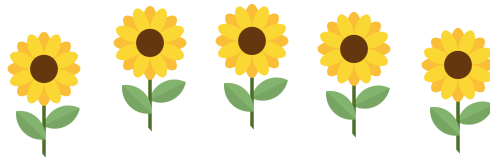


New Hope United Methodist Church's Monthly Newsletter

The Hilltopper



May 2024

From Pastor Mike

Dear Beloved:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13

As we step into May, our hearts and calendars are filled with significant observances that weave together the threads of celebration, reflection, and spiritual renewal. This month, we honor the special roles of mothers, celebrate the transformative power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and recognize the achievements of our graduates, all while preparing to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

On May 12th, we come together to celebrate Mother's Day, honoring the immense love, sacrifice, and strength of mothers and all who have mothered us. It is a day to acknowledge the nurturing spirit that God has planted within them, a spirit that reflects God's care for us. Our morning service will include special prayers and blessings for these remarkable individuals who shape our lives and faith.

The following week, on May 19th, brings a joyful double celebration -- Pentecost and our annual recognition of high school and college graduates. Pentecost, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, reminds us of the birth of the Church and the empowering presence of the Spirit in our lives today. It is a fitting time to also honor our graduates, who, emboldened by their education and their faith, are preparing to step into new chapters of their lives.

This year, let us draw parallels between the Apostles, who ventured out with newfound purpose, and our graduates, who are setting forth with fresh dreams and ambitions. May the same Spirit who ignited the hearts of the disciples inspire our graduates to carry their light into the world.

As May draws to a close, we acknowledge Memorial Day on Sunday, May 26. This solemn day is set aside to remember and honor those who have given their lives in service to our nation. We will have a special time of prayer to reflect on the sacrifices made for our freedoms, praying for peace and strength for families who have lost loved ones. It is a time to gather in unity, honoring the past while fostering hope for the future.

May is indeed full of profound moments. From celebrating those who nurture and guide us, to invoking the Holy Spirit's transformative power in our lives, to encouraging our graduates, to remembering our fallen heroes, each event brings us together and deepens our faith.

As we navigate this month's celebrations and remembrances, may we find joy in each other's company, solace in our shared faith, and renewal in the Spirit's ever-present power.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

*We will recognize our
High School and College graduates
on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th*



Please let Cindy Sheets or Pastor Mike know if you have a high school or college graduate who we can honor on May 19th.

In every smile, in every tear,
A mother's love, forever near.
With gentle touch and tender care,
She guides us through, she's always there.



In her embrace, we find our rest,
Her love, a shield,
her heart, our nest.

Through every joy,
through every strife,
She's our constant
thread in life.

So here's to mothers, strong and true,
For all they are and all they do.
On this special day, let us all say,
Thank you, Mom, in every way.



The following are the minutes from the **APRIL** meeting of the Administrative 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 25, 2024

Present: Kevin Armstrong, Becky Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Beth Howdyshell, Linda Howdyshell, Laura Jenner, Corey Johnson, Bill Lalla, Pastor Mike, Bruce Rogers, Karen Whitmer and Sandy Wyrick.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Becky Breeding, and Bill Lalla read a devotion from the Upper Room.

Finance: *(Kevin Armstrong reported)*

- The 2023 audit has been completed.
- We will pay \$2,080 for apportionments. Then we will work on sending money for the Active and Retired Clergy incrementally.
- The signs are up for the tenderloin meal. An ad will be in the Staunton Daily News Leader on Friday. And then it will be on WHSV TV next week.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- Balance Sheet / Local Missions Fund - we made \$1600 on peanut butter easter eggs, and we made \$147 made on the chocolate easter suckers ~ both of those amounts have been deposited.
- Dividends of \$1803.31 are in the money market. Cindy Deavers made a motion to place this as a partial payment to Weekday Religious Education. It was seconded by Wanda and the motion was passed.
- The remaining amount will come from the local missions fund, the motion passed.

Pastor Mike: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Mike and Susan will be moving from the parsonage on June 18th. They officially vacate the parsonage on June 26th.
- Pastor Mike's last day preaching is June 23rd
- Now until late June, we will be shoring up volunteers - the Nominations Committee and the Staff Parish Relations Committee need people to help get things ready for Pastor HK.
- On Sunday, May 19th - we will recognize our graduates.

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

- The search for a new permanent pianist is still ongoing. One person expressed interest, but is not in this area yet.

Trustees: *(Corey Johnson reported)*

- We had a parsonage inspection on April 15th. Pastor HK walked through the parsonage on April 19th, and he is requesting the duct to be cleaned. The stove may need to be replaced. Some furniture may need to be removed and stored. Painting needs to be completed.
- The plan for the old oak tree in the front of the church is to be stump grind and add a new one.
- A handle has been replaced at the back door.

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The Circle of Love and the Circle of Hope meet on Monday, May 6th at 6:30pm.
- The Sisters of Faith meet on Monday, May 6th at 1:30pm

Lay Leader: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- We are averaging 55 people each Sunday for worship.

United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Easter Morning Breakfast went well.
- The workday at Mr. Cull's was fine and the UMM received an extremely generous donations. And we are awaiting a start date for another fundraiser workday at Mr. Cull's residence.
- A church workday is coming soon to address the outside of the property, including weeding, pruning, mulching, etc.
- Several of the men assisted in taking down the old oak tree in the front of the church.
- The UMM have examined the church basement and have started plans for cleaning and organizing that area. This will include donating unused items for the Ruritan's yard sales and

cleaning and reorganizing the other items. The fridges downstairs were also unplugged.

- The UMM will finalize their budget for 2024 at their May meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- The schedule of events is updated now on the calendar by the front door.
- There has been alot of cleanup and things have been organized. The cabinets in the hall, the library and the upstairs rooms have been organized, and cleaned up any food.
- The downstairs closets have been checked for craft supplies. *Please use these items before we buy new items.* Bruce stated that “if it is here, use it”, “if we run out, we will replace it.”
- Props need to be moved out of the storage room of the nursery and moved downstairs.

New Business:

- The next meeting will be May 23rd, which will be a meeting focused on Finance, followed by Programming and Event Planning, starting at 6:30pm.

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Pastor Mike dismissed us with a prayer. The meeting went from 6:30pm-7:23pm

Respectfully submitted by:
Sandy Wyrick

The next council meeting will be Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6:30pm



1 ~ Nathan & Cheryl Kutz ❤️
2 ~ Jarman Fretwell
5 ~ Linda Howdysshell
6 ~ Andrew Breeding
6 ~ Chad Deavers
6 ~ Kevin McLaren

8 ~ Phin Walker
9 ~ Doug Snider
10 ~ Melissa Fretwell
12 ~ Corey Johnson and
Sandy Wyrick ❤️
15 ~ Cheryl Kutz

16 ~ Pam Van Lear
21 ~ Bruce & Beth Rogers ❤️
28 ~ Mark & Robin Craun ❤️
29 ~ Samantha Brensinger
29 ~ Austine & Chris Belsky ❤️
30 ~ Jarman & Martha Fretwell ❤️

Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

May 2024

Thursday, May 2 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

Friday, May 3 ~ Tenderloin Dinner Fundraiser from 5pm-7pm

Saturday, May 4 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 5 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

~ Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting @ 11:45am (lunch provided)

Monday, May 6 ~ Sisters of Faith @ 1:30pm

~ Circle of Love and Circle of Hope @ 6:30pm

Thursday, May 9 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

~ Trustees Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, May 11 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 12 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am - Mother's Day

Thursday, May 16 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

~ United Methodist Men @ 6:30pm

Saturday, May 18 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 19 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am - Recognition of Graduates

Thursday, May 23 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

~ Administrative Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, May 25 ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, May 26 ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am - Memorial Day Weekend

Thursday, May 30 ~ Junior Choir Practice @ 6:00pm

It's Not Easy Being Green

by: Cynthia Sheets

Some of you may know that I have a booth at the Factory Antique Mall. And I recently decided to repaint it. I chose a bright shade of green - 'Electric Lime'. I wanted it to be bright, because it was previously black, of course I wanted it to be eye-catching, and also because my mom's favorite color was green.

I set out all ready and eager to start the painting. But, as I began to work, more and more people would walk by and give their unsolicited opinions - almost all of them were negative. Even one woman exclaimed loudly - "How Awful!" in referring to the new color that I had been excited to put up in my booth. "What is this St. Patrick's Day?!" exclaimed a man as he turned the corner. "What did you want Everyone to see Your Color?" was another demeaning comment. But to that, I thought the answer was obvious - Well, Yeah! I wanted my color to stand out in this crowd of over 350 vendors! And those are just some of the comments that I heard, not to mention the ones that were whispered behind my back.

Throughout my life, I have not usually been swayed by other people's comments - I credit this to my faith. But, that doesn't mean that the words don't sometimes hurt. But, as usual - I held my head up high, with Christ by my side - and continued on with my vision - paintbrush in hand!

But, as the weekend dragged on, that green color - and more truthfully - all of those people's negative comments continued to haunt me. And the doubts casted began to overshadow me. I even started to dream in green. Never at any other time in my life has the color green stood out to me so much! There were times when it seemed like I could see nothing but Green! So, much so that I thought maybe, just maybe I would go back and repaint my booth a different color..... But, wait..... NO! As I continued to bob around in this sea of overwhelming green - I was reminded of something said by an old childhood friend - Kermit the Frog - *"It's not easy being green!"*

Boy that's the truth. It's not easy being different, standing out, trying to *'think outside the box'*. Even at this time when it seems as though everyone is encouraging each other to be different, be who you Really are! But when people try to be who they Really are, they get attacked by those on the other side.

One definition that you can find online under the meaning of green is: full of life and vigor; young. This seems like a wonderful goal to aspire to, especially as I get older - be full of life - just like a young person - live life like a child - with no knowledge of hate or prejudice.

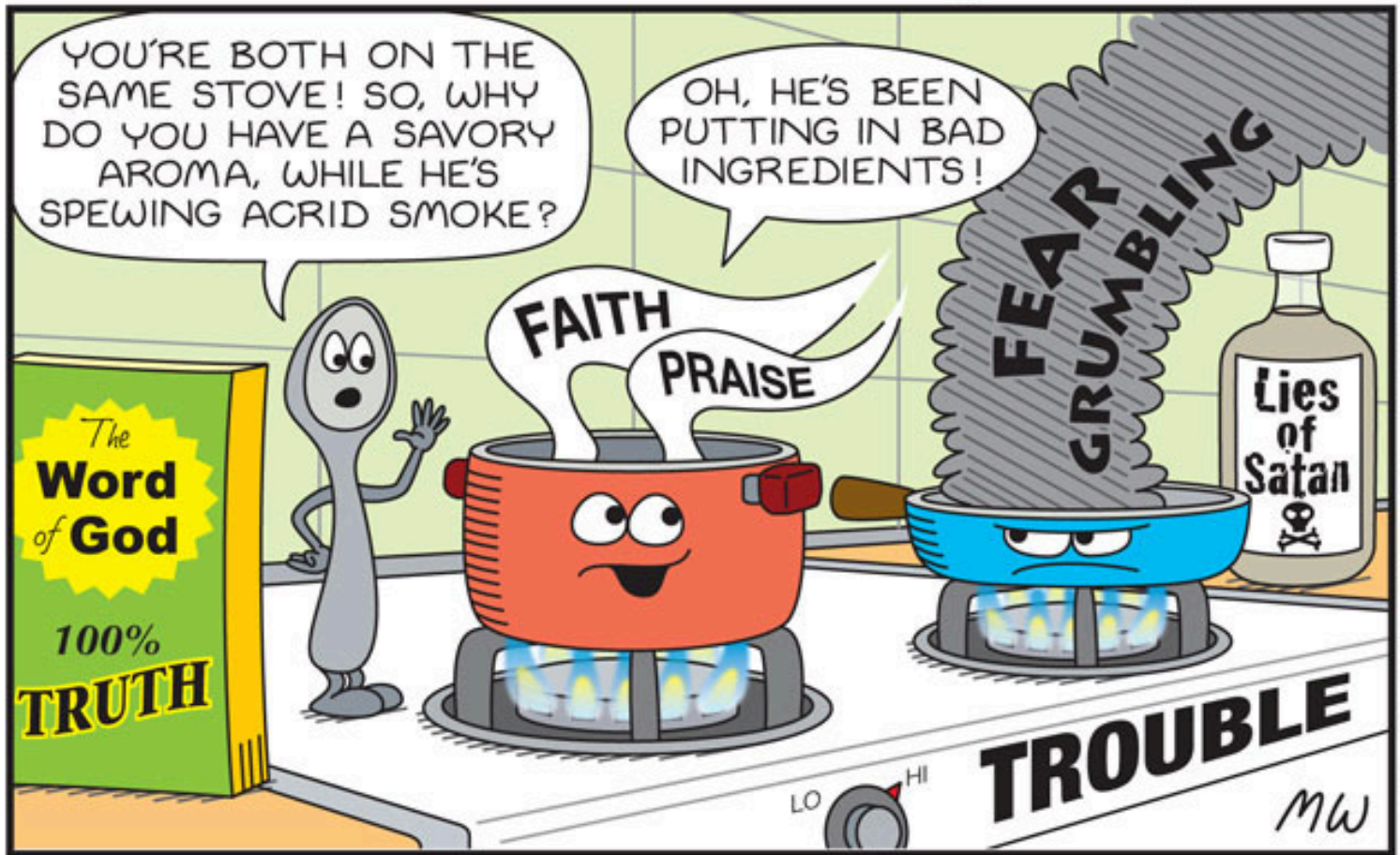
Kermit sang it best in his signature song... "I'm green and it'll do fine. It's beautiful, and I think it's what I want to be."

And if I may, I'll add a spiritual verse to this song.... "I'm me, and I am just fine. I'm beautiful, because Christ lives in me."

What comfort this situation has given me to be reminded that we are as God made us, and we should be proud of this! And to know that God loves us - no matter who we are, no matter how we are - and no matter what color we choose to paint our walls!

WHAT'S COOKING?

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

— MATTHEW 12:34 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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