

This New Hope bulletin
is being sponsored by:

**Mohnke Funeral Home
Big Rapids**

*Our advertisers
help defray the cost of our Sunday bulletin.*

April 2, 2017

Attendance: 102

General: \$3,232.00

Building: \$511.00

Total: \$3,743.00

April 9, 2017—Passion/Palm Sunday

Blessed God, you are the King of the Universe! In steadfast love, you sent your Son Jesus to be the Prince of Peace. We are grateful for the majestic light that you shine through Christ's love and faithfulness, a light that could not be extinguished by his innocent death. Send your Spirit to strengthen the church to become bold witnesses who help our neighbors draw closer to you and your light. We dedicate our offerings and gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.
(Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29)

**New Hope Monthly Report of all
Income and Expenses**

	March	YTD
Income	\$17,803	\$51,060
Expenses	\$24,899	\$78,095
Difference	(\$7,096)	(\$27,035)

April Administrative Meetings

Staff Parish Mtg. – Mon. April 3 - 6:30 p.m.

Finance Mtg. – Wed. April 12 – 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Com. Mtg. – Thurs. April 13 - 6 p.m.

Trustees Mtg. – Wed. April 19 – 6:30 p.m.

Ad Council Mtg. – Thurs. April 20 – 7 p.m.

Staff Mtg. – Mon. April 24 – 6 p.m.

**APRIL MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER**

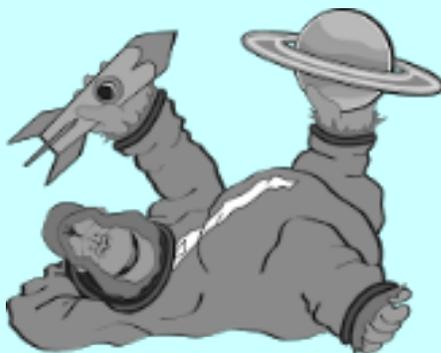
- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| S | 4/9 | 9:45 a.m. | Worship |
| M | 4/10 | 1 p.m. | Ladies Bible Study |
| T | 4/11 | 5:30 p.m. | Tech and Check |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Worship Design |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Men's Emmaus |
| | | 5:45-6:15 | Faithfully Fit Class |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| W | 4/12 | 10:00 a.m. | "Covering the Book"
Bible Study |
| | | 3:00 p.m. | Praise Too Practice |
| | | 3:20 p.m. | Kingdom Kids |
| | | 4:15 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Wed. Night Supper |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| F | 4/14 | 7:00 p.m. | Good Friday Service |
| S | 4/16 | 8:00 a.m. | Worship (Easter) |
| | | 9:45 a.m. | Worship (Easter) |
| M | 4/17 | 1:00 p.m. | Ladies Bible Study |
| T | 4/18 | 5:30 p.m. | Tech and Check |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Worship Design |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Men's Emmaus |
| | | 5:45-6:15 | Faithfully Fit Class |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| W | 4/19 | 10:00 a.m. | "Covering the Book"
Bible Study |
| | | 3:00 p.m. | Praise Too Practice |
| | | 3:20 p.m. | Kingdom Kids |
| | | 4:15 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Wed. Night Supper |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| SA | 4/22 | 11-1 | Tae Kwon Do |
| S | 4/23 | 9:45 a.m. | Worship |
| M | 4/24 | 1 p.m. | Ladies Bible Study |
| T | 4/25 | 5:30 p.m. | Tech and Check |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Worship Design |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Men's Emmaus |
| | | 5:45-6:15 | Faithfully Fit Class |
| | | 6:30 p.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| W | 4/26 | 10:00 a.m. | "Covering the Book"
Bible Study |
| | | 3:00 p.m. | Praise Too Practice |
| | | 3:20 p.m. | Kingdom Kids |
| | | 4:15 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Wed. Night Supper |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| S | 4/30 | 9:45 a.m. | Worship |



**Wednesday Night
Dinner Menu
April 12**

Easter Dinner

**5:30 p.m.
Free-will offering Public Invited**



GALACTIC BLAST

April 9 – Craft – Mary Coles
April 14 – Good Friday – AnnMarie Buchner
April 16 – Easter – AnnMarie Buchner
April 23 – Holy Humor – Betty Stewart
April 30 – Sue Reed

*Children's ministry is offered
during Sunday's 9:45 a.m. worship*

Thank You

Dear New Hope Family,

Thank you for your kind expressions of love and caring during this very difficult time when my mom, Eleanor Morris, passed away on March 19th.

Your words of comfort, cards, calls, prayers, and attendance at her funeral are deeply appreciated.

We will always be grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and consideration.

May God's richest blessing always be yours.

Sincerely,

Greg and Laura Hall and family

**This week the church is being lit
in memory of
Claude and Inez Lewellen
Shirley Smith's parents**

**LIGHT
THE
CHURCH**



The Finance Committee invites you to take in an opportunity to help New Hope in a unique way. It's referred to as "Light the Church for a Week."

The cost of lighting New Hope is approximately \$85 per week. When you choose to "Light the Church for a Week, you would pay that amount and also honor a love one's memory, celebrate an important date – birthday, anniversary etc. which would be shared in the church bulletin.

To participate, please indicate on your giving envelope or check that it is for "Light the Church for a Week". *"Let Your Light Shine"*
Matthew 5:16



Booth Brothers In Concert at New Hope *Get Your Tickets!*

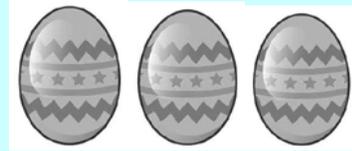


The Booth Brothers will be at New Hope on Saturday, May 13 at 6:00 pm with doors opening at 5:00 pm.

Back by popular demand, The Booth Brothers are known for their harmony-drenched vocals and warm, easy voices. They have been sharing their faith and their music full-time since 1998. Ronnie, Michael, and Paul are deeply committed to musical excellence yet have a greater desire to impact the hearts of those listening to their music. Refreshing humor, inspiring songs, and encouraging words are embedded in every concert. This trio, collectively and individually, has been acknowledged as one of the finest in the business having received many awards over the years, including Song of the Year, Album of the Year, Trio of the Year, Male Group of the Year, Best Live Performers, Artist of the Year and others. Although the group is grateful for the recognition of their work, their aspiration is for all honor and glory to be God's alone.

Tickets are on sale and available at the Info Center. They are \$18 in advance and \$21 the day of the concert—provided there are any tickets left to sell. **Get your tickets early as we are expecting a sold out concert!** Come enjoy a wonderful evening!

For questions, tickets, or information, call Greg or Laura at 231-972-7000.



EASTER EGG HUNT SAT. APRIL 15 STARTING AT NOON AT NEW HOPE

The Lion's Club is holding an Easter Egg Hunt at New Hope on Saturday, April 15th at noon. Children through the 6th grade are invited to join in the activities.

The public is invited to attend.

GRIEF SHARE CLASSES TO BEGIN AT NEW HOPE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 18 AT 6 P.M.

Grief Share is a grief recovery support group ministry. This is a 13-week program where each week a different topic is discussed. It is not required that you attend all 13 weeks. You decide what is beneficial for your needs. If you aren't able to start on the first week, you can still participate.

There is no charge for the program. The program is led by Sharon Gray who encourages anyone at any stage of the grieving process to attend. If you have questions, contact Sharon at 231-598-0337.

The class will be meeting in Conference Room 105 at New Hope.



God's Helping Hands Fill-A-Sac Program Kicks Off April 30 - May 7

Start saving your food items for the annual Fill-A-Sack Food Drive to benefit God's Helping Hands.

The food drive begins on April 30 and runs to May 7. Bags will be available at New Hope on Sunday, April 16.

This year our challenge is 150 bags! Your generosity helps feed those in need in our community. *Thank you!*

“I Am Second.” Easter Plans at New Hope

New Hope Church, in Mecosta, MI is excited to invite everyone to join them as they continue their “I Am Second.” series through Easter Sunday (April 16) and into Holy Humor Sunday (April 23) following.

We’re excited because each service leading into Holy Week members from the church and others will be sharing our “I Am Second.” stories. This series has been and will be a perfect way to deepen your walk with Christ as we approach this important and meaningful time.



On Palm Sunday, April 9, as a part of our 9:45 am service, we will be using naturally-sustainable, fair-trade “eco-palms,” a message from some stock car drivers, and Pastor Greg’s “Choosing to Finish Second” message to celebrate how we’re putting our lives in the Jesus’ hands. A joyful noise offering will also be taken so folks are invited to bring their spare change, dollars, and checks, to assist those in need in our area. Children’s ministry for those up to 6th grade and a staffed nursery will be provided.



GOOD FRIDAY

Then, on Good Friday, April 14, as a part of our 7 pm service, we will be rediscovering that “we were bought with a price,” which is also the message title for that most solemn of evenings. A variety of music, scripture, and even a video from a rapper will help remember the price Jesus paid for us, which is why we’re “second” and He’s first. A staffed nursery will be provided.



Then, on Easter Sunday, April 16, as a part of both our 8 am and 9:45 am services, we will be celebrating the Resurrection of Christ by rediscovering what we honestly believe. Pastor Greg’s message, “Really Honestly Believing” will answer the question why we honestly believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord, our Savior, and our Risen King. A time of laying on hands for those who are in need of prayer will be provided at both services also. Children’s ministry for those up to 6th grade and a staffed nursery will be provided. Breakfast will be available after each service.

Holy Humor Sunday

Then, on Holy Humor Sunday, April 23, as a part of our 9:45 am service, we will be celebrating the “last laugh that Jesus had over death” in our annual Holy Humor sort of way. Each bulletin gets a holy joke that you’ll get to share with another during the service. The message will come from some special folks who created duck calls. Four of their family members will be sharing their “I am second.” stories. Children’s ministry for those up to 6th grade and a staffed nursery will be provided.

THANK
YOU

THANK YOU TO THE ADVERTISERS ON THE BACK OF TODAY'S BULLETIN

On the back page of the bulletin today, you will see our new sponsorship page for this year.

When looking for a particular service, the solution may be right there. Let's patronize our advertisers. They help offset the printing of our weekly bulletin.



Faith Circle Springs Forward

The Faith Circle is starting their new year with a Potluck Luncheon in the fellowship hall at the church on Thursday,

April 20, at noon. We will be welcoming back the snow birds! This will be a great time for anyone interested in joining our group to come, too.

Co-leaders Carol V. and Bev R. will provide the main dish, the April hostesses, Dee S. and Michele M. will provide the drinks and tableware. You are welcome to bring a salad, side, or dessert. A business meeting will be held after the luncheon.

The Faith Circle meets every third Thursday at the church, April thru Nov. We usually have a program or craft planned, along with a business meeting. Our main fundraiser for the year is an apple pie sale in October. The money that is raised goes mainly toward helping those in our church family and community. If you are interested in joining Faith Circle and have questions, please contact Carol VanderMeer at 231-972-0443.

MARY MARTHA CIRCLE PROMOTES SHOE BOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Last December Mary-Martha Circle packed fifteen shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, an outreach through Samaritan's Purse. It is possible to track our shoeboxes and learn their destination. That sounded fun, so we chose that option. We have just learned that our fifteen shoeboxes went to Tanzania and Zambia. Somewhere in those countries are boys and girls who are enjoying the items we chose for them.

We enjoyed packing and sending the shoeboxes so much that we decided to continue doing it, and wanted to open it up to the whole church. Please don't feel this is something you "have to" do! This is only if you want to help out. Every shoebox we send gives joy and help to some child somewhere in the world.

The suggested shoebox shopping for the next three months are listed below.

Have fun with this one! But remember it has to fit in a shoebox.

May – Hygiene Items. No liquids or toothpaste

June – Toys

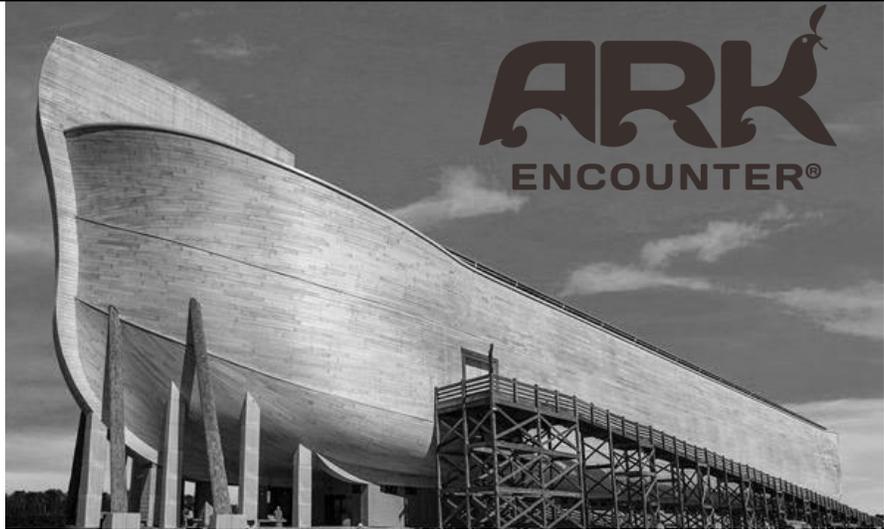
July – Clothing items, shoes, socks, t-shirts, hats – anything that will fit in a shoebox.

Shoeboxes are packed for boys or girls, with the age groups of 2-4 years, 5-9, and 10-14. It is easy and fun to pack for the younger children, but just as necessary for the older ones. If you have a child or grandchild, then select something that child might like.

Pastor Greg mentioned this as a place the pastor's family visited the last week of March 2017.

Fact Sheet

The Ark Encounter features a full-size Noah's Ark, built according to the dimensions given in the Bible's Book of Genesis. Spanning 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, young and old all marvel at this modern engineering achievement. The Ark Encounter is situated in the beautiful hills around Williamstown,



Kentucky, halfway between Cincinnati, OH and Lexington, KY on I-75. From the moment visitors turn the corner and the towering Ark comes into view, to the friendly animals in the nearby zoo, to the jaw-dropping exhibits inside the Ark, they experience the pages of the Bible like never before. Please note, it can take five-six hours to completely experience.

A Massive Structure

This marvel of engineering is seven stories tall and is more than a football field and a half long. The Ark is the largest timber-frame structure in the world, full of world-class exhibits designed to answer questions about the biblical account of Noah's Ark and the Flood.

Exhibits

The Ark Encounter is three exhibits in one—the massive Ark structure itself, the incredible craftsmanship on display in its three decks, and the beautifully fabricated teaching exhibits. The combination of all three amazes and inspires visitors to think differently about the biblical account of Noah's Ark.

Screaming Eagle Zip Lines

The Ark Encounter zip line course features 22 different lines. Ten of these are super-zip lines and are 1,000 linear feet or longer and three of them are 1,500 feet or longer. The longest cable is 2,100 feet and is the longest zip line in the Midwest.

Hotels and Restaurants Nearby

On site is perhaps America's largest restaurant: the 1,500-seat Emzara's Kitchen (buffet). There are also other hotels and restaurants within a 30-minute drive of the Ark Encounter.

More Information

More information can be found at www.arkencounter.com. The entrance (1 Ark Encounter Drive, Williamstown, KY 41097) is just west of the intersection of KY-36 and I-75 (exit 154.) Tickets just for the Ark Encounter are \$40 for adults (13+), and less for children and seniors. Tickets for the Creation Museum (just 45 miles away from the Ark) are also available.

from your pastor's point of view...

4-9-17

I AM SECOND®

Dear New Hope Family and Friends,

Truth be told, we don't like to be second. Now when it comes to God we can easily say, "Sure, God first." but what does it mean to be second with others? On this Palm Sunday that's the question we're going to try and answer. In fact, as we study God's Word, it becomes evident, that when we put our lives into the King's hands, that's exactly what He's asking us to do: to humble ourselves while lifting up others so love becomes the norm.

On the trip into Jerusalem, Jesus knows that the ones shouting his praise today might be those shouting for his death in mere days, but he went along with it anyways, choosing differently for us.

As we begin this Holy Week, may we hear the story again and apply it with humility in our hearts so that the love Jesus showed to us will be felt by others through what we say and do.

In God's bodacious Grace, faultless Truth, & tremendous Love,

Pastor Greg

UPCOMING MESSAGES

April 14 – "Bought with a Price" – I Corinthians 6:19-20, (Good Friday, 7 pm)

April 16 – "Really Honestly Believing" John 20:1-18 (8 am and 9:45 am)

April 23 – "I Am Second."-John 20:19-31 Holy Humor Sunday

"Participate!" Spring Pledge Series

April 30 – "Participate Honestly & Completely" – Philippians 2:1-4

Today's Message: "Choosing to Finish Second" Matthew 21:1-11 (Palm Sunday) - "I Am Second." Series

Intro – "How is your personal relationship with Christ?" Have you asked that question to anyone lately?

I - **Sometimes it's better to ride a donkey than a stallion.**

"The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:6-9)

II – **Sometimes it's better to humble ourselves than to be humbled by others.**

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8)

Putting It In Action:

- 1) Don't be first in line this week!
- 2) Share your "I Am Second." story. Ask the "How is your personal life with Christ?" question with your family, friends, and acquaintances.
- 3) Pray and fast this week, putting Christ first in your time, your stuff, and your heart!

Bottom Line: Humbly, putting our lives into the King's hands, allows us to allow others to go before us, just as Jesus did for us.

Pastor: God is first. **Everyone: I am second.**

contact info - office: 231-972-2838 cell/text: 989-621-7782
email: pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com facebook: @pastorgregbuchner
each week's messages are online at: www.new-hope-church.org