

# New Hope Parish Weekly Update

January 31, 2021

## New Hope Parish Covid-19 Update - REVISED

### ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP CANCELLED UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE

New Hope Parish Council voted to recommend in-person worship stop at Osawatomie and Miami and has since decided to stop in-person worship at Paola.

- Parish live streamed worship is available each Sunday at 11AM online by following the link on the Parish web site at [www.nhparish.org](http://www.nhparish.org).
- Parish service recording is available at any time on the Parish YouTube channel.
- If anyone is unable to watch the live stream or recorded service online a DVD or CD can be made available upon request.
- The New Hope Parish Council will meet again in February to review the pandemic situation and decide next steps.

These are indeed challenging times as more and more of us know people who have been touched by Covid-19, some even losing loved ones. We must do our part to make sure this pandemic is kept at bay. We will, with God's help make it through this, and when we are able to again fellowship, are we going to fellowship! Until then, please stay safe and let your parish council, your session or Pastor Paul know if you've any comments,

## Weekly Thoughts

Hello All!

Hope and pray everyone is doing well and staying safe.

Well, as you may have heard me say before, we are one day closer to the pandemic being over and getting back together in person and to fellowshipping the way we want to fellowship. And I think we know what we need to do to make that "one day" sooner rather than later. So, instead of sharing what we've all heard so many times before (and will probably continue to hear several more times), I thought I'd share something a little different.

When I was in my early teenage years, I started attending a church with some friends of mine. This is of course the time in a person's life when you start noticing more and more about the world outside of your community. I can remember feeling a lot of concern for the state of the world. Although I can't remember what sparked my questioning, I do remember that I began to question God's place in everything and how God could let so many bad things happen. One night, not really expecting any answer, I made that the primary lament of my prayers. To my amazement, next Sunday morning, although I can't remember the details of the sermon or even the scripture that was being preached, I do remember that God answered my prayer in that sermon. What was said was something similar to the fact that there's really not that much bad in the world, it's just that the bad stuff is louder and takes attention off of the good stuff. Think of the words from the psalmist in Psalm 27: 13-14, "I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness in the exuberant earth. Stay with God! Take heart. Don't quit. I'll say it

## Weekly Thoughts (Continued)

again: Stay with God.” (MSG) And if we view the world, God’s creation, through God’s eyes and with a heart centered in Christ, we will see God’s goodness in the exuberant earth. For when Christ went to the cross, he did so for all of creation, past, present and future. The Apostle Paul stated this well in 2 Corinthians 5:16-20, “Because of this decision we don’t evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don’t look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. We’re speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you.” (MSG) If our faith is to mean anything, we must believe in the power of the Holy Trinity. We must have faith in our faith. We must have faith that God has been and is continuing to give the world a fresh start. Or as the Common English Bible translates verse 16, “So then, from this point on we won’t recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn’t how we know him now.”

God is at work in this world and, although it is often easier said than done, we must trust in God’s wisdom and guidance. We must also remember to never underestimate the personal history of those around us. We don’t know what others have gone through. In many situations, if we did, we may find ourselves quite humbled. Remember Jesus’ words from Matthew 7:12, “Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get.” (MSG)

This doesn’t mean that God won’t use our frustration with the way things are or are not going; we may just find ourselves being pulled by the Holy Trinity in a way that we hadn’t expected. If God is using us in these situations, and if we trust in God and follow God’s still speaking voice, we will make it through said situation, and most likely a little stronger and a little wiser and a whole lot better. Remember Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23, “Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn’t take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!” (MSG)

## Weekly Thoughts

Siblings in Christ, know, without a doubt, that if God is in us, there is truly more good in God's creation than there is bad. It's up to us, with the help of the Holy Trinity, to help reveal the good in God's creation. It not only can be done, but it must also be done. Remember too that we are one day closer to the pandemic's end. Put your trust in God and rejoice in God every day.

As I've said before, we as a church family continue to seek God's wisdom on how we can keep our sanity and maintain our connections with each other during these challenging times of Covid-19. Together, with God's help, we will persevere. If you'd like a call from me, I may need a nudge. So please, in the kindest of ways, drop me a note and let me know. Please know that you each are always in my heart, thoughts and prayers. Please know too that I thank God every day for each of you and for the God given love and gifts that you bring to our church family and to God's creation. The world is a better place because of each of you.

Be safe, love and serve the Lord and always, give God thanks.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Paul

## Announcements

- ✚ **NOTICE:** The Annual Congregational Meetings are as follows:  
Paola-January 31<sup>st</sup>. They will be held by Zoom. All meetings will be at **noon.**
- ✚ Zoom Fellowship and Worship Meetings Are Back on Sunday at 1:00 PM. Please follow the Zoom instructions.
- ✚ THE PAOLA THRIFT SHOP IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. It is the hope of the Presbyterian Women to keep everyone safe during this time.
- ✚ If you have anything to add to the weekly newsletter/announcement, please have your information to the Paola or Osawatomie office by noon on Tuesday.
- ✚ If you or someone you know is unable to watch the worship service online or participate in online fellowship, please contact your church office for other ways to participate in worship. (DVD, VHS, CD, Cassette Tape, etc....)
- ✚ To watch the live 11:00 am Service on Sunday and previously recorded services go to: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDDMsp1jmJi8LCRA8pc1SrQ>
- ✚ **NHP Kids TV** is available at [www.nhparish.org](http://www.nhparish.org) and click on **Kids TV** link.
- ✚ **The Food Pantry in Osawatomie** is open on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:30. They are opening the Food Pantry up to Louisburg and Paola during this COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✚ **PACA:** All food is welcomed during this unprecedented time. Macaroni and cheese is especially needed, complete pancake mix and also the 5.5 oz complete pancake mix packages, pancake syrup, jelly, cereal, cookie bag mix. Or a check can made out to PACA Food Pantry and sent to the FPC church office.



### **January**

1/28 Anna Farley  
1/28 Eunice Wilbur  
1/30 Colleen Barnett

### **January**

No January Anniversaries Listed

### **February**

2/1 Mike Matney  
2/1 Bonnie Wallace  
2/3 Scott Macom  
2/6 William Coffelt  
2/10 Grady Adwater  
2/11 John Klahr  
2/20 Elizabeth Davidson  
2/24 Dee Anne Mendel

### **February**

No February Anniversaries Listed

## **New Hope Parish Calendar**

All meetings are on Zoom

**February 10**-Osawatomie Session Meeting – 7:00 pm

**February 11**-NHP Council Meeting-7:00 pm

**February 17**-Paola Session Meeting – 7:00 pm

**February 24**-New Hope Parish Fellowship/Outreach – 7:00 pm

**February 25**-New Hope Parish Care Team Meeting – 2:00 pm

## **New Hope Parish Prayer Requests and Praises**

### **Parish Prayer Requests**

Bonnie Wallace for healing  
Harold Barnett (healing and strength) and Colleen  
Char Bergene for healing  
Helen Carter (released from hospital at home) and her family  
Mike Cox (Diana Cox's husband and Angie Pennock's stepfather)  
LuAnne Debrick for healing  
Grace Donham for healing  
Venie Elliott (healing and discernment)  
Jack Floyd (healing and discernment)  
Evelyn Gabbert (healing from surgery and broken hip)

## **New Hope Parish Prayer Requests (continued)**

Beulah Johnson (healing and comfort)  
Paisley Keith Medlen (blood disorder) (Ed & Vida Hurlbut's great granddaughter)  
Kelley Wallace, prayers for healing  
Liz Redd (healing)  
Marsha Ratkovic (Pat Barnett's sister) breast cancer metastasized  
Phyllis Stevens (healing)  
Verla Thomas (healing)  
Betty Ventura (healing)  
Suzie Wilcox (ALS)  
Paula Weir (for healing) and Bob Weir (comfort and discernment)

## **Community Prayer Requests**

Connie Attebery, friend of Bonnie Wallace  
Sharon Davey (health issues) (Grady Atwater)  
Roxanne Egidy – Brain injury, Marylu Egidy's niece  
Joe Fickel prayers for comfort  
Ron and Sandy Galvin prayers for healing and discernment  
Judy Henderson (Sarah Kennington's(HeadStart)-mother  
Cindy Hickey – breast cancer  
Riley McDougal (son of Marty McDougal) (healing and comfort)  
Debbie, friend of Dee Anne Mendel  
Donna Penner and her family (under Hospice care-comfort and peace)  
Robert Sawin -Cancer – Judy Windler's father  
Shelly, friend of Max and Carolyn Servais, has cancer  
Rebecca Sutton (cancer)  
Cheryl Tunks(cancer and heart problems) (Cinda Atwater's aunt)  
Lori Martin (Comfort, healing and discernment)  
Kim Walker (Comfort, healing and discernment)

## **Military**

Chet Barnett (grandson of the Barnett's)  
Men and women who are now serving or have served in the past.

## **COVID-19**

All those affected by this virus, including all healthcare workers, first responders, and scientists.  
Evelyn Gabbert (positive)

## **Condolences**

Family and friends of Don Meinig  
Family and friends of Kenny Darner (Lawrence Dickinson's uncle)  
Family and friends of Dave Robinson(husband of Rev. Norlita Kaul)  
Family and friends of Patty Madison

## Heartland Presbytery

Heritage Presbyterian Church, Olathe, KS  
Woodville Presbyterian Church, Oregon, MO

### Throughout God's Creation

Those affected by the wildfires in the US and throughout the world. The devastation from all the current hurricanes, and those affected by Global Warming.

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AND THEN HE STARTED EATING, BUT HE  
HAD NEVER SAID AMEEEN!

### To Join Any Parish Zoom Event With Your Computer or Phone

To Join any of the Parish Zooms from your phone, please do the following just before the event:

1. Call the phone number: **1-888-537-8719**
2. Enter the following information when asked:
  - Meeting ID: 929 140 2896
  - Password: 344110
3. Enjoy praising God and fellowshiping with your sisters and brothers!

Join our live Zoom Fellowship using your computer, smart phone, tablet, or a good old-fashioned landline. These are great ways to stay in touch. So, drop in and say hi!

Looking forward to seeing you. Join the Zoom Fellowship Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9291402896?pwd=ejY1TGs5U1pkWE5EdFRyTy9hT1J4Zz09>

OR

go to <https://nhparish.org/index.php/calender/> , find the appropriate date and click on New Hope Parish Sunday Live Worship & Fellowship, you will see the link. Or use the instructions above to join from your phone. Fellowship using Zoom – **Sundays at 1:00 PM**. Catch up with everyone at our Parish Fellowships.