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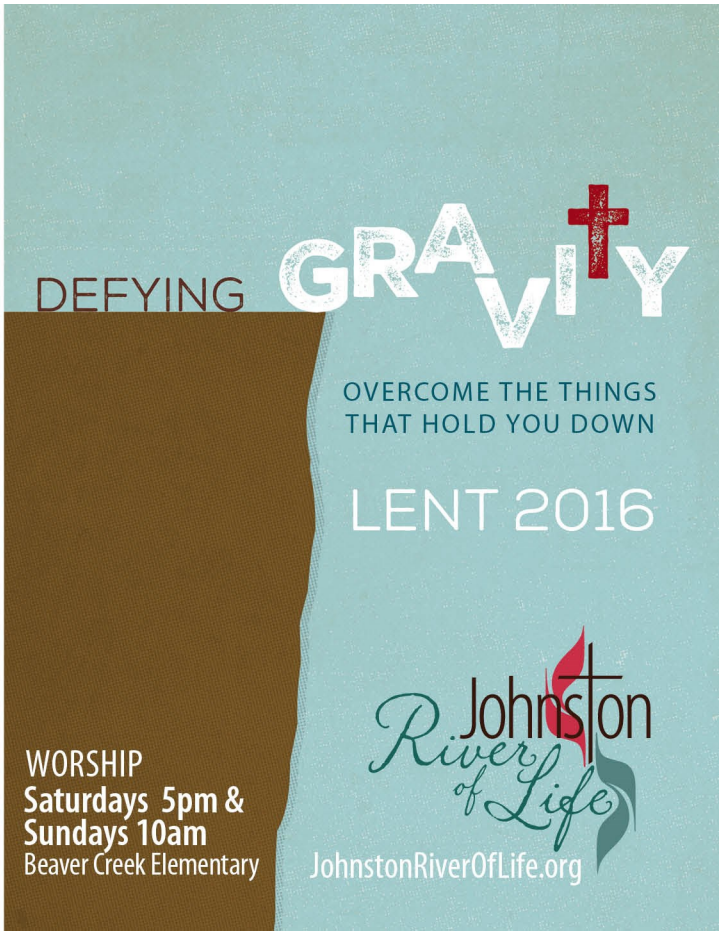
A monthly publication of New Hope United Methodist Church

February 2016



On Sunday, February 7, 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 10 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 7, 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.

Prayer Concerns

Esther Stout; Ginny Ghee; Margaret Hemphill; Mica Wills; Olive Walker; Bishop Julius Trimble; District Superintendent, David Weesner; District Field Minister, Karen Nelson; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.
Prayers for the following military personnel: Kelsey Bartley; AJ Blackman; Jason Homard; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Zach McClain; Todd McGinnity; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Devan Stanton; Jared Stanton; Skylar Wright and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Baptism

Congratulations to Jameson Patrick O'Brien who was baptized on Sunday, January 24. Jameson is the son of Deborah O'Brien and Logan Champ. His big sister is Vivienne.

Dave O'Brien sang a song for his grandson, Jameson's, baptism.

Birth

Congratulations to Sandy Cannon and Kent Abbott on the birth of their sons on January 26th.
August "Gus" Beed Abbott was 4 lb 10oz and 16 1/4" long.
Conifer "Finn" Calvin Abbott was 3lb 11 oz and 16 1/2" long.

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Karen Skovgard and family on the passing of her husband, Gus Skovgard.

Thank You

Our family would like to express our extreme gratitude to all of you at New Hope for your expressions of love and caring during Gus' illness and death. We are so grateful to Pastor Gaul for his many visits and phone calls and for the meaningful service that he helped us plan. Thanks also to Nancy for her assistance, to the Care Team and to many friends for food, cards, phone calls, prayers, hugs and numerous other things you did to make us feel loved and cared for. Please accept our heartfelt Thank You!
Karen Skovgard and family

With love and appreciation, Dale and I wish to express our thanks to each of you for the beautiful Christmas cards received from our New Hope family and our wonderful New Hope Women's Fellowship.
We are thankful for our thoughtful and beloved family church.
Dale and Laura Myers

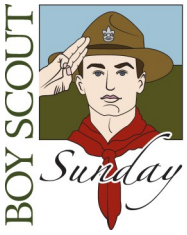
Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for the monetary gift for Christmas. I took that money and purchased an exquisite piece of Belgian lace while visiting my son's family during the holidays. Now when I use this lace, I will remember special occasions in another country and the generous congregation that gifted me the money to purchase such a wonderful remembrance. Blessings to you!"

Brenda McConahay, pianist for New Hope

To all those who sent up prayers of healing, gave meals and rides, I thank you deeply. All were very much appreciated. Those prayers helped me get rid of my portable IV bag 2 days early! I know God smiles down on you daily with all the caring things that go on at New Hope.

Sharon Smith



Boy Scouts

Sunday, February 14

All Boy Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Boy Scout uniforms for Boy Scout Sunday on February 14.

NEEDLERS SEW-IN

Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 am – 3 pm

The Needlers will meet in the 3rd grade classroom on February 6, 9am-3pm, to sew Little Dresses, Little Britches and Days for Girls kits for the Iowa Nigeria Partnership. These items ship out in March.

All stitchers are welcome to join us for all or part of the day. Bring your sewing machine, thread and scissors, if possible.

Pre-cut dresses, britches and component pieces will be provided.

There are also non-sewing tasks to be done, such as threading drawstrings in pre-sewn bags, applying snaps to shields (difficult for arthritic hands), or cutting component pieces.

Lunch is potluck.

If you have questions, please contact Diane Densmore, ddindsm1@mchsi.com or 515-270-1974.

Sweetheart Dinner

by Sr. BLAST

Saturday February 13th at 5:30pm

For this sweetheart dinner the adults will have the choice between two entrees (all meals will be served with bread and salad):

Smoked Salmon

Served on a bed of a mixture of white and wild rice, along with mixed veggies on the side.

- Or -

A half-rack of sweet barbeque pork ribs

Accompanied by a loaded baked potato and mixed veggies.

For dessert, everyone will be treated to a slice of delicious cheesecake with your choice of drizzle. (chocolate, caramel, or mixed berry).

Child-care will be provided. We have activities planned and will be serving chicken nuggets and french-fries for the children to eat.

The cost will be $40 per couple ($20 per person) and $10 per child.
Sign-ups will be at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday

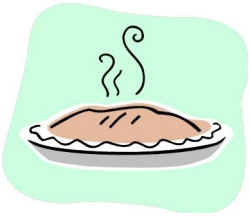
Wednesday, February 10
6:00pm Pancake Supper
7:00pm Ash Wed. Service

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.



Pie Sale

Sunday, February 14

The Women's Fellowship is having a pie sale on Sunday, February 14 after each worship service as a fundraiser for their mission projects. We are accepting ANY TYPE of pie from all members and appreciate your donations.

Pies may be delivered to the church on Saturday, February 13, from Noon-2pm.

Questions? Please contact Jan Davisson, 251-4894

Buy a Pie for Your Valentine!

Ask the Pastors

February 28th, Noon

You are invited to join us for another Ask the Pastors on Sunday, February 28, Noon, in the Sanctuary.

This month's theme information is about Pastor Craig's planned Sabbatical sometime in 2017. He has been in discussion and planning with the SPRC and Administrative Board for the last year and will be submitting a Lily Foundation Grant request in April that will fund the Sabbatical/Renewal leave as well as fund ministry needs in his absence.

For more information about this grant (go to http://www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal)

Or, to hear more about his plans, or the church's participation, please plan to attend the meeting in the Sanctuary February 28th at noon in the Sanctuary.

Hand of Luke - February 14

Pizza Casserole
Garlic Bread, Tossed Salad
Decorated Cupcakes

Cooks and Servers this month will be the Confirmation students, mentors, and parents. Meet at the church by 3pm, transport to the shelter at 5:30pm, and return to New Hope by 8pm.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to donate food. When dropping off your non perishables, please see that they are ***clearly labeled HOL and clearly indicate who it is from*** and place on the kitchen counter. Frozen items may be placed on the marked shelves in the industrial freezer.
If possible, please indicate on the sign up sheet where you placed your item(s) (for example, "in pantry", or "in the refrig."). Baked goods should be transferred to a disposable container if possible.
Thank you!!

2016 Summer Camp Registration is Officially Open!

The Mission Committee will **fund 1/2 of the total cost of a New Hope or JROL child attending a United Methodist Camp**. We want to encourage as many children as possible to have a UMC camp experience!

***Here's what you can do:**
Go on-line at www.iaumc.org/camps or call to register and pay 1/2 of the cost, but tell the registrar that New Hope will send a check for the other half. Then contact Nancy, in the church office, with the name of the child, the total cost, and the name of the camp.

The Board of Trustees want to establish a Safety Team and are seeking volunteers to serve on that team. Roger Moore, Trustee, will spear head the team. Time required will be minimal, probably touring the building and campus, a couple times per year, looking for things that are unsafe, something that could cause an accident or cause damage to the facilities.
If you are interested, please call John Rains at 238-1576, for more detail.
John Rains
Chair, Board of Trustees

Celebrating 20 Years

On March 14, 1996 the New Hope UMC prepared and served its first meal at the Churches United Shelter (currently known as Central Iowa Shelter and Services). During the past 20 years the Hand of Luke mission has continuously provided evening meal services at the shelter on the 14th of each month.

Recently an individual associated with the shelter commented that New Hope's serving was greatly appreciated. This individual made a specific remark about the frequency with which we serve meals of differing elements (entree, vegetable, roll and dessert). It is recognized that this approach is sometimes more costly and time consuming.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary New Hope will prepare a meal that would traditionally be prepared on the weekend. In mid February watch for the sign up sheets that offer up opportunities for advance preparations.
The Womens Fellowship have agreed to prepare fruit crisp (or cobbler) as our dessert.
Celebrate the year 2016 and our 20th year by becoming involved in the mission. A donation of $20 is the equivalent of 6 hot evening meals. Giving 20 minutes of your time is the equivalent of browning a pound of beef or wrapping 40 forks and knives in a napkin. In addition to welcome cash donations, there are numerous ways to get involved including much needed food donations, advance preparation of ingredients, preparing the meal and serving the meal.

If you have questions or comments regarding Hand of Luke, please contact Ruth Doxon, 253-9115 or rdoxon@gmail.com

The preparation for the Rummage Sale begins on Sunday, April 17 and continues to the 22nd.
The actual sale hours are:
Thursday, April 21, Noon—6pm
Friday, April 22, 9am-6pm
Saturday, April 23, 9am-Noon (clean up from Noon-2pm)

Please sign up on the tables in the hallways. There are sign up sheets for each day. Choose your day, your time, and your job. This is a job for everyone.

Love your neighbor and volunteer for this huge mission project.

More information to come but we can't have the sale without volunteers. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE SIGN UP SOON so plans can be made.

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 (CLT) Sundays 10:45-11:45am

CLT Subs needed: Sunday February 21st is our CLT Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. I'm looking for subs to fill in for our regular teachers (3 years-K class, 1st & 2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade). If you are willing to help with this please talk with Sarah. Also if you are a parent that is grateful for the hard work our dedicated teachers put in each week to make CLT a fun experience for your kids, I am looking for your help with set up, preparing the breakfast and decorating. If you can help, contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org. And make sure to thank our teachers during the month of February for everything they do!!!

What's new on the Children and Family Ministries Resource Board???

This month in the Parent Link and on the bulletin board you will find a meal time devotion titled "Free Refills", an activity puzzle for kids, and an article titled "Boy-Girl Friendships." If you have any ideas for Parent Resources/topics you'd like more information about, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.

Calling All Kids, Youth, Adults, Families, Small Groups , and anyone else who wants to join us!
Faith and Family Night with the Iowa Energy
Sunday, March 6th
Game starts at 3pm

RSVP to join our New Hope/JROL group **by Sunday February 28th!** This will ensure you get a seat with your friends, a hot dog, popcorn and soda, as well as a postgame Christian concert by Zealand Worship for only $10.71 per ticket.
Sign up today and bring a friend!

It's not to early to sign up your kids or volunteer to help. See Sarah Jacobson for more details.

Barnyard Roundup
Jesus Gathers Us Together

Come Join us for VBS!!!
July 17-21, 2016

New Hope Puppet Troupe

Wednesdays, 7:15-8pm

Join the New Hope Puppet Troupe! The group meets directly following TGIW in the 5th and 6th grade classroom downstairs. If you have a child interested in participating this year please contact Melanie Henry, 515-318-3216, melhenry0@gmail.com or Linda Dean, 515-707-2384, deanlinda2@aol.com.

confirmation schedule

February 7 4:30 p.m.
Topic: John Wesley and the origins of Methodism

February 10 Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 Hand of Luke

February 21 4:30 p.m.
Topic: American Christianity & the Church Today

TGIW 2015-2016

Wednesdays

5:30pm Dinner, 6-7:15pm Rotation Activities (Jr. Ringers 6:10-6:40pm)

Help Needed for TGIW 2016 Winter & Spring months:

We have so many great activities planned for the winter and spring, but we are in need of some dedicated volunteers to help as TGIW activity leaders for February and beyond. Take a look at the activities and calendar below to see if you could help out.

March 2nd	Video & Games
March 23rd	Games
April 6th	Art & Storytelling
April 13th	Olympic games

Contact Sarah Jacobson if you can help or have any questions.

Wednesday Night Meals:

Does your family appreciate having a Wednesday Night meal provided before our children and youth programs? The truth is they can't just happen without volunteers to make them happen from start to finish. **WE DESPERATELY NEED SOME INDIVIDUALS TO STEP UP AND HELP WITH KITCHEN CLEAN UP ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS.** All that is required of you, is to poke your head in the kitchen after 6pm and ask Kim Wills what she could use help with. It is probably as simple as wiping off tables, sweeping or taking out the garbage. Almost anyone can handle those simple tasks (even youth or kids not participating in our programs). Many hands can make light work. **If you eat the meal on a weekly basis, or have a few extra minutes to help, will you please consider doing so? Otherwise we will struggle to continue providing this service in the future. Thanks for your help!**

No TGIW on Wednesday, February 10th

due to Ash Wednesday. Join us for a pancake Supper (provided by the youth) and an Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm.
There will be no Family Night in February, but consider joining us in March when the Madness comes to New Hope!!!

TGIW March Madness Party
Wednesday, March 9th

Join us for supper at 5:30pm, followed by basketball related activities from 6:00-7:15pm. Dress up to support your favorite basketball team and come play some basketball with your friends. There could be a possible appearance from the Iowa Energy players/mascot.

Auditions for a new dinner theater production to be performed the last three weekends of April. Seeking 5 soloists and an ensemble of 21 voices.
"The Fire and The Mercy" The Pentecost Musical.
A new musical for Christian Dinner Theater by Tom Quiner.
Audition Date: Sunday, Feb. 14, 5-9pm
Place: Holy Trinity Church Social Hall, 2926 Beaver Ave., DSM
What to bring: Bring a solo of no less than 16 measures and no longer than 90 seconds. An accompanist will be provided.
Set up your audition by contacting
Gina Gedler, RGedler@mercydesmoines.org or 515-371-8936
Or
Renee Schwarz, rjschwa@gmail.com or 319-573-4545

Youth Groups

Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade): Leaders: Nancy Wiles, Jennifer Riley

Wednesdays, 6-7pm.

You may join the TGIW dinner at 5:30pm and then stay for the Jr. BLAST fun. Please plan to meet Jr. BLAST leaders, Jennifer Riley and Nancy Wiles, in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm.

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

BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

This year our youth group will be heading to Rapid City, South Dakota (**June 26th – July 2nd**); where they will be partnering with several local service agencies and work with children and the elderly. One of the most interesting organizations we work with is Black Hills Works. Black Hills Works is a progressive and adaptive center for mentally and physically challenged adults in Rapid City. Black Hills Works works to help their patrons become as independent and productive as they can be. Their center provides job training, paid work, practical life classes, and a plethora of other services. Most participants who come to volunteer have their eyes opened to people and situations they have never experienced before; it is often the highlight of the trip.

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 Saturday, February 13th at 5:30pm. Preregistration is required for this event; $40 per couple, $20 per person, and $10 per kid. Plan now to attend this great event; signups will be at the hostess counter in the Fellowship Hall.

Additionally, we will be hosting two informational mission trip meetings for both parents and students (*Feb 21st and Feb 28th*). We only have a few spots left for this trip; please let us know ASAP if you are considering going on the trip.

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

Feb. 3rd @ 6pm ~ **T**hank **G**od for **B**LAST **D**iscussions – **TGBD**
Feb. 7th @ 5pm ~ Super Bowl Party at Higdon's
Feb. 10th @ 5pm ~ Ash Wednesday Dinner
Feb. 13th @ 5pm ~ Sweetheart Dinner
Feb. 17th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe Volunteer
Feb. 21st after services ~ Mission Trip Meeting
Feb. 24th @ 6pm ~ **T**hank **G**od for **B**LAST **D**iscussions – **TGBD**
Feb. 28th after services ~ Mission Trip Meeting
Mar. 2nd @ 6pm ~ **T**hank **G**od for **B**LAST **D**iscussions – **TGBD**
Mar. 6th ~ BLAST Breakfast
Mar. 9th @ 6pm ~ **T**hank **G**od for **B**LAST **D**iscussions – **TGBD**
Not Meeting on Mar. 16th; Due to Spring Break
Mar. 23rd @ 6pm ~ **T**hank **G**od for **B**LAST **D**iscussions – **TGBD**
Mar. 30th @ 6pm ~ **T**hank **G**od for **B**LAST **D**iscussions – **TGBD**

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

groups gathering together

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, February 13
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship
Join them on **Thursday, February 18** , 9am at church. All women of New Hope and JROL are invited.
Questions? Call Betty Holwegner at 278-8115.

Bible Study
The Monday Bible Study, 1pm, will study ***Ephesians*** by Max Lucado. It is a 12 week study with ***no homework***! Come as you can. We will meet in the Ruby Chapel. Both men and women are welcome.
The participant book will be available at the study. Questions? Contact Sharon Smith, 277-7125.

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 14, 10:00am** 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. **January 3, 9:30-11:00am** will be the next BP checks in the Narthex.

Chancel Choir
Practice on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Join us! Contact Eldon Cross, Director of Music, elcatalia4@gmail.com or 515 250-1476.

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.

Friday Small Group
The Friday Small Group will meet on **February 12 & 26** (the second & fourth Friday of each month, unless otherwise noted). Join us at 1 pm 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. I will be reading from a James Moore book and we will be discussing Revelations. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kielsmeier, 515-689-9680.

Life Group (Bible Study):
Are you looking for a place to connect with friends, build your faith, and get support?
Join a Sunday Evening Life Group (small group):

1. Sundays 5:30 PM.. Contact Pastor Craig Ferguson at 515.984.0482
or Charity Johnson at 515.720.8299. This group will be held at different home each week.

And

2. Sundays 6:00 PM. Held at Dick & Netha Pipho's
712 SE 4th St. Grimes
515.986-4071

Veterans Helping Veterans
We will *not* meet in February.
The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 8:30am.
The speaker will be Bart Quick from the Veterans Administration.
All Veterans and spouses are welcome to join us! If you have questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com

Tony Powers was the guest speaker at the January meeting.

Pam Frey, Billy Nuzum and Charlotte Schultz enjoyed a laugh after serving breakfast to our veterans on January 23rd.

missions

FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS: UMCOR Disaster Rapid Response

Because of so many disasters such as floods and tornadoes, especially in our neighboring states, the Mission Committee will collect Hygiene or Health Kits to be taken to areas of need. UMCOR places Cleaning Buckets and Health Kits in areas around Iowa to be distributed immediately as needed. ***We have collected Health kits for the Thanksgiving Ingathering but will do so again because of the desperate need. Place your items, full or part of kits into the labeled box on the Mission table in the Fellowship Hall.***

What is UMCOR? The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work includes programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

UMCOR is a ministry of The United Methodist Church through the General Board of Global Ministries, and our goal is to assist the most vulnerable persons affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity.

UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. We provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations to extend our reach, our most important partners are the people we serve. We are confident that successful solutions to emergency or chronic conditions begin with the affected population. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but long-term education, training, and support.

UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects our donors specify. When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ.

Assembly of Health Kit. Value: $12 per kit

Health Kit Materials

- **1 hand towel** (15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches). Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable.
- **1 washcloth**
- **1 comb** (Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long; No pocket combs or picks please; Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth.)
- **1 metal nail file or nail clippers** (No emery boards, please)
- **1 bath-size soap** (3 oz. and larger sizes only; No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content; Do not remove from original packaging.)
- **1 toothbrush** (Adult size only; Do not remove from original packaging.)
- **6 adhesive bandages** (¾ inch to 1 inch-size; Common household Band-Aids.)
- **1 plastic bag** (One-gallon size sealable bag only)

Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will be considered used.
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items, nothing more.
- Do not include any personal notes, money, or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.
- **UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent. *Do not put single dollar bills in each kit.* Collect all money for toothpaste and shipping, then *place it in a separate envelope and send along with the kit donations.***

Mission's Year End Report: 2015 (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	$ 342.00
SELF HELP INTERNATIONAL	400.00
PET Personal Energy Transportation	400.00
WELLS FOR SOUTH SUDAN	125.00
ORANGE: (*UNITED STATES SPECIAL PROJECTS*)	
McCURDY MISSION SCHOOL	500.00
REDBIRD MISSION SCHOOL	500.00
RED BIRD MISSION SCHOOL BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION	216.00
YELLOW: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)	
Fair Trade Coffee	10.00
UNICEF	29.19
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE-BLANKETS AND TOOLS	400.00
INGATHERING KITS AND SHIPPING and items for auction	1,480.00
Disaster Response	2,650.00
GREEN: INTERNATIONAL HUNGER/POVERTY) Heifer International	2,445.00
DMARC (cash, in-kind giving)	8,219.00
MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND	6,130.00
HOPE MINISTRIES	1,020.00
HAND OF LUKE MEALS FOR HOMELESS AT CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER –meals cost)	9,000.00
BLUE: (IOWA ADVANCE SPECIALS)	
IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP	400.00
BIDWELL RIVERSIDE	1,580.00
NEW DIRECTIONS/HAWTHORN HILL (Missions, Women's Fellowship,)	500.00
LAS AMERICAS	250.00
JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS	250.00
IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP (needlers kits, missions, congregation)	895.00
INDIGO: (PARISH DEVELOPMENTS)	
Trinity UMC (vista worker)	1,000.00
Women at the Well Prison Ministry	806.00
PURPLE: (SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS)	943.00
THIRD MILE GIVING Missionary Covenant, Emmanuel Mefor	2,500.00
Camp Wesley Woods scholarships	1,266.00
OTHER GIVING NOT RAINBOW COVENANT ELIGIBLE ITEMS	
Mission Apportionments (Part of 1st mile giving)	1,967.40
Angel Tree	489.55
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

Financial Update

Below is the December 2015 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life. Due to your generosity and the increase in pledges last year, we were able to reduce the size of the projected deficit this year. 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 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	$31,352.90
Total Expenditures	29,804.68
Net Surplus (Deficit)	($1,548.22)

	YTD 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	$324,667.49
Total Expenditures	331,936.78
Net Surplus (Deficit)	($7,269.29)

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	December 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	$11,685.04
Total Expenditures	10,312.14
Net Surplus (Deficit)	$1,372.90

	YTD 2015 Actual
Total Receipts	$109,670.83
Total Expenditures	101,048.46
Net Surplus (Deficit)	$8,622.37

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
December 27	24	48	79	151
January 3	28	94	89	211
January 10	26	95	59	180
January 17	21	65	58	144
January 24	38	72	99	209

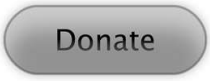
Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat		Sun		total
Dec 19	231	Dec 20	115	346
		Dec 27	49	49
Jan 2	52	Jan 3	33	85
Jan 9	59	Jan 10	33	92
Jan 16	41	Jan 17	34	75

Discretionary Fund has been established. The fund will be used by Pastor Jon for parishioner's extreme needs or occasionally when people come to the church for help. Your donations toward this fund is greatly appreciated. Please place your donation with the offering and note "Discretionary Fund" in the memo line of your check.

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.

As a child I remember an activity that seemed to allow my arms to defy gravity. We would stand in a door frame and with our arms hanging down we would press them out straight against the door frame as if they were rising horizontally. We would press as hard as we could for the count of sixty. Then step out of the door frame and relax. Inevitably our arms would rise and find the cross that they had been pressing toward.

So often we view resistance or weight as a burden, something that pulls us down or overwhelms us. But as I have thought about it, weights are the preferred method of physical training for many. Weights are used for aerobic and cardio exercises. Weights build muscle and benefit overall health. Then, when an athlete is ready to compete, they take off the weights and compete unhindered. Maybe this is a good analogy for the Christian life that Paul calls us toward in Hebrews 12, "let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

In this life, there are many things that pull us down; personal expectations, past failures, bad habits, poor self image, unhealthy lifestyle, contentment with mediocrity, jealousy, pride, fear, and the list goes on. Its not that we can plan to live a life without burdens, but rather we all have those things that have pulled us down. It is when we step into the race of life as a person of faith that we are challenged to let go of those things and run in such a way that defies gravity.

When we look at Jesus, we witness the life of one who overcame all things. Jesus faced every temptation, encountered resistance, and even faced the fear of death. Jesus was weighted down with all the realities of being fully human, and yet he loosed the shackles of death, and overcame sin. Jesus reminds us that this life is just a training ground so we can learn to defy gravity.

Pastor 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 bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies and use 3 to 5 dozen cookies from the tall, silver freezer in the supply room. (no peanuts/nuts), and serve coffee and water after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. 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
7
14
21
28

Lectors
7 Cathy Short
14
21 Vicki O'Brien
28 Billy Nuzum

Traditional Service Callers
Norma Sutton

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

9:30am Contemporary Service

Greeters
7 Pam Frey
14
21
28

Lectors
7 Sherri Bogue
14 Carly Mohrman
21
28

Hosts
7 Melisa Forbes
14 Kelly Mohrman
21 John & Joyce Turek
28 Nan Tollakson & Gary Stubbs

9:30 Computer Support
7 Nancy Monthei
14 Pam Frey
21 Nic Wigant
28 Kelly Mohrman

Friday Office Volunteers
5 Shirley Johnson
12 Marilyn Monroe
19 Ellen Hester
26 Norma Sutton

10:45am Traditional Service

Greeters
7 Lee Ross/Freda Ruleman
14 Bob & Ann Krause
21
28

Lectors
7 Jon Verner
14 Barb Mather
21
28 Billy Nuzum

Hosts
7
14 Sue Soards
21
28

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

God has shown you his grace in many different ways.
So be good servants and use whatever gift he has given you in a way that will best serve each other.

February 2016

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 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	2 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Worship Cluster Mtg., Ruby Chapel	3 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	4 6:30-9p, Venture Crew, F.Hall 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	5 Office Vol. Shirley Johnson	6 9:00a-3:00p, Needlers Sew In at church. Potluck Lunch
7 **Mardi Gras Sunday** Holy Communion 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday 4:30p, Confirmation Class	8 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	9 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 2:00p, Women's Retreat Mtg., F.Hall 7:00p, Finance Mtg., Ruby Chapel	10 **Ash Wednesday** 6pm, Pancake Supper 7pm, Ash Wed. Service	11 6-8p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	12 Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	13 7:30a, Men's Breakfast Noon-2pm, Pies to be delivered 5:30pm, Sweetheart Dinner
14 **1st Sunday in Lent** Boy Scout Sunday Puppets perform Pie Sale 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 *President's Day* **Office Closed** 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	16 ***Deadline for March LINK*** 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	17 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	18 9a, Women's Fellowship, at church 6:30-9pm Venture Crew	19 Office Vol: Ellen Hester 5:30-8:00p, FLC, F.Hall reserved for Gideons	20 8a-4:30p, FLC, F.Hall reserved for Gideons
21 **2nd Sunday in Lent** Food Pantry Sunday 10:45a, Teacher Appreciation, R.Chapel 4:30p, Confirmation class	22 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 6p, Children & Youth Cluster Mtg., F.Hall	23 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, SPRC Mtg., R.Chapel	24 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	25 6-8p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall 7:00p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	26 Office Vol: Norma Sutton 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	27 FLC reserved for Boy Scouts
28 **3rd Sunday in Lent** Puppets perform Noon, Ask the Pastor in the Sanctuary	29 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	March 1 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7:00p, Worship Cluster Mtg., Ruby Chapel	March 2 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	March 3 6:30-9pm Venture Crew 7pm, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	March 4 Office Vol: Gayle Easton	March 5 1:00-4:00p, FLC reserved for Cub Scouts

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

1 Judy Peterson, Nicole Weisskopf
2 Kay Goff, Wendy Musgrave, Harrison Fiala, Violet Fiala
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, 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.

As Valentine's Day approaches, with its abundance of chocolate treats, I'm reminded of something that occurred years ago when our kids were small. It was about a bag of candy that my family and I emptied together (okay, it was mostly me). The part that made the experience so memorable was that the candy maker had a promotional sweepstakes going on where you could win a prize marked on the inside of the wrapper (a nice incentive to eat as much and as fast as you could—not that I needed such an incentive). The problem was not that I didn't win any of the prizes (I would have been shocked if I had). The problem was with the wording of the rejection notice that read: "**SORRY, YOU ARE NOT A WINNER, TRY AGAIN."**

When you eat a whole bag of candy and have 27 wrappers tell you that "**YOU ARE NOT A WINNER**," it can begin to get to you. We have enough people and groups in our society putting us down without getting it from our candy wrappers!

The hardest part was hearing my daughter say over and over, "Oh, I'm not a winner again." I wanted to say, "You are a winner, honey, just don't listen to them!"

Companies must have gotten some feedback on this because I now see such rejection notices reading "This wrapper is not a winner," or some similar wording instead of saying "You are not . . . ." That is a good change, but it's too late for me. The damage is done and I'm scarred for life!

Seriously, we need to be more positive and affirming of each other. Sarah Stevens, a close friend of mine, has a motto she used with her church youth group. She would tell them, "No putdowns, only blessings." We need to give blessings to one another.

A friend posted a quote that got my attention. It comes from Jose Harris, author of MI VIDA: A Story of Faith, Hope and Love:

"There comes a time in your life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad, and focus on the good. Love the people who treat you right, pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is a part of life, getting back up is living."

I want to be one of those people and with those who laugh (my "attempts at humor" aside). I want to treat people right and pray for all people. I want to be happy and keep getting back up when I fall. For me, the best way to do all this is to keep focused on Jesus. Lent, which begins February 10, is all about refocusing my life on following the example of Christ and living it out in service to others.

By today's standards, and even by the standards of his day, Jesus was not a winner. Instead, he was an example of what it is to be loving, caring, and compassionate to those in need. If Jesus was not a winner by the world's standards, then I don't want to be one either. However, I still empty a bag of candy now and then; I just don't look at the wrappers.

Blessings, Pastor Jon

Jon Daul

Lenten Theme: "Listening to God"

Feb. 7	Title: "Listening to Jesus"	Script.: Luke 9:28-35 (Transfiguration-Mardi Gras Sunday)
Feb. 14	Title: "Listening to the Word"	Script.: Luke 4:1-13 (Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness)
Feb. 21	Title: "Listening to Heaven"	Script.: Philippians 3:17-4:1 (Join in imitating Christ)
Feb. 28	Title: "Listening to the Gardener"	Script.: Luke 13:1-9 (Looking for fruit on this fig tree)

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: Anita Gaul
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

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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

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Des Moines, Iowa 50310