

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

February 2018

FEBRUARY AT NEW HOPE UMC

FOR ALL PEOPLE



- Feb. 4 "Being All Things To All People"
- Feb. 11 "A Shining Light For All People"
- Feb. 14 "Ash Wednesday Service"
- Feb. 18 "A Covenant For All People"
- Feb. 25 "A Promise For All People"



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays at New Hope UMC 8:30am • 9:30am • 10:45am
newhopedsm.org

Threads of
Grace

LENT AT JOHNSTON RIVER OF LIFE

Johnston
River
of Life

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Saturdays 5pm & Sundays 10am
Beaver Creek Elementary
JohnstonRiverOfLife.org



On Sunday, February 11, 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 14 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 11, 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 Concern

Amy Larsen; Billy Nuzum; Pat Papenheim; Teresa Garside; Gerald Perdue; Vickey Cary; Linn Redding; Olive Walker; Bishop Laurie Haller; District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon; District Field Outreach Minister, Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.

Prayers for the following military personnel: Kelsey Bartley; Dawn Bernal; Jason Homard; Cory Larson; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Zach McClain; Mike McGhee; Todd McGinnity; Tyler McGinnity; Derek Monthei; Christopher Moore; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Tim Rains; Devan Stanton; Jared Stanton; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy to Dale Myers on the passing of his wife, Laura Myers.

Birth

Congratulations to Seth & Lacey Fulton on the birth of their daughter, Alba Lynn Fulton. Alba was born on December 28, 2017. She joins, at home, her big brothers Liam & Oliver, and her big sister Eden.

Thank You

Loving New Hope family,
We enjoyed greetings from many of you, especially from a group of children. Please accept our greetings and best wishes for the New Year.
Thank you,
Bhanu & Ambrose Moses

Happy Holidays to our Family Church

This belated card is absorbed with all the many holiday blessings and magical times we enjoyed through the reading of your beautiful cards from the church family and the wonderful cards from the great Women's Fellowship delivered by our lovely Sharon Lewis. We appreciate every card and wanted to thank each of you. Thanks for your prayers and get wells.

Love & Blessings
Dale & Laura Myers

“What do I have?”

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said,
to see the beauty in all that I've made — and my children as they travel life's highway.

Hands, he said,
to reach out and touch hurting souls, to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, he said,
to lead my children through this world of strife and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said,
to lift up your voice and sing praises to me so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said,
to listen to my still, small voice of love and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said,
so you may know the full love of my Spirit and love my children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler

Thank You

A big "Thank You" from our church staff to the New Hope and Johnston River of Life congregations for their very generous Christmas gifts and greetings.

You have overwhelmed us with your thoughtfulness and support through the past year.

Blessings to all of you!



**Boy Scouts
Sunday,
February 4**

All Boy Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Boy Scout uniforms for Boy Scout Sunday on February 4.



Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, February 14
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. *Childcare will be provided for children ages 4 and lower.*

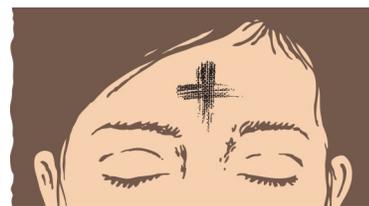
Join us this Ash Wednesday for food, fellowship, and prayer.

Lenten Living

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14 this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

The NewsletterNewsletter



I am marked with your cross, Jesus, and sealed with your life-giving Holy Spirit.

Made for a Miracle

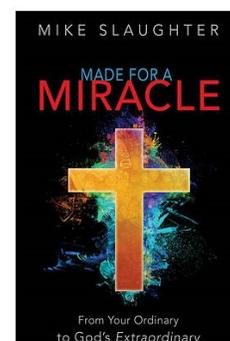
I will be leading a Bible study during Lent. We will meet on **Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the church, beginning Sunday, February 18 and going for six Sundays to March 25.**

The study will be based on the book "Made for a Miracle", by Pastor Mike Slaughter. Here is the teaser for the book:

Did you know that when we hope for the impossible, it involves more than praying for God's transcendent power? There are two components to every miracle: divine action and human responsibility. Each of us has been given specific talents and abilities. For a real miracle to take place, God expects us to apply these talents and abilities—acting *with* God to perform divine work. By examining biblical examples of how to use your God-given gifts for God's glory, author and pastor Mike Slaughter helps you discover that you, too, were *Made for a Miracle*.

I invite you to join us as we dig deeper into God's call for our lives in this season of Lent.

Pastor Jon



You are invited to attend Pulse 101.7 FM presentation to our New Hope Youth about social media and positive music choices in today's environment.

Everyone is welcome to join our youth at 6:15pm on February 28.

We are excited to have host RaJan at New Hope to present this information to the kids in a fun way.

Pulse 101.7 has the mission to play cool hit music – spiritual music that is very specific about God's Son. You want to keep focused on things that are good for your heart.



Mission Focus – Souper Bowl Food Drive

New Hope UMC is going to **KICK OFF** a friendly game of football on **Sunday, January 28th!**

We are asking you to get in our **game** by bringing a nonperishable food/personal care item (or 50) on **Sunday, January 28th** and/or **Sunday, February 4th** to score a point for the team of your choice in New Hope's version of Super Bowl LII.

How Can You Participate? Visit your **END ZONE** table in the **main hallway** before or after service on either of the next two Sundays with your donation!

Each item you donate counts as 1 point for the Philadelphia **EAGLES** or the New England **PATRIOTS**, the choice is yours!

Prefer to make a monetary donation? Each \$1 will count as 1 point too!

Points will be verified by the refs at halftime (after services end on January 28th). As we know, sometimes a team comes back stronger in the second half so we won't know for sure which team had the most **TOUCHDOWNS** until after the 10:45 service on **SOUPER Bowl Sunday, February 4th**.

****Expired items will be a TURNOVER and point for the other team, so check those dates before you donate**!**
Our **SOUPER Bowl** items will be donated to local food pantries.

THANK YOU for getting off the couch and getting in the game to help tackle hunger in our community!

Suggested Grocery List (NO GLASS please)

Baby formula, infant cereal and diapers
Canned fruits or vegetables
Canned Meals (stews, hash, chili, ravioli)
Canned meats or fish
Canned spaghetti sauce
Canned soups (including ready-to-eat)
Cold/hot cereal
Dry pasta
Hamburger or Tuna Helpers
Juice
Peanut butter
Rice
Detergent
Cleaning products

Paper products/toiletries
Single serving foods
Microwaveable meals
Pancake mix/syrup (**NO glass**)
Snacks
Utensil Packets

Suggested Hygiene Products List

Shampoo
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Razors
Shaving cream
Bar/liquid soap
Deodorant
Feminine Products

2018 RUMMAGE SALE



Believe it or not, time to start thinking of the 2018 annual New Hope Rummage Sale. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year and an important outreach event for New Hope.

Please **SAVE THE DATES OF APRIL 26-28** and plan to join us. Start saving and sorting your items. **Sunday, April 22 is our donation day.**

Please join this **awesome** rummage sale team. With everyone's help, we can again serve the community while having a successful fund raiser. (Our goal is \$10,000. We almost made it last year.)

Thank you all for helping.
Carol Harter

Blood Pressure Check

Next BP checks will be February 4 9:30a-11a in the Narthex.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 10 at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

Thursday, February 15, 9am. Questions? Contact Susan Clark at 964-5119 or Sharon Smith at 419-7082

Veterans Helping Veterans

The next Veterans Helping Veterans will be Saturday, March 17, 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com

Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets quarterly. This team ministers to congregation members who have had new babies, have been in the hospital, have been ill or are dealing with grief. This team meets on a quarterly basis. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

New Hope Needlers

Join us on Fri., February 16, 9am-3pm in the 3rd grade classroom. Please note that the Needlers will meet the 3rd Friday of each month. All are welcome! Please bring your sewing machine and current project. Dress kits will be available. Lunch will be at Panera. Contact Jody Rains, 278-8282, with questions.

Friday Bible Study

The Friday Bible Study at the Pizza Ranch at 1pm. (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. Study leader: Jim Louk

Join us in **February** for our study:

February 9: "Guess who is coming our way?"

Text: Mark 12:35-37, Psalm 32 Theme Hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" No. 156, v. 3

Do you remember the years when you were growing up and everyone gathered at the dinner table not only for food but also for conversation? Wasn't that a time and place where you learned a great deal about life, people, and values? For most of us that was a delightful time. We are told in Mark that the disciples and crowds that gathered around Jesus had a similar experience.

Mark 12:37 says "And the large crowd was listening to him with delight."

Come and experience the delight and hope of those gathering around the table at Pizza Ranch. After we eat we will share the story of Jesus' coming in anticipation to see him or hear him or touch him.

Whatever the time of sharing was, it was powerful — and, as a matter of fact, it still is.

February 23: Come and join us for continuation of the study.

Adult Discussion Group

Join us at New Hope on Sundays at 9:30am in the Ruby Chapel. Group discussions are based from "The Wired Word" that weaves current events into the Bible study.

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.



Faith & Family Night

at the Iowa Wolves Basketball Game!
Post-game faith-based concert!

Where: Wells Fargo Arena

When: Sunday, March 4

Time: Doors open at 1:45pm

Game: Tip off at 3pm

Post-Game Concert by Christian contemporary recording artist Plumb.

Tickets are \$12 and comes with a food voucher for hot dog, popcorn & chips!

Tickets (individual and group) must be reserved in advance.

To purchase call, Madeline at 515-564-8559 or Madeline.Pavlik@IAwolves.com



2018 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (8:30 & 10:45), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved

one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office.

The flowers are \$35.00 per Sunday and you may take your flowers home after the 10:45 service.

Children's Ministries

Children's 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) 10:45-11:45 on Sunday mornings.

WE WANT TO THANK ALL THE CHRISTIAN LEARNING TIME TEACHERS AND CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS FOR EVERYTHING THEY DO TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD WITH OUR CHILDREN.

If you are a CLT or children's worship leader this year,
**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR:
AN APPRECIATION BREAKFAST IN YOUR HONOR
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH
10:45AM
IN THE RUBY CHAPEL**

All CLT classes will remain as scheduled with substitutes teaching the lesson.

This month at TGIW

<http://www.newhopedsm.org/pdf/TGIW-Schedule.pdf>

Join us for Thank God It's Wednesday "TGIW"! All kids 3 yr. old—5th grade.

Puppets: 5:15-6:00pm. Questions??? Contact Melanie Henry, melhenry0@gmail.com, or Linda Dean, deanlinda2@aol.com

Dinner: 5:45-6:15pm

Kids Activities: 6:15-7:00pm

Jr. Ringers (for 2nd grade and up): 6:00-6:30pm Questions??? Contact Kristin Welter, t.welter@mchsi.com



COME JOIN US FOR A TGIW FAMILY NIGHT ON
FEBRUARY 7TH



VBS 2018 July 15th -19th

Start thinking now how YOU can help to make this another great year of VBS! Our VBS Team (Andy Sutton, Elaine Sheer, Abbi Herrick and Charity Johnson) is excited to get plans set for this event and we hope that you'll join us on this journey. We will have volunteer roles for all ages and abilities. More information to come this spring.

BLAST—Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

February 2018

Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade) Leaders: Jackie Johnson & Tami Wise:
Email: JrBLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

Junior High Blast is plowing through the cold with a busy February. Join us on Wednesdays! 5:30p dinner, 6:00p Jr. BLAST, unless noted differently.

January 31 - Rock painting - BLAST will be positivity painting! We will then hide our kindness rocks out in the community to be found by people. If you are interested to see if any of our rocks are found and posted about please visit: KindnessRocksDSM IA on Facebook.

February 7 - Practice for ASH Wednesday service as Junior High Blast will be helping with the service.

February 14 - Ash Wednesday Service is at 7pm, please report by 6pm to allow time for eating pancakes and practice. Kids should be dressed nicely as they will be participating in the service.

February 21 - Electronic Destruction - Lets get inside some old or broken electronics to see how it works. We have a few items, but if you have a nonworking item to never see again, please have your child bring it

February 28 - RaJan Monroe from PULSE 101.7. We are excited to host RaJan to present to the kids about social media and making positive music choices!

Sr. BLAST (8th-12th grade) Leaders: Chris Higdon, McKayla Johnson, and Pam Frey –
BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org



This year our youth group will be heading to Houston, Texas (**June 9th – June 16th**). If you did not know; Hurricane Harvey brought devastation to south Texas in a scale that has never been seen before, a scale that is impossible to describe. While some places on relatively higher ground emerged with only minor damage, others just a few feet lower in elevation were swamped. Entire neighborhoods were flooded, many up to the rooftops.

This summer, our youth will have the opportunity to meet real needs on the ground. As we roll up our sleeves, getting involved in anything from gutting homes, to flooring, framing, dry walling or more. Not only will we have a chance to meet physical needs, but we will have the chance to make a spiritual impact by listening to and encouraging homeowners who are continuing to pick up the pieces of their lives.

We are planning to take **9 kids and 4 adults on this mission trip**. Additionally, this is a big trip that will require staying overnight stay in Durant, Oklahoma both ways. Because of this trip being larger/further trip than other years; we are going to try new ways to fundraise for the trip. One of the new fundraising opportunities is by selling **Younkers Coupon Books**; which can be used for their Community Days sales event (*Thursday, March 1 through Saturday, March 3*). The Senior High BLAST group will be selling the Community Days coupon booklets for just **\$5 each and the group gets to keep 100% of the proceeds**. Plan now to purchase your Community Days coupon booklets at Church or on-line at <http://bit.ly/2EBXERz>.



Who is ready to eat pancakes?

Don't forget that we are serving "all you can eat" pancakes on Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 5pm. This is before the New Hope's Ash Wednesday service.

Here are the youth events for the next two months: . More information about the events will be sent out in email and posted on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>).

Feb. 4th @ 5:30 pm ~ Super Bowl Party

Feb. 7th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

Feb. 14th @ 5pm ~ Ash Wednesday Dinner

Feb.18th @ 2pm ~ Coupon - Valley West Mall

Feb. 21st @ 6pm ~ ChildServe

Feb.24th @ 2pm ~ Coupon - Valley West Mall

Feb.25th @ 4pm ~ Coupon - Valley West Mall

Feb. 28th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

Mar. 4th @ 8am ~ BLAST Breakfast

Mar. 7th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

~ Not Meeting on Mar.14th (Spring Break) ~

Mar. 21st @ 6pm ~ ChildServe

Mar. 24th ~ Yard Work Service Project

Mar. 28th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

April 4th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

April 11th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

April 15th @ 8am ~ BLAST Breakfast

April 18th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe

April 25th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

April 28th @ 6pm ~ New Hope

Rummage Sale

missions

FEBRUARY MISSION NEWS

JFON (Justice for our Neighbors) is our February Mission focus. Jesus calls us to take care of each other. In Matthew 25:44-45 “They will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’



JFON was established by the United Methodist Church to fulfill this mission to help those emigrating from other countries. For example:

Seeking Safety in Iowa

Stacey is only 12 years old; she is from a very impoverished and dangerous region of Guatemala. Stacey’s mother came to the United States back in 2005, fleeing domestic violence and trying to make a better life for herself and provide support for her daughter. Stacey stayed behind with her grandmother and was abandoned by her father as soon as her mother left for the US. Over the years the political and economic situation in Guatemala worsened, and by 2014, it was too dangerous for Stacey to even go to school. In August of 2014, at only 10 years old, Stacey’s mother and grandmother paid a coyote to transport her to the US. It was the first time Stacey had ever left her village and she was terrified. The journey to the US was long and arduous; she was surrounded by strangers, slept on the floor in a room with 15-20 other people, and went to bed hungry and cold.

At one point during the journey her backpack with the few possessions she owned and the little money she brought was stolen. Luckily, after 3 grueling weeks, Stacey arrived at the Southern Border physically unharmed. Stacey was detained at the border and transferred to the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR, b finally was released to her mother in Ottumwa, IA. Her mother called Iowa JFON’s hotline, and they were able to terminate her deportation proceedings and assist her in applying for legal permanent residency. Finally, in December 2015, Stacey was granted legal permanent residency and would be able to remain in the US safely. She and her mother were overjoyed and grateful for Iowa JFONs help.

There is much controversy about the costs incurred by immigrants on our economy. According to the National Academy of Science, during the 2011 to 2013 span, the net cost of first generation immigrants totaled \$57.4 billion but the net gain on 2nd and 3rd generations is \$30.5 and \$223.8 billion, respectively.

Watch for an immigrant story each Sunday throughout February.



Hand of Luke—ministry of a meal for Central Iowa Shelter and Services

Because February 14 is Ash Wednesday, we would like to arrange for pizza delivery, at Central Iowa Shelter & Services, instead of fixing and delivering the meal.

For the next several weeks we are asking for donations to cover the cost of the pizza. So no shopping will be needed for February! Please give thought to a donation equal to the amount that you would have spent on your food donation. These donations will be collected during the offering at each Sunday service. If giving via a check, please note Hand of Luke (HOL) in the memo field. Thank you for being so faithful in helping with this worthy mission.

Thank you for bringing “Souper Bowl” food & personal items for DMARC.

Mission's Year End Report: 2017 (shown in Rainbow Covenant areas)

The following includes monetary and in-kind gifts donated by the all ministries of New Hope & JROL.

RED (WORLD SERVICE):

<u>PET Personal Energy Transportation, NOW KNOWN AS: MOBILITY WORLDWIDE:</u>	400.00
<u>WELLS FOR SOUTH SUDAN:</u>	161.00
<u>HEIFER INTERNATIONAL:</u>	770.00
<u>MEFOR HOSPITAL:</u>	557.84
<u>DR. MEFOR, MISSIONARY:</u>	1,250.00
<u>AFRICA UNIVERSITY FARM DEVELOPMENT</u>	94.60

ORANGE (UNITED STATES SPECIAL PROJECTS):

<u>McCURDY MISSION SCHOOL:</u>	500.00
<u>REDBIRD MISSION SCHOOL:</u>	500.00

YELLOW UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

<u>INGATHERING KITS, SHIPPING, & TOOTHPASTE:</u>	978.00
<u>Disaster Response: HURRICANES IRMA AND HARVEY</u>	2,250.00
<u>NATIONAL DISASTER:</u>	713.00
<u>DISASTER CLEANING BUCKETS:</u>	248.55
<u>CHURCH WORLD SERVICE-BLANKETS AND TOOLS:</u>	400.00

GREEN (INTERNATIONAL HUNGER/POVERTY)

<u>INGATHERING WOODCRAFTS: (Steve Sutton)</u>	180.00
<u>DMARC: (CASH, IN-KIND) Women's Fellowship : \$800 included)</u>	10,232.50
<u>MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND:</u>	6,008.30
<u>HAND OF LUKE: MEALS FOR HOMELESS AT CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER)</u>	9,619.14

BLUE (IOWA ADVANCE SPECIALS)

<u>CFUM MONEY FOR BACKPACKS:</u>	950.00
<u>BIDWELL RIVERSIDE & in-kind (women's fellowship, missions)</u>	1,400.00
<u>JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS: (Missions)</u>	500.00
<u>HAWTHORN HILL: (Women's Fellowship, Missions.)</u>	900.00
<u>NEW DIRECTIONS: (Women's Fellowship)</u>	800.00
<u>SUDANESE NEW START: (Women's Fellowship)</u>	100.00
<u>TRINITY: (Missions)</u>	100.00
<u>SELF HELP: (Mission cash and in-kind from Needlers)</u>	950.00

PURPLE (SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS):

	963.00
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INDIGO (PARISH DEVELOPMENTS):

<u>LAS AMERICAS:</u>	100.00
<u>WOMEN AT THE WELL PRISON MINISTRY: (Missions, Women's Retreat)</u>	2,564.00

(THIRD MILE LOCAL AND INSTITUTIONAL GIVING)

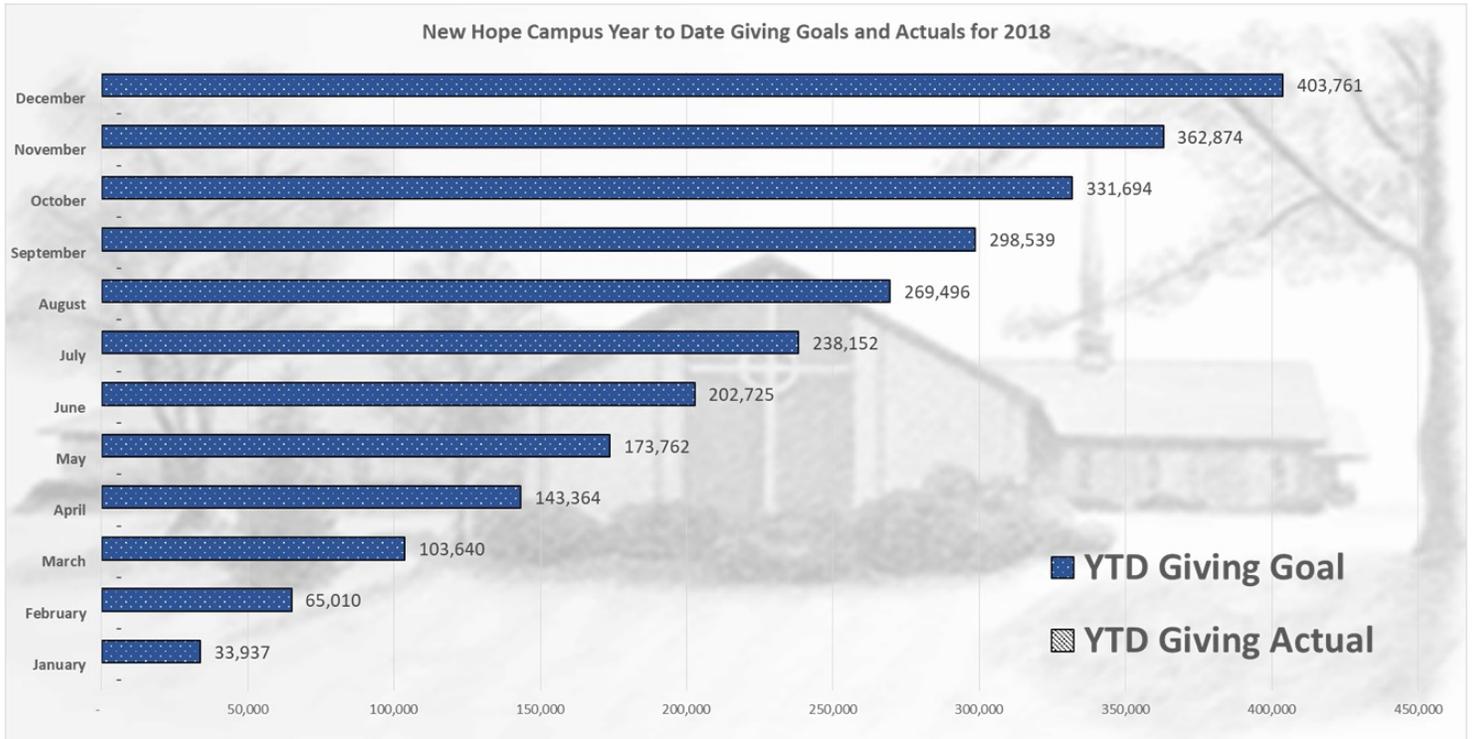
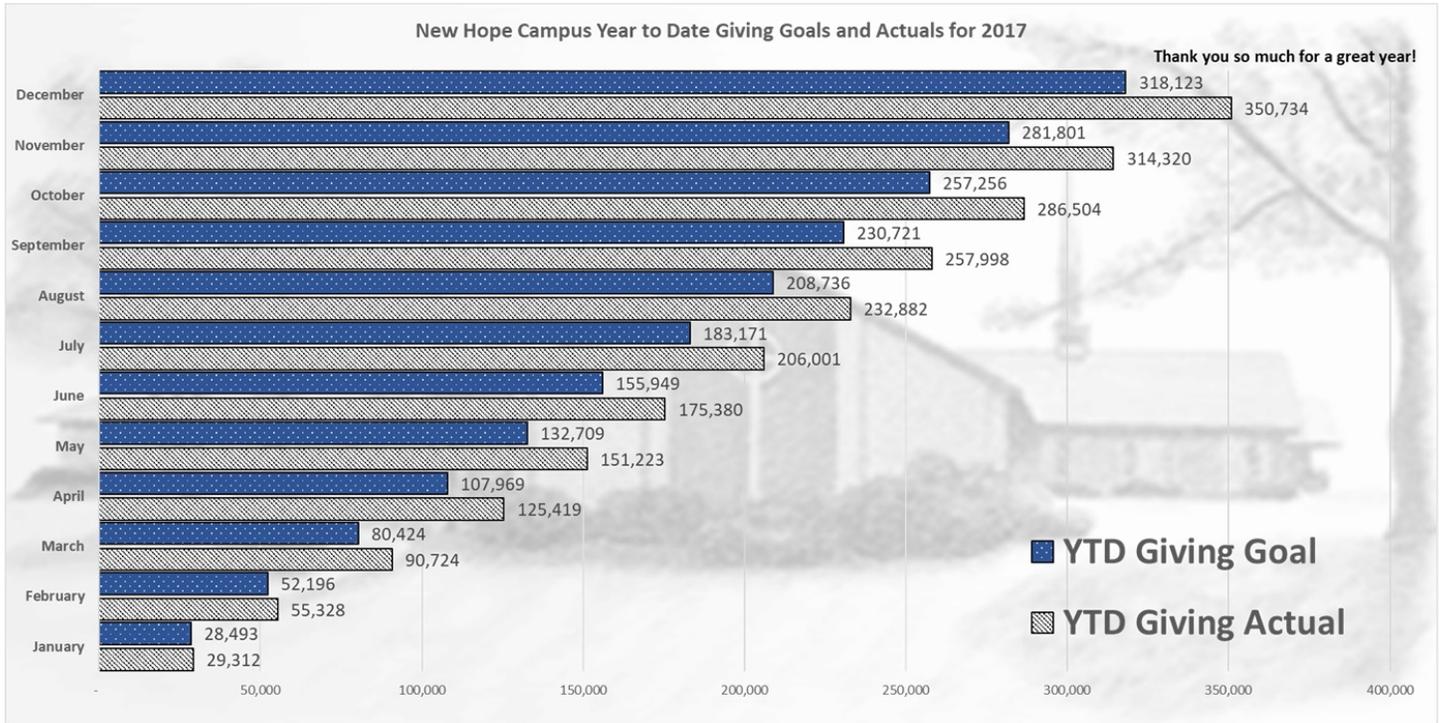
<u>Camp Wesley Woods scholarships:</u>	1,769.40
<u>HOPE MINISTRIES: (Women's Fellowship, cash and in-kind)</u>	1,206.24
<u>Angel Tree: (In-kind)</u>	500.00

<u>NEW HOPE'S PASTOR'S EMERGENCY FUND: (Women's Fellowship)</u>	900.00
<u>OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES: (Jr. BLAST):</u>	130.00
<u>DIAPERS FOR YSS: (Jr. BLAST):</u>	400.00
<u>FRIDAY BACKPACKS: (Jr. BLAST):</u>	500.00
<u>UMAFASHA:</u>	294.34
<u>HOMELESS VETS' CHRISTMAS BASKETS: (Missions)</u>	500.00
<u>YESS:</u>	40.00
<u>BRIDGE'S SMOKING CESSATION: (Missions)</u>	200.00
<u>PUPPY JAKE FUND:</u>	50.00
<u>CHILDREN WORLDWIDE: Uganda Children's Choir</u>	378.55
<u>JOPPA: (VBS, CLT, Missions- cash and in-kind)</u>	1,776.88
<u>BUILDER'S CALL:</u>	50.00
<u>WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPEAKERS: (Big Brothers and Sisters, CASA, Dress for Success, Snacks for Johnston Police, Guardian Project):</u>	427.00
<u>CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER AND SERVICES:</u>	500.00
<u>Apportionments: (10% of total Mission Apportionments askings paid by Missions)</u>	2,088.00

TOTAL **\$55,900.34**

Documents & Donuts

On Sunday, February 18th, the Finance Committee members will host another “Documents and Donuts” after each service. The committee will be sharing information on our current financial condition, the 2018 budget, and information on how to request funds for church related activities. So be sure to grab a donut, a chair and a Finance Committee member and visit for a while.





Contact Denise Hartford, denisehartford@gmail.com, call or text 515-890-1406 for information on how to sign up.

1. Habitat for Humanity Work Day on Saturday, March 17 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
2. Oklahoma Mission Trip for Adults: June 10-15, 2018.

Work as Worship Live Webinar Retreat Feb 23, 7:30 AM - 2:30 pm.

God has a purpose for us on this earth. That calling is to be on mission for God where He has placed us. And since many people spend the majority of their waking hours on the job, we have to stop compartmentalizing life into “spiritual activities” and “work activities.” How are we living examples of the gospel while we work?

You’re invited to the 2017 Work as Worship Retreat, where eleven influential business leaders and pastors will discuss what it looks like to connect faith and work. Taking place as a 1–Day Local Church Retreat on February 23, 2018, 7:30 am - 2:30 am, the live event in Dallas will be web-streamed to over 2,000 churches around the world.

Join Patrick Lencioni (Author, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*), Joel Manby (CEO, SeaWorld), Phil Vischer (Creator, *Veggie-Tales* and Jellyfish Labs), Wendy Davidson (President, US Specialty Channels Kellogg Company), Matt Chandler (Lead Pastor, The Village Church), and others in a day filled with real-life stories, biblical teaching, and practical wisdom that will equip believers in the marketplace to see their work as an opportunity to care for their families, fulfill their calling, and bring glory to God.

New Hope & Johnston River of Life will be a host site for this exciting retreat. Check in will be at 7 am and lunch will be provided. Get signed up early and invite your friends from the office.

Go to, www.workasworshipretreat.org to learn more or register for the Retreat.

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance				
	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
December 24	one morning worship			104
December Eve services				307
December 31	10	47	40	97
January 7	32	95	68	195
January 14	21	98	71	190
January 21	28	83	76	187

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance				
	Sat		Sun	total
Dec 30	36	Dec 31	41	77
Jan 6	56	Jan 7	40	96
Jan 13	35	Jan 14	55	90
Jan 20	46	Jan 21	47	93

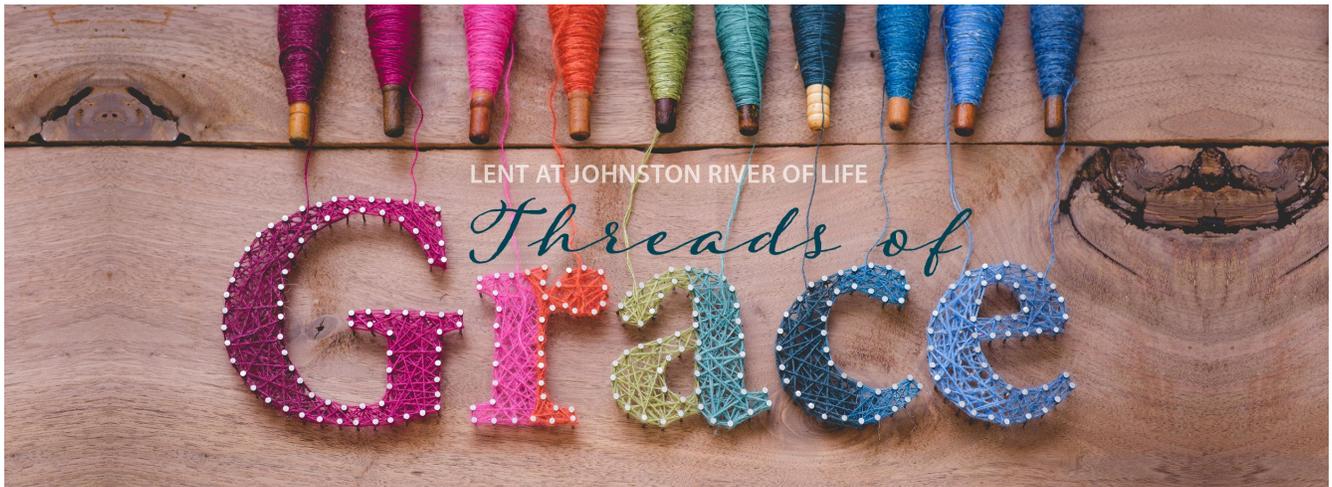


Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

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.



I have been in church all my life. I don't remember when I missed worship for more than a couple weeks. You could say I am drenched in church culture and indoctrinated by an education in theology.

But.....

How easy it is to forget the *Threads of Grace* that hold us in relationship with God. Scripture reminds us that no one is worthy, no one stands righteous before God. We are loved by God before we can do anything to deserve it. We are drawn by God even when we mess up royally. We are anointed and given purpose by God even when we stumble along the road. The Gospel message is filled with hope, but so often we forget or we get distracted by things of the world.

During Lent this year I am excited to be teaching a series that will refresh our understanding of who we are as Christians and United Methodists. Historically what have been the components that made us stand out and still define us today as a people called United Methodists? What was the “method to our madness?”

Maybe you have questions...

What is our understanding of God and the Trinity?

How does Grace work for the unbeliever, the sinner, the devout, or me?

What is our Christian role and responsibility in the world?

How do we embody Christ to the world through our Social Principles?

How does faith and the church make a difference in my family and community?

A couple of things that really set this series apart is that we will begin with a ministry celebration on February 16th 6:00 PM at Crown Point (everyone is invited). At this time we will identify the committee members that will lead us into Chartering as a new Church in September. We will also celebrate all the ministries and volunteers that actively make JROL possible. (That's a lot of people) We will also have special Life groups that will meet during Lent to delve even deeper into the questions. (Make sure to join a group.) Finally, on Easter weekend we will have a special service celebrating our unity and purpose as members of JROL, “Being Christ in Community.”

We have a lot to celebrate, and an exciting year ahead of us. Get involved!

Pastor Craig Ferguson



Celebration of Ministries

Join us as we celebrate Ministries, Teams, & Volunteers. Every single person!!

Meal Provided

February 16, 2018 @ 6pm

Crown Point

6300 Pioneer Parkway, Johnston

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 worship services.

Hosts bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies (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, Office Admin at 278-2097.

Those who serve New Hope in February

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Greeters</u>
4	4	4
11	11	11
18	18	18
25	25	25
<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Lectors</u>
4 Cathy Short	4 Andy Sutton	4 Cathy Cate
11 Vicki O'Brien	11 Charity Johnson	11
18	18	18 Barb Mather
25	25 Ally Sutton	25
<u>Traditional Service Callers</u>	<u>Hosts</u>	<u>Hosts</u>
4 Bob & Marlys Borcharding	4 Glenna Ross	4
11 Norma Sutton	11 Mardi Gras	11 Mardi Gras
18 Bob & Marlys Borcharding	18 Finance Committee	18 Finance Committee
25 Norma Sutton	25	25 Soards family
<u>Office Volunteers</u>	<u>9:30 Computer Support</u>	<u>Money Counters</u>
12 Susan Blank	4 Nancy Monthei	4 Tracy Hoffman, Joe Hoffman, Glenna Ross
19 Marlys Borcharding	11 Kelly Mohrman	11 Clark Howland; Rick Homard, Larry Wood
26 Shirley Johnson	18 Pam Frey	18 Randy Jansen, Patty Nearmyer, Tami Wise
	25 Gary Stubbs	25 John Burrough, Tami Wise, Jerry Kielsmeier
	<u>9:15 Welcome Center</u>	
	4 Jim & Lynn Louk	
	11 Jerry & Linda Kielsmeier	
	18 Neal & Roberta Cave	
	25	



10 biblical ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening — that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).

-The Newsletter Newsletter

February 2018

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 7:00p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	2 Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe	3 11a-4p, F.Hall reserved
4 Holy Communion 9:30-11a, Blood Pressures Boy Scout Recognition 5:30p, Sr. BLAST super bowl party	5 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	6 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	7 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 rd & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6p, Mission Mtg., R.Chapel 6:15-7p, TGIW Family Night 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6-6:30p, Jr. Ringers (2 nd & up) 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	8 7p, Worship Design, Pastor's office	9 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger 1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	10 7:30a, Men's Breakfast
11 Mardi Gras Sunday 10:45a, CLT Appreciation breakfast, R.Chapel 	12 6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	13 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Finance Mtg., R.Chapel	14 Ash Wednesday 6p, Pancake Supper Fundraiser 7p, Ash Wednesday Service 	15 9a, Women's Fellowship, F.Hall, R.Chapel	16 Office Vol: Gayle Easton Deadline for Mar LINK 9a-3p, Needlers 6p, Cub Scouts set up in FLC	17 1p-4p, F.Hall reserved 4-9p, Cub Scouts, FLC
18 1st Sunday in Lent Food Pantry Sunday (offering) Documents & Donuts after each service 4:30p, Lenten Bible Study, R.Chapel	19 President's Day Church Office Closed	20 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	21 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 rd & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST—Childserve 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6-6:30p, Jr. Ringers (2 nd & up) 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	22 8a-5p, F.Hall & FLC reserved 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	23 Office Vol: Norma Sutton 7:30-2:30p, RightNow Conference in FLC & F.Hall 1p, Friday Bible Study, Pizza Ranch	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 4:30p, Lenten Bible Study, R.Chapel	26 6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	27 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice, Sanctuary 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	28 5:15-6p, Puppets (3 rd & up) 5:45-6:15p, Dinner for all 6:15-7p, TGIW Activities 6:15p Pulse 101.7 6p-7p, Sr. BLAST 6:15-7p, Jr. BLAST 6-6:30p, Jr. Ringers (2 nd & up) 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team practice	March 1 9a-Noon Office Vol: Gayle Easton 7p, JROL Mtg., R.Chapel	March 2 9a-Noon Office Vol: Gayle Easton	March 3



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

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



- 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.



For years now I have contemplated the mystery of (dramatic pause) missing socks. The mystery is not that something gets lost or misplaced, that happens all the time. The mystery is that only one sock from a pair will become lost. How does that happen? I wear them at the same time, take them off together, and yet sooner or later one will come up missing.

I've followed the whole process through from start to finish. Clothes hamper to washing machine, washing machine to dryer, dryer to clothes basket, clothes basket to sock drawer. There seems to be no place for error or escape, and yet socks still disappear. Barring a sock eating washing machine or a sock disintegrating dryer (I was suspicious of one old dryer we had), it will always remain a mystery.

Now that the season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 14, I did wonder at one time whether the missing socks were a way of causing me to give up something for Lent. That is Lent, not lint (attempt at humor). The practice of giving up something for Lent traditionally involved abstaining from certain foods, or fasting altogether at certain times. A purpose for such sacrifice is that it helps us focus more on God and our faith. Our hunger or sacrifice can remind us of our need for and dependence on God.

It seems strange that we need to be reminded how great God is and how much God has done for us, but if that's what it takes, I'm willing to give up a few socks. Now, each day when I put on my socks, I try to remember what a good and loving God we have. I just hope nobody notices that my socks don't match.

What reminds you how much God love us?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jon

February Theme-- "For All People"

February 4 Title: "Being All Things to All People" Script.: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

February 11 Title: "A Shining Light for All People" Script.: Mark 9:2-9
2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Wed., February 14 6pm Pancake Supper fundraiser; 7pm Ash Wednesday Service

February 18 Title: "A Covenant for All People" Script.: Genesis 9:8-17

February 25 Title: "A Promise for All People" Script.: Romans 4:13-25



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
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Director of Music: Eric Mohlis
Children's Ministries Coordinator: Charity Johnson
Nursery Attendants: Anita Gaul & Jackie Johnson
Custodian: Chuck VanDyke

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri: 8:45am-4:45pm

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org
Pastor Jon Gaul: jgaul@newhopedsm.org
Pastor Craig Ferguson: craig@newhopedsm.org
Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org
Charity Johnson: cjohnson@newhopedsm.org
Eric Mohlis: emohlis@newhopedsm.org

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Find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

The LINKnewsletter 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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