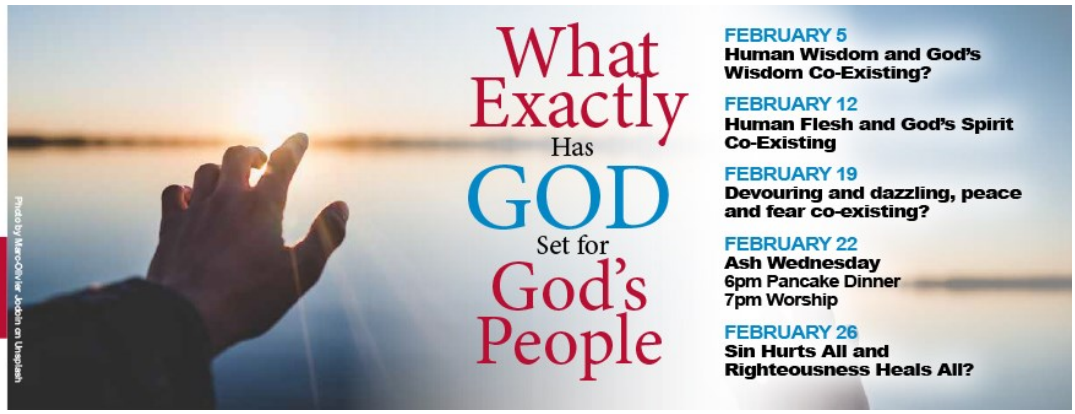
# the link

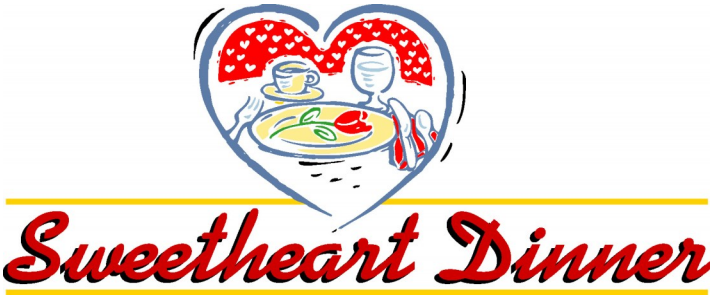
**A monthly publication of**
**New Hope United Methodist Church**

# February 2023

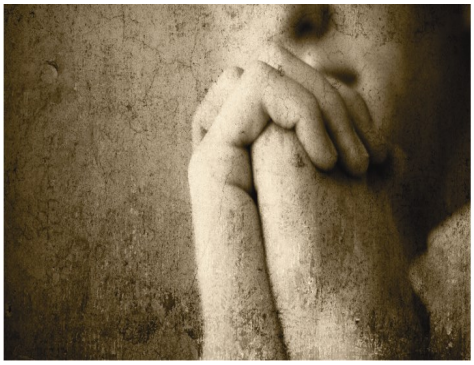


**The Sweetheart Swing,**
**A Family Dance Party**
**Sunday, February 5th ~ 3pm - 4:30pm**
**Neil Cross Family Life Center at New Hope UMC**
**Free event!**
**Refreshments will be available!**
**A dedicated selfie station!**
**Open to Everyone! Join the Fun!**

## *Sweetheart Dinner fundraiser on February 11th at 6pm.*




This year's Sweetheart Dinner fundraiser meal will include your choice of bacon wrapped smoked pork loin, roasted potato, and green beans or Chicken Alfredo with homemade alfredo sauce and garlic bread. Both meals will be served with a salad, bread, and homemade cheesecake with your choice of topping. Pre-registration is required for this event; $20 per couple, $10 per person, and $10 per kid. Plan now to attend this great event! *Please sign up at the Welcome Center before February 5th.*



*"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."*
*—Sally Koch*

*"To love another person is to help them love God."*
*—Søren Kierkegaard*

## Prayer Chain Request

**If you have a prayer chain request, please call Mary Ann**

## Our Prayers for ~

*(Please call the church office if you or your loved one want to be taken off the list.)*

**Healing from Cancer:**
Roberta Cave, Tara McCulley, Linda Lay, Tim Buckner, Evette Burton, David Ruleman, Skylar Freeman, Josephine Demarco, Mary Textor, Johan Gallo

**Healing from Physical Issues:**
Dick Cobb, Donna Hopkins, Bob Krause, Jim Mather, Vicki Ealy, Alexandria Cooley, Allison, Larry Hulse, Karen Novotny, Freda Ruleman, Jack Habick, Theresa Faber, Jennifer

**Those Who Are in Rehabilitation and Nursing Care:** Jan Davisson, Gayle Easton, Bev O'Brien

**Military:** Devan Stanton, Hunter Schmidt, Joshua Ruleman, Rece Haugland, Jacob Gerlach

We were honored to celebrate Pastor Lilian on her birthday, January 15th! All three worship services sang "Happy Birthday" to her. And, the hosts provided cupcakes for fellowship time.

Please join **Ron & Clarice Rubek** after worship services on Sunday, February 12th as they provide refreshments in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

## *Please Welcome Our New Member to our Church Family!*

***Darlington Blayon***, 4609 Hubbell Ave., Des Moines, IA 50317, 515-783-8137, darlingtonblayon@gmail.com.
Kirk Seagren is his shepherd.
Darlington transferred to New Hope UMC from J J POWELL Memorial UMC, Liberia.
He attends the 10:45 service where you will see him serving his church by volunteering as a Lector. Welcome, Darlington!

**Our Sympathy** to the family and friends of Jim Smith for his passing. Jim and his late wife, Norma, were members of New Hope UMC for 54 years.

**Our Sympathy** to Tim & Kristin Welter and family on the passing of Kristin's brother, Matthew Ahlbrecht.

**Our Sympathy** to David & Vicki O'Brien on the passing of Vicki's Uncle Jerry and sympathy for their family friend, Danny Remily, on the passing of his wife and daughter.

**Our Sympathy** to Cathy & Joe Short and family on the passing of Cathy's mother, Sharon Hanson.

**Our Sympathy** to Theresa Flickinger and family on the passing of her husband, Elmer Flickinger.

**Our Sympathy** to Doug and Kathy Fairchild and family on the passing of Doug's father, Larry Fairchild.

**Our Sympathy** to Marston Conner on the passing of his mother, Ashley Conner.

## The second half of our winter Bible study will begin February 1st at 1pm

There is a change of meeting days. We are going to now meet on ***Wednesdays.***

The study is called, "How to Build Your Life on God's Word." We start off with readings from Timothy.

If you didn't take part in the first part, you can still join us for the second part. It is a six-week study open to men and women. Lots of great discussion on how the Bible guides us.

We hope you can join us! Please send questions to armentabu@ gmail.com.

Bible Study Leaders ~ Armenta Buckingham and Dawn Bachelder

## Souper Bowl ~ February 5th & 12th

We are excited to be bringing you a SOUPER Bowl Food Drive to benefit Des Moines Area Religious Counsel pantries in our area. We don't know which teams are going to play in Super Bowl LVII, but we do know one thing... **WE can ALL get in the GAME to tackle hunger in our community!**

We are asking you to join us by bringing a nonperishable food/personal care item (or 50) on **Sunday, February 5th** and/or **Sunday, February 12th** to score a point for the team of your choice in New Hope's version of Super Bowl LVII.

Visit the END ZONE table in the main hallway before or after service on either of those two Sundays with your donation!

**How will it work?** Each item you donate counts as1 point for the team of your choice! We will gladly accept monetary donations as well - each $1 will count as 1 point! Points will be verified by the refs at halftime (after services end on February 5th). 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 12th.

**Expired items will be a TURNOVER and point for the other team, so check those dates before you donate**!

***Top 3 Most Needed Items:***

Peanut Butter
Canned fruits in 100% juice
Whole Grain Cereals

***Other suggested donations:***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Baby food | Oatmeal | Toilet Paper |
| Diapers and Wipes | Brown/white rice | Cleaning Supplies |
| Spices | Quinoa | Toothbrushes / Toothpaste |
| Honey | Pasta | Shampoo / Conditioner |
| Dried fruits | Pasta sauce | Soaps |
| Olive oil | Canned soups/stews/chili | Laundry |
| Unsalted nuts | Canned chicken, beef, fish | Dish Soap |

## Ash Wednesday ~ Wednesday, February 22nd

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me"* (Psalm 51:10).

### Pancake Supper at 6:00 pm.

Free-Will Offering. Prepared and Served by Sr. High BLAST.
Help Sr. High BLAST in raising money for their summer mission trip.

### Worship at 7:00 pm

"*God's Story and Church's Story"* - led by Confirmation Class

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

## Children's Ministry Updates by Jackie Johnson, Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515)710-3239

**Sunday School Updates ~** Sunday School classes continue to be held during the 9:30 service using the Celebrate Wonder curriculum. We have just started Session 4 and our teachers this session are Nick Bogue, Sherri Bogue, and Will Rock. Children begin service with their families and exit to Sunday School after the Children's Message. Sunday School is open to PreK-7th grade students on a weekly or drop-in basis.

We are finishing our current unit this month and will be moving into our next at the end of the month. The new unit will surround Luke 11:9, *"And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you."* The faith word for the unit we will be starting is **LENT**.

Connect with the things our Sunday School class is talking about: Allow yourself to WONDER…. If you weren't able to tell someone you loved them, how could you show them? Allow yourself to DO….Show your love for 3 people this week, without using the words I love you! Pray… Dear God, Help us share the LOVE you have for us with others, AMEN.

January 22nd Children's Message led by Jackie Johnson, Children & Youth Ministries Coord.

We are still in need of a couple of volunteers for Session 5 and 6 of Sunday School this year! Your commitment would be 5 weeks in a row during the 9:30 service and you would have a teaching partner.
You can sign up alone, but you are also welcome you to volunteer with a friend!

**Session 5: 2/19 - 3/26** (No lesson on 2/19 due to Faith Friends brunch and No Sunday School on 3/12 for Spring Break)

**Session 6: 4/2 - 4/30**

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing, please let Jackie know.

## Can You Help Us Build Intergenerational Connections At New Hope?

Please consider signing up to be a "Faith Friend" to one of our youth members in the congregation. Additional information and sign up sheets are in fellowship hall under the youth bulletin board.

After signing up: you will fill out a getting to know you form, be background checked, and then paired with a child that we think would be a good fit! Then, you will get to work building a relationship with your assigned friend by corresponding through the mail and attending church sponsored events that will help you get to know your friend better. There will be no additional expectation and one on one outings are prohibited based on our Safe Sanctuary polices at New Hope.

**Our first two *Faith Friends* events:**

**Sunday, February 19th** we will host a getting to know you brunch for the participants in this ministry. This will be held during the typical Sunday School slot, 9:30-10:30am.

**Wednesday, May 10th** you are invited and encouraged to attend our final Wednesday evening program of the year. We will be hosting a talent show and family fun night event.

**TGIW Midweek Meetup Update ~** The New Year is off to a great start in our TGIW Midweek Meetup children's program!

On January 4th, all of our Wednesday night programs volunteered at Meals From The Heartland. During our two-hour shift, with the help of the other volunteer groups on site that evening, we packaged over 3,600 meals! The next week, Pam Frey prepared a sample of the meals we packaged so the kids could taste test.

Early in the month, we also learned about "The Mysterious Prophet" John the Baptist and blind taste tested honey and chocolate covered locusts (…really just raisins).

We finished the month with a lesson about "Jesus and The Humongous Picnic, the story of feeding the 5,000."
***We are ready for a fun-filled February!***

## Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm- Dinner
6:30-7:30pm – Breakout Times (PreK-5th, Jr. and Sr. BLAST)
7:30-8pm- Puppets *3rd Grade and up

## *Looking Ahead:*

2/1 – Service First, All Group Service Project – We will be creating Valentine's door décor and cards for Bishop Drumm care center
2/8 - Lesson, All about LOVE
2/15 - Lesson, Through the Roof
2/22 - No Wednesday night programs, due to Ash Wednesday

## February Meal Menu:

February 1- Hot dogs/chili dogs, and macaroni and cheese
February 8- Chicken and hash brown casserole
February 15- Spaghetti, green beans and garlic bread
February 22- **No TGIW programs**, Sr. BLAST is hosting pancake feed fundraiser for Ash Wednesday services

*A free-will donation is collected weekly to help offset the cost of the weekly meals. A suggested giving amount is $5 per person or $20 per family, but there is no set fee.*
Thank you to our volunteers who prepare and serve the weekly meals during TGIW Midweek Meetup! We appreciate the gift of your time and talents! The meal volunteers for February are - Chris and Jenn Higdon, Pam Frey and Patty Nearmyer.

Join Us For An Out Of This World

VBS Experience!

New Hope Vacation Bible School
July 9—July 12
5:30-6pm Meal
6-8pm Program

Register here: https://forms.gle/wok4BxV3B84d49ud7
Volunteers needed! Consider signing on for a STELLAR mission to shine the light of Jesus today!
Contact Jackie Johnson jackie@newhopedsm.org (515)710-3239 to accept your mission today!

## Jr. BLAST ~ 6th-8th graders

In the absence of leaders of Jr. BLAST, our Sr. BLAST group has welcomed Jr. BLAST into their gatherings! THANK YOU to Chris Higdon and Pam Frey for their flexibility and to the Sr. BLAST youth for being understanding of this change.

That said, we are still looking for leaders that would specifically oversee the Jr. BLAST age group on Wednesday nights. If you are interested in serving our Church in this way, please reach out to Jackie at jackie@newhopedsm.org for more information.

All 6th -8th Graders in the church (and their friends) are welcome to join us at New Hope weekly on Wednesday evenings during the school year for fun and fellowship! A meal is served from 6-6:30pm and there are weekly activities 6:30-7:30pm.

## Sr. BLAST ~ 9th - 12th graders (*BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org*):

Chris Higdon (*Supervising Adult*), Pam Frey (*Supervising Adult*), McKayla Nearmyer (*Supervising Adult*), Brianna Johnson (*Volunteering Adult*), Arianna Bernal (*Volunteering Adult*). and Amanda Soards (*Volunteering Adult*).

We are excited to announce that this year BLAST will be doing a Staycation Mission Trip this Summer! **We will be doing our Staycation starting on Monday, June 12th and ending with Hand of Luke event on Wednesday, June 14th.**

For our Staycation, we will be doing several service projects around Des Moines. Then we will send the kids home after working all day to get cleaned up. Then we will meet back at the Church for Dinner and evening activities.

We have a very busy February. Starting with our **Sweetheart Dinner fundraiser on February 11th at 6pm.** This year's Sweetheart Dinner fundraiser meal will include your choice of bacon wrapped smoked pork loin, roasted potato, and green beans or Chicken Alfredo with homemade alfredo sauce and garlic bread. Both meals will be served with a salad, bread, and homemade cheesecake with your choice of topping. Pre-registration is required for this event; $20 per couple, $10 per person, and $10 per kid. Plan now to attend this great event! Please sign up at the Welcome Center before February 5th.

Additionally, we then have our annual **Super Bowl party on Sunday, February 12th and annual BLAST Lock-In on Friday, February 17th.** February is busy; but it will be fun and hopefully we will raise money for our Staycation event this summer.

**Who is ready to eat pancakes? Don't forget that we are serving "*all you can eat*" pancakes on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd at 5pm. This is before the New Hope's 7pm Ash Wednesday service.**

Photos are from our recent BLAST Christmas party.

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

**Feb. 1st @ 6pm** ~ **T**hank **G**od for **BLAST D**iscussion
**Feb. 8th @ 6pm** ~ **T**hank **G**od for **BLAST D**iscussion
**Feb. 11th @ 5pm** ~ New Hope Sweetheart Dinner
**Feb. 12th @ 5 pm** ~ Super Bowl Party
**Feb. 15th @ 6pm** ~ **T**hank **G**od for **BLAST D**iscussion
**Feb. 17th @ 9pm** ~ BLAST Lock-In
**Feb. 22nd @ 6pm** ~ Ash Wednesday Pancake Feed

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

ADULT Sunday School

## Join us!

**9:30 a.m.** in the Ruby Chapel using "Wired Word" curriculum.

## Blood Pressure Check

**Next check is on February 5th 9:30a in the Narthex.**

## 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.

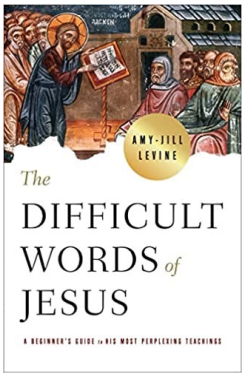
**Stroke Club of Iowa**
3rd Tuesday of the month (April - September) at 7 p.m.
Questions? Contact Sue Toale Knapp, 515-255-0366, stktek1@gmail.com.
Online support group: http://www.strokenetwork.org/

Care Ministry Team

## Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets quarterly. Next meeting is on **Thurs., March 9th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.**
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.




## Bible Study ~ "Parables of Jesus"

Our 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m. Bible Study at Banny's home. There will be no meeting in December. We will meet on **February 16th** with Dr. Levine's "Difficult Words of Jesus". Please contact Pastor Lilian of plan to attend, Lilian@newhopedsm.org.

## New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will meet on **Friday, February 17th, 9 am - 3 pm** in the north classroom. Lunch at Panera.

Bring your sewing machine, tools and thread to sew a lap quilt of your choosing for the Care Team. There is one sewing machine available at church if yours is not portable. We have kits available to sew both Little Dresses and Little Britches.

There are also non-sewing jobs to do.

Question: Contact Diane Densmore 515-270-1974 or Jody Rains 515-238-4051.

The picture was taken in Pastor Lilian's home area of the Philippines of a few of the 100 young ladies who received a Days for Girls feminine hygiene kit that the Needlers made.

## United Women In Faith

We would like to ***thank all*** who have contributed to our Globe Bank, on the first Sunday of the month. We contributed $446.51 to the Johnston Food Bank. Our Globe will be out again **Sunday, February 5th.**

**Our next Meeting will be February 16th at 9:30 am.** We will have a fun and entertaining time. All women are invited.

Thank you, Susan Clark, 515-964-5119, suespruce@aol.com.

## MISSION NEWS ~ Marilyn Osborn, Chair of Mission Committee

### *YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS*

Jolene Harlow and Marilyn Osborn met with owners of Dogpatch Urban Gardens and members of other churches to discuss the Grand Opening of the **Free Little Food Pantry** in the little red barn. The Grand Opening will be coming soon – watch for details.

Remember to bring non-perishable food items (refer to the list below) each Sunday to put on our pantry shelf for delivery to the Free Little Food Pantry located in our Meredith Drive community.
Sign up for a Monday to deliver the 30 food items you chose from our pantry shelf. There is a sign-up sheet on the pantry shelf. If you have questions, please contact Jolene Harlow: 515-490-8813 or email at rdharlow@earthlink.net

**Winter Pantry Suggestions:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hot Chocolate Mix | Apple Cider mix packets |
| Dry Soup mixes | Dry gravy mix |
| Bread/crackers | Powdered milk |
| Tea Bags | Cornbread mix |
| Muffin mix | Ramen Noodle packs |
| Cup O' Soup | Dry Instant Soups |
| Instant Mashed Potatoes | Rice and boxed/bagged rice sides |
| Boxed meals (hamburger or tuna) | Tuna/Salmon in pouches |
| Bouillon (chicken, beef, ham or vegetable) | Mac N Cheese |
| Boxed/bagged noodle sides | Cereal/cereal bars/Pop tarts |

Seasonings (salt, pepper, Basil, Oregano, taco seasoning, etc.)
Snacks (fruit N nut mix, snack bars, small bags of Carmel corn, Chex mix, potato chips, corn chips, pretzels, microwave popcorn, peanuts, cookies, peanut butter and crackers, etc.)
Oatmeal and flavored oatmeal packets, hot cereal (Cream of Wheat, Coco Wheat)
Dried fruits (Raisins, Craisins, Banana chips, Rollups, etc.)
Dried beans (if you do meal bags try a bag of beans with enough ham broth bouillon to add flavor and a cornbread mix)
Pasta (Rotini, macaroni, spaghetti, egg noodles, etc.)
Barley (comes in a box, for adding to soups and stews)
Small bags/boxes of flour, cornmeal, sugan, brown sugar, Bisquick, pancake mix
Presweetened Koolaid packets (warmed spiced lemonade is wonderful on a cold night)

**In 2023 monthly donations will be given to:** Bidwell Riverside, Missionary Dr. Mefor, Urbandale Food Pantry, DMARC Food Bank, Women at the Well, African Immigrant and Refugee Transition Services (AIRTS), and Johnston Partnership.

**Fill the Red Barrel**: Contributing to the red barrel is as easy as buying a few extra cans of food while you shop and bringing them to church with you. All food and personal care items collected by the Red Barrel Program goes to the DMARC Food Pantry Network. For a list of most needed items, please click on: https://www.dmarcunited.org
If you would rather give a monetary donation, please make your check out to New Hope UMC and include "Food Pantry" in the memo line and place your check with the offering.

**Grain Bin:** When the Grain Bin is full, the donations will be given to Johnston Partnership, Bidwell Riverside and the Urbandale Food Pantry, on a rotation schedule.

## Scout Ministries, February 12th

We will celebrate both Boy and Girl Scouts in our congregation on Sunday, February 12th. Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Is your child a new Girl Scout, Cub Scout, or Scouts BSA participant? Please let Jackie Johnson know, 515-710-3239 or jackie@newhopedsm.org, so we can update our church records and include you in future Scout recognition opportunities.

## Hand of Luke ~ Tuesday, February 14, 2023

This is our monthly ministry of preparing a meal for the Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

Patrice Webber and Arlene Dabill lead this ministry. We are continuing to utilize your monetary donations to purchase the majority of the food for the monthly meal. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

The menu will be Italian meatball sandwiches, green beans, potato chips and Valentine's decorated cupcakes.

The Confirmation students and Pastor Lilian will be serving at the shelter.

**Seven volunteers are needed to make 3 dozen unfrosted cupcakes each. Please bring the cupcakes in containers that do not need to be returned.**

If you are interested in this opportunity, you may sign up using the following link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044DACA722A4FE3-holtuesday1. You may also contact Arlene Dabill at dabill49@aol.com or (515) 321-2059 to volunteer.

## 2023 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 $45 plus $3.15 tax for a total of $48.15.**

You may take your flowers home after the 10:45 service.

## Paddling through Lent — and life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and keep paddling!

Greetings on the New Year!

I've got a lot of important and good news to cover, so please make yourself comfortable.

New Hope had many successes in 2022! Jackie Johnson was hired and is now revitalizing our Christian Education Program. We have had several very successful community events that drew a large response from our community. Our fundraisers that support our missions and building repair funds are moving toward rebounding to pre-Covid levels. Our online service continues to touch those in need of Christ's word. We've updated several furnaces and protected our roof with a new gutter system. Our Hand of Luke is feeding 225 meals a month to the homeless. So many things to celebrate. This only happens because of your generosity of your time, talents, and resources. Your support makes a difference to our members and our community. Many, many thanks for all the support.

The new year is also a time when New Hope's leadership tries to look into the murky future. As a church (and society) we are coming to grips with our new Covid normal. Learning to cope with the new normal helps us to begin the recovery from the disruption of the last two and half years. Coping leads to hope. Hope leads to a great future.

During Covid, attendance across most denominations suffered. New Hope did not escape this trend. The lower attendance across all services resulted in us missing our giving goals for 2022. When we combine the effects of inflation, 2022 resulted in expenses exceeding giving by 4%. While not ideal, we must keep in mind that churches are non-profit. The shortfall was covered by our operating reserves.

Unaddressed long-term lower attendance begins to strain our ability to sustain a budget to meet the needs of our programs and maintain a facility of our size. 2023 will be as challenging as 2022 and will most likely require the use of reserves to meet the needs. However, the long-term use of reserves to supplement our budget is not sustainable.

But do not despair! There is good news!

As a trend though all denominations, our contemporary service at 9:30 am has been the slowest to regain attendance. This compelled a group of 9:30 attendees to meet several times this fall and winter to identify growth opportunities. The group identified several opportunities (Worship resources, technology, marketing, music, staff resources, visitors etc.). As the partial list shows, it soon became clear these opportunities affect all services. Because of the need for additional members from other services, the New Hope Committee for Growth was formed at the January 8th, 2023, meeting. Shortly, the committee will begin to recruit additional members from all services to serve on subcommittees that will help address identified opportunities and drive the changes that will help us grow our church.

There will be long term goals developed along with specific actions to reach those goals. Along the way little changes can be made that will build the foundation not only for growth, but for a sustainable path to ensure that we repeat our successes. This process will require us all to be patient, open and flexible to new ideas as we find our path forward.

As the Committee for Growth moves forward, it will be important to remember what makes New Hope, New Hope. Special attention will be paid to the results of our CAT survey, where our members were clear about our direction. Growth will not be for the sake of growth, but intentional so that we continue to fulfill our vision of "Following Christ, inspiring minds, loving hearts, serving hands and transforming communities."

Earlier I gave thanks for your time, talents, and resources that led to our past successes. Now I'm giving thanks in advance for your future gifts of time, talents, and resources as we move together toward a growing and vibrant community of faith. A future that we can share with ourselves and our community.

With many thanks and in peace,

Robin Harlow

# The Stewardship and Finance Committee has completed the 2023 Operating Budget.

The 2023 Budget was reviewed and approved by the Administrative Council on January 26th, 2023.

New Hope's detailed 2023 Operating Budget is available in the hanging folder outside Nancy's office.
The Stewardship and Finance Committee will be hosting a "Document and Donuts" on February 19th, 2023, to provide additional information and to answer any questions you may have.

The congregation's response to the 2023 Pledge Drive was amazing and once again demonstrated your generosity and commitment to our mission. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee leadership would like to thank the members that serve on the Committee for their time and talents as we worked through the budget process during these chaotic times. With uneven attendance and soaring inflation, it is easy to focus on what we don't have, rather than focusing on the great abundance of what we do have. This process takes discussion and discernment.

In the end, we strive to develop a budget that reflects New Hope's Mission of:
***Following Christ, inspiring minds, loving hearts, serving hands, and transforming communities.***

It is our hope that you will agree that this budget reflects New Hope's Mission.

Few highlights from the budget:
1. Based on pledge responses, we have increased our Envelopes and Offerings by 5.5%
2. Continue to match from our operating budget dollar for dollar to money raised from Mission fundraising.
3. Fully fund the Children's and Youth Coordinator Position.
4. Covers the 20% increase in our insurance coverage. This expense jumped approximately $2,000.
5. Providing funding to assist the 9:30 service in supplementing the Praise Band talent pool.
6. Fully fund our amazing T.G.I.W. program.

As a reminder, November is only the start of the pledge drive. We have strived to offer a year-round stewardship program that encourages pledging at any point during the year. If you forgot to submit your pledge or are now moved to submit one, the pledge pamphlets are available at the Welcome Center's counter. For those on electronic giving, the pamphlet can also be used to adjust your giving anytime during the year. Pledges and adjustments to giving can be either dropped in the offering plate or given to Nancy in the office.

We will be making a slight change to our giving chart that is provided in the LINK each month. Once our books are closed for each month, we will update this chart to reflect not only where we came in at for the month but will also attempt to project where we might finish the year at. The chart will then be distributed in the Sunday bulletin and posted to the TV announcements. The Link will continue to publish the chart.
We feel that providing this information sooner will allow us as a congregation to better respond to inflationary pressures and other challenges we might confront.

The UMC's Finance Guidelines asks, "What would a congregation of grace-filled disciples of Christ, engaged in the world, look like…?" In a loud and joyful voice we all should answer NEW HOPE!

Again, thank you very much for your time, talents, and resources.

In Peace,

Stewardship and Finance Committee

# East Entrance Addition ~ Financial Update

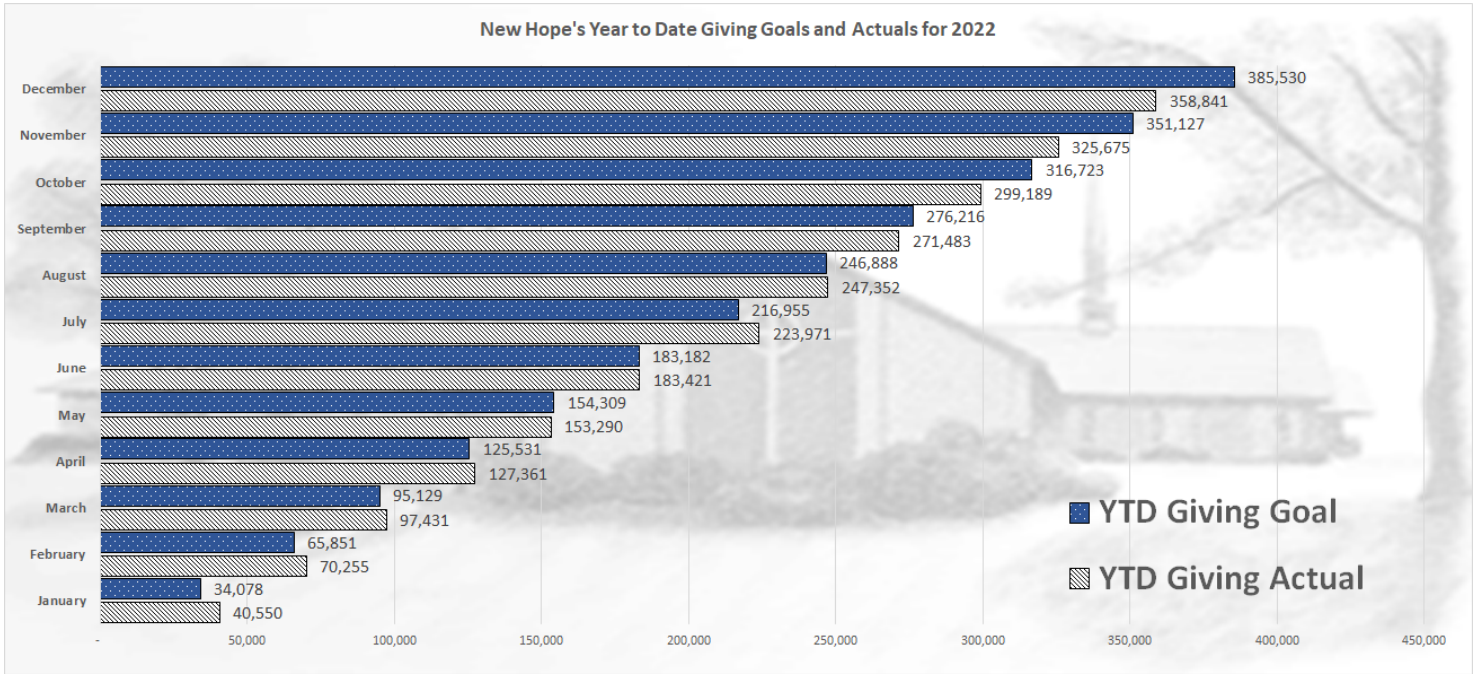
Donations of $650 were received in the month of January (as of 01/25/23) to pay down our principal balance. We continue to make our monthly P&I payment to reduce our liability.
As of January 25th, $79,797.66 has been donated. This results in a current loan balance of $52,409.31.

We appreciate all of you who have made monthly pledges to this project until fully paid. All of your donations, regardless the amount, was and is, greatly appreciated!

When donating to this project always write in the memo line of your check "East Entrance Addition". Thank you for your generosity and your involvement in our church!

John Rains
East Entrance Addition
Task Force, Chair

*Thank You for your Financial Support*



New Hope wants to remind you that we offer online giving as a way to automate your offering.
To setup online giving go to www.newhopedsm.org and click on the **Gifts** tab. This will direct you securely to set up an automatic donation. Please contact the church office for additional information.

## *CHURCH/ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL*

**RESPONSIBILITIES/PURPOSE:** Provides for planning and implementing programs of nurtures, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church with various ministry committees.
Provides for the administration of the organization and temporal life.
Envisions, plans, implements, and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church.
Amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the Charge Conference. Reviews the membership of the local church.
Fills interim vacancies occurring among lay officers between sessions of Annual Charge Conference as recommended by Leadership and Nominations Committee.
Establishes the budget on recommendation of the Stewardship and Finance Committee and ensure adequate provision for the financial needs of the church.
Recommends to the Charge Conference the salary and other renumeration of the pastor and staff members after receiving recommendations from SPPRC. (Source: 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church)

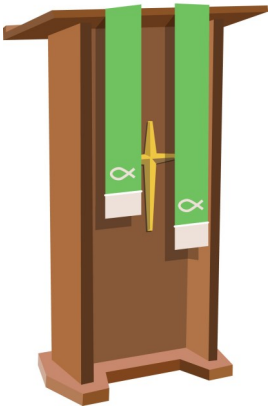
**MONTHLY TASKS**

| **Meets every FOURTH THURSDAY of each month at 6:30** | **TASKS** |
|---|---|
| **January** | *Reviews Mission and Vision |
| **February-March** | *Reviews Strategic Priorities<br>*Conducts All-Officers Training |
| **April** | *Reviews Ministry Goals submitted at Annual Charge Conference |
| **May -June -** | *Delegate ministry goals to various committees/tasks forces. |
| **July -August** | *Works with Special Projects/Tasks Forces |
| **September** | *Prepares for Annual Charge Conference.<br>*Approves SPPRC Pastoral Support Recommendation. |
| **October** | *Reviews ministry reports of various groups.<br>*Approves SPPRC Staff Salaries. |
| **November** | *Approves Nominations Recommendation for next year's Leadership |
| **December** | *Approves Next Year's Budget as submitted by Stewardship and Finance |

## Veterans Helping Veterans

We will be having a Veterans breakfast at **8:30am on Saturday, March 18th.** This is open to all veterans, their spouses, and supporters. If you have any questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com.

The January Veterans breakfast held with speaker Sara Maniscalo Robinson of the non-profit foundation, The Iowa Veterans' Perspective. She videos Veterans and their stories. Her work can be seen at the Iowa Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge and on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, www.vetstories.org.



*Inquiring minds want to know:*

### Why are the banners and paraments different colors throughout the year?

The colors symbolize the seasons of the liturgical calendar the United Methodist church follows.

The liturgical colors are: Advent, purple or blue; Christmas, white; Season after Epiphany, white for the first and last Sundays and green at other times; Lent, purple; Easter, white until the day of Pentecost and red on that day; Season after Pentecost, white for the first and last Sundays and for All Saints Day and green at other times.

If you'd like to see the calendar the Altar Guild follows please ask Pam Frey, Diane Densmore or Carolyn Burrough. Any other questions, please ask!

## "Christmas in June"

Craft Show Presented by United Women in Faith
When: Saturday, June 10, 2023
Time: 9am – 3pm

United Women in Faith (UWF) is sponsoring an arts and craft show in June.
There will be many different artists at this event.
UWF will have a holiday table as well.
Save your gently used Christmas or any holiday decorations to donate – more details on that later.
Are you interested in having a booth at this event to display your works of art?
Please contact Glenna Ross glenna25@hotmail.com.
The funds from this event will go to supporting our UWF missions in our community.
Please save the date so you can come and support our local artists.

# February 2023

**Sunday morning services are: 8:30, 9:30 and 10:45**
Nursery at 8:30 & 9:30

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 1p, Bible Study<br>6p, Confirmation Class<br>TGIW ~<br>6:00-6:30 Meal Served<br>6:30-7:30 SWAG, Jr. BLAST, Sr. BLAST<br>7:30a, Puppets<br>6:00p, Chancel Choir<br>7:00p, Praise Band practice | 2<br>6:30p, Worship Mtg at church | 3 | 4<br>8:30a, Men's Breakfast at church<br>4p-7p, F.Hall reserved (Doris Pught) |
| 5 Communion<br>Souper Bowl<br>9:30a, Sunday School<br>9:30a - 11a, Blood Pressure<br>10:30a, New Hope Committee for Growth<br>3-4:30p, Sweetheart Swing family event | 6<br>6:30p, Girl Scouts<br>7:00p, Trustees Mtg. | 7<br>9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel<br>Noon, AA, R.Chapel<br>6:30p, SPRC Meeting | 8 1p, Bible Study<br>TGIW ~<br>6:00-6:30 Meal Served<br>6:30-7:30 SWAG, Jr. BLAST, Sr. BLAST<br>7:30a, Puppets<br>6:00p, Chancel Choir<br>7:00p, Praise Band practice | 9 | 10 | 11<br>6p, Sweetheart dinner by Sr. BLAST |
| 12<br>Scout Ministries Sunday<br>Souper Bowl<br>9:30a, Sunday School | 13 | 14<br>9:30a, Al-Anon, F.Hall<br>Noon, AA, R.Chapel<br>3:30p, Hand of Luke | 15 1p, Bible Study<br>6p, Confirmation Class<br>TGIW<br>6:00-6:30 Meal Served<br>6:30-7:30 SWAG, Jr. BLAST, Sr. BLAST<br>7:30a, Puppets<br>6:00p, Chancel Choir<br>7:00p, Praise Band practice | 16<br>9:30a, United Women in Faith<br>7p, Bible Study at Banny's | 17<br>9a-3p, Needlers at church<br>Youth Lock In | 18 |
| 19<br>No Sunday School<br>9:30a, Intergenerational Brunch | 20<br>6:30p, Girl Scouts | 21 *Deadline for March LINK*<br>9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel<br>Noon, AA, R.Chapel<br>6:30p, Finance Mtg | 22 1p, Bible Study<br>Ash Wednesday<br>6p, Sr. BLAST Pancake Supper<br>7p, Worship service | 23<br>6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg. | 24<br>**Church Office Closed** | 25<br>10a, F.Hall reserved by McKayla Nearmeyer |
| 26 1st Sunday in Lent<br>9:30a, Sunday School | 27 | 28<br>9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel<br>Noon, AA, R.Chapel | | | | |

**Please sign up to help with the worship services:** Greeters, Lectors, and Ushers.
Refreshments will be provided after the 9:30 and 10:45 services. Hosts are needed and a sign up sheet is in the kitchen.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

1 Nicole Wilson
2 Kay Goff, Harrison Fiala, Violet Fiala
3 Ron Rubek
5 Dawn Pritchard
6 Dale Monthei, Linda Kielsmeier, Penny Dolberg
7 Sandy Wilges
9 Freda Ruleman, Ben Higdon
10 Clark Howland
11 Steve Sutton
12 Theresa Flickinger
16 Scott Rowland, Corey Miller
17 Vicki Hover
18 Ava Henry, Linda Sesker, Ellie Cossa
19 Susan Egger, Makenna Meyer
20 Kim Trillet, Derek Marsh
22 Kristi Miller, Nathan Roff, Julie Hartung
23 Lyle Pritchard
24 Marte Carlson
25 Earl Lewis
27 Clarissa Short, Steven Schutter
28 John Huber
29 Doris Pugh

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

9: Ron & Clarice Rubek
24: Larry & Kim Buske
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.*

NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP with us

## Sunday Morning Worship Services

8:30 & 10:45: Traditional Services in the Sanctuary
9:30: Contemporary Service in the Family Life Center

We continue to offer the Sunday morning Parking Lot Radio Feed and also the Pre-Recorded Worship Services that can be found on the church Facebook page.

## Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lilian Gallo Seagren
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Children & Youth Ministries Coord.: Jackie Johnson
Director of Music: Preshia Paulding
Nursery Attendants: Kris Wakeman, Brianna Johnson, Amanda Soards

## E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org
Pastor Lilian Gallo Seagren: Lilian@newhopedsm.org
Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org
Jackie Johnson: jackie@newhopedsm.org
Preshia Paulding: preshia@newhopedsm.org

## Find Us ~ 4525 Beaver Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310

(515) 278-2097 www.newhopedsm.org
Find us on facebook!

The LINK newsletter is a monthly publication.
Editor: Nancy Monthei; Reporters: New Hope Church family. Please contact the church office at 515-278-2097 if you have a change in address or would like to be taken off the LINK mailing list.

**Following Christ, inspiring minds, loving hearts, serving hands and transforming communities.**

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