

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United Methodist Church

## February 2024

**FEBRUARY AT NEW HOPE UMC**



**NEW HOPE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 am • 9:30 am • 10:45 am  
[newhopedsm.org](http://newhopedsm.org)



O, All the Wonderful Things We Do in our Partnership with Jesus!

Photo by Keith Newman on Unsplash

**FEBRUARY 4**  
O, The Wonderful Things We Do For the Sake of Jesus

**FEBRUARY 11**  
O, The Wonderful Things We Do For the Sake of Another

**FEBRUARY 14, Ash Wednesday - 7PM**  
O, The Wonderful Things We Do with our Imperfections, Guilt and Sins

**FEBRUARY 18**  
O, The Wonderful Things God Does For Us

**FEBRUARY 25**  
O, The Wonderful Things We Do For This Partnership



### Ash Wednesday ~ Wednesday, February 14th

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"* (Psalm 51:10).

#### Pancake Supper at 5:00 pm.

Free-Will Offering. Prepared and Served by Sr. High BLAST.  
Help Sr. High BLAST in raising money for their summer mission trip.

#### Worship at 7:00 pm

*"O, The Wonderful Things We Do with our Imperfections, Guilt and Sins"*  
led by Confirmation Class

Nursery is available during worship for children under 4 yrs. old.

Join us this Ash Wednesday for food, fellowship, and prayer.

### Worship Time Changes ~ Starting in March 2024

Administrative Council has approved the recommendation of Worship Cluster Team to move our **Sunday morning worship services to 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 starting on March 3, 2024.**

This is part of our Leadership's action in removing barriers and challenges for our families with young children as they continue to grow and increase their discipleship and participation in the life of New Hope United Methodist Church.

For more information, please call or visit with our Pastor.

May God bless all our efforts to keep New Hope UMC moving forward with hope in shaping a 2034 future.





Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength" (Isaiah 40:31, NRSV).

When I am weak, God,  
thanks for your promises  
that give me hope.



### Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Mary Ann Rice at 515-664-0222 email at marice2460@gmail.com or the church office at 278-2097.

### Our Prayers for ~

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

#### Healing from Cancer:

Evette Burton, David Ruleman, Skylar Freeman, Johan Gallo, Julie Mericle, Jessica Smith, Marco Pranivong, Kayla Chapman, Lisa Bissett, Deb Henry, Terry Larson, Ralph Saunders

#### Healing from Physical Issues:

Carl Egger, Chris Bammerlin, FloAnn Wills, Carol Weigel, Freda Ruleman, Dick Cobb, Jim Mather, Keith Kulisky, Kenny McCulley, Diana Bibler, Alexandria Cooley, Theresa Faber, Patricia Smith, Mike Aasheim-Osborne, Karen Hults, Harry Classen, Gayle Davenport

**Those Who Are in Rehabilitation and Nursing Care:** Vicki Ealy, Bob Krause

**Military:** Devan Stanton, Hunter Schmidt, Joshua Ruleman, Rece Haugland, Jacob Gerlach, Brycen Gerlach, Michael Craighton, Clayton Hults, Zach McClain

### Sympathy

**Our sympathy** to Sharon Smith on the passing of her friend, Mary Textor.

**Our sympathy** to John & Jody Rains on the passing of John's brother, Bob Rains.

**Our sympathy** to Jim & Joey Bolstad on the passing of Joey's brother, Johnny Johnson.

**Our sympathy** to Karen Kehoe and family on the passing of her mother, Marilyn Rapp. Marilyn had been a member of New Hope UMC. She passed away on January 15th and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

**Our sympathy** to the family of Gayle Easton, member of New Hope UMC, who passed away on January 21<sup>st</sup>. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

**Our sympathy** to the family of Betty Hoeksema who passed away on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Betty is a former member. Services will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ankeny Memorial Gardens, 4208 North Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny. 10am Visitation, 11am Funeral.

**Our sympathy** to Doug & Kathy Fairchild and family on the passing of Doug's mother, Janet Fairchild.

### Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards in reference to my brother Bob Rains, for both his illness and death!  
John Rains

United Women of Faith wish to thank everyone for contributing to our Globe, the 1st of every month. Contributions totaled \$656.75, for the year. The money was given to the following areas: Self Help International, Dorothy's House, Johnston Partnership, African Immigrant Refugee Transition Services, and Area Churches Discretionary Fund. We will be setting out the Globe again, the 1st Sunday of each month. Thank you again.

### Kitchen Cleanup

Thank you to everyone that helped clean the kitchens on January 26th.  
Many hands made great work!!





## Veteran's Helping Veterans

We will be having a Veterans breakfast at **8:30am on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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).



## Scout Sunday will be celebrated February 11th!

We will celebrate members of both the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa in our congregation on Sunday, February 11th at our 9:30 and 10:45 services.

Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear uniforms.

Is your child a new Girl Scout, Cub Scout, or Scouts BSA participant?

Please let Jackie Johnson ([515710-3239/jackie@newhopedsm.org](mailto:515710-3239/jackie@newhopedsm.org)) know so we can update our church records and include you in future Scout recognition opportunities.

## New Hope UMC is updating the church photo directory, with your help!

Have your photo taken on one of the following dates at New Hope UMC:

- **Sunday, February 18th**, after each worship service
- **Sunday, February 25th**, after each worship service

Photos will be taken by Sara Robinson.

*Please meet in the corner of the Fellowship Hall where the backdrop is located.*



Church Photo Directory



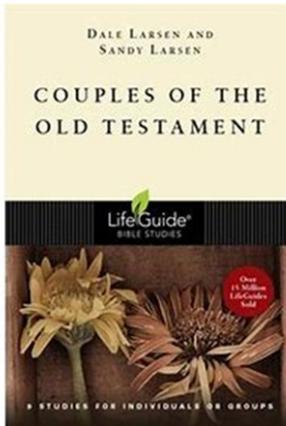
## Ukulele Club

Join us and make a joyful noise!!

**February 12th & 26th** (2nd & 4th Mondays of every month), **6:30 - 7:30 pm** at New Hope UMC.

Bring a ukulele. All levels welcome!

Questions? contact Sandy Johnson at [sandy.johnson500@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.johnson500@gmail.com) or 515-210-5061.



## Bible Study ~ 1pm, Wednesdays

We are doing an informative nine-week study on couples in the Old Testament. We will learn about couples that had many different experiences.

The study starts at 1pm on Wednesdays through March 13th.

If you have questions please contact Dawn Bachelder at 740-291-7486 or Armenta Buckingham 515-669-1554. We are looking forward to you joining us in our discussions.

## Zoom Bible study through the eyes of St. Matthew's Gospel

Join me as we work through Matthew in six weeks starting **Monday, February 19th through Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30 pm.**

No reading material needed. Just keep your favorite Bible handy!

We will work through four or five chapters each Monday. The format is casual. It will work well for either quiet listeners or those wanting to engage in querying conversation in a Zoom community. There will be power points to share and time for wondering together as we learn.

To participate, please contact me at [wendy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:wendy@newhopedsm.org). A Zoom link will be emailed to you. Wendy Zadeh, Associate Student Minister.



## Save the date for Riverview Park's upcoming Town Hall meeting with Bishop Kennetha



The focus of our gatherings will be on our mission, vision, and core values at the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will be present at each of these district gatherings for a time of teaching, and together, we will share stories about what it means to be engaged and connected with one another.

Each district will also have a virtual option for joining, which will take place on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 pm. More details will be coming soon, but save the date for the gathering in YOUR district:

### Sunday February 11th

2:00pm - 4:00pm at Pella - 1414 University St, Pella, IA (Virtual Available)

Keep an eye on the link below for upcoming details.

<https://www.iaumc.org/newsdetail/save-the-date-for-upcoming-district-town-halls-with-bishop-kennetha-18228516>

## Super Bowl Personal Care Collection

This year the Missions Committee is sponsoring a competition to see which Super Bowl team can collect the most personal care items for the Women at the Well's ministry at Fresh Start Women's Center.

**Please bring an item(s) from the list below on Sunday, February 4th and Sunday, February 11th or anytime in between.** You may leave them on the table in the hallway to the sanctuary.



Your favorite team - **San Francisco 49ers or Kansas City Chiefs** - will get one point for each item donated. We will announce the winning team after the services on February 11th.

Toothbrushes	Q Tips	Hair brush/Comb
Toothpaste	Bras	Razors
Toothpaste holders	Underwear	Panty Liners
Deodorant	Socks	Chapstick
Shampoo/Conditioner	Body soap/Bar soap	Small journals/notebooks
Pads/Tampons	Body lotion	Shower shoes

Non-perishable food items are welcome too, but those will be used to benefit the Meredith Drive Little Free Pantry and will not be our specific focus this time.



### What is Fresh Start Women's Center?

Women at the Well began a satellite ministry at Fresh Start during the pandemic when it was not possible to get inside the prison where the primary ministry happens. We offer a weekly program at Fresh Start called "Well Time" that features Bible Study, worship and small group support for the reentry journey of women in transition from jail or prison. In the last year, we've developed a feeding ministry along with this, offering a home-cooked meal to the women twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. (New Hope is providing the meal on February 13th.)

Fresh Start is a 48 bed facility run by the Department of Corrections for women in the justice system. It is a work-release facility so everyone there is required to leave during the day to go to work to develop self-sufficiency. Meals at the center are only offered once a day and come from the men's facility: old and cold. We thought they could use a nice meal prepared with the love and care that many of our partner churches are known for.

The Care Team is mounting a drive for donated:

**Men's socks**

**Men's underwear**

**Men's gloves and winter scarves**

**and bars of soap** for the homeless clients that frequent Central Iowa Shelter and Services downtown.

Please prayerfully consider helping those less fortunate than us by donating the aforementioned items to help them stay warm when they're not at the shelter.

*A bin for your donations is at the Missions Corner in the Fellowship Hall.*

The Care Team appreciates your help. And we know those less fortunate than us will most definitely appreciate it too!



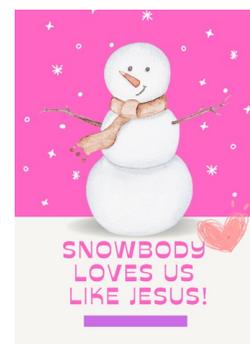
**From New Hope's Children's & Youth Ministries Coordinator: Jackie Johnson**  
jackie@newhopedsm.org \* (515)710-3239.

## **Sunday School ~ Learn God's Love. Grow Your Faith. Know Jesus.**

Sunday School classes continue to be held during the 9:30 service using the Celebrate Wonder curriculum. Session 4 just started, and Tricia Berry and Jackie Johnson are teaching this session. Children begin service with their families and exit to Sunday School after the Children's Message. Sunday School is open to PreK-7<sup>th</sup> grade students on a weekly or drop-in basis.

Our current unit surrounds Psalm 145:9 - The Lord is good to everyone and everything; God's compassion extends to all his handiwork and then we will be moving on to focus on Lent about midway through the month of February.

Connect with the things our Sunday School class is talking about: **Allow yourself to WONDER....** Do you think it was hard for the disciples to leave behind their old lives and follow Jesus? What do you think their first conversation was like? **Allow yourself to DO....** Think about ways you've grown as a disciple over your life and then list them down on a chart. **Pray...** Thank you, God, for inviting me to be a disciple and for helping me invite others to follow you. Amen.



### **Do You Enjoy Spending Time With The Youngest Members Of Our Church?**

We are still in need of volunteers for Session 5 and 7 of Sunday School! The biggest commitment would be 5 weeks in a row during the 9:30 service and you would have a teaching partner. *OR*, you are welcome to sign up for a one-time session on any date in either session below that works for you! You can sign up alone, but we would also welcome you to volunteer with a friend!  
Session 5 runs weekly from 2/11 - 3/17 (No Sunday School on 3/10)  
Session 7 runs weekly from 4/28 – 5/19

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing or you have would like to get more information, please let Jackie know.

## **An Undersea Adventure You Won't Want to Miss This Summer!**

**July 14 - July 17**

**5:30-6pm Dinner; 6-8pm VBS Program**

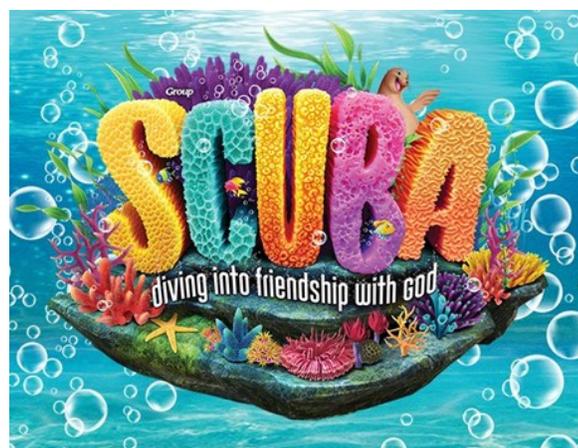
**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!**

**Participants Register Here:**

**<https://forms/gle/Mv6p2jZWrhW25WU7A>**

**Volunteers Register Here:**

**<https://forms/gle/WJw1zCQYGyxcxHxz6>**



# TGIW Midweek Meetup ~ Set Aside Time In Your Week For Fellowship

2024 has started in an amazing way in our TGIW Midweek Meetup children's program!

For our January service project, we worked on projects for Furry Friends Animal Rescue. We made homemade dog treats, two varieties of cat toys and tug toys for dogs. We spent the following weeks making indoor snowmen, learning about Psalm 23, and talking about God's love. The final Wednesday in January will be our Friendship Dance Party! We are looking forward to dancing the night away with our church friends!

## 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

## February Calendar

2/7- **Adult Day Service Project, 6:30-7:30pm**- We will be working on Valentine's themed projects to sprinkle a little of God's love in our community!

2/14- **Ash Wednesday – No TGIW Programs!**

2/21- **TGIW Activities, 6:30-7:30pm**

2/28- **TGIW Activities, 6:30-7:30pm**

*A free-will donation is collected weekly to help offset the cost of the weekly meals. A suggested giving amount is \$5 per person or \$20 per family, but there is no set fee.*

**The meal volunteers for February are –**

Glenna Ross, DeVonne Douglas, and Cadence Kasper

The Soards Family

Patty Nearmyer and McKayla Nearmyer



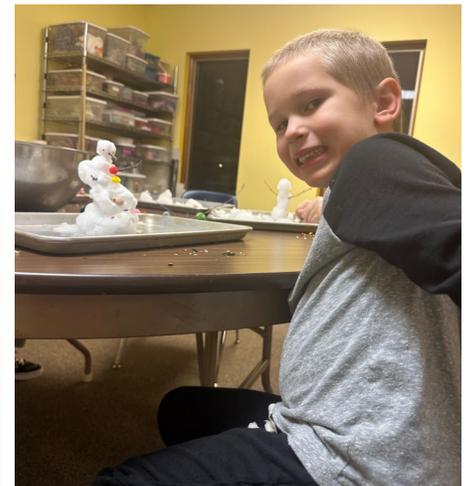
Photos from our Furry Friends service project activities!



Thank you to our volunteers who prepare and serve the weekly meals during TGIW Midweek Meetup! We appreciate the gift of your time and talents!



Photos from our TGIW indoor snowball fight and our miniature snowmen creations. We had snow much fun learning about how we are uniquely made by God!



## BLAST Ministry ~ Believing, Learning, Assisting,

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

**Sr. BLAST ~ 9th-12th graders**

Leaders: Chris Higdon, Pam Frey, McKayla Nearmyer, and Arianna Bernal.  
([BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org))

We have had a great start to 2024! We have started a new Bible Study called "*Jesus in Our Generation*"; where we are looking at how major changes in technology, changes in our society, and political landscape have affected everyone's relationship with religion.

Our first two sessions have been very successful in generating conversation in the group as we discussed the affect technology has had on our relationship with Jesus and the Church. Why do we need to attend Church in person, if we can watch it on our phone? **Just ask any of our youth; they will tell you why you need to be in person!**

This year we are encouraging all youth; both Senior BLAST and Junior BLAST kids to sign up for Summer Games University (<https://sgu.camp/>). Summer Games University is a one-week camp experience on campus at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. This year's camp is from **July 8-12, 2024!** So far, we have **4 youth already registered!**



### Who is ready to eat pancakes?

Don't forget that we are serving "*All you can Eat*" pancakes on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. This is before the New Hope's Ash Wednesday service.

Here are some of the photos from our recent BLAST Christmas party.



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

- Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm ~ Super Bowl Party (Higdon's House)
- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm ~ Ash Wednesday Pancake Feed
- Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> @ 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>).



## Help us welcome the community to New Hope UMC!

We are hosting a Community Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, March 23rd at 2pm sharp!**

**Starting February 18th**, Hippity hop to the Welcome Center to see how you can help and to get signed up to help us with this fantastic community event!! We need a few EGG-ceptional **volunteers to help with set up/clean up and supervising the event!**

If you aren't able to help or want to do that and more, we also need **donations of 24 or 48 candy filled plastic eggs or bags of candy** that would fit in the plastic eggs. Please sign up soon to help us plan and bring your donations to the Welcome Center by *no later than March 17th*.

~ Save the Dates ~

**Friday, March 22nd, 6:30 p.m.**

**Piano / Organ Recital by Emily Bowser**, New Hope's pianist/organist. Children, Youth, Adults and families are welcome. (Free will offering encouraged.)

**Saturday, April 27th, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Spring Celebration of Diverse Cultures.**

Food. Music. Arts.

(If you know artists and artisans representing cultures, please submit their names and phone numbers to Pastor Lilian, Andy Sutton, Cathy Short, Bruce Dabill, Darlington Blayon or Wendy Zadeh by February 15th.)



A brand new calendar with nothing but little boxes full of empty space is an exciting prospect! How will you spend your time in 2024?

Does winter have you wishing for better things? Well, just think... in just 171 days it will be Rummage Sale time!

I am counting down the days and I hope you are too!

Please consider offering New Hope the gift of some volunteer hours during the week of July 21-27 to assist with our annual rummage sale! It is a huge undertaking, and it requires MANY volunteers and HUNDREDS of manhours to pull off each year.

- ⇒ If you can make a big commitment this year...please consider overseeing an area!
- ⇒ Volunteer to help with pre-sale preparation during the week ahead of the sale. This includes sorting, pricing, and organization and happens Sunday-Wednesday when we aren't open to the public.
- ⇒ Or, if you aren't easily flustered, please consider volunteering for Thursday afternoon (11-3pm) when we need A LOT of help! Cashiers and sackers are always needed during the sale days.

**Plan now to bring in your gently used items on donation day - Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>!**

Share our sale dates with your friends and family to get the word out early:

**Thursday, July 25 (12-6pm)**

**Friday, July 26 (9am-6pm)**

**Saturday, July 27 (9am-12pm)**

Please pray for our sale to be a blessing to our community, for our outreach to touch lives, and for the money earned to be put to good use. Please contact Jackie Johnson with any questions: [jackiejohnson81@aol.com](mailto:jackiejohnson81@aol.com)/(515)710-3239.

**Blood Pressure Check**  
February 4th, 9:30 am-10am  
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.

### Stroke Club of Iowa

3rd Tuesday of the month  
(April - September) at 7 p.m.  
Questions? Contact Sue Toale  
Knapp, 515-255-0366,  
stktel1@gmail.com.  
Online support group:  
<http://www.strokenetwork.org/>



## Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets  
quarterly. Next meeting is on  
**Thurs., April 25th 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.



**Men's Fellowship** will meet on **Saturday,**  
**February 3rd at 8:30 a.m.** at church.  
All men are invited!!

Our next gathering will be on **Thurs.,**  
**February 15th at 9:30 a.m.**

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.  
Questions? Please call Susan Clark at 515-964-5119.



United  
Women  
in Faith

## ADULT Sunday School

### Join us!

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



## Chair Yoga & Fitness

Every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.,  
join us for Chair Yoga & Fitness (no fee).  
This is a gentle yoga & fitness that is done  
while you are seated on a chair. It's a 30-45  
minute session. The instructors are from  
Youtube videos. Please meet in the Fellow-  
ship Hall.  
*This is for anyone and any age.*



**Crafters** will meet in the Ruby Chapel  
**Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm.**

This is an informal group so crafters can come and  
go. We invite knitters, crocheters, cross stitchers,  
hand quilters, and all other to join us for fellowship  
and craft time.

Questions? Contact Le Howland at 515-418-0998

## New Hope Needlers

The Needlers sewing group will meet on **Friday, February 16th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm** in the north  
classroom. We lunch at Panera in Johnston.

We make lap quilts for the NHUMC Care Team and Little Dresses, Little Britches and components for Days for Girls  
feminine hygiene kits for overseas missions. Fabric, batting and backing are  
available to use.

Bring your sewing machine (or use the machine in the church closet), scissors,  
pins and thread for a day of stitching and fellowship.

Non-seamstresses are welcome to help with simple tasks, such as inserting the  
ribbon in drawstring bags.

Questions: Contact Diane Densmore, 515-270-1974 or Jody Rains, 515-278-828



# FEBRUARY 2024 MISSION NEWS

## Marilyn Osborn, Chair of Mission Committee



Did you know the church is in prison? Women at the Well is a sister congregation, a United Methodist congregation within the walls of the women's correctional institution in Mitchellville, Iowa. New Hope plans to serve a meal in support of their ministry with women impacted by incarceration at the Fresh Start Women's Center on **February 13th**. Pastor Paul Whitmer serves the Women at the Well ministry.

Women at the Well began a satellite ministry at **Fresh Start** during the pandemic when it was not possible to get inside the prison where the primary ministry happens. Fresh Start is a 48-bed facility run by the Department of Corrections for women in the justice system. It is a work-release facility, so everyone there is required to leave during the day to go to work and earn their keep.

Women at the Well offers a weekly program at Fresh Start called "**Well Time**" that features Bible Study, worship, and small group support for the reentry journey of women in transition from jail or prison. In the last year, they have developed a feeding ministry along with this, offering a home-cooked meal to the women twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. These meals are prepared with the love and care that many of our partner churches are known for – like New Hope.

The mission of Women at the Well is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision is to lead the church in love that breaks down walls.



### Hand of Luke, Wednesday, February 14th

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

Patrice Webber and Arlene Dabill lead this ministry. We are continuing to utilize your monetary donations to purchase the majority of the food for the monthly meal. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

The menu for February will be chicken, black bean and rice soup, rolls, fruit cocktail, and Valentine cookies.

**Volunteers are needed to cook the meal, transport the food, and donate cookies (no peanut butter or nuts, please). Please bring cookies in containers that do not need to be returned.**

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044DACA722A4FE3-47238644-holwednesday>

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

**Free Little Food Pantry** ~ Located between 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Streets north of Meredith Drive.

The extreme cold of Iowa winters requires a shift in food pantry items. **Winter Pantry Suggestions:**

Hot Chocolate Mix – Dry Soup mixes – Dry gravy mix – Boxed meals (similar to hamburger or tuna helper) – Instant Mashed Potatoes – Rice and boxed/bagged rice sides – Oatmeal and flavored oatmeal packets – Hot cereal (Cream of Wheat, Coco Wheat) – Cereal/cereal bars/pop tarts – Raman Noodle Packs or Cup O' Soup, dry instant Soups – Powdered milk – Cornbread or muffin mix – Mac N Cheese boxed meal – Dried beans – Pasta – Dried fruits

We have increased our giving of weekly food donations to **50** items per week! Please keep your donations coming as the need for food is so great. Also, your help in delivering is appreciated. Just sign up on the clipboard on the top shelf.

If you have any questions, please contact Jolene Harlow 515-490-8813 or email at [rdharlow@earthlink.net](mailto:rdharlow@earthlink.net)

**Monthly checks** - Your donations to New Hope also make it possible to send checks throughout 2024 to African Immigrant and Refugee Transition Services (AIRTS), Families Forward, DMARC Food Pantry, Women at the Well, Johnston Partnership, Missionary Dr. Mefor, and Urbandale Food Pantry.

**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, go to <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, Families Forward and the Urbandale Food Pantry, on a rotation schedule.

***YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS***

Thank you to everyone that came out on January 20th for the delicious

## **Chili Cook-Off!**

There were **16** crock-pots of Chili to taste and vote on. All entries were greatly appreciated and were awesome!!

This was a fun church & community event organized by the Bridge Committee: Glenna Ross, DeVonne Douglas, Pam Frey, Mel Forbes, Jackie Johnson and Nancy Monthei.

**Congratulations** to our 2024 Chili Cook-Off Champions:

1st Place - Greg Ross  
2nd Place - Pam Frey  
3rd Place - Larry Forbes



## ***Thank you* seems like such a small appreciation when it comes to all that John Rains and Paul Weisskopf have done for New Hope UMC.**

They both have decades of volunteer work (and it's hard work!) for our church, saving the church money in many ways.

John knows every inch of the church and campus. He has organized campus clean up days and often times works days before the clean-up days to prepare. He is a wealth of information about the church building and grounds and has been a member of the Board of Trustees for many, many years.

Paul has single handedly set up the sound system and projector screens in the Family Life Center and the sound system in the Sanctuary. Whenever there is an issue with either of the systems, Paul has been the go to guy to ask. He has spent hundreds of hours to maintain and update the systems, along with being on the Board of Trustees.

They both were part of the "Handyman Duo" Harvest Auction Fundraiser, bringing in hundreds of dollars for the winning bid.

New Hope UMC will be forever grateful for John Rains & Paul Weisskopf. If you see them, please thank them for their service to our church!



# **New Hope 2034 (Formerly Growth Team)**

by Robin Harlow

**Purpose:** Help identify events, activities, partnerships, and outreach opportunities that will assist New Hope United Methodist Church live its mission and grow into our shared vision.

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

**Vision:** Called to grow disciples of Jesus Christ by strengthening our Church Family and transforming communities.

## **CAT Priorities:**

Make the necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.

Reaching new people and incorporating them into the church.

Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage in life.

Create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships.

Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions and partnerships.

## **New Hope 2034 Goals: Develop and energize the following action teams:**

### **Facility Opportunity, Review and Exploration Team**

Why: Our greatest tool is our facility. In 2005, our average Sunday attendance was approximately 300 people from all services. Today our average Sunday attendance is approximately 160 people from all services. This drop in attendance is part of a much larger trend across all denominations. It will be critical that New Hope develop activities and identify organizations/partnerships that require space for their operations to help us to continue to maintain and upgrade our facility. It will be important that these organizations/partnerships be aligned with our mission.

Potential Projects: Refine Larry Wood's cost per square foot lease calculation. Preschool, DMARC Food Pantry partnership, existing non-profits. Develop grant portfolio.

### **Fresh Expressions Team**

Why: Where have all the people gone? Only half of Americans attend any church during the year. This is down and still dropping from around 80% in the mid-2000s. "Emerging generations don't speak "Christianese" and typically have no life experience in the church." Like John Wesley before us, we will need to leave the comfort of church to reach new generations in the places where they have built their communities. These generations "may not know their neighbor but have built a network of friends on media platforms and meet in person to socialize".

Potential Projects: Online bible studies, educate team and congregation. Develop implementation plan. How to release the APEs!

### **Bridges (Events and Activities and Community Coordination Team)**

Why: To impact our community, we need to know our community. Holding events that attract our community in our space allows us to introduce ourselves to those living in our area. At the same time, it is important that in an increasingly complex world, we offer fellowship and assistance that not only encompasses our spiritual needs but attends to the practical needs of our world. How can we help navigate this highly technical world we have built. This team will work closely with our current Bridges program.

Potential Projects: Seminars around cybersecurity. Get to know your device seminars. We have a multi-purpose Family Life Center, how can this space be used for activities (afterschool, pickleball, etc.)? Breweries are now being built that allow parents or dog owners to have a space for either children or pets to play. *What if we offer a café and play space?* Develop community garden space.

### **Technology Forward Team**

Why: To "connect" to current and future generations, we need to make sure that we have the tools for making connections. Our facility needs to have technology that is flexible and robust. Being technology forward will allow us to offer opportunities to engage younger generations in the functioning of our church. Having consistent messaging across all major platforms will help us tell our story and engage people in the places where they gather.

Potential Projects: Identify, implement, and support technology. Assist in seminars as needed. Educate leaders on best practices and offer instruction on using social media for messaging.

# Stewardship and Finance Update

by Robin Harlow, Chair of Stewardship & Finance Committee

The Stewardship and Finance Committee would like to thank the members of New Hope United Methodist Church for their support in 2023. Your giving helped us to reduce our 2023 projected deficit of \$24,000 to \$16,289.65. This deficit was covered by operating reserves.

Many thanks for participating in the pledge drive for 2024. We were both inspired and humbled by the results. We had 31 pledges increase their 2024 pledging by an average of 15%. As exciting, we had 11 new pledges for 2024. These are pledgers that have not pledged in the past. Many, many thanks to those that continue to give their time, talents, resources, and presence to our wonderful congregation. With the pledges for 2024, we feel confident that we can continue to close the gap between our giving and expenses.

As we dive into 2024, one area of concern is the increasing costs associated with our facility. For example, our insurance on our facility went from around \$12,000 to \$17,000. A whopping \$5,000 increase. Based on a recommendation from the New Hope 2034 Team (formerly the Growth Committee) a Facility Use Review team is being formed to actively seek out partnerships and activities that will help offset the cost of operating our wonderful facility. The Trustees will be providing the leadership and recruiting members that are interested in helping.

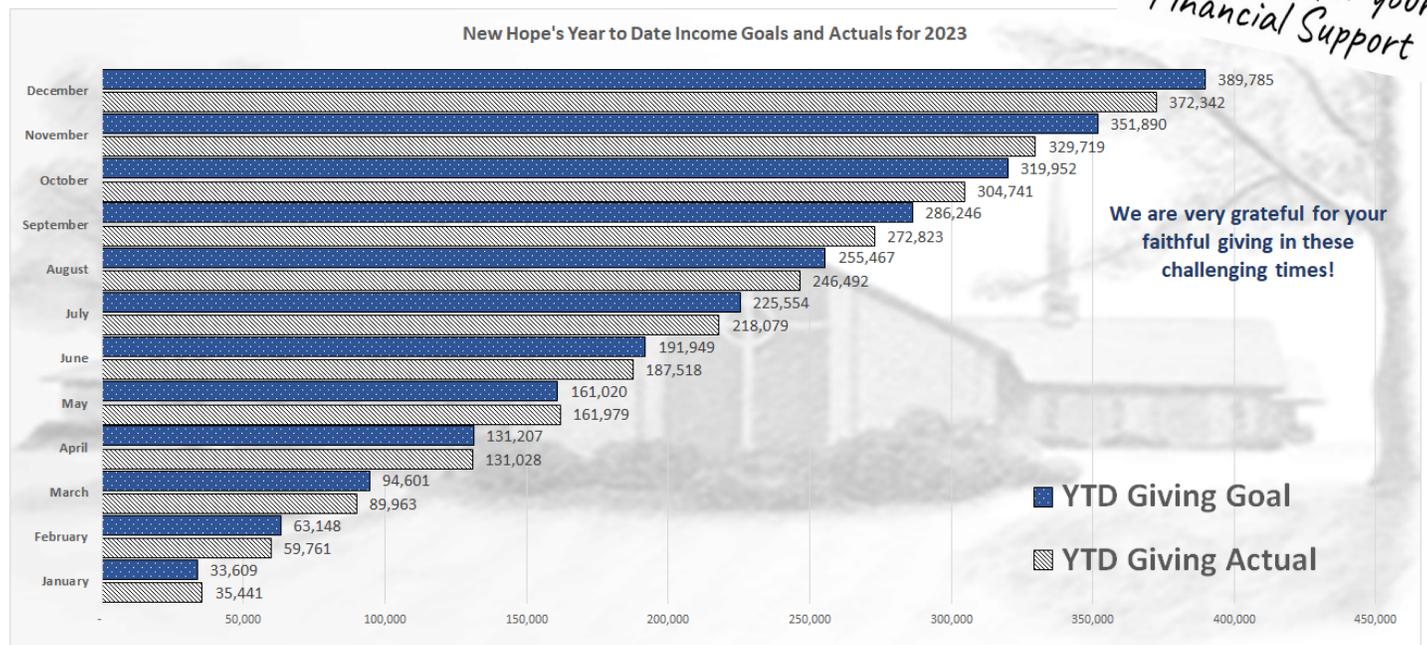
In February, we will be bringing back our Document and Donuts. Please look for the announcement in our Sunday bulletins. We will be revising some of the communication charts this year and will want to hear from you to see if they are useful.

We are optimistic about 2024 and can feel the energy of our congregation. Society is reawakening from the pandemic and is looking for spiritual engagement. With your continued support we at New Hope stand ready to welcome those that want to spread the good news!

**The East Entrance** was designed and built: 1) to keep you safe and dry during inclement weather, 2) to enhance the east door as the primary entrance into the church building.

Please consider using this beautiful addition for the safety and comfortability of your loved ones! The loan balance currently is **\$40,330**.

Join us for our campaign ~ "Can You Spare a Dollar?"  
Place your weekly \$1 in the container at each worship space.  
Thank you!!! Board of Trustees



# February 2024

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

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

				1 6:30p, Worship Mtg	2	3 8:30a, Men's Breakfast at church,
4 9:30-10:45, Blood Pressure checks	5 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness  7p, Trustees Meeting	6 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel  6:30p, SPRC Mtg.	7 9:30 Chair Yoga 1:00p, Bible Study 6:00p, Confirmation Class 6:30p, Crafters, R.Chapel TGIW ~ PreK-12th grade 6:00-7:30 Activities 7:30p, Puppets 6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	8	9  4p-7p, Fellowship Hall and Family Life Center reserved	10 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast
11 <b>Scout Sunday</b> 2p-4p, Town Hall Mtg with Bishop at Pella  2p-4p, Fellowship Hall reserved	12 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness  6:30p, Ukulele Club, F.Hall	13 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 9:30 Chair Yoga 1:00p, Bible Study 3:30p, Hand of Luke  5:00p, Pancake Supper 7:00p, Ash Wednesday service	15  9:30a, United Women in Faith, Fellowship Hall  7p, Bible Study at Banny's	16  9a, Needlers at church	17
18 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> Directory photos taken after each worship service	19 <i>President's Day</i> <b>Office Closed</b> 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness  6:30p, Matthew Zoom Bible Study	20 <b>Feb. LINK deadline</b> 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel  6:30p, Finance Mtg	21 9:30 Chair Yoga 1:00p, Bible Study 6:00p, Confirmation Class 6:30p, Crafters, R.Chapel TGIW ~ PreK-12th grade 6:00-6:30 Meal Served 6:30-7:30 Activities 7:30p, Puppets 6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	22  6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	23	24
25 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> Directory photos taken after each worship service	26 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness  6:30p, Matthew Zoom Bible Study  6:30p, Ukulele Club, F.Hall	27 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	28 9:30 Chair Yoga 1:00p, Bible Study 6:30p, Crafters, R.Chapel TGIW ~ PreK-12th grade 6:00-6:30 Meal Served 6:30-7:30 Activities 7:30p, Puppets 6:00p, Chancel Choir 7:00p, Praise Band practice	29		



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

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 Nicole Wilson                | 17 Vicki Hover                             |
| 2 Kay Goff                     | 18 Ava Henry, Linda Sesker, Ellie Cossa    |
| 3 Ron Rubek                    | 19 Susan Egger, Makenna Meyer              |
| 6 Dale Monthei, Penny Dolberg  | 20 Wendy Zadeh, Derek Marsh                |
| 7 Sandy Wilges                 | 22 Kristi Burh, Nathan Roff, Julie Hartung |
| 9 Freda Ruleman, Ben Higdon    | 25 Earl Lewis                              |
| 10 Clark Howland               | 27 Steven Schutter                         |
| 11 Steve Sutton                | 28 John Huber                              |
| 12 Theresa Flickinger          | 29 Doris Pugh                              |
| 16 Scott Rowland, Corey Miller |  |



- 9: Ron & Clarice Rubek
- 24: Larry & Kim Buske
- 27: Robin & Jolene Harlow
- 28: Clark & Le Howland

*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  
Associate Student Minister: Wendy Zadeh  
Children & Youth Ministries Coord.: Jackie Johnson  
Director of Music: Preshia Paulding  
Nursery Attendants: Kris Wakeman, Brianna Johnson,

#### E-mail Information

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
Pastor Lilian Gallo Seagren: [Lilian@newhopedsm.org](mailto:Lilian@newhopedsm.org)  
Wendy Zadeh: [wendy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:wendy@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