

The Hilltopper

April 2025

From Pastor HK

Hello everyone!

I pray all is well. Can you believe it's already April? Easter is just around the corner!

The Lord has been faithful and gracious through our Wednesday gatherings. I pray and hope we will continue to grow in our faith through our gatherings.



I don't know about you, but God has been softening my heart through our current sermon series, I AM.

I pray Christ will be magnified through our Sunday services as well.

Let's continue to ask, seek, knock for more of Jesus in this season!

Blessings, *Pastor HK Kim*

Join us for Holy Week



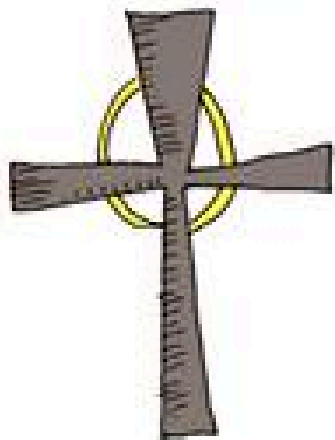
April 13 @ 10:30am



MAUNDY
thursday

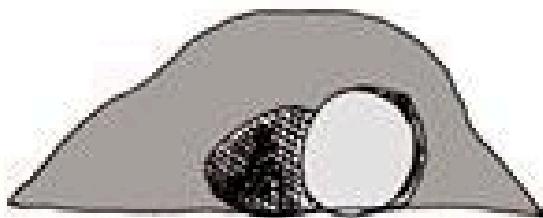
April 17 @ 7pm

GOOD
FRIDAY



April 18 @ 7pm

easter
SUNDAY



April 20 @ 10:30am



The following are the minutes from the **March 2025** meeting of the Church Council.

The minutes are available to help the entire church family *stay in the know* about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes - March 27, 2025

Those in attendance: Becky Breeding, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Linda Howdyshell, Beth Howdyshell, Bill Lalla, Laura Jenner, Corey Johnson, Susan Mehler, Bruce Rogers, Karen Whitmer and Sandy Wyrick.

Becky Breeding called the meeting to order. There was a devotion from Psalm 27 and prayer.

The minutes from the February 2025 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Sandy Wyrick to approve the minutes as written, Bruce Rogers seconded it and the motion was passed.

Financial Chair: *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

~ Church audit is due to the Conference by July 1, 2025. Bruce is requesting audits back to him by May 1st, 2025 to have time to compile reports. All groups/committees have been given forms to review, complete and return.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

~ Cindy D. reviewed the balance sheets and reviewed the amounts of money available in different accounts. Biggest concern is the cost of the heating use is about the same as last year, but the prices have increased significantly. We have used about \$10,000 of our \$12,000 budgeted for the year with nine months to go. Discussion came in about the process of us switching propane companies – the church now owns our own tanks and we are in the process of switching over to another company which offers propane at a lesser charge. Hopefully, when the final switch is complete the church will see a savings in propane heat.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: *(Sandy Wyrick reported)*

~ The Parsonage Walk-Through (review) will take place within the next few months. The purpose is to be sure that the parsonage is in good shape. If there are any issues found, they will be addressed. SPRC also is reviewing church job descriptions which were written several decades ago; they likely need to be tweaked to match our current environment.

Trustees: *(Corey Johnson reported)*

~ Propane Tanks

- The large propane tank has been picked up by Suburban.
- The parsonage tank has been excavated, replaced and installed.
 - Pick up date is to be determined.
- A new above ground tank has been purchased for the kitchen stove.
 - We still have the old Suburban tank with roughly 40% still remaining. The plan is to use as much as possible, and install the new tank with Southern States, and close the chapter with Suburban.

~ Windows

- Duct tape and sealant has been placed around all the Sanctuary windows.
- The crank hardware to open the windows has been removed.
 - The plan is to start a fundraising drive this summer or fall.
 - There has been expressed interest in offering a "memorial" window option to fund some partial expenses if members wish.

~ Plumbing Issues

- The handicap restroom toilet has been overhauled with all new flushing components and supply lines.
- The outside faucet near the church entrance has a slow leak. There is a cut off valve above the door in the boiler room that secures water flow if needed until repairs are made.
 - The plan is to dig out and install a small window well to help protect the faucet and ease connecting water hoses to the spigot and replace the leaking faucet.

~ Lighting

- All 96 lightbulbs in the Sanctuary have been replaced with 60 watt, daylight LED bulbs. It was found that three light sockets are malfunctioning, but it is hardly noticeable from the floor, so we are holding off repairs until the next time bulbs are replaced, to access further damage.
- The lighting in front of the front doors have been cleaned and replaced.
- The pole lights near the parking lot and sidewalk have been replaced with 100 watt dusk till dawn light bulbs.
- The large lighting fixture near the kitchen side of the social hall has been replaced and is working.

~ Hornets

- It is that time of the year where we see hornets waking up for the season.
 - The windows have been sealed, and some external flashing has been resealed. We believe that this has addressed the intrusion as we have noticed an increase, last weekend, of hornets in the Sanctuary, as they no longer have an escape route.

~ Grounds

- We are working on the leveling and reseeding of the areas affected by the recent propane and plumbing work, as well as the areas affected by the removal of the large oak tree last year. Please advise the congregation to be careful when walking around those areas.

~ Report An Issue

- There is a clipboard posted in the janitorial closet in the Narthex. If anyone observes an issue with the church, anyone from the congregation is more than welcome to submit a problem.

United Methodist Sisters: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

~ Both Circles are meeting in the month of April.

~ They are on slate to serve the United Methodist Men's Dinner which has been moved to April 10th 2025.

~ UMSisters will be sponsoring the 5th Sunday Coffee SHOP's before church, to be held in the social hall during Sunday School time in lieu of Sunday School. All ages are encouraged to come and enjoy a time of fellowship and light breakfast refreshments will be served.

~There will be a Community Meal on Wednesday, April 23rd at 5:30pm. The menu will be pulled pork, cornbread, mac and cheese, broccoli casserole, glazed carrots and a drink. Those who wish, may bring a dessert to share.

United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

~ The UMM served about 67 people during the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper. They will be serving the Sunrise Breakfast on Easter Morning following the Sunrise Service. The next UMM meeting will be on Thursday, April 10, 2025 for their monthly meeting.

Lay Leader: *(Susan Mehler reported)*

~ Church attendance is averaging around 40 this month.

~ Susan will be leading a devotion on Sunday, March 30th, for our first Coffee SHOP gathering prior to our church worship service.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

~ Loss of one member – Susan Palmer Baldwin passed away March 31, 2025. She joined the church on May 22, 1983 under Rudolph Benesh. Susan was listed as an inactive member and also listed as an address that could not be reached. Her husband, Larry Baldwin, also joined in 1983 and died on November 11, 2005. Karen has located both names in the "Big Book" and she has recorded their information.

Communications: *(report from Cindy Sheets)*

~ Cindy S. will meet with John's Computer this Friday, March 28th for servicing on our church computers.

~ The audio on the Nursery monitor has stopped working properly. The sound is there, but for our church's live-stream worship service, we are not able to hear the audio.

Programming & Event Planning:

- ~ Wednesday Bible studies and Fellowship meals are being well attended
- ~ The Easter Egg Fundraiser is going VERY well.
- ~ Reminder of the upcoming Coffee SHOP – first one of the year – Sunday, March 30th during Sunday School time.
- ~ The Church “Yard Sale” went well, all items which were not sold will be out of the building next week. Love, Inc. is coming to take whatever they need from what is left.
- ~ On Sunday, April 13th- The Adult Membership Luncheon will take place. Anyone who wants to join the church or rededicate their baptism are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be supplied after church for those attending. We would like a head count for this luncheon. Please advise Pastor HK if you will be attending.
- ~ Holy Week Services: There will be a Maundy Thursday service for our Church family here. A Community Good Friday church service will be held here at New Hope UMC. A Sunrise Easter Service, a Sunrise Breakfast and a Joint Sunday School Easter Morning Easter Service will be held.
- ~ Homecoming: is May 18th, a covered dish luncheon will follow. Former Pastors will be invited to attend.
- ~ Looking ahead to possible Revival on the first week in June, more information to come.

New Business:

- ~ Bruce Rogers made a motion for the church to give a monetary gift of appreciation to Mike Whetzel who has taken his time to assist our church in the removal of the propane tanks and setting the new ones. Motion was seconded by Corey Johnson, all in favor. A monetary gift of \$1,000 will be taken from the undesignated funds available in the church budget.
- ~ We reviewed the church guidelines on rental of church property by members and nonmembers. Everyone agreed the documents look OK at this point.
- ~ Regarding replacing church windows: Beth Howdyshell felt we can move forward with placing the order for the church windows. The cost total is about \$8,000, we need half down when placing the order and have 2 months after that to come up with balance- when the windows are installed. She suggested we use the \$1,500 from the money we made during ‘The 50’s Night’, and to add it to any Easter Egg money, which at this point is about \$1,500 – which puts us at about half of what we would owe. Also, discussion followed to have a sample window brought to the church and ask members to donate to the Window Fund, likely people will donate once we all know the windows are coming. Any money from Community meals can also be added to the Window Fund. Beth made the motion to move forward with replacing the windows for the Sanctuary. The motion was seconded and the motion was passed. Beth asked that a blurb be placed in the April – May Hilltopper and in a handout in the bulletin to notify members of our intent to replace the Sanctuary windows and ask for the donations.
- ~ Spring Clean up for the church – outside – will be Saturday, April 5th from 9am until. Sponsored by United Methodist Men, all able bodies are welcome to help out, bring rakes and shovels, and garden tools to help out. A light breakfast will be supplied to all helpers.
- ~ Pop-Up PB Easter Egg sale on APRIL 5th, 9am-11am, outside of church, parking lot.

The meeting was ended with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Susan Mehler

The next church council meeting will be Thursday, April 24, 2025.



We have 14 windows in our Sanctuary that were installed in 1978 and they are in very poor condition.

The glass has cracked and the wood frames have warped, creating large gaps, so that the heat escapes in the winter and the cool air escapes in the summer.

We have a quote to replace the windows with fixed windows, that will not open or close.

The cost will be about \$600.00 per window.

If you have the ability to donate to the 'Window Fund' it would be greatly appreciated.

Please list in the Memo section of your check: *Window Fund*, or use the white envelopes and write on it *Window Fund*.

Thank you very much for your help with this project.

April

EVENTS

Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

Wednesday, April 2nd ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

Saturday, April 5th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

- ~ Pop-up Peanut Butter Easter Egg Shop outside the church @ 9am-11am
- ~ Spring Clean-up at the church from 9am-1pm

Sunday, April 6th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

- ~ Sunday Morning Worship and Holy Communion @ 10:30am

Monday, April 7th ~ Sisters of Faith @ 1:30pm

- ~ Sisters of Hope and Love @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 16th ~ Bible Study @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

Thursday, April 10th ~ United Methodist Men @ 6:30pm

Saturday, April 12th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, April 13th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

- ~ (Palm Sunday) Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, April 16th ~ Bible Study @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

Thursday, April 17th ~ Maundy Thursday @ 7pm

Friday, April 18th ~ Good Friday Community Service (at New Hope UMC) @ 7pm

Saturday, April 19th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, April 20th ~ Easter Sunrise Service @ 6:30am

- ~ Easter Breakfast @ 7:00am
- ~ (Easter Sunday) Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, April 23rd ~ Fellowship Meal @ 11:00am

- ~ Community Meal @ 5:30pm

Thursday, April 24th ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, April 26th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, April 27th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

- ~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Teaching With Food

Jesus is the master teacher. One reason was His masterful use of stories. He could take the relatable events and situations and impart heavenly truths through them. Preachers joke that they can re-preach their sermons as long as they change the illustrations. We sometimes remember the “story” longer than the lesson. The best illustrations contain the lesson. Jesus does that in Luke 14, centering His thoughts on food or at least dinner parties. Notice three things He teaches through this commonly understood analogy.

Develop a Taste for Humble Pie (7-11). Jesus was watching a pitiful, prideful act among His disciples. They were trying to pick out places of honor, apparently feeling pretty self-important and entitled. Jesus urged the very opposite approach to honor and recognition. He says it is better to take the lowest seat and to be asked to come up higher than to take a seat of honor and be asked to yield to one greater. Jesus asserts that reaching for greatness brings disgrace, but assuming a humble posture brings honor. He summarizes this principle, saying, “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (11).

Take Medicine to Avoid Heartburn (12-14). Jesus’ next illustration also focuses on what’s in the heart. This deals more with one’s motivation for hospitality. The worldly impulse is to do for those who can return the favor, to get something back from those you show kindness to. Jesus teaches them to extend kindness and hospitality to those who cannot repay you so that you can be eternally rewarded by God in the end. This is a basic heart issue, and Jesus dispenses the remedy.

Don’t Lose Your Sense of Taste (15-24). The longest of the three illustrations regards accepting the invitation God extends to sit at His banqueting table in His eternal kingdom. Jesus illustrates how some inexplicably rejected the invitation to this “big dinner.” At the appropriate time, the call comes, “All things are ready, come to the feast” (cf. 17). But, notice the profoundly sad response: “But they all alike began to make excuses” (18). They chose finance and family, but these represent any excuse that keeps one from accepting the heavenly call (18-20). Then, the Master extends the invitation to any and all who will come (21-23). But, those who had no taste for what only the Master can give will miss out on what only He offers (24).

The first two stories illustrate the kind of character and ethics that should characterize a disciple. The third represents the kind of decision a true disciple will make. The culinary character of the stories should help it live in us. Jesus wants us to get and incorporate His lessons, so He makes them palatable. May we digest them and receive the intended nourishment.

EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

– 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper,
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