



Sermons & Scriptures

December 6	"God Sends a Messenger"	Mark 1: 1 - 8
December 13	"God Sends Light Into the Darkness"	John 1: 1 - 9
December 20	"God Sends Greetings"	Luke 1: 26 - 38
December 24 Christmas Eve	"God Sends a Child"	Luke 2: 1 - 14
December 27	"God Sends Salvation"	Luke 2: 22 - 40
January 3, 2021	Rev. Marla Lobo preaching	

The **December Mission Offering** will be given to Circle of Care. The mission statement of this organization is: "In response to God's call to make Disciples of Jesus Christ, the Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care ministers to the changing needs of Oklahoma's "at promise" children, youth and families by providing residential and foster care."

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP



Oklahoma is in the red with COVID and that is not good. New Hope will offer only virtual worship on the Sundays following Thanksgiving and Christmas to limit possible spread of the virus at church.

Virtual Worship Only for November 29, Christmas Eve and December 27



To continue trying to keep people healthy **Christmas Eve services will be online only this year.**

Services may be accessed through our web site www.newhopeokc.org - the same way you've been able to watch Sunday services.

AND

special bags for Christmas Eve will be available for your family to pick up beginning Sunday, December 20 from the office 9 - 3 Monday, the 21st through 11 a.m. the 24th.

Children's Program

Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. New Hope Children perform "The Do Not Be Afraid Parade"

Please see the note on page 5 about this since there are limitations to physical attendance. Everyone will still be able to enjoy it online though!



December Music

Since the usual Christmas Concert by our choir with instrumentalists isn't possible this year, there will be some special music performed during Sunday services throughout the month.

If you are not attending services, you will be able to enjoy the music as you listen to worship services on our web site.

Since some December services are virtual only, you are welcome to bring checks by the office or mail them. Office hours are Monday - Friday 9 - 3. *Exceptions: closing at noon on December 24 and closed Christmas Day.*

It's not required but if you could let Luisa know that your family will be picking up a bag, it will help her with a count.
Luisa@newhopeokc.org



Remember that for any contribution to be credited as a

End of Year giving

donation for 2020 it must be received in the church office by 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 30. Be sure to allow extra time if you are mailing a check so that it reaches the church by then.

DO NOT mail to the PO Box; Mail to 11600 N. Council Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73162



Reflections from J.D.

This will be my last article for 2020. I have edited and hopefully improved what I shared in my Pastor's Report during the November Charge Conference. I am not sad to wave goodbye to this tumultuous year. After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and we suffered a terrible defeat, FDR described December 7, 1941 as a date that will live in infamy. This year we have been bombed by a sudden attack from an invisible enemy. COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our lives. It seems that 2020 is a year that will live in infamy.

The highlight of our year at New Hope was March 8. On that Sunday, we enjoyed the Mary/Martha Ham Dinner, the church was packed, and our 4 Confirmands joined the church. In February, we had enjoyed our annual Super Bowl Party, Valentine's Dinner, Shrove Tuesday pancake feed, and Ash Wednesday worship. All of that came to a stop on March 15, when I announced that we would suspend in person worship because of the pandemic.

It would be three months before we resumed meeting together in the sanctuary.

The Coronavirus forced us to cancel our trip to Israel, postpone our building expansion, and kept us from going to camp. As I wrote this article, I was aware of at least seven church members who have recently been diagnosed with COVID. Not only did New Hope struggle with the virus this past year, we also lost a good number of folks to death and said goodbye to several members of our church staff. This has been a year to deal with all kinds of unpredictable events.

However, just as America came back from Pearl Harbor, we will endure and come back from this pandemic. It is important that we live up to our name and help people find hope in Jesus in the midst of uncertainty. As the year ends, we continue to worship together, the Scouts have returned to our building, CDO is doing great, and our PPP loan was recently forgiven!

This year has enabled us to learn about Zooming, social distancing, taking Communion with little cups, and livestreaming worship. We have people participating in discipleship over the internet and we had over 600 people for Tent or Treat! We rejoice that we welcomed 25 new members to New Hope in 2020 and we will soon welcome Marla Lobo as our new Associate Pastor. By the grace of God, we will make it through this together!

Psalm 46: 1-3, 11—God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.



To the members of
the New Hope Congregation

"Churches across the country are doing much to continue in ministry in their communities. Likewise, our churches in the Oklahoma Conference are doing the same by adjusting and finding creative ways to be in worship and serve the community."

"We are aware of the financial restraints that many churches face due to this pandemic. It is a challenging situation and yet there are churches like yours that have met the challenge."

"I want to say thank you for the church paying 100 percent of your local church apportionment for 2019 and to encourage you to keep up the good work for 2020. The faithfulness of the church and its leadership is commendable and it is noted. Our giving through apportionments supports much across Oklahoma and across the greater church. It is needed much more than ever at this time in the life of the church."

"Thank you for the faithfulness and giving from your congregation.

Sincerely, James G. Nunn"



REMINDER:

We will no longer have a box at the Post Office.

Do not mail things there.

Our mailbox out front is secure. Anything you mail to church should come to

New Hope UMC
11600 N. Council Road,
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Thank you!

Exodus House

Robin Wertz, director of Exodus House, (*contact information below*) has indicated the need for any old laptops or tablets.

These would allow the residents to do things online such as applying for food stamps or doing other applications as well as attend online meetings, etc. while folks are in quarantine.

At the moment they do all things virtual because some residents are sick.

These laptops or tablets would stay with the apartment rather than being given to the residents when they move out. If you do donate anything like that, be sure all your personal information, registrations, subscriptions, numbers, etc. has been deleted from the device.

She also mentioned that it would be nice to have items she could put into baskets to make ill residents more comfortable: medicines for colds or flu, fever, stomach ache and soup, crackers, ginger ale or 7up.

They would also like a queen-sized mattress or perhaps memory foam for one that is too firm.

Site Director Robin Wertz C.M., CPRSS

Exodus House OKC

433 N.W. 25th Street # 4 Office

OKC, Ok 73103

Email: exodushouseokc@cjamm.org

405-525-2300 Office

405-417-1189 Donations

SECOND SATURDAY SANDWICHES - outreach to the homeless of OKC

by Tammy Darter

We are continuing our mission downtown to those less fortunate. There is a great need in our city and we are trying to do our part with the help of New Hope.



Ongoing needs: blankets, jeans for both men and women, hoodies, sweatshirts, thermal underwear, socks, gloves and knit hats. Things like handwarmers help. Backpacks to carry their belongings are wonderful.



We are collecting **gloves and hats** specifically. There is a *Christmas tree outside the sanctuary* on which you can place donations. They are much appreciated during cold weather!



Helping Hands Food Pantry

You supplied Thanksgiving meals for 28 client families this year. We took Thanksgiving baskets to 13 families at Exodus House. These are in addition to those served on our regular pantry day in November. Thank you for such generosity!

Needs for December are: EVERYTHING!! We can especially use oatmeal and cereals as well as canned meats.

If you would like to volunteer, we can always use more folks helping.

This would allow volunteers to rotate rather than having to do each pantry day. Contact Mickey Miller or the office!

December 8 is the only day we're open this month. The pantry is usually open the second and fourth Tuesdays from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. We serve those in zip codes 73132, 73142, and 73162 and members of our congregation in any zip code. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

Since things still aren't back to normal, we want to be sure folks know we are grateful for the poinsettias that decorate the sanctuary in mid-December. There are the usual half-sheets on counter if you want to pick one up.

These people purchased plants and are asked to take them home after service December 20 (or ask a friend to take it for you!) You can also pick them up the 21st - 23rd from 9 - 3 p.m.

Since we aren't having in-person services on Christmas Eve, we would rather you have them at home to enjoy during Christmas week.

Buck Collier in memory of wife Carolyn

Pat Crist memory of daughter Rhonda Steinlicht

Keely, Zac, Elyse & Izzy Ellsworth in memory of dad/grandpa George Smith

Keely, Zac, Elyse & Izzy Ellsworth in memory of dad/grandpa Doug Ellsworth

Rick Ernest in memory of wife Charlene

Rick Ernest in honor of daughter & son-in-law Amy & Luis Aita

Rick Ernest in honor of grandsons Landon & Evan Aita

Annette Gravitt in honor of the elderly

Annette Gravitt in honor of the elderly

Jason & Rebekah Hasty in honor of their children Gillian and Hayden

Jason & Rebekah Hasty in honor of twenty-five years of marriage

Mary Jo Pratz in memory of husband Phillip Pratz

Mary Jo Pratz in memory of father J.T. Hyatt

Janie Shea in memory of husband Bob Shea

Janie Shea in memory of mother June McCharen

Janie Shea in memory of father John McCharen

Lucille Smith in memory of husband Jerry Smith

Lucille Smith in honor of her family

Kelly Tower in honor of military persons who will not be home for Christmas

Rosanne & Greg Wells in honor of forty years of marriage



DECEMBER Anniversaries



Dave & Donna Reynolds
Greg & Roseanne Wells
Bob & Margaret Mills
Tommy & Carrie Fagan
David & Helen Johnson
Mike & Jenni Owen
Steve & Debbie Barnett
Keith & Jerry Tippett
Robert & Kristy Goff

*Apologies and late greetings to **Bob & Barbara Shideler** who celebrated their 50th in November!*

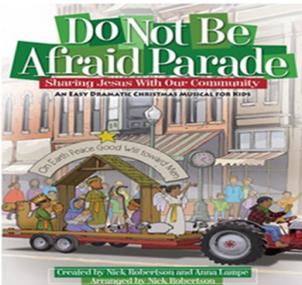


Aileen Foster
Barbara March
Fred Hillemeier
Cade Wetzel
Dustin Rowland
Justin Brewer
Delores Freeland
Richard Canterberry
Steve Clark
Maci Leonard
Roland EchoHawk

& Birthdays

Katie Seay
Kellie Seay
Allie Seay
Rebekah Hasty
Kelly Tower
Audrey Kwok
Margaret Mills
Alex Stewart
Patti Saiz
Alyssa Miller
John Smith
Richard Norman
Dan Korner
Melissa Roberts
Keith Elwood
Jim McClure

Mychael Hamlin
Casey Pattillo
Roger Hurt
Max Murrell
Ken Langert
Paul Stillwell
Diana Diggs
Barbara Moody
Laura Langert
Leah Medina
Christian Plender
Teresa Van Sickle
Peyton Wagner
Rafael Hedrick



"The Don't Be Afraid Parade"

Audiences for the Children's Program this year are different due to numbers in the sanctuary being limited.

As of now, children will perform in person but only their family members will be allowed to be here. There is no reception afterward.

The performance will *also be online*, as we have done worship services for several months.

We're very sorry because so many love to watch these young Christians and they enjoy an audience. Hopefully, things will be better in 2021!

Thank you for understanding.

We said good-bye to **Don Wallace Peterson** in November.

He was well-known to many Oklahomans through his hunting and fishing show syndicated in five states for 23 years.

The service can be found on New Hope's video on U-tube and on our Facebook page. Our sympathies are with Don's family and friends during this time.



Fishing in Heaven cartoon from NCAngler.com



The Valentour family would like to say thank you to Bob Kaiser who prepared the display reminding folks of Norene Valentour's work every year to honor our military on Veterans' Day. Norene was a driving force in Hearts of Hope as well as other groups.

New Hope will host the Strengthening Families' graduation ceremonies/ celebration in January, 2021! Time and date will be in January News.

This program will again meet here for their weekly Thursday meal in Spring with an important change: For the first term, instead of classes or groups furnishing and preparing the meal, Chef José will cook it here.

You can still be of huge help by donating money (marked "Strengthening Families") **or if you would like to volunteer to serve, two individuals each week would be great assistance for José. Watch for more information about how to sign-up.**



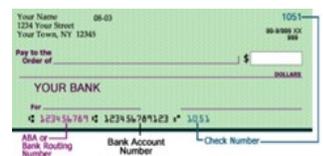
New Hope loves donations! *However*, we don't want anything lost.

When you are giving money or paying for a class, please don't just drop a check loose on the desk, it may easily be misplaced. Also, your information is on it. (pic below as a reminder).

Please give it to a staff member or, if you don't see anyone, put it on the clipboard to right of computer monitor.

There are big clips to hold a paper.

Thank you!



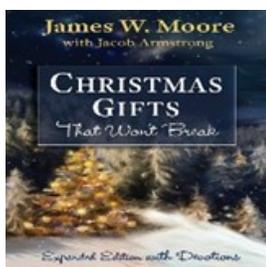
Season's Greetings from Luisa

Greetings! December is here and it is going to be a busy time for the children of New Hope! Don't forget we will NOT meet the following dates:
December 23rd- No Zoom Meeting
December 27th- No evening classes or in-person Church
January 3rd- No evening classes

Christmas Play!

Our Christmas play will be performed on Sunday, December 13th at 6:00 pm. We are currently unsure if it will be in-person or pre-recorded and streamed. At the moment we're thinking in-person for families only and streamed for the rest of the congregation & friends.

Keep an eye on announcements and the New Hope webpage for more information as we get closer. We hope to know by December 3. Dress Rehearsals for this will be on Sunday, November 29th, December 6th and Saturday, December 12th.



Advent began November 29th! We are working to ensure this Advent season is just as special as the ones in the past, if not more so. We are offering Advent boxes for families to pick up to use during this time. Each box will have supplies to go along with our Wednesday evening Advent classes, as well as an Advent wreath and a special family devotional book.

On Sunday, December 20th we will have a total Family Ministry area (preschool, children and youth) Christmas party! We will meet at Frontier City that afternoon for their Holiday in the Park! Look for more information on this as we get closer.

Mark your calendars! *Sunday, January 10th is our first Parent Meeting of 2021! We will meet via zoom at 2 p.m.*

Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Ministry in 2020! It has been a year of constant change and creativity, but we have survived! I am so excited to see what 2021 has in store for us!

Blessings, Luisa Medina

Luisa@newhopeokc.org

Little Blessings

Children's Day Out and Nursery/ Preschool Ministries

CDO

CDO will have a Christmas Program this year but it will be very different from past years in that we will be recording it.

We will post the performance on the CDO Facebook page and on the church Facebook page. We would love for you to see it!

Letters and themes:
week of- Dec. 1st- J- Jesus Is Born,
Dec. 8th- Christmas!

The kids will have class Christmas parties on Dec. 10th which is our last day of CDO for the semester. We will resume on January 5th.

Preschool Ministry

The preschoolers are meeting on Sunday evenings in the classroom for bible stories, crafts, play and music time, and dinner.

During the month of December we will be doing all things Christmas! We also continue to meet through Zoom on Wednesday evenings for a bible story.

Contact Amy with any questions.
Thank you for your support of CDO and Preschool Ministry!

Amy Aita
preschoolministries@newhopeokc.org

CHRISTMAS EVE at HOME bags will be available for pick up December 20 or from the office December 21 - 23.

If you are unable to come get one and would like it delivered, please let the church know by Sunday December 13.

Cast for "The Don't Be Afraid Parade" presented by New Hope Children:

Holiday Parade Emcee- Camden Wetzel
Rylie- Caitlin Dean
Claire- Juliana Peed
Luke- Jackson Moore

Mrs. March- Abigail Williams
Danelle- Elise Dean
Maddie- Lyvia Brown
Zeke- Trevor Sheffield



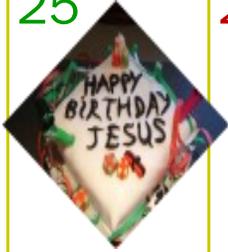
Speakers and Soloists:
Rylee Goff, Wesley Harrison, Savannah Rowland, Karlee Roberts,
Juliet Morgan, Myka Moore, Evan Aita

Choir:
Maddie Marrs, Katie Williams, Cade Wetzel, Garrett Sheffield, Gavin Stephens,
Jacob Stephens, Paige Hepner, Bentley Daniels, Emory Daniels,
Lairyn Hayes, Jackson Peed, David Rowland



New Hope in December, 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>service times are 9:30 & 11:07 except December 24 and 27 when they are online only</p>	<p>10:00 - prayer team 10:00 - Al-Anon</p>	<p>1 9 - 2 CDO</p>	<p>2 9 - 2 - CDO 6:00 - Advent Study 7:00 - Children Zoom</p>	<p>3 9 - 2 - CDO 10:00 - Al Anon & AA</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7 10:00 - prayer team 10:00 - Al-Anon</p>	<p>8 9 - 2 - CDO 1 - 3 - Pantry Open - only time in December</p>	<p>9 9 - 2 - CDO 6:00 - Advent Study 7:00 - Children Zoom</p>	<p>10 9 - 2 CDO - LAST until January 5 10:00 - Al Anon & AA</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:15 - 2nd Saturday Outreach 10 a.m. children's dress rehearsal</p>
<p>13 6:00 - Children's Program* see note page 4</p>	<p>14 10:00 - prayer team 10:00 - Al-Anon</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6:00 - Advent Study 7:00 - Children Zoom</p>	<p>17 10:00 - Al Anon & AA</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Family Ministry party - preschool, children & youth - meet at Frontier City. Check with Luisa re: time</p>	<p>21 10:00 - prayer team 10:00 - Al-Anon</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 NO evening events</p>	<p>24  Christmas Eve Services ONLINE only</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 ONLINE SERVICE NO evening events</p>	<p>28 10:00 - prayer team 10:00 - Al-Anon</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Office is open - donations in if credit for 2020 NO evening events</p>	<p>31 10:00 - AA & Al-Anon</p>	<p>January 1 </p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Rev. Marla Lobo preaching NO evening events</p>	<p>4 10:00 - prayer team 10:00 - Al-Anon</p>	<p>5 9 - 2 CDO resumes</p>	<p>6 9 - 2 CDO</p>	<p>7 9 - 2 CDO 10:00 - AA & Al-Anon</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:15- Second Saturday Outreach</p>