



New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

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DECEMBER 2019

Dear New Hope Family and Friends,

Today (December 1st) is the beginning of my last month at New Hope Church. I will finish my responsibilities as your Temporary Pastor on December 31, and Pastor Brenda will lead you in worship the next week, January 5. This is both a bitter and a sweet time for me. I have enjoyed my time with you immensely and have come to care deeply about many of you and about your church. I will miss you.

However, I am clear about one thing! That is, that God's call upon my life (at this stage of my life) is to be a pastor who helps churches and people through time of change and transition. The beauty of this calling is that I get to meet so many good Christian people, (with God's help) I get to analyze the need of the congregation, I get to help them become unstuck from some of their past, and I have an opportunity to help them move on to the future to which God is calling them. While I will miss all of you, I am glad to leave you in the capable pastoral hands of Brenda, whom I have known for some time. I know that she will be a faithful pastor, a capable preacher, and wonderful personal example of the Christian life.

It has been my privilege to have the opportunity to preach the Word of God, to lead you in our worship of our wonderful and gracious God and to share in some of the special moments of your lives. I hope that through my words (both on the pulpit and out) you may have heard God speaking to your life and that they have made some positive difference in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Do not neglect to make time for daily conversation with God (pray). At first it may seem that you are talking into the air. But IF YOU PERSEVERE, God will speak to your life, a two way relationship will begin, and you will come to know him not only as Savior and Lord but as your Friend.

Do not neglect the daily reading of scripture. While at first it may be hard to understand, IF YOU PERSEVERE you will come to understand and to know God more intimately - even in reading the most difficult books.

I pray that God will bless each one of you, that He will bless Brenda and this congregation as you do your best to faithfully share the wonderful Grace of Jesus Christ with the community around you.

Yours Sincerely In Christ,
John

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Christ,

AMAZON SMILE

by John Cherepko

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>

NEW TASK FORCE

by Pastor Simpson

The Session is forming a task force to assist during emergency situations. This task force will develop policies and procedures for emergency situations (i.e. fires, etc.). If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry or learning more about it, please call John Cherepko (724-972-6403).

SESSION SNIPPETS

by Bill Siebert

Meeting on 11/14/19, the Session...

- Approved the minutes of the 10/10/19 and 10/24/19 Session meetings, the 11/3/19 Congregational meeting (election of ruling elders and Nominating Committee members to serve beginning in 2020), and the 11/10/19 Congregational meeting (election of Rev. Brenda Barnes as our pastor starting 1/1/20 and dissolution of the Pastor Nominating Committee).
- Heard about plans for celebrating Advent and reaching out to homebound members in 12/19 and plans for Communion dates in early 2020.
- Received a draft budget for 2020 and decided to set the 2020 budget at the next Session meeting.
- Heard from the Care Team for Staff Support about planned year-end bonuses in 2019 and planned salary changes in 2020.
- Reviewed a presentation held on 10/26/19 by a representative of the Presbyterian Foundation.
- Agreed on a plan for election, training, examination, and installation of ruling elders in the class of 2022.
- Scheduled the next monthly Session meeting for 12/12/19.

YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session: Bill Siebert

Class of 2019: John Cherepko, Bill Siebert, Paula McFarlane

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

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the January newsletter is on Friday, December 15. Please submit articles, photos, and committee information to the church office via email to contact-newhope@verizon.net. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS BAKED GOODS

Orders are now being taken for homemade baked goods. Return the order form found in your Sunday bulletin with payment on or before Sunday, December 1. Orders placed after that date can not be filled by the baker. You may pick up orders at New Hope Church on Sunday, December 15.

QUICK QUOTES

Life is not so short
but that there is always
time enough for courtesy.

Get tickets to the Advent Dinner on December 1 with concert featuring Southminster Ringers!

December 2019

Christmas Baked Goods and Poinsettia orders accepted through Sunday, December 1!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00pm Advent Luncheon 12:45pm Southminster Ringers concert</p> <p><i>First Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7pm GLOH Girls</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am-4pm Bell ringing at Giant Eagle/NHT</p> <p>6:30-8pm GS mtg. (Simmons)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>5:45-8:00pm GS (Traficante)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Communion</p> <p><i>Dining to Donate at APPLEBEE'S</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>10am-4pm NHPC rings bell at Giant Eagle/NHT</p> <p>6:30-8pm GS mtg. (Vanischak)</p> <p>7pm Missions mtg.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>5-7pm GS (Schwab) 6:30-7:30pm Bells 7:30-9pm Joy Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>LAST DAY TO BRING IN ANGEL TREE GIFTS</i></p> <p>7pm Session mtg.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with Joy Choir "Coffee & Conversation" Pick up Christmas Baked Goods today</p> <p><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>January newsletter deadline</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6:30-8pm GS mtg. (Simmons)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6-7:30pm Girl Scouts (Howard) 6:30-7:30pm Bells 7:30-9pm Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8:30am MOW Board</p> <p>5:45-8pm Girl Scouts (Traficante)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p> <p><i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>CHRISTMAS EVE Office closed</i></p> <p>7pm Christmas Eve Worship Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>CHRISTMAS DAY Office closed</i></p> <p>No Bells No Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p>No Property mtg.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels</p> <p><i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i></p>	 <p>Bring your family and friends to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm on December 29!</p>			

DECEMBER REMINDERS:

- The Glimmers of Hope ("GLOH Girls") Christmas party is on Monday, December 2nd!
- Stay after church on Dec. 15 for "Coffee & Conversation!"
- Remember: pick up Baked Goods on Dec. 15; and take your poinsettia home after church on the 24th!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4th Beverly Black
10th Richard Bitar;
Carl Shirey
11th Bradley Walker
12th Bill Siebert
13th Connie Cowell
18th Trudy Painter
20th Lois Jacobovitz
23rd Harrison Stypula
27th Eva Campion;
Elmer Griffin
28th Amanda Anticole
29th Bonnie Bernadowski

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 16th Rob & Sami Lauricia



DINING TO DONATE

When you visit Applebee's Restaurant in North Huntingdon between the hours of 11:00am - 9:00pm on Sunday, December 8, and present the flyer which can be found in your Sunday bulletin, the church will receive 15% of your check - it's as simple as that!

You must present a paper copy of the flier to your server or To Go Specialist in order for the church to receive appropriate credit. Please keep one for yourself and give the second copy to a neighbor.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this fundraiser!

"COFFEE & CONVERSATION"

The next date for "Coffee & Conversation" after church will be December 15. Please plan to stay after the worship service to enjoy this time of food and fellowship with your New Hope family!

MISSION AND OUTREACH

by Sue Pressler

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

Our families and friends may have fallen on hard times. Some who had little to begin with now have less and are working harder every-day to make it to tomorrow.

These same families who are struggling to meet the financial demands of day-to-day life question how they might provide a gift or two for their children on Christmas Day.

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. And with your support, many children will find this waiting under their Christmas trees this year.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program provides new clothing or toys for children of needy families through the support of donors. Found in local churches, companies, and corporations, Angel Trees are decorated with numbered paper angel tags with the first name, age, and gender of a child in need of presents. Contributors remove one or more tags from the tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the child or children described on the tags.

If you would like to participate in the Angel Tree program for this month's mission, remove a tag from the tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the child described on the tags.

Gift suggestions: new toys, books, games, or educational material, winter coats and clothing.

The last date for bringing gifts to the church is Thursday, 12/12/19. Please do not wrap the gifts.

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed
Proverbs 11:25 (NIV)*

SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN

by Joann Gilbert

If you wish to volunteer an hour of your time ringing the bell for the Salvation Army this holiday season, please see the sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board with available time slots. New Hope will ring between the hours of 10am and 8pm on Tuesday, December 10, at the Giant Eagle in North Huntingdon (on the Target side).

BEREAVEMENT

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

Gladys Sakos, sister of Clay (Lois Hancock) and Larry (Emmaruth) Kifer, on October 25.

Marguerite McFarlane, mother of Andy (Paula) McFarlane, on November 13.

THANK YOU

My friend, Jonathan Wherry, a quadriplegic, is making a remarkable recovery. He has his own apartment, can dress himself while lying on his bed, and is learning to drive. He swims every day and has determination to make progress. His trainer, Jon Kolb (the former Steeler), has done an excellent job helping Jonathan regain his life. Thank you all for your prayers and concern.

Mary Lou Trogolo

The McFarlane family would like to express their sincere thanks for the outpouring of love and sympathy from their church family on the recent loss of Andy's mother.

LIVE NATIVITY: THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

You are invited to attend the Live Nativity: The Story of Christmas at First Evangelical Free Church, which is being offered free to the public on two evenings.

Join us for live outdoor performances on December 6 and 7 at 7:00pm, 7:45pm, and 8:30pm. Also featured is a Christmas Carnival for children in the gym with games, prizes, crafts, and a petting zoo (including a camel)!

Free refreshments will be served—come and enjoy hot cocoa, hot apple cider, and cookies!

Finally, experience the Christmas season through sight and sound in our auditorium with a multimedia presentation set to music of the season.

For more information, please call the church at 412-678-6655 or visit their website at www.myfetc.org.

4001 University Drive, McKeesport PA 15132
(adjacent to Penn State University's
Greater Allegheny campus)

ADVENT DINNER

Make your reservations now for the Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 1, at 12 noon. Tickets for this delicious, homecooked meal are limited in availability – only 100 will be sold!

Also, help is needed in the kitchen for the Advent Dinner at 9:00am on Sunday morning, December 1. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex!

SOUTHMINSTER RINGERS



The Southminster Ringers Handbell Choir of Mt. Lebanon will play on Sunday, December 1, during the 10:30am worship service, and again at a stand-alone concert at 1:00pm (right after the Advent Dinner). Come and enjoy the sounds of the season!

“HAPPY HEARTS” SENIOR GROUP

If you are age 55 and older, you and your spouse are invited to the “Happy Hearts” Senior Group gathering at 12:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Come and enjoy guest speakers, entertainment, and a themed luncheon in the social hall of Christ United Methodist Church of North Huntingdon, 2800 Coulterville Road, McKeesport PA 15131.

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