

**This week the New Hope bulletin  
is being sponsored by:**

**Mohnke Funeral Home  
Big Rapids, MI**

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

**March 25, 2018 Stewardship  
Presence**

**9:45 a.m. – 108    11:15 a.m. – 11**

**Tithes and Gifts**

General:        \$3,171.00  
Building:        145.00  
**Total:        \$3,316.00**

**Good Friday Prayer**

by Robert P. Fugarino

Lord, as we again snuff the candles one by one and see your cross rise we recall those who did their jobs on that Friday long ago.

We remember Pilate who with clever words kept a false and fragile peace. We remember a soldier who, with rope in one hand and a nail in the other, followed his orders and affixed you to the tree.

But we also remember Peter, we remember ourselves, and the job we failed to do. We recall our denial made amidst cockcrows and salty tears of timidity and remorse.

Lord, we know again this night that we did **not** stand with you. Yet you did your job, which also was your passion and your name—Jesus, “God saves.” You bore the nails and the insults. You spoke truth and bled out. You broke the curtain open and faced the worst of the powers’ might. So, Lord, here we are again on a darkening Friday of this year’s Holy Week, with another chance to do our job, and stand by you. Lord, by your Spirit, make us able to do so.  
Amen.

By Robert P. Fugarino. © 2015 Alive Now. Permission granted to use in corporate worship.

**Please Note:**

UMM and UMW meeting in April is moved to the 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. due to Easter date.

**April Administrative Meetings**

Staff Parish – **NO MEETING**

Finance — 6:00 p.m.

Church Council –Thurs., April 19<sup>th</sup>@ 7:00 p.m.

Trustees – Wed., April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Staff Meeting – Mon., April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

**APRIL MINISTRY  
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER**

- |          |             |                   |   |
|----------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>S</b> | <b>4/1</b>  | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Easter Sunday Worship</b><br><i>Easter Breakfast</i> |
|          |             | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>Easter Sunday Worship</b><br><i>Easter Breakfast</i> |
|          |             | <b>11:45 a.m.</b> | <b>Easter Sunday</b><br><b>“Uncommon Worship”</b>       |
| <b>M</b> | <b>4/2</b>  | <b>1:30 p.m.</b>  | Mary Martha   |
| <b>T</b> | <b>4/3</b>  | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | Craft Day   |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Men’s Emmaus  |
|          |             | <b>6:30 p.m.</b>  | Men’s Bible Study                                       |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Faithfully Fit Class                                    |
| <b>W</b> | <b>4/4</b>  | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>“Covering the Book”</b><br>Bible Study               |
|          |             | <b>3:00 p.m.</b>  | Praise Too Practice                                     |
|          |             | <b>3:20 p.m.</b>  | Kingdom Kids  |
|          |             | <b>4:00 p.m.</b>  | Choir Practice  |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Wed. Night Supper                                       |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Tech ‘n Check   |
|          |             | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>  | Worship Design  |
|          |             | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>  | Youth   |
| <b>S</b> | <b>4/8</b>  | <b>8:00 a.m.</b>  | UMM/UMW   |
|          |             | <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | <b>“Holy Humor” Sunday</b>                              |
|          |             | <b>11:15 a.m.</b> | <b>Uncommon Worship</b>                                 |
| <b>T</b> | <b>4/10</b> | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | Craft Day   |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Men’s Emmaus  |
|          |             | <b>6:30 p.m.</b>  | Men’s Bible Study                                       |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Faithfully Fit Class                                    |
| <b>W</b> | <b>4/11</b> | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>“Covering the Book”</b><br>Bible Study               |
|          |             | <b>3:00 p.m.</b>  | Praise Too Practice                                     |
|          |             | <b>3:20 p.m.</b>  | Kingdom Kids  |
|          |             | <b>4:00 p.m.</b>  | Choir Practice  |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Wed. Night Supper                                       |
|          |             | <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Tech ‘n Check   |
|          |             | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>  | Worship Design  |

**Wednesday Night Dinner**  
**5:30 p.m.**



**Buffet Day**  
**Dessert - Beverage**

**Public Invited --- Free-Will Offering**

**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

**Easter Sunday**

April 1, 8:00 a.m., 9:45 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., we will be continuing the "Recognizing Christ as Our Risen King" series as we will celebrate the Risen Christ. The blended services start at 8:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. (with hymn sings at 7:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.) and our smaller, "uncommon," contemporary service begins at 11:15 a.m. An Easter Breakfast will be served before and after the 9:45 am worship service.

**Holy Humor Sunday,**

April 8, at 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., we will be celebrating the "last laugh" that Jesus had over death.

**HE IS RISEN**



**Holy Humor**

**Mission Team Meeting**

I would like to have a mission team meeting on Tuesday April 3rd at 7:30 pm to discuss Wheatland and our next mission trip. As far as I have been able to learn, there are not many places other than Texas, and they are all south of Huston, they are just too far. I will let you know more at the meeting.

Don Santer

**Email Updates!**

Have you been receiving email updates and email prayer requests from New Hope? We have updated the updates - you may have noticed they look a little different!

If you are not receiving emails from New Hope and would like to you can subscribe on the web at our website <http://www.new-hope-church.org> or contact Gen in the church office with your email address.



**Recycle Your Ink Cartridges**

Don't toss that old ink cartridge from your printer, bring it in for recycling!

Staples will give us rewards, and it will help pay for office supplies needed.

Bring your spent cartridges in to the church office and we will handle the rest!

Thank you ☺

**New Hope UMM, UMW & Missions**

There will be an Easter breakfast served on Sunday April 1st. We will be needing all the help we can get for pre-cooking on Saturday Mar.31, and cooking and serving and clean-up on Easter Sunday.

Serving will start at 8:30 to 9:45 then again after the end of the regular service.

If you are able to give a hand it would be highly appreciated.



## Did You Know?

### The History of New Hope

Easter Sunday is the most significant of celebrations included in the Christian church calendar. "CHRIST IS RISEN/ALLELUIA", rings out across the world! For the congregation of New Hope, Easter Sunday will always have a second special meaning. Easter Sunday, 30 years ago, the Dedication of New Hope United Methodist Church took place. The congregation gathered in this sanctuary for the very first combined Sunday worship service! That day was the culmination of years of dedication and hard work by members of the Methodist Churches of Remus, Mecosta, and Halls Corner, and the beginning of a joyous union. (Prior to this, the funeral of Joel Chapin, Leona's husband, was held in the unfinished church. He had worked tirelessly on the New Hope project but did not get to see the fulfillment of that vision).

The parishioners each loved their own local churches, but their buildings (all built in the late 1880's) were growing old and in need of costly improvements and repairs. Some folks then began to entertain a VISION of a united congregation that might open new opportunities to honor God. Could their dedication to God and community through a combined church, provide an even greater spiritual future for the Methodist Church within this community? Well after much study and discussion among churches, the consensus was "YES", together we can make an increased difference...the plan for a new Methodist Church faith community was born!

Having reviewed many of the church's historical records, clearly, this vision and mission became one more step in God's plan to serve this whole community. It should be noted here, that the path to fruition was not always easy or smooth, and during the process of building this church, it became known as "THE MIRACLE ON NINE MILE ROAD": New Hope United Methodist Church. Our founders were determined not to be denied their VISION, and with God's guidance they succeeded! As the new church building was planned, developed, and constructed, the three churches continued their separate services in their old church buildings, while eagerly awaiting and anticipating the culmination of their miracle.

Our first Sunday service was held thirty years ago on Easter Sunday in 1988. Some of those same people are sitting in our congregation today, and others have reached their heavenly homes; but, we thank each of them for their vision, their determination, their financial sacrifices, and their trust in God's promise of fruition. As we continue the vision for New Hope United Methodist Church, we pray, and "Trust God" to continue to guide us into the future. God blesses our church and our individual parishioners in so many ways...through the challenges and through the good times. Please pray about how you will continue to give back!  
THANK YOU, GOD!

New Hope Finance Committee





# from your pastor's point of view, Easter Sunday, 4-1-18

cell/text: 989-621-7782  
office: 231-972-2838  
email: pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com

Dear New Hope Family and Friends,

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY!**

**“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”**

**After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:19-20 NIV)**

The cross and the grave that once held Christ are empty. Death has lost. Life has won. Angels have proclaimed it, and the ladies that went to the tomb this morning to mourn have returned with a smile on their faces, joy in their hearts, and resurrection in their considerations.

This is our faith. This is our hope. This is our life. This is the purpose for Jesus Christ. He came because we couldn't do it alone. He came because God wanted to show us how life is done. He came to be our Redeemer. He came to show that this life is only the beginning.

The bottom line is good news for all humankind. Death's been beaten, swallowed up in victory. Death has lost. Life has won. On this day, and all days, praise be to God for his bodacious Grace, faultless Truth, tremendous Love, and for rising as our Forever King!

*Pastor Greg*

## **“Our King Rose Again” – John 20:1-20** **Recognizing Christ As Our Risen King” series**

**Intro** Christ has risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**

“This is the love of our Christian faith.

This is the heart of our Christian faith.

This is the hope of our Christian faith.

This is the faith of our Christian faith.

This is everything. This means everything!” - PG

### **Risen King Fact One: Empty Tomb**

The original well-thought out plan of Satan and the Jesus-haters, was thwarted by the promises of a simple rabbit, who just happened to also be the Son of God. (John 20:1-10)

### **Risen King Fact Two: Jesus Appears**

To Mary Magdalene....to the disciples....to Thomas... to the 500 witnesses both alive and dead...and to Paul. (John 20:11-29, John 21:1-14, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

### **Risen King Fact Three: Resurrection Change Continues**

“The lives of Christians today demonstrate that the resurrection is still changing people. It changes fear into love, despair into joy. The resurrection changes people from being spiritually dead to being alive to God. It changes guilty condemnation into a celebration of forgiveness and freedom. It changes anxiety into a hope that goes beyond the grave.”

(Adrian Warnock, [adrianwarnock.com](http://adrianwarnock.com))

### **Bottom Line & Application**

“...But these are written that you may believe (and continue to believe) that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31)

### **UPCOMING MESSAGES – 9:45 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.**

April 8 - “Why Jesus Got the Last Laugh...” – John 16:33, 1 Corin. 1:17-19

### **“Setting God First” series, April 15 – April 29**

April 15 - “God First in Prayers and Presence” - I Peter 5:7, Hebrews 10:25

April 22 - “God First in Serving and Giving” - John 6:38, I Peter 4:10

April 29 - “God First in Our Witness” - Acts 1:1-11 (Consecration Sunday)

*Pastor Greg (or our speaker) is handy after the service if you'd like to say hi, ask questions, check-in, or just share comments. They are normally at the front of the worship space so that a conversation is easier. Stop and say hi.*