

CALENDAR

<b>Sunday, December 10th</b>		
8:45 a.m.	Second Sunday of Advent Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
9:45 a.m.	Christian Formation Classes	Various Locations
11:00 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
12:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Market	Worship Space
<b>Monday, December 11th</b>		
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting	Room 104
<b>Wednesday, December 13th</b>		
6:15 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal	Worship Space
7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Worship Space
<b>Saturday, December 16th</b>		
8:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast	Worship Space
<b>Sunday, December 17th</b>		
<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>		
8:45 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
9:30 a.m.	Birthday Party for Jesus	Lower Level
11:00 a.m.	Word & Sacrament	Worship Space
12:00 p.m.	PW Cookie Walk	Worship Space
12:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Market	Worship Space
3:00 p.m.	Christmas Around the World	Worship Space

*News & Opportunities*, which is distributed during Sunday worship, is also available in the Outreach and Information area in the narthex and at [www.nhpres.org](http://www.nhpres.org).  
The New Hope Presbyterian Church • Christopher Q. James, Pastor  
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News & Opportunities

December 10, 2017

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

2018 Giving Envelopes are available on the counter outside of the kitchen. The envelopes are sorted alphabetically, with the name label on the top right of the envelopes. Please let Laurie Meinert know if you did not received your 2018 Giving Envelopes.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

The adult choir, handbells, and instrumentalists will present "Christmas Around the World" on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. This musical program will showcase Christmas music from several different countries. The Presbyterian Women will host a reception following the program featuring treats from the various countries. Please show your support for our music program with your attendance, and please invite friends to come and enjoy the music.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

When you're mailing your Christmas cards this year, make sure to include New Hope on your list! We're displaying our congregation's Christmas cards in *The Gallery* and we'd love to include yours!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

New Hope's Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24) will be at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm. Childcare will be provided at the 5:00 pm service.  
On Christmas Eve, December 24th, and New Year's Eve, January 31st, we will have one service of worship at 10:15 am. Christian Education will be at 9:30 am on both days.

TOYS FOR TOTS

This year, New Hope will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate children. Collection boxes will be available starting on Sunday, November 12 and will be in the Narthex and in the lower level until December 13. Please help children in our community know the joy of opening a new toy on Christmas Day.

EARTH IMPACT FACT

It is estimated that 6.3 billions metric tons of plastic has been thrown away since the 1950s. *NYTimes*

## CHILDREN

**The nursery** is located on the main level, Room 204. It is located out the side door of the worship space at the end of the hallway. The nursery is available for children from birth through five years old.

**Worship Feast**, for elementary aged children, is a special program that is designed to help children develop their innate connection to God & their natural openness to mystery through a variety of prayer practices.

### **Worship Feast Volunteers:**

**December 10**—Shelley Geiger

**December 17**—Linda Carr

We need many volunteers to ensure that our children's programs run smoothly. Please consider volunteering for the Nursery or during Worship Feast. To sign up go to the New Hope Church website at [www.nhpresc.org](http://www.nhpresc.org) and click on the link on the home page.

## HELP SCHOOL KIDS

New Hope is again collecting snacks for school aged children who attend Harvest Ridge Elementary School. You may pick up lists of peanut-free snacks and drop off your donations in the "Information and Outreach" area of the Narthex.

In addition to snacks to help students through the school days, let's help reduce sniffles. During November and December, New Hope will collect Clorox wipes and facial tissues for use in the Harvest Ridge classrooms. Snacks and classroom supplies may be dropped off in the Outreach and Information area.

## SCRIP CARDS

SCRIP cards are a great way to purchase your holiday gifts. Use the cards as payment at your favorite store, or use them as gifts for family and friends! Order on Sunday and pick them up the following Sunday. A portion of each purchase comes back to the church as "free" money.

## WORSHIP

**New Hope worships** each Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 am.

### **Lectionary for Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The handbell choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm and the choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm.

## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to Jack Holzer, the Boy Scout in Troop 30, who designed and oversaw the building of our new outdoor nativity as his Eagle Project. The nativity sits next to the church entrance off Kisker Road. Jack will be recognized during the 11:00 am worship service today. Please take an opportunity to greet and thank Jack!

## MINISTRY, MISSION & EVANGELISM

December Meal-A-Month: 1 can chicken & dumplings, 1 can vegetables, 1 can fruit, 1 box/bag cookies, 1 plastic jar peanut butter.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will be holding a Cookie Walk on December 17th. Members are asked to contribute dozens of their best homemade cookies for the Cookie Walk. The cookies will be sold by the pound. Please mark your cookies with the type they are.

The Fair Trade Market will be held TODAY and on December 17th. It will feature artisan-made crafts, coffee and chocolate. These make wonderful Christmas gifts and promote safe and economically viable opportunities for people in developing countries. The cookie walk and fair trade market proceeds will benefit PW, which provides scholarships, programs and charitable giving throughout the year. Please join us for these special days.

## TREASURER CORNER

We are \$16,000 under budget in revenues for the year as of the end of November. December will need to be a "catch-up" month if we hope to realize our pledged amount by the end of the year. Please take a few minutes to review and prayerfully consider where you are in your 2017 pledge. Laurie Meinert will be happy to talk with you if there are any questions or concerns about your pledge.

## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

The Advent by Candlelight Committee would like to thank all who attended this special Advent evening and everyone who worked so hard to make it a success. A generous \$1984.00 was collected for the free-will offering. The donation will be divided equally between the New Hope PW Scholarship Fund and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. In the coming days, look for pictures on the Gallery Wall and the Advent by Candlelight Album in the Narthex. Thanks and Merry Christmas!

## HOLIDAY HEARTS GIVING TREE

Please return your unwrapped gifts with the ornaments attached TODAY! Gifts can be placed under the tree. Deacons will be wrapping and delivering the gifts this week.

## POINSETTIAS

You may order a "live" poinsettia to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve and take it home with you after the 11:00 pm service that night. You may also purchase a "virtual" poinsettia, the cost of which will go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund. Whichever you choose, you may still dedicate your gift in memory, honor or gratitude to someone. The list will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please use the envelope provided on the Information Table for your order. The cost of either the "live" or "virtual" poinsettia is \$9.00 each. Orders must be received by December 17th.

## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

On Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am, we will have our final Church Family Gathering of 2017 – A Birthday Party for Jesus! The Church Family Gathering is a wonderful opportunity for all ages and generations to come together for fellowship and formation. This is what we have planned:

8:45 am – Early Service

9:30-10:15 am – A continental breakfast of coffee cake, doughnuts and fruit salad will be served on the lower level. Gluten free and sugar free items will be available too.

10:00-10:30 am – As people finish their breakfasts, there will be a choice of Advent activities.

10:30-10:45 am – Children's Choir and Retelling of the Christmas Story

10:50—11:00 am—join us in the sanctuary and enjoy pre-service music by our guest woodwind quintet. The group will also provide special music during the 11:00 am Worship Service.

To assist the CFG Planning Team, please RSVP by Wednesday, December 13th to help ensure there is enough food and seating for all the New Hope families that morning!! You can return the enclosed RSVP by mail or in person or simply call the office.

The volunteer signup sheet will be in the Narthex or you can call (636-578-8328) or email ([slg925@aol.com](mailto:slg925@aol.com)) Shelley Geiger, who is coordinating the event.

Since breakfast will be provided, we are asking New Hopers to bring canned food items for the Oasis Food Pantry that morning.

Please help make a difference for other families in our community!

Come join us Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 am for this wonderful Church Family event full of Formation and Fun!