

January 2026

New Hope Parish

Devotional



Pause

At the beginning of a new year when life can feel both hopeful and overwhelming, breathe deeply and rest for a few moments in a time apart with God.

Listen

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.” When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Matthew 2:1-6

Think

On many church calendars, January 6th is an important day. You might know it as the 12th day of Christmas, when the caroler sings of a gift of twelve drummers drumming (and now you’ve got that song stuck in your head once again!). For churches that follow a schedule of seasons during the year (often called a liturgical calendar), January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany. The reading we have for our reflection is one that often comes for this festival day, when we hear about the appearance of the star that leads the magi in their search for Jesus.

If you look up the meaning of the word “epiphany,” you’ll see that it’s like someone having an “ah-ha!” moment when everything becomes clear. I like to think of the magi, and even King Herod in this passage, having their own “ah-ha” of what God was really up to in coming to earth to be with us in the person of Jesus.

Question to Ponder: What are epiphany or “ah-ha!” moments you have had about God?

Pray

God of brilliant light and presence, thank you for loving me so much to want to come and be with this world in the flesh and blood of Jesus. Help me to be surprised and amazed at the ways you show up before me today and throughout this season. Amen.

Join Us on Sunday Morning



Miami 8:00 am



Osawatomie 10:00 am



Announcements



January 18, 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 18, immediately following worship. After the meeting, everyone is invited to stay for a Fellowship Dinner featuring soup, sandwiches, and salad. Please join us as we gather to take care of church business and enjoy time together around the table.

Reverse Advent

Our Reverse Advent was a great success again this year! Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, collected over 250 much-needed items for our local food pantry. What a wonderful way to share God's love in a practical and meaningful way.

Winter Weather

If winter weather shows up and sidewalks start turning into penguin runways, we want you safe at home—not slipping and sliding your way to church! **Any updates about closures or schedule changes will be shared on Facebook, by email, and on our church website.**

So before bundling up and heading out, be sure to check those places. Stay cozy, stay safe,



Women's Group

All women of the church are invited to join us on Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 PM for a relaxed Women's Group gathering. This will be a time to decompress, enjoy fellowship, and spend time together as we look ahead and begin making plans for the year to come.

Whether you've been part of Women's Group before or have never attended, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect, share ideas, and simply be together in a supportive and welcoming space. Come as you are, bring a friend, and help us dream about what this year might hold.

Love in Action: Middle School Style

On December 14th, our middle school Sunday School class spent their Sunday School time shopping for two Angels from the *My Father's House* Angel Tree. They joyfully adopted a newborn baby girl and her 3-year-old sister, purchasing gifts to help make their Christmas special. Thanks to additional generous donations, the group was also able to adopt two more children. What a beautiful example of serving others and sharing Christ's love in action.



Prayer Request



Please help us keep the Prayer Request up to date.

Call the Osawatomie Church Office with any changes at 913-755-3964 or Shelly at 913-731-1417

New Hope Parish Prayer Requests and Praises

- Bonnie Wallace (healing)
- Vieng Elliott (Comfort & Healing)
- Grady Atwater (comfort, healing)
- Liz Redd (Comfort & Healing)
- Max Servais (healing,)
- David Ware (healing & Comfort)
- Butch Mayfield (Cancer)
- Don Wilson (healing & Comfort)

Heartland Presbytery

- First Presbyterian Church, Liberty, MO
- Maya Quiché Presbytery Meeting Jan 29-30 at the *La Paz de Dios* church in the small lowlands village of Palá
- Maitland Presbyterian Church, Maitland, MO
- First Presbyterian Church, Maryville, MO
- New Horizon Presbyterian Church, Odessa, MO
- Please pray for all the Retired Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Military

- All who are now serving or have served in the past



9 David McIntire
18 Nancy Culbertson
18 Barbara Hohenstein

28 Annie Farley
31 Quincy Stull



6 Dave & Katie Stephens
6 David & Suzie McIntire

For emergency call Shelly Dickinson at 913-731-1417

2026

January

Saturday

3

Friday

2

Thursday

1

Wednesday

Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

10

9

8

7

6

5

4

17

16

15

14

13

12

11

24

23

22

21

20

19

18

31

30

29

28

27

26

9 am Sunday School K-5, 6-8
Lawrence Dickinson
Communion Sunday

9 am Sunday School K-5, 6-8
Meadow Richardson

9 am Sunday School K-5
Jeanie Murphy
Congregational Meeting
Fellowship Dinner
4 pm Women's Group

9 am Sunday School K-5, 6-8
Angie Pennock

Resources

PACA FOOD PANTRY

1016 N Pearl Wednesday 11:30
am - 2:00 pm

For Monetary Donations.send a check to:
PACA Mike Brown, 1002 Pearl, Paola, KS

Needs:

Empty egg cartons, adult sleeping bags, three person tents, Cheerios, sloppy joe mix, beefaroni, fruit mix, applesauce, canned meats.

Osawatomie Food Pantry

(OZ Food Pantry)

811 w 6th St, Wednesday
8:30 - 11:00 am Current

Needs:

Boxed Mac & Cheese, Peanut Butter, Ramen, Condiments, Dessert Mixes Donations can be brought to the church and Shelly will run it to the pantry.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group - Meets the second Monday of the month at the Paola Senior Center, 5:00 PM at 121 W Wea Paola. For more information contact Joan Reed 913-300-1895.

Caregiver Support Group - Meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday. Meetings are at the Elizabeth Layton Center, 2595 SW 327th St., Paola, from 6-7 pm. If you have questions, please contact: Shannon at ECKAAA 785-242-7200.

Grief Support - Meets every Tuesday at Faith Baptist from 6-7:30.

Volunteer Opportunity

Foster Grandparents - Needed for those 55 years and older to volunteer at local schools, Head Start, and other facilities assisting children. You can earn up to \$300 a month tax-free that does not affect social security. If you are interested, please contact the Foster Grandparent Program at 913-294-3880. You can make a difference.