

This week the New Hope bulletin  
is being sponsored by:

**Midwest Properties of  
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Remus, MI

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

**November 12 2017**

**Attendance**

**9:45 a.m. – 108    11:15 a.m. – 10**

General:        \$3,438.25

Building:       \$ 345.00

**Total:        \$3,783.25**

**November 19, 2017 – Twenty-Fourth  
Sunday After Pentecost / Bible Sunday**

God, our provider, your Word creates our life and strength. Everything we have is a gift from your open hand. Guide us by your Spirit to be diligent and faithful stewards of all that you entrust to our care. May we not bury our gifts or fearfully hoard resources. Fill our hearts with trust, so that we can experience your joy in giving. May our congregation show your generosity through our mission in the world. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. (*Matthew 25:14-30*)

**November Administrative Meetings**

**Staff Parish Mtg.** Mon. Nov. 6 – 6:00 p. m  
**Memorial Comm. Mtg.** Thurs. Nov. 9 – 6 p.m.  
**Trustees Mtg.** Wed. Nov. 15 – 6:30 p.m.  
**Finance Mtg.** Thurs. Nov. 16 – 5:30 p.m.  
**Ad Council** – Thurs. Nov. 16 – 7:00 p.m.  
**Staff Mtg.** – Mon. Nov. 27 – 6:00 p.m.

**NOVEMBER MINISTRY  
OPPORTUNITIES TO REMEMBER**

**S 11/19 9:45 a.m. Worship**  
**11:15 a.m. “Uncommon” Worship**  
**M 11/20 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study**  
**T 11/21 5:30 p.m. Men’s Emmaus**  
**6:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Study**  
**W 11/22 10:00 a.m. NO “Covering the Book”**  
**Bible Study**  
**3:00 p.m. Praise Too Practice**  
**3:20 p.m. NO Kingdom Kids**  
**4:15 p.m. NO Choir Practice**  
**5:30 p.m. NO Wed. Night Supper**  
**6:00 p.m. NO Youth**  
**TH 11/23 NEW HOPE OFFICE CLOSED**  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**  
**SA 11/25 9:30 a.m. Worship Design**  
**10:30 a.m. Tech and Check**  
**S 11/26 9:45 a.m. Worship**  
**11:15 a.m. “Uncommon” Worship**  
**M 11/27 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study**  
**T 11/28 5:30 p.m. Men’s Emmaus**  
**6:30 p.m. Men’s Bible Study**  
**W 11/29 10:00 a.m. “Covering the Book”**  
**Bible Study**  
**3:00 p.m. Praise Too Practice**  
**3:20 p.m. Kingdom Kids**  
**4:15 p.m. Choir Practice**  
**5:30 p.m. Wed. Night Supper**  
**6:00 p.m. Youth**

***The office at New Hope will be closed from  
Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and reopen Monday,  
December 4<sup>th</sup>.***



**Wednesday Night Dinner**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**There will be no  
Wednesday Night Dinner  
Wed. Nov. 22**

***See you on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>!!***

***Public Invited --- Free-Will Offering***

**New Hope UMC Monthly Report of  
All Income and Expenses**

	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$85,168**	\$269,168
<b>Expenses</b>	\$30,029	\$247,077
<b>Difference</b>	\$55,138	\$22,108

\*\*Income included special gifts of \$39,482 and Building Loan Sunday contributions of \$20,455.

*Please note that due to rounding, numbers may not add up correctly.*

**NEW HOPE  
ANGEL GIVING TREE**



As most of you have noticed, the Angel Giving Tree is in the narthex here at New Hope.

Cards are being taken off the tree which is a great blessing, but there are still a few left for those who would like to take one, but haven't had a chance.

Please remember, if you take a card from the tree, register it on the form that is placed on the table in front of the tree. A few cards have been taken that are not registered. If you have taken a card and not registered it, please do so. The deadline for the gifts to be turned in to New Hope is December 5<sup>th</sup>.

These gifts will bring smiles to many children at Christmas.

**NO CRAFT DAY ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>.**

With Thanksgiving Day coming up this week, the Tuesday Craft Day group have decided not to meet. There will be no craft day on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Craft Day will resume on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.



**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

# Why all the suffering?

Michael Stewart

One of the main arguments against the Christian faith is the problem of evil. Often, it is posed in a format similar to the following: If God is all-powerful and loving, why does he allow evil in the world? Why doesn't he simply stop all the suffering in the world? This question is a difficult one to answer, but not impossible. As we will soon find, the answer lies in the Bible.

Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Much evidence could be given to prove that God created, but I will continue to the question at hand. After God created the Earth and everything in it, sin entered the world. The original man and woman, Adam and Eve, had simply one rule given to them directly from God – "But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die. (Genesis 2:17)" However, they disobeyed God and ate the fruit. Sin causes a unraveling of God's creation, and send all creatures toward a common destination – death.

Skeptics pose the question above to Christians to bait them into denying one of God's attributes, and therefore paint Him as either weak or unloving. However, as stated above, God is all-powerful (He created everything). Furthermore, God is loving because he sent Jesus to come to Earth to reverse the curse of sin and save those who believe in Him. John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world that he sent his only son that whosoever believes in Him shall have eternal life." Sending Jesus to earth is God's answer to the suffering problem. In fact, The Bible pledges that sin will not always keep a cold grip on humanity. Promised in Revelation 21:3-4 is this: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

However this fact of the existence of evil actually confirms God's existence. For something to be labeled evil", a moral standard must be in place. One who is not a Christian has no reason to believe in evil because the universe is exactly as it should be, in an evolutionary perspective. Take, for example, the killing of another human. Clearly stated in the Bible in Exodus 20:13 is the command, "Thou shalt not murder." However, if God's moral standard is removed, what is evil? What does it matter what one does to others? Morality becomes subjective, based on one's own feelings instead of a standard. Therefore, even the fact that evil exists lends credence to God's existence.

In the end, Christians must simply trust Christ. God says the following in Isaiah 55:9: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." We may not always understand why things happen to us, but God loves us and wants our best. After all, if He was willing to sacrifice His Son to save us, He certainly has a plan for us.

All verses taken from the Bible, mixed versions, mostly ESV and KJV.

*Michael Stewart is the 16 year old grandson of Jim and Betty Stewart. He is a junior at Faith Academy, a Christian school in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. His hobbies are basketball, soccer, singing in the choir and playing the piano. Michael wrote this paper in one of his classes.*

## There is a God!

If there is no God, nothing matters. If there is a God, nothing else matters.  
H G Wells

Psalm 88:8-10

# from your pastor's point of view...11-19-17

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

Dear New Hope Family and Friends...

### **Happy Thanksgiving Sunday!!!**

In just a few short days, we'll be taking the time to be thankful. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us that "In everything give thanks." But that is often easier said than done, isn't it? Sometime we just need to write a list to thank God. I try to update mine each year. Here it is...

- 1 – my faith in God through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, especially God's grace, truth, and love.
- 2 – my family (and for their willingness to put up with me!)
- 3 – my call to ordained ministry
- 4 – my New Hope & U.M.C. families
- 5 – my set of experiences - education and personal life challenges
- 6 – being able to live in the United States with all of its benefits
- 7 – our armed forces and their families who sacrifice for #6.
- 8 – music in all its forms, even country! ☺
- 9 – nature (esp. Lake Mich. & sunsets)
- 10 – minivans that still run even with 200K miles!

I know I'm blessed. I assume that you know that you're blessed too. So, how about a list of your own? Or better yet, why not just take a moment this week and have a heart-to-heart with God. He just loves to be thanked by his people, especially considering His bodacious Grace, faultless Truth, and tremendous Love!

*Pastor Greg*

### **"...Who Wants to be Thanked!" (Luke 17:11-19)**

#### **"There is a God!" series**

**Intro** – Luke 17:11-19 – NOT A PARABLE! ☺  
Using Amplified Version...for "color."

#### **I – God wants to heal.**

"When [Jesus] saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were miraculously healed and made clean." – Luke 17:14  
(Luke 7:11-19, Matthew 15:30-31 and many others)

#### **II – We need to remember to thank God.**

"One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying and praising and honoring God with a loud voice; and he lay face downward at Jesus' feet, thanking Him over and over. He was a Samaritan." – Luke 17:15-16

#### **III – God notices when we don't say thanks & when we do.**

"Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten of you cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was there no one found to return and to give thanks and praise to God, except this foreigner?" Jesus said to him, "Get up and go on your way. Your faith, your personal trust in Me, and your confidence in God's power, has restored you to health."  
Luke 17:17-19

#### **Bottom Line & Application**

*"Let everything  
that has breath  
and every breath of life  
praise the Lord!"  
Psalm 150:6 AMP*

#### **UPCOMING MESSAGES**

##### **"Embracing the Chaos of Christmas" series – thru December 31**

- Nov. 26 - "Embracing Family" (Matthew 1:1-17)
- Dec. 3 - "Embracing the Preparation-John the Baptist" (John 1:6-8,19-29)
- Dec. 10 - "Embracing God's Chaos – Joseph" (Matthew 1:18-25)
- Dec. 17 - "Embracing God's Chaos – Mary" (Luke 1:26-38)

*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.*