

December 2022

New Hope Moravian Church

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



2022 Watchword

“If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
(1 John 1:7)

The Legend of the Candy Cane

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy at Christmas time that would serve as a witness to his Christian faith.

He wanted to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; hard to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church; firmness to represent the promise of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. He thought it could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which he reached down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received, by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life. Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time.

But the true meaning is still there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.



Christmas
Joy



The Legend of the Candy Cane

by Lori Walburg

One dreary evening in the depths of November a stranger rode into town. He stopped his horse in front of a lonely storefront. The windows were boarded shut and the door was locked. But the man looked at it, smiled, and said, "It will do."

All through the gray short days and the long dark nights of November, the man worked. The townspeople could hear the faint pam pam pam of his hammer and the snish snish snish of his saw. They could smell the sweet clean scent of new lumber and the deep oily smell of new paint. But no one knew who the man was or what he was doing.

The mayor hoped he was a doctor, to heal his illness. The young wives hoped he was a tailor, to make beautiful dresses. The farmers hoped he was a trader, to exchange their grain for goods. But the children had the strongest, deepest wish of all. A wish they did not tell their parents. A deep, quiet, secret wish that none of them said out loud. No one spoke to the man. No one asked if he needed help. They just waited. And watched. And wondered. And wished.

But one small girl watched and wondered, waited and wished longer than she could stand. And one snowy day she knocked at the stranger's door. "Hello," she said. "My name is Lucy. Do you need some help?"

The man smiled warmly and nodded. Then he opened the door, and Lucy stepped inside. A long counter ran down the side of the room. Bare shelves filled the opposite walls. In the back were dozens and dozens of barrels and crates.

"Could you help me unpack?" the man asked.

Lucy's heart sank at the sight of all the boxes. What if they were only barrels of nails and bags of flour? But she removed her dripping boots and hung her coat on a peg. On stocking feet, she crossed the rough wooden floor and knelt beside a crate.

"Please. Open it," the man urged. Slowly, Lucy put her hand into the box and pulled out an object wrapped in tissue. Round and heavy, it almost slipped through her fingers. Lucy trembled a little as she unwrapped it. It was a glass jar. Lucy gave the man a puzzled look. "Go on," his nod said. So, she unpacked another glass jar, and another, and another, until she was completely surrounded by jars of all shapes and sizes. Tall and thin. Round and squat. Jars with lids and jars without.

"Now," the man said, "for something to put inside." And he pulled over a huge crate stamped with a strange word. As Lucy unpacked, her eyes lit up. It was candy. Her favorite candy. Gumdrops! "Try some," the man said.

She popped one in her mouth. Now she could hardly unwrap fast enough. Peppermint sticks! Taffy! Lollipops! Chewing gum! Wide-eyed, she looked at the man. "We wished—," Lucy said.

"Yes, I know," said the man. "And here it is. Welcome to Sonneman's Candy Store. I am John Sonneman." Soon the small store was filled with candies, gleaming in their glass jars. Raspberry suckers and tiny lemon drops. Brightly colored jawbreakers and long tangles of licorice. Pink and white peppermints for church and butterscotch balls for company.

Then, in the very last package in the very last crate, was a candy Lucy had never seen before, a red-and-white striped candy stick with a crook on the end. "What is this?" Lucy asked.

"This," Mr. Sonneman explained, "is a candy cane. It is a very special Christmas candy."

"Why?" Lucy asked.

"Tell me," Mr. Sonneman said, "what letter does it look like?"

Lucy took the candy and turned it in her hand. "J!" she said.

"Yes." Mr. Sonneman smiled. "J for Jesus, who was born on Christmas day." "Now, turn it over. What does it remind you of?"

Lucy turned the candy in her hand. She peered down intently. "I know!" she said finally. "It's like a shepherd's staff."

"Who were the first to find out about Jesus' birth?" Mr. Sonneman asked.

"Shepherds in the field," Lucy answered, "watching over their flocks by night." "But Mr. Sonneman, what are the stripes for?" Lucy asked.

The man's eyes grew sad. "The prophet Isaiah said, 'By his stripes we are healed.' Before he died on the cross, Jesus was whipped. He bled terribly. The red reminds us of his sufferings and his blood. "But then," Mr. Sonneman continued, "the candy is white as well. When we give our lives to Jesus, his blood washes away our sins, making us white and pure as snow." "That," he said, "is the story of the candy cane."

"Is it a secret?" Lucy asked.

Mr. Sonneman looked at her for a long moment, "It's a story that needs to be told," he said. "Will you help me share it?"

It was now the depths of December. The town was whipped round by blizzard winds. For days, the sun hid itself. But every morning, Mr. Sonneman and Lucy ventured out. They wore heavy woolen coats

and bright hand knit scarves. And in their stiff, mittened fingers they each held a bag. They went to every house in town. They traveled to every farm in the country. They knocked on every door. In every home, they told the story, they left a small gift, and they give an invitation. On the afternoon of Christmas Eve, the sun finally broke through the clouds. And Sonneman's Candy Store officially opened.

The mayor came, feeling better than he'd felt in days. The young wives came, dressed in beautiful smiles. The farmers came, eager to trade grain for Christmas gifts. The children ran in dizzy circles. Yes, their wish had come true. Yes, they had come to share in the opening of the candy store. But they shared something more. Something bigger. Something better. On that Christmas Eve, they shared the story of the candy cane. They told of the miracle of Christ's birth. The misery of his death. And the mercy of his love.

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



Update On Poinsettias for Christmas Services

Due to health situations in the greenhouse owner's family, the beautiful poinsettias that we normally order from Bethlehem Green House (a family run business) **will not be available this year**. They have only planted half the normal crop due to the above which means they cannot assure us that there will be any left by the time we normally order and use them. We have received our poinsettias from this vendor for as long as can be remembered with its stellar quality. This interruption of service should only affect this year (2022).

Your worship leaders assure you that our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated along with some poinsettias bought just for decoration. So, **we will not be taking orders** for "In Memory or Honor Of" at this time. We anticipate returning to this tradition next year.

Bruce Huffman apologizes profusely for the inconvenience of his temporary changes to the Christmas growing season. He thanks New Hope for our long-standing patronage.

Worship Leadership

The Bazaar is Back!



DON'T FORGET: A quick reminder: ... For upcoming Bazaar workers.

Set up time: **Thursday... 2:00pm until**

Friday... 9:30am until...

Saturday... all workers arrive at 8:00am...

Parking for workers on Saturday will be on the right side of the Church by the children's playground. Enter through the back, side door at the Preschool's storage building.

Also bring something to share with others for lunch on Friday.
Nancy is making her wonderful veggie soup. Also bring a drink!

Also, (just a reminder) to everyone - members shop after the Bazaar sale is over!

Thank all of you for all your hard work to make the Bazaar a great success!!!

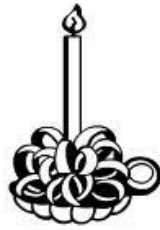


Sadly, we are unable to sell candles at Saturday's big event. For those of you who need candles, I will be at our candle trim on Monday, December 12, at 2 PM, and can meet your requests then. I can take requests that day or (preferably) you can contact me earlier by phone 294-0404, or email stitch96@hotmail.com. You can pick up your candles Monday the 12th or Sunday the 18th. Thanks for your patience.

I hope to see you at candle trim!

Pat

NEW HOPE MORAVIAN CHURCH
37th Annual Candle Tea & Christmas Bazaar



EXPERIENCE THE SEASON
Saturday, December 3, 2022
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Christmas Music Performed by Taylor Mitchum, Instrumentalist &
Vocalist, New Horizon Quintet, Strings

- ❖ 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



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.

Toy Collection for The Corner Table

New Hope's December Mission Project will support The Corner Table's "Christmas on the Corner". We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children 12 years and under in age. The deadline to have your donations at the church is December 11.

During last year's Christmas on the Corner, more than 250 men, women, and children were served barbecue and given food and toiletry bags. Books and toys were provided to the children.

Please consider helping The Corner Table share the joy of Christmas with the children this year by purchasing a toy or two.

Contact Margaret Schultz with questions (828-234-8184).

Thank you for your generous spirit of giving!





Candle Trim will be on Monday, December 12th at 2 pm.
All are invited to come and join the fun as we prepare for
Christmas Eve. Bring your thimble.



Mark your calendar and invite your friends...

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT LOVEFEAST SERVICES

December 24th

5:00 pm

The Moravian Lovefeast is a joyful celebration of Christian faith expressed through music, scripture, and the sharing of a simple meal. The coffee and lovefeast bun, eaten together in community and fellowship, are reminiscent of the *agape* meal shared by early Christians out of their love for each other and their desire for close relationship.

Come Celebrate Christ's Birth





No Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st



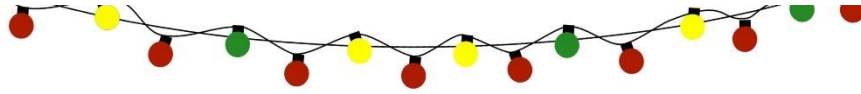
Sunday, December 4

from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Please join us for a holiday drive through our community to experience the sparkling lights and beauty of the season. As the only community in North Carolina with a Moravian heritage, it is sure to impress as you take in the festive spirit of our campus and enjoy several "treat" stops along the route.

Please click here to register:

<https://salemtowneretirementcommunity2906.ac-page.com/lights-at-salemtowne>



**AFTER PICKING OUT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE,
DON'T FORGET TO COME DRIVE THROUGH THE
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN
SUMMER CAMP**

**BEGINNING
DEC 2ND
SUMMER CAMP
WILL BE
AVAILABLE TO
RIDE THROUGH
AND SEE THE
LIGHTS!**



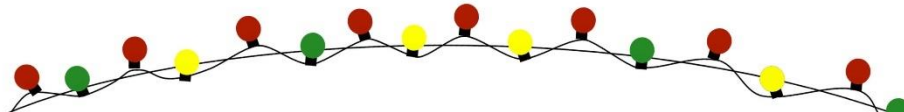
**DEC 2-4
DEC 8-11
DEC 15-18**

5:30-8:30PM

**NO COST TO DRIVE THROUGH
DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED
WWW.LAURELRIDGE.ORG**



CARS, SUV'S, PICKUP'S AND MINI VANS ONLY





124 Pendry Drive
Laurel Springs, NC 28644

Friday Evening

6pm Dinner, lighting of
the Christmas tree and a
movie

Saturday

The fun begins at 10:00am
and ends with dinner and a
movie

Sunday

9:00am Brunch
and Worship

Crafts

Hay Rides

Gingerbread Houses



10% off a
Christmas Tree
L'il Grandfather Mountain



Moravian Mountain Christmas

December 2-4, 2022

Higgins Lodge

Reserve a room and stay the
weekend! Call Karen Eagle
at 336-359-8238 or
guests@laurelridge.org

Musical Guests

Gray Family Singers
Brad Bennett

Greg Biggam & Spencer Bullins
Friedberg Children's Choir

Mr. and Mrs. Claus
2-4pm



**Thank
You** 

Dear New Hope Family,

We would like to thank you for all the cards, texts, food and prayers during Mark's 6-month health ordeal with sepsis and two hip surgeries. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the love and friendship extended from our church family. Thankfully Mark is now on the mend. He can actually walk unassisted with very little pain. What a relief. Please keep us in your prayers as we adjust back to normal life.

With love,
Malissa & Mark

Mission Project Update

Our collection of peanut butter and jelly totaled 39 items (26 peanut butters and 13 jellies). Thank you for helping us support Guardian Ad Litem's PB&J project that goes to school backpack programs and local food banks!

Your Mission Committee



STAR STAFF OF THE MONTH

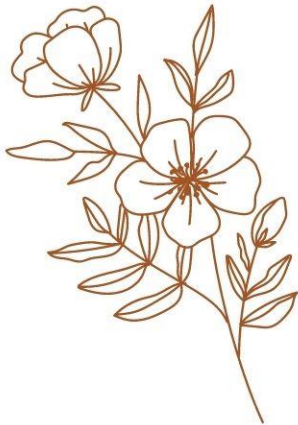
JEN MORRIS



ABOUT MS. JEN

Jen was born in New Jersey and moved to Hickory in 1995 to attend Lenior Rhyne University.

She is married and has two children, a 14-year-old daughter and a 9-year-old son. Both of her children are graduates of our preschool program. They share their home with their dog, Callie.



Jen has been the Preschool Director for 7 years. Before coming to New Hope, Jen was a first-grade teacher in Catawba County for 16 years. Jen has been a true blessing for our program. With her experience and knowledge from teaching in public school, she has improved our ability to get our preschool students kindergarten ready. She doesn't shy away from planning fun and exciting events, even if that means extra work for her. She strives to provide a place where the children experience God's love through their relationships with the staff and each other.

FAVORITES

- Childhood Dream Job: Teacher
- Hobby: Camping, Spending Time with Family, Games, Reading
- Color: Purple
- Snack Food: Popcorn
- Beverage: Sweet Tea, Flavored Coffee
- TV Show: Monk
- Food at Christmas: Macaroni with Anchovies and Walnuts (traditional Italian Dish)
- White or Colored Christmas Tree Lights: Prefers white but, as a compromise with her children, puts colored lights on next to the trunk and white lights on the branches
- Christmas Tradition: Going to the Mountains to Cut the Tree, Making Gingerbread Houses



Church Cleaning: Please consider **cleaning the Church**. Through the years, we have been blessed with volunteers who signed up to clean the Church. We hope to continue this so there will be no added expense to the Church budget. It only takes an hour or so each week at your convenience. Do a whole month or just one or two weeks. **Sign-up list on Church bulletin board...**

NO CHURCH KEY... NO WORRY. Arrangements can be made to let you in the Church. Cleaning supplies are provided, or you can bring your own. **Let's ALL work together to keep New Hope clean & looking good for ALL who enter here to worship?**

**** Cleaners needed for the month of December. ****

Board of Elders Small Bulletin Board- In the vestibule you will find (for transparency) at the Fellowship Hall doors summaries of the Board of Elders meetings, Quarterly Average Attendance Report and Quarterly Financial Report. Please look for these updates.



Lay Reader Sign Up List- On Church bulletin board.



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-](https://mmfa.info/new-hope-moravian-church-north-carolina-donation-form/)

[hope-moravian-church-north-carolina-donation-form/](https://mmfa.info/new-hope-moravian-church-north-carolina-donation-form/).

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 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.

Find us on Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
@newhopemoravian



Mark Your Calendar for December

Thursday, December 1st – **Arrive** for Candle Tea Set-up & Furniture
Rearranging **2:00 pm**

Friday, December 2nd – **Meet at 9:30 am** to prepare for Saturday's guests.
Lunch will be coordinated by Malissa. See her if you can help.

Saturday, December 3rd – **Workers arrive at 8 am**
Candle Tea & Christmas Bazaar 9 am–12 pm

Sunday, December 4th – **Sunday School 9:00 am**
Worship Service 10:00 am

Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 7th – **Handbell Practice** 6:15-7 pm
Chancel Choir 7-8 pm

Sunday, December 11th – **Sunday School 9:00 am**
Worship Service 10:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

Praise and Play

Board of Elders Meeting 11:15 am
Light Lunch – Newly Elected Elders Invited

Monday, December 12th – **Candle Trim 2 pm**

Wednesday, December 14th – **Handbell Practice** 6:15-7 pm
Chancel Choir 7-8 pm

Sunday, December 18th – **Sunday School 9:00 am**
Worship Service 10:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 20th – Last Day of Preschool until January 9, 2023

Wednesday, December 21st – **Handbell Practice** 6:15-7 pm
Chancel Choir 7-8 pm



Saturday, December 24th – **Christmas Eve Service** 5 pm



Sunday, December 25th – **No Sunday School**
Christmas Reading Service 10:00 am



Tuesday, December 27th – January 2023 Newsletter Articles Due

Wednesday, December 28th – **No Handbell or Choir Practice**

Saturday, December 31st –



December Birthdays

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

Pray Every Day December 2022

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 Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
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 Canada.
10. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Pray for the travel of the Teshes and their furlough time here in the United States as well as for Ray of Hope in Kenya while they are away.
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 Intersvarsity.
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 lobst 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.
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 local homeless shelters.
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 the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahaus.
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

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