



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE BY IRIS HYMEL

Congregational Life has planned an Easter Breakfast before service Easter Morning.

The Congregation will provide the breakfast dishes. A bowl will be placed on the table for monetary donations. Any collected donations will be given to Debra Caldwell, Mission Elder, to be used for charitable donations.

April brings Earth Day. Debra, our resident Master Gardener, has events planned and CL will provide some seed packets.

May brings the end of the school year. This year New Hope Presbyterian Church will say goodbye to our wonderful Child Development Center. Please join me in offering our prayers and concerns for the families, students, teachers, and staff of the CDC.

New Hope Presbyterian Church feels so very blessed to have been able to work with you all these years.

Iris Hymel, CL Elder

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PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women's Group

By Iris Hymel, Moderator

Your Presbyterian Women have continued to work to support New Hope. We are continuing our Bible Study. Jennye Giles served as Moderator in March since I had recovered from Covid and was cruising the Bahamas.

Lavita Golightly Led the Bible Study, Lesson Seven: *An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus*. Laura Mann will lead Lesson Eight and Lavita has graciously volunteered to end the year by teaching again in May.

Our end of year luncheon has been planned to follow the May meeting. We will have lunch at Brookwood. It is hard to believe another year. Our new slate of officers for 24-25 will be installed by Rev. Judy Pistole and JoAnn Franklin at the May meeting. The slate is:

Jennye Giles, Moderator

Linda Owens, Scribe

Helen Galer, Treasurer

Debra Calwell, Mission

Iris Hymel, Historian

PW will help the CDC with the final Family Dinner. We will provide some of the baked goods for the bake sale, help serve, and provide a boy's and a girl's basket for the auction. It is with a very heavy heart that we will say farewell to our beloved Child Development Center.

We continue prayers that the future of New Hope Presbyterian Church will be bright.

Respectfully Submitted,

Iris Hymel,

Moderator

WORDS OF WORSHIP BY LAVITA GOLIGHTLY



Happy Easter to all, and Also Happy April Fools Day!

Exciting changes are happening at New Hope Presbyterian Church. I hope that you all will actively be a part of all the work that the changes will require. First, though, until the sale of the church is final, many things will remain the same. We are still without a full time minister, but we will have really fine ministers and a lay minister in the pulpit in the coming weeks. The schedule for April follows:

April 7th - Rev. Judy Pistole

April 14th - Linda Owens

April 21st - Rev. Judy Pistole - Earth Day Sunday

April 28th - Cheryl Gans - *Special Note - Time Holder will be out this Sunday.

Music will be provided by Choir guitarists.

WORDS OF WORSHIP (Continued)

Easter Sunday was lovely. Thanks so much to Helen and Dave Galer for picking up and preparing the Easter lilies for the sanctuary. Thanks also for everyone who purchased lilies in honor of and in remembrance of loved ones.

Earth Day Sunday is coming. We hope to acquire bedding plants for the two small beds that are by the front door of the church. Anyone can contribute to our Earth Day celebration! After worship, we will be planting those plants. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of plants, please make a note on a check or envelope that it is for Earth Day plants. We will all enjoy those plants while we continue to worship at New Hope and we will be leaving the church more beautiful for the new congregation in the building.

A Prayer From the Corrymeela Community for March 27th

God Who kneels to wash our feet,
God who tends to feelings Of shame
and discomfort:
In an act that is humbling
And awkward;
Simple yet profound,
You bring a tactical attention
To who we are,
Cleansing and caressing us.
Help us as we make sense
Of why such kindness makes us
Uncomfortable, And why
simple attentive Service
feels so strange.
Amen.

(John 13:4-5) "Then Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was around him." Thought for the Day: In a world where you can BE anything, Be kind!

MISSION AND OUTREACH

By Debra Caldwell



On Saturday, March 9, we had a workday in the Garden of Grace to clean up winter herbs and veggies and planted tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers. A big thank you to Kathy, Barry, Helen, Ed, and Gloria for their hard work in the Garden. We are still harvesting cabbage, kale, chard, and other greens

The New Hope Garden Club had their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 19 with a presentation on Roses by Harris County Master Gardener, Karen Gerlach.

Bruce Hymel will give us an update on the greenhouse he built during our meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd at 7 PM. We hope you will join us!



Thank you, Terry Owens, for delivering \$100 worth of food to the KCM food pantry and restocking the store. Thanks also to those of you who support our food pantry with your donations.

Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of

Sharing. Your donations help the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.



Building Congregational Vitality



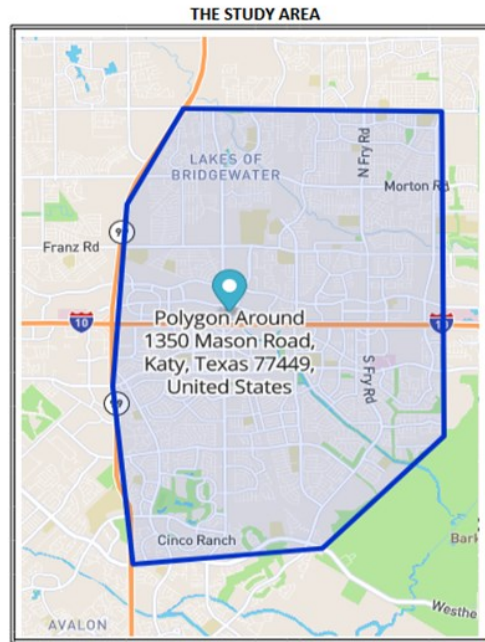
We build congregational vitality by deepening our faith and actively engaging with our community.

Who are the people in our neighborhood?

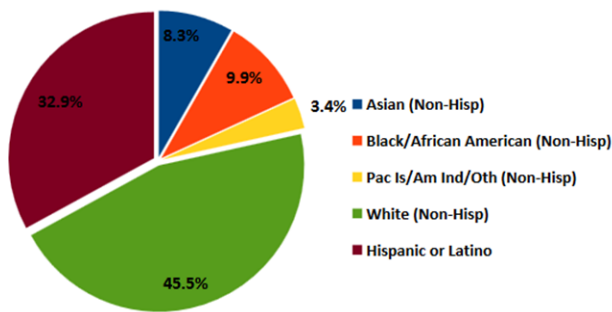
Dave Coles, an 'ambassador' from Presbytery, gave a presentation on using the demographic tool, MissionInsite. Our committee used the tool to generate reports for the study area on the map. All the reports for the current study area are available at this link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2GiGuE1xGohtK89IUH-XMunLP29JK4G?usp=drive_link

The estimated 2023 population within the study area is 142,901. Our community is diverse in terms of race and ethnicity.

The average age of people in the community is about 37 years with about 25% of the population between the ages of 0-17, 25% between 18-34,



Current Year Racial/Ethnic Percentages



23% between 35-54, and 27% are 55 years or older.

In the study area, the estimated current year average household income is \$114,340. In 2023, Our area is split between blue (30.5%) and white (69.5%) collar occupations. Almost 29% of the adult population (25+) has some college or an AA degree, about 29% have

earned a bachelor's degree and almost 16% hold a graduate or professional degree. Most (76%) of the households in our area are comprised of married couples. About 59% of households only speak English at home while almost 28% speak Spanish at home.

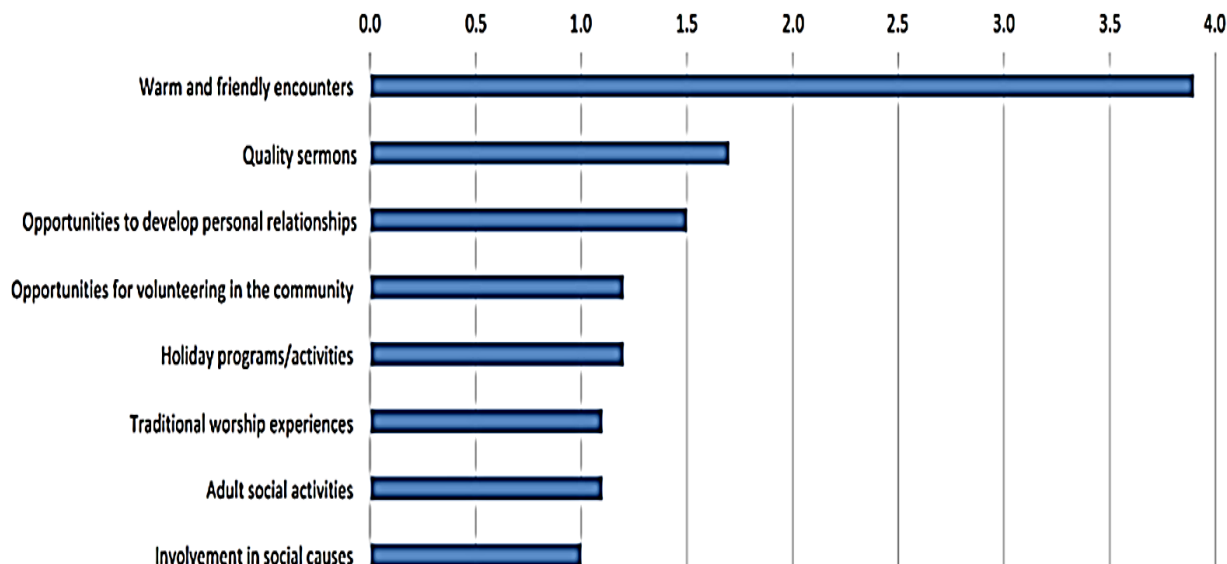
People described their religious preferences with 'None' holding the lead at 31.7%. That means there are 45,000 people in our area with no religious affiliation! For those who indicate an affiliation with a denomination, PCUSA is at 6.8% (almost 6,500 people)!

What matters to people in our neighborhood?

The MinistryInsite report based on the American Beliefs Study national survey provides information about religious beliefs, preferences, and practices in our area. It focuses on concerns, reasons for non-participation, and preferred ministries or programs. The top reasons for non-participation in a religious congregation or religious community in our study area were similar to national averages.

Top 10 of 25 reasons for considering NOT participating in a religious congregation or community				
Ranking	Concern			Ratio Strength
1	Religion too focused on money			4.2 Very Strong Reason
2	Moved from community			3.4 Strong Reason
3	Disillusionment with religion			2.7 Strong Reason
4	No longer believe			2.7 Strong Reason
5	Religious People too Judgmental			2.5 Strong Reason
6	Didn't feel welcome			2.5 Strong Reason
7	Don't believe in God			2.4 Strong Reason
8	Wasn't supportive during crisis/time of need			2.1 Strong Reason
9	Worship/music style			2.0 Strong Reason
10	Strict/inflexible beliefs			2.0 Strong Reason

The graph below shows the programs and services people in this study area consider to be important: New Hope does well in being warm and friendly when we have visitors. We are also blessed to have excellent sermons. We have groups such as PW and the Garden Club as well as our Coffee Fellowship to help people develop personal relationships. Despite our size, New Hope is very strong in Mission and Outreach.



Demographic information about issues that concern people can guide us in developing programs that meet the needs of our community. The most significant personal health and life concern in our study area in 2021 was the ongoing impact of Covid-19. Although that concern may have diminished by now, people have very strong concerns about social and political tensions/discord and racism/racial injustice. As a Matthew 25 church, we can offer a forum or study group to discuss these types of issues.

Unemployment, financing the future/savings/retirement were also a concern for people in the community. New Hope facilities could be used for seminars on retirement and finances. We could host job fairs.

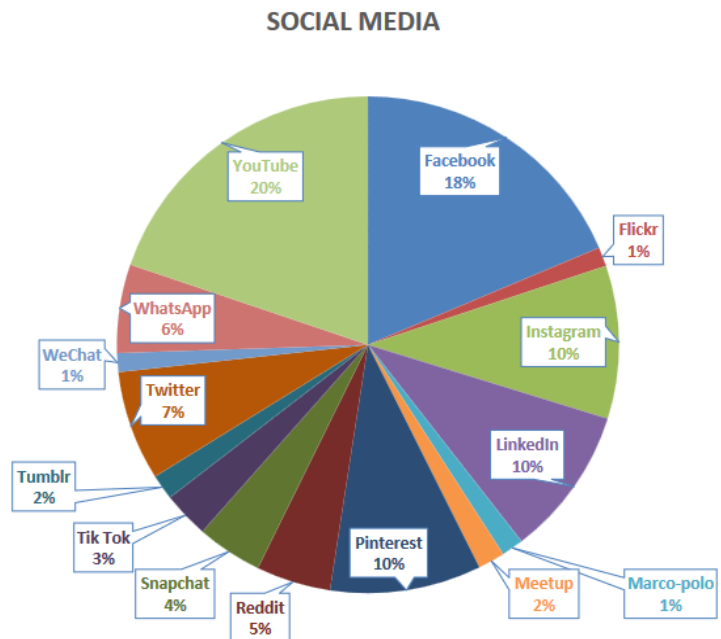
Top concerns about home and family focused on stress, health crises and illness. Mental health issues, depression, and bullying concerned about half of the people. There was also concern about having time for family and friends and balancing work with family needs. Loneliness was a concern for half of the people in the study area. How can New Hope respond? We need to let the public know about Stephen Ministries and can provide space for groups such as AA and community mental health counseling. We can provide space for yoga, physical fitness, and weight watching classes. We can contact teachers with information about renting facilities. Health care providers could use our facilities to offer classes on a number of health and wellness issues.

How can we spread the word about New Hope?

People have many options for news and advertising. Television or cable news are the top two sources while major newspapers come in third. Although social media is ranked lower it has the advantage of being free.

Facebook is used by almost 56% of the people in the study area on a daily or weekly basis. YouTube is watched by 40.5% of people and 26.4% use Instagram daily or weekly. We need to emphasize quality over quantity and have some strategy and unity in messaging.

There is much more information in the reports, but the bottom line is clear. There are almost 142,000 people within five miles of our church including many self-proclaimed Presbyterians and un-churched people. New Hope has tremendous opportunity to grow. The data inform us about the needs of our community and directions for planning ministry and mission. It is up to us to advertise effectively and develop the kinds of programs and missions that appeal to our community.





YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Linda Owens, Clerk to Session

Session met on March 17, 2024 and

we celebrated:

- The continued search for a new building after the sale is complete.
- a total donation of \$212.00 to Feed My Starving Children, as well as having several members participate in a food packing event.
- food delivered to Katy Christian Ministries.
- beginning the process of looking for a new pastor when we sell the building and have the funds available to hire a pastor.
- a successful workday in the Garden of Grace.
- the delivery of a detailed demographic plan of our neighborhood.

we are sorry to report

Our membership declined by one with the death of Cindy Pfeifer-Hill on February 14, 2024.

and we voted to:

Ask our realtor to present our counteroffer on a \$2.3 million offer on the building after it was approved by the congregation.

The session welcomes your prayers of support as we work to sell the building and build awareness of our church.

GREETINGS FROM THE C.D.C



March has come and gone. The children enjoyed the crisp spring air hunting for Easter eggs. Ms. Linda's Easter message for the children during chapel was well received.

Many lessons about seeds and plants were explored. Our teachers were very creative and imaginative as well.

April's activities include the celebration of all the colors on Rainbow Day. We, in collaboration with New Hope Church will be hosting what will be our final Family Dinner and the children are excited to play outside all day on Messy Day.

Sadly, we have begun the task of closing our beloved little school. We are writing the final chapter of the story of New Hope Child Development Center. So many children have passed through our doors over the past 40 years. We laugh and cry as we pore over photos wondering what each child looks like now or would they even remember us? Our hearts are heavy.

But for now, we will take each day as it comes. Love the children in our care and continue to make precious memories.