

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United  
Methodist Church

## April 2016

APRIL AT NEW HOPE UMC

# EASTER

## QUESTIONS

Apr. 3 "When is He Coming?"  
April 10 "What Should We Feed Them?"  
Apr. 17 "Who is the Shepherd?"  
Apr. 24 "Where is the Holy City?"



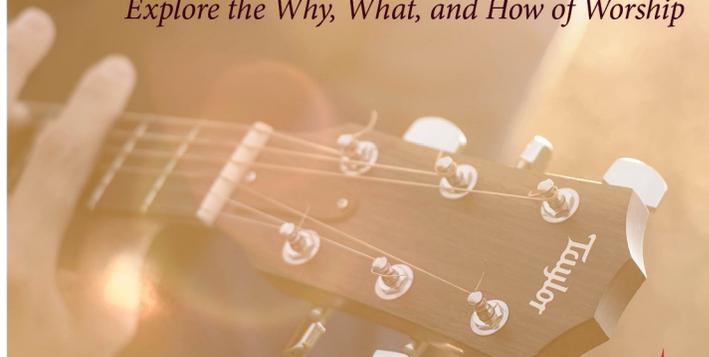
 **NEW HOPE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sundays at New Hope UMC 8:30am • 9:30am • 10:45am  
[newhopedsm.org](http://newhopedsm.org)

APRIL AT JOHNSTON RIVER OF LIFE

# WORSHIP MATTERS

*Explore the Why, What, and How of Worship*



WORSHIP  
Saturdays 5pm &  
Sundays 10am  
Beaver Creek Elementary

 Johnston  
River of Life  
[JohnstonRiverOfLife.org](http://JohnstonRiverOfLife.org)



# THE FIRE AND THE MERCY

THE PENTECOST MUSICAL  
A NEW MUSICAL FOR  
CHRISTIAN DINNER THEATER  
—BY TOM QUINER—

## "THE FIRE AND THE MERCY"

Friday, April 29  
6:00pm

Watch the Acts of the Apostles come alive before your very eyes!  
"THE FIRE AND THE MERCY, The Pentecost Musical," dramatizes Pentecost and other startling stories from scripture in a dinner theater format.

Jesus, St. Peter, Magdalene, the Blessed Mother and the Disciples will all be there. Experience scripture like you've never experienced it before!  
**Pastor Craig Ferguson portrays Jesus!**

Order online at [www.FireAndMercy.com](http://www.FireAndMercy.com) or buy them in person in the church office.

Tickets (include dinner): Adults \$25; Students \$10; under ten FREE.  
Seating is limited. Buy your tickets today!



# 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; John Rains; 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 Dave, Karen, Allen and Marc Davis on the passing of Dave's mother Mary Davis.

Our Sympathy to Mike, Kris and Samantha Wakeman on the passing of Kris' mother, Janice Covey.

Our Sympathy to Jean Vesely on the passing of her father, Robert Vesely.

## Thank You

Thank you so very much to my church family who shared prayers and cards after the death of my younger brother. You are all so caring, I love you all very much, but hopefully we won't need to call on you for special prayers for a long time.

God's peace and grace,  
Billy and Bob Nuzum

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone that has participated in supporting the Hand of Luke mission over the years whether it be in donation of funds, food items or service in preparations and serving. March 14th New Hope celebrated its 20th anniversary of the Hand of Luke mission by preparing the labor intensive meal of Ham Balls, Ranch Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Fruit Crisps. On Sunday morning the 13th post the second service Pam Weisskopf mixed (and mixed and mixed) 60 lbs of ham, pork and beef with other ingredients to form the mixture. She was then joined by DeVonne Douglas, Glenna Ross and Arlene Dabill to form over 700 ham balls in 10 steam table pans. Members of the Women's Fellowship came in Monday morning the 14th to make a variety of Fruit Crisps. While cookies are appreciated, having a fresh fruit crisp a la mode is a special treat for clients of the shelter. The women prepared extra allowing us to freeze several for a future meal. A heartfelt thank you to all that have kept the mission going and a special thank you to everyone that participated in our 20th anniversary. Ruth Doxon

## Directory Updates

Evelyne Villianes  
8308 Colby Parkway  
Unit 310  
Urbandale, IA 50322

John & Denise Hartford  
3094 140th Ave  
Carlisle, IA 50047-3215



## OUR SOCIAL CREED

Paragraph 166.

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

*It is recommended that this statement of Social Principles be continually available to United Methodist Christians and that it be emphasized regularly in every congregation. It is further recommended that "Our Social Creed" be frequently used in Sunday worship.*

As quoted from Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2013-2016

Billy Nuzum, Lay Leader, New Hope United Methodist Church



The **New Hope Rummage Sale and Bake Shoppe** is **April 21-23**.

From **April 17<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>** we set up the sale by pricing, organizing, and arranging the donated items in the designated areas.

**We need your help!!** By now you have probably have seen the sign-up sheets in the hallway leading to the sanctuary. You may have signed up already, or you are thinking about it, or you have hurried past because you are going to be late for church service or you need to get home right after. We are asking you now to please stop and take a look at all the many opportunities available to help with this worthwhile mission project and consider signing up for an hour or two or 10 or 20. If you want to help

but aren't sure what day or time or area would work for you, sign the list provided on the sign-up table and we will contact you to see if you are available.

**We really need many more volunteers.** There are lots of different jobs available. There is something for everyone. If we can fill up the sign-up sheets it will save many hours of calling. Hours that could be put toward preparation for the sale.

Please keep in mind that this sale is an all-church mission. It is an opportunity to do God's work and have fun doing it. As if that isn't enough motivation for helping out with the rummage sale, here are the top ten reasons you might want to consider volunteering to help with this very worthwhile mission.

Number 10 – it's an excuse to put off a home improvement project or spring cleaning that you are avoiding at home.

Number 9 – you just might find a donated “treasure” that you simply must have.

Number 8 – you get to get to know other church members better and maybe meet some new ones.

Number 7 – you have daily access to the goodies at Carole Followwill's Bake Shoppe.

Number 6 – you get yummy lunches prepared for volunteers by Betty Holwegner and her crew.

Number 5 - you get to hang out with some really great people.

Number 4 – see the smile on the face of the single mom who was able to find very nice, clean, warm coats for all of her kids.

Number 3 – it is very worthwhile community service. You will be doing God's work.

Number 2 - it's fun – no, really, it is fun.

And, the number one reason you should sign up to help with Rummage Sale & Bake Shoppe – the warm feeling you get when you have done a good thing.

So, please, sign up early and sign up often – we need your help and you will be doing God's work and having a good time.

Reminders....

**Rummage Sale donations will only be accepted:**

Sunday, April 17, from 1 p.m to 7 p.m. and Monday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

No TVs, computers, printers, large exercise equipment, cribs/baby beds, infant car seats, Christmas trees, wreaths or garlands. 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. All items must be clean and ready to display. No donations should be dirty, broken or torn.

**Bake Shoppe items will be accepted during the following times:**

April 20 & 21, until 7:30 p.m.

April 22, Friday morning

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.



## New Hope Needlers Saturday, April 2, 9am-3pm

On March 14, fifteen boxes were loaded into a shipping container bound for the Iowa Nigeria Partnership mission. They contained 141 Days for Girls kits, 72 Little Dresses and 50 Little Britches sewn by our Needlers since last March.



Our next Sew-In is Saturday, April 2, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in the 3rd grade classroom to start sewing for next year's shipment of Little Dresses and Little Britches. Lunch is potluck.

We'd love to have you join us. Questions? Contact Diane Densmore, ph 270-1974 or email [ddindsml@mchsi.com](mailto:ddindsml@mchsi.com)



## Prayer Bead Event Sunday, April 3, 1pm in the Fellowship Hall

The Johnston River of Life, Life Group is sponsoring a Prayer Bead event at New Hope UMC. We will discuss the origins of Prayer Beads and how they can be used as a tool for prayer. Additionally, we will be making prayer beads and prayer strands to support the prayer bead ministry.

If you would like to learn more about prayer beads or how to make them, please join us. We will have a limited number of beads to make Prayer Beads and Prayer Strands.

If you would like to donate or bring your own beads, please obtain 8mm beads. You will need 28 beads for a full strand or 7 beads for a Prayer Strand.

Questions regarding the Prayer Bead ministry can be directed to David Rogers at [rogersd@usa.net](mailto:rogersd@usa.net) or 515-343-4464. Join us on April 3rd, 1pm!



## Spring Clean-Up at New Hope Campus Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 9am to completion

Please consider volunteering to help with the maintenance and beautification of our campus grounds on Saturday, April 9th. There will be tasks for all skill levels: picking up twigs and debris, raking leaves, weeding, mulching, trimming where needed, and other general landscaping. Please bring work gloves, leaf rakes, pruning shears, etc. Lunch will be provided. Please 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. For more details on her missionary work, please go to:

<http://www.umcmision.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Parker-Katherine>



## Sr. BLAST Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

On April 13, beginning at 4:30pm, Sr. BLAST will be working at Pizza Ranch (4954 86th St Urbandale, Iowa) to earn tip money that goes directly to their summer mission trip. Come out for some great pizza and fellowship; while supporting your Senior High BLAST group.



**Register now for Vacation Bible School!**

**Sunday, July 17 — Thursday, July 21**

**5:30pm supper, 6-8pm activities**

**VBS 2016 is “farm-tastic!”** In *Barnyard Roundup* VBS, your children learn that Jesus gathers us together! They’ll look into the Bible, God’s Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where Jesus graciously gathers us together to be with Him with His abundant provision and saving protection, now and forever. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, play awesome games, and *more*. Can’t wait to see you there!

**Registration is now open for ages 3 years- 5<sup>th</sup> grade.**

Fill out the registration form found in the Fellowship Hall and put it in the box with your check attached. You can also find this form online at [www.newhopedsm.org](http://www.newhopedsm.org). For information, call 515-278-2097 or email [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org).

**We are also looking for volunteers!**

If you are a youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade or an adult that would like to offer your gifts and talents (in any way, be it small or large) to help make this a memorable event for our kids, we’d love to have you on our team! We can use help with Music, Games, Storytelling, Crafts, opening/closing times, meals, registration and shepherding. If you aren’t available to help the week of VBS, WE STILL HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU. We have all kinds of decorating and administrative type projects we could use help with. Talk with Sarah Jacobson if you are interested in helping!

**Graduate Recognition**

Graduate Recognition will be on **Sunday, May 1 at New Hope UMC**. We invite all graduates: high school, college, and higher degrees, to send us information to be included in the bulletins to celebrate your accomplishments with you.



Please complete the below information and drop this form off at the church office or mail it to New Hope UMC, 4525 Beaver Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310. **Please fill out and send in NO LATER than Sunday, April 24.**

**High School Graduates:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

**College/Graduate School Graduates:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

FUTURE PLANS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick one of the following boxes to let us know which service we can hope to expect you at:

**New Hope: May 1, 8:30 worship [ ] 9:30 worship [ ] 10:45 worship [ ] Sorry, I won’t be present [ ]**

# 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

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Fair Trade Shopping for Mother's Day gifts (during CLT). The kids will have opportunities to "shop" for Mother's Day gifts from Fair Trade. We encourage Father's to be a part of this with your kids.

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Last Day of CLT, Teacher Recognition at 9:30am



### We are Revamping CLT!!!

There are some changes coming our way for the Christian Learning Time Program during the 2016-2017 school year. Starting next year, we will offer the following age group classes:

- **3 years-K and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade:** Both of these classes will be using the Power Xpress Rotation Curriculum that will allow children to learn different Bible lessons through Music, Cooking, Games, Art, Storytelling, Science and Movies.
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade:** This combined CLT class will focus primarily on developing Bible literacy skills, expanding on those skills for the older kids, and tie those skills and lessons into the Deep Blue and Power Xpress curriculums. They will also have opportunities to attend the traditional worship services, be acolytes and lector readers.
- **6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade:** We are hoping to offer this class again, assuming we have the volunteers to staff it and enough kids to participate. This Jr. High class will use the *re:form Ancestors* curriculum by Spark House as they study about many characters traits found in the well-known people of the Bible.
- **All youth in grades 9 or above (that have completed confirmation) are encouraged to help as classroom aids.**

We hope you are as excited about our new program as we are. If you have any questions, please direct them to Sarah Jacobson.



### FREE FLOWER SEEDS!

Extra packages of marigold and zinnia flower seeds from Earl May were used for a TGIW project but are no longer needed. If you would like to have some, contact Sarah Jacobson.



### Helps us get NEW BASKETBALLS!!

The children and youth of our church get a lot of use out of our athletic equipment, especially the basketballs. The current ones we have are in rough shape. Do you have one lying around somewhere that is in good shape that you want to get rid of? Or would you be interested in donating a basketball (or the funds to cover one---suggested donation \$20-\$30) to our church for the various children and youth groups that will use them over the next several years? If you would like to help us out in this way, please contact Sarah Jacobson.

### 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 "Caterpillar or Butterfly?" There will also be an activity puzzle for kids, and an article titled "Overscheduled Kids." If you have any ideas for Parent Resources/topics you'd like more information about, please contact [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org).



TGIW

Wednesdays

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

Check out what we have planned for April:

April 6<sup>th</sup> - "Jesus is Baptized" Art and Storytelling for all ages

April 13<sup>th</sup> - TGIW Olympic Games and Fair Trade Shopping for Mother's Day gifts



April is the month to recognize the military youth across our nation. Let's support Iowa's 11,000 Military Children by **WEARING PURPLE** on April 13<sup>th</sup>! For more information: [www.iowanationalguard.com/youthprograms](http://www.iowanationalguard.com/youthprograms)

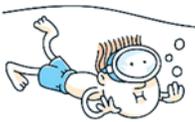
April 20<sup>th</sup> - TGIW Family Night at the Urbandale Pool from 7-8pm.

April 27<sup>th</sup> - Last Night of TGIW- Talent Show 6-7:15pm. Kids and Youth, make sure to sign up on the performance list in April if you want to participate in the Talent Show.

### TGIW Family Night at the Urbandale Pool

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Swimming from 7-8pm



Meet at the Urbandale Public Pool (7201 Aurora Ave) for our April Family Night. We are off-site this night due to the Rummage Sale set up.

Admission (**anyone entering the pool area**)

2 years of age & under is FREE with paid adult

3 years of age & older is \$4/person, unless you have a pass.

**No meal will be provided this night** and this will replace the TGIW program. Any children/youth not coming with their parent or another adult will need to be 8 years or older, and able to swim on their own. They will also need to be picked up at the pool by 8pm! Please sign up on the TGIW registration table if you plan to join us so we can give an approximate number to the Urbandale Pool.



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 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Please consider paying if you plan to eat dinner.

**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.

# Youth Groups



## Celebrate Confirmation

**Sunday, April 24, 10:45 a.m.**

The Confirmation class will be confirmed with a special reception to follow. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful worship opportunity, where the students not only share what they have learned with the congregation, but also design and lead the entire service! Come and congratulate them on this important stepping-stone in their faith journey!

**The Confirmation Class of 2016:** Lexi Dean, Taylor Evans, Ashley Marsh, Ashlynn Riley, Max Roquet, Amanda Soards, Samantha Strauss, Sarah Wiles, Caleb Williamson, Nic Zimmerman.

## Confirmation schedule

**April 10, 4:30 p.m.**

*Students and Mentors*  
Wrap Up and Rehearsal  
**6pm Dinner**

**April 24**

*Students and Mentors*  
Confirmation Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

**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.

It's hard to believe but our time for the year is winding down. Here's a look at the weeks to come.

April 6 - Minute to Win It Games

April 13 - Meet at church

April 20 - All church swim party at Urbandale Pool, 7-8pm. \$4 per person, unless you have a pass

April 27 - Talent Show

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

[BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org)

We are excited to announce that we are roughly **75%** funded for our upcoming Summer Mission Trip to Rapid City, South Dakota. We have **\$4,500** of the needed **\$6,000** to take 11 of our Senior High BLAST members and leaders for a week long mission trip to work with the community of Rapid City. To complete our fundraising goal, the Senior High BLAST group has several opportunities to support us coming up in April.

To start with, the BLAST will be selling Hy-Vee coupon books. The Hy-Vee coupon books pay for themselves with the very first coupon; \$5 off of a \$50 grocery purchase. The books only cost \$5.



Secondly on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, the youth group will be working that night at Pizza Ranch (4954 86th St Urbandale, Iowa) to earn tip money that goes directly to our summer mission trip. Come out for some great pizza and fellowship; while supporting your Senior High BLAST group.

Beyond the fundraising efforts, the Senior High BLAST group will be volunteering to work at ChildServe on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and be volunteering at the New Hope Rummage Sale on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, the group will still be meeting on Wednesday nights as we dive deeper in question from the book "Letters from a Skeptic".

Here are the youth events for the next two months:

**Mar. 30th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – 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**

**Apr. 29th @ 5:30pm ~ Fire and Mercy Musical**

**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**

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, April 9**  
at 7:30 a.m. at New Hope.

## Women's Fellowship

Join them on **Thursday, April 14**, 9am at church.  
All women of New Hope and JROL are invited.

Questions? Call Betty Holwegner at 278-8115.

## Bible Study

Come and join us for a continuing study of **Ephesians** by Max Lucado in his Life Lessons' series. We meet in the Ruby Chapel at 1pm each Monday. We will finish this study on April 11th.

We will begin a new 6 lesson series April 18th from Adam Hamilton called **The Call**, about the life of Paul. 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, 11:00am** 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.

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

## Chancel Choir

Practice on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Join us! Contact Eldon Cross, Director of Music, [elcatalia4@gmail.com](mailto: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 **April 8 & 29** (the second & fourth Friday of each month, unless otherwise noted).

Join us at 1 pm at the Pizza Ranch, 4954 86th St, Urbandale. The Pizza Ranch has a buffet and as you arrive, pay for your buffet, load up your plate and join us in our reserved room. I will be reading from a James Moore book and we will be discussing Revelations. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Kielsmeier, 515-689-9680.

### Life Group (Bible Study):

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

1. Sundays 5:30 PM.. Contact Pastor Craig Ferguson at 515.984.0482

or Charity Johnson at 515.720.8299. This group will be held at different home each week.

And

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



## Veterans Helping Veterans

Our veterans met on Saturday, March 19. Our guest speaker was Bart Quick from the VA Volunteer Services and Community Outreach. He brought much information and was able to answer many important questions.

Our next breakfast is April 16, at 8:30 am. The speaker is Bob Steben from the VFW. All veterans and their spouses and supporters are welcome to attend. There is no charge for this ministry. There is no charge for this opportunity for veterans to join together. If you have questions, please contact Billy Nuzum at [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com)



## "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." Speakers are our New Hope / JROL members: Sandy Cannon, Denise Hartford, and Wendy Musgrave. Joining them as a speaker is Rev. Dr. Karen Nelson, Central District Field Outreach Minister.

Bring your girlfriends for a day full of inspiration, laughter, and singing. Lunch will be provided. Watch for registration forms coming out soon! Questions? Contact either Carole Followwill, Barb Mather, Sharon Smith or Nancy Monthei.

# missions

## **The Mission focus for April is Refugees and Immigration.**

God has called us to care for the sojourners all throughout the Old Testament. Many of the verses refer to the Israelites as being sojourners, too.

The Board of Global Missions in the United Methodist church is the overall connection to our Missions throughout the world, including the Refugees and Immigrants.

Four Mission Goals are:  
Make disciples of Jesus Christ,  
Strengthen, develop and renew Christian congregations and communities,  
Alleviate human suffering, and  
Seek justice, freedom and peace.

Our Mission team has helped support the new UMC Sudanese congregation in Des Moines in giving towards their educational needs in learning English and new customs and culture.

We are now working on helping refugees from Uganda, Rwanda, and the Congo. They have formed an organization called UMUFASHA which means helper in African. They have volunteer professionals who are helping set up a non-profit and get grants to help in bridging the cultural divide as well as to give support as needed. We are in the process in discovering how we can help. Stay tuned to hear more about this.

Last December, we donated 70 backpacks for the Zion Lutheran Church's Christmas celebration with the refugees from Myanmar (Burma). The BLAST helped distribute them.

There is much need to help refugees in this day and time with the world in such turmoil. The United Methodist Church has always been a leader in peace and justice efforts, let us be a part of that.



## **Get your children registered for camp!**

Don't miss the opportunity for a wonderful spiritual experience for our young ones.

The Mission team is offering **camperships** of 50% of the total cost of the camp.

If the remaining amount is still too much, please contact Sharon Smith, 515-277-7125, wicketsblooms@aol.com, as there are other sources that can help.

Register your child, pay half and let the camp registrar know that New Hope will pay the rest. Then call Nancy to let her know the child, camp, and amount and a check will be sent for the rest. *Your pledges to Missions help with this effort, so thank you to all who pledge so generously!*

**Mother's Day** is coming up and your children may be ordering a Fair Trade bag of goodies for Mothers. Stay tuned as the children will have a form to take home and with your help, order items for that bag of wonderful items. The bags can be picked up on Mother's Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a gift bag for Father's Day.

**Speaking of Fair Trade items:** New ones are available on the shelves in the New Hope hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall. We will be selling out any past the date items in the hallway soon. It will also be on the honor system. Items are safe to use, so don't be afraid to buy at a low cost. Support farmers around the world and even in the U.S. as through the Equal Exchange coop, they can receive a living wage and not be subject to large corporations who, because of their low reimbursements, cause the farmers to often not be able to cover their costs or help support their family.

## **Hand of Luke - April 14**

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 re-frig."). Baked goods should be transferred to a disposable container if possible. *Thank you!!*



Anita and I would like to invite you to a special May Day Open House at the **parsonage on Sunday, May 1** (May Day!).

This is an opportunity for everyone to see the beautiful New Hope parsonage, located across the east lawn from the church.

The Open House will be from **3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** with refreshments, fun and games. We so appreciate the home you provide for us and hope you will come and see it for yourselves!

Pastor Jon



**Save the Date!**

Garlands of Gifts will be on November 12th this year. Vendor information will be available around mid-April.

If you want more information or if you would like to help, please contact Deb Henry, [mssci@aol.com](mailto:mssci@aol.com).

**Financial Update**

Below is the February 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**

	<b>February 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$23,879.37
Total Expenditures	<u>28,637.35</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$4,757.98)</u>
	<b>YTD 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$52,263.12
Total Expenditures	<u>52,880.81</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$617.69)</u>

**Johnston River of Life Financial Update**

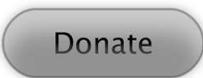
	<b>February 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$8,858.83
Total Expenditures	<u>6,480.29</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$378.54</u>
	<b>YTD 2016</b>
Total Receipts	\$38,685.64
Total Expenditures	<u>17,219.57</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$21,466.07</u>

<b>New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance</b>				
	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
February 28	29	100	84	213
March 6	33	108	69	210
March 13	22	68	66	156
March 20	41	119	87	247
March 27	58	159	142	359

<b>Johnston River of Life Worship attendance</b>				
	Sat		Sun	total
Feb 27	39	Feb 28	37	76
Mar 5	58	Mar 6	46	104
Mar 12	43	Mar 13	35	78
Mar 19	31	Mar 20	42	73

**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](http://www.newhopedsm.org) OR [www.johnstonriveroflife.org](http://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.

## Don't do Church!

As a pastor, I have occasionally wondered what is the point? I mean lets be honest about the question. If church is just about a place to meet once a week, sing, pray, and listen to a 20 minute lecture, we could find better entertainment. In fact, many have. Church attendance is down and statistics tell us its because many people find church irrelevant.

Now, don't get me wrong, I fully believe that personal faith and attending church can change a life. In fact I have seen it over and over again, God makes a difference. But the one thing I am sure about is this: one hour a week, or walking in a building with a cross, or listening to a lecture isn't enough! If you want to create change in your life, or make a difference in the world, it takes more than just an hour a week.

As the pastor of a young church community ([Johnstonriveroflife.org](http://Johnstonriveroflife.org)) we are trying to be very different. We are not worried about the numbers, the money, the political angle, or even having a perfect theological understanding. That does not mean you will get a watered down sermon from me, but you will be challenged to live your faith every week. At JROL we are taking action to love God and love our neighbor. We do worship, small groups, prayer, and discipleship, but our focus is, "Being Christ in Community."

April is the Johnston Community clean up month ([cityofjohnston.com/spring](http://cityofjohnston.com/spring)). Most people know you can put out all your big garbage on April 18-19. But did you know you can get involved on April 23 at Crown Point to help clean up our public spaces?

Do more than church! Claim your faith and relationship with God through your actions. Get out and make a difference, serve the community, and love your neighbor. If you are looking for a way to put your faith into action we invite you to check out what we are doing at JROL. Here are a couple community ways to get connected.

April 8, 6:00 PM @ Crown Point – Family Fun Night

April 22, 5:30 PM @ Beaver Creek Elementary – Walk and Clean our Community

May 30, 6:00 AM @ Camp Dodge – Help serve the Memorial Day breakfast

Or for an adventure:

Take a trip to Israel with us June 12-22, 2017



Pastor Craig Ferguson  
Johnston River of Live

# 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 April

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3 10 17 24	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3 10 17 24 Glenna Ross	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 3 10 17 24
<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 3 Cathy Short 10 17 24 Cathy Short	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 3 Sherri Bogue 10 17 24	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 3 Jon Verner 10 Lynn Davisson 17 24 Barb Mather
<b><u>Traditional Service Callers</u></b> Norma Sutton	<b><u>9:30 Computer Support</u></b> 3 Kelly Mohrman 10 Terry Dolberg 17 Pam Frey 24 Nancy Monthei	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 3 Andy Sutton/Mary Drossel 10 Sr. BLAST 17 Soards family 24 Confirmation reception
<b><u>Contemporary Service Callers</u></b> 3 Rod & Lynette Cook 10 Eldon Cross 17 Rod & Lynette Cook 24 Eldon Cross	<b><u>Office Volunteers</u></b> 1 Pat Papenheim 8 Kay Goff 15 Marilyn Osborn 22 Ellen Hester 29 Norma Sutton	<b><u>Money Counters</u></b> 3 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 10 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 17 Clark Howland, Rick Homard, Larry Wood 24 Jerry Kielsmeier, Kim Traylor, John Burrough



### ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

We are in need of volunteers to host after the 9:30 and 10:45 services. 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!

# April 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 Office Vol. Pat Papenheim	2 9a-3p, Needlers, 3rd grade classroom
3 Holy Communion Ministry Moment: VBS Ministry Moment: Rummage Sale  1p, Prayer Bead, F.Hall 4p, New Member Orientation, R.Chapel	4 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel  6p, Children/Youth Cluster Mtg., F.Hall  7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	5 9:30a, Alanon 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice Noon, AA  6:30p, Girl Scouts	6 5:30p, TGIW 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	7 6:30-9p, Venture Crew, F.Hall  7p, Worship Cluster, Pastor's office  7p, JROL Mtg., Ruby Chapel	8 Office Vol. Kay Goff  1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch	9 7:30a, Men's Breakfast  Habitat for Humanity work day  Spring Clean up day at New Hope
10 New Members join Native American Ministries Sunday (offering) Mission Moment: Immigrants & Refugees Sr. BLAST breakfast fundraiser 10:45a, Jr. Bell Ringers 4:30p, Confirmation Class & Dinner	11 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel  7p, Katherine Parker, UM Missionary	12 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA  7p, Finance Mtg., R.Chapel	13 5:30p, TGIW 4:30p, Sr. BLAST Pizza Ranch fundraiser 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	14 9a, Women's Fellowship, at church 11a, Care Team Mtg., F.Hall 3:30p, Hand of Luke 6-8p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	15 Office Vol: Marilyn Osborn	16 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast at church
17 Food Pantry Sunday VBS Planning Meeting  1p-7p, Rummage Sale items to be dropped off.	18 <b>Deadline for May LINK</b> 9a-7p, Rummage Sale items to be dropped off.  1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	19 Set up for Rummage Sale 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts, downstairs 7:00p, Stroke Club, Sanctuary	20 Set up for Rummage Sale 7-8p, Family Night at Urb. pool 6:00p, Sr. BLAST—Childserve 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	21 Noon-6pm Rummage & Bake Sale	22 Office Vol: Ellen Hester  9am-6pm Rummage & Bake Sale	23 9am-Noon Rummage & Bake Sale
24 10:45a, Confirmation Sunday  Deadline for graduate information	25 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel	26 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA	27 5:30p, TGIW Talent Show 6:00p, Jr. BLAST 6:00p, Sr. BLAST 6:30p, Choir practice 7:15p, Puppets 7:45p, Praise Team	28 6-8p, Girl Scouts  7:00p, Administrative Council Mtg., R.Chapel	29 Office Vol: Norma Sutton  1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch  6p, The Fire & The Mercy dinner theater	30

\*Native American Ministries Sunday (offering) April 10: Your generous gift supports Native American ministries within the annual conference. When you give you educate Native American seminarians and empower outreach into the Native American culture.

## Happy Birthday to you!!

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

- 1 Brian Martz, Tavian Carnahan
- 2 Kirk Dickey, Kelly Reierson, Bob Harter, Jane Perdue
- 3 Patrice Webber, Brett Cullinan, Nicolaus Haase
- 4 Shirley Frus
- 5 Greg Baker
- 7 Pat Papenheim, Lorelai Roff, Bob Soards
- 8 Kate Lichter, Marik McGhee
- 9 Bhanu Moses
- 10 Rachel Jackson, Kathy Russi, Jacob Baumann
- 11 Arnold Larsen, Elaine Collet
- 12 Tanner Rowland, Max Wearmouth, Reggie Wearmouth, Lynn Louk
- 13 Paul Herring, Carl Wallin
- 15 Carrie Naumann, Steve Halterman

- 17 Donna Greenwood, Bob Rankin, Susan Smith, Peyton Henry
- 19 Carol Evans, Nicole Jaschen, Nathan Ferguson
- 20 Chase Alcorn
- 21 JoAnn Decker
- 22 Amarachi Ukabiala, Ashlynn Riley
- 23 Kathy Crees, Wade Breitsprecher, Jodi Beaderstadt
- 24 Caleb Christensen
- 25 Bob Borcherding, Julie McClain
- 26 Ron Wilson, Audrey Naumann, Adam Gregg, Eli Zimmerman
- 27 Madison McGhee
- 28 Ellie Roquet, Meghan Kinnetz, Madeline Johnston
- 29 Joelyn Gerovac
- 30 Mason Redies

## Happy Anniversary!!!

- 5: Eddy & Karen Johnston
- 13: Tony & Tracy Hoffman
- 27: Jim & Norma Smith
- 30: Dan & Mona Kirkpatrick

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

## ...life...the universe...everything

With Confirmation Sunday on April 24 and graduations fast approaching in May for high school and college students, a number of our young people are at a transition point in their lives. For our confirmation youth, they will be encouraged to continue growing, learning, and seeking how to live out their faith. For graduates, they will need to make a decision about what comes next.

It seems like decisions, such as what to do with our lives, should require a great deal of prayer, study, reflection, thought, and advice seeking. However, many people are either keeping such in depth soul searching to themselves or it just does not happen very much. People do not seem to spend much time engaged in deep theological and philosophical discussions. They want to keep conversations light, polite, and noncontroversial.

As much as I like to be “light and polite,” there are times when I can’t help myself. There will be a lull in a conversation and I will say, “So, what do you think about life, the universe, and everything?”

There have been several typical responses to my question. I get strange looks, laughter, or silence (sometimes followed by a sigh or a shake of the head). A few people try to humor me and reply, but hardly anyone takes my question seriously. I have had so few responses that on the occasions when I do ask it now, it is simply an automatic statement asked out of habit and I don’t even expect a response.

This was the case some years ago when I was talking to a group of pastors during a break at a meeting. I asked my question during a lull in the conversation and, not expecting any response, I was totally taken by surprise when one of the pastors immediately responded with, “Life is to be lived, the universe is expansive, and you can’t have everything because where would you put it?”

I was astounded (and still am). Never had I heard such a quick, concise, and insightful response to my question. It made sense and gave me a feeling of completeness. However, it left me with the question of how life is to be lived. I’ve been trying to answer that question with the great commandments: love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. I have found that this is easier said than done, but that the meaning in life is in the trying—trying to love God and trying to love all people.

So, for what it’s worth, I pass this piece of wisdom on to our confirmation youth, our graduates, and to all of you and ask as well, “What do you think about life, the universe, and everything?”

Blessings, Pastor Jon



### **April Theme: “Easter Questions”**

Apr. 3	<u>Title:</u> "When is He Coming?"	<u>Script.:</u> Revelation 1:4-8	Holy Communion
Apr. 10	<u>Title:</u> "What Should We Feed Them?"	<u>Script.:</u> Revelation 4:11-14	
Apr. 17	<u>Title:</u> "Who is the Shepherd?"	<u>Script.:</u> Revelation 7:9-12	
Apr. 24	<u>Title:</u> "Where is the Holy City?"	<u>Script.:</u> Revelation 21:1-4	



#### 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](http://www.newhopedsm.org) • [www.johnstonriveroflife.org](http://www.johnstonriveroflife.org)

#### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Jon Gaul  
**Outreach Pastor:** Craig Ferguson  
**Director of Music:** Eldon Cross  
**Children's Ministries Coordinator:** Sarah Jacobson  
**Office Administrator:** Nancy Monthei  
**Nursery Attendant:** Anita Gaul  
**Custodian:** Chuck VanDyke

#### Church Office Hours

Mon–Fri: 8:00am - 4:30pm

#### E-mail Information

Church address: [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org)  
Jon Gaul: [jgaul@newhopedsm.org](mailto:jgaul@newhopedsm.org)

Craig Ferguson: [craig@newhopedsm.org](mailto:craig@newhopedsm.org)  
Nancy Monthei: [nancy@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nancy@newhopedsm.org)  
Sarah Jacobson: [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)  
Eldon Cross: [eldon@newhopedsm.org](mailto:eldon@newhopedsm.org)

#### Find Us

**Phone:** (515) 278-2097  
4525 Beaver Avenue • Des Moines, IA 50310

#### find us on facebook!

Visit the website to find our facebook link.

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

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