

The Hilltopper

September 2025



Dear New Hope UMC Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your interim pastor for the past two months. Debbie and I have felt warmly welcomed and greatly respected. Serving at New Hope has been a wonderful experience for me, yet also a bit of a trying one as I have discovered that at my age writing sermons, making visits to homes and hospitals, and keeping up with SHOP and other get-togethers is not as easy as it once seemed.

While I don't yet know who will follow me, I certainly expect that to be known by the date this is published. I feel certain that God will send you a good and effective pastor who will work with you toward the future, for I know that God is not done with New Hope Church yet! All I ask is that you be as welcoming, patient, understanding, helpful and cooperative with your new pastor as you have been with me.

May God continue to bless New Hope UMC and each of you.

Peace and Blessings, *Pastor Jim*



The following are the minutes from the **August 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 - August 28, 2025

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

Becky Breeding called the meeting to order. Cindy Deavers read a devotion on: 'Promises about Happiness'

The minutes from the July 2025 meeting were reviewed. A correction was made to the Treasurer's Report that the apportionments in the amount of \$1,910 are paid out monthly, not quarterly, as stated in the July minutes. The corrections were accepted and the minutes to the July meeting were approved with the corrections.

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

- The parsonage has been cleaned. The heat in the parsonage has been repaired.
- We do not have anyone starting as our new pastor on September 1st.
- We are looking for a part-time pastor - with a salary range of \$20,000-\$25,000 per year. We would have to set up the guidelines for a new part-time pastor. He/She would work for us on average 20 hours per week, and they would be here every Sunday to preach. With a part-time pastor we would not have to pay out health insurance, which would save us an additional \$19,120 per year minimum. There would be no housing allowance given, the part-time pastor can either live in the parsonage or find his/her own housing. We are hoping to have a new pastor by September 15th.
- Pastor Jim has agreed to stay on for two more weeks, for half of his salary. But, he will only be available for preaching on Sundays and for emergencies only.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- We have paid Weekday Religious Education (WRE), Valley Mission (\$500), the Verona Food Pantry (\$500) and Camp Overlook (\$472), the amounts that were agreed upon in last month's church council meeting. All of these monies were paid out of the Gift and Memorial Fund.
- All bills and payroll have been paid for August.

Budget: *(Bruce Rogers)*

- We worked on our 2026 budget. Most budget line items remained the same. Please see Bruce Rogers or Cindy Deavers for more details on the 2026 proposed budget.

Events:

- Our next District Conference will be on Sunday, November 9th at 3:00pm at Dayton UMC.
- Becky needs all reports in by October 5th.
- Coffee SHOP will be this Sunday, August 31, 2025 from 9:45am-10:15am. Breakfast items will be available and Susan Mehler will have devotions and prayer.
- We will host a Wednesday Night Community Dinner on Wednesday, October 8th from 5:30pm-6:30pm inside the Social Hall. We will have hot dogs, hamburgers, and two sides. A free-will offering will be taken. Wanda made a motion and Linda seconded it.
- We will work on reviving 50's Night in 2026.

New Business:

- Equipping the Saints, a charity in Weyers Cave, is willing to take donated items, including old Upper Rooms, and other religious literature that we have in the church.
- The first Sunday in September, we will make a change to the bulletin. The Offertory and Attendance section in the bulletin will change to only being published once a month and will reflect the Average giving and the Average attendance for the previous month. This will allow us to give a more accurate reflection of what our month giving and attendance is.

Becky closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting ended at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia Sheets, Recording Secretary



Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

Tuesday, September 2nd ~ Circle of Hope & Love @ 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 3rd ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Saturday, September 6th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, September 7th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

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

Wednesday, September 10th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Thursday, September 11th ~ Trustees @ 6:30pm

Saturday, September 13th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, September 14th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, September 17th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Thursday, September 18th ~ United Methodist Men @ 6:30pm

Saturday, September 20th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, September 21st ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, September 24th ~ Bible Study @ 6:30pm

Thursday, September 25th ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, September 27th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, September 28th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

It Is Always 'Us'

It is said that the former Queen of Denmark, Margrethe II, used to walk from the palace every morning to the shops to buy flowers and vegetables. A visitor once asked a Danish citizen, "Who guards the Queen when she walks to the shops?" The citizen replied, "We all do."



The same is true of the church. Who will help the church grow and thrive? God, certainly, but we each help (1 Cor. 3:6-9). Paul states in Rom 12:4, *"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function."* We each have something to offer the church. There are no talentless people in the church.

It is like the fable of "Who Flew the Kite?" "I did," said the sticks. "I did," said the paper. "I did," said the boy. "No, I did," said the wind. But they all flew the kite together. If the sticks had broken, the tail caught in a tree, the paper torn, or the wind had lulled, the kite would have come down. Each had a part to play. The application is clear.

We each have work to do in the Kingdom of God. If the work of the Lord is to be a success, then every member of the church must participate.

We have the work of visiting, giving of our time and means, teaching, caring for children, widows, and widowers, helping feed those who need food, and countless other jobs to do to make the church and its work successful. We must all work together and each do what we can to help. It is a matter of

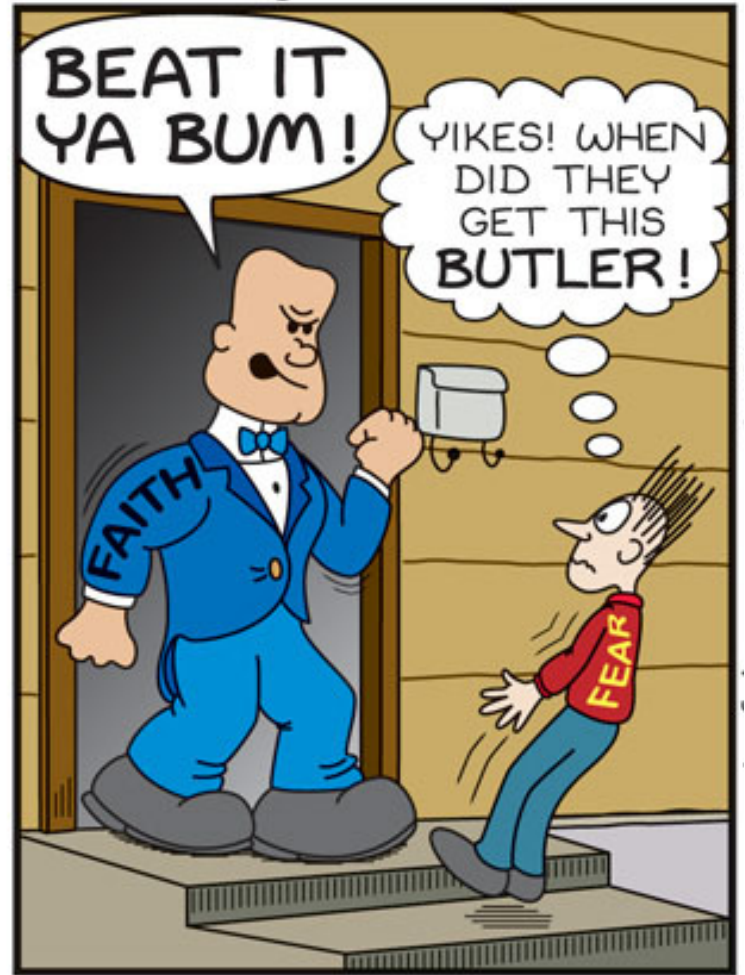
teamwork. We all have something we can do to help the church of Christ grow and mature. The church in the New Testament is never spoken of as "they," "them," or even "I." ***It is always "us."***

How are you helping the congregation to grow? God does His part; what about us?

Mark T. Tonkery
Zanesville, OH

WHEN FEAR KNOCKS...

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

– MARK 4:40 NIV

*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper,
please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or email
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