

News and Notes

New Hope UMC Newsletter for March/April, 2019

Mark 1:12-13 New International Version (NIV)

¹²At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Metanoia.....this is a word that has come up several times lately. It reminds me of the first time I heard it which was on a teen Christian retreat (Deco TEC). The kids loved the word!!!!!! It is kind of a fun word, it rolls off the tongue and sounds kind of crazy.

Wikipedia gives the following definition: “Metanoia, a *transliteration* of Greek is “a transformative change of heart; especially; a *spiritual conversion*.”

It further states...“The term” ... was used *consistently in the literature of that time to express a fundamental change in thinking that leads to a fundamental change in behavior and/or way of living.*: In 2006, an ecumenical group of scholars published a study of repentance in the Bible and the Church. After “a thorough examination of Hellenistic Jewish writings,” the study found that for Jews living at the time of Jesus, “repentance” meant “a fundamental change in thinking and living.” For the New Testament, this change is a necessary ingredient in accomplishing God’s plan for salvation and community for everyone.

March 10 is Ash Wednesday and the following Sunday is the beginning of the church’s Lenten season. We will be combining Ash Wednesday with the first Sunday of Lent; and as we do so, I would like for us to keep metanoia in mind. While Ash Wednesday is a time we typically think of as a time of fasting, the giving up of something, I am asking us to not give up but give more. I would ask that we give more time to prayer maybe give up a timeslot in your day and replace it with prayer.

Pray.....ask for metanoia in God’s church, in our church, in your families and in ourselves. We live in a world that is hurting. A world that is dying. A world that is broken. A world where His light needs to shine. I pray in this season that we ask God for metanoia.....His metanoia! That in His metanoia we can strive as a church, as individuals to overcome our own wills and practice living and doing God’s will.

God’s blessings in love to all of you! God is Good! All the Time!!!

Pastor Michelle

Attention

New Hope Women meeting **Wednesday, April 3 at 6 p.m.** Bring a dish to share and let’s get together and catch up. It has been a long winter!

NEW HOPE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

March Birthdays

2 Jama Moffett
8 Susan Overholt
10 Joan Williams
10 Phil Schmalzried
14 Jerry Eichler
21 Mel Spotts
22 Jill McNitt
31 Patricia Bowra
31 Evan Cameron

March Anniversaries

17 Bob & Marti Good
21 John & Delcina Ritter

April Birthdays

10 Garth Spencley
12 Avery Broman
15 Barb Smith
16 Mary Dankert
23 Aaron Ernst
28 Richard Ruemenapp
30 Keith Osborn

April Anniversaries

11 Leonard & Susan Overholt

BIBLE READINGS

March Bible Readings

March 3 Transfiguration
Exodus 34:19-35
Psalm 99
2nd Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36
March 10 1st Sunday in Lent
Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13
March 17 2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35
March 24 3rd Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
March 31 4th Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April Bible Readings

April 7 5th Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8
April 14 Palm/Sunday
Luke 19:28-40
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56
April 21 Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12
April 28 2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelations 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Minutes from New Hope UMC Administrative Board

January 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by John Kafer, who led the opening prayer. Present were: Rick Johnson, John Kafer, Michelle Merchant, Tom Litzner, Joan Williams, and Len Overholt.

Minutes from the November 21, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Rick, seconded by Joan and approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Len Overholt. Our fund balance was decreased by \$2245 in November, and increased by \$1179 in December. Motion to approve the report for both November and December was made by Tom, seconded by Rick and approved. John noted that final revenue for 2018 was \$6147 short of budget, considerably better than the \$15k shortfall budgeted as an investment to move our church forward.

Communications – John shared information from the UMC website re: the special session to be held at UMC General Conference in February to move towards a way forward as the US church decides how to reconcile the church with issues of human sexuality and inclusion for LGBT members and attendees. There was considerable discussion and by consensus, it was decided to provide the same information to our congregants as a half sheet insert in Sunday's program, and to leave a hard copy of the report being considered in the foyer for review. It was agreed that, though New Hope has not yet confronted this issue, it is a matter of time til we do.

Finance – John and Len presented the budget as recommended by the Finance Committee meeting Jan 13, reflecting expense of \$88,574. With actual 2018 revenue of \$88,353, the 2019 budget feels attainable, with the possibility that revenues beyond \$88k would further strengthen our position for the future. Motion to approve the budget by Tom, second by Joan, motion carried.

Pastor Michelle reported that the Trustees have been unable to meet re: the lingering issue of the Funeral Policy. Without the clear recommended action of that committee, the issue was tabled til the next meeting. She also reported a restructuring of our participation in the Pellston school concessions, with our continued participation a positive.

Women of New Hope held their Christmas party at the Church Wednesday, December 5th.

Old Business Michelle is reviewing licensing issues re: music through CCLI that may be relevant to our live streaming of music on Facebook.

There was no new business.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joan, seconded by Len, and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55.. The next meeting is Feb 20, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Pastor Michelle closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, John Kafer, recording in Avis's absence.

God Hears and Answers Prayers

- Chip, Lynnette and Mike
- Shannon Crawford
- Mary Hessel
- Bob Mummert that he may go peacefully
- Jane Roberts who is in the hospital
- The country of Yemen
- The Gordon Bennett family in the loss of Irene
- Doug Ball's illness
- John Perkin's son is going through a difficult time
- Deanna Wood had heart surgery and has pneumonia and other complications
- Pam Bonter has had 2 bypasses and a valve replacement. She is in ICU.
- Jane Roberts is having a heart procedure on Thursday
- Phil Schmalzried fell at home, had surgery on hip on Monday, and will have therapy
- John and Del Ritter for healing and strength
- Harriet Readmond (Garth's aunt) in Medilodge
- Jane Roberts in rehab
- Phil Schmalzried in rehab
- Jessie Beckett's surgery
- Mabel's brother Jim
- Wilma Calloway
- David and Dianne Myers in loss of 10-year-old son Dylan
- Naomi a 10-year-old with serious health problems
- Keith O's grandson Dustin in VA hospital with PTSD relapse
- Jane Roberts at Bay Bluffs
- Phil Schmalzried at home
- Our military, those traveling, our country, and our church

Snowbirds, we wanted you to see what you are missing. Patti volunteered for this task.



We need Spring!

Praises

- Thank you for healing prayers for Kirt's back. He is doing well.
- Cheyenne has a new job in Cheboygan
- Cheyenne's engagement!
- Sunshine
- Arriving safely at church!
- Garth and Mabel have a new great granddaughter, Sara Lee!
- Mary Hessel and John Ritter gave thanks for cards and prayers.

Minutes from New Hope UMC Administrative Board

February 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by John Kafer, who led the opening prayer. Present were: Jason Frye, Avis Jensen, Rick Johnson, John Kafer, Tom Litzner, Michelle Merchant, Keith Osborn, Leonard and Susan Overholt.

Minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes by Tom Litzner, seconded by Keith Osborn and approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Len Overholt. Our fund balance was decreased by \$868.36 in January. Motion to approve the report was made by Keith Osborn, seconded by Jason Frye and approved.

Lay Leader Jason Frye will have his schooling done in three months.

Pastor Michelle reported that General Conference will begin on February 24. There will be some on-line coverage of the conference. Go to the Michigan conference web site to view the on-line conference.

All pastors in Michigan will meet with the Bishop either in Midland or in Marquette in March.

Pastor Parish Relations Keith Osborn noted that Pastor Michelle will be on vacation beginning March 17 to March 23. Jason Frye will be preaching on April 28 as a requirement of his class. Conference will be held May 30 through June 2 in Traverse City.

Trustees The new funeral policy was presented. The motion to pass the policy was made by Tom Litzner and seconded by Keith Osborn.

Old Business Cheyenne Farr is taking over some of the work on the web site.

Leonard noted that there were furnace repairs made costing \$845.15. The money for that will come from the Building Fund. He also switched money from savings to checking because we could earn more interest. Chris Anderson will do the audit again this year.

There was no new business.

Motion to adjourn was made by Len Overholt, seconded by Rick Johnson and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54.. The next meeting is March 20, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Pastor Michelle closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Avis Jensen