

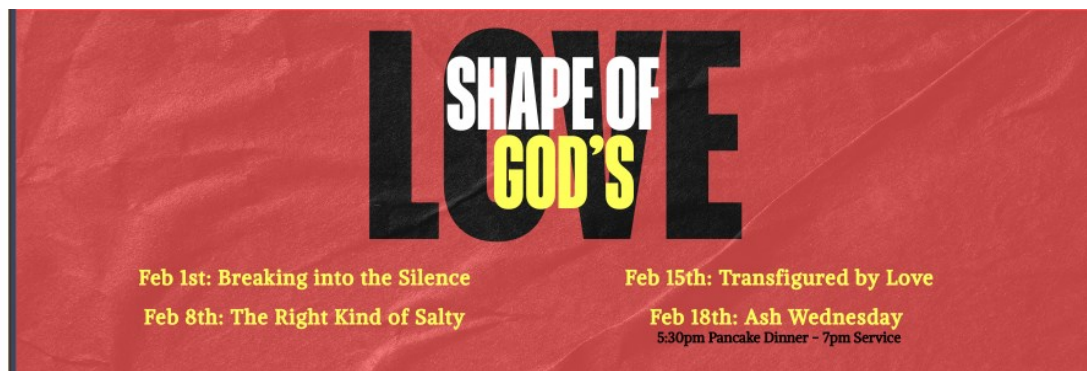
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A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

February
2026



9am • 10am • 11am
newhopedsd.org



THANK YOU!! A resounded response to our Biscuits & Gravy fundraiser for the furnaces (\$600) and outdoor sign (\$1934). We appreciate you! Thank you from your Trustees

But wait! There's another fundraiser February 8 to watch the Super Bowl in our Fellowship Hall.

Super Bowl LX Sunday, February 8, 4:30pm Who has the best appetizer?

- * Bring your favorite appetizer or snack to share.
- * We will provide water and lemonade.
- * Vote on your favorite appetizer by placing \$\$ in the bucket next to it.
- * Watch the game in the Fellowship Hall with your friends.
- * If you want to, dress appropriately to the team you are supporting.
- * Appetizer winner will be announced at half time and awarded a prize.

Let's have some fun with this while supporting our church fundraising!



Join us this Ash Wednesday, February 18

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).



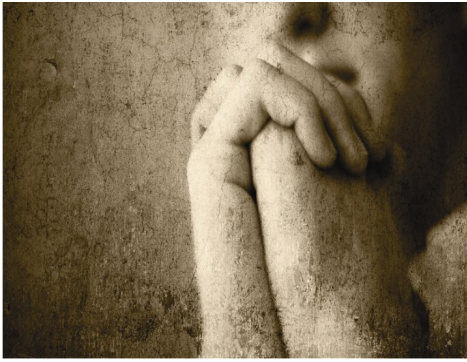
5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper

Prepared and Served by
Sr. High BLAST.
Free-Will Offering



7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

*Childcare will be provided
during worship for children
ages 4 and under*



Lord, teach me to walk in kindness this month and beyond. May my actions reflect your love, and may others see your heart through mine. "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32, ESV).

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:

Dick Cobb, Freda Ruleman, Patricia Smith, Mike Aasheim Osborne

Military: Devan Stanton,

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



Thank you

To all those that helped decorate and undecorate our church for this blessed season, THANK YOU! It looked beautiful! Sincerely, we are blessed to have such faithful servants. I appreciate you! Pam Frey

Thank you to everyone that attended the Biscuits & Gravy Fundraiser on January 18th. Thank you to Pam Frey, Nan Stubbs and the Board of Trustees for providing a delicious meal that was enjoyed by many.

We appreciate the donations toward the Outdoor LED Sign (\$1,934) and the church furnaces (\$600). Thank you for your continued support!



Birth

Congratulations to Adam & Brittany Kealhofer on the birth of their son Beckett James Kealhofer. Beckett was born on December 25, 2025. He joins big sisters, Charlie & Collins at home. Proud grandparents are Carl & Sue Egger.

Our Sympathy

Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Charlotte Sheldon. Charlotte was a member of New Hope UMC. She passed away on January 5, 2026.



Welcome to Linda Wood!!

Linda Wood, 2906 Arnold Rd, Des Moines, IA 50310, 515-210-5142, linalorettawood65@gmail.com.

Linda joined the New Hope UMC membership on January 18, 2026, by profession of faith. She attends the 11am service and volunteers on the Care Team. Linda is a retired registered nurse. She enjoys her dogs, making greeting cards and volunteering with hospice. We are so thankful to have her join our church family. Please help welcome Linda to our congregation!

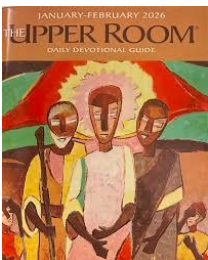
Directory Updates:

Mary Lumley has a new email: fmacs38@gmail.com

Don Gurnsey has a new cell #: 515-721-5097

Cathy Cate has a new cell #: 515-480-4834

Jim Wells (past member) has a new email: jimndoe2006@gmail.com



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.

Super Bowl Collection

This month the Social Action Committee is sponsoring a competition to see which Super Bowl team can collect the most items for the Free Little Food Pantry or Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry.

Please bring an item(s) from the list below on Sunday, February 1st and Sunday, February 8th or anytime in between. You may leave them on the table in the hallway to the sanctuary.

Your favorite team, New England Patriots or Seattle Seahawks, will get points as listed below. We will announce the winning team after the services on February 8th.

6 Points/Touchdown

Vegetable Oil

4lb / 5lb Sugar or Flour

3 points / Field Goal

Shelf-stable meats

Shelf-stable milk

Bags of beans or bags of rice

2 points / Conversion

Peanut Butter

Meal kits (Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, etc.)

Boxed Cereal

Oatmeal

1 point / Extra Point

Ramen Noodles

Other boxed or bagged shelf stable items

Or donate money (check made out to New Hope UMC, Super Bowl in memo line)

\$1 per point



We will celebrate members of both the Scouting America and Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa in our congregation on **Sunday, February 8 at all three services.**

Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear uniforms.

Is your child a new Girl Scout, Cub Scout, or Scouts BSA participant? Please let Jackie Johnson (515-710-3239/

jackie@newhopedsn.org) know so we can update our church records and include you in future Scout recogni-



Veterans Breakfast on Saturday, February 21 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.



Janet Habick's Recital

Please join us at New Hope on **Sunday, February 22, at 4:00 PM** for a very special voice recital accompanied by Emily Bowser. Janet and her special guests, Mary Anne Nelson-Loefke and Trent King invite you to take a step back in time to enjoy nostalgic sounds from the 1940s, beloved musical theater classics, and moving spirituals.

Free-will donations are welcome.

Please join us for a light refreshment immediately following the recital.



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

Join us at New Hope UMC on **Sunday, February 15, 2pm - 4pm** as The Community Jazz Center Big Band presents Jazz for Lovers (and lovers of jazz).

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





Lent 2026

Coming on Ash Wednesday to the entire congregation:

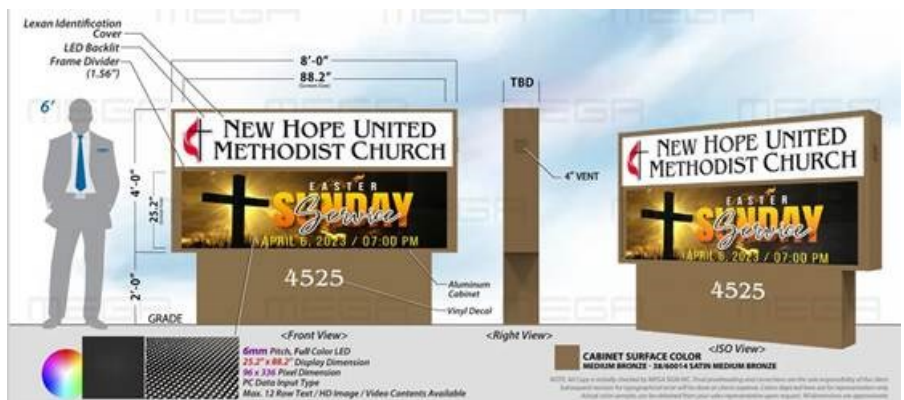
- Daily Study Materials
- Thursday Videos
- Worship Series
- Sunday School

Read through the entire Gospel of Mark with us this Lenten season!

Thank you to all that voted toward the design of our new outdoor LED sign!

The cost for the sign is \$35,225.60. We will also need to include electrical work of ~\$2,000. From the memorials and generous donations so far, we have **\$12,416.21 left to fundraise.**

With your continued support, we can fund this wonderful addition to our church that will let us reach out into the community with messages of the activities held here. If you would like to donate toward the Outdoor LED Sign, please write a check to New Hope UMC and place "outdoor sign" in the memo. We could possibly have a new sign by Easter!



UWIF Thursday Group will meet on February 19 at 9:30.

All women all welcome to join in the fun. Our speaker will be a representative from AIRTS (African Immigrants & Refugees Transition Services).



United
Women
in Faith

UWIF Saturday Group will meet on February 28 at 9:30.

We had to cancel the January meeting because of the frigid temperatures.

We will be having a “shower” for the children’s crafts. Please bring some craft items that can be used for crafts; for example glue sticks markers, stickers, paper, children’s scissors, etc.

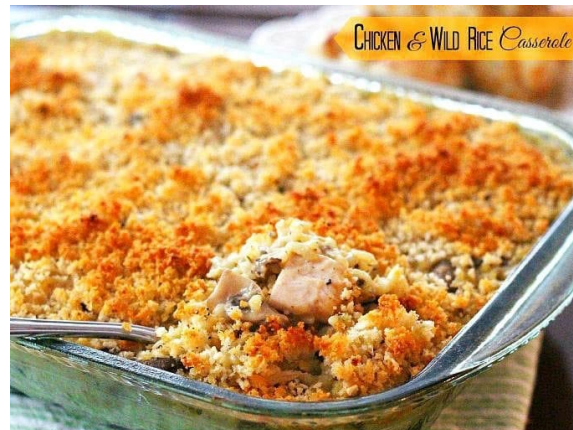
All women are welcome to attend either or both gatherings!!

Recipe of the Month: Southern Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole

Submitted by Glenna Ross

Ingredients

1 (2.25-oz.) package sliced almonds
1 (6.2-oz.) box Uncle Ben’s long-grain and wild rice mix
1/4 cup butter
2 celery ribs, chopped
1 medium onions, chopped
2 1/2 cups chopped cooked chicken
1 (10 3/4-oz.) cans cream of mushroom soup
1 (8-oz.) cans chopped water chestnuts, drained
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup milk
1/2 tsp. table salt
1/2 tsp. freshly ground pepper
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
Cooking spray
1 cup soft, fresh breadcrumbs



Directions

Toast almonds: Preheat oven to 350°F. Bake almonds in a single layer in a shallow pan for 4 to 6 minutes or until toasted and fragrant, stirring halfway through.

Make rice: Prepare rice mixes according to package directions.

Make casserole filling: Meanwhile, melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat; add celery and onions. Sauté for 10 minutes or until tender.

Stir in chicken, next 6 ingredients, rice, and 1/2 cup cheese.

Spoon mixture into a lightly greased 9 x 13-inch baking dish baking dish.

Top with breadcrumbs.

Bake casserole:

Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes.

Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup of cheese, and top with toasted almonds.

Bake for 5 minutes.



God’s love is never meant to stop with us; it’s meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, “If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God’s love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us,

mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all. So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

Social Action Committee News ~

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

Thank you all for your generous hearts and donating items when you can. We have an amazing and caring congregation!

Along with serving a meal on the 14th of each month at Central Iowa Shelter and Services, we have many ways we can serve during 2026:

January - Provide a meal at Fresh Start (Women at the Well)

February - Super Bowl competition with collection of food items for the food pantry

March - Volunteer at Families Forward during spring break

April - Provide a meal at Fresh Start (Women at the Well)

May - Mother's Day collection of personal care items

June - Diaper Drive

July - Provide a meal at Fresh Start (Women at the Well); Rummage Sale

August - Back to school: considering donations to provide shoes for low income kids

September - Free Little Farmers Market

October - Provide a meal at Fresh Start (Women at the Well); Coat Drive

November - Food Pantry

December - Giving Tree (gift cards) for Families Forward



Free Little Food Pantry, located between 51st and 52nd Streets north of Meredith Drive. Please help us continue to meet our goal of providing **70** items each week. For the next few months, dry foods are appreciated to prevent items from freezing, i.e., ramen noodles, foil packed tuna, rice meals, etc. Please no opened boxes or expired items. Also, your help in delivering is appreciated. Sign up on the clipboard on the top shelf.

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, February 14, 2026

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 February 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-61736603-holsaturday>

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

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. Children are invited to gather in Worship with their families and exit to the purple classroom after the Children's Message.

Thank you to our Session 3 leader, Tricia Berry! She wrapped up her time leading on Sunday, January 11th and Sherri Bogue is leading Session 4, which runs through February 22nd.

We are very grateful for our amazing Children's Ministry volunteers; we couldn't offer our programs without them! There are still opportunities to volunteer this year! If you are available to volunteer on one Sunday during the 10am service between 4/12 and 5/17 please reach out to Jackie and she will get you scheduled to help! ☺



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

God is always with us, and he helps us stand strong!

You never know how strong you're standing until someone surprises you with a shove. Maybe you're carrying a loaded tray across the lunchroom and someone accidentally bumps you. Welcome to a milk and spaghetti cleanup! When you know a push is coming, it's easier to stand strong. But if you really want to stand strong, be sure someone has your back, keeping you steady.

Jesus had the back of the sick people he healed. The hurt people he comforted. The dead people he brought back to life. And he had your back when he hung on a cross.

When you stand with Jesus, you stand strong. When you're pushed, you won't be shaken. Because he's with you, always there to offer support.

Try this at home: Stand with your feet planted firmly. Ask someone you live with to put a hand on your shoulder and give you a gentle shove. What happens?

Then stand with your back firmly against a wall and ask for another shove—a harder one this time. You'll go nowhere. That's what it's like to stand when God has your back.

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for always being with us. When life pushes us, help us stand strong. Thank You for having our backs and loving us every day. We trust You, Jesus. Amen. 🌿❤️



🌿🐦 **Calling All Jungle Explorers!** 🐦🌿 Get ready to **swing, splash, and explore**—because **Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School** is coming to **New Hope UMC**, and it's an adventure kids won't want to miss!

☁️ **Rainforest Falls VBS**

📅 **July 12–15; ⌚ 6:00–8:00 PM nightly**

🍽️ **Dinner served at 5:30 PM**

At Rainforest Falls, kids will journey deep into a vibrant jungle filled with towering trees, rushing waterfalls, and colorful creatures—all while discovering that **God's love is strong, faithful, and always flowing**.

🐼 Each night, kids will:

- Trek through lush rainforest trails
- Discover Bible truths hidden like jungle treasures
- Sing songs that echo through the treetops
- Play games wilder than a troop of monkeys
- Create crafts inspired by bright birds, buzzing bugs, and thundering falls

🌿 From the misty forest floor to the crashing waterfalls, kids will learn how to **trust God and follow Him wherever the adventure leads**—and they'll have a blast doing it!

👉 **Register today and mark your calendars now to join us for a rainforest adventure this summer at New Hope!**

Participant Registration: <https://forms.gle/tzTQjrmeYjnnUR4X8>

Volunteer Registration: <https://forms.gle/8ARuL5RMHSvfLZdp8>

We can't wait to explore the jungle with you, 🌿 *The New Hope UMC VBS Team* 🌿

The first month of 2026 flew by in Children's Ministry!

January 7, our Wednesday night groups worked together on making tie blankets to be taken to the homebound members of our congregation on visits. The kids worked hard and had a lot of fun at the same time!

Week 2 we focused on how seasons change, but God's love remains the same! Week 3 we learned that Jesus is the light in the dark, made our own playdough and created different sculptures of things that create light. Week 4 the lesson was focused on growing with God in the quiet seasons!

We are ready for a fabulous February!

Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm- Dinner

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

7:30-8pm- Puppet and Bells Rotation Times (New Puppet rotation starting soon!)

Looking Ahead:

2/4 – Service First, All Group Service Project – Valentine's for Child Serve

2/11- Friendship Dance Party- Dress up or don't, but be sure to join us to dance the night away with our friends!

2/18- Ash Wednesday, No TGIW Programs

2/25- TGIW Midweek Meetup Activities, Love In Action Lesson

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 February volunteers who will prepare and serve the weekly meals during TGIW Midweek Meetup: Patty Nearmyer and McKayla Nearmyer, Glenna Ross and DeVonne Douglas, Sue Soards and Dawn Bachelder. We appreciate you serving the families in our church with this ministry!



A Busy and Impactful January!

Our BLAST youth kicked off the year with service, celebration, and community! In January, students participated in several service projects, including serving the Hand of Luke meal at Central Iowa Shelter & Services and creating T-shirt bags for Families Forward Bidwell Pantry.



We also wrapped up the Christmas season with our annual BLAST Christmas Party, complete with cookie decorating, games, and plenty of fun. Later in the month, students enjoyed our MLK Jr. Lock-In, where they played games and watched the newest Zootopia movie.



A huge **Thank You** to all our volunteers. You make these events possible!



As we enter the Lenten season, BLAST will begin a new teaching series called “*Another Look*.” This series invites students to take a deeper look at who Jesus is and reflect on their own lives and beliefs. Throughout February, we’ll explore meaningful questions such as:

- What can you trust Jesus with today?
- Where did you notice Jesus’ presence today?
- What can Jesus rescue you from today?
- How can you put Jesus’ words into practice today?

We look forward to thoughtful conversations and spiritual growth together.



Finally, don’t forget to plan to come early for our **Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper** at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 18th. This free-will offering meal helps support several of our youth attending **Wesley Games Camp**, July 20 - 24.

Learn more about camp at: <https://wesleywoodsiowa.org/summer-camp/>

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

- 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**
- March 4th @ 6pm ~ First Wednesday Service Project**
- March 11th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion**
- No Meeting March 18th (Spring Break)***
- March 25th @ 6pm ~ BLAST Easter Celebration**

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





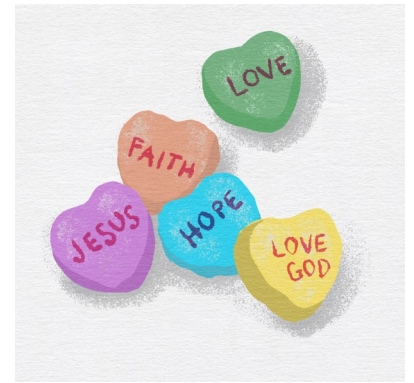
Paint Class

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30pm.

Join us as we paint a Northern Lights scene.

\$25 per person with ALL supplies, and refreshments.

Please watch for a sign-up at the Welcome Center.



We hosted a MLK Service Day with other Metro circuit UMC churches. **215 reusable t-shirt bags were made for Family Forward's Bidwell Pantry!**

Thank you to everyone that donated t-shirts and thank you to everyone that attended on January 19th and made the bags.



Thank you to Nan Stubbs and our guest, Sandy, for teaching Mahjong on January 21st! Their patience and confidence in all of those that attended was greatly appreciated! Watch for more Mahjong classes!!





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!

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"

Blood Pressure Check

Next opportunity is on
January 4, 8:45am - 11am in the
Narthex.

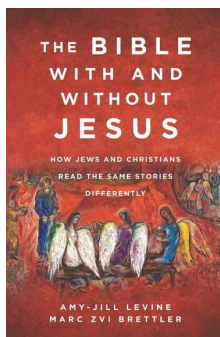
Support Groups

Al-Anon

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby
Chapel.



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

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.

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will meet on **Friday, February 20,**
9:00am - 3:00pm in the northwest classroom.
We lunch at Panera in Johnston.

We sew lap 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 and batting available for quilts. Please give prior notice for
this.

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



Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets
quarterly. Next meeting is on
Thurs., April 9, 2026 at 10am in
the Fellowship Hall.

This team ministers to congregation
members who have had new ba-
bies, 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,

Sleeping Mats/Loom

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 occasion-
ally 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!



New this year!!

We will be offering an E-Giving Help Desk the first Sunday of every month beginning on February 1.

Please stop and talk with a Finance Committee member in the narthex with any questions you may have such as how to set up automated donations, change my donation amount, credit card, bank account, etc.

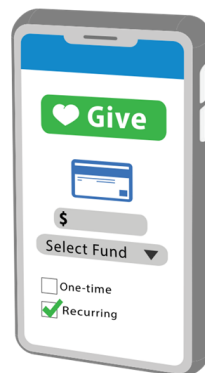
Thank you for your generous tithing and donations.

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 for your Financial Support

Financial Summary Ending December 31, 2025		
	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 378,206.45	\$404,681.00
Expense	\$ 383,095.24	\$404,469.95
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4,888.79)	\$ 211.05

The Trustees have the wishing well/donation box out each Sunday for donations.

Fill the Wishing Well for the needs of our church. We will eventually need to replace two furnaces and we are fundraising for our new Outdoor LED sign. Please consider filling the Wishing Well for these needs!

Your continued support and generosity are greatly appreciated!!



For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, no beauty that we should desire him. -Isaiah 53:2

Imagine the image of Jesus. Many of us think of an old 1940s painting by Sallman or perhaps an even older portrait of Jesus with a beautiful face and long flowing hair. We rarely consider the only actual description from the Bible found here in Isaiah 53. The author here describes Jesus as nothing pretty to look at. Yet, he is described as the one who lays everything down for us. That, friends, is beautiful!

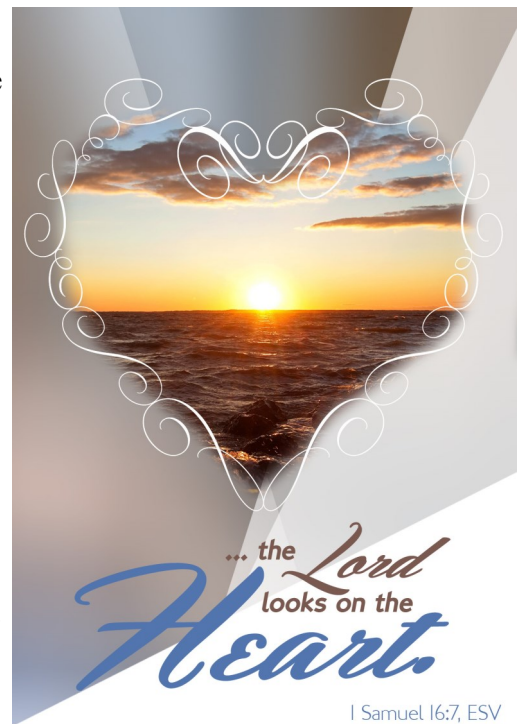
Lately, there has been a lot of controversy about people who don't look quite like us, whether because of race, gender, or age. Many in our nation seem to be confused about the criteria for being loved. If someone is too dark, they must be a hardened criminal. If someone is too effeminate, they must be less. If someone is too educated, they must not have any common sense. If someone looks too poor, they are not of the same value as someone who looks rich. We place a lot of value on the outside of a person.

1 Samuel 16:7 reminds us, though, "The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." We want to make Jesus look prettier because in our minds, only a pretty face could do for a face of God. But Isaiah 53 tells us otherwise. Jesus was not beautiful the way we see beauty. Jesus, though, is the most beautiful of all for his unfailing love, even in the shadow of his own cross. The same holds true for all our neighbors. God never chose people because they were pretty on the outside. God chose all the heroes of the faith, including us, for our hearts. And for our hearts to be beautiful, we need to see others with new eyes.

I can't tell you how often I have been told that poor people are scary. Guess what? They are just people. I have been told that strong people are scary. Guess what? They are just strong. I have been told by someone that when you are out of town you can't use checks because the "Mexicans" behind you in line will look at your address, beat you home, and steal everything. How can Christians live in that kind of fear, thinking that people who don't look a certain way are scary and bad? Travel has taught me this: wherever you go, people are people. Some are sweet. Some are tired. Some are grumpy. And some are full of hopefulness.

As we close our series of New Hope at New Hope, may we not forget what true beauty is, and may others look at us as people of hopefulness in a world filled with fear, so that we can be people of love instead of people of misplaced judgment. For to be more like God, we must see more than the outward appearance, more than any hatred propagated by our fear, and more than the acceptance of things we would never tolerate on a day of peace. May we see one another like God sees us, like God saw Jesus. And from that image, may we find our hope as we shift gears into Lent.

Pastor Amy



February 2026

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

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 Holy Communion 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures, E-giving help desk 10a, Sunday School 7p Scouts Mtg (Jackie)	2 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7pm, Trustees Mtg	3 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	4 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	5 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Worship mtg.	6	7 8:30a, Men's Breakfast 12p-6p, F.Hall reserved
8 Scout Sunday 10a, Sunday School 4:30p, Super Bowl fundraiser/game	9 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	10 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:30p, SPRC mtg	11 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities (Friendship Dance Party)	12 6:30p, Bible Study	13 Church Office closed	14 3:00p, Hand of Luke
15 10a, Sunday School 2p-4p, Big Band concert	16 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	17 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:30p, Finance Mtg	18 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness Ash Wednesday 5:30pm Pancake Supper 7pm Worship No TGIW / BLAST	19 9:30a, United Women in Faith (Glenna Ross) 1p, Mat weaving	20 March LINK deadline 9a, Needlers	21 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast
22 1st Sunday in Lent 10a, Sunday School 4p, Recital by Janet Habick	23 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	24 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	25 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	26 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	27	28 9:30a, United Women in Faith (Glenna Ross)



**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2 Kay Goff | 18 Ava Henry, Linda Sesker,
Ellie Cossa |
| 3 Ron Rubek | 19 Susan Egger, Makenna Meyer |
| 6 Dale Monthei, Penny Dolberg | 20 Jan Veeder, Derek Marsh |
| 7 Sandy Wilges | 22 Kristi Buhr |
| 9 Freda Ruleman, Ben Higdon | 23 Jackson Hogue |
| 11 Steve Sutton | 25 Earl Lewis |
| 12 Theresa Flickinger | 26 Pastor Amy Johnson |
| 16 Scott Rowland, Corey Miller | 27 Steven Schutter |
| 17 Vicki Hover | 28 John Huber |
| | 29 Doris Pugh, Terri Kauer |



**FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9: Ron & Clarice Rubek
24: Larry & Kim Buske
27: Robin & Jolene Harlow

*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

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Pastor Amy Johnson: amy@newhopedsm.org

Nancy Monthei: nancy@newhopedsm.org

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
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