

December 2021

New Hope Moravian Church

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

2021 Watchword

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
(Ephesians 3:20-21 NRSV)



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 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 now 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, and no act of faith 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, revered the love of power (enforced by violence) rather than the power of God's love and peace.

Consequently, Herod reminds all of us that we do not live in an ideal world but one where we often face the threat and destructive reality of poverty, homelessness, 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 we are to 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 earthy power-hungry Herod's of our time, or to any other corrupt or ruthless system. We are instead to kneel at the manger before the Prince of Peace and then to go out to weave (like the spider) whatever good and needful webs we can, as we continue to commit ourselves to actively and lovingly serve Christ' and others. The Christmas 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. For with God "nothing is impossible" absolutely nothing.

This Christmas: Let's give thanks to God for all that He has done for us this past year. Let's also give thanks that "**God Makes the Impossible ... Be Possible!**"

**In Christ Love and Service-Merry Christmas,
Pastor Betty**



The order form for red or white poinsettias in two different sizes are in the bulletin and listed below. 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. Please place the forms in the folder on the office door or give to Mark Bumgarner. Make checks to New Hope Moravian Church or pay cash. Orders are being taken through Sunday, December 5th.

2021 Christmas Poinsettias

These beautiful flowers are a Christmas tradition at New Hope. They have a prominent place in our worship area during the Holiest of Seasons. They will be given to you no matter the circumstances of the service.

Give order and payment to Ushers or Mark Bumgarner **no later than December 5**

Or mail order and check to 2249 Dove St, Newton, NC 28658. Make checks to New Hope.

ONLY PREPAID ORDERS CAN BE PLACED

6 ½” pot \$12.00 _____

8” pot \$22.00 _____

Your Name _____

Total Plants Ordered: _____ Total Paid: _____

Please complete information for EACH flower ordered.

Flower: circle your choices:

Color: red or white

Size: 6 ½” or 8”

In Honor of or In Memory of

Name(s): _____

Given by: _____



Christmas Card Tradition at New Hope

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.

December 4, 2021 2-4pm and 6-8pm !

Gate will close at 4:30pm and reopen at 6:00pm

Bring can food for the local food pantry!



***Visit with
Mr. and Mrs.
Santa Claus,
December 4,
6-8pm only***

****Rain Date: December 11, 2021***

Made with PosterMyWall.com



ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The December Mission Project is **the Angel Tree** sponsored by Exodus Homes of Hickory (a half-way house for former inmates). Please take a name tag (or two) from the tree. It will contain a wish list from the child. These are all children of a parent currently incarcerated in Catawba County. Exodus suggests two gifts, one large and one small, total cost not to exceed \$50. Wrap your gifts, add the angel name tag and place it under the Angel Tree in the vestibule by **Sunday, December 19th**.

If you would like one of Santa's Helpers to shop for you, please call Bonnie Everhart at 910-590-2457.



Salem Saturdays at Christmas

November 27, December 4, 11, and 18

10:00 to 2:00



Miksch House, Boys School, Pottery, Winkler Bakery, The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Moravian Book & Gift, E. A. Vogler Coffee & Confections, Muddy Creek Cafe, Salem Stitches, Seed Saving Lab, and The Visitors' Center

Salem Saturdays will be on December 4th, December 11th, and December 18th, from 10AM to 2PM. On those days, interpreters at the Miksch House will be demonstrating how to paint and display illuminated manuscripts while the smell of Christmas cakes flavored with cinnamon, cardamom, and cloves fills the air. At the Boys School, visitors will learn about the history of the Moravian Star, as well as how to decorate a pyramid or build a putz, while enjoying the music of the season performed by guest musicians. At the Pottery, our talented potters will be making chocolate cups on the wheel and children's toys using molds. Throughout the beautifully decorated historic district, live music and carriage rides will also be offered on Salem Saturdays.

While you enjoy the simple, yet meaningful, Christmas traditions of 18th and 19th century Salem, North Carolina, don't forget to shop at Old Salem's Christmas Market at the E.A. Vogler building, and taste the Christmas season at Winkler Bakery!

From November 10th to December 23rd, the ticket prices will be \$20 for adults and \$12 for students. We will be open every Wednesday to Saturday, from 10AM to 2PM, and we will be closed on November 25th (Thanksgiving Day), and from December 24th to December 31st.



**American
Red Cross**

**NEW HOPE
MORAVIAN CHURCH**

2897 SANDY FORD ROAD

NEWTON, NC 28658

828-294-4802

Monday- January 17, 2022

2 PM TO 6:30 PM

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS enter New Hope Moravian to schedule an appointment.

*** We also need two volunteers to make baked items or bring cookies, cake, and/or refreshments for those giving blood. ***



Ways to Give to New Hope

Thanks to the Moravian Ministries Foundation of America (MMFA), we now have an online option to donate to New Hope via credit card or direct debit (automatic bank to bank transfer). The MMFA provides the portal for this electronic giving and they directly deposit any funds to the New Hope bank account. Here is the link to the online giving portal: <https://mmfa.info/new-hope-moravian-church-north-carolina-donation-form/>.

This is a great option for Friends of New Hope that no longer live in the area. These donations will be tracked for tax filing purposes. Transaction fees do apply, just under 3% for credit card transactions and \$0.75 for direct debit transactions.

The MMFA also provides a means to donate securities/stocks. Your broker transfers the securities/stocks to MMFA and the MMFA executes the securities/stocks into cash. Securities/stocks executed in this way are not subject to capital gains tax. Please contact Tom Schultz if you are interested in the process for this type of monetary transaction.

Please contact Tom Schultz at newhopemoraviantreasurer@gmail.com with any questions about the items above.

New Hope Service on



Click on the link below

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

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

Mark Your Calendar for December

Thursday, December 2nd – ECCCM Workday

Sunday, December 5th – **Sunday School 9:00 am**
Indoor & Parking Lot Worship Service 10:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent



Poinsettia Orders Due

Sunday, December 12th – Sunday School 9:00 am
Indoor & Parking Lot Worship Service 10:00 am

Third & Fourth Sundays of Advent

Monday, December 13th – Board of Elders Meeting via Zoom, 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 16th – Preschool Christmas Pageant

This is the last day of Preschool until January 5, 2022.

Sunday, December 19th – Sunday School 9:00 am
Indoor & Parking Lot Worship Service 10:00 am

**Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candlelight
Sunday Service for Family & Friends**

Angel Tree Gifts Due

Tuesday, December 21st – Winter Begins



**Friday, December 24th – No Christmas Eve Candlelight & Lovefeast for the
Community due to COVID logistics**
View YouTube Video for Service (after 4 pm)



Saturday, December 25th – Christmas Day – The Birth of Jesus Christ



Sunday, December 26th – No Sunday School
Indoor & Parking Lot Worship Service 10:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas
Christmas Reading Service

Monday, December 27th – January Newsletter Articles Due

Friday, December 31st –



December Birthdays

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

Pray Every Day December 2021

1. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
2. The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
3. When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. Pray for the government leaders in our country.
4. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Pray for Safiatu Braima and Sierra Leone.
5. When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Pray for the Moravians in Peru.
6. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Pray for Moravians in Cuba and the Armando Rusindo Foundation.

7. You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet. Pray for the Moravians in Honduras and Nicaragua.
8. My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya and Ray of Hope.
9. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
10. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
11. A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.' Pray for the Unity Women's Desk.
12. Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
13. The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek Intersarsity.
14. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Pray for Alan and DeeDee Iobst in France.
15. In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
16. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and people of every language worshipped him. Pray for Annie B Missions and Star Mountain.
17. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
18. See your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
19. The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
20. When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you. Pray for the medical personnel caring for Covid-19 patients.
21. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
22. For nothing is impossible with God. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
23. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! Pray for the Rajpur Foster Child Project.
24. Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Pray for PEC members, bishops and other church leaders.
25. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Pray for the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahaus.
26. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Pray for seminarians and candidates for ordination.
27. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. Pray for short term mission teams.
28. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Pray for the Moravian churches in Haiti.
29. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Pray for disaster relief workers.
30. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Pray for firefighters and police officers.
31. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Pray for Estamos Unidos Moravian Ministry.



December 2021 NEWSLETTER

newhopemoravian@gmail.com
Web: www.newhopemoravian.com
(828)294-4802

***New Hope Moravian Church
2897 Sandy Ford Road
Newton, NC 28658***