

open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



## *The Responsive Reader*

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

March 2021

### *From the Pastor*

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I can't help but reflect and think about what the world was like this time last year. In the middle of March of last year, our community and world began a long journey that continues even today. I remember the shock of the church's leadership calling on churches to cancel in-person worship services. I will confess that I initially thought this was going to be a very brief interruption to our lives, but I was wrong. As Easter grew closer with every passing week, I thought to myself, "Surely, we still won't be canceling in-person worship by then." And again, I was wrong. It was one of the most difficult times in my short time as a pastor to begin preparing our church for a 100% virtual Easter service.

As we prepare this year for our Easter service, I can't help but think back on how things were even more uncertain this time last year. This year, we are preparing to celebrate Easter and will do it with an in-person service, the parking lot open for any who want to worship from their cars, and with folks who want to participate virtually. It still is not Easter like has been in the past, but it is still Easter. It is still the day the church says with its full authority to the whole world that Jesus Christ conquered death and by doing so has provided a way for us to be in right relationship with God. Jesus' resurrection declares God's victory over death and assures us that while we still may die, yet we shall live. And within that is the future hope of Jesus' return when sin, death, and suffering will be no more forevermore.

I am excited for Easter this year because we have come so far since this time last year, and it seems like we have just a little ways left to go. Nevertheless, I am excited because Jesus' resurrection is truly the greatest news the world has ever heard and we can share that great news in multiple ways this year. It will truly be a special day (just as it always is) but perhaps even more of a special day in light of the long weary road we have walked since last Easter. I can't wait to celebrate with you. I can't wait to look again in the empty tomb and find that there is truly nothing that can separate us from the love of God. I can't wait to look again in the empty tomb and see that there is still so much more left in store for us. To see once more that "Death has been swallowed up in victory" and that death has lost its sting ((1 Cor. 15:54-55). Easter is coming, and God is calling us to prepare our hearts and minds for that blessed and holy day.

-Rev. Cameron Levi



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 – March*

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*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**

- 7 Stanley and Zalia Hawkins in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lester Rawls
- 14 Glenn and Cathy Graham in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Graham
- 21 John and Melinda Hall in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morse
- 28 Janet Livingston in memory of Edward “Smiley” Livingston and Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Livingston

### **GREETERS**

- 7 Danny and Jenny Stone
- 14 Grallin and Susan Bullard
- 21 Lee and Elaine Bedenbaugh
- 28 Shane and Linda Livingston

### **USHERS**

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

### **ACOLYTES**

- 7 Kursten Long
- 14 Cullen Davis
- 21 Layla Huffstetler
- 28 Connor Long

### **COMMUNION STEWARDS**

Communion will be administered using pre-packaged communion elements.

## *Upcoming Events*

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- Easter Lillies will once again be available to purchase in honor/memory of your loved ones. The plants are \$7.50 each and need to be ordered from Jenny Lynn Stone by 3/28. Order forms will be available in the vestibule.

## *Easter Sunrise Service*

Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, April 4 at 7:00 AM. The worship committee and administrative council have met and come up with a plan for us to worship safely together on Easter morning. We'd like to pass along what we know worship will look like that morning.

Please plan to arrive early. Ushers will meet you at the back of the church to seat people with proper social distancing in mind. (Please be aware that you may not be able to sit in your normal seat.) Once the sanctuary is filled to a safe seating capacity the ushers will begin seating people in the fellowship hall, where the service will be streamed live on TV. Other options for worship will continue to be via radio in the parking lot or posted later that day online for viewing. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move forward in worshipping our Lord the Risen Savior!

## *March Birthdays*

- 2 Keely Wicker  
3 John Amick  
5 Peggy Longshore  
7 Marcus Fields  
9 Barbara Sue Graham  
Michael Davis  
Jonathon Brunson  
16 Judy Amick  
Jackson Delk  
17 Sharon R. Nguyen  
Evan Pitts  
18 David Graham  
20 Lindsey Huffstetler  
Bonnelle Yarborough  
22 Stanley Hawkins  
Connor Long  
23 Bobby Keough  
24 Rebecca Pitts  
25 Hank Hall  
27 Stuart Livingston  
28 Charlene Meadows  
31 Hayley Livingston  
Shannon Livingston  
Gage Hesson

## *March Anniversaries*

- 7 Joey and Marilyn Gray  
14 Jimmy and Susan Delk  
27 Larry and Peggy Longshore

*Please join us in a  
Drive-Thru Celebration  
Honoring  
Mrs. Bonnelle Yarborough  
on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
3 - 4 pm  
New Hope UMC*

*\* Your presence is  
the only gift desired. \**

*(Please plan on entering at  
the cemetery end of the parking lot.  
Traffic will be directed from there.)*

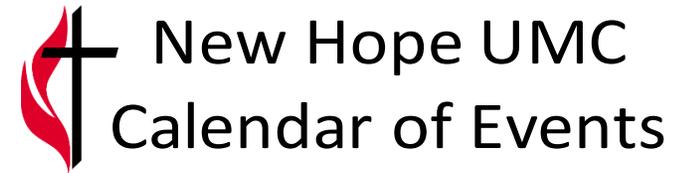
## *Organization News*

*All meetings are in the fellowship hall unless otherwise stated*

- **Men's Club:** Sunday, March 7 at 8AM for breakfast.
- **SOC:** Sunday, March 14 at 6 PM. Alice Davis 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.

# 2021

# MARCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	01	02 Worship Committee Meeting at 7PM	03	04	05	06
07 -Men's Group at 8AM -Admin Council at 7PM	08	09	10	11	12	13
14 SOC at 6PM	15	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Adopt-A-Highway at 8:30 AM
21	22	23 Education Committee Meeting at 7 PM	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday Worship	29	30	31	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10



### **A.R.K.**

What is A.R.K.?

- ❖ A.R.K. is New Hope's newest ministry designed to nurture members of our congregation as well as reach out to our community by performing random acts of kindness.
- ❖ How can you participate? A basket is located in the vestibule with slips of paper in it. Each piece of paper contains a random act of kindness to be completed. These acts range from making a phone call to check on someone, mailing a card or purchasing a can of soup for the Food Bank. It's really simple, but will provide so much joy for the recipients. Please consider participating in this ministry!

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



[www.newhope-umc.org](http://www.newhope-umc.org)



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