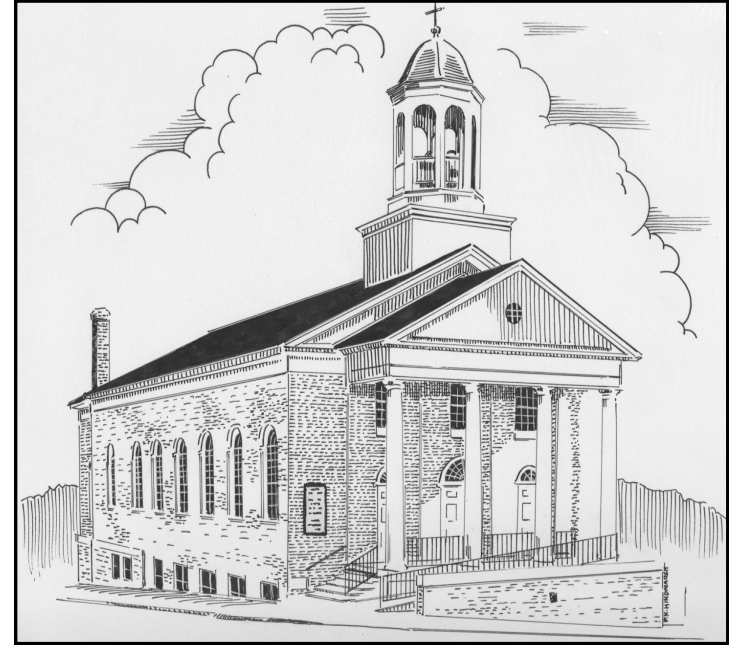


THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER

October 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
secretary@firstmoravianeaston.org
Phone: 610-258-6317



**Saturday
October 12
Noon-2 pm
Bushkill
Street & N
10th**

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

Dear Friends in Christ,
I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to join the MCNP Racial Justice Team for an immersion experience at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pine Ridge is an Oglala Lakota Indian reservation, and the Reconciliation Center is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We were warmly welcomed by everyone as “relatives.” Those with whom we met shared their stories and their current efforts to teach and reclaim their spirituality, culture, and language; and address the complex struggles facing people living on the reservation today. Many of these difficulties are the result of a legacy of colonialism and its atrocities, including forced displacement from their land, cultural annihilation in boarding schools, and discriminatory laws. We listened to hopeful voices of people offering creative solutions to end violence against girls and young women; to lead men through a process of transformation to end domestic violence; to provide housing for those experiencing homelessness; to support those working day by day to overcome alcoholism. We met artists who shared their stories, and who are using their gifts to tell and record the stories of the Lakota people.

Last months sermons at First Moravian reflected on the lectionary texts from James. One of the themes was “faith without works is dead.” *The First Nations Version—An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament*, translates James 2:17-18 this way:

In the same way, without deeds, faith by itself is dead. But someone will say, “Faith is what is needed,” while another says, “Good deeds are what is needed.” *I say that both are needed.* You show me your faith without good deeds, and I will show you my faith by the good deeds I have done.

The 2023 Synod of the MCNP passed a resolution repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, and calling for initial steps to repair our church’s relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Words will not be enough. Both words and actions will be needed, the first action of which is listening with open minds and hearts. This Indigenous Peoples’ Day, October 14, offer prayers for Indigenous Peoples and their healing and restorative work, and for the church’s work of repentance, repair, and reconciliation. *Pastor Sue*
Learn more by visiting <https://www.pineridgereconciliationcenter.org> or www.pineridgereconciliationcenter.org/resources.html

From the September 2024 Moravian Monthly **Mission Minute: Hispanic Heritage Month**



Board of World Mission staff members, as well as several Northern and Southern Province clergy members, are currently completing a six-month program offered by the Centro Latino at Fuller Theological Seminary to equip churches, ministries, and Christian organizations with biblical and theological resources and organizing tools so they can effectively respond to the current reality of the immigrant community in the U.S.

Since April of this year, the group has been meeting once a month to reflect on the coursework and affirm God’s call for compassion, justice, and love toward all people, including those affected by the U.S. immigration system. This issue challenges Christians to live out the values of hospitality and mercy, recognizing the dignity of every individual. Addressing immigration issues through this lens emphasizes the importance of humane treatment, protection of the vulnerable, and advocating for policies that reflect the principles of justice and compassion, ensuring that the needs of the marginalized are met in alignment with God’s call to love our neighbors.

The Moravian Church in North America is already serving the Hispanic community, including many immigrants, in ministries such as Estamos Unidos Moravian Ministry, Esperanza for Bethlehem, and many congregations, especially in the Florida-Georgia District. Our goal is to use mission as a framework for understanding the challenges currently facing the immigrant community and utilizing best practices to expand our response to this need through our ministries and congregations.

GIFT CARDS

Using gift cards for your routine and special purposes helps the church by providing revenue for our ministries. It is an excellent and labor-free fundraiser. Visit raiseright.com to see a complete list of gift cards that are available for purchase. See or call 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



**Come Celebrate
with Us!**

Board of World Mission
Benefit Singstunde
and
Retirement Celebration
for
The Rt. Rev. J. Christian Giesler

Saturday, October 5, 2024
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Emmaus Moravian Church
146 Main Street, Emmaus, PA 18049

You are invited to an evening of song, praise, and Good News to raise funds to provide Moravian Daily Texts Books for our sisters and brothers in the Labrador Mission Province.

Music for the evening will be provided by the Giesler family and friends.

Come ready to sing, listen, pray, and contribute to a project that is changing lives in Labrador. Light refreshments and fellowship will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



For more information, please contact Sue Adams at 610-867-1732 or sue@moravianmission.org.

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) will hold an Ecumenical Prayer Service on Zoom on October 7 from 2 to 3 pm ET. “Join CMEP for a virtual service of lament as we reflect on the one-year anniversary of the devastating October 7th attacks and subsequent year-long bombardment of Gaza.” Register at cmep.org. The service of lament will be recorded for subsequent viewing. [#MiddleEast](#) [#OneYear](#) [#Lament](#)

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER 10:45 am

**October 6, 20th Sunday after Pentecost/First
Sunday Sunday School/Worldwide Communion**

We will gather at Christ’s table of grace with our kin from around the world, sharing in the sacrament and coming nearer to Jesus’ prayer that we all are one. The gospel lesson is Mark 10:2-16 and includes two stories that call us to accept and value women and children and childlikeness before God. Jesus’s rebuke of his disciples for banishing children is followed with an exhortation: only those who receive the kingdom of God as a child will enter it. As we move through the month of October, we will pray for children and for women here and around the world. Children are dear to God and are to be loved, valued, and welcomed. “Little children, welcome!”



**October 13, 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Reception of New
Members/Prayer Day for World Mission**

Today we have the joy of welcoming **David and Sandra Morrisette** as new members of the First Moravian Church family! We will offer our prayers for the work of the Board of World Mission, and for all the mission endeavors of our congregations and organizations. In the gospel, Jesus encounters a rich man who wants to know how to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus’s answer is sure to challenge us. (Mark 10:17-31)

**October 20, 22nd Sunday after Pentecost/Children’s Sabbath
and Prayer Day/Prayer Day for Peace w/ Justice and Freedom**

The Children’s Defense Fund sponsors a “Children’s Sabbath” each year. This year the focus will be on teaching children that God hears them when they cry out for help and relief. May we also hear their cries and respond to all their needs. The gospel reading is Mark 10:35-45: seats of honor will be awarded to those who serve.

**October 27, 23rd Sunday after Pentecost/Prayer Day for Human
Rights for Women**

HANDBELL AND VOICE CHOIRS RETURN!

The handbells and voice choirs are beginning to prepare music for the fall, Advent, and Christmas seasons. Both choirs are open to anyone who would like to ring or sing! Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (voice) and 7:30 pm (handbells.) We look forward to lifting our voices and bells in praise and glory to God!





ANNUAL FALL FEST BLOCK PARTY!

First Moravian Church will hold its Annual Fall Fest Block Party on **October 12 from 12 to 2 pm**. Festivities will be on Bushkill St. from 10th St. to the alley behind the church. Hot dogs, snacks and drinks will be available. There will also be s'mores! The party will feature a craft activities table with a variety of craft kits, along with our famous Cake Walk, music and dancing. **We need lots of help to make the day a success.** Set up will begin at 10:30 am. We'll need people to help the children with crafts, give out prizes and be there to talk and visit with the neighbors. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. **Donations of cakes, cupcakes or other prizes for the Cake Walk Table are requested.** Be creative -- everyone loves to win a prize. There will be a sign-up sheet and a collection box for prizes in the narthex. Members of our church family are encouraged to attend this neighborhood outreach event and join in the fun. The Block Party is a very important ministry that provides an opportunity to meet families who live in the neighborhood.

FALL & HOLIDAY CRAFT & VENDOR BAZAAR Saturday, October 26, 2024 9AM – 2 PM

We are excited to announce a change to our annual Holiday Craft Bazaar! This year we are having a Fall & Holiday Craft & Vendor Bazaar on Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 9 AM to 2 PM. By changing the event from Friday to Saturday and opening the event to outside vendors, we hope to see an increase in attendance. First Moravian will still have their own tables filled with all the beautiful crafts members of the congregation have created. We will also have room for 12 tables for outside crafters and vendors. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please see Frank Chisesi or Dawn Hughes. Applications are available in the church office. The cost per table as well as important deadlines is listed on the application form.



As in previous years, the kitchen will be open for lunch, and we will have a bake table. We will need help with tables and set up in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 24 at 10 am; and with final arrangements at 10 am on Friday, October 25. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and support your church.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Sunday Sunday School will meet on Sunday, **October 6** at 10:45. This day is Children's Sabbath and the lesson for the day will be drawn from materials from the Children's Defense Fund. Children and youth will *explore Psalm 31:1-8 and be invited to recognize that the psalmist is urging God to listen to and respond to troubles; identify the "nets" or problems and circumstances that are tripping up or trapping children and youths today; and hear the psalmist's call to be delivered to a "broad place" of safety and security.*



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, October 6 at 12:15 pm**. Meet in the rooms behind the sanctuary. A light lunch will be provided.

RUMMAGE SALE APPRECIATION

This year's rummage sale was a great success in many ways. We had donations of new and quality clothing and other wearable items; we welcomed many happy customers who filled bags with clothing that will be worn and coats that will give warmth; we had the blessing of many hearts and hands to help with all aspects of the sale; and the clothing that remained following the sale will bless others. A special word of thanks to Frank Chisesi and Dawn Hughes for leading this community ministry; and to all who contributed time and clothing to make this year's sale a blessing to be worn with gratitude!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

First Moravian Church will offer a Blessing of the Animals worship service on **Sunday, October 6 at 3 pm**, in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi and his love and care for all God's creatures. St. Francis, a renewer of the church, died in 1226. His ministry and love for animals is remembered in some traditions on October 4. Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant...he renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor... He had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all God's creation. This commemoration has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. *From Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, Year B 2021, p. 277*



Please also continue to hold the Easton Franciscan Community in your prayers as they conclude their ministry at the Retreat Center.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, OCTOBER 14



Indigenous Peoples' Day is October 14. The MCNP has designated this day a holiday, and encouraged it to be a day of prayer and reflection. For a brief reflection, these are the opening words of An Indian Version of Psalm 23: "The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief. I am His, and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love, and He draws me to where the grass is green and the waters not dangerous. I eat and lie down satisfied..."

LOOKING AHEAD...

Here are highlights for **November 2024**:

11/01 All Saints' Day

11/03 All Saint's Sunday, First Sunday Sunday School, Robotics, Daylight Savings Time Ends

11/05 Election Day

11/10 Chief Elder Holy Communion

11/11 Veterans Day

11/13 Festival of Christ, the Chief Elder

11/17 Prayer and Anointing for Healing

11/24 Reign of Christ Sunday, Prayer Day for the Bible Society

11/28 Thanksgiving Day (US)

11/20 Advent Decorating

12/01 First Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion, World AIDS Day, First Sunday Sunday School, Robotics

FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD

Members of the Unified Board met on September 8 at 12:30 pm. Pastor Sue opened the meeting with prayer. There were no changes to the July minutes or to Pastor's July and August reports. Highlights include:



- ◇ Membership updates: Janet Balogun is still awaiting contact from Spring Garden Moravian in Antigua; Sandra and David Morrisette plan to join the church in October. We are delighted to welcome them.
- ◇ Mike LoQuasto reported on the completion of Laurie Toyberg's annual review and commendation.
- ◇ Frank Chisesi presented his Treasurer's Report, providing the Board with an update on the cash status and the operating funds needed for the coming weeks. The third-quarter report will be available at the next meeting.
- ◇ Frank submitted an application to the Larger Life Foundation for assistance with the remaining church painting; checked on pricing for the replacement of the mini-split AC/heating unit in the Pastor's office and purchased one for \$527 plus \$120 for a three-year warranty. Zakk Davis installed the unit. Their efforts resulted in a tremendous savings for the church. Frank also found a small window unit for the parsonage (originally for Mike's office, but installed in the guest room) for \$200. A new kitchen faucet was also installed—all of these from gift cards. Frank stressed again how much the church could benefit from gift card purchases.
- ◇ Frank will check with Marvin on the completion of the work on the bell tower.
- ◇ Carl Lerch has done extensive work at the church this month including cleaning and protecting the stairs to the Fellowship Hall, carpet repair, painting, and installation of a new floor at the back entrance of the Fellowship Hall. He also plans to install a new fan in the sanctuary balcony.
- ◇ Rummage sale and Bazaar are all planned with gratitude to Dawn and Frank; Sue Ficzk asked about supplying brochures about church activities to the West Ward Market. Pr. Sue will check.
- ◇ Pastor Sue presented the idea of a Oldies Dance Night sometime in spring. Board members were supportive; we will gather more information. We will also look at our goals for all our fundraisers.
- ◇ Recent events and upcoming worship and ministries were briefly reviewed. The meeting concluded with prayer.

The next Unified Board meeting will be October 20 at 12:30 pm. 5

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 September 18, 2024.



“Hopeful Living”

Based on the book “Living Hope” by Paul W. Chilcote and Steve Harper
 Mondays starting October 21
 11:00 am to noon

Hopeful Living will begin 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 explore our own witness to “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 on October 21 and 28, and November 4 and 11 from 11 am to noon 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 |
| Anita Johnson | | |

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: Jada Bullock; Talia Austin and Zakk Davis



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 |
| Tammy Bane | Pastor Jean Huber | Jeff & Brenda Fogel |
| Ryan & Dave | Anne, Brian, Thomas & Nancy MacIntosh | |

We pray 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, with 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 the pandemic; those affected by human and natural disasters; and all suffering from abuse, addiction, and their repercussions. We pray that we may work together for justice and righteousness, for the peace and well-being of all people and creation.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Dawn Hughes
 10/03 Eric Wexler
 10/04 Linda Paff
 10/06 Calvin Wexler
 10/09 Linda Hughes
 10/10 Jessica Gaines
 10/14 Melissa Larsen
 10/16 Sandra Dentith
 Del Folweiler
 10/19 Seth Yahraes
 10/20 Coleen Sawyer
 10/21 Owen Van Horn
 10/23 Pat Johnson
 10/29 Carrie Cigus



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

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/06 Brian & Samantha Smith
 10/08 Mike & Deb LoQuasto
 10/19 Frank & Sherri Mondillo
 10/28 Robert & Stella Harling