

December 2020

New Hope Moravian Church



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

2020 Watchword

“If I understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.”
(1 Corinthians 13:2 NIV)



God Makes the Impossible...Be Possible!

How can it be that another year has passed by so quickly? All we have left of this year is the fast-approaching Advent and Christmas season. The 2020 Advent-Christmas season of New Hope's Church worship and activities will look quite different from our past Christmases. With the pandemic surrounding us, and numbers still rising, we find ourselves trying to be safe, and yet, we want Christmas to be a celebrated and joyous time. We are looking for some normalcy. But for now, what does normal look like?

As faithful Christians, we have a choice to barely survive during this Christmas season, or to submerge ourselves in making new traditions. We can take the restrictions of this pandemic (think outside the box) and make new opportunities for Christmas. For most, the down-sized Thanksgiving dinner table has barely been cleared and looked quite different this year. We

could even start to resent the emotional stress COVID-19 has brought into our lives. And yet, the question still remains, how can we celebrate this extraordinary time of the year and still be safe? This year, let's approach Christmas with an "attitude of gratitude" and make it even more spiritually gratifying and heartwarming?

Christmas teaches us "God Makes the Impossible...Be Possible!" What God wants done, can and will be done. Christmas teaches us with God all things are possible. Now, I know some of you believe this and some of you still have doubts. Let me put it this way: If God has a goal for your life and mine...He will bring it to pass. Nothing--No-thing--Zero... can stop it! God is BIGGER than the situations and obstacles surrounding our life. God says: "I've created you; I've given you life, I've made you in the image of my Beloved Son Jesus. You are my child; I have something for you to do. I know in your own strength it will be impossible, but in MY strength all things are possible." Imagine yourself saying to your child, "I want you to go out and plant a garden. Unfortunately, the soil in the garden is full of dirt clods and rocks but give it your best shot." Now you know you are not just going to let them struggle on their own and not give them help!

Prior to Christmas Day...God gave an enormous task to a young girl named Mary (like us she had many emotional struggles). An angel told her that she would become a mother while she was still a virgin, and that her son would be the Savior of the world. When she inquired of the angel about this seemingly impossible act, the angel simply said, "Nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). Now, we as parents would never consider giving our child a task he/she could not complete, and neither does God. His goals for all of His children are achievable and possible; In His strength not ours.

Mary was faced with what seemed to be an impossible task. Yet, she responded with overwhelming faith saying, "Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Think of what difficulty Mary faced: She was to have a baby without being with a man. She was to raise the boy who would save the world from their sins. The course of all of history would change because of her son. Mary's act of obedience would affect the eternal destiny of billions! The very fact that we celebrate Christmas is proof that Mary's faith in God to do the impossible was all she needed to complete God's will for her life. Here's the lesson for us: We, like Mary, also need enormous faith in God to complete whatever impossible challenges we face in our life. We need Christ to make it possible!

What struggles do you face this Christmas season? The first Christmas without a loved one? Health issues? Broken relationships? Financial strain? Personal uncertainty? A broken heart over a rebellious child? The struggles of the effects of the 2020 pandemic? When you feel overwhelmed with your responsibilities, remember that God is able to do above and beyond all we ask or desire. Christmas teaches us that God the Father is still looking for willing servants (young or old) who are ready to TRUST Him to do the impossible. This Christmas, despite the challenges we are facing, let's have an "attitude of gratitude" and make this Christmas season spiritually gratifying and heartwarming!

This Christmas: Let's give thanks that "God Makes the Impossible...Be Possible!"

In Christ Love and Service-Merry Christmas,
Pastor Betty

MISSIONS DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

Matching Gift Campaign

Each December, at the Christmas Eve service, an offering is lifted for Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, ECCCM. On average \$1,000 is raised. This year we will again send an offering to ECCCM, however, the gift will come from our generosity alone. For every dollar that members of New Hope donate to our collection for ECCCM in December, the church will match it up to \$500.

These matching funds are from New Hope's 2020 Budget for Community Outreach & Missions.

In the Spring, ECCCM enacted a COVID community campaign with a positive response. They write "Every bit of support was needed, as the past months have seen a community and nationwide epidemic of food insecurity financial uncertainty and health crisis."

ECCCM provides various services. Two thousand individuals and families receive food assistance each year at a cost of \$2 per pound. They ensure people stay in their homes helping with late mortgage, rent or utility bills. Case managers support families through uncharted waters. Crisis Assistance Coaching Program provides critical financial planning and budgeting support.

Finally, "ECCCM strives daily to ensure it never has to turn anyone in need away due to lack of funding." Ninety-one percent of every dollar donated goes directly to programs supporting people.

Also if you or relatives have unused coats for children and adults the ECCCM Thrift Store would be happy to receive them.

New Hope has been most generous this year to our mission requests. We are most thankful for your response. During these challenging times acts of deep kindness and generous support help stabilize individual and families who face uncertainty. So we once again offer this opportunity for reaching out in love.

With grateful hearts,

The Mission Committee



GREASER Crafted Christmas gifts to benefit Central America Medical Outreach

Interested in original, unique wood items for Christmas while benefiting families in Honduras please look at shop.camo.org.

www.camo.org will provide information on the organization Dan and Thelma have supported for more than 12 years.

Please search for the shop camp webpage and look for Greaser woodturning and scroll down to the items available. If you are local do not order online. Identify the item(s) you are interested in and I will make them available to you, as the inventory is at my home. You can contact me at dhgreaser@gmail.com or call me 704-325-0222. or I'll see you at church. Checks or cash will be the required for payment, no credit cards.

Thanks in advance for your interest and support.

Dan Greaser



Christmas Pre-Order and Mini Bazaar

For New Hope Moravian Members

Select 2020 Pre-order Items:

Contact Pat deBlois to order the following. 828-294-0404

All proceeds go to *The Women's Fellowship Mini Bazaar & Outreach.*

Cross Stitch Stuffed Stocking Ornaments- 15.00 each

(Christmas Themed) Number ordered _____ Total \$ _____

Moravian Napkins and Placemats- 3.00 each

Description: stamped with a Moravian star or candle

Napkins _____ Placemats _____ Total \$ _____

Beeswax Candles: price varies with size and trimmed or untrimmed

2", 3 1/2", Lovefeast size, Sconce, 10", 12", 15"

Contact Pat first on candles to discuss size, type and trim you wish.

She will give you the final price.

Candle Size/type _____ Candle Size/type _____ Candle Size/type _____

Total Candles ordered _____ Total \$ _____

FINAL PAGE TOTAL \$ _____ (No tax)

Pay Cash or Make check to: New Hope Moravian Woman's Fellowship.

Orders may be placed for non-attendees, but must go thru members only

Members are responsible for pickup and delivery and prepayment.

Pat will work with you on pickup.

Turn in form and prepayment to office/Pat deBlois before or by Dec 13



**New Hope's Annual Church Council was held (outside on a beautiful day)
– Sunday, November 8, 2020**

Elected Elders – Starting 2021 (Serving 3 Years)

1. Jane Bumgarner
2. Nancy Miller
3. Anita Scism

The newly elected Elders will be installed on Sunday, January 10, 2021.

**In Christ Service,
Pastor Betty**



Thank you to the Elders, their spouses and all others who helped with putting up the Chrismon tree and decorating the church and church sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.



Candlelight Lovefeast Christmas Service

Our Candlelight and Lovefeast service will be on Sunday, Dec. 20th at 10:00 am this year. Again, we will be practicing our safety protocol. Members may worship in the sanctuary or in the parking lot. The service will also be on YouTube (posted December 24th).

There will be NO Christmas Eve services this year due to restrictions with COVID-19 as we strive to provide safety for the community and our members.

Our resource for Lovefeast buns has asked that we let them know ASAP the number we will be needing. This is the reason we are asking for reservations.

Please complete the reservation form included in our Sunday bulletin or call Fay Ayers (276-730-4309) to reserve a bun/coffee/candle for those in your family who plan to attend.

Information needed ...

Due by Dec. 6th – Candlelight and Christmas Lovefeast Reservation

Name _____

Number of family attending Christmas Candlelight & Lovefeast Sunday, Dec. 20th 10:00

We will worship in the sanctuary _____ we will worship in the parking lot _____

Thank you,
Pastor Betty and New Hope Board of Elders



Please read about this special treat offered during Advent!

Calvary Moravian, in Winston, is live- streaming “Advent Afternoons” a music series offered Sunday Nov. 29-Dec. 20 at 2:00. Calvary partners with Piedmont Opera, the Moravian Music Foundation and members of their congregation. This will be a special treat for all music lovers! Their website is CalvaryMoravian.org.

Sunday, Dec. 6th 2:00 – “A Classical Christmas” - This joint venture with Calvary Moravian and Piedmont Opera will provide a wonderful concert experience with both classical and contemporary favorites.

Sunday, Dec. 13th 2:00 –“ A Nutcracker Christmas” - This is usually the Christmas Pageant Sunday at Calvary, today they will offer a childlike afternoon with 5 student artists from University of North Carolina School of the Arts, in Winston, narrating the famous story of the Nutcracker for kids.

Sunday, Dec. 20th 2:00 – “A Moravian Christmas” - Calvary will partner with the Moravian Music Foundation for a brass, organ and ensemble performance of some of our very favorite Moravian Christmas tunes.

Enjoy!

Your Worship Team



Indoor Worship Sundays at 10:00 am

Indoor weekly worship services have resumed by gathering in the sanctuary in a socially distanced way. The service will continue to be broadcast by radio to the parking lot and offered online as a youtube worship service by the next day. A recorded cd of the service will remain available upon request.

How to prepare for our Indoor Worship:

1. The following people who are at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home and continue to worship with us by watching our YouTube service or stay in your car. High risk people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions, including those who are immunocompromised or who have chronic lung disease, severe asthma, serious heart conditions, severe obesity, and chronic diseases should also consider not attending indoors.
2. If you have experienced any of the following symptoms within the week prior to the service, please stay home for your safety:

**Fever of 100 degrees or higher Cough or sore throat Shortness of breath
Close contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 (in the past 14 days)**

3. Remember your mask before leaving home, face coverings will be required.
4. You will be emailed a waiver prior to coming. Remember your signed form before leaving home, it will be required. Ushers will have one if needed.

What to do when you arrive for our Indoor Worship:

While you are on the grounds, we ask you to practice social distancing and maintain a minimum of 6 feet between you and other congregants outside of your household.

1. Upon arrival park in the spots that have the red X's which are placed every other parking space. X's are placed on the sidewalk for social distancing as well.
2. Entry to the service will be through the front double doors to the sanctuary. We ask attendees to not use the other doors and hallways to access the sanctuary. Exit will be out the side sanctuary door only.

3. Masks must be worn entering and while seated in the sanctuary. If you forget your mask before leaving home, ushers will be able to provide you with one.
4. Ushers will be available at the entry sidewalk to assist with check-in. Everyone will need to check-in for temperature test, attendance and health traceability record keeping and turn in the one-time waiver.
5. Baskets for offerings will be available at both sanctuary entry and exit doors for drop off by attendee.
6. Hand sanitizer will be available at both sanctuary entry and exit doors.
7. If collecting for a mission project, attendees will place items in the grocery cart or other designated container.
8. Single-use bulletins with Scripture, Liturgy and Hymn lyrics, etc. are handed out by ushers (sanitized hands/wear gloves). No hymnal use at this time. Attendees are to take bulletins when leaving or place in receptacle at the exit.
9. When entering for seating, please proceed to the center isle and go in any open pew (every other pew is blocked and marked to ensure safe distancing). Only sit with family and those in your close contact circle/bubble. **On each pew, ensure each family unit remains 6+ feet from other congregants.**
10. When worship is over you will exit your pew as directed by usher. Remain seated until your row is selected to leave.

What to expect during our Indoor Worship:

Worship: The length of the service was shortened for the outdoor service and will continue with the same format for now. The entire service is in the single use bulletin which we ask you to take with you when you leave. Do not leave in pews.

Communion: Communion for indoor services continue in the same way as outdoors: you will receive Communion elements in a pre-packaged/pre-consecrated kit upon arrival. We will all partake at the same time where you are seated.

Choir, Handbells and Band: There will be no groups at this time. Soloist placed at proper distance may be used. Phyllis Little will return to play piano/organ.

Restrooms: Have been sanitized prior to service. You will be required to sanitize your hands on the way in and out of the restrooms. Only one person or family at a time in the restroom.

Nursery: There will be no nursery at this time. Please bring quiet activities.

We look forward to seeing you again at our Indoor Worship!

Pastor Betty Helms and Your New Hope Task Force Worship Team

New Hope Service on YouTube

Click on the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCagQSb0gw2QUC-UFiwe5ikg>

This will take you directly to our New Hope YouTube channel where you will see the homepage of the channel. Here you can choose different videos that are available.

- Once you choose a video, just click on the play button (the filled-in sideways triangle) and the video should start playing shortly.
- You can expand or enlarge by clicking on the broken box looking icon ("fullscreen") on the lower right of the video screen.
- Adjust volume using the speaker icon and enjoy!



Aging Well in a Pandemic World

Getting A Good Night's Sleep

We all crave sleep – just like we hunger and thirst, we have the need for sleep. Sleep strengthens our immune systems, our memories, and our ability to learn. Seven to eight hours of sleep a night is considered optimum and restorative.

As we age, getting a good night's sleep can become more difficult. We have more trouble quieting our minds, forgetting all the bad news, and turning off the day. Researchers estimate that about half of adults over the age of 65 have sleep issues. Sleep problems can significantly interfere with older adults' daily activities and reduce our quality of life.

We have to learn to think and act like good sleepers. AARP's Healthtools website offers excellent solutions for good sleep: <https://healthtools.aarp.org/sleep>

Here are a few tips from the experts for getting a better night's rest:

- **Exercise is one of the best things older people can do for their health:** Older people who exercise regularly fall asleep faster, sleep longer, and report better quality of sleep. The National Institute of Aging (www.nia.nih.gov) offers helpful tips for exercising safely as an older person.
- **Reduce bedroom distractions:** Televisions, cellphones, and bright lights can make it more challenging to fall asleep. Keep the television in another room and try not to fall asleep with it turned on.
- **Avoid substances that can discourage sleep:** Like alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, and even large meals late in the day can make sleep more challenging. Try reducing or eliminating caffeine intake and eating dinner at least four hours before bedtime.
- **Keep a regular sleep schedule:** Remember that aging makes it more difficult to recover from lost sleep. Avoid sudden changes in sleep schedules. Try going to bed and waking up at the same time every day and being careful about napping too long.
- **Develop a bedtime routine:** Find activities that help you relax before bed. Many older people enjoy a bath, reading, or finding some quiet time with devotions or meditation before getting into bed.

~The Aging Well Team

Mark Your Calendar for December

Tuesday, December 3rd – ECCCM Workday

Sunday, December 6th – *Second Sunday in Advent*

Return Salvation Army Stockings

Candlelight & Christmas Lovefeast Reservation Form Due

Sunday, December 13th – *Third Sunday in Advent*

Christmas Pre-Order/Mini Bazaar Order Forms & Payment Due

Monday, December 14th – **Board of Elders** Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 20th – *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Christmas Eve Service

**** Due to COVID-19, there will be NO Community Christmas Eve Service this year. A video will be sent out on Christmas Eve for New Hope Church family and friends of the Christmas Eve service.**

Monday, December 21st – **January 2021 Newsletter Articles due to Office**

Friday, December 25th –



Sunday, December 27th – **Christmas Reading Service**

Thursday, December 31st –





American Red Cross Blood Drive
@ New Hope Moravian
Monday, January 18, 2021
2:00-6:30 pm



December Birthdays

3rd – Dwane Hutto
4th – Clyde Allen
12th – Tom Schultz
16th – Meggie Bumgarner

Pray Every Day
December 2020

1. Live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. Pray for pastors ministering under difficult circumstances.
2. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Pray for charities trying to meet food needs.
3. Give as you are able, according to the blessings God has given you. Pray for Moravian camps and staff.
4. Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
5. God makes a home for the lonely. Pray for the program to feed school children in Sierra Leone.
6. Sunday-He will feed the flock like a shepherd; carry tiny lambs in His arms. Pray for teachers and children in these difficult times
7. On behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. Pray for Benno and Teresa Marx {MAF}.
8. The day of the Lord is coming. It is near. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx (MAF).
9. God did not withhold His own Son but gave Him up for us. Pray for the leaders of our churches and our country.
10. The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed. Pray for medical personnel fighting the war against Covid-19.
11. Jesus Christ is the same today, yesterday and forever. Pray for the food programs taking care of those needing good nutrition.
12. O Lord, be gracious to me, for I have sinned against you. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
13. Sunday-May the Lord of peace sanctify you entirely. Pray for Jenna and Andrew Craver in Alaska.
14. People learn righteousness from your judgments. Pray for the Hoffman's in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
15. Blessed be the Lord God for He has looked favorably on His people. Pray for Unity Women's Desk.
16. You are the God who works wonders. Pray for Alan and DeeDee Lobst in France.
17. There is hope for your future, says the Lord. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek InterVarsity.
18. Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near. Pray for flood victims in Florida and Louisiana.
19. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. Pray for disaster victims in Nicaragua.
20. Sunday. May those who love your salvation say, "Great is the Lord." Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
21. Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action. Pray for BWM Disaster relief.
22. Gods remains the same, and His years will never end. Pray for Armando Rusindo Foundation and people in Cuba.
23. Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God as a child, will not enter it. Pray for those in Honduras affected by hurricanes.
24. My soul thirsts for the living God. Pray for the Theisens in Mexico.
25. Christmas. To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior who is Christ the Lord. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
26. I will heal my people and let them enjoy abundant peace and security. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
27. Sunday. Happy are those who make the Lord their trust. Pray for Safiatu Braima and school leaders in Sierra Leone.
28. Console those in affliction with the consolation with which God has consoled. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent in Croatia.
29. All who believe in His name He gives the power to become children of God. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Texas.
30. Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help. Pray for the clinic in Ahaus, Honduras.
31. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. Pray for police and firefighters everywhere.



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