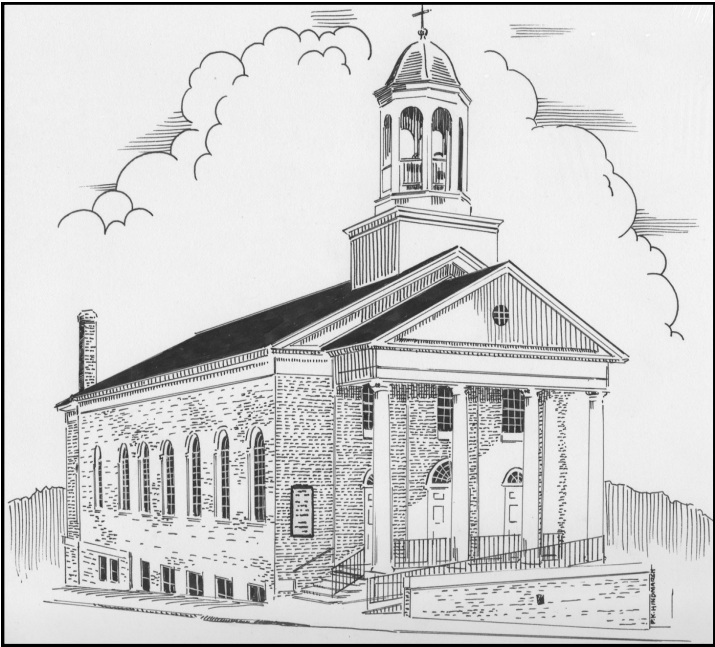


# THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER

November 2024

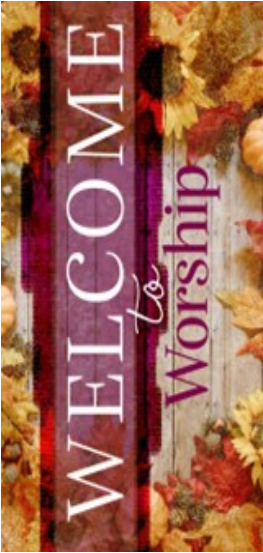


**In Essentials, Unity  
In Nonessentials, Liberty  
In All Things, Love**  
**Congregational Watchword for 2024**

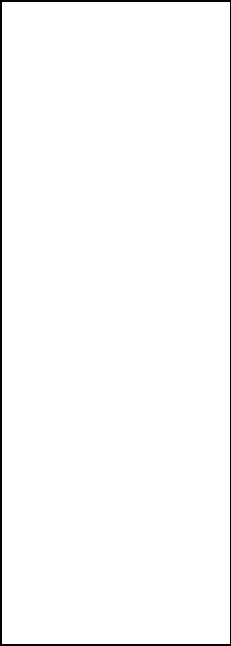
*God called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.  
1 Peter 2:9c*

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH  
225 N. 10TH STREET  
EASTON, PA 18042-3370  
The Rev. Sue Koenig, Pastor  
Laurie Toyberg, Secretary

[www.firstmoravianeaston.org](http://www.firstmoravianeaston.org)  
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Phone: 610-258-6317



**Worship Sundays 10:45 AM**  
Summer through Labor Day 10 AM  
Fall/Winter/Spring 10:45 AM



Dear Friends in Christ,

On October 7, 2024, I participated in a Prayers of Lament service offered by Churches for Middle East Peace to pray for Israelis and Palestinians, for the release of hostages and prisoners, for those injured, suffering and grieving, without the basic necessities of life, who have lost loved ones, and for a just and lasting peace for everyone in the Middle East. Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of the General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church concluded the service with a portion of a prayer written by Dr. Howard Thurman. Since October 7, I have prayed this prayer, entitled, "I Need You," in its entirety every day. Bishop Trimble prayed the last paragraph as part of his benediction.

*I need Your sense of the future. Teach me to know that life is ever on the side of the future. Keep alive in me the future look, the high hope. Let me not be frozen either by the past or the present. Grant me, O Patient One, Your sense of the future without which all life would sicken and die.*

Dr. Thurman opens his prayer with the words, "I need Your sense of time. Always I have an underlying anxiety about things." Our bishops recently recognized this "underlying anxiety," writing, "*The Bishops of the Moravian Church, Northern Province, acknowledge the importance of the upcoming election and the concern and anxiety that individuals are feeling no matter the outcome of the election.*"

Waking up each day with "my mind stayed on Jesus," praying "I Need You," knowing and trusting that "life is ever on the side of the future," has kept hope alive for me in these challenging times, and enabled me not to be frozen by the past or the present. Jesus called his followers to loving action and peacekeeping, and on November 5, I am humbled to serve as a nonpartisan Poll Chaplain and Peacekeeper at a polling site in Philadelphia. It will be a day of prayer. In this role, as clergy and faith leader, I will be a calming and supportive presence to voters, answer questions and direct voters to appropriate resources as needed. I am also trained in addressing conflict and in deescalating situations that may arise to ensure all voters are treated with respect, and as those made in the image of God.

The future look and the high hope at times requires us to look beyond the future that lies in the months and remaining years before us, to other generations, to God's future shalom and the "fullness of time." It is this long future look and this higher hope that makes it possible to know the peace of Christ, the peace that surpasses understanding. We avoid being "frozen," by tending the flame of God's love and compassion burning in our hearts; longing for and working for God's future, God's shalom and kingdom to come on earth; and by waking up each day with our minds stayed on Jesus, and our feet on paths of justice and peace. *Pastor Sue* 2

## **From the October 2024 Moravian Monthly** **Northern Province Endorses** **Christians Against Christian Nationalism**

The Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province recently endorsed Christians Against Christian Nationalism. The PEC also prepared the longer endorsement and commendation below. [Visit <https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/> endorsers to read the full endorsement.]

The Moravian Church Northern Province (MCNP) rejects Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus Christ; as supporting the sins and systems of racism and white supremacy; and as a threat to democracy. Further, Christian nationalism is inconsistent with The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living (MCCL) which calls us to show love towards all people in our witness to the world:

We will not hate, despise, slander, or otherwise injure anyone. We will ever strive to manifest love towards all people, to treat them in a kind and friendly manner, and in our dealings with them to approve ourselves upright, honest, and conscientious, as becomes children of God. Together with the universal Christian Church, we have a concern for this world, opening our heart and hand to our neighbors with the message of the love of God, and being ever ready to minister of our substance to their necessities (Matthew 25:40) MCCL: 5:29

Regarding civic life, the Covenant states: Considering it a special privilege to live in a democratic society, we will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of our citizenship, among which are intelligent and well-informed voting, a willingness to assume public office, guiding the decisions of government by the expression of our opinions, and supporting good government by our personal efforts. MCCL: 4:26

We, the Provincial Elders Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province endorsed the Christians Against Christian Nationalism Statement and we commend them for their work in opposing Christian nationalism and for their contributions of educational, advocacy, and organizing resources to these efforts.

*If you are not receiving the Moravian Monthly, the official newsletter of the Moravian Church Northern Province and the Eastern, Western, and Canadian Districts, please visit [mcnp.org](http://mcnp.org) to sign up. A copy of the October issue is attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter.*



**UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF WORLD MISSION  
Moravian Disaster Response to Hurricane Helene in NC**

The recovery effort from Hurricane Helene is in full swing in northwestern North Carolina, where the Board of World Mission is focusing our efforts. We are happy to report that Laurel Ridge, the Moravian Camp and Conference Center, now has power and will open Higgins Lodge beginning on October 18 for folks who would like to be part of the reconstruction effort. The BWM is helping to fund work being done at the home of a 74-year-old woman in Lansing, NC. Her house was completely flooded and needs a complete rebuild. The Rev. Chris Thore is heading up work on this project and is especially in need of folks with carpentry, cabinetry, plumbing, and electrical skills. We are also interested in congregations or groups of congregations willing to come as mission teams to work either in the clean-up effort at Laurel Ridge or in the home of one of their neighbors. If you are interested in helping, please email Chris Giesler at [chris@moravianmission.org](mailto:chris@moravianmission.org). 100% of the donations received for our MDR Fund go to providing relief for these disasters. You can assist us with our disaster response efforts at [MoravianMission.org/Give](http://MoravianMission.org/Give). Please designate your gift to “MDR” to ensure that funds can be directed to the disaster relief efforts where there is the greatest need. Please make checks payable to “Board of World Mission” and send to: U.S. Donors: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. (Update from 10/18/24)

**NATIONAL NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCES**

**Veteran’s Day** is November 11, a day to remember and honor veterans and their families. November is **National Native American Heritage Month**. “Every year, by statute and/or presidential proclamation, the month of November is recognized as National Native American Heritage Month.” The U.S. Census Bureau offers these introductory remarks regarding the designation: *“During National Native American Heritage Month, we celebrate Indigenous peoples past and present and rededicate ourselves to honoring Tribal sovereignty, promoting Tribal self-determination, and upholding the United States’ solemn trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations. America has not always delivered on its promise of equal dignity and respect for Native Americans. For centuries, broken treaties, dispossession of ancestral lands, and policies of assimilation and termination sought to decimate Native populations and their ways of life. But despite this painful history, Indigenous peoples, their governments, and their communities have persevered and flourished. As teachers and scholars, scientists and doctors, writers and artists, business leaders and elected officials, heroes in uniform, and so much more, they have made immeasurable contributions to our country’s progress.”* [Note: Native Americans consistently serve in the military at a rate higher than any other demographic group.]



**WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER 10:45 am**  
**November 3, 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints’ Sunday/First Sunday Sunday School**



We will give thanks to God for all the saints who rest from their labors in the nearer presence of the Savior, and offer prayers of intercession for a national election. The gospel text for All Saints’ Sunday is the raising of Lazarus (John 11:32-44) and for this Sunday after Pentecost, Jesus’s answer to the question, “Which of the commandments is the greatest of all?” (Mark 12:28-34.) [Daylight Savings Time ends.]

**November 10, 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Chief Elder Holy Communion**

On November 13, the Moravian Church uniquely celebrates the Festival of Christ as the Chief Elder of the church. On November 10, we will celebrate a service of holy communion, in acknowledgement and gratitude, that Christ is our Chief Elder and the Good Shepherd. The gospel text for the Chief Elder Festival is John 10:1-10 (“I am the Gate”) and from this week’s lectionary, Jesus’s acknowledgement of a poor widow who gave everything to God, all she had to live on (Mark 12:38-44). [Unified Board will meet following worship.]

**November 17, 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Prayer & Anointing for Healing**

The gospel reading from Mark 13:1-8 is what is called a “Little Apocalypse,” designed to prepare Jesus’s disciples for the trials that are ahead. Jesus instructs them, “Do not be alarmed.” We can walk each day with trust and confidence in Jesus, and “provoke one another to love.” Other texts are Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25. *For your prayers and actions: The week of November 17 is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.* [We will have a 30-minute “Town Hall” gathering following worship to hear your thoughts on our ministries and ideas for fundraisers in preparation for the coming year.]

**November 24, Reign of Christ Sunday/Prayer Day for the Bible Society and Moravian University & Theological Seminary**

This is the last Sunday of the church year and it brings together both Christ’s coming and his coming again. Jesus’s “authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him...his victory will be the non-violent victory of love.”



## **FALL & HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR**

**Sat., Oct. 26, 2024, 9AM – 2 PM**

### **CRAFT SHOW**



As this November issue of the FM Stereo “goes to press” we are excited to be preparing for our annual Fall & Holiday Vendor Craft Bazaar on Saturday, October 26 from 9 am to 2 pm. We look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding day! There are many beautiful crafts and the kitchen will be open for lunch. Thank you for supporting the church through your presence and participation, and all the ways you contribute to our various fundraisers.

### **ADVENT DECORATING AND THE GIVING TREE FOR TURNING POINT**

Come and enjoy the tradition of preparing our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons. This year, we will be decorating on Saturday, **November 30**, beginning at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to be the first to see the sanctuary once again in its “glad apparell!” Beginning Sunday, **December 1**, you may choose a tag from the **Giving Tree** that will be set up in the narthex and purchase a gift or gift card to support the families served by Turning Point.

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are due by **November 25**. Order forms will be in the church entrance area, or you may call the church office at 610.258.6317.

Plants available are:

- 4 1/2” \$ 3.75 single stem, red
- 6 1/2” \$ 8.50 5-7 flowers, red, pink, white, marble,
- 8” \$13.50 10+ flowers, double red, double white, or combo
- 9” \$19.50 triple branched plants, 15+ flowers, triple red, triple white\*, triple pink\*, triple marble\* (\*limited supply)



### **ANNUAL FALL FEST BLOCK PARTY—FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

God provided a glorious fall day for our annual Fall Fest Block Party on October 12. The weather was perfect and everyone who attended had fun with the cake walk, crafts, and games, and enjoyed the “best ever” hot dogs Frank Chisesi prepared on the grill, while Mike Koenig kept the music going! Most all our neighbors who dropped by stayed to the end of the event. Chad Hendershot became the official Cake Walk spinner and referee! A harvest of “thanks” to all those who came to assist and to everyone who donated the wonderful baked goods and other prizes for the Cake Walk. A special “thank you” to the Easton Fire Company.

## **CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL**



**First Sunday** Sunday School will meet on Sunday, **November 3** at 10:45. In preparation for the seasons of Advent and Christmas, children will learn of The Birth of Jesus. The first session of four, “How Can This Be?” will introduce children to Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the time she is visited by the angel, Gabriel.

Children will spend a brief time with their families and the congregation at the start of the service, and then go to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School. Registration forms and other materials are available at the church or by calling the church office at 610-258-6317. Children ages three through 13 are invited. Older children may serve as helpers.

*If you would like to assist with this ministry, to teach or serve as a helper, please let Pastor Sue know of your interest. Thank you!*

## **ROBOTICS**

Children and youth and their families are invited to the Robotics Ministry sessions with Mike Koenig offered the first Sunday of each month following worship and Sunday School. The next session will be **Sunday, November 3 at 12:15 pm**. Meet in the rooms behind the sanctuary. A light lunch will be provided.

## **COMING IN DECEMBER...CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SHOP**

The Children’s Christmas Shop will be “open” on **Saturday, December 14**, from noon to 2 pm. All children and their families are invited. Children will have an opportunity to shop for the perfect gift for each of their family members, and to wrap them to await Christmas Day. Items will be priced at \$2.00 or under, with proceeds benefitting Family Connections of Easton. Donations of gifts for the children to purchase for grandparents, parents, siblings, and other family members are needed. A container for your gifts will be available in the entrance area of the church.



## **HANDBELL AND VOICE CHOIRS**

The handbells and voice choirs are preparing music for the Advent, and Christmas seasons. Both choirs are open to anyone who would like to ring or sing! Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (voice) and 7:30 pm (handbells.) Thank you!

**SIGHT AND SOUND'S "MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS"**  
**IS COMING TO FIRST MORAVIAN!**

The Sight and Sound Theatre's "Miracle of Christmas" is coming to First Moravian! On Saturday, **December 7**, we will stream this amazing presentation of the beloved story of the birth of Jesus, with its gifted cast, massive sets, and live animals, and you, your family, and guests, will be able to see it all right in our sanctuary! We will stream "Miracle of Christmas" beginning at 3 pm. Dinner will follow in the Fellowship Hall. This event is made possible through a generous donation. Come and prepare your hearts for Christ's coming. Watch the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouuMjIuzvs8&t=7s>

**LOOKING AHEAD...**

- 11/30 Advent Decorating
- 12/01 First Sunday of Advent, Holy Communion, World AIDS Day, First Sunday Sunday School, Robotics
- 12/07 Sight & Sound's "Miracle of Christmas" 3 pm
- 12/08 Second Sunday of Advent
- 12/09 Advent Retreat
- 12/14 Children's Christmas Shop, 12-2 pm
- 12/21 Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service, 4-5 pm
- 12/22 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Jim Dronenburg, Harpist
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Lovefeast and Candlelight Service, 7 pm
- 12/25 Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day
- 12/29 First Sunday after Christmas
- 12/31 New Year's Eve



**QUINNY MISSES YOU!**

Quinny is looking forward to seeing you when the eight weeks of confinement following her knee surgery on September 3 has ended. She has missed everyone and will be SO happy to see you in early November! *Thank you for all your thoughtful inquiries!*

**GIFT CARDS**

With the coming of the holiday seasons, please plan your gift and other purchases using gift cards. This is an excellent and labor-free fundraiser that benefits the church and provides funds for ministry. Visit [raiseright.com](http://raiseright.com) to see a complete list of gift cards that are available for purchase. See Frank Chisesi to order cards or to inquire about cards that Frank does not keep in stock. If you would like to set up your own account, please see Frank for the number to enter to be sure that FMCE is credited.

**FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD**

Members of the Unified Board met on October 20 at 12:30 pm. Pastor Sue opened the meeting with prayer. There were no changes to the September minutes or to the Pastor's September report. Since we did not have a quorum, a motion and second will be considered by Board members via email; along with two other motions needed for financial decisions. Highlights from the meeting include:

- ◇ Membership updates: Sandra and David Morrisette were welcomed with joy into the membership of First Moravian on October 13.
  - ◇ A Town Hall meeting will be planned for a Sunday in November
  - ◇ Frank Chisesi presented the third quarter financial statements. Expenses have exceeded revenues through 9/30 by \$11,358.21; unrestricted cash balance was \$7,196.32. Large payment obligations with the exception of Common Ministries and Medical/LTD have been paid for this year. Average weekly receipts are \$2,061, which is \$476 less than the amount needed for the budget. An end of year letter will be prepared. Use of "Benevolence" envelopes will be explained and encouraged.
  - ◇ We have not yet received a response to our Larger Life application for grant funds for painting the remainder of the church.
  - ◇ Frank will check with Marvin on the completion of the work on the bell tower; and with Glenn Erb on a plaque.
  - ◇ The proceeds from the Rummage sale totaled about \$300
  - ◇ Preparations have been made for the Bazaar. We have three vendors planning to have tables; and members of the congregation will have tables for their crafts. Advertising has been done, signs are up and other signs have been prepared for placing in strategic spots. Appreciation was expressed to Frank and Dawn for their work on the Bazaar.
  - ◇ Thanks was expressed to Carl Lerch for the installation of the fans.
  - ◇ Recent events and upcoming worship, spiritual formation, and ministries were briefly reviewed. Sunday School is going well. We discussed ways of enhancing and publicizing our annual Block Party next year.
  - ◇ Mike and Deb learned that the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster provides licenses for churches to stream recordings of past shows. We will explore this exciting spiritual formation and outreach opportunity.
  - ◇ The meeting concluded with prayer.
- The next Unified Board meeting will be November 17 at 12:30 pm.



**PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES**  
**“SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER”**



Everyone is invited to gather for prayer at 4 pm on Wednesday afternoons. Those who would like may bring a short devotion, poem, or story to share. The *Sweet Hour of Prayer* is held virtually using Zoom and may be accessed by everyone via a regular phone. To join via phone, call Zoom at 301 715 8592, enter the Meeting ID 934 9796 5599 followed by #. Enter # when asked for your participant ID; enter the passcode 892624, #. Please note that we will not meet on November 27, 2024.



**“Hopeful Living”**

Based on the book “Living Hope” by Paul W. Chilcote and Steve Harper  
 Mondays 11:00 am to noon through November 11

*Hopeful Living* began with a broad sweep of the witness to hope in the biblical story—from the creation, to the hope-filled messages of “the faithful and true witness,” Jesus Christ; to Paul, the Apostle and his hopeful words to the church, and beyond. We will hear inspiring stories and explore our own witness of “the hope that is in us;” seven reasons for hope; and practices to help us increase our hope and bring much longed-for hope into the world. Everyone is invited to participate in person or on Zoom. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Join on Zoom with Meeting ID 838 3256 2087 and Passcode 786570; or copy and paste this link in your browser: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83832562087?pwd=VHJITnFEOUdzZkYrQkVITzZndXBvZz09>

**PRAYER AND VISITATION MINISTRIES**

Please contact Pastor Sue if you would like a visit at home, care facility, or hospital; if you would like to receive Holy Communion at home; or if you are in need of prayer. Members of our Prayer Chain are always ready to pray for you or to join you in prayer for others. We would also like to assist you with getting on ZOOM for worship or by providing frozen meals. Call the Church Office at 610-258-6317. Meals are for everyone.

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Members of First Moravian Church**

**Those in care facilities**

Gloria Bolmer	Leah & Andrew Brown	James Shook
Evie Gulick	Anne Hajdu	Paul Peifer
Dorothy Price	Tom Wolfe	Cal Wexler

**Those at home**

Janet Balogun	Donald Bodden	Mary Buccos
Bill & Laurie Bullock	Vickie Erb	Bob and Stella Harling
Julie Loquasto	Diane Kohler	Frank Cigus
Shirley Buck	Sue Wexler	Barb Leshner
Jose & Pam Morrow-Henriquez		Bettemae Weiss

**Those expecting**

Talia Austin & Zakk Davis; Jada Bullock & Roger Boyd

**Friends of our First Moravian Church Family**

Gilbert Hendershot	Leo Pitts	Baby Dominic and Family
Tyler & Alicia Cox	Bob Morgenstern	Deena Kohler
Dave & Deb	Elyse	Russell Timberman
Ellie and family	Jeannette Leshner	John Morgenstern
Pastor Jean Huber	Jeff & Brenda Fogel	Ryan & Dave
Sharon Long	Helen Lerch	

Anne, Brian, Thomas & Nancy MacIntosh Family of Jack Timberman  
*We pray for all who are suffering from the destruction of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.; for an end to the violence, terror, and war in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Israel, and surrounding areas, Sudan, Ukraine, and other war-torn areas of the world, for peace with justice and freedom for all people. We continue to pray for all victims of injustice and violence; those suffering from the ongoing effects of trauma and disasters; and all suffering from abuse, addiction, and their repercussions. We pray that we may work together for the well-being of all people and creation.*



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 11/01 Donald Bodden
- 11/04 Shelley Seip
- 11/06 Susan Dilts
- 11/08 Russell Davis
- 11/09 Stella Harling
- 11/18 Addison Erb
- 11/20 Noah Sabatine
- 11/22 Samatha Smith
- 11/24 Dale Johnson
- 11/29 Dorinda Gaines
- 11/30 Zachary Seip

*With your presence,  
 Lord our Head and Savior,  
 bless them now we humbly  
 pray...*



**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 11/05 John & Janet Morrow
- 11/24 Donald & Leslie Tirrell
- 11/27 John & Sandy Dentith

