



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE BY IRIS HYMEL

Last month New Hope Presbyterian Church was thrilled to have two celebrations.

First, the Souper Bowl of Caring. Debra Caldwell did a fantastic job with the Mission part of this celebration, which was setting up and table and collecting the soup. Congregational Life asked the members of the congregation to bring their favorite football snack and decorated the fellowship hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy the preparation for the big game.

Second, we had the honor of celebrating Rev. Judy Pistole's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Pastor. She is very humble and did not ask for any recognition, but we found out and were pleased to surprise her with a cake and an announcement. Congratulations to our very own Rev. Judy Pistole for serving the Presbyterian faith as a Pastor for 20 years. You are a blessing.

In March, we will combine St. Patrick's Day and Mr. Rogers Day into one celebration. Please take out your cardigan and plan to wear it on March 17. Don't forget to wear green. I will have a little green something for anyone who would like or forgets to wear green. Shhh, it's a secret until then.

Faithfully Yours,

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## Presbyterian Women's Group

By Iris Hymel, Moderator

Your Presbyterian Women remain active supporting the church and the community. Helen Galer leads us and the congregation in supporting Feed My Starving Children and Clothed by Faith. She is very giving of her time to these organizations and needs our support. Please, if you are able, contact her to offer your support.

We are continuing our Horizon Bible Study, Sacred Encounters. We meet next on March 6 at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Lavita Golightly will be leading the lesson, *An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus*. Please join us. Our meetings are always open to all women. Jennnye Giles will be moderating this meeting.

We have elected a new slate of officers for the coming year. Our thanks to these ladies for agreeing to serve.

Moderator, Jennnye Giles

Scribe, Linda Owens

Treasurer, Helen Galer

Mission, Debra Caldwell

Historian, Iris Hymel

Sadly, we lost a member, Cindy Pfeifer-Hill, recently. Cindy served as Historian and Mission until her health prevented her from continuing. She was devoted to this group and served diligently. Cindy was kind beyond belief, always putting others before herself. She had an unmeasurable faith in God and will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

Blessings to All,

## WORDS OF WORSHIP BY LAVITA GOLIGHTLY



This is the season of Lent. Reverend Judy Pistole gave a message on Ash Wednesday relating that Lent is for some people a hard time. However Lent is meant to be a time for reflection and repentance. She encouraged us rather than given up something like chocolate or Dr. Pepper (Please! No!), that we should give up more meaningful things, like worrying, and anger, and impatience. These would be more meaningful because of their impact on others. Giving up Dr. Pepper affects others only in how grumpy it makes you! So I encourage you to reflect on what you can “sacrifice” that will have a meaningful impact on others, as well as yourself. These six weeks of Lent are a period of time that is long enough to help these “sacrifices” to become “habits”.

Our Sunday services will be preached by these ministers and lay minister during March:

March 3rd - Rev. Judy Pistole

March 10th - Linda Owens

March 17th - Rev. Judy Pistole - St. Patrick's Day and Mr. Rogers Day

March 24th - Rev. Cynthia Mood - Palm Sunday

March 31st — Rev. Judy Pistole - Easter Sunday

You will notice that Rev. Judy Pistole has really been filling in the gaps for us! I hope that you will be sure to thank her for her sermons and for moderating the session. Many Blessings Judy!

## WORDS OF WORSHIP (CONTINUED)

From the Corrymeela Community

As we begin this season of Lent, we offer this prayer:  
God whose love journeys with us,  
God whose love will hold us close:  
As we begin these forty days And venture into deeper truth,  
May we move towards an embrace  
With a humanity we've lost.  
May we find in simpler living That comforts become crutches;  
That self-protection suffocates.  
And may we then see In a glaring desert light  
A love you have for us,  
A love that can restore us to a place of fuller cont

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God of the peacemakers;  
God of those who fight to grow a peace for others:  
be with all those who do not lash out,  
who look into eyes of those who would harm them,  
and see a fellow child of God.  
It is wearying work, this fight:  
a battle against the urge to give in.  
It is constant at times, this labour of heroes.  
Blessed be the children of God.  
Amen.  
'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'  
(Matthew 5:9)

(Also from the Corrymeela Community)

## Building Congregational Vitality

The Congregational Vitality Committee is working to revitalize New Hope, increase membership and income, and find new sources of revenue. There is still much to do, and we need your help! We have meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 10 am. Join us!

# WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH



Actively engaged in the world

[pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)



**Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.**

### Who are the people in your neighborhood?"



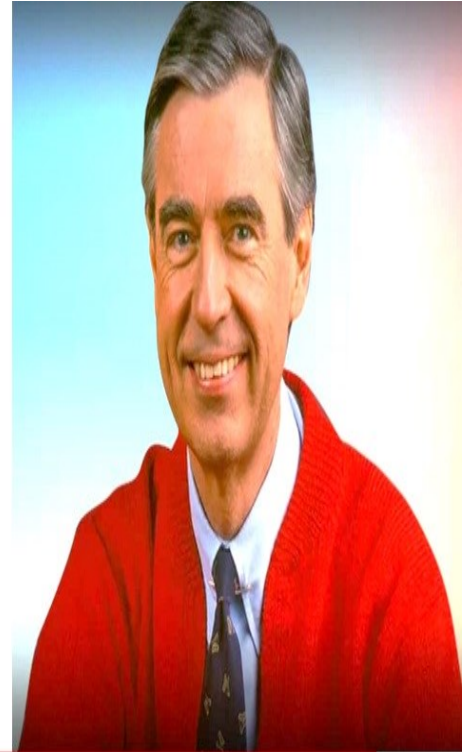
We are blessed to have Dave Coles, from the Presbytery working with our committee. He walks alongside congregations as an "ambassador" and has brought much needed energy and ideas to the committee. In our meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, Dave will give a presentation on Mission Insite, a demographic tool that will help us better understand our community.

Invite someone to church. Ask them if they would like to come WITH you. Be by their side as they step into the unknown. Follow up with visitors to let them know that we care about them. It increases the likelihood that they will come back again.



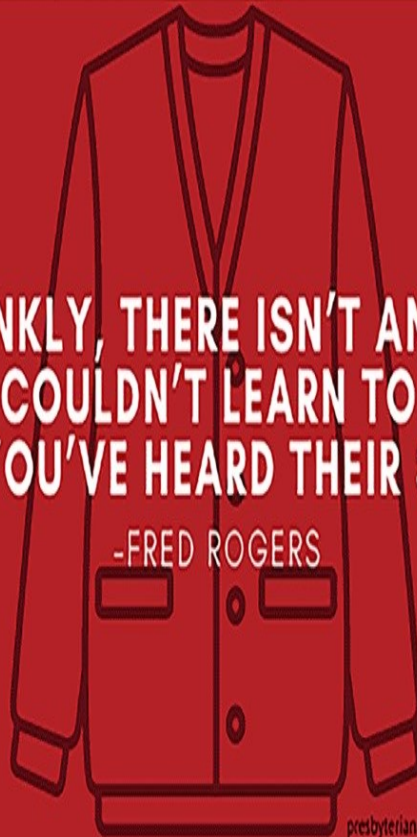
Dust off your cardigans!

Help celebrate Mr. Rogers' birthday  
on Sunday, March 17 after worship!



**"FRANKLY, THERE ISN'T ANYONE  
YOU COULDN'T LEARN TO LOVE  
ONCE YOU'VE HEARD THEIR STORY."**

**-FRED ROGERS**





## MISSION AND OUTREACH

Souper Bowl™ Sunday was February 11<sup>th</sup>. The congregation donated 120 cans and packages (an estimated \$150 worth) of soup which Terry Owens delivered to the Katy Christian Ministry food pantry. He took an additional \$140 worth of food to KCM at the end of the month. Thank you, Terry, and New Hope!!!



Our fruit trees in the Garden of Grace are beginning to bloom! We are still harvesting cabbage, kale, chard, and other greens

The New Hope Garden club had a presentation on Identifying 'Good and Bad' Bugs and Integrated Pest Management in February. We are planning a workday on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am to clean up the garden and begin planting our Spring Veggies. Harris County Master Gardener, Karen Gerlach, will give a presentation on Roses at 7 pm on March 19<sup>th</sup> followed by our business meeting.



## MISSION AND OUTREACH



A big thank you to the Galer family and Jennye Giles for representing New Hope at the Feed My Starving Children food packing event at Pines Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 24.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

February 14-March 31, 2024

Resources for One Great Hour of Sharing were placed in the pews. Please consider giving generously to the three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.







## **YOUR SESSION AT WORK**

**Linda Owens, Clerk to Session**

Session met on February 2024 and we celebrated:

Three offers on the building – two offers to buy the building and one to lease it for 3 years and then purchase it. Session continues to meet and pray over this decision.

A meeting with David Coles from Presbytery on revitalizing our congregation

A successful blood drive.

A successful Souper Bowl of Caring.

Clothing delivered to Clothed by Faith

Food delivered to Katy Christian Ministries

Our giving for January was over budget and our expenses were under budget

We have identified a potential new location for New Hope if we should sell the building.

We are beginning the process of looking for a new pastor if we sell/lease the building and have the funds available to hire a pastor.

We are sorry to report

Because we could not guarantee the Child Development Center that New Hope would still be open for the 2024/2025 school year, the Child Development Center decided to close at the end of this school year.

And we voted to:

Counter an offer to sell the building

The session welcomes your prayers of support as we work to raise funds and build awareness of our church.

GREETINGS FROM THE C.D.C



February was a month of fun activities, and expressions of love and kindness. Ms. Linda presented her first Chapel to the children. Her message centered around God's love and how big his heart is. The children were engaged and asked lots of questions.

March is coming in like a lion and Mother Nature can't make up her mind about the cold! We are celebrating the color purple. The teachers are looking forward to a much-needed break as Spring Break week nears. We are celebrating Easter with class parties and egg hunts. Ms. Linda will be presenting her Chapel message about the Easter story.

This is a big birthday month with 3 staff celebrating. Ms. Julie's is the 21<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Paola, our Teddy Bear teacher is the 12<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Claudia our other Teddy Bear teacher is the 27<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday ☐

Coming Events

*March 2024*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	F	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

COMING EVENTS

- 3/3 Judy Pistole preaching
- 3/9 Garden Clean up and planting 10:00 a.m.
- 3/10 Linda Owens preaching
- 3/17 Judy Pistole preaching.
- 3/19 Garden Club Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 3/24 Palm Sunday Cindy Mood preaching
- 3/31 Easter Sunday Judy Pistole preaching