

“Let there be real harmony among you so there won’t be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.”
– 1 Corinthians 1:10

Our Purpose Statement: Why we exist as a church

“We exist to Love God, Serve People, Share Hope and to Have Fun.”

We seek to achieve our purpose by helping everyone to focus on four key priorities.

1. **LOVIN GOD** as they grow in their faith.
2. **SERVING PEOPLE** as they build relationships.
3. **SHARING the hope** of Jesus with people.
4. **HAVING FUN** and thriving with the joy of God!

MAIN SCRIPTURES >>>

ROMANS 15:13 >>> 2 Corinthians 5:17

1. Loving God

A. Genuine Relationship

God created us to be with Him. Genesis tells us how God took time to form us and create us into His likeness. We have a very really, never failing, approachable, consistent, loving God who desires for us to have a relationship with Him by our own accord. Not because it is how our parents believed or because it's a tradition, but a genuine, tangible relationship with our Creator.

In Luke 10:27 it says *“He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, “love your neighbor as yourself.”*

We want to encourage everyone at New Hope Church to be talking with God daily, reading His word, spending time in worship and building relationships with fellow Christians. You can find a year Bible reading plan and a prayer guide at Hope Central and we hope these tools will help you consistently love God!

B. Giving

At New Hope Church, we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard for giving.

“You must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. 23Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn

males of your flocks and herds. Doing this will teach you always to fear the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 14:22-23

“10Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!” Malachi 3:10

Giving is one of the central themes in the Bible. Jesus talks about this subject frequently throughout scripture. To understand what it means to be a Christ-Follower, we must understand what it means to be a giver.

1. Tithe

The tithe, or “first fruits” of our labor/income belongs to God. We find this principle all through God’s Word. Tithing, giving God the first 10% of our income to the local church, is the primary, practical way we acknowledge that God is first (Proverbs 3:9–10).

2. Offerings

An offering is giving over and above the tithe. The Bible says that by giving generously, we are able to “take hold of the life that is truly life.” You aren’t really living unless you are freely giving (1 Timothy 6:18–19).

3. The Gift of Giving

The gift of giving is a spiritual gift that God gives to some people (Romans 12:6-8). It is a Spirit-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of your material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.

Many people love to give to God and as they do, they want to feel confident in the organization through which they give. At NHC, we want people to understand they are giving to God

through the church, not to the church. As we share the honesty, integrity and spiritual values that guide the financial practices of NHC, we believe people can focus on what God is calling them to give and trust that He is leading our church to steward it well.

C. Growing followers of Christ

NHC is very strategic in its approach to raising people up to become followers of Christ. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed.” –John 8:31

NHC provides venues of teaching and training through Hope Groups and our Family Bible Study.

We also believe that becoming a follower of Christ happens best in the context of relationships. That is why being involved in a Hope Group is important to growing in Christ.

“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples – that you have love for one another.” –John 13:35

2. Serving People

The more we get our focus on serving others and using our gifts and talents that God has given us, the more stable we become. At NHC, we believe that one of the main focuses of Pastor Landon and Tarah is to help others discover how God created them and release them into their purpose to serve others.

Ephesians 4:11-13 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

We want to not only serve people inside the four walls of the church building, but we want to lead people in serving others outside the four walls, serving in the community, serving their neighbor, being an example of Christ to the people around them at home and beyond.

During 301 session of Growth Track, we will talk about discovering gifts that God has given you to help you serve people and fulfill your desire to help in areas you are passionate about!

At New Hope:

every member is a **MINISTER.**

every task is **IMPORTANT.**

every member is a “10” in **SOME AREA.**

“Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it”

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27

3. Sharing Hope

The last thing that Jesus said before he left the earth was go into all the world and preach the gospel. (Mark 16:15) We are called to preach the gospel which is simply telling others the good news. (Romans 10:13-14.)

We consider reaching people who do not know God personally to be one of our greatest responsibilities. Our Sunday service is for people at all stages in their spiritual journey but is primarily designed for those who do not yet have a genuine relationship with God.

A. Sunday Celebration

“Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised. Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming.” - Hebrews 10:23-25

The purpose of the Sunday Celebration is to provide a **SINCERE** church experience where the gospel is presented in a relevant/understanding way.

Our Sunday Service focuses on four values:

1. **CELEBRATION**

We believe church should be enjoyable.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'". Psalm 122:1

2. PREPARATION

We believe church should be a place where people experience God's presence.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

3. PRACTICALITY & GROWTH

We believe church should be a place where people learn how the Bible applies to their daily lives.

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-12

4. SALVATION

We believe church should be a place where people can accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" Romans 10:13-14

B. Evangelism

We want to be a church that takes the message of Christ to the community. The Bible says *“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.” Matthew 5:14.*

We support missions around the world to take Jesus to communities and we also offer many ways to serve our community.

We achieve this purpose by:

- Community Outreaches
- Supporting other local ministries
- Hope Groups
- Growth Track

What percentage of people in Polk and Highlands County do not attend church? 62%

What percentage of people would attend if invited? 70%

As we continue to reach people far from God, every one of us can do our part by following these four principles:

Accept the personal **RESPONSIBILITY.**

Build a personal **RELATIONSHIP.**

Share your personal **STORY.**

Give a personal **INVITATION.**

4. Have Fun

We believe that God intends for His people to have fun. It might sound crazy, but what example would we be to the world if we didn't have fun and exude Joy? The word Joy is used 218 times in the Bible. That is 218 times that God is reminding us that he wants us to not only strive to live for him in all areas of life, but to do it joyful!

We want church to be a place that people think of first when they want to have a great time. We want you to build relationships with fellow Christians and have fun doing life together.

"A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit."

Proverbs 15:13

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength."

Proverbs 17:22

Session 2: Our Strategy

A. GROWTH TRACK

101 Discover New Hope

Congratulations! You have taken your first step in becoming a part of the New Hope Church family. We are really glad you are here.

201 Discover My Foundations

Discover the foundations that are at the core of what you believe as a follower of Christ.

301 Discover My Purpose

You were created with a purpose and God wants to see you thrive in it! Discover who God has created you to be and learn how He can use you here at NHC and beyond. During week 3 we will take a spiritual gift test.

401 Discover Serving

401 is designed to help you grow as a leader and learn to lead with excellence as Jesus did, not only in ministry, but also at home, work, school and beyond.

B. Water Baptism

This celebration is an outward sign of your decision to follow Jesus. When we give our lives to Jesus and decide to follow him as our Lord and Savior, the Bible says we should follow that decision by being water baptized. Baptism symbolizes your salvation in Jesus. Full submersion in water represents dying to our old sinful nature and rising as a new creation in Christ Jesus. You can sign up for the next scheduled Water Baptism and don't forget to invite your family and friends to the party. Water Baptisms are TBA.

C. Join a Group

Don't do life alone. Find a place where everyone knows your name. Life-giving, fun and encouraging relationships are good for your soul, so join a Group today.

D. Join a Serve Team

As you have learned, we value serving others and believe it is at the heart of being a servant leader. Once you have completed Growth Track we would love to invite you to take a step and join a serve team.

E. Daily Bible Reading and Prayer

We want to encourage you to consistently pursue God. We have resources at Hope Central to help you do this. Find an accountability partner. Accountability is a great way to maintain excellence in all areas of life, not just Bible reading and prayer but also in our marriages, finances, jobs etc.

Session 3: Our Structure

“For God is not a God of disorder; but of peace...everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” -1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

How our church is structured.

The Nature of the Church Determines Its Structure

1. The church is a **FELLOWSHIP**.

“They continued steadily learning the teachings of the apostles and joined in the Fellowship...” –Acts 2:42

A top priority in a fellowship is **UNITY** and **HARMONY**.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:3

“So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and growth of our fellowship together.” –Romans 14:19

Any attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Other Scriptures: Col 3:15, 1 Cor 1:10, 2 Tim 2:14, Pr 17:14, 2 Cor 13:11, Phil 1:27, 2:1-3, Col 2:2, Phil 4:2, 1 Pet 3:8, 1 Cor 14:33, John 13:34-35, 2 Tim 2:23, Rom 15:5-6, Rom 12:16-18, Col 3:13-14, Ps 133:1

A good structure promotes unity and downplays **DIFFERENCES**.

“(Often)... your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you...” 1 Corinthians 11:17-18

2. The church is a **FAMILY**.

“You should be like on big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” –1 Peter 3:8

Other Scriptures: Galatians 6:10, Hebrews 2:10-12, 1 Peter 4:17

So we operate on the basis of **RELATIONSHIPS** not rules.

“Don’t reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters.” -1 Timothy 5:1-2

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?” -1 Timothy 3:4-5

3. The church is a **BODY**.

Other Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a Body not a business! We are an organism – not an organization!

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.” –Romans 12:4-6

4. The church is a **FLOCK**.

(One of Jesus’ favorite description of the Church)

Therefore, it is cared for and led by **SHEPHERDS**.

“Jesus asked Simon Peter, ‘Do you really love me?’ ‘Yes Lord, ‘Said Peter. ‘Then take care of my sheep.’” –John 21:16-17

Different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

“Poimen”: Shepherd

“Presbuteros”: Elders

“Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example.” 1 Peter 5:2-3

The role of the Staff Team:

The staff team, directed by the Lead Pastor, oversees the day to day ministry and operations of the church in areas like Hospitality, Children, Youth, Care, Discipleship, Missions and more.

The role of the Leadership Team:

Non Staff Elders – They are the corporate board and serve the church by approving the annual budgets and other major financial commitments of the church. They serve the congregation and the Staff Team for the development of the spiritual life of the church. They are responsible to model a Godly lifestyle, provide a prayer shield for the Pastors, defend and protect the integrity of the church, pray for the sick, mediate disputes and counsel members as prescribed in Titus 1:6-9. They also may contact the District if a potential discipline situation of the Lead Pastor arises.

Next Steps

- 1. Growth Track 201 – Discover My Foundations.*
- 2. Fill out information pack.*