

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH

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

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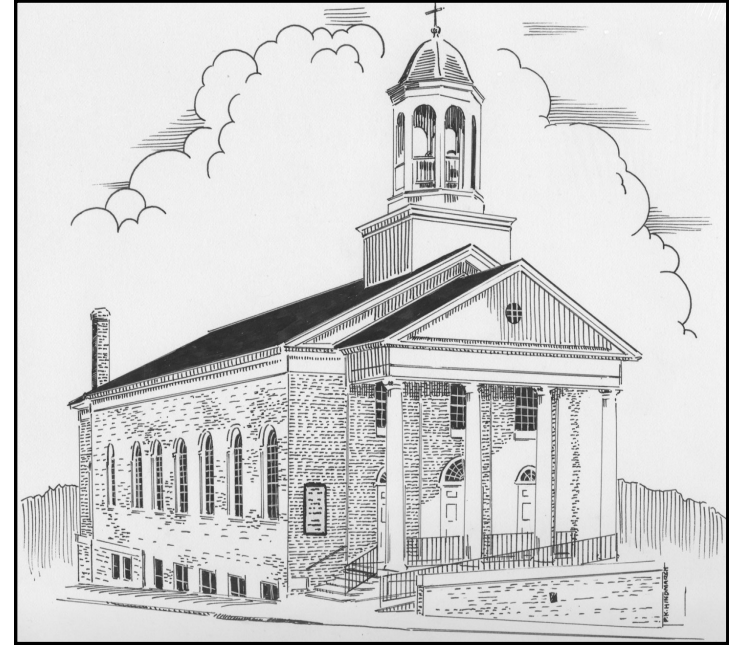


Worship Sundays 10:45 AM
Summer through Labor Day 10 AM

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

THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER

April 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 Beloved Friends in Christ,

During the season of Lent, we have been reflecting on five experiences of God's grace in our lives through a series of Litanies of Faith on resistance, protection, patience, forgiveness, and finally, and greatness, love, which will be our theme on the first Sunday of April.

We prayed for God to **remove from us a spirit of resistance** to God's call for us to change, to new opportunities for spiritual growth and prayer, for taking on untried ways of serving in Jesus' name that we might, through the power of the Holy Spirit, accept God's invitations with trust and confidence. We then prayed for God to **give us spirit of resistance**: to resist all that would prevent us from seeing God's promised future; for courage and strength to overcome fear that often leads to the temporary triumph of evil; to open our eyes to the sin within us, so that we may repent and be forgiven. We prayed that we would be embolden by the Holy Spirit to resist hate and violence, falsehoods, and oppressive powers and principalities that cause harm to God's creation including those created in God's image, and especially those most vulnerable; and to live with genuine love and kindness for all people, walking in God's ways of peace and righteousness. May it be so.

We recalled how Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem, lamenting and longing to gather and protect its inhabitants, like a mother hen protects her chicks under her wings, even laying down her life to defend them. Yet, they resisted; they were not willing to return to God. *Mothering Christ, we prayed, you are our dwelling place. Under the shadow of your wings, we rest secure. When the outcomes we long for in this life do not come, we trust in your unending love and mercies. You preserve our lives. Under the shadow of your cross and in the light of your resurrection that breaks through the darkness of the empty tomb, you are our light and salvation.* Christ our Protector, you are the resurrection and the life.

As we enter Holy Week, let us "trust in the slow work of God," who, like a patient gardener, is working in the soil of our hearts this Lenten season to prepare us to yield to God, to resist evil, to protect the vulnerable, to repent and be forgiven, to forgive, to love, and to bear good fruit for nourishing and healing the world. Let us give our hearts over to God and "clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Col. 3:12,13.) Let us love, and may the light of Christ's resurrection break upon us, our hearts broken opened for the love of the world. *Pastor Sue* 2

COMMUNITY NEWS

Easton Children's Home Celebrating 140 Years

The Easton Children's Home was organized in 1885 to provide care to children in the community. They are celebrating their 140th anniversary this year. At their meeting on March 16, the Unified Board decided to acknowledge this milestone and the Children's Home's contributions to the well being of children with a contribution of \$140. (For the past several years, we have included \$250 in our budget for local and Moravian causes.)

The Easton Children's Home is three years older than First Moravian! We will mark our 137th anniversary on April 1, 2025. The church was organized on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1888.



Activities In the West Ward

Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 26, 9a-12p. Pick up supplies beginning at 8 am at N. 12th Street. Other cleanup days are scheduled for July 11 and Sept. 27.

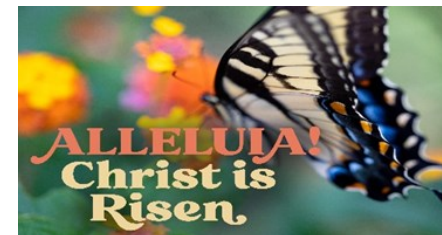
Visit the **West Ward Market**, held every Wednesday from 3 to 7 pm on N. 12th Street, beginning May 7.

Hold the date for **National Night Out** on August 5. This is a free block party with food, music, and kid's activities!

LOOKING AHEAD...

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

- 05/04 Third Sunday of Easter
- 05/11 Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day
- 05/18 Fifth Sunday of Easter/Moravian Music Sunday
- 05/25 Sixth Sunday of Easter
- 05/26 Memorial Day
- 05/29 Ascension of the Lord



FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD

Members of the Unified Board met on March 16 at 12:15 pm. Pastor Sue opened the meeting with prayer. The agenda for the meeting, the minutes of February 2, and the February Pastor's Report were reviewed and approved. The matters discussed included the following:



- ◇ Correspondence from the Province regarding the 2026 Provincial Synod and the need for a Special Church Council to elect a delegate and alternate before October 2025. The Board set the date of September 21 for the Special Church Council.
- ◇ Plans for an annual stewardship emphasis in the fall using a resource entitled, "Found Faithful" from the Ecumenical Stewardship Center; and for including stewardship education as part of our Sunday School program.
- ◇ The March Moravian Money Fundraiser Challenge is going very well with sales for the first three Sundays of March totaling \$4,070 towards our goal of \$5,500! Fourteen individuals or families participated, purchasing 73 gift cards. A goal of \$1,200 was set for the Yard Sale to be held on May 17; we will receive donations beginning April 21. Plans for a Spring "Oldies" Dance fundraiser are pending.
- ◇ Review of our current Child Protection Policy; no changes were recommended. Plans were established for tracking status and renewal dates for background checks.
- ◇ Treasurer Frank Chisesi provided a summary of the results of the Moravian Day of Giving (MDG); and our current financial status. Thirty-four people donated on the MDG for a total of \$2,915. As of the end of March, we have a net loss of \$996; recent donations via the MMFA portal totaling \$3,715 (including MDG funds) will assist with paying upcoming expenses, including insurance and payroll.
- ◇ Children's Bible Presentation will be scheduled next year for younger children; the current Sunday School curriculum, *Growing in God's Love* is working well so there will be no change.
- ◇ Arndt's Lutheran Church has invited us to consider sharing in a food ministry for the community. We are interested in this opportunity and will request more information.
- ◇ The Bell Dedication will be part of our Anniversary Sunday celebration on April 27.
- ◇ Frank is arranging for the stabilization of the railing leading to the balcony.
- ◇ The Oasis congregation is now holding its Sunday services in the sanctuary.

The next Unified Board meeting will be April 13, 2025.

WORSHIP IN APRIL 10:45 am

April 6, Fifth Sunday in Lent/Sunday School (Robotics)

On this last Sunday of the season of Lent, we will hear the good news that our God makes all things new! We hold on to this promise as we join Mary as she anoints the feet of Jesus for the approaching day of his burial (John 12:1-8.) Sunday School will be held in the Fellowship Hall after a brief children's message.

April 13, Palm and Passion Sunday

Hosanna in the highest! That ancient song we sing! We lift our voices in praise of Christ, our Redeemer and King, as we remember Jesus' humble entrance into the city of Jerusalem. We also remember that we are entering Holy Week with its invitation to accompany Jesus to the cross and consider ways in which God is calling us to sacrifice so that others may live.

H O L Y



HOLY WEEK READING SERVICES

Holy Week Reading Services will be offered Monday through Thursday, April 14 through 17 at 7 pm. A service of **Holy Communion** will be celebrated for **Maundy Thursday**, April 17. A **Good Friday** service will be held at 2:15 pm on April 18. These services are both a spiritual tradition of the Moravian Church and a gift to us as we hear many of Jesus's teachings during the week. Holy Week services will be in person and available on Zoom. Use the regular Sunday worship Zoom access to attend.

Prayer Vigil on Great Sabbath

Pastor Sue is planning a Prayer Vigil for the needs and healing of the world on Great Sabbath, Saturday, April 19 The Vigil will be held at the parsonage from 6-7 pm. All are invited.

April 20, EASTER SUNDAY—THE DAY OF RESURRECTION!

We greet one another today with these joyful and awe-struck words of faith and hope—"The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!" Come and celebrate Christ's resurrection. The sunrise service will be at 6 am this year, followed by breakfast at 7 am, and our Easter Sunday worship service at 10:45 am, with special music from the voice and handbell choirs.

April 27, 2nd Sun. of Easter/Anniversary Sunday/Bell Dedication

The story of Thomas, whose questions prompted Jesus' blessing to "all who have not seen and yet believe," is the gospel text. We will celebrate our anniversary with a lovefeast; and dedicate our re-furnished bell in memory of Ruth Erb.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Sunday Sunday School will meet on Sunday, **April 6 at 10:45 am**. The lessons this month will draw from the events of Holy Week, Christ's death on the cross, and his resurrection which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. 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.

CHILDREN'S EASTER ACTIVITIES AND EGG HUNT

Children are invited to share in Easter activities and crafts, and to enjoy an egg hunt on Saturday, April 19 at 11 am. Games and the egg hunt will be held on the Bushkill Street



lawn. Help is needed for this community Easter celebration for children. Please call or email Pastor Sue if you would like to help with filling eggs, assembling craft kits, etc., on April 18 at 3:15 pm (following the Good Friday service) and/or with set-up for the activities on Saturday, April 19 at 10 am.



EASTER COLLECTION

Gifts of candy, snacks, and very small gift items are needed for the Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 19, and for Easter Sunday. Thank you for your gifts and for bringing Easter hope and joy to children! A container for your gifts will be in the narthex at the church. Everyone is invited to help with packing the bags on Friday, April 18, at 3:15 pm following the Good Friday worship service,

EASTER BREAKFAST

Come to the Easter Sunrise Service at 6 am Easter morning. The service begins in darkness in the sanctuary where we will pray together our Easter Morning Liturgy. The service concludes at the Easton Cemetery as the sun rises. Following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy breakfast together in the Fellowship Hall. The risen Lord Jesus met his disciples in the morning and said to them, "Come, and eat breakfast."



PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT NEWS

For updates from the Northern Province and Districts, please see April's *Moravian Monthly* ([access information below](#))



BOARD OF
WORLD MISSION
of the Moravian Church • North America

Mission Minute: BWM Welcomes Moravian Church in Zambia as a Covenant Partner



The Board of World Mission (BWM) is excited to announce that the Moravian Church in Zambia is now a global partner! This covenant partnership strengthens the ministry already taking place in Zambia, and offers opportunity for growth and collaboration.

The BWM has already supported several projects in Zambia, including the development of a vocational training center, a solar power installation at a Kindergarten, and church construction efforts. Looking ahead, we are eager to collaborate on theological education initiatives to further equip leaders for ministry.

We invite you to join us in prayer for the Moravian Church in Zambia and its leadership, especially Rev. John Sichilima, as they continue to grow and serve their communities leading to a Synod in August of this year.

Learn more about this partnership at MoravianMission.org/Zambia.

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/>



BLANKET SUNDAY

The Church and Society Committee extends their gratitude to everyone who supported this year's "Blanket Sunday" for Church World Service held **Sunday, March 16**. Thank you for helping to "blanket the world with love" by supporting this essential ministry that serves so many people in great need. Through your generous hearts and gifts, we received donations of \$293 through March 23. We will conclude the project on March 30. Church World Service (CWS) is a non-profit organization that works to end hunger and poverty, and promote peace and justice. They are also one of the largest providers of refugee resettlement services. CWS was founded in 1946 after World War II. The Moravian Church in North America is a Covenant Member of Church World Service.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION!!! **"MORAVIAN MONEY" GIFT CARDS FUNDRAISER**

The Unified Board presented the congregation with a challenge in the month of March. It was called the **March Moravian Money Challenge!** The challenge was to sell \$5,500 in gift cards during the month of March. You have met and exceeded this challenge with a week to go! As of March 23, we had sold **\$5,870** in gift cards!!



This is cause for celebration! Congratulations for an amazing response to the challenge! A robust "thank you" to everyone who purchased gift cards during the month. We will announce the final total in sales for March, and the winner of the cake, on Sunday, April 6 during the worship service. We hope you will continue to purchase gift cards during the remaining months of the year for all the purchases for which gift cards are available. Please place your orders with Frank Chisesi or see Frank on Sundays following worship. Our annual goal is \$50,000 in card sales, an average of \$4,400 per month for the remainder of the year. This will provide an anticipated return of \$3,000. This truly is "a piece of cake" fundraiser requiring very little effort—with the exception of Frank's work to manage the program, and to whom we extend our gratitude and appreciation.

YARD SALE DONATIONS

We will begin receiving yard sale donations on Monday, April 21. Please call the church office at 610-258-6317 to arrange a time to bring your items. Thank you for your donations of good quality and usable items for the sale. We are not able to accept certain items including TVs and larger furniture pieces. Clothing will be collected

A REMINDER FOR HOLY WEEK

In June 2023, the Synod of the MCNP passed legislation entitled, "**Antisemitism and Jewish-Christian Relations**." The legislation, the *Fifth Partial Report of the Church and Society Committee*, noted that "...antisemitic incidents in the United States and Canada reached all-time highs in 2022 and 2021, respectively"; and that "there is a history of antisemitism in Christianity beginning about 150 CE with interpretations of the Gospel of John...and continuing through the centuries to the teaching and preaching of Protestant reformers that was later used to support the killing of millions of people during the Holocaust, and which persists today..."

The Synod recognized that, "Christian churches, including the Moravian Church Northern Province, may be inadvertently perpetuating antisemitism and contributing to its rise through our liturgies, hymns..., and worship resources, including scriptural references and other texts read without explanation of their context; the Moravian Book of Worship; "Readings for Holy Week;" and preaching and teaching in congregations..."

In light of this, two of the resolutions in the Synod Report encourage preachers, teachers, and other worship leaders to develop practices in the reading and interpretation of scripture that are less likely to lead to antisemitic interpretations and contribute to "dismantling antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology." These two resolutions include some suggested practices and are copied below. Our worship services during Holy Week will include materials to address these concerns.

RESOLVED: (21) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages preachers, teachers, and other worship leaders of the Moravian Church Northern Province, when reading scripture in public which uses the word "Jews," to provide notes expressing how the text "had been and continues to be, used to malign Jews," and accompanying related prayers of repentance [FN7]; and/or use language that is less likely to lead to antisemitic interpretations; and be it further

RESOLVED: (22) The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province encourages preachers, teachers, and other worship leaders of the Moravian Church Northern Province to consider in interpretations of scripture what is written in the texts, what the texts meant when they were written, and what they have come to mean in relationship to antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology, and how they might be understood in ways that contribute to dismantling antisemitism and anti-Jewish theology in proclamation and teaching"[FN 8]; ...

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 April 2.

PRAY WITH CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

We would love to have you pray with us every Wednesday at 12:30 pm. We believe prayer is one of the core practices in advocating for those we love. Learn more and register: <https://cmep.org/cmep-events/wednesday-prayers-for-peace/>

COMPASSIONATE GIVING

Promoting Dignity and Self-Reliance in Our Mission

The Rev. Judith M. Ganz has written a new book entitled *Compassionate Giving: Promoting Dignity and Self-Reliance in Our Mission*. This book will be the text for our next Bible Study to be offered Mondays in May at 11 am. Rev. Ganz lived in Costa Rico and Nicaragua from 1973 until 1979, evacuating during the Sandinista War. (The family then came to First Moravian Church of Easton.) Please let Pastor Sue know if you plan to attend and/or if you would like to order a copy of the book.

HANDBELL AND CHOIR REHEARSALS

Our voice and handbell choirs will offer special music for our worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter. The next series of rehearsals will be on Thursdays at 2 pm beginning May 8 to prepare music for Moravian Music Sunday on May 18, and Pentecost on June 8. Everyone is invited to join our choirs.

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	Stella Harling	Liam Davis
Frank Cigus	Zakk Davis	
Frances Goode-Rivera	Linda Paff	

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.
Student of Sandra Morrisette		Laurie Bullock



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.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/01 Noreen Davis
 Deborah LoQuasto
 04/03 Leslie Tirrell
 04/04 Sue Wexler
 04/08 Richard Coopersmith
 04/11 Angelica Holmes
 04/12 Michael Koenig
 04/15 Destiny Conard
 04/20 Rosie Smith
 04/23 Joshua Nigrone
 04/29 Judith Amadore



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

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/18 Cal & Sue Wexler

