

Early Summer 2011



New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church

New Hope News

Pastor's Ponderings

Summer, that long awaited season of the year that is all too short here in the Interior and therefore all the more coveted and to be enjoyed when it arrives. The warmth of the sun pulls us out into its rays even as the mosquitos are biting away at our limbs. We mindlessly swat at the pests while soaking in the rays and getting about the fun of the season. And each one has their own definition of what that fun is. Gardening, fishing, hiking, boating, yard-saleing, camping, touring, hunting, time out at the cabin, off to the lake, building, lazing around, the list goes on and on and we can't seem to pack enough in anticipating that moment when all too soon the season changes again.

In all the wonder of this time of year (and I am right there along with you in wanting to get out and have some fun, to relax and enjoy these wonderful days), where do you put the church and your faith in Jesus, the Christ? Traditional to so many congregations the chairs/pews begin to empty out as people leave for their adventures or simply decide to stay home not wanting to leave the comfort of that front porch sun or morning coffee and newspaper. People say they can worship God wherever they are. But do they? Do you? Worship God that is. Worship the Christ who died on the cross for you to pay the price of your sins. The Christ who gave you this life to enjoy in the first place. And if you do worship Christ in those places where you are having fun and relaxing, what about the important fellowship with other Christians, with those who help make up the body of Christ along with you?

We forget that Christianity is not about me and me alone. It is about us, we, and the great I AM. Christianity is about being in relationship, in fellowship with Christ in all of our living wherever we are. We need each other. It is that simple. And we need to be in communion with Christ and his body regularly.

So I want to invite you to come to church this summer at New Hope, joining us each Sunday morning at 9:30a.m. and joining the body of Christ in celebrating Him. A time of giving thanks to Him for the joy of the past week, the amazing power and strength that we have received to meet the challenges and wonders of the week. Then to graciously pray for a safe and grand week to come all the while being open to those inspiring moments when we can be the heart and lips, the hand and feet of Christ for and with others as we are having our fun. And if not near New Hope then find a local congregation where you can do the same.

Secondly, I invite you when you are not able to come to church, to be sure to take time and truly worship our God, our Christ. Take with you a copy of the Upper Room to guide you through that time of worship or some other resource that would help you. Be in intentional prayer. Perhaps it is turning on KLUV or some other religious station to watch or listen to that helps you in your worship of Christ. But make that time to be with your Savior that your spirit may be renewed in him and your faith sustained until we reunite.

Throughout this summer, may God be your continual blessing.

Can't wait to see you in church!
Pastor Karen



Announcing Three Super Summer Sundays - 9:30 am Morning Worship...and Beyond!

You are invited to three
"Super Summer Sunday"
Events this summer
at New Hope:
**June 26, July 17,
and August 21.**



The purpose for these special events are to involve our children in helping with worship and then to enjoy a meal with them after (courtesy of fellowship & our fabulous New Hope cooks).

Following the meal, we'll start with an engaging felt figures Bible story, and then enjoy a variety of hands-on activities designed to get children, youth, and adults--all ages--having fun

together, learning names and getting acquainted, and sharing the love of Christ through the church.

There will be crafts, bubbles, wood work, games and more! And, we'll be out by noon!

Our goals are that the whole church family will become more connected over a meal and activities in which the adults share with children; that we not lose

momentum in serving families through the ministry of New Hope Church, both through

Sunday School and ministries such as Mustard Seed Club, and that we have the opportunity to invite friends and family to share the joy here at New Hope.

Our final "Super Summer Sunday", August 21, will also be a day to register for Sunday School and Mustard Seed Club.

Annual Yard Sale

**Friday and
Saturday
June 17-18
9am-4pm**



Items can be brought in beginning this Sunday, May 29th and placed in the back Sunday School rooms or during church office hours Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm. Larger items can be put in the connex. This is an important fundraiser for our church and your support will be greatly appreciated. Items need to be in good, clean condition and please no electronics or computers.

See our coordinator Jenna Hulst to help (385-1006).

New Hope Church School

Easter Egg Hunt

A great big thank you to all the great helpers who came together to put on a fabulous event for our community and help raise funds for our school!



Playhouses for Education

One house is still available and can be seen at the park next to Santa Claus House. Thanks to those who purchased houses for the benefit of our school! A big thanks to the many builders and painters who came together to make this project a reality.

Do You Find Yourself One Who Puts Caring

for others into action? What I mean is, do you not just think about someone but actually do something to help them when they are in need? Then you could be a member of our Visitation Team.

We are in need of some new recruits to add to our faithful who a couple times a month get together and look over the congregation considering who among us needs our attention and care. It might be to coordinate a meal to be delivered, perhaps a visit to someone, it might be taking someone out to lunch or giving them a respite, perhaps sending a note. Whatever seems appropriate is what we try to do when we know there is a need.

So if this interests you, please contact Pastor Karen and let's put a wonderful gift God has given you to use to the glory of Christ's body.

Men's Group

Men's Group - No regular first Saturday of the month breakfasts during summer. Work projects will be announced in the weekly bulletin and by e-mail.



Celebrating Our Graduates

May 15 among many other celebrations in church was the celebration of our three high school and one college graduates. Faces smiling and joy abundant each was anticipating that walk across the stage for their diploma.

Our three high school graduates are:

- ◆ Cory Reid who was just hired at Great Northwest, Inc. They do road construction. Since the work is seasonal, he plans on doing an apprenticeship with the Operating Engineers
- ◆ Dakota Sharp who is planning on going to UAF in the fall. She currently has her sights set on becoming a pediatrician
- ◆ Chanda File who is registered to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the fall, with a plan to study business and journalism.



Our one college graduate is:

- ◆ Erin Hughes who is graduating with her A.A.S. as an Information Technology Specialist. She will be working in Ketchikan during the summer for Santa Claus House's other store, Christmas in Alaska. This fall she will be returning full time as a preschool teacher at our very own church school, as well as pursuing her bachelors in Child Development at UAF.

We pray that God continues to sustain them and guide them through these years ahead. In faith with Christ may they move into their adventure with hope and gladness remembering to seek needed strength and wisdom from him, care for their neighbor as themselves and dare to love with the abundance of Christ's love for them. And all the people said, amen!

United Methodists Gather

...in Homer for their Annual Conference meeting June 4-6, 2011. Jim Anderson our lay member representative, Pastor Karen and husband Dennis will all be in attendance this year. Please keep this gathering in your prayers. Not only for safe travel and good fellowship, but for wise and God-led decisions. With churches like our own who did not pay our full apportionments last year severe steps are being taken and proposed to make the budget balance for both this year and 2012. Such steps like cutting the Conference administrative assistance hours from 40 to 28 per week; doing away altogether with the Director of Connectional Ministries or DCM (who has been significant in helping resource particularly our distant outlying churches with guidance, leadership and program); having both the DCM and Superintendent move their offices into their homes to eliminate rent expenses; reducing financial support for new ministries, to name a few. As you can see, there are some deep, heartfelt issues that will be before us. So please, keep us in your prayers.

With Hearts Turned to God...

We lift up in prayer for healing, Barb O'Connor and family; Patrick Trometter and family; Hannah Beck and family; our families and friends who are sick, recovering, and needing healing.

We lift up in prayer our military and their families, for protection, successful mission, safe return and a gentled reunion with family.

We lift up in prayer our government and all who serve in public office. May they be wise in their decisions always seeking God's direction.

We lift up those who have been and are in harm's way from natural disasters. May they find their way to safety, and find the courage and strength to rebuild their lives when the storm/disaster is over. And may we who are safe remember them through prayers and giving to help them recover.

We lift up Christ's church and pray that we all remain faithful to him, that always and everywhere we can and will be the hands and feet, the heart and lips of Him who saved us that the whole world may come to know his saving grace. Amen

Amen!

Being on the Run

During summer the reality of our congregation like every other is that we are on the run. We can't seem to do enough to maximize time in the warmth of our summer days. That running around and doing begins to take over our thinking and it becomes all too easy to miss a Sunday here and there over the summer months. When we miss, we miss out on the fellowship and worship, and we also miss out on being able to give back to Christ through our financial support of the church's ministry. Then it becomes too difficult to catch up.

Please consider if you haven't already, going online to our website, www.newhopempc.com and setting up an automatic payment to the church to help us be able to meet our obligations as well as continue giving back to Christ and the community through our active presence and ministry. Several have already done so and are finding it most freeing even when they make it to church every Sunday. So imagine, as you go about vacation and fun, how good it will feel to know you are making a difference at home by continuing your financial and prayerful support through your giving. God bless and keep you well and in thanksgiving throughout the summer. Thank you.

Don't forget the Church Yard Sale
Friday & Saturday, June 17-18

Donations now being accepted!





JUNE

1st ~ Keith & Kerstin Genter
3rd ~ Robert & Maureen Hansen
4th ~ Don & Lori Elgin
5th ~ Jan Stables
6th ~ Jim & Arlene Cavanaugh
8th ~ Don Dahkle
10th ~ Mark Marshall
Richard & Beverly Ross
11th ~ Ryan & Jenna Hulst
15th ~ Cheryl Sanders
18th ~ Diane Jewkes
19th ~ Mathijs Beks
21st ~ Lyle & Sylvia Jenkins
26th ~ Ingrid Clauson
27th ~ Troy Orr
Jim & Jane Anderson
29th ~ Betty Page
Evelyn Marshall
Bob Miller

JULY

2nd ~ Alyssa Norris
Tim & Jenny Beks
3rd ~ Hannah Wolverton
5th ~ Chris & Liz Beks
Carl & Jeannette Gaul
Joe & Klari Schruf
6th ~ Burgenne Illingworth
Christian Orr
7th ~ Ken Austin
Ron Illingworth
9th ~ Kathy Bird
10th ~ Barbara O'Connor
Colten Beks
13th ~ Erin Hughes
20th ~ Deb Beck
Donna Reese
22nd ~ Mari Ana Beks
James & Sharron Hunter
26th ~ Arlene Cavanaugh
28th ~ Darcey Sharp
31st ~ Beverly Ross

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE BODY OF CHRIST!



You got it, **June 12** is Pentecost, the birthday of the church. It is when the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples as wind and tongues of flame inspiring them to preach and proclaim the truth of Christ.

Which formally began the beginning of the church.
To remember and celebrate this day **you are invited to a party.**

Come dressed in your favorite color of the flame and let's rejoice in our Christ who rose to give us life and sent the Holy Spirit to give us inspiration for the journey of faith of which we are a part.

Join in the celebration of the marriage of Cheryl Sanders and Nate Cole

Reception on Saturday, June 25th

Dog Musers Hall on Farmer's Loop

Anytime after 4:00 pm.

May want to bring a lawn chair

Your presence is more important than presents



As the Hands and Feet of Christ

Village life in Alaska is not a way of life for the weak of heart, body or soul. It takes an inner strength and wisdom to make it through each day as the wild of the creation around one lives on. Learning to live through subsistence is a necessity. It costs too much to depend solely upon that which is shipped in. We know that. What we don't necessarily know or think about is the spiritual care of those in the village.

Years ago denominations moved into those villages, built structures in many of them and tended to the spiritual care of the residents until funding began to fall away and the number of clergy to be sent began to fall as well. Then only the structures were left. (A painful reminder to the villagers of the lack of care). The pastoral presence was intermittent at best and the souls of these communities were left to fend for themselves once again.

The Presbyterian Church USA is doing its' best to keep some presence available in as many of those villages where they began as possible. We are getting creative in certifying lay pastors to be that pastoral presence so the expense isn't so great and at least someone is there to lead and tend to the community. The United Methodist's are trying to develop a similar approach to help minister to these villages modeled after the Presbyterians and others.

So where do we get the monies to provide such training as these Certified Lay Pastors need, or helping the villages afford their local pastoral presence? Through the apportionments that each church in the Presbytery and Annual Conference pays. And when we do not pay those apportionments, the outreach to our village neighbors once again is compromised if not becoming something of the past.

Please help us pay our apportionments. They are a significant part of our ministry that reaches out beyond our walls and to date we are not meeting that responsibility. As you enjoy your summer, please remember the church local and around us and keep your giving up.

God bless you!

Tending the Garden
to
Share Spiritual Fruit
with the World

We're on the web:
www.newhopempc.com

OFFICE AND WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30am

Sunday School: Resumes in the Fall

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday

9:00am – 1:00pm

Pastor Karen's Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

10:00am to 12:00pm or by appointment

New Hope Methodist Presbyterian Church

2371 Broadway Road

North Pole, Alaska 99705

(907) 488-9191

newhope@mosquionet.com

Upcoming Youth Group Summer Events

June

Friday, 10th ~ Epic Ultimate Frisbee

Saturday, 18th ~ Fishing & Picnic @ Bathing Beauty Pond

July

Saturday, 9th ~ Youth Get-Together

Friday, 15th ~ Movie Night at Regal Cinemas

August

Tuesday-Sunday, 2-7th ~ FUSION AK

Saturday, 13th ~ Fair Day

Saturday, 20th ~ Back-to-School BBQ

Friday, 26th ~ Youth Group Regular Meetings Resume

*For more information on New Hope's
Youth Group, please contact our
Youth Directors Troy and Danita Orr
at
youthministrynhmp@yahoo.com
or 372-3065.*

