

## October 2018

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## Christians & Halloween

*It's not uncommon for people to struggle with whether to celebrate Halloween. Some see it as a dark day full of evil influence while others deem it a harmless time for fun costumes and candy. This answer from the **Billy Graham Evangelistic Association** may offer some guidance on Halloween and even give you creative ideas for using the holiday to share Christ:*

**Q: I have mixed feelings about how our family should be involved in Halloween. What should I do?**

**A:** People come to different conclusions about celebrating Halloween, particularly if they have young children or grandchildren to consider.

For some people, this holiday is a time for dress-up and candy; it is an opportunity for fun. Others express concern for their children's safety or for the emphasis that is often made on violence or horror at this time of year. Those who are interested in the right or wrong of the celebration may look at the holiday's origin in the occult and believe it should not be celebrated at all; they are aware that some groups celebrate Halloween as a tribute to Satan.

On the other hand, others recognize that Halloween, the eve of "All Saints' Day" (November 1), is also associated with Martin Luther and the Reformation. They celebrate the religious freedoms won at that time in history. Since each of these perspectives contain truth, it is difficult to know how to respond.

We encourage each family to develop their own approach to Halloween based on their own convictions and the options for celebration available to them. The responsibility to make this decision rests on the adults in the family, not the children. The peer pressure on children is far too great for them to be objective. Certainly, providing a safe, fun environment must be a priority.

Some parents adapt the traditional Halloween practices, while others develop totally different alternatives. These alternatives may include fall festival parties where children are encouraged to dress in a particular theme such as positive cartoon or book characters, famous historical characters, or Bible heroes.



Carrying out that theme with simple acting can be fun and an opportunity for teaching values. Children will always be attracted to costumes and treats; finding positive ways to enjoy these pleasures is the primary challenge for caring adults.

If you decide to make a major change in the way your family celebrates Halloween, you may not need to do all the work yourself. We would encourage you to contact churches in your area to determine what activities are being planned. Rather than separate completely from the night's activities, some Christians give Gospel tracts along with treats to children who come to their homes and make Halloween an opportunity to witness for Christ.

*(If there is something on your heart that you would like to write about and share with our church, please feel free to submit your thoughtful writings at anytime.)*

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## Lectionary Readings for October

### October 7

John 1:1, 2:1-10  
Psalm 25 or 26  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

### October 21

Job 38: 1-7  
Psalm 104: 1-9, 24, 35  
Hebrews 5: 1-10  
Mark 10: 35-45

### October 14

Job 23: 1-9; 16-17  
Psalm 22:1-15  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

### October 28

Job 42: 1-6; 10-17  
Psalm 34: 1-8  
Hebrews 7: 23-28  
Mark 10: 46-52

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## **NEW DATE:**

## **Under Construction**

We will be installing a new furnace for heating & air conditioning in the Social Hall, kitchen, bathrooms and in the old kitchen downstairs. **This work will now begin on October 1st and run for 8 to 10 days.** Please check the Church calendar and make arrangements to move any meetings or activities that will be held in these locations on these dates. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Hinebaugh.





**Our 50's Drive-In was a big success! Thank you to everyone who donated food items, donated money, who helped prepare food, who helped decorate, who helped the day of the event and who helped with clean-up! Without your help and support, this event would not have happened! In about 2.5 hours we served over 300 people and made over \$2,100! After expenses, we will clear about half of that amount and the money we raised will go to outreach programs. Once again, *THANK YOU All For Your Help And Support!***





**Our 2018 Charge Conference was a great success! We had a chance to formally meet our new District Superintendent, Victor Gomez, and to share with him who New Hope UMC is and all the ways in which we work together as a church family to serve the Lord!**

**In the next few months, you will find copies of the ministry reports written by some of the leaders in our church. We wanted to share them with you because much thought and time was put into each report. And they give a first hand account of what we are doing here at New Hope UMC to help spread the word of God!**

**We hope that you will take the time to read each report, these reports were given to our District Superintendent, so that he can get a better sense of what New Hope UMC is all about!**

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## **New Hope Charge Conference 2018 Administrative Report**

During the last seven months that I have been New Hope UMC's Church Administrator, we have worked to move New Hope UMC forward to expand our visual communications within our congregation, to reach our church family where they are. The audio/visual system has been completed and we continue to explore ways that we can utilize this new system. We create a PowerPoint video that is presented before our Worship services each Sunday in order to help visually communicate our upcoming activities, meetings and events to our congregates as they come in and prepare for Sunday Worship Services. Each week we make DVD copies of our past sermons, that can be taken to those who are unable to attend our Sunday morning services, due to the fact that they are either homebound or if they are in assisted living homes.

We have continued our weekly Sunday bulletins, with an updated look. When necessary we produce a bulletin with the Order of Services for any special services or events that we host. We also continue to make available children's bulletins, so that our young people can be stimulated with the word of God through coloring pages, puzzles and word games. And we continue to produce our monthly church newsletter, called The Hilltopper, that was established in March 1977. This newsletter highlights all of our upcoming events, reviews the past month's activities, highlights church business, provides inspirational articles, Christian jokes, a kid's corner with a biblically-themed coloring page *and much more!*

At the beginning of each month, we produce and distribute an *Upcoming Events* flyer, to help our church family stay up-to-date on all of our church's activities, meetings and events that are coming up each month. Our church family members can attach this flyer to their refrigerators, so that they are never too far away from knowing what is going on at our church each day of the week.

We have also stepped up our social media presence on facebook. We have updated our church's facebook page and we work to add posts about upcoming church events and reminders about meetings, etc. We also try to add positive and uplifting pictures, scriptures and sayings from time-to-time to share with our New Hope UMC community. Whenever we have a special event or special presentation, we post pictures and videos of these events on our facebook page, so that people can relive the experience. Or for those who aren't able to attend the event, they can see everything that is happening here at New Hope UMC. And at least once a month we do a #FlashbackFriday picture, when we add a post with a picture from our History Room collection, to give people a chance to reminisce on some of our church family in their younger days, or to see pictures and information of some of our church artifacts.

I have worked over the past few months to rebuild our new church website from scratch. Our goal is to go live with our new website in the month of October. Our new website will be a place for people to go, so that they can learn about New Hope UMC at-a-glance. They can learn about who we are, what we do, and they can get a good sense of how mission-oriented we are here at New Hope UMC.

I have also worked to update our church's profile information on the Equipping Vital Churches database. I input information about our weekly attendance, bible study attendance, Sunday school attendance, weekly tithing and other information onto the EVC database, so that we can have a more accurate account of our church's vitality. And I am working to update our church's contact information on the [www.umc.org/find-a-church](http://www.umc.org/find-a-church) website and other online locations, so that we will have accurate, up-to-date information for people when they look up New Hope UMC and search for more information about us online.

New Hope UMC continues to work to improve our administrative, outreach and ministerial efforts, and to reach our goal of meeting people where they are, so that we can share with them the good news of Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sheets  
New Hope United Methodist Church's Administrator



There will be a United Methodist Women's Meeting on Monday, October 22nd at 7:00pm. The program will include our Candle Burning, Pledge Service and guest speaker, Jennifer Strother, on her shop in Waynesboro "Love of Jesus Thrift Store." All are invited to come and bring a friend!

### **Bulletin Bloopers** *(Halloween Edition)*

1. Ushers will eat latecomers.
2. A worm welcome to all who have come today.
3. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
4. Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help!

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Frank the Tank (See Genesis 27:1-35) 10-31-2005  
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU, ESAU ... I'M  
READY TO DITCH THIS BORING HALLOWEEN  
PARTY

(If you have trouble reading any of the photocopied ministry reports in our newsletter, you can pick up a printed copy of The Hilltopper in the Narthex with clearer copies of these important reports.)

New Hope UMC  
Missions Report

Many of our missions are included in other reports such as our contributions to the Verona Food Pantry, the Staunton Mission, Weekday Religious Education to name a few.

Working with District Superintendent Tommy Herndon, we installed a new dishwasher in the district parsonage.

During the year, we constructed a ramp for a church member who required it to enter her home. In addition we provided hookups for her washer and dryer at the same level as the main floor of the home.

We have traveled to Tangier Island multiple times over the years and again last October. There we work with the local United Methodist Church to complete lists of chores for residents of the island. While there we participate in their Wednesday Prayer Meeting and work alongside members of the congregation. Once again the first week of October this year we will travel to this mission led by Reverend Sam NeSmith under the auspices of VIM.

We are in the initial planning stages of partnering with Mt. Zion to work with their congregation on items needed to improve their church building.

Locally we deliver communion monthly to persons in the congregation who cannot be present for our communion service. Lay persons deliver consecrated elements.

Our free Wednesday evening church dinner, available to neighbors is delivered to local persons, including the local fire department, who are unable to be at the dinner. Our United Methodist Men deliver meals on the meeting nights as well.

John Morse  
Mission co-coordinator  
2018

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This will be the last year for Kim Maugans to coordinate our annual HOTS - Ham, Oyster, Turkey Supper. This will also be the last year that Karen Whitmer will be helping to coordinate this event in the dining room. We thank them both for their years of leadership in planning and coordinating to help make our HOTS such a successful event each year!

Because both Kim and Karen are stepping down after this year, we will be in need of two people to replace them for next year. Please give this opportunity some thought and prayer, and if you feel that you are being called to take over either of these two roles for our HOTS in 2019, please see Kim, Karen or Pastor Shin and discussion this with them.

If you are interested in stepping up in a HOTS leadership role next year, we invite you to take the 2018 HOTS as an opportunity to shadow Kim or Karen in their roles, to get an idea of what will be needed from you in 2019.



**3** - Mike Canipe

-  Donald & Amy Michael

**5** - Leon Sheets

**6** - Matthew Coffman

- Mary Beth Walker Hill

**7** - Ronald Booth

- Alison Coffman Markow

**8** - Carl Arndt

**9** - Leigh Shaver

- Dallas VanLear

**11** - Rebecca Jo Kraisser

**12** - Mary Lu Lewis

- Lee VanLear

**13** - Daryl Deavers

**14** - John & Martha English

-  Thomas & Pat Ewers

**15** - Jean Critzer

- Pat Ewers

- Philip Mabry

**16** - Brett Sundeen

- Kyle Kraisser

**17** - Cody Coffey

**19** - Braden Herman

- Courtney Stout

**23** - Cindy Deavers

- Berk Harner

-  Steve & Tonya Meier

**24** - Jonathan Walker

**25** - Amy Herman

**26** - Sarah Barr

-  Eddie & Vinda Shaver

**27** - Nancy Glass

**28** - James Howdysell

**29** - Amy Michael

# STAY IN THE KNOW

The following are the minutes from the September meeting of the Church Council. They are available for you to help the entire church congregation Stay In The Know about what and how this group are caring for the people and the church building of New Hope UMC - in the past, the present *and into the future!*

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The New Hope United Methodist Church Council met on Thursday, September 27, 2018 with 11 members present. Sam Arnold, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and Pastor Shin opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Those present were: Sam Arnold, Chairman; Wanda Harding - Acting Recording Secretary; Robin Craun, Pastor Shin Hong, Kim Maugans, John Morse, Bruce Rogers, JoEtta Walker; Alicia Copeland; Cindy Deavers; and Karen Whitmer. Minutes of August 23, 2018 were approved as submitted with correction on 2019 church budget which should read \$185,586. Detailed budget is part of recorded minutes

**Finance Committee:** Kevin Armstrong, Chairman, was not present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cindy Deavers

All bills are paid; additional giving of last week not reflected on report or the proceeds from 50's drive in. Suggestion has been made the profits be sent for hurricane relief.

Line of credit taken for air conditioning/heating project first payment of \$15,350. Interest of \$10.09 is due for payment.

New printer purchased for office (capable of oversize printing)

New Sanctuary banners and Communion Kits \$373.43

Propane gas paid \$1100 for church/parsonage.

Current balance from Mid-Week Meal is \$1207.86 plus \$155 from previous two weeks and does not include last night.

**Trustees:** Larry Hinebaugh, Chairman was not present.

John Morse reported meeting earlier this week with new members to review open actions. Also reported the delay in beginning air conditioning/heating project until October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Worship Ministry:** Susan Coffman, Chairperson, was not present.

It was reported Susan has accepted Chair for Worship for remainder of this year as well as 2019. A meeting is planned for this coming week.

**Nurture/Spiritual Development Ministry:** JoEtta Walker, Chairperson

Reports 9/28 Parents Night Out

9/30 Fifth Sunday, covered dish lunch following Worship

10/3 No mid-week meal due to renovations

No Parents Night Out in October due to other scheduled children's activities

10/13 Field Trip to Safari Park with Pastor Shin



**Evangelism:** Dale Rankin, Chairman, was not present  
Noted the weekly Bible Study is well attended.

**Missions:** John Morse, Chairman

Team is ready for trip to Tangier Island October 1-6; materials ordered to be picked up tomorrow. Mike Whetzel who planned to go will not be able due to recent hospitalization and surgery

**United Methodist Men:** Dallas VanLear, President, was not present.

Sam Arnold reported recent meeting with guest speaker, Scott VanLear; next meeting is October 16 with guest speaker, Gerald Garber. Brief discussion of HOTS (Ham, Oyster, Turkey, Supper) where decision made to maintain costs same as last year (Adults: \$19; Children 6 to 12: \$6).

Noted Kim Maugans will not be coordinating this event after this year. Karen Whitmer also noted she would not be coordinating Dining Room after this year.

**United Methodist Women:** Wanda Harding, President

Next meeting is October 22, 2018 at 7 pm with guest speaker, Jennifer Strother from Love of Jesus thrift store

**Youth:** Pastor Shin reports beginning confirmation class; 8 sessions; 9 am at Church during October to November with new members joining and baptisms on November 18<sup>th</sup> during Worship.

**Historian:** No report

**Membership:** Karen Whitmer, Chairperson

Noted 9 members deceased since January

Hospitality budget has \$14.29 left for remainder of year.

Now can order paper goods for kitchen and dining room from Spangler \$700 remaining in budget for this year. Recommended all supplies be consolidated in one area and no distinguishing individual organizations separate storage.

**Lay Leader:** Kim Maugans

Reports a wonderful charge conference with Rev. Gomez, our new district superintendent with a worship experience held in the sanctuary.

**Communications:** Wanda Harding, Chairperson

***(Please see our Calendar of Events page for events, meetings and activities happening in October.)***

11/5 9:00 am to Noon Hosting the PIM meeting here at church social hall

11/6 Elections at church

11/8 6:00 pm Set up for Fall Bazaar

11/10 11:00 am to 6:00 pm HOTS

**Children's Ministry:**

Children's Music Hour is now scheduled for following Worship Service on Sundays

10/13 Field Trip to Safari Park in Lexington with Pastor Shin

10/21 Children's Sabbath (October 19-21) "Realizing Dr. King's Vision for *Every* Child: Lives of Hope, Not Despair" (Special animation sermon by Pastor Shin)

10/21 3:00 – 5:00 pm Trunk or Treat

**Mission Trip:** October 1 – 6 to Tangier Island Prayers for mission team and their work

**Pastor Shin:**

1. Pastor Shin will accompany mission team to Tangier Island and serve Communion.
2. SWAT (Singles With A Testimony) continues to meet at Ciro's with plans for mission project
3. Hi Noon – discussion of what might be helpful to continue this group
4. Plans to meet with District Superintendent, Rev. Gomez to explore possibly of New Hope or District project of funding start-up of new church in Paraguay. A friend has visited and feels excellent ministry program.

**Nominations:**

On behalf of Nominations Committee Pastor Shin recommends Dale Rankin; and he has agreed to accept; for the position of Lay Leader for 2019. Nomination seconded by Bruce Rogers. Nomination of Dale Rankin as Lay Leader for 2019 was approved.

Appreciation was expressed to Kim Maugans for his service as Lay Leader.

**New Business:**

1. Pastor’s Discretionary Fund: Set up with signature of pastor and lay leader. Motion made by Kim Maugans to remove Kim Maugans from this account and add Dale Rankin effective January 1, 2019. Motion seconded by John Morse. Motion approved.
2. 2 year CD is due for renewal. Currently 24 month CD is 1.56%; 27 month CD is 2.38%. Karen Whitmer made motion to convert to 27 month renewal; seconded by Bruce Rogers. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Kim Maugans.

Submitted by:

Wanda Harding, Acting Recording Secretary



**On Saturday, October 13th, there will be a field trip to the Safari Park in Natural Bridge with Pastor Shin. If you are interested in going, please see Pastor Shin. Everyone is to meet at the entrance of the zoo by 10:00am. The church will pay for the children’s entrance fees, meals and drinks!**

**The Dunns will perform at New Hope UMC on Sunday, October 14th during our Worship Service. Please plan to come and enjoy their uplifting Gospel music.**



# Upcoming Events, Activities and Meetings at New Hope UMC - October 2018 *(Pastor Appreciation Month)*

## \*EVERY WEDNESDAY

Bible Study - "Becoming a Contagious Christian" @ 5:00pm  
Wednesday Night Dinner @ 6:00pm  
Choir Practice @ 6:45pm

## October 1st - October 6th ~ Mission Trip to Tangier Island

**Monday, October 1** ~ Circle of Hope with Cindy Deavers @ 7:00pm

**Tuesday, October 2** ~ Sisters of Faith with Judy Riner @ 1:30pm  
~ Circle of Love at Church @ 7:00pm

**Wednesday, October 3** ~ *Wednesday Night Events\** **starting @ 5:45pm**

***(Please Note: There will be NO Wednesday Night Dinner today, due to the installation of new HVAC system in the social hall.)***

**Saturday, October 6** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, October 7** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ World Communion Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30am  
~ Children's Hour of Music - *Right After Worship*

**Wednesday, October 10** ~ *Wednesday Night Events\** starting @ 5pm

**Saturday, October 13** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

~ Field Trip to the Safari Park in Lexington with Pastor Shin

**Sunday, October 14** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Worship Service & Special Music by The Dunns @ 10:30am  
~ Children's Hour of Music - *Right After Worship*  
~ Planning Team Meeting @ 6:00pm

**Tuesday, October 16** ~ UMM Meeting and Dinner @ 6:30pm

**Wednesday, October 17** ~ *Wednesday Night Events\** starting @ 5pm

**Thursday, October 18** ~ S.W.A.T. Luncheon at Ciro's in Verona @ 12pm

**Friday, October 19** ~ Harvest Fest

**Saturday, October 20** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, October 21** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Children's Sabbath @ 10:30am & Children Hour of Music - *After Worship*  
~ Trunk or Treat from 3:00pm-5:00pm

**Monday, October 22** ~ United Methodist Women Meeting @ 7:00pm

**Wednesday, October 24** ~ *Wednesday Night Events\** starting @ 5pm

**Thursday, October 25** ~ Church Council Meeting @ 6:30pm

**Saturday, October 27** ~ Sweet Hour of Prayer @ 8:00am

**Sunday, October 28** ~ Sunday School @ 9:30am

~ Laity Sunday @ 10:30am & Children Hour of Music - *After Worship*

**Tuesday, October 30** ~ Sisters of Faith with Teresa Barr @ 1:30pm

**Wednesday, October 31** ~ *Wednesday Night Events\** starting @ 5pm



## NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST MEN'S GROUP REPORT

This is a report of the activities of the NHUMM for the period of September 2017 thru August 2018.

Regular monthly meetings were held September 2017, October 2017, November 2017, February 2018, March 2018 & April 2018 (January 2018 cancelled for weather). We delivered 10 meals at each of these meetings, 8 to shut-in members & 2 to the New Hope Fire Dept. for the firemen on duty.

In December 2017 we celebrated with the UMW for our Christmas dinner.

We held our annual Ham Oyster Turkey Supper on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This is a big fundraiser for the UMM, that the entire Church helps us pull off.

We hosted and provided the food for the Shrove "Fat" Tuesday pancake dinner.

We hosted the breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service. UMM provide the food and prepares it.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we host a Ladies Night out Dinner at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Tri-County Line provided musical entertainment. Door prizes were awarded and all Ladies attending were given Gift bags.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 The UMM chorus sang the Anthem for the Sunday service. We then presented all Ladies in attendance with a flower to commemorate Mother's Day.

June and July 2018 were our UMM work nights. We performed several beautification projects around the church such as painting a Sunday school classroom, mulching around Church and Parsonage, trimming shrubs and trees and cleaning the gutters.

On Sunday June 17, 2018 the UMM led the Sunday Service with Eugene Knott providing the sermon.

On Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 the UMM provided a cookout for the closing of Vacation Bible School.

We look forward to serving our Church and congregation in the coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dallas VanLear, President NHUMM





### **The Real Deal on Electronic Cigarettes**

*Krystal D. Moyers, M.Ed., CHES*

National Healthy Lung Month is observed each October. Lung Cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, and the majority of lung cancers are directly linked to smoking. One of the newest and most controversial topics in regards to lung health and lung cancer is electronic cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes are known by a variety of names including e-cigarettes, e-cigs, e-hookahs, vape pens and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). Using an e-cigarette is often referred to as 'vaping'. E-cigarettes come in a multitude of shapes and sizes and most contain a battery, heating element, and container to hold a liquid. Some resemble regular cigarettes or cigars, or even everyday items such as pens. In addition to nicotine, e-cigarettes can be used for marijuana and other drugs.

E-cigarettes produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine, flavorings, and other harmful chemicals. Users inhale the aerosol into their lungs. The harmful chemicals in the liquid could include ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs, flavorings such as diacetyl (a chemical linked to lung disease), volatile organic compounds, heavy metals such as nickel, tin and lead, and other cancer-causing chemicals. However it is difficult to know specifically what an e-cigarette contains. Some e-cigarettes marketed as 'zero percent nicotine' have been found to contain nicotine.

Since e-cigarettes are relatively new, medical experts are still determining the long-term health effects. Here is what scientists have determined so far:

- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which has known health risks, especially for pregnant women and children.
- Besides nicotine, e-cigarette aerosol can contain substances that harm the body and cause cancer.
- E-cigarettes can cause unintended injuries from defective battery fires and explosions or toxic acute nicotine exposure from swallowing the e-cigarette liquid.

E-cigarettes are less harmful than regular cigarettes, but that does not mean they are safe. The aerosol from e-cigarettes contains fewer toxic chemicals than the mix of chemicals in regular cigarette smoke. However, e-cigarette aerosol contains many harmful substances and cancer-causing agents.

Just like regular cigarettes, e-cigarettes have an increased risk for youth, young adults and pregnant women because of the effects of nicotine exposure on brain development. Use of e-cigarettes by youth is associated with an increased use of other tobacco products. Currently youth in the United States are more likely to use e-cigarettes than adults, and e-cigs are the most commonly used tobacco product among youth. In 2016, 11.3% of high school students used e-cigarettes. Among e-cigarette users aged 18-24 years of age, 40% had never been regular cigarette smokers.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration have not approved e-cigarettes as a quit smoking aid. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force has determined that there is insufficient evidence to recommend e-cigarettes for smoking cessation in adults. The potential for adult smokers who are not pregnant to benefit from e-cigarettes as a complete substitute from other tobacco products is still being investigated.

So what is the bottom line for lung health? If you have never smoked or used other tobacco products or e-cigarettes, don't start!

New Hope UMC Nurture/Spiritual Development Ministry 2018

SHOP (Sweet Hour of Prayer) continued each Saturday morning year round at 8:00 am with the sharing of praises and concerns and prayer. Reading through the Bible in a year, a discipline undertaken by many in the congregation, concluded at the end of 2017.

During 2018 the following activities provided opportunities for nurture, spiritual development and fellowship within the body of Christ at New Hope:

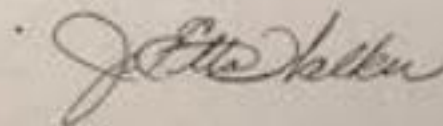
Mid-week meals prepared by a devoted member/s were planned and served free of charge to members of the congregation and community during the school year. (Some people gave donations.) Attendance averaged approximately 50-60/night. An hour before the Wednesday meal, a Bible study was open to all. Many persons helped with set-up, clean-up, and serving of the meal to get the job done efficiently without it becoming too burdensome to any one person. A special offering at the meal in April went to the Camp Overlook Day Camp project.

Special services held on Christmas Eve (2017), Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter (Sunrise) gave opportunity for additional spiritual nurture beyond worship.

Other events such as the 50's Drive-In, Souper Bowl Lunch on Super Bowl Sunday (donations going to the Verona Food Pantry) and a Hearts Party brought the church family together to work or play, and to get to know each other better.

Covered dish luncheons following worship on the fifth Sundays of the year provided fellowship time. July 30 the annual church picnic was held in the evening. It being Rural Life Sunday, and to the delight of children, there was a tractor present in the parking lot after the morning service for them to (pretend) drive. Homemade ice cream (some hand-cranked by those at the picnic) and butter-churning, another tractor, and special music made for the "days-gone-by" atmosphere and an enjoyable experience.

My apologies if there is overlap with the reports of others.



## Kid's Corner

*(Parents please feel free to print this page for your kids to color while you read them the story.)*

# The Story of Abraham and Sarah

*by Leanne & Sharla Guenther*



God gave Abraham and Sarah a son when they were very old.

Once there was a man named Abram. One day the Lord came to talk to Abram, and Abram asked, "Who will have all my things when I die". God promised Abram and his wife Sarai that one day they would be parents, even though they were old and had no children. God wasn't sure that Abram understood. So that night He took him outside, and said, "Do you see all the stars that are in the sky"? When Abram looked up, the whole night sky was full of stars, so many in fact that he would never be able to count them. Then God said, "That is how many children you will have". Quite a few years later when Abram was ninety-nine years old (older than even your grandparents) the Lord decided to change Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many." He also changed Sarai's name to Sarah. God told them again that they would be parents and that they would have a boy. This time Abraham laughed so hard he fell on his face! It was hard to believe that he and Sarah would have a child in their old age. One day three visitors came to Abraham's house. He hurried to meet them. "May I get you something to eat and drink?" Abraham asked. "Please come in and join us, and have a rest on the couch." The visitors agreed, so Abraham brought them some fresh

bread, milk, and hamburgers. While the visitors were eating, they asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" Abraham thought this was a little strange, but he replied, "She's in the other room". Then one of the men spoke and said, "I will come back to see you at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." Now Sarah was listening behind the living room door. She started to laugh, but covered her mouth and laughed to herself because she didn't want to be heard. Then she said to herself, "How can I have a child, I'm almost one hundred years old?" Later when the visitors had left, Abraham and Sarah realized that the man who had told them this was indeed God. A year later Sarah did have a son. She and Abraham named him Isaac, which means "he laughs." They were very excited, and remembered to thank God for Isaac.



# Trunk or Treat



**Sunday,  
October 21st**

from 3:00pm-5:00pm,  
we will hold our annual  
**Harvest Fest & Trunk or Treat**  
festivities to celebrate the  
harvest season!



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*If you would like to add an article or announcement to the Hilltopper, please contact  
The Hilltopper editor, Cindy Sheets at [cds3501@gmail.com](mailto:cds3501@gmail.com) or call/text at (540) 280-1860*

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**New Website Coming Soon!**

Facebook: @MyNHUMC

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