



Merry Month of May from Congregational Life!

Hospitality: Love an exciting morning nibble? Be sure to share your excellent taste by signing up for coffee concession! Sign up is located on the piano!



Special Events: Mother's Day is May 11th. Please join us for a special tribute to mothers! Our monthly luncheon will celebrate Memorial Day Weekend. Join us at Midway BBQ on Sunday May 25th, 12:00 pm.

Meal Train: Do you know someone that could use a home-made meal delivered to their residence? Please text or email. Thank you.

Congregational Care: Birthdays: Kirsty Rainey 5/02, Kelly Ferguson 5/05, Lavita Golightly 5/14, Laura Mann 5/19, Rob Bliton 5/23, Annelise Hill 5/27, Lynn Schulenberg 5/30, **Anniversaries:** Charles & Cindy Mood 5/03, Ron & Fiona Day 5/04, Balde & Edna Saenz, 5/27.

Calling and Visiting: Thank you, New Hoppers for contacting your friends and family for a wonderful turnout at Easter!

Transportation: We are currently providing transportation for the Atria residents. If there is anyone that you know that needs a ride. Please call or grab my ear after worship.

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

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Dear New Hope Presbyterian Church Family,

A HOME TO CALL OUR OWN

With gratitude and excitement, I'm thrilled to share that we are finally going under contract to purchase a property that will become our new church home! After worshiping in a family member's home since last August, this marks a significant milestone in our journey together.

I want to extend my deepest thanks to our Session for their extraordinary leadership during this transitional period. Their wisdom and dedication have guided us through the sale of our former building, the search for a new property, my own hiring as your interim pastor, and now, as we prepare to enter a new space. Their faithful stewardship during this season of change has been truly inspiring.

TOUCHING THE WOUNDS OF OUR NEIGHBORS

As I shared in my sermon last Sunday (4/27/25), we are called to come out from behind our locked doors to meet our neighbors where they are—not to fix anything, but simply to be present and open. Like Thomas who touched Jesus' wounds, we need to get close enough to touch the wounds of our community.

To put this calling into action, we are launching a neighborhood listening initiative. We encourage everyone to participate by going out two-by-two to listen to organizations in our new neighborhood. This isn't about immediately offering solutions or services—it's about building relationships and understanding the true needs and hopes of those around us.

We will hold a brief training session for this initiative after worship on Sunday, May 18th. Your participation will be vital as we discern how God is calling us to serve in our new location.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

May is also a time to celebrate our graduating seniors! On Sunday, May 18th, during worship, we will honor Laurey Day and Olivia Martinez as they prepare to embark on the next chapter of their life's journey. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to celebrating this milestone with them and their families.

As we move forward into this exciting new phase of our church's life, let us remember that our strength lies not in our building but in our community of faith. Together, we will continue to grow, serve, and bear witness to God's love in our new neighborhood.

With hope and faith,

P.S. RESURRECTION ROLLS RECIPE

On Easter Sunday, I shared the story of how our family made “Resurrection Rolls,” aka “Empty Tomb Rolls” for the first time. Zippy and Lurena enjoyed talking about Jesus’ life and marveled that “marshmallow Jesus” disappeared after baking. Because these rolls are delicious and easy, I wanted to share the recipe with you here.

Please note that I did not create this recipe and the internet has a gazillion variations.



RECIPE CONTINUES ON NEX PAGE

INGREDIENTS

- 12 Rhodes Rolls, *thawed**
- 12 large marshmallows
- 4 Tbsp (57 g) butter, *melted*
- ¼ cup (50 g) granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp ground cinnamon

EQUIPMENT

Muffin Pan or 9x13 Casserole Dish
Rolling Pin

INSTRUCTIONS

*THAW Rhodes rolls on a lightly greased baking sheet covered with sprayed plastic wrap for 1-2 hours at room temperature, or overnight in the refrigerator. Just long enough for the rolls to thaw and be pliable, but not completely risen.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease your chosen baking dish with cooking spray. Set aside.

Melt butter in a bowl in the microwave. Mix the cinnamon and sugar in a separate bowl.

Use a rolling pin to flatten a thawed roll into a circle.

Roll a large marshmallow in melted butter, then cinnamon sugar, and place it in the center of the flattened dough.

Lift the edges of the dough around the marshmallow and pinch the seams together well. Dip the top of the roll in the melted butter and then the cinnamon sugar. Place the roll seam-side down into the prepared muffin/cupcake pan.

Repeat with each dinner roll. Let rolls rest for 15 minutes.

Bake rolls at 350°F for 15 minutes or until golden. Immediately invert rolls onto a platter. Eat while warm. (TIP: Soak pan ASAP for easy cleaning, especially if marshmallow oozed out.)



Worship News

Iris Hymel, Worship Elder

Rejoice! Rejoice! He is risen!

We were busy this past week preparing for Easter. Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus's arrival into Jerusalem. His followers welcomed him with palm leaves. In Biblical times, palm branches represented peace, joy, righteousness, and eternal life. Rev. Cindy gave everyone a "palm" cut out to sign our names on as a commitment to our faith in Jesus, then she collected the palms. To Be Continued.

Good Friday service was held at noon at the Owens' home. The service was sad but meaningful and very touching.



Mother Nature was kind to New Hope Presbyterian Church's Easter Celebration and gave us a gorgeous day to celebrate Jesus's ascension. We were able to hold our service outside. We decorated our traditional flower cross.

Worship News (continued)

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Passers-by were happy to see us worshipping and many honked their horns to say hello. We welcomed new faces, familiar faces, returning faces, and children's faces. The day was glorious. Rev. Cindy revealed her plan for the palms she collected on Palm Sunday and provided palms for anyone who needed a palm. Everyone was enthused to see this cross made with our palms. Thank You Rev. Cindy.



We are now in the Easter Season and approaching Pentecost. Pentecost falls on June 8 this year. HEADS UP COMMITTEE, I am going to plan a meeting so we can discuss how we want to prepare for Pentecost, so put your thinking caps on. Suggestions are welcome from everyone so please don't be shy. Do plan on wearing red and expect to see lots of red in church.

Thank you for the privilege to serve you as your Worship Elder. Please feel free to make suggestions concerning your wants and needs for our worship services. You will be listened to.

Iris Hymel, Worship Elder



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Katy Christian Ministries has several programs that need volunteers. Participation in one or more would be a great way for New Hope members to give back to the community and to listen to our neighbors! There's something for people with different levels of ability, interest, and time. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



The **New Hope Garden club** will meet at Katy Branch Library at 7 PM on May 13. Harris County Master Gardener, Chevvy Tang, will give a presentation on Native Plants.

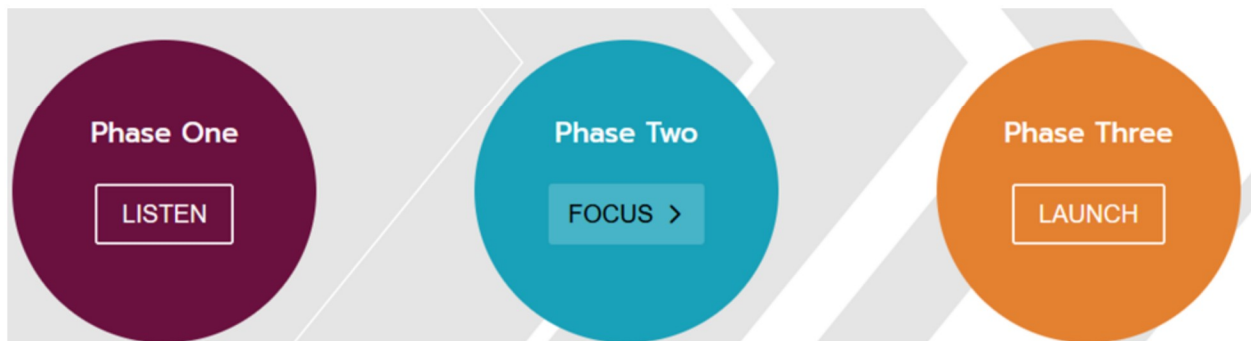
On June 8, 2025, our **Pentecost Offering** will be collected to support at-risk children, youth, and young adults





BUILDING CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

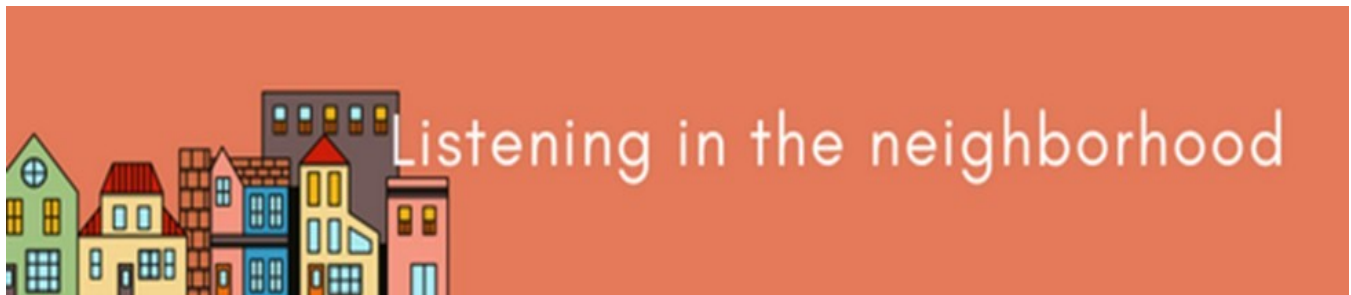
We have been working with [Leadconnects](#) to help New Hope enter into intentional discernment through prayer, scripture and listening to the Holy Spirit. A recent article in the Presbytery newsletter, explained, “Just as in life, we can become stuck in our congregational journey of faith. Stuck in the cherished past, stuck in a mindset of scarcity of financial resources and/or labor, and even stuck in fear of the unknown future.” We are working with LEADConnect to get “unstuck” and develop a strategic plan for the future.



Phase One of the Strategic Planning process is listening—first by turning inward and then outward. During the past year, we listened to members of our congregation with a survey, reflection, listening lunch, and focus groups. Your input has been invaluable for helping us understand your hopes and concerns about New Hope’s future. Now it’s time to turn outward and listen to our neighbors.



We will learn about a wide range of needs and ideas—far more than our little church can address. After we complete the listening process in August, we can begin to focus on how New Hope fits into the community and set priorities. It is an essential part of the Mission Study process and will help us discern the best way for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community



We plan to form Listening Teams of two people who will meet with neighborhood leaders at churches, mission partners, schools, fire and police departments, and others to learn about their organizations and work in the community.

One person on the team will function as a facilitator and ask several questions while the other person will take notes. The purpose of the visit is to listen and learn—not 'sell' New Hope or get new members. We have a process for preparing, conducting the interview, a list of questions to ask, and a process for submitting your notes to the Congregational Vitality committee.

Join a Team!



YOUR SESSION AT WORK

Linda Owens, Clerk to Session

Your Session met on April 13, 2025, and we celebrated :

that we will have a Good Friday service at noon on April 18 at the Owens' home.

that we have two graduating seniors this year – Olivia Martinez and Laurey Day.

the delivery of the foods we collected for Katy Christian Ministries. Special thanks to the Galers for delivering the food to KCM.

Cindy's looking into a grant that would allow us to start live-streaming our services.

that the Korean Church on Roesner Lane is interested in selling us their property.

the decision to reach out to our neighbors at our new location to see how we could best assist them.

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

