

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The Responsive Reader

NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3777 New Hope Road · Pomaria, SC 29126

January 2021

From the Pastor

Happy New Year?

I have to admit that January is usually a fairly simple month to write a newsletter article because, as Christians, we find a lot of meaning in new beginnings. Usually, I write about New Year's resolutions, and I offer some words around grounding any changes we wish to make in the new year in God's love for us. That if we wish to read more, save money, or finally organize the house; we would first know that God already loves us where we currently are. And I like to remind folks of that because I believe when change happens from a place of love it is longer lasting and life giving. We are not trying to become people worthy of love, rather we are growing from the love that God has for us whether our bedroom is ever organized or not. See the difference?

With that being said, I hesitate to wish anyone a Happy New Year. I did that last year, and I am afraid that this year did not turn out "happy." This year's turning of the calendar might tomorrow might hold. Coming into the New Year feels like we are collectively peeking our head around the corner of this year trying to see if we even want to start this thing all over again with a new year.

As a pastor, it is my vocation and life's work to look into our world and point out how God is at work in our world. We are called to do our best to keep our head at least above water (though we can't always do it) for just long enough to speak a word of hope, encouragement, and bring us more anxiety than hope as we have seen again and again that we cannot predict what grace to those who feel overcome by the sufferings of this lifetime. It is the work of proclaiming resurrection when death surrounds us and suffering pervades our world. The pastor (and Christians in general) are called by God to be light in a world of darkness.

So, in light of who God has called me to be and the fact that I said "yes" to being this person that God has called me to be; I am going to put on my big boy pants and do the work that is before me. Therefore, against all my better judgment and all the uncertainty, anxiousness, and fear I have around what this new year might hold; HAPPY NEW YEAR! While I might not be convinced that January 1st is going to be very different from December 31st, I am convinced that God is not done with us, yet. I am wishing you a Happy New Year, not because I am happy that the world and our community continues to suffer. But because Jesus' resurrection eternally declares that while sin, death, and suffering happens in this lifetime, so does the redemptive work of the cross.

We might experience pain so deep it causes our faith to waver, but the good news that must be heard is that sin, death, and suffering is not all there is in this world. We declare victory in the face of death because Jesus Christ conquered the grave. Therefore, you might be apprehensive about what this new year might hold, and know that I am right there with you. However, we believe in a God that brings life where there is nothing but death. So, I am wishing you a Happy New Year, not as a wish that January 1st will be better than December 31st, but as a declaration that God is will always bring life from death.



Please remember the **Pomaria Community Food Bank** when doing your grocery shopping. All donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the purple tub in the back of the church.

Serving in Worship – January

Thank you for agreeing to serve in worship. Your willingness to serve is important. If you are unable to fulfill your duties, please make arrangements to change with someone else on the list.

FLOWERS

- 3** OPEN
- 10** Don and Debbie Dennis in memory of Ashley Dennis Stockton
- 17** Trey Simmons in honor of Kaylee Raye and Chloe
- 24** Bill and Melanie Wyatt
- 31** Beverly Boulware

GREETERS

- 3** Lee and Elaine Bedenbaugh
- 10** Shane and Linda Livingston
- 17** Danny and Jenny Stone
- 24** Lee and Elaine Bedenbaugh
- 31** Shane and Linda Livingston

USHERS

Ushers will not be used as part of the worship service until further notice.

ACOLYTES

- 3** Connor Long
- 10** Kursten Long
- 17** Cullen Davis
- 24** Layla Huffstetler
- 31** Connor Long

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Communion will be administered using pre-packaged communion elements.

Upcoming Events

- **Please note there is still time to assist in worship by placing flowers in the sanctuary for worship, greeters, acolytes, yard maintenance, etc... for the coming calendar year. All lists will be posted in the vestibule by 1/10. If you'd like to help out in any way please get in touch with Elaine as soon as possible.**

January Birthdays

- 2 Greg Stewart
- 3 Bill Davis
- 5 Dianne Graham
Barbara Smith
- 6 John Edward Frampton
- 7 Tammy Wicker
- 8 Billy Waites
Crista Bedenbaugh
- 9 Amber Hall
- 12 Stephen Berry
- 13 Meghan Hall
- 22 Benji Rawls
- 23 Josie Nguyen
- 24 Glenn Graham
Junuh Livingston
- 31 Mike Livingston
Rev. Cameron Levi

January Anniversaries

NONE

Organization News

All meetings are in the fellowship hall unless otherwise stated

- **Men's Club:** Sunday, 1/3 at 8AM for breakfast.
- **SOC:** Sunday, 1/10 at 6pm. Melanie Wyatt will have the program.
- **UMYF:** TBA
- **Young Adults:** TBA
- **Middle Agers:** TBA
- **Women's Prayer Breakfast:** TBA
- **'GO' Group:** will not meet until further notice.

NEW HOPE UMC 2021 COMMITTEES

(Yellow – Denotes New to 2021)

***ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

*Chair:	Deborah Keough
*Vice Chair:	Aaron Livingston
*Secretary:	Melanie Wyatt
*Lay Leader:	Ann-Marie Carlisle (Serves on Every Committee)
*Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference: (Serves on Nominations, PPRC, & Finance. Alternates with Capers Chapel. CC 2017 & 2018)	Melanie Wyatt
*Historian:	Bonnelle Yarborough
*Membership Secretary:	Phyllis Suber
*Sunday School Superintendent (Education Chair):	Aaron Livingston
*Church Treasurer:	Robert Davis
*Financial Secretary:	Gary Graham
Charge Treasurer:	Zalia Hawkins
Men's Group:	Eric Huffstetler
*United Methodist Women:	Marilyn Rawls
*PPRC Chair:	Gary Graham
*Finance Chair:	Larry Longshore
*Trustee Chair:	(Voted on by Trustees in January)
Parsonage Chair:	Nicole Waites
Building Committee Chair:	Lee Bedenbaugh
Nurture Committee Chair:	Elaine Bedenbaugh
Worship Committee Chair:	Alice Davis
Family Ministries Committee Chair:	Melissa Long
Outreach and Missions Chair:	Dianne Graham
SOC Representative:	Melanie Wyatt
Disaster Response Coordinator:	Terry Rawls
Technological Advisor:	Gary Graham
Epworth Children's Home Rep.:	Marilyn Rawls
*Church Council Member-At-Large:	Terry Rawls

***Nominations Committee: Chair, Pastor**

Michael Davis (2021)	Danny Stone (2022)	Eric Huffstetler (2023)
Kelly Hawkins (2021)	Marilyn Rawls (2022)	Elaine Bedenbaugh (2023)
Aaron Livingston (2021)	Natalie Lewis (2022)	Susan Bullard (2023)

***Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: Chair, Gary Graham** (alternates with Capers Chapel. CC 2020.)

Roger Graham (2021)	Jenny Stone (2022)	Deborah Keough (2022)
Gary Graham (2023)	Amanda Casey (CC)	Ray Repko (CC)
Cheryl Casey (CC, LL)		

***Finance Committee: Chair, Larry Longshore**

*Robert Davis (Church Treasurer)	*Gary Graham (Financial Secretary)	* (Trustees Chair)
*Deborah Keough (Admin Chair)	Zalia Hawkins (Charge Treasurer)	*Lee Bedenbaugh (SS Treasurer)
*Rev. Cameron Levi (Pastor)		

* denotes members of Church Council mandated by The Discipline

NEW HOPE UMC
2021 COMMITTEES
(Yellow – Denotes New to 2021)

***Trustees (including Cemetery Committee): Chair, TBD January 2021**

Elaine Bedenbaugh (2021)	Rhonda Livingston (2022)	Trey Simmons (2023)
Lindsey Huffstetler (2021)	Marianne Carlisle (2022)	Marty Livingston (2023)
Stuart Livingston (2021)	Bob Keough (2022)	Danny Stone (2023)

Parsonage Committee: Chair, Nicole Waites (alternates with Capers Chapel. 2020 CC.)

Kurt Long (2021)	Marty Livingston (2021)	Nicole Waites (2022)
Justin Bedenbaugh (2023)	Connie Hite (CC)	Marshall Casey (CC)
Cheryl Casey (CC, LL)		

Building Committee: Chair, Lee Bedenbaugh

Larry Longshore (Finance Chair)	Eric Huffstetler	Emily Livingston
(Trustees Chair)	Aaron Livingston	Lee Bedenbaugh

Nurture Committee (Bereavement and Communications): Chair, Elaine Bedenbaugh

Phyllis Suber (Membership)	Elaine Bedenbaugh	Stephanie Graham
Zalia Hawkins	Mike Livingston	Lori Frampton
Judy Amick	Janet Livingston	

Worship Committee: Chair, Alice Davis

Ann-Marie Carlisle (Acolytes)	Terry Rawls	Rebecca Pitts (Music Director)
Susan Bullard	Dianne Graham	Elaine Bedenbaugh
Ella Margaret Rawls	Judy Amick	Alice Davis (Organist)

Education Committee: Chair, Aaron Livingston

Alice Davis	Melanie Wyatt	Elaine Bedenbaugh
Lee Bedenbaugh (SS Treasurer)	Phyllis Suber	Terry Rawls
Bonnelle Yarborough	Crista Bedenbaugh	

Family Ministries: Chair, Melissa Long

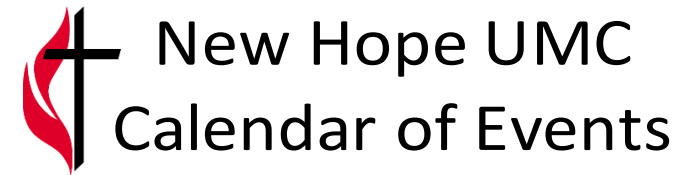
Melissa Long (Children's Coord.)	Judy Amick (Senior Adult Coord.)	Angie Davis
Jenny Lynn Stone (Adult Coord.)	Shannon Livingston	Alice Davis
Gary Graham (Youth Coord.)	Elaine Bedenbaugh	Stephanie Graham
Brooke Harmon (Young Adult Coord.)		

Outreach/Missions Committee: Chair, Dianne Graham

Dianne Graham	Haley Davis	Michael Davis
Marilyn Rawls	Carmen Livingston	

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2021 JANUARY



New Hope UMC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01 Happy New Year!	02
03 Mens' Breakfast @ 8am	04	05 Worship Comm. Mtg @ 7pm	06	07	08	09 Trustees Mtg @ 2pm
10 SOC Mtg @ 6pm	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	01	02	03	04	05	06

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER UPDATE ...

Beginning January 2021, there will be no more bulk mailings of the newsletter.


What does this mean and how will I be able to receive my newsletter?

Newsletters will continue to be printed, labeled, and available for pickup in the vestibule on the 4th Sunday each month (beginning on 12/27) and will remain there until the next newsletter is published.

Newsletters will continue to be sent via email and will be available on the church website.

If you are unable to access your newsletter by one of the methods above, please contact Elaine to remain on the mailing list. Thank You!



 *New Hope United Methodist Church*
3777 New Hope Road (Church)
331 Holloway Street (Parsonage)
Pomaria, South Carolina 29126



www.newhope-umc.org



give.newhope-umc.org



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