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A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

April
2026



9am • 10am • 11am

newhopedsn.org



Holy Week

April 2nd ~ Maundy Thursday Potluck, Communion & Service at 6pm with the Metro Circuit at Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Rd, Urbandale.

Join us for a meaningful Maundy Thursday as our circuit gathers for food, fellowship, worship, and service at Walnut Hills UMC. We'll begin with a potluck meal, move into a communion service remembering Jesus' last supper, and conclude with a hands-on service project supporting Joppa (ministry for unhoused). Throughout Lent, we're collecting supplies to assemble "blessing bags" for neighbors experiencing homelessness. Bring donations with you and stay to help assemble the bags together.

Supplies Needed:

Gallon Ziplock Bags
Socks
Hand Sanitizer
Energy/Protein Bars

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
Chapstick
AA Batteries
Granola or Peanut Butter Bars

Bottled Water
Hand Wipes
Band-Aids

April 3rd ~ Good Friday Service at Noon in the Sanctuary at New Hope UMC.

Join us for a traditional Good Friday Worship Service, including the stripping of the altar.

April 3rd ~ Good Friday – A Service of Music & Reflection at 7pm.

Our circuit Good Friday service will be held at West Des Moines UMC, 720 Grand Ave, West Des Moines, featuring a combined church choir cantata. This moving service will guide us through the final hours of Christ's life with scripture, prayer, and music. Interested in singing? Reach out to Maggie at maggie@whumc.org to join the choir. Let us gather as one body, honoring the solemn beauty of this holy day together.

April 5th ~ Easter Services will be at our three services: 9am Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary, 10am Contemporary Service & 11am Traditional Service with the Choir.

Kids Easter Celebration during the 10am service for children of all ages.



Hop on over to for a Community **Easter Egg Hunt**
Saturday, April 4th at 2pm(Sharp)

Special fun includes: thousands of Easter eggs to find, photos with the Easter bunny, golden egg prizes—one hidden in each age area with special prize basket for the lucky finder! Egg hunt areas will be separated and ages 0—12 yrs are welcome to participate. Grab your baskets and bring your friends!



Help each of us, O Lord,
to experience the same
joy which the friends of
Jesus felt when meeting
the risen Christ.



Prayer Chain Request

If you have a prayer chain request, please call Glenna Ross at 515-321-3010 email at glenna625@hotmail.com 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, Ray Pickett

Healing from Physical Issues:

Larry Wood, Jack Habick, Dick Cobb, Freda Ruleman, Patricia Smith, Mike Aasheim Osborne

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

Thank you

Thank you, New Hope family, for all the prayers and cards received during my time coping with the death of my son-in-law, Daryl Stevens. Thank you also for all the many prayers for my daughter, Jennifer Hibbert, and her cancer surgery. She is doing much better and I know all the prayers helped! Thank you! Linda Cooley

New Hope family,

I am so thankful for the beautiful birthday reception and making my 105th birthday the best one I have ever had! It certainly was a highlight of my life. I appreciated the wonderful cards and beautiful flowers, too. I am so grateful for the loving friendships I have with my church.

Also, thank you for the prayers for my grandson, Joshua Ruleman, who is in the military. Joshua and his wife, Laura, and family were recent visitors of mine and they both expressed how much they appreciated New Hope and the support they have received. You have given them much happiness!

You are all a blessing,
Freda Ruleman

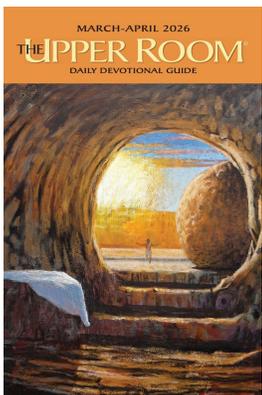
Our Sympathy

Our Sympathy to the family of Dean Peterson. Dean passed away on March 4th. He was a member of New Hope UMC.

Our Sympathy to Janet Herrold on the passing of her mother, Shirlee Herrold. Shirlee passed away on March 20th. The fellowship time after each worship service on April 12th will be in honor of Shirlee, a valued member of New Hope UMC and the community.

Directory Update

New address for **Ron & Joan Ringgenberg**
2098 NW 159th St.
Clive, IA 50325



New Hope UMC has available to you the Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide. The **March/April** issue is in the Communication Center.

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



Welcome to our New Members!

Jordon Holcomb transferred his membership from Immanuel UMC to New Hope UMC. 2421 45th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 720-763-1150, jholc1489@gmail.com Jordon is the son of Althea Holcomb and they attend the 10am service.

LouAnn Roth transferred her membership from Nora Springs UMC to New Hope UMC. 5757 NW 50th St., Johnston, IA 50131 319-538-2437, lalourn5661@hotmail.com She attends the 11am service. Her husband is (retired) Pastor James Roth.



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am** at church.
All men are invited!!



Women at the Well – Fresh Start Women's Center

We are providing a meal at the Fresh Start Women's Center on **Tuesday, April 21**. *Please check the signup clipboard in the Welcome Center if you would like to donate food or help prepare and deliver this meal.*
 Questions? contact Jolene Harlow, 515-490-8813, or rdharlow@earthlink.net.

Women at the Well began a satellite ministry at Fresh Start. A feeding ministry offers a home-cooked meal to the women twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Fresh Start is a 48 bed facility run by the Department of Corrections for women in the justice system. It is a work-release facility so everyone there is required to leave during the day to go to work and earn their keep. Meals at the center are only offered once a day and come from the men's facility: old and cold. They appreciate a nice meal prepared with the love and care that many of our partner churches are known for.

The mission of Women at the Well is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our vision is to lead the church in love that breaks down walls.

Calling all pet lovers!

Join us at New Hope UMC for a heartwarming **Blessing of the Pets** on **Wednesday, April 22!** Whether your companion has fur, feathers, scales, or whiskers—everyone is welcome.

Walking Taco Meal served at 6:00 PM

Blessing from 6:30–7:30 PM with Pastor Amy and Pastor Wayne

Bring a lawn chair/blanket and your well-behaved pet *or* a favorite photo if they prefer to stay cozy at home. We'll also have fun **dog & cat toy-making stations**, so you can create something special for your furry friends!

Want to spread even more love? Feel free to bring a donation of cat or dog food to support pets in need in our community.

If you don't typically join us on Wednesday evenings, but will be eating with us please RSVP to Jackie so we can make sure to have enough food to go around! (515)710-3239 or jackie@newhopedsm.org.

Come celebrate the joy our animal companions bring to our lives—tails will wag, hearts will be full, and blessings will abound!



The Board of Trustees invites you to help with the "Spring Campus Clean Up Day" on **Saturday, April 25, 9:00a.m.** until finished. Lunch will be provided.

Tasks will be cleaning up flower beds (landscape areas), trimming bushes, removing old mulch from some locations, spreading new mulch where we can, landscape around the parsonage included, picking up sticks in front and side yards.

Items needed will be - lawn rakes (not garden rakes), gloves, dress appropriate for the weather, pruning shears, electric or gas powered hedge trimmer, leaf blower, chain saw. Please plan to

assist with cleaning up of our church campus! **Sign up at the Welcome Center to let us know you can help!**

If there are any questions, please call or text Dawn Bachelder at 740-291-7486. Thank you in advance for your time and effort! Board of Trustees

Biscuits & Gravy after each worship service on Sunday, April 19th!



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 soon!

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

Outdoor LED Sign ~ Update!!!

Polk County Public Works has approved the Permit for the sign to be installed!

Mega LED Technology has the sign in production and it is estimated to be ready to *ship in 6-8 weeks*.

Thank you for all of the generous donations toward the sign! **The cost for the sign is \$35,225.60**. We will also need to include **electrical work of ~\$2,000**.

We have **\$8,134.70 left to fundraise**.

With your generous help, 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.



An Easter Meditation By Richard R. Cobb

The icy, bitter cold winds of bleak and desolate winter have softened their blow and, once again the earth is preparing itself for the miracle of life. The air is warming, the ground is thawing, the days are longer and birds are nesting in the trees.

The life giving warmth of the sun and the gentle spring rains will show their effects as the trees bud, grass greens and flowers bloom. New life springing forth from what was barren, brown and withered.



Truly, Spring is God's way of reminding us of the Miracle of Easter. As His earth regenerates itself, so should we take time to renew our faith in Him. God sent His Son to us so that we might have new life and have it abundantly, not because of our deeds, done or left undone, but because God loved us enough to offer eternal salvation by His grace through our faith in Jesus. Mankind returned that love by placing him on the cross. However, Christ, rose on the third day to dwell forever both in Heaven and with us as a living Spirit in the hearts and minds of all His people whoever they are and wherever they may be.

Take time to notice and prayerfully acknowledge His presence in the beauty of things often taken for granted: a glorious sun rise or sunset, a budding spring flower, a newborn puppy, a small child and yourselves.

Thank you to Janet Habick for sharing her beautiful vocal music with us on March 22nd. Thank you also to Emily Bowser for playing accompaniment and to Janet's guest singers. The lovely music and delicious treats were enjoyed by all that attended. Thank you also to Janet for giving a portion of the free-will donations to the Trustees fund.



United Women in Faith

Thursday group will meet on **April 16 at 9:30am**. We will have a representative come and speak from DMARC (Des Moines Area Religious Council).

Saturday Group will meet on **April 25 at 9:30am**. We will be doing a diaper drive for Social Action Committee. Large sizes are needed most but all sizes are welcomed. Brunch will be served.

All women are welcome to attend either or both gatherings!

If you have any questions, please contact Glenna Ross, glenna625@hotmail.com or 515-321-3010.



United
Women
in Faith

Recipe of the Month: **Banana Pudding**

Submitted by Glenna Ross

For the Pudding

- 1 box Vanilla Pudding Mix or homemade pudding for richer flavor
- 2 cups Milk whole or 2% milk for richer texture

For the Layers

- 1 box Vanilla Wafers or shortbread/chocolate wafers for a twist
- 4 medium Bananas ripe but firm, toss in lemon juice to prevent browning

For the Topping

- 1 container Whipped Topping or homemade whipped cream for an upgrade

How to Make Banana Pudding

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the vanilla pudding mix and milk according to package instructions. Mix until thickened and smooth, usually about 2 minutes.
2. In a trifle or serving dish, arrange a layer of vanilla wafers, followed by a layer of sliced bananas, then pour a generous portion of the pudding mixture. Repeat the layers until all ingredients are gone, ensuring the last layer is pudding.
3. Spread a light layer of whipped topping over the top pudding layer. For an added crunch, garnish with crushed vanilla wafers or banana slices.
4. Cover the dish with plastic wrap or a lid and refrigerate for at least 4 hours, or overnight if possible.
5. Once chilled, scoop the Banana Pudding into bowls or serve it from the dish. Enjoy!



Graduate Recognition ~ May 3rd

Graduate Recognition will be on Sunday, May 3rd at all three services.

We invite all graduates: high school, college, and higher degrees, to send us information to be included in the bulletins to celebrate your accomplishments with you.

Please send the below information to the church office, nhfamily@newhopedsm.org **by Friday, April 24th.**

High School Graduates:

GRADUATE'S NAME:
PARENTS NAMES:
HIGH SCHOOL:
PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL:
WORSHIP SERVICE YOU WILL ATTEND (9AM, 10AM OR 11AM):

College/Graduate School Graduates:

GRADUATE'S NAME:
COLLEGE:
DEGREE(S):
FUTURE PLANS:



Social Action Committee News ~

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

On April 21, we are hosting another meal for the women at **Fresh Start**. *Please check the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center for opportunities to help with this meal.*

In the beginning of May, please watch for our **personal care drive** specifically for women we're planning in honor of Mother's Day.

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. Please no opened boxes or expired items. Thank you for your support in stocking this pantry with food. Please continue your generosity!

Your help is needed in delivering the food we put in the Free Little Food Pantry on Mondays. Sign up on the clipboard on the top shelf. If you would like to know about delivering the food or would like someone to go with you, please contact Althea Holcomb, 515.490.0789, althea.holcomb@gmail.com.

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 ~Tuesday, April 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 April 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-63055467-holtuesday>

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



Camperships – Make sure you get your child(ren) registered for church camp this summer! **New Hope's Social Action Committee will cover half of the registration fee, up to \$200 for children actively participating in our congregation.**

We want as many as possible to attend our United Methodist camp at Wesley Woods where they will experience nature and Christ in new ways.

Register on-line at: www.iaumc.org/camps. The place to share the portion paid by the church is on the "Camper Profile Form" that is to be completed during the registration process.

If you have any questions about the online registration, contact Shannon, Registrar, at 515-974-8946.

Please Nancy at the church at nancy@newhopedsd.org to let her know when you have registered your child(ren).

As always, thank you for the many ways you help in serving our community!

Children's & Youth Ministry

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

Sunday School for PreK-7th grade

Sunday School is the place to be at 10am! This class is open to PreK-7th grade students on a weekly or drop-in basis through mid-May.

Each week, we bring the Bible to life with fun, engaging lessons designed just for kids! During the season of Lent, we are following along with our church-wide study of the Gospel of Mark. Through stories, activities, and plenty of smiles, kids will learn about Jesus in a way that's meaningful and exciting. Our session 5 teacher is Nick Bogue.

Jackie will lead session 6 with one-time helpers. If you are interested, please let her know. (515)710-3239/jackie@newhopedsm.org.



Be sure to join us for a special Easter Celebration during the 10:00 AM service on April 5! It's going to be a joyful morning filled with fun, fellowship, and the amazing story of Easter that kids will love. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for all ages of kids during the celebration - feel free to bring your basket!

Connect with things we are talking about in Sunday School!

Wonder...

As you read the Easter story in Mark, take a moment to sit with the questions that appear in the text. At the empty tomb, the women are asked, "Don't be alarmed... You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here." (Mark 16:6).

- What might you have felt if you were there that morning?
- Why do you think the women were afraid and amazed at the same time?

Do...

This week, read Mark 15-16 together as a family. Let your kids share what stood out to them from Sunday School.

- Talk about what Jesus did and why it matters.
- Invite your child to draw or retell the story in their own words.
- Find one moment in the story that surprises you and talk about why.

Pray...

Jesus, thank You for the cross and for the empty tomb. Thank You that You are alive and that Your love is stronger than sin and death. Help us to understand the Easter story more deeply, to ask honest questions, and to trust You more each day. Fill our hearts with the same awe and wonder that the women experienced on that first Easter morning. Amen.

Adventure Awaits in the Rainforest!

Get ready to trek through towering trees, discover hidden waterfalls, and encounter amazing creatures at **Rainforest Fall Vacation Bible School!**

July 12-15, 2026

New Hope UMC 4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines, IA 50310

5:30-6:00 PM – Nightly Dinner (fuel up before the journey!)

6:00-8:00 PM – Rainforest Programs for PreK-8th Grade Explorers

Each night is packed with exciting adventures—games, music, crafts, and Bible discoveries that will help kids grow in faith while exploring the wonders of God's creation!



Calling all Volunteers!

We need guides, storytellers, and jungle helpers to make this rainforest come alive! Whether you can lead a group, help with snacks, or decorate our jungle trail, there's a place for you on the team.

Registration is OPEN NOW! Don't miss your chance to join this unforgettable expedition!

Sign up today to register your child or volunteer and be part of the adventure!

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

Volunteer Registration: <https://forms.gle/8ARuL5RMHSvFLZdp8>

We can't wait to explore, discover, and grow—deep in the heart of the rainforest with you this summer at New Hope!



March always flies by and this year was no exception! We spent our first week of the month filling Easter Eggs for our annual community event. The kids worked hard and got hundreds of eggs stuffed in under an hour!

The following week we welcomed our new helper, Gracey Harris, and enjoyed activities including creating a Spring wreath, a bunny scavenger hunt and a picnic snack and game of spring charades in the Ruby Chapel.

We were off for Spring Break, but we spent the final week of March enjoying the beautiful weather and focusing on Spring in our games and lesson! The kids played outside, checked out signs of Spring and charked the walks.

Speaking of Spring, it is definitely in the air, and April is sure to bring fresh opportunities to serve, connect, and celebrate together at New Hope!



Read All About It... Our Amazing April

- **April 1 – Service First: All-Group Service Project (6:30-7:30pm)**

Join us at church as we come together to beautify the grounds at New Hope. Let's serve side by side and make our shared space even more welcoming!

- **April 8 – TGIW Activities (6:30–7:30 PM)**

- **April 15 – TGIW Activities (6:30–7:30 PM)**

- **April 22 – Blessing of the Pets (6:30–7:30 PM)** Bring your furry (or feathered!) friends for a special time of blessing and celebration of God's creation.

- **April 29 – TGIW Activities (6:30–7:30 PM)**

This April, let's grow together in faith, serve with joy, and build lasting connections. We can't wait to see you there!
"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14



Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm - Dinner

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

7:30-8pm- Reserved for Puppet and Bells Rotations *3rd Grade and up

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 to join us for the meal.

The meal volunteers for April are –

Patty Nearmyer and McKayla Nearmyer

Glenna Ross, DeVonne Douglas, and Cadence Kasper

Sue Soards and Dawn Bachelder

Nancy and Dale Monthei

Many thanks to our volunteers who prepare and serve the weekly meals during TGIW Midweek Meetup! We appreciate the gift of your time and talents!

BLAST (BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org):

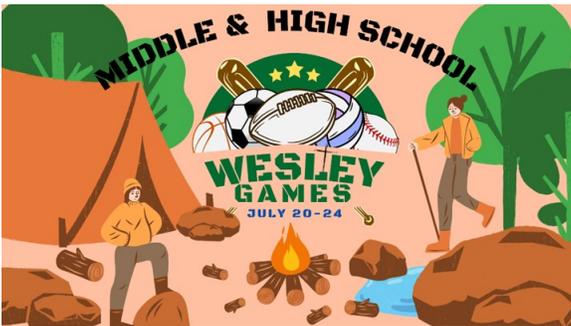
Christopher & Jennifer Higdon and McKayla and Regan Nearmyer

As we are getting closer to Summer... Don't forget to get registered for Wesley Games!

Wesley Games exists to invite students to a life-giving relationship with God in Jesus Christ, participating in God's grace through worship, games, and small group experiences. Students will have an opportunity to engage in team-based game play like Gaga Ball, 9-Square in the Air, and Carpet Ball.

In the afternoon, they will be able to choose activities like horseback riding, archery, a ropes course, and swimming.

There will be time for Bible study in small groups and worship together. Students will be encouraged to begin or deepen their relationship with Jesus and come back filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit.



This year, we are encouraging all youth, both Senior BLAST and Junior BLAST kids, to sign up for Wesley Games <https://wesleywoodsiowa.org/summer-camp/> Under "Programs", go to "Overnight Summer Camp" and then to scroll down to "Partner Camps (ages 9 – 17)"

Wesley Games is a one-week camp experience on campus at Wesley Woods Camp in Indianola, Iowa. This year's camp is from **July 20-24, 2026!**

Scholarships are available through the Sr. BLAST fund. A \$200 per youth scholarship will be applied to their camp fee. After youth have registered, please email Nancy at nancy@newhopedsm.org so that the \$200 can be sent to the Camp Registrar.

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

Apr. 1st @ 6pm ~ 1st Wednesday Service Project

Apr. 8th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion

Apr. 15th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion

Apr. 22nd @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion

Apr. 29th @ 6pm ~ Thank God for BLAST Discussion

May 6st @ 6pm ~ 1st Wednesday Service Project

May 13th @ 6pm ~ Final Night of BLAST Celebration

July 20th - 24th ~ Wesley Games

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

healing



Healing Worship

Wednesday, May 13, 5:30pm, in the Sanctuary

6pm Lasagna and pizza supper with a freewill offering for Miracle Sunday
6:30pm Talent Show

Join us in a service of healing, as we lift up prayer for all who seek healing prayers for any reason, and as we have an opportunity for anointing and laying on of hands for anyone who would like to receive an individual prayer of healing.

This service is not just for those seeking God's healing, but for those called to be in prayer for our New Hope community. We especially invite family members seeking prayers for a loved one, anyone who is in need of prayer in their life, those who want to build their knowledge and experience of prayer, any who want those who are going through hard times to know they are supported, any who have caretaking roles in the community (education workers, direct care givers, medical workers, emergency and safety workers, etc.) Blessing will be shared for those who are in support roles, as well.

Rev. Lilian Gallo Seagren will be giving a short message about Miracle Sunday as we celebrate the miracle of healing that has come and that is coming! I believe there are miracles in our congregation just waiting to unfold! Join us for this unique opportunity!

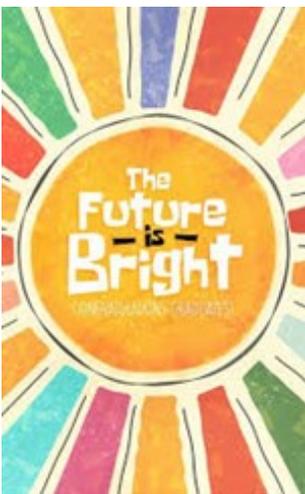


Veterans Breakfast on

Saturday, May 16 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.

New Hope's Future



This is an inspiring time for New Hope. We have had several inquiries about nonprofit organizations wishing to use our campus. The Trustees realize that a future vision of the New Hope UMC campus needs to be developed before we can seriously entertain sharing our space. Whatever we decide, it needs to align with a modern, proactive approach to New Hope's ministry and our Mission - *Following Christ, inspiring minds, loving hearts, serving hands and transforming communities.*

To prepare for these opportunities, the **Trustees are seeking members to help create a plan for New Hope's campus.** Members who can think creatively (Visionary Planning), are passionate about what New Hope has to offer, be good communicators, and are action oriented, are needed for an Exploratory Committee to set a course for our campus.

This committee will play a vital role in helping New Hope be a blessing to our community.

**If you are ready to help shape the future of New Hope's campus or just want more information, please reach out to the Trustee board!
Thank you for your consideration!**

Pam Frey yayafrey@gmail.com 515-490-8440



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!

The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and new life is blooming in the gardens at New Hope—it can only mean one thing: spring is here!

With the arrival of spring comes the tradition of spring cleaning, and we'd love for you to keep our Annual Rummage Sale in mind as you sort and organize. Set aside those gently used items and help make this July's sale our best one yet!

We're thrilled to welcome back our amazing veteran volunteers—and we'd be just as excited to have new faces join us this year. This event is a big undertaking, requiring hundreds of volunteer hours throughout the week, and every bit of help makes a difference. Whether you can give an hour or a full week, your time and talents are truly a gift.

Not only is the Rummage Sale one of our church's largest fundraisers, but it's also a meaningful way to connect with our community. Each year, we meet wonderful people—many of whom return again and again. By offering high-quality items at affordable prices, especially in a time when costs are rising, this sale serves a real and growing need. It's never too early to spread the word—invite your friends, family, and neighbors!



Important Dates:

- **Sunday, July 19 – Donation Day** Donations accepted after service until 7 PM
- **Monday, July 20 – Donation Day** Donations accepted from 9 AM – 1 PM
- **July 20–22 – Sorting, Pricing & Setup Days** (Donations may also be dropped off Monday from 9 AM – 1 PM)

Shopping Hours:

- July 23: Noon – 6 PM
- July 24: 9 AM – 6 PM
- July 25: 9 AM – Noon

Where We Need You Most:

- **Cashiers (Thursday, 12–3 PM):** We're looking for 4 teams (8 people total) to help during our busiest hours. Cashiers will handle money, so comfort with making change is important.
- **Area Leaders:** Our sale is large, and having a dedicated leader for each section makes a huge difference. If you've served before or would like to try something new, please reach out!
- **Saturday Clean-Up Crew:** Can't help during the week? We'd love your help boxing up leftover items for donation. By this point, our core team is tired, and extra hands are incredibly appreciated!

If you'd like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Jackie Johnson: jackiejohnson81@aol.com/(515) 710-3239

Since the sale takes place during the summer, it's also a wonderful opportunity for our New Hope youth to get involved as their schedules allow. Volunteer hours can count toward Silver Cord and Scouting America service requirements!

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might support this special event. Thank you so much for being part of what makes this community so special.

With gratitude,
Jackie Johnson

ADULT Sunday School

Join us!

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

Blood Pressure Check

Next opportunity is on **May 3**
8:45am - 11am in the Narthex (no April checks).

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., April 9, 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



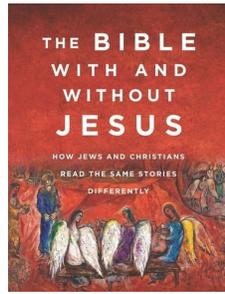
Sleeping Mats/Loom

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.

We have 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 1-2:30pm in a Sunday school room and even occasionally on Mondays after chair yoga. If you would like more information please contact Susan Baldwin at sueb4tennis@gmail.com.



The Thursday Bible Study

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

The next gathering will be on **April 9 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

We will focus on chapter 10: the Sign of Jonah. The main goals are: enjoy hearing and telling the story of Jonah; explore the story of Jonah in its original historical context while considering ethical questions it raises today;

understand how some New Testament authors reread Jonah's story in light of their convictions about Jesus, and consider selections of later Christian and Jewish interpretations of Jonah.

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

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will meet on **Friday, April 17, 9am - 3pm** 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.



Even though the Needlers no longer sew Little Dresses and Little Britches for the Self Help International Ghana mission, we wanted to share pictures of our last donations sent last fall.



Thank You for your Financial Support

Financial Summary			
Ending February 28, 2026			
	Actual Feb	Budget Feb	YTD Actual
Income	\$ 32,059.28	\$ 26,382.65	\$ 71,959.93
Expense	\$ 32,585.03	\$ 31,426.62	\$ 64,026.47
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (525.75)	\$ (5,043.97)	\$ 7,933.46

We will be offering an **E-Giving Help Desk** the **first Sunday of every month** (will not be available in April).

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



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!!



What is it about miracles that creates both wonder and doubt within us? When we realize that every expression of new life is nothing short of a miracle, we can understand the depth of God's love for us, that every moment in which we dwell, a miracle has been created for us by God.

Walt Whitman said this:

*The smallest sprout shows there is really no death,
And if ever there was it led forward life, and does not wait at the
end to arrest it,
And ceas'd the moment life appear'd.*

*All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses,
And to die is different from what any one supposed, and luckier.*

In this season of Spring, we celebrate that there really is no death, because if ever there were, it merely leads forth to life and ends where life is continuously renewed. Death, as it turns out, has been eternally conquered. As our newest praise band song reminds us, Easter has given us a new Resurrection power living within us, and that resurrection power is nothing short of a miracle. It is the life that springs forth, untainted by fear or sting of death. It is not the same life as before, for as Heraclitus, a resident of Ephesus nearly 600 years earlier than Paul, reminded us, none of us step in the same river twice. "πάντα ῥεῖ," (panta rhei), which means "everything flows." The later residents of Ephesus were reminded by Paul that they are all one in that flow, Jews and Greeks, slaves and free, all one miracle of life united by one resurrection in Christ.

The New Testament uses three words that we often translate as "miracle." The first, **Σημεῖον**, means "signs." This speaks to how we can look upon a miracle and understand God's work. Whitman calls that, "the handkerchief of the Lord," in another line of *Leaves of Grass*. The second word used in the New Testament for "miracle," is **Τέρας**, which means "wonder," or something that causes awe or astonishment. A miracle amazes us because it is not something we thought possible, especially for us. The third word for miracle, though, might surprise us. It is **Δύναμις**, or in some texts the similar word **Ἔργον** is used, which means "work, power, or deed." It is the most common word in scripture for miracle. In short, a miracle is a work that must be done. Often we look at miracles as God's intervention in our lives, like a magical unicorn riding on a rainbow or something. But instead, miracles are very much an act of work. You have sung this line from *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* before, "God's redeeming work is done." It is a miracle, but it was also work. Sometimes it is the work only of God. Sometimes a miracle is the work of God's people.

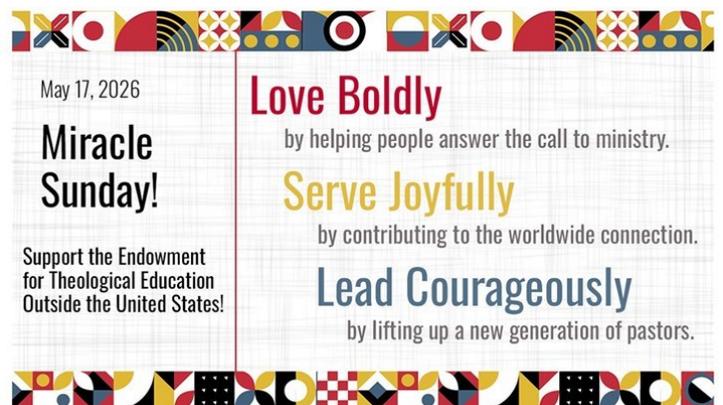
This month and next, we will be led in worship designed by both our congregation and the Cabinet as we work together for a miracle. This worship will culminate in the May 17 Miracle Sunday.

In an unprecedented action of the Council of Bishops in conjunction with all 30,000 congregations in the United Methodist Church worldwide, a one-time special offering will be gathered to fund the Endowment for Theological Education for clergy outside the United States (don't worry! We have one for the US, also that has been well cared for!). The goal is for each congregation to raise \$1000, and for the endowment to be able to permanently support 500+ clergy annually in theological education so that every UMC in every nation can have pastors trained in theology and community development in order to make disciples who transform the world. We have never tried to do such a large work in the UMC, but times like these require us to invest in leaders who can bring true transformation in this broken world in ways we never imagined we could before. It is time for us to do the work of the miracle we want to see in the world and to usher in the resurrection power that still lives in our world through the redemptive work of Christ.

I hope that you will pray about this one-time challenge and about whether God is calling you to respond as the opportunity comes on May 17, as well as on May 13, during the dinner which follows the worship service of healing.

All events in April and May will be included in announcements and in the Link as the events approach. Please keep your eyes open to upcoming events, studies, worship, social action, and other opportunities to grow closer to God and one another.

Blessings!
Pastor Amy



May 17, 2026

Miracle Sunday!

Support the Endowment for Theological Education Outside the United States!

Love Boldly
by helping people answer the call to ministry.

Serve Joyfully
by contributing to the worldwide connection.

Lead Courageously
by lifting up a new generation of pastors.

April 2026

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

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

			1 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	2 Maundy Thursday 1p, Mat weaving 6p, Maundy Thurs meal, worship, service project at Walnut Hills UMC	3 Good Friday Noon, Good Friday service at New Hope 7p, Good Friday @ WDSM UMC	4 8:30a, Men's Breakfast 2pm Community Easter Egg Hunt
5 Easter Communion 10a, Easter Celebration for kids	6 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	7 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	8 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	9 10a, Care Team Mtg 6:30p, Worship Mtg 6:30p, Bible Study	10	11 Noon-6p, Eagle Scout Ceremony (Jackie Johnson)
12 10a, Sunday School 7p, Scouts (Jackie)	13 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7p, Trustees Mtg	14 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 3:00p, Hand of Luke 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:30p, SPRC Mtg	15 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	16 9:30a, United Women in Faith (Glenna Ross) 1p, Mat weaving	17 9a, Needlers	18 8a-6p, FLC reserved by AIRT (Sharon Smith)
19 10a, Sunday School Native American Ministries Sunday offering Biscuits & Gravy fundraiser	20 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	21 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 4p, Fresh Start meal 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:30p, Finance Mtg	22 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Blessing of the Pets	23 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	24 May LINK deadline	25 9a, Campus Spring Clean Up 9:30a, United Women in Faith (Glenna Ross)
26 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i> Guest Preachers: Rev. Wayne Clark, Armenta Buckingham	27 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i> Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	28 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i> 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	29 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i> 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	30 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i>	May 1 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i>	May 2 <i>Pastor Amy—vacation</i>



“May God’s many blessings, be yours the year through.”

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Tavian Carnahan | 18 Audrey Cossa |
| 2 Kirk Dickey, Bob Harter,
Marilyn Goodrich | 20 Nan Stubbs |
| 3 Patrice Webber | 21 Melinda Parker |
| 4 Caroline Miller | 22 Amarachi Ukabiala, Ashlynn
Riley |
| 7 Lorelai Roff, Bob Soards | 23 Kathy Crees, Wade
Breitsprecher |
| 8 Kate Lichter | 24 Caleb Christensen |
| 9 Bhanu Moses | 25 Julie McClain, Jayme Mau |
| 12 Tanner Rowland | 26 Macy Berry |
| 13 Paul Herring | 28 Ellie Roquet,
Charlotte Kealhofer |
| 17 Peyton Henry | |



- 13: Tony & Tracy Hoffman
22: Jack & Janet Habick
30: Dan & Mona Kirkpatrick

*If you see that your name is not listed,
please call the church office at 278-2097,
or email at nhfamily@newhopedsm.org, 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 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: 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
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