

From Pastor HK

Hello everyone!

I pray all is well with everyone.

Praise God for warmer weather!

As we enter into a new season, we will be starting a new sermon series called "I AM".

We will be unpacking the seven I AM statements that Jesus made in the Gospel of John and witness Jesus' divine sovereignty. Lent season is also starting this Wednesday and

I hope that you will take this season to fast and seek the Lord in Spirit and truth. Biblical fasting is when we fast meal(s) and spend intentional time with the Lord through scripture and prayer. If you're medically available prayerfully consider fasting this season.

Join us this Wednesday for our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm.

Let us seek the Kingdom of God first and diligently behold the Lamb of God.

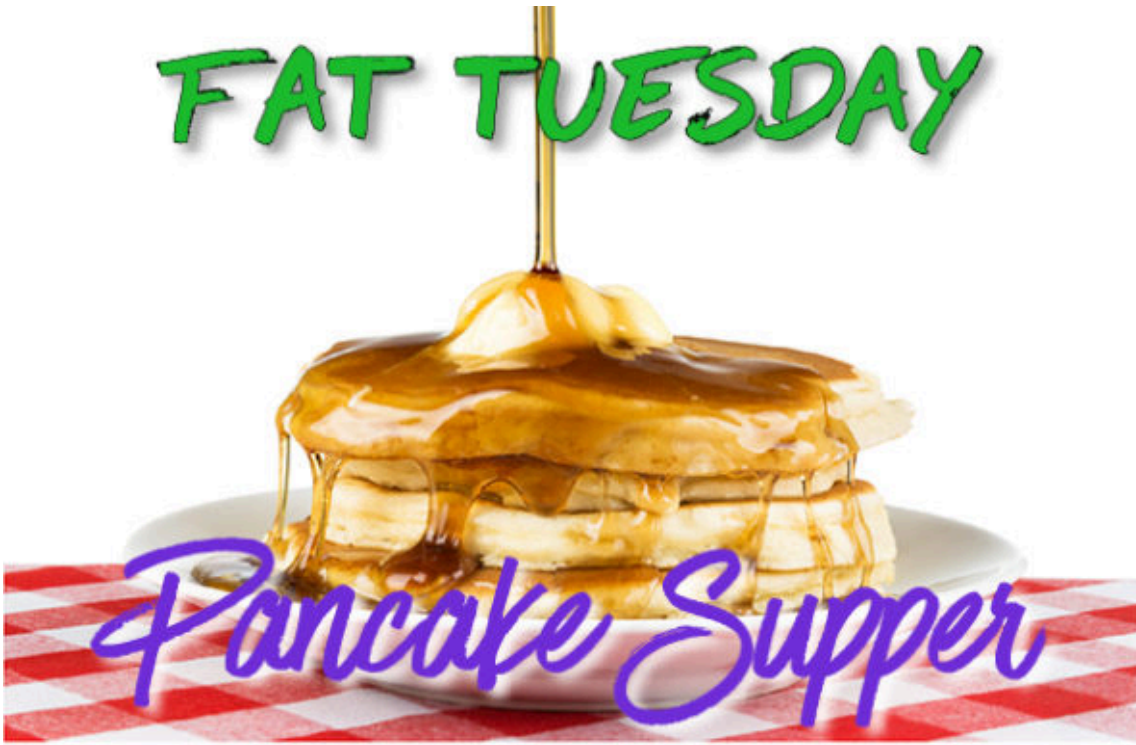
Blessings, *Pastor HK Kim*



FAT TUESDAY

**March
4th, 2025**

5pm-7pm



**Ash
Wednesday
Service**

*March 5th
at 7:00pm*

**Ash
Wednesday**



The following are the minutes from the **February 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 - February 27, 2025

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

Becky Breeding called the meeting to order, and Alicia Copeland offered devotions on 'With God All Things Are Possible' devotional.

Sandy made a motion and Alicia seconded it to accept the minutes from the January 2025 meeting.

Financial Chair: *(Bruce Rogers reported)*

- We have had four collections in January totaling \$8,268 in giving. We need \$12,148 per month to meet our budget. We are not meeting our monthly budget goal, but we don't spend what we budget for. So, we are able to pay our obligations. But, we need to try to do better. We are $\frac{2}{3}$ of what we need to be at.
- District audits are due in June. Bruce will contact the chairpersons of each committee to get the needed reports in.

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- We received \$265 from the Souper Bowl fundraiser for our food cabinet. That money was added to the Gift and Memorial Fund.
- Cindy D. will start to add the Money Market Dividends that we receive into our General Fund every quarter.

- Paid to date are the payroll, health benefits, and other normal expenses.
- In January we paid \$1,870 for the Conference Apportionments for the Active and Retired Clergy Health Fund. It was discussed whether we should make our conference and district apportionment payments for February. It was decided that due to a number of upcoming expenses that we will have in the foreseeable future, that we will not make our conference and district apportionments for February.
- We currently have \$13,863 in the General Fund.
- We still owe a propane bill to Suburban Propane for January in the amount of \$852 and we owe them a propane bill for February as well for \$1,100.

Trustees: *(Corey Johnson reported)*

- **Propane Tanks:** - Plans are to remove the parsonage propane tank and replace it as early as next week to mid-March, then switch the parsonage to Southern States / Augusta Petroleum, current propane level at the parsonage is at 50%.
 - There have been numerous delays to pick up the old propane tank, it is now scheduled for pick up on March 13th.
- **Window Update:** - We have had responses from three different window companies to see what the cost would be to replace the windows in the Sanctuary.
 - Window World - Split Windows: \$11,501
 - Soldia Windows: \$10,031
 - PWD - Split Windows: \$8,490.50
 - AirTight Windows - Split Windows: \$9,960
 - Fixed Picture Windows: \$7,880
- **Cemetery Fencing:** - The fencing that was damaged by the old oak tree has been re-installed. All thanks for the work goes to James Howdyshell.
- **Water Problem at the Parsonage:**
 - Pastor HK reported discolored water at the parsonage.
 - A Home Water Filtration System was installed in the Parsonage, with no results
 - Church Water Filters were replaced with no results.
 - Water Works of Harrisonburg came and repaired the water softener system, which was faulty and not operating properly, with no results, but they found that...
 - The well pump was acting erratically and was not operating properly.
 - Jackson Water Co. came and inspected the pump. It was found that the pump was 30 years old and was not operating properly, it was found that a solenoid valve was at fault. Two options were presented: 1). To refurbish, repair and reinstall - it would be roughly \$900 with labor and with no guarantee of how long the pump would hold out (1-10 years). The other option would be to install a new pump at the cost of \$1,200 with a 20 year warranty. It was decided and a new pump was installed.
 - After installation it was found that the water pressure tank was faulty and most likely the cause of the well pump failure, as the well pump was being overused by providing constant water pressure to the water system. The Trustees are working on the water pressure tank issue and hope to have it installed this weekend. (March 1, 2025)

- **Thermostat:** - People continue to change the thermostat manually without turning it back down after use. This is causing propane usage to increase. Please remind the congregation to please turn down the thermostat after use.
- **Dishwasher Soap:** - The dishwasher soap has been purchased and installed. There are three other canisters in the kitchen area for future use.

United Methodist Sisters: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The Circles of Love and Hope are changing their meeting day to March 10th. They will be serving the UM Men dinner on Thursday, March 20th at 6:30pm.

United Methodist Men: *(report from Bill Lalla)*

- The UMM did not have meetings in January or February.
- The UMM will host our Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5pm-7pm and our Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Lay Leader: *(Susan Mehler reported)*

- Attendance has remained normal.
- We are working on our upcoming Homecoming Event, a Revival and we are hoping to get back on track with our prayer meetings (since the weather has cancelled a number of these in the past weeks).
- On Sunday, March 30th, we will have our very first Coffee SHOP from 9:45am-10:15am in the Social Hall. We will have coffee, juice, sausage biscuits, pastries, and devotions and prayer lead by Susan Mehler.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

- A question was raised on whether we should extend an invitation to parents of some of the young children in our congregation to see if they are interested in having their babies and young children baptized.
- There will be a confirmation class starting soon that some of the pre-teens will be taking part in.

Communications: *(Cindy Sheets reported)*

- Shenandoah Valley Office Equipment (SVOE) came and serviced our copier a few weeks ago.
- We will meet with a tech from John's Computer at the end of March to see about getting our office computer back in working shape for those who need to use it. We will have them work on the monitor, the connectivity and the options for another printer. The phone rep from John's computer recommended that we get a laser printer, since its printing capabilities are much more durable for printing on an occasional basis.

Programming & Event Planning:

- The Fellowship Lunch has been going well. At the last one, they had 9 people come and participate at Ciro's Pizza in Verona.
- The Souper Bowl was another successful event. We raised \$265 during that event and a lot of canned food donations for our food cabinet pantry.
- The Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper will take place on Tuesday, March 4th from 5pm-7pm.
- Our Ash Wednesday Service will be Wednesday, March 5th starting at 7pm. There will not be any prayer group that day either in the morning or in the evening.
- This Saturday, March 1st, after SHOP (Sweet Hour of Prayer), we will start to make the Chocolate Easter Eggs.
- Coffee SHOP will be on Sunday, March 30th from 9:45am-10:15am.
- We will be starting our Baby Bottle Fundraising Campaign for Women's Comfort Care.
- We are currently having another Church Yale Sale in the Social Hall, this will last for the next few weeks.

Pastor HK:

- Please welcome our new attendees to the church when you can.
- The church will need to have our church audit form turned in by June 1st.
- We will begin our Membership and Baptism Class on March 15th at 9am. This will be a five-week session, running through April 19th.
- We will also hold a Membership and Baptism Class for adults after church on April 13th. Lunch will be provided. Please register for this class by April 6th if you are interested, please see Pastor HK.

New Business:

- **Sanctuary Replacement Windows:** One thought to keep costs down, is to replace one side of the sanctuary first, then the next year replace the second side of the Sanctuary.
 - (Please see the Trustees section for more details on the estimated costs of replacing the windows).
 - The companies would require half of the cost up front. It would be about a two month waiting period before they could get to work, then the remaining amount would be due at the time of completion.
 - After some discussion, Karen made a motion that we table the discussion to replace the Sanctuary windows at this time, based on the fact that we have some more pressing maintenance items that need to be fixed more urgently at the church and the parsonage at this time. Corey seconded it, and it was passed. Once we get the water issues, the propane issues, and possibly the office computer issues addressed first, then we will return to the discussion of replacing the Sanctuary windows.

Pastor HK prayed and the meeting ended at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia Sheets, Recording Secretary

The next church council meeting will be Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Sunday, March 30th

**We will have our very first
Coffee S.H.O.P.**

**During our usual
Sunday school time,
(9:45am-10:15am),
we will hold a 'Coffee SHOP'
in the Social Hall.**

**Everyone is invited to join
us for coffee, juice, sausage
biscuits and pastries.**

**Susan Mehler will lead us
with devotions and prayer.**



*Membership and
Baptism classes will
be available for both
children and adults.*

*On March 15th, at
9am, we will begin a 5
week session that will
run through April 19th
for our children who
are interested in
getting baptized and /
or becoming members of our church.*



*Likewise, an adult class will be available for those interested, which will be after
worship service on Sunday, April 13th.*

If you are interested in any of these classes, please see Pastor HK.



Upcoming Activities, Events and Meetings at New Hope UMC

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

Sunday, March 2nd ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

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

Tuesday, March 4th ~ Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper @ 5pm-7pm

Wednesday, March 5th ~ Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00pm

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

Sunday, March 9th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

Monday, March 10th ~ Sisters of Hope and Love @ 6:30pm

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

Thursday, March 13th ~ Trustees @ 6:30pm

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

Sunday, March 16th ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

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

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

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

Sunday, March 23rd ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

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

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

Thursday, March 27th ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

Saturday, March 29th ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

Sunday, March 30th ~ COFFEE SHOP @ 9:45am-10:15am

~ Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am



Comfort Care Women's Health served 134 patients in 2024 and has been a presence in our community for 42 years. They recently moved their Augusta location to 12 Hedgerow Drive in Staunton and are enjoying a one-level facility which has more office and storage space in addition to enlarged

medical facilities and consultation areas for both mothers and fathers as they minister to the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of unplanned pregnancy.

Our New Hope church family has supported the baby bottle campaign in recent years and in 2024 contributed \$271.70 to this ministry. We will again be filling baby bottles during the month of March. Pick yours up and return by Sunday, March 30.



Birds of a Feather...

...Helping Each Other Together

By: Cynthia Sheets

After the big snow we had a few weeks ago, my dad threw some food out to the birds. In just minutes, there was an old crow on the tree branch, yelling as loud as he could. His calls brought numerous different types of birds to our yard from all over the neighborhood. I thought to myself, that seems kinda dumb, if he would just be quiet, he would have more food for himself.

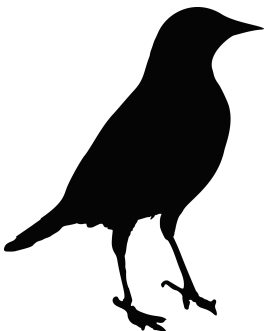


The same thing happened again this past week with our latest snowfall. Dad threw some food out to the birds, and this time it was a noisy blue jay that was first to the branch. Like the crow, his noisy cries summoned seemingly every bird in the neighborhood to our yard. I was quick to think the same thing that I had the first time, how dumb, he could have more food if he would just be quiet.

But then I began to observe the birds more, and I realized that they were just helping each other out. One bird had called them one day, another bird had called them another day. They were returning the favor and passing it forward to the next.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2

It immediately reminded me of what I had witnessed with some of our neighbors during these past snow storms that we have had.



One neighbor that my dad has helped in the past, came over to help my dad try to fix his snowblower. At different times, two other neighbors had helped us shovel and salt our driveway. And we (my dad and I), along with a third neighbor, went to help someone else shovel their driveway, since he had recently injured his knee.

There are a lot of scriptures that talk about helping your neighbor, but sometimes it is just as simple as watching the birds, because God can show us how he wants us to live in the simplest of ways.

STAIN REMOVER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my
transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me
from my sin.

— PSALM 51:1-2 NIV

*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper,
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