

January 2018

A Monthly Newsletter from Hope Wesleyan Church

Hope! church

*Changing Lives by
Leading People
Into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus*

505 4th Ave NE Independence, Iowa 50644 (319) 334-7148
www.hopewesleyan.org

A Year Filled with Opportunities

*"Therefore, as we have opportunity,
let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to
the family of believers."*

- Galatians 5:12

In the days before modern harbors, a ship had to wait for the flood tide before it could make it into port. The term for this situation in Latin was *Ob Portu*. Our English word *Opportunity* is derived from this original meaning. The captain and crew would prepare for that one moment because they knew if they missed it, they would have to wait a long time before another tide came in. Money would be lost, customers would be irritated, the community would be inconvenienced, and, at times, battles would be lost because of this missed opportunity.

Each of us knows the sting of an opportunity lost. Perhaps it was a phone call you wish you would have made or a grudge you should have let go of a long time ago. Whatever lost opportunities you have in the past let me encourage you right now: God is bigger than your missed opportunities.

On a recent trip back home to Ohio I was using a GPS system to guide my journey. I must have gotten distracted for a moment because I completely missed my exit. Suddenly I was on an unfamiliar road, unsure of how to

get correct my mistake. Just then the GPS system spoke the word you know so well, "Recalculating!" In a moment, new instructions were given to me based on my current location with step by step guidance to help me find my way home. As I followed those new directions I reached my destination.

No matter what missed opportunities you have in your past, God is able to meet us at our present location and give us step by step directions so we can reach our eternal home. The secret is found not in regretting the past but moving forward with faith into the future.

A new year is upon us and we must make the most of the opportunities Christ gives to us. The opportunities God gives to you will be different than what he presents to me, but we all can take advantage of God-given chances . . .

- ... To meet with the Ruler of Life every day.
- ... To live a victorious Christian life.
- ... To help others in need.
- ... To share the Gospel with those who need Jesus.
- ... To be a good and faithful servant.

The issue is not, "Will have the opportunity?" The real question is, "What will I do with the opportunities God gives this year?" With the Lord on our side, why should we expect anything but a new year filled with great adventures requiring grace and courage? I pray this will be the best year of your life.



FYI

Church Office Closed
Monday, January 1st & 2nd
No Wed. Evening Activities
Wednesday, January 3rd

Women's Connection

Monday, January 8th
6:30 pm

Buttermilk Cafe

LOOKING AHEAD



Super Football Party
Sunday, February 4th
5:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Pizza/Pop Provided

Please bring a snack to share.

NEW YEAR PRAYER

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.

HAPPY HEART DAILY INSPIRATION

Music Moments



with Pastor Elissa

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.” ~Psalm 139:1-4

It’s a new day, a new year and the ever so popular trend is to write goals and resolutions to help us achieve a “new you”. This is a great idea, but not often something we follow through with, so why not pick just one new thing to start this year that will be beneficial to you mentally, spiritually and even physically. Journaling!

I must admit that I am currently fascinated with the idea of journaling as I just got a new Journaling Bible. I have always taken notes in my bible but the concept of doodling verses or images that speak to me is new. So, I decided to do a little research and found out that journaling is actually good for your physical health.

Here’s what I found. A study done by the University of Texas at Austin psychologist and researcher James Pennebaker contends that regular journaling strengthens immune cells, called T-lymphocytes.

Other research indicates that journaling decreases the symptoms of asthma and rheumatoid arthritis. Scientific evidence supports that journaling provides other unexpected benefits. The act of writing accesses your left brain, which is analytical and rational. While your left brain is occupied, your right brain is free to create, discern and feel.

A few other benefits of journaling is that it helps you to: Clarify your thoughts and feelings, Know yourself better, Reduce stress, Solve problems more effectively., and even Resolve disagreements with others. I also contend that when you are journaling about scripture it will help you to better understand what you are reading and draw you closer to God.

Maybe the thought of writing your thoughts still seems arbitrary, then make your journaling into a prayer journal. Write your thoughts in the form of a letter to God. It’s amazing for me to look back and see things I have asked God in the past or things I have praised Him for. I love seeing answered prayers and even ones that were better left unanswered.

So get some paper, a journal or even a journaling bible and start writing down your thoughts, dreams and prayers and see what this New Year really can bring to you!



Sarah Dawn Designs

- HAVE** hope
- TRY** new things
- BE** active
- SEE** the good
- SAY** “I Love You,” more
- CHALLENGE** yourself
- CHOOSE** to be happy
- EAT** better
- ENJOY** today
- FORGIVE** more readily
- READ** more often
- BECOME** your best you

HELLO FROM AWANA!

The AWANA Ministry is currently serving 35-40 kids from 3 years of age through 5th grade. We are always in need of **PRAYER** along with a few other things:

- **Game Director:** weekly
- **Secretary:** weekly
- **Listeners:** 30 minutes
- **Prize Store Workers:** 3 times a year
- **Substitutes:** 4 times a year
- **Guest Speakers:** 1 time a year

We also welcome you to visit us anytime on Wednesday’s at 6:30 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall to see what is going on!



Birthdays

Ralph Gardner	1
Heather Broughton	2
Kevin Close	2
Tyler Coffelt	2
Cindy Zimmerly	3
Paula Jo Modlin	4
Shanae Groesbeck	5
Meadow Lynn	7
Chris Coffelt	8
Kim Decker	11
Aiden Wiley	11
Madison Greenwell	13
Gloria Mohlis	13
Ron Billingsley	15
Marla Howlett	15
Tina Dodge	18
Andrew Dodge	19
Lilly Kolln	19
Kimberly Beebe	20
January Rowland	21
Amanda Broughton	24
Vanna Vargason	25
Joshua Beebe	26
Stacey Peyton	29



Anniversaries

Jon & Wendy Beebe	1
David & Kim Coffelt	9
Gary & Suzanne Johnson	10



Have A Blessed New Year!