

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



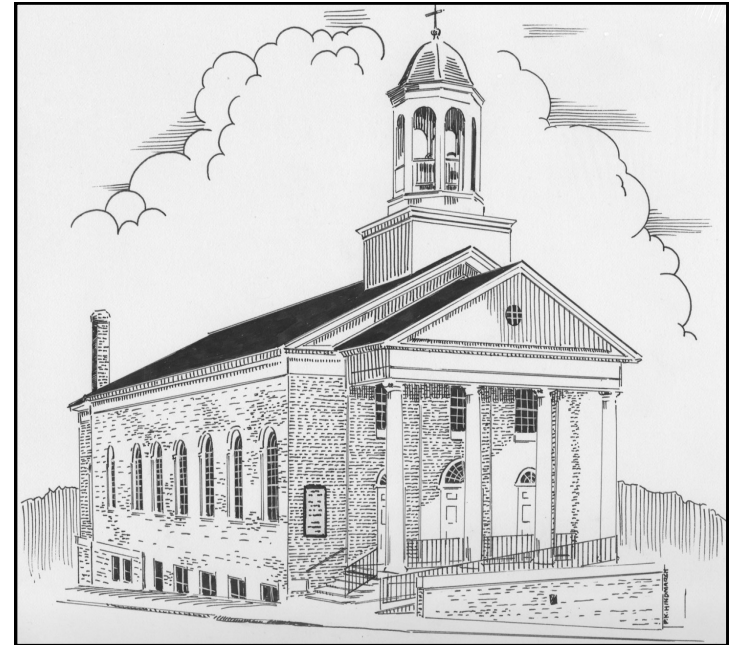
Worship Sundays at 10:45 am

Summer worship at 10 am

Join us for worship!

All are welcome at First Moravian!

THE FM STEREO NEWSLETTER
May 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 siblings in Christ,

It was a joy and privilege to attend the Northampton County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council's Outstanding Senior Awards Ceremony on April 23, 2026, especially when one of the Honorees was First Moravian member, Frank Chisesi! An added surprise was that Frank's cousin was selected to introduce him! Northampton County is home to many gifted and generous seniors who contribute much to our communities. We are also rich in programs and services for older adults. Visit lehighvalleyaginginplace.org to view their resource guide and see other resources in the entrance way of the church. *Pastor Sue*

FRANK CHISESI AWARDS CEREMONY INTRODUCTION

Mr. Frank Chisesi has been a dedicated member of First Moravian Church of Easton since 1991. Throughout his many years of service, he has generously volunteered in numerous capacities, contributing countless hours to the church's ministries. His efforts have supported Safe Harbor, Family Connections, Project Food Pantry, and Turning Point of Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Chisesi has faithfully served both as Treasurer and Financial Secretary for many years on a volunteer basis. He has played a key role in maintaining the church's facilities and has overseen several renovation projects, often completing much of the work himself. A gifted artisan, he creates beautiful handcrafted items for fundraisers. He also initiated a gift card ministry that benefits both the church and the broader community and he co-leads an annual gift card collection for clients of Turning Point of Lehigh County, supporting victims of domestic violence.

Over the years, Mr. Chisesi has contributed his leadership to numerous boards and committees, most recently serving on the board of Moravian Open Door, a ministry that provides transitional housing for older adults in need. Beyond his church and community service, Mr. Chisesi dedicated 32 years to the Easton Fire Department, including 12 years as Chief prior to his active retirement. Frank is truly an inspiration for all generations!

Congratulations, Frank!



CHURCH YARD SALE

AND BAKE SALE

SATURDAY MAY 16

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 16, 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 4** 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 15 beginning at 9 am. We would like to receive all donated items no later than Thursday, May 14. 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 also needed.



MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25 **A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE &** **GRATITUDE**

Take time to remember and give thanks for those who sacrificed their lives for their country, and pray for their families. 11

FIRST MORAVIAN UNIFIED BOARD

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer.”
2 Samuel 22:2



The Unified Board met on April 12, 2026. Following an opening prayer, the Board watched a recording of a pre-Synod program for delegates which included worship and a presentation on adaptive change and leadership. Unlike technical change, adaptive change often involves cultural changes and challenges without clear solutions—such as many of the challenges facing the church today. The time together provided space for reflection and conversation on possibilities for ministries and collaboration with others. Other highlights from the meeting include:

- Review and approval of the agenda, minutes for March 15, and Pastor’s March report
- Review of first quarter financial statements from Treasurer Frank Chisesi, with expressed concern for our cash balance and accounts payable; cash is about \$3,000 below the balance we seek to maintain; payables on hand exceed cash available as of March 31, 2026. We will share this need with the congregation.
- Receipt and review of proposed audit plans from the Board of Palmer Moravian Church for reciprocal audits
- Announcements of grants available: Eastern District and SPG
- Review of Holy Week and Easter services, and upcoming worship and spiritual formation schedules
- Spring yard sale planning
- A boiler repair is needed that will be addressed later this year; we will also hold off on replacing the office printer.
- Seth and Destiny Conard will review painting contracts.
- Approval of request from Camp Hope to serve as an emergency meeting site for their summer programs

The next Unified Board meeting is May 17, 2026 at 12:30 pm.

MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE	
Monthly Revenue Amount Needed for 2026 Budget (rounded)	\$11,000.00
Amount Received	\$12,390.75
Overage/(Shortage) this month	\$1,390.75
Year-to-date Overage (Shortage)	\$(6,366.75)

WORSHIP IN MAY 10:45 AM

May 3. Fifth Sunday of Easter/Moravian Music Sunday

Jesus comforts his disciples with the promise that he is going to prepare a place for them in God’s house of many rooms. John 14:1-14 continues to comfort the disciples of Jesus with the assurance that “we will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” We will offer thanksgiving for Moravian music and the ways in which music forms us in faith, hope, and love.

May 10. Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day

In these last days before his ascension, Jesus promises to send The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit who will be with his disciples, and guide them to remember and keep Jesus’ commandments. We will offer special prayers for Mother’s Day.



May 17. Ascension Sunday/Seventh Sunday of Easter

Jesus ascended into heaven and yet...and yet we are to look for him here—here as the word is proclaimed and bread and cup are shared, and as we gather in his name. Jesus calls, blesses, and equips us through the Spirit to carry on his mission in the world. (Acts 1:1-11; Luke 24:44-53)

May 24. Day of Pentecost/Holy Communion

Come, Holy Spirit, renew the church, renew our lives on this joyful festival day! Breathe on us Breath of God, and inspire us to receive and live the gifts of our baptism. We will share a service of Holy Communion in celebration of the Spirit’s Coming.

May 31. Trinity Sunday

We know God as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, and we respond to God with faith, love, and hope.

WORSHIP ON ZOOM

We invite you to join us for worship in person or online. Sunday services are available on 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 [enter meeting ID and passcode at prompt.]

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR CARMELINA (CARMEN) PRICE

A celebration of life service for Carmen Price, daughter of Mary Buccos, will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 11 am in the chapel of St. John's Lutheran Church, 330 Ferry Street, Easton, PA. Please hold Mary and her family in your prayers.



“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, including 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 May 6, 2026.

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; or if you are in need of prayer. Our Prayer Chain is 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. Meals are for everyone. Call the Church Office at 610-258-6317 to request prayer or meals.

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 **May 10, 2026.**



FMCE FOOD MINISTRY

We are collecting **cereal, pancake mix, pancake syrup, and baby wipes** for the **Project Food Pantry** on an ongoing basis. We have also received a request for **beans of any kind and pasta of all kinds except spaghetti**.



Canned goods and other non-perishable, in-date foods will also be received. Our most recent deliveries on March 31, and April 14 and 27, totaled 138 items:

- * 44 boxes of cereal
- * 17 boxes of pancake mix
- * 8 bottles of syrup
- * 24 packs of baby wipes
- * 5 boxes of pasta
- * 40 cans/packages of food

We are grateful for all your food donations for those in need; and to Walt and Carrie Cigus for delivering the food collected to Project.

Food insecurity in Pennsylvania increased 44% in the past two years, with more than 1.7 million people facing hunger.

Pastor Sue joined ELCA faith leaders in Harrisburg on April 13, to ask legislators to support funding for food programs.

Feeding America Map the Meal Gap: <https://map.feedingamerica.org/>

EASTER APPRECIATION

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Holy Week and Easter services, and joined in proclaiming, “Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Special thanks to Andy Dormarunno, Laurie Toyberg, members of our voice and bell choirs, Holy Week and Easter readers and liturgists, our sacristans, those who provided candy and prizes for the children’s Easter activities and assisted with assembling crafts and filling gift bags, to Bill Bullock for his visit as the Easter Bunny, to those who provided food and came to the Easter breakfast, and our AV technicians. Thank you all! Have a blessed Eastertide!

PS. Though we appreciate our bushy-tailed neighbors, we were surprised to discover that they had chewed through some of our Easter eggs for the egg hunt and ate the candy inside while we were making crafts! One was caught with a Hershey’s kiss!

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR TITHES, OFFERINGS & GIFTS

The Unified Board expresses its gratitude to the congregation for the multitude of ways you share your time, gifts and talents, and financial resources in support of the ministries of First Moravian.



EASTON CHILDREN'S HOME

Thank you so much to your congregation for your donation of cereal and canned goods. We greatly appreciate your contribution to benefit children who are dealing with abuse, neglect and other traumatic experiences. Since 1885, the Home has provided comprehensive care to heal children, families and communities. We provide a continuum of care ranging from an emergency shelter for youth in crisis to community based homes for youth needing structure and support. Our focus is to connect essential services to a child's home, school and community to help children believe in their own self-worth and reach their full potential. These accomplishments would not be possible without you help. Once again, thank you for your generous support and caring spirit.

Sincerely,
Anita Jo Pukovits
Executive Director/President



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Dear Friends from First Moravian Church,
Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope. Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed.

Thanks to your compassion, we can—and will—changes lives.

Sincerely,
Rick Santos,
President and CEO, Church World Service

To: All Members & Visitors attending First Moravian Church Easton: I appreciate all the kindness and assistance you have offered when I am able to attend church services or meetings. Thanking God for you—for the blessing you are and the smiles you bring— and wishing you lots of love and joy at Easter. *Frances & Family*



FIRST SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Sunday Sunday School returns on Sunday, May 3, and we will begin a new series of lessons on David that will continue through September. The first lesson is "Samuel Finds a King." This Other lessons include "A Brand New King," and "David Meets Goliath." The class will meet in the Fellowship Hall following the Children's Message at the beginning of the 10:45 am worship service. 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.

CONFIRMATION ACADEMY COMING JUNE 15-20

A summer confirmation program will be offered Monday through Friday, June 15-20 from 10 am to 2:30 pm (four hours for each session, with a half-hour break for lunch.) On Saturday, June 20 we will meet in the morning to learn about and/or participate in an outreach project. Pastor Sue will lead these Confirmation classes. All youth age 12 and older are invited to participate.



SPRING BIBLE STUDY—The Moravian Catechism

In 2020, the Moravian Church Northern and Southern Provinces jointly published a new Catechism prepared by the Interprovincial Faith & Order Commission. We began a study of the Moravian Catechism in the fall of 2025, and will be resuming the study this spring after Easter. All parts of the Catechism may be studied independently. Everyone is welcome to take part in this new study. We will explore the Essential Actions on the Part of Humanity: Faith, Love, and Hope; the Bible; Sacraments and Rites for the Church; Creeds and Doctrines; and Incidentals. We will meet at 11 am on Mondays April 27, May 4, 11, and 18, and June 1.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS' NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Christian educators are invited to a Networking Breakfast on Saturday, May 16 @ 9:00AM Schoeneck Moravian Church 316 N. Broad St. Ext., Nazareth. Our regional Director of Faith Formation is Inviting all local Christian Educators to meet for a light breakfast to share and problem-solve! Topics for discussion will include:
*Ministry Wins & Challenges *Confirmation *Favorite Curriculums *Youth Activities...& more RSVP to Lanie by May 10...Be Prepared to Share! lanie@mcnp.org

A Presentation on Christian Nationalism

At the 2023 Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province, the Committee on Church and Society resolved that the MCNP rejects Christian Nationalism, which supports racism and white supremacy, and in the fall of 2024, the Moravian Church Northern Province joined our ecumenical partners in endorsing *Christians Against Nationalism (CNC)*, and the Provincial Elders' Conference added their own statement against Christian Nationalism to the CAC website as an endorser of *Christians Against Christian Nationalism*.

What is Christian Nationalism, and in particular, how has the Moravian Church responded to the development of Christian Nationalism? What does our theology speak to this topic? Becky Lepore did extensive study on this topic during her seminary classes and created and presented a talk on Christian Nationalism in February 2025 to 120 interested congregation and community members. Becky will give an updated presentation on Sunday afternoon, May 31 at 1 p.m. in the Christian Education Building. All are welcome.

BLANKET SUNDAY

First Moravian's Church and Society Committee held its annual "**Blanket Sunday**" for Church World Service on February 22. Blanket donations were received through March 31 and we rejoice that we exceeded our goal of \$500! Together we raised **\$700** for this critical need! The Committee is deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from the congregation for the purchase blankets for those home and abroad. 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 America is a Covenant Member of CWS.



LOOKING AHEAD...

- Here are some highlights for **June**
- 06/07 Second Sunday after Pentecost/Prayer Day Outdoor Ministries
 - 06/14 Third Sunday after Pentecost
 - 06/15 Confirmation (June 15-20)
 - 06/21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day/Summer & Summer Schedule Begins—Worship at 10 am
 - 06/24 MCNP Synod (June 25-26, travel June 24 & 27)
 - 06/28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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 at home and/or in need of healing

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Janet Balogun | Mary Buccos | Barbara Leshar |
| Laurie Bullock | Stella Harling | Walter & Carrie Cigus |
| Zakk Davis | Bettemae Weiss | Frank Cigus |
| Marcie Sos | Susanne Kessler | Pat Johnson |
| Frances | | |

Friends of our First Moravian Church Family

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Gilbert Hendershot | Deena Kohler | Tyler & Alicia Cox |
| Tammy Bane | Elyse | Lauren Hensley |
| Ellie and family | Jeannette Leshar | John Morgenstern |
| Dick & Ann Smith | Sharon Long | Helen Lerch |
| Dorey & Jeff Smith | Debbie S. | Barbara Clements |
| Patti Montaque | George | Cookie Knauss |
| Nory Ramos | Ahmed (11 years old) | Kay Gauthier |
| Creed Hight | Blanche | Sean Delauter |
| Carolyn Lewis | Duncan Morrisette | Kay & Aden Ward |
| Marie, Brayden & Garrison | Jason Andersen | Family of Tamar Bent |
- Grieving families & communities in Shreveport, LA
Neighbors in Philipsburg who experienced a house fire

For the World...

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 05/01 Julia Lee
- 05/04 Joan Caffrey-Stocker
- 05/04 Glenn Erb
- 05/09 Gloria Bolmer
- 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
- 05/16 Belfield & Betty Castello
- 05/24 David & Sandra Morrisette
- 05/25 Frances Goode & Efrain Rivera-Olivo
- 05/29 John and Danine Mamana