



Happenings

★ DECEMBER 2021 | JANUARY 2022 ★

The Cradle and the Cross

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The My family loves Christmas. We enjoy decorating our home, not least with a tree adorned with beautiful ornaments. Over the years, we've acquired quite a collection of Christmas ornaments. Each one tells a story, reminding us of meaningful experiences and significant people throughout our lives. One ornament, the product of a first-grade Sunday school class, brings up happy childhood memories. Another ornament, a small rendition of Edinburgh Castle, prompts joyful reflection on a rich season of life when my wife and I lived in Scotland. Near that one hangs an ornament given to us by beloved family members who've since departed this valley of tears for a better country. As we hang these sentimental ornaments on the tree, they invite us to take a walk down memory lane. They also remind us of God's unwavering goodness, mercy, and faithfulness in Christ.

However, there is one ornament in our collection that, more than all the others, stirs our affections. The ornament is in the shape of an eight-inch iron spike, like those used by Roman soldiers to nail Jesus to the cross. Before we place it on the tree, our family

tradition is for each of us hold it for a few moments as I recount the true meaning of Christmas.

*Worship Christ the newborn baby
Born to die upon the tree
Thorns and nails will one day pierce
Him, bearing wrath to set us free.*

Jesus was born and placed in a manger in Bethlehem so that one day He would die on a wooden cross in Jerusalem. The soft, tiny hands that clung to the Virgin Mary would one day be pierced through by sharp iron spikes. The infant brow tenderly caressed by Joseph would years later be brutally punctured by a crown of thorns. Newborn tears would in the future give way to soul-wrenching cries of anguish at Gethsemane and Calvary. Here's the point: Christmas cannot be truly understood apart from the cross. Our meditations on the cradle must always find their way to the cross.

God sent His eternal Son into the world to be more than just a good example or a wise teacher. God sent Him to perfectly fulfill the requirements of the law, and then, as a righteous substitute, satisfy God's justice

on Calvary. Christ bore God's wrath on the cursed tree, not for His own guilt but for yours and mine. "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities . . . and with his wounds we are healed" (Isa. 53:5). This is why Jesus came—to rescue us from what our sins deserve.

Therefore, as you consider Jesus' birth this Advent season, don't forget about the cross. Jesus was born to die. May this truth stir up new measures of love, wonder, and praise this special time of year.

*Now all those who love and fear Him
Saved by grace through faith alone
Kneel in humble adoration
At His manger, at His throne.*

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 2021

6:00PM

What's New in the Library?

Nonfiction

- * *Faith in the Time of Plague* (Coleman)
- * *Flourish: How the Love of Christ Frees Us from Self-focus* (Brownback)

Christmas

- * *Christmas in the Alps* (Carlson)
- * *A Jesus Christmas* (Reaach)
- * *A Tale of Two Hearts*-CD (Griep)

Children

- * *The Midnight Fair* (Sterer)
- * *Turtle in a Tree* (Hudson)

November Trivia Question

What is one thing that happens on the first Sunday in December?

- 1—Trivia question winner is announced
- 2—Thanksgiving books are displayed
- 3—Library calendar changes to December
- 4—Christmas in the Library

Answer is 4: Christmas in the Library. Congratulations Malachi Van Noord! Please stop in the Library to pick your prize!

December Trivia Question

What songs are featured in Alistair Begg's book, Christmas Playlist?

- A. Begg's personal favorite playlist of Christmas songs.
- B. The stories behind well-known Christmas carols.
- C. Songs from the Bible surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ.
- D. Secular Christmas songs and the worldview they convey.

Annual Meeting

New Hope's Annual Meeting will take place on January 24th at 7:00pm. Should there be issues with the weather, the snow date for the Annual Meeting will be January 31st at 7:00pm.

Christmas in the Library

Join the Library Committee in New Hope Library on Sunday, December 5, after the worship service for our annual Christmas Open House. Enjoy a delicious Christmas cookie while you browse through the many Christmas books, DVDs, and CDs.

If you'd like to give a Christmas gift to the library, suggestions for media items are on the Giving Tree right outside the library. You may take a tag and purchase the item yourself or let us purchase it for you. Library volunteers will be happy to help if you have any questions.

Training Hearts & Teaching Minds

In each generation, the church's most critical task is to uphold and proclaim the truth as it was delivered by the Lord. One important aspect of this task is the diligent preparation of the church's children to continue to be the support pillar of the truth in the generation to come. Did you know that New Hope offers a free devotional book? *"Training Hearts, and Teaching Minds"* makes teaching the Shorter Catechism to your family an easy task. This book of daily readings contains a question and answer from the catechism with six days' worth of devotional readings for each question. Check in with a Library volunteer to learn more!

Evangelism Corner

The following is an excerpt from outwardOPC. To read the full article, please go to: www.outwardopc.com/2021/11/16/opc-pastors-talk-outreach-dave-veldhorst-part-1/?swcfpc=1

"The gospel of God's grace produces within us a robust theology of sin where sin is more than just discrete acts done or not done to break the rules God has given us. Sin is actually the desire to take any good thing and make it an ultimate treasure of our heart other than Jesus Christ. The gospel produces this robust theology of sin, which then enables us to have a humble yet critical engagement with the culture around us. Humble in that we routinely will be engaged with people who struggle with the same idols of the heart we do. Critical in that we are more courageous because of our union with Christ and our dying to the fear of man."

New Hope Treasurer Position

After 33 years of faithful service as New Hope's treasurer, Dave Vander Ploeg will be retiring from this position in early 2022. As a result, the New Hope treasurer position will soon be vacant and will need to be filled. The goal is to identify a replacement as soon as possible so the new treasurer can train with Dave during the first half of 2022. A detailed job description is available at the Welcome desk or can be obtained by contacting the church office. If you are interested and have questions about the position please feel free to contact Dave Vander Ploeg at 920-202-4213 or email at vanderploeg.dave@gmail.com.

New Administrative Assistant

We are so excited to welcome Rachel Hollenbeck on board as New Hope's new Administrative Assistant! Rachel will spend some time in training through December and Liliana will transition out by the end of the year.

Women's Sunday School

Women's Sunday school December through January will be discussing the book *World On Fire*, about walking in wisdom in these troubling combative times. Join us on Sunday's at 8:30am in the Conference Room.

Perspectives 2022

Join us and experience God's heart for all peoples and encounter the momentum of the World Christian Movement. Perspectives will open the eyes of your heart with fresh knowledge and understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they're relevant to your life. In the course of 15 weeks, you will hear from 15 different instructors as they teach about God's kingdom and His glory. Find out more at perspectives.org.



Christmas Program

Our annual Christmas Program and Cookie Social is coming up on Sunday, December 12th at 6pm. Invite your friends and family to see this children's program as well as listen to our Christmas Choir! We also need people to bring dessert for the social afterwards, so please sign up at the welcome center if you are willing to help in that way.

Women's Sunday School

Women's Bible study for the new year will begin January 17th /18th. We'll be studying the books of First and Second Peter for 10 weeks with a study guide that will cost \$10. Please contact Janet Smies or Jean Opelt for more information.

Snow Camp

Calling all youth grades 6-12th! Save the date for our annual Snow Camp on February 4th-6th. Join us for a weekend of Worship and Biblical teaching, great meals and unlimited hot chocolate, fellowship with old and new friends, fun with carpetball, tubing, broomball, ice skating, ping-pong, cross-country skiing and much more!! Registration information to come.

Weather Cancellations

Whether it's Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall we want to make sure that we are keeping our New Hope Family safe. In the event of severe weather, New Hope Church will be using the following procedures to inform you of closings and cancellations.

Sunday Service Cancellation Procedure:

Good judgment during a period of a Travel Advisory or equivalent will be used. The cancellation decision should be made by 7:00 AM for the morning worship service and 4:00 PM for the evening service. If the decision is made to cancel a service(s) the administrative assistant (or the associate pastor if the administrative assistant is not available) will inform the congregation of the cancellation by emailing the congregation through email, and posting on our Facebook Page.

Other New Hope Ministries:

The leaders of church groups are free to cancel their activities as they see fit. Notification of the cancellation will be made by emailing the parents.

October 12 Session Minutes

- ◇ Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 6:40 PM Pastor Jim Ferguson called the meeting to order as elder Roy Voskuil opened in prayer. This meeting was held in person with the option of attending using the on-line means of communication entitled Zoom.
- ◇ The elders shared a time of celebrating what God is doing at New Hope and in their lives.
- ◇ Pastor Jim led in prayer as Deacon Mark Voskuil joined the session to discuss a change in how New Hope collects offerings on Sundays. The session developed a plan to get the opinion and possible advice that the Deacons and the Worship Team might have regarding the suggestions.
- ◇ At 7:30 PM elder Roy Voskuil led in prayer as Mark was dismissed.
- ◇ Elder Dave Tenpas is to contact the Administrative Assistant regarding doing a New Hope Fellowship Meal in the near future.
- ◇ At 7:45 PM a round of prayer was opened by elder Dave Keller and closed by elder Dunc Pfantz.
- ◇ Pastor Gordon Oliver shared the report for Covenant Life Church, Shawano. On Sunday, October 10, 2021 Pastor Gordon served the Sacrament of Communion to 18 people.
- ◇ At 9:00 PM the meeting was adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Gordon and the session joining together in singing the Doxology.

October 26 Session Minutes

- ◇ Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:40 PM Pastor Jim Ferguson called the meeting to order as elder Tom Smies opened in prayer. This meeting was held in person with the option of attending using the on-line means of communication entitled Zoom.
- ◇ The elders shared a time of celebrating what God is doing at New Hope and in their lives.
- ◇ After opening in prayer Pastor Jim led a time of devotions entitled “Daniel’s prayer for the people of Israel” that was taken from Daniel 9: 1-3. Pastor Jim closed this time in prayer.
- ◇ The elders shared their care group reports.
- ◇ At 8:35 PM the meeting was adjourned with a season of prayer that Pastor Gordon opened and elder Alan Mienhardt closed. The session then joined together in singing the Doxology.

December Birthdays

1 - Dunc Pfantz	12 - Bob Bernhardt
2 - Dave Tenpas	12 - Beckett Wettengel
3 - Sara Hoffmann	14 - Roger Huibregtse
3 - Barb Richert	14 - Trudy Foley
5 - Jay Charles	14 - Ronan Sortwell
5 - Kristen Van Noord	14 - Winry Sortwell
5 - Patti Vander Ploeg	16 - Betsy Hansen
8 - Lula Keating	18 - Todd Kirsteatter
8 - Olesya Keating	28 - Doris Tegen
7 - Wayne Pierre	29 - Joy Farrell
11 - Karen Greiling	

January Birthdays

1 - Andrew Hoffmann	26 - Cristian Vasiliev
2 - Victoria Sauder	27 - Ruth Spronk
4 - Buddy & Gus Blyly	28 - Robin Sortwell
6 - Samuel Schachtner	29 - Pete DeRossi
14 - Iris Pinchart	
14 - Eric Petersen	
17 - Brian Farrell	
19 - Rachel Chastain	
19 - Eleanor Kirsteatter	
19 - Jack Sticka	
20 - Joan Nocenti	
22 - Rose Judkins	
24 - Donna King	
25 - Calvin Sticka	

December Anniversaries

12/7/2000 – Larry & Carla Lewis
12/28/1985 – Thomas & Dana Kennedy
12/30/1953—Ed Keating & Ruth Vollrath

January Anniversaries

1/16/82 - Ben & Barb Miller
1/21/78 - Jack & Lois Sticka

	December 5	December 12	December 19	Christmas Eve	December 26
Nursery 10am	Ruth Vollrath Lula Keating Dana Kennedy	Sara & Mia Hoffman	Ashley Sauder & Rachel Chastain & Camille Lawrence	X	Rehna & Bob Bernhardt
Greeters	Dunc & Mary Pfantz	Julie De Moulin Donna King	Jeff & Carmi Shaw	Dennis & Jean Opelt	Ed & Ruth Keating
Head Deacon	Todd Kirsteatter	Jim Wilke	Josh Agen	X	Bill Knoespel
Projectors	Elizabeth Kirsteatter	Josh Bernhardt	Nate Hoffmann	Seth Van Noord	Elizabeth Kirsteatter
Communion				X	

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Nursery 10am	Joshua & Liliana Bernhardt	Sara & Lydia Pierre Heidi Lueck	Elizabeth & Matthew Kee	Marcela & Jay Charles	Sara & Mia Hoffman Dana Kennedy
Greeters	Mark & Mary Ellen Voskuil	Schachtner Family	Mike & Ruth Spronk	Pat & Betsy Shrift	Dave & Barb Tenpas
Head Deacon	Mike Spronk	Rick Cohler	Josh Agen	Jim Wilke	Todd Kirsteatter
Projectors	Josh Bernhardt	Nate Hoffmann	Micah Van Noord	Seth Van Noord	Elizabeth Kirsteatter
Communion					