



# New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

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NOVEMBER 2020



Dear Friends -

This month, we enter into a joyous season of the year – the season of Thanksgiving. It truly is a season, not just one day. Somehow, somewhere, someway, we decided that Thanksgiving is the one day we celebrate and give thanks for things we have in our lives – family, friends, finances, food. We have decided that every fourth Thursday of November is the day to be thankful. But, in this time of COVID-19 and uncertainty, we can forget to be thankful everyday. Yes, thanksgiving should be an everyday occurrence and the separate day of special thanks should be, as Erma Bombeck said, "...a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it 'Thanksgiving?'"

Thanksgiving is meant to remind us that all good things come from the Lord daily and this special day is set aside to remind us to be thankful for God's gracious abundance and God's great love for us. It is the day that we give thanks for known blessings and for unknown blessings already on their way. An Estonian proverb says, "Who does not thank for little will not thank for much." So, if we are not willing to thank God or if we do not take the time to thank God or if we cannot thank God for all the little things in our lives, than we cannot be trusted with greater blessings. This is a sobering thought.

I love to hear toddlers say "thank you" when they are learning their proper manners. What comes out sounds so amusing – "dank you" or "danks" or "*unintelligible* you." The fact that they cannot get the words correct because they are just learning to say it does not hinder any adult around them from understanding what they are saying. The same is true of our Lord. Sometimes we try to say "thanks" to the Lord, but we stumble over the words. Sometimes we can only allow the tears to well in our eyes because words are inadequate. Sometimes we can only look heavenward because our hearts are brimming with thanks. Sometimes we can only close our eyes, or kneel at the sides of our beds – but God hears the thanks nonetheless.

In short, everyday is Thanksgiving. We should be thankful for what we have. And, we should be thankful for blessings to come that will be a surprise to us because as long as our hearts are right with the Lord, all thanksgiving turns to praise, if not here on earth, definitely in glory.

Friends, don't eat too much this season...but give thanks to the Lord in abundance!

With thanks for all of you –  
*Pastor Brenda*

## SESSION SNIPPETS

Meeting on 10/15/20, the Session...

- Opened with prayer and formation of the roll.
- Had a time of learning about duties of the care team for financial stewardship.
- Received a number of reports – Pastor, Clerk, Treasurer, Worship and Music, Christian Nurture, Congregational Life, Mission and Outreach, Staff Support, and Property.
- Approved changes to the Session Manual to update vacation verbiage and also approved a planned church holiday schedule during 2021 – 1/1, 4/2, 4/5, 5/31, 7/5, 9/6, 11/25, 11/26, 12/24, and 12/27.
- Approved changes to the Session Manual to add a section on the Care Team for Congregational Life in place of the section on the Care Team for Ministry of Compassion.
- Discussed plans for a stewardship campaign and preparing a 2021 church operating budget.
- Agreed on plans for handling costs to upgrade our internet service, to cancel our Verizon phone service, and to switch to COMCAST phone service.
- Scheduled the next meeting for 11/12/20.
- Closed with prayer.

### MISSION AND OUTREACH - NOVEMBER

#### OPERATION TROOP APPRECIATION

For November Monthly Mission we will be collecting for the deployed troops through Operation Troop Appreciation which is based out of West Mifflin. ([operationtroopappreciation.org](http://operationtroopappreciation.org)) We will be collecting: non-expired, pre-packaged snacks (trail mix, granola bars, protein/energy bars, etc.) and/or ground coffee.

Operation Troop Appreciation is dedicated to the active and veteran members of our Armed Forces who serve and sacrifice for our country. Their mission is to build and sustain the morale and well being of the military community, past and present, with the assurance that the American public supports and appreciates their selfless service and daily sacrifices.

*Isaiah 6:8 ESV 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."*

The annual Flu Shot Clinic was held 09/27. Twenty-two members and 3 people from the community received their vaccines.

Blessing of the Animals was held 10/11. Pet Friends, Inc., of Irwin brought adoptable dogs and kittens. Pastor Brenda blessed 23 dogs and 3 kittens. Possibly 1 kitten will be adopted.

A monetary donation was made to Wreaths across America and Our Daily Bread.

### 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.

# November 2020

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat       |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>10:30 Worship Service with Communion (also on Face-Book Live)<br><i>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</i><br>Daylight Saving Time<br>7:00pm "Whispers at the Waterfall" Vespers Service | <b>2</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>7pm Ladies Tea via Zoom           | <b>3</b><br>No Meals on Wheels<br>10am Bible Study<br><i>ELECTION DAY</i><br>Building in use as a polling location  | <b>4</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>6:30pm Handbells  | <b>5</b><br>7pm Hymnody Class   |   |           |
| <b>8</b><br>10:30 Worship Service (also on FaceBook Live)<br>7:00pm "Whispers at the Waterfall" Vespers Service   | <b>9</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels                                      | <b>10</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>10am Bible Study<br><i>SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING</i><br>6:30pm Mission and Outreach mtg.   | <b>11</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>10am Finance mtg.<br><i>VETERANS DAY</i><br>6:30pm Handbells | <b>12</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>7pm Hymnody Class<br>7pm Session mtg.                      | <b>13</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>5:30-7pm GS in pavilion (Howard) | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>10:30am Worship Service (also on FaceBook Live)<br><i>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</i><br>December Notes deadline<br>7:00pm "Whispers at the Waterfall" Vespers Service          | <b>16</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>6:30pm Christian Nurture meeting | <b>17</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>10am Bible Study   | <b>18</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>4pm Worship mtg.<br>6:30pm Handbells                         | <b>19</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>8:30am MOW Board<br>7pm Hymnody Class<br>7pm Property mtg. | <b>20</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels                                     | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br>10:30 Worship Service (also on FaceBook Live)<br>Decorate the church<br><i>CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</i><br>7:00pm "Whispers at the Waterfall" Vespers Service            | <b>23</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels                                     | <b>24</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>10am Bible Study   | <b>25</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>6:30pm Handbells   | <b>26</b><br>No Meals on Wheels<br><i>THANKSGIVING</i><br>Office closed<br>No Hymnody Class               | <b>27</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels<br>Office closed                    | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b><br>10:30 Worship Service with Communion (also on Face-Book Live)<br><i>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i><br>7:00pm "Whispers at the Waterfall" Vespers Service                   | <b>30</b><br>7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels                                     |  <div>           Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, October 31!         </div> |   |   |   |           |

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/>

### **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 contact

the church office at 724-863-7702 or [contactnewhope@verizon.net](mailto:contactnewhope@verizon.net).

### **SUNDAY VESPERS SERVICE:**

#### **"Whispers at the Waterfall"**

Join Pastor Brenda at 7:00pm on Sunday evenings for a Vespers Service at the waterfall on the front lawn (if it rains, we will move to the Pavilion). Please bring a lawn chair.

### **TUESDAY 10 AM BIBLE STUDY**

It's not too late to join us, whether in person in the sanctuary OR on Zoom. Let Pastor Brenda know if you want the Zoom link.

### **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!

### **NOVEMBER LADIES' TEA**

Ladies, watch your mailbox for your invitation to another "tea-riffic" evening on November 2. Be prepared to answer the question: "What is the weirdest thing you are thankful for?" We are also collecting items for Operation Troop Appreciation - see invitation for details!

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

### **BEREAVEMENT**

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

### **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

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

## STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN MONEY

*Remember that all we have belongs to God  
and we have to be responsible  
while managing it.*

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

### Money

Track holiday spending. Be sure to keep to a budget that you set beforehand.

Home Clean out gutters to be ready for snow/rain. Be sure they drain properly. Turn off water supply to outside faucets and drain line to them to prevent pipe freezing.

### Health

Take a minute to think about what you are thankful for. Practicing this positive thinking. Exercise will decrease your stress and get you ready for the day.

### Environment

As the temps begin to drop, before turning up the thermostat, try layering with sweaters, socks, or blankets. Save energy and money.

## CHURCH FINANCES



I would rather stand with God  
and be judged by the world  
than stand with the world  
and be judged by God.



## YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session:

Class of 2020:

Class of 2021:

Class of 2022:

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Although our Sunday worship services have limited attendance during the pandemic, 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. 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 Presbyterian Church,  
Our friends, neighbors, and church friends have rushed to our aid with love, prayers, caring, supportive words and generous financial assistance.

Words can't express our gratitude to each and every one and others who have also stepped forward. To all of you, many of whom we do not know and may never meet, from the very bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU! We are blessed to have so many people who care for us and those who have done their jobs so well.

Our hearts are full of love, respect, and thankfulness to all. Thank you!

In Christ,  
McClellandtown Presbyterian Church



Joan would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and phone calls she's received since her fall. She's getting around as well as can be expected!

### NORTH HUNTINGDON CARES

(Citizens' Assistance Registry for Emergencies)

The North Huntingdon Police Department has implemented a new program to help you and your loved ones prepare for an emergency before it happens. Please consider completing the **attached information sheet** and submitting it to the Police Department dispatch center so they will have pertinent details on file in the event that you need a first responder for any reason.

All information that you provide will be documented and securely stored within the dispatch center. If your loved one lives in a nursing home or 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.

If you have any questions or concerns about using the form, please direct inquiries to Dispatcher Brian Hempel (bhempel@nhtpd.us) or Dispatcher Robert Boswell (rboswell@nhtpd.us) via their respective email addresses, or by calling the police station at 724-863-8800.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

In memory of

In memory of  
Members of the New Hope Church Choir have presented a memorial gift in name to be used for the purchase of a new banner for the sanctuary.

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

### SARRIS CANDIES FUNDRAISER

Christmas is right around the corner, and to help you out with gift-giving, we are having a 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! All ow 72 hours to process order.

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

### BAKED GOODS SALE

Orders are now being taken for Nut, Apricot, and Poppyseed Rolls. There are two separate forms included in this newsletter, one for Thanksgiving, and one for Christmas. You may place an order for one or the other or both. Please order carefully, noting the order due date and delivery date on the form you are submitting. All orders must be prepaid, with checks made payable to New Hope Church and "Baked Goods" in the memo section. These rolls freeze well and also make excellent gifts! **See order forms attached!**