

New Hope Baptist Church

11469 South State Road 59

Clay City, Indiana 47841

812 -878- 9080

New Hope Baptist Church is a smaller country church located about four miles south of Clay City. The Clay City area is largely a farming community. We are looking for a Bi-Vocational Pastor who may or may not live in the parsonage.

We support our missionaries abroad as well as actively supporting our local missions. We are faithful supporters of our local food pantry with monetary gifts as well as monthly food donations. We strive to play an active role in our community by assisting our local schools and others that are in need of assistance.

Our youth are an important part of our church. We are blessed to have children from infants all the way up through high school. We have an active ABY program with Bible lessons and activities. Some of these activities include Youth Sunday, our Christmas Program, and our community Chocolate Walk. Each year we participate in the community-wide Bible School. We also assist in the back to school supplies drive each year.

If we were to describe the congregation of New Hope, a word that comes to mind would be FAMILY. We are blessed to have a caring church family, not only for our congregation, but also for our community.

THE CHURCH STORY OF NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1891, a group of twenty-one dedicated individuals went to the Good Hope Baptist Church, located one mile south of Clay City, for the purpose of obtaining a letter of support from that church to establish a new church farther south of Good Hope. Thus, the beginning of the New Hope Baptist Church, located four miles south of Clay City on State Road 59.

On July 11, 1891, the church celebrated their first Lord's Supper. On August 8, 1891, the newly formed church requested to join the Curry's Prairie Association. In January of 1892, Elder Joel Ellis was called to serve as Pastor for \$50.00 per year and 10 cents per meeting as the janitor.

In 1892, a new church was built on the ground donated by charter member Levi Johnson. In June of 1892, the members met in their new church. ON September 3, 1892, the new building was dedicated.

The church had two front doors—one for the men and one for the women. In 1936, a gasoline light plant was purchased. In 1938, the church voted for electric lights.

In 1939, the building was remodeled, a basement was added, and a furnace was installed.

In 1950, an attractive entrance was built and a beautiful stained glass window was placed in the front of the church. It remains there today. In 1953, Ingathering was started which is normally held in November. This is a tradition which continues yet today. In 1954, plans were approved to build a church parsonage and garage next to the church. The parsonage and garage were built by the men of the church. The newly built parsonage was dedicated on December 18, 1955.

In the spring of 1965, seven Sunday School rooms, a baptistery, church office, and restrooms were built on the west side of the church. Limestone was used for the new addition and was also used to cover the present church.

In 1971, the church library was created by a member who donated many books to the church.

In 1972, an acre of land was purchased for a playground. A handicap ramp was added to the back of the church. The ramp enters into the back room of the office and Sunday School areas. There is also a small ramp provided in the church sanctuary.

Through the years, we have had many faithful and dedicated church members who have worked hard to foster church growth, attendance, and spiritual awareness. Our Women's Missionary Circle is actively involved in the church. Our Circle supports our Baptist missionaries abroad as well as our many home missions. We have many faithful members who continue to work hard on behalf of the church and church members.

The church has had many significant milestones. We have also had our trials and set-backs, such as the church split several years back. But, the members have remained strong in their faith, dedication, and prayer life.

New Hope people are proud of their heritage and trust in the future with the faith to believe there remains much work to be done for the Master. The members believe the work in the future can be as satisfying and rewarding as the work has been in the past, always living up to the name given by the founders, "New Hope".

2016 marked our anniversary of 125 years as a church. We held a Homecoming celebration in honor of our 125 years on Sunday, October 2, 2016.

We are currently in the process of completing the inside of our new Fellowship Hall. In December of 2020, we held our first live Nativity Scene outside at the church. It was a drive-through event which featured our youth, church choir, and animals from our church family farms.

As we continue to work for Him, New Hope Baptist Church is very thankful for His many blessings.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION--NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

We believe the position of a Pastor includes duties that reach beyond the Sunday morning service. We want our Pastor to be actively involved with our youth and be a positive mentor to our young couples. The Pastor should be willing to visit with our older members of the church to include some who are not able to attend church. He should be willing to serve as an advocate to the numerous church committees.

The Pastor should work closely with both the Deacons and the Trustees. He should be an active member of committees who plan events and programs for the church during special times of the year.

We would want our Pastor to have a passion for growing the church, both in attendance and spiritually, and work closely with the leaders of the church. We would want our Pastor to call and visit with potential individuals who may be interested in attending New Hope as well as those individuals who need encouragement to increase their faithfulness to the church.

The Pastor should have a working knowledge and understanding of the business and financial side of the church. He should also have the ability to organize, budget, and use his personal finances properly as an individual and Pastor.

Our Pastor should be active in our community by attending and supporting community events. It would be important for him to introduce himself and become familiar with our local schools by supporting, when possible, their various activities. He should also be an active member of the local Ministerial Association.

He should be available for funeral and weddings as needed. Preaching, led by the Holy Spirit, would be expected in order to meet the needs of the church and to grow members spiritually.