



The Hilltopper

June 2021

From Pastor Mike

On Friday, May 14th, Governor Ralph Northam lifted Virginia's universal indoor mask mandate to align with new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Governor Northam also announced that Virginia would ease all distancing and capacity restrictions on Friday, May 28.

Virginia can take these steps because of increasing vaccination rates, dramatically declining COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and statewide test positivity rate, and revised federal guidelines. As your pastor, I encourage anyone who is not yet vaccinated to do so. Anyone age 12 or older can get a vaccination at an area clinic often without an appointment. I believe vaccines are the best way to protect yourself and our community from COVID-19.

I also understand that vaccination is a personal choice. At New Hope United Methodist Church, we will not require proof of vaccination. We will rely on the honor system. We trust everyone to do what is best when we are together in worship.

At midnight on Friday, May 28 when Gov, Northam's Executive Order 79 went into effect, New Hope Church began following the recommendations from the CDC. The CDC guidelines state that fully vaccinated individuals do not have to wear masks in most indoor settings. Those who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

As of Sunday, May 30 masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals. For those who are not fully vaccinated, you are encouraged to wear a face mask. Those who are fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks if that makes you more comfortable. Instead of a hug or handshake, consider a fist bump or an elbow bump. If you are sick, stay home. Review the Health Acknowledgement Poster before you come to church.

This is a first step. Other changes will be coming as we make decisions about Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, the Nursery, food at church, and the serving of Holy Communion. But we will move cautiously.

A good analogy that was shared with me recently involves bowling. When my children were little, they were part of a Saturday morning bowling group. They bowled with those guards which kept the bowling balls from falling into the gutter.

Think of the last year as if we have been bowling with the gutter guards in place. Now those gutter guards have been removed. It is up to us to determine how to be the church without throwing a gutter ball. We cannot let our guard down and act as if the pandemic is no longer a threat to our community.

Be patient as we loosen restrictions. Pray the worst of the pandemic is behind us. We cannot move forward when we paint anyone who disagrees with us as selfish or misguided. The people of New Hope Church have been great about this thus far. I am confident we can continue as we navigate the path forward to a new normal.

I would like to thank the members of the Healthy Church Team (HCT) – Teresa Barr, Dana Breeding, Sam Brensinger, Cheryl Kutz, Kim Maugans, Cindy Sheets, Jenn Strother – for their work during the past year. The Post-COVID Re-entry Group (PRG) will help lead us through the transition back to a new normal. The members of the HCT will continue to serve on the new PRG.

Yours in Christ.

Pastor Mike

ATTENTION



FACE COVERINGS

ARE RECOMMENDED BY THE CDC
FOR ANYONE WHO IS NOT FULLY VACCINATED*



Mask



Bandana



Neck Gaiter



Scarf

*CDC Guidance Updated May 16, 2021



High School Graduates:

Jeanna Hinebaugh - Glen Allen High School
Dulaney Stogdale - Fort Defiance High School

College Graduates:

Megan Aldhizer - James Madison University
Savannah Alford - Mary Baldwin University
Nicholas Bergman - James Madison University
Chelsea Bosserman - Murphy Deming College of Health Sciences, Mary Baldwin
Ashley Johnson - Old Dominion University
Mike Kelly - Mary Baldwin University
Peyton Meier - Cedar Stone School of Massage
Holly Morris - Old Dominion University
Courtney Stout - Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry
Danny Toole - East Carolina University



The following are the minutes from the **MAY** meeting of the Church Council. The minutes are available for you to help the entire church family Stay In The Know about how this group is caring for New Hope UMC!

Church Council Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2021

Present: Alicia Copeland, Robin Craun, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Pastor Mike, Bruce Rogers, Cindy Sheets, Jennifer Strother, Dallas VanLear and Karen Whitmer

The meeting was called to order by chairman Dallas VanLear, with devotions and prayer read by Robin Craun.

The minutes from the April meeting were accepted as distributed.

Finance Report: *(Report from Kevin Armstrong)*

~ If we are planning on having new rules for the counting of the tithes and offerings, then Robin will have to find a new team of people to be counters going forth. This will be discussed further in the near future.

~ Annual Church Audits are complete. Kevin asked Pastor Mike to help him enter data into the conference website, and all of that has been completed.

~ Kevin recommends we pay our usual apportionments for May 2021.

~ Kevin thanked everyone for all of their thoughts and prayers during his time of recovery.

Treasurer's Report: *(Cindy Deavers)*

~ We are good on the bills and making payroll as usual this month.

~ The Treasurer's Report is up-to-date as of today.

~ We received \$400 in non-designated monies, and \$25 to go towards Music, in memory of Larry Hinebaugh. And another \$100 received for next week. We will talk to Nadine about where she would like to have this money distributed.

~ We also have donations received in memory of Sherry Rankin and Glenna Powers in the non-designated Memorial Fund.

~ We were able to pay our apportionments for April 2021.

~ As of today, we have \$31,513 in the General Fund balance.

Trustees: *(Pastor Mike)*

~ The Trustees met on Monday May 24, 2021.

~ Corey Johnson was nominated and needs to be officially voted in to fill in the open spot that Larry Hinebaugh left on the committee. Pastor Mike nominated Corey and Jennifer seconded him; it was voted on by the Church Council and passed by all that Corey Johnson will be the replacement on the Trustees, as a member at large.

~ There are plans to do some small painting jobs around the church that we will either need to gather volunteers for, or we will have to see if we need to hire someone to paint.

TO DO LIST:

- Need to move furniture back into the Nursery.
- Need to paint the hallway leading to the kitchen.
- Need to paint some of the Sunday School classrooms.
- In the G.I.F.T. classroom downstairs, at some point, one of the electric outlets got wet, so that needs to be addressed very soon.

~ It was reminded that we will have to send a letter to the court to let them know of the change in the membership of our board of Trustees.

~ The Trustees next meeting is the 2nd Thursday in July, which would be July 8th.

Pastor's Report: *(Pastor Mike)*

~ Effective this coming Sunday, May 30, 2021 - masks will no longer be required. We are following CDC guidelines - if you're vaccinated, then you do not need to wear a mask, if you are unvaccinated you still do need to wear a mask. However, we will not ask anyone their vaccination status. Social-distancing guidelines are still in effect.

~ Over the Summer, the Healthy Church Team will change to the Post-COVID Re-entry Group (PRG). And we may add some new people on the team, just to get some new voices heard. We will discuss how to reintroduce Sunday School classes. We will talk about Vacation Bible School, which will most likely be an outdoor event, maybe only 2 days, probably in late July or early August. We will discuss how to get the Youth group reenergized.

~ We want to continue to "*Bowl with Gutter Guards*" i.e., We don't want to do anything thoughtless and unnecessarily dangerous.

~ We want to find ways to reconnect with folks, particularly the ones that have not been coming-back to church in person.

~ There will be a new Bible Study introduced, starting sometime in late June.

~ We will be working on restarting things that have been dormant for a while.

Worship: *(Alicia Copeland)*

~ Alicia reminded us that we have The Dunns booked for Saturday, November 13th and Sunday, November 14th, 2021. The idea was that they would come and be our live performers for H.O.T.S. and then they would play again for us during Sunday Morning Worship. But, the United Methodist Men have decided that there will be no H.O.T.S. again this year, due mainly to the fact that we don't know where we will be in November, as far as rules, regulations and if we would happen to have another wave of Covid outbreak; and H.O.T.S. is something that has to be planned for well in advance. So, it was agreed that we'll be happy to host The Dunns on that Sunday, November 14, 2021 here at New Hope UMC, but we will ask them to try to find another church to perform for on that Saturday before.

Missions and Outreach: *(Pastor Mike)*

~ Pastor Mike thinks there may possibly be a trip to Tangier this year, but there has been any official announcement yet.

Evangelism: *(Report from Nathan Kutz)*

~ We did have an idea in regards to evangelism that I wanted to share with you all. We were thinking about doing some kind of gift basket with snacks, copy of the Hilltopper, maybe the Upper Room, or any other info about things happening in the church and a card.

~ We will continue to be thinking of more things to do. As restrictions go away and things get safer we hope to be able to do more.

United Methodist Men: *(Bruce Rogers)*

~ The discussion with whether or not to try to do H.O.T.S. this year is mainly based on the difficulty of doing it as we have done in the past. What will be the new rules and regulations in November? What will our situation be in November? H.O.T.S. has to be planned out well in advance. There was some discussion from the UMM about maybe doing a drive-up, pre-made, pre-paid type of scenario.

~ The UM Men and the UM Women will probably hold a joint fundraiser sometime this year, such as a pork tenderloin dinner, or something like that.

~ On Saturday, June 5th, from 8:00am-Noon, the UMM will have an outdoor Workday to work on the flower beds and landscaping around the church.

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding)*

~ Thanks to all who attended and participated in the Worship Service for the United Methodist Women's Sunday on May 16th.

~ Thanks also to those who attended, contributed and made purchases at the Circle of Love sponsored yard sale at the New Hope Community Center, \$300 was collected.

~ All three circles are back to meeting using the social hall, social-distancing and masks. Sisters of Faith will meet again on Tuesday, June 1st at 1:30pm. The other two circles will not meet again until the Fall, as they are taking the summer off.

~ There are still talks of doing a joint fundraiser with the United Methodist Men sometime later in the year.

Staff/Parish Relations: *(Pastor Mike)*

~ The SPRC met on Tuesday, May 25th. They finished the Pastor Evaluation that is due on June 1st. They plan to meet again in September to discuss next year's salaries.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer)*

~ "It was nice to record the wedding of Nathan and Cheryl Kutz."

~ A donation of \$50 was sent to the Hospice of Shenandoah in memory of Larry Hinebaugh in "Appreciation of his love and devotion to New Hope United Methodist Church."

Lay Leader: *(Jennifer Strother)*

~ Anxious to see Sunday School restart for small, accountability groups.

~ Working on ways to re-energize the Youth

~ Basic UMC is selling their youth building and they had a full-size air hockey table, a chair, a sofa, and a foosball table. Jennifer offered them \$200 for the whole lot and they accepted the offer. Then, someone made a donation in the amount of \$200; so the Youth group will receive all of these items free and wanted to thank the person who donated the money. Dale will pick up the items soon and they will be placed in the old social hall downstairs (for more space and accessibility), as the Boy Scouts will not be using this space anymore in the near future.

~ Jennifer wanted to thank those who filled in for her while she was guest preaching at other churches.

Communication: *(Cindy Sheets)*

~ The back tv monitor is still not working. Kevin Armstrong ordered the part for it and is hoping that that will fix the problem.

Youth: *(Report from Biannca Brensinger)*

~ Bianca has asked for either another movie night or going bowling. She would like to see if there is interest in doing a youth fasting where they either can tent outside or be locked in the church for a night. The youth would ask for donations in weeks leading up to the event and the money would go towards the Heifer fund.

Spiritual Nurturing: *(Report from Samantha Brensinger)*

~ We are going to do a survey to get an idea about doing VBS towards the end of July with the end on Sunday after church giving the kids the school supply kits. We are discussing having a shortened VBS which would be half day Friday, all day Saturday and then a picnic and school supplies given out on Sunday after church. We are doing a survey because some concerns have been raised and I would like to get an idea of where the congregation and parents of NHUM are about holding a VBS this year.

~ We also are discussing having a youth event this summer as well, something outside, here at church, or away from church depending on how things are looking. I know there are kids who have moved up to youth and I think it would be great to have an activity/event of some kind for all the youth to kind of welcome the new youth members, particularly those who moved up last year but due to COVID have not gotten to be welcomed yet.

~ We will be doing the school supply kits for the community this year whether we have VBS or not, so it is something we will start asking donations for. I believe this is something that usually coincides with UMW's/UMC's donations for supplies as well.

Unfinished Business:

~ Pastor Mike and Leon Sheets will start talking with people about possibly being Sunday School teachers.

~ The three adult classes need to decide what they are going to do. - Do they have enough space? What are their members comfortable with? The picnic shelter could be used at times, the social hall could be used also.

~ There will probably be no classes starting back up before July/August.

~ It was stated that some adults wouldn't/couldn't come back to Sunday School class until all of the kids can also come back to Sunday School.

~ The first part of June, Pastor Mike will start to talk with the current Sunday School teachers about these issues.

Dallas thanked everyone for doing what they do and closed the meeting, Pastor Mike sent us off with a prayer. The meeting ended at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Cynthia Sheets
Recording Secretary

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 6:30pm.



Thanks to Talariski Marek

06-01-2007

YET ANOTHER FELLOW SWITCHES TO
TWO-LEG DRIVE IN ORDER TO SAVE ON THE
RISING PRICES OF WATER



Birthdays & Anniversaries


1 - Pastor Mike Reaves

-  Robert & Peggy Corbin

3 - Reagan Bailey


- Mark Hite
- Isaac Thomas Markow

4 - Courtney Joyner

-  Mike & Sharyn Huff

5 - Megan Rickman

7 - Jeffrey Bragg

- Eddie Shaver
-  Jack & JoEtta Walker

8 - R.W. Stogdale

10 - Tracy McCray

11 - Harold Strickler

-  Kenny & Carolyn Fretwell

12 - Abby Armstrong

- Broc Powell
-  Greg & Kathy Killough

13 - Janet Harris

- Richard Stogdale


14 - Kaylee McLaren

15 - Elizabeth Barnhart

- Teresa Barr
- Emma Shifflett

15 - Ruth Wampler


-  Mike & Nellie Bosserman

15 -  Bill & Gail Shipe


16 - Jessica Arnold

17 -  Robert & Judy Riner


18 - Owen Harner
- Junior Morris

19 -  BF & Peggy Caricofe

20 - Ricky Rowe

21 - Billy Morrison
-  Fred & Julia Arndt

22 - Howard Poole, Jr

23 - Kindra Bragg
-  Owen & Dolly Harner

24 - Katie Harding Toole

-  Shawn & Jennifer Cook

25 - Linda Clark

- Paula Whitmer

26 - Zack Joyner

- Sam Carr
-  Michael & Patty Morris

-  Mike & Susie Shreckhise

27 - Janice Howdyshe

- Timothy Randolph

New Hope UMC – United Methodist Men
Minutes from the meeting on May 20, 2021

President Kim Maugans conducted the meeting. There were 5 members present. Dallas VanLeer, Corey Johnson, Kim Maugans, Kenny Fretwell and Bruce Rogers. Devotions were provided by Bruce Rogers.

PROGRAM: There was no program presented.

MINUTES: The minutes for the last scheduled meeting on March 18, 2021 were read and approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was given by Kenny Fretwell. It includes all expenses and revenue since our last meeting. A copy of this report is part of these minutes.

Checking	\$ 271.12
Savings	<u>\$ 2,513.93</u>
Total	\$ 2,785.05

OLD BUSINESS:

- Kim talked to Wanda Harding about a possible meal fundraiser with the UMM and UMW working together. The UMW prefers to wait until Fall to do something.
- All meetings are conducted following current COVID-19 Guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was a discussion about having regular meetings during the Summer. The decision was made to not have regular scheduled meetings until September, but instead to work on projects to help with the upkeep of the church. The first project will be a morning work session from 8:00 am to Noon on Saturday, June 5 to work on flower beds and landscaping. Everyone wishing to participate should be at the church by 8:00am.
- UMM Sunday has not been scheduled for 2021. Kim Maugans will talk to Pastor Mike about scheduling it for a Sunday after June. Kim Maugans, Dallas VanLeer, Corey Johnson and Bruce Rogers volunteered to help with UMM Sunday after it is scheduled.
- Dallas VanLeer and Kim Maugans have both been approached about UMM doing HOTS in 2021. The basic feeling is that we would probably not be able to do HOTS like it was in the past due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. There was a discussion about other options to make oysters available and have a fundraiser. No decisions were made, but the idea will be discussed in more detail at a future date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a prayer by Corey Johnson.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Bruce Rogers, Secretary.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday work day, June 5, 2021



God's Timing

As humans we tend to be pretty impatient creatures. For the most part we want what we want when we want it. Let's face it, our society we live in today definitely caters to that impatient quality within us. You can look up the exact location coordinates of Madrid, Spain in seconds, order food from a local restaurant to be delivered in minutes, and even find everything you need to research the depleting of our ozone layer all at your fingertips. So, when we don't get what we want when we want it or not in the time frame we think we should, we often feel frustrated, annoyed, or even angered.

Recently, Nathan and I dealt with something neither one of us saw coming. In the course of one day's time we experienced happy and devastating news all wrapped up into one. That day will forever be ingrained in our hearts. We wanted the end results to be very different. We wanted what we have been praying for. We wanted it in our time frame, but it didn't work out that way. At first, we were trying to wrap our heads around everything. The questions, "How?" and "Why?" repeated in our thoughts and spoken words. Then feelings of depletion, confusion, and feeling completely heartbroken. It was easy for me to say, "Why me?"



These questions and feelings didn't last long though. Through all the whirlwind steps of the day, we continued to pray and trust God...trust him with decisions that needed to be made, trust him to guide the doctors and nurses, trust him in his timing, and trust him that no matter how much we may want something we need to be patient in the waiting.

I've learned several things during this experience as well. Never to question, "Why me?" My mom taught me that we shouldn't ever ask that question, but instead, "Why not me?" I've learned God is always in control no matter how bleak a situation may seem and that no matter what God is always with us. He is with us through the light, but especially during the dark we face. Deuteronomy 31:8 says, "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Maybe you have experienced something in your life that confused, annoyed, frustrated, or angered you. Maybe it was something that you wanted right then, right there...a new job, a promotion, a good diagnosis, a baby, more money, a new house, a relationship, the list goes on and on. But for whatever reason it didn't come when you wanted or didn't work out at all. It's easy to be impatient and immediately think it won't happen, but with God everything is possible...even what seems to be impossible is possible in his timing.

So the next time you may face impatience, deal with uncertainty or the unknown, or deal with something you never thought you would during your lifetime...remember to trust in God and his timing is always best! "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1

Thank you and we pray that all of you are blessed,

Nathan & Cheryl Kutz

Real Life Heavenly Hands

Kids' Corner - About Father's Day

By: Sharla Guenther



Do you ever wonder how Father's Day got started? It all started because a lady wanted to thank her father for all he had done for her and her family.

The first Father's Day in the United States was celebrated in Spokane Washington on June 19, 1910.

It was proposed by Mrs. John B. Dodd in 1909.

Her father, William Smart raised six children alone after his wife died in childbirth. He was also a civil war veteran.

It wasn't until 1966 that Father's Day was declared a national holiday in the U.S. and it wasn't until 1972 that the special day happened every year.

Father's are very special, so special that they are mentioned in the Bible. Since the Bible is like an instruction manual for us, it gives us instructions on how to treat our father.

Do any of you know what the ten commandments are? They were rules that God gave to Moses for all of us to follow. Each commandment is very important and God gave each commandment for a reason. One of the commandments says: Honor your father and your mother, so that all may go well for you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

What does honor mean anyway? Honor can mean many things. When we listen, obey, love, appreciate, and forgive our dad that is how we honor him. That means when he asks you to do something you should do it right away without complaining.

When you show you love your dad by hugging him and telling him that you love him that's another way to honor him. You can also appreciate your dad by thanking him when he does things for you (driving you to soccer practice or music lessons, etc.).

Our dads won't be perfect all the time, we all make mistakes. So we should forgive our dads when they make mistakes because God asks us to.

Some other verses in the Bible ask us to listen to our father's instruction and by doing this you will learn to have discipline and understanding. That means that when your dad gives you advice or warns you about something it's important to listen. Your dad was a kid once too and knows lots of stuff because he has lived longer than you.

So if your dad asks you to hold his hand when you cross the street it's because he knows it can be dangerous because of all the cars. It's also why sometimes dads have to say "no" to things. If your parents always let you do everything you want you would never get any sleep and eat lots of candy, but our dads know that isn't healthy for you.

The last verse we're going to talk about today says: Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. I know that sometimes you don't always want to obey your parents but it's important that you obey them because it makes God happy!

One last thing. No matter how old you get your dad is your dad. Sometimes you might think that you can talk back to your parents or that you know more than them, but you don't. The Bible says to obey your parents always, not just when you're a kid. Your parents want the best for you and know what they're talking about.

Don't forget that we also have a heavenly father that cares and loves us no matter what. So if you don't have a father around all the time (or even if you do) God is the father of all fathers. He is there when your father can't be.



Sermons by Phone

**Hear Pastor Mike's
Weekly Sermon**

1-877-369-1437



If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact us! Call/Text: (540) 280-1860 or NewHopeUMC.Virginia@gmail.com

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