

# NEW HOPE PRESS

FEBRUARY 2019

## *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 following both worship services on Sunday, February 3, 2019. 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 can goods to service on February 3rd and help "tackle" hunger during the 2019 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 17th. The Cinnamon Rolls will be available for pick-up on February 24th. 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 February 24th, immediately following 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 2019. 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 February 24th!

## A Note From Our Pastor



As a congregation we have been living into the ancient church's practice of the catechumenate for just over three years now. Known as *The Journey* at New Hope, the catechumenate is a process of faith formation that is meant to bring newcomers into the Christian church through the waters of baptism. It is also a process of spiritual formation and renewal for those long-time Christians who are looking to re-boot their spiritual lives. "Catechumenate" (*kat-eh-KOO-men-ate*) comes from a word that means "to echo again in the ear." In the catechumenate, we center our lives on worship, scripture reading, prayer, and service in Christ's name. In all these things, we listen for the echo of God's life in our own lives and consider just what that continues to mean for each of us. While the initial excitement and wonder that came with the introduction of the catechumenate at New Hope just over three years ago may have died down a bit, I can assure you, the ongoing excitement and wonder of it for those who are a part of it is new and it is now.

One of you has shared with me this quote from Miriam Beard: "Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living." That pretty well sums up what we mean by *The Journey*. Substitute the word "faith" for "travel" in the above quote, and you might get a sense of what we're after.

Faith is not some static "thing," flat and lifeless. Rather, faith results in "a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living." *The Journey* is an opportunity to explore what this really means in and for our lives. Faith does not reside in some list of rules or precepts that we pretend to follow, but most of the time ignore. Faith lives in each step we take, each breath we breathe, each word we utter. It's how we react to what is happening around us. The life of faith is never a straight line of certainty and assurance. It's a circuitous route where hope competes with doubt, offering with resistance, and sacrifice with selfishness. Along this winding road, we are told not to fear, but a lot of the time we are afraid anyway. We are told not to worry, but that's often the only thing we consistently do well. Then,

there are those occasions we come to church and put on that smile we hope will make everyone else think we have it all together. But still, underneath it all, we question and wonder and worry and fear.

*The Journey* welcomes all and invites us to bring those questions, that wonder, worry and fear into community with others who are likely asking some of those same questions, wondering how and why this or that could be so, worrying about life, in general, and much of the time, afraid of it all. "What does it mean?" is the question at the heart of *The Journey*. It's a safe place to explore faith, share joy, wonder aloud, reflect on scripture together for one's own life and live more deeply in the life and presence of God.

For long-time members of the church, *The Journey* offers spiritual renewal. For those new to our community of faith, it leads to church membership, but goes well beyond that, offering so much more. It offers community, belonging, fellowship and renewal. For those new to the Christian faith, it leads to the waters of baptism and a spiritual home among us as a part of God's family in this place.

Since we have begun *The Journey* just over three years ago, many have commented on the cultural change it has effected in our congregation. *The Journey* has led us to feel more connected to one another and to God. It has created a sense of togetherness and oneness as God's people in this place. Indeed, *The Journey* is a gift of the church, by the church, for the church. We are blessed to be a part of it and I am excited to see where it takes us from here. God's Spirit is certainly moving among us! As we move more fully into this new year, may it help to renew us all in the life of God's love for the world.

Faithfully,

## *New Hope EarthCare Team*

Greetings from your New Hope EarthCare team! From time to time we will be giving you some easy and effective ways to increase EarthCare in your life. For this first installment we'll focus on plastic usage. Here are a few easy ideas that will have a huge impact.

**Plastic bags** These are generally used for a matter of minutes before being discarded, but then take hundreds of years to break down. You might already own cloth grocery bags but forget to use them. You are not alone! One easy way to remember is to always keep a reusable bag (or bags) by your front door, trunk, or glove box... whatever works for you. If you do forget, instead of going auto pilot and accepting plastic bags, see if you can manage without them, or ask for certain items to not be bagged. You'd be surprised to see how many items are easy to carry loose.

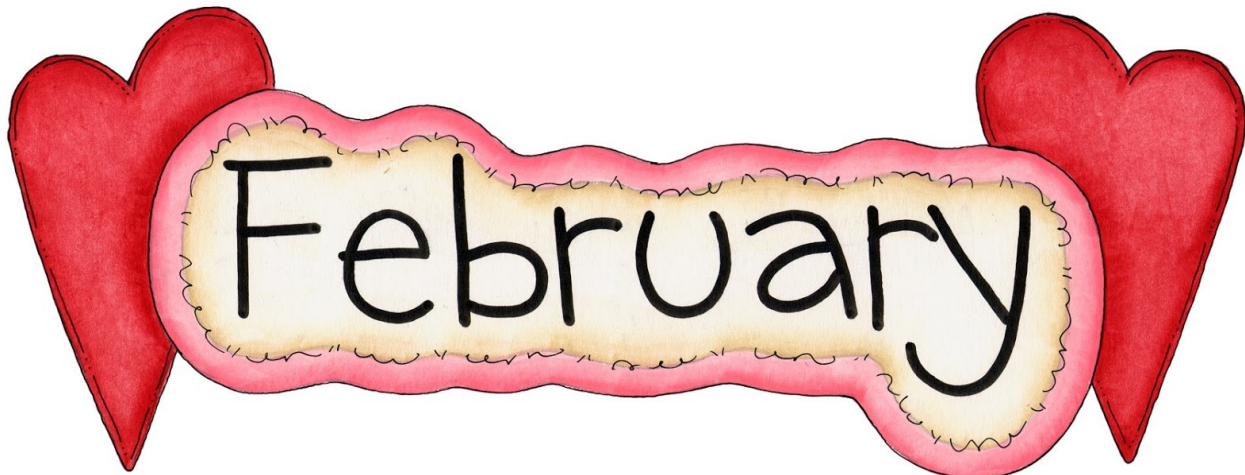
**Water bottles** Do you drink water during the day? (I hope so!) Carry your own reusable drink container that you refill with water at home, work, the gym, store or restaurant. My favorite reusable water bottle is a Hydroflask. I love it because it's stainless steel and double walled so it keeps my water super cold all day.

**Shop non-plastic!** In general it's easier to recycle paper over plastic, and paper products will biodegrade easier and faster. So, when you have the choice, shop with plastic usage in mind! Pick pasta in the box instead of pasta in a bag, or detergent in the box instead of the bottle. Peanut butter, sauces, juices and milk, can all be found in glass containers.

And of course...**Recycle**. There's always going to be times where we do use the plastic grocery bags, or buy the water bottle, and it's really difficult to buy certain things not in plastic. So when you do, just recycle! Take the grocery bags back to the store to their recycle bin. Many cities and counties have easy programs in place to recycle your other plastics as well as those items you did purchase in glass!

Tune in next month for your next EarthCare assignment

Earth  
care



## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, March 6th, marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of prayer, fasting, and preparation before Easter.

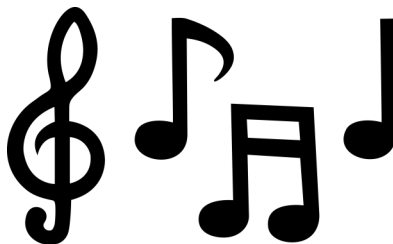
In worship, at 7:00 pm, we will observe the imposition of ashes and share the Lord's Supper. Ashes, placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross, are a powerful symbol of both our own mortality and the need for repentance and forgiveness.

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



On many Sundays, the congregation of New Hope sings the "Doxology." A doxology is a short hymn of praises to God, which is often an addition to a longer hymn or psalm. Did you know that this is the case with the "Doxology" we so often sing?

Thomas Ken (1647-1711) attended the all-boys school Winchester College and later Oxford. He was ordained an Anglican priest and later became Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Ken created three hymns for the Winchester College students: a morning hymn, an evening hymn, and a midnight hymn. All three of Ken's hymns concluded with the Trinitarian "Doxology" that we and many other congregations still sing today.

The date of composition of Ken's hymns is uncertain, however, his hymns were mentioned (but not printed) in 1674 in a pamphlet entitled "A Manual of Prayers for the Use of the Scholars of Winchester College." They were referenced with this directive: "Be sure to sing the Morning and Evening Hymn in your chamber devoutly, remembering that the Psalmist, upon happy experience, assures you that it is a good thing to tell of the loving kindness of the Lord early in the morning and of his truth in the night season."

The music for this hymn is by Louis Bourgeois (1510-ca. 1561) and it first appeared, melody only, in 1551.

(Sources: Victoria Schwarz and Rev. Wilson Pruitt on [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org); Carl P. Daw, *Glory to God, A Companion*; and Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul*).

Peace,

Gay

## *Spring Directories*

2019 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](mailto:lbrown@nhpres.org).

*Church  
Directory*



### *February Birthdays*

Erik Isbell	02/02	Cindy Wilson	02/20
Ann Rademan	02/04	Brian Saeger	02/21
Tyler Etling	02/06	William Harmon	02/22
Lindy Stacy	02/08	Christopher James	02/23
Craig Clarke	02/10	Paul Hacker	02/24
Lauren Martinez	02/10	Marilyn Pavia	02/24
Gregory Newman	02/17	Tony Langasek	02/25
Ann Ray	02/18	Jerry Dyer	02/26
Ernest Smith	02/18	Mel Fairchild	02/27
Craig Graber	02/19	Gary Looman	02/27
Bill Lamey	02/19		

### *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

## FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 Souper Bowl of Caring</b> 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 12:00pm Harmony Faith Family	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Deacon Meeting	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 1:00pm Agape Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Joy Circle	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
<b>10</b> 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship	<b>11</b> 6:15pm MME 7:00pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Cub Scouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 3:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 30	<b>15</b> 5:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 Banquet	<b>16</b> 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>17</b> 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 11:30am <i>The Journey</i>	<b>18 Presidents' Day</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Employment Ministry 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 30	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 2:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet
<b>24</b> 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 11:30pm Chili Cook-off 11:30am <i>The Journey</i> 2:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee 7:00pm Coordinated Entry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 30		

### *FINANCIAL CORNER*

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**Budget**  
**To-date Actual**

**January 2019**  
**34,227.59**  
**32,854.33**

**Year To Date 2019**  
**34,227.59**  
**32,854.33**

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