

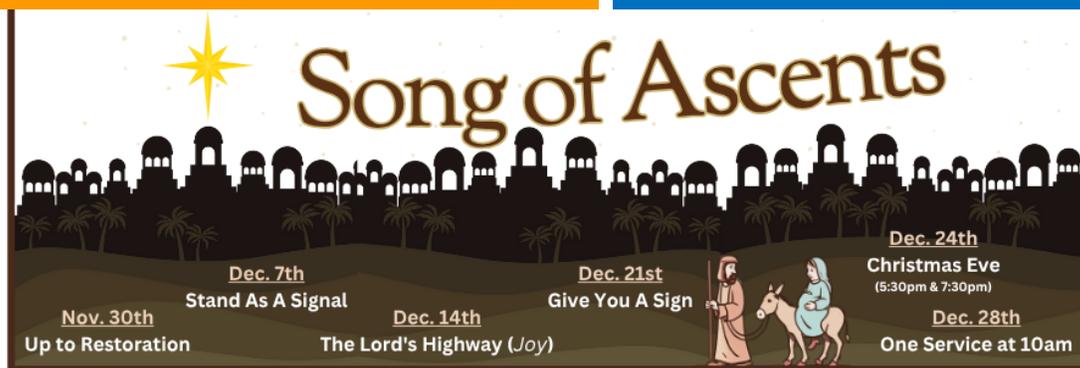
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A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

December 2025



9am • 10am • 11am
newhopedsm.org



Children's Program ~ Sunday, December 7. The Children's Ministry will be featured at the 10am service.

Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 7, 9am - 11am.

Share some Christmas cheer by donating home-baked cookies, bars and candy! We provide the box for you to fill for \$10 per box. *Sign up on the forms at the Welcome Center 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: December 5, 9am-11am or December 6, 12pm - 2pm.

Santa's Attic ~ We are collecting new and gently used gift donations for this beloved annual program through December 7. If you have donations, please bring them to the Children's Ministry office and place them on the round table. Gifts for dads and siblings are always in high demand so please don't forget about them when planning your donations! The children of the church will have the opportunity to shop to purchase the gifts for their loved ones on Wednesday, December 10. Children will bring up to \$5 to use to purchase gifts. The money collected will be donated to a charity chosen by the children. Thank you in advance for your help making this event happen for the kids in our programs!

Breakfast with Santa ~ We are hosting a breakfast with Santa and Jesus on **Saturday, December 13 at 10am!** Join us for kid-friendly breakfast food, fellowship, fun crafts, and photos. If you plan to attend, please contact Jackie Johnson, 515-710-3239. Volunteers are also appreciated to help with the event.

Christmas Music ~ Sunday, December 14. The Chancel Choir will share their Christmas music offerings at the 11am service.

Community Jazz Center Big Band presents Holiday Music ~ Sunday, December 21, 2-4 PM. This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation. Please invite your friends!

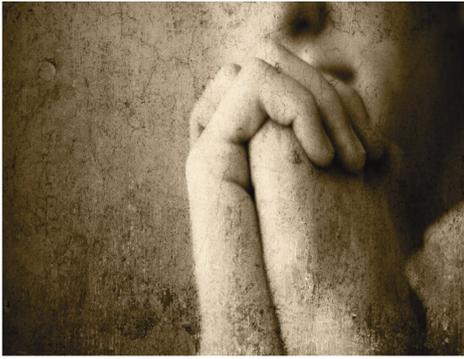
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services ~ Wednesday, December 24.

Remembering God's greatest surprise gift to the world, the birth of our Messiah.

5:30pm – Family oriented Christmas Eve service, in the Family Life Center, will have fun elements for children and families.

7:30pm – Our traditional Christmas Eve service will feature our musicians and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 28, 10am ~ One Worship Service in the Sanctuary



*May Joy be your gift at Christmas
and may Faith, Hope, and Love
be your treasures in the New Year.*

New Hope UMC Staff



Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Glenna Ross at 515-321-3010 email at glenna625@hotmailcom or the church office at 515-278-2097.

Our Prayers for ~

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

Healing from Cancer:

DeVonne Douglas, Pam Frey, Marlys Borcharding, Linda Boyd, Jennifer Hibbert

Healing from Physical Issues:

Doris Pugh, Dick Cobb, Shirlee Herrold, Don Gurnsey, Freda Ruleman, Jim Bolstad, Linda Wood, Art Short, Patricia Smith, Mike Aasheim Osborne

Military:

Devan Stanton, Hunter Schmidt, Joshua Ruleman, Jacob Gerlach, Brycen Gerlach, Michael Craighton, Clayton Hults, Zach McClain, Ethan Hensley, Kaden Moran, Macon Woodlief, Jonah Tibbits



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, December 6 at 8:30am** at church. *All men are invited!!*

Please contact the church office by *Wednesday, December 3*, if you plan to attend.

Gratitude and Farewell: Preshia

The New Hope family extends a sincere and heartfelt thank you to **Preshia Paulding** for her years of dedicated service and commitment.

Preshia has been a true blessing to our ministry, consistently pouring her heart into serving God through her work with us

As she embarks on this next chapter, we wish her God's richest blessings, success, and peace in this transition and throughout the coming year.

Please join us in wishing Preshia all the best!



New Hope UMC has available to you the Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide.

The **November/December** issue is in the

Communication Center.

You may leave a donation in the box by the Upper Room guides.



Congratulations to **Kail Hopkins** on obtaining his Eagle Scout award! We are so proud of you!!

Christkindlmarket, a German Christmas market located at Principal Park, will be held in December and **New Hope volunteers are needed.** They invite nonprofit organizations to participate in order to raise funds and be a bigger presence in the Metro area.

christkindlmarket



The market draws an average of over 20,000 participants daily! German style food, music, and shopping are highlights of the festival. People come to learn about another culture and to discover where some of the Christmas traditions we hold dear originated. See more at: <https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/>

We hope that you will support our efforts to connect, grow, love, and serve during this event! **To Volunteer, please sign up at the Welcome Center at church.**

Saturday, November 29 ~ Building Huts

7:45am-Noon

12:45-5pm

Thursday, December 4 ~ Bratwurst Stand

4:15-9:30pm

Friday, December 5 ~ Bratwurst Stand

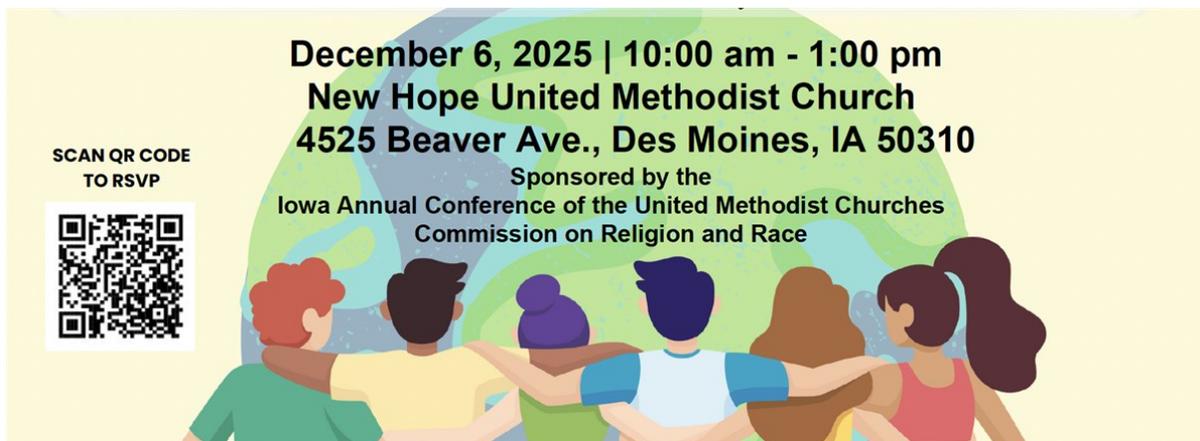
10:30am-2:30pm

2:15pm-5:30pm

5:15pm-9:30pm

Sunday, December 7 ~ Tree Host

7:00pm-9:00pm



You're invited for a time of learning, reflections on the image of God as the beloved people of God- the Church. The Beloved Community recognizes and celebrates the beauty and power of God's love and gifts of diversity. We are all wired for authentic relationships and communities. More so, Christians need to be together through the Body of Christ. We must be intentional about connecting and being with others. This means building relationships with those who are different from us. "Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives." ~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. **Lunch is provided.** Homemade chili, broccoli cheese, and potato soups, with cinnamon rolls and cornbread, along with a few diverse snacks, coffee, water, and tea. **Register** by using the scan code.



Staff Christmas Giving

On behalf of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Janet Habick, Chair, is asking you to join the New Hope family in making a special contribution towards Christmas gifts to the New Hope staff. This is a long-standing New Hope tradition that allows us to express our thanks and gratitude for everything they have done for us this past year. We will present Pastor Amy and staff with gifts from all of us on Sunday, December 14th.

If you wish to contribute to these gifts from the congregation, you may drop it in the offering in your designated envelope, or send it to the church office **by December 7th**. If you are contributing by check please make it payable to New Hope UMC and note "Staff gift" in the memo line.

Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 7, 9am - 11am

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

Examples of home-baked items to consider donating are: sugar cutout & decorated Christmas cookies, gingersnaps, chocolate chip, chocolate, oatmeal, lemon, candy cane, Oreo balls, Kringla, dipped pretzel rods, etc. If you use peanut butter or nuts, please clearly indicate it when delivering your cookies to the church.

We also invite you to make bars (pre-cut) and candy such as caramels, fudge, and toffee. These are only suggestions and we know you will have many, many more yummy ideas!!

Here's how the event will bring Christmas cheer to everyone:

- Sign up to donate home-baked cookies, bars or candy
- Deliver the home-baked goods to the church on Friday December 5, 9:00am-11:00am (East doors) or Saturday, December 6, 12pm - 2pm (Industrial Kitchen door).
- Purchase. On Sunday, December 7, 9am-11am, everyone is welcome to participate in the Christmas Cookie Walk! Walk around the table to choose cookies, placing them in a provided Styrofoam box and purchase \$10.00 per box. The whole box full for \$10 as long as the lid can close.

Enjoy! It's that easy for some Christmas cheer for you or to give as a gift! Join us in this very special event! All proceeds will go to our children's programs.



SANTA'S ATTIC IS COMING!!

Santa is resting up for his second biggest day of the year!

Santa's Attic will be **held on Wednesday, December 10** during our TGIW program time. Children will **bring up to \$5** to use to purchase gifts for their family members. The money collected will be donated to a charity chosen by the children.

Thank you to everyone that has donated new and gently used gift items so far, we appreciate it! We are continuing to collect new and gently used gift donations for this beloved annual program **through Sunday, December 7th**. If you have a donation, please bring it to the Children's Ministry office and place it on the round table. We have a good-sized group of kids and could use lots more donations to make sure there is enough of a selection for everyone to find great options!

We are also in need of wrapping supplies, particularly gift bags and tape. Thank you in advance for helping our kids feel the JOY of gift giving this Christmas!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jackie – jackie@newhopedsm.org.



Veterans Breakfast on Saturday, December 13 at 8:30am at church

Breakfast will be served. This is open to all veterans, their spouses, and supporters.

Questions, please contact Pam Frey at yayafrey@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS



Join us Sunday, December 7th!

Our Sunday School and TGIW children will participate in the **10:00am service** with the gift of a Christmas program and music.

Due to our performance, we will not have a Sunday School lesson on the 7th.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Join us for breakfast with Santa!

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 13
10AM**

**KID FRIENDLY BREAKFAST,
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS, PHOTOS
AND A VISIT WITH SANTA!**

**NEW HOPE UMC
4525 BEAVER AVE
DES MOINES, IA
50310**

If you plan to attend on December 13th, please contact Jackie Johnson at 515-710-3239.

Volunteers are also appreciated to help with the event.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will gather on **Thursday, December 18 at 9:30am**. *All are welcome to attend!*

We will not have a program as we will be signing Christmas cards for all the shut in people.

We are asking everyone to bring a gift card to the meeting for Families Forward. The cards will be given to teens that otherwise might be left

out this Christmas. Examples of gift cards would be: Target, Walmart, hair salons, nail salons, coffee shops, fast food restaurants. We also will be electing officers for the next year.

The **Saturday group will not meet in December**. We will meet again on Saturday, January 24. We will be having a shower for our Children's ministries and ask that you bring a craft item that they would like to provide for Children's ministries. Here are some needs: Stickers, glue sticks, pom poms, self-stick gems, foam stickers, glue dots, play-doh, pipe cleaners. Look around and if you have and are not using these items please consider donating them.

United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone for the generous donations of blankets for Urban Bicycle Food Ministries. We will keep many people warm this winter.

Glenna Ross glenna625@hotmail.com, 515-321-3010.



Join us at New Hope UMC on **Sunday, December 21, 2pm - 4pm** as The Community Jazz Center Big Band presents Jazzin' Up The Holidays.

This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation. Please invite your friends!



Save the Date!

Biscuits & Gravy after each worship service on Sunday, January 18!

Join the Board of Trustees for this fundraiser for the furnace fund.



In October, we had the church furnaces checked for the upcoming winter. We have two furnaces that will need to be replaced.

Thank you for continuing to fill the Wishing Well for this need and participating in the Biscuits & Gravy fundraiser!

Chili Cook-off January 31 11:30am



The Bridge Team would like you to join New Hopers and friends for good food, games and the company of our church family!

Sign up by January 25 at the Welcome Center to enter the Chili Cook-off contest

Simply bring a big crockpot of your best chili on January 31st by 11:00am. You will enter through the Industrial Kitchen door. The committee will set out your crockpot for you.

Starting at 11:30am, event attendees will sample the chili and will vote for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. After the voting ends, you can fill up a bowl with chili.

This is a community outreach event! Please invite your friends!

Social Action Committee News ~

Chair: Althea Holcomb ~ 515.490.0789, althea.holcomb@gmail.com



Giving Tree is available for the congregation to help give a child some joy over the Holidays. We have chosen two charities to support again this Holiday Season: **Families Forward and Orchard Place**.

Both charities are asking for Cash and/or Gift Cards this year.

On our "Giving Tree", in the Fellowship Hall, there are envelopes attached to the decorations which you may use for your contribution.

Your check can be made out to New Hope UMC. Please add Orchard Place or Families Forward to the memo line. Please place your donation with the Offering or drop off to the church office *by December 14th*.

Mission for Orchard Place: Provide a safe environment for children and their families to heal, find hope, be empowered, and build resilience to overcome mental health adversity.

Mission for Families Forward: Empowering positive future by providing compassionate, life-changing assistance to families on their path to self-sufficiency through our programs – the Bidwell Pantry, Child Development Center, New Directions Shelter and The Home Connection.

The response to the Social Action Committee's request for **coats for the Johnston Partnership's clothing closet** has been great. Thanks to everyone who has donated winter wear. The coat drive continues through the end of November, so it is not too late to donate your winter coats.

The dates for the **meals for Fresh Start** have been set for next year. They will be the third Tuesday of January, April, July and October. Some money has been budgeted to provide these meals but historically we rely on donations of food to accomplish this action.

Due to the never ending issue with food insecurity and the shut down of food assistance (SNAP), **we have increased the food that is going to the Free Little Food Pantry from 50 items a week to 70**. The congregation's donations to this very important mission is so very important. We are grateful for this support.

The **diaper drive** in October ended up providing the Partnership with 30 packages of diapers.



Hand of Luke, Sunday, December 14, 2025.

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

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

The menu for December will be chicken/vegetable/rice casserole, sliced peaches, dinner rolls, and cookies. *Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal, transport the food to the shelter, serve at the shelter, and donate cookies (no peanut butter or nuts, please).* Please bring cookies in containers that do not need to be returned.

If you are interested in this opportunity, you may sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044DACA722A4FE3-60715884-holsunday>

You may also contact Arlene Dabill at dabill49@aol.com or (515) 321-2059 to volunteer.

All of our actions continue.

Children's & Youth Ministry

by Jackie Johnson, Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515)710-3239

Sunday School for PreK-7th grade continues to be held during the 10:00am service in the purple classroom. Children are invited to gather in Worship with their families and exit to class after the Children's Message.

Join us Sunday, December 7th! Our Sunday School and TGIW children will participate in the 10am service with the gift of a Christmas program and music. Due to our performance, we will not have a Sunday School lesson on the 7th.

12/14 – Regular Sunday School class.

12/21 – We will have our Sunday School Christmas Party!

12/28 – There will be no Sunday School classes due to Christmas break.

Our second session of Sunday School is wrapping up and we are getting ready to start our third session. THANK YOU to our volunteer teachers so far this year – Tricia Berry and Sherri Bogue!

Connect with the things our Sunday School class is learning about from their Simply Loved curriculum:

Jesus surprises us.... with never-ending LOVE!

Most people like or love you *if...*

If you kick the winning goal. If you follow the rules. If you're good enough. But wouldn't it be surprising if you could be loved without any "ifs"? What if someone loved you just for being you? And what if that love stretched out forever, with no end in sight, no matter what? That's how Jesus loves you. You can count on Jesus' love today, tomorrow, and forever. No "ifs" about it.

Surprising, isn't it? And here's something that feels just as good: loving him back the same way.

Loving Jesus today, tomorrow, and forever!



Our Wednesday night TGIW group had a November to be grateful for, and we are excited for all that December will bring!

We started the month with a group service project at Many Hands For Haiti! We learned about their mission in Haiti and Abaco and completed various projects in small group teams. The whole group

worked hard and got a lot done! The remaining weeks were spent in fellowship and fun learning about gratitude and blessings!

Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm- Dinner

6:30-7:30pm – Breakout Times (PreK-5th, Jr. and Sr. BLAST)

7:30-8pm- Puppets/Handbells Rotations

December Calendar

12/3- Service First, All Group Service Project! We will be Christmas caroling at Calvin Community. Please dress in something festive or red/green. We will leave New Hope at 6:20pm and return at 7:30pm.

12/10- Santa's Attic- This is a holiday favorite for the children in our church! They will get to shop for their family with the generous gifts donated from the congregation. Children are invited to bring up to \$5 to purchase their gifts. The money collected will be donated to a local charity chosen by the children.

12/17- Pj and Movie Night- Join us for The Star complete with popcorn and snacks! Blankets, stuffies, and pjs are welcome!

12/24 and 12/31- No Wednesday night programs, enjoy Christmas break!



Children's & Youth Ministry

by Jackie Johnson, Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515)710-3239

Sunday School: We are still in need of a volunteer for Session 6 of Sunday School this year! Your commitment would be 6 weeks in a row during the 10am service and you would have a teaching partner. You can sign up alone, but we would also welcome you to volunteer with a friend! Session 6 runs from 4/12 - 5/17. You are also welcome to just volunteer as a one-time helper for one Sunday during Session 6.

TGIW Midweek Meetup: We are looking for a few volunteers for Wednesday nights with our PreK-5th Grade group! The time commitment would be one hour – from 6:30-7:30pm. You will not be expected to plan the lessons in the helper role, just show up to help with our activities! This group is on the younger side and we need extra hands and eyes to supervise. We would be very glad to have several helpers do one week per month each.

Please let Jackie know if you are interested in volunteering for either of these opportunities this year! jackie@newhopedsm.org/(515)710-3239.



BLAST (BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org):

Christopher & Jennifer Higdon and McKayla Nearmyer



Wednesday Night Schedule

- 6-6:30pm - Dinner
- 6:30-7:30pm - Individual Group Meeting Time (*BLAST will be meeting downstairs*)

Upcoming Youth Events:

More details will be shared via email and posted on our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>.



Small children were putting on a Christmas program. The entertainment proceeded without a hitch until near the end of the event. Each child held a large card with a letter printed on it. The letters were turned away from the audience. One by one each child turned the card he or she was holding to reveal a letter. First was the child with the "C," then the one with the "H," and so on down the line. When it was time for a little girl to hold up the "M," it was upside down. The "M" appeared to be a "W."

Quiet giggles rippled through the audience. Nevertheless, the kids continued one by one to reveal the rest of the cards. When the last card was shown, the cards were meant to spell out:

CHRISTMAS LOVE

Instead, they spelled:

CHRISTWAS LOVE

What first seemed to be a mistake wasn't one after all.

- ChurchART December 2004



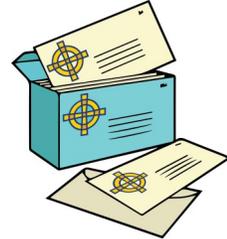
Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2025 statements should be received **no later than December 31, 2025** to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2025. Thank you!

2026 Offering Envelopes

We have boxes of 2026 weekly Offering Envelopes that will be available by December 21st.

*If you would like a box of offering envelopes, please contact the church office, 515-278-2097, by **December 14th**.*



2026 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (9:00 & 11:00), 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 \$50.00 per Sunday and you may take your flowers home after the 11:00 service.*



Undecorating our church will be **December 28th after the 10 am service (one worship service).**

Please stay after the service and help us take down our Christmas decorations.

Many hands make light work! It's also a good time for fellowship!

Thank you!

Questions? Please contact Pam Frey, at yayafrey@gmail.com



Chair Yoga & Fitness

Every Monday and Wednesday at 9:30am

This is a gentle yoga & fitness that is done while you are seated on a chair. It's a 30-45 minute session. The instructors are from Youtube videos. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall. No fee!

This is for anyone and any age. Bring your friends!

ADULT Sunday School

Join us!

10:00am in the Ruby Chapel using "Wired Word" curriculum.

Blood Pressure Check

Next opportunity is on December 7, 8:45am - 11am in the Narthex.

Support Groups

Al-Anon

Every Tuesday at 9:30am in the Ruby Chapel.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.

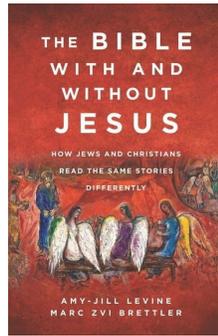


Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets quarterly. Next meeting is on **Thurs., January 8, 2026 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.**

This team ministers to congregation members who have had new babies, have been in the hospital, have been ill or are dealing with grief. This team meets on a quarterly basis.

If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek, rrubek@aol.com



The Thursday Bible Study is based on the book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently.*

We will be meeting on the **second Thursday night each month at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope to see you there! Questions, please contact Cathy Short at 515-494-5568.

Sleeping Mats/Loom

Plan to meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month!

One of Midwest Mission's projects is making Plarn Sleeping Mats. Plarn is plastic yarn made out of plastic grocery bags. The Sleeping Mats are sent internationally and locally. They are great for those who need a barrier between them and the hard ground. They have been sent for disaster relief, for the homeless, and for those who need temporary sleeping arrangements.

We will meet to work on the mat on the **first & third Thursday each month at the church.**

Also, thank you for all the plastic grocery bags. We do *not* need more as our supply is stocked!!



If you want to learn how to work on the mat, please join us!

Questions, contact Sue Baldwin, 515-360-2456.

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will not meet in November and December.

We will meet again on **Friday, January 16, 2026** in the north classroom. We lunch at Panera in Johnston.

Our group sews lap size quilts for the NHUMC Care Team to gift our church members who are hospitalized or in care facilities and to newborns.

Bring your machine, current project and sewing notions. If your sewing machine isn't portable, we have two in the church closet you may use for the day. We also have fabric available for quilts.

Questions? Contact Diane Densmore, 515-270-1974.



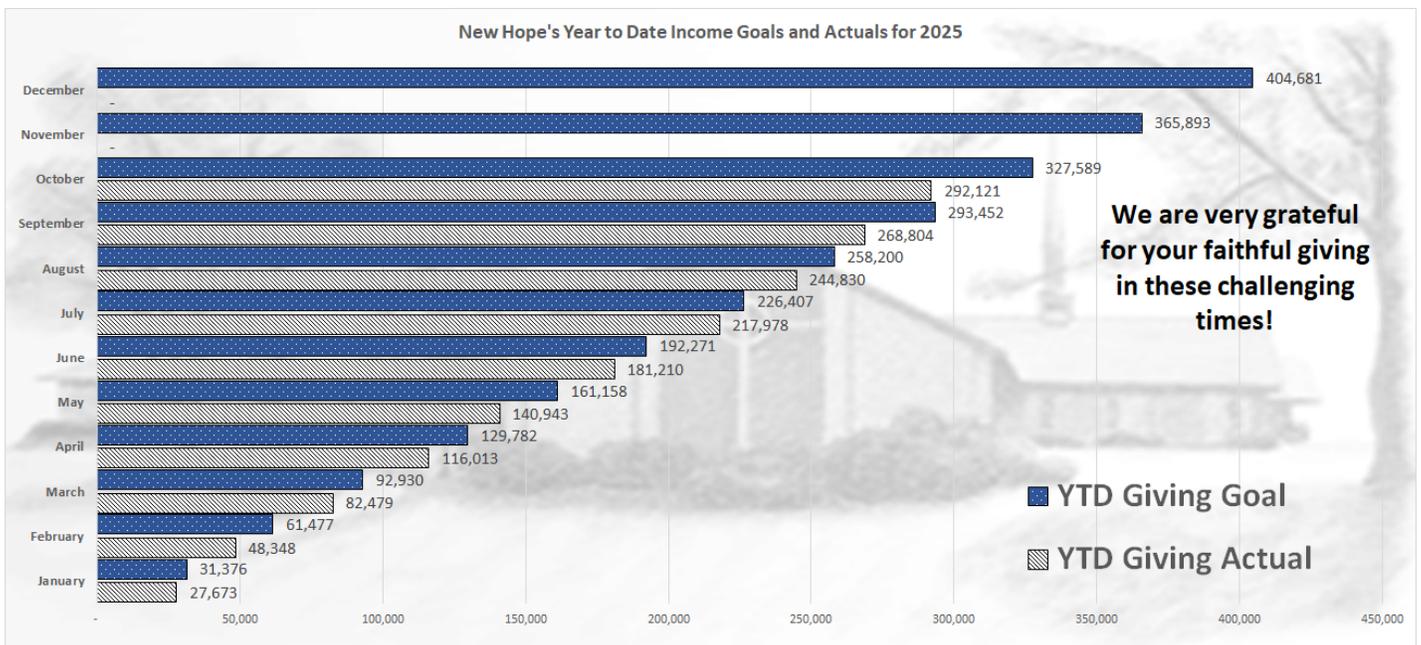
IT'S EASY TO GIVE SECURITIES TO THE CHURCH!

As we all think about our year-end gifts to the church, consider donating securities from your investment portfolio. The church can accept any negotiable securities: stocks, bonds, mutual fund, ETFs. A gift of securities benefits the donor two ways: **you receive the usual charitable tax deduction, and you avoid capital gains tax on the sale proceeds.** This strategy is particularly useful if you have owned the assets for a long time and/or have a large unrealized gain.

To get this favorable tax treatment, it is important that the securities are given to the church **before they are sold.** Securities can be transferred from your brokerage account to The Iowa United Methodist Foundation. The Foundation will sell the securities at no cost to either the donor or the church and write a check to New Hope. Proceeds can be directed to the Endowment Fund or whichever church fund you specify.



If you wish to learn more about donating securities, call the church office; they will connect you with the Foundation and provide the necessary documents.



Thank you for your generous tithing and donations.

If you would like to make a donation, please use your smartphone's camera app to scan the QR code.

If you need assistance with online giving, please contact the church office, Tues-Fri, 515-278-2097. Thank you for your interest in supporting the work of New Hope UMC!

ONLINE giving





Thank you to Steven & Beatrice Schutter for creating a beautiful backdrop for Christmas pictures!

Take the time to have someone take your picture with your cell phone.

Include your family. Include your church family and friends.

Have fun taking pictures and celebrating this joyous season!!

Campus Clean Up

A special thank you to all who helped with Fall Cleanup. Lunch was provided by Pam Frey, Dawn Bachelder, John Dickerson and Nan Stubbs. Gary Stubbs, Steven Schutter, Larry Webber, Jackie Johnson, Dawn Bachelder and Nan Stubbs took down a tree and cleaned up. Joe Nemmers, Jim Russell, Patrice Webber, Dale Monthei cleaned up leaves from the flower beds and parking lot and North side of the church. Ruth Doxon, Dianne Dalton, Marilyn Osborn, Jolene Harlow, Sue Baldwin spruced up the Prayer Garden. Nancy Monthei washed windows. Jim Bolstad touched up the paint in the church and in the parking lot. Gary Stubbs and David Montgomery worked earlier in the week to trim a tree and mulch leaves. Bob Harter added tar fill to the parking lot cracks. **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!**
Board of Trustees



A Holy Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

We are traveling with Mary and Joseph on the path to Bethlehem this Advent. As we do, we journey in a few stages. Some happen concurrently, overlapping in wonderful and challenging ways, while other phases of the journey will feel a bit more lonely and isolated. For those who are interested in a deeper journey, be sure to join us via the Thursday Thoughts and Facebook posts this Advent!

The first week of our Advent journey leads us to Restoration and reshapes our expectations, although this process will overlap throughout the season. The second week, we will stand as a signal, even sometimes when we feel like the only one leading in that direction. How can we mark the trail for those who follow?

The second week will find us looking to the children who will lead us at 10am with their annual Christmas program.

Our third week reminds us that our journey may be hard, but there is always joy because this is God's highway! The purpose of our trip is to welcome Christ into our lives, which is always joy!

Finally, on the fourth week, we are learning to recognize the signs God sends us so that we stay on the right path. Mary and Joseph could have stopped in Jerusalem, but that was not the path God chose. We must follow God's signs and not just take the shorter road. And we will keep journeying until we arrive on Christmas Eve to the unexpected straw bed of the manger.

No pilgrimage is complete without scripture. Let me suggest some readings to enhance your journey. These readings are called the Psalms of Ascent. They are the psalms that pilgrims to Jerusalem would sing on their challenging journey.

November 30: *December 14:* *December 21:*

Psalm 122

Psalm 123

Psalm 126

Psalm 127

Psalm 124

Psalm 129

Psalm 128

Psalm 131

Psalm 130

Psalm 132

Psalm 133

Psalm 134

December 7:

Psalm 120

Christmas

Psalm 121

Eve:

Psalm 125

Psalm 118

May God bless you on your Advent journey!

Pastor Amy



December 2025

**Sunday morning services are:
9:00, 10:00 and 11:00
Nursery at 10:00**

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

	1 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7p, Advent by Candlelight	2 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 7pm, Trustees Mtg	3 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 12:30, Bible Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	4 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Worship mtg.	5 9a-11a, Cookie drop off (Industrial Kitchen door)	6 8:30a, Men's Breakfast 10a-1p, F.Hall reserved 12-2p, Cookie drop off (Industrial Kitchen door)
7 Holy Communion 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures 9a-11a, Cook Walk 10a, Children's Christmas Program 1:30-4:30, Sanctuary & F.Hall reserved	8 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	9 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 6:30p, SPRC Meeting	10 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 12:30, Bible Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	11 6:30p, Bible Study, F.Hall (Cathy Short)	12	13 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast, F.Hall 10a, Breakfast with Santa
14 10a, Sunday School 11a, Choir Christmas program 3:00p, Hand of Luke	15 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	16 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 6:30p, Finance Mtg (Zoom only)	17 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	18 9:30a, United Women in Faith 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	19 January LINK deadline	20
21 10a, Sunday School 2p-4p, Big Band concert	22 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	23 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	24 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:15p, Chancel Choir No TGIW/BLAST	25	26	27
28 10a, One Worship Service	29 Church Office Closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	30 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	31 Office Closed No TGIW/BLAST	January 1 Office Closed	2	3



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



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|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1 Dean Peterson | 19 Brady Jansen, Spencer Sutton | 18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue |
| 2 Lisa VanDenBerg | 20 Pete Frey, Larry Buske,
Emily Bowser | 27 Wayne & Sandy Johnson |
| 4 Linda Wood, Leah Breitsprecher,
Pascal Karekezi | 21 Zoe Wilson | 31 Courtney & Tricia Berry |
| 6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren | 23 Susan Baldwin | 31 Daniel & Emily Bowser |
| 7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney | 24 Jean Wederquist | |
| 9 Lexi Dean | 25 Jennifer Dellopoulos | |
| 12 Obi Ukabiala, Mary Grace Leyda | 27 Mary Lumley, Kim Buske | |
| 14 Nolan Monthei | 28 Ashley Marsh | |
| 15 Cathy Short | 29 Ana Kirkpatrick,
Gina Breitsprecher | |
| 17 Andy Sutton | | |
| 18 Sue Soards, Chris Boyles,
Banny Umuhoza, Susan Blank,
Gaby Dimitri | | |

*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.*



WORSHIP *with us* **Sunday Morning Worship Services**
9:00 & 11:00: Traditional Services in the Sanctuary
10:00: Contemporary Service in the Neil Cross Family Life Center

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

Church Staff

Pastor: Amy Johnson
Office Administrator: Nancy Monthei
Children & Youth Ministries Coord.: Jackie Johnson
Director of Music: Preshia Paulding
Nursery Attendants: Kris Wakeman, Brianna Schafer, Sarah Sahlin, Emma Sandquist

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org
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Jackie Johnson: jackie@newhopedsm.org
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Find us on facebook!

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

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

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