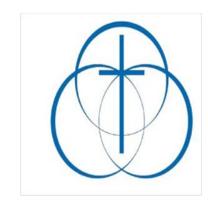
## Oneco Hope News

### Oneco Hope Global Methodist Church

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# May 2024





Dear Family,

Recently, during our Zoom Prayer Meetings on Wednesday evening, I have been sharing about a German group of Christians known as the Moravians. They were led by a Count Zinzendorf, in the city of Herrnhut, Germany. They began in the early 1700s. Through this small band, God brought revival and sent missionaries throughout the world. They actually had a prayer meeting that lasted 100 years! But then, in the 1930s and 1940s something went very wrong. Dr. Jason Hubbard tells the story in his book, Moravian Miracle: The 100 Year Prayer Meeting That Changed the World.

"By the 1930s and 40s, sadly the town of Herrnhut had followed the rest of Germany in providing tacit— if not eager— support for Adolf Hitler's Nazi party. The Soviet Army captured the town of Herrnhut on the final day of the Second World War, at which time the church building and the heart of the town were set ablaze. It was a scene that caused locals to wonder if this was the Lord's judgment. The only edifice in Herrnhut still standing after the flames went out was the church courtyard's bell tower. Every other wall of the church was at least partly destroyed, but miraculously, the bell tower remained intact.

Steve Thompson writes: The Herrnhut congregation originally owned three bells, that [...] were surrendered to the Nazi party for the German war machine during previous years. ... Amazingly, a Moravian congregation in northern Germany located the only remaining bell from Herrnhut not melted down for military use. The bell's authenticity was confirmed because it contained a quotation that Zinzendorf had inscribed on it. After two years, this bell was returned to the Herrnhut bell tower. We were stunned to learn that the stanza on the bell read, "Herrnhut should only continue as long as the purposes of God go forth unhindered."

That the bell tower was the only structure left intact reveals that God wanted this message to sound as clear as a bell to future generations. When the purposes of God ceased to go forth unhindered, Herrnhut ceased to exist.

This great truth should speak to all of us. God will place His hand of blessing on any church, so long as, through that church, "the purposes of God go unhindered." The purposes of God for the church are found in Jesus' words, in Matthew 28:18-20. This is what must go unhindered. May God help us to be faithful

God bless us all, Pastor Gene Dear Church Family,

It's that time of year! Our northern folks have gone home. The kids will soon be out of school so our Avenue941 program will be wrapping up for this school year. What a blessing it is to share Jesus with these precious ones. We had a young man receive Jesus as his Lord and Savior in December. I asked him this week if he were to die tomorrow did he know where he was going. Without hesitation he said "heaven". I then asked him if God asked you, "Why should I allow you into heaven," what would you say? Once again without hesitation he said "Because You love me and Jesus died for me." To God be the glory. I pray that many of you will volunteer next year so we can reach more children for Jesus.

We are blessed to be welcoming New Hope Coalition Haitian Church. Our Leadership Council voted unanimously to have them use two of our rooms in the West Education Building for worship. Their Pastor will also be using an upstairs room in the East Education Building for an office. He will begin using his office in May. They will be getting ready to begin their worship service mid-June. What a blessing for us to have them as we all seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ. They will be giving us a monthly donation. Please welcome them with open arms and hearts. They may feel like strangers. We want to make them know they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

God bless you all, Janet Saver, Lay Leader

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Pastor Art Leach is beginning a new Sunday School class on Sunday, May 5th at 10:15AM, in the Joshua Room. All who are not regularly attending another Sunday School class are invited. On this first Sunday, Pastor Art will be seeking input as to the type of class you may desire. Please come!

#### **Our Mission**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

#### **Our Vision**

A church that looks, acts, and thinks like Jesus.

#### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME / TITLE	TELEPHONE
Dr. Gene Maddox, Pastor	386-546-2733
Janet Saver, Lay Leader	941-812-5352
Carolyn Boyle, Lay Visitation	941-752-3907
Greg Rohr, Music Worship	941-321-4413
Church Office (MonTuesThur.)	941-755-5943

We want to thank our Oneco Hope Men's Group for hosting their recent Wild Game Dinner! The food was fantastic and enjoyed by all!

Also, a great big thank you to those of you who donated to our ministries during the Giving Challenge in April.

### **Birthdays**

04 Don Bensen 05 Rita Carvin Melissa (Clark) Hubbard 09 Amanda Lombardi 15 16 Mary Jane Seigh Eileen Hawblitzel 17 19 Michael Roller 20 Leslie Maddox 23 Thelma Taylor 23 Marge Moreau 25 Winnie Steinke 25 Chuck Parsell 25 Jav Cram 31 James Hawblitzel **Anniversaries** 18 Sandra & Gene Albritton

Carolyn & Jim Boyle

Cathy & David Boyd

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