

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United  
Methodist Church

# December 2017

DECEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC

## God *with Us*

- Dec. 3** "The Work of God's Hand"
- Dec. 10** "The Lambs of God"  
9:30 - Children's Christmas Program  
Christmas Cookie Walk
- Dec. 17** "The Anointed of God"  
8:30 & 10:45 Choir Christmas Program
- Dec. 24** "The Servant of God"  
10 a.m. one morning worship
- Dec. 24** Candlelight Eve Services  
5:30, 7:30, 10:00 p.m.
- Dec. 31** "The Crown of God"



**NEW HOPE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

# heavenly peace

DOING DECEMBER DIFFERENTLY

Saturdays 5pm &  
Sundays 10am  
Beaver Creek Elementary  
[JohnstonRiverOfLife.org](http://JohnstonRiverOfLife.org)

*Johnston  
River  
of Life*

### *Come spend Christmas with us....*

**Sunday, December 10:** Christmas Cookie Walk after all three services  
9:30am, Children's Christmas program

**Saturday, December 16:** 5:00 & 7:00pm: A Johnston Community Christmas  
sponsored by Johnston River of Life.  
The Simpson Barn in Johnston, 6169 Northglenn Drive.  
Pictures with Santa @ 4pm & 6pm

**Sunday, December 17:** 8:30 & 10:45am, Chancel Choir's Christmas program in the Sanctuary.  
9:30am, Contemporary Service  
6:00pm, Heartbeat Hand bell concert, Family Life Center

**Sunday, December 24—Morning of Christmas Eve:** one worship at 10:00am

**Sunday, December 24—Eve Candlelight Services:** 5:30pm, 7:30pm, and 10:00pm





# membership news

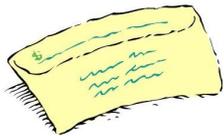
## Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Jan Davisson at 251-4894 or the church office at 278-2097.

## Prayer Concern

Army Larsen; Teresa Garside; Gerald Perdue; Vickey Cary; Linn Redding; 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; Mike McGhee; Todd McGinnity; Tyler McGinnity; Derek Monthei; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Tim Rains; Devan Stanton; Jared Stanton; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.



## 2018 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2018 offering envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall on December 17.

*If you did not indicate on your 2018 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office by **December 10**.*

## Birth

Congratulations to Ryan & Sarah Jacobson on the birth of Makenzie Leah Jacobson, born October 26, 2017. She weighed 6 lbs, 8 oz, 19" long. Makenzie joins big brother, Dane, at home.

## Our Sympathy

Our sympathy to Joe Traylor and family on the passing of Kim Traylor, wife and mother.

Our sympathy to Brian, Suzie Martz and their children Taylor & Nolan on the passing of Brian's dad, Earl Martz.

**The gift of love.  
The gift of peace.  
The gift of happiness.  
May all these be yours  
at Christmas.  
Merry Christmas!!  
New Hope UMC Staff**



## Holiday Open House

at Glenna Ross' home  
5832 NW 52nd Street  
Johnston, IA

When: Sunday, Dec. 17  
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
All are welcome!

## Thank you

Sending much thanks to everyone at New Hope for your kind thoughts, prayers, and cards as well as the Care Team's delicious meal when Steve had his recent surgery. Everything you did was so appreciated. Blessings to all of you.

Charlotte & Steve Schultz

To our church family at New Hope, Thank you for all of the support and care you have provided to our family with the birth of our second child. We greatly appreciate the phone call from Pastor Jon, the cards and the baby blanket that was provided to us. Even though we haven't been a part of New Hope for a while, it is still nice to feel like we are a part of your church family, so thank you for that. It means more than you will ever know. Ryan, Sarah, Dane and Makenzie Jacobson



## Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2017 statements should be received

**no later than December 31, 2017** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2017. Thank you!

# Christmas Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 10, 2017  
After all three worship services

Share some Christmas cheer by donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy to the New Hope Cookie Walk! Sign up on the forms in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will donate. The more cookies that we have, the more fun for everyone!

**Deliver** the home-baked goods to the church  
on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2-4pm.

Please mark your cookies if they have nuts or peanut butter.

## Join us for this Special Event!

There will be a large assortment of homemade Christmas cookies!

**Only \$10 per box (Cash or Check)**

A Styrofoam box will be provided (size 9 ½ x 9 ½ x 3).

It's that easy for some Christmas cheer for you or to give as a gift!

Questions? Please contact Nancy Monthei, in the church office, at [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org) or 515-278-2097.



Heartbeat hand bell ensemble will be presenting a Christmas concert on **Sunday December 17th at 6pm at New Hope UMC**. Please join us in the family life center as we ring in the season!



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

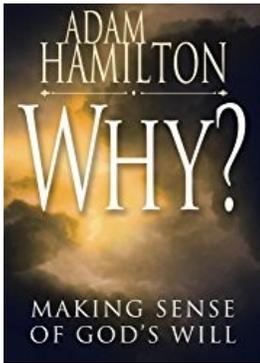
7th annual  
Community  
Christmas  
at the Barn

Sat, Dec 16  
5PM & 7PM

You are invited to a Christmas service of traditional carols, a visit from Santa, cider, cookies & community.

Have your picture taken with Santa!  
4PM & 6PM  
Santa, Cider & Goodies

Celebrate the Season



## Join us for a Book Review

January 8, 2018

1:30pm

Ruby Chapel

*WHY?* by Adam Hamilton. Making sense of God's Will. Where is God when the innocent suffer? Where is God when my prayers go unanswered? Why is God's will so hard to understand?

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection of Leawood, Kansas. A master of explaining difficult questions of faith in a down-to-earth fashion. Please join us for an interesting discussion.

***The book can be purchased online or at your local Barnes and Noble.***

Led by Roberta Cave & Armenta Buckingham



### 2018 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (8:30 & 10:45), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office.

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

## Thank You!

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the following people for their help in participating in fall cleanup on November 4th:

Jon Gaul, Larry Webber, Patrice Webber, Laura Webber, John Rains, Steve Sutton, Spencer Sutton, Mike Wakeman, Bob Harter, Roger Moore, Brock Moore, Robin Harlow, Jolene Harlow, Dick Piphoo, Dani Clemmens, Kevin Christensen, Jodi Christensen, Caroline Christensen, Caleb Christensen, Ally Christensen, Ruth Doxon, Earl Lewis, Sharon Lewis, Chris Higdon, Jennifer Higdon, Ben Higdon, Andrew Higdon, Clark Howland, Gary Stubbs, Nan Stubbs, Tyson Rauser, Tegan Rauser, Charlene Cobb, Gene Shepard, Keegan Shepard, Roger Dann, Tammy Dann, Gwen Dann, Willie Hall, Larry Forbes, and Melisa Forbes

Your time and talents were greatly appreciated!!

Thank you to John Dickerson for providing pie and rhubarb crisp for dessert. Larry and Melisa Forbes provided chili for the crew.



## Blood Pressure Check

No BP checks in December. Next BP checks will be January 7, 9:30a-11a in the Narthex.

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

## Veterans Helping Veterans

The next Veterans Helping Veterans will be Saturday, January 20, 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com)

## Bidwell-Riverside Center

Women's Fellowship members and any other men or women who wish to join them will be doing volunteer work at Bidwell Riverside Center, 1203 Hartford Ave, Des Moines, on Wed., December 27, from 9:00 a.m. till noon. We will meet at the church at 8:30 to carpool to the center. Please notify Lynn Louk if you are planning to go. Contact her at 276-7900, [jimlynnlouk@mac.com](mailto:jimlynnlouk@mac.com)

There are many ways in which we can help, such as checking in clients, helping clients go through the grocery-style food pantry, and sorting donations. Our help is greatly appreciated.

## New Hope Needlers donate to Self-Help International

The New Hope Needlers sewed and donated Little Dresses and Little Britches in November to Self-Help International. They were delivered to children in Nicaragua and brought smiles to so many!!

Nora, with Self-Help Inter. shared, "The 50 Little Dresses and 25 Little Britches have been delivered - and they look great on the kids!! The children who came with their mothers to the microcredit meeting each received a dress or shorts. The children absolutely loved them!!"



## Women's Fellowship

Thursday, December 14, 9:00am at New Hope. Questions? Contact Susan Clark at 964-5119 or Sharon Smith at 419-7082

## Care Ministry Team

Next meeting is Thursday, December 7, 10am in the Fellowship Hall. 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

The Needlers will not meet in December. Join us on Fri., January 19, 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 Jody Rains, 278-8282, with questions.

## Friday Bible Study

The Friday Bible Study at the Pizza Ranch at 1pm. (4954 86th St, Urbandale.) The Pizza Ranch has a buffet and as you arrive, pay for your buffet, load up your plate and join us in our reserved room. Study leader: Jim Louk

Join us in **December** for our study:

**December 1: "Care for One Another"** 1 Corinthians 12:24-26 Paul's analogy between the physical body and the spiritual body of Christ.

**December 15: "Be Kind to One Another"** Ephesians 4:32

## Adult Discussion Group

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

## Support Groups

### Al-Anon

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

### Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.

### Stroke Club of Iowa

3rd Tuesday of the month (February - October) at 7 p.m.

# Children's Ministries

## Children's 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)** 10:45-11:45 on Sunday mornings. No CLT on December 24 & 31.



## Children Christmas Program Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 service

Note: There will be No Children's Worship on this day



**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in CLT** have the exciting opportunity to be part of God's Torch Bearers Acolyte Club for the 10:45 Service.



## This month at TGIW...

<http://www.newhopedsm.org/pdf/TGIW-Schedule.pdf>

Join us for Thank God It's Wednesday "TGIW"! All kids 3 yr. old—5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Puppets:** 5:15-6:00pm. Questions??? Contact Melanie Henry, melhenry0@gmail.com, or Linda Dean, deanlinda2@aol.com

**Dinner:** 5:45-6:15pm

**Kids Activities:** 6:15-7:00pm

**Jr. Ringers** (for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up): 6:00-6:30pm Questions??? Contact Kristin Welter, t.welter@mchsi.com

**December 6:** Christmas Program practice

**December 13:** Santa's Attic

**December 20:** TGIW Christmas Celebration

**December 27:** No TGIW. Have a wonderful Christmas Break!



### Santa's Attic

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas. In fact, for our TGIW program, this is the biggest part of our year!

If you are looking to clean out your house of some gently used items, we ask that you would please put them aside for our Santa's Attic event. On December 13th, our children will get an opportunity to do some "Christmas shopping" for their family members. *We especially need great gifts for dads!*

**Santa's Attic items can be brought to Charity's office!**

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

December 2017

**Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade)** Leaders: Jackie Johnson & Tami Wise:  
Email: JrBLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

## Junior High Blast is ready for a jolly Advent season!

- \* December 6 - Making Coffee, tea and cocoa Fundraiser
- \* December 13 - Santa's Attic - We will be helping TGIW youth "Shop" for presents for their family members. Blast member will be able to shop after younger children have finished, it is recommended not to bring over \$5.
- \* December 20 - Our Jr. Blast Christmas Party - Pizza and funny white elephant gifts.

***The Junior High youth would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!!!***



Jr. Blast delivered items, donated from family disco night, and packaged bags for the Friday Friends program through the Johnston Partnership.

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

How can the calendar year be almost over already? This year has flown by quickly. However, the youth have had a lot of fun learning, assisting and serving others. Specifically, we have been very fortunate to partner with ChildServe this year; which provides us the opportunity to go to one of the ChildServe homes once a month to fellowship with the kids.

Because of the relationships we have formed with the kids at the home; this year we are going to host a ChildServe Angel Tree for BLAST kids and Families. I am working with ChildServe leaders to get a list of the 20 kids that are permanent residents at their two homes in Johnston. Once, I get the list; I need the BLAST youth and parents to take one of the kids off the list and purchase a Christmas present for that child.

Then on December 20<sup>th</sup>; we are going to have a BLAST / ChildServe Christmas party. We will be decorating cookies and have the ChildServe kids open our presents. Please help us by taking a ChildServe kid's name and purchasing a gift for that child.

Additionally, in December, we are going to help provide Christmas gifts to the Zion Lutheran Refugees (Zion STARS Academy). The Senior BLAST group has purchased 25 Footballs that will be donated to Zion for this outreach event. We have also been asked to come on December 13<sup>th</sup> to be personal shoppers for the refugee kids. A few years ago, our group also had the opportunity to help the kids and found this to be a very rewarding event. Turns out, Zion allows refugee children to come to their Church on December 13<sup>th</sup> to go shopping for new items. Each refugee (Zion STARS Academy) is paired with a personal shopper that goes around with them and they get to shop for new items (Clothing, Shoes, Toys, Electronics, Sports, etc). In the end, they end up providing Christmas presents for over 600 kids that night.



**Here's upcoming youth events for the next couple of months:** . More information about the events will be sent out in email and posted on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>).

- Dec. 6th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Dec. 13th @ 6pm ~ Christmas with the Zion refugees
- Dec. 16th ~ Christmas at the Barn (Simpson Barn in Johnston)
- Dec. 20th @ 6pm ~ Christmas with ChildServe (meet at New Hope UMC)
- Jan. 3rd @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Jan. 7th @ 5pm ~ BLAST Christmas Party
- Jan. 10th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Jan. 14th @ 5pm ~ Youth Lock-In and Hand of Luke
- Jan. 17th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe (meet at New Hope UMC)
- Jan. 24th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Jan. 26th ~ Winter Jam at Wells Fargo
- Jan. 31st @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion

# missions

## MISSION'S DECEMBER NEWS



### HEIFER INTERNATIONAL (taken from Heifer's website: www.heifer.org)

Dan West was a farmer from the American Midwest and member of the Church of the Brethren who went to the front lines of the Spanish Civil War as an aid worker. His mission was to provide relief, but he soon discovered the meager single cup of milk rationed to the weary refugees once a day was not enough.

And then he had a thought: What if they had not a cup, but a cow?

That "teach a man to fish" philosophy is what drove West to found Heifer International. And now, nearly 70 years later, that philosophy still inspires our work to end world hun-

ger and poverty throughout the world once and for all.

**HOW IT WORKS:** Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.

When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses.

**PASSING ON THE GIFT:** The core of our model is Passing on the Gift. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities.

*If you choose to "purchase" one or more animals for loved ones as a Christmas gift, you can pick up an honor card from the Mission Table to use instead of a Christmas Card. There are extra catalogs on the mission table as well as the honor cards. Place your check in the offering plate made out to New Hope UMC with Heifer on the memo line. You may indicate which animals you want to purchase.*

**BIDWELL RIVERSIDE CHILDREN'S WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE:** Please place your gifts of children's coats, hats, scarves, and mittens in the large basket on the Mission Table.

**DMARC : DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL:** In addition to giving to the area food pantries cared for by DMARC, Missions makes a monthly contribution to Johnston's Partnership for a Healthy Community and Urbandale's Food Pantry. Both do much more for the impoverished than merely providing a monthly box of food for families. DMARC distributes food to its 11+ food pantries but each local food pantry tries to go further. Here is what we have helped the Johnston Partnership achieve this last year:

- \*distributed 12,640 clothing items to families in need
- \*provided 60,037 food items to hungry families in Johnston
- \*Supplied 8,893 personal care products
- \*prepared 202 Thanksgiving meal bags for struggling families
- \*Coordinated a weekly mentor program for 91 Johnston students
- \*Provided week-end food via the backpack program for 105 Johnston Elementary students
- \*helped food-insecure individuals and families access an extra 3,222 pounds of fresh produce during the g

rowing season.

*You might want to give an extra gift to the Johnston Partnership or Urbandale Food Pantry besides your monthly gift to DMARC. If so, please indicate that on the memo line of your check.*

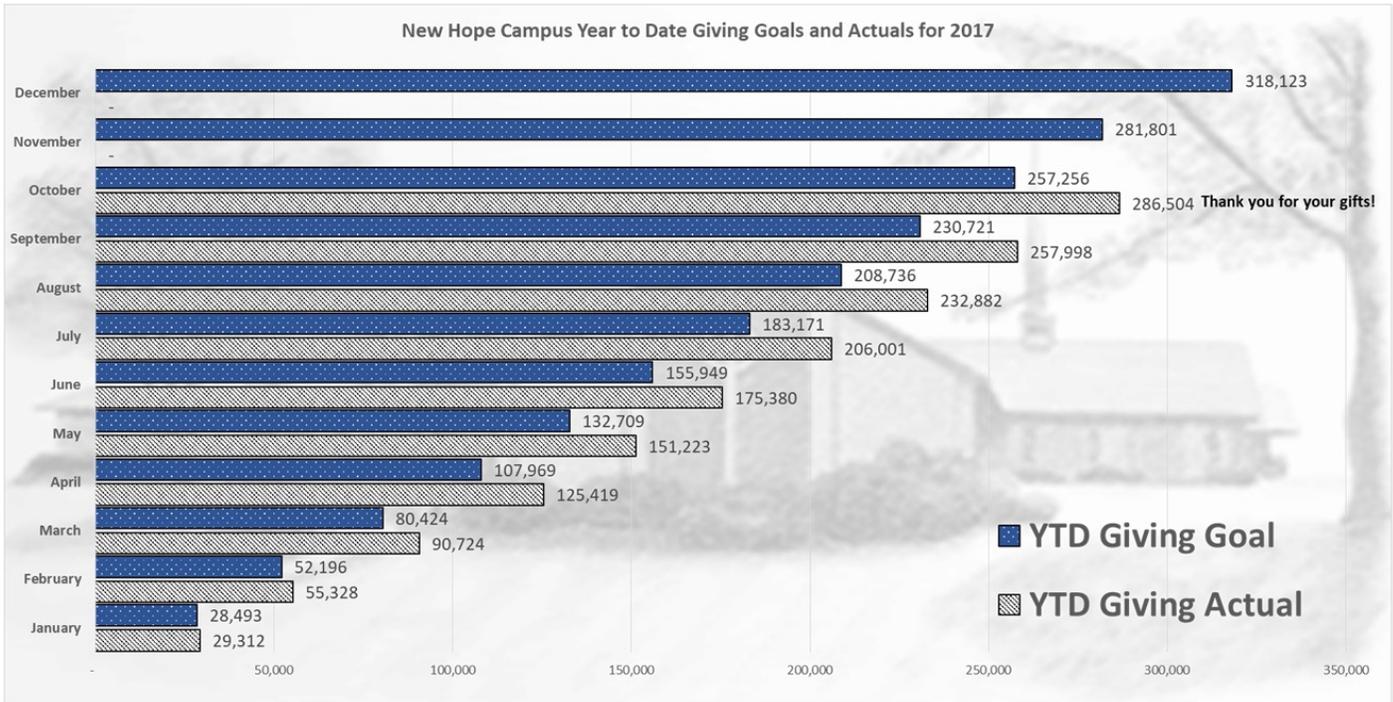
**THANKSGIVING INGATHERING:** Because of your generosity of pledging to Missions, giving kits, and Steve Sutton for donating some of his wooden artistry, New Hope was able to send 62 UMCOR kits, a check for \$1,410 towards: Church World Service Blankets and Tools, Self-Help International, P.E.T. Mobility Worldwide, and money for toothpaste and shipping of the kits.

**HAND OF LUKE:** *December 14:* If you would like to contribute to our ministry of a meal for the Central Iowa Shelter and Services, please sign up on the Hand of Luke sheets in the F. Hall, to donate food, cook, and/or serve.

# ANNUAL Stewardship CAMPAIGN

## 2018 Stewardship

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2018 Pledge Sheet, there is time to do so. Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office. We thank you for your contributions which continue to support our ministries!



### New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
October 29	31	76	80	187
November 5	32	110	68	210
November 12	33	81	73	187
November 19	34	82	87	203
November 26	35	85	87	207

### Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat	Sun	total
Oct 28	Oct 29	87
Nov 4	Nov 5	80
Nov 11	Nov 12	76
Nov 18	Nov 19	69
Nov 25	Nov 26	82

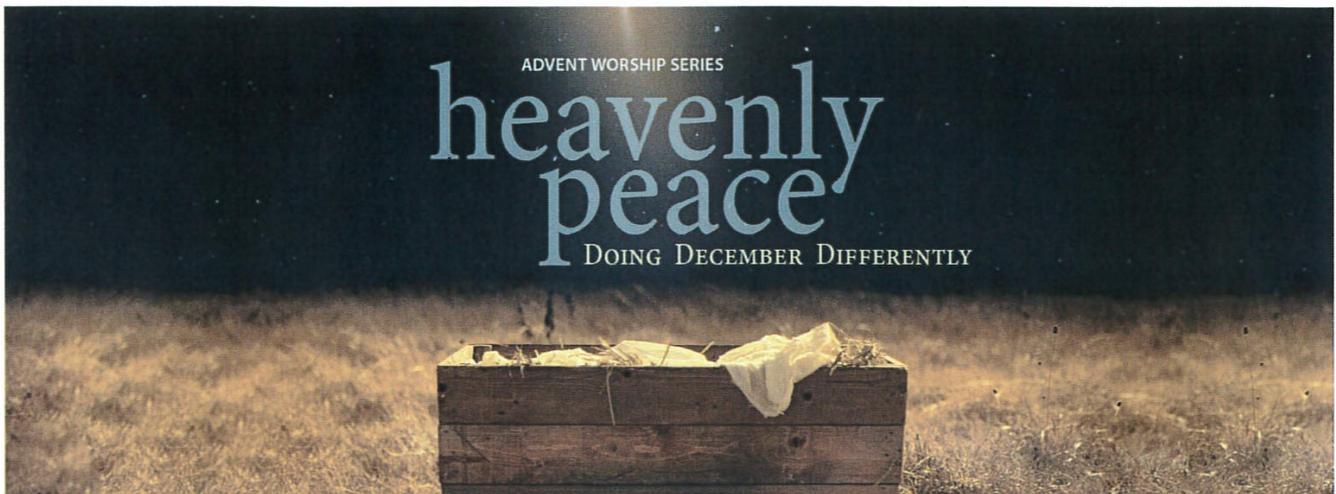


### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

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.



Every year after Halloween it seems like there is a race that takes place through Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. The pace of life and the exhausting list of things that must get done in December;

*Shopping*      *Cooking*      *Christmas Services*  
*Family Photos*      *Christmas Lights*      *Travel*  
*Decorations*  
*Christmas Tree*      *Wrapping Presents*      *Christmas Cards*

I'm tired just thinking of all the things on the calendar this month.

One of the main themes of Christmas is Peace and yet Peace is often the last thing people experience as they are rushing around trying to get everything done.

Coming back from my recent renewal in Scotland I can say I have experienced true peace; a slowing of the pace that fills the heart. But how do we hold on to those experiences, how do we return to that place of inner peace when the world around us demands a sprint to the finish line?

When I consider the life of Jesus, and I realize he only had three years of ministry, it makes me acknowledge how fast paced and frantic everything must have been swirling around for him as well. Jesus was interrupted, he was late getting places, he skipped meals, stayed up nights, he was even followed by mobs that must have been similar to Black Friday shopping. And amidst all of that we still call him the King of King, Lord of Lords, and Prince of Peace!

This Christmas at JROL we have decided to do December differently. That does not mean we have decided to be the grinch and avoid the demands of the holidays. No, it means that like Jesus we are committed to walk through the frantic pace of the season filled with a Heavenly Peace. Join us as we do December Differently!

Pastor Craig

## Exciting News from the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

We are so glad to have Pastor Craig back and engaged in ministry again. He was greatly blessed through his time of renewal in Scotland, and has returned to his work at Johnston River of Life and Hopkins Grove with renewed vitality to focus on his church revitalization work and strengthen his work for church outreach in the communities.

If you read Pastor Craig's blog during his sabbatical, he wrote, "Let me affirm a couple things personally at this point. I know God has called me to plant a church, to rejuvenate a church and to deeply inspire faith and develop spiritual leaders." He added, "When I return I want to pour myself back into community with renewed vitality and purpose. I want to continue what I have experienced in every day of this journey."

It is clear that Craig has returned with enthusiasm and vision for ongoing growth and revitalization of the church and community. He has shared with us some of his passion and goals for the outreach and long-term vision of Johnston River of Life and we are excited to see what the next year of ministry brings.

Since he has returned, he has received an educational opportunity that will work hand-in-hand with his church revitalization focus work. Craig has been invited by Dr. Elmer Colyer, his advisor at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and director of United Methodist Studies at the university, to participate in a select doctoral program that will focus on church revitalization.

The New Hope Staff Parish Relations Committee, led by Vicki O'Brien, has talked with Craig in-depth about the requirements, expectations and benefits of him being in this doctoral program. Craig says the program work will become yearly continuing education commitment and actually will involve less time away from his church work and not cost the churches any additional funding. The coursework will begin in Spring 2018 and take four years to complete.

The doctoral program:

- Offers collaborative planning with other leaders in the conference who are engaged in church plants and church revitalization ministries.
- Focuses Craig's continuing education on areas that are vital to healthy church development and growth.
- Is centered on and integrated in his current appointment positions.

Based on the discussion, the focus work we believe will come for Craig, and the overall development benefit to the churches, the SPRC members voted unanimously to support this opportunity.

Pastor Jon Gaul agrees this program offers great potential for our churches and work in the community to bring the word of God to others. "This is a very timely and appropriate opportunity for Craig," he says. "It will provide the continuing education required in a way that will most benefit Craig's work in new ministry development and revitalization."

Below is a brief glance at the outline for this new Doctoral program.

### **Revitalizing the Church and Its Mission**

Beginning in the Spring of 2018

<b>Faculty:</b>	Rev. Dr. Elmer M. Colyer
<b>Year One:</b>	Revitalizing the Pastor as Leader
<b>Year Two:</b>	Revitalizing the Church
<b>Year Three:</b>	Revitalizing the Church's Mission

#### **Distinctive Features:**

- Collaboration, Support and Coaching

If you would like more details or a list of FAQs about the doctoral program, please ask at the church office or access them from Pastor Craig's blog. If you haven't read his blog articles, check them out at <http://www.pastorcferguson.wordpress.com>



The **Veterans** met for breakfast on November 18. Our guest speaker was Terry Mitchell and his wife Pam. Terry is the Lead Rider for the Patriot Riders in Iowa and was able to tell us of the service they provide for veterans and their families. Our veterans decided to donate \$100.0 to the Patriot Riders of Iowa to help pay for the plaques that they give the families of veterans that they escort to their final resting place.

**The next breakfast is Jan 20, 2018. All veterans and their spouses are welcome at no charge.**

Please contact Billy Nuzum, at [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com), for more information.

**Family Fun Night**—Disco Style — was held on Wednesday, November 1. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped make this a *groovy* time for all!! More pics can be found on the church Facebook page.



**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service** was held on Sunday, November 19. New Hope's director of music, Eric Mohlis, directed the community choir. Thank you to Glenna Ross, Carolyn Burrough, Sharon Lewis, and Betty Holwegner for providing dinner for the choir members. Churches came together for a night of interfaith gathering for reflection and thanksgiving. Monetary donations were made to Zion Lutheran Church for their refugees program. Thank you to Pam Frey and Sue Soards for providing refreshments after the worship service.



# 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 December

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3 10 17 31	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3 10 Mohrman family 17 24, 10am 31	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3 10 17 31
<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 3 Cathy Short 10 Vicki O'Brien 17 31	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 3 Jodi Christensen 17 24, 10am 31	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 3 Jon Verner 10 Cathy Cate 17 Lynn Davisson 31 Barb Mather
<b><u>Traditional Service Callers</u></b> 3 Norma Sutton 10 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 17 Norma Sutton 24 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 31 Norma Sutton	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 3 Paulette Wood 10 Cookie Walk 17 Pam Frey 31 Glenna Ross	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 3 Paulette Wood 10 Cookie Walk 17 Roberta Cave 31
<b><u>Office Volunteers</u></b> 1 Theresa Flickinger 8 Gayle Easton 15 Norma Sutton 22 Marlys Borcharding 29 Gayle Easton	<b><u>9:30 Computer Support</u></b> 3 Kelly Mohrman 10 Nic Wigant 17 Sherri Bogue 24 Nancy Monthei 24, 5:30p Gary Stubbs 31	<b><u>Money Counters</u></b> 3 Tami Wise, Jerry Kielsmeier, John Burrough 10 Tracy Hoffman, Joe Hoffman, Glenna Ross 17 Clark Howland; Rick Homard, Larry Wood 24 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 31 Tami Wise, John Burrough, Robin Harlow
	<b><u>9:15 Welcome Center</u></b> 3 Neal & Roberta Cave 10 Jerry & Linda Kielsmeier 17 Jim & Lynn Louk 31 Neal & Roberta Cave	



TO EVERYONE WHO DEDICATED TIME TO HOSTING  
I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU!

Appreciatively,  
Pam Weisskopf

# December 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
3 1st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 11:45a, Women's chorus practice, Sanctuary 1:30-3:30p, Decorate Advent by Candlelight tables	4 9:0-3p, Decorate Advent by Candlelight tables  7p, Advent by Candlelight, FLC  7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	5 9:30a, Sr. Singers, Sanctuary 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	6 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	7 10a, Care Team Mtg., F.Hall   7:00p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	1 Office Vol: Terri Flickinger 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch  8 Office Vol: Gayle Easton 5:30p-7:30a, Boy Scout lock in	2 10a-11:30, CLT Christmas program practice  9 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 10a-11:30, CLT Christmas program practice 2-4p, Drop off cookies for Cookie Walk
10 2nd Sunday of Advent Cookie Walk 9:30a, Children's Christmas program	11   6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	12 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice, Sanctuary 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	13 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST—Zion 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6-6:30p, Jr. Ringers (2 <sup>nd</sup> & up) 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	14 9a, Women's Fellowship at church  3:30p, Hand of Luke  7:00p, Worship Design, Pastor's office	15 Office Vol: Norma Sutton  <b>Deadline for Jan. LINK</b>  1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch  7-9p, Cub Scouts, FLC	16   5p & 7p, JROL Christmas worship, Simpson Barn in Johnston
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Food Pantry Sunday (offering) 8:30 & 10:45a, Choir Christ- mas program 6p, Heartbeat Bell Concert, FLC	18   6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	19 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	20 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST (Childserve) 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6-6:30p, Jr. Ringers (2 <sup>nd</sup> & up) 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	21	22 Office Vol: Marlys Borcherd- ing	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 10a, morning Worship, FLC  Candlelight Eve Services 5:30p, 7:30p, 10:00p	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	27 9a-Noon: Office Vol: Gayle Easton  No TGIW / Youth Activities  6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	28 9a-Noon: Office Vol: Gayle Easton	29 9a-Noon: Office Vol: Gayle Easton	30
31	January 1 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  	January 2 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  7:00p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	January 3 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 <sup>rd</sup> & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6-6:30p, Jr. Ringers (2 <sup>nd</sup> & up) 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	January 4	January 5	January 6

**Staff:** Nancy Monthei, Office Admin,  
will be on vacation Dec. 27—29.



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



- 1 Dean Peterson, Jason Juran, Kara Garside
- 2 Brandon Thompson
- 3 Linda Dean
- 4 Charity Johnson, Leah Breitsprecher,  
Pascal Karekezi
- 5 Alec Beck-Cross
- 6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren, Stacey Wigant
- 7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney
- 9 Kaylee Stubbs, Lexi Dean, Max Gerleman,  
Liz Grow, Keith Trillet, Violet Siffin
- 12 Obi Ukabiala, Matthew Stern,  
Mary Grace Leyda
- 13 Emma Naumann
- 14 Nolan Monthei
- 15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short, Alexis Evans
- 16 Lindsey Robertson
- 17 Mary Ann Rice, Austin Cook, Andy Sutton,  
Sawyer Haugo, Desiree Spring
- 18 Sheri Thompson, Sue Soards, Chris Boyles  
Georgette Kyenkya, Alexis Harlan,  
Susan Blank, Gaby Dimitri

- 19 Neil Cross, Brady Jansen,  
Spencer Sutton, Kylie Perez
- 20 Teri Reierson, Larry Buske,  
Sarah Wiles, Carter Naumann
- 21 Matt Stringham, Adam Hartung,  
Zoe Wilson
- 22 Paulette Wood
- 23 Susan Baldwin
- 25 Renee Haugland, Jennifer Riley
- 26 Joan Clary
- 27 Kim Buske, Charlotte Roff
- 28 Ashley Marsh
- 29 Liam Fulton, Richard Kile,  
Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher
- 30 Jeffrey Merrill, Jaedyn Cale
- 31 Quinn Merrill

- 17 John & Denise Hartford
- 18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue
- 19 Steve & Vicky Cary
- 22 Bob & Linda Reaney
- 27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson
- 27 Jon & Anita Gaul
- 28 Ethan & Maya Johnston
- 29 Nicholas & Stacey Wigant
- 31 Courtney & Tricia Berry

*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.*



As the Christmas shopping season is now well underway, I am reminded of the fate of so many of our past Christmas gifts. Toys which had once been nicely wrapped and opened with excitement on Christmas day, all too soon became broken, worn, and forgotten. I remember, among others, the remote control car with the lost remote, the bow and arrow set missing the string and arrows, and the in "infamous" cardboard kitchen.

A friend also got a cardboard kitchen for his daughter the same Christmas we got one for ours. We compared notes on our ordeal. His box read, "QUICK AND EASY INSTALLATION: ASSEMBLES IN MINUTES." It did take him just minutes to assemble--211 minutes to be exact! I think it only took me 203 minutes to assemble mine, but who's counting? I don't know what happened to his kitchen, but, after an initial excitement

and brief use, ours sat for a long time in the basement no worse for the wear and a shining symbol of dreams and wants gone by.

I wonder now how meaningful all my labor of love (and frustration) was in working so hard to assemble a soon forgotten object. Oh, I know it was appreciated at the time, but gratitude for, and interest in, such things seem so short lived that I have realized we put too much stock in them. My 203 minutes (give or take a few minutes) and even the money spent might have been better used and appreciated by spending it with my kids rather than on something for them that gets lost, broken, or set aside.

The gift Jesus gave to us was an example of how to live a life of sharing love and concern with others. If we can start by sharing that gift with our loved ones and those around us, then any other gifts we give will be "icing on the cake."

In the meantime, we are beginning to do our Christmas shopping and I will be checking each gift carefully to be sure none say, "Some assembly required."

Grace and peace,

## **December Theme-- "God with Us"**

<b>December 3</b>	<u>Title:</u> "The Work of God's Hand"	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 64:1-9
<b>December 10</b>	<u>Title:</u> "The Lambs of God"	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 40:1-11
<b>December 17</b>	<u>Title:</u> "The Anointed of God"	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 61:1-4
<b>December 24</b>	<u>Title:</u> "The Servant of God"	<u>Script.:</u> Luke 1:26-38
<b>December 31</b>	<u>Title:</u> "The Crown of God"	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 61:10-62:3



#### 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  
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei  
Director of Music: Eric Mohlis  
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Charity Johnson  
Nursery Attendants: Anita Gaul & Jackie Johnson  
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

#### Church Office Hours

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

#### E-mail Information

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
Pastor Jon Gaul: [jgaul@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jgaul@newhopedsm.org)  
Pastor Craig Ferguson: [craig@newhopedsm.org](mailto:craig@newhopedsm.org)  
Nancy Monthei: [nancy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nancy@newhopedsm.org)  
Charity Johnson: [cjohnson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:cjohnson@newhopedsm.org)  
Eric Mohlis: [emohlis@newhopedsm.org](mailto:emohlis@newhopedsm.org)

#### Find Us

Phone: (515) 278-2097  
4525 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310

#### 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  
New Hope United Methodist Church  
4525 Beaver Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310