

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

May
2026



9am • 10am • 11am
newhopedsm.org



Healing Worship ~ Wednesday, May 13, 5:30pm, in the Sanctuary

6pm Lasagna and pizza supper * Free-will offering for Miracle Sunday * 6:30pm TGIW Talent Show

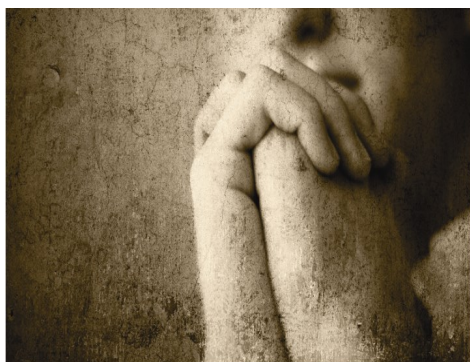
It was beautiful recently to get a good word from Jeremiah from Pastor Wayne and Armenta. Wasn't it amazing! And Jeremiah is one of the best books for us when we are struggling. At first it can seem like it is really not helpful. The people cry out, and Jeremiah shares the message with them, "Not yet." When we hurt, the message we want to hear is, "Right now! Yes!" But that is only the beginning of Jeremiah's message to the people from God. While the answer begins with a not-yet, it ends with a, "Definitely, when we wait a bit longer." It is not pie in the sky, but a true and honest promise: in the end, God will always heal and save you! Today, though, might be a not-yet day.

God's miracles come mightily sometimes and gently others. I know that **every promise made by God is a promise kept**. I have been listening to stories from our diverse pastors, some very local and some from half-way around the world, and one thing remains: they understand Jeremiah! They understand that waiting has its place. But then, miracles must be fulfilled! I have heard about pastors waiting decades to be able to go to seminary. The story Pastor Lilian shared about her father, for example told of having to wait for many years, most of her childhood, for a placement to open up for him in seminary. Schools in other countries often lack housing for seminary students, especially for those with families, they lack scholarships for those who need it, and they lack the resources that our seminaries and students here have. And yet, through years of waiting and prayer, the students hold on to the faith of Jeremiah. They know that if God's plan for them is to be fulfilled, their miracle will eventually come.

Likewise, there are places, especially in rural and emerging areas, where people hope for a pastor. There are children who need a family but there is no church to help them. There are women who lose children without anyone to minister a word of hope. There are men who need to hear a word about how they are to care for their neighbors. There are people without pastors but who have the faith of Jeremiah. They pray and they wait and they hope for time to be fulfilled. We are gearing up for **Miracle Sunday**. It is not just one more ask for money. It is a way the whole denomination has studied and prayed over this problem and asked God, "How can we help bring this miracle to the world?" We have prayed the ancient and new prayers, we have studied the scripture calling us to rise up, and we have dreamed mighty dreams with those who have been living a life of not-yet. And our denomination has decided that perhaps this is the right time for a, "Yes. Now." We don't want it to be an only "yes-now," though. We want it to be a "yes-always." And so we have made a plan like none our denomination has seen before!

This plan is for us to have a one-time offering across the 33,000 United Methodist churches in the world with a goal of raising an average of \$1000 per congregation to build a foundation whose interest provides for theological education for students outside the United States, so that this can be the time for the fulfillment of at least 500 miracles each year. The foundation will remain in trust while the interest can be used each year for seminary education. This is an unprecedented effort, but we truly believe that after years of working toward solutions for this struggle around the world, this may be our chance to make more disciples than we have ever been able to make before. We only have to pray about how much of this mission we are called to share in, and we need to participate in the Miracle offering on May 17. It is that simple. **Together, we will not only ask for a miracle, we will be a part of bringing miracles into the world!** We hope to be able to be a part of this amazing moment in the world. If you have questions, please ask Pastor Amy or District Superintendent Lilian, and we will be glad to explain more. Also, note that we will also be having a healing service on May 13 for any in our midst who are seeking their own miracles, as well. Please come support those who need healing and come to seek healing of your own. We all need God working in our lives. Thank you for considering this mission opportunity as well as the opportunity to participate in local healing. Perhaps the time is indeed now!

~ Pastor Amy



Mother's Day: A Legacy of Love

Mother's Day invites us to honor the women who have nurtured, guided and loved us. We celebrate not perfection, but faithfulness shown in countless quiet moments. May we give thanks for the love that shapes hearts and points us toward God's grace.



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:

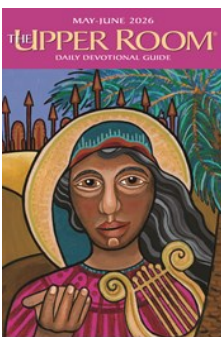
DeVonne Douglas, Pam Frey, Marlys Borcharding, Linda Boyd, Ray Pickett

Healing from Physical Issues:

Linda Wood, 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



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

The **May/June** issue is in the Communication Center.

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

Birth

Congratulations to Devin and Brianna Schafer on the birth of their son, Emmett Mikel Schafer. Emmett was born on March 26. He weighed 7lbs 8ounces, 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Brad and Jackie Johnson.

Congratulations to Brady and Carley Jansen on the birth of their son, Jack Gene Jansen. Jack was born on March 28. He weighed 7lb 15.9ounces, 20.7 inches long. Proud grandparents are Randy and Mary Jansen.

Congratulations to Max and Bailey Dillenburg on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Sue Dillenburg. Sadie was born on April 6. She weighed 8lbs 10ounces, 20.5 inches long. Sadie joins big brother, Noah, at home. Proud grandparents are Carl and Sue Egger.

Our Sympathy

Our Sympathy to the family and friends of Kay Goff, member of New Hope UMC. Kay passed away on March 11, at the age of 88.

Our Sympathy to Ron and Clarice Rubek on the passing of Clarice's sister, Peggy Jean Brue.

Our Sympathy to Doug and Kathy Fairchild and family on the passing of Kathy's mother, Nancy Wood.

Our Sympathy to Linda Reaney on the passing of her nephew, Rob Loften.

Our Sympathy to Linda Cooley and family on the passing of her daughter, Jennifer Hibbert.

Baptism

Congratulations to Beckett James Kealhofer who was baptized on March 22. Beckett is the son of Adam & Brittany Kealhofer and little brother to Charlie and Collins.

Thank you

Thank you for the donations given at the April 19th Biscuit and Gravy fundraiser. \$456 for Furnaces and \$463 for Outdoor Sign. Thank you to Nan Stubbs and Pam Frey for organizing the delicious meal!

Jack and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, get-well cards, phone calls, and visits during Jack's surgery and his recovery. We are truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

Thank you!

Jack and Janet Habick

Clarice and Ron Rubek wish to thank everyone for their condolences, sympathy cards, flowers, and kind words upon the death of Clarice's sister, Peggy Brue. They appreciated so very much your love and kindness.

Linda Wood, New Hope member, wishes to thank the Care Team for the beautiful yellow quilt. Thank you also for the visits and cards. She appreciates all the prayers.



Please help welcome **Earl Sengbusch!**

He transferred his membership from Immanuel UMC to New Hope UMC. 3017 47th St., Des Moines, IA 50310, 515-988-3293, esengbusch@gmail.com. Earl is an Inspector with John Deere Des Moines Works. He enjoys camping, biking and baseball. Earl has a son, Ronnie, and a daughter, Reva. Beth Roff introduced New Hope UMC to Earl and they attend the 10am service.



Outdoor LED Sign ~ Paid!!

We were able to fundraise \$37,563.60 (includes electrical work)! Mega LED Technology will be shipping the sign to their local designated installer. Soon, we will be advertising New Hope UMC worship services and activities on our beautiful new sign!

Thank you for all the generous donations, memorial designations and fundraiser donations. **All are truly appreciated!**



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, May 2 at 8:30am** at church. *All men are invited!!*



We were honored to celebrate Ruth Miller's 96th birthday with her on April 26th! Her daughter, Cyndi Miller, brought a delicious cake for this special occasion.



Graduate Sunday!

Join us on **Sunday, May 3rd** as we celebrate our High School Graduates!



Kail Hopkins
Parent: Mia Hopkins, mom
Donna Hopkins, grandma
Central Campus, Des Moines.
Future plans: Kail will be attending DMACC and studying for his Associate in Liberal Arts. He plans to work on a Bachelor's degree in the future.



Devon Love Mau II
Parents: Devon and Jayme Mau
Urbandale High School.
Future plans: Devon will be attending Mount Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, to major in Business Administration and play Football.



It's time to spring clean our kitchens!

With so much food preparation happening in our busy church, we need to care for our kitchen facilities. Please join us on **Tuesday, May 5, at 9:00am** to help out. See you there! Pam Frey yayafrey@gmail or 515-490-8440

United Women in Faith - Fundraiser

Buy your Mother's Day dessert!

On **May 10th**, there will be a variety of homemade desserts for purchase. All proceeds will go to UWIF's mission projects.

If you would like to donate homemade dessert sign up at the Welcome Center and *please deliver them to the church on May 9th, 3-5pm.*

Questions? Call Glenna Ross 515-321-3010 or Sharon Smith 515-419-7082.



Mother's Day ~ Personal Care Item Drive

Please join the Social Action Committee in contributing personal care items for women at the Domestic Violence Center. On Mother's Day, **May 10th**, a table will be set up in the south hallway for your donations. *Thank you for your generosity.*

Toothbrushes	Q Tips	Hair brush/comb	Deodorant
Toothpaste	Razors	Pads/Tampons	Chapstick
Toothpaste holders	Panty Liners	Body Lotion	Body Soap/Bar Soap
			Shampoo/Conditioner



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.



Community Jazz Center Big Band spotlight on the Rhythm Section ~ **May 17th, 2-4pm.** This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Invite your friends! Free-will donation.

BINGO Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 20th * Doors open at 6:00pm * Bingo starts at 6:30pm

The March Bingo night was lots of fun and lots of BINGOS! By popular demand, we will have another *epic* night of BINGO! This *free-will offering fundraiser* for the *new furnaces* includes:

- * 1 Bingo card per person
- * Pulled Pork sandwiches, chips, desserts and beverages
- * Prizes of baked goods (banana cream pie, rhubarb pie, chocolate cherry cake, carrot cake, white almond sheet cake, scotcheroos, gluten free brownies, and more!)
- * Fun vibes + friendly competition

For planning purposes, please RSVP by May 17th to nancy@newhopedsm.org or call 515-278-2097 (no text). Please invite your friends!!





Sunday, May 24 ~ One Worship at 10am in the Sanctuary Guest Pastor ~ Rev. Dr. Katharine Yarnell

Executive Director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation

“Consider the Lilies” (Luke 12:27). What does the Bible teach us about our brains? An exploration of the neurology we can learn from the Bible.

Back by popular demand, Reverend Katharine Yarnell, is visiting New Hope again. Last year, she presented ideas and best practices on leaving a legacy and estate planning. This year, we’ve asked her to be our Guest Pastor on Sunday, May 24 at the combined worship services at 10am. Rev. Katharine will stay during Fellowship coffee time to help answer any questions about endowments, estate planning, tax advantages for church donation.



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!

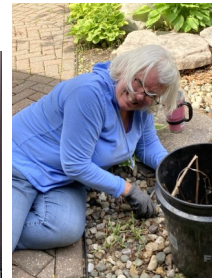
This is for anyone and any age. Bring your friends!

Campus Spring Clean-up ~ Thank you!!!

We had a perfect day to accomplish so much! The campus has fresh mulch and looks ready for a busy summer! The Prayer Garden is ready to bloom and welcoming to all.

Thank you for the many hands that helped achieve this. And for DeVonne and Glenna for feeding us.

We are blessed to have such a caring congregation! New Hope UMC Trustees



Social Action Committee News ~

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

On April 21st, a meal was provided to Fresh Start. This is a quarterly activity. Many thanks to those who contributed the ingredients for the meal and to those who made and served it!

People have responded to our need for volunteers to sign up for delivering the 70 items to the Free Little Food Pantry on Mondays. It is an ongoing effort which requires both donations of food and time. We can stop worrying about things freezing now!

We are planning a personal care for women drive for May 10th – Mother’s Day.

In June we will be doing a diaper drive.

Our ongoing activities are functioning seamlessly! Thank you to everyone who helps with these efforts.

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 ~Thursday, May 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 May 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-63645549-holthursday>. 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@newhopedsm.org to let her know when you have registered your child(ren).



On April 18th, Kwibuka (Rwandan Genocide Memorial) event was held at our church.

Photo by Sharon Smith

Children's & Youth Ministry

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

Sunday School for PreK-7th grade

Sunday School classes continue to be held during the 10am service using the Simply Loved curriculum. We are in our final session of the year. Children begin service with their families and exit to Sunday School after the Children's Message. Sunday School is open to PreK-7th grade students on a weekly or drop-in basis.

Connect with the things our Sunday School class is talking about: Allow yourself to **WONDER**... What must it have felt like for the people to see the broken walls of Jerusalem for the first time? **DO**... Write or draw one thing in your life you'd like God to help "rebuild" (a relationship, a habit, bravery, kindness). **PRAY**... Dear God, Thank You for loving us and never giving up on us. Thank You for helping people like Nehemiah and Ezra do big, hard things. Help us when we feel overwhelmed or unsure. Show us what needs to be rebuilt in our hearts and lives and give us courage and joy to follow You. Thank You for Your Word that teaches and guides us. We love You! Amen.

Our final Sunday School of the school year will be held on Sunday, May 17th. This will be a celebratory day for a wonderful year of learning together!

Thank you to all of our incredible volunteer teachers and helpers who faithfully served in our children's ministry throughout the 2025-2026 school year! Your dedication, patience, and willingness to give your time have made a lasting impact on the lives of the children in our church. Because of you, the children at New Hope feel welcomed, valued, and excited to learn about God's love. Thank you for pouring into them, for your servant hearts, and for being such an amazing team of volunteers!



After Sunday School wraps up for the year and throughout the summer, children are welcome to join Jackie at the kid's table in the back of the FLC for quiet activities during service.

Just like the builders in Nehemiah's day, we worked side by side with purpose and perseverance to complete walls of our own.



What a joy this year has been at TGIW Midweek

Meetup! It's hard to believe we're nearing the finish line—time really does fly when we're growing, serving, and having fun together.

April was full of meaningful moments and plenty of laughter. We kicked off the month with a joint service project, helping prepare our church grounds for the annual Easter Egg Hunt by clearing sticks and debris. Even though the weather didn't quite cooperate, it didn't dampen our spirits! After a short time outside, we headed in to watch the VeggieTales Easter story and share freshly popped popcorn—a fun way to end the evening together.

Throughout the rest of the month, our time was centered on the hope and joy of Easter and promises of Spring. We explored what happened next in the Easter story through engaging lessons, conversations, and activities that brought the message to life for our kids.

One of the highlights of April was our Blessing of the Pets on April 22. It was a wonderful event as we celebrated and prayed over 36 beloved pets—both in person and through photos—recognizing the joy and companionship they bring to our families.

Read all about our Magnificent May...

5/6- All group service project, Every Step at 1821 Grand Ave. in West Des Moines. We will be on site volunteering from 6:45-7:45pm so please plan to drop off at New Hope as close to 6 as you can to allow us all time to eat dinner and get on the road. We will be back at New Hope by about 8:10pm for pickup.

5/13- Join us on May 13 for our TGIW Midweek Meetup Celebration and Talent Show from 6:00–7:30pm! This will be our final Wednesday night program of the school year, and we'd love for you to celebrate with us. It's been a wonderful year of fellowship, fun, and faith-building, and we're excited to wrap it up together as a church family. Bring a lawn chair, invite a friend, and come enjoy a relaxed and joy-filled evening—there's something for everyone, and all are welcome!

Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00-6:30pm - Dinner

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

7:30-8pm- Puppets *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 May are – Patty Nearmyer and McKayla Nearmyer, and Pastor Amy and Jackie Johnson. Thank you to our volunteers who prepare and serve the weekly meals during TGIW Midweek Meetup! We appreciate the gift of your time and talents!

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!



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!



If you have not signed up, we want all youth to attend Wesley Games (<https://wesleywoodsiowa.org/summer-camp/>). 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. Drop off at 9:30am, pick up at 10:30am.

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/>

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.

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

- **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>).

Thank you to everyone that joined the kids and youth for a blessing of the pets on April 22! It was a wonderful evening! We have a small table of donations for pets at the shelter in the fellowship hall. If you would like to add to it- we are continuing to accept pet toys, treats, and food for dogs and cats until May 10.



New Hope's Future



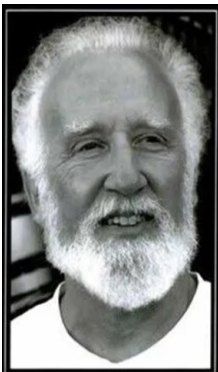
This is an inspiring time for New Hope. We have had several inquiries about nonprofit organizations wishing to use our campus. The Trustees realize that a future vision of the New Hope UMC campus needs to be developed before we can seriously entertain sharing our space. Whatever we decide, it needs to 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



Bruce Benard – Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame

Bruce Benard, New Hope UMC member, was inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame at a special ceremony on April 24 at the Iowa State Capitol! Along with other 2026 inductees, his name will be engraved on the Volunteer Hall of Fame plaque on permanent display in the State Historical Museum.

Bruce not only has done so much for the Urbandale community but has served/volunteered on many committees at our church along with helping organize the past Cultural Diversity events at New Hope UMC.

The following are details of Bruce's volunteer actions in the community.

Bruce Bernard, Urbandale

Bruce Bernard demonstrates the spirit of volunteerism through more than 25 years of dedicated service that has strengthened the Urbandale community and Greater Des Moines. A leader who listens first and acts with empathy, Bruce has consistently focused on long-term solutions, organizational sustainability, and building meaningful connections across several groups.

As a founding leader of the Urbandale Community Action Network (UCAN), Bruce helped shape the organization's mission and structure, ensuring coordinated, accessible services for residents. His commitment to inclusive community spaces is reflected in his volunteer leadership and fundraising for the Urbandale Miracle League Field and the All-Inclusive Playground—projects that now provide children of all abilities with safe, welcoming places to play and connect.

Bruce's talent for bringing people together has made him a valued facilitator and advisor for numerous boards, committees, and planning efforts, including Urbandale Parks and Recreation, the Public Art Committee, Polk County Conservation advisory groups, and AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy). He creates space for authentic dialogue, lifts up a variety of perspectives, and helps groups find shared purpose. Through his church, he and his wife volunteer monthly to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and he has championed fairness and belonging efforts within his faith community.

Much of Bruce's impact occurs behind the scenes—strengthening leadership, guiding strategic planning, and helping organizations operate more effectively. His service has touched parks, libraries, schools, human services, conservation, public art, and faith-based outreach. Prior to his induction to the Volunteer Hall of Fame, Bruce has been recognized with the Urbandale Citizen of the Year Award, Iowa Parks and Recreation Community Services Award, and Des Moines Community Foundation Better Together Award.

As the warmer months arrive, many of us feel the urge to freshen up and declutter our homes. As you sort through your items, we kindly ask that you consider setting aside your gently used, quality items for donation to our annual rummage sale!

2026 Sale Dates:

July 23 | 12:00–6:00 p.m.

July 24 | 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

July 25 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

We also encourage you to help spread the word! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors—personal invitations remain one of the most meaningful ways to share about this event.

Donation Days:

Sunday, July 19 | After services–7:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20 | 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

If you are unsure whether an item can be accepted, please note that we are unable to take the following: mattresses, tube-style TVs, hide-a-bed sofas, car seats, stuffed animals, and Christmas trees.

Volunteer sign-up is live: <https://forms.gle/B8Fg2oQjeyY4XHQj9!>

If you aren't comfortable signing up online, please don't fret! You are welcome to just let Jackie know your availability: [jackiejohnson81@aol.com/\(515\)710-3239](mailto:jackiejohnson81@aol.com/(515)710-3239). We are grateful for our returning volunteers and will warmly welcome new helpers! Since the sale takes place during the summer, this is a wonderful opportunity for youth to get involved, and participation can count toward Silver Cord hours.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community, share fellowship, and extend God's love to our neighbors. We invite you to join us in prayer as we prepare for this special time together.

For questions or more information, please contact Jackie at jackiejohnson81@aol.com or (515) 710-3239.



THANK YOU
for helping make the community Easter Egg Hunt a success!! Thank you to the Bridge Team for coordinating the event, thank you to the *many* people that donated candy and/or filled eggs with candy/trinkets. And, thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the event. We had a blustery day but the kids had *lots* of eggs for each age group to enjoy!



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.

Support Groups

AI-Anon

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

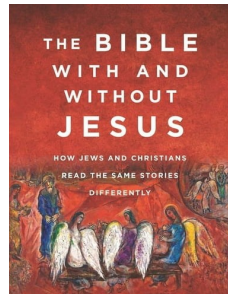
Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby
Chapel.



Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets
quarterly. Next meeting is on **Thurs.,
July 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



The Thursday Bible Study is based on the
book, *The Bible With and Without Jesus*.
The next gathering will be on **May 14 at 6:30pm** in the
Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there! Questions, please
contact Cathy Short at 515-494-5568.

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will meet on **Friday, May 15, 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.

United Women in Faith

Thursday group will meet on **May 21 at
9:30am**. We will have a guest speaker
from the UMC Bishop Leadership Team.



United
Women
in Faith

Saturday Group will meet on **May 23 at 9:30am**. We will be learning how to make
greeting cards with the help of Mary Lumley. The greeting cards will be used to send
members on special occasions.

All women are welcome to attend either or both gatherings!

May is our last regular meetings until September. The two groups will come together
for a potluck luncheon on July 16. More information will be posted in the next month's
LINK.

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



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!

The weavers have made great progress this spring and are currently working on sleeping mat #17.
We currently have plenty of white grocery store bags, but will always accept your colored bags as they
add a pop of color to our weaving.

Recently, two of our sleeping mats were sent to Dallas, Texas for "review". One of our weavers has
a family member in the area and they would like to find a church that would start weaving the mats so
they could be distributed to the homeless in Dallas.

**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 your workplace needs a team building
activity/volunteer opportunity, we would be glad to host you. Contact Sue Baldwin at 515/360-2456 if
you have questions.



Thank You for your Financial Support

Financial Summary Ending March 31, 2026			
	Actual March	Budget March	YTD Actual
Income	\$ 34,463	\$ 30,489	\$ 106,423
Expense	\$ 30,820	\$ 32,339	\$ 94,847
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 3,643	\$ (1,850)	\$ 11,576

We will be offering an **E-Giving Help Desk** the **first Sunday of every month**. 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



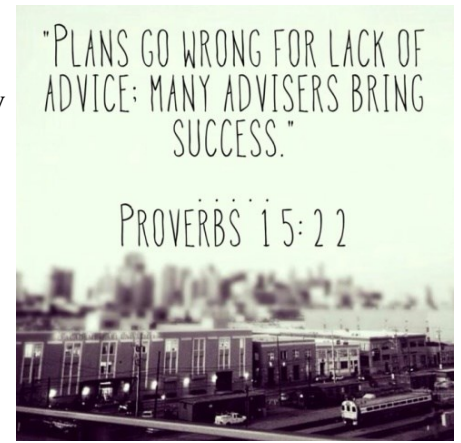
The Trustees have the wishing well/donation box out each Sunday for donations.

Fill the Wishing Well for the needs of our church. We will eventually need to replace two furnaces. Please consider filling the Wishing Well for these needs! **Your continued support and generosity are greatly appreciated!!**



Remember those early days of being an adult in the church?

For some of you it is happening now. For others of us it has been a year or two or 30. This summer is the 30th anniversary of my college graduation and starting in my first adult leadership in a church. I did leadership in limited roles before that, teaching VBS and taking turns with Sunday School, but when I finished college, I felt like I was really being called into more responsible leadership in the church. I started with a bigger role in assisting the youth pastor in youth group at Storm Lake UMC. I was so proud to be a little more responsible. I was new to the UMC, so it was an adjustment in many ways. I was nervous and awkward. But with great encouragement from the pastors, I began living into new tasks. We planned and organized fundraisers for the youth trip. We were going to Philadelphia to work in an inner city church. We planned two fun days: one day, we would go to NYC and one to Jersey Shore to the beach.



Everything went as planned. Only it didn't. On the first night, in Peoria, IL, our windows were broken on our rental van parked in the church parking lot where we stayed overnight. But the youth pastor knew just what to do and we were soon on our way. After a very full day of body surfing on Jersey shore, even the Iowans with the most sunscreen reapplication were utterly sunburned. We were covered in blisters and stinging in pain. I had never really blistered before because I almost never burn. But the youth pastor knew just what to do, which aloe to buy, and how to help the kids who were burned to pace themselves properly as we continued the next day in the physical work we were doing removing an old coal chute and cleaning and repairing the basement of the old downtown church.

The youth were alarmed to see bullet holes in the building when we were working, but the youth pastor knew just what to say. And we continued our work all week, including the work of meeting new people from many backgrounds with amazing stories of faith to share.

In NYC, caught in a traffic jam, we were directed by the police to turn in places we were not planning to turn. We found ourselves a little lost from the map while also stuck in traffic as we drove to the UMC youth hostel located in Greenwich village with a rental van that was having a little engine trouble. Suddenly, we realized in our confusion of trying to find ourselves on the paper map of that time, that all the youth were silent. We were no longer lost exactly; we looked around and realized exactly where we were. Somehow, we were driving in the 1996 Gay Pride Parade. Our unmarked white van with lost Iowans had been directed by the police right into the parade traffic. This was utterly unexpected. We finally found our way out of the traffic and to the hostel, but we braced ourselves for calls with parents after we overheard one of the kids saying, "You have to watch TV tonight, Mom! We got lost in the gay pride parade!" But the youth pastor knew just what to do to both smooth the waters with parents and answer the hard questions the youth asked that we were not expecting. And since I was the one navigating poorly, I was a bit worried about how the situation would be misinterpreted when in reality, it is just super hard for an Iowan to navigate New York traffic! But the youth pastor told me just what to say to be honest and diplomatic, we had the van fixed the next day while we toured Manhattan, and the youth never missed a thing.

You see, I was an adult ready to lead, but I needed the experience and support of a mentor who was ready for situations and questions I had not considered. I have helped lead 17 mission trips that I can count since then, most where I was an older and wiser mentor. But I never would have been able to do that if not for the youth pastor's mentorship through some really tough moments.



We have a lot of amazing leaders just starting out in our congregation, too, of all ages. They need mentors who will invite them into leadership but also help them when things are too much. They need those who are tired to let them lead but not forget them. They need experience, wisdom, patience, and support from those who have done things before, and yet space to try things new ways and with a new passion. Are you ready to mentor someone in a new responsibility in the church? Are you ready to try something new but need someone to support your efforts? We are just the congregation to do it! Wisdom and new hope combined will bring us forward in faith together! Try something new today: ask someone who hasn't helped before to help you with your next task! Or if you are newer, say yes to trying something you have thought about trying. It will probably be easier than a youth trip to Philadelphia! And you will end with some new friends and a new passion for loving and serving God and neighbor! Be a mentor. Be mentored. And discover a new passion to serve!

Blessings!
Pastor Amy

May 2026

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

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

					1	2 8:30a, Men's Breakfast
3 Holy Communion Graduate Recognition 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures E-giving Help desk 10a, Sunday School 7p, Scouts (Jackie)	4 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7p, Trustees Mtg	5 9:00a, Kitchen Clean Up 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	6 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6p, Chancel Choir TGIW/BLAST: 6:00-6:30p, Dinner 6:30-7:30p, Activities	7 Church Office closed 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Worship Mtg	8 Church Office closed	9
10 Mother's Day 10a, Sunday School  1-4p, Sanctuary & F.Hall reserved	11 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	12 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	13 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 5:30p, Healing Service 6p, Dinner 6:30p, TGIW Talent Show	14 3:00p, Hand of Luke 6:30p, Bible Study	15 9a, Needlers	16 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast
17 Miracle Sunday, Conf. wide special offering 10a, Sunday School 2-4p, CJC Big Band concert	18 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	19 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:30p, Finance Mtg	20 June LINK deadline 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness Bingo Fundraiser 6p, Doors Open/Dinner 6:30p, Bingo	21 9:30a, United Women in Faith 1p, Mat weaving 4p, Social Action Mtg	22	23 9:30a, United Women in Faith
24 Pentecost Sunday One Worship at 10am	25 Church Office closed 	26 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	27 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	28 Church Office closed 6:30p, Administrative Council Mtg.	29 Church Office closed	30 Noon-6p, F.Hall reserved (Jackie)
31 Peace with Justice Sunday offering						



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



- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Brook Larsen | 17 Tim Mc Culley, Ron Ringgenberg | 5 Gary & Nan Stubbs |
| 3 FloAnn Wills | 18 Kandra Dickerson, Samantha Wakeman | 6 Tim & Janet Carrigan |
| 4 William Rock | 22 Linda Yaske | 6 Nancy & Dale Monthei |
| 5 John Lichter, Jeanne Mukeshimana | 23 Dan Kirkpatrick, Mark Sahlin | 14 Mark & Linda Yaske |
| 6 Cathy Beck-Cross, Alex Williamson, Sally Lindstrom | 26 Joan Ringgenberg | 17 Lisa & Jack VanDenBurg |
| 8 Noah Neu | 27 Suzanne Neu | 19 Maxwell & Bailey Dillenberg |
| 9 Pam Frey, Benjamin Leyda | 28 Sarah Sahlin, Dave Veeder | 19 Don & Ruth Doxon |
| 10 Beatrice Schutter | 29 Paul Weisskopf, Allyson Mohrman | 19 Paul & Pam Weisskopf |
| 13 Marilyn Osborn | 30 Roslea Johnson, Caroline Christensen, Shirley Johnson | 20 Steven & Beatrice Schutter |
| | | 23 Mark & Tami Wise |

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
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