

The Hilltopper

May 2025

From Pastor HK

Hello everyone!

I pray all is well. April was an eventful month as we concluded our Lent Season, Holy Week services, our baptism ceremony on Easter Service, and sharing about the upcoming pastoral transition that will take place in July. I believe The Lord has reminded us time after time that He's in charge and has been leading our church from the beginning. His presence is all we need to navigate and move forward.

As we thank God for His goodness and faithfulness, let us continue to seek the Lord and delight in His presence.

Please see below for the upcoming gatherings at New Hope UMC, and let us continue to grow as one body of Christ.

Wednesday, May 7th: No SHOP for both 11am & 6:30pm. I have to attend a Provisional Elder event in Richmond.

Wednesday, May 14th & 21st: We will continue with our Acts Bible study. Join us at 11am or 6:30pm.

Sunday, May 18th: We have our Homecoming Service on May 18th. Let us give thanks to God for His faithfulness as we celebrate the 175th year of our church as one body of Christ.

Wednesday, May 28th: We have our Fellowship Lunch & Community Dinner. Please let me know if you are joining us for the Fellowship Lunch by Monday, May 26th. Invite your family and friends for our Community Dinner at 5:30pm.

Blessings, *Pastor HK Kim*

New Hope United Methodist Church

HOMECOMING 2025



*You are cordially invited to
Homecoming on Sunday, May 18, 2025*

We will be celebrating our 175th year!

Schedule for the Day

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Service

12:00pm - Covered Dish Lunch



The following are the minutes from the **April 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 - April 24, 2025

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

Becky Breeding called the meeting to order. Cindy Sheets read a devotion called: "Seeing in the Darkness"

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

Financial Chair: *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

- Working on the church audit, it should be ready next week.
- Giving has been about normal, the recent increase in giving was for the church windows fund.
- *Per Becky Breeding* - We have surpassed the amount that we need for the church windows and they have been ordered.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- The Treasurer's computer has been reset and is working properly now. However, the printer is currently not working.
- Because the treasurer's computer was out being repaired for a few weeks, Cindy Deavers wrote out our bills for April by hand and sent them off.
- The giving has been recorded in the books for the month of April.
- For the Sanctuary windows fund, we have collected a total of \$10,007.
- The April tithes and offerings, as of today, total \$17,370
- \$ 554.00 has been paid for the propane in the kitchen. The United Methodist Men will donate that money and put it back into the church account.

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

- There will be a parsonage walk-thru in May.
- The job descriptions for the Pastor, the Church Administrator, Custodian, and the Minister of Music have been updated. Sandy made a motion to accept the updated job descriptions and Corey seconded it, it was passed.

Trustees: *(Corey Johnson reported)*

~ Windows

- New Sanctuary windows have been ordered. No installation date has been determined, but it is expected to be in early June. Thank you to the entire congregation for the overwhelming contributions to the project, as we are over-funded for this project.
- As a reminder, the windows quote does not include any damage to the existing framing. If there is damage to the framing, this will increase the overall cost of the project, as they find damage and repair it.

~ Hornets

- Our Sanctuary continues to be visited by hornets. Recently we have found that we have a new visitor, a particularly aggressive hornet. We have found some small hornet nests on the outside of the Sanctuary, and they have been sprayed and eliminated. If anyone should see hornet activity or even nests, please report them to the Trustees' attention.

~ Painting of Parking Lot

- This Spring, we will be painting the lines in the parking lot. Please be mindful of any caution tape around the painted areas.

United Methodist Sisters: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- May 4th - the Sisters of Hope and Love will have a luncheon after worship
- May 5th - the Sisters of Faith will meet at 1:30pm
- May 15th - the Sisters will provide dinner for the United Methodist Men
- May 28th - we will have our Community Meal at 5:30pm

United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- Their April meeting was held on April 10th.
- They have \$7,771.54 in their budget.
- The Easter pancake breakfast went well. They served 26 people and had five takeout meals. \$46.00 was raised at the breakfast that went to Love, Inc.

- The UMM audit was performed by Jack Walker, and it was correct down to the penny.
- Our Spring Clean-Up day was quite successful, many thanks to all who volunteered. The only task left is to spread mulch.
- The work day for the Cull family was postponed until Saturday, April 26th, due to weather.
- The 2025 budget, after discussion, was approved as presented.
- The ladies of the church asked if we could please change the UMM meeting start time from 6:30pm to 6:00pm, and it was passed unanimously.
- Next meeting will be Thursday, May 15th.

Lay Leader: *(Susan Mehler reported)*

- Easter Services went very well.
- Generally people seem to be feeling good and uplifted.
- We are pushing about 50 people each Sunday morning.
- A new family with kids has been coming to our church the past few weeks. Please continue to welcome them.
- Homecoming will be on May 18th, and we will have a covered dish luncheon.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

- Elias Minkyu Kim was baptized on April 20, 2025. Elias is the son of Pastor HK and Sarah Kim.
- Kellcie Quick was baptized on April 20, 2025 and became a member of the church through Confirmation. Kellcie is the granddaughter of Crystal and Richard Bell.
- Hailey Johnson remembered her baptism on April 20, 2025 and became a member of New Hope UMC through Confirmation. She is the daughter of Corey Johnson and Sandy Wyrick.
- Kevin Leonard Armstrong died on March 31, 2025. He joined our church in 2009 under Rev. Doug Gunsalus.

Communications: *(report from Cindy Sheets)*

- A rep from John's Computer came to check out our church computers and he fixed the monitor of the general computer in the church office. So, that is properly working again. He recommended that the computer in the A/V room get a new hard drive that would cost around \$500 and hopefully give us another 3-5 years of life on that computer. After discussing it, Pastor HK stated that instead of trying to make the old computer last longer, that he would purchase a new CPU for the A/V room computer.
- We will need to get a new printer for the church office. The rep recommended that we get a laser jet printer and not an inkjet printer, because the laser jet can go longer without having to use it daily to keep the ink from drying up. The cost for a black and white laserjet printer is in the \$100-\$200 range.

The cost for a color laser jet printer would be \$250 or more. After discussing it, it was agreed that we would start the process of getting a new color copier/printer through SVOE (Shenandoah Valley Office Equipment) and replace the old one that we have now.

- We also discussed that the Treasurer needs a new printer also. With a new color copier/printer, we should be able to connect that one device to all the computers in the church, so we won't need a separate printer for the Treasurer's computer.
- The nursery monitor's sound is still not coming through directly on the coaxial cable. But, we are able to get sound for those watching on the nursery monitor when we use the youtube live-stream video.

Programming & Event Planning:

- Easter Egg Fundraiser - We exceeded our goal on this. Thanks to everyone who helped!
- Our next Coffee SHOP, will be on June 29th.
- After our church 'yard sale', everything that remained was taken by Love, Inc.
- Maundy Thursday was very meaningful for those who attended.
- Good Friday - the joint-community service was very successful.
- For the Easter Sunrise Service - we had 17 people attend.
- For the Easter Sunrise Breakfast - we had 26 people, including the men who provided the breakfast, who we thank for their efforts.
- The Easter Worship Service was an amazing service to be a part of, with the baptisms and confirmation service.
- At our last Community Meal, we served 48 people.
- Our next Wednesday Evening events will start back up in May, as we are taking the 5th Wednesday off in April.
- Homecoming will be on May 18th. The former ministers of the church have been invited to attend. We will have a covered-dish lunch afterwards. Pastor HK will not be preaching that day, instead some of our members have been asked to speak at our Homecoming Service for about 5-10 minutes each.
- Our New Hope Revival will be on June 6th and 7th.

Becky closed the meeting and Pastor HK prayed. The meeting ended at 7:29pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia Sheets, Recording Secretary

The next church council meeting will be Thursday, May 22, 2025.



Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

Saturday, May 3rd ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 4th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ Sunday Morning Worship and Holy Communion @ 10:30am
~ Sisters of Hope and Love Luncheon @ 12:00pm

Monday, May 5th ~ Sisters of Faith @ 1:30pm

Thursday, May 8th ~ United Methodist Men @ 6:00pm

Saturday, May 10th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 11th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ (Mother's Day) Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, May 14th ~ Bible Study @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

Thursday, May 15th ~ United Methodist Men @ 6:00pm

Saturday, May 17th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 18th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ (Homecoming) Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am
~ Covered-Dish Lunch at 12:00pm

Wednesday, May 21st ~ Bible Study @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

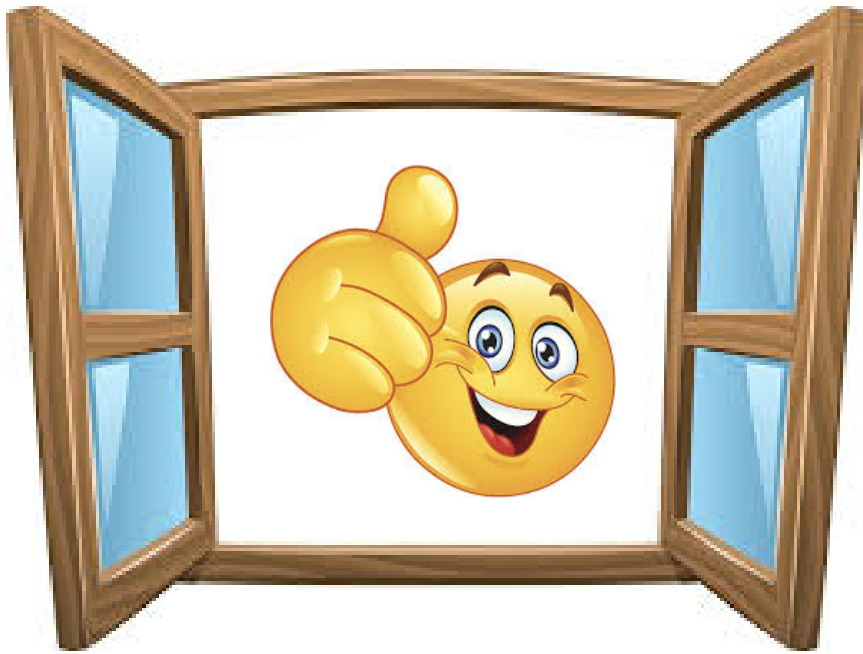
Thursday, May 22nd ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, May 24th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 25th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am
~ (Memorial Day Observed) Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Wednesday, May 28th ~ Fellowship Meal @ 11:00am
~ Community Meal @ 5:30pm

Saturday, May 31st ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am



We have surpassed our goal for the Sanctuary Windows!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this project happen.

The windows have been ordered and we expect the windows to be installed in June. Next month's Hilltopper will list those who submitted their donation in honor or in memory of someone.



Evidence of God's Handiwork: Bees Outsmart Scientists



Scientists have long recognized that bees are intelligent creatures. Many believe that this intelligence is the product of millions of years of natural selection. But the extremely fast learning ability of the bee puts in doubt the millions of years and instead shows the hand of the Creator.

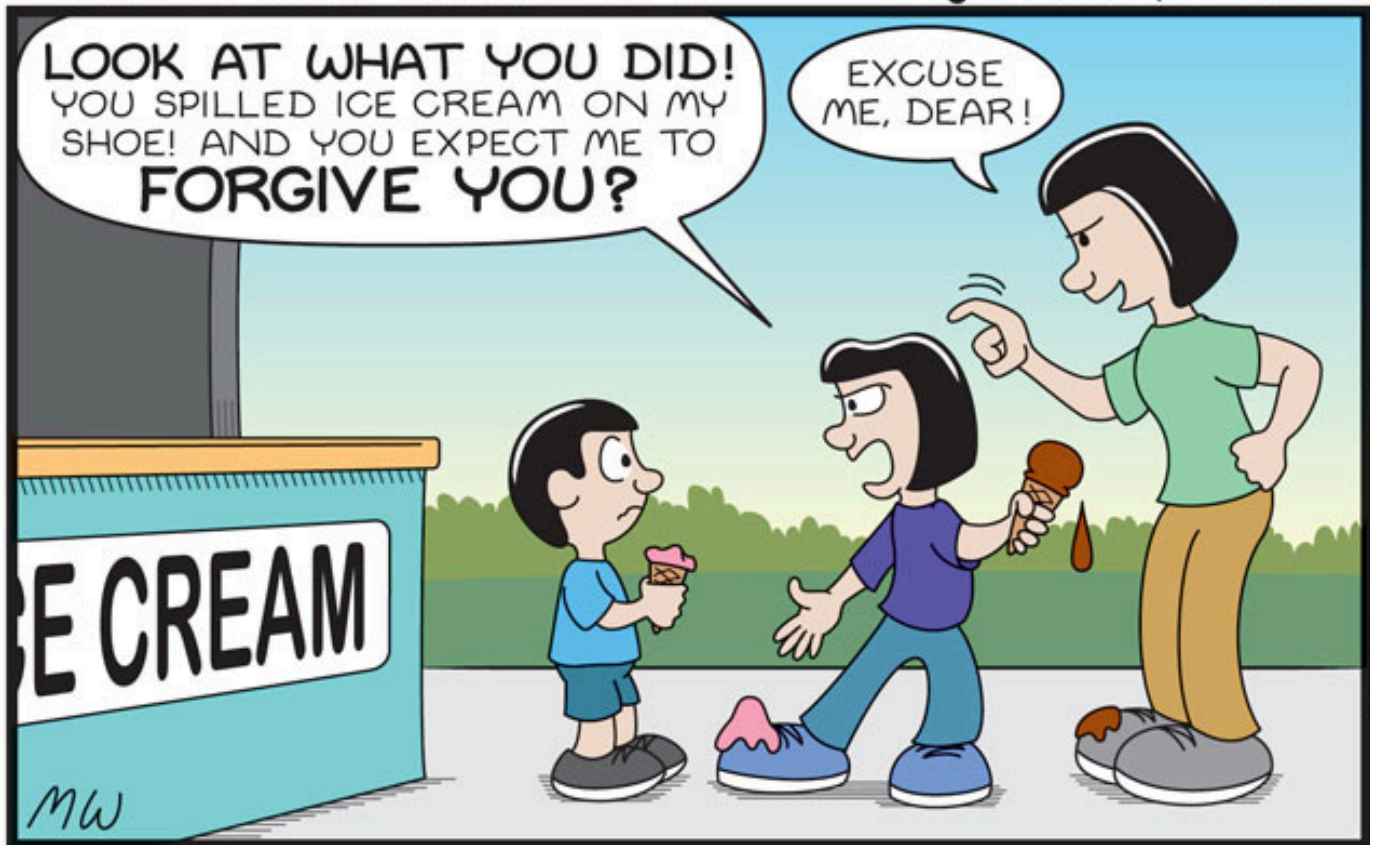
Researchers at Princeton University decided to find out whether bees were smart enough to find their food source if it was moved. The researchers moved the prime food source fifty meters farther from the hive. It took the bees less than one minute to locate the moved food source. The researchers then moved the food source another fifty meters away. The bees still took less than a minute to find the food source there too. Two more moves, each a precise fifty meters, produced the same results.

However, the bees had also been studying the researchers. Before the researchers could move the food another fifty meters, they found the bees had discovered the pattern and were already waiting at the new location!

God is our Creator and has clearly left evidence of His handiwork—His fingerprints—in the creation itself. For those who have eyes to see, this fills us with wonder, and yes, with love for the Creator God who first loved us.

FORGIVE...BE FORGIVEN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

– LUKE 6:37 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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