

Dear Church Family,

At the start of this new year, we are inviting you to join us for 30 days of renewed focus on understanding and living out our shared vision as New Hope Church of the Nazarene. We are called to be a church that *loves God well, loves our neighbors well, and loves like Christ*. Entering into February, a month when our culture focuses on love in ways that can be very superficial, we are inviting you to join us in daily intentional practices that will move us to focus on a much deeper and lasting type of love. We are inviting you to *30 Days of Living the Vision!*

Love God: Through prayer we gaze into the face of God and we are transformed by God's unconditional love for us. As we spend time in prayer, we discover the sustaining power of prayer that prepares us to share God's love with others.

Love Neighbor: Compassion literally means to suffer with. Just as Christ entered into our suffering when he came to earth, his disciples are asked to share in the suffering of others, to help, to encourage, and by doing so to share God's love.

Love Like Christ: The only way for us to love like Christ is to become a devoted disciples of Christ. It is along the discipleship journey God transforms us. This journey requires discipline and accountability, and it is not a journey we can walk alone.

That is who we are called to be! A community defined by I Corinthians 13:1-7, 13.

If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don't have love, I'm a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don't have love, I'm nothing. If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I've done but I don't have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.

Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant, it isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints, it isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things.

Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.

Our *Living the Vision* journey will begin on **Sunday, January 31**, when we are inviting you to choose something to fast (media, a meal, social media, coffee...) and give time to **prayer** and **fasting**, asking God to move in our hearts individually and collectively over these next 30 days of *Living the Vision*.

Grateful to be on the journey with you,

Pastor Lisa and Pastor Samuel