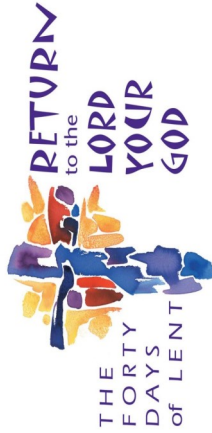


**FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH**

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

[www.firstmoravianeaston.org](http://www.firstmoravianeaston.org)  
[secretary@firstmoravianeaston.org](mailto:secretary@firstmoravianeaston.org)

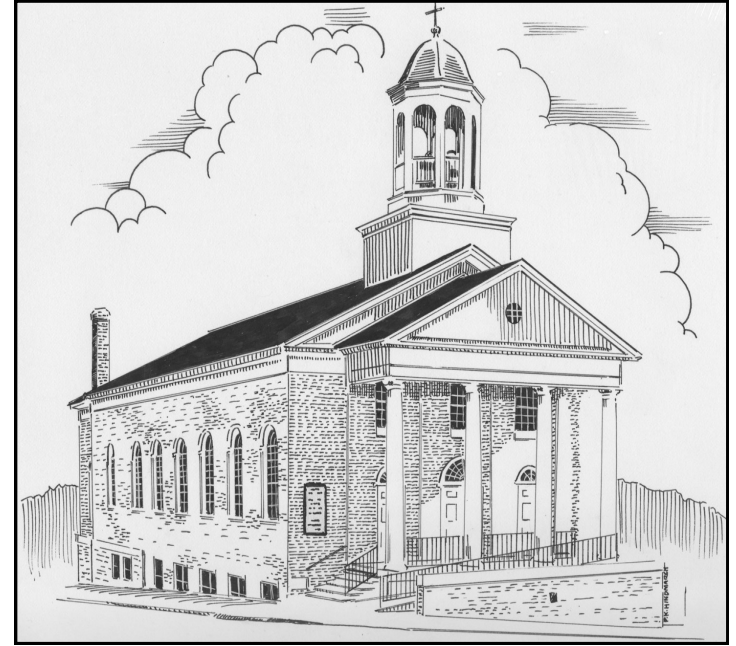


***Worship Sundays 10:45 AM***  
**Summer through Labor Day 10 AM**

**Join us for worship! All are  
welcome at First Moravian!**

**THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER**

**March 2025**



**In Essentials, Unity  
In Nonessentials, Liberty  
In All Things, Love**

**Congregational Watchword for 2025**

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.

**John 14:1-2**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I was recently sharing my sense of the urgent and critical nature of these days, and feeling increasingly drawn to quiet times of prayer, reflection, and stillness with a group of spiritual companions. In sharing these thoughts, another member of the group introduced me to Bayo Akomolafe, a philosopher, author, activist, and international speaker who has won awards for his unconventional ideas. He may be best known for his essay, "A Slower Urgency," and the African saying that is the title of his most recent book, "The times are urgent, let us slow down."



In his essay, Akomolafe writes, "...the call to slow down works to bring us face to face with the invisible, the hidden, the unremarked, the yet-to-be-resolved. Sometimes, what is the appropriate thing to do is not the effective thing to do. Slowing down is thus about lingering in the places we are not used to. Seeking out new questions. Becoming accountable to more than what rests on the surface. Seeking roots..."

In the coming season of Lent, let us slow down, contemplate our faith and relationship with God, listen to Jesus, and discern faithful responses to the urgencies of now. Let us seek new questions and the deep roots of patience, forgiveness, and grace that sustains us. Have a holy and blessed Lent.

Pr. Sue



### **WELCOME TO SETH CONARD NEWEST MEMBER OF FIRST MORAVIAN**

Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, Seth studied in Pennsylvania before going to law school in Virginia, where he met his wife Destiny, who is a native of Easton and a longtime member of the Moravian Church. Seth enjoys long and intellectual conversations on just about any topic. Seth is an attorney who works out of Pottsville dealing with land and business issues. When he is not working, Seth enjoys being active by running, biking, and hiking with his wife in the summer and fall. Seth is very grateful about being welcomed into the Moravian family and continuing his faith journey alongside his wife.

*The congregation had the great joy of receiving Seth into our church family on Sunday, February 23, 2025.*

### **THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED**

Dear Friends,

I want to personally thank you for your contribution to our Annual Spirit of Empowerment Gift Card Drive on 12/16/24, valued at \$500. The Spirit of Empowerment Gift Card Drive celebrated its 6th year as an invaluable part of our community, offering individuals impacted by domestic and intimate partner abuse something transformative: the power to choose.

For many survivors, the ability to make decisions about their own lives had been out of reach for far too long. Your support made it possible to restore this essential right, empowering survivors to take steps toward rebuilding their lives with dignity and autonomy. To learn more about how your contribution has made a difference, visit us on social media or at [www.turningpointlv.org](http://www.turningpointlv.org). Thank you for being a part of this impactful mission! In peace, Lori Sywensky, Executive Director, Turning Point

To the congregation of The First Moravian Church, Thank you for your generous contribution of \$100 to Moravian Open Door. This gift, along with others, enables MOD to continue its service to older homeless individuals by providing transitional housing, breakfast and nutrition education, counseling, and other direct services to restore dignity and rebuild lives. MOD is a community that rejoices when a resident is finally able to move to a private apartment or other appropriate accommodation, no longer homeless. Your generosity keeps the mission and vision of MOD alive. On behalf of our clients, staff and Board of Directors, again, thanks for your contribution, prayers, and support.

Blondel Jones-Grant, President, Board of Directors  
Susan Attzs-Mendoza, Executive Director

### **LOOKING AHEAD...**

Here are highlights of what is ahead for **April 2025**:

- 04/06 Fifth Sunday in Lent
- 04/13 Palm Sunday
- 04/14 Holy Week Reading Services Begin
- 04/17 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
- 04/18 Good Friday Reading Service
- 04/19 Children's Easter Activities and Egg Hunt
- 04/20 The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service 6 am; Breakfast, 7 am; Worship, 10:45 am
- 04/21 Easter Monday 04/27 Anniversary Sunday

## FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD

Members of the Unified Board met on February 2 at 12:15 pm. Pastor Sue opened the meeting with prayer, and we welcomed our new Board members, Walt, Carrie, and Esther Cigus, and Destiny Conard. Board orientation materials and communications were reviewed. Pastor Sue asked the Board to consider participating in serving Holy Communion for a future discussion. We affirmed the ongoing participation in Holy Communion by those joining our services on Zoom. The agenda for the meeting, the minutes of January 5, and the January Pastor's Report were reviewed and approved.



A significant portion of the meeting was spent discussing questions for our annual report for the Province and District. These included concerns and what would be helpful to address them, ministries that are bringing us hope, and plans for the new year. The Board planned a "March Moravian Money Gift Card Challenge," setting a goal to sell \$5,500 in gift cards during March. Pastor Sue reviewed a letter from the MCNP Racial Justice Team regarding, "Caring for Immigrant and Refugee Neighbors." Upcoming services and events were reviewed. The letter to renew the Oasis lease has been sent for signature. The next meeting date will be confirmed via email.

## MARCH "MORAVIAN MONEY" FUNDRAISER CHALLENGE

**WHAT:** The First Moravian Church of Easton's newly installed Unified Board voted to hold a **March Fundraiser Challenge – with the goal of selling \$5,500 Moravian Money gift cards or more. We would receive between 5-13% (\$275-\$715) from the gift card companies.**

**WHEN:** For the **month of March** starting March 2, and on the first Sunday of each month after worship.

**HOW:** There are a wide range of gift cards available for all types of items. A list of gift card companies will appear in the March newsletter and is available now in the church narthex and on the church website <https://www.firstmoravianeaston.org/>. Your family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors may also purchase gift cards. **If you purchase \$200 in gift cards, you receive \$200 in gift cards.**

**WHERE:** We will have a table in the narthex or entrance area of the church, for your gift card purchases as an added convenience. You may continue to purchase gift cards at any time by emailing Frank Chisesi at [chisesi@rcn.com](mailto:chisesi@rcn.com), or calling or texting Frank at 610-730-0403.

**WHY:** This fundraiser is part of the church's overall goal to raise \$3,000 in 2025. This amount is our total music, organ, and church maintenance budget! This is a "piece of cake" fundraiser, and the individual or family who purchases the most cards in March will receive a cake of their choice! Let's meet this challenge to support First Moravian's ministries and celebrate!



## WORSHIP IN MARCH 10:45 am

### March 2, Last Sunday after Epiphany & Transfiguration Sunday/Sunday School (Robotics)

The season after Christ's Epiphany draws to a close on Transfiguration Sunday. Today we will remember Jesus on the mountaintop and the voice of God coming through the cloud to proclaim the beloved Son and command us to listen to him. This is the Prayer Day for the work of our worldwide Moravian Unity, and we will receive the annual Unity Offering during our service. Sunday School will be held after a brief children's message.

### March 5, Ash Wednesday, 7 pm

The season of Lent begins today, and will stretch over the next 40 days, excluding Sundays. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 pm, and include an opportunity for the imposition of ashes.



### March 9, First Sunday in Lent

This Sunday's gospel text is Luke's story of Jesus' temptation (Luke 4:1-13) before he calls his disciples and begins his ministry. The service will include the Lent 1 Liturgy, the message will be "A Litany of Resistance," and we will celebrate Holy Communion. We are called to repentance, to turning back to God, and to resisting temptation and sin. (Daylight Savings Time begins today.)

### March 16, Second Sunday in Lent

Jesus weeps over the city of Jerusalem, and laments the disobedience of the people. In mothering language, he expresses his longing to protect them and keep them from harm, but they were not willing. A Litany of Protection will frame our reflection on the gospel text, Luke 13:31-35.

### March 23, Third Sunday in Lent

Luke 13:1-9 recounts Jesus' response to a question about suffering and tragedies that opens a space for him to talk about God's patience and grace. The day's message will be "A Litany of Patience," and a reflection on the "slow work of God."

### March 30, Fourth Sunday in Lent

The story of the "Forgiving Father" (also called the "Prodigal Son") is the gospel reading for this Sunday late in Lent. "A Litany of Forgiveness," will remind us of God's amazing grace.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

**First Sunday** Sunday School will meet on Sunday, **March 2 at 10:45 am**. With so many events in the life of Jesus to teach in the two first Sundays of March and April, this month the lessons will focus on Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and Palm Sunday. In April, the lessons will draw from the events of Holy Week and Easter. 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, March 2 at 12:15 pm**. Meet in the room behind the sanctuary. A light lunch will be provided.

## BLANKET SUNDAY

The Church and Society Committee will hold a "Blanket Sunday" for Church World Service on **Sunday, March 16**. Help "blanket the world with love" by supporting this essential ministry that serves so many people in great need. Please be generous. Church World Service (CWS) is a non-profit organization that works to end hunger and poverty, and promote peace and justice. CWS was founded in 1946 after World War II. The Moravian Church in North America is a Covenant Member of Church World Service.



## St. LUKE'S SENIOR MEALS

St. Luke's University Health Networks offers healthy, affordable meals for seniors (65 or older). It's a great opportunity for a great meal at a great price (\$5 for an entrée, salad, veggie, dessert and drink) along with meeting new people.

**Anderson**, Carbon, Miners, Upper Bucks Campuses: M-F 4-6 pm  
Monroe Campus: 7 days a week, 4-6 pm  
Bethlehem Campus: Thursdays, 4-6 pm

## PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT NEWS

For updates from the Northern Province and Districts, please see March's *Moravian Monthly*.

### Unity Prayer Day Offering 2025—Sunday, March 2, 2025 Common Moravian Theological Curriculum in Spanish

Since our earliest days, the Unitas Fratrum has placed an emphasis on education, both vocational and theological. Today, there are Moravian seminaries and theological training centers across the world. These institutions are central to our ministry as a Church because they train the leaders of our Unity and give them the knowledge needed to serve our Chief Elder in their respective cultural and political contexts.

Through this Unity Prayer Day Offering, the American Board of World Mission (ABWM) will work with the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT) and Moravian leaders and educators worldwide to produce a common theological training curriculum that can be adapted and used throughout the Unity and starting specifically with our Spanish speaking partners. This curriculum will include training in the Bible and Biblical Languages, Theology and Church History, and Pastoral Theology. **The special offering for the Unity Prayer Day will be received on March 2, 2025.**

### Eastern District Hiring Area Directors of Faith Formation

The Eastern District is embarking on a new venture to provide leadership and support for congregational faith formation. Believing that education and formation are at the heart of our mission, the Eastern District Executive Board recently approved a proposal from our current Director of Christian Education, Marie Coutts, outlining a program where the District will be divided into four areas and each area will be served by a Director of Faith Formation. Four Area Directors of Faith Formation will serve part-time (1/2 time or quarter time (1/4 time), depending on the needs of each geographic area. For more details about this venture or the positions, visit <https://www.moravian.org/northern/2025/02/13/ed-faith-formation/>

*For news from the MCNP and Eastern District and to sign up for the *Moravian Monthly* visit <https://www.moravian.org/northern/>*

*For news from the Board of World Mission, including updates on disaster relief efforts and volunteer opportunities in North Carolina, visit <https://www.moravian.org/mission/>*



**“AN EVENING OUT”  
POUND AUCTION  
FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

With Mike Koenig as our auctioneer, things at times got a little “nutty” at our first Pound Auction! We enjoyed a delicious covered dish dinner together, and then held our Pound Auction fundraiser, bidding on an array of beautifully wrapped bags

and packages with their unknown contents! The “most competitive” award goes to Esther and Carrie Cigus, who often bid against each other in a friendly “family feud.” Walt was happy to refrain from bidding! Donna Pritchard donated a lovely diamond art picture, going one, going twice, to Esther! Carl Lerch kept a record of our bids with the assistance of Susanne Kessler. Frank Chisesi made sure a scale was available if needed! David and Sandra Morrisette were the recipients of a variety of items including some lovely fragrant milled soap made by Laurie Toyberg. To their surprise, Jim and Wendy Mamana both bid on nuts; and Frank Cigus was a successful bidder on...more nuts. As the successful bidder on one of the last packages, Pastor Sue unwrapped lots of snacks for Quinny! Mike had the last and highest bid of the night for precisely one pound of screws! It was a wonderful evening of friendship, food, fun, and fundraising. Our church’s ministries were the recipient of \$625, the amount raised for the auction! We extend our gratitude to all who came to this winter’s event, and look forward to our *second* Pound Auction!

**MORAVIAN MONEY GIFT CARDS FUNDRAISER**

Help us meet the **March Moravian Money Challenge!** All the details and an order form are available in this newsletter. Remember that gift cards may be purchased by your friends and family members.



**GET READY FOR THE 2025 MORAVIAN DAY OF GIVING!**

**Who:** Moravians across North America—individuals, congregations, and ministries—are invited to come together for this extraordinary day of generosity. With support from MMFA and generous donors, your contributions will be amplified through matching gifts and participation prizes.

**What:** The **Moravian Day of Giving** is an annual celebration of generosity and unity, supporting ministries and missions through contributions to MMFA’s Field of Interest Funds. These funds address urgent needs in areas like hunger, housing, health, environmental stewardship, and racial equity. Every gift makes a greater impact with matching contributions!

**When: Tuesday, March 4, 2025**—all day long, giving you the flexibility to participate at your convenience.

**Where:** From wherever you are, visit **mmfa.com** to give online. Stay inspired by following MMFA on social media for updates, stories, and celebration moments throughout the day. Don’t forget to share your story using the hashtag **#GiveMoravian** and tagging MMFA!

**Why:** This is more than a fundraiser—it’s a movement. Together, we can make a profound difference in communities in need, strengthen vital ministries, and celebrate our shared faith, love, and hope.

**SHARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND TALENTS!**

**HANDBELL AND VOICE CHOIRS**

Handbell and choir rehearsals will resume on **March 12** in preparation for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. Is God calling you to sing or play handbells or both? All are welcome to join the choirs, raise their bells and voices in praise of God and share in the blessings of our time together in Christian friendship!



**LITURGIST AND SCRIPTURE READERS**

Do you feel called to serve as the liturgist or reader for Sunday worship services? If so, please let Pastor Sue know.



**CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY PROJECT**

David Morrisette, who recently joined the church, gave us a wonderful suggestion—a church photo directory! We are able to do this in-house and will look to begin after Easter. Please contact call the church office if you would like to be part of this exciting project!

**LENTEN SERMON SERIES**  
**"LITANIES OF FAITH"**



This Lent we will experience reflections on the gospel texts in a sermon series entitled, "Litanies of Faith." We hope you will be able to be present each week in this holy season of preparation and faith renewal. Here is a summary of the series. With the exception of March 9, each worship service will include a short film.

March 9	Luke 4:1-13	A Litany of Resistance
March 16	Luke 13:31-35	A Litany of Protection
March 23	Luke 13:1-9	A Litany of Patience
March 30	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	A Litany of Forgiveness
April 6	John 12:1-8	A Litany of Love

**LENTEN RETREAT**

A Lenten Retreat will be offered on **Monday, March 10 from 11 am until 1 pm**, with a light lunch to follow. We will spend time listening to the profound voice of Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941), and experiencing the Lenten season through our senses, as we prepare for the season of Lent and Holy Week. Please RSVP to Pr. Sue or call the church office by Sunday, March 9, if you plan to attend.

**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 March 19.

**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	Cal Wexler
Anne Hajdu	Anita Johnson	Tom Wolfe
James Shook	Dorothy Price	

**Those at home**

Janet Balogun	Donald Bodden	Mary Buccos
Laurie Bullock	Bob and Stella Harling	Liam Davis
Frank Cigus	Zakk Davis	
Frances Goode-Rivera	Jose & Pam Morrow-Henriquez	

**Friends of our First Moravian Church Family**

Gilbert Hendershot	Deena Kohler	Pope Francis
Tyler & Alicia Cox	Bob Morgenstern	Anne MacIntosh & Family
Dave & Deb	Elyse	Russell Timberman
Ellie and family	Jeannette Leshner	John Morgenstern
Jeff & Brenda Fogel	Ryan & Dave	Karen Statler
Sharon Long	Helen Lerch	Noah Shook
Dorey Smith	Phil Shell	Melody & Dan
Lauren Hensley	Tammy Bane	Aiden
Dick & Ann Smith	Shannon	Lauren S.

The world and nation. We pray for an end to conflicts and wars in the Middle East, 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; those affected by human and natural disasters; and all suffering from abuse and addiction. We pray that we may work together for justice and righteousness, for the peace and well-being of all people and creation.



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 03/02 Liam Davis  
Shelby Matlock
- 03/03 Anita Johnson
- 03/04 Joan Nicoletta
- 03/12 Michael Hajdu  
Wendy Mamana
- 03/18 Raymond Folweiler, III
- 03/19 Penelope Dennis
- 03/22 Talia Davis
- 03/25 James Baker  
Alexus Gaines  
Kaylie Seip
- 03/30 Douglas Gaines, Jr.  
Susanne Salter



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

