

# NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO NEW HOPE CHURCH'S NEWSLETTER

## Greetings Family! ¡Saludos Familia!

2023 has been an amazing year filled with challenges, victories, God's provisions and your support!

When the Lord placed in my heart the words: "Building God's people one at a time." I never imagined the extent of what that would look like. At any given time, our church can be transformed from a place of worship to a classroom for English learners to a small bible study classroom. From a weekly food pantry to a place where seniors can come and do crafts. From prayer meetings to connecting people in the community with resources like insurance, medical appointments, and school resources. Each interaction we make in the community gives us the opportunity to show them God's love and to teach them His word through our actions. We thank God for the vision over His people and for your constant love and support. Trusting God for the growth of 2024! Blessings, Pastor Bea



**Building God's people one at a time.  
With His Love, With His Word, In our actions.**

## CAUTION: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

2023 seemed like the work zones on the highway that seem to never end. Through generous donations, a reallocation of assets, and numerous volunteers we have been improving our church facility. We replaced doors and steps that were falling apart. We installed gutters and rebuilt the basement entrance to stop water leaking into the basement. We painted our building and designed a new logo. These are only some of the projects we completed in 2023.



- Seven people committed their lives to Christ and were water baptized.
- We provided Christmas toys to over 70 children throughout the Capital Region.
- We gave away 48 Thanksgiving baskets for families in need to make a Thanksgiving meal with the help of the YMCA, RJ Valente Gravel, and Common Council Hon. Corey Ellis.



# DISCIPLESHIP - STRATEGY

## Discipleship is a way of life that should be integrated throughout all parts of our lives (Deut 6:5-9)

The same can be said about the church. Discipleship should be integrated throughout all parts of the church and its activities. In 2023, New Hope Church completed and implemented a strategy to ensure discipleship is proactively woven through the fabric of our church body. From incorporating our vision to defining what a disciple is to the different discipleship stages to the different methods, materials and activities we will use to help the body grow into disciples.

In the Spring, we launched one method (small groups) to provide an intimate environment allowing people to discuss their faith and ask questions. Each group spends time in fellowship sharing food followed by a bible study and prayer. In 2023, the groups studied "The Uniqueness of Jesus" and "Obedience."

### A FEW 2023 PARTNERSHIPS

Alpha Pregnancy  
Calvary Cobleskill AOG  
Neighborhood Church  
Capital Church  
Holy Spirit Respect for Life Mom's Group  
Catholic Charities  
Rural Compassion Ministry  
Albany County DPW Traffic Safety  
The Literacy Volunteers



**Carry each other's  
burdens, and in this way  
you will fulfill the law of  
Christ.**

**Galatians 6:2**

## ESL CLASS GRADUATES, CAR SEAT SAFETY TRAINING & THANKSGIVING BASKETS



## Food Pantry

Pastor Bea's heart for the church and community saw a physical need the church could help meet. The pantry started small with only few volunteers and relying on food donations. Over time the pantry has been growing. Each week, more and more families visit the pantry for food. Each month, more and more volunteers help at the pantry by picking up food, passing out food, and even the kids doing bottle drives to raise money to purchase food items. Each year new partnerships are formed. In 2023, we saw Living Resources providing volunteers, Albany Law school donating food, and the Regional Food Bank providing access to affordable food like fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, and canned goods.

Over the last three months the pantry provided food over 1,700 times. The pantry not only supports the physical needs, but it also provides opportunities to meet spiritual needs. It allows the church to encourage those who are hurting, pray with those from the community, and share Jesus with whoever comes through the church doors. We have even seen people commit their lives to Jesus while at the food pantry.