

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

December 2019

DECEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC

WATCHFULNESS WHILE WE WAIT

Dec. 1 "Watchfulness is Necessary"

Dec. 8 "We Wait for Something More Than Expected"

Dec. 15 "Believing While Waiting"

Dec. 22 "Already Gifted While Waiting"

Dec. 29 "Living in Uncertain Times"



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Come spend Christmas with us...

Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 8, 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Share some Christmas cheer by donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy to the New Hope Cookie Walk! Sign up on the form in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will donate.

Deliver the home-baked goods to the church on Friday, Dec. 6th, 9am-11am or Saturday, Dec. 7th, 1pm - 2pm.

If you use peanut butter or nuts, please clearly indicate it when delivering your cookies to the church.

Purchase your cookies on Sunday, Dec. 8th. We provide a Styrofoam box for you to fill for \$10 per box! Sr. BLAST is organizing this event and all proceeds will go toward their summer mission trip.



Healing Service ~ Thursday, December 12th, 6:30pm. "There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole." Come and receive the healing hand of Jesus for you and/or on behalf of others.

Santa's Attic ~ If you are looking to clean out your house of some gently used items, we ask that you would please put them aside for our Santa's Attic event. On December 18th, our children, will get an opportunity to do some "Christmas shopping" for their family members. We especially need great gifts for dads! We can also use gift bags, tape and tissue paper! Santa's Attic items can be brought to Charity Johnson's office.

Christmas Cantata ~ Sunday, December 22, 2:00 p.m. *Go Sing It on the Mountain* will be performed by New Hope's chorus and musician friends. Please invite your neighbors and friends for this special Christmas event.

Also, we are accepting donations of new adult socks for the homeless for the holidays. If you would like to donate, we will have a basket for your donations.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services ~ Tuesday, December 24th

5:30 p.m. – Family oriented Christmas Eve service, in the Family Life Center, will have fun elements for children and families.

7:30 p.m. – Our Christmas Eve service will feature our Chancel Choir, special Christmas music and carols.

10:00 p.m. – Christmas carols, special music and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be a part of our late night service.

Sunday, December 29, 10am ~ One Worship Service in the Sanctuary. Guest Preacher: Pastor Neil Cross



Timeless God, we enter the last month of the calendar year and the first season of a new church year. Bless our celebration of Advent. Amen.

Prayer Chain Request

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

Prayer Concern

Dale Myers; Carol Harter; Paulette Wood; Dorothy Montgomery; Brenda McConahay; Kail Hopkins; Jeanette Diekhis; Bishop Laurie Haller; District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.

Prayers for the following military personnel: Jessica Weltha-Bales; Kelsey Bartley; Dawn Bernal; Jason Homard; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Mike McGhee; Todd McGinnity; Tyler McGinnity; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Devan Stanton; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.



If you are home bound, in a nursing home, or feeling alone and have not been visited by our Care Team or Pastor Lilian, please let us know because we would love to visit you. Please contact the church office at 278-2097, nhfamily@newhopedsm.org

Baptism

Congratulations to Carsyn Jae Berry who was baptized on November 24th. Carsyn is the daughter of Courtney and Tricia Berry.



Wishing you the Love, Peace and Happiness that the true meaning of Christmas brings May God bless you and your family. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!
New Hope UMC Staff

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday:

7:30am – 4:30pm

Friday: 7:30am – 11:30am

During these hours, please come to the south door with the “Church Offices” sign. Please press the intercom button on the “Enforcer” silver box to ring into the office.

Thank you!

Monthly meeting minutes

are available for anyone to review! Locate the wall bin outside of the church office.

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.

ALSO, we appreciate receiving your updated contact information.

Thank you!



Young Adults Gathering (ages 18 - 27 yrs.) ~ December 1st

Pastor Lilian invites young adults (ages 18 - 27 yrs) for a gathering at the Ruby Chapel on **Sunday, December 1st, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.** This will be a time of a simple meal, fellowship and conversation.

Please *RSVP* by *November 26th* to the church office, 278-2097, so Pastor Lilian knows how much food to prepare.

Christmas Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 8th, 9am - 10:45am

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!

If you use peanut butter or nuts, please clearly indicate it when delivering your cookies to the church.

Examples of home-baked items to consider to donate are: sugar cutout & decorated Christmas cookies, gingersnaps, chocolate chip, chocolate, oatmeal, lemon, candy cane, Oreo balls, Kringla, dipped pretzel rods, etc. We also invite you to make bars (pre-cut) and candy such as caramels, fudge, and toffee.

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

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

- * **Sign up** to donate home-baked cookies, bars or candy
- * **Deliver** the home-baked goods to the church on Fri., Dec. 6, 9am-11am or Saturday, Dec. 7, 1pm - 2pm.
- * **Purchase.** On Sunday, Dec. 8, everyone is welcome to participate in the Christmas Cookie Walk! Walk around the table to choose cookies, placing them in a provided Styrofoam box (size 9 ½ x 9 ½ x 3), and purchase \$10.00 per box. The whole box full for \$10 as long as the lid can close.
- * **Enjoy!** It's that easy for some Christmas cheer for you or to give as a gift!

Join us in this very special event! Sr. BLAST is organizing this event and all proceeds will go toward their summer mission trip.



Healing Service Thursday, December 12th, 6:30pm.

While we wait for the promised return of Christ, the Church has so many gifts to offer to all the world. One of these gifts is the gathering of God's people to receive healing of body, mind, spirit and relationship from Jesus Christ.

Come and be encouraged by a congregation that is trusting in God's faithfulness in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement. Come and join us so that we may pray and anoint the sick that they may be healed.

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." James 5:14-16a



Gingerbread House Workshop ~ Canceled

The bad news: The Gingerbread Workshop event has been **CANCELLED** for this year.

The good news: You have a whole year to dream up an amazing design for next year!

Go Sing It on the Mountain

Pepper Choplin



Christmas Cantata ~ December 22nd, 2pm

This year we will be blessed with *Go Sing It on the Mountain* for our Christmas Cantata. New Hope's chorus and musician friends will be performing this acclaimed piece on December 22 at 2pm.

Also, we are accepting donations of new adult socks for the homeless for the holidays. If you would like to donate, we will have a basket for your donations.

The birth of Jesus is a scene of awe-inspiring humility: God in human form, born in a lowly manger for our salvation. Pepper Choplin's distinctive, folk-infused musical style is particularly well-suited to capture this story. Employing a highly-inventive mixture of mountain melodies, folk hymns, spirituals, familiar carols, and original music that is sure to surprise and delight, Go Sing It on the Mountain proclaims the good news from the prophet Isaiah's proclamation,

"Comfort, O comfort my people, to the final exuberant celebration: Joy to the World! Christ is born!" Solos, Duets, and Trios shine the spotlight on featured singers.

Please invite your neighbors and friends for this special Christmas event.



First Fridays With The Kids!!

Join us December 6th from 10-11am for **First Friday!** This month the focus is **CHRISTMAS!** During this gathering each month we enjoy a themed activity time with a Bible basis. All ages are welcome, but the activities will be most suitable for pre-school aged children. We plan to meet in the fellowship hall.

We may be singing, crafting, listening to stories, dancing or playing games (or a combination of all of these things) during our time together monthly.

Below are the remaining dates and the monthly focus.

January 3- Winter

February 7- Love

March 6- Spring

April 3- Easter

May 1- Mother's Day

Are you unable to attend, but know someone that is home with a little one during the day?

Extend an invitation for them to join us!

If you have any questions or for more information please contact Jackie Johnson at (515) [710-3239](tel:710-3239) / jackiejohnson81@aol.com



Mom's Group ~ Friday, January 20th, 9-10:30am

Join us once monthly for **mom**-versation while the kids play in the New Hope Nursery.

In December we will meet on Friday the 20th from 9-10:30am.

There will not be a prepared program, but we will open and close in prayer. This is meant to be a time of organic conversation, fellowship and support for one another.

Questions? Contact Jackie Johnson (515)710-3239/jackiejohnson81@aol.com

Save the Date!

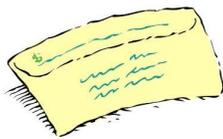
January 5th will be the Sunday that we will **undecorate the church** after the 9:30 & 10:45 services. Please stay and help!

God's Girlfriends ~ Anchored in Christ! Saturday, June 13th, 9am-Noon. Join us for inspirational speakers, fun and delicious food! More details coming soon!



2020 Stewardship

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2020 Pledge Sheet, there is time to do so. Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office. Various committees are writing the church budget for the coming year. They're placing their trust in God and believing in our members and friends to support the church's ministry. Let us all show our faithfulness with good stewardship through our time, talents and treasures. We thank you for your contributions which continue to support our ministries!



2020 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2020 offering envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall on December 22.

*If you did not indicate on your 2020 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office by **December 15**.*



Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2019 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2019** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2019. Thank you!



2020 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.

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance				
	8:30	9:30	10:45	Total
Oct 27	29	71	72	172
Nov 3	40	75	77	192
Nov 10	31	65	68	164
Nov 17	35	78	81	194



Mark Your Calendar! Rummage Sale will be held May 7-9, 2020!

Please be prayerfully considering how you are able to help with this annual fundraiser and community outreach event.

We appreciate any support you can give from an hour or twenty of sorting, to supervising an area, to donating your well-loved and cared for items to benefit others.

Thank you in advance to the wonderful volunteers and those that donate generously each year, New Hope is amazing!

Questions? Please contact Jackie Johnson 710-3239 or jackiejohnson81@aol.com



The Trustees would like to express our gratitude to everyone who volunteered their time and energy for Fall Campus Cleanup!

Turnout was great, and we were able to accomplish everything on our task list due to the generosity and stewardship of our volunteers.

Special thank you to Melisa Forbes for preparing & serving the chili and pie!

Thanks to all who participated:

Armenta Buckingham
Chris, Jenn, Ben & Drew Higdon
Dale Monthei
David Montgomery
Dick Piphon
Doug Fairchild
Earl & Sharon Lewis
Gene & Keegan Shepard
Jim Bolstad

John Rains
Linda & Jerry Kielsmeier
Melisa & Larry Forbes
Mike Wakeman
Robin & Jolene Harlow
Steve Sutton
Spencer Sutton
Sue & Bob Soards
Tim McCulley
Caleb Warner

Email Scams

Recently a number of New Hope members received email purporting to be from Pastor Seagren. Please take note of the following:

- Pastor Seagren's email address is on the **newhopedsm.org domain**, and she will not email you from a public email service such as Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, AOL or others.
- Always check the sender's address on any message you receive, and if the address isn't an **@newhopedsm.org** address, ignore and delete.
- Pastor Lilian will never solicit you through email to purchase gift cards or other items on her behalf. Any such request is a scam.
- If in doubt about the authenticity of an email, try to contact the sender by phone to verify if they actually sent the message.



The recent emails have been counterfeiting Pastor Seagren's account, but future efforts may attempt to impersonate other New Hope members. The Federal Trade Commission has some excellent information regarding email phishing scams on their website: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

Spencer Sutton
Co-Chair



First annual Chili Cook-off ~ Sunday, January 26, 5pm

The Bridge Team would like you to join New Hoppers and friends for good food, games and the company of our church family!

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to enter the Chili Cook-off contest by January 19, 2020.

Simply bring a big crockpot of your best chili on January 26th all ready to go no later than 4:30pm.

Event attendees will sample the chili and will vote on a variety of categories. After the voting ends, you can fill up a bowl with chili. We will also have hot dogs and desserts.

This is a community outreach event! Please invite your friends!

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.

Blood Pressure Check

December 1st, 9:30a-11a, Narthex.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 14th at 7:30a at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, December 19th at 9am for refreshments and at 9:45am a program and meeting. Please join us!

Questions? contact Susan Clark at 964-5119 or Sharon Smith at 419-7082.

Bidwell-Riverside Center

Members of our congregation will be volunteering at Bidwell Riverside on Thursday,

December 12th, from 1- 4 p.m. Those who want to carpool meet at the church at 12:30 on the day we are going. Questions? contact Lynn Louk (276-7900).



Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets quarterly. Next meeting is on Thurs., March 12th at 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 meet the third Friday of the month in the 3rd grade classroom from 9:00 - 3:00, with a break for lunch at Panera. We sew lap quilts for the Care Team, Little Dresses, Little Britches, and Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits for various missions.

Projects only need basic sewing skills, but you don't need to be a seamstress to join us.

We often have non-sewing jobs to do. The next get-together is Friday, December 20th.

Questions? Contact Jody Rains, 278-8282

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.

Friday Afternoon Bible Study

Fridays, Dec. 13th & 27th.

The group meets at Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St, Urbandale, in the Cowpoke Room.

We will gather between 12:30 - 1:15 pm to eat. The study will begin at 1:15 pm and conclude by 2:30 pm. The focus of our study this year will be the Gospel of John.

All are welcome and if you would like to attend, please be sure I have your email address for all notifications.

James Louk,
jimlynmlouk@mac.com

Veterans Helping Veterans ~ January 18th, 8:30am

Our veterans had a wonderful breakfast on November 16th. The speakers were Craig, Mike and Tim from Titan Roofing and The Titan Project. They gave us a lot of good information concerning the Titan Project which is set up for veterans to gather together doing useful projects for other veterans.

The next breakfast will be January 18th at 8:30am at New Hope UMC. All veterans, spouses and supporters are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com



Children's Ministries

If you have any questions, please contact Charity Johnson at cjohnson@newhopedsm.org

Children's Ministries Mission Statement: Connecting Kids to God and others.

Christian Learning Time (CLT) Sundays at 10:45-11:45 am

We will not be meeting for Thanksgiving Break on Dec. 1st and Christmas Break on Dec. 22nd and Dec. 29th. We will resume Christian Learning Time on January 5, 2020.



S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace) activities:

Wednesdays at 5:45-7:00 pm

Vision Statement: Connecting lessons about God through real life experiences

Meal 5:45-6:15pm, Open to all kids, youth, adults, families & choir members with a free will offering each night

SWAG Activities 6:15-7:00pm

STEM ACTIVITIES (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)

December 4th: Fidget Spinners for God

December 11th: GPS God

The S.W.A.G. kids will sing on Sunday, December 15th at the 9:30 and 10:45 services with the songs they have been practicing with Pastor Lilian.

December 18th: Santa's Attic

December 25th - No TGIW for Christmas Break

We will resume TGIW on January 8, 2020



Santa's Attic

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

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 18th, our children will get an opportunity to do some "Christmas shopping" for their family members. *We especially need great gifts for dads!*

We can also use gift bags, tape and tissue paper! Please, no wrapping paper this year as we have a good supply remaining. Thank you for helping our kids feel the JOY of gift giving this Christmas!

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

BLAST—Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade) Leaders: Jackie Johnson & Jenn Higdon JrBLAST@NewHopeDSM.org



We spent November in reflection of how **THANKFUL** we are for the **friendships** and **fellowship** in our youth group. We enjoyed lessons on being our authentic selves for God and God's guidance. We played an interesting game that required us to look up numerical answers in different Bible verses and move the corresponding number of spaces throughout the church basement, fun and educational at the same time! We finished out our month by getting out to visit some members that are home bound or ill. During our visits, we delivered fleece blankets made by our youth.

We expect December to be another great month for our group! **Our December events are listed below.**

12/4- Christmas Caroling, 6:15-7:30, we will be caroling at a skilled care facility in the community with our Sr. BLAST group.

12/11- BLAST Christmas Party, 6:15-7pm, please bring a white elephant gift to exchange, value of no greater than \$10.

12/18- Santa's Attic, 6:15-7pm, we will be helping to select and wrap presents with the PreK-5th graders in our church. Our Jr. BLAST kids will also get to participate in purchasing/packaging gifts for their families after the little kids are done, please send up to \$5 with your Jr. BLAST youth.

12/25- No Meeting, Merry Christmas!



Jr. BLAST enjoyed games in November



Jr. BLAST delivered blankets



Confirmation Class for 8th Graders

December 8, 4:30pm (Students only)

Topic: The human story: loved, saved, claimed and sanctified

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lilian at 641-757-2334 or Lilian@newhopedsm.org.

BLAST - Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

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

How can the calendar year be almost over already? This year has flown by quickly. However, the youth are having a lot of fun learning, assisting and serving others.

This year, we will be joining with Junior BLAST to go Christmas Caroling on December 4th at some local nursing homes. Come ready to share your talent of singing!

Again, this year we are blessed with our opportunity to do our Annual ChildServe Angel Tree for BLAST kids and Families. I am working with ChildServe leaders to get the permanent residents' Christmas lists. Once I get those lists; I need the BLAST youth and parents to take one of the kids off the list and purchase a Christmas present for that child (\$20 to \$30).



Then on December 18th, 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 will be hosting the New Hope Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 8th for all services. We need everyone's help in providing donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy for the event. Please sign up on the form in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will donate. The more cookies that we have, the more fun for everyone! We will also need help on Sunday, December 8th to help restocking the cookies as people purchase them.

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

Not Meeting Nov. 27th (Thanksgiving Break)

Dec. 4th @ 6pm ~ BLAST Christmas Caroling

Dec. 8th ~ New Hope Cookie Walk

Dec. 11th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussion

Dec. 18th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe Christmas Party (*meet at New Hope UMC*)

Not Meeting Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st (Christmas Break)

Jan. 4th ~ BLAST Christmas Party at Higdon's House

Jan. 8th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussion

Jan. 12th @ 8am ~ BLAST Breakfast at New Hope

Jan. 15th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe (*meet at New Hope UMC*)

Jan. 19th @ 8pm ~ BLAST Annual Lock-In Event

Jan. 22rd @ 6pm ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussion

Jan. 23th @ 4pm ~ Winter Jam at Wells Fargo

Jan. 29th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for **BLAST** Discussion

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



Sr. BLAST youth playing games with ChildServe residents in November.

missions

DECEMBER MISSION NEWS

UGANDAN CHICKEN PROJECT: The chicken house is done, but the Inspector hasn't arrived to give it the "official stamp of approval". We will soon be giving more of an update to show what you have accomplished in Kiryanga, Uganda! Since it took more than our fundraiser took in last Christmas, we are asking for people to donate again by "buying a flock(s) of 20 chickens retroactively...we paid from our Mission account, but are raising money to replace that amount of \$2,500.

So, go to the Mission Table, pick up an honor card, fill it out, and send with your Christmas card to your loved one(s). A flock of 20 chickens costs \$20, so you can make your check out to New Hope in the amount you choose to donate, and write Chicken Project on the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate any time before Christmas. Thank you so much for your generosity.

MISSION INGATHERING: A group of New Hoppers attended our November Ingathering in Greenfield, and delivered a check and some items for the Bazaar. We supported Heifer International, Church World Service, Self Help, and Mobility Worldwide. Representatives from those missions visited about what they do and how we can help.

Next year, Missions is planning on donating and taking as many UMCOR Hygiene Kits as we can. We will have a new method of collecting the kit items. Each month will be designated a collection month of one of the items in the kit. January and February, we will collect hand towels. And each month there after, we will collect the rest of the items: washcloths, combs, nail clippers, soap, toothbrushes, and band-aids.

Beginning in January, we will place the name and requirements of each item to be collected for that month on the Mission Table and publish in the Link and Bulletin. Because January is a great sale month for bed and bath items, you might be able to get some good bargains. Make sure the hand towels are between 15"X25" to 17"X27" in size. Any other size is not accepted. You may want to buy your washcloths at the same time, but we will collect them in March. Happy shopping!

AIRTS: The African Immigrant and Refugee Transition Services was recently renamed from Umafasha. They have rented office space at: 2175 NW 86th Street in Urbandale to serve better those needing help transitioning from a much different culture to ours. Their phone # is: 515-331-8983. Please refer anyone needing this kind of help to them. We will be hearing more about how you can help this new, caring Mission.

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS: On the sign-up table near the doors to the Family Life Center, will be a sign up to buy an item for a needy Des Moines family. You can bring the items and place in the large basket by the Mission Table. We will deliver all before Christmas. If the sign-up fills up and you want to help, please note the information there that gives a way to go on-line and donate to another family.

SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS: We will also collect warm, adult socks for the Homeless. You can drop in the basket on the Mission table, or bring and drop in a basket as you enter to enjoy the Christmas Cantata.

END OF THE YEAR REPORT: If your group has contributed in-kind items, or cash donations to a charity, please send that information to: Sharon Smith, wicketsblooms@aol.com, as Mission's will be compiling our annual Year End Report of New Hope Mission giving.



HOL: HAND OF LUKE—December 14

New Hope supports the homeless at the Central Iowa Shelter and Services downtown Des Moines, by cooking and serving up to 250 individuals on the 14th of each month. If you would like to contribute to our November 14th ministry of a meal, please sign up on the Hand of Luke sheet in the Fellowship Hall, to donate food, cook, and/or serve. Or...sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084EABAB2EA31-hand5>

The cooking is done at New Hope and transported to the shelter to serve. It is a wonderful program to support and everyone at the Shelter loves New Hope's cooking and delicious meals. Thank you for your support of this program! Questions? Contact Jolene Harlow, 515-490-8813 or rdharlow@earthlink.net.

Pondering Stewardship: The joy of automated giving?

In planning for stewardship activities this year, I was talking with Pastor Lilian and wondered out loud if those of us who give electronically miss the celebration of giving each week? When we give our time and talents to our many missions, the joy of giving is immediate. If we automate our giving, are we automating our stewardship and our relationship with God and missing the joy of Christian giving? Do we become complacent in our stewardship?

As one of the automated givers, I don't have any answers to these questions. Personally, during offering I do feel a little awkward as the plates are passed around. But maybe this awkwardness is not rooted in a lack of putting anything in the plate, but more of my inability to properly celebrate the offering moment.

I'm certainly not proposing we change the automated giving, but I would like us to reflect on how it might affect our steward relationship with God. As with any technology, the change is in place and moving forward while we are left to our own means to address the effects of the change. Automated giving helps the church to smooth the effects of decreased giving during the summer or when (as in last winter) the weather hampers Sunday worship attendance. These are great things for the operation of New Hope.

In the end, the challenge for me (and maybe others) is how do I make Christian stewardship the means by which I make the church and the Kingdom of God a joy and not simply a banking transaction.

Many thanks and blessings for the gift of your time, talents and resources.

Robin Harlow
Chairperson, Finance and Stewardship and Chronic Ponderer

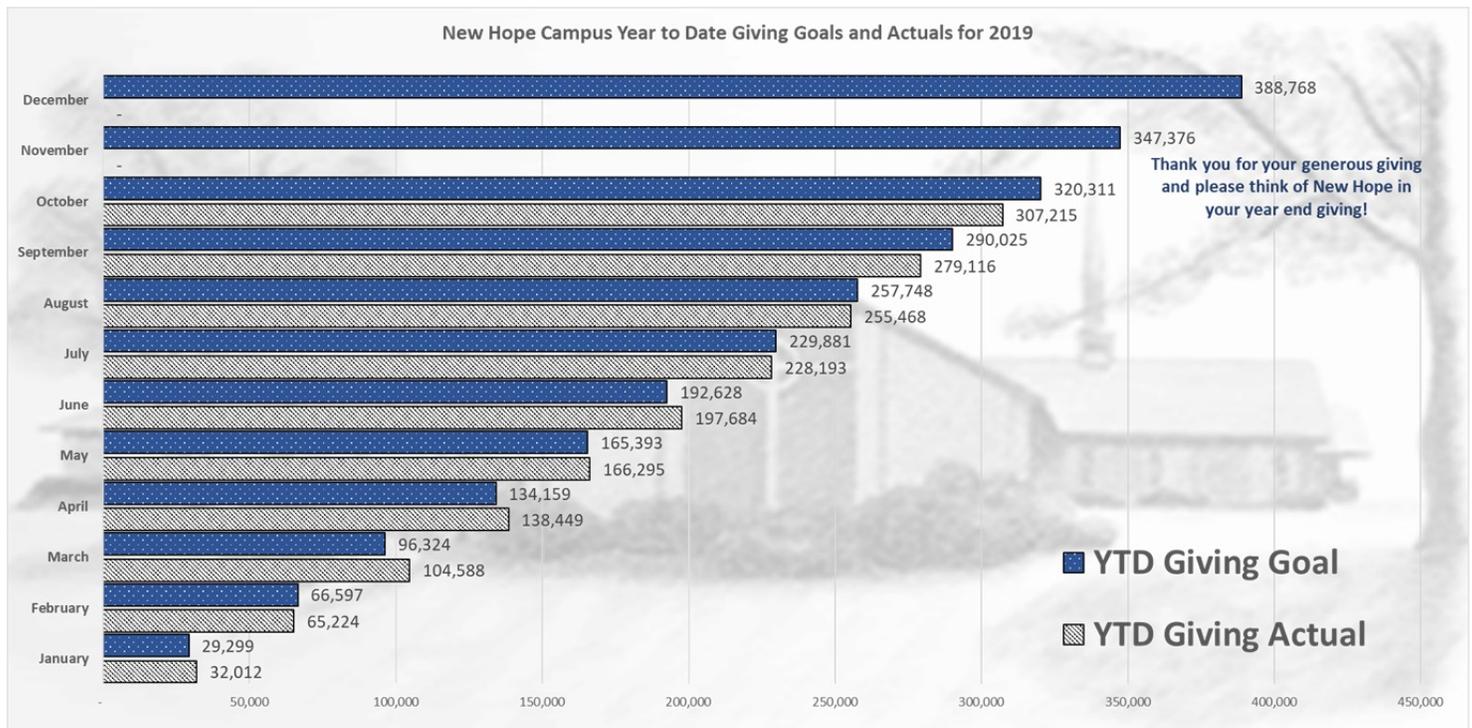


New Hope wants to remind you that we offer online giving as a way to automate your offering.

To setup online giving go to www.newhopedsm.org and click on the **Gifts** tab. This will direct you securely to set up an automatic donation.

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.

Those who serve New Hope in December 2019:

Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYR _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUSS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
_____				_____			
9		10		11		12	
_____		_____		_____		_____	

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (O), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E), God's gift of love

8:30am Traditional Service

Lectors

- 1 Armenta Buckingham
- 8 Billy Nuzum
- 15 Marilyn Osborn
- 22 Cathy Short
- 29 10am one worship

Office Volunteers

- 6 Theresa Flickinger
- 13 Shirley Johnson
- 20 Gayle Easton
- 27 Ruth Doxon

9:30am Contemporary Service

Lectors

- 1 Kelly Mohrman
- 8 Patrice Webber
- 15 Pam Frey
- 22 Christopher Spring
- 29 10am one worship

Hosts

- 1 Nan Stubbs
- 8 Cookie Walk
- 15 Linda Yaske
- 22
- 29 10am one worship
Glenna Ross

9:30 Computer Support

- 1 Pam Frey
- 8 Doug Fairchild
- 15 Rick Homard
- 22 Kevin/Caleb Christensen
- 29 Sherri Bogue

10:45am Traditional Service

Lectors

- 1 Jon Verner
- 8 Clarice Rubek
- 15 Cathy Cate
- 22
- 29 10am one worship:
Barb Mather

Hosts

- 1
- 8 Cookie Walk
- 15 Linda Yaske
- 22 Jan Davisson
- 29 10am one worship

Money Counters

- 1 Tami Wise, Jerry Kielsmeier, John Burrough
- 8 Glenna Ross, Tony & Tracy Hoffman
- 15 Clark Howland; Rick Homard, Larry Wood
- 22 Randy Jansen, DeVonne Douglas; Patty Nearmyer
- 29 Tami Wise, Jerry Kielsmeier, John Burrough



Sunday Volunteers

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, an email reminder will be sent to you.

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

December 2019

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday mornings
Traditional Services: 8:30 & 10:45
Contemporary Service: 9:30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1st Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 9:30a-11a, Blood Pressure checks No CLT 5p, Young Adults Gathering at Ruby Chapel	2 9a-3p, Advent by Candlelight table decorating 7p, Advent by Candlelight, FLC 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	3 9:30a, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers, Sanctuary Noon, AA 6:00p, SPRC Mtg, R.Chapel	4 Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW) 4yrs-12th grade 5:45p, Dinner 6:15p-7p, SWAG Activities 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:15p, Jr. BLAST 7:00p, Puppets 6:30p, Chancel Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	5 6:30p, Worship Design Mtg, Pastor's office	6 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger 9a-11a, Cookie Drop off 10a-11a, First Friday with the Kids	7 1p-2p Cookie Drop off
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Cookie Walk 10:45a, CLT 4:30p, Confirmation class	9	10 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	11 Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW) 4yrs-12th grade 5:45p, Dinner 6:15p-7p, SWAG Activities 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:15p, Jr. BLAST 7:00p, Puppets 6:30p, Chancel Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	12 1p, Bidwell Riverside Volunteering 6:30p, Healing Service, Sanctuary	13 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson 1:00p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	14 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 3:30p, Hand of Luke
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Food Pantry Sunday 10:45a, CLT Puppets perform 9:30 & 10:45, S.W.A.G. kids sing 4:30p, R.Chapel reserved	16 Deadline for Dec LINK	17 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	18 Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW) 4yrs-12th grade Santa's Attic 5:45p, Dinner 6:15p-7p, SWAG Activities 6:15p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 7:00p, Puppets 6:30p, Chancel Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	19 9:00a, Women's Fellowship, R.Chapel 6:30p, Finance Mtg., R.Chapel	20 Office Vol: Gayle Easton 9a-10:30a, Mom's Group 9a-3p, Needlers	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent No CLT 2pm, Christmas Cantata	23 6:30p, Chancel choir practice	24 Church Office Closed 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA Candlelight Christmas Eve Services 5:30p, 7:30p, 10:00p	25 Merry Christmas!! Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	27 Office Vol: Ruth Doxon 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	28
29 Guest Preacher: Neil Cross 10am One Worship Service No CLT	30	31 Church Office Closed 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	January 1 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed	January 2	January 3 10a-11a, First Friday with the kids!	January 4 9a-3p F.Hall reserved



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

- 1 Dean Peterson, Bryant Siefken
- 2 Lisa VanDenBerg, Brandon Thompson
- 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, Keith Trillet
- 12 Obi Ukabiala, Mary Grace Leyda
- 14 Nolan Monthei
- 15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short, Alexis Evans
- 16 Lindsey Robertson
- 17 Mary Ann Rice, Andy Sutton, Desiree Spring
- 18 Sheri Thompson, Sue Soards, Chris Boyles, Georgette Umuhoza, Alexis Harlan, Susan Blank, Gaby Dimitri

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



- 18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue
- 27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson
- 27 Jon & Anita Gaul
- 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, so we can update our files.



Waiting for the promised return of our Savior is a deal for us and so we invest intentionally and passionately in preparing for our Savior's return. We learn from God's people of long ago who prepared the highway for God with practices that are beyond time and space. Some of these practices are centered around the work of having a heart ready to receive the long awaited and or dreaded return of Jesus: a repenting and humble heart; a longing and attentive heart; a loving and giving heart; a worshipful and singing heart. "Come, thou long expected Jesus." I look forward to waiting and preparing with you for our Savior's return!

There is also a gift that Advent and Christmas seasons offer to New Hope UMC and I hope that you take this gift with courage! These two seasons are the best time to invite a family and or a friend to worship and to events that are happening here. Please make a copy of all the events and worship services and share it. Be a bridge between our Savior's heart and the hearts of your family and friends!

Please note that "Holy Conversations" on the 2nd Thursday of each month will not be happening in December but will resume in January.

Pastor Lilian is offering "A Healing Service" on December 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for anyone who longs for healing of body, mind, spirit, and relationships.

May your celebration in the weeks to come bring joy to you and to God.

Lilian@newhopedsm.org
641-757-2334

For the month of December...“Watchfulness While We Wait ”

December 1	“Watchfulness is Necessary” Holy Communion	<u>Script.:</u> Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24: 36-44
December 8	“We Wait for Something More Than Expected”	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 11:1-9, Matthew 3:1-12
December 15	“Believing while waiting!”	<u>Script.:</u> Luke Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11
December 22	“Already Gifted While Waiting”	<u>Script.:</u> Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-25
December 29	“Living in Uncertain Times ” Guest Preacher: Pastor Neil Cross 10am One Worship Service	<u>Script:</u> Matthew 2:13-23



Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

8:30am Traditional Service

9:30am Contemporary Service

10:45am Traditional Service

Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

www.newhopedsm.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lilian Gallo Seagren

Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei

Director of Music: Colby Gochanour

Children's Ministries Coordinator: Charity Johnson

Nursery Attendant: Jackie Johnson

Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

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

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org

Pastor Lilian Gallo Seagren: Lilian@newhopedsm.org

Colby Gochanour: colby@newhopedsm.org

Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org

Charity Johnson: cjohnson@newhopedsm.org

Find Us

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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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