

the link

A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

November
2026



9am • 10am • 11am
newhopedsm.org



BINGO ~ Thursday, November 12

Doors open at 6:00pm for Dinner * Bingo starts at 6:30pm

The free-will offering will help with the *meal expense* and to *support our music fund*. It includes:

- * 1 Bingo card per person
- * Soup dinner, desserts and beverages
- * Prizes of baked goods
- * Fun vibes + friendly competition



For planning purposes, *please RSVP by November 8th to nancy@newhopedsm.org or call 515-278-2097 (no text). Please invite your friends!!*

Limited seating - RSVP today!



Fall Campus Cleanup Day

November 14, 9am until finished (rain date Nov. 21).

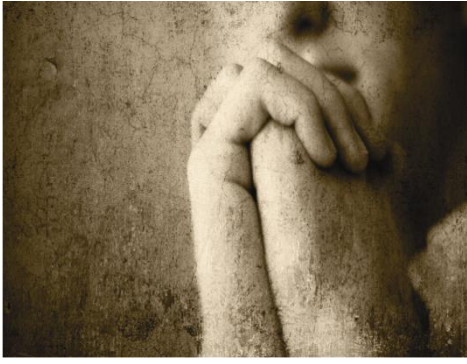
We need your help!

Please plan to attend by volunteering your time and talents! Bring gloves, rakes, trimmers, leaf blowers, etc., if you have them.

Lunch will be served at Noon.

Sign up at the Welcome Center so we have sufficient food to feed our volunteers!

Questions, contact Dawn Bachelder buckeye.dawn@yahoo.com or Pam Frey yayafreygmail.com.



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, Barb Agan, Linda Boyd, Ray Pickett

Healing from Physical Issues:

Jim Bolstad, 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 November/December issue is in the Communication Center. You may leave a donation in the box by the Upper Room guides.

Sunday, November 1st

As we adjust our clocks, let's also reset our hearts—ready to embrace the new mercies God gives each morning. “The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.” — Proverbs 4:18 (NIV)



Directory Update

Rev. Wayne and Susan Clark have a new address:
Wesley on Grand
3520 Grand Ave, Apt 403
Des Moines, IA 50312

Birth

Congratulations to Brody & Tori Egger on the birth of their daughter, Luna Kathryn Egger. Luna was born on October 12th and weighed 7lbs 3 ounces, 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Carl and Sue Egger.

Baptism

Congratulations to Jordan McCreary who was baptized on October 18. Jordan is the daughter of Trina and Janelle McCreary.

Our Sympathy

Our Sympathy to Joe & Judy Nemmers on the passing of Joe's brother, Larry Nemmers.

Our Sympathy to Bruce Bernard and Arlene Dabill on the passing of Bruce's sister, Shirley Steig.

Our Sympathy to Marilyn Osborn on the passing of her sister, Jo Ann Allen.

Our Sympathy to Joe & Cathy Short and family on the passing of Cathy's brother, Rex Allen Hanson.

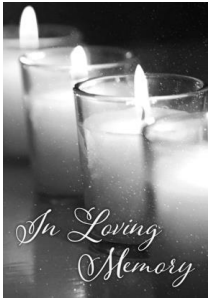
Thank You

Thank you to everyone that said prayers and sent cards to me while I was ill. I really appreciated it! I missed everyone.
Junice McCuddin

Thank you to the Veterans that attended our breakfast in October!

We will not meet in November, but we hope to see you on **December 12th at 8:30am** to celebrate our most blessed season.

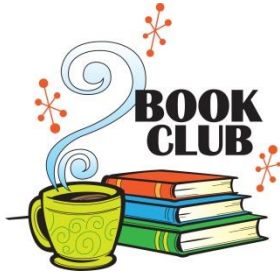




All Saints' Sunday: Honoring the Faithful

On November 1, we'll observe All Saints' Sunday during all worship services.

This is a time to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith—family, friends and fellow believers who have touched our lives and pointed us to Christ.



Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, November 4 at 4:30pm, Ruby Chapel.**

Please read your own copy of "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood (historical fiction). It is about a volunteer who works with women prisoners. It is a story about women discovering different types of literature. (Spoiler alert, there is an escape.)

Questions? contact armentabu@gmail.com.



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, November 7 at 8:30 a.m.** at church.

This is a great for all men of the church to gather for food and fellowship.

Please contact the church office *by November 4th*, if you plan to attend.



Tree removal ~ November 7

We have a dead tree that needs to come down on the south side of our drive.

If you are willing to assist our church members in getting this done, please let Pam Frey know, 515-490-8440 or Dawn Bachelder, 740-291-7486.

Thank you!



Honoring our Veterans

Sunday, November 8, during each of the worship services, we will be honoring our veterans who have served in the military at any time in their lifetime.

If you are a veteran, we would very much like to recognize you on that Sunday. We are grateful for the service our veterans have given to our country and want to have a chance to share our thanks.



Annual Charge Conference will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 6pm at New Hope UMC!

Charge Conference is the annual meeting of the year where we review the past year's ministries, look at the programs and the goals for the coming year, set the Pastor's salary and elect the officers of the church.

Your attendance is welcomed! *If you plan to attend, please contact Nancy in the church office, 515-278-2097 or nancy@newhopedsm.org*



Advent by Candlelight for women of the church (including high school students) and their guests are invited to attend **Advent by Candlelight!**

Monday, November 30, 7pm.

Enter the season of advent in a spirit of love and joy rather than stress and anxiety. will be served by table hostesses; followed by a program of music, scripture, verse, and stories.

Sign-up sheets are on the table under the tv screen in the Fellowship Hall for those wishing to attend and those volunteering to hostess. **Deadline to sign up is November 15.**

If 4 or more friends want to be at the same table, one or two of your group should sign-up to hostess the table. Someone takes care of dessert and the other decorates. is no reason to go over-board with decorating, since the best part is sharing our evening together. A hosting letter will be sent out to all the hosts.

Questions? Contact Nancy Monthei at 515-278-2097 or nancy@newhopedsm.org



Join us at New Hope UMC on
Sunday, November 15, 2 - 4pm

The CJC Big Band showcases its all-star trumpet section! Enjoy two hours of swinging big band jazz with one of the area's finest big bands.

This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation. We are hoping for attendance of 80 to 100 people per concert this year! *Please invite your friends, family and neighbors!*



United
Women
in Faith

Thursday Group Date: November 19 at 9:30 a.m. We will not have a speaker in November as we will be working on a craft project. We will be making Christmas ornaments for Christkindlmarket tree.

Saturday Group Date: November 28 at 9:30 a.m. We will be continuing to work on the ornaments for the tree for Christkindlmarket. Brunch will be served.

All women are welcome to come to either meeting or both! Questions? Contact Glenna Ross at glenna625@hotmail.com or 515-321-3010.

Recipe of the Month: Deep Dish Yams Compliments of Sharon Smith

4 Tbs. Butter	1 Tsp. lemon juice	2 C apple chunks, peeled
3 C boiled yams	1 Tsp. dried basil	3/4 C brown sugar
1/2 C diced celery	1 Medium Onion, Chopped	1 Tsp. salt
		1 Tsp. White pepper

Heat 2 Tablespoons butter and sauté the onion until tender. Melt the remaining butter in a small saucepan. Butter an 8 inch deep baking dish. Add a layer of yams, add some apple chunks and celery, sprinkle with the onion and half of the brown sugar, lemon juice, salt pepper and melted butter. Repeat the process, using the rest of the ingredients and finish with a layer of apple and brown sugar. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



Hanging of the Greens ~ Sunday, November 22

We will be decorating the Sanctuary and Narthex directly after the 11am service. The Family Life Center will be decorated at 3pm. We appreciate those that would come back to church and we need a few volunteers that are not afraid of heights and can climb a ladder. Please join us in making our church welcome the Christmas Season! Questions? Contact Pam Frey at yayafrey@gmail.com or 515-490-8440.

Inspired by a cherished European tradition, Christkindlmarket Des Moines (CDM) provides an enchanting outdoor venue for vendors to sell handcrafted wares and European foods and beverages from traditional wooden vendor huts. Attendees learn about European culture through children's activities, demonstrations and live entertainment in Yuletide Hall.

Since the first festival in 2016, CDM has grown to become the second largest festival of its kind in the U.S. based on average daily attendance.

This year, **New Hope UMC will be participating by hosting a nonprofit Christmas Tree** in the Weihnachtswald (Christmas Forest). Our tree's theme is Tree of Life. It has diamond art cross and butterfly ornaments, as well as some spiral beaded ornaments, made by the women's groups, Mary Lumley, Pastor Amy, and Jackie. They represent the newness and sparkle of life our church brings to the community. We hope to have simple white lights on our tree to represent the people here who shine the light of Christ every day. *We are looking for gently used mini white lights for the tree. We prefer untangled and functioning warm white mini lights. If you have some you can bring to church, please leave them at the office. Thank you!*

The star on the top of the tree is the light of Christ that each of us are striving to reach together, leading our community in all of our ministry.

In addition to our tree, we will be **building huts on November 28th**. This is a chance for those who enjoy construction to lend a hand raising some funds and using your gifts to serve a greater purpose. The huts are pre-fabricated, so it is easy enough for anyone who knows how to use basic tools. Please bring an electric screwdriver with batteries and your charger to switch out the batteries while working if possible. Please bring your torque tips (the ones that look like a six pointed star on the ends), as well. We will need two full shifts of 5-6 people each, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We will be working outdoors, but there is little chance of the weather being worse than last year! It is actually quite fun, so please consider giving it a try!

The last thing we are doing at the 2026 Christkindlmarket Des Moines (hosted by Iowa European Cultural Connection), is to work at the Bratwurst Stand. Last year we did this two days, but this year we will only be doing the **Bratwurst Stand on Saturday, December 5th**. We need a team of 5-6 at all times on that day, including one person who is willing to lead each of the shifts by checking in the volunteers and assisting with instructions. A volunteer from CDM will also be assigned to manage the area while we are serving. Responsibilities include grilling, wrapping, serving, cashiering, and delivering bratwurst to other areas of the venue. To receive the donation for our group, all volunteers must show up at the assigned times and work for their entire shift. If we do, we will receive a donation to the church for our participation. Last year, we were able to make over a thousand dollars working at the bratwurst stand, and we hope to have a great year this year! Thank you all in advance for your support of this year's events! **The sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.**

We hope you all can help this year, as well as attend the event! It is a great celebration of diversity during the Christmas Season, and it encourages us all to be a part of God's diverse world!

<http://www.christkindlmarketdsm.com/>



Social Action Committee News ~

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

The committee did not meet in October. Our next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday in November at 4pm.

October is the month that we began thinking about cold weather. As such, we hosted a **coat drive** for the Johnston Partnership. ***Thank you for the donations!*** They will be appreciated by many people!

The **Free Little Farmers Market** ended at the end of September. It was not as well stocked as the previous year. The committee discussed this and determined the weather this year may have had an impact on the abundance of food that was grown. We will make a decision next summer as to whether or not we will host this activity again.

Fresh Start can no longer accept our meals due to some certification process the state requires for where the food is being prepared. Although New Hope currently holds this certification, many of the other entities providing meals do not. Therefore, the program is no longer happening. All those who signed up to bring food were contacted.



The committee discussed the concern that food being donated for the **Free Little Food Pantry** seems to be unpredictable and has fallen off a bit. The Iowa/Iowa State contest helped to enlarge our supplies, but the concern is whether or not we can keep up with the 70 items a week we are currently taking there. We decided to act with faith and continue with 70 items and if we get low, make the need known to the congregation.

We discussed other opportunities with which the committee might get involved. Joppa is building a little house complex for homeless individuals and we thought there might be a way we could help with that project. Althea is going to contact Joe at Joppa to see what the needs are and the committee will discuss at the next meeting.

Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network

Monetary donations are the most effective way to support food pantries, as non-profits can purchase food in bulk at deep discounts, maximizing the impact of every dollar. Please make your check out to New Hope UMC and include "DMARC" in the memo line and place your check with the weekly offering. Your continued support of the DMARC Food Pantry Network helps alleviate hunger in our community.

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. Please place donations in the Grain Bin by the NW shelves in the Fellowship Hall.



Hand of Luke, Saturday, November 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 continue to utilize your monetary donations to purchase the majority of the food for the monthly meal. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

The menu for November 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-66844586-holsaturday>

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

Children's & Youth Ministry

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

Sunday School takes place during the 10am worship service throughout the school year. Children begin worship alongside their families and then head to Sunday School following the Children's Message. PreK through 7th grade are welcome to participate every week or simply drop in when they can. We love having kids join us whenever their schedules allow!



Sunday School Teachers & Helpers Needed!

We are looking for a few wonderful volunteers to help make Sunday School a meaningful and fun experience for our children! Whether you enjoy leading a lesson or simply lending a helping hand, there is a place for you in our ministry.

Sunday School Teachers-

We are looking for lead teachers or helpers for the following sessions.

Session 3: November 29 – December 27 (No Sunday School on December 27)

Session 6: March 14 – April 11 (No Sunday School on March 14)

Session 7: April 28 – May 19

Sunday School Helpers-

We are also looking for a Sunday School helper for the first Sunday of each month. This can be the same person each month or a different volunteer each time. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our children and support their faith journey. No lesson planning or preparation is required—just a willing heart and a helping hand!

If you are interested in serving in either of these roles or have questions, please reach out to Jackie at jackie@newhopedsm.org or (515) 710-3239.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration! I am so thankful for an amazing congregation that loves, supports, and invests in the children we serve. Your willingness to share your time and faith makes a lasting difference in their lives!



It's time to start spreading a little Christmas magic!

We are collecting new and gently used gift donations for our beloved annual Santa's Attic program now - December 3.

Donations can be brought to Jackie's office and placed on the round table.

As you gather your donations, please remember that gifts for dads and siblings are always in high demand! Every gift helps make this special experience possible for our children.

This event gives the children of our church the opportunity to shop for special gifts for the people they love. They get to choose just the right present, wrap it up, and surprise their loved ones on Christmas morning. Anyone who has received one of these heartfelt gifts knows just how much joy it brings to see a child proudly give something they picked out especially for you!

This year, **Santa's Attic will be held on Wednesday, December 9th.** Children will be invited to bring up to \$5 to shop for gifts, and all money collected will be donated to a charity chosen by the children.

Thank you for helping us create this wonderful Christmas tradition and for sharing the joy of giving with the children in our programs. Your generosity makes Santa's Attic a special event each year!



TGIW Midweek Meetup – November News!

We kicked off October with a wonderful service project at Meals From The Heartland, where our children and youth had the opportunity to serve others and make a difference in our community. It was a great reminder that even the smallest hands can do big things when we work together!

The rest of the month was filled with learning, fellowship, and plenty of fun! From exploring the changing seasons to painting pumpkins and celebrating Halloween, our Wednesday evenings have been full of laughter, creativity, and opportunities to grow in our faith.

As we head into November, we are looking forward to preparing our hearts for the season of Thanksgiving!

November TGIW Schedule:

11/4 – Service First: We will kick off the month with an all-group service project at Douglas Ave. Presbyterian Church to package gifts for Operation Christmas Child. Drop off and pick up will be at Douglas Ave Presbyterian. They will be cooking the meal for us on site.

11/11 – TGIW Midweek Meetup

11/18 – TGIW Midweek Meetup

11/25 – NO MEETINGS: *Thanksgiving Break!*

Wednesday Night Schedule:

6:00–6:30 PM – Dinner

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

7:30–8:00 PM – Time slot reserved for puppets and bells

We are so thankful for our wonderful TGIW families and volunteers who make Wednesday nights such a special time of faith, friendship, and fellowship. We can't wait to see what November brings!



Trunk or Treat ~ October 24th

Thank you to the Bridge Team for coordinating the event! Thank you to the fabulous volunteers that provided outstanding trunks & treats and came in costume. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped the day of the event.

And thank you for the candy and monetary donations. More pictures are on: <https://www.facebook.com/NewHopeDSM/>



BLAST (6th – 12th grade): Christopher & Jennifer Higdon and McKayla Nearmyer BLAST@NewHopeDSM.org

Can you believe we are less than 60 days away from Christmas? Where has 2026 gone? Another Christmas season is almost here, bringing with it Christmas music, movies, lights, shopping lists, endless advertisements, and, of course, those inflatable lawn decorations!

We all know Christmas is supposed to be a season of generosity, family, and celebrating the incredible gift of Jesus. But if we are being honest, how much of the Christmas season do we spend thinking about ourselves and what we want rather than what we can give to others?

This year, BLAST is kicking off a new four-part series called “*On the First Christmas...*” that will take us back to the very first Christmas. Together, we will discover how that first Christmas was made possible through the selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice of God and those who answered His call. We'll explore how **Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything**. Each week, we'll challenge ourselves to think about what these examples mean for our lives today and ask one important question: This Christmas, what will you give in response?

You might notice we are starting our Christmas series a little earlier than the traditional Advent season. Since BLAST meets on Wednesday nights and we have several opportunities to serve others throughout November and December, we are spreading our four lessons across the coming weeks. This gives us a wonderful opportunity to put what we're learning into action as we serve our church and community!



Join us on Wednesday nights as we grow in our faith, strengthen friendships, serve others, and have some fun along the way! Whether we're exploring the Christmas story, participating in service projects, or simply enjoying time together, there's something for everyone.

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

Nov. 4: Service First, Service Project Night
Nov. 11: BLAST, Mary and Joseph Gave Up Their Comfort
Nov. 18: BLAST, The Shepherds Gave Their Stories
Nov. 25: No BLAST, Thanksgiving Break

Dec 2: Service First, Service Project Night
Dec 9: BLAST, Helping with Santa's Attic
Dec 16: BLAST, The Wise Men Gave Their Worship
Dec 23 and 30: No BLAST, Christmas Break

We're looking forward to a wonderful season of growing in faith, building friendships, making memories, and sharing the love of Jesus through service to others. As we prepare for Christmas, let's remember that the greatest gifts aren't always the ones wrapped under the tree. Sometimes, they're the gifts of our time, kindness, generosity, and love.

Watch your email and the Senior High BLAST Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/SeniorHighBlast>, for additional details, reminders, and updates about upcoming events. We can't wait to celebrate this special season with you!

Thank You for Making Autumn Table & Treasures So Special!

What a wonderful evening of fellowship, generosity, and community! Our Autumn Table & Treasures event was a beautiful reminder of what makes New Hope such a special place. We are filled with gratitude for everyone who helped make this year's event a success.

To our generous donors, thank you for sharing your talents, treasures, time, and creativity. Each handcrafted item, gift basket, experience, and special offering helped make our auction unique and meaningful. Your generosity is a blessing to our church and the missions and ministries we support.

To everyone who attended, enjoyed the meal with us, bid on items, or just observed, thank you for being part of the fun! Whether you went home with a treasured find, a special experience, or simply wonderful memories, your participation helped make a difference. Every paddle raised or bid placed supported the mission and ministry of New Hope.

A heartfelt thank-you also goes to those who stepped up wherever they were needed. From organizing donations and preparing the meal to decorating, setting up, serving, helping throughout the evening, and cleaning up when the fun was done, so much care and hard work went into making this event possible. We are especially grateful to our auctioneer, the wonderful performers, and our small but mighty volunteer group for sharing their gifts and helping create such a nice evening.

Most importantly, thank you for coming together in support of our church's mission to serve others. The generosity shown through Autumn Table & Treasures extends far beyond one evening. It helps us continue sharing God's love with our community and beyond.

We are truly blessed by this congregation and the many friends who make our ministry possible. Thank you for giving so generously, serving so faithfully, and making Autumn Table & Treasures a wonderful celebration of fellowship and giving.

We were just a few hundred dollars short of our fundraising goal, and that is worth celebrating!

With grateful hearts,
Pastor Amy and Jackie



Please enjoy this video, which was supposed to be shown last Sunday at our volunteer appreciation celebration, but technology had other plans and we could not make it work. But the video is worth watching, so here it is for your viewing pleasure. **Thank you to all who volunteer!** From the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee
<https://youtu.be/IcXov8-UOP8>



Please consider sharing your musical talents with the congregation on **Sundays at the 9am or 11am services (or both).**

Musicians of all ages are invited to share – soloists, duets, quartets and small groups (vocal and instrumental).

Sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0849A9AB2BA31-66401298-special#/>

Consider signing up for a date that works for you and sharing your musical gift with our church family this fall. *Please be sure to sign up by no later than Thursday at noon of the week you are wanting to share your gift to make sure Nancy has time to include it in the bulletin.*

Let's fill our worship services with the beautiful sounds of God's people sharing their gifts!



ADULT Sunday School

Join us!

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

Blood Pressure Check

Next opportunity is on **Nov. 1, 9:30am - 11am** in the Narthex.

Support Groups

Al-Anon

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Tuesday at Noon in the Ruby Chapel.



Care Ministry Team

The Care Ministry meets quarterly. Next meeting is on **Thurs., January 14, 2027 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall.**

This team ministers to congregation members who have had new babies, have been in the hospital, have been ill or are dealing with grief. This team meets on a quarterly basis. If you would like to join the Care Ministry team, please contact Clarice Rubek, rrubek@aol.com

New Hope's Little Library

You may place your book donations on the bookshelf in the NW corner of the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Charlotte Schultz for overseeing the Little Library and keeping it stocked.



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!**



New Hope Needlers

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

Join us to sew lap quilts for the NHUMC Care Team to gift our church members who are hospitalized or moving into care facilities and to newborns. We have also started making lap quilts and pillowcases to donate to the Des Moines chapter of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace," an organization that builds beds for children in the Des Moines area who do not have a bed. Their motto is "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" The need is great.

We have fabric to use or you may request reimbursement for fabric you have purchased for these quilts. Simple patterns, batting, and some backing fabric are also available. Prior notice is needed to use our supplies. Bring your sewing machine, project and sewing notions. If your machine isn't portable, we have two in the church closet you may use for the day.

Questions? Contact Diane Densmore, cell phone 515-975-2131

Sleeping Mats/Loom

First and third Thursdays of the month at 1pm at church

The weaving group is currently finishing mat #21. We will be hosting a ladies PEO group in the near future, they are interested in learning about the weaving process.



Currently, we have all the white and colored plastic bags that we need for weaving. When we need more, we will let you know through this newsletter.



Mahjong

Interested in learning to play Mahjong? Come join us on **Thursday mornings at 10am-12:00pm.**

If you have questions, contact Glenna Ross at 515-321-3010.



To Pledge or Not to Pledge

"I know I am going to give financially to the church, but do I really have to commit to an amount? Does it matter if I commit to giving?" I have thought this question many times through the years. What I've decided is **It Matters to God**. He cares if I commit to him. He cares if I commit to offering resources to serve New Hope and my community.

November is the time when we, as a church family, consider how the year is going and ask God to help us recalibrate our ministry to move forward. **Providing our time, talents and treasure to the church is a response to God's abundant gifts of grace** and God's call for us to live life abundantly. If we allow him to guide us, we will be faithful.

Here are a few areas where New Hope uses what we have given:

Missions/Social Action Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself

Last month, Althea and Clarice shared the Missions of New Hope in the Sunday Insert. Althea told about the work that the *Social Action Committee* is doing for our community. She and her committee focus on providing for neighbors without basic needs like shelter, food and limited resources. Clarice and the Care Team are our extended family when New Hope members have challenges such as a death in the family, illness, new babies, military absences and more.

God Cares that we provide for our neighbor.

Spiritual Growth Citizens of Heaven

In the October Link, Pastor Amy shared about being a citizen of Heaven and eagerly waiting for our Savior Jesus Christ. *The Message*, Philippians Chapter 3, vs 20-21 says, "He will make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which He is putting everything as it should be, under and around him." As partners in his work, our blessings come from God.

God wants each of us to experience the joy of giving.

Our New Hope Home Shelter for refuge

Isaiah 4:6: "There will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain." For sixty years, God has been faithful in providing a beautiful building for us to worship. Cool in the summer and warm in the winter, we are blessed to find friends and fellowship at New Hope almost every day of the year. Our charter members were faithful in pledging each year to keep the lights on. Pam Frey, Trustee Chair, works hard with her committee to update and maintain our lovely home, New Hope.

God provides a safe shelter and refuge from life's storms

Pastoral Care Guidance and Comfort

In John 21:15-17 Jesus instructs Peter to feed and tend His sheep. The importance of the Word of God as food for our souls cannot be over-emphasized. By offering biblical guidance and teaching, Pastor Amy and our lay leaders are here to help us grow as individuals in our faith, understand God's teachings, and be in relationship with Him.

God provides us with a shepherd to guide and comfort.

On a practical level, pledges are extremely helpful to running our church. Having an idea of resources that will be available enables planning of budgets, setting goals, etc. The Trustees would like to create an emergency fund for unanticipated maintenance items. The Care Team would like to send more care packages to our growing number of military personnel, etc. **A modest increase can mean a lot for the care we give.**

Your pledge is a promise to God, not a legally binding contract.

What can you do:

- Pray and reflect upon the blessings you receive, the ways that you'd like to grow as a person and as a member of the New Hope community. Much like the first churches described in Acts, we need everyone pulling the same direction.
- Make a commitment, whether it's to give, to pray, to serve in some way. This might be part of how you are led to grow. If you are pledging already, maybe you are called upon to stretch and increase the pledge as a sign of growing faith and love.
- If you're not ready to pledge a specific amount, start with a modest contribution and work toward a larger pledge over time. Make your offering as a sign of giving and growing with Christ.

We will be gathering pledges over the next two weeks and developing the 2027 budget on November 15. I respectfully ask that you prayerfully consider offering a pledge to God and New Hope UMC. If you have any questions about the process or how we use New Hope UMC resources, please reach out to anyone on the Finance Committee.

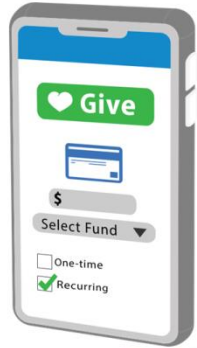
Thank you for all the support you've given in 2026 and for the continued support in 2027.

Kandra Dickerson, Finance Chair

People give based on their relationship with God - New Hope UMC supports each other on this journey.

Financial Summary Ending September 30, 2026			
	Actual September	Budget September	YTD Actual
Income	\$ 21,779	\$ 26,661	\$ 289,465
Expense	\$ 30,252	\$ 30,834	\$ 278,879
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (8,473)	\$ (4,173)	\$ 10,586

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.

Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 13, 9am - 11am

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



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

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

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

- Sign up to donate home-baked cookies, bars or candy
- Deliver the home-baked goods to the church on Friday December 11, 9:00am-11:00am (East doors) or Saturday, December 12, 10am - 1pm (East doors).
- Purchase. On Sunday, December 13, 9am-11am, everyone is welcome to participate in the Christmas Cookie Walk! Walk around the table to choose cookies, placing them in a provided Styrofoam box and purchase **\$10.00 per box**. The whole box full for **\$10** as long as the lid can close.

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

“We have been given good standing by his great kindness, so that we now can have our share in the hope of the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony.” -Titus 3:7 FNV

“Who do you think you are?” I have heard that phrase many times in my life. Typically, it is said by a person who thinks an awful lot of themselves. Perhaps it was a teacher who took offense to something I wrote or a time I had the nerve to correct something they had said. Perhaps it was a parent or another adult when I was younger who took offense at the way someone younger than them could disagree or argue. Once, it was a customer at Walmart whose rudeness to a cashier I immediately scolded. There are many times I have heard from someone who thought I had overstepped my bounds the phrase: “Who do you think you are?” What they were all really saying is, “Learn your place, because you are not nearly as important as me.”

I think many of us feel that way from time to time, like we are not as important and the people around us want us to know it. This verse in Titus reminds us, though, that we have good standing not because of who we are, but because of God’s kindness. We are not any better than anyone, but we are also not any worse. Who do you think you are? Well, I am a child of God, chosen by God for adoption into this family. And that matters! You also, and they also, are children of God, a chosen priesthood. Humanity matters. The humanity inside each of us matters; it was created and consecrated by God! We have a share in the world to come.

Here is the sticky point, though: the world we have a share in is one full of beauty and harmony. To keep our share in it, we must choose to be a part of the beauty and the harmony. Choosing something else is the same as walking away from the world to come in favor of the world that is already here. In other words, to choose a world where we have standing, we must choose to embrace a world of beauty and harmony. We must choose peace. We must choose thanksgiving. We must choose love. If we choose any other world, if we engage with others by asking the question, “Just who do you think you are?” we are choosing to be a part of our world, but not God’s. To be a part of the eternal world to come, we have to do better than that. All Saints and Thanksgiving ground us in this scripture.

It is also a time when we participate in elections and decide if we are ready to choose the good of others or just the good of ourselves. No, that isn’t unique to a candidate or party. I am a firm believer in no one being forced to vote in any particular way. What this verse does remind us, though, is the importance of our intention. No matter what we choose, are we ready to lay down ourselves and think about all or are we coming from a perspective of ourselves over everything? That happens on both sides of the aisle. We can lose ourselves so easily in our own interests that we forget to sandwich it between the important holidays of All Saints and Thanksgiving: respecting our past and being thankful to God’s future for us. Try not to get lost in it this year, whatever you decide. May you be respectful of the saints who went before and thankful of what is yet to come, even at the polls, whether you are red, blue, or any color at all. Whatever you do, may you do it because of Christ’s love for you and the world, in hope of that beautiful and harmonious world to come.

Because who do you think you are, after all? A blessed child of God! Praise God for all who came before and for the beauty and harmony of the world to come and try not to get lost anywhere else on the first Tuesday following a Monday this month! As long as what you do is done out of genuine love for Christ, you are doing it right! Your good standing comes from God’s kindness. Just breathe, vote your own conscience, and enjoy the holy days of All Saints and Thanksgiving that lead us into Advent. I am praying for peace at the polls, peace in every heart, and peace in whatever is next for us all in the years to come.

Pastor Amy

November 2026

Sunday morning services are:

9:00, 10:00 and 11:00

Nursery at 10:00

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

4 Daylight Saving Time Ends All Saints Remembrance Holy Communion 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures E-giving Help desk 6p, Confirmation Class 7p, Scouts (Jackie)	2 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7p, Trustees Mtg	3 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 5:15p, Praise band practice	4 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 4:30p, Book Club, R.Chapel 6:15p, Choir practice TGIW/BLAST 6p, Meal 6:30p-7:30p Activities	5 10a, Mahjong 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Worship Mtg	6 5p-8:30p, FLC reserved by New Foundation Church	7 8:30a, Men's Breakfast Tree cut down 11a-Noon, 3p-8:30p, FLC reserved by New Foundation Church
8 Veterans Honored 11a Choir Noon- 2p, 4p-9p, FLC reserved by New Foundation Church	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 Meeting	11 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6:15p, Choir practice TGIW/BLAST 6p, Meal 6:30p-7:30p Activities	12 10a, Mahjong Bingo 6p, meal 6:30-7:30p, bingo	13	14 9a – finish, Campus Clean Up 3p, Hand of Luke
15 2-4p, CJC Big Band concert 6p, Charge Conference at New Hope (Confirmation Class)	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 6:15p, Choir practice TGIW/BLAST 6p, Meal 6:30p-7:30p Activities	19 9:30a, United Women in Faith 10a, Mahjong 1p, Mat weaving 4p, Social Action Mtg 6:30p, AD Council Mtg	20 December LINK deadline 9a, Needlers	21 Rain date for Campus Clean up 9a-Noon, Budget Mtg
22 11a, Choir Hanging of the Greens	23 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	24 9:30a, Al-Anon Noon, AA 5:15p, Praise band practice	25 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6:15p, Choir practice No TGIW/BLAST	26 Church Office closed 	27 Church Office closed	28 8a-5p, Christkindlemarket, Hut set up 9:30a, United Women in Faith
29 1st Sunday in Advent) 3p-5p, Advent by Candlelight table decorating	30 Church Office closed 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 9a-3p, Advent by Candlelight table decorating 7p, Advent by Candlelight					



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

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Brayla Johnson | 17 Luke Bogue |
| 3 DeVonne Douglas, Jo Renee Hartung | 18 Jim Wells, Danielle Clemmens, |
| 4 John Dickerson, Joe Fairchild | Aubrey Hogue |
| 5 Denice Sutton, Kelly Mohrman, | 19 Charleigh Mau |
| Barbara Williamson, Lou Ann Roth | 21 Carol Harter, Julie Sahlin, Judy Frizzell |
| 6 Zachary McClain | 22 Amanda Soards, Brynna Johnson |
| 8 Barb Agan, Darlington Blayon | 23 Don Doxon |
| 9 Karen Skovgard | 25 Julie Craighton |
| 13 Cheryl Cross | 27 Evelyn Kruse |
| 15 Larry Forbes | 28 Lee Ross |
| 16 Lily Larsen | |



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|--------------------------|
| 2 James & Suzanne Neu |
| 3 Ron & Joan Ringgenberg |
| 18 Chris & Julie Boyles |
| 20 Chris & Jenn Higdon |
| 22 Don & Trudy Gurnsey |

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.



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 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

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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.