

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT MEDITATION

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Count it all joy whenever you face trials of any kind,
for God will strengthen our faith and mature us.
Count it all joy whenever you cry out to God,
for God will turn our mourning into dancing.
Count it all joy whenever the labor pains are deep,
for God is birthing a new creation.

* HYMN 53 “O God, Who Gives Us Life”

* CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of grace, you are birthing new life in us.
Yet, we conceive of other things
in the hidden places of our hearts:
deep inside we begin to doubt you,
or the seed of craving begins to grow larger,
or bitterness shows its first sign of hardening,
or the haze of apathy begins to settle in like fog.**

Forgive us, O God.

**By your Spirit, create in us a clean heart,
that the new life you are birthing in us might grow,
and that we might anticipate its birth with joy.**

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

* SHARING CHRIST’S PEACE

Hymn 698 (twice) “Take, O Take Me as I Am”

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Bold font indicates congregational participation.

* You are invited to stand in body or in spirit.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Proverbs 1:1-7

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON James 1:1-4, 12-18

SERMON “Birthing Integrity”
Integrity: First in a series on the Book of James

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* HYMN 490 “Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Confession of 1967 (9.22-9.23)*

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Self-Offering

Offertory

* *Doxology* (Hymnal, back page)

* *Prayer of Dedication*

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time

of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

* HYMN 741, vv. 1-5 “Guide My Feet”

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE
Hymn 741, v. 6 “Guide My Feet”

POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP ... BEGINNING OF SERVICE



We light two candles in worship. The white candle reminds us of the presence of Christ’s spirit in worship. The smaller candle is in a candle holder made by a member of our partner church, Iglesia El Divino Salvador in Guatemala, and it reminds us of our covenant with them.

Today’s liturgists: Bill Carpenter

Today’s greeters: Herschel & Linda Lewis

Today’s ushers: Bill Higgins and Glenn Limbird

Fellowship: Mary Jo Limbird’s Care Group

Today’s Affirmation of Faith is an excerpt from *The Confession of 1967*, which was the first new confession to be written since *The Westminster Confession of Faith* three centuries earlier. The turbulent decade of the 1960s called for the writing of a new statement of faith, using contemporary language and addressing contemporary crises such as the need for justice and reconciliation. The version of *The Confession of 1967* used today has been adapted further with the use of inclusive language, which would not be used in *The Book of Confessions* until the writing of *The Brief Statement of Faith* in the 1980s.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch

Everyone is welcome to join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch for lunch after church today! We will be going to Pomodoros Cafe. See Mary Jo Limbird for more information about today’s lunch outing.

Men’s Brunch Bunch will meet at 10:30 AM this Saturday, August 18 at J.K’s on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to meet, eat, and enjoy fellowship together! Contact John Riley at 828-575-2894.

MANNA Food Bank Coming Up This Tuesday

Come join our New Hope volunteer team directly at MANNA Food Bank this Tuesday, August 14 from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. We meet directly at MANNA (627 Swannanoa River Road, Asheville) and do a variety of service activities getting food ready for those who need it. You can join us just one time, on a regular monthly basis, or whenever you can. Questions? Contact team leader Linda Lewis at (828) 483-6296.

New Director of Music Ministry Starts Next Sunday

We are pleased to announce that Rob Blackwell will begin next Sunday, August 19! Rob received his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and is currently the Music Director of the Asheville Community Theater and the pianist for Cantaria, Asheville’s Gay Men’s Chorus. He has also recently served as the pianist at Jubilee Church. Rob is looking forward to joining New Hope’s community of faith!

Summer Picnic at Lake Julian Is Next Sunday!

Next Sunday, August 19, we will enjoy a summer evening together by Lake Julian. Join us at 5 PM for this annual cook-out and outdoor vespers worship service. The church will provide the burgers and hot dogs—please sign up in the Narthex so that we have an accurate headcount. Please also bring a side dish to share. And, remember to bring your lawn chair for our vespers worship service by the lake!

Take This Bread Book Study on Tuesday, August 21

Join us at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 21 in the Narthex for this one-evening discussion of *Take This Bread*. We have the books! See the book table in the Narthex or contact Bill Carpenter at (704) 219-1893.

Summer Spirit Food Drive Challenge: 500 Items by Labor Day

We have collected **404** items so far during the Summer Spirit drive for ABCCM and MANNA. But we still need to collect 114 items to reach our goal of 500 items. Please help us reach our Summer Spirit goal! Please place your donated items in the large soup can bin located in the Narthex. Peanut butter is a great item for children in need of nutrition.

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, August 19 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, August 15.

Calendar

Sun	12	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Mary Jo)
Sat	18	10:30 AM	Men’s Brunch Bunch
Sun	19	11:00 AM	Worship
		5:00 PM	Lake Julian Picnic

New Sermon Series on the Book of James Begins Today

One of the biggest complaints about the church is that Christians don’t always “walk their talk.” What Christians say they believe isn’t always demonstrated in their actions—judgment is more predominant than mercy and grace, hate more visible than love, and indifference and apathy more prevalent than sacrifice.

As Christians, we ourselves demonstrate that we don’t really believe what we say we believe. When times are difficult, our actions reveal that we’d rather take our lives into our own hands than trust the God we profess to be generous. When our faith is tested, our doubts make us vulnerable to the allure of self-sufficiency and material security, and our neighbor becomes our competitor rather than the one we’re called to love.

Yet, the Book of James says that God “gives to all generously and ungrudgingly.” When we learn to see the world through the lens of God’s abundance and really trust in God’s generosity toward all, we are set free to risk living what we say we believe. Belief and action come into alignment, like interlocking gears smoothly working together, and there is inward and outward integrity. Beginning this Sunday, join us as we learn life lessons about integrity from the Book of James. Next up:

- August 19: “Hearing and Doing with Integrity” (James 1:19-27)
- August 26: “Impartial Integrity” (James 2:1-13)
- September 2: “Working Integrity” (James 2:14-26)
- September 9: “Speaking with Integrity” (James 3:1-13)

Stay tuned for more in the series through the end of September ...

Memory Verses for the Week

“Count it all joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance...” (James 1:2-3)

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” (James 1:17)

New Hope Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming, inclusive faith community, seeking to respond to Christ’s call to love and serve, through ministries of compassion and social justice.

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New Hope Presbyterian Church

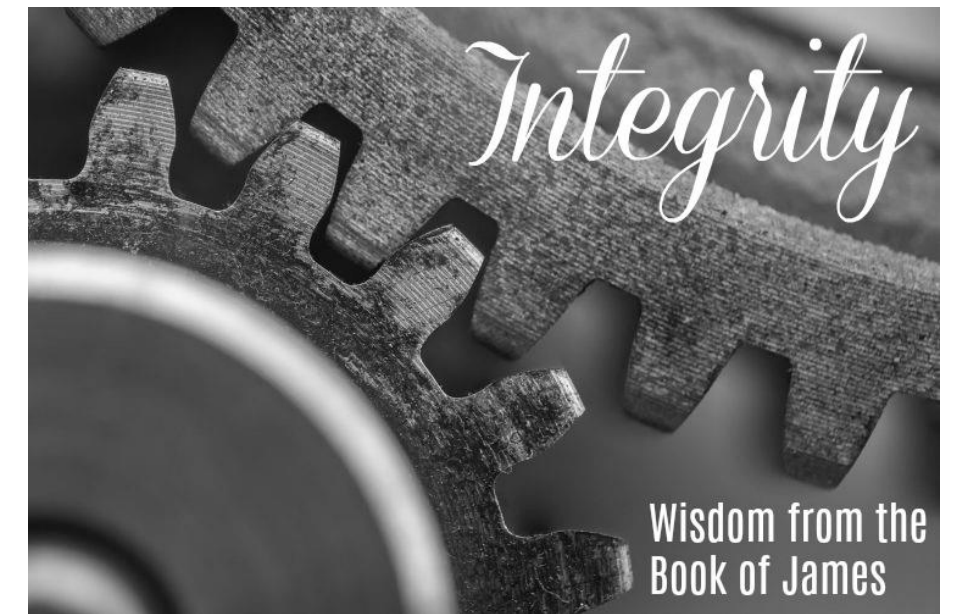
“Including, Renewing, Serving”

Twelveth Sunday after Pentecost
August 12, 2018
11 o’clock



“Birthing Integrity”

First in a series on the Book of James:



“God gave us birth by the word of truth ...”
James 1:18