

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

December 2020

DECEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

9 am – Parking Lot
10:30 am – Parking Lot
newhopedsm.org

Singing OUR Songs

OF FAITH DURING DARK TIMES

NOVEMBER 29
"Songs of the Apostles"

DECEMBER 13
"Songs of the Bearers of Good News"

DECEMBER 27
"Songs of The Church"

DECEMBER 6
"Songs of the Prophets and Priests"

DECEMBER 20
"Songs of Preparers"

DECEMBER 24

5:30, 7:30 – Parking Lot • 10:00, Zoom - <http://christmas.newhopedsm.org/>

Worship with Us on Sundays!

Dear New Hope Family and Friends,

New Hope's Transition Team continues to monitor and update procedures for the safety of everyone during this global pandemic.

In light of Governor Reynolds recent proclamation and under the direction of Bishop Laurie Haller, **we will suspend all in person worship and indoor ministries until further notice.**

Going forward:

1. We will continue with our 9:00 & 10:30 Sunday morning worship in the Parking Lot.
2. We will continue with our pre-recorded worship service that is emailed to you and also posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewHopeDSM>
3. Christian Learning Time (CLT) will be virtual on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. Families, please watch for an email with further details.
4. Groups will need to meet virtually; **no meetings inside the church.** If you need help with setting up a Zoom meeting, please let Pastor Lilian know.

If you have questions or concerns about the changes, please contact Clark Howland (clarkhowland@msn.com), chair of the Transition Team.

Stay safe & well!



Join us for Christmas Eve Services, December 24th

5:30pm - Parking Lot Service. You will be able to sit in your car and listen to the service on the radio feed.

7:30pm - Parking Lot Service. You will be able to sit in your car and listen to the service on the radio feed.

10:00pm - Zoom Online Service. You will be able to sit in the comfort of your own home and worship by logging on at <http://christmas.newhopedsm.org/>

Also, a prerecorded musical Eve worship will be created and emailed to everyone and posted on Facebook.



*May Joy be your gift at Christmas
and may Faith, Hope, and Love
be your treasures in the New Year.*



New Hope UMC Staff

Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Mary Ann Rice at 964-7734 or the church office at 278-2097.

Prayer Concern

Lynn Louk; Linda Miller; SaLynn Conley; Fred Foreman; Anita Gaul; Dorothy Montgomery; Brenda McConahay; Freda Ruleman; Glenda Millard; Chris Boyles' sister, Trudy; JoAnn Pugh; Cathy Cate; Carole Followwill; Desiree Spring; Sheryl Matern; Gordon Johnson; Wayne Bellinghausen; Stephanie Roul Stewart; Josephine Demarco; Greg Ankeney; John Ahlbrecht; Kay Lynn Ahlbrecht; island of Luzon in the Philippines Bishop Laurie Haller; District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary; Women at the Well.

Prayers for the following

military personnel: Jason Homard; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Todd McGinnity; Devan Stanton; Hunter Schmidt; Jessica Welth-Bales; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

If there are any other people that should be listed, please contact the church office at 278-2097, nhfamily@newhopedsm.org

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Dick & Charlene Cobb's on the passing of their nephew, John.

Our Sympathy to Joe & Judy Nemmers on the passing of Joe's uncle.

Our Sympathy to Melisa & Larry Forbes and family on the passing of Melisa's brother, Mike Teachout.



2021 Altar Flower Calendar

When worship services are back indoors, 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 service.

Directory Updates

Papenheim, Pat
8800 NE 82nd St.
Apt. 316
Kansas City, MO 64158
515-238-6830
patpapenheim@gmail.com

Jon Verner
4210 Hickman Rd
Apt. 1220
Des Moines, IA 50310
515-564-9444
vernersjsa@gmail.com

Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2020 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2020** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2020. Thank you!

2021 Offering Envelopes

Your 2021 Offering Envelopes will be available by December 20th.

If you did not indicate on your 2021 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office by December 14.

Young Adults Gathering (ages 18 - 27 yrs.)

We will relaunch the gathering in 2021 with Pastor Lilian. Watch for emails.



Confirmation 2020/2021

The Confirmation students and their families will be sharing the Advent readings on our prerecorded worship services. **Thank you!!**

The next gathering will be by Zoom on Sunday, December 6th, 1:00-2:15pm. Please watch for an email with the Zoom link.

If you have questions, please call Pastor Lilian at 642-757-7925.



Each November, Suzie Martz coordinates the opportunity for you to pick up a paper angel with incarcerated parents' children's wishes for a Christmas gift. **Due to the pandemic, the Angel Tree program has gone virtual this year.**

How it works: All gifts are **\$42/child**. You select a child and Angel Tree will mail a gift card and religious materials directly to the child. You can choose as many children as you like. There is also an option to provide a gift to the child's parent/guardian, please know that this is optional.

Here is the New Hope Church link to get started: <https://tinyurl.com/yywbxppq>

The access code is: **GXC0K**

After entering the code, you will see virtual tags with the names of children assigned to New Hope. Just browse through the tags, select the child(ren) you want to sponsor, and click **checkout!** With just a few clicks, you can show a prisoner's child the love of Jesus—the greatest Gift of all.

Thank you for connecting children with their incarcerated parents.

If you have any questions or concern please call or text Suzie Martz at 515-669-6296.



Hand of Luke, December 14th: This is our monthly ministry of a meal for the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Since the pandemic started, we have been able to continue our Hand of Luke program thanks to the congregation's monetary donations. We have used these donations to purchase the food needed to provide a meal. We will continue to do this for the foreseeable future instead of asking the congregation to purchase and drop off food items at the church as in the past. You can either include your donation in the Sunday offering with it designated for HOL or go to the church's website and do an online donation. Click on Gifts and then fill in the amount on the Hand of Luke line.

Have you been longing for a way to serve others during this Pandemic? The Hand of Luke team is looking for one or two people to help Patrice Webber and Jolene Harlow coordinate the monthly meals. Responsibilities are to determine the menu using past menus and recipes as a guide, purchase the groceries, either assist in preparing the meal or ask for volunteer help, and arrange for drivers to deliver the meal. Please contact Jolene Harlow at rdharlow@earthlink.net or 515-490-8813, if you are interested or have questions. Thank you!



Christmas Cookie Opportunity

Are you missing baking cookies for our annual Cookie Walk? Looking for a fun family activity while helping others at the same time? We are looking for donations of decorated Christmas sugar cookies for our December Hand of Luke meal. **If you would like to donate two dozen cookies, please let Jolene Harlow know by email, rdharlow@earthlink.net or text 515-490-8813. Drop off at the church will be Sunday, Dec. 13th.**

Thank you!

Women's Fellowship
Postponed until further notice.
 Questions? contact Susan Clark at 964-5119.

Veterans Helping Veterans
Postponed until further notice.
 Questions? contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast
Postponed until further notice.

Care Ministry Team
 Next meeting is **Thurs., Feb. 11th at 10am at the church.** Social distancing and wearing face masks.
 Questions, contact Clarice Rubek, rrubek@aol.com

New Hope Needlers
Postponed until further notice.
 Questions? Contact Jody Rains, 278-8282

Blood Pressure Check
Postponed until further notice.

Bidwell-Riverside Center

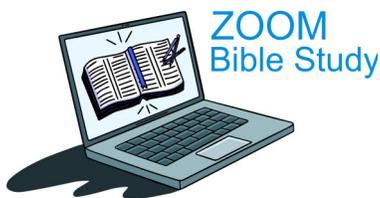


At this point Bidwell continues to cancel group-volunteering events through December.

However, if anyone from the group would like to volunteer as an individual, they would welcome you but would need to know about one week in advance.

If anyone is interested in doing that, please contact Lynn Louk (jimlynnlouk@mac.com) or 515-276-7900 and she can inform you about tasks that could be done.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic found its way to Iowa the Bidwell Pantry has served 9,206 individuals.



FRIDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The Friday Zoom Bible Study will meet again on **December 11th at 1:00pm.**

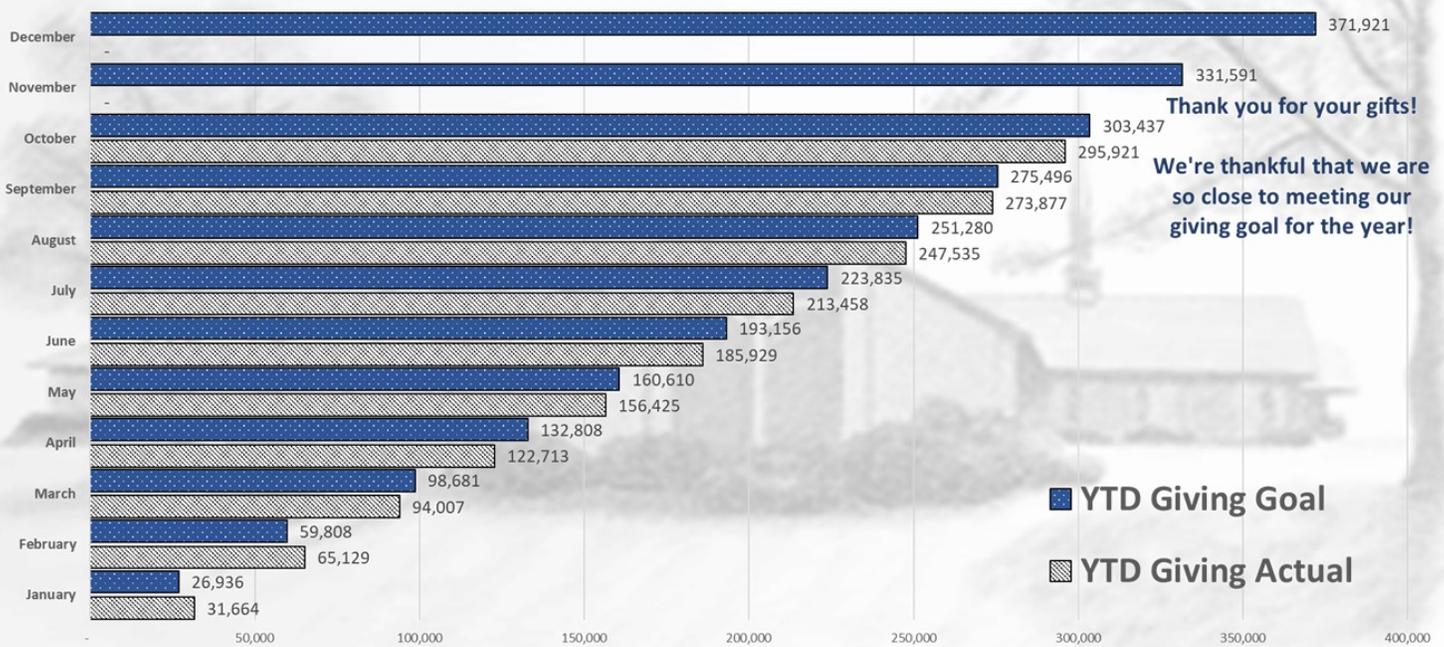
We concluded our study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. We will only meet once in December and our study will focus on the

"Advent virus." We will look at some signs and symptoms of this positive condition that will be refreshing, and we won't hear the common "If I can just get through December." Instead, we can develop an uncontrollable urge to bring joy and peace into Christmas by spreading this virus.

If you would like to join the group please contact Jim Louk at jimlynnlouk@mac.com, or call him at 515-402-7573, so he can help you connect with our group.



New Hope's Year to Date Giving Goals and Actuals for 2020



Thank you for your gifts!
 We're thankful that we are so close to meeting our giving goal for the year!

■ YTD Giving Goal
 ■ YTD Giving Actual



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

Mission Statement: Connecting kids to God and others.

Vision Statement: Connecting lessons about God through real life experiences.

Christian Learning Time (CLT): 4 year old—7th Grade

We will continue to meet every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Parents, please watch for emails with more details. We will be learning about the Ten Commandments.

****There will be no CLT on December 27th and January 3rd.****

S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace): K - 5th grade

S.W.A.G will be on Wednesdays at 6:00pm via Zoom. Parents, please watch for emails with more details. I hope you all are enjoying our travel through Psalm 23! We will continue to look into Psalm 23 and learning our sign language lessons for our song.

****There will be no S.W.A.G. on December 23rd and 30th.****

Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat ~ Saturday October 31st

Thank you to everyone that was involved in planning such a successful, safe and fun event at New Hope UMC! Jackie Johnson, Pam Frey, Melisa Forbes, Glenna Ross, Charity Johnson & Nancy Monthei coordinated the event that brought in many people from the community. It was fun to see the smiles on peoples faces as they drove through to view the decorated trunks, see the Polk County Sheriffs on horses and listen to Pulse 101.7 playing their Christian music. Thank you to everyone that decorated a trunk and smiled back at everyone.

Check out more pictures on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewHopeDSM>



BLAST - Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

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

Jr. BLAST enjoyed meeting outdoors while it lasted, but our meetings went virtual partway through November and will continue virtually via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm during the month of December.

We welcome all New Hope 6th-8th graders (their friends are welcome too) to join us for faith-building, fun, and fellowship!

If you are not receiving our weekly email reminder and would like to get on our distribution list, please let Jackie know at jackiejohnson81@aol.com.

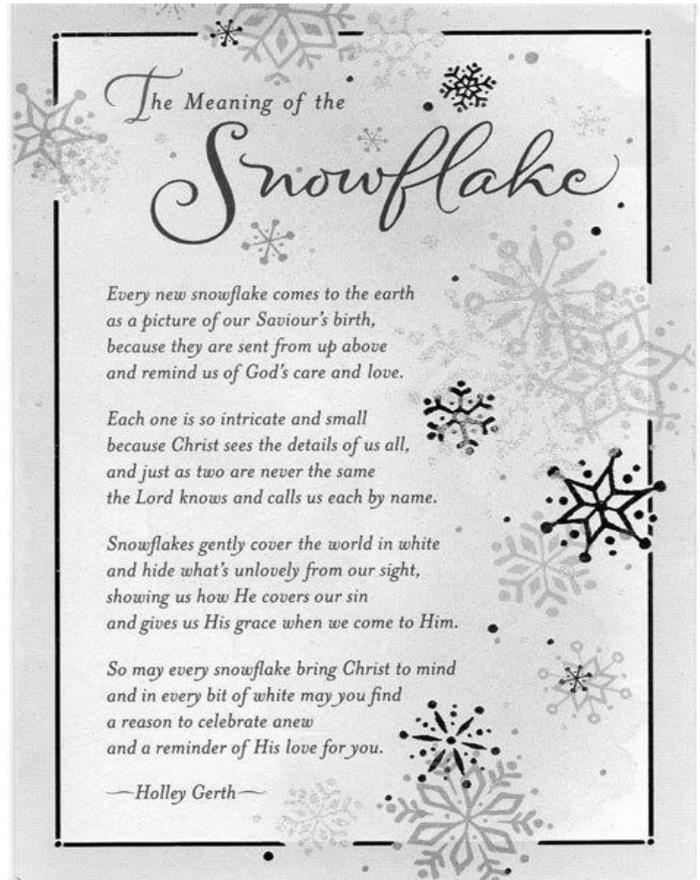
December 2nd- Zoom Meeting, 6-7pm

December 9th- Zoom Meeting, 6-7pm

December 16th- Zoom Meeting, 6-7pm

December 23rd- No Meeting, Christmas Break!

December 30th- No Meeting, Christmas Break!



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

This might be the first year that I am excited that we have reached the end of 2020...

Most years, I cannot believe how fast the year went by and I am not ready for the next year to start. The starting of the new year means; we are halfway through the school year and we need to plan and execute our annual mission trip fundraising plans. However, considering everything that has happened in 2020; I am looking forward to 2021 and hoping to get back to some sense of normality.

As you might have heard or realized; our normal December activities are not happening as they traditionally do... We won't be celebrating Christmas with ChildServe with our angel tree gifts, hosting the New Hope Cookie Walk fundraiser for our annual mission trip, or be caroling in the nursing homes this year.

With all the things we won't be doing; I am excited to announce that we will be hosting our annual BLAST Christmas party; however, it will be virtual and will still be in January. More information will be sent out in early January.

Until then; we will continue to have our **Sr. BLAST virtual weekly gatherings at 7pm**. We will have a combination of Bible studies and virtual game nights when we meet.

Zoom Link for our December Meetings (*Dec. 2nd, Dec. 9th, and 16th*)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667660572?pwd=N0ptQ3I3NUFPSnNFbkVxTEliTzAvUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 6766 0572

Passcode: SR_BLAST

We will have Christmas Break and will not be meeting on December 23rd & December 30th.

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

missions

NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

Co chairs: Cheryl Moore & Marilyn Osborn

DIGNITY KITS: A big thank you to everyone who donated items for the Dignity Kits. There were enough items to complete 54 kits which were delivered on November 7th to the Ingathering. A special thanks to Pat Papenheim, Susan Clark, and Judy Stout for assembling the kits.

CONTINUING SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP AGENCIES: Each month checks are issued from the Mission Fund to the following: Missionary, Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, Women at the Well, Bidwell Riverside, Johnston Partnership, Urbandale Food Pantry, and DMARC.



BIDWELL TOY PANTRY: Last year Bidwell served over 1700 children through the Toy Pantry and anticipates greater needs this year. Besides the Toy Pantry, they are accepting: Hats & Gloves; New Socks; Gently-used coats; New blankets, quilts or afghans

Drop off options:

starting Monday, November 30th, there will be a no-contact drop off bin behind the yellow building by the Bidwell Administration noffice located at 1203 Hartford Ave., Des Moines on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am-4pm; Tuesday & Thursday, 9am-6pm.

No contact drop off—staying in your car option: Call one day ahead at 515-244-6251 and they can coordinate a time for you to stay in your car and the staff will grab the items so you don't even need to get out of your car.

Go to website: : <https://www.brc-hh.org/toydrive> for complete information/

New toys are needed for ages 0-12. Gift cards for ages 13-17.

GRAIN BIN: One of the effects of the pandemic season is the burden of so many families to put food on the table. The good news is that we always have something to share so that nobody is hungry. Never underestimate the power of a hand-full of uncooked rice, a cup of uncooked beans, a ladle of maize, a cup of cassava fufu and a can of soup!

Staying healthy requires healthy food. To our Asian, African, Latinx and immigrant neighbors, healthy food includes: rice, maize, cassava flour, and beans. Making these foods available to them will help them with their other basic needs of living, especially when there are school-aged children in the family.

The inspiration of this "Grain Bin" was Pastor Lilian's story: A poor family of six in the village cooked three cups of raw rice every day. Before the mother/wife adds water into the pot, she sets aside a hand-scoop of the rice into a container. At the end of each month, the family offers to their Church the set aside rice.

When the Grain Bin is full, the donations will be given to Johnston Partnership, Bidwell Riverside and the Urbandale Food Pantry, on a rotation schedule.

Donations can be collected on Sundays. Thank you for your giving heart.



Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and did not take care of you?

(Matthew 25:44 NRSV)

Kathy Fairchild, Finance and Stewardship committee member, contributed the following information:

Tax Benefits of Charitable Giving

While your primary reason for giving to New Hope is to support the church and its ministries, there are a number of tax benefits that can help to maximize your giving.

New \$300 Charitable Deduction for Non-Itemizers

The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) included a charitable deduction of up to \$300 in 2020 even if you don't itemize. In order to get the above the line deduction, the contribution must be made in cash to a qualified charitable organization - like New Hope!

Other charitable contributions may be deducted as itemized deductions. Generally, contributions can be deducted up to 60% of your adjusted gross income. The CARES Act increased the giving limit to 100% of adjusted gross income in 2020. The increased limit is especially helpful for retirees who have money to give but don't have a lot of income coming in leading to a smaller adjusted gross income.

Tax Break for Giving Appreciated Stock

You may get a bigger tax benefit if you give appreciated stock rather than making a cash contribution.

If you have owned stock for more than a year, you can deduct the *value* of the stock on the date you give it to charity if you itemize. The amount of the deduction is the value of the stock even if that is greater than your basis. Even if you don't itemize, you will still avoid having to pay long-term capital gains taxes on your profits, which could have a cost savings of up to 20%.

If you have investments that have decreased in value, it is better to sell the stock first and deduct the loss. After the sale, the cash can be contributed to New Hope.

If you are interested in making a contribution appreciated stock, contact the church office for more information on the process.

Make a Tax-Free Transfer from Your IRA

Normally, a distribution from a traditional IRA is subject to taxes since you did not pay taxes on the money when it was put into the IRA. People who are age 70 1/2 and older can give up to \$100,000 per year tax-free from their IRA to charity, with a transaction called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

The gift counts as your required minimum distribution but isn't included in adjusted gross income.

This is a great strategy if you have to take required minimum distributions and would like to give money to charity - you can help the charity and not have to pay taxes on the money you are required to withdraw from your IRA.

To keep the money from being reported in adjusted gross income, it must be transferred directly from your IRA to the charity - you can't withdraw it first.

Because of the CARES Act, people are not required to take required minimum distributions in 2020. However, you can still make a tax-free transfer from your IRA to New Hope.

Ask your IRA administrator about the procedure, and contact the New Hope office for more information.

Other Reminders

- **A contribution is deductible in the year in which it is paid.** Putting the check in the mail to the charity constitutes payment. A contribution made on a credit card is deductible in the year it is charged to your credit card, even if payment to the credit card company is made in a later year.
- You need to maintain proper documentation of your contributions. If you want to claim a charitable deduction for a cash gift, then you must be prepared to verify your claim. In other words, you cannot deduct the spare change dropped in a charity's collection bucket without the proper documentation. If you are audited, the IRS will only accept one of the following to substantiate a monetary gift: a canceled check, credit card statement, bank statement or a written acknowledgment from the charity.
- If you contribute \$250 or more, then you must prove to the IRS that you (a) made the donation and (b) you didn't receive anything in return for that donation. Therefore you'll need a receipt from the charity that includes the following information: the charity's name, the value of your gift, the date you made your donation and a statement verifying that you did not receive any goods or services in return for your gift.
- Online giving is available by going to the Gifts tab on the New Hope website. You have the option of making a one-time gift or setting up a recurring gift. Gifts can be designated for the General fund, Memorial fund, Meals from the Heartland or Hand of Luke.

The above summary of certain federal income tax laws is provided for informational purposes only and is not meant to be tax advice. We urge you to consult your tax advisor.



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 with any questions.

December 2020

Sunday Worship
9am & 10:30am
Parking Lot

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00p, SPRC Mtg., via Zoom	2 Zoom gatherings: 6 - 7p, SWAG 6 - 7p, Jr. BLAST 7 - 8p, Sr. BLAST	3 6:30p, Worship Design, via Zoom	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday 1:00p Zoom with Confirmation Class	7 7p, Trustees Mtg., via Zoom	8	9 Zoom gatherings: 6 - 7p, SWAG 6 - 7p, Jr. BLAST 7 - 8p, Sr. BLAST	10	11 1p, Friday Bible Study, via Zoom	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent	14 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 6:30p, Finance Mtg., via Zoom	16 Zoom gatherings: 6 - 7p, SWAG 6 - 7p, Jr. BLAST 7 - 8p, Sr. BLAST	17 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg., via Zoom	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent	21	22	23	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve Services 5:30p, Parking Lot 7:30p, Parking Lot 10:00p, Zoom	25 Church Office Closed <i>Merry Christmas!!</i>	26
27 10:30a, One Worship Service	28 Church Office Closed Deadline for January LINK	29	30	31 Church Office Closed	January 1 Church Office Closed <i>Happy New Year!</i>	January 2



*"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, 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
- 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 Brady Jansen, Spencer Sutton
- 20 Teri Reiersen, 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.



Sunday Worship Services

As of November 8th

9am: Family Life Center and Parking Lot Services

10:30am: Sanctuary and Parking Lot Services

**Following Christ, inspiring minds, loving hearts,
serving hands and transforming communities.**

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, Kris Wakeman

E-mail Information

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Colby Gochanour: colby@newhopedsm.org

Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org

Charity Johnson: cjohnson@newhopedsm.org

Find Us

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4525 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310

Find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

The LINK newsletter is a monthly publication.

Editor: Nancy Monthei; Reporters: New Hope Church

family. Please contact the church office at 278-2097 if

you have a change in address or would like to be taken off
the LINK mailing list.

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