



New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

12727 Lincoln Way North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Phone: 724-863-7702 FAX: 724-863-7730

APRIL 2020

Friends –

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

I write today in a time of great confusion, anxiety and challenge. Please know that the Session has talked several times about how to move forward in this time, and we have decided that we do not encourage groups to get together at this time, and we have canceled all activities through April 30th. We feel that in this time of crisis, people need a place to find comfort, if even for a few short minutes, therefore, I (or someone else if I fall ill) will lead a time of prayer, singing (uh-oh!), and give a short message from Scripture readings. This time will be “livestreamed” on the New Hope Facebook page, and we hope we can get these posted on our website as well. Bulletin information and PowerPoint slides will also be posted on the website so you can follow along with the livestream, or participate in liturgy in the comfort of your own home.

But what about Easter? Why is God doing this? They are difficult questions because they don't make sense to me. We are people of faith in Jesus Christ. God isn't “doing this” TO us. BUT, God is using it to see how faithful we are – how much we trust in Christ's Kingship and Sovereignty. And, God doesn't do that for God's benefit; rather, God does it for our benefit so that WE can see how we faithful we really are. The fear factor makes us less faithful and at times like this, fear gets the better of us spiritually.

And, we celebrate the Resurrection EVERY Sunday – that is the meaning of the Lord's Day. It is a time of great joy. When the Session met in prayer and worship, we left saying, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!” We should not fear a virus, but rather we should trust that God is growing us into the likeness of the Son, Jesus Christ. That is our testimony to who Christ is in our lives! And that is celebrating the Resurrection EVERY day!

In this time, do not be afraid, the Lord is with you. Instead, check in on a neighbor, a church family member, or someone you know who is alone. Bring them cheer so you will not be afraid! And, when this is all done, we can say that we are Resurrection People, sealed in Christ Jesus, the Risen One!

With Christ's care,
Pastor Brenda

"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God
or the requesting of good things from God."

"It is better in **prayer** to have a heart without words than words without heart."

"Whether we realize it or not, **prayer** is the encounter of God's thirst with ours.
God thirsts that we may thirst for him."

In this time of difficulty and isolation, we can feel anxious, angry, fearful, _____ (*name the emotion!*). It is a good time to come closer to the Lord, especially in prayer. The Adult Sunday School class was in the last few chapters of a study by Adam Hamilton about our walk with God which indicated how easy it is to pray 5 times each day:

When you wake up – pray for the day
At breakfast – thank the Lord for the sustaining nourishment
At lunch
At dinner
At bedtime

It's easy to say short prayers at these times.

I am choosing to pray very specifically during this difficult time, not in isolation, but in unity with other Presbyterians and Christians worldwide. In the morning is my usual extended prayer time (I pray for our prayer list and for our congregation members). At noon, I join with Christians all around the world to pray the Lord's Prayer together. At 3pm, the Pastors in Redstone Presbytery are praying a special prayer. I include these two prayers for your information and USE!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven:
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

3pm Prayer

Lord, we take this time to offer our thanks and praise to you in the midst of our day.
We pray especially today for the stress the coronavirus is placing
on our people and our economy.
We ask for healing and wholeness for all of your people, wisdom for our leaders,
and strength for all the medical workers and researchers.
We pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Worship will be conducted via the Facebook livestream on Sunday mornings through April 30 at 10:30am. Orders of worship and PowerPoint slides can be accessed via the church website each week so that we can participate in liturgy together.

Palm Sunday, April 5, at 10:30am

Be sure to have your paper palm leaf all colored in so you can wave it with the rest of us.

Good Friday, April 10, at 7:00pm

Facebook Livestream – tune in for a special service.

Easter Sunday, April 12, at 10:30am

Facebook Livestream - on Easter, please tune in to celebrate the Lord's Supper virtually with liturgy and communion elements. Be sure to have bread and juice near you when you tune in so we may celebrate together even though we are distant.

Baked Goods

If you ordered baked goods, they will be delivered April 4th to the church.

Because we do not want people in and out of the building too much, we will be making arrangements to deliver as much as we can directly to you OR do **SCHEDULED** pick ups at the church building.

**PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE BUILDING UNLESS
YOU HAVE A SCHEDULED PICK UP TIME.**

Easter Flowers

The Easter flowers will also be delivered to the church, and we will use them to decorate the sanctuary for the livestreamed Easter service. Again, we will have SCHEDULED pick up times for you to get the flowers you ordered.

**PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE BUILDING UNLESS
YOU HAVE SCHEDULED A TIME FOR PICK UP.**

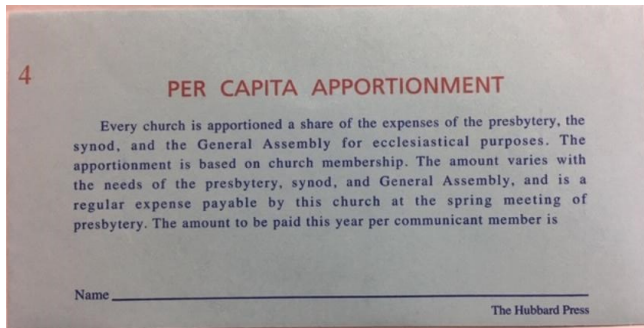
Bible Study with Pastor Brenda Thursday Evenings



Pastor Brenda will also be doing a Bible study on Thursday evenings on the Zoom meeting platform. If you are interested, please send her an email so she can add you to the Zoom invitation. Zoom is an easy system to use – you can “tune in” via computer (audio and video) or by telephone to participate in the discussion.

Pastor Brenda can be reached at bfb15235@gmail.com.

PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT



See this envelope? You might still have one just like it in your box of giving envelopes!

The per capita apportionment is the way we Presbyterians share responsibility for the costs of our life together in ministry and our mission as one church. Our church shares in this commitment with the PC(USA) by payment of its full per capita apportionment. These funds come out of our general operating cash as part of our annual budget.

The total this year is \$42.50 for each person on the membership rolls. We urge everyone who hasn't shared in this responsibility for this year to do so - it is one way you can participate in the mission of Christ to the world by giving just \$1 per week!

HIS (HINTS IN STEWARDSHIP) "Everything Belongs to God"

Spring is here!

- Enjoy the outdoors.
- Use sunscreen to help prevent skin cancer.
- Clean up the yard.
- Plant a tree or shrub for Arbor Day - April 24.
- Send a picture to the church for newsletter and/or website.

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT RESCHEDULED

by Donna Van Allen

The Easter Egg Hunt originally scheduled for April 5 will be rescheduled due to coronavirus concerns. Watch for an announcement regarding the new date, and then call the church office to sign up!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP -

A NEW GIVING OPTION

New Hope has provided us with a new giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation. By using a cell phone app (GivePlus Church) that can be downloaded from the APP STORE or GOOGLE PLAY, one can donate to New Hope Presbyterian Church. One can also get to this site using the QR code at the bottom of the article.

To donate, one can use a credit card or a checking account. The payment method can be entered each time or if one creates an account (ID and PW), the payment method is saved for future uses. You can also use this option on the New Hope website. On the home page there is a GIVE NOW button. One can also mail checks to the church or use their bank's online banking feature.



If you have questions, please contact John Cherepko.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Although our Sunday worship services have been cancelled, the church expenses continue. We encourage that you continue your financial support during this difficult time. The following methods exist.

- Mail a check to:
New Hope Presbyterian Church
12727 Lincoln Way
North Huntingdon PA 15642
- Use your bank's online billing feature. Setup the church as a new payee.
- Use the GivePlus Church app on your cell phone.
- Go to the New Hope website at (<https://newhopepresbyterian.com>) and use the GIVE NOW button on the home page. This will take you to the same site as the GivePlus Church.

SESSION SNIPPETS

by Bill Siebert

Meeting on 2/18/20, the Session...

- Had a time of learning about Three Things Churches Love that Kill Outreach.
- Approved the minutes of the 1/9/20 Session meeting.
- Briefly discussed planning something special in 2020 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the church building and the 15th anniversary of the merger that resulted in the formation of New Hope Presbyterian Church.
- Heard from the Worship and Music Care Team that Communion for the remainder of 2020 is planned for 2/23/20, 2/26/20, 4/9/20, 4/12/20, 5/31/20, 7/12/20 (outdoors), 8/9/20 (outdoors), 9/13/20, 10/4/20, and 11/29/20.
- Heard about plans for Thursday evenings during Lent (simple supper, a Bible study, and packing duffel bags for kids in foster care) beginning 3/5/20 and extending through 4/2/20.
- Discussed initial thoughts for updating the agreement between the church and Norwin Little League.
- Scheduled the next monthly Session meeting for 3/12/20.

Meeting on 3/12/20, the Session...

- Approved the minutes of the 2/18/20 Session meeting and the 2/23/20 Congregation/Corporation meeting.
- Spent a large portion of the meeting reviewing and discussing Pastor Brenda's draft Pandemic Action Plan for New Hope's response to the current worldwide coronavirus/COVID-19 concerns.
- Heard a briefing on the ongoing Lenten program being held on Thursday evenings during Lent.
- Scheduled the next monthly Session meeting for 4/23/20.

YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session: Bill Siebert

Class of 2020: Helen Connors, Sue Pressler, Jim St. Clair

Class of 2021: Edith Burdis, Judy Evan, Donna Van Allen

Class of 2022: John Cherepko, Bill Siebert, Carl Shirey

THE PASTOR'S REGISTER

Our thoughts and prayers for the family and friends of June Best, who passed away on March 2.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd Kelly Buscemi
3rd Chari Peters
6th Matt Anticole
9th Erin Anticole;
Madison Buscemi
12th Kevin Shirey
14th Sami Lauricia
18th Lynn Cherepko
20th Marie Champion
21st Bill Peters
25th Stuart Walker
28th Linda Martin

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

8th Gordie & Sheli Stoves
10th Jarett & Karen Evan
11th Bud & Joann Gilbert
27th Steve & Kathy Stypula

DOG MATH



"If I have 3 bones and Mr. Jones takes away 2,
how many fingers will he have left?"

AMAZON SMILE

by John Cherepko

New Hope is part of AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

You can shop as you have been on Amazon and add our organization (there are many New Hope churches, so be sure to pick the North Huntingdon one). Or you can use our EIN (20-2944637). The easiest way is to use the link below and then login to Amazon with your current ID and password.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2944637>

***Many thanks to those
who have already participated!***



MISSION TRIP PLANNED

Redstone Mission Team has set July 11-18, 2020 for a summer trip to St. Albans, WV which would include young people 14 years or older. If interested or for more information on either of these trips contact Phyllis Frye at pfrye1234@windstream.net or 724-468-3740.

PANCAKE SUPPER THANK YOU

by Joann Gilbert



Thanks to all who helped make our February 26 "Fat Tuesday" Pancake & Sausage Supper a great success. With the assistance of cooks, set-up & cleanup crew, and decorating volunteers, we served 124 tasty and delicious meals!

We appreciate the advertising from Mr Squeegy and Berk's Menswear; Tribune & Norwin Star "Brief Notes;" as well as Facebook, NHPC sign, and powerpoint; posters, "One Call" system; and participation of Redstone residents, family, friends and the public.

A portion of the \$191.80 profit from the \$5 supper will be used for \$100 donation to the Norwin Lions "Kitty Sack" project. We appreciate your support for our mission programs.

New Hope Church is going to PITTSBURGH PIRATES FAITH NIGHT



(it's Pirate tote bag giveaway night, too!)

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, at 4:05 pm

LEFT FIELD BOX SEATS
SECTION 125
(behind third base)

COST is \$32/person
(this includes a \$10 food/merchandise credit)

NEED 25% OR \$8 TO RESERVE
WITH PAYMENT IN FULL BY MAY 6

See Andy McFarlane
for more information or to sign up!



Names in the Bible Word Scramble



- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------|
| 1. | iashia | _____ |
| 2. | jsdua | _____ |
| 3. | nawder | _____ |
| 4. | bamraha | _____ |
| 5. | raachzaih | _____ |
| 6. | cjbao | _____ |
| 7. | imcah | _____ |
| 8. | entpesh | _____ |
| 9. | udsedath | _____ |
| 10. | usjes | _____ |
| 11. | isttu | _____ |
| 12. | eossm | _____ |
| 13. | agrha | _____ |
| 14. | lbaoromehwt | _____ |
| 15. | jeliah | _____ |
| 16. | ikeelze | _____ |
| 17. | einald | _____ |
| 18. | eihnaehm | _____ |
| 19. | htmaetw | _____ |
| 20. | rtpee | _____ |

ANSWERS TO WORD SCRAMBLE
1. Isaiah; 2. Judas; 3. Andrew; 4. Abraham; 5. Zachariah; 6. Jacob; 7. Micah; 8. Stephen;
9. Thaddaeus; 10. Jesus; 11. Titus; 12. Moses; 13. Hagar; 14. Bartholomew;
15. Elijah; 16. Ezekiel; 17. Daniel; 18. Nehemiah; 19. Matthew; 20. Peter

