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A monthly publication of
New Hope United Methodist Church

December 2026



Christmas Events ~ Join Us!

Christkindlmarket Des Moines ~ New Hope UMC has a tree in the Christmas Forest that you can view at Principal Park. For more information, go to: https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/

Children's Program ~ Sunday, December 13. The Children's Ministry will be featured at the 10am service.

Christmas Cookie Walk ~ Sunday, December 13, 9am - 11am. We provide the box for you to fill for $10 per box.

Santa's Attic ~ The children of the church will have the opportunity to shop to purchase the gifts for their loved ones on **Wednesday, December 9, 6:30pm**. Children will bring up to $5 to use to purchase gifts. The money collected will be donated to a charity chosen by the children. Thank you for all the new or gently used donations!

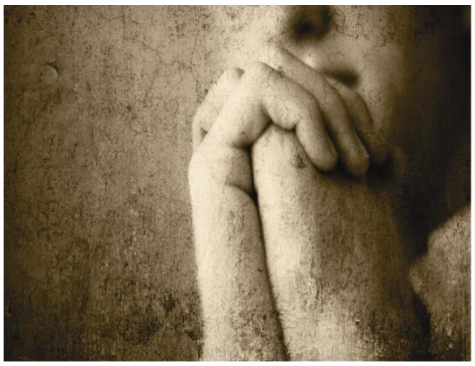
Community Jazz Center Big Band presents Let It Swing, Let It Swing, Let It Swing! ~ Holiday music on **Sunday, December 20, 2-4 PM**. This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation. Please invite your friends!

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services ~ **Thursday, December 24**. Remembering God's greatest surprise gift to the world, the birth of our Messiah.

5:30pm – Family oriented Christmas Eve service, in the Family Life Center, will have fun elements for children and families, including our youth bell choir.

7:30pm – Our traditional Christmas Eve service will feature our musicians, including our chancel choir, and Holy Communion in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 27, 10am ~ One Worship Service with New Foundation Church in the Sanctuary. Share your leftover cookies and we will supply the cocoa for fellowship time.



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:
Pam Frey, Marlys Borcherding, Barb Agan, Linda Boyd, Ray Pickett

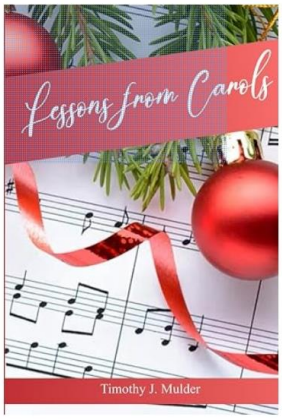
Healing from Physical Issues:
Jim Bolstad, Dick Cobb, Freda Ruleman, Patricia Smith, Mike Aasheim Osborne

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.

Advent Bible Study 2026



Have you ever wondered what the stories are behind some of our most favorite Christmas hymns?
This Advent join us in reading **"*Lessons from Carols*" by Timothy J. Mulder**.
Louise Scott will lead the Advent Bible Study starting on **Tuesday, December 1, 1:15pm in the Ruby Chapel. The study will continue on December 8, 15 & 22.**
We will meet and discuss the backgrounds and spiritual truths of 7 Christmas hymns.
If you can't make a meeting, read along anyway.
The book can be found online at Amazon, Thrift Books, Ebay and a host of other online sites. The average price is around $13.00. The ISBN number is 979-8-9989882-3-3.
Louise has a few books for you to purchase. Please contact her at cell # 563-380-8324.
If you plan to attend the Advent Study, please contact Nancy, in the church office, 515-278-2097

Directory Update

Rev. Wayne and Susan Clark have a new address and phone:
Wesley on Grand
3520 Grand Ave, Apt 403
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-271-6849

Birth

Congratulations to Seth & Lindsey McClellan on the birth of Liv Marie McClellan. Liv was born on November 12th and she weighed 5lbs 1oz and 17.75 inches. Liv joins big sister, Mia, at home.
Proud grandparents are Tim & Brenda McCulley.

Congratulations to Alex & Natalie Beltrame on the birth of Maclain Kay Beltrame. Maclain was born on November 13th and she weighed 7lbs 15oz and 21inches long. Proud grandparents are Doug & Kathy Fairchild.

Thank You

A big thank you to everyone for the lovely birthday cards! It was such a surprise!
With all my thanks and love,
Barb Agan

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and calls during my recent illness. All your blessings are very much appreciated as I continue to heal.
Clarice Rubek

I appreciated the beautiful shawl that was delivered to me after my second knee replacement. And thank you for the thoughts and prayers as I continue with myphysical therapy.
FloAnn Wills

Christkindlmarket Des Moines (CDM) is a German Christmas market located at Principal Park and will be held in December. This year, **New Hope UMC will be volunteering in several ways to raise money for our church.**

Saturday, November 28 ~ Construct Huts used for vendors. 5 people each shift

7:45am-Noon; 12:45-5pm

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 start on the ends), as well. We will be working outdoors so dress accordingly.

Saturday, December 5 ~ Bratwurst Stand. 6 people each shift

10:30am-2:30pm; 2:15pm-5:30pm; 5:15pm-9:30pm

We will need 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. If we have one or two extra volunteers, it is ok. Having less volunteers show up means losing our deposits and full donation for the day. If we fill up the sign ups as they are, we are guaranteed a **$1000 donation** or more from CDM this year! Your time is valuable, and this is one way to really see that!

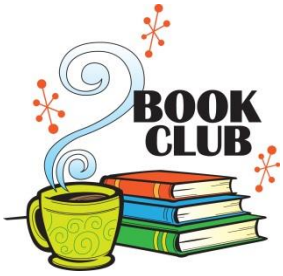
You can **call Nancy**, in the church office, or use the **sign-up sheets in the Welcome Center this week**!

We also could use a volunteer to call and remind everyone who signed up of when they need to show up. Emails with specific instructions will be arriving soon for all who are signed up, as well. We are just waiting to get the last few spots filled. Thank you all!

We depend upon all of our fundraisers to meet our budget each year, and this is our last hoorah for 2026! ***And don't forget that it is also actually a lot of fun!***

We have a **tree** at the Tree Forest this year at Christkindlmarket Des Moines:
https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/a-christmas-forest-full-of-angels/

Christkindlmarket Des Moines 2026 information: https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/plan-your-visit/



Book Club will meet on **December 2nd at 1pm, Ruby Chapel.**

Please read your own copy of "Sandwich" by Catherine Newman. It is about a woman who is going through the change and also having to deal with almost adult children and elderly parents. They all go on a family vacation together to Cape Cod. The characters are so easy to fall in love with. They aren't perfect. They have flaws. But together they are a beautiful family. WARNING: Profanity is unfortunately prevalent in the story. Questions? Contact armentabu@gmail.com



Men's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, December 5 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 December 2nd*, if you plan to attend.



Veterans Helping Veterans ~ Saturday, December 12 at 8:30am

Breakfast for all veterans, their spouses, and supporters. Questions, contact Pam Frey at yayafrey@gmail.com.



Help Us Spread a Little Christmas Magic!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has already donated gifts for our annual Santa's Attic! Your generosity and thoughtfulness are helping make this special Christmas tradition possible, and we are so grateful for your support.

There is still time to join in the giving! We are accepting new and gently used gift donations through December 3. Donations may be brought to Jackie's office and placed on the round table. As you look through your items, please remember that gifts for dads and siblings are always especially needed!

Santa's Attic gives the children of our church the opportunity to shop for special gifts for the people they love. They get to pick out just the right present, wrap it themselves (with a little help from the BLAST elves), and surprise their loved ones on Christmas morning. Anyone who has received one of these precious gifts knows that the joy isn't in the gift itself, but in seeing a child proudly give something they chose especially for you.

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

As we celebrate this season of giving, we invite you to help us teach our children that Christmas is about more than receiving presents. It is about kindness, generosity, and the joy of making someone else smile. Whether you donate one gift or several, every contribution makes a difference!

Thank you for helping us keep this wonderful tradition alive and for sharing a little extra Christmas magic with our children!

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, 9am-11am (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.



Giving Tree is available for the congregation to help give a child some joy over the Holidays. We have chosen to support Families Forward this year. The Giving Tree is located in the Fellowship Hall with envelopes attached to the decorations which you may use for your contribution of cash or gift cards worth $25 or more in value (Walmart, Target). Your check can be made out to New Hope UMC. Please add Families Forward to the memo line. Please place your gift in the Offering or drop it off at the church office ***by December 13th.***

Mission for Families Forward: Empowering positive future by providing compassionate, life-changing assistance to families on their path to self-sufficiency through our programs – the Bidwell Pantry, Child Development Center, New Directions Shelter and The Home Connection.
Thank you!
Social Action Committee



Volunteers are appreciated (and very much needed) to learn the sound system in the Family Life Center and volunteers to advance the slides (the slides will already be created for you) for the 10am service.
Training dates have been set for **December 6 & 13 after the 10am service.**

If learning the sound system and/or advancing slides is of interest to you, please let Nancy, church office, know what Sunday you can attend a training session. Thank you!!!

On behalf of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee, we are asking you to join the New Hope family in making a special contribution towards **Christmas gifts to the New Hope staff.**



This is a long-standing New Hope tradition that allows us to express our thanks and gratitude for everything they have done for us this past year.
We will present Pastor Amy and staff with gifts from all of us on **December 13th**.

If you wish to contribute to these gifts from the congregation, you may drop it in the offering in your designated envelope or send it to the church office *by December 6th.*

If you are contributing by check please make it payable to **New Hope UMC** and note "**Staff gift"** in the memo line.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity as we give back to those who help us so much throughout the year. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sue Egger
Joan Ringgenberg
Co-Chairs, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee



Join us at New Hope UMC on
Sunday, December 20, 2 - 4pm
The CJC Big Band **presents Let It Swing. Let It Swing. Let It Swing!** ~ a concert with holiday music.
This event is open to the public in our Family Life Center. Free-will donation.
Please invite your friends, family and neighbors!



2027 Altar Flower Calendar

For the Traditional Services (9:00 & 11:00), if you would like to have flowers on the altar in celebration of a birthday, anniversary, graduation, or in honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar which is located across from church office.
The flowers are $50.00 per Sunday and you may take your flowers home after the 11:00 service.

United Women in Faith

Thursday Group Date: December 17 at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited to join us. The December meeting plan is to sign cards for the shut in members. We will also disperse our funds to charities.

Saturday Group will not meet in December.

Questions? Contact Glenna Ross at glenna625@hotmail.com or 515-321-3010.

Recipe of the Month: White Texas Sheet Cake from Dawn Bachelder

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Combine and whisk together in a large bowl:
2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp baking soda

Boil:
1 cup butter
1 cup water
And then add to flour and mix

Whisk together:
2 eggs
½ cup sour cream
1 tsp almond extract
And then add to flour/butter mixture

Bake for 20 minutes



Icing
Bring to a boil:
½ cup butter
¼ cup milk

Add:
4 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar
½ tsp almond extract

Add 1 cup chopped walnuts

Spread over warm cake



Do you have a knack for organizing, or do you simply love keeping spaces clean and welcoming? Our church kitchens are the heart of our fellowship, hosting everything from Sunday coffee hours to fundraisers to the monthly Hand of Luke meal. To keep these vital spaces running smoothly, we are looking for volunteers to join our Kitchen Committee.

As a committee member, you will help clean, organize, and maintain our church kitchens. Whether it's wiping down counters, streamlining items in the cupboards, or ensuring our appliances are in top shape, your efforts will directly support our hospitality ministries and church events.

No professional experience is required—just a willing heart and a desire to serve behind the scenes!

If you are ready to help us keep our kitchen clean, safe, and ready for fellowship, please contact Pam Frey at yayafreygmail.com. Thank you for helping us care for our church home!

Social Action Committee News ~

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



Many thanks to all who have supported and continue to support the Free Little Food Pantry on Meredith between 51st and 52nd Streets. We purchased some food through the donations for the Cy/Hawk challenge which will help with the weekly delivery of 70 food items. Thanks to Cathy and Joe Short for doing an amazing job shopping. Please continue to support this program. Food insecurity has risen to unprecedented heights!

New Hopers donated 31 coats to Johnston Partnership at the end of October. Although Mother Nature hasn't been too brutal yet, we know it's coming. ***Your support to help keep people warm is appreciated!***

As you know, Fresh Start is no longer able to accept meals brought from outside organizations. Therefore, we will be providing a quarterly meal, starting in January, to **Beacon of Life**. Please watch for the sign up for food donations at the Welcome Center.

Finally, our December activity is once again the **Giving Tree**. The tree is available for the congregation to give a child some joy over the Holidays. We have chosen to support Families Forward this year. The Giving Tree is located in the Fellowship Hall with envelopes attached to the decorations which you may use for your contribution of cash or gift cards worth $25 or more in value (Walmart, Target). Your check can be made out to New Hope UMC. Please add Families Forward to the memo line. Please place your gift in the Offering or drop it off at the church office by December 13th.

The mission of Families Forward is "Empowering positive future by providing compassionate, life-changing assistance to families on their path to self-sufficiency through our programs - the Bidwell Pantry, Child Development Center, New Directions Shelter and The Home Connection."

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 ~ Monday, December 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 continue to utilize your monetary donations to purchase the majority of the food for the monthly meal. Your donations are greatly appreciated!
The menu will be barbecued sandwiches, baked beans, sliced peaches, 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/30E044DACA722A4FE3-67768534-holmonday
You may also contact Arlene Dabill at dabill49@aol.com or (515) 321-2059 to volunteer.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity and compassion in helping to provide for those who have little.

Children's & Youth Ministry

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

Sunday School for PreK-7th grade continues to be held during the 10am service. Children are invited to gather in Worship with their families and exit to the Purple Classroom after the Children's Message.



Children's Christmas Program - Sunday, December 13th!

Our Sunday School and TGIW children will participate in the 10am service with the gift of a short Christmas program and music. All children are invited to participate.

12/27 – There will be no Sunday School classes due to Christmas break.

The current unit in our Simply Loved curriculum focuses on John 15:13, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Connect with things our Sunday School class is talking about:
Allow yourself to WONDER…. What is one reason Jesus is a good friend? What qualities does a good friend have? DO: Watch for signs this month that Jesus is around you. PRAY: *Jesus, I don't always get it right. Thank you for being my friend anyway. I love you, l love you, I love you. Amen!*



Sunday School Teachers & Helpers Needed!

We are still in need of volunteers to help with Sunday School! Whether you are available one Sunday or would like to commit to an entire 5-week session, we would love to have you! The commitment is just one hour on Sunday mornings during the 10am service. Please let Jackie know if you are available to help.

Currently, we need volunteers for these 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

TGIW Midweek Meetup –November Highlights & December Excitement!



November was full of learning, fellowship, and service at TGIW! We kicked off the month by joining Douglas Avenue Presbyterian Church for Operation Christmas Child, where our group packed 150 shoebox gifts to bring joy and share God's love with children around the world. We also put our engineering skills to the test by designing ways to protect eggs dropped from a ladder! This fun challenge gave us a chance to learn about how God protects us when we wrap ourselves in His Word. We wrapped up the month with a special Thanksgiving lesson, taking time to reflect on all the blessings God has given us.

December is bringing even more fun and Christmas cheer!

December 2- Christmas Caroling at Calvin Community! Wear something festive and warm up your singing voice! Our times will remain the same for this outing.

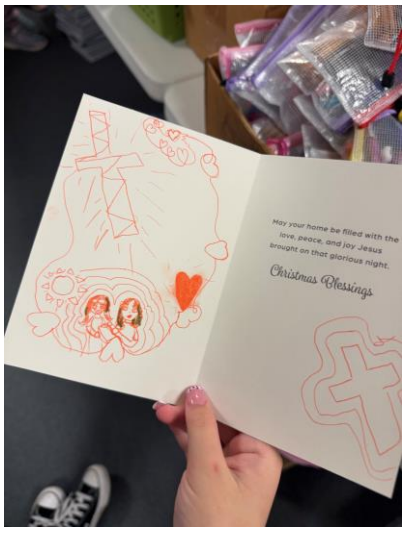
December 9- Santa's Attic! Kids are invited to bring up to $5 to shop for gifts for family and friends. They will leave with the joy of having something to put under the Christmas Tree that they chose especially for their loved ones.



December 16- Join us for a cozy PJ & Christmas Movie Party!

Please remember that we will not have TGIW programming on December 23 or December 30 as we take a little Christmas break. We are thankful for another wonderful month together and look forward to celebrating the joy of the season with our Church family!







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

Last month, we kicked off a new Christmas series called **"On the First Christmas…"** Christmas is supposed to be a season of generosity, family, and celebrating the incredible gift of Jesus. But if we're 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?

Throughout this four-part series, BLAST is taking a closer look at the very first Christmas and the incredible acts of selflessness, generosity, and sacrifice that made it possible. Together, we're discovering how Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and ultimately, God gave everything.



Each week, we're challenging ourselves to look beyond the gifts, decorations, and excitement of the season to consider what these examples mean for our own lives. And we're asking one important question:

This Christmas, what will you give in response?

As we look ahead to the new year, we also have some exciting events on the calendar! We're looking forward to our **Annual Christmas Party** and our **Annual Lock-In event**. These are always great opportunities for our youth to come together, have fun, strengthen friendships, and make lasting memories. We also have some exciting new lessons and discussions planned for our Wednesday nights in the new year!

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

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

Jan 6: Service First, Service Project Night
Jan 13: BLAST Christmas Party
Jan 17: BLAST Lock-In Event

We're excited to finish the year celebrating the true meaning of Christmas and look forward to another great year of growing in faith, serving others, and having fun together at BLAST!

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!

ADULT Sunday School

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

Blood Pressure Check
Next opportunity is on **Dec. 6, 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!

Sleeping Mats/Loom

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



The weaving group is making great progress. As you read this, we will have completed sleeping mat #23.
In November, we hosted a group of women from a West Des Moines Catholic Church, who had heard about our weaving mission. They are considering starting their own weaving group and came to observe and learn how the sleeping mats are made. We felt honored that word of our hard work had spread across the community and we look forward to mentoring them in the new year as they start a group on their own.

We currently have enough white grocery bags but would take colored bags.

New Hope Needlers

The Needlers will **not meet in December.** We will gather on **Friday, January 15, 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



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.



Undecorating our church will be January 10th

Please stay after the 11am service and help us take down our Christmas decorations. And come back at 3pm to undecorate the Family Life Center.
Many hands make light work! It's also a good time for fellow ship! Thank you!

Questions? Please contact Pam Frey, at yayafrey@gmail.com

Chili Cook-off January 30, 2027 at 11:30am



The Bridge Team would like you to join New Hopers and friends for good food, games and the company of our church family!

Sign up by January 24th at the Welcome Center to enter the Chili Cook-off contest.

Simply bring a big crockpot of your best chili on January 30th by 11am. You will enter through the Industrial Kitchen door. The committee will set out your crockpot for you. Starting at 11:30am, event attendees will sample the chili and will vote for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. After the voting ends, you can fill up a bowl with chili.

This is a community outreach event! Please invite your friends!

BINGO!!!!





Thank you to everyone that attended the **FUN** Bingo night on November 12th. All proceeds went to the **Music Fund**!! *Thank you* to the musicians and others that provided the **amazing** baked goods. I think we had 20 baked goods, which meant for a lot of **happy** Bingo winners!!
Thank you to Glenna Ross, Nan Stubbs, Althea Holcomb, DeVonne Douglas and Pam Frey for the **delicious** meal of soups, dinner rolls and desserts!!
As always thank you to **Mr Bingo Caller**, Dale Monthei!!
I **appreciated** everyone that stayed after and helped tear down and clean up!!
Blessings to you all!!
Nancy

Thank you to the volunteers that raked up 1 billion+ leaves on Saturday, November 14! It was a beautiful, cool, sunny, blue-sky day!! It takes a village: Mike, Earl, Pam, Dawn, Steven, Jack, Charlene, Char, Armenta, Dale, Nancy, Ruth, Larry, Patrice, Pastor Amy, William. And those that fed us: Glenna, Nan, Ron and Joan.
Your time and hard work was greatly appreciated!! Thank you for caring for our church campus!!









Financial Summary Ending October 31, 2026			
	Actual October	Budget October	YTD Actual
Income	$ 30,090	$ 27,480	$ 319,554
Expense	$ 28,537	$ 31,838	$ 307,415
Net Income (Loss)	$ 1,553	$ (4,358)	$ 12,139

2027 Offering Envelopes



We have boxes of 2027 weekly Offering Envelopes that will be available by December 20th. If you would like a box of offering envelopes, please contact the church office, 515-278-2097, by December 13th.



Year-End Reminder

All giving to the church for recording on your 2026 statements should be received no later than December 31, 2026 to be posted to the individual giving records for the year 2026. Thank you!

IUMF scholarship applications open December 1, 2026

Are you or someone you know planning to attend college or seminary next year? The Foundation offers more than 100 scholarships to help UM students across Iowa pursue their goals!

Applications for the 2027-2028 academic year open December 1 and are available to eligible high school seniors, college students, and seminary students.

With a wide variety of scholarships available, there's a good chance an opportunity is waiting for you! Applications will be accepted through March 1, so don't miss your chance to apply.

Starting December 1, visit our *scholarship page* and click the APPLY NOW button to get started. You can also explore available scholarships and review eligibility requirements.

Know a student who could benefit? Please share this opportunity with them! We would love to help more Iowa students make their educational dreams a reality.

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.



Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" –John 11:35-36 (RSV)

After much thought and research, as we enter a new season of Advent, I encourage you to consider the good, the bad, and the ugly of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and how you might use it or guard yourself from its misuses in this new year. This Advent, while we ponder how God can restore us, it is good for us to look with cautious interest in how the changing world can either help restore us or cause us more difficulties.

First, AI is everywhere, and it has been for some time. For over a decade, we have enjoyed having Alexa helping us out in our house. For many who may be using AI for the first time, it might be more abrupt and challenging, but for many of us, we have learned AI slowly over time. We started with alarms to wake us and get us to meetings on time, or asking Alexa for a funny joke in a slow moment. We turn on the lights, send texts and voice messages, order our medications and supplies, gather our grocery lists, play music, control the TV, answer the doorbell, and talk to each from one room to another with Alexa. Now it is not just Alexa; we use AI for other things, such as writing descriptions (which we of course edit) for church auction items, fixing graphics and photos, and getting a different perspective on something we haven't considered yet. It can save us time, money, and some sanity.

But there are things we definitely cannot do on AI. I learned this lesson the hard way when I was editing a photo. I took a beautiful picture of a fox, but since the fox was moving, it was not as clear as I would have liked. I asked AI to clean up the picture for me to save time. I know how to clean up my photography without AI, but it had been a long day. I asked AI to enhance my fox picture so that it would be more clear. It produced a beautiful and clear picture…of a deer! I told it that I did not want a deer. My picture was a fox! I apologized and tried again by using another picture of a fox instead of mine but put it in the same background. When I told it about the error, it said it would love to fix it, but I had used all my attempts for the day. Only, the problem was that AI was not listening! Frustrated, I learned that AI doesn't always get things right and is not the best listener! I opened the picture in another slower app that worked fine, but took my skill, time, and patience.

Hold that in mind when asking AI other things. If it cannot tell a fox from a deer, what other things is it answering incorrectly for you? Never assume that AI is correct without verifying the facts. The risk of AI is in depending too much upon a tool that is not a person. It might not be able to clean up everything in your life the way you hoped. There are stories of AI telling people how to end their lives, encouraging them to end relationships, and creating emotional bonds with the person using it instead of encouraging them to connect with real people. This is the danger of AI. Many of you know it takes a lot of resources. I will comment on that only that very few of these resources are used to do the kind of consumer AI you and I use but rather are burned by companies sifting through our personal information, making money by no longer working but having AI do work that is often not accurate or ethical. When you hear of large AI facilities overusing resources, such as power, precious metals, and water, it is the large scale misuse of AI that is causing such messes. Consumer usage works much differently. Try not to blame your neighbor for using all the water in Iowa because she posted a picture on Facebook that was AI enhanced. While that is unnecessary usage, it is not really how resources are destroyed by overuse of AI. The real danger of our small-scale consumer usage is replacing the people in our lives and the knowledge and work they do with apps and technologies that pretend to know us but who really can't tell a fox from a deer.

AI is not your friend. It is a tool. If what you are looking for is a friend or some companionship, it is God you seek. It is the people that God has put in your life who you need to talk to, ask advice from, and listen to and who you need to hear you. Technology cannot replace real relationships. It cannot replace your skills, your focus, or your love. Our world can use AI for good: for research, for bringing us closer to one another, and for saving us time and money. What it cannot do is replace real relationships. Relationships are work you will have to do on your own. Don't fear AI but do protect your sense of connection with real people and a real world.

May your Advent be safe, as you prepare for a new year of new AI, but the same amazing God and the same amazing friends and neighbors who love you, including all of us here at New Hope United Methodist Church!

Pastor Amy

December 2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 1:15p, Advent Study 5:15p, Praise band practice	2 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 1:00p, Book Club, R.Chapel 6:15p, Choir practice **TGIW/BLAST** 6p, Meal 6:30p-7:30p Caroling	3 10a, Mahjong 1p, Mat weaving 6:30p, Worship Mtg	4	5 8:30a, Men's Breakfast
6 **2nd Sunday of Advent** Guest Preacher: Rev. Wayne Clark Holy Communion 8:45-11a, Blood Pressures E-giving Help desk 11a Sound Training, FLC 6p, Confirmation Class	7 **Church Office closed** 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 7p, Trustees Mtg	8 9:30a, Al-Anon, R.Chapel Noon, AA, R.Chapel 1:15p, Advent Study 5:15p, Praise band practice	9 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6:15p, Choir practice **TGIW/BLAST** 6p, Meal 6:30p-7:30p Santa's Attic	10 10a, Mahjong	11 9a-11a Cookie drop off	12 8:30a, Veterans Breakfast 10a-1p Cookie drop off
13 **3rd Sunday of Advent** 9a-11a, Cookie Walk 10a, Children's Christmas Program 11a Sound Training, FLC 11a, Choir	14 **Church Office closed** 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness 3p, Hand of Luke	15 9:30a, Al-Anon Noon, AAI 1:15p, Advent Study 5:15p, Praise band practice 6:30p, Finance Mtg	16 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness 6:15p, Choir practice **TGIW/BLAST** 6p, Meal 6:30p-7:30p Activities	17 9:30a, United Women in Faith 10a, Mahjong 1p, Mat weaving	18 **January LINK deadline**	19
20 **4th Sunday of Advent** 2-4p, CJC Big Band concert 6p, AD Council Mtg 6p, Confirmation Class	21 **Church Office closed** 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	22 9:30a, Al-Anon Noon, AA 1:15p, Advent Study 5:15p, Praise band practice	23 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness **No TGIW/BLAST**	24 **Church Office closed** Christmas Eve Services: 5:30p, FLC 7:30p, Sanctuary	25 **Church Office closed**	26
27 10a, One Worship, Sanctuary No Sunday School 7p, Scouts (Jackie)	28 **Church Office closed** 9:30 Chair Yoga & Fitness	29 9:30a, Al-Anon Noon, AA 5:15p, Praise band practice	30 9:30 Chair Yoga/Fitness **No TGIW/BLAST**	31 **Church Office closed**		



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

2 Lisa VanDenBerg
4 Linda Wood, Leah Breitsprecher, Pascal Karekezi
6 Jean Moffitt, Mike Warren
7 Gene Lesch, Lisa Rooney
12 Obi Ukabiala, Mary Grace Leyda
14 Nolan Monthei
15 Cathy Short
17 Andy Sutton
18 Sue Davenport, Chris Boyles, Banny Umuhoza, Susan Blank, Gaby Dimitri
19 Brady Jansen, Spencer Sutton
20 Pete Frey, Larry Buske, Emily Bowser
21 Zoe Wilson
22 Gracey Harris
23 Susan Baldwin
24 Jean Wederquist
25 Beckett Kealhofer
Jennifer Dellopoulous
27 Mary Lumley, Kim Buske
28 Ashley Marsh
29 Ana Kirkpatrick, Gina Breitsprecher



18 Nicholas & Sherri Bogue
31 Courtney & Tricia Berry
31 Daniel & Emily Bowser

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.

NEW HOPE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 offerPre-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

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(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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