



## Congregational Life by Iris Hymel

I have enjoyed being your Congregational Life Elder. All of you are so much fun and I feel blessed to be have served you. Session

has changed. Lavita has completed her term and I am moving to her place as Worship Elder. Jill Giles is coming in and she will be your Congregational Life Elder. She is excited to have this opportunity to serve. She will be amazing. Thank you again for the opportunity and the support you have given me.



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saries, Calendar*

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR by Cindy Mood

New Friends at New Hope,

I'm excited to be joining you as your interim pastor! As I sit down to write this first note for the newsletter, I'm already feeling blessed by the warm welcome my family and I have received from everyone we've met; I look forward to getting to know each of you personally. My family has been touched by the genuine spirit of fellowship we've witnessed in our short time here.

A quick introduction: I'm a lifelong Presbyterian and granddaughter of a Presbyterian minister who showed me what it means to love like Jesus. I was the only child my age in my childhood church, but even at my young age, I was intent on finding a church home. In middle school, I attended a Missouri-Synod Lutheran Church, taking their confirmation classes. In high school, I attended a Mennonite Church, attending winter youth camps. I served on Youth Presbytery Committees and attended Synod and General Assembly as a Youth Advisory Delegate. I experienced a church merger and, in college, grieved as my home congregation withdrew from the PCUSA, becoming ECO.

All the while, my parents did foster care, welcoming over 60 children over 17 years. No matter who entered my house, I was expected to treat them as a child of God. Beneath the hardship and heartache entering my home, we built a foundation of belonging and love. Each of my many siblings and experiences taught me something valuable about God's faithfulness.

As your interim pastor, my role is unique. While we journey together, I will:

- Resource and nurture all the good things happening at New Hope
- Help us process the departure of previous pastors and prepare for your next called pastor
- Work with the Session to assess our church's current needs and opportunities
- Ensure that worship, pastoral care, and day-to-day church life continues smoothly

Walk with you as we pray and discern where God is leading New Hope

I believe that interim periods, while sometimes challenging, can be times of extraordinary growth and renewal for a congregation. They provide an opportunity to reflect on our church's identity, strengthen our foundations, and envision new possibilities for ministry.

Although I am part-time, and working from home, please feel free to contact me anytime. I would love to meet you anywhere to chat, pray together, or simply to say hello. You can reach me at 281-810-3341 or [cmood@newhopepckaty.org](mailto:cmood@newhopepckaty.org).

I'm truly looking forward to this journey together. New Hope has been faithfully serving God and this community; I'm excited to see how God will continue to work through this congregation in the months ahead!

With joy in Christ,

Rev. Cindy Mood, LCSW-S  
Interim Pastor

P.S. My passion for ministry coincides with a passion for Social Work. The letters behind my name stand for Licensed Clinical Social Worker, board-approved supervisor.



## MISSION AND OUTREACH

By Debra Caldwell

*Thank You!*

Thank you, New Hope, for your generosity during the Christmas season. Many donated to the **Christmas Joy Offering**.

**Stuffed Animal Drive**--we delivered 37 stuffed animals to the Katy Police Department for first responders to use to comfort children in traumatic situations.

Ten people donated 13 units during the December 15th **Blood Drive**. As always, Terry Owens did a wonderful job organizing the Blood Drive.

The **New Hope Garden Club** met at 7 pm Tuesday, December 10 to elect officers and develop a schedule for next year. A field trip to the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science is scheduled for January 11. The next meeting will be at 7 pm Tuesday, January 21 with a presentation on Soil. Contact [Debra Caldwell](#) for more information.



We are organizing a 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!

### Stewardship

New Hope is a little church with a big heart! During the past year we gave blood, collected stuffed animals, donated food to Katy Christian Ministries, gave clothes to Clothed by Faith, packed food, donated money for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and many other worthy causes. We plan to continue to serve our community with our time, talent, and generosity but we need your help! Please support our ministries financially by making your pledge for the new year and support our Mission and Outreach program.

## Building Congregational Vitality



### Congregational Reflection

We learned so much from our Listening Luncheon and the Survey you completed in the summer! Session, the Congregational Vitality committee, and our

LEADS Connect Strategic Planning team want to continue to hear from you.

In January, you will have the opportunity to answer a few questions to help us discern how we can focus outward and welcome new people to New Hope.

There are several ways to submit your answers. You can fill in the form electronically. Here is [the link to the electronic form](#). We will also make printed copies available if you would like to take pen to paper. There will be a basket for you to turn in written responses. Please submit your replies by January 12<sup>th</sup>.



### Stewardship

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. We need your help to plan for the future and find ways to serve our community. Please join us for our next Congregational Vitality committee meeting at 2 PM on Wednesday, January 15. Your input is vital for the Strategic Planning team. Help support our ministries financially by making your pledge for the new year.





## YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Linda Owens, Clerk to Session

Session met on December 22, 2024, and we voted to:

Pay our per capita of \$574.52 to Presbytery.

Ask the congregation to respond to a series of reflection requests.

And celebrated the:

collection of 13 units of blood during the blood drive.

the delivery of our stuffed animals to the Katy Police Department.

plans to have an Ash Wednesday and a Good Friday service this year.

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





**Bank Balances: as of December 29, 2024**

<b>Operating Account</b>	<b>\$24,176.07</b>
<b>Special Account</b>	<b>\$8,721.05</b>

Thank you to the congregation for supporting New Hope through the transition period. Your pledges and donations are very appreciated. We will need your support now that we have an interim pastor and our expenses will increase over the next year. The session is working hard to find a new property for us. When we get a building our expenses will increase substantially. At the present time we are holding our own. Our income is \$19,332 over expenses.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS	
PEG FERGUSON	1/8
TIM HOLDER	1/12
MEGHAN BETTES	1/13



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES
NO ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

<i>January 2025</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	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	29	30	31	

**COMING EVENTS**

12/31 & 1/1/25	New Years Holidays
1/5	Cindy Mood preaching
1/8	Presbyterian Women 10:00 a.m.
1/10	Stephen Ministry 10:00 a.m.
1/12	Linda Owens preaching
1/19	Cindy Mood preaching. Session meeting following worship
1/20	Holiday Martin Luther King;s birthday
1/24	Stephen Ministry 10:00 a.m.
1/26	Cindy Mood Preaching