



New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

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APRIL 2024

Ransom *Redemption* propitiation SUBSTITUTION

The most important concept in all of Christian thought, life, and doctrine is that Jesus died that humankind is reconciled to God through Him. This is called *atonement*. *And this is what Easter is about.*

Atonement. It's one of the few distinctly English words in theology that doesn't derive from Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. It's the combination of "at one," as in, "to be in harmony with". You are at "at one" with God - you atone. The atonement then is "man's reconciliation with God through the sacrificial death of Christ." HOW does atonement work? How is our salvation achieved through Christ's death and resurrection? That's where the theories of atonement come in. The Bible doesn't give us a clear answer and each of the theories offered throughout Church history can find support in Biblical text.

In this Eastertide (post-Resurrection day and pre-Pentecost), I thought I'd offer you a brief description of the major theories throughout the history of the Church for your consideration. Again – each of us must work out our own Theology – and you can decide for yourself. There are no wrong answers here.

The Moral Influence Theory: This is one of the earliest theories which simply taught that Jesus Christ came and died in order to bring about a positive change to humanity. Jesus is a moral example to be modeled. However, this theory falls short of demanding Jesus' divinity.

The Ransom Theory: For the first thousand years of Christianity, most Christians believed that Christ was a ransom that was paid to Satan in exchange for releasing humans from the bondage of sin. "Just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" — Matthew 20:28 (see also Mark 10:45 and 1 Timothy 2:5–6).

Substitutionary Theory: God's honor is rightly challenged and tarnished by human sin. God's honor must be restored. Human beings are so much less than God and therefore, can never make that atonement on our own. The answer then is found in the sacrifice of Christ: fully human, he can atone for man, fully God, he can restore God's honor.

The Reformed View: Christ Receives Your Punishment: The Reformers go further than the Substitutionary Theory. In this theory, God's honor is not offended by our sin. Rather, God is the

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YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

SESSION SNIPPETS

The Session met on Thursday, March 14, 2024, to discuss the following:

- Reviewed and updated care team and committee membership.
- Approved that the memorial donations for pond benches be used to purchase pond benches.
- Approved that all donations in memory of ment Fund be deposited into the Endow-
- The Craft Show will be on November 2.
- Bids for sanctuary railings are being received.
- Electrical upgrades are being completed throughout the building.
- Approved paying for the installation of carpeting in the NAMOW office if they pay for the carpet.
- Our insurance rates increased by 24 percent along with a higher deductible .
- Approved as the commissioner elder for the March Presbytery meeting at New Hope.
- Approved reports of care teams, committees, pastor, clerk, and treasurer.

ON THE CALENDAR

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

MONDAY NIGHT MEAL AND BOOK STUDY

Join us Monday evenings for a light meal at 6:00pm, followed by a Bible study at 7:00pm. We will begin Proverbs on April 8

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study with Pastor Brenda is offered in person or on Zoom at 10:00am on Tuesdays. We are jumping into the Psalms – and will come out learning the full breadth of our relationship with God.

GAME NIGHT

In the fellowship hall from 6:00-9:00pm on the third Saturday of each month. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. And bring some friends to share the fun. Next date is Saturday, April 20!

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Each year New Hope Presbyterian Church provides a commitment form to the Presbytery of Redstone. The amount is based upon our membership. The suggested amount is \$44.00 per member. The actual amount of \$44.38 was rounded downwards by the presbytery. The actual breakdown is as follows:

Presbytery mission - \$10.00

Presbytery per capita - \$23.00

Synod per capita - \$2.40

General Assembly per capita - \$8.98

Many thanks to those who have already so graciously made this year's donation!

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Job 29:23</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>EASTER HOLIDAY</i> Office closed</p> <p>5-9pm Gaming [HR]</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am Study</p> <p>5-7pm Bountiful Blessings</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am Finance mtg.</p> <p>5:45-8pm GS [FH]</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>6</p> <p>2:00pm Alabaster Performing Arts: "The Birthday Party" <i>Show is cancelled</i></p>
<p>7</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Coffee & Conv. [FH] 11:30 BP Screening [FH]</p> <p><i>2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am Study</p> <p>6:00pm Mission mtg.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6pm GS (Gurall) [FH] 6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6-7:30pm GS [FH]</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p><i>3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am Study</p> <p>5-7 Bountiful Blessings</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>9:00am MOW Board meeting [HR]</p> <p>5:45-8pm GS (Traficante) [FH]</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6-9pm Game Night [FH]</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30am Cheapest Lunch in Town [FH]</p> <p><i>4th SUNDAY OF EASTER</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>EARTH DAY</i></p> <p>5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am Study</p> <p><i>ELECTION DAY</i> Building in use as a polling location</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6pm GS (Gurall) [FH] 6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p><i>5th SUNDAY OF EASTER</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am Study</p>	 <p>They waited for me as for showers and drank in my words as the spring rain.</p>			

We invite anyone to come to worship. If you can't be here in person, you can participate virtually. The worship service is livestreamed on the church Facebook page on Sundays at 10:30am at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Presbyterian-Church/New-Hope-Presbyterian-Church-120459321304492/>

FH = Fellowship Hall
HR = Hospitality Room
K = Kitchen

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Thank you New Hope!

Donations of ingredients and purchases of lemon rolls and other baked goods for Easter! And a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make lemon rolls on Saturday, March 16th!

DONATIONS OF PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR PRESSLEY RIDGE

Pressley Ridge is an alternative school located at the old Bovard school building in Greensburg. We service currently 12 school districts in the surrounding area. We accept students who are currently struggling in their home districts and work with both the students, families, and districts to help the students succeed and move back into their home districts. We are trauma informed and work to help students build their confidence, their self esteem, work through any trauma that they may have, and we work as a team supporting the family through everything that may be going on.

We are a smaller school, and currently have 3 classrooms open; 2 high school rooms and 1 middle school room. Every room has a teacher and a behavioral support staff. We have an assessment and transition specialist, a program director, a behavioral health specialist and a home community liaison. We are a team, we are a family, we teach, we grow, and we are Pressley Ridge Day School Greensburg!

To learn more about us, please visit our website at <https://www.pressleyridge.org/services/private-academic-schools/>

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

APRIL MISSION is supporting Bountiful Blessings with hygiene and cleaning products that are not accessible to families at Food Banks or government programs (food stamps). Bountiful Blessings is the outreach mission program held here on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Families register and are entitled to receive the hygiene and cleaning products which are provided by Harrisburg and donated. The recipients must volunteer three hours per year in church projects to be eligible to continue to receive products. Recently they have been making the decorations for the tree in the Social Room and filling the eggs for the Egg Hunt. There are 35 families registered, with 14 to 17 families attending each session. We are asking for donations because Harrisburg has not been able to send as many products since companies are not donating as much surplus. Products needed include shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, shaving cream, baby wipes, kleenex, laundry pods, panty liners, sandwich bags, zip-loc bags, Saran Wrap, and aluminum foil. Thank you for your support of this mission.

BENEFIT GOLF OUTING

Bountiful Blessings is sponsoring its 12th Annual Western PA Golf Outing on Saturday, May 4, at Butler's Golf Course. Play begins at 8:00 am and prizes include Skilled Hold Prizes. The cost for individual golfer is \$95.00 and \$380.00 for a four-some. This includes a Continental Breakfast, 18 holes of golf, carts, lunch, and door prizes. All proceeds benefit families in need who are served by Western Pa Bountiful Blessing Inc. sites, which New Hope is. Registration forms are on the bulletin board or you can register online at www.bountifulblessingsinc.org. And if you bring scrap metal, you will be entered into a special drawing! Any questions, see Mary Jane Smith.

Stewardship is more than money

*Remember that all we have belongs to God
and we need to be responsible while managing them.*

Hints for the month of April from the Care Team for Financial Stewardship

Money

- Check your credit report with Experian, Equifax, or TransUnion. It's free.
- If you're over 70 ½, you can donate directly to the church thru your IRA thru a QCD (qualified charitable deduction). It counts towards your required minimum distribution and is not taxable.
- Research summer travel now and book early while the prices are lower

Home

- Change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Have an A/C checkup.
- Tackle the pantry and toss expired items.
- Dust hard surfaces and blinds with a damp cloth.
- Check walkways for cracks and loose pavers.

Health

- Enjoy the outdoors. Use sunscreen to help prevent skin cancer.
- Sleep for seven hours in a cold and dark room for a better life.
- Smiling can improve your mood.
- Sometimes talking through a problem is all you need to work through stressful situations. Confide in a friend or family member.

Environment

- Cleanup the yard.
- Plant a tree or shrub for Arbor Day (April 26). Send a picture to the church for the newsletter and/or the church website.
- Did you know you can re-use the plastic Federal Express packaging? If you carefully cut open the end, you can turn the plastic bag inside out and apply your own return address label and shipping label. Then tape shut with packing tape. Twice the use and less waste in the landfill!
- Add one new sustainable habit to your routine, for example, recycling and conserving water. Small changes add up.

Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give.

We can give time; we can give our expertise; we can give our love or simply give a smile.

What does it cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.

~Steve Goodier

COOKIE RECIPES NEEDED!



Please take a moment to make a copy of one or two of your family's favorite cookie recipes and email, snail mail, or bring them in to the church office (only IF you are willing to share them - they will be reprinted for local public use).

If recopying by hand, please double-check ingredients and instructions for accuracy! Include your phone number in case we have any questions. Thank you!

INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our church directory is available to view on your computer! Instant Church Directory - the program we use to build our church directory - has a member website. Go to: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com>

There you will be asked to enter your email address as it is listed in our directory. If your email address isn't listed in the directory, please let Donna Van Allen know so it can be added.

Once you enter your email address, follow the directions on-screen to complete the create log-in process. After you sign in, you'll see the most up-to-date directory for our church. Any time updates are made, they will show on the Online Members' Website, too.

You can find more information about the members' website at: <https://help.instantchurchdirectory.com/article/638-navigating-the-online-member-directory>.

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ultimate judge of the cosmos and cannot let human sin go unpunished. (John Calvin says this clearly – throughout his *Institutes*.) As humanity, we have fallen so short that we cannot make repayment – only God can. So, Christ took the place of sinners. The punishment and penalty we deserve was laid on Jesus Christ instead of us. This way, the cross represents God's holiness and love. Evidence for this theory is found throughout the Old Testament as well as in Paul's writings (Isaiah 53, animal sacrifice in Leviticus, and Romans, especially).

Christus Victor: "Christ as victor." This theory is dominant for most in Christian Church history. Jesus Christ dies in order to defeat the powers of evil (sin, death, the devil) in order to free humankind from their bondage. It's similar to the Ransom Theory except that nobody is paid off – not the devil or God. Instead, the Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection defeats evil, thereby setting humanity free.

In any case – Jesus says from the cross, "It is finished." Jesus accomplished His mission to reconcile us to God. However you think it happens, we are saved! Amen!

Pastor Brenda



ALABASTER

PERFORMING ARTS

The Program, "The Birthday Party," originally scheduled for Saturday, April 6, has been cancelled due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict.

Inscribe the Word

THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

PRAISE & WORSHIP

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Psalm 29:1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Psalm 66:1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Psalm 47:1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Psalm 106:1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Psalm 47:5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Psalm 132:7-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Psalm 63:1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Psalm 138:1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Psalm 95:1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Psalm 149:1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Psalm 95:4-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Psalm 150:1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Psalm 113:1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Psalm 150:4-6 |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Deuteronomy 10:20-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Matthew 21:14-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Deuteronomy 12:3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Luke 10:38-42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. 2 Chronicles 5:11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24. Luke 19:37-38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. John 4:21-24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Isaiah 12:1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Acts 16:25-26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Isaiah 12:4-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Romans 12:1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Isaiah 38:18-20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Revelation 5:11-13 |
| | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 29. Psalm 22:25-28 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Psalm 71:14-17 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 31. Psalm 111:1-4 |

APRIL SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Writing out Scriptures is a way to understand God's Word and Hear His voice without distractions.

Each of these Scriptures should take fifteen minutes to copy.

Grab your journal, your Bible, and some pretty pens, and let us INSCRIBE THE WORD together.

For more resources and to join our Inscribe the Word Community, visit

WWW.ASYMPHONYOFPRAISE.COM

