

**MARCH MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER**

- S 3/5 9:45 a.m. Worship**
M 3/6 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study
T 3/7 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 3/8 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. Wednesday Night Supper
 6:00 p.m. Youth
SA 3/11 11:30-1 p.m. Tae Kwon Do
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

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 8

Pulled Pork
 Coleslaw
 Baked Beans
 Dessert and Beverage
5:30 p.m.

Free-will offering Public Invited



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



SCHEDULE GALACTIC BLAST



March 5 – AnnMarie Buchner
 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*

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.

New Hope Directory Update Pages Available at the Information Center

Stop by the Information Center on your way out today and pick up your directory update packet.

In the packet you will find new pages for those that turned in a change of address, phone number or email. You will also find **new pages** that will be inserted into the photo pages. All the pages in the packet are in alphabetical order for your convenience.

Also included in the packet are 13 pages of directory listings only (no photo) and are completely new. They will replace ALL of the listing pages in your current directory. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 231-972-2838.

Finance Committee Update

Thank you for your generous giving in 2016.

During the last month, we have been involved with the church leadership to review our 2016 financial results and to develop our 2017 budget. The results of that effort is:

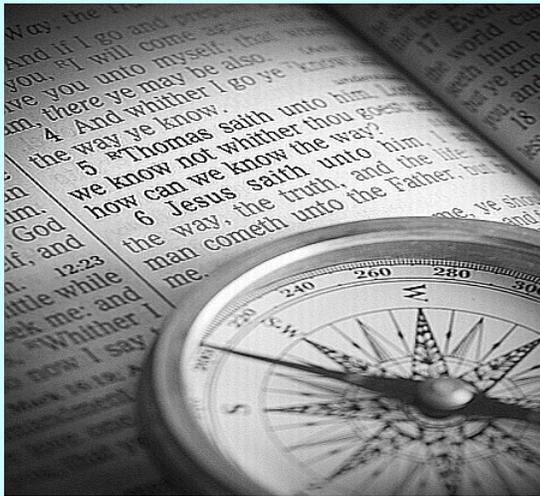
2016 Results		2017 Forecast	
Income	293,000	Income	240,000
Expense	297,000	Expense	322,000
Loss	-4,000	Loss Projection	-73,000

The finance committee is now reviewing the results with the Church Council.

As a point of interest, our utility bill for the church in 2016 was \$16,000 and for 2017 is projected to be over \$16, 000. Approximately half of that is the electric bill.

We can all help by being aware and turning the lights off and checking the heat when you leave a room.

We will be providing further updates as this process goes forward.



MARY MARTHA CIRCLE PROMOTES SHOE BOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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!

Last December Mary-Martha Circle packed fifteen shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, an outreach through Samaritan's Purse. It is possible to track our shoeboxes and learn their destination. That sounded fun, so we chose that option. We have just learned that our fifteen shoeboxes went to Tanzania and Zambia. Somewhere in those countries are boys and girls who are enjoying the items we chose for them.

We enjoyed packing and sending the shoeboxes so much that we decided to continue doing it, and wanted to open it up to the whole church. Please don't feel this is something you "have to" do! This is only if you want to help out. Every shoebox we send gives joy and help to some child somewhere in the world. In looking over the comments by children who have received shoeboxes, one child was overjoyed to get a toothbrush. Before receiving a toothbrush of his or her own, that child had to share a toothbrush with 25 other children. Yuck! Another child received a washcloth, and was excited to be able to use it as a towel. Before receiving the washcloth, one towel had to be shared with about 25 children. Such a simple thing for us, and yet huge for those children.

(continued on next page)

If you are interested in contributing to the shoeboxes, keep your eye out for monthly suggestions in the bulletin. Keep in mind that these will have to fit in a box the size of a shoebox. On the other hand, we were all surprised by how much we could pack in a shoebox! Since it is almost March, there is a little catching up to do. The suggested gift items for January were hats, gloves, and scarves. It might be possible to still get them on clearance. Or knit or crochet them yourself! A lot of these boxes go to countries in tropical parts of the world. But it can get very chilly at night in many of those places, and besides, scarves and hats are just cool! For February the suggestion was accessories. Hair ties and barrettes, necklaces, sunglasses, watches, things like that. For March, they suggest quality crafts. On their website they show wooden toys and a hand-knit hat. Please make sure they are well constructed. They need cheap junk that will fall apart quickly even less than our children here do. Children in other countries are the same as our own children and grandchildren. They enjoy playing with the same things, and wearing the same kinds of clothes.

Shoeboxes are packed for boys or girls, with the age groups of 2-4 years, 5-9, and 10-14. It is easy and fun to pack for the younger children, but just as necessary for the older ones. If you have a child or grandchild, then select something that child might like.

There are some restrictions on the items that can be sent, due to increasing customs regulations. Starting this year, no candy is allowed. No liquids are allowed. This is mainly due to the risk of it breaking and leaking on the rest of the gifts. Lip gloss is a liquid, but Chapstick or other lip balms are good. Rubber balls are great, but the ones with glitter inside actually contain liquid and are not. Starting this year toothpaste is not allowed. A toothbrush used by itself still will help with dental hygiene. Bar soap is good to include. It sounds boring to us, but to a child without soap, it is a wonderful thing.

Tools can be included, except for pocketknives and saws. Scissors are good. Maybe with some paper, too? Camouflage items can be included as long as they don't look military. For example, other colors like

pink camo, or items like pencils, wallets, or socks.

If any items are donated that can't be sent, we will pass them on to God's Helping Hands, and someone who needs them will still be able to use them. There is a bin in the Fellowship Hall for any items you want to contribute. If you have any questions, ask Nancy Santer or Lois Sherwood.

What do I put in a shoebox?

Start with a "Wow" item: soccer ball (deflated) with pump, stuffed animal, toys, doll, musical instrument, clothes, shoes.

Then include:

Toys like toy cars and trucks, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

School supplies: pens, pencils with a pencil sharpener, crayons, markers, Notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books (small enough to fit in a shoebox), etc.

Non-liquid hygiene items: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

Accessories: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Crafts: Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets. (If you are interested in this, Operation Christmas Child has instructions that we can get to you.)

A personal note: You may enclose a note to the child and/or a photo of yourself, your family, or group. If you include your name and an address, the child may be able to write back.

Things that can be included:

Playing cards and other small games
Little toys like spiders, bugs, snakes, etc.
Batteries, especially if a battery operated toy is included. If they are loose, both ends must be covered with tape. Liquids paints and glues are not allowed, but dry paint sets like watercolors

(make sure there is a brush!) and glue sticks are fine.

Squirt guns, as long as they don't look like real guns.

Glow sticks, Wet wipes, Play-Doh, but some children might eat it. (It is non-toxic, though.)
Compact mirrors, because if the glass shatters, it will be contained.

Second Saturday Munch Bunch

The Second Saturday Munch Bunch will meet for dinner at 5:00 pm on Saturday, March 11 at Udderly Delicious Ice Cream & Café in Morley.

Udderly Delicious is located on the right side of Northland Drive heading south just before you enter the town of Morley.

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

From New Hope Missions 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.



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"**.

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.

from your pastor's point of view...

3-5-17

I AM SECOND®

Dear New Hope Family & Friends,

Have you ever had the most unexpected thing happen, but it still be a good thing? Normally it's the opposite right? Unexpected is often synonymous with "not good." Most of the time we don't like surprises! But if we're willing to be second, God can work even those times too.

Today, we continue our new series called "I Am Second." This will be a great series to help us have the tools to share our God-story. We're not first. Christ is. All we have, all we are, and all we will be is effected by the rank we give our faith.

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'll memorize: "God is first. I am second." especially because of God's bodacious Grace, faultless Truth, and tremendous Love! ☺

Pastor Greg

UPCOMING MESSAGES

March 12 – "Different Because We Love Jesus" - Ephesians 2:4-5, John 9:1-25
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

Today's Message: "Understanding the Unexpected"
John 13:1-17, 31-35 "*I Am Second.*" Series

Intro – "We're Not First" recap from Wednesday (God thinks better, knows us, our response: repentance)

I – In the Unexpected, Jesus Showed Service

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." – Jesus (John 13:15)

II – In the Unexpected, Jesus Taught Love

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

III – In the Unexpected, Jesus Demonstrated Holiness

"Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:10)

Putting It In Action: Take an unexpected event this week, from your past, present or future, and ask God what was it you were supposed to, or will, understand from it.

Bottom Line:

God can take the unexpected and use it for His glory.

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](https://www.facebook.com/pastorgregbuchner)
each week's messages are online at: www.new-hope-church.org