

NEW HOPE PRESS

FEBRUARY 2020

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 2, 2020. 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 2nd and help "tackle" hunger during the 2020 Souper Bowl of Caring!



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 9th, 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 2020. 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 9th!

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, February 26th, 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.



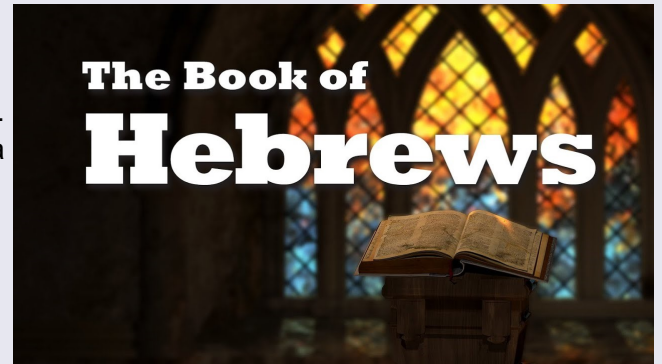
A Note From Our Pastor



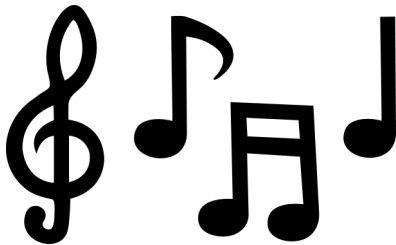
Chris

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Bible Study on the book of Hebrews will begin on Wednesday, February 5 at 10:00 A.M and continue through Wednesday, March 25. If you are interested in studying the book of Hebrews please sign the registration form located at the Outreach and Information Area in the Narthex. The class will meet in the Conference Room . More information will be available soon concerning the study guide. Contact Anne Finks at 636-946-6429 for more information.



Music Notes



Have you ever wondered what goes into the choosing of music for a worship service? Pastor Chris and I meet together weekly to discuss the selection of hymns and other congregational music. The lectionary provides 3-4 scripture readings as a starting point for each service. We attempt to align the hymns with the proclamation of the Word in scripture and its exegesis. Over the course of several weeks, we try to include some variety in style and tone in the hymns; we use some older and some newer hymns. The hope is that the hymns sung will not only enhance the proclamation of the Word, but that they will be meaningful to you in your faith journey.

If you were in worship on January 12 or 19, you may have noticed the choir standing in a different formation when they presented their anthem. We are doing this in order for the singers to hear each other better and to achieve a better balance among the voices. Definitely the congregation can see each singer more readily and the singers can see me at the piano more easily. We will continue to experiment with formations in coming weeks.

In February we will enjoy the musical talents of Tracy Grundy, flutist. Anthems include:

- “The Lord Is My Light” (text of Psalm 27)
- “Lead Me, Lord” (text of the Beatitudes)
- “Longing for Light (Christ, Be our Light)”
- “The Greatest Commandment”
- “This Is My Beloved Son” (the Transfiguration of Jesus)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. We hope to see you at each worship service in February.

Peace,
Gay

Recommended Lenten Readings

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

Recommended Lenten Readings

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.

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.

Spring Directories

2020 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*



February Birthdays

Deb Marshall	02/01	Bill Lamey	02/19
Erik Isbell	02/02	Cindy Wilson	02/20
Lexi Truett	02/03	Brian Saeger	02/21
Ann Rademan	02/04	William Harmon	02/22
Tyler Etling	02/06	Christopher James	02/23
Lindy Stacy	02/08	Paul Hacker	02/24
Craig Clarke	02/10	Marilyn Pavia	02/24
Lauren Martinez	02/10	Ruth Carson	02/25
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

February Anniversaries

Charles & Marilyn Pavia	02/08/1984
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 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Souper Bowl of Caring 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 11:30am Harmony Faith Family	3 7:00pm Deacon Meeting	4 7:00pm Cub Scouts	5 8:00am Toastmasters 10:00am Hebrews Bible Study 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Wednesday Night Study 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 1:00pm Agape Circle 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Joy Circle	7	8 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
9 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 11:30am Chili Cook Off 11:30am <i>The Journey</i>	10 6:15pm MME 7:00pm Session Meeting	11	12 8:00am Toastmasters 10:00am Hebrews Bible Study 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Wednesday Night Study 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm PW/CT Meeting	14	15 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
16 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 11:30am <i>The Journey</i>	17 Presidents' Day 7:00pm MME Committee	18 7:00pm Cub Scouts	19 8:00am Toastmasters 10:00am Hebrews Bible Study 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Wednesday Night Study 6:15pm Handbell Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Employment Ministry	21	22
23 9:15am Christian Education 10:15am Worship 11:30am <i>The Journey</i> 2:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet	24 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee 7:00pm MCU	25 3:00pm Boy Scouts Blood Drive 7:00pm Earth Care Team	26 Ash Wednesday 8:00am Toastmasters 10:00am Hebrews Bible Study 5:45pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Boy Scouts Troop 30 7:00pm Worship Service	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts Troop 30	28	29

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS
Budget
To-date Actual

January 2020
35,495.59
36,050.35

Year To Date 2020
35,495.59
36,050.35

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