



**Dear New Hope Community Families,**

I wanted to talk to you personally and have an intentional conversation in this letter. Since COVID-19 began, I have been waiting and planning and trying to figure out how best to run with Vacation Bible School for summer 2020. I have been racking my brain and spent sleepless nights and time in prayer all trying to figure out how to do this for our kids. This is an incredibly important week for all of us and one we look forward to every year. Yet as the weeks and months have continued, and the virus is still present I have to make a decision.

I want to be able to make a decision which can't be canceled on you. Too many things have been canceled and it has been important for me to not cancel VBS. The reality is we can't hold VBS safely for 270 kids and 90 volunteers as of right now. What we can do however is think differently for VBS, think a bit outside of the box.

We are creating an Online and Take-Home Vacation Bible School for you and your kids. How is this going to look? Many things will be on video, and others will be parent led. It will be a nice mix for everyone. Below you will find all of the resources we will make available to you along with items we will be putting together for your family to pick up at church. This will help create the VBS experience at home and within your neighborhood. We are excited to still be putting on VBS this year in a new creative way. We are saddened at the fact we will not be able to be with the kids and will miss their energy for this year.

Blessings,  
Allie Atchison  
Director of Children's and Family Ministry

**New Hope Church Vacation Bible School 2020**

**July 20-24**

**Registration Opens June 8**

**For the safety of our families and community, VBS will look different this year!**

***Parent-led with on-line resources!***

**Pick-up a bag with the usual great music CD and all the gizmos!**

**Special ideas to involve your entire neighborhood!**

**Only \$15 per child!**

## Online Resources

Access to these online resources will become available to those who have registered on the week of VBS. Many of these will also be expanded below in the letter to explain further.

1. Daily Videos Created by New Hope Children's Ministry
  - Opening with Music, Story Telling, and the Day's theme  
How Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through! Great Theme for this year!
  - Gizmo creation videos: a how to put the gizmos together
  - Daily Bible story telling
  - Daily God Sightings videos
  - Daily video on neighborhood experience for the day
2. Access to Music Videos for VBS music

## Neighborhood Events:

We wanted to engage the community at large while having VBS. New Hope has started a wonderful addition to the church since the virus. They have neighborhoods mapped out where congregation members and families can stay connected through e-mails, phone calls, texts and zoom calls between the neighbor where they live. We wanted to build off of this for Vacation Bible School this year. Every day neighborhoods will have an activity to do and the entire congregation will be invited to participate. The full list will be found in the pick-up supply bag.

Here are brief examples:

1. Families going on a walk in their neighborhoods to have a train scavenger hunt. Members of the community will have put pictures of trains in their windows and while on your walk you all can keep an eye out for it.
2. Dance Party. With the VBS CD go out at 7pm on evening blast the music and have a dance party in your driveway. See if you can listen and hear others doing the same. (If not know that others all around the community are doing the same thing.)

These are only 2 examples of what will be put together for your kids to do out and about during the week with community participation.

## Our Fun Bible Buddies for the week!



### **Daily Watching for God:**

Every year during VBS kids have the chance to share where they see God during the week. We would like to still participate in this wonderful practice during the week of VBS. We have a way we would like to still do this, that involves the whole family.

We are encouraging families to film kids sharing their God sightings and send the videos to [childrens@newhopepres.org](mailto:childrens@newhopepres.org) which will then be turned into videos we can share daily on our VBS online resources. We will also be asking congregation members, and parents to video theirs as well to be a part of these daily videos. All of these will be compiled to show how God is still present and still moving during the week

### **Registration:**

Registration will open for New Hope Families on June 8, on our website and in e-mails.

Cost: \$15 per child or Max \$32 per family

The cost includes all of the online resources along with the take home supplies and fun activities for your family!

### **Take Home Supplies.**

Every family who registers will have a take home bag for each of their children in the bag. We won't give everything away because some surprises are fun but here are the most important things the bag will contain:

1. VBS CD
2. The Gizmos for every day and explanation of why this activity helps us TRUST JESUS
3. Bible Buddies with Key Chain to hold them
4. Daily snack creation explanations
5. Plus a few other goodies for the kids

### **Picking up Your VBS Supplies**

Once you have registered and paid, we will begin putting together your family's bags. We will have them ready for pick up on 2 special days! Every bag will be labeled with your child's name. Come drive by the church.

We will have volunteers with masks and gloves on who pass out the VBS supplies to your families and snow cones if you would like.

**Dates for VBS Take Home Kits Pick Up:**

**July 18: 9am-12pm**

**July 19: 6pm-8pm**

**Zoom gathering for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

We wanted to be able to give older kids the chance to talk and have some social time. So, we will hold daily zoom gatherings. These will be 20 minutes check-ins for those within those ages. We will put the days gizmo together while we talk about the story for the day and hear all about their God sightings. When families register, we will be able to split the age of kids and plan for zoom gatherings. Families will receive a link to the zoom rooms in order to help their kids connect.

**Mission Project.**

Every year VBS has a mission project we focus on, and we at New Hope we love to support local missions during our week. We wanted to still have this as part of our week so we will encourage all families to make an online donation to the Help and Hope Center in Castle Rock. We will also have a drive by food drive for one of the neighborhood events! The virus has hit everyone hard and being able to help families during this time is a delight and honor of VBS.

So, there it is! VBS for New Hope Presbyterian Church for 2020! We are excited about this new adventure in VBS. **We Hope you will join us for this year and Remember Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!**

