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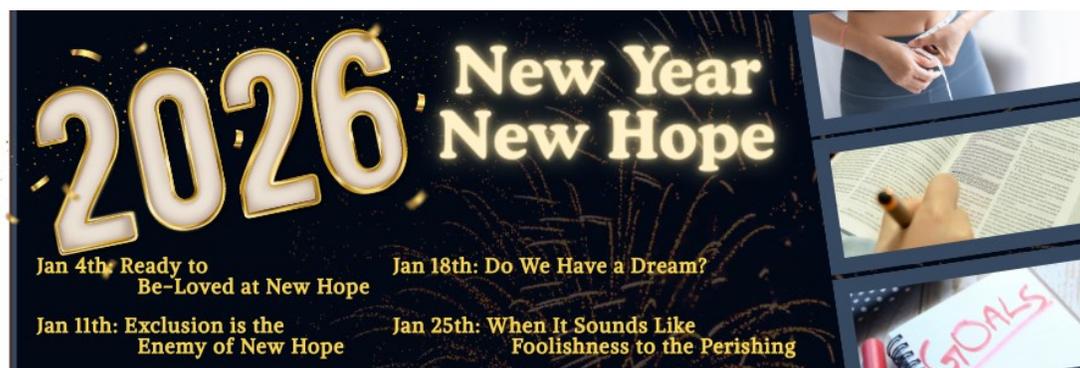
A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

January 2026

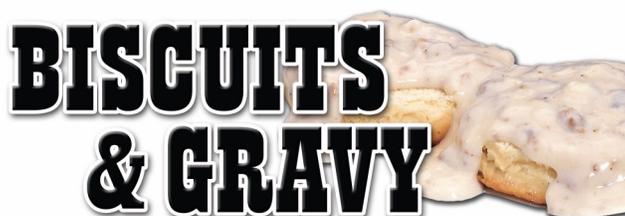


9am • 10am • 11am

newhopedsm.org



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



Join the Board of Trustees for this fundraiser for the Furnace Fund and the Outdoor LED Sign. We have two furnaces that will eventually need to be replaced. And, we have a beautiful new Outdoor LED Sign to be installed hopefully before Easter!

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



MLK Circuit Day of Service

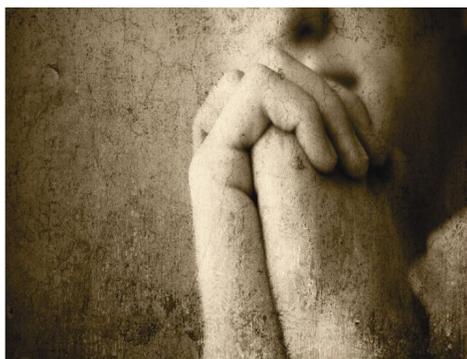
On **January 19th, at 9am** the Metro West Circuit (Methodist Churches) will gather at New Hope UMC. We will be joined by Walnut Hills, West Des Moines, Immanuel, Windsor, Aldersgate, Valley, and Women at the Well to make no-sew bags for families and individuals shopping at the food pantry at the Bidwell location of Families Forward.

Our youth will gather the night before for a lock-in and will stay to serve.

If you have old t-shirts for this project, please place them in the t-shirt tub at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

All ages and abilities are welcome to participate on the 19th. We look forward to you being in service with us!

You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Thank you to Preshia Paulding, Emily Bowser and the Chancel Choir members for the beautiful music shared during Advent and Christmas.



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:

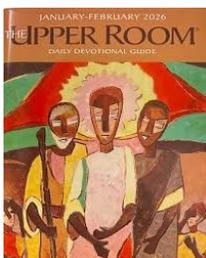
DeVonne Douglas, Pam Frey, Marlys Borcharding, Linda Boyd, Jennifer Hibbert

Healing from Physical Issues:

Robin Harlow, 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



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

The **January/February**

issue is in the Communication Center.

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

Thank you

Kail Hopkins thanks the New Hope UMC congregation for their help & support with his Eagle Scout project and throughout the years.

To my Church family and friends,

Thank you all for the many well wishes on my 97th birthday. I felt the love.

I love you all,

Lee Ross

Thank you to all who have blessed me and our family at Christmas!

It is my joy and delight to be in ministry here in this amazing community of faith, and I look forward to all of our days to come!

Thank you!

Pastor Amy

A Special Thank You to all who helped with the Christkindlmarket this year! We raised over a thousand dollars and survived the cold weather! Thousands of metro friends were able to see us out and working, caring for our community and loving God! Well done, good and faithfulness servants!





Veterans Breakfast on Saturday, January 10 at 8:30am at church

Breakfast will be served. The speaker is a person from the Camp Dodge museum. This is open to all veterans, their spouses, and supporters. Questions, please contact Pam Frey at yayafrey@gmail.com.



Un-decorate

To all that helped make our church glow for the holy season ~ Thank You!!!

We're leaving the Christmas decorations up for Epiphany Sunday so we can celebrate the three wisemen.

Please join me on **January 11** when we undecorate our church! Sanctuary take down will begin after the 11am service, 3:00pm for the Family Life Center. Thank you!

~ Pam Frey



Emily Bowser's Recital

Join us for a special piano and organ recital at New Hope on **Friday, January 30, 6:30p.**

Emily will be providing an evening of music featuring sacred and classical selections. This recital will highlight the lyrical beauty of the piano and the majestic breadth of the organ as they resonate within our sanctuary.

Free Will Donation.



Chili Cook-off January 31, 11:30am

The Bridge Team would like you to join New Hoppers 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 31 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!



Join us at New Hope UMC on **Sunday, January 18, 2pm - 4pm** as The Community Jazz Center Big Band presents **TOP BRASS**, a concert showcasing the trumpet section. This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation. Please invite your friends!

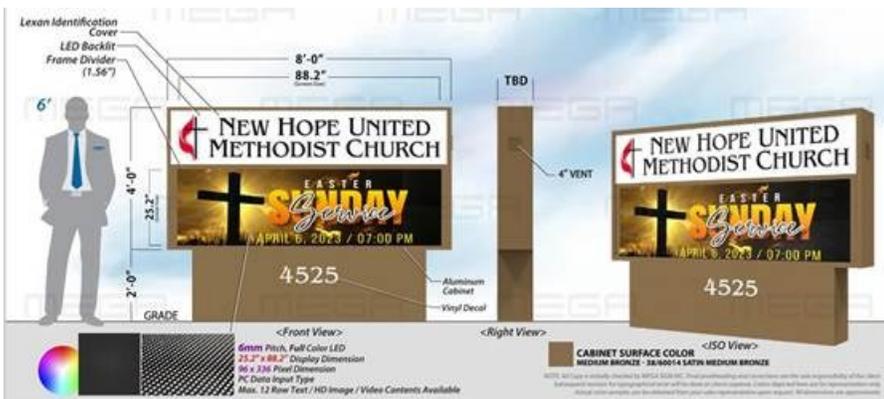


We are providing a meal at the Fresh Start Women's Center on **Tuesday, January 20.**

Please check the signup sheet in the Welcome Center if you would like to donate food or help prepare and deliver this meal.

Contact Jolene Harlow, 515-490-8813, or rdharlow@earthlink.net if you have questions.

Thank you to everyone that voted toward the design of our new Outdoor LED Sign! The winner is...**A with a 2' pedestal.** (42 votes for A; 11 votes for B)



The cost for the sign is \$35,225.60. We will also need to include electrical work of ~\$2,000.

How is this being funded?

\$9,515 will come from Memorials
 \$795.39 was donated/deposited on December 17, 2025
\$10,310.39 total so far which covered the deposit of \$10,112.80.

How will we raise the rest of the cost?

\$26,915.21 is needed (includes electrical)
 -10,000.00: We have a generous donation coming in toward the sign.
\$16,915.21 left to fundraise.

Trustees is having a Biscuits & Gravy fundraiser after each worship service on January 18 to raise funds for the new furnaces and the outdoor sign. Also, if you would like to make a donation toward the Outdoor LED Sign, please write a check to New Hope UMC and place Outdoor sign in the memo line.

When will the sign be installed?

Once the deposit is received by Mega LED Tech, they will request a permit. After the permit is received they will send their contract crew. They will remove the old sign and dispose of it. We could possibly have a new sign before Easter!!

United Women in Faith Thursday will not meet in January.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 9:30am.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Katie Dawson with UMCOR.

UWIF distributed their funds at the December meeting to the following:

New Hope UMC, AIRTS, Self Help Ministries, and Dorothy's House. Election

of officers was to be held but thankfully all who are currently serving decided to stay on as officers. Officers are as follows: Glenna Ross, Chair; Sharon Smith, Vice Chair; Dawn Bachelder, Secretary; Armenta Buckingham, Treasurer.

United Women in Faith Saturday will meet January 24, 2026, 9am. We will be having a shower for Children's ministries. We ask that everyone 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 giving to the children.

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



United Women in Faith



Cranberry Pinwheels (from Glenna Ross and served at the December meeting)

1 - 8 oz. Package cream cheese - room temperature

1/2 cup of shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1/2 cup chopped cranberries

1/4 cup chopped pecans

2 large flour tortillas

Mix all the ingredients except the flour tortillas.
Spread mixture evenly over cream cheese mixture.
Roll tightly in plastic wrap.
Refrigerate 4 hours or over night.
Cut into 1 1/2 inch circles and serve.



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, February 7 at 8:30am** at church. *All men are invited!!*

There is still time to register for the Laity Study on the Three Simple Rules with Rev. Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation!

Classes start on January 5, 2026, and will run until February 9, 2026.

This six-session study will take place on Monday evenings, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, via Zoom.

This study will count as an Advanced Lay Servant Ministry class.

To Register:

<https://iaumc-reg.brtapp.com/>

6WeekPracticeoftheThreeSimpleRules

We will be using the book "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Ruben Job and the Participant Study Guide.

LAITY BOOK STUDY THREE SIMPLE RULES



Join Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development, as we dive into the book "Three Simple Rules" by Bishop Ruben Job

Note: This study will count as an Advanced Class for Lay Servant Ministry Certification.

When:
January 5th - February 9th
Monday Evenings - 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Where:
Zoom from the comfort of your home

What Do I Need:
Book: "Three Simple Rules for Christian Living" by Jeanne Torrence Finley, Bishop Rueben P. Job
Participant Guide: "Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living" by Bishop Rueben P. Job

IOWA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church

Social Action Committee News ~

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

Giving Tree ~ Thank you!!!! We received many donations toward **Families Forward and Orchard Place**. United Women in Faith partnered with the Social Action Committee on this endeavor. Thank you for helping give a child some joy over the Holidays. We have such a caring church.



We have increased the number of items we are taking to the **Free Little Food Pantry** from 50 to **70** items.

Grocery prices and the state of the SNAP program have really put a crunch on feeding families. In addition to the usual items donated, please consider adding shelf stable milk, cooking oil, or flour to your donation. Thank you for contributing to this life sustaining effort.

If you would like to volunteer to deliver the food, there is a sign-up clipboard on the shelves with the food.

We will again be doing a **contest for the Super Bowl** (which isn't until early February) starting mid-January. Watch for details in the weekly post.

African Immigrant and Refugee Transition Services (AIRTS) is grateful for the jasmine rice, dried beans and lentils that have been donated to our grain bin! They really appreciate getting these specific food items which are a staple in their diet and food pantries don't necessarily stock them.



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



Hand of Luke, Wednesday, January 14

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 January 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-61312102-holwednesday>

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

Thank you so much to everyone for your consistent generosity.

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 10am service in the purple classroom on a weekly or drop-in basis. Children are invited to gather in Worship with their families and exit to class after the Children's Message.

Connect with things our Sunday School class is talking about from our Simply Loved Curriculum:

What gets most of your time and attention?

When you clear out the "have tos" like school and chores...when you have free time to just do whatever you want...what do you do with that time?

Most people would tell you to fill that time with things that make you feel good. More stuff, more entertainment, more fame.

But Jesus surprises us with a different way to live. Jesus invites us to clear away whatever gets in the way of our friendship with him, instead of focusing on stuff that builds us up. He invites us to a richer life than money can buy—a life that praises him.

Is any clutter in the way of your friendship with Jesus?

Try this at home:

As a family, decide on one thing to give up for Jesus this month.

Maybe you'll eat in on a night you usually go out to eat and instead donate the money.

Maybe you'll skip an activity so you can spend time reading or listening to the Bible being read together.



It is always amazing how fast a year can go! December, as always, was filled with lots of merriment in our TGIW programs.

December 3rd, all of our Wednesday night programs went Christmas Caroling at Calvin Community in Des Moines. We were blessed to be joined in our efforts by Jon Verner, we loved having his strong voice to keep us in the right tune! The residents loved seeing the kids and many of them joined the group singing familiar carols! Santa's Attic was held on the 10th and this year. It was wonderful to watch all 22 of our TGIW and Blast friends pick out gifts for their family and friends. On December 17th, we mixed things up a little with an old favorite (pajama and movie night) and a new event, Breakfast with Santa and Jesus (rescheduled from earlier in the month due to weather)! We enjoyed breakfast for dinner, a message from Jesus and Santa about the true meaning of the season, photos, crafts and *The Star*.

Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm- Dinner

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

7:30-8pm- Puppet and Bells Rotation Times (We will be starting a new Puppet rotation after the first of the year, stay tuned!)

Looking Ahead:

1/7 – Service First, All Group Service Project – tie blanket making at New Hope

1/14- God is with us in every season

1/21- Jesus is the light in the darkness

1/28- Growing with God in quiet seasons

A free-will donation is collected weekly to help offset the cost of the weekly meals.

A suggested giving amount is \$5 per person or \$20 per family, but there is no set fee.

Thank you to our January volunteers who will prepare and serve the weekly meals during TGIW Midweek Meetup: Robin and Jolene Harlow, Glenna Ross and Cadence Kasper, Bruce Bernard and Arlene Dabill, and Sue Soards and Dawn Bachelder. We appreciate you serving the families in our church with this ministry!



BLAST (BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org):

Christopher & Jennifer Higdon and McKayla and Regan Nearmyer



As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited to share several fun and meaningful opportunities planned for our youth! This year, we are encouraging all youth (both Senior BLAST and Junior BLAST) to sign up for **Wesley Games** at **Wesley Woods Camp** in Indianola <https://wesleywoodsowa.org/summer-camp/>



Wesley Games is a new camp experience inspired by Summer Games University (SGU), which New Hope has participated in during past years. While it carries the same high-energy spirit, Wesley Games will be closer to home and will place a special emphasis on what it means to be **United Methodist**. We are thrilled that several familiar SGU leaders will be helping launch this new camp, including **Pastor Mike Janes**, **Pastor Alexis Johnson**, and **Pastor Mandy McCleary**.

Wesley Games is a one-week camp experience designed to invite youth into a life-giving relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Campers will experience God's grace through worship, games, and small group connections. Students will participate in team-based games such as **Gaga Ball**, **9-Square in the Air**, and **Carpet Ball**. In addition, each afternoon they get to choose from exciting activities such as **horseback**

riding, archery, the ropes course, and **swimming**.

Throughout the week, youth will gather for Bible study in small groups and worship together as a larger community. We hope that each student will be encouraged to begin, or deepen, their relationship with Jesus and return home filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

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

- Jan. 7th @ 6pm ~ First Wednesday Service Project
- Jan. 14th @ 5:30pm ~ New Hope Hand of Luke
- Jan. 18th @ 10pm ~ BLAST Lock-In Event & MLK Day of Service
- Jan. 21st @ 6pm ~ BLAST Christmas Party
- Jan. 28th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Feb. 4th @ 6pm ~ First Wednesday Service Project
- Feb. 11th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion
- Feb. 18th @ 5pm ~ Ash Wednesday Pancake Feed
- Feb. 25th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion



Save the Date!

A Rainforest Adventure Is Coming to New Hope UMC

Get ready to step into the lush, vibrant world of the rainforest with Rainforest Falls VBS!

From **July 12–15, 2026**, the jungle comes alive at **New Hope UMC** during an exciting **Vacation Bible School** adventure.

Dinner is served at 5:30pm nightly followed by activities from **6pm–8pm**. Children will journey beneath towering trees, explore winding river paths, and discover powerful truths through faith, fun, and friendship.

With the sounds of the rainforest all around, kids will learn how God's love grows strong like the tallest canopy and reaches every corner of the world.

Expect energetic music, hands-on activities, creative crafts, and meaningful Bible stories—all wrapped in a colorful rainforest theme that sparks curiosity and joy.

Mark your calendars and get ready to **venture into faith, grow in love, and explore God's amazing creation**—right here at New Hope UMC. More details coming soon... so stay tuned and **save the date!**



Was one of your resolutions for the year ahead to get more involved or to volunteer your time?

In Children's Ministry at New Hope, we are currently looking for volunteers that enjoy working with children and have a desire to positively impact children in our congregation!

Please look at our needs below and see if you might be able to gift us with some of your most precious gift, time!

Wednesday Night Program Helpers- We are looking for two additional volunteers for Wednesday nights with our PreK-5th Grade group! The time commitment would be one hour per month – from 6:30-7:30pm on one Wednesday evening. 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 to grow the size of the group, we need extra hands and eyes to help!

Sunday School Teachers- We are looking for one additional teacher for Session 6 of Sunday School. This Session runs from 4/12 - 5/17 during the 10am service.

Please reach out to Jackie at jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515)710-3239 with questions or to express interest in either of these roles.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration! I am thankful for an amazing congregation that loves the children we serve!

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Children's Program on December 7th this year! They did an amazing job sharing "Prepare the Way" as told from the perspective of John the Baptist.



THANK YOU to everyone in the congregation that made a donation toward the Santa's Attic program this year! Your thoughtfulness and generosity is so appreciated! We had quite a few very excited shoppers and they loved the treasures they had to choose from.

THANK YOU to our Jr. and Sr. BLAST helpers and the adults that stayed to help supervise the fun and wrap the gifts! We couldn't have pulled this off without you!

~ Santa's Little Helpers

P.S. – This year we had \$98 of proceeds that will be donated to a charitable effort in our area.



Advent by Candlelight

was held on December 8th for the women of our church and friends. It was a beautiful way to start the Advent Season. Hosts decorated their tables and provided dessert for their guests. There was lovely entertainment and wonderful readings. **Thank you** to the committee for organizing this annual event and **thank you** to the hosts, musicians and readers. More pictures are on the church FaceBook page: NewHopeDSM

Please consider volunteering for the Advent by Candlelight committee and keeping this wonderful event going for many more years. Contact Nancy Monthei to volunteer: 515-278-2097 or nancy@newhopesm.org





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.*



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!

A brand-new year with 365 days to spend as we choose is an exciting prospect!

While you are pondering over your 2026 calendar, please consider adding some volunteer hours during the week of **July 19 - 25, 2026** to assist with our annual rummage sale!

Wondering how you can help?

- Do you have a lot of time to give? Please consider volunteering to oversee an area! We know we need help overseeing clothing and home decor.
- Bring in new or gently used items on donation day - Sunday, July 19th.
- Help with pre-sale preparation during the week. This includes sorting, pricing, and organization.
- If you aren't easily flustered, please consider volunteering for Thursday afternoon when we need A LOT of help!
- Cashiers and sackers are always needed during the sale days. Thursday 12-6pm, Friday 9-6pm and Saturday 9-Noon.
- Pray for our sale to be a blessing to our community, for our outreach to touch lives, and for the money earned to be put to good use.



If you would like to volunteer but need to be away from people or sit down during your shift -- we can make that happen, please just let us know how to accommodate you!

Please contact Jackie Johnson with any questions: jackiejohnson81@aol.com/(515)710-3239

ADULT Sunday School

Join us!

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

Blood Pressure Check

Next opportunity is on January 4, 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

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will meet on **Friday, January 16, 9:00am - 3:00pm** 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. Please give prior notice for this. Contact Diane Densmore, 515-270-1974.



Sleeping Mats/Loom

The weavers had a great year in 2025!

Right before Christmas we started our 11th sleeping mat. If you are new member or just learning about this New Hope Mission, we weave 6 foot long mats out of recycled grocery bags. The mats are given to homeless people in our city and provide a dry barrier from the cold, wet ground. Each mat prevents over 500 plastic bags from going into the landfill!

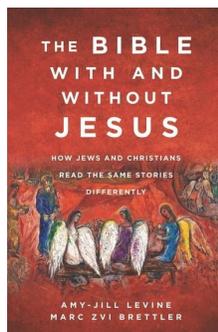
Right now we have plenty of white bags cut and ready to weave. We would however, take your colored grocery bags as they add a pop of color to our mats. Please, no Walmart bags as they tend to tear when we weave. Please watch the Link and our Sunday announcements as to when we need more plastic bags.

Last year we had a work group join us for volunteer hours. We had a great time and can accommodate about 8 people. If your work place or service organization is looking for a project or team-building activity contact us.

We weave on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 1 -2:30 in a Sunday school room and even occasionally on Mondays after chair yoga. We can teach anyone how to weave and cut the bags for future use. Weaving is not limited to just Thursdays.

This is a great opportunity to invite a neighbor or co-worker to join us who enjoys using their hands to serve others and make a difference in our community. If you would like more information please contact Susan Baldwin at sueb4tennis@gmail.com ,or Pastor Amy.

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



The Thursday Bible Study is based on the book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*.

We will not meet in January.

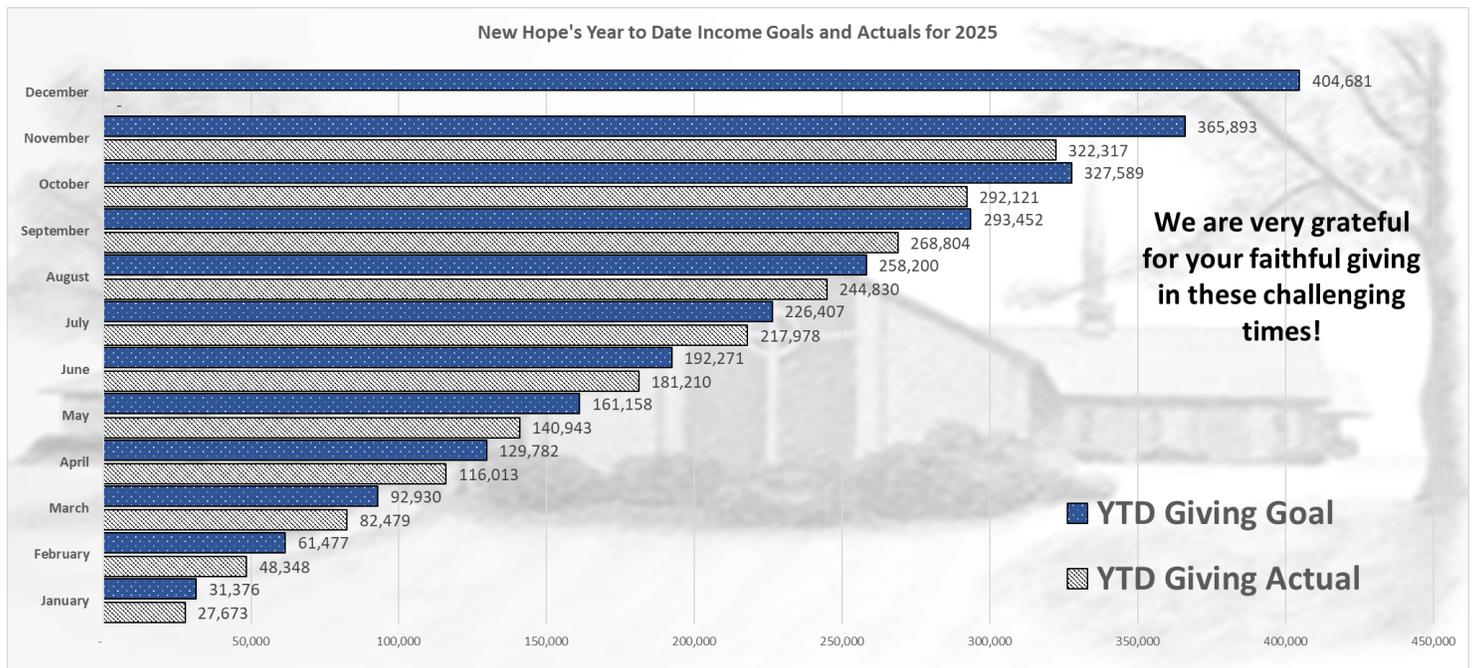
The next gathering will be on **February 12th at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to discussing chapter 9 "Isaiah's Suffering Servant".

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



Cookie Walk Success!

Our congregation always delivers!
 Many thanks to our bakers and purchasers for a fantastic result of \$796 to our Children's Ministries.
 See you next year!
 ~ Pam Frey



We are very grateful for your faithful giving in these challenging times!

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



A New Year, A New Hope

New Hope is our name for a reason. When we first began, we were planted by Grace UMC as a new hope in this corner of the Des Moines Metro. But we were not just a new hope for the community back then; we were challenged to be a new hope for this community in every new time.

A lot has changed since then: we have seen this side of Des Moines grow. We were able to grow with it. We expanded our building with additions and improvements that continue even today. We grew a new congregation as the community grew Northward: Johnston's River of Life! We grew programs and saw changes in staff and in members. We grew our ideas and learned more about scripture and its call in our lives to respond with love. We changed to meet the changes around us.

We now find ourselves in a unique season of life as a church. The world has changed greatly, but the church has made only small changes. Some even recoil at those in the churches of our current time. While we have tried to be more flexible than most, we still feel the sting of stillness amidst the rush of modernity. The world is moving around us like water around a stone. A force will always work to drive the stone downstream, sometimes moving it gently and other times tumbling it forward in clumsy head-over-heels jolts. But often, when it refuses to yield, the water breaks the boulder down and carries off the willing sand that yearns to move forward. Still other times the stone moves and leaves pebbles still wedged stubbornly in place. To say bit biblically. We teeter between a brood of vipers fleeing the wrath to come (Matthew 3:7), and a stiff-necked and stubborn people who are always resisting the Holy Spirit. (Acts 7:51). What shall we do?



John Wesley, an Anglican priest in his lifetime, would have said, look for the "via media." That was what Anglicans in the Reformation called their perspective of neither Catholic nor Reformed. Instead, it is a place where we can look carefully at the stream around us and plot our own course by using scripture, reason, tradition, and Christian experience to help guide us. That way, we neither tumble uncontrollably nor plant ourselves stubbornly or even try to move backwards upstream, but instead we navigate the waters.

This month and part of next, in the season of Epiphany, the season when we celebrate the enlightenment of the church and world, we will pause to look around and navigate the waters. We will be diving into three texts to accomplish this. First and foremost, we will be reading from scripture, using the lectionary readings of the season of Epiphany. The second text is also an old friend, *Three Simple Rules*, by Bishop Rueben Job. The third and final text we will be hearing from is *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love*, written by the current United Methodist Council of Bishops. We will be hearing also from our old friend, John Wesley. This series will challenge us to understand how scripture can lead us through this difficult stream of the world while still remaining faithful to the intent of scripture as illuminated by tradition, Christian experience, and reason.

We shall walk, or perhaps swim, with some of the giants of our faith, from Jesus, Stephen, and Paul, to past and current Bishops, as we sort out the best way for us to navigate this life. I hope you enjoy our Epiphany series as much as I am enjoying the preparation! Epiphany is indeed a time of joyful enlightenment. May we all be blessed with God's wisdom as we grow in faith! And may we truly claim the New Hope that is waiting for us in this new year!

Blessings of hope and light,

Pastor Amy

January 2026

**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 New Year's Day	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 Epiphany Sunday Holy Communion 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures 10a, Sunday School	5 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7pm, Trustees Mtg	6 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	7 Church Office Closed 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir 7p, Praise band practice TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	8 10a Care Team Mtg 6:30p, Worship mtg.	9	10 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast, F.Hall
11 Baptism of the Lord 10a, Sunday School Undecorate	12 Pastor Amy at Continuing Education Retreat Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	13 Pastor Amy at Continuing Education Retreat 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	14 Pastor Amy at Continuing Education Retreat 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 3:00p, Hand of Luke 6p, Chancel Choir 7p, Praise band practice TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	15 1p, Mat weaving	16 9a, Needlers	17 1p-5p, FLC reserved (AIRTS, Sharon Smith)
18 Human Relations Day (offering) Biscuits & Gravy fund- raiser after each service 10a, Sunday School 2p-4p, Big Band concert	19 Church Office closed 9a, MLK Service Day 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	20 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 4p, Fresh Start Meal (J.Harlow) 6:30p, Finance Mtg	21 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir 7p, Praise band practice TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	22 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	23 February LINK deadline	24 9a, United Women in Faith (Glenna Ross)
25 10a, Sunday School	26 Church Office Closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	27 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel	28 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir 7p, Praise band practice TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	29	30 6:30p, Piano recital by Emily Bowser	31 11:30a, Chili Cook-Off at church

***Human Relations Day, Jan. 19:** A Church-wide Special Sunday of The United Methodist Church. Your generous gifts on Human Relations Day support: neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Your gift makes a world of difference! Thank you!



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

1 Rick Roquet, Patrick Kyenkya
7 Henry Strauss
10 Norma Wallin
11 Shirlee Herrold
14 Doris Harvey
18 Susan Frey, Cyrus Zadeh
21 Brenda McCulley
22 Dustin Henry, Darrell Bowser

23 Kate Cossa
24 Dawn Bachelder,
George Buckingham
26 McKayla Nearmyer
27 Margaret Holmgren
29 Lori Marsh, Carol Culver,
Arianna Bernal
30 Kirsten Sahlin
31 Jim Bolstad



15: Randy & Marilyn Goodrich
17: Keith & Julie Craighton

*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

Nursery Attendants: Kris Wakeman, Brianna Schafer, Sarah Sahlin, Emma Sandquist

E-mail Information

Church address: nhfamily@newhopedsm.org

Pastor Amy Johnson: amy@newhopedsm.org

Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org

Jackie Johnson: jackie@newhopedsm.org

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

(515) 278-2097 www.newhopedsm.org

Find us on facebook!

The LINK newsletter is a monthly publication.

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

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

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