

NEW HOPE PRESS

FEBRUARY 2018

Souper Bowl Sunday

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals caring for others on Super Bowl weekend. 100% of the collections are donated directly to the charity of each group's choice.



The Youth Groups of New Hope Presbyterian Church will be collecting canned goods and money to support this cause during both worship services on Sunday, February 4, 2018. All collections will go to the OASIS Food Pantry.

With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young people will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others. Bring your canned goods to service on February 4th and help "tackle" hunger during the 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring!

Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser

The Senior High Mission Trip participants are selling Homemade Cinnamon Rolls as a fundraiser. These rolls are similar to "Cinnabons" and are sold in 8X8 pans for \$10.00. Orders are due by Sunday, February 25th. The Cinnamon Rolls will be available for pick-up during both services on March 4th. Order forms are available in the Outreach and Information area of the Narthex and below. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



Chili Cook-Off



Mark your calendars now for one of the HOTTEST events of the year. Our annual Chili Cook-Off is set for March 4th, immediately following the second service in the Lower Level. Whether you want to Cook & Compete... or just Want to Eat... you're bound to have fun and full bellies! And YOU get to vote for your most favorite chili with cash. There will be prizes for the winners and bragging rights for all of 2018. All proceeds benefit the Youth Mission Trip, so bring the whole family! A sign up sheet for the cooks is in the Narthex and you can call Laurie in the church office with any questions. See you March 4th!

Suggestions for Lenten Reading

Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels by Heidi Haverkamp (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017)

This small book is full of devotions and reflections for each day of the season of Lent.

Station to Station: An Ignatian Journey through the Stations of the Cross by Gary Jansen (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2017)

Most Protestants are unaccustomed to journeying through the Stations of the Cross, seeing it as something “those Catholics” do. However, this small devotional book leads us through the scriptural Stations of the Cross, focusing exclusively on events that are found in the Bible, which ought to be enough to soothe one’s Presbyterian sensibilities. Walking with Jesus the road to his death, we see the unique ways in which Jesus responded to suffering, and so are challenged to react similarly in our own struggles.

Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor (New York: HarperCollins, 2014)

By venturing into caves, underground night clubs, subterranean chapels, and unlit cabins in the woods on nights with no moons, Taylor leads us on a journey of how to find God, or rather how to let God find us, even when it is dark. She leads us to learn how the darkness can allow us to learn much about God, as well as ourselves.

The Rebirthing of God by John Philip Newell (Woodstock: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2014)

As a scholar, peacemaker and spiritual leader, John Philip Newell invites us to be a part of a new holy birth of sacred living, exploring eight major features of a new birthing of Christianity for the 21st Century.

Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace by Deanna A. Thompson (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2012)

A story about one woman’s journey with breast cancer, from diagnosis through the fight, to emerging on the other side.

The Christian Life: A Geography of God by Michael L. Lindvall (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2001)

Part of the Foundations of Christian Faith series, this volume explores the Christian life as a journey of discovery.

This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm by Stephen W. Plunkett (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2002)

An introduction to the Christian faith that helps grapple with what it means to be a Christian in a world of conflicting ideologies and competing claims.

40 Days and 40 Nights by Gail Ramshaw (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006)

An insightful devotional booklet for each day of the Lenten season.

Called to Be Human: Letters to My Children on Living a Christian Life by Michael Jenkins (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009)

A wonderful compilation of letters written by a Presbyterian seminary professor to his grown children to address some of the “big questions” young adults are asking about life, love and vocation.

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2009)

A series of rich reflections on ways to discover the sacred in the ordinariness of our everyday lives.

Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief by Rowan Williams (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007)

An exploration of the Nicene and Apostles’ Creeds that guides readers through the central elements of the

Going Flowerless for Lent: Reflections on the Season

Christian faith.

The Worshiping Life by Lisa Nichols Hickman (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005)
A series of short essays on the order of worship which offer insight and reflection on what exactly we Christians do when we gather on the Lord's Day.

Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation by Barbara Brown Taylor (Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 2000)
A good look at some of the most basic words of our faith—sin, repentance, forgiveness, salvation—and how they still have real meaning for us today.

RESOURCES FOR LENTEN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES (for individuals and for families):
 Check out the link below for spiritual practices for Lent.

Lenten Practices 101

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/curriculum/lenen-practices-101/>

Going Flowerless for Lent: Reflections on the Season

The Worship, Music & the Arts Committee has been exploring ways to help our worship lift up the meanings of Lent as a season of the liturgical year. The season of Lent is 40 days, a significant number in the Bible and in our liturgy. It rained for 40 days and nights while Noah was on the ark and God was wiping all wickedness from the face of the earth; the children of Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness on their way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land of Canaan; the Israelites were under the oppression of the Philistines for 40 years before Samson was born; Elijah prepared for ministry for 40 days and nights; Jonah warned the people of Nineveh that they had 40 days in which to repent; Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days before he began his public ministry; there are 40 days from Jesus' Resurrection to his Ascension.



Not only does the number 40 have biblical and liturgical significance, but it has biological significance, as well. In weeks, 40 is the length of human fetal development from conception to birth. So, this number is a part of the development of human life.

At Easter, we celebrate the ultimate triumph of life. During Lent, we prepare for that and strive to empty ourselves of everything that gets in the way of living truly as God would have us live. The undeniable Christian confession is that there is no resurrection without death. Lent is the time to come face to face with the fact of our mortality. Penitence and repentance are “churchy” words often associated with Lent. Like Jesus in the wilderness, Lent is a time for us to travel the dry, dusty road to Jerusalem and experience the barrenness of our own particular wilderness that we might, too, know the joy of resurrection life at Easter.

To that end, we will do without our customary flowers in worship during the season of Lent that we might be all the more enlivened by their return on Easter morning. Rather, our Worship, Music & the Arts Committee has other adornments planned to help us observe Lent as a season of walking with Jesus through the wilderness to Jerusalem, the cross and beyond.

Blood Drive

The Deacons are sponsoring a blood drive at New Hope on March 18th from 9:30 am—12:30 pm. Please consider donating blood! You can sign up in the Narthex before or after the worship service.



Employment Opportunity



We are currently looking for a part-time child care worker for Sunday mornings in the nursery. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please talk to Shelley Geiger or call the church office.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

On Wednesday mornings during the month of March, Anne Finks will facilitate a four-week Bible Study on the letter to the Philippians. Classes begin on Wednesday, March 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room and will continue through March 28.

We will be studying the book of Philippians from the study guide, *Interpretation Bible Studies, Philippians and Galatians* by Stanley P Saunders.

If you are interested in attending and do not have a study guide please contact Anne Finks at 636-946-6429 e-mail annefinks@gmail.com or contact the church office. The cost of the study guide is \$13.00. Checks are to be made out to New Hope Presbyterian Church with a note in the memo line for Bible Study.

Please add your name, e-mail address and phone number to the sign up sheet located outreach/information area located to the left of the office in the Narthex.



Ministry, Mission & Evangelism

Thank you, New Hope, for:

- \$580 gift to Gateway Greening to replace stolen tools.
- over 1000 snacks last year for students at Harvest Ridge Elementary who needed an energy boost during the day.
- food, smiles and encouragement for clients at O.A.S.I.S. food pantry.
- \$100 per month to Care and Counseling which provides services to individuals and families at reasonable cost. Care and Counseling also offers pastoral care training for ministers and religious professionals.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of prayer, fasting, and preparation before Easter.

In worship, at 7:00 pm, we will observe the imposition of ashes and share the Lord's Supper. Ashes, placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross, are a powerful symbol of both our own mortality and the need for repentance and forgiveness.

Before worship, the Hospitality Committee will serve a soup supper at 5:45 pm, with breads, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and drinks. We'll be accepting a free-will offering.

If you are interested in bringing a soup, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



Music Notes



I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in the Advent and Christmas music. The choir, handbells, instrumentalists, and guest musicians certainly made December's music special. If you enjoy singing, come join the choir as we prepare for the Lenten season. The choir will be exploring some new anthems. Beginning on Transfiguration (February 11) and continuing through Lent we anticipate hearing several instrumental musicians, beginning with a guest trumpeter.

Did you know that most likely the earliest Christian hymns were based upon the music sung in Jewish synagogues in the days of the early church? These hymns were performed in the style we call plainchant. *Of the Father's Love Begotten* is an example of plainchant music found in *Glory to God*. Plainchant music was sung in Latin, in unison, unaccompanied; the rhythm depended upon the text; and generally the melodies had a small vocal range. For many centuries, the clergy and a trained choir were the providers of the music in divine worship. The singers learned the tunes by rote and memorized them. Eventually there were too many tunes to learn and remember, many errors of memory crept into the singing, and thus the need for music notation arose. At first notation was just a series of shapes on a page, called "neumes," which helped the singers remember the essential contour of the melody. There was no music staff yet, showing high or low pitches. Many centuries passed before music notation became standardized. However, the congregation's musical participation in worship was still quite limited until a significant historical event occurred. What was that event? See next month's Music Notes.

Peace,
Gay

Spring Directories

2018 Spring Directories will be available in the coming weeks. If you have changed any of your contact information (address, phone numbers or email addresses), please contact the church office or email Laurie Meinert at lbrown@nhpres.org.

*Church
Directory*

Presbyterian Women



On February 25, Debra Paulus, Senior Development Officer for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS), will speak at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. She will also join the congregation following worship for a potluck lunch and presentation. We invite everyone to attend this luncheon to learn how PCHAS helps struggling children and families in our community. Christ's teachings are at the heart of their ministry and programs. Don't miss this special presentation to learn how the members of New Hope can help this important organization. Presbyterian Women will provide the chicken and drinks, but please bring a side or dessert to share.

Thanks to a generous donation, PW received a Cuisinart 4-quart multi-cooker. This 3-in-1 cooker can brown/sauté, slow cook, and steam for an endless variety of foods. It retails between \$150-\$200. We will be having a silent auction starting

Sunday, January 14. The highest bidder will be announced at the chili cook-off on March 4th. To bid, simply take a form found in the narthex, write your name and amount you want to bid, then seal it in an envelope and bring it to Laurie in the church office. Please consider bidding on this kitchen NECESSITY to support the PW scholarship fund. And, don't forget to come eat (or bring) some wonderful chili to the cook-off on March 4th!

February Birthdays

Erik Isbell	02/02	Ernest Smith	02/18
Ann Rademan	02/04	Craig Graber	02/19
Tyler Etling	02/06	Bill Lamey	02/19
Nicole Brown	02/07	Cindy Wilson	02/20
Lindy Stacy	02/08	Brian Saeger	02/21
Craig Clarke	02/10	Christopher James	02/23
Lauren Martinez	02/10	Paul Hacker	02/24
Kim Carr	02/14	Jerry Dyer	02/26
Gregory Newman	02/17	Mel Fairchild	02/27
Liam Schrautemeier	02/17	Gary Looman	02/27
Ann Ray	02/18		

February Anniversaries

Kurt & Jeanna Groat	02/10/2002
Bill & Martha Lamey	02/11/1996
Jim & Anne Finks	02/13/1965
David & Vicky Howell	02/15/2001
Gary & Kathy Freeman	02/23/1983

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1:00pm Agape Circle 7:00pm Joy Circle	2	3
4 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Harmony Faith Family 12:30pm <i>The Journey</i>	5 7:00pm Deacon Meeting	6 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	8	9	10 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
11 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:30pm <i>The Journey</i>	12 6:15pm MME 7:00pm Session Meeting	13	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5:45pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship Service	15 7:00pm Employment Ministry	16	17 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
18 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:30pm <i>The Journey</i>	19 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	20 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 6:30pm Boy Scouts	21 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	22	23	24 9:00am Presbytery Gathering
25 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Presbyterian Women 4:00pm Boy Scouts	26 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee	27	28 6:15pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir			

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS
Budget
To-date Actual

January 2018
35,382.82
33,837.00

Year To Date 2018
35,382.82
33,837.00

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