



SHARING OUR FAITH

New Hope's Monthly Newsletter

CHANGES IN THE iCHURCH

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NEW HOPE CHURCH

A Ministry of the Reformed Church in America

Rev. Stephen M. Norden, Senior Pastor
Rev. Sarah E. Palsma, Associate Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00AM

Contemporary Worship
Sunday School for ages 3 through
5th Grade

10:15AM

Sunday School for Adults and Youth
Praise School for ages 3 through
5th Grade

11:15AM

Traditional Worship
School House Sunday School for Kids

4739 W. Powell Rd.

(Next to the Columbus Zoo)

Powell, OH 43065

614.766.5445

NewHopeWorship.com



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NEW HOPE'S MISSION

To **Reach** people for Christ, **Root** people in Christ, and **Release** people to serve Christ.

A few weeks ago I received an invitation to attend my seminary class' 40th reunion. After recovering from the initial shock that indeed it has been 40 years since 1978, I realized that I would not be able to attend. I did, however, take the opportunity (as requested) to write a letter to my classmates chronicling the last four decades of life and ministry.

That has given me pause to reminisce about what a different church and world it is today than when I graduated from seminary and entered into ministry. I'll highlight some of the changes I've experienced and let you determine whether they're helpful or unhelpful.

Perhaps the most noticeable change is that, when I began in ministry, women were not able to be ordained as Ministers of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. There were three women in my graduating class, none of whom were able to serve as pastors upon graduation. Today there are a number of women in the Master of Divinity program at Western Seminary, there are a number of women who are ordained ministers in our denomination, and New Hope's associate pastor is a woman while our daughter-in-law also is a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

The change in technology within the life and ministry of the church has been nothing short of astounding. Forty years ago I typed papers, articles and sermons

on an electric typewriter. I thought the IBM Selectric was amazing.

Correspondence was all hard copy with onion skin carbon copies for documentation. If multiple copies of a document, worship bulletin, etc. were produced, they were duplicated on a mimeograph machine. Woe to the person who made an error on the stencil! The only computer I had seen at that point in life took up the entire basement of a building on the campus of Hope College. There was no such thing as voice mail or email. Today, my iPhone has more memory than the one computer on Hope's campus and I'd be lost without my iMac, Macbook Pro and iPad.

When I began in ministry, the church faced little or no competition for time on Sunday morning and, in many places, on Sunday and Wednesday evenings also. Regular attendance in worship meant at least every Sunday morning and for many families, included Sunday evening. Today, the most common pattern of worship attendance at New Hope Church is once every six weeks.

Forty years ago the church and clergy were generally still held in high respect. It was important to have the endorsement of the local clergy association (which has gone the way of the dinosaur) and clergy were frequently invited to serve on community boards, foundations and other bodies. Today, clergy are accorded the

same level of respect and esteem as used car salespersons.

When I began in ministry we in the Reformed Church in America were capable of disagreeing without being disagreeable. We most assuredly did not agree about everything. However, we were able to respect each other as Christian sisters and brothers, talk through our disagreements and focus on that which united rather than divided us. Today, as with many denominations, we are more polarized than ever. We refuse to listen to those with whom we disagree, we are quick to attach labels

and to question their spiritual commitment and we're uncertain about their theological orthodoxy. There are many in our denomination who have resolved that, if they do not get "their way," there will be a quick exit.

Lastly, forty years ago I was convinced that, after three years in seminary, I had most if not all of the answers. Life has a way of calling into question traditionally held beliefs, challenging cherished notions and presuppositions and disrupting long-held assumptions. Now I can only dream about how smart I was and wish that all my answers were unassailable!

SPRING CLEANING

Susan Eiselstein, Church Administrator
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Spring is officially here and we are excited to share with you several things happening at New Hope. First, I am very happy to announce our newest staff member, Seth Sprang, who joined us on March 1st as our Sound Engineer/Tech Coordinator. We are so happy to have Seth on board and he has already had a positive impact with our Music Ministry.

I'd like to briefly highlight the status on a few items that were mentioned last month. One is in regard to the review of our financial policies and procedures by a local CPA. This report is now in the draft stage and will soon be complete. We anticipate some changes as a result of the

forthcoming recommendations as we tighten up some past practices. Change is not always easy but sometimes necessary to minimize risk and ensure we are being the best stewards that we can be.

Next, I'd like to share just a couple of comments regarding the February financial report below. Please note that for the month, tithes and offerings were \$11,913 over budget. Expenses were \$283 over budget, specifically due to the unanticipated purchase of a new freezer for the kitchen, and final payment of the phase 2 parking lot LED lighting project.

In addition to these facility updates,

we recently had all of the pews steam cleaned (which had not been done since the church was built). Thank you in advance for limiting or exercising care with regard to drinks in the sanctuary!

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that if you have any questions for me or for any of our staff, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Once again, thank you for your faithful giving to God's work here at New Hope. It is exciting to see what the Lord is doing and to hear so much enthusiasm expressed in the visions for our various ministries and opportunities available here.

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH FEBRUARY 2018

	February			YEAR TO DATE		
	Budget	Actual	% Difference	Budget	Actual	% Difference
Total Income	\$78,933	\$90,846	15.1%	\$163,594	\$176,966	8.2%
Total Expense	\$81,003	\$81,286	0.3%	\$193,339	\$186,660	3.5%

YOUTH MINISTRY

Lindsey Allen, Director of Youth Ministry

allen@NewHopeWorship.com • 614.766.5445 x20 • NewHopeWorship.com/Youth



Dear friends of New Hope,

In the last several weeks our community has been reeling over the loss of two beloved students within the Olentangy community. Many of our children are wrestling with the realities of school violence against one another, violence against oneself, mental illness, social pressures, and bullying. My heart aches for our youth in this generation. However, I am filled with hope because of the youth that want to make a positive impact in our community and in the world.

After the tragic loss of these two teens, New Hope has become an epicenter for hope and healing within the Powell community. People who would not ordinarily come to a church, have gathered within our walls working together in attempt to determine and understand the greatest problems facing our children today, and vigilantly work toward solutions. I am thankful that people are being introduced to New Hope in their time of need.

My deepest gratitude however, is that a group of middle and high school students (some affiliated with New Hope and others not) have begun to meet weekly with me and a few fellow parents from our Church to brainstorm ideas on how to: reaching the children who seem overwhelmed with life's struggles, who or are alone, to love the child that others disregard, to discover and implement ways to help our teens navigate a world that is unfamiliar to us as adults, to bridge the gap between educators, parents, and teens, and to give them a voice to those who feel unheard. It has been an incredibly powerful journey and I am excited to see how God will use this time with New Hope as the safe gathering place for people grieving within our community. Our youth are just - wow! They are world changers with their compassion, empathy, and vision for change.

I feel compelled to write this because so much of the news we see today regarding our teens is devastating and that there is not much hope. As someone on the front lines of working with teenagers I must tell you:

there is hope! Not only do we serve an incredible God that paves the way for reconciliation between all people, but we have kids that desperately desire change and are willing to make the difficult first steps to bring it. They serve others people in their schools and in their community, and I would be re-missed if I didn't highlight what our youth do for our church and congregation as well.

Unless you serve beside them, you may not recognize the enormous impact our youth are making as the regularly serve this congregation. If you walk the halls on Sunday mornings and look into the nursery or Sunday School rooms you will see youth volunteers shepherding the youngest children in our congregation. They are tribe leaders for Kids WOW, coaches for Sports Camp, Team Leaders during VBS, managing games at events, cooking, painting faces at the Easter Egg Hunt, etc. Every week many of our youth serve us through their gift of worship in the choir or praise band. Many of them help on our tech team on Sundays and at events throughout the year. Our youth may use their gifts to be an usher while some clean and prep coffee mugs between services so we can gather and build relationships over a hot (clean) cup of coffee, while others offer their time to serve with our Missional Engagement outreach opportunities.

Have hope. Our youth are engaged, invested, and serving our church and our community. Service matters to them and they do it joyfully each week. I am thankful to each of them and the time they invest in their church home. There are so many things competing for their time and attention, yet they continue to make service at New Hope a priority. Although our hours this year have not yet been tabulated, last year our youth served a combined 833.95 hours!

Our world is broken, there is no denying that. However, our youth at New Hope are stepping up and stepping in where there is a need, where people are hurting, and where they can serve others well using the gifts God has given them. Have hope!

HOPE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rachel Tate, Children's Ministry Team Leader

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We had the BEST Easter Egg Hunt EVER!! Thank you to our Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Bartula; you led a great team and I was honored to be a part of the excitement!



Truly - it was epic and amazing. Russ guessed we had 2-3 *hundred* people in our church participating in the activities. Thank you, Lord! And thank you to each and every Support Team Member - We could not have done it without you. We saw so many familiar faces and but also, so very many new ones. What a blessing!

We greeted and directed. We were blessed to guide some Hindu friends into our sanctuary to hear the Easter story. Yes; Hindu friends in our sanctuary at New Hope! Stephanie Vermeer even shared the Easter story with bleach and iodine (if you missed it, come see next year - no spoilers here).



Our bunny was an amazing, young man in 6th grade, who gracefully and boldly shared God's love through a furry friend. Thank you Zachary Allen for being such an amazing example of God's love!

This event was outreach at its

finest, in so many ways, friends. Jesus's light literally shined so brightly that beautiful sunny Sunday.

Club 45ers - Yahoo! You all rocked the LemonAid Stand for the Salvation Army. Abby, Camden, Caroline, Drew, Jacelle, Caiden, Evie, and Mrs. Stephanie McKinnon - Thank you! Lemonade makers and stand creators and destructors - Thank you!



He calls us by name, friends. I thank Jesus daily that you hear His loving call to serve Him by sharing His story in whatever way you are called; through art, teaching, sports, music, etc. **USE YOUR GIFTS TO SHARE HIS STORY!** It's amazing when a team of greatly gifted people share those God given gifts together to glorify Him. It's truly the most heart-exploding, best thing ever!

Sports Camp is coming up next! It's a fantastic event that we cannot wait to share with you. Find your space to serve at newhopeworship.org/children.

We can't wait to shine Jesus' love with you again soon!

In His mighty hands,

Rachel Tate

Verse of the Month:



"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Service Opportunity:

Our Youth and Children have the opportunity to USHER at our 9:00 am Living Water Service. We are looking for 2-3 Youth/Children for each Sunday. Please contact Greg Chambers at: gregchambers61@gmail.com or Rachel Tate: tate@newhopeworship.com if interested.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TEAM
UPDATE



Music | The Children's Junior Worship Choir did an amazing job leading worship on March 18th and will be leading the 11:15 am Worship Service on April 8th. There will be no JWC rehearsal the night of April 1st or April 8th. Normal rehearsals will resume April 15 from 5:15pm – 6:15pm. Please contact Music Coordinator Dez Takas at Takas@NewHopeWorship.com for more information.

Nursery | The Goldfish Crackers are gone again - Please donate more again soon! Thank you to Karla Noppenberger for the beautiful rainbow mural gracing the nursery wall. We are so thankful that you shared your gift!



Outreach | On behalf of the Children's Ministry Team and myself, I wanted to send a huge "thank you" to all the adult and youth volunteers that helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. We had a tremendous turnout and we could not put on an event like this without your time and service - Thank you!

We are in the process of preparing for Sports Camp and VBS. Registration will be available for both events the first week in April. Keep your eyes open for more communication on where to register and how to make payments.

We will also be looking for volunteers to help with these events. Look for Sign Up Genius links coming soon!

Save the
Date!

Sports Camp: *June 3th - 7th; 11:15am on June 3rd and 6:30pm - 8:00pm June 4-7th.

VBS: July 23rd - 27th 9:00am - 12:00pm

**This is a slight change in our original dates! We will begin Sunday, June 3 after service with a celebratory tailgate! Our awards ceremony will be held Thursday evening.*



Education | The last Sunday School for children is on May 13th. If you are interested in getting involved before we break for the summer or in learning what serving in Sunday School looks like, please contact Rachel Warren at Warren@NewHopeWorship.com!

We'll be looking for adults and youth to join our Support Team for Summer Praise School. We're going to have so much fun praising Jesus this summer and would love for you to join us!

If you haven't already, please "like" our Children's Ministry Facebook page to stay up to date on the ministry. Watch for more parent resource information being shared as well!



ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Palsma, Associate Pastor

palsma@NewHopeWorship.com • 614.766.5445 x13 • NewHopeWorship.com/Adults



Adult Sunday School | April 8 - May 13



One Nation Under God

Facilitators: Beverly & Kevin Robinson

Location: Adult Room A

In a nation divided among imaginary lines of ideology, class, gender, ethnicity, etc, the temptation exists to stay within our own comfortable communities, yet as One Nation Under God, joined together by the love of Christ, we are called out to build bridges across dividing lines.



What is Reformed Theology

Facilitators: Albert Newball

Location: Cry Room

You've probably heard of Reformed Theology, but you may not be certain as to what is is. In this class, Albert Newball will walk you through the foundations of the Reformed doctrine and explain how the Reformed understanding of Christianity is centered on God, based on God's Word, and committed to faith in Jesus Christ.

The Journey

Explore the JOURNEY

Sunday, May 6 at 10:15am

Location: Cry Room

You've probably heard Pastor Steve or Pastor Sarah speak about "The Journey" program in one of their sermons. The Journey is a spiritual formation class which centers on three big questions: Who am I? Who is God? What does God desire to do through me? On Sunday May 6 during the Adult Education hour you have the opportunity to explore the content of this class and discover how your life can be transformed through your participation in a journey group.

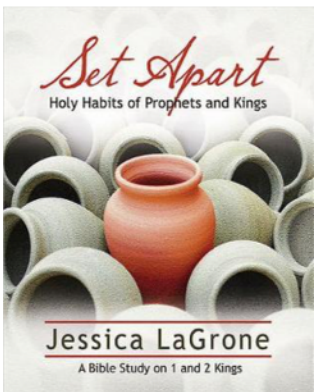
ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Palsma, Associate Pastor

palsma@NewHopeWorship.com • 614.766.5445 x13 • NewHopeWorship.com/Adults



Women's Ministry | Bible & Book Study

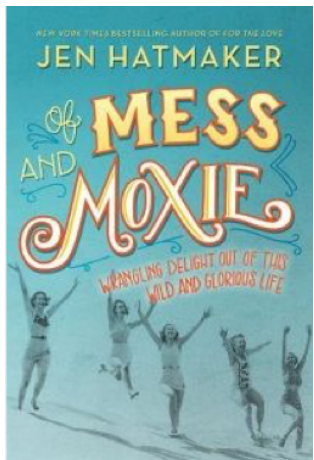


Set Apart: Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings

Thursdays 9:30-11am

Childcare Provided

This study examines six holy habits of Old Testament prophets and kings who were set apart by their close walk with God. We'll explore the central stories of these intriguing men of God found in 1 & 2 Kings, and observe some of the practices they observed: being consecrated to God, listening to God, mentoring, practicing humility, worshiping God, discovering God's word.



"Of Mess & Moxie"

June 13-27 and July 18-27

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8pm

Childcare Provided

Save the date for Wednesday June 13 at 6:30pm for the women's summer book study! This summer we'll be reading and discussing the book "Of Mess and Moxie" by Jen Hatmaker. We'll also learn about Christian women who had a lot of moxie to leave a legacy of faith for the next generation.

Save
the
Date!

MEN'S MINISTRY

Save
the
Date!

Father Son Retreat

June 8-10th

Men of all ages are invited to the annual Father-Son Retreat located at the Trout Club in Brinkhaven, OH. The Retreat will begin on Friday, June 8th and end on Sunday afternoon, June 10th. Details coming soon! Registration begins in May.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christine Loy, Director of Music Ministry

loy@NewHopeWorship.com • 614.766.5445 x14 • NewHopeWorship.com/Music



Youth Band Jam | Calling all Middle or High School youth who want to play drums, El guitar, bass, keys! Join us for Youth Band Jam night. The music room will be open from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on Sunday, April 22nd. Come check it out and make some noise!

Contact loy@newhopeworship.com for more info.



Join Worship Choir | Now is a great time to join our worship choir. The Choir will be beginning our Spring music season which includes our favorite anthems, gospel songs, and some Patriotic music as well. Join us for a Thursday rehearsal starting April 12th at 7PM. Busy schedules welcome and childcare is available.

Capriccio Youth Concert | Join us on Sunday, April 29th at 4pm here at New Hope for a special youth concert! Tickets are \$10 for Adults, students are free. You can purchase them at the door or online at capricciocolumbus.org/tickets. We hope to see you here!

NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTER

Lynn Riley, Director

preschool@NewHopeWorship.com • 614.766.2446 • NewHopePreschool.com



We had such a successful outreach this year during our Parent Night! During Spring Break we delivered \$5,623.67 and a box of books to Nationwide Children's Hospital. We will continue to support Nationwide Children's Hospital next year for our outreach.

The school year is quickly coming to an end. The classes will have their spring field trips in April and end of the year programs in May. We continue to enroll new families each week and still have space in our Kindergarten, 4's classes and our Learn with Me program.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions!

New Hope Family Photos!



APRIL CHURCH CALENDAR

For more details please see NewHopeWorship.com/Calendar

Monday, April 2

7pm Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday, April 3

7pm Missional Engagement

Wednesday, April 4

7:30pm Bethel

Thursday, April 5

9:30am Women's Bible Study

7pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm AA

Sunday, April 8

9:00am Worship, Kid's Sunday School

10:15am Adult & Youth Sunday School

11:15am Worship & School House Sunday School

5:15pm Middle School Youth Group

7:00pm High School Youth Group

Wednesday, April 11

12:30pm Women's Bible Study

7:30pm Bethel

Thursday, April 12

9:30am Women's Bible Study

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm AA

Sunday, April 15

9:00am Worship, Kid's Sunday School

10:15am Town Meeting

11:15am Worship & School House Sunday School

5:15pm Middle School Youth Group

7:00pm High School Youth Group

Monday, April 16

7pm Outreach Meeting

Wednesday, April 18

12:30pm Women's Bible Study

7:30pm Bethel

Thursday, April 19

9:30am Women's Bible Study

6pm Deacon & Elder Meeting

7pm Consistory Meeting

7pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm AA

Sunday, April 22

9:00am Worship, Kid's Sunday School

10:15am Adult & Youth Sunday School

11:15am Worship

5:15pm Middle School Youth Group

6pm Youth Band Jam

7:00pm High School Youth Group

Wednesday, April 25

5:30pm - HIS Place

7:30pm - Bethel

Thursday, April 26

7pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30pm AA

Sunday, April 29

9:00am Worship, Kid's Sunday School

10:15am Adult & Youth Sunday School

11:15am Worship

4pm Capriccio Youth Concert

5:15pm Middle School Youth Group

7:00pm High School Youth Group