



Please pray for our Session as they meet for a Ruling Elder retreat on Saturday, February 8th. The Brookwood Community is generously hosting our leadership council meeting in their facility, and we are grateful for their hospitality. During this important gathering, our elders will be seeking God's wisdom and guidance as they discern our church's vision and priorities for the coming year. They will spend time in prayer, fellowship, and strategic planning to better serve our congregation and community. Your prayers for clarity of mind, unity of spirit, and openness to God's leading would be deeply appreciated as they undertake this important work of church leadership.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR by Cindy Mood

It can be challenging to see God's presence in our lives amidst our hustle and bustle. We live fast-paced lives with devices pinging constantly, schedules overflowing. But God is not just a figure from an old story, God continues to move, guide, and work within our community and our individual journeys.

The last Sunday of January, we read from the book of Nehemiah. We remembered how people asked Ezra to share God's Word with them. We saw them stand up as Ezra opened the scroll; they lifted their hands, said "Amen," and bowed their heads to worship. The words read moved people to tears.

When was the last time you cried reading the Bible? When was the last time you shouted with joy hearing Scripture proclaimed? When was the last time you humbled yourself listening to the Word of God? - The people with Ezra knew that God was still moving and working through them. They trusted that the Lord would lead their way amidst uncertainty. Do you trust your God to guide you?

This month, I encourage you to not only pick up your Bible but open it. Scripture can serve as our spiritual compass, offering not just ancient wisdom but a living, breathing connection to God's heart. When we open the Bible, we are not simply reading historical accounts or religious texts—we are entering a conversation with our Creator. Through these sacred words, we find ourselves reflected in the stories of faith, doubt, struggle, and triumph that mirror our own experiences.

But scripture does more than guide—it connects. When we study the Bible together as a community, we create bonds strengthened by shared understanding and mutual growth. Our Wednesday Bible study group recently reflected on how different perspectives on a single passage can deepen everyone's understanding, showing us new facets of God's truth we might have missed on our own. We discover not just the text, but each other's hearts, struggles, and joys as we share our insights and experiences.

A colleague of mine recently returned from the communist country of Laos. The country does everything in its power to restrict gatherings (especially unsanctioned religious ones) and punishes those who try to form connections, particularly those forming Christian ties. Upon return, my colleague told the following story:

In a small village, a group of people met in a man's home for worship every week. They were able to stay under the radar until their growth was apparent to authorities. The police began invading the man's home during worship and even when no one was home. Often, police would break items or steal them. It was tiring, so one day when the police began banging on the door, the man said, "What?! - Are you here to share tea?" The police paused and said they could take a minute for tea before they searched the house. Together, the man and his family sat at table with the invading police. After a while, the man's wife brought out food. Then, the police stood up and said, "just stop doing that church business," and they left. The next day, the police again began their pounding at the door and when the man opened the door, the police asked if he had any more tea. They sat down together again. This happened for a while; eventually the police began to show up for worship – not to destroy the connections but to participate in the congregation's life.

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NEW HOPE NEWS

Try reading scripture aloud with others. Whether it is your family at the breakfast table or a friend over coffee, sharing God's Word aloud creates special bonds and new insights.

Use technology to stay connected. Bible apps offer audio versions perfect for listening during your commute. Many apps also have features for sharing verses and discussions with friends and family.

Explore different translations together. Sometimes reading familiar passages in a new translation can spark meaningful conversations and deeper understanding.

Bring your questions to our community. Whether in Bible study, after service, or during the week, I am here to explore scripture with you. Your questions often lead to discoveries that benefit us all.

Sign up to participate in a digital Lenten discussion group [here](#).

God is still moving, still speaking, still working—not just in ancient texts, but in our community today. Through scripture and one another, we have the privilege of participating in this ongoing divine conversation, finding guidance, connection, and transformation along the way.

Powered by the Word, your Pastor, Cindy Mood



NEW HOPE NEWS





Our new interim pastor, Rev. Cindy Mood, has requested a change to full time instead of part time. Session approved and the PNC is working with Cindy to get a new contract in place ASAP for Presbytery. This is wonderful news. Cindy has shown dedication to all of us and to our journey. We thank you Cindy.

Session approved the communion schedule for 2025 along with approval for Cindy to offer communion to anyone in the hospital or homebound requesting to receive communion.

March 9 and 16 Cindy will be in Kansas visiting her family. Elder Linda Owens will provide pulpit supply on March 9 and Rev. Barbara Retzloff will join us on March 16. Cindy is scheduled to preach every Sunday except those two through June 8.

Ash Wednesday, March 5, signifies the beginning of the Lenten Season. Good Friday is April 18. We will have our Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services at Noon each of those days at the Owens home. Many thanks to Linda and Terry. We will celebrate Easter on April 20.

Respectfully,

Iris Hymel

A graphic for an Ash Wednesday service. At the top, the text "New Hope Presbyterian Church" is written in a gold, sans-serif font against a black background. Below this is a photograph of a shallow, light-colored ceramic bowl filled with dark ash. A small, rustic wooden cross is placed in the center of the ash. To the left of the bowl, there are green palm fronds. Overlaid on the image is the word "Ash" in a large, elegant, gold cursive font, and "WEDNESDAY" in a bold, white, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom of the graphic, the date and time "March 5 - 12:00" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below that, the address "26634 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77493" and the website "newhopepckaty.org" are written in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font.

New Hope Presbyterian Church

Ash
WEDNESDAY

March 5 - 12:00
26634 Morton Road, Katy, TX 77493
newhopepckaty.org

Join us for our **Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 12:00 PM** as we mark the beginning of the Lenten season. During this meaningful midday service, you'll receive the imposition of ashes - a powerful reminder of our mortality and need for repentance. Whether you're a regular member or simply seeking a moment of spiritual reflection during your lunch hour, all are welcome to participate in this ancient Christian tradition. The service will be brief yet profound, allowing you to return to work while carrying the day's significance with you. Our noon timing makes it convenient for those working nearby to step away during their lunch break. No need to RSVP - simply come as you are.

Sign up for a Digital Discussion Group

HOSTED BY
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Groups run between
Ash Wednesday (3/5)
and Easter Sunday (4/20).

Participate on
your own time.
Participation via GroupMe.

1ST 30 PEOPLE TO SIGN UP GET A FREE BOOK!

For more information visit newhopepckaty.org

Join us this Lenten season for an engaging digital discussion group centered around Matt Rawle's thought-provoking book "The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels." Running from Ash Wednesday (March 5) through Easter Sunday (April 20), this flexible study allows you to participate on your own schedule through GroupMe, making it perfect for busy schedules and diverse time commitments. As an added incentive, the first 30 people to sign up will receive a FREE copy of the book! This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith journey during Lent while connecting with fellow church members and the community in a modern, accessible format. The discussion will help us explore the Gospel narratives of Jesus' final days, bringing fresh insights to this sacred season. To join, simply scan the QR code or visit newhopepckaty.org for more information. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of our Lenten community, even if you can't make it to in-person studies. Sign up today to secure your free book and join us on this meaningful journey through Lent.

HAPPY FEBRUARY!

From: Congregational Life



Hello. This is Jill Giles. I am so excited to be an important part of New Hope Presbyterian Congregational Life. I am even more excited to have my mother, Jennye Giles and the “hostess with the mostest” Wendy Petit on the committee with me. Here are some notes from our committee:

Hospitality: The February/March sign-up sheet is out. We can’t wait to see what unexpected delights you bring on the Sunday of your choice.

Special Events: Join us in February for the annual Valentine’s Day celebration-on February 9, directly after worship. Please sign-up on the sign-in sheet.

Meal Train: Do you know someone that could use a homemade meal delivered to their residence? Please contact Jill Giles at Jill4nia@gmail.com .

Congregational Care: February’s Birthdays include Jerry Franklin, February 01, Sam Windham 2/06, & Balde Saenz 2/24. Anniversaries include Cathy & Barry Bettes 2/22 and Sam and Kathy DeSantis 2/24. Best Wishes to all!

Calling and Visiting: I will be making calls to check in with my church family. Please add my phone number to your contact list: [Jill Giles \(240\) 374-9422](tel:2403749422).

Transportation: We are currently providing transportation for the Atria residents. To make a request for **transport** contact Jill Giles.

To volunteer to serve on the committee, receive care or request care, Any questions please text Jill Giles: (240)374-9422 or email at Jill4nia@gmail.com.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

By Debra Caldwell

The next meeting of the **New Hope Garden Club** will be Tuesday, February 18, 6 pm Tuesday at the **Katy Branch Library** meeting room, 5414 Franz Road in Katy. We will have a presentation on Soil followed by refreshments and a short business meeting. A field trip to the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science will be rescheduled in February or March.



Please bring cans of soup to church on **“Souper Bowl” Sunday**, February 9th to vote for your favorite team. Bring beef soup to support the Chiefs or chicken soup for the Eagles!

Join the New Hope team to work at the **Feed My Starving Children** food packing event on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at Pines Presbyterian Church. Contact [Helen Galer](#) if you would like to join our team!



Building Congregational Vitality



Many thanks to everyone who completed the 'Congregational Reflection'. Here are a few of the good outreach ideas that were suggested to continue and increase our community involvement:

- .tabling at events such as the Rice Festival
- .organizing a "Community Grandparents" initiative to provide emotional support and practical help to struggling local families
- .support program for families who are new to Katy
- .community garden
- .adopting a local school, tutoring
- .Bible school
- .monthly outdoor marshmallow roasts for grandparents and grandkids with a fireside story time at a public park or community center
- .support for local groups such as Boy Scouts, AA, etc.

What this means is that WE NEED YOU! None of these ideas can happen without your help. We are called to be good managers of everything that God has given us. Stewardship often focuses on finances but also includes your time and talents to support our ministries.



The LEADS Connect Strategic Planning team continues to meet to identify target groups and find innovative ways to advertise. Our new pastor, Rev. Cindy Mood, has joined the team and is leading the effort in communications. We need your help to plan for the future and find ways to serve our community. Our next Congregational Vitality committee meeting is Wednesday, February 19 at 2 pm.



YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Linda Owens, Clerk to Session

Session met on January 19, 2025, and we voted to:

Adjust our per capita to \$682.92 to Presbyter. Per capita is based on membership from the previous year and had been calculated on membership for this year.

Purchase a new computer for Rev. Cindy Mood.

Approve the clerk's Annual Statistical Report which was forwarded to the Presbytery.

Voted to get an Amazon credit card and a credit card for the PNC.

Voted to make Rev. Cindy Mood's contract full-time.

Approved communion dates for all of 2025.

Voted to ask our realtor to move forward on a property on Rosner Road.

Re-elected the Clerk for 2025.

And celebrated the:

Plans for a Valentine's Day luncheon on February 9, 2025.

New Hope's being on Instagram

Plans for a Lenten study to be led by Rev. Cindy Mood.

Plans to collect cans of soup for Souper Bowl Sunday.

The session appreciates your continued prayers as we work to find a new place to worship.





Bank Balances: as of January 28, 2025

Operating Account	\$61,898.15
Special Account	\$ 8,423.08

The large increase in the Operating Account is because the CDC closed their bank accounts and that money was then deposited in the New Hope Operating Account. The money left in the CDC accounts after all their obligations were met was \$37,876.95.

A check was sent to Presbytery from the Special Account for the Joy Offering we collected. This amount was \$445.00.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS	
JERRY FRANKLIN	2/1
CHARLIE MOOD	2/11
BALDE SAENZ	2/24

<i>February 2025</i>						
Su	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	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	

Happy
Valentines!

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES		
BARRY & CATHY BETTES	2/22	28 YEARS
SAM & CATHY DESANTIS	2/24	57 YEARS



COMING EVENTS

- Feb 8th Elder Training at Brookwood
- Feb. 9th is the Super Bowl - Souper Bowl of Caring. Bring canned soup for our drive
- February 9th Valentine's Day lunch - contact Jill Giles
- New Hope Garden Club business meeting and master Gardner Presentation on Soil Tuesday, Feb 18th at 6pm at Katy Branch library
- Feed My Starving Children food packing event 2/22 at Pines Presbyterian Church. Contact Helen Galer

We may have a congregational meeting next Sunday