



New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

12727 Lincoln Way North Huntingdon, PA 15642

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MARCH 2024

Dear Friends,

My memory of Lent as a child growing up in a Presbyterian Church is the One Great Hour of Sharing fish that we were given to collect our coins, usually pennies, to bring to worship on Easter as an offering that went to a designated mission project. As far as what Lent was about and any real practice or meaning, I have deeper memories of Ash Wednesday ashes on our foreheads and not eating meat on Fridays, which I learned from my Catholic/Orthodox family.

There are many ways to prepare one's self for Good Friday and Resurrection Day. I encourage each of us to practice some sort of discipline that will allow us to focus on God's grace that we know in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lamb of God. How can you recognize your sin and need for God's provision? What will it mean to turn away (repent) from the flesh and live the new life in Christ?

For some of us the classic spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting are effective means of growing in faith, but please do not allow yourself to minimize those deep, soul transforming practices. I urge you not to reduce them to a faddish cultural tradition or dietary desire (like giving up Diet Pepsi). I do exhort you to consider how you will live into this season of preparation and learn to die to the old self to allow God to breathe the new life of Christ into your daily experience. There are many spiritual practices that you can adopt. Let me know if you need ideas.

My discipline this Lent is to practice having a Godly attitude: "If you have any encouragement in being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:1-5)

I am praying I can fast from anything that will fill my mind with hate or discord, any communication that encourages falsehood or factions, any language that is not honoring to God and any thoughts that are not centered on Christ and the hope we know in Jesus. And I will not just "empty" my life of those things that are of the flesh, but also "fill" my life with practices that are life-giving and Christ-centered. May Lent be a season of new life for you and all of us!! To God be the glory. Amen.

Pastor Brenda

pastor@newhopepresbyterian.com

YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session: John Cherepko

Class of 2024: Karen Shupe, Donna Van Allen, Jeff O'Neill, Sr.

Class of 2025: Jeff Bouldin, Rich Zoltak, Samantha Sacco

Class of 2026: Helen Connors, Shawn Dandoy, Lorelei Hinson

Thank you for supporting the Pancake & Sausage Supper!



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!

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 book study at 7:00pm. Please see John Pressler to obtain a copy of the book (\$10).

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, March 16 - don't miss it!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Maundy Thursday Worship Service
with Communion

7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28

Good Friday Worship Service

7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29

Easter Sunday Worship Service

10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 31

Plan to arrive early and join us for Easter Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. downstairs in the fellowship hall (see signup sheet on the narthex bulletin board)!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Joanne Gumski
- 12 Dick Cooper
- 13 Faith Snyder
- 21 Cheri Collins
- 21 Zach Van Allen
- 23 Tom Johnson
- 24 David Couchenour
- 29 Sharon Priatko
- 31 Steve Stypula

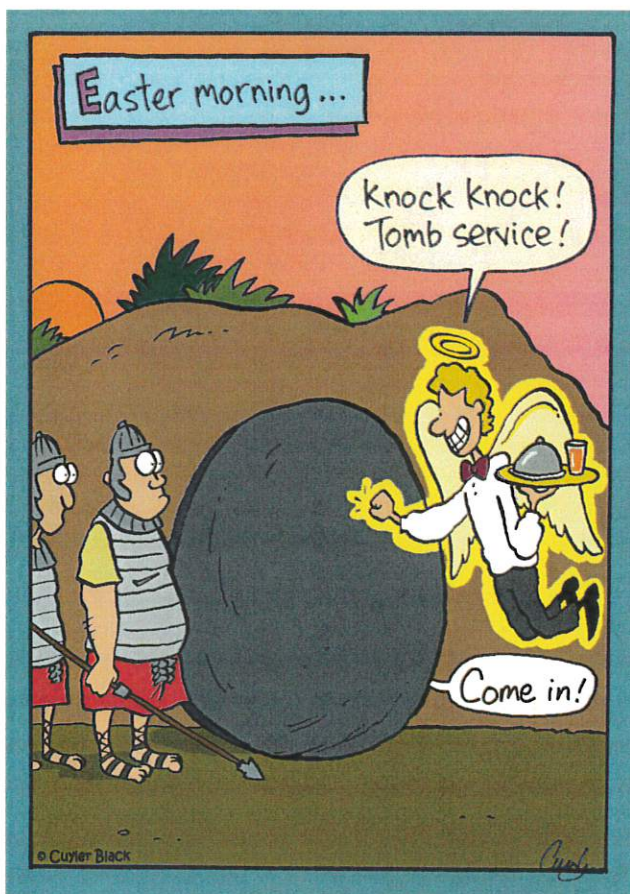


MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Ken & Cheri Collins

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please be sure your newsletter articles for the April issue are received in the office on or before Friday, March 15. Let us know what your team is doing!



MIDWEEK COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Community Lenten Services are held here every Wednesday throughout Lent. Hymn singing begins at 11:30am, followed by a message at noon presented by Norwin area pastors. Lunch will be available. Please see signup sheet if you can provide help or a dessert for these meals!

Lent is a 40-day period before Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14th) and ends the day before Easter. We skip Sundays when we count the 40 days because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. This year Lent starts on March 1st.

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock of our spiritual lives. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the 40 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days.

Lent provides an opportunity to learn what it means to follow Christ. This makes the season an especially fruitful time for exploring spiritual disciplines like reading and studying the Scriptures, fasting, prayer and sacrifice. This time is not a time of intellectual development but a chance to experience what can become practices for a spiritual lifetime. May your Lent lead you to a growing role as disciples of Christ and a deeper understanding of the way Jesus is working in our lives together.

ORDER EASTER BAKED GOODS



Orders are now being taken for delicious homemade baked goods. Choose from Apricot, Nut, and Poppyseed Rolls for \$12 each, and Lemon Rolls for \$10 each (quantities are limited on the lemon rolls).

Return your order form with payment on or before Sunday, March 10 (12727 Lincoln Way North Huntingdon PA 15642). Orders placed after that date can not be filled by the baker. Baked goods may be picked up at the church on Palm Sunday, March 24.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 <p>"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3:</p>						1 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	2 2:00pm Alabaster Performing Arts Concert: "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber"
3 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Communion 11:30 Coffee & Conv. [FH] 11:30 BP Screening [FH] 3 rd SUNDAY IN LENT	4 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study	5 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Study 5-7pm Bountiful Blessings 6:30pm Christian Nurture meeting	6 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 12:00m Lenten Service and Lunch 6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice	7 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Finance mtg. 6-7pm Alabaster Performing Arts [S]	8 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6-7:30pm GS	9	
10 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 4 th SUNDAY IN LENT Last day to order Easter Baked Goods	11 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study	12 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Study 6:30pm Mission mtg.	13 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 12:00m Lenten Service and Lunch 6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice	14 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6-7pm Alabaster Performing Arts [S] 7pm Session mtg.	15 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels Newsletter deadline	16 Kitchen and hall reserved: Baking Lemon Rolls 6-9pm Game Night	
17 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30am Cheapest Lunch in Town [FH] 5 th SUNDAY IN LENT	18 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels No Gaming Set up FH for 3/19 Presbytery meeting	19 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Study 5pm Presbytery mtg. 5-7 Bountiful Blessings	20 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 12:00m Lenten Service and Lunch 6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice	21 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 9-10:30am MOW Board meeting [HR] 5:45-8pm GS [FH] 6-7pm Alabaster Performing Arts [S]	22 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6-7pm Alabaster Performing Arts Concert [S]	23 11:00am-4:00pm Hall, pavilion, and Grounds reserved: GS Easter Egg Hunt and Party (Traficante)	
24 9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service Pick up Easter Baked Goods 1-3pm Easter Egg Hunt	25 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 5-9pm Gaming [HR] 6:00pm Light meal 7:00pm Study	26 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Study	27 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 12:00m Lenten Service and Lunch 6pm GS (Gural) [FH] 6pm Handbells [S] 7pm Choir practice	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm Worship Service with Communion	29 GOOD FRIDAY Office closed	30 EASTER VIGIL	
31 9am Easter Breakfast [FH] 10:30 Worship Service with Communion EASTER SUNDAY	<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/</p>						

FH = Fellowship Hall
HR = Hospitality Room
K = Kitchen
L = Library
S = Sanctuary

GLOBAL LINKS

Sharing Surplus Saves Lives

Global Links is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit with the mission of providing "Health for All" through donated medical supplies. Donations are received from various partners including hospital systems, physician offices, corporations, universities, and the general public - home medical and hospice. In 2023, 263 tons of still useful medical supplies and furnishings were rescued from disposal and improved the health for nearly two million people, bot locally and internationally.

Three of New Hope's members - Donna Fields, Jan Griffin, and Mary Jane Smith - volunteer monthly to help sort and pack the supplies at the Greentree warehouse. If you have any of the following supplies which you would like to donate, please see one of the above volunteers.

Acceptable items include, but are not limited to:

Canes
Aluminum crutches
Walkers
Knee scooters
Wheelchairs
Shower chairs/benches/stools
Raised toilet seats (with handlebar only)
Incontinence supplies
Hoyer lifts
Nebulizer machines and accessories
Portable suction pumps
Blood pressure monitors
Orthopedic items

Also needed are medical supplies, which must be unopened and not due to expire for 13 months from the date of donation. These items include wound care supplies (bandages, gauze), syringes (with or without needles), and ostomy supplies.

Let's help our neighbors with our donations!

MISSION AND OUTREACH

by Samantha Sacco

If you would like to join the Mission & Outreach committee, come to the meeting at 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 12!

Sarris Candies Fundraiser now through March 22. Have your Valentine's Day & Easter candy orders sent fresh right to your door, or send something to an out of town friend or relative to let them know you're thinking of them - one flat-rate shipping charge per address! Use Group ID# 10-1051 when ordering.



2024 NEW HOPE COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

- What:** Egg Hunt
Offered for two different age brackets 2-5 years old and 6-12 years old, and includes snacks and crafts!
- When:** Sunday, March 24, from 1:00-3:00 pm
- Where:** New Hope Presbyterian Church
12727 Lincoln Way,
North Huntingdon, PA
(It might be held inside or outside, but we'll do it either way!)
- Cost:** Free! We just request that you sign up in advance.



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 March from the Care Team for Financial Stewardship

Money:

- File your taxes early. Decrease the chance of identity theft. False submittals occur often.
- Buy generic. Many are just as good as the name brands.
- Create an annual budget.

Home:

- Perform an energy audit to ensure your home is as efficient as possible.
- Organize your junk drawer(s).
- Delve into the freezer, dig deep and rediscover what you've stored "for later."
- Clean the shower head. If a shower head is sluggish and no longer sprays evenly, it's probably clogged with mineral deposits. Soak them away with a solution of half-vinegar, half-water. Vinegar is acidic, and with prolonged contact, it can eat into metallic finishes, so don't soak the shower head for longer than 30 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.

Health:

- Remember to schedule a leisure time for yourself, both physical and mental. Relaxation of mind and body is beneficial to your health.
- Cut your meal portions.
- Sip water while you sit.
- Start your day off with breakfast.
- March is National Nutrition Month: Make half of your plate fruits and vegetables, drink more water, and reduce added sugars. A small handful of nuts or seeds can be a satisfying and **healthy** snack. Look for unsalted or lightly salted nuts such as almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, and pecans.

Environment:

- Spring is approaching. Take care of your lawnmower maintenance before cutting season.
- Start your garden seedlings so that the plants are big and healthy when planted outdoors.
- Be mindful of water and electricity usage.
- Taking shorter showers will lower your water and heating bill.
- Installing faucet aerators throughout your home can help conserve heat and water, without compromising water pressure.

"All of us can learn good stewardship by enacting the following: Spend Less than You Earn, Give Generously, Avoid Debt, Plan for Financial Margin, and Set Long Term Goals."

~Ron Blue

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.

Donna can be reached via email at dlpva84@comcast.net, or by phone at 724-554-1234.

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



ALABASTER PERFORMING ARTS



"ANY DREAM" CONCERT

"Any Dream," Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber, will be presented by Alabaster Performing Arts at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday March 2, in the sanctuary at New Hope Church. Phantom of the Opera, Memory, Any Dream Will Do, Don't Cry For Me Argentina, All I Ask of You, Pie Jesu, along with Make His Praise Glorious, Orange Colored Sky and more will be among the songs featured.

Ticket cost is \$20/Adults, \$15/Senior Citizens and Students. For Tickets, please call Alabaster at 724-516-5189 or order online at www.AlabasterPerformingArts.org.

Inscribe the Word

THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

FASTING

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Judges 20:26-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Daniel 9:3-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. 2 Samuel 1:11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Joel 2:12-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 2 Samuel 12:15-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Zechariah 7:1-3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. 2 Samuel 12:19-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Zechariah 7:4-6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. 2 Samuel 12:22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Zechariah 7:7-10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Ezra 8:21-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Matthew 4:1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Nehemiah 1:3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Matthew 6:16-18 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Esther 4:13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Matthew 9:14-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Esther 4:15-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Matthew 9:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Psalm 69:6-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24. Mark 2:18-20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Psalm 69:9-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. Mark 2:21-22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Isaiah 58:4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Luke 18:9-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Isaiah 58:6-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Luke 18:13-14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Isaiah 58:8-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Acts 13:1-3 |
|
 | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 29. Acts 14:21-23 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 30. 2 Corinthians 6:4-7 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 31. Corinthians 11:27-30 |

MARCH 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

