of the school year as well as VBS.

Plans are in place to begin recruiting for this position over the couple of weeks and we hope to have selected a qualified replacement to be in place and acclimated by fall 2017. If you know anyone who may be interested in this part time position, please refer them to me.

Thank you Sarah, for all that you have done for our New Hope children and we wish you the best in your new position. God Bless!

Vicki O'Brien, Chair of SPRC, cell is 515-777-5086. email is vickiobrien1@netzero.com

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.

All Church Rummage Sale!

Plans continue for the 2017 New Hope Rummage Sale on **April 27-29**
with preparation beginning on Sunday, April 23.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the people that have volunteered.

The present organizational structure looks like this:

- Rummage Sale Coordinator---Carol Harter
- Set-up and Clean-up/Take-down---Glean Coates and Charity Johnson
- 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)

As you can see below, there is only 1 more area coordinators slot to fill. Is it you?

- * Household items—Linda Kielsmeier * **Furniture**—
- * Home Decor—Carole Followwill & Lynn Louk * Holiday—Marlys Borcharding
- * Sports, hardware, and garden—Armenta Buckingham * Men's clothing—Marilyn Osborn
- * Toys—John & Carolyn Burrough * Women's clothing—Cathy Cate
- * Bed, bath, and linens— Carole Dickey & Kinney Carnahan * Children's clothing—Linda Cooley
- * Books—Mona Kirkpatrick * Bake Sale—Lee Ross & Jan Davisson
- * Small electrics—Jim Mather * Jewelry, women's accessories—Terah Robinson
- * Crafts—Diane Densmore & Jody Rains

I am now receiving calls from people who wish to be a sale worker bee. Thank you to Patrice Webber, cashiering; Sally Corcoran, checker; Mary Ann Rice; books; Susan Clark, Barb Mather, Bertie Cave, Terri Lichter. I apologize if I have forgotten someone.

Also, sign up sheets are on tables in the coat rack hallway. Stop by and sign up!

Remember we start setting up on Sunday, April 23, 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 remember this opportunity is open to all members—male or female. Perhaps a family would like an area to prepare.



DONATIONS—because we always have more members that can help on Sunday, donations will be accepted only on **Sunday, April 23 between 1:00pm - 7:00pm**, unless previously arranged with Carol.

There will be a sign-up sheet for assistance transporting your donations. This deadline for signing up for truck assistance will be **APRIL 12.**

Please sign up early as it helps in planning.

Join us as we work together to honor God and do his work to reach out to others. It takes an entire church to conduct a rummage sale!!

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



Spring Clean-Up at New Hope Campus

Saturday, April 8th, 9am to completion

Please consider volunteering to help with the maintenance and beautification of our campus grounds on Saturday, April 8. Alternate rain date will be Saturday, April 15. There will be tasks for all skill levels: picking up twigs and debris, raking leaves, weeding, mulching, trimming where needed, and other general landscaping. Please bring work gloves, leaf rakes, pruning shears, etc. Lunch will be provided. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!



Welcome to our New Members!

Please help welcome the following New Members that joined New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life:

- Brian & Carin Birt
- Sarah Boss
- Steve & Vickey Cary
- Steve & Jean Jacobsen
- Mike & Melissa Meyer
- Patty Wadsworth

Their contact information will be in the new photo directory coming out soon!



Church Photo Directory

New Hope UMC is updating the church photo directory!

If you haven't submitted a photo (must be less than 500K), please do so by April 9 to nhfamily@newhopedsm.org.

Also, please send any updated contact information. Thank you for your help with this project!

Graduate Recognition

Graduate Recognition will be on **Sunday, May 7 at New Hope UMC**. We invite all graduates: high school, college, and higher degrees, to send us information to be included in the bulletins to celebrate your accomplishments with you.



Please complete the below information and drop this form off at the church office or mail it to New Hope UMC, 4525 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310. **Please fill out and send in NO LATER than Sunday, April 23.**

High School Graduates:

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: _____

College/Graduate School Graduates:

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

DEGREE(S): _____

FUTURE PLANS: _____

Please tick one of the following boxes to let us know which service we can hope to expect you at:

New Hope: May 7, 8:30 worship [] 9:30 worship [] 10:45 worship [] Sorry, I won't be present []

groups gathering together

Blood Pressure Check

First Sunday of each month.
April 2, 9:30-11:00am will be the next BP checks in the Narthex.

Chancel Choir

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

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 8
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Library Committee

Will not meet in April. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Carol Harter at 274-1467 or carolannharter@gmail.com.

Veterans Helping Veterans

Our next breakfast is Saturday, May 20 at New Hope. All veterans, spouses and supporters are invited to attend at 8:30 am. Questions?, please contact Billy Nuzum, Lay Leader bbnewz54@gmail.com



Always with us

Forty days after Easter, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. This occurred 10 days before Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' followers, as he had promised.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. In fact, Jesus' final words to his disciples — and to us — contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV). The Newsletter Newsletter

Women's Fellowship

Next meeting will be on Thurs., April 20, 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, April 21, 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 or 270-1974 with questions.

SMALL GROUPS

Friday Bible Study

Urbandale Pizza Ranch

****Friday, April 21 @ 1pm****

Leader - James Louk

The theme of our study this year will be the "one anothers" of Scripture. 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

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.

christian learning opportunities

Children & Youth Ministries Mission Statement

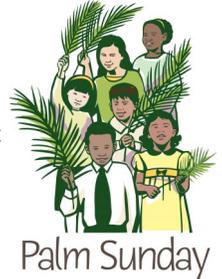
A church family working together to teach children to know, grow, and show the love of Jesus Christ.



Christian Learning Time (CLT)

Palm Sunday Processional Parade. Sunday, April 9th. All kids are welcome to join our Palm Sunday Parade. We will meet in the Purple Classroom at 9:20am to line up and receive palms for the 9:30 service. After the first song, kids will return to sit with their families.

For the 10:45 service all CLT kids and teachers will meet in Ruby Chapel at 10:40 to receive palm branches and line up. After the 1st hymn they will return to CLT classes. We hope you'll come join us for this special day!



Christian Learning Time Easter Party

Sunday, April 16th, 10:45-11:45am

All CLT students ages 3 years- 5th grade are invite to our CLT Easter Party! We will have 30-40 minutes of regular CLT class time for games, and an Easter lesson, followed by the annual egg hunt. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to celebrate the joy of Easter with your church family!

There will be No Children's Worship offered on Easter Sunday April 16th. Families are encouraged to worship together.



Thanks to our very committed volunteers, we have filled almost all the CLT teaching positions for the 2017-2018 school year! That is GREAT NEWS! We are, however, still looking for a few CLT subs/rotating teachers for each of the three classes so our regular teachers can have a day off once in a while. We need 3-4 people who are willing to teach ages 3 yrs-6th grade. The teaching commitment may be as much as 1 time per month, or 1 time per quarter, depending on the class. If you would like to be on our CLT Teaching Team for next year, please contact someone from the Children and Youth Cluster Team (Sherri Bogue, Anita Gaul, Pam Frey, Jenn Higdon, Jackie Johnson or Elaine Sheer) along with your age preference and availability for teaching. Thank you so much for your continued support of this very important program.

VBS 2017

Sunday, July 16th – Thursday, July 20th

How can **YOU** help to make this another great year of VBS? Our VBS Team is SOOOOOO excited for this event and we hope that you'll join us on this journey. We will have volunteer roles for all ages and abilities. If you volunteered in the past and would like to help again, don't wait to let us know! Contact Abbi Herrick, Elaine Sheer or Andy Sutton with questions or if you'd like to help out!



Boxes Needed for VBS!!!

Are you looking to buy new furniture in the upcoming months and are willing to part with the boxes? Or could you get your hands on some **giant refrigerator size cardboard boxes**? We are already collecting these for our VBS decorations. Making a castle, dragon and everything else that Andy Sutton can dream up will require large boxes and lots of them. All boxes can be stored in the Purple Classroom.



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 "Scrambled or Fried?" The parent resource article for this month is titled "Teaching Kids about Spiritual Warfare." Resources will continue to be updated on the bulletin board every month going forward, but the Parent Link will no longer be available after April.



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
Puppets:	7:00-7:45pm

This month at TGIW...

- April 5:** Mission Night—Church Baby Shower
- April 12:** Family Easter Party (with games and crafts)
- April 19:** Last Night of TGIW Talent Show



Join us for a **Church Baby Shower!!!**

Complete with games, activities and cake!

To Honor: **The Lighthouse**

Wednesday, April 5th (during TGIW), 6-7pm

The Lighthouse is a transitional living program, serving six homeless parenting or pregnant women between the ages of 16-25, and up to two of their children. The young mothers and their children can stay at the Lighthouse for up to two years. Young mothers served by this program

will also receive training around parent education and family planning. For more information about The Lighthouse refer to their website:

www.thriveiniowa.org/2013/07/the-lighthouse-a-place-to-call-home/

Our church is partnering with this organization to bless their residents by collecting various donations. All donations can be placed on the TGIW Table in the Fellowship Hall during the months of March and April. We hope that you will consider being a part of this mission and helping us collect several of these “Most Needed” items.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Diapers of all sizes | Towels and Blankets- for both baby and mom |
| Forehead thermometers | Bottles |
| Baby Nail Clippers | Wipes |
| Baby aspirators | Car seats or strollers |
| Baby clothing | Kleenex |
| Baby Formula | Hy-Vee Gift cards |
| Pacifiers | Baby learning toys |



confirmation schedule



Apr 2, 4:30 pm (Mentor night)
Topic: “What I Think About Confirmation & Creed”
6pm Dinner for students, parents & Mentors

Apr 23, 4:30 pm (Mentor night)
Topic: “Wrap Up & Rehearsal”

Sun., Apr 30, 10:45am,
Confirmation Service

Thank you to the Confirmation students & mentors for assisting with the Ash Wednesday Service!



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!

March 22 Minute to Win It Games
March 29 Skyzone
April 5 Mission Project
April 12 Easter Party
April 19 End of Season Celebration

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

Can you believe that we are less than 3 months from our annual Summer Mission trip!!! We are excited to announce that we are roughly 75% funded for our upcoming Summer Mission Trip to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. We have \$4,500 of the needed \$6,000 to take seven of our Senior High BLAST members and leaders for a week long mission trip to work with the community of Eureka Springs. In order to complete our fundraising goal, the Senior High BLAST group has a couple of opportunities to raise more of the funds in April.

To start with, on Wednesday, April 19th; the youth group will be working that night at **Pizza Ranch** (4954 86th St Urbandale, Iowa) to earn tip money that goes directly to our summer mission trip. Come out for some great pizza and fellowship; while supporting the Senior High BLAST group. **However, this year we need people to show the below flyer/coupon when coming to Pizza Ranch that night (either print or via a phone).**



(<http://www.newhopedsm.org/pdf/SeniorBlastPizza.pdf>)

Beyond the fundraising efforts, the Senior High BLAST group will be volunteering to work at the New Hope Rummage Sale on April 29th. Additionally, the group will be spending the remainder of April diving into the Easter Story and the events leading up to Jesus' Crucifixion.

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

Mar. 29th @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

Apr. 5th @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

Apr. 8th ~ Yard work clean up

Apr. 12th @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

Apr. 19th @ 4:30pm ~ Pizza Ranch

Apr. 26th @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

Apr. 29th ~ New Hope Rummage Sale

May 3rd @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

May 10th @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

May 17th @ 5:30pm ~ TGBD

May 24th @ 5:30pm ~ End of the Year Celebration

June 4th ~ Sloppy Joe Lunch after New Hope services

June 25th @ 8am ~ Depart for Summer Mission trip to Eureka Springs

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

missions

APRIL MISSION NEWS

Refugees and Immigration/UMAFASHA ESL CLASSES: The 2016 Book of Discipline states in its Social Principles: “We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination.

We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all.

We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.”

UMCOR is responding to the needs of refugees through our close partner **Church World Service** and its network of over 35 refugee resettlement sites across the country. UMCOR seeks to meet the needs of refugees and build more welcoming communities by facilitating partnerships between newcomers and local United Methodist congregations.

In addition, UMCOR offers a small number of **Refugee Ministry Grants** to strengthen projects connected to the church that serve immigrants and refugees. Projects must be community based.

Justice For Our Neighbors (NJFON) is a network of legal clinics based in United Methodist churches around the country. NJFON's goal is to provide hospitality and compassion to low-income immigrants through immigration legal services, advocacy, and education. JFON was founded in 1999 as a ministry within UMCOR.

New Hope supports UMCOR, Church World Service, and NJFON through mission giving.

Because not knowing the English language is a barrier to good employment, the Mission committee is sponsoring an ESL class for refugees from Rwanda, Uganda, and The Congo at the Urban Heights Covenant Church in Urbandale. An interpreter is always present to speed learning. If you would like to help teach or assist in this endeavor, please just come on a Thursday night at 6:00 or talk to Linda Yaske, Mark Baldwin, or Sharon Smith for more information.

Hand of Luke (HOL): The next HOL is April 14th. You may sign up to donate food, cook, and/or serve at the Central Services & Shelter downtown. The sign up sheets are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Bidwell Riverside: The Mission committee and our Women's Fellowship have a long history in helping this ministry in South Des Moines, which contains the only Food Pantry on the South Side, a free clothing closet, and a Pre-School. The women collect personal items in a basket on the Mission Table. They are also volunteering as a small group at the site once a month. If you would like to volunteer to stock pantry shelves or sort clothing, please contact Lynn Louk. Also, if you would like to donate personal items, take a flyer from the Mission table for ideas.

Partnership holds donation drive: The Johnston Partnership plans to help feed 150 Johnston families over Easter. The group plans to give out hams or turkeys to families for their Easter meal. Donations are accepted from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays at Partnership Place, 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite D. Donations are accepted through Easter weekend. Hams, juice and juice cocktails, snack foods, boxes of macaroni and cheese, toilet paper and laundry detergent are the most needed items.

Upcoming Events:

- May 7th: Muffins for Mission, an informational meeting about the budget and Mission giving after each service in the Fellowship Hall.
- May 16, 2:00- Visit by our Missionary, Dr. Emmanuel Mefor and his wife, Florence at 2pm in the Family Life Center. A dessert bar and fellowship time will follow the talk.
- June 25th: Pastor Lee Schott, Women at the Well, will be preaching at New Hope
- August 13th: Meals from the Heartland meal packaging on-site after each service.
- November 9th: Visit to 7:00 pm worship service at Women at the Well at the Women's Correctional facility in Mitchellville. Sign-ups in September and October.



**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 .



Oklahoma Mission Trip

August 6-12, 2017, to a yet unknown
destination in OK, following tornado
destruction last year.

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

If interested or with questions, please contact Denise Hartford,
515-890-1406 or denisehartford@gmail.com



Ugandan Kids Spread Hope for Children in Poverty

The children in the Ugandan Kids Choir are known for their musical talents and their joyful performances. They sing traditional African songs, play authentic African instruments, and dance in their colorful African attire.

The Choir is a ministry of Childcare Worldwide, which has been devoted to empowering children in the developing world since 1981. Childcare Worldwide serves children in nine developing countries by taking care of their physical, spiritual, and educational needs.

By coming to this event, you will enjoy traditional African song and dance, as well as help support children in need all around the world. Be sure to bring your family and friends!

The concert will be at New Hope UMC on Sunday, May 14 at 6:00pm.

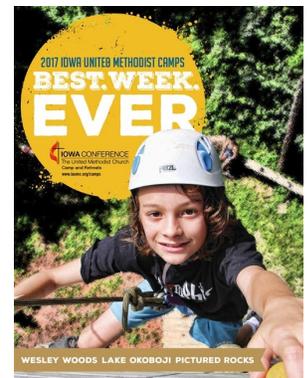
2017 Summer Camp Registration is Officially Open!

The Mission Committee will fund 1/2 of the total cost of a New Hope or JROL child attending a United Methodist Camp.

We want to encourage as many children as possible to have a UMC camp experience!

***Here's what you can do:**

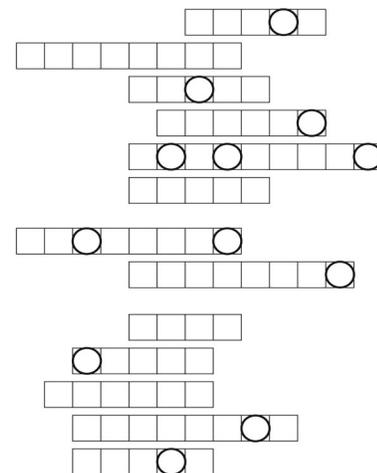
Go on-line at www.iaumc.org/camps or call to register and pay 1/2 of the cost, but tell the registrar that New Hope will send a check for the other half. Then contact Nancy, in the church office, with the name of the child, the total cost, and the name of the camp.



Puzzle!

After completing this Easter crossword, unscramble
the circled letters to discover a special word:

1. What Jesus was wrapped in
2. The site of Jesus' crucifixion
3. One of the rulers who questioned Jesus
4. He washed his hands of Jesus
5. Followers of Jesus
6. He denied Christ
7. A large hill
8. The feast celebrating escape from Egypt
9. Jesus' mother
10. A Jewish teacher
11. The doubting disciple
12. Jesus was mistaken for this
13. One of Peter's other names



Answers: 1. cloth, 2. Golgotha, 3. Herod, 4. Pilate, 5. disciples, 6. Peter, 7. mountain, 8. Passover, 9. Mary, 10. rabbi, 11. Thomas, 12. gardener, 13. Simon; resurrection

Prayer of Blessing

This Lent I have been practicing my normal disciplines of Prayer and Fasting. Most people are very uncomfortable with the fasting, but it has become something my body, soul, and mind anticipate and find a powerful spiritual renewal. (ask me about it if you want to talk more)

This year I have been leading a series on a book, "Thin Places, An Evangelical Journey into Celtic Christianity," by Tracy Balzer. The book is a beautiful and enlightening look at early church understanding and practices in Ireland & Scotland. Our weekly discussions during lent have been to deepen our daily life and practice of faith through spiritual disciplines. The weeks include:



Thin Places – Where are the places where the Divine feels close enough to touch?

Anamchara – Identifying a Soul Friend as a spiritual Mentor

Extraordinary Prayer – Prayer that is expressed as a constant blessing for all things

Pilgrimage – A spiritual journey of the soul

Silence and Solitude – Finding clarity amongst the chaos of a busy world.

Saints & Symbols – Seeing beyond the visible to the deeper meaning

Love of Learning – Finding joy and light as we seek knowledge & wisdom

So far, I think the delve into prayer has impacted me the most. It's not like I feel I have been weak in prayer. I have often prayed for several hours at a time getting lost in thought and traversing my mind, the world, and people in deep spiritual communion. At other time I have experienced days of constant conversation with God that bring a sense of deep peace and joy. But there is something profound and beautiful about a Celtic prayer of blessing that wrapped it's arms around me and would not let go.

As I have been praying this lent, I have looked at everything with a heart to bless. Everything I have touched from my steering wheel, to a table, and every door knob I have turned. I've prayed over and blessed more things than I can count everyday. I made my eyes a lens of blessing, intentionally whispering words of prayer for the houses of complete strangers, a billboard, or a cloud in the sky. Not to leave out my other senses I began to listen closer to the sound of a living world, the chatter of life, business, and play and began praying for all the noises that touched my ears. Finally smell and taste, I began to bless every odor and flavor.

In my effort I realized the abundant blessings I continue to receive through my senses, and I realize that being blessed is an opportunity to bless. But I want you to realize the magnitude of this kind of prayer for just a moment. As I prayed for a doorknob, I prayed for everything that it represented; for the business, owners, patrons, everyone who had touched, or would touch it, the company that made it, the employees, then ALL of the families represented and every doorknob that each of them would touch... Can you just imagine?

I find my lent this year has been deeper, richer, and more powerful than any lent ever before because I have intentionally allowed the Spirit of God in me to bless everything that I have encountered or thought of, with a special emphasis on items of personal conflict or challenge. This kind of prayer has been powerful and healing. I can promise you I have prayed for every person reading this, most of you by name.

As I close this article, you should know, I have been praying over every keystroke, and every letter I see on the screen, a blessing for those who will read them, your families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and community; for the words you will speak, for the things you will hear, what you smell, taste, or touch.

May your Lent be a blessing and in it may you find a way to bless the world around you.

Pastor Craig Ferguson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Ferguson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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.

April 20th – Hopkins Grove May 18th – New Hope





Where was I?

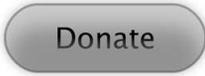
Our young son often asks where he was when something significant happened before he was born. “Where was *I* when you two got married?” “Where was *I* when Nana died? And even “Where was *I* before I was inside your body?”

My response is always “You were in God’s heart.” God said as much to Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5, NRSV).

A Good Friday spiritual asks plaintively, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”

Clearly none of us was present when Jesus died. Yet as we worship on Good Friday, we place ourselves at the cross, where Jesus bore our sins.

“Where was *I*,” we might ask our heavenly Father, “when they crucified Jesus?” I’m confident that God’s tender answer is “You were in my heart.” Indeed, only because of our place there did Jesus go willingly to the cross — and rise to assure us of everlasting life. The Newsletter Newsletter



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.

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance				
	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Feb. 26	21	90	77	188
Mar 5	32	91	90	213
Mar 12	18	60	80	158
Mar 19	23	84	91	198

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance				
Sat	Sun		total	
Feb 25	46	Feb 26	52	98
Mar 4	51	Mar 5	38	89
Mar 11	42	Mar 12	21	63
Mar 18	65	Mar 19	42	107

serve

Sign up to help!
Look for the sign-up
sheets at the entrance
of the Narthex and the
Family Life Center.

Sunday Volunteers

Greeters arrive at worship service fifteen minutes early to welcome worshipers.

Lectors read the scripture lessons for the day at the worship services.

Hosts bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies (no peanuts/nuts), and serve coffee and water after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. After fellowship time the hosts wash, dry, and put away the cookie platters, rinse out and dry the coffee canisters, and take the trash out to the trash bin. When you sign up to host, a letter from New Hope will be mailed to you before you host with instructions on how to host.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please call Nancy Monthei, church secretary, at 278-2097.

Those who serve New Hope in April.

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
2	2	2
9	9	9
16	16	16
23	23	23
30	30	30
Lectors	Lectors	Lectors
2	2 Sherri Bogue	2 Jon Verner
9 Cathy Short	9	9
16 Billy Nuzum	16	16 Billy Nuzum
23	23	23
30	30	30 Confirmation Students
Traditional Service Callers	Hosts	Hosts
2 Bob & Marlys Borcherding	2	2 Roberta & Neal Cave
9 Norma Sutton	9 Nan Tollakson	9 Linda Yaske
16 Bob & Marlys Borcherding	16	16
23 Norma Sutton	23	23
30 Bob & Marlys Bordherding	30 Glenna Ross	30
Contemporary Service Callers	9:30 Computer Support	Money Counters
2 Nancy Monthei	2 Nicole Weisskopf	2 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross
9 Eldon Cross	9 Nancy Monthei	9 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss
16 Nancy Monthei	16 Caleb/Kevin Christensen	16 Clark Howland, Larry Wood, Rick Homard
23 Eldon Cross	23 Nic Wigant	23 Robin Harlow, John Bur- rough, Jerry Kielsmeier
30 Nancy Monthei	30 Terry Dolberg	30 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross
Office Volunteers	9:15 Welcome Center	
7 Pat Papenheim	2 Roberta Cave	
14 Marilyn Osborn	9 Jim & Lynn Louk	
21 Shirley Johnson	16 Jerry & Linda Kielsmeier	
28 Marilyn Monroe	23 Pat Papenheim	
	30 Pat Papenheim	

Hosanna in the Highest!



As Jesus entered Jerusalem on that day we call Palm Sunday, the people cheered him shouting “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Matthew 21:9, NRSV).

It was a cry of adoration and acclamation. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The Son of God entered the capital city humbly but courageously. He knew that danger — even death — awaited him. He went anyway and memorably.

It was a victory day for him, a week before the greatest Victory of all — his resurrection.

No wonder we remember Palm Sunday with joy. It was a glorious day for Christ and for us.

Let us wave palms, a symbol of peace. Let us shout, “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” The Savior has come. The Newsletter Newsletter

April 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
2 5th Sunday in Lent Holy Communion 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure <i>Deadline for Lily orders</i> 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall; 6p Dinner	3 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	4 9:30a, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs)	5 5:30p, TGIW 6p, Jr. BLAST 5:45p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	6 7p, JROL Mtg.	7 Office Vol: Pat Papenheim	1 8 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 9a, Spring Clean up at New Hope campus
9 Palm Sunday Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 & 10:45, Palm Parade by kids	10	11 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Finance Mtg. F.Hall	12 5:30p, Family Easter Celebration 6p, Jr. BLAST 5:45p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	13 Holy Thursday 6:15p, Girl Scouts, down- stairs 7p, Maundy Thursday drama	14 Good Friday Office Vol. Marilyn Osborn 7a-7p, Prayer Vigil 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 4:30p, JROL Community Easter egg hunt, activities & meal
16 Easter 10:45, CLT Easter Party	17 7p, Worship Design, Pastor's office	18 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7:00p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	19 5:30p, TGIW (last one) 6p, Jr. BLAST 5:45p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	20 <i>Deadline for May LINK</i> 9:00a, Women's Fellow- ship, F.Hall & R.Chapel 7p, Israel Study, Hopkins Gove	21 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson 9a-3p, Needlers at church 1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	22 Habitat for Humanity
23 *Native American Ministries (offering) 1p-7p, Rummage Sale donations drop off 4:30p, Confirmation & rehearsal	24 Rummage Sale set up	25 Rummage Sale set up 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	26 Rummage Sale set up 6p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team	27 Noon—6pm, Rummage & Bake Sale 6:15p, Girl Scouts, down- stairs 7p, AD Council mtg., R.Chapel	28 9a-6p, Rummage Sale Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe	29 9a-Noon, Rummage Sale
30 10:45, Confirmation service	May 1	May 2 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	May 3 5:30p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team	May 4 7p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	May 5 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger 1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	May 6



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

***Native American Ministries, April 23:** Your generous gift supports Native American ministries within the annual conference. When you give you educate Native American seminarians and empower outreach into the Native American culture.

- 1 Brian Martz, Tavian Carnahan
- 2 Kirk Dickey, Kelly Reierson,
Bob Harter, Jane Perdue, Vickey Cary
- 3 Patrice Webber, Brett Cullinan,
Nicolaus Haase
- 4 Shirley Frus
- 5 Greg Baker
- 7 Pat Papenheim, Lorelai Roff,
Bob Soards
- 8 Kate Lichter, Marik McGhee
- 9 Bhanu Moses
- 10 Rachel Jackson, Kathy Russi, Jacob
Baumann
- 11 Arnold Larsen, Elaine Collet
- 12 Tanner Rowland, Max Wearmouth,
Reggie Wearmouth, Lynn Louk
- 13 Paul Herring, Carl Wallin
- 15 Carrie Naumann, Steve Halterman

- 17 Donna Greenwood, Bob Rankin,
Susan Smith, Peyton Henry, Jessica
Spring
- 19 Carol Evans, Nicole Gardner,
Nathan Ferguson
- 20 Chase Alcorn, Nan Tollakson
- 21 JoAnn Decker
- 22 Amarachi Ukabiala, Ashlynn Riley
- 23 Kathy Crees, Wade Breitsprecher, Jodi
Beadersdt
- 24 Caleb Christensen
- 25 Bob Borcharding, Julie McClain
- 26 Audrey Naumann, Adam Gregg, Eli
Zimmerman
- 27 Madison McGhee
- 28 Ellie Roquet, Meghan Kinnetz,
Madeline Johnston
- 29 Joelyn Gerovac



- 5: Eddy & Karen Johnston
- 13: Tony & Tracy Hoffman
- 27: Jim & Norma Smith
- 30: Dan & Mona Kirkpatrick

*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.*



Spring—the season of gardening! I have to admit that a few years ago Anita and I gave up gardening. It wasn't that we didn't like gardening or the fresh food it produced. We loved the food and being able to enjoy the fruits of our own labor. However, we now enjoy the fresh food from the labor of others, through the farmer's market and other sources (but not midnight raids of watermelon patches).

You see, as much as we liked trying to grow our own food, we were never able to keep up with all the weeding and care a garden needs. We just couldn't do it! We watched "Victory Garden" on TV and had a friend who gave us advice, but it just didn't seem to work.

As I reflect back on what went wrong, I suspect that we were just not willing to put in the amount of time and attention necessary to have a

successful garden. We didn't have enough commitment to put in the work needed.

Putting time and attention into our Christian lives is also necessary for us to grow spiritually (ah, here comes the sermon). However, just like gardening, that is not always easy to do. We put so much time into becoming educated for our adult lives and careers and yet many of us have not taken the time to become educated in our faith. If we had any training at all, it was the good but limited training we picked up as children in Sunday School that we rely on to prepare us for our Christian lives and the eternal life to come. How many of us would rely on such a limited background to get us through this life?

As we continue in this season of Lent and approach Easter, I invite you to weed and tend your spiritual garden through worship, Bible study, prayer, and involvement in the church. We have a Monday afternoon Lenten study at 1:00 p.m., our every other Friday study at Pizza Ranch, and our Sunday morning adult study at 9:30 a.m. If you want to get really deep, we can talk about the School for Lay Ministry that Billy Nuzum, Charity Johnson, Jessica Hass, and Patrick Malloy are attending. I would also like to expand our Men's fellowship and add a devotion and service focus. We are also seeking ways to expand our prayer ministry in addition to our prayer chain. Small groups are meeting in homes that are open to any who are interested. The Walk to Emmaus program provides a powerful spiritual weekend experience. Jim and Lynn Louk, Craig and Jody Ferguson, Charity Johnson, Patrick Mulloy, Dick & Netha Piphlo, Bob & Julie Culbertson, Dana & Jessica Wimmer, Anita and I, and many others have all been involved in this. Let us know if you're interested in any of these opportunities or if you would like to help us start some new ones!

Let us know what your needs and interests are and we'll find a way to address them. You may be surprised how many good things it will "produce" in your life.

Blessings, Pastor Jon

Lent Theme-- "From Where Will Our Help Come?"

April 2	<u>Title:</u> "Help in the Dry Valley"	<u>Script.:</u> Ezekiel 37:1-19	Holy Communion
April 9	<u>Title:</u> "Help on a Donkey"	<u>Script.:</u> Matthew 21:1-11	Palm Sunday
April 16	<u>Title:</u> "Help From a Gardener"	<u>Script.:</u> John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday
April 23	<u>Title:</u> "Help Through Hope"	<u>Script.:</u> 1 Peter 1:3-9	
April 30	<u>Title:</u> "Help From a Stranger"	<u>Script.:</u> Luke 24:13-35	10:45 Confirmation Service



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
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Director of Music: Eldon Cross
Children's Ministries Coordinator:
Nursery Attendant: Anita Gual
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri: 8:45am-4:45pm

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org
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Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org
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Find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

The LINKnewsletter 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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