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NEW HOPE - NEW LIFE - NEW FAMILY

A Quarterly Update of The New Hope Church

# New Hope News

New Hope Church – ECO

22 Cortez Drive

Washington, PA 15301

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Sunday School, 9:45 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

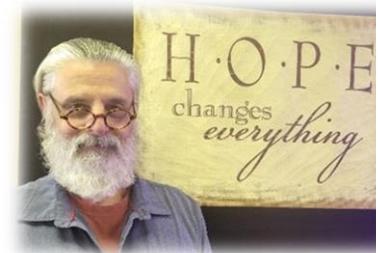


*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 5:19-20

## Pastor Tom's Message:

*Remembering History and Walking the Journey*



Before September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 we were the Third Presbyterian Church of Washington. Nine years ago we had our final dismissal vote at the Tuesday, September 10, 2013 Washington Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Finleyville to be released to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. At that time many denominations were wrestling with the notion of the infallibility of Scripture, abortion, the definition of marriage, ordination concerns, and more. Our decision to leave the Presbyterian Church of the USA (PCUSA) denomination was one that was not taken lightly by our Congregation and our Elders (who at that time were: Tom Bennett, Candi Borkowski, Matt Johns, Marcia Kramer, Shane McMurdy, Heidi Simon, Rich Weaver). We spent two years of prayer, discernment, and hearings over our concerns and disagreements with the PCUSA. In the end, our foundational difference was the loose mooring of the PCUSA accepting the Word of God contained in Scripture as the infallible, authoritative witness of our Christian faith wrought by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through those in whom He chose. Back then and continuing today we are a church that strives to take our guidance from the truth of the Bible which clearly gives answers to the wrestling notions of human beings. God's message of hope in new life contained in the infallible, authoritative witness of the His Word.

## *Pastor Tom's Message* (continued)

So as part of our dismissal we were to provide the Presbytery with the new name of our church. Names were voted on by the congregation on Sunday, August 11, 2013 to narrow the list down. Session met August 20<sup>th</sup> to review the votes and present the results in the most reasonable way. There was no clear single name that stood out so we generated a “word cloud” (below) based on all of the words contained in the possible list of names. The larger the word the more votes it received.



The final decision was made at the Sunday, September 8, 2013 Congregation Meeting...

### **New Hope Church - ECO**

We reached the end of a long journey over those two years in discernment of the will of God and His mission for His church at Third. The great honor God has given us to name His church was a humbling privilege, as this name will last for generations to come. New Hope Church is a reflection of His path for us. Our hope is a unified decision that speaks from the heart of our congregation and to the world around us...new hope through Jesus Christ! The last nine years have yielded fruit that comes from God, reaches from our people to their homes, pours out on families and friends, and infects our city at New Hope City Center with the life-giving Word of New Hope! Our hearts desire is to love God, love others, by infecting our culture with the truth of new hope in new life through Christ Jesus.

*Isaiah 40:31*

*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.*

As we near Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, may God continue to bless our wings, encourage our race, and sustain our journey so that we may be a blessing to this world!

Love you all,  
Pastor Tom

# Youth Group News

The Youth Group hosted an outdoor movie night on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They enjoyed fellowship around a fire ring, ate pizza and watched “Remember the Titans.” All who attended had a great time!

A Game Night is scheduled for Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm in the church fellowship hall. Volunteers are needed to bring snacks, drinks and more games. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** Come join in for some fall fun!

On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Youth Group will once again be participating in *World Vision Volunteer Day*.

Two to four adult volunteers are needed to help with transportation and/or breakfast preparation. The group will leave the church parking lot promptly at 8 am.

Plans are currently being worked on for an overnight lock-in for the kids sometime in January 2023. Needed to make this event possible, are at least eight adult volunteers to help/chaperone throughout the night.

## rightnow MEDIA

At our Worship Service on September 11<sup>th</sup>, we shared that our church now has unlimited access to RightNow Media—the world’s largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (it’s been called the “Netflix of video Bible studies”). This extensive library has more than 20,000 videos from leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include free discussion guides and handouts.

Our church believes that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith and grow in your walk with Christ - at home, at work, and in your community. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in your family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There’s even a library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos. RightNow Media has a free app that’s available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime.

You should have received an email invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. If you haven’t received it, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder or contact Pastor Tom. To get started, just click the link in



the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!

## Deacons' Doings

Summer flew by and fall is fast upon us. The deacons are planning a few projects and want to keep the congregation informed.

Each month, the deacons deliver a food box to a family with food items donated by the congregation. We partner with Trinity Middle School, who selects the family, as they know the needs of the students.

When there is a person's name given to us, we will assist them with a specific need. The deacons assisted with the Pastor Appreciation Dinner and give help to the session when asked.

Last year at Christmas we asked the congregation for help in collecting mittens, hats and scarves for Canton Township. This year, we plan on helping a local family with a Thanksgiving meal and some Christmas gifts. More details on that will be announced in church and in the bulletin in the upcoming month.

Our food pantry is in need of cereals, soups, jellies, and pasta and spaghetti sauce. We greatly appreciate the non-perishable items donated as that is what we use to fill our food boxes. We do supplement some needed items by purchasing them at the grocery store. If you would like to make a monetary donation for this purpose, just earmark it 'Deacons' and place it in the collection plate. It will be put it to good use.

If there is someone that you know who needs assistance, please inform a Deacon or Session Member and it will be addressed.

We also send cards and visit our homebound members when possible. Covid has made visitations a little more difficult and it is challenging to talk on the phone. If you are able, it would be greatly appreciated if you could drop a card in the mail to: Audrey Foutz, MaryLou Ott, Pat Lyle, Clarice Killen and Bertie Banister.



### FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

**Needed Items...**  
**Cereal**  
**Jelly**  
**Soups**  
**Pasta**  
**Spaghetti Sauce**

As of now, we have just two deacons, Donna Pauley and Chris Mitchell. We could definitely use more volunteers. If you would like to help out, please talk with either of us or a Session Member.

Again, thank you for all the help you give as a congregation each time we ask. We can always depend on the support of New Hope covenant partners.

In Christ's Service,  
Chris and Donna

# New Hope City Center / Harmony House Café

A Thanksgiving Dinner will be served again this year for those in the community we serve at the Harmony House Café in the New Hope City Center from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The church is welcome to help out with food, service, or contributions. Last year's dinner was a real blessing to those who have no family and hadn't celebrated Thanksgiving with anyone in years. For additional information, contact Tina Cushey or Gwen Gongaware.

Help is needed at the New Hope City Center's Harmony House Café. Just a few hours per week would be great! Anyone interested should contact Pastor Tom by email at: [pastorbellhy@newhopechurcho.org](mailto:pastorbellhy@newhopechurcho.org); or by phone at 724-222-7490.



## Christian Counseling Associates of Western PA

[christiancounselingwpa.com](http://christiancounselingwpa.com)

Our church continues to support Christian Counseling Associates by leasing several rooms in our church building for counseling availability in our region.

Christian Counseling acknowledges that Jesus Christ can powerfully work in our lives to bring about healing and relief.



They provide a full range of services to those who need counseling for any individual, marital, or family concern. When desired, psychiatric referrals for medication management are available for those who struggle with more serious emotional problems.

# *Upcoming Events*

## *Christmas Concert*



On Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, New Hope Church, 22 Cortez Drive, Washington, PA will hold our **Christmas Concert** featuring the  
**“Circle of Faith”**

Band. The free concert will begin at 6:00 pm followed by refreshments and fellowship in our Fellowship Hall. This is definitely a holiday event you will not want to miss!

**Christmas Eve**

**Candlelight Service**

**6:00 pm**

**December 24, 2022**



## **Congregation Meeting**

New Elders and Deacons will be presented and voted on at a Congregation Meeting on a Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Budget for 2023 will also be presented at the Congregation Meeting.