



New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

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DECEMBER 2020



Did you know that the favorite Christmas carol – the *12 Days of Christmas* – is really about our faith? Apparently, the song was a “key” to teach (catechism) children so they remember important facts about our faith, the Bible, and what we believe. The listing that follows here are the words of the song and their true meaning.

The “True Love” in the song is not a girlfriend or boyfriend but rather Jesus Christ, born on Christmas Day.

The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments of God’s Word.

The three French hens represent faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds are the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, which describe humanity’s fall into sin and the great love of God in sending a Savior.

The six geese a-laying signify the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming demonstrate the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

The ten lords a-leaping signify the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in The Apostles’ Creed, the statement of what we truly believe as all Christians, regardless of our faith tradition.

Friends – May you all come to know the hope of this time of year!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brenda



pastor@newhopepresbyterian.com

MISSION AND OUTREACH - DECEMBER

by Sue

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

This year due to COVID-19, instead of shopping for an individual child we collected \$25 gift cards to Walmart and Kohl's.

All the tags have been returned and are ready to give to the Salvation Army representative. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in fulfilling this mission so quickly!

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

PILL BOTTLE DONATIONS



In the past, New Hope has donated pill bottles as a mission project to support Matthew 25 Ministries. We will be collecting pill bottles again.

Matthew 25 Ministries accepts these donations for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles, with or without child-resistant caps

Bottles included in shipments of medical supplies must have an all plastic lid.

- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.

- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.

- Rinse and dry thoroughly.

- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.

Place clean, recapped bottles in large ziplock bags marked "Clean Bottles" and bring to the church narthex. These will then be blended with medical supplies.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

ST. JOHNS FOOD PANTRY AND WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK

You are asked to collect one non-perishable food item each day through Christmas Eve for donation to St. John's Food Bank and the Westmoreland County Food Bank. For example:

December 1	cereal
December 2	peanut butter
December 3	stuffing mix
December 4	boxed potatoes
December 5	macaroni and cheese
December 6	canned fruit
December 7	canned tomatoes
December 8	canned tuna
December 9	cake or dessert mix
December 10	jar of applesauce
December 11	canned sweet potatoes
December 12	cranberry sauce
December 13	canned beans
December 14	crackers
December 15	rice
December 16	oatmeal
December 17	pasta
December 18	spaghetti sauce
December 19	chicken noodle soup
December 20	tomato soup
December 21	canned corn
December 22	canned mixed vegetables
December 23	canned carrots
December 24	canned green beans

Bring in your items and place them on the "Christmas Collection Tree" in the church narthex (designed and built by Rich - thanks, Rich!).

Please use this list of needed items as a guideline, and gather as many as you are able to help those who are less fortunate. We are so blessed - let us, in turn, bless others!

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me..."</i></p> 		<p>1</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30pm Handbells</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm Hymnody Class</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service (also on FaceBook Live) <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Last day to order Baked Goods</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7:00pm Ladies' Tea via Zoom</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Bible Study</p> <p>SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>Angel Tree Gift Cards due today</p> <p>6:30pm Handbells</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7pm Hymnody Class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>January Notes deadline</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>10:30am Worship Service (also on FaceBook Live) <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30pm Handbells</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8:30am MOW Board</p> <p>7pm Hymnody Class</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service (also on FaceBook Live) <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>Sarris Candies Fundraiser ends</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30pm Handbells</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE Office closed</p> <p>No Hymnody Class 7pm Worship Svc.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No Meals on Wheels</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY Office closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10:30 Worship Service with Communion (also on Face- Book Live) <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30pm Handbells</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE (Goodbye 2020!)</p>	<p><i>"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" John 14:1-2</i></p> 	

We invite anyone to come to worship as long as you agree to the NHPC guidelines (masks; temperature taken at the door; use hand sanitizer; physically distance from others; no hugging, handshakes). 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/>

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Our thanks to the following people
who have given memorial gifts to the church:*

In memory of Bonnie

Nancy J.

George & Susan

Howard & Faith

In memory of Connie

Howard & Faith

In memory of Lois

Mrs. Evelyn

Robert & Marcia

Mrs. Edwina

*We are grateful to those who honor the
memory of their loved ones in this way.*

BEREAVEMENT

Our sincere condolences to the family and
friends of the following people who recently
passed away:

Emaruth on October 24

Walter on November 23

PRAYER REQUESTS

Calling all Prayer Warriors!

Jill is the new chairperson of the prayer
chain.

If you would like to do the important work of
praying for others, please let Jill know that
you'd like to be included on the prayer chain to
receive prayer requests.

To place a prayer request, please call Jill at
or email her at prayerchain@newhopepresbyterian.com. You may also call
or email the church office at 724-863-7702 or
contactnewhope@verizon.net.

A COZY CHRISTMAS

We will be inviting our church
neighbors to join us for Christmas
Eve Worship Service online (or in
person!). Plans are in the works
to create and distribute a Cozy
Christmas treat bag which will
include an invitation to our up-
coming Christmas Eve service, a
packet of instant hot cocoa, a
cookie from the Apple Cookie &
Chocolate Company, a pepper-
mint candy, and a tea light candle
for use in our virtual candlelight
service. You can do your part in
offering hope to a weary world by
inviting your friends, neighbors,
and loved ones to join us online
at 7:00pm on December 24!

STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN MONEY

*by the Care Team for Financial Stewardship
Remember that all we have belongs to God
and we have to be responsible
while managing it.*

*Hints for the month of December -
this is a good time to:*

Money

72 or older? Be sure to set up or update mandatory retirement plan withdrawals. You could face penalties if you do not withdraw enough.

Home

Check all extension cords before using them for your Christmas lights.
Check your windows and door for drafts.

Health

Be cautious when shoveling snow. Multiple clearing with a few inches of snow is better than one clearing with many inches of snow (unless using a snow blower)

Environment

Consider environment friendly materials to melt ice on your driveway and walks.
Feed your birds.

CHURCH FINANCES

SARRIS CANDIES FUNDRAISER

Don't forget our Sarris Candies Fundraiser! Order from 100s of products, all shipped FREE to your address (standard ground) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New Hope receives 25% profit, with no minimum order! Allow 72 hours to process order.

Go to SARRISCANDIESFUNDRAISING.COM
Order using Group ID #10-1051 (seller's name is not required). **See attached insert for additional information!**

AMAZON SMILE

New Hope is now part of AmazonSmile, a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that 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, which is 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>

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Although our Sunday worship services have limited attendance during the pandemic, our mission expenses continue. We encourage you to 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. Set up 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.

CHURCH MAILBOX

Dear New Hope Family,
Thank you for your kindness in sending the beautiful and symbolic sheaf of wheat for my mother's funeral. It meant a great deal to us, and we know she loved her church and church family. Thank you again for your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,
The family of Lois



Lois would like to thank everyone for all the kindness shown to her at Clay's passing, and during her illness. It meant so very much.



Dear New Hope Presbyterian Church,
From all of our volunteers to thank you for your kindness, thank you for your donation!
Lisa M. , Treasurer, Pet Friends, Inc.

YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session: Bill

Class of 2020:

Helen , Sue , Jim

Class of 2021:

Judy , Karen , Donna

Class of 2022:

John , Bill , Carl



DECEMBER LADIES' TEA



If the weather outside turns frightful, the Ladies' Tea on December 7th may prove to be even uglier. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater! Please call the office if there is anyone you know of who might like to participate in this fun monthly activi-tea!

THURSDAY NIGHT SPIRITUAL FORMATION: "HYMNODY" AT 7PM – VIA ZOOM

What is "hymnody"? It is the singing or composing of hymns (and the study of them).

Each week, we're looking at a hymn or two (or three!) by reading through the words and understanding the theology, including the scriptural allusions, and work through the meanings, then listen/sing (we'll be at home so it will be safe!).

Please let Pastor Brenda know you will be attending so you can receive the Zoom link to join the class!

TUESDAY 10 AM BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether in person in the sanctuary OR on Zoom. Let Pastor Brenda know if you want the Zoom link For January when we begin the study of Job.



Peace with God,
peace with others,
and peace in your own heart.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the January newsletter is on **Friday, December 11**. Please submit any articles, photos, and committee information to the church office via email. Thank you!

SESSION SNIPPETS

by

Meeting on 11/21/20, the Session...

- Opened with prayer and formation of the roll.
- Had times of learning about dealing with (1) stress that is coming from response to a mega-demic due to COVID-19, the recent election, economic recession and (2) the purpose of the Session Manual and latest revisions to the Manual.
- Received a number of reports – Pastor, Clerk, Treasurer, Worship and Music, Christian Nurture, Congregational Life, Mission and Outreach, Staff Support, and Property.
- Discussed a 2021 church operating budget.
- Called a Congregational meeting for 11/29/20 to discuss the 2021 church operating budget and vote on the Pastor's terms of call for 2021.
- Scheduled the next meeting for 1/21 unless a meeting is needed sooner in 12/20.
- Closed with prayer.

POINSETTIAS



Due to complications for the greenhouses caused by the pandemic, poinsettias will be available for purchase in limited quantities this year, and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Plants will cost \$9.00 each, and orders are payable in advance. Please call the office to reserve your red plant (marble is sold out).

If your plant purchase is intended to be in honor or in memory of someone, please remember to call or email the office with these details.

NORTH HUNTINGDON CARES

(Citizens' Assistance Registry for Emergencies)

The North Huntingdon Police Department has implemented a new program to help you prepare for an emergency before it happens. To participate, please complete the **attached information sheet** and submit it to the Police Department dispatch center so they will have pertinent details on file in the event that you ever need a first responder.

All information will be documented and securely stored within the dispatch center. If your loved one live in a personal care facility, you do not need to register their information because it is already kept on file within that specific facility and is made available to emergency personnel as needed.

Please direct inquiries to Dispatcher Brian Hempel (bhempel@nhtpd.us) or Dispatcher Robert Boswell (rboswell@nhtpd.us) via the email addresses provided, or call the police station at 724-863-8800.

BAKED GOODS SALE



Orders are now being taken for Christmas Baked Goods! Nut, Apricot, and Poppyseed Rolls are available at \$10 each.

Please return the order form included in this newsletter no later than November 29. Orders received after that date can not be filled by the baker.

All orders must be prepaid, with checks made payable to New Hope Church and "Baked Goods" written in the memo section. If you have any questions, please call the church office or see Sheila Good.

These rolls freeze well and make excellent gifts - don't miss out!

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom 8:1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven, I am significant (Phil 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-38)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom 8:28)
I have been chose and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph 3:12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15:1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor 3:16). I am complete in Christ (Col 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor 3:9, 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1:5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?



Loving Your Neighbor

Day 1: Romans 13:8
Day 2: Matthew 5:43-48
Day 3: John 13:34-35
Day 4: 1 Peter 4:8
Day 5: Romans 12:10
Day 6: Leviticus 19:18
Day 7: Proverbs 17:17
Day 8: 1 Corinthians 16:14
Day 9: 1 John 4:18-19
Day 10: Luke 6:25
Day 11: Proverbs 10:12
Day 12: Ephesians 4:32
Day 13: 1 John 4:11
Day 14: Colossians 3:14
Day 15: Mark 12:31
Day 16: 1 Thessalonians 4:9
Day 17: James 1:27
Day 18: Luke 6:27-28
Day 19: Galatians 5:14
Day 20: John 15:9
Day 21: 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Day 22: Ephesians 5:2
Day 23: Galatians 6:2
Day 24: Luke 3:11
Day 25: John 15:13
Day 26: Hebrews 13:1-2
Day 27: Deuteronomy 15:11
Day 28: Ruth 1:16-17
Day 29: Romans 12:9-16
Day 30: 1 John 4:7-8
Day 31: Luke 6:32

