

Christmas 2020

Christmas and Holiday Greetings to All Our Friends and Clinic Family!

Words hardly seem adequate to describe the year that 2020 turned out to be. What seemed to start out with the optimism of a new year soon took a turn in the opposite direction for so many so quickly. As we trudged forward through the year, we have learned that, while there may no longer be a normal in this world in which we live, we have been given a chance to thankfully appreciate what we do have.

We must start with an update on Dr. Kurt Bales. He powered through his surgery in 2019 for an aggressive brain tumor. Unfortunately, more cancer was discovered early this year. He had a second surgery in March, but, despite the surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, the cancer continued its ugly course. As we read this now, he is at home in hospice care. His wife Vicki is caring for him. We so appreciate his 30 years of caring for all of us and our critters – a true blessing. We wish him and his family strength as God provides the path for His plans for Dr. Kurt in the future.

Dr. Carolyn Sluiter has officially retired as of this year. She now has a deserved time to work at home caring for the horses, helping with church and youth activities, and playing the role of farmer's wife. We so appreciate her 40 years of helping all of us through so many wonderful and so many tough times in our lives, for being the mentor she has been for so many, and for providing opportunities for us in our practice – a true blessing.

With that, we are beyond blessed to have a new doctor in our fold: Dr. Elizabeth Brehm joined our practice just about the same time the Covid crisis started. Dr. Elizabeth jumped right into the middle of all the necessary changes and she rolled with these changes. She has provided a youthful energy and smile and laughter that has helped everyone around. She grew up on her family dairy in Iowa and is a 2019 graduate of Iowa State. We so appreciate that God provided her skills to us when we most needed them – a true blessing.

The remainder of the veterinarians (Dr. Ann, Dr. Susan, and Dr. Bob) and all the staff have remained as stable as possible this year. With all the changes in the practice family, with the needed adjustments to how we provide care and services during a pandemic, with dealing with clinic personnel having Covid, we recognize how much we appreciate our clinic family and our clients. We appreciate the patience everyone has shown through these trying times. We appreciate spending time with our families. As we look forward to a renewed optimism to conquer this pandemic, we thank God for blessing us with so much more than perhaps we deserve. We thank everyone reading this for being part of that blessing. We thank you for your prayers and your patience this year. May we all recognize and appreciate the blessings surrounding us. May we all stay strong and healthy. And may we all look forward to the new year with Hope and Joy.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

The Doctors and Staff of New Hope

