

December 2019
New Hope Moravian
Church

New Hope Moravian Church - 2897 Sandy Ford Road - Newton, North Carolina 28658
828-294-4802 – [website](#)

2019 Watchword

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9 NIV)



The Legend of the Christmas Spider

Among the countless Christmas legends, there is one involving a Christmas spider. Now, I know most of us don't care for these quick little creepy crawly critters; I don't. But According to this legend, when Joseph was warned in a dream to flee from King Herod and the massacre which he intended to inflict upon the children of Bethlehem, several animals from the manger felt it necessary to accompany the Holy Family on their journey. Each of the animals was determined to protect the baby Jesus, and each felt sure his or her particular talents would prove invaluable in that task. There also happened to be a spider who wanted to come along to protect the Holy Family. Yet none of the other animals felt the spider would be helpful. After all, she was only a tiny little insect. She had no keen ears or sharp teeth, no strong bones and no claws whatsoever. However, the spider persistently pleaded to be included, until at last the other animals agreed she could join them, provided she did not get in the way.

Unfortunately, as the journey unfolded, all of the other supposedly brave animals either were frightened off or else they got distracted and strayed. Most of them soon ended up returning home or embarking on a more appealing adventure of their own. It wasn't long into the trip with Herod's troops on the march, and with the Holy Family growing more and more tired; Joseph and Mary had little choice but to try to hide and seek shelter for some rest. Soon they came upon a small and inconspicuous cave; they huddled inside, seeking shelter and rest, with the donkey and the spider their only remaining companions. Holding Jesus in her arms, Mary gently rocked him to sleep, and, for a while, it appeared everything would be fine. The only immediate problem was the chill in the air. Seeking to be of help in some small way, the spider carefully wove a web over the opening of the cave to try to keep the baby Jesus warm.

The spider had just finished her weaving when suddenly voices were heard outside the cave. The soldiers had caught up with the Holy Family, and they were diligently searching the entire area. When they came to the cave where the Holy Family was hidden, both Mary and Joseph held their breath, certain their doom was upon them. Yet the soldiers passed by the cave. One soldier said it was a waste of time to search it, since anyone who had entered the cave would have broken the spider's web over the opening. Thus it was that the seemingly insignificant spider saved the day; and the legend goes on to say that this is why we hang tinsel on our Christmas trees ... to remind us of the silver strands of the web which the little spider wove ... and to remind us that no act of kindness, no act of courage, no act through which we seek peace with justice is ever wasted.

The legend also reminds us, we do not live in a perfect world. Therefore, we need to not only keep Christ in Christmas but also, believe it or not, keep Herod in Christmas, because Herod, like Pharaoh before him, worship the love of power (enforced by violence) rather than the power of love. And in turn Herod reminds us all that we do not live in an ideal world but one where we often face both the threat and the destructive reality of violence and injustice. For followers of Jesus, this legend calls us to be alive in Christ—to be alive in the adventure the Christ Child calls us to—we are to side with all those who are helpless and vulnerable, just as the Christ Child was vulnerable. We are to be charitable to those in need and live in defiance of those who see the vulnerable as disposable. As Christians celebrating the birth of the real King of kings, we are to refuse to bow down to every power-hungry Herod and to any and every ruthless system. We are instead are to kneel at the manger before the Prince of Peace and then to go out to weave (like the spider) whatever webs we can as we continue to commit ourselves to actively and lovingly serve Christ and others. The spider legend tells us there is absolutely nothing that God created that cannot be used by God to fulfill His divine plan for His Kingdom. Amen!

*In Christ Love and Service,
Pastor Betty*



NEW HOPE MORAVIAN CHURCH
36th Annual Candle Tea & Christmas Bazaar



EXPERIENCE THE SEASON
Saturday, December 7, 2019
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Christmas Music Performed by Meggie Bumgarner, Phyllis Little,
Carolyn McDonald, Tom Schultz and Anita Scism

- ❖ Putz, A narrated Nativity set to Music
- ❖ Beeswax Candles
- ❖ Moravian Sugar Cake & Cookies
- ❖ Baked Goods
- ❖ Handmade Arts and Crafts
- ❖ Old Salem Quilt raffle
- ❖ Moravian Chicken Pies, Apple Pies, Pecan Pies & Moravian Slaw
- ❖ Silent Auction



Mark your calendar and invite your friends...

Christmas Eve Lovefeast and Candle Light Service
Tuesday, December 24
Services at 5:00 and 7:30

Our gift to the community...



Gifts Given From The Heart

New Hope is a Blessing for the patients and families receiving care by Carolina Caring (our local hospice). The recent drive for items needed by those we serve was outstanding. You truly gave from your heart! Many we care for need items that you and I take for granted. Thank you on behalf of the patients, their families and our staff at Carolina Caring for sharing your gifts with others!

Jane Bumgarner
Staff Member of Carolina Caring



The order forms for red or white poinsettias in two different sizes are in the bulletin. These beautiful flowers help decorate the sanctuary for the Sunday before Christmas and Christmas Eve. You may purchase them “In Honor” or “In Memory” of someone, which will be noted on an insert at both services.

Please place the forms in the folder on the office door or give to Malissa

**Bumgarner. Make checks to New Hope Moravian Church or pay cash.
Orders are being taken through Sunday, December 8th.**



Do you know????

Why do we change the colors of the paraments in the sanctuary?

First, what are paraments? The lectern skirt (attached to where the scripture is read), the Bible markers (located at the pulpit), the skirt for the communion table.

The Liturgical Year (seasons of the church) begins the first Sunday of Advent. During the year you will notice that paraments and stoles the choir wears change. This is because certain colors are symbolic of the seasons of the church.

Blue – is the more contemporary color being used by congregations. It is used during the Advent season, a time of waiting and watching and communicates the message of HOPE. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ will return on the last day of time from the blue sky as He ascended long ago.

Green- the most used color during the liturgical year, may be used an average of six to eight months. Green is symbolic of growth and our need to grow and mature as disciples of Christ.

Black – is very seldom used, mainly on Good Friday. Black symbolizes the absence of Light and the sober reflection of the cost of our salvation.

Purple – is used during Lent. In biblical times purple dye was made by massaging the neck of a shellfish that secreted a special fluid, therefore only worn by the rich. Jesus wore a purple robe only once, as the soldiers mocked and tormented him prior to his crucifixion. Purple is used during Lent as a reminder of the contempt and scorn Christ endured and His sacrifice He made for our eternal salvation.

White – symbolizing purity and completeness. Used Easter Sunday and for fifty days following Easter, white bears the message that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow.” White also serves as the best festive color for the church year.

Red – is a power color and is used on Pentecost Sunday, a day which we remember the power and strength the Holy Spirit gives in order for God’s people to call on the Jesus and share His powerful name with others. Red is also used on other festive occasions in the church.

This year New Hope will have blue paraments for the season of Advent and Christmas. These paraments are giving in loving memory of Joseph F. Kimel, Jane’s brother, by Jane and Steve Bumgarner.





Christmas Card Tradition at New Hope

For our newer members or those that forget, feel free to bring your Christmas cards for your church family to church beginning now. Place them on the back pew in alpha order. It is always exciting to find cards with your name on them.

If the cards you have made have not been picked up by the last Sunday before Christmas, please go ahead and take them home to be mailed. Sorry, but the church doesn't mail your cards.



Please remember to bring your unsold or sold (with the \$1 for each ticket) raffle tickets to the church.

Money can be given to Pat or Nancy M.

It's almost time for the big drawing! Who will win???



Candle Trim will be on Tuesday, December 10th at 1 pm. All are invited to come and join the fun as we prepare for Christmas Eve. Bring your thimble.

Church Cleaning



Please consider signing up to clean the church. For many years this has been done by volunteers. We truly hope to continue this way in order to not have to add another expense to the budget. This only takes an hour or so each week.

Cleaning can be done anytime towards the end of the week or Saturday. If you can only manage to do this one or two weeks of any particular month, that is fine. Just put your name by the week you can on the list on the board and state “only”. That way we know you are not taking the whole month.

I will be glad to meet with you to show you what is to be done and where the supplies are. Please feel free, if you wish, to bring your own. **NO CHURCH KEY.....NO WORRY**. Arrangements can easily be made to let you in.

Won't you help us keep this house of worship looking good for all who enter here to worship.

Mark Bumgarner
Vice Chair

December Cleaners: Fay & Jeff Ayers

Many thanks to those that have cleaned this year.



December Hymn of the Month
Savior of the Nations, Come

Tune: Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland
256 Moravian Book of Worship

Savior of the Nations, Come was written by St. Ambrose of Milan and later translated by Martin Luther and then by William M. Reynolds. Ambrose of Milan (340-397), the father of Latin hymnody, was one of the great Latin church fathers and is remembered best for his preaching, his struggle against the Arian heresy, and his introduction of metrical and antiphonal singing into the Western church. Ambrose was trained in legal studies, becoming a consul in Northern Italy. When the bishop of Milan died in 374 the people demanded that Ambrose become the bishop. He was promptly baptized and ordained and he remained bishop until his death. Ambrose successfully resisted the attempts of the Roman emperors to dominate the church. His hymns are characterized by their simplicity and austerity and were written for congregational use and for the strengthening of faith in a period of adversity.

Translator Martin Luther (1483-1546) was an Augustinian monk, an ordained priest, a professor and a reformer in the Roman church. He completed a German translation of the Bible in 1534 and prepared a German mass and hymns for his followers. Martin Luther had a huge influence on German hymnody.

Translator William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) was educated at Jefferson College in Pennsylvania and at Lutheran Gettysburg Seminary. He was a professor at Pennsylvania College, president of Capital University in Columbus, Ohio and president of Illinois State University. He became an ordained Episcopal minister in 1864 and founded the Evangelical Review.

The tune Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland is a chorale derived from a chant, an adaptation of a plainsong melody. Among the simplest of the Lutheran repertoire, it is framed by identical lines – 1 and 4. (The beginning 2 measures and the last 2 measures are identical). The tune dates from a twelfth-or- thirteenth- century Einsiedeln manuscript ---- presumably by Johann Walther (1496-1570), a musician friend of Martin Luther and one of the earliest Lutheran composers.

December Happenings

Sunday, December 1st – *First Sunday of Advent*

Worship Committee Meeting, 12:15 pm

Committee members, please plan to attend as planning of the Christmas Eve services will be discussed.

Return Salvation Army stockings

Wednesday, December 4th – “Walk by Faith” Bible Study, 12 pm

Thursday, December 5th – ECCCM Workday

Candle Tea Set-up, 3 pm

Friday, December 6th – Candle Tea Set-up, 9 am

**Saturday, December 7th – Candle Tea & Bazaar, 9 am – 12 pm
Workers, 8 am – 1 pm**

Sunday, December 8th – *Second Sunday of Advent*

Board of Elders Meeting, 12:15 pm



Poinsettia Orders Due Today

Tuesday, December 10th – Candle Trim, 1 pm

ACAP: Redirecting: Strategies for Dealing with Challenging Dementia Symptoms and Difficult Behaviors, 5:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Hall at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Hickory

Speaker: Julie Cook-Walker, Director of Dementia Care, Affinity Living Group

Why do our loved ones who are affected by dementia exhibit what we call difficult behaviors? It could be the way they are trying to communicate. Before we, as caregivers, can understand what our loved one is trying to communicate, we must first understand the disease process. What are they truly experiencing which causes the behaviors? Once we understand the disease process then we can learn to communicate with success as we move forward.

To register, please email info.ACAPHickory@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 11th – “Walk by Faith” Bible Study, 12 pm

Sunday, December 15th – *Third Sunday of Advent*

Tour de Putz, 2:00 – 5:00 pm

This tour is sponsored by the Aging Well Team. See the bulletin board for more information. If you are interested in carpooling, contact Pam Prevatte.

Visit one or all of the following churches to learn more about this long-standing Moravian tradition!

2:00-2:30: Hopewell (701 Hopewell Church Rd, W-S)

2:45-3:30: Konnoak Hills (3401 Konnoak Dr, W-S)

3:45-5:00: Unity (8300 Concord Church Rd, Lewisville)

3:00: Community Moravian Christmas

3:45: Unwrapping the Christmas Creche

4:15: Putz Presentation

4:30: Interactive Children’s Lovefeast

Wednesday, December 18th – “Walk by Faith” Bible Study, 12 pm

**Thursday, December 19th – Preschool/CMO Christmas Pageant
Reception 10 am
Church members are invited.
No Preschool/CMO until January 6, 2020.**

Friday, December 20th – January 2020 Newsletter Articles due to Office

Saturday, December 21st – Winter Begins



Sunday, December 22nd – Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Tuesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candle Light
Services, 5:00 & 7:30 pm**

Handbells arrive 3:45 pm

Choir arrives 4 pm

Christmas Eve Dinner: For all those who are “working” the Lovefeast and Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve, we eat a light meal between services. Please bring something to share. It helps to be quick pick up and eat items as we don’t have very long between services. Ex: sandwiches, soups

Wednesday, December 25th –



Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 29th – Christmas Reading Service; No Sunday School

Tuesday, December 31st –

NEW
YEAR'S
EVE



Aging Well Conference
Saturday, April 18, 2020
9 am until about 1 pm

This is an event sponsored by the Aging Well Team. There will be 2 sessions that you can attend and lunch. It will be held at Fairview Moravian Church. More information will be sent out as plans are finalized.

Pray Every Day - December 2019

1. First Sunday in Advent-Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx, MAF, ID.
2. There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear. Pray for Unity Women's Desk, Julie Tomberlin, Coordinator.
3. Help us, Oh Lord, to rely on you. Pray for the Hoffman's in HIV/Aids ministry.
4. The Lord said,"I will defend this city to save it for my own sake. "Pray for Moravian outreach in Nepal.
5. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. Pray for Brian & Heather Marx , MAF, Indonesia.
6. All things work together for good for those who love God. Pray for Jenna and Rev. Andrew Craver in Bethel, Alaska.
7. Send out your light and your truth; lead me to your dwelling. Pray for Moravian Volunteer Resources.
8. 2nd Sunday in Advent-Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Pray for Dr. Benno and Teresa Marx, WA State.
9. You will be judges as you judge and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Pray for Moravian Disaster Relief-TX,NC
10. The Lord said to Moses "All people among whom you live shall see the work of the Lord." Pray for Moravian Clinic and Church in Honduras.
11. Just as you received Christ Jesus, continue to live your lives in Him. Pray for the food program in Sierra Leone.
12. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases. Pray for Allen and DeeDee lobst in Spain.
13. The Lord will not forsake his people, nor abandon his heritage. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
14. The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent in Texas.
15. 3rd Sunday in Advent - Be strong, do not fear! Your God is here. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
16. Nothing in all creation is able to separate us from the love of God. Pray for 16 Mission Areas and 5 Mission Provinces.
17. God so loved the world that He gave His Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will have everlasting life. Pray for Moravian Ministers and leaders everywhere.
18. I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
19. You must be patient. Strengthen your heart for the coming of the Lord is near. Pray for the students and teachers at the Bible Seminary in Bethel, Alaska.
20. My hand is not shortened that I cannot redeem. I have power to deliver. Pray for Safiatu Braima and the church in Sierra Leone.
21. Do not be far from me for trouble is near. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
22. 4th Sunday in Advent-Let your gentleness be known to everyone. Pray for the Teshes in Kenia.
23. I will cleanse and forgive them of all the guilt of sin against me. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek University.
24. Lift up your heads, O gates and be lifted up ye everlasting doors! Pray for Moravians in Peru.
25. Christmas Day-The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Pray for Justin Rabbach and BWM.
26. When the shepherds saw this, they made knowm what they had been told. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
27. O that today you would listen to His voice and not harden your heart. Pray for those suffering loss due to flooding and fires.
28. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Pray for the Armando Rusindo Foundation and the Cuban church.
29. 1st Sunday after Christmas-God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love. Pray for Annie B Mission at Star Mountain, Palestine.
30. A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace. Pray for R and B in the Sudan.
31. Keep far from a false charge. Pray the new tribe and village in Sierra Leone, building a Moravian Church and spreading the Gospel.



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