

# News from the Hill... Snow Hill United Methodist Church

December, 2020



84 Snow Hill Church Road  
Candler, NC 28715

Reverend Dianne Johnston, Pastor  
Phone 828-337-6581

WEBSITE: <https://www.snowhillcandler.rocks/>

## ***Looking for Christmas?***

*We want to invite you to safely celebrate Advent and Christmas at Snow Hill this year.*

We are going to gather in the parking lot or on the lawn to light the Advent wreath and listen to Christmas Carols by candlelight on the four Sundays before Christmas. We do not have special equipment for broadcasting to cars, so if you want to remain in your car, you will need to park in the smaller daycare parking lot so that you can hear the organ playing the carols. We will hold a special candlelight celebration on the lawn Christmas Eve.

Starting on Sunday night, November 29, 2020, we will give out devotion books for Advent from the Society of St. Andrew, which is a gleaning organization. A lot of the fresh food we have distributed through Manna this year has come from the work of this dedicated group. You will also receive a giving box so that you can give a little each day to help a whole lot of hungry people.

Boxes will be placed before the manger on Christmas Eve, and every penny will go to the Society of St. Andrew.



## **Here is our outdoor Advent and Christmas celebration schedule:**

- ★ Hope. Sunday, Nov. 29 5:00-5:30PM  
Candles and Carols
- ★ Peace. Sunday, Dec. 6  
5:00-5:30PM Candles and Carols
- ★ Joy. Sunday, Dec. 13 5:00-5:30PM  
Candles and Carols
- ★ Love. Sunday, Dec. 20 5:00-5:30PM  
Candles and Carols
- ★ Christ. Thursday, Dec. 24. 6PM.  
Candlelight Christmas Eve

*Bring a lawn chair if you would like to sit on the lawn at the gatherings.*



*We will provide candles. Dress warmly. Bring a thermos. Expect JOY!*

## *From the Pastor's Heart*



It's Christmas time!

This year, I have become aware of how long I have taken for granted the absolute best parts of Christmas. The hugs. The meals. The gatherings that are so full of love and warmth and laughter. Even with all the flurry of activity and planning and preparation this season brings in the church, I am shocked at how much I associated Christmas with the gifts I had so frantically made lists of, purchased, and wrapped. But today, I realize more than ever, that the real gift of all these gatherings was being together.

Thanks to online shopping, the shopping and gifts are the easiest thing to do this year. But is it safe to be physically together in family gatherings? At this writing, before

Thanksgiving, I am afraid to see what the results of Thanksgiving gatherings are going to be in terms of sickness and hospitalizations.

We are so fortunate to live in a time when we can still gather together with family and friends, even when we are home and staying safe. Our Christmas gift of love, Jesus, makes an incredible papa-child relationship with God possible, and in receiving that gift we are compelled to find ways to give that gift of Love and relationship to the people in our communities.

Reach out at your technology level. If your level is writing letters and cards, then write cards. Call others. Text others. Email others. Zoom or Facetime with others. These things aren't just reserved for immediate family. Make an appointment and then: Visit. Love. Talk. Laugh. Relationship is possible, even in a year like this. Reach out to the people God is bringing to your mind. We are blessed to have each other. Give the gift of yourself. It is the greatest gift you can give, and you will receive more than you will get.

As we enter this season of gratitude and love, it is my prayer that God will bless you, keep you healthy, full of joy, aware of God's presence, and surrounded by people who love you.

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Dianne*



### Snow Hill Child Enrichment Center



Our child enrichment center continues to operate safely with many measures. If you are looking for childcare for your preschool aged children, call our director, Kim Matthews at (828) 667-1171.



### Snow Hill's B.E.A.R. Closet

The B.E.A.R. Closet is open on Tuesdays under the direction of Diana and Gary Warren, along with Karen McCracken- with safety precautions in place.

### [Snow Hill Prayer List](#)



The prayer list is now online in a google document so that you can update it with your prayer requests at any time. Look for the email that came from Pastor Dianne giving you permission to participate in it or email Dianne or Jan Caldwell to get access or it can be emailed as a PDF document.

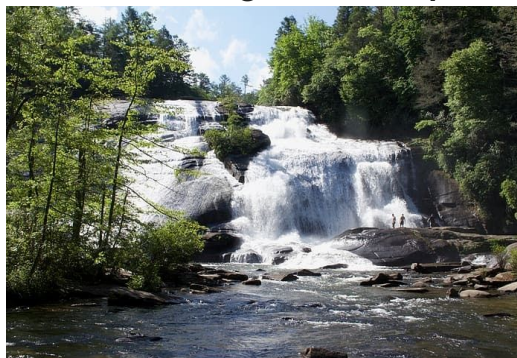
### [Snow Hill Prayer List Link](#)

### Needed: Newsletter Steward



At this time, we have approximately 10 members that do not have email and need a printed copy of the newsletter and prayer list mailed to them. If you are willing to print and mail these newsletters, please contact Pastor Dianne at 828-337-6581.

### Water, a Sign of Our Baptism



We could watch this beautiful video from our UMC Blue Ridge District Superintendent over and over! It is inspiring and life affirming.

<https://vimeo.com/463120422>

**The Council of Lay Ministry Elders meets on the 1st Sunday of every other month:**

- **Next Meeting: January 3, 2021**





### Weekend Food Bags for Students

Buncombe County Schools will continue to provide weekend food bags to qualifying students through the end of 2020. Janet Mann asks our Snow Hill family, if able, to send a donation of any amount (marked for Candler Weekend Food Bags) towards purchasing these items when (or if) we are asked to begin providing bags again. As always, thank you for your support of our community Ministries!



Dear Snow Hill Church Family,

Thank you Snow Hill Church family for all your support during this sad time of losing my mother. Your prayers, thoughts, cards, calls and text were all greatly appreciated. Pastor Diane kept in contact with us the whole time and it meant so much to us. We could feel your love and caring even 500 miles away. Thank you will never be enough, but words are all we have.

Thank you,

The Family of Elizabeth (Betty) Miller

Bob and Carol Blackwell and Family

### "Let Jesus Lead": Snow Hill Prays



Continue to set a daily timer for 8:34 am & pm to pray. Read Mark 8:34-37 and make this our prayer: **"Holy God, help me to 'Let Jesus lead'" today.** Then pray for the peace of our Church, our world, and the world's leaders.

**Mark 8:34-37 (From The Message),** Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, *"Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?"*

### WNCC Christmas Service



On the Sunday after Christmas, the Western NC Conference will offer a conference-wide virtual worship with a homily from the Bishop, music and liturgy from pastors and churches around our conference. Clergy and worship leaders are invited to take a much-needed break after the Advent season and worship with friends around the conference. Easily access the video (once available) from the conference on the Blue Ridge District website [HERE](#).

**Snow Hill UMC Financial Health  
3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
From Debbie Crouse, SH Church Treasurer**



As of **September 30, 2020:**

**Operating Account** - \$15,452.96

Year-to-date Giving - \$87,071.65

Year-to-date Expenses - \$71,806.38

**Thank Bank** for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter - \$391.24  
Thank Bank dispersed as follows.

**15%** portions to:

ABCCM - \$58.69

Habitat for Humanity - \$58.69

Community Emergency Fund - \$58.69

Dinner Church - \$58.69

**20%** portions to:

BEAR Closet - \$78.24

Abundant Harvest - \$78.24

*Comparison of regular giving:*

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter regular tithes/offering - \$21,489

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter regular tithes/offering - \$18,395

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter regular tithes/offering - \$18,689

**Status of PPP** (Payroll Protection Plan)

Application for Forgiveness of the PPP loan we received has been submitted with all the required documentation.

Account Balance (PPP) - \$4.91

*125 Year Old Walnut Pound Cake  
Recipe*

(Thanks to Vera Mae Robinson for sharing!)



- ½ lb. butter
- ½ cup shortening
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. rum flavoring
- 1 cul half & half cream
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups plain flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup black walnuts (chop fine)

Cream butter, shortening. Add sugar, beat well. Add eggs one at a time; beat well. Add flavoring and beat.

Mix ¼ cup flour with nuts- set aside.

Add remaining flour with baking powder to the mixture, alternating with milk. Start and end with flour. Fold in nuts.

Bake in a large, greased and floured tube pan at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 20 minutes. ENJOY!



## A Bit of History of Snow Hill Church By Mark Wright, Historian



In 1959 during the ministry of Reverend W.S. Smith, additional building activity was done at Snow Hill Church. A larger and more modern fellowship hall was completed in 1961. The new fellowship hall included a modern kitchen. The new kitchen had two electric stoves, a refrigerator, and a large counter with storage space. All of the cabinets in the new kitchen were hand built by Mr. Clyde Cole, church member. Part of the floor of the new fellowship hall was a shuffleboard game! The builder was also Mr. Clyde Cole, and the cost was \$29,257.37. The old fellowship hall was converted into Sunday School rooms.

In 1965 during the pastorate of Reverend Donald Ashe, the Cochran Construction Company built the present sanctuary at a cost of \$58,000. The designer was Henry Gaines. The church members who served on the building committee for the expansion were Mr. Clyde Cole (chairman), Mr. C. Floyd Robinson, Miss Modine Hutchinson, Mr. Rhea J. Poore, Mr. Locke Wright, and Mr. George Wright. Along with the new sanctuary the expansion included a pastor's study, a choir room, and two separate stairways that led to the fellowship hall. The seating capacity is three hundred people.

In 1965, the dedication ceremony for the new sanctuary of Snow Hill Church was held. Former Pastor, the Reverend W.S. (William) Smith, delivered the eleven o'clock Sunday morning sermon. The current pastor, the Reverend Donald Ashe, conducted the consecration service, at 7:30 pm that evening in a special evangelistic service that took place with all of the Methodist churches in Hominy Valley represented. The Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., from Charlotte was the special guest minister. Special music was provided by the double otet from Enka High School and accompanied by Miss Myra Wiggins, under the direction of Mr. Jerry Starnes.

In 1965, Snow Hill became a station church with a full time pastor. The first full time pastor was the Reverend Donald Ashe.

When Snow Hill Church was founded in 1877, the deed stated that the church was part of the *Methodist Episcopal Church South*. In 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the *Evangelical United Brethren*. Snow Hill officially became a *United Methodist Church* in 1968. Reverend Bud Ellington was the first pastor at Snow Hill after it became a United Methodist Church.

***Thank you, Mark, for this amazing gift-remembering the stories of the past!***

### Future Snow Hill Newsletters

Send articles, photos, or recipes to Jan Caldwell by the 20th of each month to include in the upcoming newsletter. 16 Foxbriar Drive, Candler, NC, 28715 or [jecc2015@gmail.com](mailto:jecc2015@gmail.com)

## Missions at Snow Hill....



### Homeward Bound: Room in the Inn

*I thought our congregation might like to read about what's happening with Room in the Inn (RITI), and if they are so inclined, to send a donation to help keep the program going, since it's not practical at this time for us to host or to deliver meals downtown. We have donated toiletries, clothing, and household goods earlier in 2020, and those are always needed too, but as winter approaches, Homeward Bound could probably use cash donations to meet their needs. As always, I appreciate the willingness of the members of Snow Hill UMC's congregation to reach out to help those in need!*

**Janet Mann**  
Missions Coordinator



Dear Faith Community Partners,  
Room in the Inn (RITI) began 20 years ago out of a sense of urgency to keep women living outside safe, secure, and to help stabilize their lives in housing. Faith communities all over Asheville and Buncombe County stepped up to meet this urgent need. Volunteer coordinators were enlisted who recruited hundreds of volunteers. Faith communities opened their doors to welcome up to 12 women each night of the week, offering a warm bed, a hot meal, compassionate care, and hospitality.

As Homeward Bound began to evolve from just a sheltering agency to one focused on ending homelessness through housing – recognized as the “Housing First” model - these women started moving into permanent homes. Since 2012, when the agency began tracking these moves, we have moved 133 women into their own homes with a new chance to thrive.

Up until March 2020, when COVID moved into our community, RITI continued to provide much-needed sheltering support as these women worked towards housing placement. Understandably, the need to limit congregate settings and reduce exposure to the virus meant that faith communities had to close their facility doors and RITI could

no longer exist as before. In April, the City of Asheville partnered with Homeward Bound and Harrah's Cherokee Center – Asheville to provide shelter for the RITI ladies along with 40 other vulnerable folks who were living outside. We moved several RITI ladies into homes, and the rest moved over to the Red Roof Inn in May when that shelter opened. Each individual in the Inn has their own room with a shower, a warm bed, some have microwaves, and local organizations and faith communities are providing meals and supplies.

To date, all but three RITI ladies have moved into housing, and one has a place to move into shortly. Thirty-one women are sheltering at the Red Roof Inn and other motels throughout the city. Even though shelter for the ladies looks very different now, the hotel shelters maintain the spirit of the Room in the Inn program. They are living inside, safe, secure as they await to move into housing. Discussions are underway with city staff and other providers for the possibility of creating a low barrier shelter if and when the hotel model ends.

The heart of Room in the Inn has always been the faith communities and their volunteers. The need for these resources is just as great now. As we pivot our services to respond to the needs of those experiencing homelessness during this pandemic, volunteer opportunities are listed below and your financial support is always needed and appreciated. We still need your RITI contributions to support our Homeless Services as we continue to provide day services at AHOPE, shelter at various motels, and ultimately work to end their homelessness with housing.

The saying, “It takes a village,” has never been more fitting than now. We cannot do this work without you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jim Lowder at [Jim@homewardboundwnc.org](mailto:Jim@homewardboundwnc.org).

### **Our Contact Information**

**Homeward Bound of WNC**

**PO Box 1166**

**Asheville, NC 28802**

**(828) 793-0072**

<http://www.homewardboundwnc.org>





### Covid-19 Update for Local Churches



Bishop Leeland and Cabinet urge pastors and church leaders to use the COVID-19 Alert System to monitor their county and reconsider their decision to hold indoor worship, particularly if their county is “red.” All local churches are asked to use extreme caution in response to the recent rapid spread of the virus. We thank the United Methodists across Western North Carolina for “loving their neighbor” by doing all that they can do to limit the spread of COVID-19. [View Guidelines Here](#)

## All you need: Advent Devotion

A UMC.org devotion by Joe Iovino\*



In this season when so many are focused on what they want, the Bible reminds us that we aren't missing any spiritual gifts.

Read: [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

*The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Corinthians 3:7)*

For many of us, this first week of [Advent](#) is filled with thoughts of *want*. What do the kids want for Christmas? How about our coworkers? And someone has probably

asked you if there is anything you want for Christmas. Do you have an answer?

This season of gift giving and receiving can become stressful. And this year, it seems even more so.

Since the [global pandemic](#) has many of us staying home this Christmas rather than traveling to visit relatives and friends, we have to build in extra time to ship our gifts. That means even less time to do all the shopping and that we will miss out on the best part—watching the people we love open our gifts.

As our presents are expressions of love for friends, relatives, coworkers and others, your spiritual gifts are an expression of God's affection for you. Today's reading reminds us that God's gifts are extravagant. “You aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed,” we're told.

In this season of waiting God invites us into an ever-deepening relationship with Jesus. And you aren't missing any spiritual gift you need for that.

During this first week of Advent, reflect on how God loves and has gifted you. What gifts do you have ([explore them here](#))? How do they remind you of God's love for you? How will you go deeper this Christmas and into the new year?

Prayer: Thank you, O God, for inviting me into a growing relationship with you and for giving me every gift I need. Amen.

Activity: As you wrap a gift this week, whisper a prayer of thanks for the gifts you have already received from God.

---

*\*Joe Iovino is Director, Member Content for [United Methodist Communications](#). Contact him by email.*