

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

November 2025



9am • 10am • 11am

newhopedsm.org

The Days are Surely Coming

Nov. 2nd
All Saints Sunday

Nov. 9th
The Latter Splendor

Nov. 16th
Rejoice Forever in Creation

Nov. 23rd
Woe to the Shepherds



New Hope UMC Fall Campus Cleanup Day

The Board of Trustees are planning a "Fall Campus Cleanup Day" on **Saturday, November 8th, 9am until finished** (rain date is November 15th).

We need your help!

Please plan to attend by volunteering your time and talents! Bring gloves, rakes, trimmers, leaf blowers, etc., if you have them.

Dress accordingly for the weather. Lunch will be served at Noon.

If there are any questions, please call or text Nan Stubbs, 515-238-7334.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort!

Thank you to our members for paying the East Entrance balance in full in October 2025.

****We will have a celebration for this accomplishment on Sunday, November 9.****

Please join us after each service in the Fellowship Hall.
Your Board of Trustees

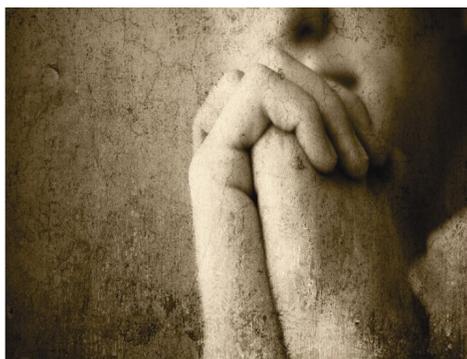
But wait!

We will leave the Wishing Well out for the needs of our church. We just had our furnaces checked for the upcoming winter.



We have two furnaces that will not make it through this winter. Please consider filling the Wishing Well for this need!





All Saints' Sunday: Honoring the Faithful

On November 2, we'll observe All Saints' Sunday during all worship services. This is a time to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith—family, friends and fellow believers who have touched our lives and pointed us to Christ.



Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Glenna Ross at 515-321-3010 email at glenna625@hotmail.com or the church office at 515-278-2097.



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, November 1 at 8:30am** at church. *All men are invited!!*

Our Prayers for ~

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

Healing from Cancer:

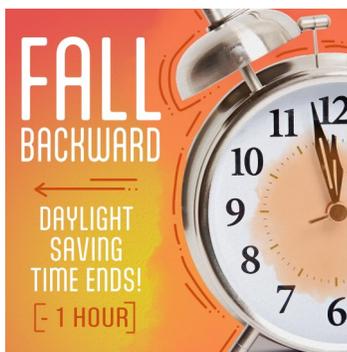
DeVonne Douglas, Neal Cave, Pam Frey, Marlys Borcharding, Linda Boyd, Jennifer Hibbert

Healing from Physical Issues:

Doris Pugh, Dick Cobb, Patty Nearmyer, Don Gurnsey, Freda Ruleman, Jim Bolstad, Linda Wood, Patricia Smith, Mike Aasheim Osborne

Military:

Devan Stanton, Hunter Schmidt, Joshua Ruleman, Jacob Gerlach, Brycen Gerlach, Michael Craighton, Clayton Hulst, Zach McClain, Ethan Hensley, Kaden Moran, Macon Woodlief, Jonah Tibbits



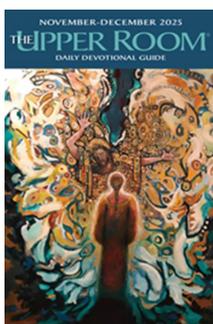
**Sunday,
November 2nd!**



Annual Charge Conference will be held on **Sunday, November 2 at 4pm** at **Oakwood UMC, 400 NE 56th St. Pleasant Hill, IA**

Charge Conference is the annual meeting of the year where we review the past year's ministries, look at the programs and the goals for the coming year, set the Pastor's salary and elect the officers of the church.

Your attendance is welcomed!



New Hope UMC has available to you the Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide.

The **November/December** issue is in the

Communication Center.

You may leave a donation in the box by the Upper Room guides.

Honoring our Veterans

Sunday, November 9, during each of the worship services, we will be honoring our veterans who have served in the military at any time in their lifetime.

If you are a veteran, we would very much like to recognize you on that Sunday. We are grateful for the service our veterans have given to our country, and want to have a chance to share our thanks.





Advent by Candlelight

for women of the church (including high school students) and their guests are invited to attend the **26th Anniversary of Advent by Candlelight!**
Monday, December 1, 7pm.

Enter the season of advent in a spirit of love and joy rather than stress and anxiety. Dessert will be served by table hostesses; followed by a program of music, scripture, verse, and stories.

Sign-up sheets for those wishing to attend and those volunteering to hostess are in the Fellowship Hall under the tv screen. *Deadline to sign up is November 16.*

If 4 or more friends want to be at the same table, one or two of your group should sign-up to hostess the table. Someone takes care of dessert and the other decorates. There is no reason to go over-board with decorating, since the best part is sharing our evening together. A hosting letter will be sent out to all the hosts.

Musicians (vocalists and instrumental): If you are interested in performing for Advent by Candlelight, please contact Nancy Monthei. Solos, duets, trios, quartets ~ Song selections get grabbed quick - so contact her soon!

Questions? Contact Nancy Monthei at 515-278-2097 or nancy@newhopedsm.org



Discover a New Opportunity to Connect and Serve!

christkindlmarket



This year, we expanded our community connections to include Christkindlmarket, a German Christmas market located at Principal Park on the first two weekends of December. German style food, music, and shopping are highlights of the festival. People come to learn about another culture and to discover where some of the Christmas traditions we hold dear originated. They invite nonprofit organizations to participate in order to raise funds and be a bigger presence in the Metro area. We have several opportunities to share this year.

On November 29, we will need volunteers to help construct the huts used for vendors. It is an 8-hour day, but can be divided into morning and afternoon shifts for those who can only do half of the day. Our crew of four to eight people (depending on how we divide shifts), in addition to doing service in the community will raise \$500 that day for the church! If you enjoy construction, this is the opportunity to add the church giving, have a fun day with friends, and help support cultural awareness in Des Moines!

Our **second opportunity is helping in the brat stand on Thursday (December 4) and Friday (December 5).** This will require a team of 8 on Thursday and 5 on Friday (with one alternate each night) and includes cooking, serving and cashing electronic payments. We receive a guaranteed \$500 per night, but will receive the tips up to a maximum of \$2000.

Volunteers will also do a free craft with the kids on one of the days of the event. This is not a fundraiser, but is a public service that allows us to show the community our heart for kids and helps spread the message of Christmas to hundreds of metro children!

The fundraising committee will also be decorating a tree for the nonprofit tree auction. Those coming to the event will be able through our tree to learn about our church and ministry! In addition, our tree will be auctioned near the end of the event to raise funds for the church and also create new community connections. You are all welcome to join the auction if you would like to bid on our tree, and **we have one 2-hour shift during which time we will need one person to sit in the tree tent with one of the fundraising committee members to give information and maps of the tree tent to those who come to view the trees.** The amount raised by our tree depends upon the amount bid. We will receive the full bidding amount after the event.

We hope that you will consider helping with one or more of these events, and that you will see the Christkindlmarket in person! The market draws an average of over 20,000 participants daily! See more at: <https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/>

We hope that you will support our efforts to connect, grow, love, and serve during this event! **To Volunteer, please sign up at the Welcome Center at church.**

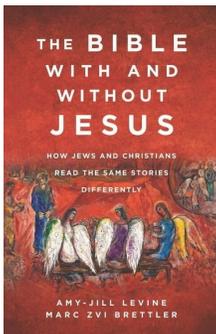
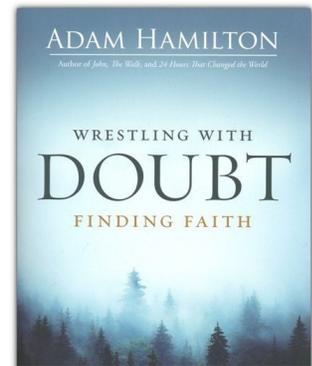
Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith by Adam Hamilton

Struggling with uncertainties on your spiritual journey?

Whether a longtime Christian or brand new to the faith, get to know the God who is unafraid of hard questions. Hamilton draws from the wisdom of the Bible to approach reservations with honesty and insight. Learn how doubt can drive you to a deeper encounter with the Lord!

We will have a **six week class starting on Wednesday, November 5th at 12:30.**

The class will be taught by Pastor Amy and Armenta Buckingham in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Armenta at armentabu@gmail.com.



The Thursday Bible Study is based on the book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently*.

We will be meeting on the **second Thursday night each month at 6:30pm (November 13)** in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope to see you there! Questions, please contact Cathy Short at 515-494-5568.

Join us at New Hope UMC on
Sunday, November 16
2pm - 4pm

as The Community Jazz Center Big Band presents
The Saxophone Section Session!
This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation.
Please invite your friends!



Hanging of the Greens ~ Sunday, November 23

We will be decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex directly after the 11am service.

The Family Life Center will be decorated at 3pm. We appreciate those that would come back to church and we need a few volunteers that are not afraid of heights and can climb a ladder.

Please join us in making our church welcome the Christmas Season!

Questions? Contact Pam Frey at Yayafrey@gmail.com or 515-490-8440.



United Women in Faith, October Thursday group, had a very interesting speaker from Urban Bicycle Food Ministries.



We voted to have a **blanket drive** for them so they can distribute clean, used blankets to the homeless living on the streets of our city. As colder weather approaches the blankets would be very comforting. It was suggested that we do not donate large blankets as they would be hard for people to carry.



Please donate: Throws, twin blankets or full-size blankets. There is a large box in the Fellowship Hall to place your blankets. We will accept donations for the next few weeks then we will take them to UBFM for distribution. Thank you in advance for your donation of a blanket.

United Women in Faith, October Saturday group, made paper trees, leaves, and hot chocolate cups for Jen Higdon's classroom. It was great fun! In November, we will be writing Christmas cards to church members that are shut ins. Also, we will work on making soup and cookie jar mixes to sell in December to the congregation. They would make great Christmas gifts.

United Women in Faith will meet on **November 20 at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall.
Our Saturday meeting will be on **November 22 at 9:30am**.
All are welcome to attend either meeting.
Questions, please contact Glenna Ross, glenna625@hotmail.com or call 515-321-3010.



United Women in Faith

Dawn Bachelder is sharing the following recipe of the BLT dip she made and shared with the Thursday group. It's delicious!



BLT Dip

- 1 cup of Helman's Mayo
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 pound bacon fried and crumbled
- 1 to 3 tablespoons of bacon grease

Combine all and put in a low dish. Top with chopped tomatoes.

Serve with sliced baguette brushed with melted butter and toasted under the broiler.



We were unable to get a Saturday in November for our **Veterans Breakfast** but please save the date for **Saturday, December 13 at 8:30am at church**

Breakfast will be served. This is open to all veterans, their spouses, and supporters.

Questions, please contact Pam Frey at yayafrey@gmail.com.

Social Action Committee News ~

Chair: Althea Holcomb ~ 515.490.0789, althea.holcomb@gmail.com



Winter Coat Drive ~ During November, we will again be collecting coats for the Johnston Partnership. A bin will be placed in the Fellowship Hall for these donations. Last year, Johnston Partnership handed out 5,000 coats to people in need. Just so you know, each individual is given one coat per season. A description of the type of coats donated is: they should be heavy enough to keep someone warm if they would need to stand in the freezing cold for 20 minutes waiting for a bus. Thank you for your donations!

The committee teamed up with Women's Fellowship in October to collect larger sizes (5,6,7) of diapers for Johnston Partnership. **Twenty-seven (27) packages of diapers were donated.** Johnston Partnership were extremely grateful that we answered their need! *Thank you!!!*

A meal was served at Fresh Start again on Tuesday, October 21. We are grateful for the response to the request for donations of food for this meal which eliminates the need to go to our budget to pay for the food. *Thank you!!!*

\$2,746 and 143 pounds of food (**Red Barrel**) has been donated to **DMARC** thus far this year. With economic uncertainty and cuts to the largest nutrition safety net (SNAP) the need is so great. *Thank you* for supporting their efforts.

And, we continue to stock the **Free Little Food Pantry** on Meredith with 50 food items each Monday. *Thank you* for your contributions. If you would like to volunteer to deliver the food, there is a sign-up clipboard on the shelves with the food.

Thank you to everyone who has answered the call for jasmine rice and dried beans and legumes for the **African Immigrant and Refugee Transition Services (AIRTS)** community. The grain bin is overflowing!

Hand of Luke continues serving the meal at CISS on the 14th of each month. This activity has been going on for many, many years in our church and the meal provided is beyond well received – hot food is a commodity for homeless people! *Thank you*



Friday, November 14, 2025

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 November will be chicken/vegetable/rice casserole, sliced peaches, dinner rolls, and cookies.

Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal, transport the food to the shelter, serve at the shelter, 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-59850543-holfriday#/>

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

We are always looking for additional ways to serve. We encourage anyone to offer their thoughts about ways we can help.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT!



SANTA'S ATTIC IS COMING!!

We are collecting new and gently used gift donations for this beloved annual program through December 3rd.

If you have donations, please bring them to the Children's Ministry office and place them on the round table.

Gifts for dads and siblings are always in high demand so please don't forget about them when planning your donations!

The children of the church will have the opportunity to shop donated items to purchase the perfect gifts for their loved ones. Anyone that has ever been the receiver of one of these gifts knows the joy expressed on Christmas morning from the child who picked it out especially for you!

This year, Santa's Attic will be held on Wednesday, December 10th. Children will bring up to \$5 to use to purchase gifts. The money collected will be donated to a charity chosen by the children.

Thank you in advance for your help making this event happen for the kids in our programs!

Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 7, 9am - 11am

Share some Christmas cheer by donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy to the New Hope Cookie Walk!

Sign up on the forms at the Welcome Center 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 December 5, 9:00am-11:00am or Saturday, December 6, 12pm - 2pm.
- Purchase. On Sunday, December 7, 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!

Please note! Our prices have NEVER increased but we accept more!



Children's & Youth Ministry

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

Sunday School is held during the 10am service during the school year.

Children start out in service with their families and go to Sunday School in the purple classroom after the Children's Message.

Sunday School is open to **PreK-7th grade** on a weekly or drop-in basis.



Older youth are welcome to help in the Sunday School classroom for Silver Cord or volunteer hours. Please contact Jackie for additional information about that opportunity.

Thank you to Tricia Berry for leading our first Sunday School session this year! Sherri Bogue is teaching the Second Session starting on November 2.

We are using the Simply Loved curriculum this year.

Check out what Group has to say about it:

The Simply Loved curriculum is designed to make Sunday School simple and engaging for both kids and volunteers. It focuses on the hearts of children by providing lessons that are easy to prep and follow, easy supply lists, and glanceable plans that help leaders stay connected with the kids. The curriculum includes Bible Memory Buddies that help kids remember key Bible verses through fun facts, engaging videos, and stickers. Each quarter explores biblical truths from both the Old and New Testaments.



We had an amazing October in TGIW Midweek Meetup!

We kicked off the month with our annual Operation Christmas Child service project with Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church. We were able to pack over 200 gift boxes during our hour there!



The remaining weeks were a mixture of learning, fellowship, and fun. We did lessons on Fall and changing seasons and ended the month with pumpkin painting and a Halloween celebration.

November is going to be even more fun!

11/5- Service First, All Group Service Project *Heading to Many Hands for Haiti on Merle Hay Road from 6:30-8pm. We will be back at New Hope for pickup at 8:15pm.

11/12- A Grateful Heart

11/19- Sharing Our Blessings

11/26- **NO Meetings, Thanksgiving Break**

Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm- Dinner

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

7:30-8pm- Puppets Rotation through November 5 with performances on November 9. *3rd Grade and up



Children's & Youth Ministry

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

We are still looking for a few extra hands in Children and Youth Ministries! Can you help?

We are looking for volunteers that enjoy working with children and have a desire to positively impact children in our congregation and our community to prayerfully consider the following needs we currently have:



Wednesday Night Program Helpers- We are looking for two additional volunteers for Wednesday nights with our PreK-5th Grade group!

The time commitment would be one hour per month – from 6:30-7:30pm on one Wednesday evening. You will not be expected to plan the lessons in the helper role, just show up to help with our activities! This group is on the younger side and to grow the size of the group, we need extra hands and eyes to help!

Sunday School Teachers- We are looking for one additional teacher for Session 6 of Sunday School. This Session runs from 4/12 - 5/17 during the 10am service.

Sunday School Helper- We are looking for a Sunday School helper for the first Sunday of each month. This could be the same person monthly or a different person each month. This is just a helper position, no planning or preparation is required.

Please reach out to Jackie at jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515)710-3239 with questions or to express interest in any of these roles.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration! I am thankful for an amazing congregation that loves the children we serve!

BLAST (BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org):
Christopher & Jennifer Higdon and McKayla Nearmyer



Wednesday Night Schedule

- 6-6:30pm - Dinner
- 6:30-7:30pm - Individual Group Meeting Time (*BLAST will be meeting downstairs*)
- 7:30-8pm - Puppets **Optional for 3rd Grade and up*

Upcoming Youth Events:

More details will be shared via email and posted on our Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>.

Blood Pressure Check

Next opportunity is on November 2, 8:45am - 11am in the Narthex.

Support Groups

Al-Anon

Every Tuesday at 9:30am 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., January 8, 2026 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, rrubek@aol.com

ADULT Sunday School

Join us!

10:00am in the Ruby Chapel using "Wired Word" curriculum.

Sleeping Mats/Loom

Plan to meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month!

One of Midwest Mission's projects is making Plarn Sleeping Mats. Plarn is plastic yarn made out of plastic grocery bags. The Sleeping Mats are sent internationally and locally. They are great for those who need a barrier between them and the hard ground. They have been sent for disaster relief, for the homeless, and for those who need temporary sleeping arrangements.

We will meet to work on the mat on **Thursday, November 6 & 20 at 1pm at the church.**

Also, thank you for all the plastic grocery bags. We do *not* need more as our supply is stocked!!

If you want to learn how to work on the mat, please join us!

Questions, contact Sue Baldwin, 515-360-2456.



Chair Yoga & Fitness

Every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30am

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 Fellowship Hall. No fee!

This is for anyone and any age. Bring your friends!

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will not meet in November and December.

We will meet again on **Friday, January 16, 2026** in the north classroom. We lunch at Panera in Johnston.

Our group sews lap size quilts for the NHUMC Care Team to gift our church members who are hospitalized or in care facilities and to newborns.

Bring your machine, current project and sewing notions. If your sewing machine isn't portable, we have two in the church closet you may use for the day. We also have fabric available for quilts.

Questions? Contact Diane Densmore, 515-270-1974.





Trunk or Treat ~ October 26th

Thank you to the Bridge Team for coordinating the event! Thank you to the fabulous volunteers that provided outstanding trunks & treats and came in costume. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped the day of the event.

And, thank you for the candy and monetary donations. More pictures are on: <https://www.facebook.com/NewHopeDSM/>



Paint and Hot Cider was held on October 28.

Everyone enjoyed painting an autumn woods scene! The pumpkin bars and hot cider were delicious!!



To Pledge or Not to Pledge

"I know I am going to give financially to the church, but do I really have to commit to an amount? Does it matter if I commit to giving?" I have thought this question many times over the years. What I've decided is **God cares**. He cares if I commit to him. He cares if I commit to providing resources to serve New Hope and my community.

Fall is the time when we, as a church family, consider how the year is going and ask God to help us recalibrate our ministry to move forward. **Providing our time, talents and treasure to the church is a response to God's abundant gifts of grace** and God's call for us to live life abundantly. If we allow him to guide us, we will be successful.

Here are a few areas where New Hope uses our resources:

Missions "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself"

In September, Althea and Clarice shared the Missions of New Hope in the Sunday Insert. Althea told about the work that the *Social Action Committee* is doing for our community. She and her committee focus on providing for neighbors without basic needs like shelter, food and limited resources. Clarice and the Care Team are our extended family when New Hope members have challenges such as a death in the family, illness, new babies, military absences and more. She makes sure our Prayer Chain intercedes on our behalf. **God Cares that we provide for our neighbor.**

Spiritual Growth "Faith is not about declaring a fixed truth but growing into it over a lifetime."

Pastor Wendy wrote that in one of her Thursday emails: "Prayer, scripture reading, fasting and dedication to service are methods of spiritual growing." Providing resources is also a way to help us grow in faith and mature our spirituality. **God wants each of us to experience the joy of giving**, as partners in his work, through our gifts. Regular giving is a reminder that we are God's children, and our blessings come from him. Putting our own needs and wants into proper perspective, allows us to **prioritize God in our lives.**

Our New Hope Home "For those who have much, much is expected" Luke 12:48

For sixty years, God has been faithful in providing a beautiful building for us to worship. Cool in the summer, warm in the winter. Sixty years and several roof replacements! Our charter members were faithful in pledging each year to keep the lights on. If Pam Frey, Trustee Chair, knows that members are giving more than last year, she can put money aside for radon mitigation in the parsonage, getting the cracks filled in the parking lot, getting help with the garden and for replacing the two remaining old furnaces.

God wants us to keep our building in good repair for the next generation to worship him.

Pastoral Care Paul wrote to the Ephesians: 4:11-13, "Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers (so they could) **equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith...**" By offering biblical guidance and teaching, pastoral care is here to help us grow as individuals in our faith, understand God's teachings, and relationship with Him.

On a practical level, pledges are extremely helpful to running our church. Even though there is no guarantee that people will give what they pledge, they help us know what we can hope to receive in the coming year. This enables planning of budgets, setting goals, etc. The Trustees would like to create an emergency fund for unanticipated maintenance items. The Tech Team would like to purchase a piece of updated sound system. The Care Team would like to send more care packages to our growing number of military personnel, etc. **A modest increase can mean a lot for the care we give.**

What can you do:

- Pray and reflect upon the blessings you receive, the ways that you'd like to grow as a person and as a member of the New Hope community. Much like the first churches described in Acts, we need everyone pulling the same direction.
- Your pledge is a promise to God, not a legally binding contract.
- Make a commitment, whether it's to give, to pray, to serve in some way. This might be part of how you are led to grow. If you are pledging already, maybe you are called upon to stretch and increase the pledge as a sign of growing faith and love.
- If you're not ready to pledge a specific amount, start with a modest contribution and work toward a larger pledge over time. Make your offering as a sign of giving and growing with Christ.

We will be asking for your 2026 pledge by November 9th. I respectfully ask that you prayerfully consider it. Thank you for all the support you've given in 2025 and for the continued support in 2026.

Kandra Dickerson, Finance Chair

People Give Based on Their Relationship with God

Stewardship

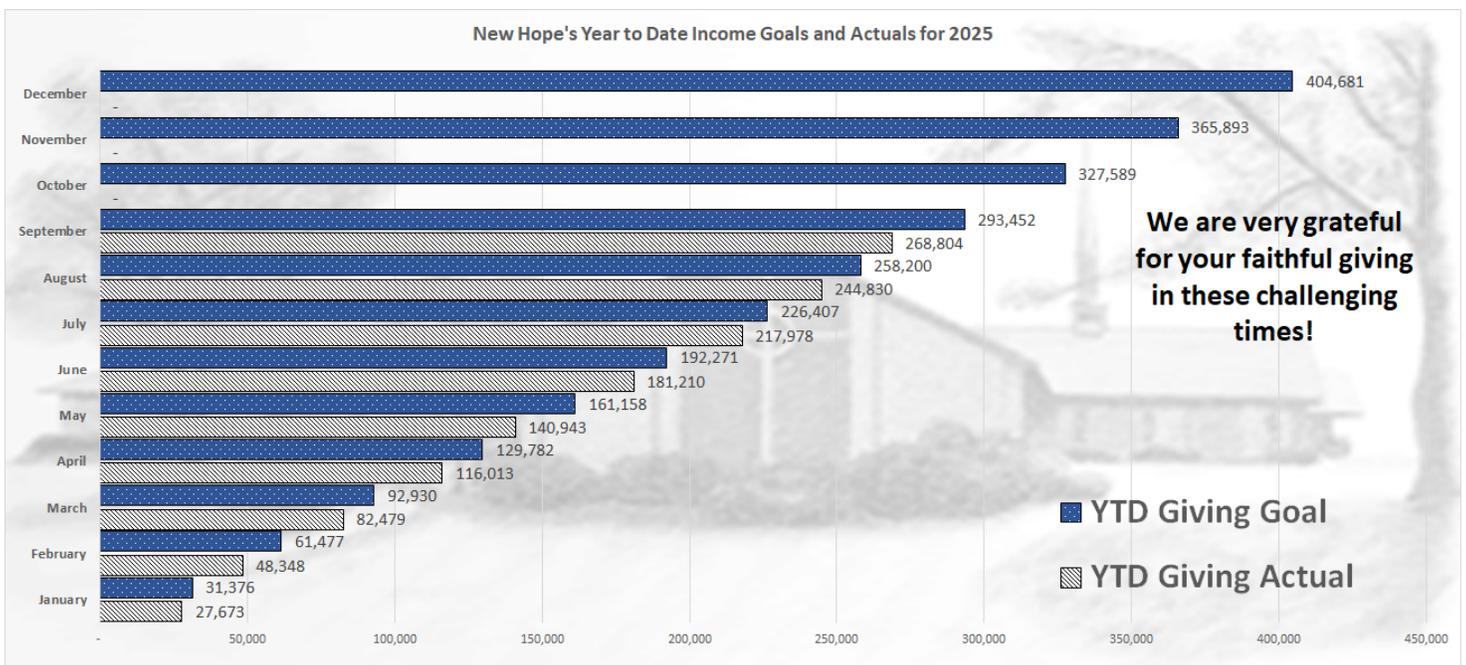
2026 Stewardship

Please pick up a stewardship pledge form and indicate how you wish to share your time, your talent and your financial commitment in 2026.

Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office **by November 9th.**

Pledge forms are near each Worship Space.

Thank you! Finance & Stewardship Committee



Thank you for your generous tithing and donations.

If you would like to make a donation, please use your smartphone's camera app to scan the QR code.

Thank you for your interest in supporting the work of New Hope UMC!

ONLINE giving



The Ascents (Psalm 120-134)

**“For too long I’ve had to live among those who hate peace.
I speak words of peace while they speak words of war,
but they refuse to listen.” -Psalm 120:6-7**

What does it look like to take a pilgrimage? I have been on many spiritual climbs in my life. I have walked steps of pyramids, scaled up Buddhist wats, hiked steep trails to Shintu shrines, climbed 14,000 foot mountains at 3am, and run up muddy hillsides clasping knotted ropes, all the while praying to not fall, to not become lost, to not make a fool of myself, and to not succumb to altitude sickness. But none of these journeys were pilgrimages. A pilgrimage is a journey, usually taken by foot, to a sacred religious place. It is more than just a difficult walk; it is a difficult walk that ends with an encounter with the holy as we gather with others on the same journey. It is climbing to our holy place together, singing the same song.

This month, we will sing the songs of Ascent. These psalms, Psalm 120-134, are the shared songs of the generations of Jews who journeyed to Jerusalem for Passover each year. Not all Jews were able to make it each year, but the hope was that everyone could do it at some point in their lifetimes, preferably every year. As the people of God would ascend to the temple—remember that the temple is set on a hill, often called “The Temple Mound”—they would recite these Psalms along the way. Sometimes, individuals would mutter them to themselves, but often the entire community would sing them together as they climbed. It brought them unity, reminded them of the purpose of their journeys, and distracted them from the difficult journey that ended with scaling a steep hill. For those new to the pilgrimage, ending a long journey with a steep climb was a struggle. But in sharing in these psalms, the community rising to the temple together had the strength of one another to carry them on to the top!

They sang. In the struggle, they sang as one. In their breathlessness, they drew the breath of their neighbors. They sang of peace in a long journey, of living in God’s house, of worshipping in the temple the way generations before had done during this holy time. Together, they remembered that they were a family of God, a diverse group of faithful friends, though many were meeting for the first time. Along the way, they met family and friends who they would remember now forever. They were no longer among those who were speaking war. They were all speaking the same language: praise to God!

These are the lectionary psalms that will lead us on our journey to Advent this year. Perhaps in the world we sing songs of war. Perhaps there are reasons we don’t get along or do not listen. Here on this journey, walking the steep path to Advent, we all sing the same song. Maybe it is a Song of Ascent, or maybe it is a Christmas carol we just can’t wait any longer to sing. Either way, we sing together with one voice now as we climb. We sing on the steep slopes and on the rocky paths. We sing the song of a group of people who once would not agree. Yet on this we agree: We need to find our Advent, to discover anew our mountain top, so that we might be able to find our peace together this Advent. Along the way, there will be people trying to sell souvenirs. Ignore them. There will be people trying to keep us from climbing. They will try to convince us to sing a less holy song. But we will move on, journeying to something greater, to the birth of hope and a future of grace. That, though, is what awaits us. Right now, we must ascend, we must scramble to the top with bodies that are tired and sore. And every time we think we cannot make it, we only need to sing the first note and the others around us will carry the rest of the song. We will rise. We will make it to the top this year. And when we do, we will not be disappointed.

**“I realize that our true help and protection is only from the Lord,
our Creator who made the heavens and the earth. He will guard and guide
me, never letting me stumble or fall.” -Psalm 121:2b-3**

I look forward to singing with you this November!

Blessing upon Blessing as you Ascend!

-Pastor Amy

November 2025

Sunday morning services are:
9:00, 10:00 and 11:00
 Nursery at 10:00

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						1 8:30a, Men's Breakfast
2 Daylight Saving Time ends 10a, Sunday School Holy Communion 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures 4p, Charge Conf @ Oakwood UMC 7p, Scouts (Jackie)	3 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7pm, Trustees Mtg	4 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	5 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 12:30, Bible Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities 7:30p, Puppets	6 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Worship mtg.	7	8 9a, Campus Clean Up
9 Veterans Honored 10a, Sunday School Puppets perform	10 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 5:30p, Scouts (Jackie)	11 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	12 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 12:30, Bible Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities 7:30p, Puppets	13 6:30p, Bible Study, F.Hall (Cathy Short)	14 3:00p, Hand of Luke	15 2p, Eagle Scout Ceremony (Kail Hopkins)
16 10a, Sunday School 2p-4p, Big Band concert	17 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	18 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 6:30p, Finance Mtg.	19 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 12:30, Bible Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities 7:30p, Puppets	20 December LINK deadline 9:30a, United Women in Faith 1p, Mat weaving 4p, Social Action Mtg 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	21	22 9:30a, United Women in Faith
23 10a, Sunday School Hanging of the Greens 30 1st Sunday in Advent Advent by Candlelight table decorating	24 Church Office Closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	25 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	26 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 12:30, Bible Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir No TGIW/BLAST/Puppets	27 Office Closed 	28 Office Closed	29



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



- 1 Brayla Johnson
- 3 DeVonne Douglas, Jo Renee Hartung
- 4 John Dickerson, Joe Fairchild
- 5 Denice Sutton, Kelly Mohrman, Barbara Williamson
- 6 Zachary McClain, Bryce Rowland
- 7 Audrey Keza
- 8 Barb Agan, Darlington Blayon, Wayne Johnson
- 9 Karen Skovgard
- 12 Cheryl Dunagan
- 13 Cheryl Cross
- 15 Larry Forbes
- 16 Lily Larsen

- 17 Luke Bogue, Leanna Erickson
- 18 Jim Wells, Danielle Clemmens, Aubrey Hogue
- 19 Charleigh Mau, Mark Wise
- 21 Carol Harter, Julie Sahlin, Judy Frizzell
- 22 Amanda Soards, Brynna Johnson
- 23 Don Doxon, Gary Williamson
- 25 Julie Craighton
- 27 Evelyn Kruse
- 28 Lee Ross
- 30 Jaela Wills

- 2 James & Suzanne Neu
- 3 Ron & Joan Ringgenberg
- 18 Chris & Julie Boyles
- 20 Chris & Jenn Higdon
- 22 Don & Trudy Gurnsey
- 23 Scott & Deanne Rowland

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.



WORSHIP *with us* **Sunday Morning Worship Services**
9:00 & 11:00: Traditional Services in the Sanctuary
10:00: Contemporary Service in the Neil Cross 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: Amy Johnson
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Children & Youth Ministries Coord.: Jackie Johnson
Director of Music: Preshia Paulding
Nursery Attendants: Kris Wakeman, Brianna Schafer, Sarah Sahlin, Emma Sandquist

E-mail Information

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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
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