



# The New Hope Newsletter

**JUNE 2020**



The Season after  
**Pentecost**

YEAR B

**819 Elm St.**  
(at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> & Elm St.)

**PO Box 754**  
**Blanco, TX**  
**78606**

**Sunday Worship**  
**resuming**  
**@ 9:30 am!**

Our pastors are ready  
to resume Sunday  
service in the  
sanctuary starting in  
June!

## AN IMPORTANT AND JOYFUL ANNOUNCEMENT

After a discussion with members of the congregation, Pastor Ann and our council president, Tanja, have put together a proposal for transitioning back to full time Sunday morning worship starting in June.

Pastor Ann and Pastor Edwina are ready to resume Sunday service in the sanctuary starting in June!! Pastor Ann will be doing the first and third Sunday and Pastor Edwina the second and fourth Sunday.

Everyone that has recently attended our outdoor worship has been vaccinated. It was discussed if everyone in the Sanctuary has been vaccinated, we would not require a mask. If we have a visitor or a member of our congregation that has not been vaccinated, then we would wear masks to protect them

Worship time will go back to beginning the service at 9:30am

Pastor Ann and Alan are going to reach out to the Synod and others to determine when it would be safe to resume singing during worship as opposed to recorded music. We would continue recorded or solo music until it is safe for all to sing.

During the past few times we have held in person worship, the Service has been shortened a bit. We will continue with using the shorter version for a while.

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



## **June Birthdays**

**29<sup>th</sup> - Helen**

**Knoll**

**30<sup>th</sup> - Bob**

**Hounsell**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> is**

**Father's Day**

**and also**

**Summer Begins**



## **Food for Thought** *by Pastor Edwina*

The last year, 2020, will be remembered for the disorientation we witnessed. In no particular order we witnessed political turmoil, a pandemic of Covid-19, a massive power outage during a long freeze, and white supremacy exerting violence. We sat in our isolation and we typed and called each other. We took to protest. We Zoomed. We emailed. We made adjustments.

This year, 2021, we are turning from that bleak darkness to what is labeled "normal." I'm sure that I will never return to that previous normal. Too much happened in 2020. I was changed, in some deeply spiritual ways.

I will never take for granted our gatherings. To meet for worship, for Communion, for singing, for sharing meals, to study the bible, all these are more precious than ever before. To meet together for weddings, baptisms and funerals is more holy than I imagined. Attending school is holy. Visits to nursing homes and hospitals are holy. Going to the store in person is, too. Being isolated is great for personal reflection and study, but ultimately isolation damaged society.

Communal Lament will occupy my spiritual reflection for the coming year. The Holy Spirit is continually prodding me to look at the practice of voicing the public common grief that surrounds us in 2021. We have lost much, much that we took for granted before. To a congregation formed out of conflict in the past, there are words in the communal laments that express great loss together.

To a nation formed with the high ideal of freedom for all, we have blocked from our consciousness the conflicts of our past history. Our communities sit on land acquired by the flawed excesses of military and political power. Our wealth is underwritten by centuries of slavery and legal oppression of Black people.

Policies that perpetuate that injustice continue in our governments. Can we learn together to listen to the expressed pain? Will people of faith hear again that lament is crying all around? Will we be able to join the lament as communities?

You will read and hear more about communal lament from me this year.

Yes, I've got work to do. And so do we.

--Pastor Edwina Baethge  
June 1, 2021, San Marcos, TX

Beautiful Music  
Suggestions:

**Beautiful and relaxing  
Hymns by Jim Tamis:**

<https://youtu.be/OjxRyQdbzbA>

**Traditional Hymns of  
the Faith**

[https://youtu.be/se0Y0\\_NDGdU](https://youtu.be/se0Y0_NDGdU)

**Holy Spirit, You are  
Welcom Here**

<https://youtu.be/eFByOX8Fb0M>

**King of my Heart  
(You are Good)**

<https://youtu.be/-jkMnq2Hfzo>

