



SHARING OUR FAITH

New Hope's Monthly Newsletter



A LIFETIME IS NOT TOO LONG

Rev. Steve Norden, Senior Pastor

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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
KidSpace for ages 3 through
5th Grade

11:15AM

Traditional Worship
School House Sunday School for
Kids

4739 W. Powell Rd.



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NEW HOPE'S MISSION

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



I confess that there are occasions when I submit my newsletter article at the last moment. More often than not, this is because I find it difficult to write something fresh and creative that hasn't been written in a previous newsletter article during the past 35 years. Writers block is real and it plagues me frequently. But this month's article is simply too hard to write for other reasons.

For the past 20 years Nancy Green has served as New Hope Church's Office Administrator. She is often the first face a person sees upon entering our building or the first voice they hear when the church phone is answered. To say that Nancy has served New Hope spectacularly well over the past 20 years simply does not convey the magnitude of her value. Nancy has been a steadying influence, a listening ear to many, the one who keeps staff on task and focused and a colleague upon whom we've all come to rely significantly. Nancy's empathy has welcomed and touched many. Her kindness and compassion are generous and ubiquitous.

Nancy and I have often reminisced about her hesitation in coming to work for New Hope. In early 2000, as she considered this opportunity she was told by our then chair of the Personnel Committee that I was hard to work for. In conversations between the chair of the committee, Nancy and me we came to understand that I have high expectations for every staff member at New Hope. Nancy not only has met those expectations, she has exceeded them greatly.

I wonder how many remember what a different church New Hope was 20 years ago. Nancy and I characterize us back then as a "mom and pop" operation. We were in the "Polar Bear Church" and Nancy's office and mine were adjoining with a door between us. This was before the internet, cell phones, text messages and the like. We did have an answering machine that Nancy would check daily but most of our communication was simply talking to each other loudly (for my sake) through the open door between our offices.

It goes without saying that the only person who knows me better than Nancy is my wife, Jean. Nancy could write a book about my idiosyncracies, my faults, my limitations and more. Still, she has always accepted me and cared for me in spite of these. I know that Nancy has disagreed with several of the decisions I've made over the past 20 years, particularly as they relate to staff members of New Hope. While she was always willing to share her opinions, never did she undermine me or speak behind my back. Nancy was as loyal and trustworthy as the day is long. For that, I will be forever grateful.

Whenever someone of Nancy's tenure leaves, the natural response is to wonder if the institution will survive. I'm grateful that our new Office Administrator, Melissa Brady who has been working with Nancy for several weeks, has proved herself capable and already has become a valuable and valued member of our staff team. I hope you'll greet Melissa warmly when you meet her.

It hardly seems possible that 20 years has passed since Nancy began with us at New Hope. The time has flown by, to use the Apostle Paul's words, "in a twinkling of an eye." I didn't want to write this article and I'm still not happy about it. But I am very happy for Nancy as she and her husband, Tim, move into a new phase of their life in beautiful western Montana.

I've thought long and hard about parting words for Nancy. It was 35 years ago that I first heard Michael W Smith's song "Friends." And so, I offer these words as an expression of my deep admiration and affection for the dear friend Nancy is to me:

*Packing up the dreams God planted
In the fertile soil of you
I can't believe the hopes He's granted*

*Means a chapter of your life is through
But we'll keep you close as always
It won't even seem you've gone
'Cause our hearts in big and small ways
Will keep the love that keeps us strong*

*And friends are friends forever
If the Lord's the Lord of them
And a friend will not say never
'Cause the welcome will not end
Though it's hard to let you go
In the Father's hands we know
That a lifetime's not too long
To live as friends*

ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Palsma, Associate Pastor

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Year of the Bible



We are now into our third month of reading through the Bible in a year. I hope you have developed a good habit of reading scripture each day. I also hope that you haven't given up if you have fallen behind in the readings. Let's be honest, the second half of Exodus and Leviticus are no

thriller novel, but you can get through them. What can you do if you're behind, I mean, really behind? Well don't give up! The best thing to do is jump ahead and

pick up the readings for the current day. That way, you will be with the rest of the congregation. When you are able you can go back and read what you've missed. You will be surprised how quickly you can catch up. Day by Day you will continue to engage in this epic story of God's love for you.

It's still not too late to get into The Year of the Bible! Join us in this adventure of reading through the Bible in a year. Sign up at www.newhopeworship.com/yob.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class has been organized in coordination with The Year of the Bible program. Everyone is invited to attend this class at 10:15 am on Sunday mornings to help lay the foundation for reading and reflecting on Scripture throughout the year.

Understanding the Bible (Book by Book)

Do you have questions about what you are reading in the Bible? Would you appreciate a little more guidance and instruction? If so, then join Pastor Steve and Pastor Sarah in the Fellowship Hall for Adult Sunday School.

March 8 – Overview of Numbers

March 15 – Wrapping up Acts

March 22 – Overview of Deuteronomy
Sunday Mornings at 10:15am

Meets in the Fellowship Hall

Led by Pastor Steve and Pastor Sarah

ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Palsma, Associate Pastor

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

Women's Bible Study



THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

Wednesday Afternoons

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

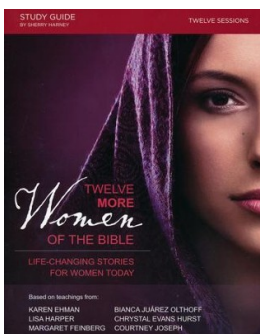
Childcare available

Led by Pastor Sarah

If you are looking for a space to ask questions and discuss the biblical passages you're reading

each week with The Year of the Bible, then this class is for you. We'll discuss our wonderings and reflections from each day, but we'll also focus in on the stories of the women in the Bible.

- Mar. 4 – Law pertaining to an Unfaithful Wife (Num. 5) Miriam (Num. 12)
- Lydia (Acts 16), Damaris the Areopagite (Acts 17)
- Mar 11 – The Daughters of Zelophehad (Num. 27) Priscilla (Acts 18)
- Mar 18 – Vows Made by Women (Num. 30) Marriage of Female Heirs (Num. 36)
- Mar 25 – Miscellaneous Laws in Deuteronomy



WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Thursday Mornings

March 5-April 9, 2020

9:30 - 11:00 am

Childcare available

Led by Michele Worthington & Rachel Tate

In this video Bible study, some of today's best-loved authors and speakers look at the spiritual lessons learned from women in

the Bible and what they mean for you today. This fresh look at these women in the Bible will help you discover new insights into God's character, persevere through difficult times, and find joy in the hope that Jesus has provided to you.

You'll study the lives of . . .

- Priscilla: Living a Life of Blessed Ordinary (Karen Ehman)
- Mary and Martha: Finding Life in Death (Bianca Juarez Olthoff)
- Bent Woman: We've Got God's Complete Attention (Lisa Harper)
- Woman with the Issue of Blood: When Persistence Pays Off (Chrystal Evans Hurst)
- Elizabeth: How to Win in the Waiting Game (Margaret Feinberg)
- Anna: How to Live a Life Devoted to God (Courtney Joseph)

Band of Brothers

Men's Fellowship Group

To the men of the church, please consider joining us for the men's 1.5-hour fellowship group called Band of Brothers. It is starting on Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. The group will meet every other Wednesday night. We will continue our reading through the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Since each meeting contains a standalone topic and there is no homework it is more than okay to join us whenever it fits your schedule. There are three basic rules for each meeting (1) you don't have to answer anything you don't want to answer (2) what is said in the room stays in the room and (3) if you need to use the restroom get up and go, because we're not stopping. If you have questions email Bill Bryan at billbryan6@gmail.com.

March 4th (Wednesday) | March 18th (Wednesday) | April 1st (Wednesday)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Greg Chambers, Church Administrator

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This year New Hope will be focusing on a variety of hands-on projects, especially the care and up-keep of the church building and surrounding grounds. The projects will provide many opportunities to serve. We will be reaching out for volunteers throughout the year.

The current projects are:

- In preparation for our Easter Services, the first project on Saturday, April 4th, the youth will be tending to the flower beds, laying mulch and weeding. We are requesting 50 adult volunteers to assist the youth with this project.
- Next we will be assisting Habitat for Humanity with the building of walls, for a family in need of a home. This project will take place in the church's parking lot on May 15th and 16th. This Wall Build will require the support of 75-100 volunteers.
- When the weather turns warmer, we will be heading outside to paint the first floor of the building. The youth have offered to help but will need volunteers to assist with this large project. More info to follow.

Please see the full details of the ground clean-up and the Wall Build, in the "Opportunities to Serve" section of the newsletter or visit our website at newhopeworship.com/helping-others.

These are great opportunities for us to share in the upkeep of God's house, and to share our ministry with the Greater Columbus community, via Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you for your support.

Finally, I want to thank Nancy Green for her extraordinary service to New Hope Church over the last 20 years. We will greatly miss Nancy and the steadfast dedication and joy she brought to work each and every day during her extensive commitment here at New Hope. Best wishes on this new phase of your life journey. God Speed.

	2/2/20	2/9/20	2/16/20	2/23/20	M-T-D	Y-T-D	% of Total
Offering - Tithes	12,088.00	14,165.00	14,045	7,361.00	47,659.00	95,439.30	48.9%
Offering - Loose Plate	366.00	176.00	283.00	307.00	1,132.00	2,702.45	1.4%
Text Giving	7,936.50	6,015.00	6,233.50	9,604.00	29,789.00	56,439.00	28.9%
Bill Pay/Submitted during the week	5,483.00	1,150.00	2,760.00	1,985.00	11,378.00	40,090.00	20.7%
TOTAL	28,873.50	21,506.00	23,321.50	19,257.00	89,958.00	194,989.85	

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Month to Date	80,787.21	89,958.00	9,170.79
Year to Date	167,344.94	194,989.85	27,644.91

NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTER

Suzie Lawson, Director

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February began with each class experiencing yoga. A very enthusiastic teacher joined us to lead the children in lots of movement and fun! Next, we prepared Valentine cards and decorations for an assisted living program in Powell. The children also enjoyed celebrating Valentine's day with some class parties and sharing valentines with each other.

Our annual outreach, Parent's Night, occurred at the end of the month. All proceeds go to Nationwide Children's Hospital. Each classroom made a collective art piece and teachers and staff helped gather donations from around the Columbus area to create a diverse silent auction. In addition, we had Kids helping Kids where families brought in new items for the children at the hospital. We had lots of activities

including music with Miss Annie, turtles with the Turtle Lady, a Scholastic Book Fair and crafts in the classroom. Glitter tattoos were a big hit this year and the Pitabilities food truck provided a food option. It was a great evening for a great cause! We are grateful to all our families for their generosity.

As we look to March, we are excited for a visit from Metroparks who will describe different animals who are coming out of hibernation. Additionally, we will have Spring conferences for our younger students and start to get outside a little more as the weather improves. We continue to have tours and are excited about the interest in our program. We are blessed each day to share our time with our students and families and look forward to welcoming Spring!

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

Weather permitting, the ground breaking for our Fellowship Pavilion will be early spring with an estimated late spring/early summer completion. Updates will be in the Sunday Informer.

Your donations we've received thus far are letting us get started ... BUT we still need your help to reach the goal of raising \$400,000. Donations can be placed in the "piggy bank" container on the Fellowship Pavilion display table or given to any Endowment Fund Board Member. All donations are greatly appreciated.

We look forward to your continued support of this exciting addition to New Hope's facility.



Women's
Retreat 2020 -
Hear us Roar!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Christine Loy, Director of Music Ministry

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Easter Choir Rehearsals

It's not too late to join us as we prepare to sing on Palm Sunday on April 5, Maundy Thursday Service on April 9 and Easter Sunday on April 12. Sing ALL or ANY of these services!

Music selections include the *Hallelujah Chorus*, *Living Hope*, *Ain't No Grave* and *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Please email loy@newhopeworship.com if you would like to jump in!



Join us for a special acoustic Worship Night on Wednesday night, March 18th as part of our soup supper line up!

We will be singing new songs along with old familiar hymns in an acoustic style setting, along with a short testimony from one of our college students and a meaningful time of devotion.

Enjoy soup at 6 pm, then Worship Night at 6:30 pm! Childcare is available.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Lindsey Allen, Director of Youth Ministry

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I would like to thank ALL of the adult and youth volunteers that contributed their time, their energy, and their resources to make our Mexican Fiesta a spectacular event! Their passion and drive to make it such a special evening did not go unnoticed by me, our leadership at New Hope Church, and the people that attended the event. As one guest said, "The decorations were beautiful. No detail was left unnoticed. And the food was not only delicious...it was memorable."

The crafts! The food! The decorations! The youth! Everything...They were all second to none.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rachel Tate, Children's Ministry Team Leader

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Hello friends! We hope you are well!

As always, there is a lot going on in Children's Ministry! The biggest news is that registrations for the Easter Egg Hunt, Sports Camp, and VBS are all up and ready for action on New Hope's website. All you need to do is sign your children up for the events and sign yourself up to help make the event awesome!

The Easter Egg Hunt needs approximately 45 volunteers to host approximately 400 community friends at this event.

Sports Camp has approximately 40 volunteer opportunities per day. We hope to have 100 campers this summer!

VBS needs approximately 75 volunteers throughout the week to help with our 225 VBS Campers! That doesn't even count the Decorating Team!

Without you, your time, your gifts, and your finances, these programs would not happen. These programs are a fundamental part of children's faith, teaching them not only about God's great love but also the value of service.

In the upcoming weeks, you will see donation displays where you will be able to find a way to support the New Hope's Children's events listed above. On behalf of all of us in the Children's Ministry, thank you in advance.

Please check out www.newhopeworship.com/children to see how you and your children can get involved. Stay up to date on the Children's Ministry by following New Hope Church Children's Ministry on Facebook!

Blessings,

Rachel Tate

Verse of the Month

Please challenge your children to memorize the verse of the month. Once your child has the verse memorized, please visit a Children's Ministry Team Member to recite the verse, receive a punch card, and get a bit closer to a special reward once you get 3 punches!

"The Lord will protect you on your journeys - whether going or coming." Psalm 121:8

"The Lord will protect you on your journeys - whether going or coming."

Psalm 121:8



Club 45 is a mighty group of service based 4th and 5th graders making a difference in their communities. We will meet once a month to gather in devotions, service, and fun. All 4th and 5th graders (and parents) are welcome!

THANK YOU! Last month, the Club 45 Crew packaged 33 Valentine Care Packages for New Hope's College students! Way to share God's love!

Save the Date:

March 4: Host New Hope's Lenten Soup Supper (5-7 pm)

April 5: Host the Salvation Army Lemonade Stand at New Hope's Easter Egg Hunt (2:00 – 3:30 pm)

May 2: Miracle League Support Team

Contact Rachel Tate at Tate@NewHopeWorship.com to learn more or visit our website at newhopeworship.com/club45.

Sunday School

We've had such a great start to Sunday School this year using our new curriculum, Bible Story Basics! A huge thank you to our amazing Sunday School Support Team for serving, this program is impossible without your support!

If you haven't taught a Sunday School class before, CMT encourages you to pray about it. It's very fun and rewarding! Did you know that our Sunday School program is taught by volunteers? Please contact Rachel Warren at Warren@NewHopeWorship.com for more information! Current Support Team members can sign up using the Sign Up Genius link found on our website.

Please register your child(ren) for the 2019/2020 year using the form on New Hope's website at newhopeworship.com/sundayschool.

KidSpace

KidSpace is located next to the nursery and is available most Sunday mornings from 10:10-11:00 am. Preschool through 5th graders can come and enjoy fun and fellowship while their parents are attending adult Sunday School classes.

Music

The Junior Worship Choir (JWC) is busy praising Jesus and preparing for Spring! Friends are welcome to join anytime! Please visit newhopeworship.com/jwc for more information, or contact Dez Takas at Takas@NewHopeWorship.com. We can't wait to praise with you!

Nursery News!

New Hope's Nursery Care is available for many of New Hope programs: choir practice, Bible studies, WOW, VBS, Sports Camp, fellowship events, and Worship nights! Our Nursery is staffed by an amazing crew of CRP/First Aid trained women who do a wonderful job caring for our youngest disciples.

Nursery Parents, we are looking for a Nursery Greeting Team for Sunday mornings. This would entail arriving to church 20 minutes early, greeting families as they arrive to the Nursery, and helping them through the check in process. Please contact Children's Ministry Team Lead, Rachel Tate at Tate@NewHopeWorship.com for more information.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5
2-3:00 pm

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt & Celebration for children up to 5th grade. Register online for this fun-filled day including arts & crafts, story time, games, and of course- the egg hunt!

Easter Egg Hunt Donations

Please bring individually wrapped, PEANUT FREE, Easter Candy that can fit into a plastic egg, to the donation bin in the Narthex by Sunday, March 22.

Over 3000 eggs need to be filled! We will be hosting an Easter Egg Stuffing Party March 25 at 7 pm following the Lenten Soup Supper.

Sports Camp

June 8-11
6:30-8:00 pm

Join us for "Heart of a Champion" Sports Camp!

At Sports Camp Heart of a Champion, kids will discover how to become champions – both in sports and in their faith. Through Bible time, guest Athletes, and different sports, kids will learn about their true Champion – Jesus.

VBS

July 27-31
9:00 am- 12:00 pm

All aboard for VBS! Open to 4 year olds (potty trained) through 5th grade. Visit our website to learn more as we climb aboard the Rocky Railway for a faith-filled adventure where kids discover trusting Jesus pulls them through life's up and downs!

Save the Dates!

Bring your friends and we'll bring the food!

Soup Suppers

Wednesdays at 6pm March 13th - April 10th

TOWN

HALL

MEETING

Sunday, April 5 at 10:15 AM

Opportunities to Serve



Some bunny told us we need Easter candy!

Please donate Individually wrapped, peanut-free candy that can fit Inside a plastic egg.

Drop-off by March 22nd!



Spring Clean Up!

SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

We need 50 volunteers to help prune, edge, and mulch the church!

Sign Up at newhopeworship.com/helping-others



Save the Date!

Join us May 15th and 16th as we build walls for Habitat for Humanity!

More details coming soon at newhopeworship.com/helping-others.