

# the link

A monthly publication of  
New Hope United  
Methodist Church

## December 2016

DECEMBER AT NEW HOPE UMC

## PREPARING The WAY

- Dec. 4 "Preparing the Path"  
Children & Youth led Services
- Dec. 11 "Preparing for the One"  
Christmas Cookie Walk
- Dec. 18 "Preparing for a Child"  
Christmas Cantata (8:30, 10:45)
- Dec. 24 "Preparing for a Sign"  
Christmas Eve Services  
5:30, 7:30, 10:00
- Dec. 25 "Preparing for the Word Made Flesh"  
Christmas Day Service 10 AM



NEW HOPE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

## the perfect gift

Saturdays 5pm &  
Sundays 10am  
Beaver Creek Elementary  
[JohnstonRiverOfLife.org](http://JohnstonRiverOfLife.org)

*Come spend Christmas with us....*

**Sunday, December 4:** Children and Youth led Christmas Services

**Sunday, December 11:** Christmas Cookie Walk after all three services

**Saturday, December 17:** 5:00 & 7:00 pm: A Johnston Community Christmas sponsored by Johnston River of Life.  
The Simpson Barn in Johnston, 6169 Northglenn Drive.  
Pictures with Santa @ 4pm & 6pm

**Sunday, December 18:** 8:30 & 10:45 am, Christmas Cantata in the Sanctuary. 9:30 am, Contemporary Service

**Saturday, December 24—Eve Services:** 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10:00 pm

**Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day Service:** 10:00 am





# 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

John Rains; Margaret Hemphill; Cheryl Lillegraven; Finn Abbott; Joann Pugh; Olive Walker; Bishop Laurie Haller; District Superintendent, Rev. Heecheon Jeon ; District Field Outreach Minister, Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck; Dr. Emmanuel Mefor, missionary.

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



**Wishing you all the joys  
and happiness of the  
holiday season.**

**May you be blessed with  
peace, love and joy.**

**Merry Christmas!!**

**New Hope UMC Staff**

## Thank You

Thank you, prayer chain, for your healing thoughts and prayers.  
Lynne Paff-Boal

Thank you to New Hope friends for the cards and prayers in my recent health event.  
Carol Evans

## Church Communications

Stay connected with New Hope UMC!!

Weekly announcements and the monthly newsletters are sent out to everyone via email.

If you have not been receiving these emails, please contact Nancy Monthei in the church office at 278-2097 or [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org).

**CONTACT** We appreciate receiving your updated contact information.  
**information** Thank you!



## confirmation schedule



**Dec 4, 4:30 p.m.**

Topic: "Holy Life & the three  
"R"s"

**Dec 18, 4:30 p.m. (Mentor night)**

Topic: "Accept & Confess"

## Fall Cleanup *Thank you!*

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the fall cleanup on November 5th:

Jon Gaul, Army Larsen, Steve Sutton, Spencer Sutton, Larry Webber, Patrice Webber, Laura Webber, Ruth Doxon, Jerry Kielsmeier, Bob Harter, Kevin Christiansen, Roger Moore, Brock Moore, Sharon Lewis, Earl Lewis, Joyce Turek, John Turek, Roger, Tammy, & Gwen Dann, Larry Forbes, Melisa Forbes.

Thank you to Melisa for the wonderful chili lunch and thank you to John Dickerson for the delicious pies. All was greatly appreciated!

The New Hope UMC Board of Trustees





# Christmas Cookie Walk



**Sunday, December 11, 2016**  
**After all three worship services**

Share some Christmas cheer by donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy to the New Hope Cookie Walk! Sign up on the forms in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will donate. The more cookies that we have, the more fun for everyone!

**Deliver** the home-baked goods to the church **on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2-4pm.**



**Due to peanut allergies, please do not use any nuts or peanut butter.**

## Join us for this Special Event!

There will be a large assortment of homemade Christmas cookies!

**Only \$10 per box (Cash or Check)**

A Styrofoam box will be provided (size 9 ½ x 9 ½ x 3).

It's that easy for some Christmas cheer for you or to give as a gift!

Questions? Please contact Nancy Monthei, in the church office,  
at [nhfamily@newhopedsm.org](mailto:nhfamily@newhopedsm.org) or 515-278-2097.



## Not too late to share your Nativity Set

Please join in on our annual Nativity display at New Hope UMC!

We will provide place cards and additional paper if you have a story to share about it.

You may leave your Nativity set(s) up throughout the Advent season.

**NEW this season...**if you have kid friendly Nativity sets, we could use them on a table that the kids can touch and play with.

Please bring your Nativity set(s) to church.

Thank you from your Altar Guild. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Frey, 515-490-8440 or [yayafrey@gmail.com](mailto:yayafrey@gmail.com)



## 2017 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (8:30 & 10:45), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office.

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



6th annual  
Community  
Christmas  
at the Barn

Sat, Dec 17  
5PM & 7PM

You are invited to a Christmas service of traditional carols, a visit from Santa, cider, cookies & community.

Have your picture taken with Santa!  
4PM & 6PM  
Santa, Cider & Goodies



### Santa's Attic, December 14th:

If you are looking to clean out your house of some gently used items, we ask that you would please put them aside for our Santa's Attic event. On December 14th, our children will get an opportunity to do some "Christmas shopping" for their family members. We especially need great gifts for dads!

**All Santa's Attic items can be brought to Sarah's office.** If you are available to help out this night, please contact either Sarah Jacobson or Tami Wise.



### Happy birthday, Jesus!

Each Christmas, a family celebrated by holding a birthday party for Jesus. To remind themselves of Jesus' presence, they placed a chair of honor for him at their dinner table.

The highlight of the party was singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and then blowing out the candles on a special cake.

One Christmas, a visitor asked the family's 5-year-old daughter, "Did you get everything you wanted for Christmas?"

The girl paused and then answered, "No! It's not *my* birthday!"



# groups gathering together

## **Blood Pressure Check**

First Sunday of each month.  
December 4, 9:30-11:00am will be the next BP checks in the Narthex.

## **Friday Bible Study**

**Urbandale Pizza Ranch, 1pm**  
**\*\*Friday, December 9\*\***

**Leader - James Louk**

The theme of our study this year will be the "one anothers" of Scripture. Please bring your Bible and a note pad.

## **Monday Bible Study**

**Mondays at 1pm, Ruby Chapel**  
Armenta Buckingham and Roberta Cave are going to lead a group on the study of James. They will be using a Beth Moore study called James, Mercy Triumphs. We are not using the workbook, but will be discussing the topics.

Please bring your Bible with you.

## **New Hope Needlers**

**Friday, January 6, 9am-3pm**  
in the 3rd grade classroom.  
Please bring your sewing machine and current project. Dress kits will be available. Lunch will be at Panera. Contact Diane Densmore, [ddindsm1@mchsi.com](mailto:ddindsm1@mchsi.com) or 270-1974 with questions.

## **Men's Breakfast**

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

## **Women's Fellowship**

Next meeting is Thurs., Dec. 15, at 9am in the Fellowship Hall for our gathering time with coffee and treats. At 9:30am we gather in the Ruby Chapel for devotions followed by an educational program on a local mission need. Following the program, our business meeting begins where we make our plans to meet our local mission needs.

All women of our church are welcome to join us!

Questions? Contact Betty Holwegner at 278-8115 or Lee Ross at 276-9790.

## **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. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek or Mary Ann Rice.

## **Veterans Helping Veterans**

Our next breakfast will be **Saturday, January 21, 8:30am**

All veterans, their spouses and supporters are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Billy Nuzum, [bbnewz54@gmail.com](mailto:bbnewz54@gmail.com)

## **Chancel Choir**

Practice on Wednesdays at 6:30p. Join us! Contact Eldon Cross, Director of Music, [elcatalia4@gmail.com](mailto:elcatalia4@gmail.com) or 515 250-1476.

## **Adult Discussion Group**

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

## **Support Groups**

### **Al-Anon**

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Ruby Chapel.

### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.

### **Stroke Club of Iowa**

3rd Tuesday of the month (February - October) at 7 p.m.

## **Johnston River of Life Life Group (Bible Study):**

Are you looking for a place to connect with friends, build your faith, and get support? Join a small group!

### **Small Group**

Sundays, 5:30 PM  
@ Pastor Craig's House  
6850 - NW 54th Ct.  
Join a group of friends and dig into the book of Ephesians.

### **Men's Bible Study**

Contact Patrick with questions, [phmulloy@gmail.com](mailto:phmulloy@gmail.com)



**Thank you** to the New Hope Needlers for making "Days for Girls" kits to be shipped to Ghana. Thank you for using your gifts to help others!

# 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)

### Children, Youth & Family Led Christmas Services

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
8:30, 9:30 and 10:45am



We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. This year our children, youth and families will be taking some leadership roles during all worship services. The puppets will perform at all services, and the Jr Ringers will perform at 10:45. If you would still like to help out, please contact Sarah Jacobson! We hope you'll consider joining us as we celebrate

the Christmas season with our young people.

Note: There will be No Children's Worship on this day, but CLT will remain as scheduled for those who will not be involved in the 10:45 service.

No CLT classes or Children's Worship will be held on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Have a great Christmas Break! Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.



## Operation Christmas Child Report

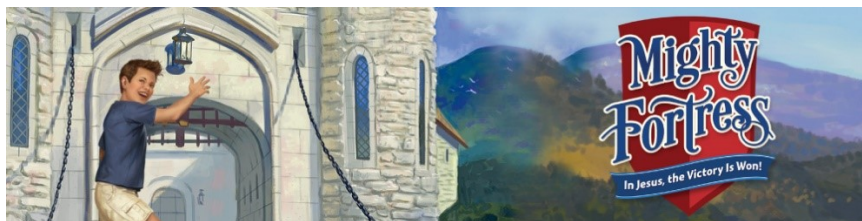
Thank you to everyone who participated in the Operation Christmas Child mission project in various ways. For those who donated items or money, wrapped shoe boxes, filled the shoeboxes, and helped to make cards... we couldn't have done it without you all! **Our church will be providing 41 shoe box gifts to be sent to children in Mexico and Niger, Africa. We should feel proud of our church that we will be sharing the love of Jesus with those children this Christmas season!**

A note about next year: Shoe boxes will be provided to individuals and families who choose to fill a box on their own, but we will no longer be having a "packing event" as a part of our TGIW program. Consider collecting items now for November 2017!

## 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 an activity puzzle for kids, and a meal time devotion titled "Better than Homemade." The parent resource article for this month is titled "Bucking the Entitlement Trend." If you have any ideas for Parent Resources or other topics you'd like more information on, please contact [sjacobson@newhopedsm.org](mailto:sjacobson@newhopedsm.org)

## Mark your calendars now for VBS 2017!!!



Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>



**THANK GOD IT'S WEDNESDAY!**

A midweek ministry dedicated to children & adults of all ages,  
teaching the Word of God in Scripture, Music and Fun!

**Weekly Schedule**

Dinner:

5:30-6:30pm

Kids Activities/Youth Groups:

6:00-7:00pm

Jr. Ringers (for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up):

6:00-6:30pm

Puppets:

7:00-7:45pm

## **This month at TGIW...**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>: Caroling at Bishop Drum (more info below)**

**December 14<sup>th</sup>: Santa's Attic Event**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> - No TGIW for Christmas Break**



**TGIW is Christmas Caroling at Bishop Drum  
Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Come join us as we brighten the holiday season for our nursing home residents. If your child or youth plans to attend this event, please make sure to sign up on the list found at the TGIW registration table each week. We need this number to know how many kids will need to be transported. Also if you are a parent willing to drive for this event, please sign up as well (with the number of seats in your vehicle) or contact Sarah Jacobson. We will depart from the church no later than 6:05pm and we will return by 7pm.

### **Santa's Attic, December 14<sup>th</sup>:**

If you are looking to clean out your house of some gently used items, we ask that you would please put them aside for our Santa's Attic event. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, our children will get an opportunity to do some "Christmas shopping" for their family members. We especially need great gifts for dads! **All Santa's Attic items can be brought to Sarah's office.** If you are available to help out this night, please contact either Sarah Jacobson or Tami Wise.

# Youth Groups

## BLAST—Believing, Learning, Assisting, Serving, Teens

**Jr. BLAST (6th-8th grade)** Leaders: Nancy Wiles and Jennifer Riley  
Join the Jr BLAST fun on Wednesdays at 6pm at church!

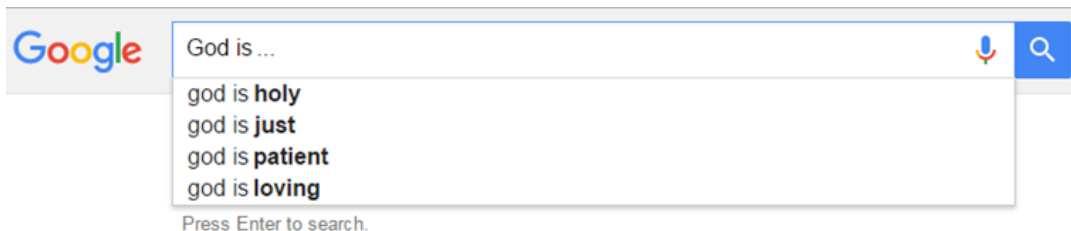


**Sr. BLAST (8th-12th grade)** Leaders: Chris Higdon, Pam Frey and McKayla Johnson  
[BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org](mailto:BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org).

Who is ready for winter? The Senior High BLAST group is ready! To start with, the group will be doing a Chili Soup Fundraiser at JROL on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plan now to come out and support this fundraiser for our 2017 summer mission trip.

Additionally, the group will be hosting their annual BLAST Christmas party on December 11<sup>th</sup>; where we will have our gift exchange and play games. We will have more information about this upcoming party during our Wednesday night meetings.

The group will continue their study into the different aspects of God (“*Holy*”, “*Just*”, “*Patient*”, “*Loving*”). In January, we will be having a Barb Mather giving a talk about how “*God is Loving*”.



Finally, with our new approach to Wednesday night bible study; the Senior BLAST leaders would like to invite New Hope and JROL members to come into our study and talk to the group about a specific topic. This could be on any topic you are passionate about (*Prayer, Mission, etc.*). If you are willing to come in and talk; please come talk to either Pam Frey, Chris Higdon, or McKayla Johnson.

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

- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 4:30pm** ~ JROL Soup Dinner
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ BLAST Christmas Party
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussions – TGBD

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



# missions

## NOVEMBER MISSION NEWS

<b>Camel</b>		\$ 850
Share of a Camel		\$ 85
<b>Heifer</b>		\$ 500
Share of a Heifer		\$ 50
<b>Knitter's Basket</b>		\$ 480
Share of Knitter's Basket		\$ 48
<b>Fish Fingerlings</b>		\$ 300
Share of Fish Fingerlings		\$ 30
<b>Gift of Clean Water</b>		\$ 300
Irrigation Pumps		\$ 150
<b>Send a Girl to School</b>		\$ 275
<b>Water Buffalo</b>		\$ 250
Share of a Water Buffalo		\$ 25
<b>Llama</b>		\$ 150
Share of a Llama		\$ 20
<b>Goat</b>		\$ 120
Share of a Goat		\$ 10
<b>Sheep</b>		\$ 120
Share of a Sheep		\$ 10
<b>Pig</b>		\$ 120
Share of a Pig		\$ 10
<b>Tree Seedlings</b>		\$ 60
Share of Seedlings		\$ 10
<b>Flock of Hope</b>		\$ 60
<b>Trio of Rabbits</b>		\$ 60
Share of Rabbits		\$ 10
<b>Hope Basket</b>		\$ 50
<b>Honeybees</b>		\$ 30
<b>Flock of Chicks</b>		\$ 20
<b>Ducks/Geese</b>		\$ 20

### Heifer International

Our Mission focus for November and December is Heifer International, an organization that believes in "gifts that keep on giving".

You can sponsor a gift of an animal from the list and send an honor card instead of/with your Christmas card to the one you are honoring by buying the animal. You can place your check in the offering plate with Heifer on the memo line.

**We encourage every member to give a share or an animal in honor of a loved one(s). You can pick up honor cards from the Mission table and send in place of a Christmas card to let them know your love for them continues on in a gift that keeps on giving.**



**UMAFASHA ESL Classes:** We hope to begin classes soon. Watch for the details.



**Hand of Luke (HOL):** Thank you for supporting our Hand of Luke, cooking and serving a meal at the shelter. Our teams are all set but we will continue to need 2 more cooks and 6 servers as well as all the ingredients for that month's meal.

December 14 is the scheduled date to serve at the Central Services Shelter. Please sign up on the Hand of Luke sheet in the F. Hall, to donate food, cook, and/or serve. If you are interested in providing a financial donation to support this cause, please notate "Missions - HOL" on your check (or with your cash).

**DMARC:** Food Pantry donation of the month is pasta. Please leave your donations in the grocery cart by the missions table in the F.Hall.

**Thanksgiving Ingathering:** We took 59 Health Kits, and 15 Sewing Kits for UMCOR as well as a check for: Artemisia Seeds to treat Malaria, Self-Help International, P.E.T. (a hand controlled mobility cart), and CWS, Church World Service blankets and Tools amounting to \$1,800. With money for toothpaste, shipping costs, the value of the kits, and our auction items of a quilt and wooden bowls, the donations amounted to \$3,336! Thank you for giving to Missions and donating items for the kits and auction!



The Advent by Candlelight on November 28 was a beautiful evening of readings, songs, delicious desserts by candlelight, and joyous table conversations. Just a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent Season! Thank you to everyone involved with the program and thank you to all that attended! More pictures are on New Hope's Facebook page.







There are a lot of techniques for procuring the perfect gift. As I am writing this, some people are scouring the Black Friday ads online searching for just the right thing at the right price, so they can get up hours before sunrise to stand in line, muddle through a mob and potentially grapple a dozen people for the last item on the shelf. Some people may go to the other extreme of finding the perfect gift on an auction site and bidding it up to double its original price in the last few days before Santa makes his rounds. Either way it is a cultural attempt to let someone know how important they are to us.

We all have family traditions that help us celebrate. Maybe you attend a midnight Christmas Eve service, or gather the family together for Oyster Stew and presents after worship. (That was Grandma and Grandpa) Maybe you are lucky and spend the first half of Christmas day driving to reach the family gathering. No matter how you break it down one gift we all celebrate is family. But family is more than just DNA, it is faith, friends, and the spiritual community gathered in the name of Christ.

The weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas are called Advent. It is a time of waiting and preparation, a time of expectation and anticipation. Christmas is the holiday when we receive and remember the perfect gift given to us by God. Jesus, wrapped in cloth, laid in manger, with Angels and Star pointing the way.

This Christmas Season join JROL as we spend the month of Advent investing our efforts in seeking and procuring the Perfect Gift of Jesus Christ, the Child in the Manger.

Being Christ in Community,  
Pastor Craig Ferguson

**Israel 2017 - June 12<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Deadline to sign up – March 12, 2017**

Have you always dreamed of taking a trip to Israel? "The trip of a lifetime!"

Walk where Jesus walked,

See the **Bethlehem** and see the **Shepherds field**

Step into the **Jordan river** where Jesus was baptized

Pray on the **Mount of Olives** and look at the **Temple Mount**

Meditate in the **Garden of Gethsemane**

Enter the cell in the **House of Caiaphas** Jesus was held in  
and the **Garden Tomb**



Pray at the **Western Wall (Wailing Wall)**

Walk the **Via Dolorosa**

Visit the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**

Sail on the **Sea of Galilee**

Don't miss **Masada** and the **Dead Sea**

Experience **Yad Vashem** (Israel's Holocaust Museum)

Visit **Jericho, Cana, Qumran, Tel Megiddo, Caesarea,**

**Capernaum**, and so much more!!!

Join Pastor Craig and more than 30 others from the community as we explore the Holy lands together June 12-22<sup>nd</sup> 2017. If you have thought about it but are not yet decided you are invited to contact Pastor Craig directly (319-939-6788 / [pastorcferguson@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcferguson@gmail.com))

# ANNUAL Stewardship CAMPAIGN

## 2017 Stewardship

If you haven't had a chance to turn in your 2017 Pledge Sheet, there is time to do so. Please place your pledge sheet with the offering or mail it to the church office. We thank you for your contributions which continue to support our ministries!

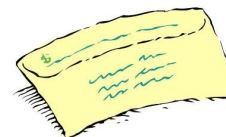


### Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2016 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2016** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2015. Thank you!

### 2017 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2016 offering envelopes from the table in the Fellowship Hall on December 18.



*If you did not indicate on your 2017 pledge sheet that you want offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office by **December 11**.*

## Financial Update

Below is the October 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

	Oct 2016
Total Receipts	\$26,577.47
Total Expenditures	<u>30,532.05</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$3,954.58)</u>
	YTD 2016
Total Receipts	\$257,879.37
Total Expenditures	<u>277,046.57</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(\$19,167.20)</u>

### Johnston River of Life Financial Update

	Oct 2016
Total Receipts	\$11,109.63
Total Expenditures	<u>9,086.72</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$2,022.91</u>
	YTD 2016
Total Receipts	\$120,332.30
Total Expenditures	<u>93,518.05</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$26,814.25</u>

### New Hope Sunday morning Worship attendance

	8:30	9:30	10:45	total
Nov 6	36	93	99	228
Nov 13	30	102	82	214
Nov 20	35	83	68	186
Nov 27	34	107	85	226

### Johnston River of Life Worship attendance

Sat		Sun		total
Nov 5	36	Nov 6	28	64
Nov 12	51	Nov 13	47	98
Nov 19	51	Nov 20	15	66
Nov 26	38	Nov 27	47	85

Donate

### 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.



# serve

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

## Sunday Volunteers

**Greeters** arrive at worship service fifteen minutes early to welcome worshipers.

**Lectors** read the scripture lessons for the day at the worship services.

**Hosts** bake or purchase 6 to 8 dozen cookies (no peanuts/nuts), and serve coffee and water after the 9:30 contemporary and 10:45 traditional worship services. After fellowship time the hosts wash, dry, and put away the cookie platters, rinse out and dry the coffee canisters, and take the trash out to the trash bin. When you sign up to host, a letter from New Hope will be mailed to you before you host with instructions on how to host.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please call Nancy Monthei, church secretary, at 278-2097.

## Those who serve New Hope in December

8:30am Traditional Service	9:30am Contemporary Service	10:45am Traditional Service
<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 4 Thomsen family 11 18 Marilyn Osborn	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 4 Carrigan family 11 18	<b><u>Greeters</u></b> 4 Elaine, William & Levi Sheer 11 Lee Ross 18 25, 10am: Clark Howland
<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 4 Andrew Bogue 11 Vicki O'Brien 18 Cathy Short	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 4 Allie Christensen 11 18	<b><u>Lectors</u></b> 4 Ally Sutton 11 18 Billy Nuzum 25, 10am:
<b><u>Traditional Service Callers</u></b> 4 Norma Sutton 11 Bob & Marlys Borcharding 18 Norma Sutton 25 Bob & Marlys Borcharding	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 4 Pam Frey 11 Cookie Walk 18 Pam Weisskopf	<b><u>Hosts</u></b> 4 Soards family 11 Cookie Walk 18 Neal & Roberta Cave 25, 10 am:
<b><u>Contemporary Service Callers</u></b> 4 Rod & Lynette Cook 11 Eldon Crosss 18 Rod & Lynette Cook 25 Eldon Cross	<b><u>9:30 Computer Support</u></b> 4 Nicole Weisskopf 11 Pam Frey 18 Kelly Mohrman 24 Nancy Monthei 25	<b><u>Money Counters</u></b> 4 Kim Traylor, John Burrough Jerry Kielsmeier 11 Tony & Tracy Hoffman, Glenna Ross 18 DeVonne Douglas, Randy Jansen, Ron Zoss 25 Clark Howland, Larry Wood, Rick Homard
<b><u>Office Volunteers</u></b> 2 Marlys Borcharding 9 Gayle Easton 16 Pat Papenheim Thurs. ,22 Theresa Flickinger Thurs 29: Marilyn Osborn		



### What's missing?

When shopping for gifts became too difficult, an elderly man decided to just send checks to relatives. In his Christmas cards, mailed early, he wrote, "Buy your own present!"


After the holiday, the man noticed he'd received few cards in return. Puzzled, he went into his study, intending to write to a few relatives and ask what had happened. As he cleared his cluttered desk, the horrified man found the answer. Under a stack of papers were the checks he'd forgotten to enclose with his cards!

The lesson? Don't be in such a hurry to give gifts that you inadvertently leave out what's most important. Without the message of Jesus and his birth, the earthly trappings of Christmas are empty indeed.

# December 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	2 Office Vol. Marlys Borcharding	3 11a-4p, F.Hall reserved 5p, Sr. BLAST soup dinner at JROL
4 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> Children & Youth led services Holy Communion 9:30-11a, Blood Pressure 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall	5 1p, Bible Study, R.Chapel 7p, Trustees Mtg., R.Chapel	6 9:30a, Sr. Singers practice 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7p, Worship Cluster Mtg. Pastor's office	7 5:30p, TGIW - Caroling 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	8 6:15p, Girl Scouts, 3rd grade classroom	9 Office Vol. Gayle Easton 1p, Friday Small Group, Pizza Ranch McCulley/McClellan wedding (offsite)	10 7:30a, Men's Breakfast 2p-4p, <b>Cookie drop off</b>
11 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Cookie Walk	12	13 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 7p, Finance Mtg, F.Hall	14 3:30p, Hand of Luke 5:30p, TGIW - Santa's Attic 6p, Jr. BLAST 6p, Sr. BLAST 6p, Jr. Ringers 6:30p, Choir practice 7p, Puppets 7:30p, Seasonal Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	15 <b>Deadline for January LINK</b> 9a, Women's Fellowship, F.Hall	16 Office Vol. Pat Papenheim 6-9pm, FLC reserved, Cub Scout movie night	17 5p, 7p River of Life Christmas Worship @ the Johnston Barn
18 <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> Food Pantry Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 Christmas Cantata 4:30p, Confirmation Class, F.Hall	19	20 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA 6:30p, Girl Scouts (downstairs) 7p, AD Council mtg., R.Chapel	21 6:30p, Choir 7:45p, Praise Team	22 Office Vol: Theresa Flickinger 6:15p, Girl Scouts, F.Hall	23 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	24 <b>Christmas Eve Services 5:30p, 7:30p, 10:00p</b>
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10am, One Worship service 	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27 Office Hours: 8:45a - 1:00p 9:30a, Alanon Noon, AA Office Hours: 9a-1p	28 Office Hours: 8:45a - 1:00p 6:30p, Choir	29 Office Hours: 8:45a - 1:00p Office Vol: Marilyn Osborn	30 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 5:30p, Berry/Potter wedding rehearsal	31 4:00p, Berry/Potter wedding

*Happy Birthday to you!!*  
*"May God's many blessings, be yours the year through."*

*Happy Anniversary!!*

1 Dean Peterson, Jason Juran, Kara Garside  
 2 Brandon Thompson  
 3 Linda Dean  
 4 Charity Johnson, Leah Breitsprecher  
 5 Alec Beck-Cross  
 6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren, Stacey Wigant  
 7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney  
 9 Kaylee Stubbs, Lexi Dean, Max Gerleman, Liz Grow, Keith Trillet, Violet Siffin  
 10 Vickie Friedow  
 12 Obi Ukabiala, Matthew Stern, Mary Grace Leyda  
 13 Emma Naumann  
 14 Nolan Monthei  
 15 Kevin Lewis, Cathy Short, Alexis Evans, Tom Stanfield  
 16 Lindsey Robertson  
 17 Mary Ann Rice, Austin Cook, Andy Sutton, Sawyer Haugo, Desiree Spring  
 18 Sheri Thompson, Sue Soards, Chris Boyles, Georgette Kyenkya, Alexis Harlan

19 Neil Cross, Brady Jansen, Spencer Sutton, Kylie Perez  
 20 Teri Reiersen, Larry Buske, Sarah Wiles, Carter Naumann  
 21 Matt Stringham, Adam Hartung, Zoe Wilson  
 22 Paulette Wood  
 23 Susan Baldwin, Ellie Naumann  
 25 Renee Haugland, Jennifer Riley  
 26 Joan Clary  
 27 Kim Buske, Charlotte Roff  
 28 Ashley Marsh  
 29 Liam Fulton, Richard Kile, Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher  
 30 Jeffrey Merrill, Jaedyn Cale  
 31 Quinn Merrill

17 John & Denise Hartford  
 18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue  
 22 Bob & Linda Reaney  
 27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson  
 27 Jon & Anita Gaul  
 28 Ethan & Maya Johnston  
 28 Nicholas & Stacey Wigant

*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.*





With Christmas fast approaching, I am reminded of a tradition I have for lighting our individual candles at Christmas Eve services. As I would give the instructions for how we would pass the light from the Christ candle to those next to us, I would say, "Never tip the lit candle," and again I would say, "Never tip the lit candle," and for a third time I would say, "Never tip the lit candle."

Saying the same thing three times in a row is either suppose to get it to really sink in or drive people crazy. Either way they should remember the message--I hope.

One of our former bishops, Bishop Palmer, used the "triple repeat" in the instructions he would give to pastors at the clergy session of annual conference. He would say, "Love the people," and again he would say, "Love the people," and a third time he would say, "Love the people." I know

it was at least effective for me, as I have remembered it through all these years.

Now, the important question is, have I put it into practice? I hope so. I have tried to. That is one of the most important things I feel called to do in the ministry. But I don't know how well I convey that love. I know I could do better. I often assume that people know I love and care for them. But do they know it? Do my words and actions convey it? I need a reminder every day to find ways to say it and show it. I think saying, "Love the people," cannot be said too often.

I also remember our current bishop, Bishop Trimble, sharing these words at our first district gathering with him. He said, "People want to know how much you care, before they'll care how much you know." I have translated that saying into, "Care for the people," "Care for the people," "Care for the people!"

Again, a reminder to care for and love people cannot be said too often. The reason I believe that is true is that I see evidence all around me that letting people know we love them and care about them is not being done or it's not getting through. This is as true in family relationships and in the church as it is out in the general public. We take each other for granted and think "they know I care," but they don't know it unless we say it and have our actions confirm it. It's all about relationships.

I hope and pray in this Christmas season and far beyond, that we will all know we are loved and cared for and that we will let everyone around us know that they are loved and cared for too.

Christmas blessings, Pastor Jon

*Jon Paul*

P.S., Please join us for our special Christmas services:

**Dec. 4,** Children and Youth led Christmas Services

**Dec. 17,** Christmas at the Simpson Barn in Johnston (next to the library), 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 18,** 8:30 & 10:45 am, Christmas Cantata in the Sanctuary. 9:30 am, Contemporary Service

**Dec. 24,** Christmas Eve Services at New Hope, 5:30 p.m. (family friendly), 7:30 p.m. (Chancel Choir), 10:00 p.m. (Communion)

**Dec. 25,** Christmas Day Worship at New Hope, 10:00 a.m.

## **The Season of Advent/Christmas: Theme - "Preparing the Way"**

Dec. 4 Title: "Preparing the Path"

Script.: Matthew 3:1-12 Holy Communion

Dec. 11 Title: "Preparing for the One"

Script.: Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 18 Title: "Preparing for a Child"

Script.: Matthew 1:18-25

Dec. 24 Title: "Preparing for a Sign"

Script.: Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-11

Dec. 25 Title: "Preparing for the " Word Made Flesh

Script.: John 1:1-14 10am worship



#### 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

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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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