



Fall 2020

SHARING OUR FAITH

New Hope's Newsletter



KEEPING CONNECTIONS

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

4739 W. Powell Rd.
(Next to the Columbus Zoo)



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NEW HOPE'S MISSION

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



It has been so long since I last wrote a column for the newsletter that I honestly could not remember what I had written. I was able to check the March newsletter and was reminded that I had written a farewell to our Office Administrator of twenty years, Nancy Green.

At the risk of stating the obvious, so much has changed since March. One of the significant changes in the life of the church, with which I continue to struggle, is how we continue to maintain relationships and build community.

I was given pause to consider this recently when I was called out by the Dublin Police to assist with a death notification. When the officers and I arrived at the residence, no one was home. We began to check with neighbors and learned that the spouse of the deceased had died a few months before. Now we were faced with the challenge of determining who was next of kin. What surprised and saddened me was that virtually everyone in the neighborhood did not know these

people. One had been a neighbor for nearly 30 years and had never spoken with them. No one knew if there were any children or anything about the couple. What a parable for life in modern day America! We get so wrapped up in our own worlds that we make little effort to get to know people who are our neighbors. I wonder how many of us could name our most adjacent six neighbors.

I've heard it said frequently that New Hope does relationships well. It's true, relationships and community are deeply held values at New Hope. The challenge is to continue to maintain and build these in our current reality of limited contact and social distancing. We cannot take relationships and community for granted. So, I encourage us to check in with each other. Make that phone call or meet for that socially distanced cup of coffee. After all, relationships and community are at the very heart of the body of Christ.

ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Palsma, Associate Pastor

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Check
your inbox
for RightNow
Media!

I'm excited to share that our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

As a church staff, we're always looking for ways to help you develop and strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work, and in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow.

You should have already received an official invitation email to give you FREE access to RightNow Media. This email was sent on Sept. 13th from info@rightnowmedia.com. If you are unable to find the email, contact the church office and we will resend it for you.

I pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you and your family!

Adult Sunday School



Sundays from 10:15am to 11:00am

In-Person with social distancing

Meets in the Fellowship Hall

New Hope Church's journey through the Bible in 2020 continues! Join Pastor Steve and Pastor Sarah as they take turns leading this Sunday School class. This will be a time of teaching and discussion based on the books of the Bible we are reading each week. This fall we'll be unpacking Paul's pastoral letters in the New Testament and the major prophets in the Old Testament.

Bible Studies



BAND OF BROTHERS

Meets every other Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Next gather is September 30th

Contact Bill Bryan at billbryan6@gmail.com for more details

This fall the men are invited to fellowship around Paul's letter to the Galatians. 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. Join your fellow brothers in

Christ for a time of encouragement and engagement in God's word together.

ADULT MINISTRY

Rev. Sarah Palsma, Associate Pastor

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WEDNESDAY MORNING GROUP (ZOOM ONLY)

Time: 9:30am to 10:30am

Location: Virtual Gathering on Zoom (Contact Pastor Sarah for Zoom details)

Study: Enjoying Jesus

Jesus invites us into his presence with these words, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matt. 11:28-30, The Message) Log into Zoom with your favorite morning beverage and begin the day with Jesus and your sisters in Christ. In this group you'll utilize the study "Enjoying Jesus" to guide our time of fellowship, prayer and engagement in scripture. Simply come and rest in the presence of Jesus.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP (IN PERSON ONLY)

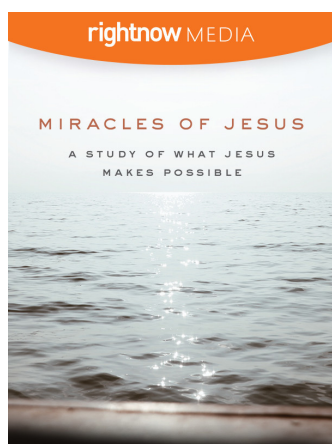
Time: 12:30pm to 1:30pm

In person with social distancing

Location: Meets outside when weather is decent or in the church Sanctuary

Study: The Book of Philippians

Paul's letter to the Philippians encourages us to give thanks to God in all circumstances. In this study we will rediscover the hope we have in Jesus Christ as we navigate the changing circumstances in our lives. Through Paul's words and example, learn how joy and sacrifice can go hand-in-hand.



WEDNESDAY EVENING GROUP (ZOOM ONLY)

Time: 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Location: Virtual Gathering on Zoom (Contact Pastor Sarah for Zoom details)

In person with social distancing TBD

Study: Miracles of Jesus

God makes the impossible possible. There's nothing too big or too small going on in our lives for us to bring to him. In this study you'll discover the ways Jesus healed, provided for, calmed, and resurrected the people he encountered. As you watch teaching from the places in Israel where Jesus performed miracles and dig into God's Word, you will end the study in awe of the Messiah who relentlessly seeks, saves, and restores us. Gather with your sisters in Christ and dwell in the remarkable miracles of Jesus.

FACILITY & FINANCES

Greg Chambers, Church Administrator

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Over the past 6 months, additional much needed building improvements have taken place.

- An LED lighting conversion throughout the Narthex and hallways took place this spring.
- Following a heavy spring storm, leaking became more apparent in a section of the building and roof repairs were made.
- The completion of the exterior painting of the church was done over the past couple of weeks as well.

This summer we were also able to creatively use our church grounds, i.e. the Parking Lot.

- In June, a group of Church members and friends gathered to join in a wall-build for Habitat for Humanity, completing walls to an entire home that will be built in Delaware county.
- The leader of the annual Powell Kids fest was unable to host their community event in their normal location. We were able to offer our parking lot as a "drive-thru" option and Kids fest was held in early August!

Lindsey Allen used this time as an opportunity to replace the Youth's cancelled mission trip Noxen, PA, and hold a "mini mission's trip" right here at New Hope!

They did a fantastic job weeding and mulching the church grounds as well as painted the entire lower exterior of the church.

We were thrilled in June when we able to return to in-person Worship services. We are functioning within the guidelines that the state of Ohio has implemented for in -person gatherings. We have upgraded our sanitation equipment and procedures to provide a safe and receptive environment at New Hope Church.

As the fall continues to approach, all the ministry leaders are excited to once again offer in-person Bible studies as well as youth and children's activities, while staying compliant with the state's Covid19 guidelines. We have also assisted the Preschool in preparing their rooms to be compliant with the ODJFS guidelines.

None of this would be possible without you! Your continued faithful financial support has made it possible to complete the aforementioned building projects, and your spiritual support through prayers have been felt by the staff as they have continued in their ministries. I am very proud and thankful to be a part of the New Hope Church family.

Giving Update Through 9/13/2020

	9/6/2020	9/13/2020	M-T-D	Y-T-D	% of Total
Offering - Tithes	4,485.00	4,120.00	8,605.00	207,535.40	25.2%
Offering - Loose Plate	95.00	78.00	173.00	4,526.45	0.5%
Text Giving	8,056.50	6,269.55	14,326.05	275,691.53	33.5%
Bill Pay/Submitted during the week	5,073.00	8,230.00	13,303.00	336,239.68	40.8%
Total	17,709.50	18,697.55	36,407.05	823,993.06	
	Budget	Actual	Variance		
This Week	21,639.43	18,697.55	-2,941.88		
Month to Date	43,278.87	36,407.05	-6,871.82		
Year to Date	817,175.32	823,993.06	6,817.75		

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christine Loy, Director of Music Ministry

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Inherent in the last six months of the COVID virus shut down, video watching and masked way of life, we can very easily fall into the category of passive worshippers. The kind that watches other people sing or pray. Add our hyper entertainment-driven culture and you have a recipe that is teaching something different than a biblical view of worship.

“Worship” is an action word. It is to work, to serve, to minister, even to sweat if necessary, as we attend to exalting our Lord. And It is to be engaged in that action with our whole, entire being. My hope as we begin to open up this fall is that we become great participants in worship to engage with the Living God together. We’ll need to put aside our ‘audience and platform’ mentality so easily taken up during this shut down to participate together as the His church for His pleasure alone.

One way we worship is to sing together! For me, singing is a conversation with God. It often turns into a sung

prayer when we sing about something that stretches my faith or a song about surrendering our lives to Him. So often, the Holy Spirit quickly brings to mind what Jesus has done on the cross to save me from my sins. Worship is my response to exalt Him and tell of His greatness.

Participating is sometimes hard. I don’t always feel like it and that takes work. Romans 12:1 says "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (service, work, ministry)".

While going to church suggests passive worship; coming to offer worship suggests an engagement with God who awaits your presence! What a privilege that it is to meet with Jesus.

I look forward to seeing you all soon...big voices ready!

NEW HOPE EDUCATION CENTER

Suzie Stalter, Director

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Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! New Hope Preschool and Education Center is opening on September 8, 2020 to begin our year. We have been preparing all summer to welcome our students back to our Christian play-based preschool and our Kindergarten program. While we have made changes in some of our procedures to keep staff, students and families healthy and safe, we are still able to help the children develop spiritually, cognitively, emotionally and socially in our classrooms. You may see us on part of the blacktop near the preschool, on the playground or under a canopy learning something new. We are fortunate to have a spacious building and grounds to provide for our students.

We are happy to welcome many new families and welcome back our returning families. We have over 165 children attending our program this year. Our Kindergarten class has 14 children who are ready to learn from their teachers to be prepared for elementary school next year. I would like to thank our teachers and staff for their commitment and extra time to prepare for the upcoming year. We are blessed with a dedicated team of teachers who seek to provide an exceptional experience to all who attend New Hope Preschool and Education Center.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Lindsey Allen, Director of Youth Ministry

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I am so thrilled to be writing this letter welcoming each of you into a new program year with New Hope Youth! If you are new to the program...welcome! I am so thankful you are here, and cannot wait to get to know you and your family over the course of the next several years!

For those that do not know me, my name is Lindsey Allen and I am the Director of Youth Ministry at New Hope Church. My husband, Mark, and I have 4 boys: Ryan (18), Zach (15), Drew (12), and Nate

(10). We like to say we live in a state of joyful chaos at all times. Our home is loud, wonderful, never as clean as my mother would like it to be, and our

door is always open to welcome anyone.

Mark and I value relationships with our youth and believe that all we do through the ministry God has called us to is aimed at teaching and showing our youth that: God loves them immensely, they matter, they have value in the eyes of the Lord, and they belong to God's family and our New Hope family. There is a place for everyone here.

In preparation for this upcoming program year I wanted to make you aware of a few changes that are being made to our calendar.

However, prior to sharing our updated calendar I want you to be confident that these changes were not made lightly, there is purpose in each change, and I believe these changes will open the door for more youth to be involved than before. My hope is that we will be able to embrace these small changes, recognizing that God is up to something good in our midst, and it is exciting to be a part of His Kingdom work on earth.

Our fall schedule on Sundays will alternate between Youth Group one week and small group bible studies the other week. I am trying to create small groups based on friend groups and schools at this time, people that are naturally drawn together by shared interests or location. Several youth have shown interest in meeting for bible study, however, as this is new, some may not be aware of bible studies meeting. Please email me your child's name, grade, and school if you would like your child to be placed in a small group. Once your child is placed in a group you will hear from me, and then your child's leader to confirm place and time.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have regarding our updated schedule. I can't wait to see what this year will bring!



Youth Group Schedule

September 27

Bonfire Night, Location To Be Determined
MS 6:00-7:15 pm // HS 7:30-9:00 pm

October 10

Habitat for Humanity Playground Build at New Hope
More Details Coming Soon

October 25

Splatter Park, 5560 County Road 109 Mount Gilead, OH 43338
All Ages // 1:00 - 4:00 pm

November 8

Middle School FriendsGiving, Mark & Lindsey Allen's Home
5:00 - 6:30 pm

November 15

High School FriendsGiving, Mark & Lindsey Allen's Home
5:00 - 6:30 pm

December 6

White Elephant Party at New Hope Church
MS 5:15-6:30 pm // HS 7:00-8:15 pm

2021 - Save The Dates!

February 19-21 | Cran Hill Ranch Elevate Winter Teen Retreat // High School Youth
June 20-26 | Noxen, PA // High School Mission Trip
July 18-23 | Cran Hill Ranch // Middle School Summer Camp



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rachel Tate, Children's Ministry Team Leader

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Hello!

We hope you and your family are transitioning well into the new school year. If you're like us, you've been working on ways to focus on Jesus in this epic time of chaos. It sounds so easy, but it's not as easy to put into action and practice as you'd think.

Hebrews 12:1-3 tells us, "A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. 2 Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And He is the one who completes the journey of faith. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy He was looking forward to. Then He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 He made it through these attacks by sinners. So think about Him. Then you won't get tired. You won't lose hope."

That last line - So think about Him. Then you won't get tired. You won't lose hope." Wow. Those are strong words from The Bible. How do we put them into practice? We'll, we did some research and came across these 5 tips from Gene S Whitehead.

- 1. Begin the Day with God: Meeting with God in the morning, through prayer and time in His Word and presence, your fueling and focusing your day on God. That focus will last all day long.**
- 2. Remain in prayer: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 makes one simple yet bold command: "pray without ceasing." This is a practice that is worth practicing! Remember, prayers can be as small as a whisper and as large as a shout! God just wants you to talk with Him.**
- 3. Remove the distractions: Life is full of distractions. Satan loves to use them to keep us from God. We need to be sure to find a few moments of quiet time and space to spend with the Lord. That time with Jesus helps fuel us to better manage life's distractions.**
- 4. Serve God: In Matthew 6:24, Jesus teaches, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." If you're serving God with your resources of time, energy, talents, and with your money, then staying focused on God will naturally follow.**
- 5. Remove sin from your life: Hebrews 12:1 says, "A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. 2 Let us keep looking to Jesus. If there is something, someone, some place or anything in your life that leads you away from God in any way, or that keeps you out of prayer, away from fellowship with other believers or distracts you from reading your Bible, you have one option: remove that thing from your life.**

It's been said countless times that life is a marathon, not a sprint. The same is true in our relationship with Jesus. We have to stay focused on the goal, the purpose, the reasons we're here. We want to help you stay in that Jesus mindset! To do so, we have a fantastic year planned out for you and your children. We are doing our best to navigate the ever changing current of the times and appreciate your continued patience, grace, and prayers. To stay up to speed with us, please find us on New Hope's website and Facebook!

God be with you,

The Children's Ministry Team

Rachel Tate, Dez Takas, and Rachel Warren

Stay Connected with Children's Ministry!

Sunday School

Our Sunday School Program will kick off on Sunday, September 13th during the 9am Worship Service! Children will start in Service with their family and will be released to Sunday School after the Children's Message. We plan to hold SS outside as much as possible this Fall! If we must stay inside, Preschool through Kindergarteners will be in the Purple and Red rooms while 1st through 3rd graders will be in Orange and Yellow. Our 4th/5th graders will have Sunday School in the Library. We will need some helping hands in Sunday School! More information coming soon!

At-Home Sunday School Packets: If your family isn't returning to in-person worship yet and is interested in a packet of Sunday School materials to use at home, please contact Rachel Warren at Warren@NewHopeWorship.com.

Monthly Gatherings

We have loved gathering with families the last couple of months for hikes and a night of fishing! We'll continue to gather monthly throughout the Fall for fun and fellowship! September 27: S'mores & More! *Stay tuned for October & November events!*

Club 45

Our 4th/5th grade service group, Club 45, will kick off on October 4th at Marmon Valley Farms! More information will be coming soon.

JWC

Our Junior Worship Choir will start meeting again on Sunday evening, September 20th! Children of all ages are invited to celebrate praise and worship through music!

A promotional graphic for RightNow Media Kids. It features a blue background with yellow and orange triangles. The text "rightnow MEDIA" is in white, with "Just for Kids" in a yellow banner. Below this, "Kids" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. At the bottom, it lists compatible devices: "android chromecast iPhone & iPad Roku Apple TV firetv" and the website "www.rightnowmedia.org". A yellow circle with text says "Everyone in our church gets FREE ACCESS to thousands of Christian videos!". Several smartphones and tablets are shown displaying the RightNow Media app interface.

Children's Ministry will be recommending Family Devotional Studies, Parenting Studies,

Kids Shows, Movies and more! These suggestions are for you and your family to participate in at home and access to these resources are FREE to you! This is a gift that New Hope is offering because we want to invest in your faith life! If you did not receive an email on Sunday, September 13th for access to RightNow Media, please let us know and we will be sure to get you set up!



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