

## *From Pastor HK*

Hello everyone!

I pray all is well in Jesus' Name. The year has just started and a lot of events have taken place in the world. New leadership in our country, natural disasters, senseless violence, and unthinkable accidents such as the one that took place at Reagan Airport. Let us continue to pray for those who are grieving, recovering, and in desperate need of God's presence in their lives. Let's pray for God's peace and hope to illuminate like never before.

Last month, we started our Wednesday gatherings and it has been amazing. Our Bible studies have been Christ-filled gatherings as we are studying through the book of Acts and our fellowship meals were glorious due to our Savior and our amazing volunteers who prepared the food. Join us this Wednesday as we have our SHOP at 11 am and 6:30 pm in the Chapel. Prayer is the backbone of our discipleship where we have intimate fellowship with the Lord and intercede for others as we gather as one body of Christ.



On Sundays, we are navigating through the Gospel chronologically and the whole point is to encounter and behold Christ with greater intimacy and desire for more of Him. Join us this Sunday for our Sunday school at 9:30 and/or Sunday service at 10:30 am.

Blessings, *Pastor HK Kim*

Our Souper Bowl  
of Caring will be  
Sunday, February 9th  
following Worship Service



*Please plan to join us for this annual event!*  
*Soups, Sandwiches and Drinks will be provided*  
*And you can bring a dessert to share.*





The following are the minutes from the

**November / December 2024**

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 - December 5, 2024**

Those in attendance: Becky Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Cindy Deavers, Wanda Harding, Beth Howdyshell, Linda Howdyshell, Corey Johnson, Pastor HK, Susan Mehler, Cindy Sheets and Sandy Wyrick

Becky Breeding called the meeting to order, and Cindy Sheets offered devotions on "Sudden Changes" from The Upper Room devotional.

Sandy made a motion and Beth seconded it to accept the minutes from the October 2024 meeting.

### **Financial Secretary:** *(report from Bruce Rogers)*

- We continue to meet our obligations, but will be stretched with additional heating expenses.
- We encourage everyone to get the word out about doing away with the pink envelopes for offering.

### **Treasurer:** *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- The Treasurer's Report is current as of yesterday. We moved money from the Gift and Memorial Fund.
- We have \$7,269.69 in the Gift and Memorial Fund that is non-designated.
- The Money Market Dividends go into the Gift and Memorial Fund each month.
- We have been managing to pay all of our obligations.
- We filled 267 gallons of propane, which produced a bill of \$478 (\$1.79/gallon)
- We have paid our apportionments for November.
- We have \$21,592.06 currently in the General Fund.

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

- The SPRC will have a meeting this Saturday morning at 9am for all incoming and current members.

## **Trustees:** *(Corey Johnson reported)*

- The old propane tanks are scheduled to be picked up on December 17th.
- In the men's bathroom the urinal has a broken flush valve. It will cost around \$150-\$175 if we need to replace it.
- Some of the insulation in the parsonage garage has been reinstalled.

## **United Methodist Women:** *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The UM Sisters will not meet in December or January.
- All reports from the District Conference on November 3rd were approved.

## **Programming & Event Planning:**

- The New Hope Christmas Parade is tomorrow. The float is ready to go. Anyone is welcome to ride on the float.
- Our next Community Meal will be Wednesday, December 18th at 5:30pm. We are encouraging people to bring a dessert to share. We will have ham, turkey, macaroni and cheese, broccoli, carrots, cole slaw, a roll and a drink.
- Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7pm

## **Pastor HK:**

- Starting on January 8th - every Wednesday through May - we will have our Wednesday Gatherings. The first Wednesday of the month we will have Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) at 11am-12pm and 6:30pm-7:30pm. The second and third Wednesdays of the month we will have bible study. And the last Wednesday of the month will be a community lunch and dinner at 11am and 5:30pm. Any 5th Wednesday of the month we would take a break. And we will still have Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) on Saturday mornings at 8am.

Pastor HK prayed and the meeting ended at 7:04pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Sheets, Recording Secretary

*The next church council meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2025.*



The following are the minutes from the **January 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 - January 30, 2025**

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

Becky Breeding called the meeting to order, and Beth Howdysshell offered devotions on "Use Me To Serve The Lord" from The Upper Room devotional.

The minutes to the November/December 2024 Church Council meeting were passed by all with one correction of changing the word 'propane' to 'oil' in the Treasurer's report.

#### **Financial Secretary:** *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

- In the last 6 months of 2024, we averaged \$10,800 in giving per month. This has been enough to meet our obligations and to have a little extra left over.
- We have never spent our full budget in years past. But, our numbers are getting smaller and our finances are remaining about the same.
- For the month of January we took in around \$7,300 in giving; keeping in mind that we missed one Sunday due to snow.

#### **Treasurer:** *(report from Cindy Deavers)*

- As of the date of this report, payroll has been recorded for the month. Cindy D. has not made the apportionment payment but does plan to send it this weekend. The amount of \$1,870 will pay one month for Active Clergy Health, Retired Clergy Health, and the District apportionments.

- Fuel bills were received for Parsonage and Church. The total amount paid was \$2,525. This amount is included in the church utilities and parsonage heat. The amount of \$3,039.27 on the report also includes the electricity paid for the month to Dominion VA power.
- A donation of \$200 was received for UMCOR which is the amount reflected on the balance sheet for miscellaneous non-income.

### **Financial Secretary:** *(Becky Breeding reported)*

- We are paying \$1,870 per month that goes to paying the Active and Retired Clergy Health and the District apportionments each month.
- The counters are doing great without the pink giving envelopes.

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

- Thank you to Linda Howdysshell and her partner for all they have done for our church in her new role.

### **Trustees:** *(Corey Johnson reported)*

- The old propane tanks are scheduled to be picked up on February 21st.
- Suburban Propane is now charging \$3.63 per gallon and Southern States is now charging \$1.89 per gallon, so we are trying to get all of our propane changed to Southern States for the future.
- There was a hot water pressure valve that broke downstairs. It is now fixed and there was no damage to anything else.
- A huge thank you to everyone who helped to shovel and move the snow and ice during these past few weeks.
- The bad wind storm a few weeks ago broke one of the windows in the Sanctuary. It fell out and broke. It has a temporary fix on it, but will need to have a permanent fix. Upon further investigation, four of the Sanctuary windows have a quarter inch gap around them and the mechanisms are broken. And four of the Sanctuary windows have huge cracks in them. It was noted that replacing the old windows in the Sanctuary will also help with heating costs. The trustees are currently looking at getting estimates for replacing all ten of the Sanctuary windows. Four companies have been contacted for estimates so far - Window World, PWD Window and Door, Air-Tite Windows and Augusta Glass. We are currently taking suggestions on how to fund this maintenance project. Some suggestions have been to let people 'sponsor' a window and have the window dedicated to a family member. Or possibly, to have one side of windows replaced this year and next year have the other side of windows replaced.

### **United Methodist Women:** *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The UM Sisters will meet on Monday, February 3rd at 6:30pm.
- On Thursday, February 20th - they will be serving the UM Men.

## **District Training:** (Wanda Harding reported)

- Wanda and Bruce Rogers went to the District Training on Saturday, January 25th. There were approximately 50 people there, and they held 6 different training classes.
- D.S. Victor Gomez will be leaving his position this year as of July 1st. And Rev. K.Cho will take his place as our new District Superintendent.

## **Programming & Event Planning:**

- The January Wednesday Gatherings went well overall, despite the snow cancellations.
- The Super Bowl Sunday Luncheon is ready to go for February 9th. People can bring a dessert to share. We will be taking monetary donations and other donations of toiletries, diapers, canned foods, etc. for our new food pantry.
- Easter Sunday is coming up on April 20th. The Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper would be on March 4th and Ash Wednesday is on March 5th at 7pm.
- There was a suggestion of providing coffee and juice and breakfast snacks on the 5th Sundays of the month, which would be in March, June, August and November of this year. During these Sundays, there would be no Sunday School and the time would be between 9:45am-10:15am. It would be a time for fellowship and prayer - called 'Coffee SHOP' (Sweet Hour of Prayer). This would take place in the Social Hall and monetary donations could be accepted to help fund upcoming projects, such as, helping to pay for the new Sanctuary windows, etc. Sunday, March 30th would be our first *Coffee SHOP*.
- Upcoming Fellowship Meals will be February 26th and March 26th at 11am and 5:30pm
- Upcoming Community Meals will be April 23rd and May 28th at 5:30pm
- Easter Peanut Butter Eggs will be made and sold again this year. The boxes have been ordered and monetary donations will be accepted to help pay for the ingredients. Be on the lookout for updates as to when they will be ready to purchase. The price will be \$4 per egg.

## **Pastor HK:**

- Pastor HK is looking into the suggestion of offering confirmation, baptism and membership classes for people that conclude on either Easter Sunday or Pentecost.
- Food Pantry: There were some concerns about our food pantry that were discussed. Liability concerns, safety and paperwork issues were addressed and discussed. Pastor HK had spoken with the minister at Verona UMC and he said that based on the fact that we would be donating processed foods, canned foods and/or toiletries that there would not be a need for us to fill out any paperwork on it. But, he recommended that we speak with our insurance company (Brotherhood Mutual) just to make doubly sure.
  - The objective of our Food Pantry is to help people within our local community without them having to go through the requirements of being able to get needed food from the Blue Ridge Food Bank or Verona Food Pantry. Pastor HK would be managing our Food Pantry, and he would be checking for things like expiration dates, etc.

- There were other concerns brought up that it would be a hit and miss kinda thing, stating that if we have some things available, then the people may not need those items at that time, but may need other items that we don't have. It was suggested that maybe it would be better if we ask for specific items and we as a church donate and collect one particular item and donate those items to a local organization to distribute.
- It was suggested that we try it out, as is, and see how it goes and that if no one is taking the items after a certain period of time, then we can take everything to the Verona Food Pantry to get to people in need.

## **New Business:**

- We won 2nd place in the Christmas parade last year and that came with a \$100 prize, so that money was given to the Trustees to start funding for the Sanctuary windows.
- We will be doing the Comfort Care Baby Bottle Fundraiser again this year. Becky Breeding will be heading it up.

Becky thanked everyone for coming and Pastor HK prayed and the meeting ended at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cynthia Sheets, Recording Secretary

*The next church council meeting will be Thursday, February 26, 2025 at 6:30pm.*

# February

1~ Loretta Dameron, Jamie Stout  
 2 ~ Kylie Wooddell, Al & Lynn Tuten ❤️  
 5 ~ Joetta Walker  
 7 ~ Alicia Copeland  
 13 ~ Owen Pence  
 14 ~ Becky Tate, Brian & Iris Stout ❤️  
 15 ~ Tonya Meier  
 17 ~ Lewis & Karen Whitmer ❤️  
 18 ~ Jennifer Strother  
 19 ~ Jo Layman, Tyler Miller, Robert Riner



20 ~ Helen Shifflett  
 21 ~ Austine Belsky, Reverend Al Tuten  
 22 ~ Corey Johnson  
 25 ~ Marc Mehler  
 27 ~ Ada Via  
 28 ~ John Luke, Casey Mize

*\*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let us know and we will update our records.*



# February EVENTS

## Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

**Saturday, February 1st** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, February 2nd** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

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

**Wednesday, February 5th** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer (SHOP) @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

**Saturday, February 8th** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, February 9th** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

~ Souper Bowl Sunday Luncheon - after worship

**Wednesday, February 12th** ~ Bible Study @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

**Saturday, February 15th** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, February 16th** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

**Wednesday, February 19th** ~ Bible Study @ 11:00am and 6:30pm

**Thursday, February 20th** ~ United Methodist Men @ 6:30pm

**Saturday, February 22nd** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, February 23rd** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

**Wednesday, February 26th** ~ Fellowship Lunch at New Hope Grocery @ 11:00am

~ Fellowship Dinner in the Social Hall @ 5:30pm

**Thursday, February 27th** ~ Church Council @ 6:30pm

# Love with Persistence



In his book entitled *Love More, Sin Less*, Aubrey Johnson says,

“The call of the gospel is a call to love. We are summoned by God’s love to share in the fellowship of loving spirits in heaven and on earth (Philippians 2:1-2). Making a commitment to a love-based life is the best decision one can ever make.”

As Christians, we live in a world that is known more for “self” instead of “selflessness.”

Generally speaking, this worldly attitude on love creates challenges for us.

As we seek to put others first, others may not reciprocate this mindset.

Therefore, we must be persistent and not be pushed back when loving our fellow man as Scripture directs us. Let us remember:

- We must love one another (John 13:34-35)
- We must serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
  - We must abound in love (1Thess. 3:12)
  - We must love our enemies (Matthew 5:44)
- We must remember love is patient (1 Cor. 13:4)

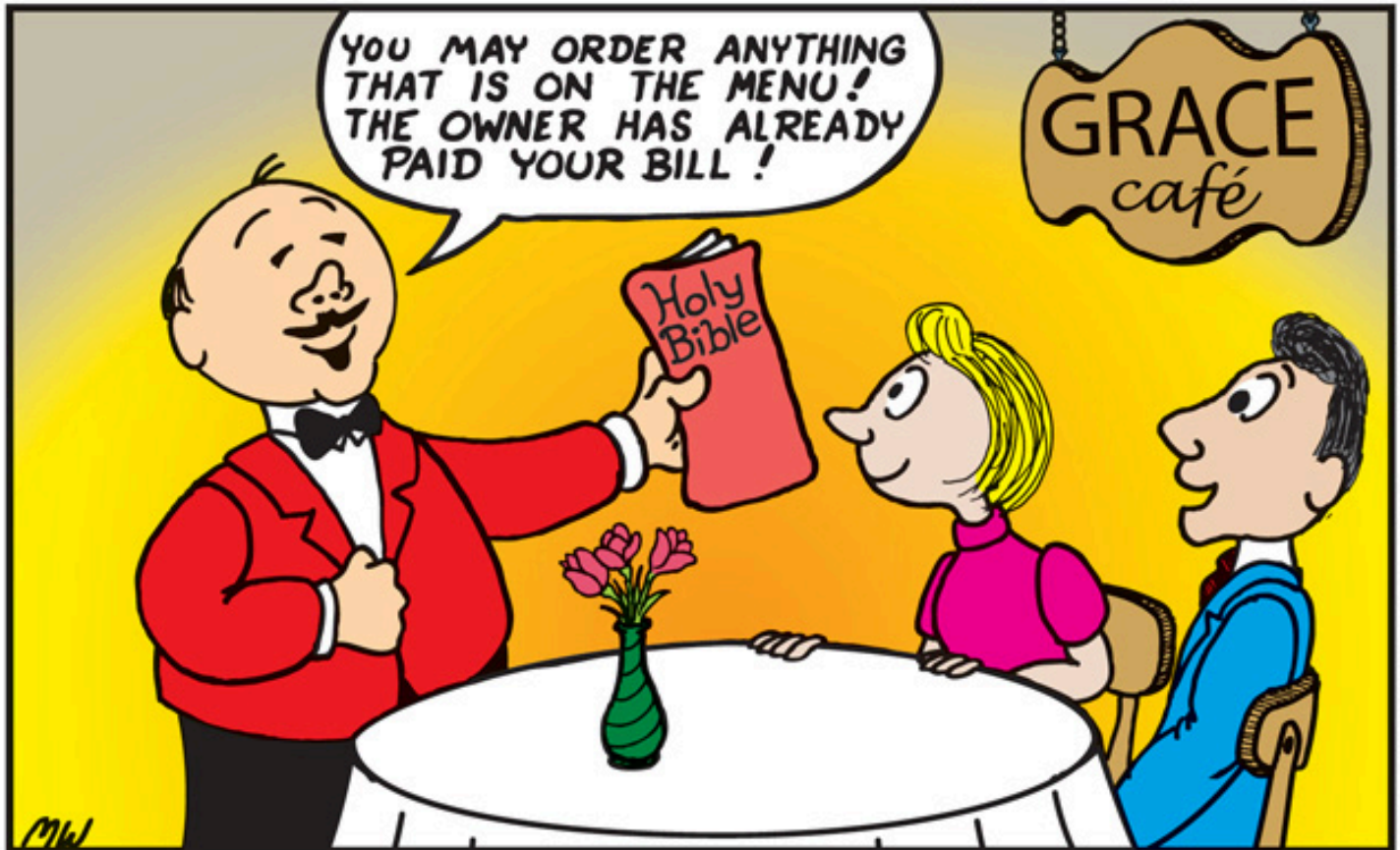


As we engage an embattled world, may we equip ourselves with the love of Christ.

Colossians 3:14-15 says, “But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

# GRACE CAFE'

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

– 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 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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