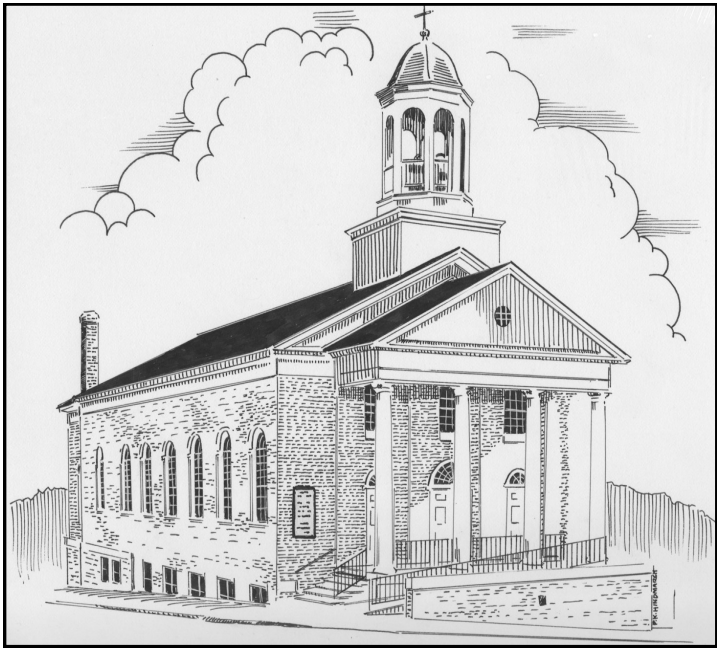


THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER

May 2024



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

www.firstmoravianeaston.org
Email: secretary@firstmoravianeaston.org
Phone: 610-258-6317



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

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

Dear Friends in Christ,
The season of Easter will last until the middle of May, but holding the peace that surpasses understanding and the joy that Jesus gives is part of what it means to be an Easter people. In a Bible Study by John and Adrienne Carter from a number of years ago entitled, "We Are An Easter People—The Triumph of God's Love in Our Lives," they describe how the first Easter people, following Jesus' words in Matthew 25, *welcomed the stranger*.

"That's what the first Easter people, the early church, experienced over and over again with each other. The differences which were tearing the rest of the world apart became, in their fellowship, something which enriched and blessed them."

Included in the Study is a story of an abbot from a monastery who is concerned that his community is dying. He visits a rabbi for advice. The rabbi heard the abbot's concerns but could give no advice. "The only thing I can tell you," he said, "is that the Messiah is one of you." The abbot shared this news—that there was no advice, the only thing that he said was, "The Messiah is one of you." The gift the rabbi gave them was to help them "rediscover something which had been true about them all along, but they had tragically forgotten: each of them was loved by God unconditionally, loved so much by God that God had given God's only son to make that plain. When we realize that amazing truth about ourselves, we can't help but treat each other with 'extraordinary respect.' We begin seeing and celebrating all sorts of ways in which we bless or could bless each other."

In a world so divided, Easter people are people of blessing. They care for and advocate for the hungry and thirsty, the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the stranger. They come alive to the power of God's love. They overcome hate with love, evil with good, and despair with hope. They recognize that love, not military might, conquered the world. God's love has triumphed. We are an Easter people. Thanks be to God!
Pastor Sue

FIRST MORAVIAN HAS RHYTHM!

We now have fair-trade instruments from Peru, Ghana, and India with which to make a joyful noise of praise to God! "Christ Has Arisen" and "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" were the first accompanied hymns on April 14 and what a great rhythm section we had! Play on FMCE!



EASTERN DISTRICT SYNOD June 26-29, 2024

2024 ED Synod Mission Project: One Tree Planted
Trees are essential in creating clean air and water, a healthy climate, and providing habitats for wildlife. A desire of the 2024 Synod planning team of the Moravian Church Eastern District is to make a positive impact in our community and world by planting trees. Synods use a tremendous amount of paper, and we hope to reduce our footprint through this effort. For every dollar donated a tree will be planted. The Eastern District Synod will match up to the first 250 trees. We encourage our congregations to support this effort to plant more trees. Please join our team and create a positive impact on our environment.

April 8th Update: **1167 trees**

We have received \$1167, which is enough to plant about 10 acres (7.5 football fields) worth of trees!! Thank you for your support of this mission project! Donations may be made through the synod web page:

<https://www.moravian.org/northern/edsynod2024/>

LOOKING AHEAD...

Here are highlights of what is coming up in **June 2024:**

- 06/02 2nd Sunday after Pentecost/Prayer Day for Outdoor Ministries/**First Sunday Sunday School**
- 06/06 Canadian District Synod (06/06-09)
- 06/09 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
- 06/16 4th Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day
Summer Worship Time of 10 am Begins Today!
- 06/19 Juneteenth Holiday
Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:15 pm
- 06/20 Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:15 pm
- 06/21 First Day of Summer
- 06/23 5th Sunday after Pentecost/Vacation Bible School Program during worship
- 06/26 Eastern District Synod Begins (06/26-29)
"It's Your Call"
- 06/30 6th Sunday after Pentecost/Synod Sharing

FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD

The Unified Board will meet on April 28, 2024. Highlights from the meeting will be included in the June newsletter. Work on the church bell is to begin by mid-May! We look forward to the restoration of our “voice in the community!”



SPRING YARD SALE

The Unified Board is planning for our yard sale which will be held on **Saturday, May 18, from 8 am to 1 pm**. We welcome and appreciate any help with planning, sorting items, setting up, working at the sale, and clean-up for the fundraiser. Please contact Mike Loquasto (814-933-9066) by **May 3** if you would like to help with this outreach and fundraising project. Please call the church office at 610-258-6317 if you would like to donate good and usable items for the sale. We will be sorting items on Friday, May 17 beginning at 9 am. We would like to receive all donated items no later than Thursday, May 16. We will begin setting up for the sale on Saturday at 7 am. Clothing is not needed for the Yard Sale but may be donated later this summer for our fall rummage sale. Thank you for supporting our fundraisers!



A TREE GROWS IN EASTON



We have learned that the City of Easton will be planting small flowering trees on both 10th and Bushkill Streets. Last summer we received a letter regarding this two-year project which explained, “Our community is working hard to improve and beautify our neighborhoods, and the planting of street trees is one important

aspect of this effort. Urban trees clean and filter our air, cool the pavement, shade our homes in summer, calm traffic, reduce storm water run-off, and increase property values. In addition, recent studies have shown that trees planted near the home have positive impacts on human health and longevity.” Species of trees to be planted will be individually selected for each location. They will be watered by the City for the first growing season, and pruned as they grow for several years. We will let you know when the trees are planted. This was perfect news to receive just before Earth Day on April 22!

WORSHIP IN MAY (10:45 am on-site and on Zoom)

May 5, 6th Sunday of Easter/First Sunday Sunday School

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another, and calls them friends. 1 John 5:2 instructs, “we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.” “The victory that conquers the world is our faith,” for “Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (John 15:9-17; 1 John 5:1-6)

Children will join in greetings and an opening song in the sanctuary before going to Sunday School in Fellowship Hall for first **First Sunday Sunday School!**

May 12, Ascension, 7th Sunday of Easter, Mother’s Day

We will remember Jesus’ ascension and his promise to send an Advocate, the Holy Spirit to be with us forever. There will be a time of prayer and anointing for healing during the worship service today for those who would like to receive prayer and anointing. We extend prayers of gratitude and blessing for all on Mother’s Day.

May 19, Day of Pentecost

Come, Holy Spirit, come! The blessed Day of Pentecost has returned! With Christmas and Easter, Pentecost is a major Festival Day—the birth of the Church, the living, active body of Christ! We rejoice in the coming of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Comforter. Hear the story from the Book of Acts of the sound of rushing wind and tongues like fire that inspired the new believers and sent them out into the world. (Acts 2:1-21) Where is the Holy Spirit sending us today with God’s good news?



May 26, Trinity Sunday



Creator, Savior, Spirit, One in Three and Three in One, we worship you, the Holy Trinity. The prophet Isaiah is called by The Holy One to speak to God’s people as winged cobras call out in the temple, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” (Isaiah 6:1-8); and Nicodemus visits Jesus under the cover of

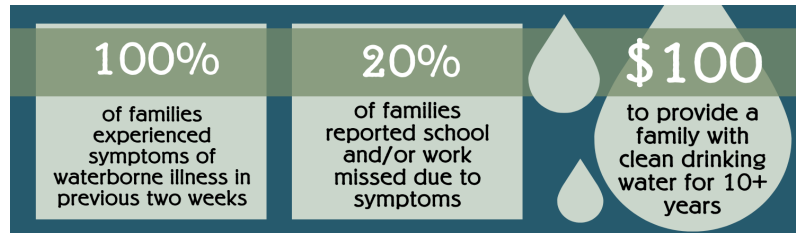
darkness only to be enlightened of the need to be born from above (John 3:1-17).

BOARD OF WORLD MISSION—BLESSINGS FLOW!

The Board of World Mission's **Blessings Flow Project** has provided clean water to over 900 families in the La Moskitia region of Honduras through the distribution of household water filters. Through a partnership with local leaders and an organization called One Atta Time, which provides five-gallon buckets, EPA-approved water filters, and assessments of health and water quality, we have blessed every family in the villages of Tumtum Tara and Warunta, with plans to serve three additional communities (Kuharpa, Pakwi, and Río Plátano) in the first stage of the project. **As of early 2024, generous donors have already funded filters for every family in each of these five villages, as well as an additional 1,200 households, which means that every gift made from this point on will allow us to expand the project!** As more communities are identified and filters are distributed, we will communicate the progress of this effort. THANK YOU for contributing to this project and letting the

Blessings (over)Flow!

This project has already touched the hearts of many North American Moravians, who have assembled water filters, contributed to joyful noise offerings, and welcomed BWM staff members into their congregations to share about the project. We are deeply grateful to all who have engaged with this effort.



Your \$100 donation covers the cost of purchasing the filter, shipping costs to get it in country, the purchase of the bucket, visits by BWM and One Atta Time staff to do health assessments, filter distribution, training on how to use and maintain the filter, and a follow-up visit to measure impact and ensure continued proper usage. That's a lot of value to give EVERY family in these communities a decade or more of clean water to limit days of work and school lost to the effects of water-borne illnesses! Even more important, this is a project carried out jointly by the leadership of the two Moravian Church bodies in Honduras. The church, which split more than 25 years ago, is finding ways to work together in mission that transcend their historical division. This display of unity is a tremendous witness to these communities.

Give

Those in the US can send checks to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Please use the memo line to indicate that your gift is for "Blessings Flow."

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first session of our new Sunday School program for children, **First Sunday Sunday School** on April 7 was well received by all the children,



so much so that their first response was, "We want to do this every week!" The children heard the good news that Jesus has risen! Everyone decorated a small linen bag and filled it with spices as a reminder that the tomb was empty and Jesus is alive! They enjoyed a snack and getting to know one another! It was a marvelous First Sunday! We extend our gratitude to parents and children, and to Sue Ficzkow and Susanne Kessler for teaching on April 7. The Sunday School program will be available on the first Sunday of each month during our worship service, from 10:55 to 11:45 am (or 10:05 to 11 am in summer.) 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. We look forward to seeing you on May 5 for our next Sunday School adventure! The curriculum is **Surprises!** which is a companion to the *Growing in God's Love Story Bible*.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EVENT

On the Saturday before Easter (Great Sabbath) we were delighted to welcome children and their parents to First Moravian! Families from the congregation, extended family members, and families from the community, thirty-eight of us in all, joined in the fun of making crosses and a variety of other crafts to share the story of Jesus and his resurrection. Later, we all gathered around the Bushkill lawn for an egg hunt! Many thanks to everyone who helped with this exciting event, to those who fill eggs and gift bags with candy; to Marie, Chad Hendershot's sister, who brought cupcakes; and to all the children and families for making this a happy precursor to the next day's joyful celebration of Easter!





The Northern Province
Moravian Church in America
Common Ministries

To demonstrate how your participation in Common Ministries funding impacts the mission and ministry of the Northern Province, the Provincial Elders' Conference is sharing information about the expenses that drive the work of the church.

There are common ministries that we do together — not as individual congregations — that are only possible with everyone's support. The Northern Province's Common Ministries commitment system helps spread those common ministry expenses among congregations in a fair, balanced and predictable way.

The ministry of the province relies on your full participation in our Common Ministries Commitment. As the name implies, your support allows us to do together what no one agency or congregation could do alone. Together, we bear witness to God's loving embrace. Together, we lift up the value of an educated clergy. Together, we equip people to serve in mission - locally and globally. Together, we bless God's world.

Common Ministries Category	2024 Budget (\$)	% of 2024 Budget
Operations	467,803	22%
Mission	378,667	18%
Care & Nurture of Leaders	328,948	16%
Ministry & Vocation	317,416	15%
Moravian Identity	248,522	12%
Relationships with Others	186,568	9%
Healthy Congregations	157,714	8%
Total Budgeted Expenditures	2,085,638	

Thank you for joining with congregations across the province to support our common witness. Thank you for your faithful engagement in God's ongoing mission to the world.

Learn more about our common ministries at www.Moravian.org/Northern/Common-Ministries/



AWARENESS DAY FOR MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN—MAY 5

Since 2017, May 5 has been designated “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Day.” The 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province called the church to recognize this Awareness Day, and to consider ways, in consultation with those impacted, to act to support Indigenous individuals, families, and communities. (*Church and Society, Third Partial Report, Resolved 11*).

Many people are not aware of the violence and death faced by Native American and Alaska Native women. Are you aware?

- Native American women on reservations face murder and sexual assault rates more than **ten times higher** than the national average (U.S. Department of Justice)
- Homicide is the **third-leading cause of death** for American Indian and Alaska Native women 10 to 24 years of age, and the fifth-leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native women between 24 and 34 years of age (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
- In 2016, though there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls, the federal missing person database only logged 116 cases (National Crime Information Center.)

The symbol used to indicate solidarity with missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and Two-Spirit people is a red handprint usually painted across the face, to symbolize the voices that have been unheard or silenced by violence. One step that can be taken is to wear red on Sunday, May 5, and for those who use social media to post a photo using #MMIW or #NoMoreStolenSisters! To learn more, and for additional actions that may be taken, visit <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/7-actions-take-national-day-awareness-mmiwg> or <https://www.nativehope.org/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw>

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 be meeting on Wednesday, May 1.

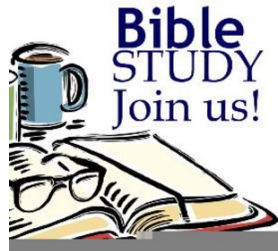
PRAYER AND VISITATION MINISTRIES

Please contact Pastor Sue or another member of the Unified Board 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. if you would like help with ZOOM or to have meals delivered. Frozen meals are available for everyone.

FROM THE MCNP RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

“Being a Christian Citizen—A Bible Study for Our Time”

The Moravian Church Northern Province has written a timely Bible Study on Christian Citizenship. The study draws on a pertinent paragraph from the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living and the related scriptural texts. It will be available for downloading from mcnp.org for use in congregations. The Racial Justice Team will also present the study on Zoom on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm from May 28-June



25. Each session will be one hour with most of this time spent in small groups discussing questions provided in the study. To join on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327816095?pwd=MGtOSGs1cDF0N3dSZXkvVGNwbk1mdz09>
 Meeting ID is 813 2781 6095
 Passcode 993782

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members of First Moravian Church

Those in care facilities

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

Those at home

Janet Balogun	Donald Bodden	Mary Buccos
Vickie Erb	Bob Harling	Linda Keiper
Julie Loquasto		

Bill & Laurie Bullock	Jose & Pam Morrow-Henriquez
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Friends of our First Moravian Church Family

John & Kristen Brobst	Gilbert Hendershot
Tyler and Alicia Cox	Rev. Belfield and Bette Castello
Dave & Deb	
Barbara Yanoshik	

We pray for an end to the violence, terror, and war in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, and the Middle East, for humanitarian aid to reach Gaza and release of hostages, for Sudan, Ukraine, and all 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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/01 Julia Lee
 05/04 Joan Caffrey-Stocker
 Glenn Erb
 05/06 Robert Harling
 Dorothy Kepner
 05/09 Gloria Bolmer
 05/13 Linda Keiper
 Paul Peifer
 05/20 Mary Buccos
 05/29 Faith Gaines



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/11 Mike and Sue Koenig
 05/18 Belfield and Bette Castello
 05/25 Efrain and Frances Goode-Rivera
 05/29 John and Nadine Mamana

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