

August @hope

NHCC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER || AUGUST 2022

Connect in Community

First, I'd like to say thank you to this wonderful church for the opportunity to be able to teach these last several weeks. It's been an absolute joy to be able to get to know many of you better as well as meet some of you for the first time. The first week of the "Here Are Your Idols" series I said that it was important to remember that as we dove into various topics and the Word of God, the Bible, was opened, that I wasn't just throwing something out there for the sake of merely talking. Rather, the point of the last weeks that we've spent together has been for us as a church body to grow closer into the fullness of what Christ desires for us. I've been incredibly

—Pastor Austin Duncan

encouraged and inspired by many of you as you shared how different topics, verses, and stories that we talked about had made an impact in your life. The things that many of you have shared with me have made a profound impact on my life as well.



As we move into August and the fall of 2022, the desire I talked about having for us to grow towards Christ as a congregation still remains strong. The

desire to see our church body involved in community remains strong. In Luke 10:27, Jesus gives the two greatest commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with

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'all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbor as yourself."

There's an undeniable beauty when we meet publicly as well as in homes and groups throughout the week (Acts 20:20; Romans 16:5). As the fall season approaches, my encouragement for all of us is to be involved in community with one another both on Sundays and during the week in Connect Groups, and that's for several reasons.

Discipleship

Meeting in smaller groups provides substantial opportunities for us to learn from each other. While talking about who Christ is from the pulpit (cf. Matt. 16:15) is critical, so is *applying the gospel within the relationships that we build with other believers (Titus 2:1-8)*. *Getting to know others - who are in turn, willing to get to know us - is so important as we learn about God's Word and apply it to our lives (Acts 18:24-26).*

Study

When we meet each week to discuss and apply Scripture together, it helps us to not only understand the Bible that much better, but also each other - so that you can know how to love people better in the context of God's Word. The combination of capable leaders and eager learners all exchanging ideas and experiences together is an incredibly powerful tool for any believer.

Curiosity

Connect Groups at New Hope are built on openness and trust. Questions come up all the time, and your Connect Group is a perfect place to ask something like, "I

heard the pastor use the word "sanctification" before - and this study just used it again. What does it mean?" Helping each other through these questions is a beautiful aspects of being involved in a Connect Group.

Connectedness

Being involved in a Connect Group helps give a greater sense of Godly, Christian community in such a disconnected age. Growing deeper in friendships, encouraging greater spiritual accountability among each other, and having a natural opportunity to invite unbelieving or unchurched (or under-churched) neighbors to interact is a wonderful tool the church has to strive toward fulfilling the great commission.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

Again, thank you for allowing me to teach and encourage you all over these last weeks. It has been incredibly encouraging to me and I've enjoyed learning so much from all of you.

Austin W. Duncan
Associate Pastor
New Hope Community Church

worship

N E W ☰ H O P E

—Sutton Porth

Let's talk about worship! We don't praise God because he needs our worship, but instead because turning our hearts to God allows us to leave changed and He delights in that. In that spirit I want to illustrate an idea. Think of the song *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. The second line of the song says "tune my heart to sing thy grace." As a typical musician, I think a guitar is a great way to think about this. If I were to strum what should be a pretty chord but my guitar isn't tuned, it doesn't bring out the good notes that it should. It will actually sound like something is wrong. I would never play a song with an out of tune guitar, but how many times do we go out into our lives with a heart that is out of tune. In Psalm 86:11 David has a similar sentiment, "teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Tuning our hearts isn't something that we can do alone, but there are certain steps we can take. Things like surrounding yourself with good influences and spending time in scripture are great places to look, but life change happens when you go to the creator of the universe for help. Spend time in prayer, ask God for help and he will answer you. I would encourage you to take a moment to pray to God that He would help you tune your heart. It can change everything.



COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING
Robert Robinson, 1735-1790

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
 tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
 sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
 mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
 hither by thy help I'm
come; and I hope, by thy
 good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a
stranger, wandering from
 the fold of God; he, to
rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious
 blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
 daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
 prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 seal it for thy courts above.

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS

#LIVEBEYOND

in Haiti:

Dr. David Vanderpool always had a love for Jesus and the desire to do His will. But it wasn't until the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010 that he found his life's purpose by serving God by serving the poor.

Dr. David Vanderpool is founder and CEO of LiveBeyond, a faith-based, humanitarian organization improving lives of the poor in Thomazeau, Haiti, with sustainable solutions in medical and maternal health care, clean water, education, and agricultural and economic development.

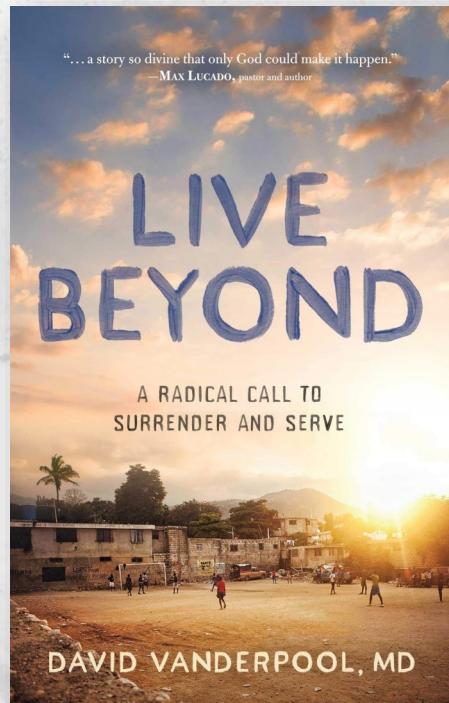
The catastrophic earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010 was the motivation that Dr. David Vanderpool needed to completely change his life to follow the call of Jesus. For several years, he and his wife, Laurie, had been asking each other a daily question: *What did you do yesterday that required faith?*

God's call to Dr. David Vanderpool's life was so powerful that he organized medical and logistical relief to help the hundreds of thousands of desperate Haitians—suffering people with no water, food, or shelter, much less medical care. But it didn't stop there. The Vanderpools sold everything—surgical practice, home, belongings—to bring much-needed medical care

to the people of Haiti. They established a nonprofit, LiveBeyond, to empower the impoverished. Today, its work continues with basic needs such as nutrition and water, in addition to health care, education, and agricultural assistance. The goal: achieve sustainable communities, beginning with the home base of Thomazeau, Haiti.

The inspirational stories of LiveBeyond's work in Haiti will lead you to ask yourself, *What did I do yesterday that required faith?* And maybe do something about it.

Save the Date! Dr. Vanderpool will be visiting New Hope Community Church on Sunday August 14th!





Food and Fellowship Event!

Even though the summer season is not quite over, August is when we all start gearing back up from our long relaxing summer days. So, let's enjoy one last summer hurrah together!

**Join us on Wednesday August 10th from 6:00-7:30
for a church-wide event!**

Details

Live Music
Food
Waterslides
Outdoor Games
Fellowship
On the Back Field

What to bring

\$10 donation per family
Chairs
Pop Up Tents to share for shade
Towels for the kids

Sign up online or on the app

"Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see The Day approaching."

—Hebrews 10:25

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Now that the dust has settled on our youth trips, I have been reflecting on how much they mean to our kids. The middle schoolers checked into Cedar Lake Camp in Livingston, Tennessee in early June with other kids from Tennessee. They stayed in cabins and were outdoors almost the entire time. The week's theme of Bible study was Heaven and Hell and that topic was deep! How wonderful that they were digging into God's Word with other young people for the week, unplugged from the internet and video games. They came home with tales of climbing in caves like Indiana Jones, hiking, canoeing, making crafts, porch talks, and bonfires with s'mores. Every year these kids beg to go back the next year.

The high schoolers attended a Student Life Conference in Orange Beach, AL. We were able to worship with 1,000 other people, and the speaker spoke about the David's life.



As he spoke about repentance, 58 kids stood up to receive Christ as Lord and Savior, 2 of which were

from our group! On this trip we also swam and played football in the ocean, played volleyball on the beach, miniature golfed, drove go-karts, stayed up late playing games that Gavin taught us, and chugged liters of Coke. These kids also encouraged each other

and cheered for each other when people received Christ, and they got on their knees to talk to God during the alter call, which brought tears to my eyes.

Our God is so good, and he has great



plans for the next generation. These trips are so valuable in our kids' lives. They are never cheap, but they are well worth the money. Worshiping with believers we don't know reminds us that God's Church is much greater than we can imagine. Friendships and memories are made within God's Kingdom that last a lifetime. Please pray that the commitments that were made to the Lord will be followed through on, and if you are a parent that sent your child, thank you! You have made an investment in your child that is far greater than any other extracurricular activity (besides attending our youth connect groups of course)! And if you are a precious soul that donated a scholarship money towards the youth trips, thank you! What a precious gift!

—Sarah Huisman





WEEKEND OF PRAYER

OVER STUDENTS

AUGUST 6-7, 2022

As communities continue to prepare for the new school year. The team at First Priority Nashville is also amping up for all the things that go with launching gospel clubs on middle and high school campuses. As an organization our foundation is dependence on the Father and the gospel of Jesus Christ. So we are working with the local Church to lead a time of united prayer on over 200 school campuses through the #Pray4StudentsTN Weekend on August 6 & 7. During that time groups of Jesus followers will gather and pray for the students, faculty and families on each individual school in Middle TN. Following that we will be training students on over 25 school campuses to launch their FP Clubs in August and September. One of the distinctives of a FP Club is the reality that they are student led and adult coached gatherings on the school campus. We train students to know their story in Christ and provide them a plan with coaching that they can execute each week as they lead their club. The good news is that the gospel works. The story of Jesus' life, death, burial and resurrection to redeem a broken generation is a story of hope that students need in the dark world they are walking through. To hear that story from one of their peers and to have the opportunity to be connected to a family of believers through a local church is truly amazing to be a part of. As the Executive Director of FP Nashville, I want to thank you New Hope Community. Your church family has been faithful in partnering with us through prayer, volunteers and financial support. If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do, please feel free to reach out to me.

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August is a big month for the high school ministry! We see new students move up to high school and we see old students go off to college, to the work-force, or wherever God takes them. We want to ask for prayer for all of our students as they go back to school. We know that God can move in each of our student's high schools, and we want our students to be a part of that!

—Gavin Booser