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A monthly publication of New Hope United Methodist Church

February 2015

On Sunday, February 15, we will have a CELEBRATION on this last Sunday before the season of Lent begins. We are calling it **MARDI GRAS SUNDAY**!

Mardi Gras is the name for the day before Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18 this year). Being on a Tuesday, Mardi Gras is a French phrase meaning Fat Tuesday. This name is because of the practice of having one last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. This is why it is often celebrated with the serving of pancakes.

The day is also called Shrove Tuesday (widely known as Pancake Day). The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning "confess". Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what areas of life and spiritual growth they need to ask God's help in dealing with.

Mardi Gras is known for parades, pageants, costumes, masked balls, and people dancing in the streets. Wearing of masks and beads is a tradition of Mardi Gras. The colors of Mardi Gras are **purple** (representing justice), **green** (representing faith), and **gold** (representing power).

Mardi Gras celebrations we hear about in New Orleans and elsewhere can get carried away, but churches celebrate it in its religious intent to celebrate God's blessings and prepare for the more subdued and introspective season of Lent.

Our celebration of Mardi Gras at New Hope will be through our music, message, and decorations on Sunday, February 15, at all three services (8:30, 9:30, 10:45). We encourage you to invite your relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and everyone to celebrate with us! This will be a joyous and uplifting service as we prepare for Lent.

membership news

Prayer Chain Request

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

Prayer Concerns

Levi Kinnetz; Vanessa Timmerman; Olive Walker; 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.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and visits during my recent hospital stay and recovery. Special thanks to Reverend Gaul for his visit to the hospital on such a busy day for him and the meals we received were spectacular!!! New Hope is amazing!
Neal Cave

Thank you to everyone who prayed, sent cards, provided meals and wished me well during and after my left shoulder replacement. The surgery went well and the rehab has gone extremely well, little to no pain and the movement is increasing as it should.
John Rains

Thank You

Thank you to all of you at New Hope for your thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery and hospitalization. Your prayers were felt and obviously very helpful. From visits from Jon, to the cards and caring from the congregation, I felt very cared for. The quilt from the Quilters Group is so beautiful and I keep it close by these chilly nights, and then fantastic meals from the Care Groups were so appreciated. My healing is continuing and I am feeling truly blest!

My wish for all of New Hope is a Happy and Healthy New Year!

With sincere thanks,
Anne Cunningham

Thank you so much for the prayers and the cards that we received at the loss of our son. You are all so important to us, and helped us through this difficult time of loss.
Bob and Billy Nuzum

Women's Fellowship thanks all who donated baked goods all who purchased baked goods at the January 25th services. The money raised will be shared with local missions.

Sympathy

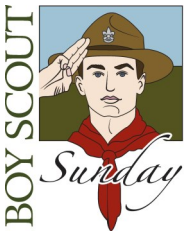
Our Sympathy to Bob & Linda Reaney and family on the passing of Linda's mother, Velma Anderson.

Our Sympathy to Bob and Billy Nuzum and family on the passing of Bob's oldest son, Samuel J. Nuzum II.

Our Sympathy Brian, Suzie, Taylor and Nolan Martz on the passing of Suzie's sister, Sharon McKimpson.

Our Sympathy to Pastor Craig, Jody, Nathan & Hanna Ferguson on the passing of Craig's step-grandfather, Delbert Leiss.

Our Sympathy to Carrie and Jacob Naumann and family, on the passing of Carrie's grandfather, Harvey Hanson.



Boy Scouts

Sunday, February 8

All Boy Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Boy Scout uniforms for Boy Scout Sunday on February 8.

Confirmation schedule

February 8, 4:30 p.m.
Students only
Topic: "John Wesley and the origins of Methodism"

February 14, 3:30pm
Students and Mentors
Hand of Luke - prepare & serve

February 18
Students and Mentors
Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 4:30 p.m.
Students and Mentors
Topic: "American Christianity & the Church Today"

MEMBERSHIP

Recognition

Interested in joining New Hope UMC and Johnston River of Life?

If you are interested in sharing your time, talents, gifts, service and witness with the church, please contact Pastor Jon or Pastor Craig or the church office ***by February 15.***

New Hope UMC will have a New Member Orientation on Sunday, February 22 at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.

Pastor Craig, at JROL, will have conversation and questions on February 21 & 22 after the worship services.

Members will be received on Sunday, March 1 at New Hope UMC and February 28 and March 1 at JROL.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18
6:00pm Pancake Supper
7:00pm Ash Wed. Service

Come for Pancakes...
6:00 pm pancake supper
Free-Will Offering. Prepared and Served by Sr. High BLAST. Help Sr. High BLAST in raising money for their summer mission trip.
Stay for worship...
7:00 pm, Ash Wednesday worship.
Confirmation students will be helping to lead the worship service.

(Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and lower.)

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

Mardi Gras Family Fun Night at New Hope UMC

Wednesday, February 11 * 5:30-7:00pm
Dinner * Dance * Games
All families are invited and encouraged to wear your **purple** (representing justice), **green** (representing faith), and **gold** (representing power) colors to show **Mardi Gras** spirit! Free-will offering for the dinner.
So we have enough food, reservations are appreciated ***by February 4.***
Please email Sarah Jacobson at sjacobson@newhopedsm.org

Sunday, February 15th at 5pm

Our youth group is excited to announce the third annual Senior High BLAST Sweetheart Dinner on **Sunday, February 15th at 5pm**.
Please register today to enjoy this relaxing evening; where we are having a **3 course meal** prepared. Additionally, this year the youth will be providing **pre-dinner entertainment**.

New this year is the choice of meal. Option one is Chicken Breast served on a bed of Rice Pilaf. Option two is Shrimp Alfredo Pasta with side of steamed mixed veggies. Both options start with bread and a side salad. Additionally this year, we have asked Johnston River of Life's Pastry Chef Melissa McGhee to help prepare Oreo Cookie Chocolate Mousse with Strawberries as the final course for this meal.

We will have a **staffed nursery** during this event and the kids will enjoy a meal of chicken nuggets, french fries, and jello parfait.

Please **preregister** for this event today; $30 per couple, $15 per person, and $7.50 per kid. Signup will be in the New Hope Fellowship Hall at the Welcome Center.

Please join us **Friday, February 13th, 11:30am**, for lunch and conversation at the Perkup Cafe, 7003 Douglas Avenue.
(intersection of 70th & Douglas)

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

Easter Seasonal Choir

Please plan to join the group as we prepare the Easter Cantata "Upon This Rock" by Pepper Choplin.

Rehearsals will begin on Wed., February 11 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary right after Chancel Choir rehearsal. Any extra rehearsals will be planned as needed by the choir.

There is also a need for a **narrator** that will introduce each piece and have an integral role in bringing the character of Luke alive. This individual will begin rehearsing with the group the first week of April.

If day care is needed, please let Eldon Cross know so that arrangements can be made, 515-250-1476 or elcatalia4@gmail.com
Please consider joining this fun, energetic group today.

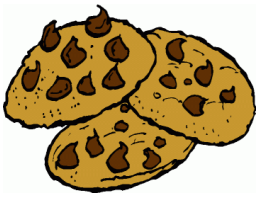
The Veterans Helping Veterans met on January 17th and welcomed Major Gabe Casiotos, Chaplain of the 132nd Fighter Wing of the Iowa Air Guard, and his daughter, Grace. He spoke to us on what defines our lives.

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, February 21, at 8:30am**.

We will meet at New Hope for a light breakfast, and then carpool to Camp Dodge where we will tour the Gold Star Museum. All Veterans and their spouses are welcome to join and also invited to reach out to other veterans to join us. For more information, please contact Billy Nuzum @ bbnewz54@gmail.com

"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!
Registration forms are at the Welcome Table and Name tag tables. Place your registration with the offering or bring to or mail to the Church Office. *Deadline is February 22.*
Questions? Please contact either Carole Followwill, Barb Mather, Sharon Smith or Nancy Monthei.



ATTENTION all you cookie lovers!

Every Sunday we enjoy our fellowship time with coffee and treats after each service. We have hosts that prepare the coffee and provide the treats. We're looking for someone to coordinate the hosts for this. Glenna Ross has been doing this for the last two years (THANK YOU, Glenna!) and has decided to relinquish this honor to someone else. Currently, we have a few in the congregation that have volunteered for hosting and a schedule has been set up rotating these same folks.

What do we need to keep our fellowship time successful?

- ⇒ Coordinator of hosts – setting up a schedule for the hosts
- ⇒ Hosts – we have a core group but more are needed – especially when our snow birds fly!
- ⇒ Bakers for treats – we ask hosts to provide 8-12 dozen treats. That's a lot for one person to prepare, so, we would like to keep a supply in the freezer.

Please prayerfully, consider any of these opportunities and contact Pam Frey – yayafrey@gmail.com or 515-490-8440 or send a message to New Hope UMC at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org

Thank you for helping us keep the fellowship time successful!
Pam

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees would like to emphasize the need for better communication with the members of New Hope UMC. The overall responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to maintain the New Hope campus property both inside and outside. The Board is also the legal governing body of the church; all church legal documents must be signed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Any purchases that are in the category of property need to be approved by the Board of Trustees. In most cases, members of the board handle any purchases. Generally, the board can buy at a discount and focus on maintaining a cohesiveness of existing décor.

Contact us! If you notice something that needs repaired or something is needed, PLEASE notify a staff member or a member of the Board of Trustees. Members, Board of Trustees – David Followwill, Melisa Forbes, Rick Homard (Secretary), Arny Larsen (Vice Chair), Roger Moore, John Rains (Chair), Spencer Sutton, Mike Wakeman, Paul Weisskopf. ***Thank you for your assistance!***
John M. Rains
Chair, Board of Trustees

Hand of Luke - February 14

Pizza Casserole
Garlic Bread
Tossed Salad
Decorated Cup Cakes

The 14th of each month, New Hopers donate food, cook a meal and serve it at the Central Iowa Shelter & Services, downtown.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to make food donations. This month, the Confirmation students, mentors and parents will prepare and serve the meal.

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.

It's time to start thinking about the 2015 Rummage Sale!

April 23, 24 and 25

1. Beginning with the 2015 Spring Rummage Sale, **we will not be pricing anything over $100**. For this kind of a sale, it is not about what an item may or may not be worth, it's about what we can actually get for it. Most items priced over $100 do not sell until the half-price sale starts. If you are planning to donate an item that you believe is worth more than $100, you should consider selling it yourself and donating part or all of the proceeds to the church.

2. We will **not be selling books or collectibles at the Spring Rummage Sale**. The Books and Collectibles sale was in December.

3. **No TVs, computers, printers, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, or garlands** will be accepted. Please don't bring these items and make us be the bad guys who have to tell you to lug them back home.

4. **As you prepare your donations, please organize them into separate containers.** For example, put children's clothes in one sack or box, women's clothing in another, men's clothing in another, kitchen items in another, etc. Most of you have been doing a great job of this. It is a tremendous help if all items are sorted when they come in. That way we do not have to spend precious time sorting and will have more time to work on pricing and displaying the thousands of items that are donated.

5. **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). Bringing your items to the sale sorted, clean, unbroken and labeled regarding size, etc. saves many hours of volunteer time during the set up and pricing process. Our sale is noted for its well-organized, neat and clean environment. Please help us to maintain that image.

We need YOU to help us organize the 2015 Rummage Sale. Various volunteer positions are available.
Proceeds from the Rummage Sale help fund New Hope's ministries.
If you would like to help out, please contact:
Barb Agan at 255-8292, aganbarjim@gmail.com
Linda Kielsmeier at 689-9680, lapals@hotmail.com

6. **This sale is an important part of our community outreach**. Many people come every year to our Rummage Sale to get nice, clean clothing for their kids and tell us they couldn't afford to do this without us. Please keep this in mind as you select items and prepare them for the sale.

Camp Wesley Woods

Join us at Wesley Woods on Saturday, May 2, 10am-2pm!
New Hope UMC was selected as one of Iowa UMC Camp Challenge Winners for 2014! With this honor, we receive an all-expense paid day of fun and fellowship at Wesley Woods Camp and Retreat Center. *Everyone* of any age is encouraged to attend, any time from 10am to 2pm. There will be a wagon ride tour of the camp, archery for ages 10 yrs and older, hot dog roast with all the fixin's, and much more! Please save this date on your calendar!
Watch for a sign up coming soon. Deadline to sign up will be by April 12 so that we can give the camp ample time to let them know how many people to expect. We can also set up carpooling from New Hope UMC. We hope you join us on May 2!

Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope

Dr. Ray Pugh was a member of New Hope United Methodist Church.
He was a Professor Emeritus of Education and taught at Drake University for 25 years. He was the founder of the ever-popular *"Good Time Gang,"* and entertained over one million students of all ages. He was also the YMCA Camp Director for many years.

Ray brought his love for entertaining and educating to New Hope UMC. He and his wife Dodee established, in 1994, the Ray Pugh Institute of New Hope.

Over 20 years, speakers have shared about their lives and their philosophy of life, as well as, performances by several groups. Speakers and groups such as: Kenneth Culver, MD; Garth Adams, Sally Liechty, EDD; Kaye Lozier, Bernie Saggau, Caeser Smith, Jay Prescott, Almo Hawkins, Chuck Offenburger, Dolph Pulliam,
The Demoinaires (Barber Shop Chorus), Kirk Hartung, Bill Henderson, Lisa Bluder, Dr. Edward J. Hertko,
Dr. Jim Verlengia EDD, The Pugh "Kids", Michael P. Orr, Don Neumann, Preston Daniels, Mollie and Kevin Cooney, Governor Robert D. Ray, Dr. Paula Mahone MD, Lisa Stone, Nolden Gentry, Thomas Sutherland PhD, Deborah Turner MD, David Roe PhD, Steve Karlin and Dr. Lynn Rankin, Rod Biensen, Tom Milligan, Matt Meyer, Robert Weast PhD, Sara Otto, "The Good Time Gang", Natasha Brown, Simon Estes, Nancy Sebring PhD, Steve Siemen, Frank Meeink, Dr. Don & Carol Adams, Harvey Ronglien, Sandy Hatfield-Clubb, Eugene Meyer, Larry Madole, John Bachman, Jessica Pray, Brad and Tammy Lair, John Rains, Mike Havlik, Phil Pfaltzgraff, Jack Lashier, Floyd & Kathy Hammer, Michael Vogt

Ray, himself, spoke and performed over 10 times throughout the years. Who could ever forget the "Lion Hunt!"? Attenders always left with a smile on their face and one of Ray's many thoughtful messages. One being **"The more you give, the more you live!"**
Ray passed away on December 23, 2012. His legacy continued with the Ray Pugh Institute in 2013 and 2014.

All good things must come to an end (and the Ray Pugh Institute was that…a very good thing!), and so there will be no session in 2015 and going forward.

Dodee Pugh and her family would like to thank ***everyone*** who volunteered to help make the program a success year after year. Thank you to everyone that made a financial commitment to the program. And, thank you to everyone that shared about their lives.

We leave you with this from Ray:

How to Have a Successful Day,
Every Day I Am Here, I Am Here

Up and at'em
Exercise
Eat sensible
Positive attitude
Read good books
Listen to inspiring tapes
Keep a twinkle in your eye
Keep a lilt in your voice
Laugh (have a sense of humor)
Organize don't agonize
Read the Bible (underline passages)
Keep a song in your heart
Network with others
Stop, relax, and smell the roses
You are in control

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.

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

Everyone is welcome to join us for Christian Learning Time opportunities. We have classes for all ages starting at 3 years old through 12th grade, and even adult classes in the Ruby Chapel at both 9:30 and 10:45am.

Gathering Time will continue for 3 yrs-K meeting in the Purple classroom from 10:45- 11am each week. The older elementary aged children (grades 1-5) will no longer be having gathering time this school year.

CLT teachers needed!!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH to those individuals who have stepped forward to help fill our CLT teacher roles for the remainder of the year! We still are still looking for 1 CLT teacher (or 2 who will rotate) to take on the 4-5th grade class during April and May (this will be a 6-7 week commitment, counting Easter Sunday activities that are pre-planned). The curriculum is easy to follow and the kids are eager to learn more about their Bibles. Training and support is available! If you are interested in this opportunity or know of someone who is, please contact Sarah Jacobson.

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.

I ask that if you are a parent or guardian of a child who participates in Children's Worship on a regular basis, please prayerfully consider helping as a second adult at least one time between February and May. I promise you will not be responsible for anything but crowd control and assisting the Children's Worship Leader for the week. Sign up on the bulletin board in the education hallway.

What you can find at the Children and Family Ministries Information Spot

In light of this being the month we celebrate Valentine's Day and meaning of love, the meal time devotion for this month will allow children and parents to focus on the parents' marital relationship. It is titled "Anniversary: You First." You will also find part 2 of 5 in a series focused on Protecting Our Families. This article is titled "Growing up Too Fast." If you have any ideas or suggestions for Parent Resources or topics you'd like to see, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.

Mark Your Calendars!

Children's Ministry is so excited to announce this year's VBS: **SonSpark Labs**.
This science-themed VBS will focus on how Jesus is God's plan for the world and is scheduled for **Sunday, July 19th through Thursday, July 23rd, 5:30pm-8:00pm.**
Please keep an eye out for more information!

Also: We **LOVE** volunteers!
If you would like to offer your talents, please contact Kristi Miller @ Kristi.mundy@gmail.com.

Thank God It's Wednesday (TGIW)

Reminder of the TGIW Schedule Changes for Spring 2015

Due to the inconsistent schedule of Wednesday meetings in March and beyond (i.e. Spring Break 3/18, Holy Week 4/1, and Rummage Sale set up 4/22), and the lack of volunteers to run the program effectively, **we will be ending the TGIW program for this school year with a Family Night on March 11, 2015.**

Please note all individual ministry changes:

- Wednesday night meals will no longer be served beyond March 11th.
- Jr. Ringers will meet through March 4th with a performance on Sunday, March 8th.
- As of right now, the final Jr. Blast event will be the Family Night on March 11th.
- The Puppet Ministry will continue to meet and determine their own schedule beyond March 11th. If you have any questions, contact Linda Dean or Melanie Henry.

If there are any remaining questions or concerns about this decision, please direct those to the Children's Ministry Coordinator, Sarah Jacobson.

Schedule for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year:

February 4th	**5:30 Dinner** **6-7:15 Activities (Crafts, Video, Scavenger Hunt/Game)**
February 11th	**5:30 Dinner** **6-7 Family Mardi Gras Party (PLEASE RSVP)**
February 18th	**NO TGIW- Ash Wednesday**
February 25th	**5:30 Dinner** **6-7:15 Activities (Missions, Video, Bible Trivia)**
March 4th	**5:30 Dinner** **6-7:15 Activities (Crafts, Video, Outdoor Recreation- weather permitting)**
March 11th	**5:30 Light Supper** **6-7:30 Family Movie and PJ Night**

Going Forward… One thing we ask of the congregation is to prayerfully consider where you might see yourself serving with the Wednesday Night Children and Youth Ministry Programs for the 2015-2016 school year. As we begin to develop these schedules, we'll have a better idea of what volunteer positions we will be looking to fill in the spring. So keep your eyes open for more info to come this spring!

Jr BLAST

Jr. BLAST participated in Meals from the Heartland on January 28th.

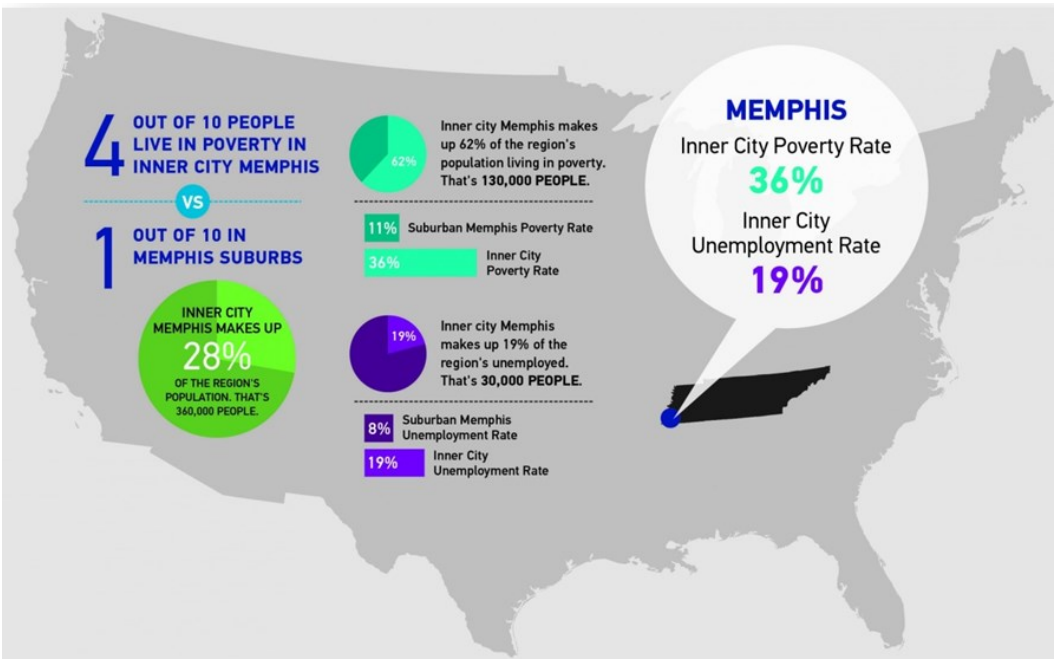
(6th-8th grade) Jr. High BLAST meets on **Wednesday evenings from 6-7:15pm**. Join us for fun, fellowship, and growing in faith!
Leader: Ryan Jacobson, ryantjacobson@hotmail.com
Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, February 4th: Junior Blast meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 11th: Family Night (Mardi Gras Party)
- Sunday, February 15th: Second Annual Skiing/Snowboarding/Tubing Trip to Seven Oaks in Boone (We will leave the church at 2:30 p.m. and return in the evening. Cost per person will be about $21 + tax. All family members and friends are invited! Please RSVP to markandtami@the-wises.com for this event.)
- Wednesday, February 18th: NO JUNIOR BLAST (Ash Wednesday)
- Wednesday, February 25th: SkyZone (We will leave from church at 6:00 p.m. and return around 7:30 p.m. Cost will be $5 per kid. Please RSVP to ryantjacobson@hotmail.com for this event.)

Sr BLAST (9th-12th grade)

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

Do you know where the poorest city in the nation is for cities that have a population less than 1 million? **Memphis, Tennessee**… This is important because our mission trip has been set for Senior High Blast (**July 19th – 25th**); this year the group will be heading to Memphis, Tennessee.



During this trip, our youth will be doing urban ministry in the struggling neighborhoods in and around downtown Memphis, where many families are struggling to just get by, and area ministries are working hard to reach out to the community. Specifically, our group will be able to meet some of the needs of families and individuals through hands on home repair and maintenance projects. Our group will also have opportunities to serve with food & clothing ministries and shelters to help them serve those in need and show the love of Christ to the area.

However, throughout the next couple of months; the youth will be doing a lot of fundraising events both inside the church and outside the church. One of the annual events is the sweetheart dinner, which is on Sunday, February 15th at 5pm. Preregistration is required for this event; $30 per couple, $15 per person, and $7.50 per kid. This year the meal will be a seasoned Chicken Breast with Rice Pilaf or Shrimp Alfredo Pasta with side of mixed veggies. All meals come with bread and salad. And for dessert, everyone will be treated to Oreo Cookie Chocolate Mousse with Strawberries. Plan now to attend this great event; signups will be at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

Additionally, we will be hosting two informational mission trip meetings for both parents and students (*Feb 11th and Feb 15th*). Finally, our deadline for having students registered for the 2015 mission trip is on March 5th; spots are reserved with a $90 deposit.

Here are the youth events for the next two months:

Feb. 1st ~ BLAST Super Bowl Breakfast
Feb. 1st @ 5 pm ~ Super Bowl Party at Higdons
Feb. 4th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities
Feb. 11th @ 6 pm ~ Mission Trip Parent's Meeting
Feb. 15th @ 5 pm ~ Sweetheart Dinner
Feb. 18th @ 5 pm ~ Ash Wednesday Dinner
Feb. 25th, Mar. 4th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities
Mar. 5th ~ Mission Trip Deposit Deadline
Mar. 8th ~ New Hope BLAST Breakfast
Mar. 11th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities
Mar. 25th @ 4:30 pm ~ Work at Pizza Ranch
Apr. 1st, 8th @ 6 pm ~ Wed Night Activities

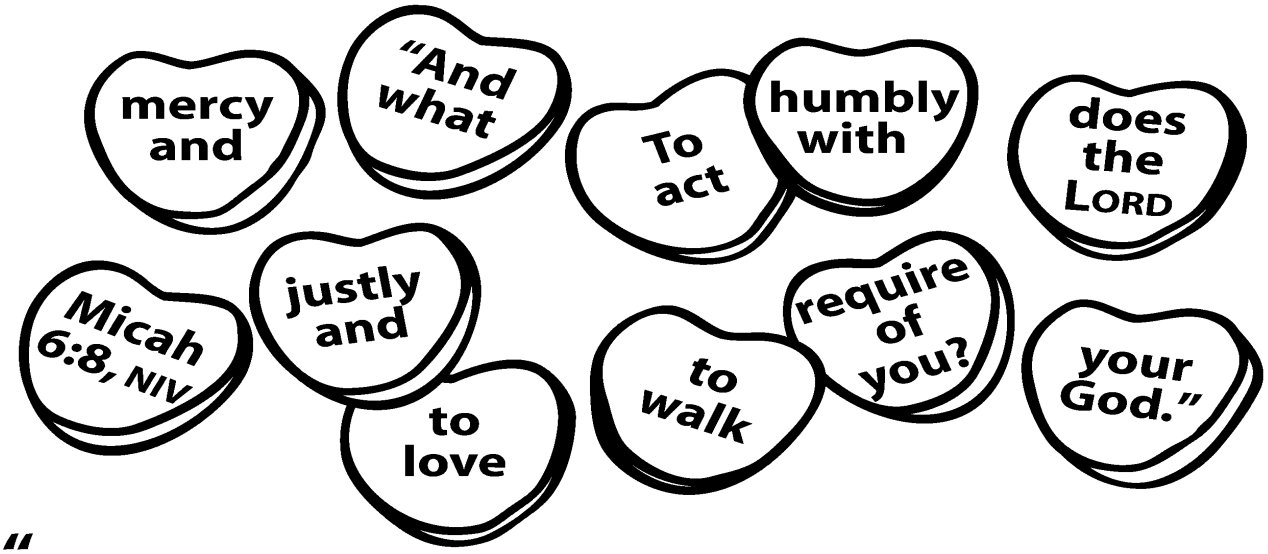
More information about the above events will be sent out in email and posted on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast).

PUZZLE

Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: *Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below.* ***Hint:*** *Capitalization and quotation marks are included.*



"_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____? _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

_____ _____." _____ 6:8, _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

groups gathering together

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 14
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

New Hope Women's Fellowship will will have their next meeting on **Thurs, February 19**, 9-10am social hour; 10-11am meeting with a speaker. All women of New Hope and JROL are invited. If you've never come before, this is a good time to start!
Questions? Call Betty Holwegner at 278-8115.

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 9, 1:30pm** at New Hope. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

Blood Pressure Check

New Hope is offering free Blood Pressure checks each month. **February 1 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks. Come to the Narthex after each worship service.

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 & 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 . **February 13 & 27.** 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

Women's Bible Study

We will be concluding "When God's People Pray" by Jim Cymbala on February 16th. This is an inspiring interactive study with a DVD and a participant book. The author is a pastor at the Brooklyn Tabernacle church in New York.
Brenda McConahay will lead a Lenten study on "The Music of Lent and Easter". It will include the study of the origins, composers, and the meaning of the words of your favorite hymns and musical selections. The Study dates are Mondays beginning on February 23rd through March 30th. You may choose either 1:00 or 6:30 for both studies. Drop in as you are able. We do not mean to exclude men, so all are welcome.

New Hope Needlers
Saturday, March 21

The Needlers group is planning a sewing afternoon at church on Saturday, March 21. The sewing event will start with a potluck lunch at 11:30 AM and then be followed by sewing from 1-4:30 PM.
Participants can sew Little Dresses or Little Britches for Africa or work on quilts. Anyone with a little sewing experience is welcome to join our group. We're especially hoping that members who can't normally join us for our weekday sessions will be able to join us for this sewing event.
Bring your own sewing machine or contact Kim Buske at Kim.Buske@gmail.com to request one of the church's sewing machines for the afternoon. March 21 is National Quilting Day so plan on joining us for this fun afternoon of sewing for great causes while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow quilters.

missions

FEBRUARY MISSION: Wells for Sustainability in South Sudan

Courtesy of Wells for Sustainability in S.S.

Villagers in Luala Boma, Juba County, and Republic of South Sudan did not have local access to clean drinking water. Women and children had to walk 30 - 40 minutes to obtain water and then make the return trip hauling heavy jugs of water several times each day. Their daily lives revolved around obtaining water. There was a well in Luala, but it did not work.

In 2011, the Sudanese Lost Boys and Girls Volunteer Association (SLBGVA) repaired the unusable well in Luala Boma. The village, once identified by the new government of South Sudan as being in great need of clean water, now provides clean healthy water to more than 500 people. This project has dramatically changed the lives of the villagers in Luala.

The United Methodist church has partnered with the SLBGVA to drill and maintain wells in South Sudan like this one in Luala Boma. Access to clean water is a fundamental need, yet as many as 60% of households in South Sudan do not have access to clean drinking water. Unsafe water leads to diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, cholera, and other diseases that strike children with particular virulence. In South Sudan, one in four children will die before their fifth birthday and more than 98% of children drop out of elementary school, often because they are too sick to attend.

While improved health is the primary benefit of the well, the community benefits in other ways. When woman and children must walk for long distances to obtain clean water, they are exposed to physical hardships and danger. They spend so much time obtaining water and carrying heavy containers that they have little time and energy for other activities such as attending school, caring for their families, and farming to produce food. Water from the local well may be used for irrigation projects, which will increase food production.

Fencing the property helps ensure that the well remains a non-contaminated water source. Having an abundant source of clean, uncontaminated water means less disease, fewer medical expenses, lower mortality rates, improved well being, and life expectancy increased beyond the current 49 years.

Mission Trip Opportunity

Pilger, Nebraska Tornado Recovery Mission Trip

June 28-July 3

Anyone interested in participating in the mission trip to Pilger, Nebraska, please contact Denise Hartford, denisehartford@gmail.com.

Application to Serve as a Diakonos

The Annual Conference is looking for young people in grades 9-12 that would serve at Annual Conference at Hy-Vee Hall, June 5-9, 2015. They need 4 people from each of the 8 districts. These kids work hard during the day and have fun doing it. They have a chance to meet and bond with other young people as they are spending 4 days and nights together. Their duties include delivering communications, directions, and to aide and assist those who are in need of your help. You are being called to be servant leaders, Diakonos, the hands and feet of the Annual Conference. All will be rooming at Grand View College and transported back and forth from Hy-Vee Hall.

There is an application process that must be accomplished and postmarked by April 20, 2015. Selections will be notified after April 27.

You must be friendly, out going, smiling and enjoy walking, willing to work from 7:30am to 9:30 pm without complaining, model Christian behavior at all times, wear appropriate clothing and issued t-shirt.

Please let me know right away if this is something you are interested in. These kids work hard, play hard, and have a great time. We will be proud to have some New Hope or JROL kids apply.

Billy Nuzum, Lay Leader bbnewz54@gmail.com

Mission's Year End Report: 2014 (shown in Rainbow Covenant areas)

The following list includes monetary and in-kind gifts donated through the Mission Fund, Women's Fellowship, T.G.I.W., Youth groups, CLT, Hand of Luke, Mission Apportionments and Special Offerings.

RED: (*INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS*): IMAGINE NO MALARIA:	**$685.00**
SELF HELP INTERNATIONAL:	**400.00**
PET Personal Energy Transportation:	**400.00**
WELLS FOR SOUTH SUDAN:	**450.00**
ORANGE: (*UNITED STATES SPECIAL PROJECTS*):	
McCURDY MISSION SCHOOL:	**200.00**
REDBIRD MISSION SCHOOL:	**300.00**
RED BIRD MISSION SCHOOL BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:	**216.00**
OKLAHOMA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE:	**150.00**
PARISH PARTNERS MISSIONARY CONFERENCE:	**150.00**
RIO GRANDE CONFERENCE:	**150.00**
YELLOW: *UMCOR* (*United Methodist Committee on Relief)* Fair Trade Coffee	**10.00**
UNICEF:	**158.00**
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE-BLANKETS AND TOOLS:	**400.00**
INGATHERING KITS AND SHIPPING and items for auction:	**1,321.00**
FLOOD BUCKETS: (VBS and Missions)	**825.00**
GREEN: *INTERNATIONAL HUNGER/POVERTY)* Heifer International:	**2,445.00**
DMARC (cash, in-kind giving & membership assessment)	**19,834.00**
MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND	**6,048.00**
JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP BACKPACK PROGRAM: (Women's Fellowship)	**600.00**
NATIONAL BACKPACK PROGRAM: (Women's Fellowship)	**100.00**
HOPE MINISTRIES:	**550.00**
HAND OF LUKE: MEALS FOR HOMELESS AT CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER –meals cost)	**9,000.00**
HAND OF LUKE: (Women's Fellowship)	**500.00**
BLUE: (*IOWA ADVANCE SPECIALS) IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP*	**400.00**
BIDWELL RIVERSIDE	**50.00**
NEW DIRECTEIONS/HAWTHORN HILL: (Missions, Women's Fellowship,)	**600.00**
CFUM	**520.00**
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: (Missions and Women's Fellowship)	**1,100.00**
LAS AMERICAS:	**250.00**
JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS:	**250.00**
IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP:	**400.00**
INDIGO: *(PARISH DEVELOPMENTS):* Trinity UMC	**250.00**
Women at the Well Prison Ministry:	**635.00**
PURPLE: *(SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS):*	**932.00**
THIRD MILE GIVING: Missionary Covenant, Emmanuel Mefor:	**2,750.00**
Camp Wesley Woods scholarships:	**4,588.00**
OTHER GIVING NOT RAINBOW COVENANT ELIGIBLE ITEMS:	
Mission Apportionments (Part of 1st mile giving)	**2,044.00**
Angel Tree	**750.00**
Women's Fellowship to Special Olympics	**100.00**
Women's Fellowship to Ronald McDonald House:	**600.00**
Women's Fellowship to Music Therapy at Youth Shelter:	**100.00**
Women's Fellowship – children's Bibles	**80.00**
Women's Fellowship to Parsonage window treatments	**500.00**
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES: (TGIW, Missions & congregation)	**525.00**
WDM HUMAN SERVICES: (Cleaning supplies left from Flood Buckets- VBS)	**100.00**
LITTLE DRESSES AND LITTLE BRITCHES FOR NIGERIA :	**345.00**
JROL monetary and in-kind community giving:	**12,000.00**
TOTAL	**$82,459.00**

2015 Stewardship

During our Fall Campaign, 118 pledge sheets were turned in for the 2015 budget year. Total pledged to the general fund is $210,556, $14,467 to missions, $28,210 to the mortgage, and $45,180 to Johnston River of Life.

If you have not yet had the chance to complete your pledge sheet, please do so. You may turn it in to the church office or in the offering plate.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee sincerely thanks everyone in their continued support of New Hope United Methodist Church and Johnston River of Life. Your financial support, your presence, as wells as your gifts of time and talents are invaluable to the sharing of and growing the ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life. Blessings to all in 2015.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee

Financial Update

Below is the December 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.

New Hope Financial Update

	December 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	41,415.93
Total Expenditures	28,945.71
Net Surplus (Deficit)	12,470.22

	YTD December 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	306,046.84
Total Expenditures	336,488.42
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(30,441.58)

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	December 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	16,207.08
Total Expenditures	17,076.37
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(869.29)

	YTD December 2014 Actual
Total Receipts	130,694.64
Total Expenditures	120,587.12
Net Surplus (Deficit)	10,107.52

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

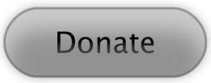
	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Dec 28				
Jan 4	21	76	55	152
Jan 11	35	119	105	259
Jan 18	30	102	105	237
Jan 25	24	103	85	212

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat		Sun		total
Dec 27				
Jan 3	71	Jan 4	41	112
Jan 10	60	Jan 11	35	95
Jan 17	64	Jan 18	35	99
Jan 24	54	Jan 25	42	96

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.

Not Just Another Year

What makes this year different than last?

As I think about it, in all my 40+ years, they are all just about the same; New Years, Valentines, Easter, July 4th, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas. All of the holidays, school, seasons, family, friends, work, and life goes on… It is so easy to let a year slip by and miss the ride altogether.

Every year, during the month of January, I prayerfully reassess life and commit to make the current year the best possible. Now that does not mean that I avoid the bumps and bruises of life. No, in fact I often find more than most. Usually because I push the edges of possibility, live with passion and enthusiasm, vibrantly share my faith and life with friends and family. I choose to pursue life and not wait for it to find me. I choose to listen for God's voice and bravely act on things that others think irrational or impossible. Sometimes it is as simple as that, to choose rather than to wait for what you are handed.

Here are a list of some of the things that I consider each year:

Education	What do I want to add to my base of knowledge?
Health	What do I need to do to honor God with my body?
Work	What could God have in store, and how can I seek it faithfully?
Relationships	How can I offer myself as a friend and support to others?
	Do I need to adjust time or prioritize differently?
Faith	What disciplines can I work on more?
	What do I need someone to hold me accountable for?
Fun	What hobbies, crafts, interests can I develop?
Adventure	Think bucket list, what haven't I done that I want to?
	What may be life threatening, but makes me feel totally alive?

Here is a list of Goals I have set for myself, family, and ministry in 2015:

Education	Read 2 books/month, attend conference on evangelism, study Spanish for mission trip
Health	Personal weight goals, run & condition 3 times per week, run 3 mud races
Work	JROL – attendance +50%, 5 new small groups, door knocking
	Hopkins – Attendance +50%, learn community
Relationships	Nathan's graduation, date night, family trip, church friendships
	Always be open to the people and God moments that just appear
Faith	Fasting discipline, daily prayer and devotion, share my faith daily with one person.
Fun	Special Stained Glass project, write 3 songs
Adventure	Hang-gliding, spelunking, base jumping (2017?), hiking & fly-fishing CO,
	Find the best "hole in the wall" restaurants

My Challenge:

Don't settle for just another year.
Choose to make 2015 better than every year previous.
Make a list of goals and ask a friend to hold you to them
Place God at the forefront

Life is a gift. Each day, month, and year is an opportunity to push ourselves, and live new dreams. Don't allow contentment to stifle your life. Instead live vibrantly in all that you do; be Christ in Community, and let others see the Spirit of God alive in you.

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 February

8:30am Traditional Service

Greeters
1
8
15
22

Lectors
1
8 Cathy Short
15 Maurine Myers
22

Traditional Service Callers
1
8 Norma Sutton
15
25 Norma Sutton

Contemporary Service Callers
1 Eldon Cross
8 Rod & Lynette Cook
15 Eldon Cross
22 Rod & Lynette Cook

9:30am Contemporary Service

Greeters
1 Kinnetz family
8 Rod Cook family
15
22 Sandy Canon

Lectors
1 Meg Kinnetz
8
15
22

***Hosts**
1 Sr. BLAST
8 Cindy & Clyde Rail
15 Pam Frey & Andy Sutton
22 Pam & Bill Gibbons

Money Counters
1 Jerry Kielsmeier, Ron Zoss, John Burrough
8 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross
15 Kim Traylor, DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen
22 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood

Pal Friday: 9 a.m.
6 Shirley Johnson
13 Marilyn Monroe
20 Norma Sutton
27 Marge Carnahan

10:45am Traditional Service

Greeters
1
8
15
22

Lectors
1 Sally Corcoran
8 Jon Verner
15
22

***Hosts**
1 Sr. BLAST
8 Lee Ross & Jan Davisson
15 Pam Frey & Andy Sutton
22 DeVonne Douglas & Glenna Ross

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).

February 2015

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Communion Sr. BLAST serving breakfast 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday 5p, Sr. BLAST at Higdons	2 1p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 7:00p, Board of Trustees Meeting, 3rd grade room	3 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Worship Cluster Meeting, Ruby Chapel	4 5:30p, Dinner 6:00p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	5 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	6 Office Vol: Shirley Johnson Art of Marriage	7 Art of Marriage
8 Boy Scout Recognition 10:45a, CLT Teacher Appreciation, R.Chapel Noon, Missions Meeting, R.Chapel 4:30p, Confirmation Class	9 1p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	10 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	11 **5:30p, Mardi Gras Family Night** 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	12 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	13 Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe 11:30, Widow's luncheon 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	14 7:30a Men's breakfast 3:30p, Hand of Luke (Confirmation Class)
15 **Mardi Gras Sunday** Food Pantry Sunday Deadline to sign up for Membership Class 2:30p, Jr. BLAST to Seven Oaks **5pm, Sweetheart Dinner by Sr. BLAST**	16 President's Day **Office Closed** 1p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Women's Bible Study, Ruby Chapel	17 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Finance Meeting, R.Chapel 7:00p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	18 **Ash Wednesday** 6p, Pancake Supper 7p, Ash Wednesday Service	19 9:00a, Women's Fellowship	20 Office Vol: Norma Sutton	21 8:30a, Veterans Helping Veterans breakfast at church
22 1st Sunday in Lent Puppets to perform Noon, New Member Orientation, R.Chapel Deadline to sign up for Women's Retreat 4:30p, Confirmation Class	23 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel	24 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	25 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p,Jr. BLAST, SkyZone 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	26 6-8pm, Girl Scouts, F.Hall 7p, Administrative Council Meeting, R.Chapel	27 Office Vol: Marge Carnahan 1p, Friday Small Group at Pizza Ranch	28 1-9pm, FLC reserved
March 1 2nd Sunday in Lent New Members to be received 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday	2 1p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 6:30p, Lenten Study, Ruby Chapel 7p, Trustees Mtg., 3rd grade classroom	3 9:30a, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice Noon, AA	4 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST, R.Chapel 6:30p, Choir practice 6:30p, Adult Handbells 7:15p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	5 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	6 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger	7 9a-4p, Women's Retreat at New Hope UMC

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

1 Judy Peterson, Nicole Weisskopf
2 Kay Goff, Wendy Musgrave
3 Ron Rubek, Erika Weih
5 Dawn Pritchard,
6 Dale Monthei, Linda Kielszmeier, Penny Dolberg
7 Sandy Wilges
8 Jacob Naumann
9 Barb Conrad, Freda Ruleman, Ben Higdon
10 Clark Howland
11 Steve Sutton, Evelyne Villines, Grayson Wigant
14 Sheryl Faulkner
15 Shirley Curtis
16 Scott Rowland, Corey Miller, Ron Cooley
17 Vicki Hover-Williamson
18 Ava Henry, Hugh Myers, Kaitlyn Grow, Linda Sesker, Michael Gerovac
19 Susan Egger, Heather Kerndt, Makenna Meyer
20 Kim Trillet, Jessica Hass, Derek Marsh, Courtney LePera
21 Jeff Balk
22 John Michael Dickerson, Kristi Miller, Nathan Roff, Julie Hartung
23 Lyle Pritchard, Jeff Evans
24 Marte Carlson
25 Earl Lewis
27 Avery Peterson, Clarissa Short, Kinney Carnahan
28 John Huber,
29 Doris Pugh

Happy Anniversary!!!

1: Dean & Judy Peterson
9: Ron & Clarice Rubek
24: Larry & Kim Buske
24: David & Carole Followwill
27: Robin & Jolene Harlow
28: Clark & Le Howland

If you see that your name is not listed, please call the church office at 278-2097, or email at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org, so we can update our files.

Natural Church Development

At our Administrative Council meeting on July 29, 2014, I presented a program called "Natural Church Development." This program has been used extensively in churches throughout our conference. I have used it in the last two churches I served. It is a resource that helps churches determine their strengths and areas of need. It can help churches determine priorities and goals that will enable them to become stronger and healthier. The Administrative Council voted to have New Hope engage in this process.

The Natural Church Development process began with members of the Administrative Council and other members of the church (over thirty in all), filling out a survey form on the work and ministry of New Hope UMC that was scored in comparison with a data base of literally thousands of churches of all denominations from all around the world. It is the largest data base on churches of its kind. New Hope was then scored on eight essential characteristics that churches need to have in place at a certain level for them to be healthy and growing.

The eight characteristics and New Hope's scores are: Empowering Leadership (**68**), Gift-Based Ministry (**76**), Passionate Spirituality (**59**), Effective Structures (**72**), Inspiring Worship Service (**77**), Holistic Small Groups (**58**), Need-Oriented Evangelism (**70**), and Loving Relationships (**74**).

The lowest characteristic is considered to be the limiting factor for churches to grow. As you can see, our lowest characteristic is "***Holistic Small Groups***." This characteristic evaluates how well our small groups are disciple-making communities that endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to his or her God-given gifts, and raise leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.

To assess this characteristic and find ways to strengthen it, we will form a ministry team that will evaluate and make recommendations to our Administrative Council.

Besides using Natural Church Development in two of the other churches I've served, I have helped many other churches use this program and have seen the scores of over a hundred churches. The good news I want you to know is that New Hope's scores are among the highest I have seen of all these churches! These scores puts New Hope in the top 15 percent of all churches worldwide who have done this program.

In addition, Johnston River of Life also filled out their own surveys and had equally impressive scores! JROL also had Holistic Small Groups as their lowest score and their other scores mirrored New Hope's as well. It shows how much the "DNA" of our two sites are linked together.

If you have questions or responses about this program, please let me know. We will plan to work through this program to continue to strengthen this strong congregation. We will let you know of future developments and ask for your help to continue and strengthen our ministry together.

Grace and peace, Pastor Jon Gaul

February Sermons
"A Season of Healing "

Feb. 1	Communion Sunday	Title: "Healing Authority!"	Script.: Mark 1:21-28
Feb. 8	Boy Scout Sunday	Title: "Waiting for Healing"	Script.: Isaiah 40:30-31
Feb. 15	Mardi Gras Sunday	Title: "Mountain Top Healing"	Script.: Mark 9:2-9

Lent Theme-- "Wilderness Wandering"

Feb. 22	1st Sunday in Lent	Title: "Wandering Heart"	Script.: Mark 1:9-15

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
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