

This week the New Hope bulletin
is being sponsored by:

Andrew Butler
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
Mecosta, MI

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

January Administrative Meetings:

Pastor Parish – No meeting
Finance — Wed., Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Trustees – Wed., Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Church Council – Thur., Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m.
Staff Meeting – Mon., Jan. 28 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship Presence:

12/23 - 9:45 a.m. – 85 12/24 – 7:00 p.m. – 120

Tithes and Gifts (both services):

General: \$3,046.85
Special Offering: \$770.00
Building: \$117.00
Total: \$3,933.85

Wednesday Night Dinner – January 2 – 5:30 p.m.

No Dinner Served

Public Invited Free-Will Offering

This Week At New Hope:

Sunday 12/30	Monday 12/31	Tuesday 1/1	Wednesday 1/2	Thursday 1/3	Friday 1/4	Saturday 1/6
9:45 a.m. Worship following Worship Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Hebrews Word Study	Office Closed	Office Closed Happy New Year!	No regular Wednesday activities including Kingdom Kids and Dinner	3:00 p.m. Praise Too 3:45 p.m. Tech-N-Check		

Birthdays and Anniversaries this week:

(If we've missed your special day, please let us know!)

Birthdays: 5th – Will Chapin

Anniversaries: none this week

Announcements, Information, and Opportunities to Serve for this week:

WE NEED YOUR HIXSONS FAMILY MARKET RECEIPTS - Please save your receipts and bring them in! In the fellowship hall, there is a container for your Hixson receipts by the ministry drop-off area just to the left as you enter the hall. The United Methodist Women use the proceeds of this fundraiser for their ongoing service projects that support the New Hope mission of loving God, loving others, and serving.

Light the Church – *The church is being lit this week by the Tuesday Craft Group (again!).* 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 loved 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

"We all do our best when others are looking. But what about when no one is watching?" That's where character comes in, giving us consistency when it's just between God and us. Courage. Discipline. Vision. Endurance. Compassion. Self-sacrifice. The qualities covered in this Bible study provide a foundation for character. With this foundation and God's guidance, we can maintain character even when we face temptations and troubles."

A new Bible study on character, "Who You Are When No One's Looking", will be starting December 9. We will meet in the library following the service. Get your cookies and coffee and join us there. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Lois Sherwood, 989-465-7174.

New Women’s Bible Study – Treasured (by Deb Burma) - What could be more precious than diamonds? YOU! We are the precious, treasured possession of our heavenly Father, who sought us and claimed us as His own in Christ! From coal to diamonds, we are continually being transformed in Christ, reflecting His glory and light to a dark world.

This four-week Bible study will be held at New Hope on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m., beginning on January 7, 2019. Contact Gen Abrams (231)972-7542 or (231)972-2838 to register/RSVP and get your space and materials reserved!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – January 1, 2019! The Newsletter will cover February through April. Please get your submissions to Gen as soon as possible. Email is best! Newhope.mecosta@gmail.com

New Directory Update is coming! – Update will be coming shortly after the first of the year, so this is your last call for any changes – including photos. Please contact Gen in the church office should you need any changes, as soon as possible.

Michigan WCA to gather March 23 - Mark your calendars to gather with the Michigan chapter of the Wesleyan Covenant Association on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Swartz Creek United Methodist Church. The time is to be announced. The church is located at 7400 Miller Rd, Swartz Creek, MI 48473 and is near the intersection of I-69 and US 23. We have seating for 250 as we gather for prayer and conversation in the aftermath of the February General Conference in St. Louis.

As your state chair person, I've been meeting online 2 hours each week with leaders from all over the world to prepare a unified and coordinated response to the decisions of the General Conference. The WCA is in an excellent position. Our membership is over 130,000 and we are highly organized in every annual conference. I can say with confidence that a traditional, orthodox and evangelical Methodist movement has emerged to face the great change that is nearly upon us. We will be ready and I urge you to gather like minded clergy and laity to come to Swartz Creek on March 23.

Now is the time to encourage churches and individuals to join the WCA. You can do so online at wesleyancovenant.org. When you join the national organization, you automatically become a member of your state chapter.

Merry Christmas to all! Tom Anderson



from your pastor's point of view 12-30-18

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

Happy New Year!

Looking Back Well; Looking Forward Wisely

by Lisa Appelo (lisaappelo.com)

Scripture has a lot to say about looking back. Philip-
pians 3:13 tells us "to forget what is behind and to
press on with Christ Jesus." In Luke, Jesus told his fol-
lowers not to put their hand to the plow and then look
back (Luke 9:62.) And then there's the infamous
account of Lot's wife, who looked back to the city of
Sodom while fleeing its destruction and was turned
into a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:17).

But as believers, there is a right way to look back.
Over and over again, we're instructed to look back to
remember all that God has done. (1 Chronicles 16:12.)
We look back to God in thankfulness.

We're also to look forward. To go with God. To step
into the things He's planned for us. "Forgetting the past
and looking forward to what lies ahead..." (Philippians
3:13).

Which is exciting and scary. We are at another year
and really we have no idea what it will hold. We make
plans and envision goals, but every blank square on
that calendar is subject to God's sovereignty and His
direction. So, all in all, we look forward to God in trust.

IN GOD'S BODACIOUS GRACE, FAULTLESS TRUTH, AND TREMENDOUS LOVE

*"UNCOMMON" SMALL GROUP (RESUMES 1-9-19)
(FOR YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG AT HEART)
JOIN US WEDS. 6:30 PM IN YOUTH ROOM*

UPCOMING MESSAGES – 9:45 am

"Fresh Start" Series thru January 27

Jan. 6 - "Put Off the Old, Put on the New" (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Jan. 13 - "New Creation in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Jan. 20 - "Dealing With Depression, Debt, & Death" (Revelation 21:5)

Jan. 27- "Claiming Your New Beginning" (Luke 5:36-38)

"Final Act: Christ Our Future Hope" (Matthew 2:1-12)

All scriptures NIV unless noted.

Intro – The Three Wise Men/Magi &
Our Future Hope

I – The Magi Knew the Back Story...

so should we! (Matthew 2:1-2)
Something big was happening.

II – The Magi Knew the Current Story...

so should we! (Matthew 2:3-11)
Jesus was that something big indeed!

II – The Magi Knew Enough to Trust in the Right Story...

so should we! (Matthew 2: 12)
Only the "right" King should be followed.

Bottom Line -

The Wise Magi knew that Christ was the
start of Christmas.

"One cannot look forward and
backward at the same time.
But, one has to know what is behind,
in order to go forward." – PG - ism

*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.*