

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH

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

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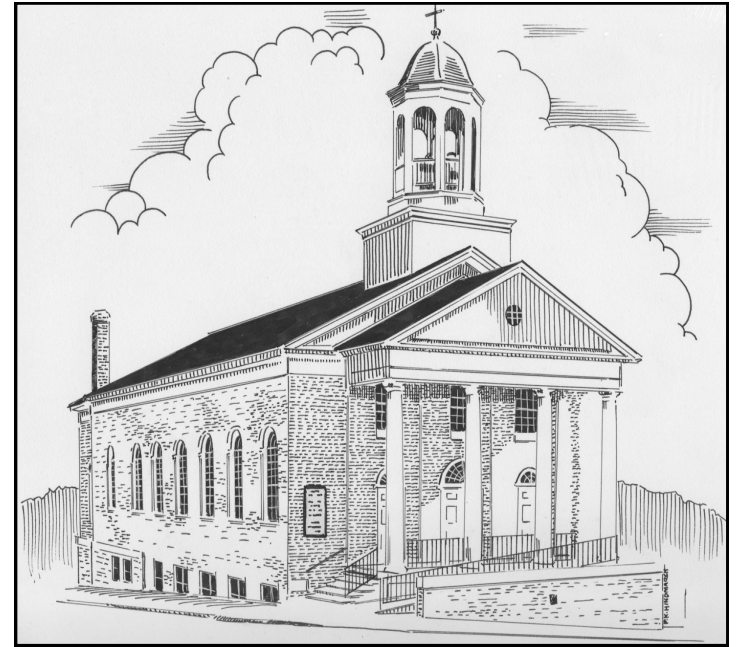


Worship Sundays 10:45 AM
Summer through Labor Day 10 AM

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

THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER

May 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,

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday after addressing the faithful on Easter Day. We join the world in grieving his passing and in giving thanks to God for his life and leadership. Below is the press release from Churches for Middle East Peace from April 22, 2025.

CMEP joins millions of people around the world in mourning the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. We grieve the profound loss of a stalwart leader of the Christian faith—one whose moral clarity, deep compassion, and unrelenting pursuit of justice marked a generation.

Pope Francis was a tireless advocate for human dignity. He championed the rights of the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. He spoke boldly on behalf of refugees and displaced peoples, challenged global leaders to address the climate crisis, and insisted on the equal worth and rights of all people. His unwavering commitment to interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding reshaped the Church's witness in the modern world.

Even in his final days, Pope Francis continued to embody the radical love and humility of Christ. Until the very end of his life, he remained in daily contact with the Christian community in Gaza, offering pastoral care and solidarity amidst unimaginable suffering. He called persistently for an end to the war in Gaza, reminding the global community of our shared humanity and our sacred responsibility to protect life. Pope Francis urged us—again and again—to love one another. He challenged the Church not to turn inward, but to go to the margins. He reminded us that peace is possible, but only through justice, mercy, and courageous action.

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of CMEP, reflects: "Pope Francis lived out the Good News of the Gospel in word and deed. His voice for justice and compassion was a beacon in a world so often divided by violence and fear. We mourn his passing with deep sorrow and deep gratitude for his extraordinary legacy." CMEP will continue to honor Pope Francis' vision by advancing our mission to pursue peace, advocate for justice, and uphold the dignity of all people in the Middle East. We share our condolences with Catholic leaders and others around the world who grieve this significant loss. May the memory of His Holiness Pope Francis be a blessing. May his call to love one another echo in our hearts—and in our actions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

49th ANNUAL BOUTIQUE FOR HOPE

*St Luke's SportsPlex, 4636 Crackersport Road, Allentown
Accepting gently used items from May 21-24, and May 27-31.
The Boutique will be open for shopping June 11-14.*

In 2025, The Boutique for Hope celebrates its 49th annual sale! The Boutique for Hope is a sale of new and gently used clothing, household goods, antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing and accessories, toys, games, sporting equipment and high-end boutique items. The Boutique for Hope was started in 1974 by a group of dedicated Bethlehem Steel company wives. Today, more than 400 community volunteers run the event each spring.

The Boutique for Hope benefits three organizations serving cancer patients and their families in the Lehigh Valley. In 2023, the Boutique raised over \$315,000 and donated \$100,000 each to the Cancer Support Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley, St. Luke's Cancer Center, and St. Luke's Hospice. Visit boutiqueforhope.com for a list of items accepted and additional information or call 610-861-7555.

Activities In the West Ward

Clean Up Days are scheduled for July 11 and Sept. 27.

Pick up supplies beginning at 8 am at N. 12th Street.

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

LOOKING AHEAD...

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

- 06/01 Ascension Sunday/7th Sunday of Easter/Sunday School/Robotics
- 06/02 Bible Study Begins, Mondays in June at 11 am
"Compassionate Giving"
- 06/08 Day of Pentecost/Holy Communion
- 06/15 Trinity Sunday/Father's Day/Summer Schedule Begins
- 06/19 Juneteenth
- 06/21 1st Day of Summer
- 06/22 2nd Sunday after Pentecost/Prayer Day for
Outdoor Ministries
- 06/26 Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:15 pm
- 06/27 Vacation Bible School 6:30-8:15 pm
- 06/29 3rd Sunday after Pentecost/VBS Program

FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD

Members of the Unified Board met on April 13 at 12:30 pm. Pastor Sue opened the meeting with prayer. The agenda for the meeting, the minutes of March 16, and the March Pastor's Report were reviewed and approved. The matters discussed included the following:



- ◇ Treasurer Frank Chisesi presented the first quarter financial report. Our revenue for the period was \$30,738 and expenses \$30,348.64, resulting in a surplus of \$389.36. However, we had not yet paid \$1,930.40 for Medical/LTD for March and April. Frank reminded the Board that we owe \$65,451.15 for Common Ministries for prior years. The bank balance at the end of the quarter was \$11,326.05. The Capital Fund balance invested with the Moravian Ministries Foundation was \$40,648.67.
 - ◇ Taxes have been paid for the year and Frank filed the required report for the state of Pennsylvania.
 - ◇ The March Moravian Money Challenge was a huge success and we will continue to work toward our annual goal of sales of \$50k.
 - ◇ Other fundraisers were discussed including the Yard Sale on May 17 (to which we will add a bake sale.) Our goal for the sale is to raise \$1,200.
 - ◇ A report on letters sent to former and current members was reviewed and consideration given to next steps.
 - ◇ 2014 Provincial correspondence on Safe Sanctuaries and potential signage was discussed.
 - ◇ Worship services were reviewed. Frank will create a draft paper plaque for the bell dedication on April 27. The Rev. David Bennett will be our guest preacher on May 25. Pastor Sue will bring greetings to Faith Moravian Church for their 40 Anniversary.
 - ◇ We discussed the inquiry from Sue Wexler regarding a possible joint food ministry and received related information from Sue Ficzkowski. We also discussed the cut-off of funding to food pantries, and decided that it may be best for us to renew collections for ProJeCt. Second Harvest which supplies food to area food banks in addition to providing other services, has seen significant cuts.
 - ◇ Children's Easter activities will be on April 19.
 - ◇ Pastor Sue has talked with Oasis and they are open to having their band play for one of our services.
 - ◇ Frank will check on the recycling services we currently use. He will also explore our eligibility to apply for grant funds for building projects available from Northampton County.
 - ◇ Smoking concerns were discussed and remedies suggested.
- The next Unified Board meeting will be May 18, 2025 at 12:15 pm.

WORSHIP IN MAY 10:45 am

May 4, Third Sunday of Easter/Sunday School (Robotics)

This Sunday, we encounter Jesus cooking and waiting for his disciples to come and eat breakfast. Jesus continually invites us to come, and to live out the love we have for Jesus by feeding and caring for others. (John 21:1-19) Come and have breakfast—is a way of saying begin each new day in my love. Sunday School will be held in the Fellowship Hall after a brief children's message.

May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

For the next three Sundays, we will return to events in Holy Week, considering them now through the lens of Jesus' death and resurrection. Today in response to questions about his identity, Jesus describes himself as the "Good Shepherd" who cares for his sheep. (John 10:22-30) We will take a "Journey through Psalm 23" during the worship service; and recognize Mother's Day with an inclusive litany that remembers all mothers and those who have nurtured others in a mother's role.



May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter/Moravian Music Sunday

The gospel reading this Sunday is John 13:31-35. In these verses, Jesus gives his new commandment—that we love one another as he has loved us. "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Remember the popular song from 1965, "What the world needs now..." What are ways we bring Christ's love to the world, so that the world may know we are his disciples?

May 25, Sixth Sunday of Easter/The Rev. David Bennett, guest preacher

One of the short hymns from the Holy Week readings that I find so meaningful describes the sweetness of the presence of the Holy Spirit, "if loss of Jesus can be gain, if only we have thee." Jesus promises to send an Advocate when he returns to God, the Holy Spirit who will remind disciples of his teachings. (John 14:23-29) The Rev. David Bennett, President of the Provincial Elders' Conference, will be our guest preacher. Pastor Sue and Mike will be with the Faith Moravian Church in the Nation's Capitol to celebrate their 40th Anniversary.

May 29, Ascension of Our Lord—Ascension Sunday, June 1

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Sunday Sunday School will meet on Sunday, **May 4 at 10:45 am.** 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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

We were richly blessed throughout Holy Week and on Easter Sunday as we gathered for worship and Holy Communion. We give thanks to God for those who attended the Holy Week Reading Services (in person and virtually), and for all who served as readers; for those who participated in the Great Sabbath Prayer Vigil, greeted Christ's Day of Resurrection at the Easter Dawn service, or came to worship and celebrate later in the morning. We give our thanks and blessing to Andy Dormarunno, our choirs, and our AV Technicians for sharing their gifts and to all who assisted with the services and their preparations. It was a joyous and beautiful celebration for our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ! Thanks, too, to those who stayed for a delicious breakfast and a time of visiting following the early service, and for the gifts of food for the breakfast.

APPRECIATION FOR EASTER EVENTS

We give thanks to God for ministries for children in our congregation and community. Many thanks to all who participated in the Children's Easter activities on April 19—children, youth, parents, grandparents and First Moravian friends! We heard the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, sang songs rejoicing that Jesus is alive, made crafts including one to tell the Easter story, and a card to accompany a potted flower to give as a gift. We concluded the morning with an eggciting egg hunt!



We thank Walt, Carrie and Esther Cigus, Sue Ficzkko, Pat Johnson, and Mike Koenig for their assistance with the Easter activities; Laurie Toyberg for preparing Easter crafts; the Cigus's and Pat Johnson for helping to prepare Easter gift bags for the children; Mike Koenig for donating and Sue Ficzkko for painting our large stone "Easter egg;" Frank Chisesi for donating flower pots; and Esther Cigus for the heart-felt donation of her collection of Beanie Babies. Thanks to everyone who provided candy and gift items for the Easter bags.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT NEWS

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

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 May Racial Justice Calendar article in the *Moravian Monthly* was written by Racial Justice Team members Jessica Espinoza and Erica Rios, members of the Morongo Moravian Church in California, for the May 5 Awareness Day. Please visit <https://www.moravian.org/northern/> to read their article.

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/>



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 far exceeded this challenge! At the end of the month of March, we had sold **\$7,530** in gift cards!! This is cause for celebration! Congratulations for an amazing response to the challenge! The winner of the cake is Carrie Cigus who purchased 28 cards valuing \$1,700! A robust "thank you" to everyone who purchased gift cards during the month. This represents about \$450 in income for the church! 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.



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, May 4 at 12:15 pm**. Meet in the room behind the sanctuary.



MEMORIAL DAY IS MAY 26

"Almighty God, you are our strength and our shield. We give you thanks for the men and women of our armed forces, past and present, and especially for those who have died while serving. May their sacrifices serve the cause of peace, and may our nation be ever grateful for their service. With your wisdom and strength guide our military's leaders, and give to all people a desire for justice and peace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

— Amen



FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH OF EASTON
10th & Bushkill, Easton



SATURDAY MAY 17
8 am—1 pm

Household and kitchen items, linens, dishes, collectibles, small appliances, coffee makers, children's toys, pictures, books, folding chairs, tools, and more...

The yard sale will be held on **Saturday, May 17, 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 5** 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 16 beginning at 9 am. We would like to receive all donated items no later than Thursday, May 15. 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! Help us spread the word! Post on social media! Baked goods needed.

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, #.

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 June at 11 am. Rev. Ganz lived in Costa Rica 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.

CHOIR AND HANDBELL REHEARSALS

The next series of rehearsals for our voice and handbell choirs will be held on May 8 and May 22 at 11 am, and May 15 at 2 pm 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	Linda Paff

Those at home

Janet Balogun	Donald Bodden	Mary Buccos
Laurie Bullock	Stella Harling	Liam & Luke Davis
Frank Cigus	Zakk Davis	Morrisette Family
Frances Goode-Rivera	Barbara Leshner	Bettemae Weiss

Friends of our First Moravian Church Family

Gilbert Hendershot	Deena Kohler	Phil Shell
Tyler & Alicia Cox	Bob Morgenstern	Anne MacIntosh & Family

Elyse	Russell Timberman	John Morgenstern
Ellie and family	Jeannette Leshner	Karen Statler
Jeff & Brenda Fogel	Ryan & Dave	Noah Shook
Sharon Long	Helen Lerch	Melody & Dan
Dorey & Jeff Smith	Debbie S.	Paula Fisher
Lauren Hensley	Aiden	Mariana Colon
Dick & Ann Smith	Shannon	

Student of Sandra Morrisette

The Roman Catholic Community & the World upon the death of Pope Francis
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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



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

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

05/11 Mike & Sue Koenig
05/25 Frances Goode & Efrain Rivera-Olivo
05/29 John and Danine Mamana

