



**New Hope Presbyterian Church**

11400 Shirley Gate Court

Fairfax, VA 22030

<https://newhopefairfax.org/>

Welcome!	3
Our Beliefs and Values	4
Our Worship	5
Our Congregational Life	6
Our Missions	8
Our History	9
Our Numbers	10
Our Location	11
Our Officers and Pastoral Nominating Committee	12
Our Next Pastor	15
Our Application Process	17



## Welcome!

We are grateful to God that you are considering becoming our pastor. As a congregation, we are in constant prayer that the Lord will lead the right man to shepherd New Hope into its next chapter. The following information will help you to get to know us better. We hope it will help you as you prayerfully consider whether you have been called to serve as our pastor.

If you have any questions, please email us at [NewHopePNC.chair@gmail.com](mailto:NewHopePNC.chair@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the whole congregation at New Hope, your brothers and sisters in Christ, Bill, Jennie, Jason D., Steve, Sarah, Tom, Laura, Alle, and Jason W. , of the Pastoral Nominating Committee.

# Our Beliefs and Values

We believe the Bible is the Word of God written, the only infallible and all-sufficient rule of the Church's faith and practice. The system of doctrine found in the Bible is the Reformed Faith, to which we are committed without reservation as it is set forth in the Westminster Confession and Catechism. Ruled by Christ alone through His Word and Spirit, the Church is an essentially spiritual body with an exclusively spiritual mission—to glorify God by gathering into worshiping communities those called to be Christ's disciples from among the peoples of the world.

We delight in our great God, believing that man's chief end is to glorify Him and to enjoy Him forever. The worship of God is at the heart of our calling, and we believe that the same gracious Word that calls us to worship reveals how we may do so in a manner acceptable to Him. Daily private and family worship bears fruit in weekly public worship on the Lord's Day as we gather in faith to pray, sing His praises, confess our sins, hear His Word, share at His Table, and express our thanksgiving in offerings.

From this weekly practice we are fitted to serve the Lord in the circumstances of daily life, fulfilling our callings and bearing witness to Christ as transformed sinners. We seek to grow in godliness, taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ's Word as we work and play with our families and in our communities.

We believe that the presbyterian form of government is the one appointed by Christ for the church. Church unity is affirmed in a system of assemblies of elders, ascending from the local church Session to the General Assembly, which in one body represents all the congregations of our denomination. We gladly support the denomination with prayer, participation and financial provision. Government is exercised through the ministry of elders, called by God and recognized by the people. The rule of Christ through His Word is administered in the church with authority, while the principle of the liberty of conscience is upheld.



We meet for worship at Fairfax Korean Church, an evangelical Korean-speaking church located close to Fairfax City, Va.

## Our Worship

We meet each Lord's Day from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., because the triune God has called us to meet with Him. God is in our midst, not only by virtue of His divine nature, everywhere present without limitation, but, much more intimately, as the faithful covenant Savior.

Each Lord's Day we gather (including children) to worship God by reading and hearing an exposition of God's Word; singing His praise; bowing before Him in prayers of thanksgiving, confession, and supplication; sharing in the Lord's Supper; and expressing our thanksgiving in offerings.

After a time of fellowship with refreshments, adults gather for sermon discussion led by the pastor. Our "Sunday School" is a review of the main points of the sermon and further application of it to our lives. High school students have a separate sermon discussion while elementary school students have their own class going through the Westminster Shorter Catechism, both taught by Ruling Elders. Children ages 10 through 8th grade participate in the adult sermon discussion. Once a month on Sunday evening, we gather to sing, pray, and enjoy a fellowship meal with one another.



## Our Congregational Life

New Hope Presbyterian Church is a family of disciples who desire to learn and grow in Christ. We are committed to the sole rule of Scripture for faith and practice, as well as mutually supporting one another in the bond of Christ.

At New Hope, worship on the Lord's Day is central to our ministry. On the Lord's Day, we gather for worship - by singing hymns and spiritual songs accompanied by instrumentalists, by praying, by hearing from God's Word, and by partaking in the Lord's Supper. These elements of worship are deliberately knit together each Sunday around a lesson in Scripture. That lesson is presented to the congregation through robust teaching and preaching from God's Word, leading the congregation systematically through a book of the Bible or a thematic study. Prayerfully empowered by the Holy Spirit, the goal is to equip us to fulfill our callings and exemplify the Gospel in our spheres of influence in the world. Every aspect of Lord's Day worship engages our minds and hearts, by Word and Spirit, to spur growth in Christ.

Each worship service is followed by a time of fellowship over coffee and tea. We gather to learn more by discussing the sermon's teaching with the pastor as facilitator. During this discussion, we share insights gained from the sermon, ask questions, elaborate on key points, and discuss application of the Scripture lesson to our lives. At the same time, a Ruling Elder leads a discussion about the sermon with high schoolers and another Ruling Elder leads a Westminster Catechism class for young children. All these discussions are designed to increase our understanding of the morning's teaching.

New Hope's other ministry opportunities further our goals to learn and grow in Christ, and to support one another as disciples. These often spring from the initiative of individual members and include:

- ◆ Small group prayer gatherings each Sunday afternoon.
- ◆ On the first Sunday of every month, evening fellowship featuring song and prayer and a brief devotional followed by a congregational supper.
- ◆ Bible studies during the week.
- ◆ Men's and women's breakfasts on separate Saturday mornings each month.
- ◆ Suppers for Six, in which three couples or singles get together on a recurring basis to share supper and fellowship together.
- ◆ Women's retreats.
- ◆ A Festival of Lessons and Carols in December.
- ◆ Summer Study Institute for high schoolers.
- ◆ Other informal fellowship and learning opportunities.

# Our Missions

We believe that God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—according to His eternal and unending purpose, is gathering His elect, to the glory of His grace. The divinely appointed means is the Church sending out ministers into the world, that by the preaching of the Gospel, blessed by the Spirit, a people may be called and gathered into a body, to the glory of God’s grace.

Jesus said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matt 28:18-20).

These principles guide us as we support the following missions:

## *Church planting*

- ◆ MTW China
- ◆ MTW Japan
- ◆ Ministry to the Military and Internationals



## *Theological education*

- ◆ Ukraine Seminary
- ◆ Huguenot Fellowship supporting John Calvin seminary in Aix-en-Provence, France
- ◆ Reformed Theological Seminary D.C.

## *Discipleship / Outreach*

- ◆ Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Howard University in Washington, D.C.
- ◆ RUF International at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.



## *Diaconal*

- ◆ Serge (formerly World Harvest Missions)

# Our History

New Hope began in 1988 when a group of families belonging to McLean Presbyterian Church, in McLean, Va., met together to make plans for a church plant in nearby Fairfax. The name “New Hope” was chosen, and then in October 1989, New Hope began meeting for morning worship at a local elementary school.

New Hope Presbyterian Church was officially organized as a congregation on November 4, 1990. Since its inception, New Hope has had two pastors. In December 1990, Dave Coffin was installed as the first pastor and served the congregation as the solo pastor until the fall of 2000 when Paul Wolfe was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor. At the beginning of 2018, Paul became Senior Pastor and Dave assumed a new Assistant Pastor role, from which he retired in 2024.

Shortly after organizing, New Hope changed its meeting place to an office building in Fairfax City before moving in 1997 to a hall in the nearby fire station. The fire station would be New Hope’s home until March 2020, when we began sharing a lovely building with Fairfax Korean Church, which is our current meeting place.

# Our Numbers

55

Communicant Members

3

Ruling Elders

11

Non-Communicant Members

2

Deacons

50-55

Average Sunday Morning  
Worship Attendance

\$304,095

2025 Budget

26

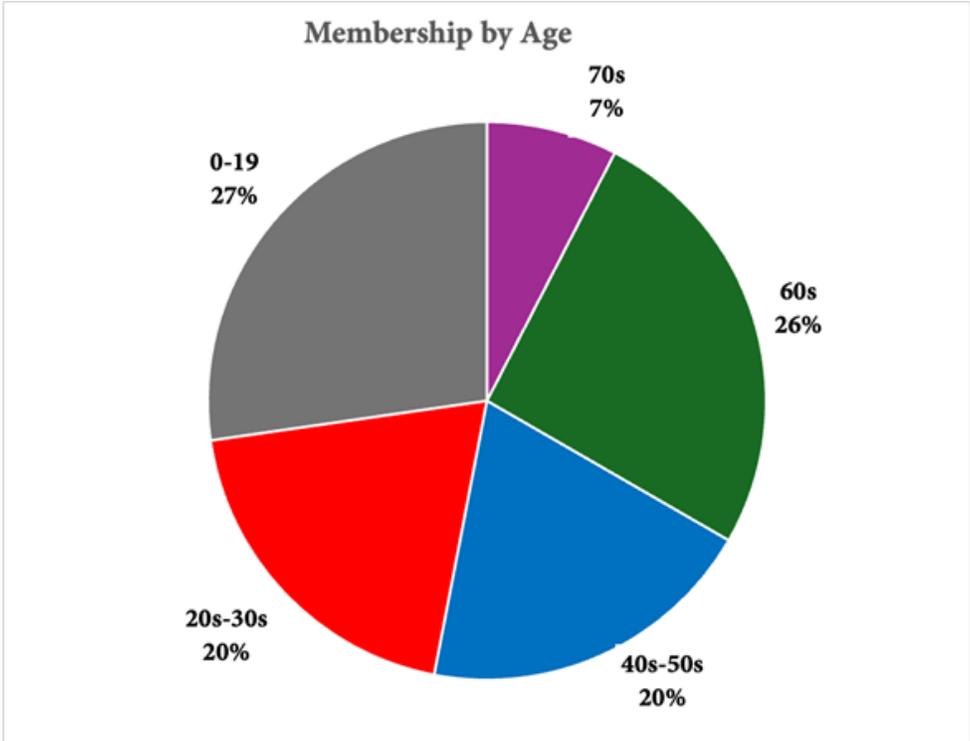
Households

34

Years Worshipping as a Particular Church

9

Missionaries/Ministries Supported



# Our Location

New Hope is located outside the Fairfax City limits within Fairfax County, Va. Fairfax City is in the heart of Northern Virginia, just 14 miles west of Washington, D.C. New Hope members come from across Fairfax County, a county of more than a million residents. The area has an attractive blend of tree-lined residential neighborhoods and vibrant commercial centers.

Located at the crossroads of several major highways, Fairfax benefits from convenient transportation options, including the Washington Metro's Orange Line. The CUE Bus and Metrobus provide local transit services complemented by the Virginia Railway Express.

George Mason University, Virginia's largest public research university with more than 40,000 students, is located a few miles from where we meet to worship. The university provides the community with world-class thinkers, musical and cultural events, and nationally recognized sports teams.

Residents enjoy the educational, occupational, and recreational opportunities afforded by living in a thriving metropolitan area. Being in such close proximity to our nation's capital, the Fairfax region attracts residents from all over the country and the world, creating a population that is both highly educated and culturally diverse.



# Our Officers and Pastoral Nominating Committee

## *Elders*



**Paul Balsarak** has served as a Ruling Elder at New Hope since 2000. Paul and his wife Lori have been members of New Hope since the mid-1990s and are blessed with three children. Born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area, Paul has worked on federal environmental and climate policy since 1990 and currently serves as vice president for environment with the American Iron and Steel Institute, where he has lead their environmental practice since 2016.

**Bill Chambers** serves as a Ruling Elder at New Hope. Bill and his wife Bonnie and their children first joined New Hope in the late 1990s when the U.S. Air Force assigned Bill to serve in the Pentagon in Washington, DC. During the next 15 years, whenever Air Force assignments brought them back to Washington, Bill and Bonnie rejoined New Hope. Upon retirement after a 35-year career in the Air Force in 2013, Bill and Bonnie settled in Fairfax County in part to remain at New Hope. Since 2013, Bill heads a portfolio of research for the Institute for Defense Analyses, leading teams conducting studies on national security issues. Bill and Bonnie have been married for 47 years and are blessed with four adult children and their spouses, and 11 grandchildren.



**Steve Edwards** is a founding member of New Hope. He has been blessed to sit under the faithful preaching of the Word at New Hope since 1990 and serve in various capacities as treasurer, Deacon, and Ruling Elder. He currently serves on Potomac Presbytery's Reformed University Fellowship Committee. Steve has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and has worked at Curtiss-Wright for 27 years in supporting the defense industry. He has been married to his lovely wife Esther for 39 years. They have a daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren.

## *Deacons*

**Christian Hamaker** has been a member of New Hope Presbyterian Church since 1996 and a PCA deacon for more than two decades. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Tech and a Master of Arts from Reformed Theological Seminary. He lives with his wife and four children in Fairfax City.



**Peter Lo** joined New Hope in 1997 and began serving as a Deacon a few years later. Peter has an M.S. in Electrical Engineering and most recently worked for Zeta Associates, Inc. for 20 years before retiring. He is now figuring out retired life with his faithful dog Bronx.

## *PNC Members*

**Steve Edwards.** See above.

**Bill Chambers.** See above.



**Jennie Coffin** was a founding member of New Hope Presbyterian church in 1990 when her husband Dave was called to be the first pastor of the congregation. She has provided a hospitable place for all sorts of New Hope meetings and fellowship gatherings, as well as leading and attending Bible studies for women in the church. Jennie has a B.A. in Fine Arts from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. She was trained in the art of ceramics at the Chrysler Museum School of the same city. Her pottery is made in her home studio and her work has appeared in many galleries—presently at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, Va. Jennie has also taught ceramics for 30 years. Jennie and Dave have three married children and eight grandchildren.

**Jason DeMarco** and his wife Betsy have been members of New Hope since 1997. They have two young adult boys and two teenage girls, and enjoy taking advantage of recreational opportunities both in the city and the nearby Shenandoah National Park. Jason graduated from Georgia Tech with a bachelor of Mechanical Engineering and works for Microsoft as a software engineer supporting government customers.



**Sarah Hamaker** has been a member of New Hope since 1999. She and her husband Christian (a New Hope Deacon) have two young adult daughters, two teenage sons, and two cats. As therapeutic foster parents, they currently have a teenage foster son. When she's not helping middle schoolers understand English better as an in-school tutor, she writes award-winning and best-selling inspirational romantic suspense novels.

**Thomas Jipping** grew up in the Christian Reformed Church and came to northern Virginia in 1989. He joined New Hope as a charter member in 1990 and has served as an accompanist supporting the congregation's worship in song ever since. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in political science and received a J.D. from the State University of New York. Currently a Senior Legal Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, Thomas has spent 19 years with public policy research organizations and 15 years on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee staff as counsel to Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT).



**Laura Matson** has been a member of New Hope since 2005. She graduated from James Madison University with a degree in music education and afterwards taught elementary music in various school settings, including for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Panama. She has taught private

piano lessons and also helped start a classical Christian school. Since becoming a mother in 2000, she has been a homemaker, off-and-on homeschooler, and piano teacher to her own children. Laura and her husband Greg have four daughters ages 17-24.

**Alle Schilstra** emigrated from the Netherlands in 1989 to attend graduate school in Atlanta, Ga. After working many years for telecom and hi-tech companies, he joined the Department of State for nine years, and is now a government contractor. In his free time, Alle loves to tinker in his woodshop. He and his wife Jill have three grown children and recently became the happy grandparents of a healthy boy. Alle has been a member of New Hope for four years and he feels truly blessed God led him to this wonderful congregation.



**Jason Witt** has lived in the Northern Virginia area since graduating from James Madison University in 2000, working as a software engineer. He and his wife Caitlin met while taking classes at Reformed Theological Seminary and became members of New Hope shortly after marrying in 2013. Jason and Caitlin have three children and enjoy getting out and exploring God's creation whenever possible.



## Our Next Pastor

We look to the Lord to send us a pastor who loves Christ and His Church and its members; who will be thoughtful and devoted to prayer, with a love for studying God's Word; and who will also care for the spiritual nourishment of the Church.

The pastor of New Hope will work alongside the Session in the following areas:

### **Ministry of the Word/Worship Leader**

- ◆ Plan, direct, and lead Lord's Day and other worship services, including the sacraments (baptism and weekly administration of the Lord's Supper).
- ◆ Study and pray to bring us Christ-centered, expository sermons on both Old and New Testament passages.
- ◆ Encourage members to apply principles shared in sermons in their daily lives.
- ◆ Lead sermon discussions each week.
- ◆ Disciple new members and youth.
- ◆ Lead New Hope in public prayer, along with Ruling Elders.

### **Spiritual Development**

- ◆ Develop opportunities for members to grow in their faith outside of weekly sermons, such as conducting topical studies and seminars for both adults and youth.
- ◆ Provide training for new officer candidates.
- ◆ Conduct membership classes for prospective New Hope members.

## **Congregational Care**

- ◆ Provide ongoing care, through personal visitation, to members who might be hospitalized, sick, bereaved, or otherwise struggling.
- ◆ Set an example of caring for both the spiritual and the physical needs of the congregation.
- ◆ Encourage members to care for one another.

## **Congregational Fellowship**

- ◆ Encourage small groups, such as Bible studies and prayer groups.
- ◆ Work with the congregation on developing new ways to foster fellowship among members.

## **Witness and Outreach**

- ◆ Guide the congregation in finding new ways to engage with the world around us through occasions designed to invite friends, neighbors, and others to join us in learning more about the Gospel.

## **Administrative Leadership**

- ◆ Act as moderator of the Session and tackle administrative tasks, delegating some and sharing others with the Session.
- ◆ Work closely with the Session in the governance of New Hope, as well as participate in presbytery and General Assembly.
- ◆ Be accountable to the Session.

# Our Application Process

We're delighted you want to apply to be the pastor of New Hope. The process is simple—please send the following documents to Steve Edwards, the committee chair, at [NewHopePNC.chair@gmail.com](mailto:NewHopePNC.chair@gmail.com).

- ◆ Cover letter
- ◆ Resume
- ◆ A minimum of three references
- ◆ Ministerial Data Form
- ◆ Links to a minimum of three sermons

Once we receive your documents, we will be in touch about further steps.