

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

**Smith's Auto Body
Mecosta, MI**

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

**March 30, 2018 Stewardship
Presence**

7:00 p.m. – 60

Tithes and Gifts

General: \$294.00

Building: 0.00

Total: \$3,316.00

**April 1, 2018 Stewardship
Presence**

8:00 a.m.- 27 9:45 a.m. – 124

11:15 a.m. – 21

Tithes and Gifts

General: \$4,579.00

Building: 300.00

Total: \$4,879.00

April 8 – Second Sunday of Easter

Gracious God, you are faithful and just!
Through the resurrection of your Son Jesus,
you have given great grace to us all. You call
us to share the word of eternal life with others
so that our joy may be complete. Light the
way for us as we seek to live in fellowship
with Christ. May these offerings reflect the
grace of our risen Lord, in whose name we
pray. Amen. (1 John 1:1-2:2)

April Administrative Meetings

Staff Parish – **NO MEETING**

Finance — Monday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Trustees – Wed., April 18th at 6:30 pm.

Church Council –Thurs., April 19th@ 7:00 p.m.

Staff Meeting – Mon., April 23rd @ 6:00 p.m.

**APRIL MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER**

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| S 4/8 | 8:00 a.m. | UMM/UMW |
| | 9:45 a.m. | “Holy Humor” Sunday |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Uncommon Worship |
| M 4/9 | 1:00 p.m. | Women’s Bible Study |
| T 4/10 | 9:30 a.m. | Craft Day |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Men’s Emmaus |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Men’s Bible Study |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Faithfully Fit Class |
| W 4/11 | 10:00 a.m. | “Covering the Book”
Bible Study |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Praise Too Practice |
| | 3:20 p.m. | Kingdom Kids |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Wed. Night Supper |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Tech ‘n Check |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Worship Design |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| S 4/15 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday Worship |
| | 11:45 a.m. | “Uncommon Worship” |
| M 4/9 | 1:00 p.m. | Women’s Bible Study |
| T 4/17 | 9:30 a.m. | Craft Day |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Men’s Emmaus |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Men’s Bible Study |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Faithfully Fit Class |
| W 4/18 | 10:00 a.m. | “Covering the Book”
Bible Study |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Praise Too Practice |
| | 3:20 p.m. | Kingdom Kids |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Choir Practice |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Wed. Night Supper |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Tech ‘n Check |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Worship Design |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |

Women’s Bible Study at 1:00 p.m. on
Mondays has resumed!
Call Michele (527-5205) for more information.



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*

Birthdays this week:

9th – Nick Randall
12th – Jon Sherwood



Anniversaries this week:

8th – Don and Bev Rothenberger
9th – Ed and Pat Leiter



Sunday Solutions

Do you enjoy baking, but just don't need those goodies sitting around your house?

Did a friend give you a treat that is oh, so delicious, but you don't need the temptation?

Do you ever go to the store and see those cute holiday cookies and think it would be fun to buy them but what would you do with them?

We have a solution for you!

Coffee Hour is a perfect solution. The hostesses will be happy to have the extra treats and the people eating them will enjoy the variety!

Thank You!

Mary Martha Circle would like to thank those who gave items for shoeboxes, whole shoeboxes ready to go, and

money towards the cost of shipping.

We appreciate your support in helping us send some fun, our love, and the Good News of Jesus to children around the world. We have learned that some of the boxes we packed last year went to Lesotho. We are still waiting to hear about the others. This is fun!

Second Saturday Munch Bunch

The Second Saturday Munch Bunch will meet for dinner on Saturday, April 14 at 5:00 pm at The Blue Lake Tavern in Mecosta. The Second Saturday Munch Bunch is open to everyone in the church and is a great way to get to know other people. We usually meet at a restaurant the second Saturday of each month for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Come enjoy a great meal, conversation, and fellowship!

There is no obligation to going every second Saturday—come when you are able to! If you have never attended one of our outings, why not try us! There is a sign-up board located in the Narthex by the pastor's office.

Any questions, please call Laura Hall at 231-972-7000.

Keith Boyette visits Michigan May 3-6!

Rev. Boyette is the president of the WCA and a clergy member of the Virginia Annual Conference. He has 20 years experience as a church planter and has also served on the Judicial Council. He will be at several locations to explain the WCA and why it is needed. This is a great opportunity for all UM laity and clergy to find out about the WCA first hand, learn about the state of the UMC and make some new friends. Please review the meeting schedule below and plan now to come. An all-state mailing to churches and clergy is coming but we invite you to forward this e-mail to all your UM friends in Michigan!

Schedule: Rev Keith Boyette

- May 3, 10:30 AM Dexter United Methodist Church
- May 3, 3:00 PM Jackson First United Methodist
- May 4, 10:00 AM Michigan Ministry Center--Lansing
- May 4, 3:00 PM Clare United Methodist Church
- May 5, 10:00 AM Flint: Bethel United Methodist Church
- May 6, 11:00 AM Worship at Fraser: Christ UMC

For more info contact Tom Anderson at tanderson@humc.us and visit www.wesleyancovenant.org

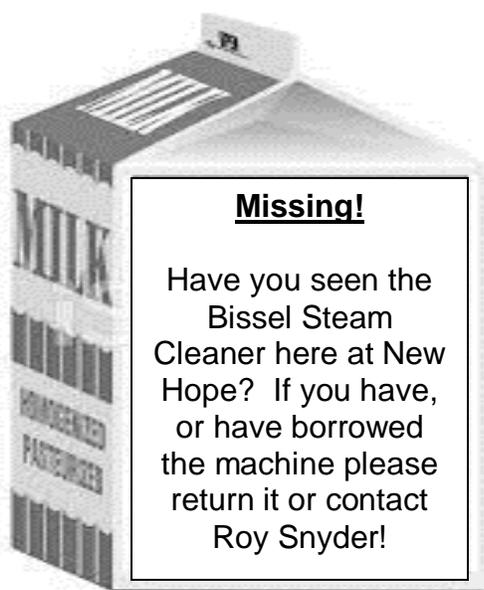
Faith Circle Springs Forward

The Faith Circle is having their first meeting of the year at Linda Randall's home on Thursday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m. Linda and Dee Smith are hostesses and will be providing a light brunch. We are welcoming back the snow birds, and want any ladies in the church to feel welcome to join us.

We meet the third Thursday of each month, April – November. This year we have changed the time to 10:00 a.m., and our regular meetings will be held in a classroom at the church. Please note that this upcoming meeting is on the second Thursday due to schedule conflicts (sorry)! Our fundraiser for the year is an apple pie sale in October. The money raised is used to help those in our church family and the community. If you are interested in joining Faith Circle and have questions, please contact us. We are a fun group of ladies with the desire to fellowship and follow our faith.

Linda and Dee would like to be prepared by having a count of those who can attend. Please call or email either of them. Linda: 231-250-2473 or lrandall43@gmail.com and Dee: 231-972-8564 or delores.s2@gmail.com.

Carol VanderMeer 231-972-0443
Bev Rothenberger 317-413-7491



Missing!

Have you seen the Bissell Steam Cleaner here at New Hope? If you have, or have borrowed the machine please return it or contact Roy Snyder!



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.

2018 Concert Series at New Hope—Mark Your Calendars!!

Our concert season for 2018 will consist of The Booth Brothers on Saturday, May 12 at 6:00 pm with doors opening at 5:00 pm, Kevin Mills (he was the bass singer for Keepers of the Faith) will be in concert on Saturday, July 28 at 6:00 pm, (this will be a free-will offering with all proceeds going to New Hope) and The Hoppers on Saturday, August 25 at 6:00 pm. More information on Kevin Mills and the Hoppers concert will be given at a later date.

The Booth Brothers, back by popular demand, 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 can be purchased at the Info Center before and after our church service. 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.

Kingdom Kids

The current Kingdom Kids program will be over at the end of April, and we need to start planning by June for next fall. In order for Kingdom Kids to continue, we need at least four teachers and four helpers each Wednesday afternoon (normally 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.). At this moment we have two teachers, AnnMarie Buchner and Linda Sbraccia, and two helpers, Bev Rothenberger and Gerry Herrmann, signed up. We still need at least two more teachers and two more helpers.

Prayerfully consider what God is asking you to do. If you want to help but this sounds like too much of a commitment, please talk to us. Even one day a month can make a difference. We are flexible!

We would love to talk to you if you have questions, and if you think this may be something you would like to do.

Thank you,
AnnMarie Buchner - 989-621-7681
Bev Rothenberger - 317-413-7491



Wednesday After School Program

Financial Report

Humor Sunday

A 5 year old boy that had a sore throat stayed home from church on Palm Sunday. His parents came home with some Palm leaves; the boy asked "what were they for"? His Dad replied, "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by."

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

The story made us grin...

Then we saw this sign...



...and first it made us laugh...but then, it made us think...putting God first is the answer to dealing with our worries and concerns.

Pastor Greg's upcoming message series is titled "Setting God First". Our annual pledge drive will occur during this series. Putting God first should be our primary building block for pledge drive considerations.

Annual Pledge Drive: The pledge drive form, along with instructions, will be handed out the weeks of April 15th & 22nd. April 29th will be our "Commitment Day" for returning the forms. These forms may be mailed to the New Hope church office, or placed in the offering plate on Sundays.

Re-committing ourselves through the "Pledge Drive" is an annual event at New Hope. The form is a reminder for us of critical factors that are a part of our Christian journey. Documenting our commitments on paper helps to solidify our beliefs and our action plan for the next twelve months. It is a form of personal witnessing for each of us.

Future Events

Yard sale June 21, 22, 23

Building Loan "Principal Drive" July 29

The Finance Committee

Ladies Night Out



New Hope

***United Methodist Men Present
Ladies Night Out 2018***

***Join us for
A Night of
Fine Food
And
Entertainment***

Friday, May 11, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Adults \$8.00 each

6-12 years old - \$4.00 each

5 years and under are FREE!

7296 9 Mile Road, Mecosta, MI 49332

231-972-2838 www.new-hope-church.org

Menu for Evening Meal

Pork Loin and Red Potatoes
Fruit Salad, Green Beans
Cupcakes and Ice cream

Children's Menu

Macaroni and Cheese
Fruit Salad, Green Beans
Cupcakes and Ice cream



from your pastor's point of view 4-8-18

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

HAPPY HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

A Communion of Saints Humor Affirmation

We believe with the Bible that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh."

We believe with Chrysostom that "laughter has been implanted in our souls."

We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for "playful deeds and jokes."

We believe with Luther that "You've as much laughter as you have faith."

We believe with Calvin that "we are nowhere forbidden to laugh."

We believe with Francis De Sales that "humor is a foundation for reconciliation."

We believe with Wesley that "a sour religion is the devil's religion."

We believe with Kierkegaard that "humor is intrinsic to Christianity."

We believe with Chesterton that
"A good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation."

We believe with Bonhoeffer that "ultimate seriousness isn't without a dose of humor."

We believe with Charles Schultz that "Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless."

Rev. Chris Anderson www.joyfulnoiseletter.com

"Why Jesus Got the Last Laugh on Death"

John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 1:17-19

Intro Christ has STILL risen! **Christ has STILL risen indeed!**

"You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now, Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live. And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26 - MSG)

Reasons Why:

- Jesus was a part of the plan from the beginning.
- Jesus flawlessly did what he had to do to save us.
- Jesus gave everyone the example to follow.
- Jesus will one day come again and put everything back to order, back to plan, back to promise.

The Reason Why It Matters to Us:

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (I Corinthians 1:18)

"He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure." (Psalm 147:4-5)

"For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God's power." (1 Corinthians 4:20)

Bottom Line & Application

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 – NIV)

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

"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)

"Filled - Living in the Power of the Spirit" series, May 6 – June 3

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.