

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United Methodist Church

## December 2022



**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS  
AT NEW HOPE UMC**

**NEW HOPE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

8:30 am • 9:30 am • 10:45 am  
newhopedsm.org

THE  
**JOY**  
OF ASCENDING  
INTO  
**GOD'S  
HOUSE**

**DECEMBER 4**  
Going up to Stand as a Sign  
of God's Promise

**DECEMBER 11**  
Going up to Utter the Wonders of  
the Lord's Highway

**DECEMBER 18**  
Going up to Celebrate the Signs  
of God's Presence

**DECEMBER 24** (5:30 & 7:30 PM SERVICES)  
Going up to be Blessed as  
People of his Own

**DECEMBER 25** (10AM SERVICE)  
Going up to Breakforth Together  
into Singing



Join us for the following celebrations ~

**Family Movie Night ~ "Pjs, Popcorn and Polar Express"**

**Saturday, December 3rd, 6-8pm, in the Family Life Center.**

Wear your jammies, bring a blanket and a snack to share and join us for a holiday favorite to kick off the Christmas season! Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Questions? Contact Jackie Johnson at [jackie@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jackie@newhopedsm.org) or (515)710-3239

### Cookie Walk

**On Sunday, December 18, 9am-10:45am,** everyone is welcome to participate in the Christmas Cookie Walk! Walk around the table to choose cookies, placing them in a provided Styrofoam box and purchase \$10.00 per box. Enjoy! It's that easy for some Christmas cheer for you or to give as a gift! Sr. BLAST is organizing this event and all proceeds will go toward their summer mission trip.

### Christmas Music and Children's Program:

**Sunday, December 18th** ~ The Advent Wreath Theme of JOY will be manifested by the offerings of The Chancel Choir and featured musicians at both the 8:30 & 10:45 services. The Children's Ministry will be featured at the 9:30 service with Praise Band and other musicians.

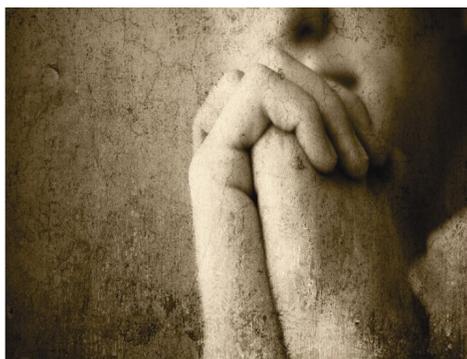
**Candlelight Christmas Eve Services ~ Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** - *The theme for the night – "From Generation to Generation...God dwells with us."* Families are invited to bring to the Church on December 18<sup>th</sup> their favorite photo of their Family Christmas Tradition and or their best Christmas Family Celebration. Or A Christmas Painting and or Banner that have been in your Family for years. Please have the photo enlarged to 5X7 or 8X10 or 11X14. These will all be displayed in the Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve. Members of your Family may be surprised by these things displayed.

**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 musicians and Holy Communion

### Christmas Day

**Sunday, December 25th, 10am** ~ One Worship Service in the Sanctuary and this will be a "Hymn Sing Sunday". We can sing all our Christmas Carols.



**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**



### **Prayer Chain Request**

**If you have a prayer chain request, please call Mary Ann**

### **Our Prayers for ~**

**Healing from Cancer:** Roberta Cave, Jody Rains, Tara McCulley, Sharon Hanson, Linda Lay, Tim Buckner, Larry Fairchild, Evette Burton, David Ruleman, Skylar Freeman, Josephine Demarco, Brian Upper, Kathy Biermann, Mary Textor, Kay M.

**Healing from Physical Issues:** Bob Krause, Paul Weisskopf; Judy Nemmers, Jim Smith, Jim Mather, Jim Louk, Phyllis Messerschmidt, Dody Moorehouse, Allison, Doug Erickson, Maury Evans, Karen Novotny, Larry Hulse, Jo Foote, Freda Ruleman, Nancy Foreman, Jack Habick, Galyn Cross, Anthony Ruleman, Theresa Faber, Jeff Louk, Jennifer

**Those Who Are in Rehabilitation and Nursing Care:** Jan Davisson, Ann Krause, Gayle Easton

**Military:** Devan Stanton, Hunter Schmidt, Joshua Ruleman, Rece Haugland, Jacob Gerlach

*(Please call the church office if you or your loved one want to be taken off the list.)*

### **Directory Updates:**

Don & Ruth Doxon  
1700 SE Silver Pointe Dr.  
Waukee, IA 50263  
Ruth: 515-473-2684  
rdoxon@gmail.com

### **Thank You:**

We so appreciate the prayers, cards and caring we received from our New Hope family at the time of the loss of my brother.  
Sharon and Earl Lewis

Dear New Hope Family Members  
Thank you for all your prayers, cards, hugs, conversations, and gifts honoring my mother Barbara Teachout's passing. The love felt goes beyond measure. Blessings to all.  
Lovingly,  
Melisa & Larry Forbes

The past two years have had so many blessings for our family, and our New Hope Family is among the most precious of those blessings. Mom and Dad always say, "We don't know what we would do without our New Hope Family."  
We would like to thank all of you for the many cards, phone calls, meals, visits, and love that we have received in so many forms. The hugs and smiles on Sundays, visits and calls from Pastor Lilian, inquiries as to how we all are doing, and the knowledge that we are being lifted up in prayer make every day that much sweeter.  
May God bless each and every one of you.  
Neal and Bertie Cave, Pam and Linda and families

### **Our Sympathy:**

Our Sympathy to Earl & Sharon Lewis on the passing of Sharon's brother, Neil Strand.

Our Sympathy Roger & Tammy Dann and family on the passing of Roger's father, Steve Dann.

Our Sympathy to Donna Hopkins and family on the passing of her son, Monte Hopkins.

Our Sympathy to the family of JoAnn Pugh on her passing. JoAnn is the daughter-in-law of Doris Pugh.

Our Sympathy to Sydney Parker and Noah Parker on the passing of their grandmother.

Our Sympathy to Cathy Cate and family on the passing of her husband, Steve Cate. Services will be held at New Hope on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. 10am visitation; 11am funeral.

Our Sympathy to Nancy Foreman and Jeff Foreman and family on the passing of Fred Foreman, husband and father. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

## Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 18th, 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 donating 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 Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2pm-4:30pm or Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 11am - 1pm.
- Purchase. On Sunday, Dec. 18, 9am-10:45am, 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.



**Santa's Attic** is an annual favorite for the children in our church and we want it to be better than ever!  
To do that, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, our children will get an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping for their family members.

We have some remaining supplies from last year of great mom gifts, but this year we really need great gifts for dads and siblings!

We can also use gift bags, tape and tissue paper.

Please, no wrapping paper this year. We still have a good supply in storage.

Thank you in advance for helping our kids feel the JOY of gift giving this Christmas!

**Santa's Attic items can be brought to Jackie's office now-December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Questions? Contact Jackie Johnson at [jackie@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jackie@newhopedsm.org) or (515)710-3239



**Special Charge Conference will be held on December 22nd at 7:30 p.m.** (Following the Administrative Council Meeting)

The purpose is for the approval of Pastor Lilian's Form I Pastoral Compensation for 2023 as recommended by SPPRC and approved by Administrative Council. Rev. Bill Poland will preside at this charge conference.

## Children's Ministry Updates by Jackie Johnson, Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515)710-3239

Sunday School for PreK-7th grade continues to be held during the 9:30 service in the purple classroom. Children are invited to gather in Worship with their families and exit to class after the Children's Message.



**Join us Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>!** Our Sunday School and TGIW children will participate in the **9:30 service with the gift of a short Christmas program and music.** Due to our performance, Sunday School will be shortened that morning, and we will have a hot chocolate party instead of a lesson.

**12/25 and 1/1 – There will be no Sunday School classes due to Christmas break. The nursery will also be closed on those two days.**

Our third session of Sunday School is underway. THANK YOU to our volunteer teachers this session – Nancy Monthei and Emma Sandquist! The third unit in our Celebrate Wonder Curriculum surrounds Psalm 49:3, “My mouth speaks wisdom; my heart’s meditation is full of insight.”

The faith word for this unit is **VOICE**.

Connect with the things our Sunday School class is talking about from their Celebrate Wonder curriculum:

Allow yourself to *WONDER*.... What is special about your worship space? How does God provide for you? What has God given you in abundance? Allow yourself to *DO*.... Take a walk with your family and talk about how you can say, “Here I am” to God.

**We are still in need of a couple of volunteers for Session 5 and 6 of Sunday School this year!** Your commitment would be 5 weeks in a row during the 9:30 service and you would have a teaching partner. You can sign up alone, but we would also welcome you to volunteer with a friend!

Session 5: 2/19 - 3/26 (No Sunday School on 3/12)

Session 6: 4/2 - 4/30

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing, please let Jackie know.

## Midweek Meetup (TGIW)

Our Wednesday night TGIW group had a November to be grateful for!

We started the month visiting our friends at Douglas Ave. Presbyterian Church for an Operation Christmas Child packaging event! During our hour there, we were able to package 285 gifts! The rest of our weeks were spent in fellowship and fun learning about praise (specifically musical praise), giving THANKS, and Psalm 148.

### Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm- Dinner

6:30-7:30pm – Breakout Times (PreK-5th, Jr. and Sr. BLAST)

7:30-8pm- Puppets \*3rd Grade and up

**12/7- Service First, All Group Service Project!** Our Wednesday night groups are heading out Christmas caroling at Edencrest care center in Johnston. Please dress in something festive or red/green. We will leave New Hope at 6:30pm and return at 7:30pm.

**12/14- Santa's Attic-** This is a holiday favorite for the children in our church! They will get to shop for their family with the generous gifts donated from the congregation. Children are invited to bring up to \$5 to purchase their gifts. The money collected will be donated to a local charity chosen by the children.

**12/21- Christmas Party-** We will celebrate Christmas together with crafts, Christmas stories, and cookie decorating!

**12/28- No Wednesday night programs, enjoy Christmas break!**



### Menu:

12/7- ham/turkey sandwiches, pasta salad, and chips

12/14- loose meat sandwiches, sides, and dessert

12/21- hot dogs, chili, and macaroni and cheese

12/28- no Wednesday night programs

This month our meals are prepared and served by: Earl and Sharon Lewis, Karen Skovgard, Chris and Jenn Higdon and Pam Frey. THANK YOU to our volunteer cooks for offering their time and talents to the youth ministries in this way!

thankful  
grateful  
AND  
Blessed

## Jr. BLAST ~ 6th-8th graders

In the absence of leaders of Jr. BLAST, our Sr. BLAST group has been amazing and welcomed Jr. BLAST into their gatherings! THANK YOU to Chris Higdon and Pam Frey for their flexibility and to the Sr. BLAST youth for being understanding of this change.

That said, we are still looking for leaders that would specifically oversee the Jr. BLAST age group on Wednesday nights. If you are interested in serving our Church in this way, please reach out to Jackie at [jackie@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jackie@newhopedsm.org) for more information.

6th -8th Graders are welcome to join us at New Hope weekly on Wednesday evenings during the school year for fun and fellowship!

Schedule:

Meal- 6-6:30pm

Program activities- 6:30-7:30pm

## Sr. BLAST ~ 9th - 12th graders ([BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)):

Chris Higdon (*Supervising Adult*), Pam Frey (*Supervising Adult*), McKayla Nearmyer (*Supervising Adult*), Brianna Johnson (*Volunteering Adult*), Arianna Bernal (*Volunteering Adult*), and Amanda Soards (*Volunteering Adult*).

How can the calendar year be almost over already? Only one month left! This year has flown by quickly.

In December we will be hosting the New Hope Cookie Walk on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> to help restocking the cookies as people purchase them.



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

**Nov. 30th ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD**

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion**

**Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion**

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm ~ New Hope Cookie Walk**

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion**

**Not Meeting Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> (*Christmas Break*)**

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

We were blessed to have our **“World Famous Puppet Troupe”** return to the stage on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> with a Thanksgiving skit for all three Sunday services.

The puppet group is open to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up. They are meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8pm. If you are interested in more information, please contact Jackie – [jackie@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jackie@newhopedsm.org). This year, Janet Habick and Will Rock are leading the puppet ministry. We are thankful for their leadership!

Photo:

Post performance, pictured are: Juniper Ponce, Brynna Johnson, Malcolm Rock, Chasity Cooley, Ronan Rock and Samantha Wakeman.



### Winter has begun!

If you come to church and the south part of the parking lot has ice or packed snow, **PLEASE DO NOT** park where it is slippery to walk on.

Park in an area of the parking lot that is safer to walk, if you have a choice. Usually the east and northeast part of our parking lot has more area of bare concrete than the south part does.

We do have a new snow plow contractor, so we hope clearing of the snow will be better this year.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Board of Trustees

John Rains



Tuesday, November 15th was a winter wonderland on the church campus!

Volunteers John Rains, Jerry Kielsmeier, Gary Stubbs, David Montgomery and Earl Lewis were able to pick up all the leaves on the campus the day before (November 14th).

We are thankful for their time and hard work!!!

The Board of Trustees

Tithing



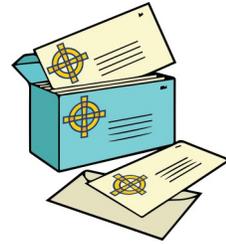
## Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2022 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2022** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2021. Thank you!

## 2023 Offering Envelopes

Your 2023 Offering Envelopes will be available by December 18th.

*If you did not indicate on your 2023 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office by **December 12th**, 515-278-2097.*



## 2023 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 \$45.00 per Sunday and you may take your flowers home after the 10:45 service.*



I'm updating our list of those that are **CPR certified.**

If you are certified, please email me at [yayafrey@gmail.com](mailto:yayafrey@gmail.com) so I may keep a current list by our AED cabinet.

Thank you!

Pam Frey, 515-490-8440



## Hand of Luke ~ Wednesday, December 14th

This is our monthly ministry of preparing a meal for the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

We are continuing to utilize your monetary donations to purchase the majority of the food for the monthly meal. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Pastor Lilian will be making the meal for December.

For dessert, **seven volunteers are needed to donate 3 dozen sugar cookies or snickerdoodles.** Please bring cookies in disposable bags or containers.

**Volunteers are also needed to transport and serve the food to the shelter.**

If you are interested in this opportunity, you may sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044DACA722A4FE3-holwednesday1>

You may also contact Arlene Dabill at [dabill49@aol.com](mailto:dabill49@aol.com) or (515) 321-2059 to volunteer.



**Christmas  
UN-Decorating**

Undecorating will take place after the 10am service on January 1st.

Please stay after the service and help us take down our Christmas decorations.

Many hands make light work!

Thank you!

Questions? Please contact Pam Frey, at [yayafrey@gmail.com](mailto:yayafrey@gmail.com) or 515-490-8440.

# ADULT Sunday School

**Join us!**

**9:30 a.m.** in the Ruby Chapel using “Wired Word” curriculum.

## Blood Pressure Check

Next check is on Dec. 4th,  
9:30a in the Narthex.

## 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.

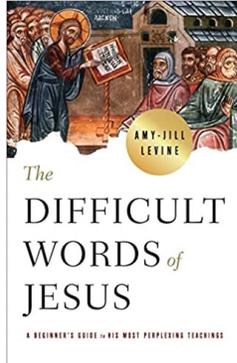


## Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets  
quarterly. Next meeting is on  
**Thurs., March 9th at 10am in  
the Fellowship Hall.**

This team ministers to congrega-  
tion 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.



## Bible Study ~ “Parables of Jesus”

Our 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at Banny's home. There will be no meeting in December. We will meet on **January 19th** with Dr. Levine's "Difficult Words of Jesus". Please contact Pastor Lilian of plan to attend, Lilian@newhopedsm.org.



## New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will meet not meet in December.

Our next sewing day will be **Fri., January 20th, 9am - 3pm** in the north classroom to sew lap quilts, Little Dresses, Little Britches and Days for Girls kit components.

Bring your machine, tools and thread to help us with our Mission projects.

Dress kits are provided. There are also non-sewing jobs to be done.

## United Women In Faith

Our next gathering will be on **Thur., December 15th @ 9:30 a.m.** at the church.

Pennies, nickles, and some dimes,  
Mission is our goal in mind.  
For your offering, we do thank.  
Find the Globe and the Bank.  
On the **first Sunday of each month**,  
in the church hallway, when you see  
our globe, please stop and drop in some change. You will be helping  
the United Women in Faith group and the missions they support.  
Thank you.



We are very grateful for your support.

# MISSION NEWS ~ Marilyn Osborn, Chair of Mission Committee

## YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

### THANK YOU – THANK YOU - THANK YOU

**New Hope congregation.** The children at Orchard Place and Bidwell Riverside will have a warm and joyful holiday because of your generosity. Your support of the Giving Tree sponsoring these two charities is so appreciated.

Your Giving to Orchard Place totaled \$1,345.00 which makes it possible to clothe over 22 children with one coat, one pair of boots, one hat and one pair of gloves! Your Giving to Bidwell Riverside totaled 29 toys, 11 books, 37 stuffed toys, 17 stocking stuffers, 64 hats and gloves, 1 blanket, and \$140 in gift cards.

**November 5, 2022, Mission Ingathering at Greenfield, Iowa:** New Hope donated \$300 to purchase **blankets** for people around the world through Church World Service. There are five districts in Iowa and New Hope is in the Riverview Park District. Midwest Mission Distribution Center collects the donations from the five districts in Iowa and collected over \$21,000 donated items. On November 11, Midwest Mission Distribution sent the 8<sup>th</sup> shipment to Ukraine. In that shipment were blankets. **“A blanket or Rice Meal Bag might only be a bandaid over their crisis at hand, but it might be just enough to give a glimmer of hope to a suffering people. Our hope is that it brings them just a little closer to Jesus”.** In the shipment were 27,000 Rice Meal Bags, 275,000 food service gloves, 2000 personal Dignity Kits, 92 sleeping mats, **499 blankets**, 1590 disposable diapers, 30 Cover Them With Love Quilts, 107 Little Girl Outfits and 85 baby outfits for a total value of \$115,025.00. Midwest Mission Distribution Center is an UMCOR Cooperating depot and partners with many other nonprofits. They regularly ship two or three containers of humanitarian relief each month, domestically and internationally.

*~ There are still giving opportunities available during December.  
Please stop by the Mission Table to read about the choices. ~*



**Free Little Food Pantry.** The new home for the Free Little Food Pantry is taking shape ~ **but not ready yet!** Watch for updates!

### EVERYONE CAN – BRING ONE CAN

Reminder to bring non-perishable food items each Sunday to put on our pantry shelf for delivery to the Free Little Food Pantry located in our Meredith Drive community. Sign up for a Monday to deliver the 30 food items you chose from our pantry shelf. There is a sign-up sheet on the pantry shelf. Needed food items include canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, cereal, rice, grains, soup, macaroni and cheese, etc. Only non-perishable foods and no expired food products, please. If you have questions, please contact Jolene Harlow: 515-490-8813 or email at rdharlow@earthlink.net



**Fill the Red Barrel:** Contributing to the red barrel is as easy as buying a few extra cans of food while you shop and bringing them to church with you. All food and personal care items collected by the Red Barrel Program goes to the DMARC Food Pantry Network. For a list of most needed items, please click on: <https://www.dmarcunited.org> If you would rather give a monetary donation, please make your check out to New Hope UMC and include “Food Pantry” in the memo line and place your check with the offering.



**Grain Bin:** 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.

***“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’” Mark 10:27***

As stewards of New Hope finances, we have worked to improve various aspects of our balance sheet. The operating and capital reserves have been our focus for the last several years. Having these reserves allows New Hope to meet unexpected expenses when they occur. Having healthy reserves is vital to our day to day, year to year ability to serve our congregation and community.

Our church has twelve furnaces and AC units. They range in age from nine to twenty-four years old. To manage the upkeep of these units, we signed a service contract this past fall. As part of the contract, each unit was inspected. The result of the inspection found that we had five units that required replacing now. One of these units had a cracked heat exchanger and required an immediate shutdown. This is why we are currently using the Nursery as a refrigerator ❑ and a trip to the east restrooms have become a chilly adventure. Due to age and a stressed exchanger, four other units will need to be replaced immediately before failing in even colder weather. In total we need to replace five units in a short period of time.

In November, due to the immediate need and large price adjustments at the beginning of the new year, the Trustees petitioned the Stewardship and Finance Committee for \$40,000 to replace five furnaces and AC units. The Stewardship and Finance Committee agreed, and the recommendation was approved by the Administrative Council on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The work is scheduled to begin the week of November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The current plan to pay for this unexpected expense is to first reach out to the congregation directly for additional giving. We can then supplement the funds raised with our funds from our designated fundraising accounts and operating reserves. As a last resort, we have given the Iowa Methodist Foundation notice that a loan may be required to meet our needs. They have provided us with the application.



Kirk Seagren spoke to all three services on November 20th about raising money for the furnace expense. He and Pastor Lilian also shared a beautiful song.  
*Thank you!*

Many thanks to Kirk Seagren for kicking off our “**RESTORE the HEAT**” campaign during the November 20<sup>th</sup> services. Because of Kirk’s initiative, we have been able to raise approximately \$4,000 in one week toward the expense.

This is the season of miracles, so through our generosity can we take this \$4,000 and turn it into \$40,000?

If you can give, please give, but if you can’t give, please offer your prayers that we reach our goal. The basis of all miracles are prayers.

All gifts can either be sent directly to the office or be placed in the offering plates during our services.

Your humble servants,

Robin Harlow and Larry Wood  
Co-Chairs of the Stewardship and Finance Committee



## LAY LEADER

An effective lay leader functions as the primary representative and role model of Christian discipleship and faith lived out in the church and in daily life. The Lay Leader works with the pastor to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation and to invest in connecting the church with the community and the world. The Lay Leader is encouraged to participate in educational opportunities within the connectional church such as Lay Servant and Speaking Ministries. *Here at New Hope UMC, we currently have three Co-Lay Leaders sharing in the task of representing Lay Leader's Position in various Council and Committees.*

### RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

1. Represents the lay people in the congregation in working with the pastor for the mission and vision of the congregation.
2. Engages in spiritual practices that build a relationship of attentiveness to God's will and direction.
3. Continuously looks for ways to build awareness of the role of laity as Christian disciples both within the congregation and through the activities of their daily lives.
4. Collaborates with other church leaders to recognize the ministry of laity in worship, in communication, and in other programs of the church.
5. Advises the Administrative Council of the opportunities for ministry that will improve the quality of life in the church and in the community.
6. Represents laity on church leadership team and other committees, such as Stewardship and Finance Committee, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Nominations and Leadership Committee, Worship Design Cluster Team.
7. Accountable to the Charge Conference through the church leadership team.

### LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Lay member of Annual Conference informs the congregation about the United Methodist Church in the conference and around the world. Builds the connection between the congregation and all United Methodist Churches. Accountable to the charge conference through the Administrative Council. *Here at New Hope UMC, we currently have three Lay Members of Annual Conference, sharing in the task of representing Lay Member Position in various Council and Committees.*

### RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

1. Attends and participates in all sessions of annual conference or arrange for an alternate to be seated when unable to be present.
2. Engages in spiritual practices that build attentiveness to God's will and direction.
3. Helps the local congregation to understand the actions of annual conference and carries the need and concerns of the congregation to the annual conference.
4. Participates fully as a member of local charge conference, the church leadership team, Stewardship and Finance Committee, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee.
5. Knowledgeable about the structure and ministries of annual conference, the United Methodist Church, and the congregation.



Thank you to **Ruth & Don Doxon** and **Marilyn Osborn** for changing out the planters from fall to winter.

It's a process to change them! Due to the cold weather, the planters came inside to warm up for a few days to make it easier to remove the fall items. Then, the tubs of evergreen, logs and winter pieces were divvied up between all the planters. And then the heavy planters were moved outside to be enjoyed by all that come to New Hope UMC!

We appreciate Ruth, Don and Marilyn sharing their time and talents!!

Our volun-told member, Dale Monthei, graciously added the beautiful outdoor decorations to the church lawn. *Thank you, Dale!* (from his wife)



## *Thank you* to our Landscaping Team, Trustees and Trustee Helpers.

Thank you to all who participated in keeping the New Hope grounds in tip top shape. Many of you do not know what all occurs outside.

It has been a busy year! There has been much digging done, a retaining wall built, a retaining wall rebuilt, and dirt hauled in to ensure proper run off by the parsonage. Many trees and bushes trimmed, and a tree and bush removed with new ones planted in their place. Fertilizing the church and parsonage's lawn, the gardens kept up with weeding, deadheading, watering, and transplanting. Our lovely fountain installed and being maintained, and the landscape updated in that area. Sticks being picked up many times during the growing season, we seem to have an abundance of sticks. Hundreds if not thousands of walnuts gathered so your car did not have to go bumpety-bump. Planters planted and watered with Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter updates. Weeds sprayed in the parking lot so you can see the parking lot, and parking lot saw joints and cracks filled with tar. Weeds sprayed around the building, cobwebs knocked down and wasp nests removed. Leaves raked, the courtyard arbor refinished, plugged downspouts cleaned and soon to come, snow removal from the walkways.

It takes many hands and helpful hearts to keep our outdoor campus up. Please consider next year to help the Landscaping Team and Trustees. I guarantee you will be appreciated!

Thank you, Linda Kielsmeier

# East Entrance Addition ~ Financial Update

Donations of \$200 were received in the month of November to pay down our principal balance. We continue to make our monthly P&I payment to reduce our liability. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, \$78,047.66 has been donated. This results in a current loan balance of \$54,747.27.

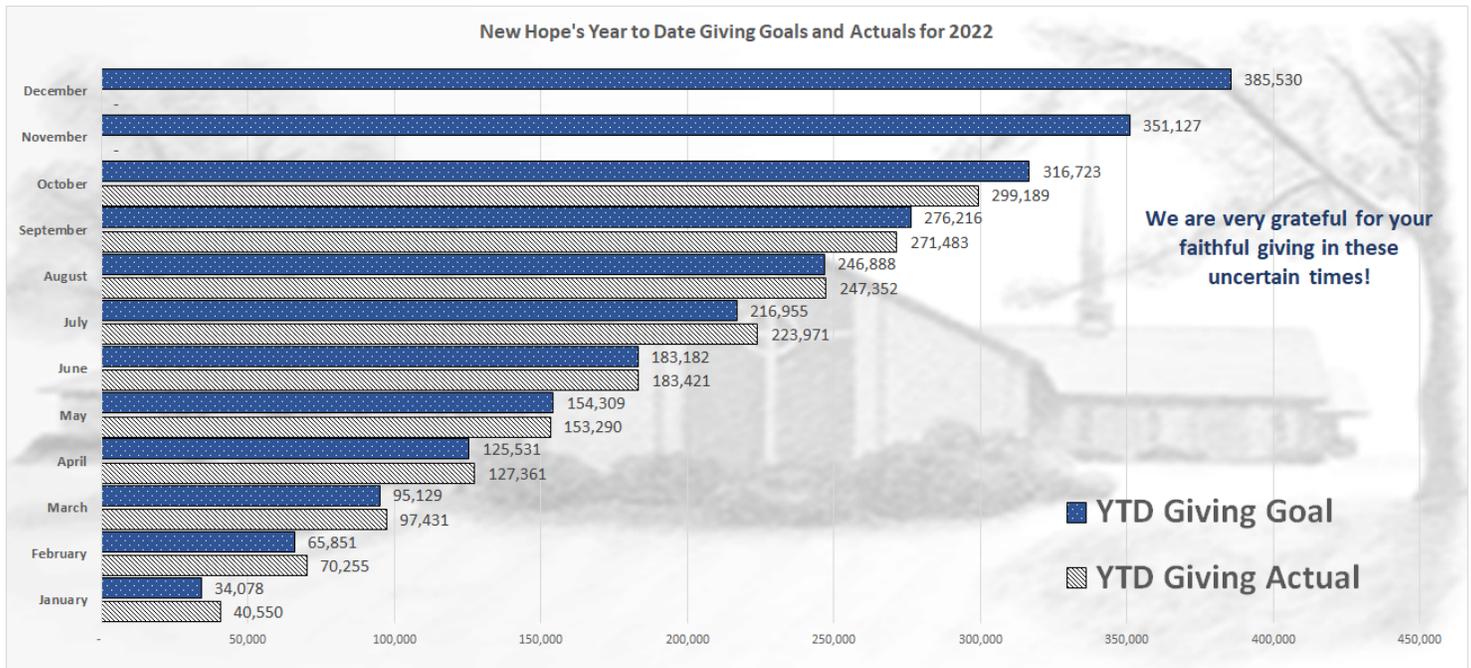
We appreciate all of you who have made monthly pledges to this project until fully paid. All of your donations, regardless the amount, was and is, greatly appreciated!

When donating to this project always write in the memo line of your check "East Entrance Addition". Thank you for your generosity and your involvement in our church!

John Rains  
East Entrance Addition  
Task Force, Chair



*Thank You for your  
Financial Support*



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](http://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.

**Advent by Candlelight**, held on November 28th, was a beautiful evening of fellowship and preparing for the Advent Season! Thank you to everyone that organized, performed, read stories, hosted, and attended!



## Veterans Helping Veterans

We will be having a Veterans breakfast at **8:30am on Saturday, January 14th**. This is open to all veterans, their spouses, and supporters. If you have any questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com).



## Chili Cook-off ~ Saturday, January 28, 11:30am

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 by January 15th in the Fellowship Hall to enter the Chili Cook-off contest.

Simply bring a big crockpot of your best chili on January 28th by 11:00am. You will enter through the Industrial Kitchen door.

The committee will set out your crockpot for you.

Starting at 11:30am, event attendees will sample the chili and will vote for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. After the voting ends, you can fill up a bowl with chili

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

Questions? Please contact Glenna Ross, 515-321-3010, [glenna625@hotmail.com](mailto:glenna625@hotmail.com)

# December 2022

**Sunday morning services are:  
8:30, 9:30 and 10:45  
Nursery at 8:30 & 9:30**

**SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY**

				1 1p, Bible Study at Church 6:30p, Worship Mtg at church	2	3 9a, Campus clean-up 6p, Family Movie Night
4 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> Holy Communion, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:30a - 11a, Blood Pressure	5 Steve Cate Funeral 10a, Visitation 11a, Funeral	6 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	7 6p, Confirmation Class TGIW ~ 6:00-6:30 Meal Served 6:30-7:30 SWAG, Jr. BLAST, Sr. BLAST 7:30a, Puppets  6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	8  1p, Bible Study at Church	9	10
11 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30a, Sunday School	12	13 9:30a, Al-Anon, F.Hall Noon, AA, R.Chapel	14 3:30p, Hand of Luke TGIW ~ Santa's Attic 6:00-6:30 Meal Served 6:30p, Confirmation Class 6:30-7:30 SWAG, Jr. BLAST, Sr. BLAST 7:30a, Puppets  6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	15 9:30a, United Women in Faith  1p, Bible Study at Church	16  2p-4:30p, Cookie drop off	17 11a - 1p, Cookie drop off
18 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9a-10:45a, Cookie Walk Christmas Music & Children's Program  12:30-5:30p, F.Hall & FLC reserved (Nan Stubbs)	19 <i>Deadline for January LINK</i>  6:30p, Girl Scouts	20 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel  6:30p, Finance Mtg	21 6p, Confirmation Class TGIW ~ 6:00-6:30 Meal Served 6:30-7:30 SWAG, Jr. BLAST, Sr. BLAST 7:30a, Puppets  6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	22  6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg. 7:30p, Special Charge Conference	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24  <b>Christmas Eve Services 5:30p and 7:30p</b>
25 <b>Merry Christmas</b> 10a, One Worship in the Sanctuary	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	28  No children/youth activities  6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	29	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31

**Please sign up to help with the worship services:** Greeters, Lectors, and Ushers.  
Refreshments will be provided after the 9:30 and 10:45 services. Hosts are needed and a sign up sheet is in the kitchen.



*“May God’s many blessings,  
be yours the year through.”*



- 1 Dean Peterson
- 2 Lisa VanDenBerg, Brandon Thompson
- 4 Leah Breitsprecher, Pascal Karekezi
- 5 Alec Beck-Cross
- 6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren, Gene Lesch,  
Lisa Rooney
- 9 Lexi Dean
- 12 Obi Ukabiala, Mary Grace Leyda
- 14 Nolan Monthei
- 15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short
- 17 Mary Ann Rice, Andy Sutton
- 18 Sheri Thompson, Sue Soards, Chris Boyles  
Banny Umuhoza, Alexis Harlan,  
Susan Blank, Gaby Dimitri

- 19 Brady Jansen, Spencer Sutton
- 20 Teri Reierison, Larry Buske,  
Sarah Wiles
- 21 Matt Stringham, Adam Hartung,  
Zoe Wilson
- 22 Paulette Wood
- 23 Susan Baldwin
- 24 Eleanor Wederquist
- 25 Renee Haugland, Jennifer Dellopoulous
- 26 Joan Clary
- 27 Kim Buske, Charlotte Roff
- 28 Ashley Marsh
- 29 Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher

- 18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue
- 27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson
- 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.*



WORSHIP  
*with us*

**Sunday Morning Worship Services**

8:30 & 10:45: Traditional Services in the Sanctuary

9:30: Contemporary Service in the Family Life Center

We continue to offer the Sunday morning Parking Lot Radio Feed and also the Pre-Recorded Worship Services that can be found on the church Facebook page.

**Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lilian Gallo Seagren  
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei  
Children & Youth Ministries Coord.: Jackie Johnson  
Director of Music: Preshia Paulding  
Nursery Attendants: Kris Wakeman, Brianna Johnson, Amanda Soards

**E-mail Information**

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
Pastor Lilian Gallo Seagren: [Lilian@newhopedsm.org](mailto:Lilian@newhopedsm.org)  
Nancy Monthei: [nancy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nancy@newhopedsm.org)  
Jackie Johnson: [jackie@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jackie@newhopedsm.org)  
Preshia Paulding: [preshia@newhopedsm.org](mailto:preshia@newhopedsm.org)

**Find Us** ~ 4525 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 278-2097 [www.newhopedsm.org](http://www.newhopedsm.org)

**Find us on facebook!**

The LINK newsletter is a monthly publication.

Editor: Nancy Monthei; Reporters: New Hope Church family. Please contact the church office at 515-278-2097 if you have a change in address or would like to be taken off the LINK mailing list.

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

**the link**  
New Hope United Methodist Church  
4525 Beaver Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310