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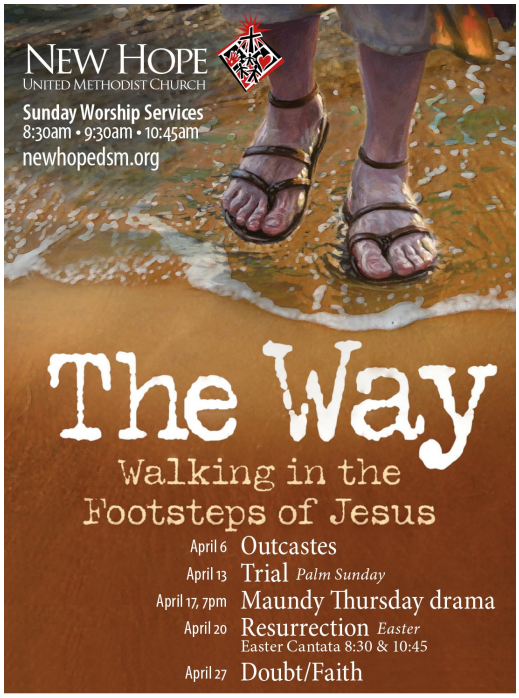
A monthly publication of New Hope United Methodist Church

April 2014

Join us at New Hope UMC, Sunday mornings at 8:30, 9:30, 10:45 and at Johnston River of Life at 5pm on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays.



Join us in April

April 12 & April 13. *Palm Services* at Johnston River of Life

April 13. *Palm Sunday* at New Hope UMC
Children's Palm parade: 9:30 & 10:45. We will lead the children into service, and then they may sit with families.

Thurs., April 17. 7:00pm, New Hope UMC
Maundy Thursday Drama
Maundy Thursday Drama will be one of the most impactful events of the year. Expect dramatic scenes, music, communion, and ending with the congregation gathered around the crosses. We hope you will come for this special worship service, and as always, invite a friend to come with you.

Fri., April 18, 7am-7pm, Ruby Chapel
Good Friday Prayer Vigil
This is a chance for the church to be in prayer on the day we remember the death of Christ, and what His sacrifice means to us. Sign up, in the Fellowship Hall, for a half hour time frame of prayer.

Sat., April 19, 4pm, Johnston River of Life
Community Easter Celebration
Egg hunt, worship service & meal (see above advertisement)

Sun., April 20, 10am, *Easter Sunday*, Johnston River of Life

Sun., April 20, *Easter Sunday*, New Hope UMC
8:30 & 10:45 Easter Cantata, "Once Upon A Tree" by Pepper Choplin. The major events of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and finally Easter are brought to life through the eyes of Luke.
9:30 Contemporary Service
9:30 Easter Celebration for CLT. We will have a half-hour of regular class time to learn about the Easter story, followed by the egg hunt and time for games.

membership news

prayer chain request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call the church office at 278-2097 or Jan Davisson at 251-4894. To be added to the e-mail prayer chain distribution list, please call the church office or Jan.

Prayer Concerns

Evelyn Kruse; Amy Sams, mother of Cheryl Cross; Bishop Julius Trimble; District Superintendent, David Weesner; District Field Minister, Karen Nelson; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.
Prayers for the following military personnel: Jason Homard; Zach McClain; Skylar Wright; Tim Rains and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Baptism

Congratulations to Liam Bradley Fulton and Oliver Michael Fulton, sons of Seth & Lacey Fulton, who were baptized on March 2nd at the 10:45 worship service.

Thank You

Thank you to Glenda Millard for the altar flowers in remembrance of Phoebe Landis.
Lee Ross

Celebrate Confirmation

Sunday, April 6, 10:45 a.m.
The Confirmation class will be confirmed at the 10:45 worship service, with a special reception to follow. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful worship opportunity, where the students not only share what they have learned with the congregation, but also design and lead the entire service! Come and congratulate them on this important stepping-stone in their faith journey!

The Confirmation Class of 2014:
Noah Breitsprecher, Kip Cullinan, Gabrielle Dean, Maddy Dolberg, Lydia Garside, Rex Haugland, Paden Klein, Allison Lemke, Emma Naumann, Kylie Perez, Brendan Riley, Andrew Wise.

Welcome New Members!

On March 8th & 9th, we welcomed the following members into the New Hope UMC & Johnston River of Life family!

Joe Borchardt, 1265, 11th St., Apt. 110, West Des Moines, IA 50265, 970-222-7564, teton130@gmail.com.

Dana and Teresa Garside, 9432 NW 74th Pl., Grimes, IA 50111, 515-986-4600, dtgarside@q.com. They have four daughters: Alicia, Kara, Lydia, and Sophia.

Steve Halterman, 6066 Bradford, Johnston, IA 50131, 515-491-5954, stevehalterman@ymail.com. Susan is his wife.

Brad and Jackie Johnson, 8027 NW 63rd Ct., Johnston, IA 50131, 515-334-7466, jackiejohnson81@aol.com. Their children are Brandin, Brianna, Bradyn, Brennan, and Brynna.

Sue Medley, 6042 Pinewood Ct., Johnston, IA 50131, 515-270-4868, suemedley06@msn.com. Sue is retired and enjoys playing cards and reading.

Laura Siffin, 5585 NW 61st Pl., Johnston, IA 50131, 817-528-6194, lsiffin@hotmail.com. She and her husband, William, have four children: Victoria, Morgan, Violet, and Tess.

Bob and Sue Soards, 9102 NW Windsor Dr., Johnston, IA 50131, 515-262-0263, bjsoards@hotmail.com (Bob), srsoards@hotmail.com (Sue). They have two daughters: Lindsay and Amanda.

Gina Wearmouth, 2600 57th St., Des Moines, IA 50310, 515-371-4312, regirae@yahoo.com. Her children are Max and Reggie.

Wade Zimmerman and Laura Lutz-Zimmerman, 8609 NW 70th Court, Johnston, IA 50131,
Wade: 303-921-7982, zhusky@yahoo.com; Laura: 303-921-2431, llzhusky@yahoo.com.
Their children are: Nicolas, Jackson, and Elijah.

New Hope Rummage Sale will be here before you know it. The Rummage Sale is an all-church effort and many, many hours of preparation time and work during the sale are needed to make it successful. Please volunteer and join the fun.

Here are some things to keep in mind regarding the Rummage Sale:

DATES & TIMES

May 1st -- Noon through 6 p.m.
May 2nd -- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
May 3rd -- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

If you are interested in helping out for a 3 hour shift or two during the preparation of the sale from Sunday, April 28th through Wednesday, April 30th or during the sale itself on May 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, you can visit Volunteer Spot on-line and sign up for the area and shift that fits your schedule by following the easy steps below. You can even see who else is signed up for the same shift or swap shifts, if necessary.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

A. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: http://vols.pt/NwiHyy
B. **Enter your email address.** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot.)
C. **Sign up!** Choose your spots and VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. **Easy as ABC!**

VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. However, if you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Elaine Collet (elaine.collet@gmail.com or 515-276-0597) and she can sign you up manually.

Sign-up sheets will also be available on the sign up table.

SEVERAL MORE AREA LEADERS ARE NEEDED

In addition to all the volunteers needed to get everything ready for the sale and to work during the sale, we also have a need for several more people to step forward to be area leaders. Area leaders are responsible for taking in, sorting, pricing and displaying items in an area of the sale (with help from other volunteers, of course).

If you are interested in being an area leader, please call Gleean Coates at 270-8538 or 491-9070. You could also send an email message to Gleean at gleean1947@hotmail.com.

DONATIONS

Donations will only be accepted on Sunday, April 27th from noon until 9 p.m. and Monday, April 28th between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

As you prepare your donations, please organize them into separate containers. For example, put children's clothes in one sack or box, books in another, kitchen items in another, etc.

All items must be clean and ready to display. No donations should be broken or torn.

Check all electrical items to assure they are in working order and marked with a tag that says "works."

All bedding should be folded and sets fastened together and marked with the size (twin, double, queen, or king).

NO TVs, computers, printers, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, or garlands will be accepted.

If you are planning to donate items that will priced at $25 or more, please notify Kim Buske at 334-5448 or kim.buske@gmail.com as early as possible prior to the sale. She will be posting those items on CraigsList as being available at the rummage sale. This will be good advertising for the sale.

BAKE SALE

There is a sign up sheet for the bake sale. Please bring your baked goods on Thursday or Friday morning.

Start your ovens!

Spring Clean-Up at New Hope Campus

Saturday, April 12th

Volunteers are needed to help maintain and beautify the campus grounds. There will be work for all skill levels: picking up twigs and debris, raking leaves, weeding, mulching and trimming where needed, and other general landscaping. Please bring work gloves, leaf rakes, pruning shears, etc.

We will work from **9am to completion. Lunch will be provided.** Sign-up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Painting

Please contact John Rains at johnsgm45@gmail.com or 238-1576 if you are willing to volunteer to help paint the inside of the parsonage.

A schedule will be formulated based on the needs of those who called.

Carpet Needed

Tamara Evans, Nursery Attendant, is looking to replace the carpet in the Nursery. If you can help with carpet estimates and install, please contact Tamara. She is also invites you to be a part of the nursery committee. Please contact Tamara at 515-710-9238.

Beaver Ave. Closed

During **April 7 – Oct. 31**, Beaver Ave, south of 62nd and north of Johnston Drive, in Johnston will be closed due to Beaver Ave being widened. Follow the markers for the detour.

Spring Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 4th.** The 2014 plant sale to raise funds for designated outdoor landscape (gardens and planters) will feature coleus plants for both sun and shade.

Smell the Flowers

The length of the winter season never changes however our perception of it may. This past year weather became the topic of many conversations as winter made itself well known. Soon it will be time to spruce up the church gardens, clean out the remnants of fall and winter and give spring blooms a fresh start. The landscape team is in need of volunteers to assist in routine clean up and maintenance. Previous experience is not required as we are happy to share our gardening experience.

In addition, if you are interested in the planning process and scheduling we could use another co-leader. Join us now and participate in the April spring transformation.

If you have questions, please contact Ruth Doxon, 253-9113, rdoxon@gmail.com or Kathy Russi, 333-1764, kwrussi@aol.com

Easter Lily Orders.

You may order an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of loved ones. The Lilies will decorate the Altars at both the Traditional and Contemporary worship services on Easter Sunday. An order form will soon be in the tear-off section of the bulletins. Cost is $10.00 per Lily. **Deadline is April 13.** After the Easter worship service you attend, you may take your plant home.

Graduating Seniors

Sunday, May 11, is Graduate Recognition Sunday, and we would like to invite all graduates: high school, college, and higher degrees, to send us information to be included in the bulletins to celebrate your accomplishments with you.

Please complete the below information and drop this form off at the church office or mail it to New Hope UMC, 4525 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310. ***Please fill out and send in NO LATER than Sunday, April 27.***

***High School Graduates*:**

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:

_____

***College/Graduate School Graduates*:**

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

DEGREE(S):_____

FUTURE PLANS: _____

Please note that on **Sunday, May 12**, we will be honoring our graduates, as well as asking them to stand and be recognized. Please tick one of the following boxes to let us know which service we can hope to expect you at:

8:30 worship [ ] **9:30 worship** [ ] **10:45 worship** [ ] **Sorry, I won't be present that Sunday** [ ]
May 10, 5pm at JROL [ ] **May 11, 10am at JROL** [ ]

Structure Cluster Groups - Monthly Highlights. Thank you to all! Billy Nuzum, Lay Leader and Kathy Russi, Vice Chair Ad Council

Adult/Family Cluster

The Adult/Family Cluster is led by Cathy Cate and Barb Mather. It is never easy to take a leadership position, but these two ladies have done so with grace, energy and always laughter and fun. Some of the ministries in their cluster include:

Library
Ray Pugh Institute
Men's Fellowship
Women's Fellowship
Friday Small Group
Advent by Candlelight
Bible Studies
Family Night
Women's Bible Study
Harvest Dinner and Auction

Many of you are familiar with these groups, and have probably volunteered or attended some of these events. They are all led by members of this congregation, and we would encourage you to stop and visit with Cathy or Barb about the ministries in this cluster, maybe there is something you would be interested in knowing more about. There is also information on the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

We want to thank Cathy and Barb for the leadership they are providing the members of New Hope and also the thank the many volunteers that it takes to keep these ministries functioning for our church.

Worship Cluster

Andy Sutton and Pam Frey are co- leaders of the Worship Cluster.

Those ministries included in this cluster are: Communion, Altar Guild, Prayer Ministry, Technology, Fellowship, Service Support, which is the greeters, acolytes, lectors, and ushers, the Hand Bell Ringers, and Graphic Design.

Any problems in these ministries go to Andy or Pam. They also are the "go to" people if anyone needs information or is interested in volunteering for any of these ministries. Any new ministries that would fit under this umbrella would also be brought to their attention.

Both Andy and Pam are extremely active in their own ministries. Pam helps Alter Guild and the Blast groups, but she can be seen in many activities in the church. Andy is active with the children ministries and is also a co-leader for the VBS this summer.

We would like to thank Andy and Pam, but also all the volunteers in this cluster that it takes to keep our church running.

If you have any questions concerning any of these ministries, there is contact information on the kiosk.

Care Team Ministry

What is it about? Caring for our parishioners in time of need, illness and grief.
Who does it? A team of caring parishioners who agree to join Care Ministry.
How to get involved? Call Clarice Rubek at 965-8897
Come along and be the hands of Christ on Earth.

Branches of the Care Ministry are:

1. Prayer chains
2. Cards sent to parishioners
3. Quilts/Shawls made for those who are in need and struggling with health or other problems
4. Meal preparation and delivery
5. Visitation to our parishioners in the hospitals
6. Visitation to the homes of our shut-ins
7. Grief support/listening ear and grief material to help ease the pain
8. Service men/women support of those who are serving from our congregations

Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope

Joining us to share their stories at the 2014 Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope are:

Sunday, March 30: Jack Lashier, Director of the Iowa Hall of Pride.
Sunday, April 6: Floyd & Kathy Hammer, Founders of Outreach.
Sunday, April 13: Michael Vogt, Curator of Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge.

Invite friends & family! All sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center at New Hope UMC.

There is no fee and no collection will be taken.

Women's Bible Study

We are doing a study of Holy Living, based on John Wesley's belief that to be holy includes Body, Soul and Mind. Come and participate in as many sessions as you are able.

March 31st, Practicing Healthy Habits and construct a Prayer bracelet

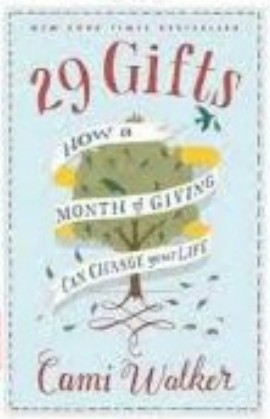
April 7th, Loving, Healthy Relationships and Forgiveness

April 14th, will be our conclusion with an evening of celebration which will include: prayer, meditation and some fun activities.

We will not meet in May.

Chick Lit. Book Club/Film Group/Prayer Group

Please join us for lively fellowship and insightful conversation as we continue our reading series, "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things." Our April book, the fourth in our series, will be…



APRIL BOOK: <u>29 GIFTS: HOW A MONTH OF GIVING CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE</u> by Cami Walker

DATE/TIME: Thursday, APRIL 24 at 6:30pm, in the Ruby Chapel

" At age thirty-five, Cami Walker was burdened by a battle with multiple sclerosis, a chronic neurological condition that made it difficult for her to walk, work, or enjoy her life. Seeking a remedy for her depression after being hospitalized, she received an uncommon prescription from an African medicine woman: *Give to others for 29 days*.

29 Gifts is the insightful story of the author's life change as she embraces and reflects on the naturally reciprocal process of giving and receiving. Many of Walker's gifts were simple —a phone call, spare change, a Kleenex. Yet the acts were transformative. By Day 29, not only had Walker's health and happiness improved, but she had created a worldwide giving movement. The book also includes personal essays from others whose lives changed for the better by giving, plus pages for the reader to record their own journey. More than a memoir, *29 Gifts* offers inspiring lessons on how a simple daily practice of altruism can dramatically alter your outlook on the world."

Harvest Dinner/General Store/Auction

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 19 at New Hope UMC. This fun filled family event is a wonderful time for fellowship and raising money for your church. More details to come!

christian learning opportunities

Children & Youth Ministries Mission Statement
A church family working together to teach children to know, grow, and show the love of Jesus Christ.

This month, our church will get to experience a **"Taste of Children and Youth Ministry."** April is a month to celebrate our children and youth, and the various ministries we offer for them to grow in their faith and learn more about God. Throughout the month of April, we will be sharing with you the different ministry opportunities we have for children and youth. You will get to hear from some of our volunteers who already serve in these ministries, see our puppets and children's choirs perform, and there will even be opportunities for you to visit our programs to see what's going on. We will end the month with a commitment Sunday on April 27th, where you can start to think about how you can help in our ministries in the next school year. Be on the lookout for the many ways you'll hear about and see our ministries in action this month. We hope that you will come help us celebrate our children and youth!

Christian Learning Time (10:45-11:45)

In April, our children will continue to go through the stories in the Bible leading up to Easter Sunday and his appearance on the Road to Emmaus.

We are currently in the process of re-vamping our youth CLT classes. For the remainder of this school year, there will only be a class offered for youth if more than 1 student wishes to participate and shows up. Youth are encouraged to participate in the 5th/6th grade class, or consider helping in one of the other classes. Please talk with Sarah Jacobson if you have any questions or concerns about this.

*Sunday, April 20th will be our Easter Celebration. We will have ½ hour of regular class time to learn about the Easter story, followed by the egg hunt and time for games.

*Sunday, May 4th will be our CLT Teacher Appreciation Breakfast from 10:45-11:45**. I'm still looking for a few leaders/teachers who aren't already teaching that can help lead our classes for one day** and give our teachers the well-deserved break they need to be honored and appreciated. We will combine the classes PreK-2nd grade and 3rd-6th grade. The lesson is on the life of Peter. You will be responsible for an activity or lesson to cover 1/2 hour. The remaining time will be games led by our Jr. Blast and 5-6th grade students. You don't have to be a teacher to help with this!!! If you can help, please talk with Sarah Jacobson.

Special Note about the Craft Room

If anyone wants to donate craft supplies to New Hope, please drop all donations off in Sarah's office. We are currently taking inventory of all the supplies that are in the craft room and if we know what is being donated, it will help us in this process, and will help us keep our classrooms clutter-free in the future. We also ask that if you use something for any reason, please put it back in the same location. If you find that we are out of something, please add it to the supply list above the sink. This will greatly help out our volunteers who use those supplies on a weekly basis. Thank you!
Parents: If you are looking to get rid of your child's school supplies at the end of the year, we could use them for the craft room.

Check out the Children and Family Ministries Bulletin Board!

This month you will find lots of free resources including a meal time devotion titled "Eggs-actly Like Jesus," an activity puzzle for kids, an "Easter Cake" recipe, The Parent Link, and some parent resources titled "15 Best Supplies for a Rainy Day," and "What to do with all your junk mail?" If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.

Twin-size fleece fabric needed!!!

We are still looking for: lap size (small) up to twin-sized (60" x 90") patterned or solid-colored fleece fabric for TGIW. If we don't have any donations, we can't do this project for Blessman Ministries. Please consider donating 2 sheets of fleece of the same size and drop off any donations in Sarah's office by April 6th.

"I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"
Matthew 25:40

Family Mission Opportunity
Wednesday, April 9th
5:30-7:30pm

Join us as we bless "the least of these" by making fleece tie blankets for our orphaned neighbors in South Africa.
Bring fleece to donate and make a blanket.

*Dinner provided with a free-will offering
*Parent Fellowship Time to follow at 7:15

Here is our upcoming TGIW schedule:

April 2nd	Meal 5:30pm TGIW Activities (including Children's Choirs) 6:00-7:15pm Puppets 7:15-8:00
April 9th	Meal 5:30pm TGIW Family Mission Project 6-7:15pm Devotions and Parent Fellowship Time 7:15-7:30pm
April 16th	**Holy Week: NO TGIW**
April 23rd	**LAST DAY OF TGIW** Meal 5:30pm TGIW Activities (including Children's Choir) 6:00-7:15pm Puppets 7:15-8:00pm

Johnston River of Life will be hosting their Vacation Bible School the Johnston Barn on June 25-27 (6-8pm) and on June 28 (4-6pm) at Beaver Creek Elementary.

We are doing Go Fish's second VBS, "Praise: Where Kids Get Down and Lift God High." If you are interesting in helping, in any way, please contact Jenn Higdon at 661-4611 or Jenn@Higdon-family.net. We need all the help we can get from decorating to leading kids to teachers. Look for more registration information to come!

Sunday, April 27th: The Children's Choirs will perform at the 9:30 and 10:45 services. Plan to come and see our children perform.

On Sunday, April 27th, we will acknowledge and recognize all the volunteers that have made TGIW and our Wednesday Night programs a HUGE success. Without the help of our committed volunteers, our Wednesday Night ministries would not be possible. Thank you to all these volunteers for your hard work, dedication, and long hours of planning. We truly appreciate you being there for the children of our church!

Please thank the following TGIW Leaders for 2013-2014

Activity Leaders:

Jon and Wendy Musgrave
Kristin Welter
John Rains
Ruth Doxon
Kathy Russi
Kim Buske
New Hope Needlers
Sharon Smith
Carole Followwill
Nick Bogue
Robin and Jolene Harlow
Shelly Peterson
Madi Ramsey
Andy Sutton

Table Hosts:

Mica Wills
Sherri Bogue
Cheryl Moore
Jenn Higdon
Jody Ferguson
Le Howland
Connie Armstrong
Tami Wise
Sara Cullinan
Nathan Roff
Mona Kirkpatrick

TGIW Directors: Jeff and Monica Balk

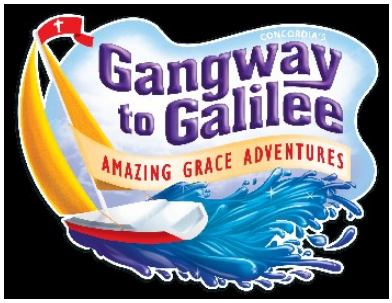
Specialty Programs:

Jr. Blast: Jodi Christensen, Penny Dolberg, Sara Cullinan, Mark and Tami Wise

Sr. Blast: Pam Frey, Charity Johnson, Chris Higdon

Kitchen Crew: Esther and Sheldon Stout, Betty Holwegner, Sharon and Earl Lewis, Jan and Lynn Davisson, Marge Carnahan, Judy Stout, Linda Kielsmeier

Puppets: Melanie Henry Linda Dean



New Hope VBS is officially set for July 13-17, and *Gangway to Galilee* is the theme! This adventure will take us on and around the Sea of Galilee with five accounts of Jesus' ministry there. By grace through faith, Jesus, God's own Son our Savior, calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need now and forever. That's amazing grace! Mark your calendars for July 13 - 17, 5:30-6pm dinner; 6-8pm activities.

We currently have lead volunteers for missions, music, and decorations. If you are interested in leading in the areas of crafts, storytelling, games, snacks, evening meals, or shepherding, please sign up in the fellowship hall or speak directly with Andy Sutton, 515-554-4055, smileysutton13@gmail.com, or Julie Sahlin, jresahlin@aol.com.

youth programs

The focus of **Jr. High BLAST** (6th-8th grade) this year is to share the love of Christ through fun fellowship activities and service projects.
We meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 - 7:15pm at New Hope. Be sure to invite your friends to our Wednesday night meetings and fellowship activities.

March 26 - Mystery heavenly dinner - They will be having some snacks during this activity, but not really a full meal. They are serving pasta for dinner at 5:30 (deadline to reserve for Energy basketball)
April 2 - Energy Basketball message and game
April 9 - Service Project - Help tie fleece blankets
April 16 - No TGIW - Holy Week
April 23 - Destruction night

Sr. BLAST (9th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity Johnson, and Pam Frey – BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org
This past month, the Senior High Blast group with the help of their parents cleaned Wells Fargo Arena after an Iowa Energy game. The group quickly learned that a lot of people leave their trash behind after an event at the arena; given they were responsible for cleaning up the trash in the seating area at Wells Fargo Arena. Even though at times it was disgusting picking up trash; the group earned $250 for this summer's mission trip by doing this service for Wells Fargo Arena.

On Sunday, April 27th; Buffalo Wild Wings on Merle Hay road will be sponsoring a New Hope Senior High BLAST day; so a portion of your bill will go to help support the Senior High BLAST mission trip this summer. Just tell your server that you are there to support New Hope BLAST group that day. Additionally, in April the Senior High BLAST group will be selling coupons for Hy-Vee and Dahls food. A portion of every sale will go directly to the group to support our mission trip fund.

Here are the some upcoming Youth events for the next two months:

Every Wednesday Night ~ BLAST Wednesday Night Activities
Mar 28th @ 4pm ~ Winter Jam 2014
April 5th @ 9am ~ Spring Yard Cleanup
April 9th ~ BLAST Grocery Coupon Sales Start
April 13th ~ Sloppy Joe Feed After 9:30 & 10:45 Services
April 27th ~ BLAST Day at Buffalo Wild Wings
May 3rd @ All Day ~ BLAST Helping at Rummage Sale
May 11th ~ Mother Day Omelet Breakfast After All Services

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

The Empty Egg

I remember one Easter when my daughter was going through her eggs, she was dumping the goodies into her basket; Jelly beans, chocolate kisses, M&M's, little rings, trinkets, and then the look on her face changed into confusion and even a little thoughtful frustration – mind you she was only 7 yrs. old at the time. The egg was empty! I expected her to toss it aside and finish the looting process, but she didn't. Then she turned to me said, "This is the best egg. This egg reminds me that the tomb was empty and Jesus is alive."

Now my daughter always searches for an empty egg. And I fully agree with her perspective of the importance of the empty tomb.

Easter, the empty tomb, is literally the foundation of the Christian faith. Paul says in I Corinthians 15:14, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." We believe that Christ was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day he overcame death and the disciples found an empty grave.

Now I am not here to debate or validate the substance of this miracle. I don't believe there is anything that can be said to convince one who chooses doubt. Even the disciples could not convince Thomas until he actually saw Jesus. But the fact that the tomb was sealed, there was a posted Roman Guard, and documented accounts in Roman history of this resurrection, should be enough to give a foundation of faith to even the skeptic.

But setting all that aside, Easter is based upon an empty tomb. It is the only holiday of its kind. Christmas is based upon a birth. Thanksgiving is based upon food shared. July 4th is based upon a document signed for the independence of our nation. Most holidays are based upon something given or shared. Easter is based upon the fact that nothing was there.

Like my daughter however, I have come to determine that the empty tomb actually holds something more significant than a birthday cake or a Christmas present. The empty tomb is the greatest symbol of grace, love, and forgiveness. That tomb was not empty, it was filled with the Love of God.

Take a moment to look past the bunnies, chocolate, and jelly beans. The Lent and Easter season is a great time to stop and ponder the Love and Forgiveness that God has given to each of us in an empty tomb.

At New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life you will find many opportunities to reconnect with God. Join us for a Lenten study group, the Maundy Thursday service, or an Easter Celebration, and invite a friend.

serve

Sign up to help! Look for the sign-up sheets at the entrance of the Narthex and the Family Life Center.

sunday volunteers

Greeters arrive at worship service fifteen minutes early to welcome worshipers.

Lectors read the scripture lessons for the day at the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services.

Children's Church meets during 9:30 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary & 1st/2nd grade classroom. Volunteers read a Bible story to the children and supervise craft and play time.

Hosts buy or bake six to eight dozen cookies (no peanuts/nuts), and serve coffee and lemonade after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. New Hope purchases three to five dozen cookies to also be served with the hosts' cookies. After fellowship time the hosts wash, dry, and put away the cookie platters, rinse out and dry the coffee canisters, and take the trash out to the trash bin. When you sign up to host, a letter from New Hope will be mailed to you before you host with instructions on how to host.

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

Those who serve New Hope in April

8:30am Traditional Service

Greeters
6
13
20
27

Lectors
6 Vicki O'Brien
13 Kirk Hartung
20 Cathy Short
27 Vicki O'Brien

Traditional Service Callers
6 Mark & Leah Scherer
13 Norma Sutton
20 Bob & Marlys Borcherding
37 Norma Sutton

Contemporary Service Callers
6 Rod & Lynette Cook
13 Eldon Cross
20 Rod & Lynette Cook
27 Eldon Cross

9:30am Contemporary Service

Greeters
6 Ellen Hester
13 Barb Agan
20 Glenna Ross
27

***Hosts**
6 Larry & Paulette Wood
13 Sr. BLAST
20 Lee Ross, Glenna Ross, DeVonne Douglas
27 Pam Frey

Money Counters
6 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross
13 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss
20 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, Open
27 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood

Pal Friday: 9 a.m.
4 Marlys Borcherding
11 Ann Krause
18 JoAnn Decker
25 Shirley Johnson

10:45am Traditional Service

Greeters
6 Confirmation Students
13
20 Sally Corcoran
27

Lectors
6 Confirmation Students
13 Jon Verner
20
27

***Hosts**
6 Larry & Paulette Wood
13 Sr. BLAST
20 Lee Ross, Glenna Ross, DeVonne Douglas
27 Sharon & Earl Lewis

thank you for volunteering to help with the worship services. If something comes up and you have a conflict, please contact another church member to switch with you and call the church office with the changes (278-2097).

* Hosts...please note that several New Hopers have peanut allergies. Therefore, please refrain from using peanut butter or any peanuts/nuts in your cookies. THANK YOU!

groups gathering together

Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. **April 27, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship service.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 12
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

Thurs., April 17 , 9am.
If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Lewis at 254-1692.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

First Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm
The Prayer Shawl Ministry members knit or crochet shawls that are given to persons who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in the midst of a life crisis. The group currently meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the church to work on shawls and pray for the recipients of their work. You can join our Prayer Shawl Ministry by getting involved in making shawls with us or by requesting a shawl for a friend or loved one you know that is in need.
If you wish to make a donation of yarn or money to purchase yarn, we welcome your contribution.

Care Ministry Team

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 and will meet on **Thursday, April 10, 10am** at New Hope. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

New Hope Chancel Choir

Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.
Seasonal choir is @ 7:30 p.m. and rehearsing for the Easter Cantata. Join in the music ministry at New Hope. Questions? Contact Eldon Cross, Director of Music, elcatalia4@gmail.com or 515-250-1476.

New Hope Needlers - Monthly Gatherings

The New Hope Needlers plan to meet on **Monday, April 14 at 11:30 at Panera** in Johnston for lunch, then sewing from 1- 4 pm at Kim Buske's. Any sewers are welcome to join for one or both parts of the day. Questions? Call Kim at 515-334-5448.

Special Music this Summer

Please consider sharing your talents with the congregation for the 8:30 or 10:45 services (or both) this summer. Soloists, duets, quartets and small groups (vocal and instrumental) are welcome. They do not even have to be a part of our congregation!

Memorial Day weekend will be the first Sunday singers or instrumentalists will be needed and ending Labor Day Weekend. The third Sunday of the month, Summer Choir will sing at the 10:45 services.

Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall and at Johnston River of Life, so look at your calendars and make plans today. Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Support Groups

Al-Anon

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.

Stroke Club of Iowa

3rd Tuesday of the month (February - October) at 7 p.m.

Small Groups

Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

Friday Small Group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the Corner Cafe (Address: 2731 100th St, Urbandale, IA 50322, Phone:(515) 868-0200) at 11:45am. Our Bible study is from the James W. Moore books. No preparation is needed on your part before we meet. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. If you have questions please call Linda Kielsmeier at 515-689-9680 or Jan Davisson at 515-251-4894.

2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 4pm. Childcare is provided. Contact Sherri & Nick Bogue, boguesa@gmail.com with questions.

Yoga

Take some time for yourself and join us every Tuesday at 5:30pm, through April 29 in the Family Life Center. $5 per session. Please bring the correct cash or a check written out to New Hope UMC.

Volleyball

Teens and Adults...join us on Monday nights, 6:30-7:30, through April 21 (5 Mondays) for volleyball fun! See you in the Family Life Center!

missions

April Focus: Fair Trade

Fair wages allow farmers and artisans to feed their families, send their children to school, gain access to health care, and much more. On the other hand, when businesses exploit their workers, entire communities become trapped in vicious cycles of poverty. When you choose to buy fair-trade items you support just and sustainable economies.
UMCOR connects United Methodist consumers with Fair Trade Certified companies and other socially responsible businesses. Our partners include:

Equal Exchange: This co-op specializes in fair-trade coffee, tea, chocolate, bananas, olive oil, and almonds.

Eco-Palms: Get palm fronds for your church services from this organization, which certifies that the palms are harvested in a sustainable way and that workers are paid fair wages. Eco-Palms helps send

Prosperity Candle: This company works with women in conflict areas and in the aftermath of disasters. It provides training and resources, empowering them to earn income as candle makers. Ten percent of purchases go back to UMCOR to support continued relief efforts.

SERRV: This non-profit is a founding member of the World Fair Trade Organization and the Fair Trade Federation. It supports equal rights for women, guides sustainable development, and helps artisans market their fair-trade crafts and food.

When you purchase fair trade products through our partners, a portion goes to support UMCOR's Sustainable Agriculture and Development Program in Africa through the Small Farmer FundGo: Log in to: (www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Programs/Global-Development/Fair-Trade) to view videos and information about these partners.

******The Mission Committee will again sell Mother's Day Equal Exchange Fair Trade baskets. You can pick the items you want in your gift basket and order any Sunday in April. The New Hope sign-up table will be in the Fellowship Hall. JROL may sign up after each service at Beaver Creek. Delivery will be on Mother's Day, May 11th.***

Hand of Luke - April 14

Ground Beef "Goop"
Corn
Lettuce Salad
Dessert Bar or Cake

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to make food donations, cook or serve. Cooks meet at the church between 3:00-3:30pm. Servers transport the food to the Central Iowa Shelter & Services at 5:30pm, return by 8:00pm.
When dropping off your non perishables, please see that they are ***clearly labeled HOL and clearly indicate who it is from*** and place on the kitchen counter. Frozen items may be placed on the marked shelves in the industrial freezer. If possible, please indicate on the sign up sheet where you placed your item(s) (for example, "in pantry", or "in the refrig."). Baked goods should be transferred to a disposable container if possible.
THANK YOU!!!

New Hope Financial Update

Below is the General Fund operating budget report for
February 2014 compared to our 2014 budget and February 2013

	Feb 2014 Actual	Feb 2014 Budget	Feb 2013 Actual
Total Receipts	21,348.38	21,465.33	25,762.34
Total Expenditures	29,441.84	28,064.09	28,843.08
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(8,093.46)	(6,598.76)	(3,080.74)

	YTD Feb 2014 Actual	YTD Feb 2014 Budget	YTD Feb 2013 Actual
Total Receipts	42,950.94	43,040.88	48,037.29
Total Expenditures	57,379.33	58,427.43	57,109.40
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(14,428.39)	(15,386.55)	(9,072.11)

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Mar 2	24	103	76	203
Mar 9	20	97	96	213
Mar 16	28	102	70	200
Mar 23	40	123	79	242

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

Below is the General Fund operating budget report for
January 2014 compared to our 2014 budget and January 2013

	Feb 2014 Actual	Feb 2014 Budget	Feb 2013 Actual
Total Receipts	8,427.13	8,030.00	n/a
Total Expenditures	9,539.57	8,242.11	n/a
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(1,112.44)	(212.11)	n/a

	YTD Feb 2014 Actual	YTD Feb 2014 Budget	YTD Feb 2013 Actual
Total Receipts	16,071.84	16,060.00	n/a
Total Expenditures	15,706.24	16,484.26	n/a
Net Surplus (Deficit)	365.60	(424.26)	n/a

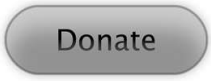
Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat		Sun		total
Mar 1	64	Mar 2	39	103
Mar 8	80	Mar 9	36	116
Mar 15	51	Mar 16	51	102
Mar 22	64	Mar 23	37	101

Newsletter: Please let us know that we can email you The LINK, or you will pick up THE LINK from church. Thank you for helping us save a tree and also save on our expenses. If you haven't already, please contact the church office to let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter.

Friday Email Announcements: New Hope UMC sends out a weekly email with upcoming announcements. If you have not been receiving the email, please let us know! Please send an email to nhfamily@newhopedsm.org and we will add you to the distribution list.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving



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

To setup online Giving go to www.newhopedsm.org OR www.johnstonriveroflife.org and click on the donate button. This will direct you securely to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Changes can be made confidentially at any time. Or if you like, paper authorization forms are located on the table in fellowship hall. Please contact the church office for additional information.

If you decide to give electronically, please feel free to pick up a card that says **"I give electronically"** to put in the offering plate if you would like to participate in the offertory.

april 2014 AT NEW HOPE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES **New Hope UMC** Sunday mornings: 8:30, 9:30, 10:45 **Johnston River of Life** 5pm Saturdays and 10am Sundays at Beaver Creek Elementary in Johnston		1 9:30a, Sr. Singers prac. 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga 6:30p, Prayer Shawl/ Knitting	2 5:30p, TGIW/Meal 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	3	4 Office Vol: Marlys Borcherding 7-9p, Boy Scouts	5 11a, Lesta Lobaugh, Celebration of Life 12:30-4p, Boy Scouts
6 5th Sunday in Lent 10:45a, Confirmation Sunday Ministry Moment: Children/Youth 6pm, Ray Pugh Inst. 6:30, Johnston Ministry Mtg.	7 10:15a, Women's Bible Study 6:30p, Volleyball 6:30p, Women's Bible Study 7:00p, Trustees Mtg	8 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga	9 5:30p, Meal 6p-7:30p, Family Fun Night 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	10 10a, Care Team Mtg.	11 Office Vol: Ann Krause 11:45a, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale 7-9p, Boy Scouts	12 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 9am, Spring Clean up at New Hope
13 Palm Sunday Food Pantry Sunday Deadline for Lilly orders 8:30 & 10:45, Puppets 10:45, Emily McGinnity baptism Sr. Blast Sloppy Joe feed 6pm, Ray Pugh Inst.	14 10:15a, Women's Bible Study 11:30, New Hope Needlers 3:30p, Hand of Luke 6:30p, Volleyball 6:30p, Women's Bible Study	15 ***May LINK deadline*** 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga 7:00p, Stroke Club 7:00p, Finance Meeting	16 NO TGIW 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	17 9:00a, Women's Fellowship meeting at New Hope 7p, Maundy Thursday service	18 Office Vol: JoAnn Decker 7a-7p, Prayer Vigil 7-9p, Boy Scouts	19
20 Easter 8:30 & 10:45, Cantata	21 6:30p, Volleyball	22 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga 7:00p, AD Council	23 5:30p, last TGIW/Meal 6:00p, Youth Groups 6:30p, Chancel Choir 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	24 6:30p, Book Club, Ruby Chapel	28 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson 11:45a, Small Group at Cindy's Corner Café, Urbandale Wedding Rehearsal 7-9p, Boy Scouts	26 Emily Lewis & Sean French wedding
27 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure TGIW Appreciation Sunday 9:30 & 10:45, Kids Choirs 9:30, Puppets Noon—9p, Garage sale items to be dropped off	28 9a-9p, Garage Sale items to be dropped off	29 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Yoga	30	May 1 Noon-6p, Rummage Sale	2 9a-6p, Rummage Sale	3 9a-1p, Rummage Sale

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

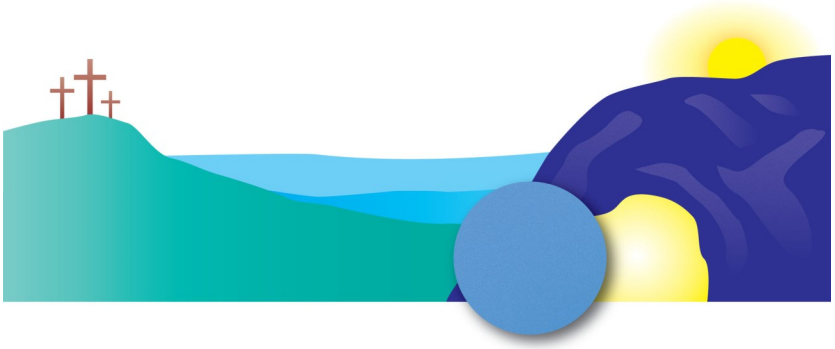
1 Brian Martz, Tavian Carnahan
2 Sherm Conrad, Kirk Dickey, Kelly Reierson, Jerry Stastny, Melvin Ghee, Bob Harter, Jane Perdue
3 Patrice Webber, Brett Cullinan, Nicolaus Haase
4 Shirley Frus
5 Greg Baker
7 Pat Papenheim, Lorelai Roff, Bob Soards
8 Kate Lichter
9 Bhanu Moses
10 Rachel Jackson, Kathy Russi, Jacob Baumann
11 Arnold Larsen, Tyler Cate, Elaine Collet
12 Bryan Baker, Tanner Rowland, Max Wearmouth, Reggie Wearmouth
13 Paul Herring, Carl Wallin
15 Carrie Naumann, Thomas Beasley, Steve Halterman
16 Doris Fairley
17 Donna Greenwood, Bob Rankin, Susan Smith, Peyton Henry
19 Carol Evans, Nicole Jaschen, Nathan Ferguson
20 Chase Alcorn
21 JoAnn Decker
22 Amarachi Ukabiala, Ashlynn Riley
23 Kathy Crees, Wade Breitsprecher, Jodi Beaderstadt
24 Caleb Christensen
25 Bob Borcherding, Julie McClain
26 Ron Wilson, Audrey Naumann, Adam Gregg
28 Ellie Roquet, Meghan Kinnetz, Madeline Johnston
29 Joelyn Gerovac
30 Mason Redies

Looking Ahead:
June 25-27, JROL VBS at Johnston Barn
July 13-17, New Hope's VBS

Happy Anniversary!

5: Eddy & Karen Johnston
13: Tony & Tracy Hoffman
17: Hugh & Maurine Myers
27: Jim & Norma Smith
30: Dan & Mona Kirkpatrick

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.



"The Victory of Christ"

"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb." – John 20:1

Shortly after I graduated from seminary, I had a chance to visit my friends, Dave and Sara Manner in Ohio for a couple of days. In their guest bedroom, they had a wall hanging with these words:

From Ghoulies and Ghosties and Long Leggity Beasties
And Things that go Bump in the night
Good Lord – Deliver us.

I later found out that this was a centuries-old Scottish prayer, written in a time in which most people were very much afraid of the dark and of the creatures that inhabit the dark. (Now, whether or not the writer really believed in these creatures, or was being whimsical, I don't know.)

We may not believe in the "creatures of the night," but certainly we deal with dark forces in our world. For example, as of this writing, there have been more than 140,000 people killed, including 7,000 children, in the Syrian civil war. Also, as I write this, the Malaysian airliner that disappeared on its flight from Kuala Lumpur to China has still not been found. Russia invaded Crimea and the situation doesn't look as if it is going to be resolved any time soon. And on a personal level, most people struggle with some form of darkness in their lives, whether it be anxiety, depression, a difficult time in a relationship, illness or grief. We are not unfamiliar with darkness.

Jesus Christ is not unfamiliar with darkness, either. On *our* behalf, he comes into our world to be assailed by the dark forces. He is born at night. At the beginning of His ministry, he is sent into the wilderness to be tested by Satan, the Prince of Darkness. He is arrested at night in the Garden of Gethsemene at night. And when He is crucified, as Matthew records it, "…darkness came over the whole land until 3 in the afternoon." (Matthew 27:45)

But now we learn that on Easter Sunday, while it was still dark, Jesus is raised from the dead. The power of darkness has no power over Jesus Christ. The message of Easter is that all the dark forces of sin and death are defeated in Jesus Christ. I like what Karl Barth wrote, that we need not go through life with a tragic face, because the one thing that is really true is that Jesus Christ is the Victor. We may be joyful, live in thankfulness, and not in fear. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Sermons at New Hope UMC

April 6, 2014 – Fifth Sunday of Advent – Confirmation Sunday
Title: "Samaria: Sinners, Outcastes, and the Poor" ; *Text:* John 4:1-10

April 13, 2014 – Palm Sunday
Title: "Jerusalem: The Final Week" ; *Text:* Mark 11:1-11

April 20, 2014 – Easter Sunday
Title: "The Empty Tomb: Resurrection" ; *Text:* John 20:1-18

April 27, 2014 – First Sunday after Easter
Title: "The Upper Room: Doubt and Faith"; *Text:* John 20:19-29

NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Johnston River of Life

Sunday Worship Services at New Hope

8:30am Traditional Service
9:30am Contemporary Service
10:45am Traditional Service

Johnston River of Life Casual Worship Services

Currently meeting at Beaver Creek Elementary,
8701 Lyndhurst Drive, Johnston

Saturdays at 5:00 pm
Sundays at 10am

Serve God | Love Others | Follow Jesus

www.newhopedsm.org • www.johnstonriveroflife.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Neil H. Cross
Outreach Pastor: Craig Ferguson
Director of Music: Eldon Cross
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Sarah Jacobson
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Nursery Attendant: Tamara Evans
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

E-mail Information

Church address: *nhfamily@newhopedsm.org*
Neil Cross: *ncross@newhopedsm.org*
Craig Ferguson: *craig@newhopedsm.org*
Nancy Monthei: *nancy@newhopedsm.org*
Sarah Jacobson: *sjacobson@newhopedsm.org*
Eldon Cross: *eldon@newhopedsm.org*

Find Us

Phone: (515) 278-2097
4525 Beaver Avenue • Des Moines, IA 50310

find us on facebook!
Visit the website to find our facebook link.

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

the link

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