

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United
Methodist Church

March 2016

MARCH AT NEW HOPE UMC

LISTENING To God

- Mar. 6 "Listening to Your Heart"
- Mar. 13 "Listening to Directions"
- Mar. 20 "Listening to the Stones"
- Mar. 27 "Listening to the Angels"



NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DEFYING GRAVITY

OVERCOME THE THINGS
THAT HOLD YOU DOWN

LENT 2016

WORSHIP
Saturdays 5pm &
Sundays 10am
Beaver Creek Elementary

Johnston
River of Life

JohnstonRiverOfLife.org



March 19 & 20. *Palm Services* at Johnston River of Life

March 20. *Palm Sunday* at New Hope UMC. Children's Palm parade: 9:30 & 10:45. We will lead the children into service, and then they may sit with families.

Thurs., March 24. *Maundy Thursday Drama*, 7:00pm at New Hope UMC. Maundy Thursday Drama will be one of the most impactful events of the year. Expect dramatic

scenes, music, communion, and ending with the congregation gathered around the crosses. We hope you will come for this special worship service, and as always, invite a friend to come with you.

Fri., March 25, *Good Friday Prayer Vigil*. 7am-7pm, Ruby Chapel. This is a chance for the church to be in prayer on the day we remember the death of Christ, and what His sacrifice means to us. Sign up, in the Fellowship Hall, for a half hour time frame of prayer.

Sat., March 26, *Community Easter Celebration*, 4pm, at Johnston River of Life. Egg hunt, worship service & meal

Sun., March 27, *Easter Sunday*, New Hope UMC

8:30 & 10:45 Traditional Services

9:30 Contemporary Service

10:45 Easter Celebration for CLT students ages 3 years- 5th grade. Activities include a Easter lesson, games and egg hunt.





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

Esther Stout; Margaret Hemphill; Armenta Buckingham; Bob Reaney; Laura Myers; 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; Dawn Bernal; Jason Homard; Adam Larson; Joshua Larson; Zach McClain; Todd McGinnity; Matthew Plourde; Anthony Plourde; Devan Stanton; Jared Stanton; and our national and world leaders, our military and their families.

Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Ron & Linda Cooley on the passing of Ron's brother, Wilbert Cooley.

Our Sympathy to family and friends of Ginny Ghee, New Hope UMC member.

Our Sympathy to Neal & Roberta Cave on the passing of Neal's sister, Barbara Crowl.

Our Sympathy to Jill Johnston and her children Luke, Cora & Owen on the passing of Neil Johnston, husband and father.

Our Sympathy to family and friends of Alice Hedman, New Hope UMC member.

Our Sympathy to Patrick & Banny Kyenkya on the passing of Patrick's brother.

Birth

Congratulations to Connie & Ryan Armstrong on the birth of Aniston Lynn Armstrong. Aniston was born on December 14. She joins her big brothers in the family, Reece, Trenton and Calid.

Congratulations to Jessica and Ryan Haugo on the birth of Sawyer Andrew Haugo. Sawyer was born on December 17. Proud grandparents are Bill & Pam Gibbons.

Congratulations to Trent and Monica Johnson on the birth of Olivia Jo Johnson. Olivia was born on February 16 and weighed 7lbs, 1oz and was 18 1/2" long.

Thank You

Thank you New Hope for supporting Scouting programs! From providing regular meeting space to multiple units, to Scout Sunday recognition during service. It is great to see how supportive New Hope is of the Scouting program.

We so appreciate having use of a great place for special Scouting events throughout the year! Brad and Jackie Johnson



Easter Lily Orders

Deadline: March 20

You may order an Easter Lily in memory or in honor of loved ones.

The Lilies will decorate the Altars at both the Traditional and Contemporary worship services on Easter Sunday.

An order form will soon be in the tear-off section of the bulletins.

Cost is \$10.00 per Lily. *Deadline is March 20.*

After the Easter worship service you attend, you may take your plant home.

Thank You

Thank you to our New Hope family for your thoughts and prayers regarding Neal's sister's passing. We appreciate them a great deal. As everyone knows it sure helps to know others are thinking of us!

Roberta & Neal Cave

Directory Updates

Esther and Sheldon Stout do not have a main home line. Please use the following to contact them:

Esther: 515-724-2470

Sheldon: 515-249-7417



Daylight Saving time begins
March 13, 2016
Spring forward one hour!

Girl Scout Sunday Sun., March 13

All Girl Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear their Girl Scout uniforms for Girl Scout Sunday on March 13.





I CAN HELP

Attention: All greeters, ushers, and the congregation attenders! By working together we can identify our many visitors and present an “I Can” welcome gift.

The cans will be located on the table at each of our worship services and at the Welcome Center in the main hallway.

John Wesley’s verse calls all of us to be in community and service. By working together we can show our “open hearts, open minds, and open doors.” Let’s welcome our visitors!

Special thanks to Women’s Fellowship and the many hands that assembled and funded these gifts.

You are invited to a community

EASTER EGG HUNT

Start End

- BOUNCE HOUSE • FACE PAINTING •
- KIDS AND FAMILY GIFTS • PRIZE DRAWINGS •

Sat, March 26
 Beaver Creek Elementary
 8701 Lyndhurst Drive, Johnston

4 pm Event Registration
 4:30 Egg Hunt with a Special Needs Area
 5 pm Free Meal & Activities

Johnston River of Life
JohnstonRiverOfLife.org



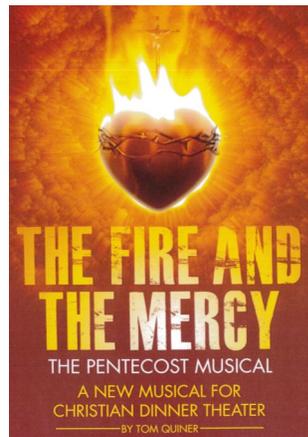
Save the Date
 for the
**“God’s Girlfriends”
 Women’s Retreat**
Saturday, June 11 * 9am-2pm
at New Hope UMC
For 16 yrs. old and up

We are thrilled to have four wonderful speakers who will share “How God Has Worked in their Lives.”

Bring your girlfriends for a day full of inspiration, laughter, and singing. Lunch will be provided.

Watch for registration forms coming out soon!

Questions? Please contact either Carole Followwill, Barb Mather, Sharon Smith or Nancy



Save the Date

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 29th, 6:30pm! New Hope UMC is proud to celebrate Pentecost with a performance of, “THE FIRE AND THE MERCY, The Pentecost Musical.” It will be performed in a dinner theater format. Limited seating. Tickets will go on soon.

confirmation schedule



March 6 4:30 p.m.

Topic: Christianity and other religions

March 20 4:30 p.m.

Topic: Going Forth & Creed

March 31, 8am-3:30pm, Tour of Faith



The Confirmation students assisted with the Ash Wednesday service.



The **New Hope Rummage Sale and Bake Shoppe** is **April 21-23**. This sale is an all-church mission. **April 17-21** are the days we set up the sale by pricing, organizing, and arranging the donated items in the designated areas. **We need your help!!** You can volunteer by signing up on the sheets in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. Some evening and weekend shifts are available and child care will be provided with advanced notification of need.

As you are setting aside items and getting ready for the sale, here are some things to keep in mind.

1. **Donations will only be accepted on Sunday, April 17, from 1 p.m to 7 p.m. and on Monday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
2. **If you will need help getting your donations moved to the church, watch for a sign-up sheet in March to arrange for transportation of donated items.**
3. **No TVs, computers, printers, large exercise equipment, cribs/baby beds, infant car seats, Christmas trees, Christmas wreaths, or garlands will be accepted.**
4. **No item will be priced over \$100.** For this kind of a sale, it is not about what an item may or may not be worth, it's about what we can actually get for it. Most items priced over \$100 do not sell until the half-price sale starts. If you are planning to donate an item that you believe is worth more than \$100, you should consider selling it yourself and donating part or all of the proceeds to the church.
5. **As you prepare your donations, please organize them into separate containers.** For example, put children's clothes in one sack or box, women's clothing in another, men's clothing in another, kitchen items in another, etc. Most of you have been doing a great job of this. It is a tremendous help if all items are sorted when they come in so that we do not have to spend precious time sorting and will have more time to work on pricing and displaying the thousands of items that are donated.
6. **All items must be clean and ready to display. No donations should be dirty, broken or torn.** Check all electrical items to assure they are in working order and marked with a tag that says "works." All bedding should be folded and sets fastened together and marked with the size (twin, double, queen, or king). Bringing your items to the sale sorted, clean, unbroken and labeled regarding size, etc. saves many hours of volunteer time during the set up and pricing process. Our sale is noted for its well-organized, neat and clean environment. Please help us to maintain that image.
7. **This sale is an important part of our community outreach.** Please keep this in mind as you select items and prepare them for the sale. Many people come every year to our Rummage Sale to get nice, clean clothing for their kids for school and they tell us they couldn't afford to do this without our sale. Sometimes a young couple comes to our sale to find affordable items to help furnish and accessorize their first home. Each year we have several of the same grandmothers come to buy things for their grandchildren. One year our sale volunteers had a great time helping a young man purchase a suit, shirt and tie to wear to his high school prom.
8. **Please support the Bake Shoppe with your homemade jams, pickles, salsa, breads rolls, candy, cookies, cakes, brownies, pies, snack mixes, etc.** Be sure to provide the names of your items and alert us if nuts or peanut butter were used. Gluten free items are always welcome. We will be happy to package your cookies for you. Bakery items will be accepted during the following times:
April 20, Wednesday until 7:30 p.m.
April 21, Thursday morning beginning at 9 a.m.
April 22, Friday morning
No baked goods accepted on Saturday, April 23.



United Methodist Women Day Apart Spiritual Growth Retreat

Could your spiritual life benefit from a tune-up? After a long winter, are you ready for a day just for sharing, encouraging and celebrating the joy of Jesus Christ? Please come and join us!

March 19, 2016, 9am-2pm

Hope United Methodist Church, 2203 S. Third Ave., Marshalltown, IA

Make your reservation with Joyce Norton, 515-964-7421 or jnort29@mchsi.com

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

It's almost time for Holy Week Activities!!!!

All CLT kids, youth and teachers are invited to join us on Sunday, March 20th for our Parade of Palms.

We will meet in the purple classroom at 9:20am to march in waving palm branches during the first song at the Contemporary Service. We will again meet in the Ruby Chapel at 10:40am to participate in the palm processional for the Traditional Service as well.



Christian Learning Time Easter Party

Sunday, March 27th, 10:45-11:45am. All CLT students ages 3 years- 5th grade are encouraged to invite a friend to share the Good News of the Resurrection with them through an Easter lesson, lots of fun and silly games, and the annual egg hunt. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to celebrate the joy of Easter with your church family!

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 "Quiet, Please", an activity puzzle for kids, and an article titled "Conflict Resolution Skills for Kids." If you have any ideas for Parent Resources/topics you'd like more information about, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org.

Make sure to thank Elaine Sheer for all the hard work both her (and the Children's Worship kids) have done to make our bulletin board look so great this year!



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.

Come Join us for VBS!!!

July 17-21, 2016



It's not too early to sign up your kids or volunteer to help.

Registration and Volunteer forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall later this month.



TGIW

Wednesdays

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

Donations Needed!!!! Our TGIW program is looking for some donations for a mission project we are doing. Our kids will be decorating small pots and planting in them to brighten the day of Calvin Community residents this spring. We are looking for:

- 15-20 small terra cotta pots
- Potting soil
- Small and low maintenance plants for the pots (ones that can survive on their own, or be transferred to a community garden)

If this is something you could help with or donate to, please contact sjacobson@newhopedsm.org. All donations will need to be collected by Tuesday, March 1st.

Check out what we have planned for March:

March 2nd - "Garden of Gethsemane" Music and Games for K-2nd grade; Mission project for 3rd-5th grade

March 9th - March Madness Party 6-7:15pm

March 16th - **No TGIW** Activities due to Spring Break

March 23rd - "Journey to the Cross" Games, Easter mission/craft for all ages

March 30th - "Jesus is Baptized" Science and Music for all ages

Looking ahead to April...



We are so thankful for the many volunteers who have stepped up to help lead TGIW activities, and help in other important ways this year. You are the reason this program can exist and is successful! As a way to express our appreciation, we want to invite all of our TGIW volunteers who have helped this year to a special event in which we will celebrate and honor you. We hope you'll join us at TGIW on

Wednesday, April 27th from 6:00-7:15pm for dessert and a Talent Show put on by all of our TGIW kids, as a way to say thanks for all you've done for this program!

Wednesday Night Meals:

Thank you to those who continue to support our Wednesday Night Meal program. A few changes will be taking place for the remainder of the school year.

Free Will Offering: The suggested donation for dinner is \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family. This money will ensure that we can continue providing this service to our kids, families and volunteers.

Clean up after yourself: Just as many of our kids learn at church camp in the summer, it is important that everyone plays their role during mealtime. That is why going forward you will notice we have a bucket of soapy water with wash cloths available for everyone to take responsibility of cleaning up their own area when they are finished eating. Kids and adults of all ages are able to help in this way and we encourage you to do so. Doing this will greatly help our Kitchen volunteers and show our kids the importance of teamwork.



TGIW March Madness Party Wednesday, March 9th

There will be a Free Will Donation 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 will be appearances by the Iowa Energy mascot and other staff members.

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.

Upcoming blast plans through March are below:

- March 2 - Tower Building
- March 9 - March Madness at the Church
- March 16 - No Blast, Spring Break
- March 23 - Preparations for the Easter Party
- March 30 - Bowling



Jr. BLAST on a bowling outing

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

Thanks you to everyone who supported the Senior High BLAST in February with our Sweetheart Dinner and Ash Wednesday Pancakes. We were able to raise over \$800 between the two events, which will go directly to support our Summer Mission Trip to Rapid City, South Dakota.

The group would like to thank Benda McConahay and the youth that help with the Sweetheart Dinner, and the parents that came to help clean up after the meal.

Don't forget that we will not be meeting the week of March 13th; due to Spring Break. This would be the normal week to volunteer at ChildServe, due to this we are looking at re-scheduling ChildServe on one of the first two Wednesday's in March instead. We will let you know if we can re-schedule ChildServe.

If you have not already sign up for our BLAST texts; all you need to do is Text **SeniorHighBLAST** to 41411. This will subscribe you to our texts; which is one of our primary ways to communicate with the group.

Finally, looking forward to April; we invite everyone to come out to Pizza Ranch (4954 86th St Urbandale, Iowa) on Wednesday, April 13th for dinner. Our youth group will be working that night to raise money for our upcoming summer mission trip. Come out for some great pizza and fellowship; while supporting your Senior High BLAST group.

Here are the youth events for the next two months:

Mar. 2nd @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD

Mar. 6th ~ BLAST Breakfast

Mar. 9th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

Not Meeting on Mar. 16th; Due to Spring Break

Mar. 23rd @ 6pm ~ TGBD

Mar. 30th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

Apr. 6th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

Apr. 13th @ 4:30pm ~ Pizza Ranch

Apr. 20th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe

Apr. 23rd ~ New Hope Rummage Sale

Apr. 27th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

May 4th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

May 14th ~ Hand of Luke

May 11th @ 6pm ~ TGBD

May 18th @ 6pm ~ ChildServe

May 22nd ~ BLAST Breakfast

May 25th @ 6pm ~ End of the Year



Save the date!

On April 13, Sr. BLAST will be doing a fundraiser at the Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St Urbandale, Iowa. Come out for some great pizza and fellowship; while supporting your Senior High BLAST group.

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, March 12
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

Women's Fellowship

Join them on **Thursday, March 17**, 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 is studying *Ephesians* by Max Lucado. The group meets every Monday at 1pm through April 11. 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. **March 6, 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 **March 11 & 25** (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 Piphos 712 SE 4th St. Grimes 515.986-4071



New Hope Needlers

Friday, March 18

We will meet at 10:30am in the third grade classroom to set up machines, have lunch at Panera at about 11:30am, then return to church and sew until about 3:00pm.

We'll primarily focus on quilts, but come and sew whatever pleases you. Questions? Contact Jody Rains at 278-8282.



Veterans Helping Veterans

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 8:30am.

March 19 at 8:30am with Mr. Bart Quick from the VA as the guest speaker. All veterans, their spouses and supporters are welcome. There is no

charge for this opportunity for veterans to join together. If you have questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at bbnewz54@gmail.com

missions



World Water Day is March 22nd — a day when the world turns its attention towards the 750 million people who lack access to safe water. But every day of the year can be a Water Day. When Rajamma opens her tap, or Grace hears raindrops filling her catchment system, or when Poppy is able to offer her children a safe drink of water — each of these is a Water Day. Follow Water.org, and help us turn millions more days around the world into Water Days.

Mission Focus: Wells for Sudan

Unsafe water leads to diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, cholera, and other diseases that strike children with particular virulence. In South Sudan, one in four children will die before their fifth birthday and more than 98% of children drop out of elementary school, often because they are too sick to attend. While improved health is the primary benefit of the well, the community benefits in other ways. When woman and children must walk for long distances to obtain clean water, they are exposed to physical hardships and danger. They spend so much time obtaining water and carrying heavy containers that they have little time and energy for other activities such as attending school, caring for their families, and farming to produce food. Water from the local well may be used for irrigation projects, which will increase food production. Fencing the

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

In January 2013, our newest partner, NeverThirst, will begin [drilling wells](#) with The Water Project in Southern Sudan.

About the Projects. With your help, we will fund fresh-water wells to be placed for about \$8,000 each. Wells are being placed in remote villages with up to 400 inhabitants who today drink from open holes or streams. Water-borne diseases such as cholera, trachoma, diarrhea, river blindness, others are a major problem in these communities. The well building process is more involved than just digging a hole. NeverThirst, like The Water Project, recognizes the importance of a holistic approach to these water projects. Their process includes a thorough site survey, sanitation training, evangelism, training of villagers in pump repair, and establishment of a water committee to oversee well use and maintenance.

Our Prayers are needed for **Dr. Emmanuel Mefor**, missionary, who is having surgery on his back in the United States.

Join Us! New Hope will be hosting, Katherine Parker, UM Missionary, who is home from the field from Nepal. All are invited to attend to hear about her ministry in Nepal. **We will meet in the Family Life Center on April 11th at 7pm.** Katherine has served at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan; Practical Farmers of Ames, IA; with the Community Health and Agricultural Development program in Cambodia; and most recently, the Health Team of the United Mission to Nepal. Since the earthquake in Nepal, she has been dealing with this natural disaster.



Habitat For Humanity Work Day,
Sat., April 9, 8am-4pm.

Volunteer online at:

[http://
greaterdesmoineshabitatforhumanity.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?
start_over&id=12568](http://greaterdesmoineshabitatforhumanity.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?start_over&id=12568)

Or contact Denise Hartford at
denisehartford@gmail.com or 890-1406.



Hand of Luke - March 14
Hamballs; Ranch Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans, Rolls/Butter
Fruit Crisp/Cobbler

The 14th of each month, New Hoppers donate food, cook a meal and serve it at the Central Iowa Shelter & Services, downtown. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Cooks meet at the church between 3:00-3:30pm. Servers transport the food to the Central Iowa Shelter & Services at 5:30pm, return by 8:00pm.

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

(Corrected report. Version in the February LINK was not accurate)

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):

SELF HELP INTERNATIONAL:	\$400.00
PET Personal Energy Transportation:	400.00
WELLS FOR SOUTH SUDAN:	125.00
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE-BLANKETS AND TOOLS:	400.00
IMAGINE NO MALARIA:	342.00

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
: UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)	
INGATHERING KITS AND SHIPPING and items for auction:	1,280.00
Disaster Response:	2,650.00
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: (Congregation and Jr. Blast, HG20)	1,901.00
EQUAL EXCHANGE: (10 % of orders to UMCOR)	88.46

GREEN: INTERNATIONAL HUNGER/POVERTY)

DMARC: (cash, in-kind giving)	9,000.00
MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND:	6,130.00
HOPE MINISTRIES:	1,020.00
HAND OF LUKE: MEALS FOR HOMELESS, CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER	9,000.00

BLUE: (IOWA ADVANCE SPECIALS) IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP

BIDWELL RIVERSIDE (women's fellowship, missions)	400.00
NEW DIRECTIONS/HAWTHORN HILL: (Missions, Women's Fellowship)	1,580.00
JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS:	425.00
IOWA NIGERIA PARTNERSHIP: (needlers kits, missions, congregation)	250.00
	895.00

INDIGO: (PARISH DEVELOPMENTS): Trinity UMC (vista worker)

LAS AMERICAS:	1,000.00
Women at the Well Prison Ministry:	250.00
	806.00

PURPLE: (SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERINGS):

THIRD MILE GIVING: Missionary Covenant, Dr. Emmanuel Mefor:	943.00
Camp Wesley Woods scholarships:	2,500.00
	1,266.00

OTHER GIVING:

Mission Apportionments: (10% of total Mission Apportionments taken from Pledges)	1,967.40
Angel Tree:	500.00
Women's Fellowship to On with Life:	100.00
Women's Fellowship to Amanda the Panda:	100.00
Women's Fellowship to Salvation Army:	100.00
Women's Fellowship to Joann Zimmerman:	100.00
Women's Fellowship to HCI Services:	100.00
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES: (TGIW, Missions & congregation)	1188.00
LITTLE DRESSES AND LITTLE BRITCHES, PAD KITS FOR NIGERIA : (needlers)	345.00
Storybook Project: (Women's Fellowship, congregation)	660.00
New Hope Pastor Discretionary Fund: (Women's Fellowship)	200.00
In-gathering donation: (Women's Fellowship)	200.00
Back Packs for Zion immigrant Christmas: (Missions)	984.40
Honduras Mission Trip: (Missions, JROL)	4287.51
HOPE Ministries:	500.00
UNICEF:	177.67

TOTAL \$55,777.44

A celebratory **Mardi Gras Sunday** was held on February 7. Along with Pastor Jon's message, it was a morning of Mardi Gras music, decorations, beads, and singing to "When the Saints Come Marching In". More pictures can be seen on our Face book page.



Financial Update

Below is the January 2016 General Fund operating report for New Hope and Johnston River of Life. 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

	January 2016 Actual
Total Receipts	\$28,383.75
Total Expenditures	<u>24,243.46</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$4,140.29</u>

Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	January 2016 Actual
Total Receipts	\$29,826.81
Total Expenditures	<u>8,739.28</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$21,087.53</u>

New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
January 31	21	80	85	186
February 7	32	107	87	226
February 14	32	87	72	191
February 21	29	96	82	207

Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat	Sun	total
Jan 30 50	Jan 31 41	91
Feb 6 57	Feb 7 52	109
Feb 13 21	Feb 14 32	53
Feb 20 55	Feb 21 33	88

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 spent the past week in Honduras... (I hope you have seen some pictures on Facebook)

...

...

There are times when words fall short of expressing the activity of the Holy Spirit. There are times that the only way to hear or experience is to open your heart and let a moment be woven into your soul. (You may know that I am a preacher and I like to talk a lot. But this week I have found sitting in silence and knowing God's presence very fulfilling.)

...

...

I have been on dozens of mission trips, in Iowa, surrounding states, and many internationally. Each time I find myself looking at the face of Jesus in another place, another skin color, another language, another challenging circumstance, but always the face of Jesus. (Look in the eyes, and see the smile of a child putting on a shirt or the tears of a parent getting enough food for a week.)

...

...

This trip was filled with God moments, self-reflection, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, teaching the children, building a home for a special needs family, and so much more. I was blessed to be a part of sharing God's love with the world, fulfilling the great commission. I was blessed to watch God work in the lives of our team members, and in the children when we simply offered a song, a smile, or a laugh. I was blessed by a church that helped provide the resources, food, clothing, and activities for all the lives we touched. Thank you all!

I would love to share the stories, pictures, laughs, tears, and food with each of you.

The team would like to invite you to experience the Spirit of Honduras and New Life School (Nueve Vida Esquila) with us on March 13th, Noon at New Hope UMC.

Pastor Craig Ferguson



serve

Sign up to help!
Look for the sign-up sheets at the entrance of the Narthex and the Family Life Center.

Sunday Volunteers

Greeters arrive at worship service fifteen minutes early to welcome worshippers.

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 (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 March

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<u>Greeters</u> 6 13 20 27	<u>Greeters</u> 6 DeVonne Douglas 13 20 27	<u>Greeters</u> 6 Lee Ross/Freda Ruleman 13 Bob & Carol Harter 20 Cathy Cate 27
<u>Lectors</u> 6 Cathy Short 13 20 Vicki O'Brien 27 Billy Nuzum	<u>Lectors</u> 6 13 20 27 Sherri Bogue	<u>Lectors</u> 6 Jon Verner 13 Lynn Davisson 20 27 Billy Nuzum
<u>Traditional Service Callers</u> Norma Sutton	<u>Hosts</u> 6 Sr. BLAST 13 DeVonne & Lee 20 27	<u>Hosts</u> 6 Sr. BLAST 13 Mary Drossel & Andy Sutton 20 27 Banny Kyenkya
<u>Contemporary Service Callers</u> 7 Rod & Lynette Cook 14 Eldon Cross 21 Rod & Lynette Cook 28 Eldon Cross	<u>9:30 Computer Support</u> 6 Terry Dolberg 13 Pam Frey 20 Nancy Monthei 27 Nic Wigant	<u>Money Counters</u> 6 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Robin Harlow 13 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Glenna Ross 20 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood 27 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, John Burrough
	<u>Office Volunteers</u> 4 Gayle Easton 10 Theresa Flickinger 25 Marilyn Monroe	



ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

We are in need of volunteers to host after the 9:30 and 10:45 services. There are slots open for March. If no one volunteers, there will not be coffee and/or cookies served after the services.

Hosting is easy to do. Either bake or purchase 6 dozen cookies. 9:30 Hosts set up and provide treats. 10:45 Hosts provide treats and clean up. You can split the hosting duties with others.

The signup sheets are either on the hosting table or on the counter. If you can't sign up for March consider hosting another month. There are signup sheets for every month. We really don't want to see this gathering time end. Please signup!

March 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 9:30a, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice Noon, AA 7:00p, Worship Cluster Mtg., Ruby Chapel	2 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	3 6:30-9p, Venture Crew, F.Hall 7:00p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	4 Office Vol. Gayle Easton	5 1-4p, FLC reserved for Cub Scouts
6 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure Sunday Sr. BLAST breakfast *One Great Hour of Sharing (offering) Noon, Mission Mtg. 3:00p, Family Outing at Iowa Energy game	7 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	8 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Girl Scouts 7:00p, Finance Mtg., Ruby Chapel	9 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	10 Office Vol. Theresa Flickinger 6-8p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	11 Church Office Closed 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	12 7:30a, Men's Breakfast
13 5th Sunday in Lent Guest Preacher: Barb Mather Girl Scout Sunday Daylight Saving Time begins No CLT Noon, Honduras Mission trip presentation	14 9a-Noon Office Vol: Jan Davisson 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 3:30p, Hand of Luke	15 9a-Noon Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Stroke Club, F.Hall	16 9a-Noon Office Vol: Charlene Cobb No TGIW/Youth groups 6:30p, Choir practice 7:45p, Praise Team	17 9a-Noon Office Vol: Gayle Easton 9a, Women's Fellowship, at church 6:30-9pm Venture Crew	18 10:30a, New Hope Needlers	19 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast at church
20 Palm Sunday <i>Deadline for Lily orders</i> Food Pantry Sunday 9:30 & 10:45 Palm Parade by children 4:30p, Confirmation class	21 Deadline for April LINK 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	22 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 5:30p, Girl Scouts	23 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	24 Holy Thursday 7p, Maundy Thursday drama 6-8p, Girl Scouts	25 Good Friday 7a-7p, Prayer Vigil Office Vol: Marilyn Monroe 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	26
27 Easter 10:45a, CLT Easter party	28 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	29 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, SPRC Mtg., Ruby Chapel	30 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	31 8am, Tour of Faith for Confirmation Class 7:00p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	April 1 Office Vol: Pat Papenheim	April 2

***One Great Hour of Sharing, March 6:** Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in the special offering that supports UMCOR's vital work. Your gifts lay the foundation for UMCOR to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. Please give generously.

Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Keith Craighton, Deanne Rowland, | 17 Rick Gier, Mark Baldwin, Dan Larsen |
| 2 Laura Cross | 18 Nina Moses |
| 3 Ashlyn Meyer, Tess Siffin,
Dane Jacobson | 19 Marjorie Carnahan, Tyler Nearmyer,
Myles Redies, Denise Hartford,
Jocelyn O'Brien |
| 4 Kevin Upah, Kristin Welter,
Emma Lemke | 20 Leah Scherer, Norma VandenBerg,
Nicholas Wigant |
| 5 Rex Haugland | 21 Matthew Henry, Lauren Gregg |
| 6 Vicki O'Brien, Tami Wise,
Edie Musgrave, Regina Wearmouth | 22 Amanda Herring |
| 8 Pam Johnson, Robert Krause | 23 Lisa Jackson, Richard Cobb,
Chad Meyer, Hannah Short, Kaden
Krebs |
| 9 Beth Merrill | 24 Bryce Weih, Robert Nuzum |
| 10 Ted Christensen, Darlene Gier,
Marge Robinson, Caitlyn Trillet | 25 Dee Jeffries, Lacey Fulton, Caleb Neu |
| 11 Diane Densmore, Andrew Higdon | 26 Shelley Larsen, Diane Madison, Keith
Baderstadt |
| 12 Betty Holwegner, Lisa Peterson | 27 Cathy Cate, Levi Sheer,
David Followwill |
| 14 Norma Pecinovsky, Shari Mongar | 28 Natalie VanderLinden, Margaret Miller |
| 15 Monica Balk, Brianna Johnson | 29 Noah Kerndt |
| 16 Charlotte Schultz, Aaron Homard,
Connie Armstrong, Steve Dann | 30 Don Ummel, Brody Egger |

STAFF: Nancy Monthei, Office Admin., will be on vacation Fri., March 11. and Mon., March 14—Thurs, March 17. Office volunteers will be in the office 9am-Noon.

Happy Anniversary!!!

- 1: Elmer & Theresa Flickinger
 5: Larry & Patrice Webber
 11: Damon & Tracy DeBates
 20: Linda & Larry Sesker
 25: Stephen & Cathy Cate
 31: Dale & Laura Myers

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.

On Sunday, January 31, we held a planning session for New Hope and Johnston River of Life to examine the strengths and needs of our church and plan for future ministry needs and goals. This meeting was open to all and we had over 50 people attend and share.

In sharing about our strengths, what we do well, a wonderful list was shared about what makes this church special. Here is what was shared: Welcoming people, helping people (various ministries named in this area), our music, support of missions, the diversity of services, the programs for children and youth, our open doors, willingness to reach out and care for other, caring relationships within the church, bring guests to special services, strong lay leadership, pastoral leadership, we have a lot of love, care givers, prayer chain, we're a close knit family, great huggers, we open our building to other groups, our confirmation program with its Tour of Faith, talents are utilized and recruited for special events, ministry to veterans, good at getting people involved--Team involvement, people fill in when others are absent (fill voids), community involvement (community presence), a great place to meet Christ.

We then shared about the needs we have, which included: More volunteers, more visits and cards/outreach to shut-ins, record worship services for shut-ins, greeters at main door, get youth involved in leadership, keeping connected with others when in different worship services, communicate all the volunteer options, promote helping/supporting roles as well as leadership roles, short-term volunteer options, utilize spiritual gifts inventories, specifically invite/ask others to help, learn how to bring people into a relationship with Christ, tell our story--invite others to come, use to have more dinners--an opportunity to invite others, improving communication--how to get people to notice events, how to invite others, getting to know people's gifts to invite them to serve.

We followed up by spending time at table groups discussing dreams and goals for the future. Separate discussions were held for the Johnston River of Life and New Hope campuses. The following was shared from the table group regarding goals for our New Hope campus: Reach out to bring back inactive members, update the membership list, recognize and pursue young people for careers in ministry, have one blended service occasionally, record worship services for shut-ins, follow up calls to those who miss three Sundays in a row, reorganize the cluster structure, develop a retention team, hold more dinners open to the community, have an attendance goal, have a mission booklet with descriptions and pictures to show what's available and who to contact, name and expand "safe worship services" to promote inviting others, more fellowship times--potlucks, dinner for eight, etc.--including people from all campuses, better communication--including spelling out acronyms (HOL, TGIW, etc.) and where to go for information, hold more River of Life Theater productions, start Compassionate Callers, expand programs for children and older youth, have a waiting list of volunteers, small group meetings-- home based of various interests, spiritual growth opportunities for leaders, increase in adult study groups (Sunday School, etc.), as we live in a diverse community--reach out to others through cultural programs (i.e. language program, tie in with Zion Lutheran Church), parish nurse program, membership directory with vocations/services listed, volunteer ministry directory, new pictorial directory, updated website.

These dreams and goals are being presented to the Administrative Council and other leadership in the church for feedback, prioritizing, and action. Any feedback you can give would also be greatly appreciated (I've already had some that was very helpful). Please keep the ministries of New Hope and Johnston River of Life in your prayers and be open to the ways that you can be involved and share in God's work through these ministries.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jon



March Theme: "Listening to God"

Mar. 6	<u>Title</u> : "Listening to Your Heart"	<u>Script</u> .: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-24	4th Sunday in Lent
Mar. 13	<u>Title</u> : "Listening to Directions"	<u>Script</u> .: Philippians 3:4b-14	Barb Mather, Guest Preacher 5th Sunday in Lent
Mar. 20	<u>Title</u> : "Listening to the Stones"	<u>Script</u> .: Luke 19:28-40	Palm Sunday
Mar. 27	<u>Title</u> : "Listening to the Angels"	<u>Script</u> .: Luke 24:1-12	Easter Sunday



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

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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
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Eldon Cross: eldon@newhopedsm.org

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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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