

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



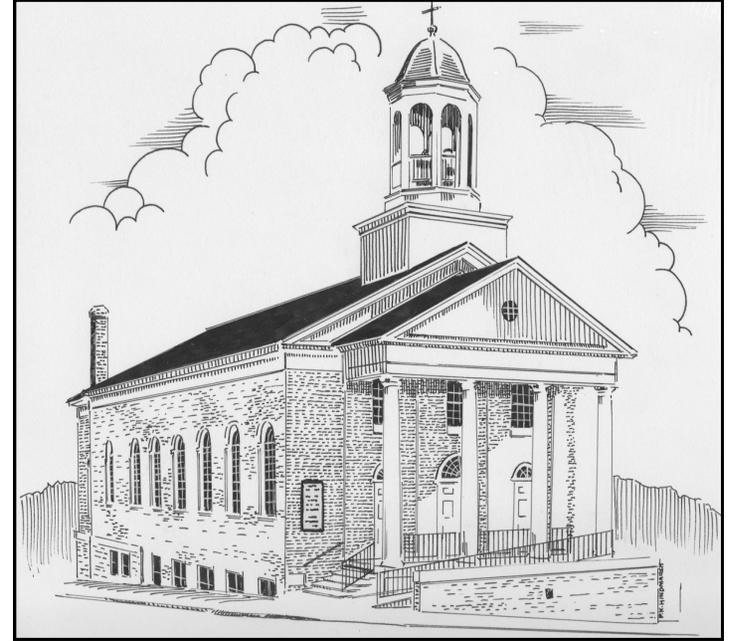
Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

Summer worship at 10 am

Join us for worship!

All are welcome at First Moravian!

THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER
February 2026



In Essentials, Unity

In Non-essentials, Liberty

In All Things, Love

Congregational Watchword for 2026

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away;
look, new things have come into being!*

~2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear beloved friends in Christ,

Though the winter weather has brought some disruption to our schedules and prompted postponing our annual Church Council meeting not once, but twice. We give thanks to God for shelter and warmth, and pray for all for whom these basic human needs are lacking. Thank you for your past generous gifts to Church World Service for the purchase of blankets to keep others of God's precious children warm—both with physical warmth and with the warmth of God's eternal love. This year's Blanket Sunday, a ministry of our Church and Society Committee, will be February 22, the First Sunday in Lent. *Your gifts will be warmly appreciated!*



Prayer & Lay Leadership: A Three-Part Educational Webinar Series



Deepen your prayer life. Strengthen your leadership. Enrich your community. Join us for an inspiring three-part online series designed to help lay leaders and church members explore how prayer shapes and sustains both personal faith and congregational life. Each interactive webinar offers a distinct perspective on prayer—its theology, creativity, and leadership in community—guided by gifted Moravian educators and leaders. The first session of the series, **The Heart of Prayer** was led by the Rev. Dr. Jennika Eckhaus and Theresa Fisher on January 28, 2026. The remaining sessions are:

Session 2: Preparing Meaningful Devotions

Led by Becky Lepore & the Rev. Mikayla Sauerbrey

Date: February 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Session 3: Prayers for Worship

Led by the Rev. Dr. Riddick Weber

Date: March 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

For more information: <https://www.moravian.org/northern/2026/01/12/moravian-monthly-january-2026/>

To register: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/MoravianChurchNorthernProvince/Prayer>



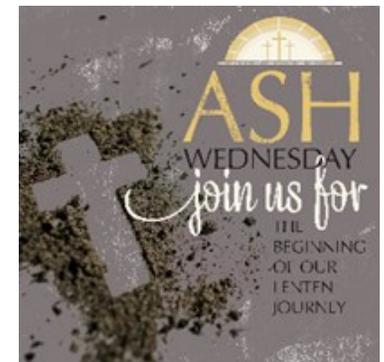
CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Our annual Church Council will be held on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**, with a new (and hopefully unneeded!) inclement weather date of February 8. We will worship together for a shortened service, and convene for Church Council at 11:30 am. Everyone is invited to an Open House at the parsonage following the meeting. Annual Reports are available at the church or by calling the church office. The Unified Board asks every member who is able to be present to attend the meeting to hear about the ministries of the congregation in the preceding year, and to assist with planning for the future. Thank you to Seth Conard and Brian Smith who have accepted the Nominating Committee's invitation to be nominated to serve on the Unified Board. This year's Nominating Committee is Destiny Conard, Gwen Triolo, and Dawn Hughes. We express our gratitude to all our Unified Board members.

MONTH AT A GLANCE AND LOOKING AHEAD...

Here are some highlights for **February 2026**

- 02/01 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany/Sunday School Church Council/Parsonage Open House
- 02/08 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany/Prayer and Anointing for Healing/Robotics [postponed from 02/01] (Church Council snow date)
- 02/15 Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday
- 02/16 Presidents' Day Holiday
- 02/18 Ash Wednesday/Worship 7pm
- 02/21 Covered Dish Dinner and Pound Auction
- 02/22 First Sunday in Lent/Holy Communion/Blanket Sunday
- 02/23 Lenten Bible Study begins
- 03/01 Second Sunday in Lent Unity Offering



MUSIC MINISTRIES

Choir rehearsals will resume on **March 12** in preparation for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. All are welcome to join the choirs!

FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD



The Unified Board met on January 4, 2026. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Review and approval of the minutes, notes, and Pastor’s reports for November and December.
- A report from the Nominating Committee—Seth Conard has accepted an invitation to be nominated to serve on the Unified Board; the Board expressed gratitude for Mike Lo-Quasto’s exemplary service the past four years.
- Financial updates from Treasurer Frank Chisesi including responses to year-end letter, decreases noted in most utilities; gift card sales for 2025 (\$51,470, 834 cards, income \$2,296); current cash balance of \$10,404.12. Year-end reports are in process. The Board then discussed gift card sales’ strategies and other possible fundraisers.
- Approval of the proposed 2026 budget of \$130,000 (same as 2025)
- Updates on facilities including Oasis lease; completion of parsonage walk-through; needed sidewalk repairs to be arranged in spring
- Review of several audit programs and agree to approach Palmer Moravian Church about a reciprocal audit arrangement and possible joint fundraisers.
- Review of recent and upcoming worship services and ministries
- Preparations for Church Council including plans to discuss the time Christmas Eve services are held.

The Unified Board will meet next on February 15, 2026.

DECEMBER 2025 FINANCIAL UPDATE	
Monthly Revenue Amount Needed for 2025 Budget	\$10,000.00
Amount Received	\$14,041.78
Overage/(Shortage) this month	\$ 4,041.78
Year-to-date Overage (Shortage) 12/31	\$2,655.85*

*Incl. \$10,000 grant for painting; actual amt. (\$7,344.15).

WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY 10:45 AM

February 1, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Jesus introduces his Sermon on the Mount with the beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. For the sermon, we will hear about the lives of people who personify being poor in spirit, who mourn, who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who are persecuted for righteousness sake. Meet Dorothy Day and Oscar Romero and other saints whose lives exemplify the beatitudes. Sunday School will meet following the Children’s Message; Church Council and lunch at the parsonage will follow the worship service.

February 8, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

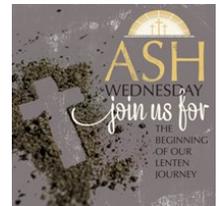
“You are the light of the world.” Jesus teaches his followers that they are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good and living according to God’s commandments (Mt. 5:13-20) The service will include a time of prayer and anointing for healing.

February 15, Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration

We are given a vision of Jesus as he will be when he is glorified. In the Transfiguration, Jesus, the beloved Son of God, will come down from the mountaintop and “set his face toward Jerusalem.”

February 18, Ash Wednesday, 7 pm

“Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:13). We enter the season of Lent, heeding God’s call to “repent for the reign of God has come near.” The imposition of ashes will be offered for all who would like to receive them.



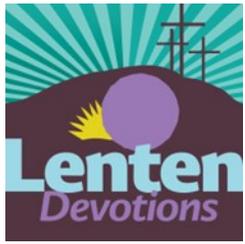
February 22, First Sunday in Lent

We will celebrate a service of Holy Communion to prepare for our Lenten journey with Jesus culminating at the cross, and then the empty tomb. Jesus teaches almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Interested in fasting in Lent? Explore the “Daniel Fast,” being sure to check first with your physician.



INSTALLATION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Our newly elected and continuing Board members, officers, and sacristans will be installed into their positions during worship on **Sunday, February 8, 2026**. Please welcome, thank, and congratulate them following the worship service.



LENTEN GATHERINGS & BIBLE STUDY
Conversations with Jesus:
Services of Word and Healing

These Lenten gatherings will be offered on Mondays at 11 am in Lent beginning February 23 and continuing through and including March 23. The pattern for each gathering will be opening prayer, song, word (scripture verses from the Sunday gospel reading), conversation, prayer, anointing for healing, the Lord's prayer and a closing song and blessing. All are welcome to this time of devotion and renewal.

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.



PRAY WITH CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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/> Visit also cmep.org.

PARISH NURSES' BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Our parish nurses, Dawn Hughes and Janet Morrow, are offering monthly blood pressure checks on the **second Sunday of every month at 10 am** in the Church Office. This is most helpful and "healthful" ministry. It is a gift to have caring and knowledgeable nurses in our First Moravian Church family. **Please take advantage of this opportunity to care for your health.** The next date for blood pressure checks is **February 8, 2026.**

WORSHIP ON ZOOM

We invite you to join us for worship in person or online. Zoom access information is below. If you need assistance, please call the church office at 610.258.6317. We would be pleased to help you connect to First Moravian! **Access information to join Sunday morning worship on Zoom:** Meeting ID: 997 5374 8227, Passcode: 544713. By phone: Dial 301.715.8592 [then enter meeting ID and passcode when prompted.]



BLACK HISTORY MONTH SERIES

The MCNP Racial Justice Team and the MCSP Moravian Team for Reconciliation (Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural) are sharing an opportunity for Black History Month from the Rolling Hills Moravian Church in Longwood, Florida. The series is, "**Honoring Black History by Standing Boldly in**

the Face of Oppression, Victimization, and Dehumanization." It is a four-week series that will be held on **February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026** from **7pm-8:30pm ET**. All sessions will be on Zoom. Anyone interested may join the sessions on Zoom: Meeting ID 746 168 029; Passcode 682512.

The Bethlehem Area Moravian's Freezer Ministry
Future Donation Change Notice

Thank You to all who have contributed to the Freezer Ministry mission in the past via East Hills Moravian Church. We are happy to announce that the **Freezer Ministry has gained its own 501(c)(3) Non-Profit status** and are looking forward to an even brighter future. We continue to operate out of East Hills Moravian Church; however, our finances are now independent. Therefore, all future donations will need to be directed accordingly.

Checks: Payable to—
The Freezer Ministry and Garden Gatherers
 Mail to—1830 Butztown Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

FREEZER MINISTRY SOUP SALE

The annual Freezer Ministry & Garden Gatherers Soup Sale is coming up. Please place your orders for a variety of types of soup by **February 13** by calling 610-867-0537. Quarts are \$10 and include Wedding Soup, Chili, Chicken Noodle, Ham & Bean, and Cream of Broccoli. Pick up dates are Feb. 20, 3-7 pm and Feb. 21, 3-5 pm at East Hills Moravian Church, 1830 Butztown Rd. in Bethlehem.

FMCE FOOD MINISTRY

We are collecting cereal, pancake mix and baby wipes for the **ProJeCt Food Pantry** on an ongoing basis. Canned goods and other non-perishable, in-date foods are also needed. Thank you for your generous gifts of food!





PRAYER AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES “SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER”

Everyone is invited to gather for prayer on Wednesday afternoons at 4 pm. 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 February 25.** Our prayer chain is always available for prayers.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

The world and nation and other needs.

We pray for lasting peace with justice and freedom for all people in the Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine, and other war-torn areas of the world; for children whose lives have been shattered that they will have all they need to heal and thrive. We pray for an end to hate and violence in all its forms; for justice, healing and peace for all victims of violence, and for perpetrators of violence that they come to repentance through the mercy and compassion of Jesus. We pray for those suffering from the ongoing effects of trauma; for those displaced and grieving losses from natural disasters; for all who struggle with mental illness or addiction and their families. We pray for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. We pray for a spirit of humility that we may work together for the peace and well-being of all people and creation.

SERVING LOCAL AND WORLDWIDE COMMUNITIES BLANKET SUNDAY

First Moravian’s Church and Society Committee will hold a “**Blanket Sunday**” Church World Service again this year on February 22. Church World Service (CWS) is a non-profit organization that works to end hunger and poverty, provide support and resettlement ministries to refugees, 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.



for



FIRST SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Sunday Sunday School will meet on Sunday, February 1, 2026. The Bible lesson from the Growing in God’s Love Story Bible is “What Does God Want?”

based on Micah 1:1, 4:1-4; and 6:6-8. Many thanks to all who are part of our Sunday School program! Registration forms and other materials are available at the church or by calling the church office at 610-258-6317. Children and youth ages three and up are invited.

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, February 8, 2026 at 12:30 pm**. This change to the second Sunday is for February only, the result of our need to reschedule Church Council. Please let Mike Koenig know if your family will be able to attend. Meet in the rooms behind the sanctuary. A light lunch will be provided.



“AN EVENING OUT” WINTER EVENT COVERED DISH DINNER & POUND AUCTION



Bring a covered dish and a friend and come to the Pound Auction! On Saturday, **February 21** at 5 pm, we will gather to share a covered dish dinner, sure to be delicious with all our wonderful cooks, to visit, and then have our second

Pound Auction. Wrap up a pound (or thereabouts) of anything that you think would be appreciated by someone who has no idea what it is! Our auctioneer will raise the roof and the stakes as we bid competitively on the beautifully decorated surprise gift packages. It’s always interesting to discover the mystery pound inside! This is an “all ages” event open to all, and there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Stumped for pound ideas? Visit <https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/41185/ideas-pound-auction> for a few suggestions! (Swaps may be negotiated. *All proceeds will support the ministries of First Moravian Church of Easton.*

MCNP PEC STATEMENT AFFIRMING THE CHURCH'S CALL TO JUSTICE AND PUBLIC WITNESS

January 27, 2026

www.moravian.org/northern/2026/01/27/from-the-northern-province-pec-affirming-the-churchs-call-to-justice-and-public-witness/

PROVINCE-WIDE LISTENING CIRCLES

The members of the Provincial Elders' Conference and the Racial Justice Team (RJT) of the Moravian Church Northern Province are excited to invite congregations to participate in a Province-wide program called **Listening Circles**. There are two sessions for the congregations in the Lehigh Valley North area which are Newfoundland, Palmer, Schoeneck, Nazareth, and *Eastern First*. Facilitators arranging and leading the Circles for our region are Rev. Eileen Edwards and Rev. Derek French. The first Listening Circle for our region was held on January 28 at Schoeneck Moravian Church. **The next opportunity is February 4 on Zoom. Zoom will open at 6:15 pm and the session will begin at 6:30 pm. Link and access information is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82378428040?pwd=8dbgokC6xjJtI6AqziibJarz1kiGQG.1>**
Meeting ID: 823 7842 8040; Passcode: 778584

Listening Circles have their origin in indigenous cultures; they are not places for debate but are places for expression and community building. The PEC and the RJT believe that listening is integral to the work for justice and healing; and that creating intentional spaces for listening is greatly needed in our time. An initial session of the Listening Circles was held earlier this year, and we received positive feedback from all who participated. Listening Circles will meet for 90 minutes and follow a program that includes worship, singing, scripture readings, prayer, and reflecting on prepared questions...We would like to complete the Provincial Listening Circles by February 15, 2026. Congregations are encouraged to plan Listening Circles within their congregation following this initial experience. We believe the time spent in listening will deepen relationships within and among congregations and their communities and strengthen and build the work of justice and healing. Please receive our gratitude for participating in the Listening Circles. We look forward to hearing feedback from your congregation. For more information, contact Rev. Sue Koenig, Director of Racial Justice and Healing at suekoenig@mcnp.org

PRAYER CONCERNS Members of First Moravian Church

Those in care facilities

Gloria Bolmer	Leah & Andrew Brown	Cal Wexler
Anne Hajdu	Tom Wolfe	Dorothy Price
James Shook		

Those who are at home

Janet Balogun	Mary Buccos	Barbara Leshar
Laurie Bullock	Stella Harling	Walter & Carrie Cigus
Zakk Davis	Bettemae Weiss	

Friends of our First Moravian Church Family

Gilbert Hendershot	Deena Kohler	Phil Shell
Tyler & Alicia Cox	Tom Gelwicks	Tammy Bane
Elyse	Lauren Hensley	Student of Sandra Morrisette
Ellie and family	Jeannette Leshar	John and Bob Morgenstern
Jeff & Brenda Fogel	Karen Statler	Dick & Ann Smith
Sharon Long	Helen Lerch	Dorey & Jeff Smith
Debbie S.	Bill Timmann	Paula Fisher
Shannon	Cookie Knauss	Barbara Clements
Orhan Ahtar & Family	Elaine Conard	Patti Montague
Nory Ramos	Ahmed (11 years old)	Kay Gauthier
Tim Northrop	Infant Eleanora	Anne Malone
Family and friends of Gloria Reisinger		
Family and friends of Virginia Gelwicks		



GREETING CARD MINISTRY VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Our congregation's card ministry is an important way that we care for one another. This position is for one who would like to prayerfully prepare cards for birthdays and anniversaries, and for other occasions and needs as they arise. Costs for this ministry will be covered. Please let Pastor Sue know if you feel called to this special caring ministry of preparing cards. We extend our deepest gratitude to Shirley Buck for her faithful card

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/05 Matthew LoQuasto
02/07 Jada Bullock
02/07 Frank Cigus
02/08 Danine Mamana
02/11 Jackson Light
02/12 Nico Smith
02/15 Kimberly Deinger
02/16 Janet Balogun
02/17 Roberta Sampson
02/19 William Bullock
02/24 Alanna Kichline



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