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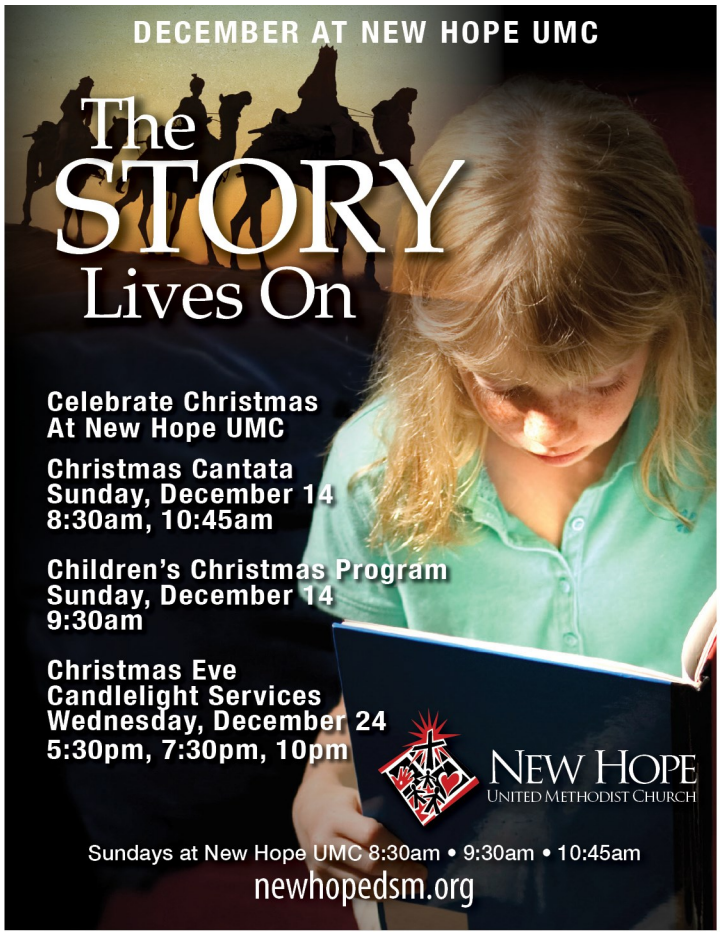
A monthly publication of New Hope United Methodist Church

December 2014



Join us for these upcoming events!

Books, Collectibles, and Bake Sale: Saturday, December 6, 9am-3pm. One day only. Cash only.

Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 14, 8:30 & 10:45 am. New Hope's Seasonal Choir will offer to His glory - *He Is Here.*

Children's Christmas Program, Sunday, December 14, 9:30 am. The children invite you to share in "Apple Red Happiness" at worship.

Heartbeat Bell Choir, Thurs., December 18, 7:30 p.m. HeartBeat Handbell Ensemble will perform a Christmas concert. Please plan to join us for an evening of Christmas cheer!

Community Christmas at the Barn, Saturday, December 20, 5pm & 7pm. Sponsored by Johnston River of Life. Johnston Barn, 6169 Northglenn Dr.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, Wednesday, December 24
5:30, 7:30 & 10:00 p.m. at New Hope UMC

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

Anne Cunningham; 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; Tim Rains; Collin Traylor; Devan Stanton, Jared Stanton and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Baptism

Congratulations to Owen Thomas Weih, who was baptized on Sunday, November 9th. Owen is the son of Matthew and Erika Weih and little brother to Bryce and Emma.

Congratulations to Evelyn Rose O'Brien, who was baptized on Sunday, November 23rd. Evelyn is the daughter of Travis and Christine O'Brien and little sister to Natalie, Hayden, and Jocelyn.

Address Update

Lindsey and Jared Robertson
2316 NE 8th Street
Grimes, IA 50111

May the spirt of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.
Merry Christmas!
New Hope UMC Staff

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Kelly & Greg Mohrman and family on the passing of Kelly's grandmother, Norma Wright.

Our Sympathy to Sandy & Wayne Johnson and family on the passing of Sandy's mother, Rosemary Hulse.

Our Sympathy to Charity Johnson and daughters, McKayla, Maysie & Madyson, on the passing of Charity's mother, Connie Lyles.

Our Sympathy to Susan & Carl Egger and their children Brittany, Bailey and Brody, on the passing of Susan's dad, Paul Edward Kjar.

Our Sympathy to the family of Ruth Eckles on her passing. Ruth was a member of New Hope UMC.

Thank You

Jim and I really appreciated all the kindness's that our New Hope friends provided for us when I wasn't feeling the "greatest." The food donations kept us nourished and comfortable and the cards of encouragement boasted my morale so much!!
You are the "greatest!"
Thanks so much,
Norma & Jim Smith

Dear Friends,
Some of you may know me as son of Freda and Bob Ruleman, but many may not. I want to share with you how you, the good people at New Hope, have impacted my life and the lives of my family.

First and foremost, you have been a wonderful family to my Mom and to my Dad when he was living. New Hope and the dear friends they made there have become family in so many ways! For us their children, spread to every corner of the country, knowing that our Mom and Dad and now Mom have been so wonderfully blessed to have a spiritual family like you has provided us peace of mind and reassurance that is beyond explanation! Thank you so much for that!

Secondly, whenever I have been fortunate enough to be there in your presence, you have welcomed me with open arms. Thank you and God Bless you for making me feel so!

Finally, through a period of extreme difficulty in my life and of the lives of my family, my Mom has called on you as members of your prayer chain and as members of her spiritual family, often at my request, to join together in prayer for the easing of burdens in multiple family crises including financial and medical. Many has been the time when Mom has shared that the prayer chain has taken up our cause in prayer that I have been moved to tears of gratitude and joy at knowing the power of prayers offered in faith to bring results. I have so felt the power of your prayers and felt God responding in so many ways!...

You have continued to strengthen my faith! That you would care enough to pray on behalf of me and my family is amazing to me and is testimony to your love and caring and faith!

I shall be forever grateful to my extended family at New Hope United Methodist Church for all that you do and for all that you have done for me and my family!

May God continue to bless you and your mission in every way!

Thank you so much,
Gary Ruleman

New Hope's First Books, Collectibles and Bake Sale

Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New Hope's first Books, Collectibles, and Bake Sale will be held December 6. This new event is part of our long rummage sale tradition. Proceeds from the books and collectibles will be added to the rummage sale proceeds and bake sale proceeds go to the Women's Fellowship.

Collectibles may be antiques, curios, art, or manufactured collectibles. Examples of manufactured collectibles are Avon bottles, Hummel figurines, Lladro figures, Longaberger baskets, and Fenton glass. All collectibles for this sale should be clean, unbroken, and ready for display. No toys, furniture, or large antiques will be included in the sale. If you have any questions regarding what is considered a collectible, don't hesitate to contact us.

At the time of drop off, donators of collectibles can decide if they want to pick up their items that do not sell. If they want to do so, donators must be at the church at 3:30 PM on Saturday, December 6 to pick up any unsold collectibles. Any unsold collectibles not picked up at that time become the property of New Hope to sell via another channel or store for sale at the spring rummage sale.

All books are donations to New Hope for the sale and any unsold books will be given to the Johnston Lions Club for their spring book sale.

The sale staff will price all items to be sold; items will be priced competitively (under the price listed on eBay, Craig's List, etc.). Unlike the rummage sale, there will be no mark downs or price negotiation.

How you can support the sale:

-Start setting aside books and collectibles that you want to donate. Items for the sale will be accepted Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 2 and 3 from 1-7 PM**. If you have a sizable number of collectible items to donate or have collectibles with values over $ 50 to donate, please contact us now. This will allow us time to determine an appropriate sale price and to advertise the items prior to the event.** If you have items to donate but cannot arrange to drop them off the dates and times listed, please contact us to arrange another time to provide us with the items.

- Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 6 and plan to attend the sale. Tell your friends and neighbors. There are bookmarks and flyers available at the church that you can share at work or with friends and family

-Volunteer to help set up the sale, work at the sale, or help with take down

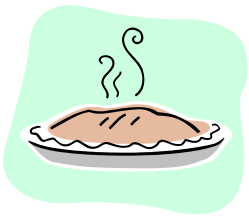
-Save paper shopping bags with handles, tissue paper, plastic bags, and bubble wrap. (There will be a drop box for these under the sign up table mid-November).

We Need You! In order for this new event to be successful, we need a large selection of books and collectibles to sell **AND we need your help** in setting up and staffing the event. Thanks for helping support this new event at New Hope.

If you have questions, please contact Kim Buske (kim.buske@gmail.com) or Kathy Russi (KWRussi@aol.com).

There will also be a

New Hope Bake Sale



Instead of having a Cookie Walk, Women's Fellowship is sponsoring a Bake Sale at the Books and Collectibles Sale. We are asking for pies, cakes, cookies, candy, jams, jellies, rolls etc. It would be appreciated if you could have your items labeled with ingredients, wrapped and ready for sale. Please bring your bake sale items to New Hope on Friday morning December, 5 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring this Bake Sale and proceeds will go to missions. If you have questions, please contact Linda Kielsmeier, 515-689-9680 or at lapals@hotmail.com.

Dedication of the Greens

On Sunday, November 30, during all worship services, we will be dedicating the greenery and Christmas decorations.

Each family will receive a Christmas ornament to hang during the service, which will hang in the church until Christmas Eve, when the family may take the ornament home as a gift from New Hope. Join us for this meaningful way to start the Advent season.

Seasonal Choir "Notes"

On Sunday, December 14 at the 8:30 and 10:45 Traditional Services, the Seasonal Choir will offer to His glory - *He Is Here.*

This wonderful presentation will remind us who Christ is, not only to those who had a personal encounter with Jesus at His birth, but also to those of us who now abide with Him. To the prophets, He was the Promise; to Mary and Joseph He was the Gift; to the shepherds and angels, He was the Good News; to the Magi, He was the King of Kings; and to us...He is all these things and more.

Plan to join us on the 14th and please invite your friends to either service for this celebration of Christ's birth in scripture and song.

Eldon Cross, Director of Music

Children's Christmas Program * Sunday, December 14, 9:30am

The children invite you to share in "Apple Red Happiness" at worship on Sunday, December 14th during the 9:30AM worship service. The service is sure to rekindle memories and promises to ignite "Popcorn Cheerfulness" while they share the timeless story of the birth of a Blessed Baby.

Clippity Clop, Clippity Clop, can you hear God's people walk...to worship! What a morning it will be with the adult choir bringing the sermon in song at the 8:30 & 10:45 service.

Please plan to share and be delighted with the children's presentation at 9:30! Come hear the Good News!

Parents, please bring your children to the purple classroom by 9:15am if they will be participating in the 9:30 services.

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 p.m. –Family oriented Christmas Eve service, in the Family Life Center, will have fun elements for children and families. There will be interactive and dramatic readings, traditional carols, special music, candle lighting and the celebration of communion on this Holy night. Come one, Come all to celebrate! "For unto us a child is born!"

7:30 p.m. – We will be worshiping in the sanctuary for a Candlelight Service of Christmas carols, Scripture Lessons, a special time for the children and a visit of the Holy Family to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Chancel Choir and individual musicians will be offering special music as well.

10:00 p.m. – We will be worshiping in the sanctuary for a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. Special music will be offered. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion.

2015 Stewardship

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2015 Pledge Sheet, there is time to do so. Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office.
If we haven't received a pledge sheet from you by the 30th of November, one will be mailed to your home.
We thank you for your contributions which continue to support New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life!

Come join us for conversation and lunch on
Thursday, December 18, 11:30am
at Perkup Café, 7003 Douglas Ave
(intersection of 70th & Douglas)

Questions? Contact Sharon Smith 515-419-7082, or Shirley Frus, 515-279-1130.

2015 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (8:30 & 10:45), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office. *The flowers are $35.00 per Sunday and you may take your flowers home after the 10:45 service.*

Hand of Luke - December 14

Hamballs; Meatballs in White Sauce
Hash brown Potato Casserole
Green Beans; Rolls & Butter
Dessert Bars

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.

Hand of Luke is currently serving up to 250 individuals each month at Central Iowa Shelter & Services downtown Des Moines. While receipt of supplies is most appreciated there are occasions when meal ingredients must be supplemented. If you are interested in providing a financial donation to support this cause, please notate "Missions - HOL" on your check (or with your cash). Thank you.

Santa's Attic

It's time for Santa Attic!
Please consider donating new or gentle used items the children of New Hope can "purchase" for family members. We can use gifts for Moms, Dads, Siblings and Grandparents.

Please donate your items before the shopping event December 10 by dropping them off in Sarah Jacobson's office.
If you would like to help a young child shop and wrap, please join us we can always use the help. Watching the children's faces as they decide the perfect gift is priceless. Wrapping paper, boxes gift bags and tape would also be appreciated. Please contact Tami Wise at 251-2987 or markandtami@the-wises.com with any questions. Thank you!!

New Hope Family:
This school year is off to a great start for our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the Junior Blast youth group. We have a good group of enthusiastic kids, and the parents are doing a wonderful job volunteering and helping out.

The Junior Blast ministry is currently in need of one or two adults to serve as a co-coordinator with Ryan Jacobson, who would like to be able to share the responsibility with someone as he prepares for the upcoming life change of becoming a father. The co-coordinator(s) would commit to working with Ryan on planning activities for the weekly Junior Blast meetings and leading or co-leading the meetings on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, depending on the person's availability. Ideally the co-coordinator(s) would begin attending Junior Blast meetings on a regular basis this winter or spring to become familiar with the program (if they're not already), and then actively step into the co-coordinator role by the start of the 2015-16 school year.

You don't need to be a parent of this age group and you don't need to have all the answers to be qualified to serve in this ministry. If you are enthusiastic, like to have fun, are good with kids, and have a passion for helping young people grow in their faith, please consider answering the call to serve as a Junior Blast co-coordinator.

Please contact Sarah Jacobson sjacobson@newhopedsm.org or Billy Nuzum if you have any questions or if you are interested in serving in this capacity.
Thank you for considering this ministry opportunity.

Billy Nuzum. Lay Leader

A great idea for all of us is to check our Emergency Contact information that we carry with us.

A lot of people are carrying this information in their phones now, which makes it very handy for them, but in case of emergency, how would any health care professional be able to access that information?

We never know what life is going to throw at us, so this is a reminder to please keep an updated list of medications, emergency contact phone numbers, and also the preferred hospital on our person at all times.

Please have a healthy and safe holiday season!

Billy Nuzum
Lay Leader

Nursery Attendant

We have been blessed to have Tamara Evans as the Nursery Attendant at New Hope UMC. Tamara is leaving this position at the beginning of 2015.
We will be advertising for a paid Nursery Attendant at New Hope UMC for the position to begin January 4, 2015. If you know of anyone that would be interested in this position, please contact Byron Hover-Williamson, Chair of SPRC, at 515.240.1634 or byronw28@aol.com.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fall Work Day, November 8th.
There was a lot of work done and the beautification of the campus shows it! Not only did you lend our church facility your time and talents, but invested in its future by keeping the facilities in good repair and looking nice.
Those participating were – Mark Thomsen, Larry Webber, Patrice Webber, Spencer Sutton, Allyson Louzek, Barb Agan, Dick Pipho, Arny Larsen, Mike Wakeman, Dave Followwill, Steve Sutton, Jon Gaul, Roger Moore, Brock Moore, Dale Monthei, Paul Weisskopf, Jody Rains (prepared lunch), Norma Sutton (assisted with lunch), Charlotte Schultz (donated a pie), Jerry Kielsmeier, Rick Homard, Cathy Homard, Travis O'Brien, Kevin and daughters and Paul (Kevin and Paul are members of the Capital City Command Football Team, who is lead by Travis O'Brien).
If I have missed anyone, I greatly apologize. When you see these fellow members, please pass on your gratitude of their service.

John Rains
Chair, Board of Trustees

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the 4th Annual Community Beggars' Night and Trunk or Treat at the Johnston Barn!
It was well attended and supported by local businesses, Police, and Fire.
Check out the photos on Johnston River of Life Facebook.
You shared your love of Jesus and your commitment to New Hope and JROL. Thank you for "Being Christ in Community."

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.

Children's Worship (Ages 3 years through 2nd grade)

Children's Worship is a meaningful time for children to worship and connect with God. They participate in an engaging worship service geared just for them in the Sanctuary after the Children's Message during the 9:30 service. Schedule Changes: There will be NO Children's Worship on Sunday, December 14th or 28th.

Christian Learning Time (Sundays 10:45-11:45):
Everyone is welcome to join us for CLT. We have classes for all ages starting at 3 years old through 12th grade, and even adult.
There will be NO CLT classes on December 14th (so families can participate in the Christmas Cantata) and December 28th for Christmas Break. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 4th.

During the month of December, our children will continue to focus on Advent/Christmas, as well as prepare for the Children's Christmas program on December 14th.

10:45- 11am Gathering time for all ages in the Purple classroom (Program Practice) followed by CLT
***The regular Gathering Time schedule will resume on January 4th.**

Mission Updates
UNICEF: Thank you to everyone who participated in or contributed to our Trick or Treat for UNICEF fundraiser. We were able to send a total of $158.46 to be used in helping children get clean water, food and medication in poor countries around the world.

Operation Christmas Child: Thank you to everyone who participated in the shoe box packaging event, and for those who donated items and/or filled shoeboxes to be wrapped. Our church will be providing 57 shoe box gifts to be sent to children all over the world. New Hope and JROL should be very proud that we will be putting smiles on the faces of 57 children this Christmas season!

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14th at 9:30am
The children invite you to share in "Apple Red Happiness." The service is sure to rekindle memories and promises to ignite "Popcorn Cheerfulness" while they share the timeless story of the birth of a Blessed Baby. Clippity Clop, Clippity Clop, can you hear God's people walk...to worship! What a morning it will be with the adult choir bringing the sermon in song at the 8:30 & 10:45 service. Please plan to share and be delighted with the children's presentation at 9:30! Come hear the Good News!

Acolytes: If you are in 4th grade and up and would like to serve as an acolyte at the 10:45 service, please sign up on the list outside the 4th and 5th grade classroom or contact Sarah Jacobson with a date you'd like to help out.

Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW)

We need you!!!! Our TGIW program does not exist without the help of our dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for parents or other members of the congregation to get involved with our kids on a 1 time basis or even weekly. We are currently looking for volunteer activity leaders and shepherds for the winter/spring months to help keep our weekly TGIW program running smoothly with the correct adult to child ratios. (This is especially important in March). Please consider signing up in the Fellowship Hall or contacting Sarah Jacobson if you know of somewhere you'd like to help. Some activities are listed as TBD, so if you have a creative idea for a 20 minute activity you'd like to lead/plan, sign up!

TGIW Co-Director: Are you an organizer? Do you like to do behind the scenes event planning? If so, we are looking for a new TGIW Co-Director. Not required to be present every Wednesday night. If interested, contact Sarah at sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

NO TGIW will be scheduled for Wednesday, December 24th and 31st due to Christmas Break. We will resume with our regular TGIW schedule starting Wednesday, January 7th.

Things to look forward to in December:

Bible video component (we will learn about the Bible)!
Handbells for 3rd grade and up
Volleyball
Christmas mission projects
Santa's Attic

TGIW Family Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 17th

Dinner 5:30pm
Activities 6-7:30pm

This year at our TGIW Christmas Party, we will focusing on giving to others. There will be a variety of mission projects to participate in with your family including making items for our shut in's, assembling a gift that will be given at the Christmas Eve services, and preparing the nursery for the new little ones to come. Families are strongly encouraged to participate in this event together. Come as a family and practice the true meaning of the Christmas season!

Check out the Children and Family Ministries Information Spot!

This month in the Parent Link and on the bulletin board you will find a meal time devotion titled "Let's Bake" (a good activity to get in the mood for the holidays), an activity puzzle for kids and some resources on character: "Teaching Character to Your Kids" and "Praying Character into Our Children." If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources or topics you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org. Starting in January, you won't want to miss a 5 part series focused on Protecting Our Families.

confirmation schedule

December 7, 4:30 p.m.
Topic: "Holy Life & Reject"

December 14, 4:30 p.m.
Topic: "Accept & Confess"

youth programs

(6th-8th grade) Jr. High BLAST meets on

Wednesday evenings from 6-7:15pm. Join us for fun, fellowship, and growing in faith! Note to parents and other adults: In accordance with New Hope's safe sanctuary policy, there needs to be at least two adults present for every Junior Blast event. If there are any weeks that we don't have two or more adults scheduled to be present, then it will have to be cancelled for that week. If you are interested in signing up to volunteer, please contact Ryan Jacobson (ryantjacobson@hotmail.com)

Upcoming events:
- Wednesday, December 3rd: Junior Blast at 6:00pm
- Saturday, December 6th: Delivering Christmas cookies and cards to church members in nursing homes or shut-ins
- Wednesday, December 10th: Junior Blast will help with Santa's Attic
- Wednesday, December 17th: Junior Blast at 6:00pm
- Wednesday, December 24th: No Junior Blast - Christmas Eve
- Wednesday, December 31st: No Junior Blast - New Years Eve

Jr. BLAST participated in a lock in at the church on Nov. 6 & 7th. They served breakfast on Nov. 7th to the Men's Group.

(9th-12th grade) Sr. BLAST Leaders: Chris Higdon, Charity Johnson, and Pam Frey

BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

In December, the youth will be taking preorders for a joint **congregational t-shirt as a fundraiser** for their upcoming mission trip to Memphis, Tennessee. You can place your order after any of the services. The t-shirts cost $15 each. **Please see page 11 for the order form.**

Additionally, the Senior High BLAST group is selling **"Keep Christ in Christmas" vehicle magnets** for $5 to promote the true spirit of Christmas. People often forget the real reason for the Christmas season while they are buying presents, decorating their homes, and attending parties. These magnets are a way to silently evangelize this sentiment. Plan now to get your magnet and t-shirt today.

The youth will be continuing their study of the Book of Mark with their Sunday Bible Study in December. Also, the BLAST group will be Christmas Caroling in the Community before they have their annual Youth Christmas party. Looking ahead, the youth leaders are planning a lock-in event on Sunday, January 18th; because Monday is a no school day because of the Martin Luther Jr. holiday.

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

Dec. 6th @ 4 pm ~ Help with Books and Collectibles Sale at New Hope
Dec. 7th @ 3 pm ~ Sunday BLAST Meeting
Dec. 14th @ 3 pm ~ BLAST Christmas Party/Caroling
Dec. 20th ~ JROL Community Christmas at the Barn
Jan. 11th ~ New Hope BLAST Breakfast
Jan. 18th ~ BLAST Lock-In
Jan. 25th @ 3 pm ~ Sunday BLAST Meeting

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

New Hope & JROL
T-Shirt Order

$15 - Adult Sizes

Name: _____

- ☐ Small – Qty: _____
- ☐ Medium – Qty: _____
- ☐ Large – Qty: _____
- ☐ X-Large – Qty: _____
- ☐ 2X-Large – Qty: _____
- ☐ 3X-Large – Qty: _____

Total $_____

Order By Dec 7th

☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Pay on Delivery

FamilyLife brings you The Art of Marriage, an all-new video-based marriage event created to help couples fully experience God's plan for marriage.

Now, in this fresh new video guided event, couples have the opportunity to look at their relationship in a whole new way. Weaving instruction from respected pastors and Bible teachers together with compelling stories, humorous vignettes, man-on-the-street interviews and more, The Art of Marriage will help couples apply what the Bible teaches about marriage in a powerful way. It's practical, funny, and straight to the heart.

The six-session video event will be held at New Hope UMC on February 6 & 7, 2015. Cost is $52.24. Deadline is January 26, 2015. Register today by going to www.johnstonriveroflife.org, click on Connect and then on Events to find the Art of Marriage. For more information, please contact Bill Gibbons at 515-770-2146, bpgibb1975@gmail.com.

Save the Date for the
"God's Girlfriends" Women's Retreat
Saturday, March 7 * 9am-4pm at New Hope UMC
For 16 yrs. old and up.

Bring your girlfriends for a day of laughter, sharing, singing, scriptures and devotions, and lunch!
Watch for registration forms coming out soon! Questions? Please contact either Carole Followwill, Barb Mather, Sharon Smith or Nancy Monthei.

The **New Hope Spring Rummage Sale** will be here before you know it and we need

VOLUNTEERS!!!

Even though the Spring Rummage Sale is months away, planning and preparation are already underway. As you know by now, the books and collectibles have been separated from the rummage sale. We are very excited about this change which will give us more space for other items at the rummage sale and allow us to give the books and collectibles the special attention that they deserve. Many volunteers are working busily on the Books and Collectibles Sale and others are already making preparations for the Rummage Sale. As always, we can use all the help we can get, so please volunteer as much time as you can spare to help with these two events.

For the 2014 Rummage sale, volunteers donated anywhere from 3 to 75 hours to this mission. That is an average of 9.5 hours each. Thanks again to all of you. But we can do better than this. We reported 878 members to the church conference this year. Doing the math, only 16.6% of our membership pulled off this huge, well-organized community service mission and raised over $9000. So here comes the pitch for 2015: we need even more of you to step forward and play a part in this all-church mission. Each year the sale gets bigger, we have more items to price and display, we have more merchandise to sell, and we need more volunteer hours to keep it going and growing.

In addition to the volunteers needed to get everything ready for the sale and to help out during the sale, we need to fill a number of leadership positions with volunteers who are willing and able to help out with the planning and preparation prior to the big event. These leaders would be 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 a part of the planning and preparation for the rummage sale, please send an email to either Carol Harter at carolannharter@gmail.com or Gleean Coates at gleean1947@hotmail.com or give Gleean a call at 270-8538.

groups gathering together

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 13
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

New Hope Women's Fellowship will have their first fall meeting on **Thursday, December 18** at 9am. Questions? Call Sharon lewis 254-1692 or Lee Ross 276-9790.

Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. **December 7, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship service.

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, January 8, 10am** at New Hope. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

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

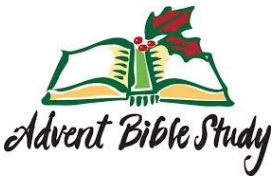
3rd Tuesday of the month (February - October) at 7 p.m.

New Hope Needlers - Monthly Gatherings

Last meeting of 2014

The New Hope Needlers plan to meet on **Monday, December 8th at 11:30am** at Panera in Johnston for lunch, then migrate to Kim Buske's home to sew from 1- 4 pm. Any and all sewers are welcome to join!

Please NOTE - the Needlers will not be meeting in January, 2015 since we are pretty much all weather-weanies.
Questions? Call Kim at 515-334-5448.



Women's Bible Study

Beginning December 8th, we will do a short 3 week Advent study through December 22nd. We will begin again in January with a study on Prayer. You can choose Monday morning at 10:00am or Monday evening at 6:30pm. Drop in as you are able.
Questions? Contact Sharon Smith, 277-7125.

Small Groups

Adult Sunday School
9:30 & 10:45 a.m. Join us in the Ruby Chapel for group discussions and Bible Study.

Friday Small Group
The Friday Small Group meets 2nd and 4th Friday of every month . **However, in December there will be one gathering on Friday, Dec. 12**. Join us at 1pm at the Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St, Urbandale. The Pizza Ranch has a buffet and as you arrive, pay for your buffet, load up your plate and join us in our reserved room.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kielsmeier, 515-689-9680

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

missions

DECEMBER MISSION: HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The Mission Cluster has sponsored an Heifer International "Raise an Ark" for several years, but this year we are trying something different. The Meals from the Heartland project was our big fundraiser for the year, and Heifer is the second. This year, we are sponsoring an exciting project of Heifer: "**THE GOATS GIVE BACK IN NEPAL**", a project to empower women. We have not set a goal but will purchase as many goats as we can with the money we receive.

Many people in the village of Kabilash in central Nepal rely on goats to obtain milk to feed their families. Up to now, they lacked the knowledge to feed and care for them properly. This, combined with limited connections to other markets, had locked them in a state of poverty. Heifer has stepped in and helped to bring structure and connect members of the community through the creation of self-help groups, that work together toward a common goal in order to set up cooperatives and district cooperative unions—formal organizations managed by women.

Cooperatives increase efficiency through improved technology, adding value through each stage, and granting every player a fair price. Heifer is also working with the women to preserve the environment. Projects use agroecology techniques, a sustainable farming, that enriches soil and technology like biogas stoves that encourages a clean and healthy living environment.

Empowerment and leadership skills enable women in Heifer's projects to influence decision-making processes, claim their rights and partner with local organizations and government to promote rural livelihoods in vulnerable communities.

This will result in holistic, lasting change that will increase meat and milk productivity. Families build a steady income allowing them to better feed their children so they are no longer malnourished and can go to school. Imports are reduced and successful small, women-led, businesses created, weaving these women into the fabric of the local economy.

You will find Honor Cards on the Mission Table and at JROL. These are new and look like a real red greeting card. You can send these in place of the usual Christmas card to your loved ones with the note of how many goats or shares of goats you are buying in their honor. One goat is $120 and a share of a goat is $10. You may place your donation in the offering plate with "Heifer" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for helping with this important project.

INGATHERING UPDATE

The Thanksgiving Ingathering was a success. We took the following:

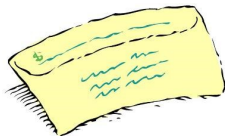
$400 for Church World Service Tools and Blankets
$400 for Iowa Nigeria Partnership
$400 for Self-Help Feeding Project
$400 P.E.T. (Personal Energy Transportation) vehicles
$250 for toothpaste and shipping and Handling
87 kits worth $1071
51 Little Dresses for Africa worth about $255
18 Little Britches for Africa worth about $90
1 Quilt for the auction worth $85
2 birdhouses for the Bazaar worth $50

So totaling all in-kind and monetary donations, we gave $3,401! **Thank you New Hope!**

Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2014 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2014** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2014. Thank you!

2015 Offering Envelopes



Please pick up your 2015 offering envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall on December 21.

If you did not indicate on your 2015 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office ***by December 14****.*

The money counters appreciate you using the envelopes.

Financial Update: Below is the October 2014 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life. Based on last fall's stewardship campaign, a deficit was projected for the New Hope budget this year. Gratefully, the deficit has not been as large as projected. Thank you for your giving and faithfulness in supporting the work and ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life. We ask for your continued support in this last part of the year and hope that we can decrease the deficit as we finish the year.

New Hope Financial Update

	October 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	21,913.79
Total Expenditures	28,479.58
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(6,565.79)

	YTD October 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	236,870.55
Total Expenditures	279,544.74
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(42,674.19)

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	October 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	12,711.92
Total Expenditures	8,457.32
Net Surplus (Deficit)	4,254.60

	YTD October 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	104,717.14
Total Expenditures	95,886.22
Net Surplus (Deficit)	8,830.92

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

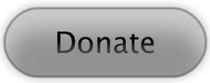
	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Nov 2	28	145	96	269
Nov 9	50	115	103	268
Nov 16	19	121	75	215
Nov 23	39	119	109	267

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat		Sun		total
Nov 1	60	Nov 2	46	106
Nov 8	44	Nov 9	42	86
Nov 15	46	Nov 16	41	87
Nov 22	59	Nov 23	43	102

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.

Advent means the arrival of, or something coming into place. There are many things that came "into place" at Christmas for it to be coined a Holy Night. If we look at the Old Testament, it was a series of miracles that proceeded the birth of the God Child: A virgin with child, a family from Nazareth, but the baby was born in Bethlehem, a star in the sky, and so many other details we know so well. We get accustomed to the cycle and all the routine of the season – after Thanksgiving you probably put up your lights and a tree, you may have dug through the Black Friday adds and even ventured out in the wee hours to get those prized gifts. And I am certain you have started listening to Christmas Carols on the radio (whether you wanted to or not). This Christmas we want to slow down and look at the elements that make this celebration the most significant event of all creation. The Advent of the Son of God coming into the world was most definitely an amazing and Holy Night. It was a night that a myriad of angels announced the birth of the King, a night when all of creation sang. I Hope you are able to slow down and make this season special. As the Song goes:

O Holy Night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope *the weary world rejoices*
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees O hear the angels voices.
O night divine O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine.
Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love *and* ***His gospel is peace.***
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy *in grateful chorus raise we,*
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
O night divine, O night, O night divine

Did you notice the December Sermon titles?

Pastor Craig Ferguson

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 December

8:30am Traditional Service

Greeters
7
14
21
28

Lectors
7 Cathy Short
14 Cantata
21 Vicki O'Brien
28

Traditional Service Callers
7 Mark & Leah Scherer
14 Norma Sutton
21 Bob & Marlys Borcherding
28 Norma Sutton

Contemporary Service Callers
7 Eldon Cross
14 Rod & Lynette Cook
21 Eldon Cross
28 Rod & Lynette Cook

9:30am Contemporary Service

Greeters
7 Pam Weisskopf
14 Children
21
28

Lectors
7
14 —
21
28

***Hosts**
7 Pam Frey
14 Tracy & Tony Hoffman
21 Pam & Paul Weisskopf
28 Pam & Bill Gibbons

Money Counters
7 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, John Burrough
14 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross
21 Ron Zoss, DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen
28 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood

Pal Friday: 9 a.m.
5
12 Shirley Johnson
19 Marilyn Monroe
Tues., 23 Theresa Flickinger
Tues., 30

10:45am Traditional Service

Greeters
7
14 Lee Ross
21
28

Lectors
7 Freda Ruleman
14 Cantata
21 Jon Verner
28 Barb Mather

***Hosts**
7 Lee Ross & Jan Davisson
14 Esther & Sheldon Stout
21 Roberta & Neal Cave
28 Glenna Ross & DeVonne Douglas

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).

December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov. 30 1st Sunday of Advent Dedication of Greens UM Student Day (offering) 8:30a, Lucille Thomsen baptism 1-3p, Venture Crew 1:30-3:30p, Decorate for Advent by Candlelight	1 1-7p, Books & Collectibles can be dropped off 7p, Advent by Candlelight 7p, Trustees Meeting, Ruby Chapel	2 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Worship Cluster, R.Chapel	3 1-7p, Books & Collectibles can be dropped off 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	4 7p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	5 9a-Noon, Bake Sale items can be dropped off	6 9a-3p, Books, Collectibles and Bake Sale
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 9:30, Blood Pressure 1-3p, Venture Crew 3-5p, Sr. BLAST 4:30p, Confirmation Class	8 10a, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 11:30a, Needlers at Panera 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	9 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	10 5:30p, Dinner 6:00p, TGIW/Santa's Attic 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	11 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	12 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	13 7:30a Men's breakfast
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 & 10:45, Cantata 9:30, Children's Christmas Program 1-3p, Venture Crew 3:30p, Hand of Luke 3-5p, Sr. BLAST Christmas Party 4:30p, Confirmation Class	15 ***Dec LINK deadline*** 10a, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 7:00p, SPRC Mtg, 3rd Grade Classroom	16 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Finance Meeting	17 5:30p, TGIW Christmas Party 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	18 9a, Women's Fellowship at church 11:30a Widow's Luncheon, Perkup Café 7:30p, Heartbeat Bell Concert, FLC 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, downstairs	19 Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe	20 5p & 7p, Christmas at the Barn in Johnston
21 4th Sunday of Advent Food Pantry Sunday CLT Christmas Program Puppets perform	22 10a, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	23 Office Vol.: Theresa Flickinger 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, AD Council Mtg	24 **Office Closed** **Christmas Eve Services:** 5:30pm 7:30pm 10:00pm	25 **Office Closed** Merry Christmas!	26	27
28 No CLT 1-3p, Venture Crew	29	30 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	31 **Office Closed** 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team	January 1 **Office Closed** Happy New Year!	2	3

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

1 Dean Peterson, Jason Juran, Kara Garside
2 Brandon Thompson
3 Linda Dean
4 Charity Johnson, Leah Breitsprecher
5 Alec Beck-Cross
6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren, Stacey Wigant
7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney
8 Kristi Hegwood
9 Kaylee Stubbs, Lexi Dean, Max Gerleman, Liz Grow, Keith Trillet, Violet Siffin
10 Vickie Friedow
12 Obi Ukabiala, Matthew Stern, Mary Grace Leyda
13 Emma Naumann
14 Nolan Monthei
15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short, Alexis Evans
16 Lindsey Robertson
17 Mary Ann Rice, Austin Cook, Andy Sutton
18 Sheri Thompson, Sue Soards, Banny Umuhoza
19 Neil Cross, Brady Jansen, Kyle Hegwood, Spencer Sutton, Kylie Perez
20 Teri Reierson, Larry Buske, Sarah Wiles, Carter Naumann
21 Matt Stringham, Adam Hartung, Zoe Wilson, Kate Peterson
22 Paulette Wood
23 Susan Baldwin, Ellie Naumann
25 Renee Haugland, Jennifer Riley
26 Joan Clary
27 Kim Buske, Charlotte Roff
28 Ashley Marsh
29 Liam Fulton, Richard Kile, Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher
30 Jeffrey Merrill, Jaedyn Cale
31 Quinn Merrill, Michele Hamilton, Miyoko Hikiji

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

Happy Anniversary!!!

17 John & Denise Hartford
18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue
21 Gus & Karen Skovgard
22 Bob & Linda Reaney
27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson
27 Jon & Anita Gaul
28 Ethan & Maya Johnston
28 Nicholas & Stacey Wigant

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.

"He remembered the wonderful feeling he had when his mother told him about Jesus helping people..."

Santa Claus is a big part of Christmas. However, did you know that the tradition of Santa Claus is based on a person who was born in the third century A.D.? His name was Nicholas. The story is told that, as a Christian bishop in the area that is now Turkey, Nicholas gave away his wealth to help the poor—especially children.

I admit that historical details about St. Nicholas are very sketchy, but I love the traditions surrounding this Saint. Charles Stevens, in his book The Real Saint Nicholas, writes: "He remembered the wonderful feeling he had when his mother told him about Jesus helping people. So he decided to try it. He would disguise himself so no one would recognize him. He would go through the city and leave presents where he knew there was great need. He especially liked to help children. When the people found these gifts, they wouldn't have the slightest idea why or from whom they had received them."

Eventually, Nicholas' identity as the gift giver was discovered and people started to give gifts in the name of St. Nicholas. His story was spread to other countries by travelers. The Germans called him "Sankt Nikolaus," the Dutch "Sinter Klass," and in England he was known as "Father Christmas," because they started celebrating Saint Nicholas Day, which is December 6, on Christmas Day.

The tradition of gift giving inspired by St. Nicholas is one many people carry on. If we do so, let's do it in honor of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As Nicholas worked in the church to help those in need, we are also called to work through the church to help others.

Pastor Mike Slaughter has an expression he uses during each Christmas season: "Christmas, it's not your birthday." He encourages his congregation to give to missions through their church the same amount that they spend on their own families for Christmas. As a result, this large church has one of the biggest outreach mission programs of any church anywhere.

So, here's the pitch. Christmas offering envelopes should be arriving in a mailbox near you soon! New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life have a very active outreach mission program. Your support of time, talents, and funds has made this possible. Thank you for your gifts and for your continued support and involvement in these ministries.

Please plan to join us in worship throughout Advent and for Christmas at the Barn on December 20 at 5 or 7 p.m. and for one of our Christmas Eve services on December 24 at 5:30, 7:30, or 10:00 p.m.
May Christ be born anew in you as we celebrate this holy season,

Pastor Jon

December Sermon Series: "The Story Lives on..."

November 30 1st Sunday in Advent: *Title:* "Hurry Up and Wait" *Text:* 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

December 7 2nd Sunday in Advent: *Title:* "Lost? Listen for the Story"
Text: Mark 1:1-8, Communion

December 14 3rd Sunday in Advent: *Title:* "The Story in Song" *Choir Cantata and Children's Christmas Program*

December 21 4th Sunday in Advent: *Title:* "The Story of Justice" *Text:* Luke 1:46b-55

December 24 Eve Services, "A Christmas Story" *Text:* Isaiah 9:6-7, Luke 2:1-20, Matt. 2:1-11
5:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

December 28 *Title:* "The Story of Simeon and Anna" *Text:* Luke 2:22-40

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: Jon Gaul
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*
Jon Gaul: *jgaul@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
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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
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Des Moines, Iowa 50310