

MARCH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER

- S 3/12 9:45 a.m. Worship**
- M 3/13 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study**
- T 3/14 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 3/15 10:00 a.m. "Covering the Book"**
Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Praise Too Practice
3:20 p.m. Kingdom Kids Afterschool
4:15 p.m. Choir Practice
5:30 p.m. Youth Spaghetti Dinner
and Talent Show
- SA 3/18 11:30-1 p.m. Tae Kwon Do**
- S 3/19 9:45 a.m. Worship**
- M 3/20 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study**
- T 3/21 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 3/22 10:00 a.m. "Covering the Book"**
Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Praise Too Practice
3:20 p.m. Kingdom Kids Afterschool
4:15 p.m. Choir Practice
5:30 p.m. Wed. Night Supper
6:00 p.m. Youth
- TH 3/23 7:00 p.m. Yard Sale Meeting**
- SA 3/25 11:30-1 p.m. Tae Kwon Do**
- S 3/26 9:45 a.m. Worship**
- M 3/27 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study**
- T 3/28 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 3/29 10:00 a.m. "Covering the Book"**
Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Praise Too Practice
3:20 p.m. No Kingdom Kids
4:15 p.m. Choir Practice
5:30 p.m. No Wed. Night Supper
6:00 p.m. No Youth

March Administrative Meetings

No Staff Parish Meeting in March
No Trustees Meeting in March

Finance Mtg. – Thurs. Mar. 2nd - 6:30 p.m.
Memorial Comm. Mtg. – Thurs. Mar. 9 - 6 p.m.
Ad Council Mtg. – Thurs. Mar. 16th - 7 p.m.
Staff Mtg. – Mon. Mar. 20 – 6 p.m.

NEW HOPE UMC MONTHLY REPORT OF ALL INCOME AND EXPENSES

	FEBRUARY	YTD
Income	\$16,092	\$33,256
Expenses	\$29,508	\$53,196
Difference	(\$13,415)	(\$19,939)



Wednesday Night Dinner Menu March 15

Youth Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show

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

Log on to www.new-hope-church.org for all dates of meetings, activities, church calendars, youth group events, Wednesday night dinner menus, concerts and many other activities at New Hope UMC.

Get alerts to your email of church meetings and events right from the website. Easy to set up.

If you have any questions, contact the church office at 231-972-2838.



March 12 – AnnMarie Buchner
March 19 – AnnMarie Buchner
March 26 – AnnMarie Buchner
*Children's ministry is offered
during Sunday's 9:45 a.m. worship*



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 Food Basket Information...

Well it is almost Easter, time to collect the names for Easter food baskets. This Easter will be a little different. After all the names have been submitted, the recipients will receive a voucher from New Hope and Hixson's Market for \$ 45.00 to use as they want for the Easter meal. This way they can purchase the foods they want, the past Easter menu is listed on the voucher for suggestion only.

After all the names have been submitted, the vouchers will be given out to the recipients. If you recommended a family/person who are not able to pick up their voucher then you are responsible for getting it to them. The vouchers will be given out two (2) weeks prior to the holiday and will expire the day after said holiday. This gives them time to plan a visit or schedule a ride to Hixson's Family Market at Canadian Lakes. Forms will be available at the Information Center starting Sunday, March 5. Deadline to turn in forms will be Sunday, March 26. Forms should be turned in to Don or Nancy Santer or the church office. If you have any questions, contact 989-561-2394.

A Note From Pastor Greg about "I am second."

I just wanted to give you a heads up about something that we will be doing starting March 1 and then through Easter. We asking folks to share their Jesus-story (how He is first and we are second) during a 5 minute witness during each worship service.

If you're interested, please let me know by putting together your statement and getting it to me. (snail mail, drop off, or email: pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com).

We're doing this in advance so we can match up your story's theme to the right Sunday.

How do you get started? Basically it can be your Jesus story (before Christ, how you came to Christ and what's happened since) or any life story that will underscore how you see God first in your life. No story is too insignificant. Every story will be helpful.

Give me a call if you have any questions. (989-621-7782 or 231-972-2838). You can also see www.iamsecond.com to see what we're up to!

Start writing today....and I look forward to seeing how faith is first in your life.

Thank You!

Thank you to Larry Karcher, Jean Chapin, Trudy Crowley, Alice Green, Joann Groll, Ellie Thering, Annette Coles, Sue Reed, Marsha Parsons, Nancy Santer, Sherry Anderson,

Linda Randall Joe and Judy Meyers, and Nancy Karcher for your donations and your hard work in preparing the MMPA Luncheon.

Your delicious pies, the yummy Swiss steak, homemade rolls and real spuds and gravy were the best!

You received lots of compliments from the Michigan Milk Producers for the luncheon.

Thanks for Loving God, Loving Others and Serving.

The United Methodist Women



EXPLORE NEW HOPE IN JUST FOUR SATURDAYS

from Pastor Greg

Saturdays, 9am – noon, on March 18, 25, April 1, and April 8,

explore everything about New Hope and about your faith through our Exploration Class series.

Exploration I is about the church our ministry and is required for church membership. Exploration II is all about how to live out your membership vows meaningfully.

Exploration III is learning how God shaped you for ministry. Exploration IV is for folks to learn about Christian leadership. These classes are normally offered by our church leaders in the spring and fall, and we want YOU to be a part of them. So please mark your calendars now and plan to join us!

Everyone, from the first time guest to the long-time member, will gain valuable insights from this discipleship journey. And especially if you took the courses before Pastor Greg's arrival, they've been rewritten with new and life-applicable information. They're also kinda' fun too.

While you are invited to just show up the day of, registration would be helpful by calling 231-972-2838. Any questions can be directed there also. See you there!

BENEVOLENCE JOYFUL NOISE REPORT

The Benevolence/Joyful Noise offering for February 2017 was \$242.00.

We assisted one family in the amount of \$175.98. Thanks for your prayers and generous donations to this on-going ministry.

Blessings,
Nancy Karcher



NHUMC Youth Group Happenings:

* The NHUMC Youth Group would like to thank members of the congregation who sponsored youth (paying their portion of the fee) and made it possible for all youth to go skiing at Caberfae Ski Resort on Feb 18th. We thank: Jim Grace, Cheri Chapin, Wally & Rachel Ewing, Ann Marie and Pastor Greg. New skiers learned to ski for the first time and seasoned skiers only suffered a few bruises as they perfected their skill coming down the slopes on a warm sunny day!

* See our Youth Group calendar (on the bulletin board or online) for March activities. Anyone interested in some old fashion dancing and live fiddle music should join us as we head to Wheatland on March 25th. Ask us for more info.

* The BIG EVENT for March is our annual Youth Talent Show and Spaghetti Dinner on March 15th. This is another fund raiser to send our members to Camp. Thanks for all who have given thus far. Come one, come all and be entertained by a talented bunch of youth, giving it there best.

Remember our Youth Group 'yell'..... **"GOD IS GOOD -- ALL THE TIME... and..... ALL THE TIME -- GOD IS GOOD"**.

Pastor Greg and “The Shack” Movie

Often there are movies that I can say, “Go and see.” Those are movies that I have seen, that don’t contradict the Biblical narrative, and may help us to become deeper people of faith. “The Shack” which is a movie coming out soon, taken from the popular book, is not one that I can fully recommend. However, there is nothing terribly dangerous in going to see it, and it may do some folks some good. Let me explain.

The Shack deals with the topic of forgiveness. Without giving away any plot lines here, this movie goes into some deep, deep wells of hurt, despair, and loss and offers a new sense of hope to those who are struggling. Overall it does a good job of letting us know that we need to forgive, move forward, and then look to Someone greater than ourselves to make that happen. This is a Biblical theme and it’s found throughout the book and the movie.

The Shack, though, also tries to explain the Trinity in a different way, a distinctly non-Biblical-narrative way. Anytime we try to define God by using our human understanding we fall woefully short. There is no doubt that The Shack fits this camp as well. Let’s be clear: God is one, not three. And although I’m sure God could show up as portrayed by the actors in The Shack if He wished, never in the Bible has He. In this way, The Shack offers, in a fun and new way, another “story line” in trying to explain something that God has left somewhat unexplained for a reason. To say that “this is how the Trinity works” is unstable ground to travel. If you’re going to see it, please go in knowing this fact.

Last, not least, on my shelf in my office, right next to my copy of The Shack, I have a great book entitled, “Finding God in The Shack” by Randal Rauser. [While it’s offered in many different formats, the Amazon link is: <https://www.amazon.com/Finding-God-Shack-Randal-Rauser/dp/1606570323>] If you go to see the movie I hope that you’ll give this book a quick read first. It isn’t big, but it is incredibly helpful.

I also invite you to check out a United Methodist article found here: [<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-to-watch-for-in-the-shack-united-methodist-pastors-advice>]. This is an article about The Shack movie and what others, including other United Methodist pastors, are saying about it.

So, overall, I can’t totally recommend it, but with the right knowledge going in, it may be helpful, entertaining, and worthwhile. How’s that for riding the fence? Be blessed either way.



2017



Concert Series at New Hope

Mark Your Calendars!!

Our concert season for 2017 will consist of The Booth Brothers on Saturday, May 13 at 6:00 pm with doors opening at 5:00 pm, Tim Lovelace (a Christian Comedian) on Saturday, July 22 at 6:00 pm, and The Mark Trammell Quartet on Saturday, September 23 at 6:00 pm. (More information on Tim Lovelace and Mark Trammell 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 will go on sale Sunday, March 26 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.

from your pastor's point of view...

3-12-17

I AM SECOND®

Dear New Hope Family & Friends,

Just a quick recap: We're not first. If we needed to be reminded of that fact, we found that out on Ash Wednesday. Last week we found out in order to understand the unexpected, it takes serving and loving one another while we worship God in all His holiness.

Today, we continue our "I Am Second." series by talking about how different we are because of Christ. We all have a Jesus story. You have been invited, and are still invited, to share your story too. (See how to sign up in this bulletin.)

But it all begins with that simple premise that I hope you've (or will) committed to memory: "God is first. I am second." It's that simple. All we have, all we are, and all we will be is effected by the rank we give to Him.

And thankfully, we can be second because of God's bodacious Grace, faultless Truth, and tremendous Love! ☺

UPCOMING MESSAGES

- March 19 - "Jesus if You're Real..." - Matthew 11:25-28
- March 26 - "Three Shepherds" - Psalm 23, Psalm 121
- April 2 - "Surrendering the Doubts & Questions" - John 11:17-45
- April 9 - "Choosing to Finish Second" - Matthew 21:1-11 (Palm Sunday)
- April 14 - "Bought with a Price" - I Corinthians 6:19-20, (Good Friday, 7 pm)

Today's Message: "Different Because We Love Jesus"
John 9:1-25 - "I Am Second." Series

Intro - In *Christian Apologetics*, C.S. Lewis, famous atheist turned Christian, wrote something exceedingly intense:

"Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, is of infinite importance.

The one thing it cannot be is moderately important."

We're different because our faith in Christ makes us so.

I – We're different because we know that we can't do life well without a Savior.

John 9:1-12, Matthew 28:19-20

II – We're different because Jesus is either crazy or right.

John 9:13-17, Luke 12:32

III – We're different because we've known Jesus' love and we're not willing to give it up!

John 9:18-25, Ephesians 2:4-5

IV – We're different because Jesus hasn't let us down.

Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, John 9:11

Putting It In Action: Do something everything different this week because of your faith in Jesus Christ.

Bottom Line:

We're different because we love Jesus.

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