

March 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)



A New Commandment - Love One Another: John 13:31-35

Have you ever noticed that “Love can be extremely complicated?” Jesus says, we are to love others at all times. It’s true... We should love others at all times. Through this display of “love for others” the world will know we are Christians. Just think, for a moment, how much better life would be if people would love those around them with the love of God! The world would be a far better place for all of us.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now, I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 31-35 NRSV)

According to the Gospel of John, this is the only commandment Jesus explicitly identified for His disciples. And yes, this includes you and me too. Jesus insists that we love others. This is a “new command” (John 13:34). Yet, when you stop and think about it, what is new about love? Love has always been around. I cannot think of a time when love was not in existence.

During Jesus' life on this earth, there was love. After Jesus ascension into Heaven to be with the Father, there was love. Even before, Jesus took on the flesh of a fully human man, God made sure there was love. Love has always been around.

So, why is this believed to be a "new command"? Because the people did not have love for one another; Christ knew their hearts and their hearts were far from Him. This phrase, "new command," appears only four times in the entire Bible. Not too surprising, they are all in the writings of the Apostle John. This phrase is used in John 20:2, as the Beloved Disciple. A statement found five times in the Gospel of John but in no other New Testament accounts of Jesus (In John 13, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 1:8, and 2 John 5). Then we find in John 21:24 claims that the Gospel of John is based on the written testimony of the "Beloved Disciple".

All these Scriptures lay the framework for love. John 13 serves as a bridge, connecting a great word—expressed in the humble action of Jesus, washing the dust off His disciples' feet there in the "Upper Room" on the Thursday evening before He was crucified the next day. There Jesus gave—another great word, of loving farewell and encouragement to His disciples. He laid out the framework of true love for them.

Jesus basically said, "I'm giving you a new commandment, which really is not new, but then again, it is. You, who are My disciples, love each other. You, who believe in Me, love each other. You, who are My followers, love each other. You, who are members of My church, love each other." Therefore, let us today go forth and do as Christ has commanded us. Let us love one another! Let us love others with the love of Christ! Amen.

*In Christ Love & Service,
Pastor Betty*

An Incredible First Day of Giving

Posted by: Chris Spaugh

We are grateful for the many people who contributed to a remarkable first ever Moravian Day of Giving on February 16. Moravian agencies and churches received over 200 gifts on that day — 70 of which came from first-time users of MMFA's [Giving Portal](#). This exceeded our previous record for the most gifts processed on a single day by 25%. The more than \$80,000 collected for Moravian congregations and agencies included the full \$10,000 matching gift for our Field Of Interest Funds for future grants to various ministries. Prevention of Violence Against Women, Hunger & Thirst, and Housing & Shelter Funds were the largest recipient field of interest funds.

We extend a special thanks to our sponsoring bishops, The Rt. Rev. Lane Sapp and The Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon, as well as our matching donor, Sister Sallie Greenfield. We thank the Provincial Elders' Conferences of the Northern and Southern Provinces for their support, The Rev. Lance Fox and an anonymous donor of Moravian branded clothing, the staff of MMFA for donating credit card points to acquire gift cards, and the many church and agency communicators who helped get the word out.

This event was certainly a lot of fun in a time when so many are still hurting. These gifts will go directly to support ministries as the donor intended and may God Bless each gift. I continue to be amazed at how we can rally together even in pandemic times for the cause of Christ. As your foundation, we will continue to work to provide solutions and meet needs as we all move ministry forward, together.

On behalf of all the Moravian congregations, agencies, ministries and individual recipients of these generous gifts, we thank each donor who made a contribution above and beyond the tithe or pledge on our first Moravian Day of Giving. We look forward to repeating this special call again next year on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 (which also happens to be the anniversary of the beginning of the Unity of the Brethren, Shrove Tuesday, and Mardi Gras). #MoravianDayOfGiving

What you told us in our post-Day-of-Giving-survey

Survey response rate was greater than 25% of those who made gifts on the Day of Giving. 67% of respondents identified with the Southern Province. 46% were age 65 or older. 27% were ages 55 – 64.

Motivations

79% were motivated by giving to a specific organization they care about

57% were motivated as an act of stewardship

47% were motivated to give above and beyond their tithe

Generosity

57% reported giving more than in previous years

55% gave to at least one new organization in the last year

47% reported giving to more organizations than previous years

The Portal

83% said the Giving Portal was easy to use

62% said it is important to have all churches and agencies on one site

56% plan to use the Portal again



As a result of your generous contributions, a check for \$451 was sent to the Corner Table Soup Kitchen. Thank you for helping “tackle hunger” in our local community!

New Hope’s Mission Committee



New 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.

We will be adding the link to the New Hope website in March.

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.



Week of March 28th

No Holy Week Services in the church. However, we will have Holy Week readings each night on YouTube for people to view the video.



New Hope continues to only hold Parking Lot Worship at 10:00 am. **Tune into FM 87.9** or watch on YouTube. No indoor worship due to COVID-19.

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 March

Thursday, March 4th – ECCCM Workday

Sunday, March 7th – **Parking Lot Worship Service**

Third Sunday in Lent

Monday, March 8th – **Board of Elders Meeting** via Zoom, 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 14th – **Parking Lot Worship Service**

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Daylight Saving Time begins
Move clocks *ahead* one hour on Saturday night

Wednesday, March 17th –



Saturday, March 20th – First Day of Spring



Sunday, March 21st – Parking Lot Worship Service

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Thursday, March 25th – April Newsletter Articles Due

Sunday, March 28th - Parking Lot Worship Service

Palm Sunday





March Birthdays

1st – Allison Snyder
14th – Fay Ayers
16th – Nathaniel Allen Wiles
17th – Cheryl Hendrix
18th – Emily McDonald & Kimberly McDonald
21st – Travis Simpson
25th – Nancy Olson

Pray Everyday March 2021

1. Let each of you look to the interests of others. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
2. Teach me good judgment and knowledge. Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
3. Lord, teach us to love each as family. Pray for Safiatu Braima in Sierra Leone.
4. I have plans for your future with hope. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
5. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
6. Nations and kings will come to your light. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
7. Sunday We proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. Pray for Alas de Socorro in Honduras.
8. O Lord, you are our God. Pray for Armando Rusindo Foundation and Cuba.
9. You are all children of light. Pray for Justin Rabbach (BWM).
10. Those who abide in God abide in Love. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
11. Practice hospitality. Pray for Annie B Missions (Star Mountain).
12. Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx (MAF).
13. Say, "If the Lord wishes, we will do this or that." Pray for the Harrisons with Greek University.
14. Sunday. Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it. Pray for Unity Women's Desk.
15. We can not keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
16. Show me your glory, oh Lord. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx (MAF).
17. You are the God who sees me. Pray for Jenna and Andrew Craver in Alaska.
18. The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps. Pray for Alan and DeeDee in France.
19. Keep my statutes, I am the Lord who sanctifies you. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
20. Jesus was asleep in the stern in the midst of the storm. Pray for Dr. Benno and Teresa Marx.
21. Sunday. Create in me a clean heart and a right spirit, oh God. Pray for Moravian volunteers.
22. Knock and the door will be opened to you. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
23. Be strong and courageous. Pray for those still suffering loss due to disasters.
24. All belong to you, and you belong to Christ. Pray for Moravian ministers and for the churches needing them to bring God's word.
25. Do not forsake me, O God of my salvation. Pray for the food programs taking care of those needing good nutrition.
26. Repent and do the works that you did at first. Pray that our country will turn back to God.
27. Do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God. Pray for all those suffering from the COVID-19 virus.
28. Palm Sunday. Deliverance belongs to the Lord. Pray for the leaders of our churches and our country.
29. The Lord will be king over all the earth. Pray for medical personnel serving in the war against Covid-19.
30. Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father. Pray for PEC members and other church leaders
31. Do not let your heart envy sinners . Pray for Police and Fire fighters everywhere.



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