



# New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

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JANUARY 2021

January 2021

This is the first time I've written the new date (2021). It feels good. It feels new. It feels – better somehow. I know that “things” are not much better, but we always have hope. As I looked through my New Years' file, I found an article entitled “Happy (somewhat) New Year.” That about sums it up... it is a new year (almost as I write this) but it is still the same pandemic talk, election talk, and otherwise “same old, same old.”

I can't help thinking of the words of the prophet Isaiah as he tries to comfort the people in their Exile:

“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.  
The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”  
*Isaiah 65:17 (NIV)*

I pray that much of 2020 will not “come back to mind” but I suppose it is inevitable. We make “resolutions” to lose weight, or exercise more, or read the Bible more, or take yoga classes – the list goes on and on. And yet, the same old, same old returns.

Remember January last year – on Epiphany – each one of us took a star with a word on it? Remember that long ago? I have had my star on the wall above my computer all year. My word was “Light.” As I reflected over this past year, I kept asking myself “Am I being the Light to others?” I'm certain I was not. I'm certain I failed over and over in my own power. BUT, through God's grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit, I think perhaps the Light of Jesus Christ did shine through when I did not expect it, nor when I even realized it. This is such a relief to me – that I do not need to do these things in my own power – for as much as I try, I will fail.

The modern theologian, C. Neil Strait says it this way: The person who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant, and destructive things in life. The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service to the One who is important. These being done, the new will truly be new, different, and better.

Folks – I pray that you will find a new 2021 waiting for YOU. Find ways to think about how 2020 affected you and your faith, then pray that the Lord will use you to make things new...not in your own power, but in Jesus' power!

Blessings that 2021 will be “boring” as our sign out front says (thanks to Matt A. for the prayer to God!).

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Brenda*



## MANY THANKS!

Thanks to all the church members who donated some time to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Giant Eagle on December 8!

"Cozy Christmas" gift bags (were distributed to the homes of 100 of our church neighbors on Sunday afternoon, December 20. Each gift included a large chocolate chip cookie, a packet of hot cocoa mix, peppermint candies, and an invitation to our virtual Christmas Eve Service complete with tealight candle for use during the candlelight service. Thank you to our drivers and delivery people for taking Christmas cheer to the people in our community!

## 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.

## MISSION & OUTREACH JANUARY

### EMERGENCY MEN'S SHELTER PROGRAM

The Union Mission - Latrobe, PA

<https://www.theunionmission.org/>

As the only shelter for men in all of Westmoreland County, the Union Mission recognizes the significant role it plays as both an intermediary in time of crises and as a solution for men who find themselves without shelter.

The shelter's main goal is to help men transition through a difficult period of time while maintaining the dignity and respect they deserve. Per a Union Mission spokesperson: Some homeless go to the shelter only for the night and are out in the cold for the rest of the day.

"If two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?"

*Ecclesiastes 4:11 (NIV)*

May our hearts be warmed through the act of helping others to keep warm.


February is one of the coldest months in Western PA. so for the benefit of those who are exposed to the elements more than most, January's monthly mission will be to collect : men's hats, scarves, gloves, new heavy socks.

As always, donations may be placed in the bin located in the church narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



WHY DON'T YOU STOP WONDERING WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD AND READ THE MANUAL

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> No Meals on Wheels No Bible Study <i>NEW YEARS' DAY</i> <i>Office closed</i>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10:30 Worship Service <i>(also on FaceBook Live)</i> <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	<b>4</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  <i>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</i>  7:00pm Ladies' Tea	<b>5</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  10am Bible Study	<b>6</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30pm Handbells	<b>7</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  7pm Hymnody Class	<b>8</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:30am Worship Service <i>(also on FaceBook Live)</i>  <i>Baptism of the Lord Sunday</i>	<b>11</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	<b>12</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  10am Bible Study  6:30pm Mission & Outreach mtg.	<b>13</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30pm Handbells	<b>14</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  7pm Hymnody Class 7pm Session mtg.	<b>15</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  <i>February Notes deadline</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:30 Worship Service <i>(also on FaceBook Live)</i>  <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i>	<b>18</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  7pm Christian Nurture meeting	<b>19</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  10am Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30pm Handbells	<b>21</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8:30am MOW Board  7pm Hymnody Class 7pm Property mtg.	<b>22</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:30 Worship Service <i>(also on FaceBook Live)</i> <i>Annual Reports available</i>	<b>25</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	<b>26</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  10am Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  6:30pm Handbells	<b>28</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels  7pm Hymnody Class	<b>29</b> 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:30 Worship Service <i>(also on FaceBook Live)</i>						

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/>



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

### BEREAVEMENT

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

on December 13

### CHURCH MAILBOX

Dear New Hope,  
My family and I are so grateful to all of you for your kindness, compassion, and understanding during my brother's illness and subsequent death. We greatly appreciate all of your prayers, cards, and concerns; and continue to feel your love as we struggle with our loss. May God continue to bless the people of New Hope for the many ways you find to be a blessing to others.

Sincerely,

### JANUARY LADIES' TEA

Ladies, chase away the gray days of winter by joining Pastor Brenda for the Ladies' Tea on January 4<sup>th</sup>.



This month, we will share our New Year's Declaration. Please call the office if there is anyone you know of who might like to participate in this fun monthly activi-tea!

### 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 as we study the Book of Job.

### 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!

### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the January newsletter is on **Friday, January 15**. Please submit any articles, photos, and committee information to the church office via email. Thank you!

### YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session:

Class of 2020:

Class of 2021:

Class of 2022:

# Inscribe the Word

## January Scripture Writing Plan

Writing out Scriptures is a way to understand God's Word and Hear His voice without distractions. Each of the Scriptures below should take fifteen minutes to copy. So grab your journal, your bible, and some pretty pens, and let us

**INSCRIBE THE WORD** together.



*Study using the W.O.R.D!*

W - Write out your passage of Scripture

O - Observe key people, words, and themes

R - How is the passage **RELEVANT** to you today?

D - Declare and pray the passage over your life.

## The Book of 1 John

- ☐ 1. 1 John 1:1-4
- ☐ 2. 1 John 1:5-7
- ☐ 3. 1 John 1:8-10
- ☐ 4. 1 John 2:1-2
- ☐ 5. 1 John 2:3-6
- ☐ 6. 1 John 2:7-11
- ☐ 7. 1 John 2:12-14

- ☐ 8. 1 John 2:15-17
- ☐ 9. 1 John 2:18-20
- ☐ 10. 1 John 2:21-23
- ☐ 11. 1 John 2:24-27
- ☐ 12. 1 John 2:28-29
- ☐ 13. 1 John 3:1-4
- ☐ 14. 1 John 3:5-8

- ☐ 15. 1 John 3:9-12
- ☐ 16. 1 John 3:13-16
- ☐ 17. 1 John 3:17-20
- ☐ 18. 1 John 3:21-24
- ☐ 19. 1 John 4:1-3
- ☐ 20. 1 John 4:4-6
- ☐ 21. 1 John 4:7-11

- ☐ 22. 1 John 4:12-16
- ☐ 23. 1 John 4:17-19
- ☐ 24. 1 John 4:20-21
- ☐ 25. 1 John 5:1-4
- ☐ 26. 1 John 5:5-8
- ☐ 27. 1 John 5:9-11
- ☐ 28. 1 John 5:12-13

- ☐ 29. 1 John 5:14-17
- ☐ 30. 1 John 5:18-19
- ☐ 31. 1 John 5:20-21