

New Hope United Methodist Church's Monthly Newsletter

The Hilltopper



May 2023

From Pastor Mike

Psalm 23 is, perhaps, the best-known passage in the Bible. When I visit someone with dementia and recite this scripture, the person will recall the Psalm and say it with me. It is embedded in the memory of so many and has brought comfort in times of grief, loss, and disappointment.

According to tradition, Psalm 23 is attributed to King David. David certainly knew about shepherding! This beautiful, poetic psalm speaks to the very heart of our relationship with God. It is a reminder of His loving care and guidance in our lives.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing."

This first line sets the tone for the rest of the psalm. The image of God as our shepherd is one that is both comforting and reassuring. We can trust Him to lead us and provide for us. When we have God as our shepherd, we lack nothing.

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul."

God cares for us in every way, providing for our physical and spiritual needs. Just as a shepherd would lead his sheep to green pastures and quiet waters, God leads us to places of rest and refreshment. When we are tired and weary, He restores our souls.

"He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."

God is not just concerned with our individual well-being, but also with His reputation. As we follow Him, He guides us along the right paths for His name's sake. His guidance is not just for our own benefit, but for the sake of His kingdom.

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

This verse acknowledges that there will be difficult times in our lives. We will walk through dark valleys and face evil. But even in those moments, we can find comfort in the presence of God. His rod and staff, the symbol of His protection and guidance, bring comfort and peace.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

God not only cares for our needs, but He also blesses us abundantly. He prepares a feast for us in the presence of our enemies, showing that even during conflict, we can still experience His goodness. He anoints us with oil, a sign of His blessing, and our cup overflows with His goodness.

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The psalm concludes with a powerful statement of faith. We can trust that God's goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives. And we can look forward to dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. As we walk through life with God as our shepherd, we can rest assured that He will lead us home.

Psalm 23 is a beautiful reminder of God's loving care for us. As we go through life, we can trust in His guidance and provision, even in the darkest of times. And we can look forward to the day when we will dwell in His presence forever.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Mike*



On Saturday, May 6th from 11am-1pm. There will be a Fiesta Brunch for all the ladies of our church and any friends that they would want to invite. This is a covered dish brunch, and the drinks and paper goods will be provided. Plan now for a time to celebrate good food and good fellowship with each other.



On Saturday, May 20th from 4pm-6pm there will be a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, benefiting the New Hope Youth Association, the New Hope Ruritans, and the New Hope Fire Department. This is a church-wide sponsored project and your support is needed. Sign up sheets are in Narthex for food donations and volunteer opportunities. This will be an eat-in or carry-out dinner.



The following are the minutes from the **APRIL** 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!

Church Council Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2023

Present: Kevin Armstrong, Teresa Barr, Becky Breeding, Alicia Copeland, Robin Craun, Cindy Deavers, Phyllis Fretwell, Wanda Harding, Beth Howdysshell, Linda Howdysshell, Bill Lalla, Kim Maugans, Pastor Mike, Cindy Sheets, Dallas VanLear, Pam VanLear and Karen Whitmer.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Dallas Van Lear. And Dallas read a devotion from God's Amazing Grace (2 Kings 18:1 and Romans 8:15), and prayed.

The minutes to the March 2023 meeting were approved and accepted as distributed.

Finance Report: *(Kevin Armstrong reported)*

- The audits are complete.
- Will have a budget meeting in August.
- Last month was a good month, financially speaking, mainly because of Easter Sunday. We took in \$13,000.
- Kevin suggested that we pay \$2,000 more on the Active Clergy Health

Treasurer: *(Cindy Deavers reported)*

- There was a donation given and an additional \$500 was given to Travis Painter, our groundskeeper, for maintaining the cemetery.
- We paid \$550 to Tim Woodsen for stripping and polishing our floors in the social hall, the hallway, the kitchen and the storage room (off of the social hall).

Trustees: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Will meet on May 11th (on every second Thursday of the month) for the next meeting.
- Effective as of April 8th, 2023 - Mitch Brensinger stepped down as Trustees Chairperson. There is a nomination for Jack Walker to fill this position, but the Trustees will need to approve it first.

Pastor Mike: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- Mike is looking to have a presentation about his trip to Cuba.
- There will be a Nominations Committee Meeting
- Effective March 26th, 2023 - Jennifer Strother stepped down as our Lay Leader. So we will need a new Lay Leader and also a Lay Member to Annual Conference. Bill Lalla has agreed to take over this position, but we still need a permanent Lay Leader.
- Kevin made a motion for Jack Walker to take over as Trustees Chair and Bill Lalla to take over as Lay Member to Annual Conference. Kim M. seconded it and it was passed by all.

Worship: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- For this committee, we are still in need of a chairperson, a lay leader, a person for altar care and a communion steward. If you would be interested in more information about these positions and this committee, please see Pastor Mike.
- This committee will meet quarterly.
- **The Hospitality Team:** There have been updates and changes made to this committee's policy.
- Bill made a motion to accept the new hospitality policy, Kevin seconded it and it was passed by all.
- Karen Whitmer has stepped down as chairperson of this committee. If you are interested in taking this position, please see Pastor Mike.

Evangelism: *(Pastor Mike reported)*

- For May, they will be collecting sunscreen and canned vegetables
- Updates for the April total donations will be in the Hilltopper



United Methodist Men: *(Bill Lalla reported)*

- On Thursday, April 20th, the UMM met with 10 members present. They had a presentation from the Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS)
- The UMM served 34 on Easter Sunday breakfast.
- The April spring clean-up was canceled due to bad weather
- Bruce Rogers and Darrell Deavers, along with a few other men have been helping do yard work for some people around the community.
- On Saturday, May 20th there will be a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser, and they will take up a free-will offering to help support the New Hope Youth Association, the New Hope Ruritans, and the New Hope Fire Department.

United Methodist Women: *(Wanda Harding reported)*

- The Circle of Hope meets on Monday, May 1st at 6:30pm
- The Sisters of Faith meets on Tuesday, May 2nd at 1:30pm
- Ladies Fiesta Brunch (covered dish, all ladies are invited) - Saturday, May 6th from 11am-1pm
- The Circle of Love meets on Monday, May 8th at 6:30pm
- The Circle of Hope will serve the UMM on Thursday, May 18th at 6:30pm
- On Saturday, May 20th from 4pm-6pm - Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the UMM, UMW and Youth (Eat or Carry-out). Free-will donations will be accepted to help benefit the New Hope Youth Association, the New Hope Ruritans and the New Hope Fire Department.
 - We are in need of more help for this event, if you are interested please see Bill Lalla or Wanda Harding.

Membership: *(Karen Whitmer reported)*

- There are no changes in the membership this month.
- Karen has a list of 134 people who once attended or were members of New Hope Church.
- Fifty of those names, for which we have no address, will be listed in the Hilltopper for help in locating their mailing addresses.
- Karen has a list of 127 names of people, with current contact information, who are either active or have expressed interest in remaining a member.
- If we continue down this path to take a vote to stay or leave the conference, we will have to send written notification to approximately 250 people who may be eligible to vote. We will need people to handle the mailing and we will have to pay for the materials and postage. (The District Superintendent will provide us with the letter to send out.)
- Regardless of the decision made, Karen is still working to purge the membership roll.
- Please keep in mind that all of these are work in progress.

Unfinished Business:

- Robin Craun announced that she will be stepping down as Finance Secretary by the end of this year. She is willing to help us until we get a replacement and will be willing to help train the next person who takes over this role. If you are interested or have any questions, please see Robin Craun or Pastor Mike.

Disaffiliation Business:

- Dallas has taken the lead in working to get an attorney for this process.
- We will need a new liaison between the church and the District Superintendent now that Jennifer has stepped down. No one at the church council meeting volunteered to take on the position, so Dallas will work on trying to get someone to fill that role.

New Business:

- In the next 6 months, we will have 3 new babies in our church. We are wanting to re-establish the nursery with new furniture, etc.
- It was suggested that we have a 'Baby Shower' for the nursery, wherein people could donate new items to the nursery.
- Cindy S. said that we have \$250 in the budget for the nursery. And we have money in the non-designated fund as well, that we could potentially use.
- It was stated that we need to put together a list of needed things before we could proceed further at this time.

Dallas Van Lear ended the meeting stating his appreciation for everyone coming to the meeting and for helping move the church forward, and thanked Pastor Mike for his hard work in keeping everything together. Pastor Mike prayed and the meeting ended at 7:26pm.



Respectfully submitted by:
Cynthia Sheets
Recording Secretary

The next church council meeting will be Thursday, May 26, 2023

RECONNECT!

*New Hope Church
would like to reconnect
with the following friends!*

If you have any contact information for the following people: including mailing addresses or email addresses, please send that information to: Kbwhitmer6@gmail.com or please see Karen Whitmer.

Heather Arndt

Patricia Broyles

Elizabeth Bryan

Gary Campbell

Kimberly Campbell

Monique Caricofe

Stoney Caricofe

Cynthia Chapman

Carrie Chittum

Dwight Craig

Arlene Crist

William Crist

Amy Critzer

Marvin David Critzer

William Critzer

Janet Doyle

Heather Abbe Fincham

Annie Fink/Humphries

Carol Flora

Willam Berkley Harner, III

Rebecca Harner Parish

David Howdyshell

Janice Howdyshell

Holly Keplinger

Betty Keys

Tonya Keys

Michele Knight

Diane Miller

Erica Miller

Patricia Morris

Beverley Morris Wampler

William Morrison

Linda Morrison Clark

Cheryl Powers Knott

Ray Price

Francis Proctor

Denise Rankin

Naomi Ritchie

Regina Rowe

Carol Shiflett

Barbara Sites Green

Keith Stogdale

Covington Stone

McCaskey Stout

Nancy Stout Pyle

Gina Wilberger

Beth Wright



We Want To Honor Our Graduates!!!

Please send the names of any recent or soon-to-be graduates that you know; what school they are graduating from and what they plan to do after graduation, and names of their parents/grandparents, along with a picture if possible to:

newhopeumc.virginia@gmail.com or [540-280-1860](tel:540-280-1860).

We will recognize them for all of their hard work and include them in next month's Hilltopper!



United Methodist Men (UMM) - Minutes from the April 20, 2023 meeting,

The meeting was conducted by Vice President Corey Johnson. There were 10 members present: Darryl Deavers, Jarman Fretwell, Corey Johnson, Kim Maugans, Pastor Mike Reaves, Bruce Rogers, Jim Strothers, Dallas Vanlear, Jack Walker and Lewis Whitmer.

Devotions were provided by Bruce Rogers.

The meal was prepared and served by the ladies from the Circle of Love.



PROGRAM: The program featured Janice Gentry, Director of Senior Services for Valley Program for Aging Services (VPAS) which serves Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro. The agency provides a variety of free services targeted to help local residents 60 and older. Funding is provided by local, state and federal programs. Additional information is available by contacting her at janice@vpas.info.

MINUTES: The minutes for the last scheduled meeting on March 16, 2023 were presented by Corey Johnson. There being no questions, the minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kenny Fretwell was absent. There was no Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussions and planning for some form of HOTS on Saturday, November 11 is continuing. Suggestions for the Committee to consider should be presented directly to a member of the Committee. HOTS can only be considered if we have the support of the entire church. The Committee will continue with planning for that date.
- The UMM sponsored breakfast following the Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am on Easter Sunday, April 9, was a success. All the food was donated and we served 34 people.
- The spaghetti supper is set for Saturday, May 20, from 4 pm to 6 pm. It will be a coordinated effort with UMM and UMW working together. It is open to the community and all funds raised will be used to support local programs like youth sports and the New Hope Fire and Rescue Department. Sign-up sheets supporting this supper are in the Narthex.
- The Treasurer's Audit has been completed.
- The Spring Clean-up around the church scheduled for Saturday, April 1, was canceled due to bad weather. It will be rescheduled for sometime in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

The playground area has some issues which are causing a safety concern for children using the playground. This is a responsibility of the Trustees and will be brought up at their next regular meeting. Based on the need, UMM will assist the Trustees in making the necessary repairs to ensure the playground equipment is functioning and safe.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned after a prayer by Pastor Mike Reaves.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18 at 6:30 pm, Bruce Rogers has devotions.

Respectfully prepared and submitted by Bruce Rogers, Secretary.

Collections for May

We need your help!



WHAT: Donations of **Sunscreen** and **Canned Vegetables**

WHEN: The entire month of May

WHERE: Place donations in the marked bins in the Narthex.

WHO: Helping people in our local communities, through local agencies, such as: the Verona Food Pantry, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Valley Mission, and Open Doors Shelter in Harrisonburg.



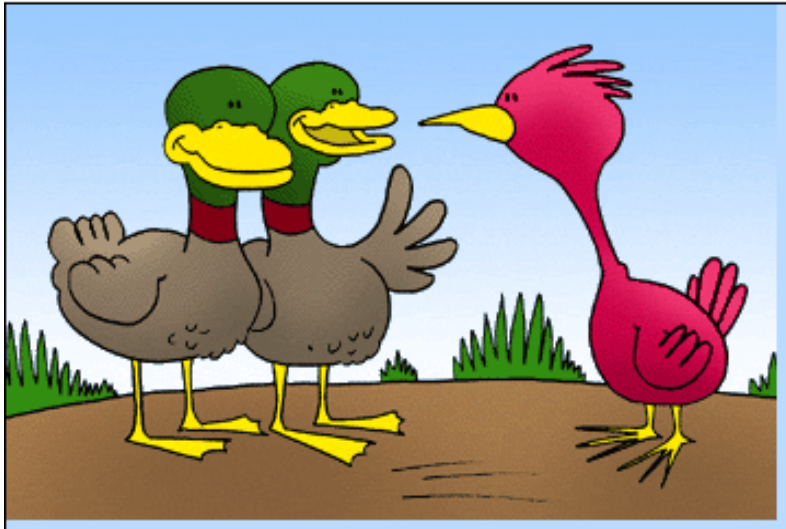
WHY: To help others in need in New Hope, and the surrounding areas.

QUESTIONS: Contact Cheryl and Nathan Kutz.

(202) 495-1346



RealLifeHeavenlyHands@gmail.com



(See Genesis 2:18-25)

05-27-2003

SO ADAM NAMES ME "DUCK", NAMES MY BUDDY HERE "DUCK", THEN NAMES THIS OTHER DUDE "GOOSE" AND RUNS AWAY

Funnies

What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh?

"Hmm, sounds fishy."

What was Moses' wife, Zipphora, known as when she'd throw dinner parties?

"The hostess with the Moses."

What did the classmate say when asked why they kept walking next to the same person at school?

"I was told I'm supposed to walk by Faith!"

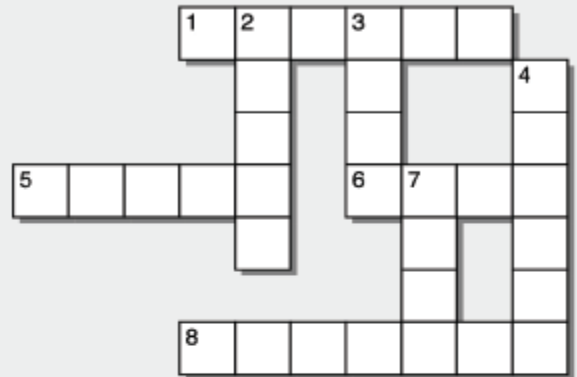
What do you call a Bible character who just pulled into church?

A parking Lot.

How are toddlers and those who attempted to build a tower to Heaven similar?

They all babble.

CrossWORD



"God's Command"

Genesis 2

Across

- 1) God planted a ___ in Eden.
- 5) What Adam called his wife.
- 6) God commanded the man not to eat of the ___ of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 8) God blessed the ___ day.

Down

- 2) It is not good that than should be ___.
- 3) What man is made of.
- 4) God breathed into man the ___ of life.
- 7) It had yet to do this upon the earth.

Are You Saved?

Are you saved? Recently this question was asked of Nathan by a preacher he met at a conference in Maryland. Then he asked me the same question. Honestly, this question stayed with me for the remainder of the day. Have you ever really thought about what that question means?

Sure, I live a Christ like life to my best ability, but I'm not perfect. No one is. I read the bible, do good deeds, teach my kids about God and the bible, but am I saved? I have been through confirmation, baptized twice as a child and a teenager, and have been going to this church all my life, but again am I saved?

To save means to rescue or deliver someone. Have I ever rescued or delivered someone? I helped an elderly neighbor when she fell, a man who passed out at the gas station, and I have delivered three kids (ha ha), but that is not quite what to save means in the eyes of God.

God wants to save us...he wants to rescue us and deliver us. God wants to be our refuge. He wants us to reach out to the bible when we feel lost, abandoned, destroyed, defeated, unwanted, and unloved. He wants us to accept him into our hearts, love him wholeheartedly, and believe that he is the ultimate savior. If we let him in, follow his commandments, live our lives like him, and live knowing he gave his only son so our sins could be forgiven, then we will be saved. It means being accepted into heaven because we lived by his word. To live his word is to be saved.

Genesis 6:13- When God told Noah to build the ark he told him to make it out of gopher wood. Noah didn't question God and he didn't do things his own way with what he thought would work or what was right. He followed God's instructions. If he hadn't, everything would have been lost...everything.

I believe in God the Father almighty. I listen to God. I listen to his instructions. I follow his word. I know that if I don't then everything else is lost and nothing else matters. I have accepted him into my life. I have opened my heart to him and I know I wouldn't be where I am today without him. I know my sins are forgiven, I am saved, and there is a place in heaven for me.

So, ask yourself that question...are you saved? All God wants us to do is to listen to him and nothing else. That's it...it sounds so easy and it is that easy. Be like Noah. Listen to God. Follow his instructions. Be saved.

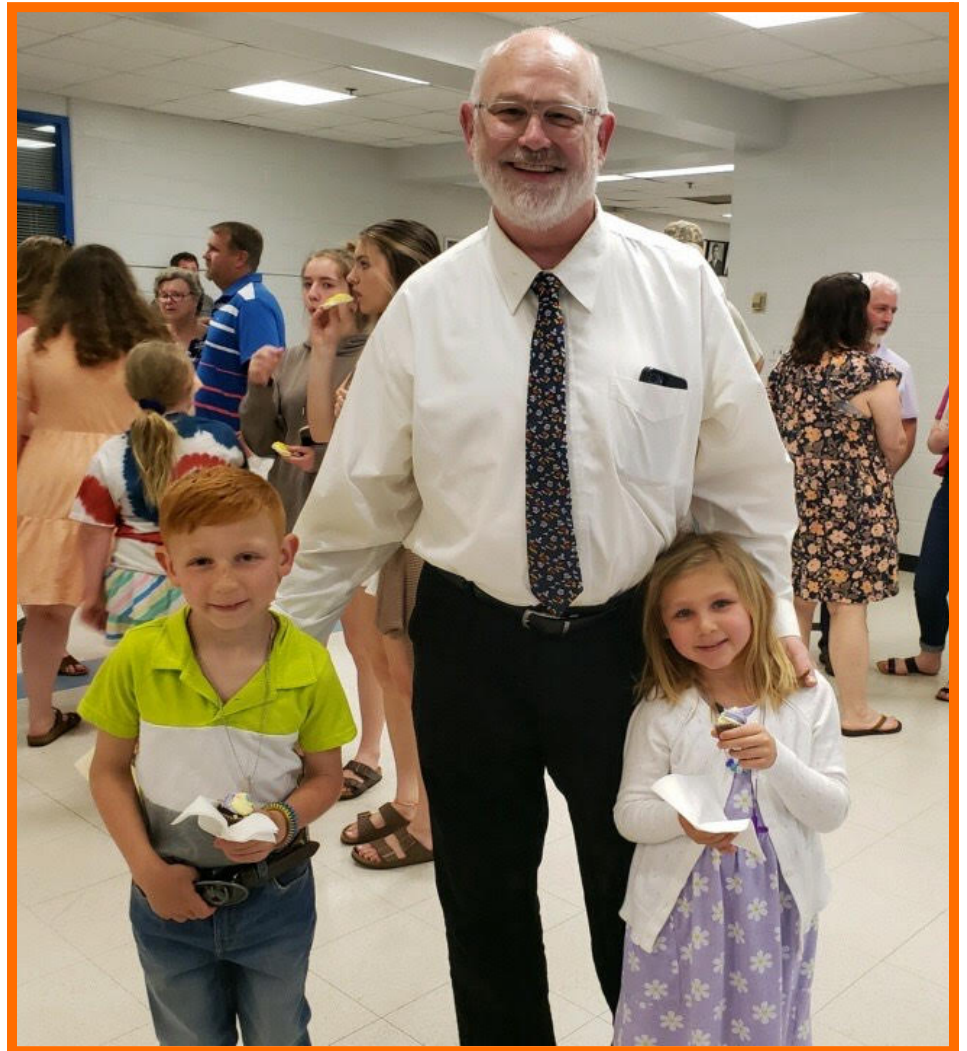
~ Thank you and we pray that all of you are blessed, Cheryl & Nathan Kutz ~

New Hope UMC Around the Community



On Sunday, April 16th, the Weekday Religious Education Program at Clymore Elementary School had a special program for the community.

Pastor Mike and others from our church went to enjoy this special event that included Isaac and Ada Via.



WAIT FOR WINGS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2017 Michael D. Waters

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. — ISAIAH 40:31 NIV

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

New Hope United Methodist Church
Pastor Mike Reaves
55 Round Hill School Road; Fort Defiance, VA 24437
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 86, New Hope, VA 24469
Church Phone: (540) 363-5940
Parsonage Phone: (540) 363-5612
Pastor Mike Reaves' Phone: (757) 653-8537
Pastor Email: michaelreaves@vaumc.org



NewHopeUMC.online

Facebook & Instagram: @MyNewHopeUMC