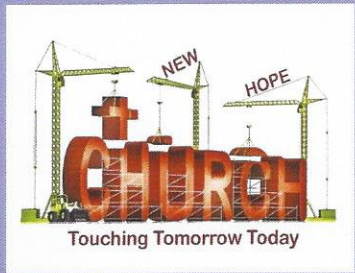


TOUCHING TOMORROW TODAY



Winter Edition

February 2021

Virgil Humes, D. Min., Pastor

New Hope Church
Wayne, MI



Pastor and Velicia

From Pastor's Desk

Dear Family and Friends,

It seems a little late to say Happy New Year, but that seems to be what the February (winter) edition of this newsletter requires... And this year it seems to be more meaningful and necessary than ever:

The vaccine is being rolled out, so I hope all of us will maintain COVID-19 safety measures and get the vaccine as soon as possible to minimize infection, sickness, and death. If we can manage to curb the new strains of the virus, normality should be on the horizon. I (*along with First Lady and Momma Mac*) was recently vaccinated. Consult your physician if you have medical hesitancy regarding the vaccine.

Still, the calendar rolls on and there's much to give attention to.

Major sanctuary and gymnasium renovations are taking place at New Hope's

Wayne and Taylor campuses, respectively.

Wayne: New sound system, carpet replacement, painting, and Annex window replacement.

Taylor: Gym flooring dismantling and replacement, new sanctuary seating, and new office furniture.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. **Lent** is the 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays) during which Christians replicate Jesus Christ's acts of sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

Each year during Lent we are called to organize our lives by prayer, acts of devotion and self-discipline, to prepare for Holy Week and Easter (Resurrection Sunday).

How can we do that this year during **Lent**?

A suggestion is to practice the **3 S's** for keeping a good Lent discipline. Even busy people can exercise these:

SILENCE — The world is a noisy place. Silence is not just the absence of sound but also the presence of that which sound obscures. (15 minutes)

STUDY — Some ordered spiritual reflection engaging your mind is a good discipline for Lent. Read from the Bible with Pastor (see [website](#) or our free church app), try one of the Gospels or the Psalms. (15 minutes)

SERVICE — Be careful of becoming too self-absorbed during Lent. Find a way to give at least 15 minutes of your time to some act(s) of kindness. Where can you do some good? Who needs your help? Consider those within your community, church, or charity. (This can be done creatively while socially distancing or even virtually. **Example:** Call a church member or senior and check on them, read to a child, listen to or tutor a student.)

Make alternate days the occasion for these Lenten disciplines. For example, devote Monday to silence, Wednesday to study, Friday to service, or try a Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday schedule. Use the off days for reflecting on what you have done or are about to do, perhaps journaling your thoughts. On Sunday you can gain support from our faith community during virtual Sunday School or Bible Study time.

As we navigate 2021 let's take the opportunity to ask ourselves two questions:

Am I more Christlike today than a year ago?

How can I become more Christlike during this coming year?

If you ask the Holy Spirit to help you answer these two questions honestly, there's every chance that this new year will indeed be a happy one!

Love you,
Pastor Humes

New Hope Church — Taylor Campus



Banking During the Pandemic

Written By Wendy Kahill

The pandemic has changed the way we do banking. Most transactions can be done by simply picking up your phone or logging into your computer. When surveying customers, 55% stated they will never go back to the way they handled their banking needs before. Many banks now operate on an appointment-only basis. CDC distancing recommendations also sometimes require waiting outside or in your car until your appointment time.

During the pandemic, fraudulent activities have also increased. Beware of calls or emails asking for your personal information. I know many of you think, "I would never do that," but the statistics show more and more Americans are falling victim to these types of cyber scams. This pandemic is a perfect storm for fraud. According to the New York Times, Americans have lost \$145 million

to coronavirus fraud with over 200,000 claims filed says the Federal Trade Commission. Remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

One common scam right now is when someone sends you a check to cash for them through your bank account. (This is the *first* red flag. Why can't they cash it through their own account?) The bank clears the check because of the relationship you have with the bank, and then unbeknownst to you, the check is returned or determined fraud *after* they have convinced you to go purchase Visa cards with some of the money—the remainder they graciously say you can keep—and send the cards to them. Please be careful not to fall for this. It unfortunately is happening every day. We are lonely and often looking for someone to talk to us. Our seniors seem to be falling prey to this scam daily.



Scammers will adopt new tactics and approaches but remember if something sounds strange—report it. Refrain from clicking on random links or answering the phone and most importantly, refrain from helping them!

Sole Brother No. 1

Written By Derron Murray

Air Jordan, Yeezy, Christian Louboutin (Red Bottoms), Mauri, Timberland, and Ugg. What do they all have in common besides their expensive price tag? They were all made possible because of an invention made by one Dutch African American by the name of Jan Matzeliger.

Jan Ernst Matzeliger was born September 15, 1852 in Dutch Guiana, the South American country now called Suriname. He worked in machine shops as a child. In the 1870s, he immigrated to the United States and eventually settled in Lynn, Massachusetts where he found work at a shoe factory. In 1883, Matzeliger successfully invented what many before him had attempted—an automated shoemaking machine that quickly attached the top of the shoe to the sole.

This process is called "lasting." Prior to 1883, shoes were made mainly by hand and a skilled hand laster could produce 50 pairs a day. Matzeliger's machine could produce more than 10 times what human hands could create in a day. This invention revolutionized the shoemaking industry and made shoes affordable for the average person.

By 1889, the demand of the shoe lasting machine was overwhelming. A company was formed, The Consolidated Lasting Machine Company, where Matzeliger was given huge blocks of stock for his invention. His machine had revolutionized the entire shoe industry in the U.S. and around the world.

Unfortunately, Jan Matzeliger did not live to see the fruits of his labor. Because he

had sacrificed his health working exhausting hours on his invention and not eating over long periods of time, he caught a cold which quickly developed into tuberculosis. He died at age 37 on August 24, 1887.

So, the next time someone compliments you on your fresh pair of kicks, share the story of Jan Matzeliger with them and see what kind of reaction you get!



My Decision to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine

Written by Dr. Tiffany Humes



Dr. Tiffany Humes
Pfizer/BioNTech

Several people have asked me, “Why did you get it?”

Get what you ask? The COVID-19 vaccine, of course. The debate about whether to get the vaccine has taken over public discourse. This question although it’s relatively innocuous has a deep answer. Before getting this vaccine, I took a hard look at the science. I read, well skimmed the study for the Pfizer/BioNTech version that I was administered. I wanted to know its efficacy, which means how effective it is at shielding someone from COVID-19 infection. I needed to see that there was a diverse pool of test subjects in the phase 3 trials. And last but not least, I needed to see what the side effects were. The most common were soreness at the injection site, mild headache, and fatigue within the first 48 hours.

Now, bear with me for a second here—let’s break down the science. Vaccines are a way to inoculate or shield the population from a virus. We do that by breaking down the virus into its many parts, when the virus is taken apart it cannot infect us. Scientists then isolate one small piece of the virus and reintroduce it back to the body through a vaccine. Now this piece is not capable of giving you the virus because it’s only one small protein. But what it will do is give our immune systems a primer. It’s like taking a practice quiz before you take the real test.

Each vaccine option, Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech has a different efficacy percentage. For the Pfizer/BioNTech that I received, after getting the first vaccine dose, the body is 52% ready for the test. After the second dose it is up to 98% ready for the test. In this case, the test is COVID-19. Imagine being immune to the deadliest virus our nation has ever seen! Now the body has several what we call “immune reactions” while it’s learning the small piece of the virus called an antigen. You may have a mild fever, soreness of the arm at

the injection site, mild fatigue, a headache, even a sore throat— usually all within 48 hours of the shot. All of these are your body’s response to the practice test. The awesome thing is the vaccine is safe for everyone of any age, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and the immunocompromised.

Now, that we’ve covered the science, I’d like to share with you all my why. My why, is you. All of you, New Hope! I am grateful for the opportunity as a healthcare provider to be in the first wave of vaccinations. But I am most excited to hug you during Pastor’s required meet-and-greet interval during service knowing I’ve taken steps to keep you safe. Of course, I will continue to wear my mask, socially distance in all areas of my life, and use hand sanitizers.

Let’s hear from some of our other members their why.

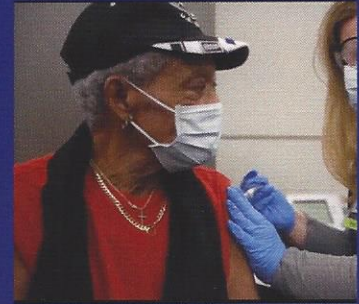


Pastor – Moderna vaccine: “Because I want to LIVE, and the doctors recommend it. Whenever I go to my doctor with an illness or problem and she writes a prescription, I always go get it because I want to feel better. I trust my doctor and take her advice.”

Momma Mac — Moderna vaccine: “If I get the virus, I won’t get as sick. I hope it keeps me from getting the virus. I think you should go and get yours too, when you can. There’s nothing to it at all.”



Dr. D’Angela Pitts – Pfizer/BioNTech: “We believe in the vaccine for ourselves and our pregnant patients!!”



Mr. Fred Peeples (Deloris Nicholas’ father), of Grand Rapids was one of the first to get vaccinated through Spectrum Health. “I would go to the Y (YMCA) five days a week at five o’clock in the morning. I don’t do that anymore. That’s a big impact as far as I’m concerned. To visit with those people was for me, therapy. Can you imagine with me for a moment all of the reasons that taking this leap of faith is worth it? We can hug each other again in the church lobby. We can sit right up next to each other in the church pews, and when Pastor says, ‘Shake your neighbor’s hand,’ we can do that without fear. Y’all, I miss church more than anything in this pandemic. To be in the presence of believers once again is my reason.”



Nikki Taylor – Moderna: “I thought about what was at stake. First, I’ll do anything to protect my No. 1 treasure, my mom. Second, I would never want to cause harm to anyone. Third, I’ve seen what COVID looks like. What I experienced last year is something I’ll never forget. I think many of us in healthcare are traumatized by it all. I have a top 10 experiences of worst moments in my career, this is definitely No. 1. Fourth, I’m ready to move on. I’ve got things to do and people to see! I was concerned about how quickly this vaccine came about. But there are very smart scientists who have spent their whole lives researching similar viruses. So, with all this being said, my benefits outweighed my concerns. Please make your own decision.”

A Unique School Year

Written By Sydney Neal

Throughout the past six months, I along with many others, have experienced school in a different way than it has ever been experienced before. Being a junior in high school online has been one of the hardest things I have ever done. It has challenged me emotionally, physically, as well as mentally.

Emotionally, dealing with not having friends surrounding me on a regular basis was something that was hard to adjust to. Physically, I wasn't playing soccer as much. I had to learn to adjust to not having soccer in my normal schedule. I wasn't waking up early Sunday morning to go to church. Mentally, juggling homework, projects, and studying for six different classes is hard. At times it can feel overwhelming and draining.

In my case, attending a school that has over 6,000 students and 1,000 teachers makes everything more difficult than it is for the normal student. Ending the first

semester of school, there is a lot to think about for students my age. More specifically, preparing for college and preparing to return to school in-person. As many school districts begin to send students back, many of the remaining students wonder if they'll ever make it back to school this year. Being a junior, I would not return to school until March. Meanwhile, freshmen have currently returned and will be followed by sophomores in February.

My hope is that students throughout the country will eventually be able to attend school safely whether that is in March or next year. I always remember to leave my trust in God because I know he will put me in a situation that is best for me.



VIRTUAL Youth Weekend

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH
8
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

"REALIGN, REPOSITION AND TRANSITION IN '21"
PSALM 119: 133

FEBRUARY 12TH @ 7PM
CHAT & CHEW
PREPARE YOUR FAVORITE SNACKS AND BEVERAGES AND JOIN US FOR GAMES, ACTIVITIES AND A DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC "TRUE LOVE," BASED ON 1 JOHN 3:18.
THE LINK WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE.

FEBRUARY 14TH @ 8AM & 11AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP
OUR YOUTH WILL LEAD WORSHIP. WE WILL HAVE TESTIMONIALS, AN INSTRUMENTAL SELECTION, AND A YOUTH SPEAKER.



Love and Education

Written by Alyn Estin

As February is the beginning of Black History Month (and that is a conversation all on its own), it is also known as the month of love, heart health, and a number of other small, cutesy holidays. This February marks a little over a year since we started hearing about a virus known as COVID-19, and we were told that it was nothing to worry about. Well, here we are on the verge of March 2021, and our children have endured a school year that has mimicked a roller coaster ride at Cedar Point, whether you had classes face-to-face or your school district decided to close and provide virtual instruction or something in between the two.

As a people we have always strived to "get as much learning" as possible—we've yearned for it, fought for it, and died for it, as American history shows. Most of us also had plenty of "teachers" in our lives who played an integral part in who we have become and how we navigate this world of ours. Not only were these influential people the teachers we encountered in the classroom, but also our parents, grandparents, neighbors, Sunday School teachers and church members. These were and still are the people who bring us many of the valuable lessons we will carry with us throughout our lifetime.

Just as we have had to pivot, be flexible, lean on family, and our villages to get through these most unprecedented times, our nation's educators have done everything within their power to do the same. They have been trained on multiple technology platforms, made phone calls, delivered materials, revamped lesson plans, and so much more while also tending to the needs of their own households. Paperwork and evaluations did not disappear, even though we were told "care before content," questioned about student attendance, and asked, "How can you be more engaging with your classroom activities?"

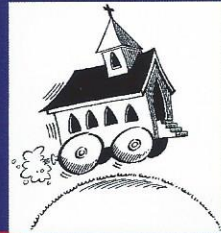
The trauma and stress of all that is encapsulated in this pandemic has definitely taken a toll on all of us and our teachers are not exempt from this experience. They are seeing more in the homes of the children they care about. They are feeling like there is nothing they can do, which may cause feelings of sadness or hopelessness. But in spite of it all, they are still trying to make sure they are encouraging their students to do their best and to hang in there, helping to cultivate the perseverance and grit needed as we move forward. Teachers really do love their students and their profession, so let's continue to pray for them to be well physically, mentally, and spiritually.

As schools begin to open up, whether it has happened or will happen soon, remember to show your educators some love, and help your student get excited about going back to school, seeing their friends and returning to some sense of normalcy—whatever that is. As we physically return to school and are around more than just family members, be sure to build upon the partnership you have created with your child's teacher(s). Check in to see how you can continue to support their learning at home and provide any information that may offer insight as to the possible positive or traumatic impact these past months have had on your student. Any information that can help a teacher provide the proper instruction and support will help support the work needed to tackle the probable gaps in learning our students have experienced.

These conversations and connections are paramount as we move forward and try to salvage what we can of the 2020–21 school year. It can be done if we remember that it takes a village, and that village is filled with the resources, safety, and essentials necessary for growth. Let's not forget love because after all love is the greatest of these.



New Hope Drive-By Next Event: Saturday, March 6 11:00-12:30 p.m.



New Hope Wayne and Taylor Campus Updates

Written by Curtis Johnson

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Youthful Souls & Temples of Christ
Darryln Harrison & Min. Daphne Green
Zoom:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/81299379798?>
Password: 164593

Leaning on Faith - Mrs. Johnson
Call: 978-990-5000
Password: 537796#

Young Adult-Khadijah Richardson
10:00 a.m.
Zoom:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85132235038>

Young at Heart - Dantonio Thompson
Zoom:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/732488687?>
Password: 072788

Inspired Spirits - Mary Lewis
Call: 978-990-5000
Password: 664537#

Growing in Christ - Min Shelby Wilson
Zoom:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83551540496?>
Password: 374829

New Birth - Ramona Parker-Muhammad
Zoom:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88269336378?>
Password: 106969

Monday Night Bible Study
5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Zoom:
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/7485994616?>
Password: 277234
Call-In Number: 646-876-9923

Taco Tuesdays
6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Facebook-YouTube-Church Ap

Checklist for Life Podcast
Wednesdays
6:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Facebook-YouTube-Church Ap

An adventure that started approximately three years ago continues. We continue to adhere to our defined parameters. In March of 2020, life as we know it took an unforeseen turn. The world was affected by COVID-19. It stopped in its tracks while attempting to understand and cure this deadly nemesis. The journey in our leader's mind continued to move forward, though slowed by conditions.

Although many congregations continue to meet virtually (as we do) God has been answering the prayers of our leader Dr. Virgil Humes and our members. God has met the needs for funding our ministry in many ways, one being a suggestion by Ms. Diane Hancock of having a drive-through ministry—we now meet in drive-by fashion on the Saturday before each first Sunday. A multitude of things happen on those days such as Communion cups being delivered and tithes collection. Lunch/dinner is provided for all participants. God has been our blessing in ages past and He continues to provide for us and open new doors.

This year we continue to work diligently toward our goals. Numerous members and friends continue to faithfully donate time and materials during this time. We have been successful in accomplishing most of our tasks in our efforts to bring this facility to its full potential and into operation. With God as our leading compass Taylor will open in 2021.

During the past year and the beginning of this year of dramatic and continued change both our Wayne and Taylor sites continue to be blessed by God. Here is a list of projects to be

completed for all of our facilities. Please see the previous list for completed/incomplete items.

Wayne Site—Scheduled:

- New sound system
- New doors near drums and kitchen
- New carpeting in sanctuary
- New carpeting in offices
- New carpeting in lobby
- New fabric on pews
- Repaint sanctuary and ceiling

Wayne Site—Not Yet Scheduled:

- Replace parking lot lighting

Wayne Annex—Scheduled:

- New entry doors on front
- Replace windows
- New video surveillance of the entire facility

Taylor Site—In Progress:

- Demolish gym floor

Taylor Site—Not Yet Scheduled

- Replace gym floor
- Mirrors for restrooms
- Sanctuary chairs
- Keyboards
- Office furnishing
- All other refurbishing

This process has been severely hampered by the current pandemic. Therefore, the work continues. God has brought us this far. He promised never to forsake us nor leave us alone. Faith will complete this journey.

One Church/Two Locations New Hope Church

Wayne Campus:
33640 Michigan Ave. 48184

Church Telephone: 734-728-2180
Fax: 734-728-5904
Email: newhopewayne@comcast.net

Taylor Campus:
8900 Pardee Road 48180