



November 2015 New Hope News



2015 WATCHWORD

Everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.
Matthew 7:8

*New Hope
Moravian Church*

Studying Moravian Doctrine



MCCL

Moravian Covenant for Christian Living

Last month in October's Newsletter, we featured, "Studying Moravian Doctrine." This month, we will continue with different aspects of two central documents outlining Moravian doctrine and belief. As set forth in the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (MCCL); and the Ground of the Unity. This month we will cover parts of the MCCL dealing with Scripture, and the Moravian Church's ecumenical views as "A Church Among Churches."

As I wrote last month, those interested in the full written text of the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living and the Ground of the Unity; they are available as a free download online. You can attain them on *New Hope's* website: <http://www.newhopemoravian.org/tradition.html>. Printed copies are also available for you, please see me for one.

Scripture

Paragraph 2 of MCCL:

The Triune God as revealed in the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments is the only source of our life and salvation; and this Scripture is the sole standard of the doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum [Moravian Church] and therefore shapes our life.

Commentary:

There has been much controversy in the history of Christianity over the Scriptures, even in early Christianity. The early church, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, established the Bible as we know it today (although in Greek) and encouraged a figurative (or spiritual) reading of much of the Old Testament. Over the centuries, the Catholic Church developed a long tradition of biblical interpretation that was the basis of doctrine and church life and which had as much authority as the Bible itself. Beginning with John Wyclif (d. 1384) and Jan Hus (d. 1415), reformers called for Scripture rather than tradition to be the final authority in the Church. The Moravian Church was part of this biblical reformation and encouraged reading of the Bible in the common language of the people. The Covenant reflects the 500-year understanding of the Moravian Church that Scripture is the standard of our faith and practice, but God is the source of our life and salvation. Scripture is sacred to us because it points us to God. (Thanks to Dr. Craig Atwood and the editors of *Jesus Still Lead On* (2005) for this commentary material).

Questions for consideration:

- What parts of the Bible do you read most often? Why?
- How do you think that Scripture shapes your life as a Christian?
- How does Scripture shape the life of the Moravian Church?
- What do you learn about God from reading the Bible?
- Do you think it is helpful to read the Bible in light of what we know about it's original historical context?

A Church Among Churches**Paragraphs 3 and 4 of MCCL:**

With the universal Christian Church, we share our faith in the Triune God, who revealed Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Savior of all people. We particularly declare His living presence and Lordship over the Church, joy in the benefits of His life, sufferings, death and resurrection and emphasize a close bond of fellowship with each other in His name. We believe that Christ is present with us in Word and Sacrament. We decline to determine as binding what the Scriptures have left undetermined, or to argue about mysteries impenetrable to human reason. In this regard, we hold to the principle "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity." [This is sometimes called the Moravian motto.]

We thankfully recognize the value of the historic creeds of the Christian Church in calling upon believers in every age to give an obedient and fearless testimony, recognizing Jesus Christ as Lord. A Moravian confession of faith is to be found in the Easter Dawn Liturgy.

Commentary:

This section of the MCCL reflects The Ground of the Unity and points to the Easter Dawn Liturgy. It is important to notice the Moravian Church does not have a doctrine that separates it from the rest of the Christian Church. We affirm the basic doctrines of Christianity, but we do lay particular stress on Jesus Christ as our Lord and our Savior (Chief Elder). This is what is often described as Christocentrism.

The MCCL sets forth a guiding principle that is evident in Moravian doctrine and practice: we respect the complexity of Scripture and do not attempt to force a single interpretation on the Scripture. We acknowledge there are things in Christian doctrine and practice that still remain mysteries. The statement on essentials and non-essentials remind us we are ultimately defined by our love. We are called to love and serve God, not to define and confine God by our limited understanding and vision. (Thanks to Dr. Craig Atwood and the editors of *Jesus Still Lead On* (2005) for this commentary material).

Questions for consideration:

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Savior?
- How do you see this paragraph lived out in the Moravian Church?
- How does Christ remain a living presence in the church?
- How does devotion to Christ lead us into a deeper understanding of the Triune God and our responsibility as followers of Christ?
What does the principle of "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love" (the Moravian motto) mean to you?

<http://www.moravian.org/the-moravian-magazine/march-2015/moravian-magazine-march-2015/>

In Christ Service,

Pastor Betty

CHURCH COUNCIL – SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 15TH

You might ask “What is Church Council?”. Following our regular worship service, the church family of New Hope will have their annual congregational meeting in the sanctuary. During this gathering we will receive the upcoming 2016 budget that has been submitted by the Stewardship and Commitment Committee and approved by the Board of Elders.

Also to be presented is a slate of candidates to fill the upcoming Board of Elders slots whose term is expiring at the end of this year. The floor will also be open for any nominations. An election of three new board members will take place. Our Board of Elders, with Pastor Betty serving as the Chairperson, is led by our Chief Elder – Jesus Christ.

Please plan to stay for this important brief meeting.



New Hoppers

Friday, November 20th at 6:30



Eddie Ide will be our speaker. He will do a presentation on the Berlin Airlift, a "true story of the successful 15 month long British, France, and United States air supply effort providing life's essentials to the city of West Berlin, Germany when it was land blockaded by the Soviets in 1948 and 1949. "Saving a City" will look at the many sides of a complex military, political, and civil situation and is sprinkled with short stories of heartache, humor, triumph and tragedy."



Dear New Hope Saints,



The first three Sundays in November @ 10:00am-during our normal Sunday School time, (November 1, 8, 15) we will be discussing the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (MCCL). This will give us time to prepare for all to have a better understanding of what we as Moravians believe and say each week in our Liturgies. This will be a time for open discussion and questions about the MCCL and how it affects how we live our daily lives as Christians.



Come hungry, there will also be coffee and sweet rolls for you to enjoy. Please do not miss this wonderful opportunity for all of us to have a time of good fellowship and learn together.



Blessings,
Pastor Betty





Women's Fellowship Prepares for December Candle Tea

Hard to believe that Candle Tea is just a few weeks away! Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, December 5th** when our congregation will invite our community to come see and experience the Moravian faith.

Women's Fellowship has worked all year preparing for this one day and it takes all of us to make it a success. Outside vendors have been invited to bring their crafts to sell for the bazaar but the most sought after items are always from our own members. Please be thinking of something you can share with us. Check out that closet with all those crafty items, look on Pinterest, browse through a Christmas magazine for inspiration and be inspired!

Of course not all of us can be crafty but you can plan to bring something for our Bake Shop. **The Bake Shop** is always a big hit with our guests and we need your help there too! There will be something for everyone to participate in on that day as well. We will need everyone to help that day from parking cars, working in the sanctuary, helping move our visitors from one venue to another, working in the bazaar area or checking out all those purchases for the day. But most of all, we need your friendly face to greet our guests. There is always a need to help our guest take things to their cars and help them in some way.

Now...you decide where you'd like to help...we need you all!

Thank you, New Hope Congregation, for always helping us make this a wonderful day for us and our community.



CHICKEN CHATTER

Well, it is old news that the new HVAC units are installed and working like a Charm! Thank you Mark, and Thank you to everyone who has been so involved with the making, purchasing, selling and overall good wishes of our chicken pie projects. Don't get too comfortable though. While the sanctuary and classrooms will be toasty warm this winter, there are still many projects that need to be done to update and just spiffy-up our building and grounds.

We will soon make pies for the last time in 2015. All of these pies will be held and sold at Candle Tea. Dates and times are as follows:

Thursday 11/5/15

@ 1:00 PM – Assemble boxes, Pre-Measure and Set-up

Friday 11/6/15

@ 7:00 AM – Chicken cookers arrive

(some chicken will be ready to begin cooking)

@ 8:00 AM– Dough makers arrive

@ 9:00 AM– Gravy makers arrive

ALL OTHER WORKERS ARRIVE AT 9:00 AM

Saturday 11/7/15

@ 8:30 AM - All workers arrive to begin the assembly of the pies

Please remember that this is a church wide project and we need everyone's help. There is a job for everyone from folding boxes and putting stickers on them to making dough and pulling chicken. Please consider coming out to help.

Can't wait to see you then!



**"Serving God by Serving Others"
The Committees of New Hope Moravian**

You are invited to join a committee that sparks your interest. Through the dedication of our church family by giving their time, talents and resources we are able to be an active and working part of the living body of Christ.

Worship Committee - This committee consist of the Pastor, Director of Music, Band Director, Head Diener, Sacristan, a board member and any other members who are interested in the formulation and planning of worship life at New Hope. They discuss and explore traditional and non-traditional types of worship services. This committee meets quarterly.

Commitment and Stewardship - This committee consists of the treasurer, a board member and many other members who are interested in the financial stewardship of New Hope. They prepare the annual budget for approval by the board and monitor it. This committee also makes recommendations to the board for the care and upkeep of our facility and site. They meet quarterly.

Christian Education Committee - This committee consists of Sunday School teachers, a board member, adult and youth leaders and other members who are interested in developing opportunities for spiritual growth and educations. They plan youth activities, VBS, Sunday School, New Hoppers and other church related activities. This committee meets quarterly.

Service and Witness Committee - This committee consist of members of the church family and a board member interested in planning special church related and community outreach events. This special committee is always in need of others to join and become part of this vital ministry of New Hope. They meet quarterly.

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the Bulletin Board if you would like to join a committee. The chairperson will be in touch with you.

Other groups that also need your support...

New Hoppers - "Young Seniors" covered dish, planned programs, meets monthly usually the last Friday of the Month

Women's Circle - Monthly bible study in homes 3rd Tues. evening of month

Women's Fellowship - meets quarterly - main project Annual Christmas Bazaar & Candletea

Musical Groups - adult choir, handbells and band Wed. evenings/children's choir Sundays 9:30

Sunday School - classes for children and adults - 10:00 Sunday



Youth Movie Night
Friday night, Nov. 13,
from 6:00 until about 9:00

We will spend the first hour making Christmas cookies to use for caroling in December. We will watch "The Santa Claus" at 7:00.

We will have snacks and drinks. Bring your own comfy fold up chair.

All children are invited. Parents can come, too, or you can take this opportunity to have a night out.

Contact Pam or Lauren if you have a question.



All Children and Youth!

Please join us to once again decorate

Gingerbread Houses.

It's a great way to start the Holiday season!

Saturday
November 21st
10:00 AM - 11:30 PM

Look for a forthcoming sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Only 25 spots available!

Dear New Hope Family Members,

I want to thank everyone who called, sent texts, emails, visited, brought food and especially for your prayers during my time begin away.

I feel truly blessed!

Love you,

Carolyn McD



Service and Witness News

Salvation Army stockings are coming soon. They will be handed out after worship. As in the past a list of suggested items will be included. Please return by the date indicated with a note telling age/sex of the intended child. Also we are looking at the possible opportunity for our members to volunteer to be Salvation Army bell ringers this Christmas season. Details will follow!

An early reminder that we will have two soup/sandwich covered dish meals. The first will be held after the Christmas Play (12/13) for the members and guests and the second one for members involved with our Christmas Eve Lovefeasts between services. Start thinking about which delicious items you would like to bring to share.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday 11/15 after worship. We will have our last committee meeting of the year. It has been a year filled with many opportunities to have fellowship and serve our community. Thanks to all who helped with the recent Corner Table meal. It was well received.

Please prayerfully consider service on this committee. You will be blessed beyond measure!

If you have any questions or care to discuss please contact Karen Warren.

kwwarren@charter.net

Fall Gathering and Wienie Roast Update.....

The Fall Festival at the Howard Reinhardt farm, was a huge success! We had 32 people attend, and I doubt anyone went away hungry or not feeling entertained. Thank you to everyone who attended, brought food and gathered around the fire to sing! John Furmage did a great job of cooking the hotdogs, and Steve Bumgarner was a life-saver in keeping all of us on the right note by playing his guitar as we sang old (and new) gospel hymns.

Some fished, some took the paddle boats out, and some chased bugs, but all sat and enjoyed each other's company. God provided perfect weather, beautiful scenery and the fellowship was beyond compare.

Plan now to join your church family next year. You are really missing out on a great time if you don't!

Pray Every Day - November 2015

1. Sunday. Love your God with all your heart and soul and might. Pray for the annual Mission Society Lovefeast today at Bethabara Moravian Church at 3:00 p.m., band prelude 2:30 p.m.
2. Seek me with all your heart and I will let you find me says the Lord. Pray for Dusty & Christin Harrison at Clemson University serving in campus ministry. dustyharrison@gmail.com
3. God will fully satisfy your every need according to his riches in glory. Pray for Brian (pilot) & Heather Marx (chalk artist) serving with MAF. Bmarx@maf.org
4. Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Pray for Steve & Ann Marx with MAF in Nampa, ID. smarx@maf.org
5. We will be with the Lord forever. Pray for Safiatu and Mohamed Braima in the Mission Area of Sierra Leone.
6. You are the God who sees me. Pray for the Antioch Project and for Jill Kolodziej, Dir. www.moravianmission.org
7. God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. Pray for the Woos serving in Asia.
8. Sunday. Whatever you did for one of the least of these you did for me. Pray for Ed Dehnert and Barb Weide, Alaska Bible Seminary, Bethel, AK. www.alaskaprovincemoravianchurch.org
9. Even the hairs of your head are counted. Pray for the Moravian Volunteer Resources. www.moravianmission.org
10. The son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. Pray for the leaders of our mission efforts; for the Mission Societies and those that support them.
11. But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength. Pray for Charlie, Vicki, and family serving with Bridges International in campus ministry in TX. cbrent@bridgesinternational.com
12. If your gift is serving, then serve. Pray for Drs. Bill and Peggy Hoffman with HIV/AIDS ministry in Tanzania
13. I am coming to gather all nations and tongues. Pray for Michael, Cecilia, and Blessing Tesh. Serving at the Ray of Hope orphanage in Kenya. www.rayofhopekenya.com
14. Worship the Lord with gladness. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent serving with Campus Crusade in Croatia
15. Sunday. Let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God. Pray for K and C in the Middle East.
16. In him we live and move and have our being. Pray for Dr. Louis and Susan Sutton with WEC (World Evangelization for Christ). suttons5@gmail.com
17. I am the way, the truth and the life. Pray for Ruth Snyder and Claire Wilson with "Changed Choices" www.changedchoices.org
18. I will make an everlasting covenant of peace with them. Pray for Adopt A Village Program in Tanzania
19. Do not let your heart envy sinners but continue in fear of the Lord. Pray for the Likewise Aids Ministry
20. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico
21. Sing to the Lord, bless his name. Pray for Rob and Anne Thiessen, Mexico. rvthiessen@gmail.com
22. Sunday. Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior. Pray for Phil and Ashley Sineath with Campus Outreach Global Phil.sineath@campusoutreach.org
23. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Pray for the ministry in the Cuba Mission Area www.moravianmission.org/cuba/
24. Deliver us from evil. Pray for the ministry in the Peru Mission Area. www.moravianmission.org/peru/
25. Honor the Lord with your wealth. Pray for Annie B. Mission with Star Mountain in Palestine.
26. The Lord will vindicate his people, and have compassion on his servants. Pray for the Moravian clinic in Ahuas, Honduras. www.moravianmission.org/partners/honduras/
27. Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Pray for the advisory board of the Unity Women's Desk.
28. Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up. Pray for the Moravian Prayer Movement meeting Nov. 21, 4-5 pm at Ardmore Moravian.
29. Sunday. Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away. Pray for Justin Rabbach Director of Mission Engagement
30. By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your doing but the gift of God. Pray for the well-drilling efforts in Ahuas, Honduras

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