

**MARCH MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER**

- 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.



**Wednesday Night
Dinner Menu**
March 22

Pulled Pork
Coleslaw
Baked Beans

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.



SCHEDULE



GALACTIC BLAST

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

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.

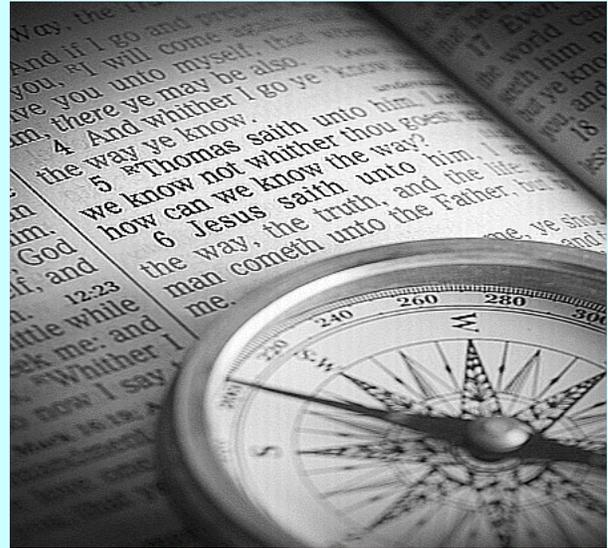
If you're interested, please let me know by putting together your statement and getting it to me. (snail mail, drop off, or email: pastorgreg.ncd@gmail.com).

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.



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!

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...

3-19-17

I AM SECOND®

Dear New Hope Family & Friends,

Have you had a “Jesus if you’re real” moment? For me, it was just after my parents told me that their marriage was ending. I remember sitting all by myself near our family trailer in the Baldwin area. As I saw God’s creation all around me, that “Don’t worry, if I take care of them, I’ll take care of you” scripture came to mind. And I thought, I didn’t feel that Jesus was there. I didn’t feel “taken care of” and worry was the only thing that made sense.

I remember thinking, “Jesus, if you’re there, fix this. I want my family back. Why do I feel so alone?” That day, I didn’t get an answer. But some time later, a friend pulled me aside and said, “Jesus knows. Jesus cares. Jesus is with you. I was sent to tell you that.” Then, they left me there! 😊

God’s grace is bodacious, His truth has no fault, His love is tremendous, AND His “contentment” is incredibly marvelous. Be blessed Jesus is real!

UPCOMING MESSAGES

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 Cor-
inthians 6:19-20, (Good Friday, 7 pm)

April 16 – “Really Honestly Believing”
John 20:1-18

Today’s Message: “Jesus if You’re Real...” -

Matthew 11:25-28, John 4:5-42

“I Am Second.” Series

Intro – We’ve all been there at one time or another!

We are where we need to be, and so is Jesus.

If we believe that Jesus is really with us!

I – We can rest in the fact that the Father and Son are in sync – they understand us and each other completely.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. – Matthew 11:28

II – Jesus is not bound by our perceived associations.

John 4:9 (5-9) - “Jews do not associate with Samaritans.” Jesus associates with everyone, including us.

III – What Jesus offers is always better!

John 4:14 (10-14) – “Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” – Jesus offer is all-supplying and never ending.

IV – Sometimes we’ve got to realize who we’re talking to!

John 4:25-26 (15-26) – “The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” - Jesus Christ is Lord!

Putting It In Action: Find someone this week who needs to know that they’re not alone and that Jesus is real. Share them your “Jesus If you’re real” contentment story. (John 4:27-52)

Bottom Line: We are where we need to be, and so is 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