



ONWARD

The Newsletter of the Moravian Mission Society, Southern Province

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MUSINGS FROM THE MISSION SOCIETY—

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The 248th Moravian Easter Sunrise Service in Salem will be one for the history books. As the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear, the leadership of the Salem Congregation Central Board of Elders knew something was going to have to be different for the Easter Sunrise Service. It was a strange time and something completely unprecedented in the history of our church. How do we announce the resurrection of our Savior when forming a crowd puts everyone there at risk, especially those most vulnerable in our community?

Our church is blessed with passionate, committed, and creative volunteer leadership for the Easter Sunrise Service. They are a group of people who know that service well because they have been involved for many years. So we put our heads together and came up with a plan. We would live-stream the service from Home Moravian Church with a limited band and choir while incorporating images of God's Acre along with voice commentary. We were fortunate to reap the benefit of many years of a radio broadcast and a few years of live-streaming. This gave us a place to start and build on for this unique year.

We had great coverage from our local media who helped us get the word out on these changes. We even had a local TV news station carry the service live on air. After the live-stream of the service, I did a walk to God's Acre on Facebook Live, which allowed me to have conversation and interaction with people who just experienced the service. We did this on the spur of the moment but it ended being a wonderful time and people responded very well.

"The Lord is Risen." Obviously we all long to be back as an in-person congregation but given these extraordinary times I believe we remained faithful to the task our siblings in Christ have set for us. We proclaimed the hope found in our Wounded Savior at a time when the world needs it most.

The Rev. Chaz Snider



This year, Easter was different—no sunrise service, no visitors, no brass band music. The sanctuary is a building site with dirt and scaffolding, but the message of Easter is the same.

Christ is risen
indeed!

The Rev. Peter Vogt,
Germany

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CONGREGATIONAL SHARING DURING LOCKDOWN

Recently in a BCM ZOOM meeting with participants sharing about how their congregations are continuing in their ministries, I was reminded of the verse shared by Kay Windsor in another ZOOM meeting about writing our Leubenslaufs, a reflective writing about our spiritual journeys:

even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. Psalm 139:12

How do we continue to connect with our church families in a time when we are not meeting on our regular schedules? Pastors and other participants shared about how their congregations are reaching out in new ways. It seems that online ZOOM meetings and live-streaming presentations are flourishing. Most congregations have greatly increased their capabilities for using today's technology. The light of God's love is breaking through in new ways!

The Board of Cooperative Ministries has organized ZOOM conferences for learning new technology, coping in stressful times, sharing resources available for spiritual formation, and many more topics. You can learn more about their ministries on their website www.moravianbcm.org



Lane Sapp April 19—Easter online

Hannah Cheek shared ways that Calvary Moravian is using technology and other avenues to minister to their members. Worship services are live-streamed at the regular worship time on Sundays. Other churches live-streaming include New Philadelphia, Home, and Trinity Churches. You can check various church websites to learn of others and the times services are scheduled. In addition to the pastor sharing the sermon, Amanda Moody presents a children's message using Godly Play. ZOOM meetings are used for Board meetings and other small group meetings. After the sermon, there is a brief question and answer time by sending messages on Facebook. Other ways they care for members is by sending e-mails and letters. Children received Easter baskets on their doorsteps.



Rev. Fran Saylor reported that the Mizpah congregation is using Facebook to post short meditation videos. More people have been viewing via FB than those attending- regular worship on Sundays. For fun members are posting photos of their worship spaces, coffee mugs, shoes, etc. Individuals are sending private messages by FB, including people not usually involved. E-mails, cards, and phone calls are being used to keep good connections with folks, especially those who do not have internet. Sunday School classes are exploring ZOOM for meetings, and a ZOOM pot luck gathering is being planned.

Rev. Fran Saylor shares message on Facebook



Rev. Evette Campbell shared that many forms of communication are being utilized at Rolling Hills – ZOOM meetings and Bible studies, telephone calls, texts, and mailing cards. A Care Committee is keeping in close touch with those who live alone. A Youth Link-Up by ZOOM is being planned for youth to meet with their peers. A special service is being planned to allow graduates to walk across a platform and receive a certificate.

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING DURING LOCKDOWN



Since Konnoak Hills is not prepared for utilizing many of the technology venues, communication is handled by regular mail, e-mails, and their website. A special form of worship on Sunday mornings is the drive-by food collection for Sunnyside Ministries. 24 cars participated in the first event on 3/29/20. On 4/19/20 fifty-seven cars participated, delivering 500 pounds of food. United Methodist Church and other members of their neighborhood ecumenical church association and members not regularly involved are also participating in the drive-by. Pastor John Rights shared a quote he had read that “service is an anecdote for anxiety.” A blood drive will still be held at their church on May 9. A new event being planned for May is a pot luck meal and program via Zoom. Details of these events and other church news is being posted on their website.

Margaret Crouch reported that Fries Memorial has ZOOM meetings for the Board, Choir discussions, and Youth meetings. Pastor Worth Green posts Sunday worship messages on YouTube accessed on their Facebook page. Donna Hurt shared how much her mother at Salemtowne enjoys hearing the Home Church worship service over the radio. New Philadelphia will be sharing their service on a split screen between ZOOM and Facebook in order to connect with more participants. King Moravian is doing a needs assessment survey online to track concerns of their members. A member of their church owns Mrs. Pumpkins and arranged to deliver lovefeast buns to King’s members before Easter.

Text for Rev. Worth Green’s
Facebook Message 4/19—

God is more willing to give than we are to ask because we know that, when we ask for something in prayer, we must be willing to be a part of the answer. We must be willing to put hands and feet and heart into our prayers.



Margaret Norris, Home Church, presenting Godly Play online

Tina Pratt, King Moravian, displays Star



Youth share jokes by online video on 4/19/20 on Trinity Moravian’s Facebook Page

(Summary by Sheila Beaman of BCM’s Zoom Conference on Congregational Sharing on 4/21/2020)

THE “NEW NORMAL” AT SUNNYSIDE

This would be our regular newsletter, but nothing seems to be normal right now. Yet our goal is the same to help people who are in a crisis. I would like to steal a line from the recent Bojangles’ advertisement: “no matter what is going on in the world, we all got to eat.” I wish I had thought of that first.

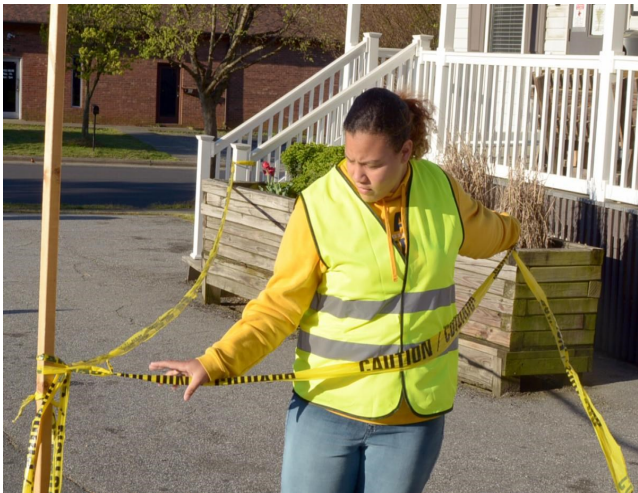
That line is true especially now at Sunnyside Ministry, where for the last two weeks we have seen a 130% increase in the number of households seeking help with food. Earlier last week, we shared a prayer with our volunteers, and we wanted to share it with you as well. We hope you might use this to pray on behalf of Sunnyside Ministry, the staff and the clients. Sometimes prayer is the most important gift you can give.

“Our Heavenly Father, be with all those who we are serving in your name, those who are hungry and in need. Be with those that need help; that they would receive the help that they need. Be with the doctors and Health Care Workers; that they would bring hope to those who are sick. Be with those who keep us safe. Be with our leaders; that they would make wise decisions. Lord, be with me, bring me through this storm that I might return quickly to Sunnyside Ministry to serve my Brothers and Sisters. Help me O Lord to remember that you told us: “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8).

In Christ’s Holy Name, we pray, Amen. David Holston, Sunnyside Director



Thomas creates drive-by lanes.



Joselyn creates staff work area



Maggie secures signage



Lauryn assembles boxes

“NEW NORMAL” DAY AT SUNNYSIDE



Tommy packages food order



Mary Beth answers calls



Jonathan reviews financial requests



Maggie disinfects tables



Jocelyn records prepared food order

PRISON MINISTRY CONTINUES



As I write this article, the world is in the midst of a pandemic with the coronavirus. It's a time for us to be diligently praying for God's intervention and mercy. In our chaplaincy ministry, all worship services, Bible studies, and activities are postponed until Further notice. The ministry staff is working on a strategy to continue serving the men at the Cherry Street Prison without compromising health safety.

At the Forsyth County Jail, all volunteer programs have been canceled as well. Chaplains continue on-site at the jail to minister to the men and women, both inmates and staff. We continue to do ministry through individual meetings and interaction.

On a mid-March morning, I went out on the yard at the Cherry Street Prison and spent time talking to several men and letting them know that the Chaplains continue to be available to them. I had one offender ask if he could use the chapel guitar and play outside. I can hear him playing now while I write. Another came by to see if he could get a pair of reading glasses.

Another makes a weekly visit to talk about his home relationships. Prayer, conversation, community and the Gospel continue inside the walls of prison and jail even though the outside world is withdrawing.

Thank you for your faithful support. In His service, R. Jeff Carter.

WE NEED YOU!

In light of recommendations from the Provincial Elders' Conference, the April 25th *Unlocking the Gospel* Fundraising Dinner at Hopewell Moravian has been postponed. During these uncertain times, it's critical that we continue to raise funds for the Moravian Chaplaincy position even as we practice social distancing. If you are a consistent supporter of this ministry, we thank you! If you are able to give more or perhaps organize a fundraiser that doesn't involve a gathering of people we welcome your efforts! If you aren't a current supporter, you might consider a donation to help offset the loss of fundraising opportunities? Every little bit helps as we try to weather this crisis. Please keep this ministry, and the world, in your prayers.

Mark Hampton, a Friends of Moravian Prison Ministry Steering Committee Member



Volunteer helps with
cross-making activity

(Text from Spring 2020 *the least of these* Friends of Moravian Prison Ministry)

Mail checks to Friends of Moravian Prison Ministry, 459 South Church St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Give online: moravianprisonministry.org

PRAY EVERY DAY—MAY 2020

1. Is the Lord's arm too short? Pray for the leaders of world governments.
2. Always thank God the father of our Lord Jesus. Pray that the nations will turn to the Lord who rules.
3. Sunday. God has called us to live in peace. Pray for those struggling to provide for their families.
4. Thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wonderful works to humankind. Pray for those continuing to provide needed services—medical care, food, police/fire protection, mail, education, military service, spiritual support, etc.
5. Christ is the image of the invisible God. Pray for Safie Braima and the church in Sierra Leone.
6. I will turn the darkness before them into light. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx with MAF.
7. Even when we are faithless, He is faithful. Pray for the World Wide Moravian Church coping with COVID-19.
8. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, they told Jesus about her at once. Pray for the Teshes in Africa.
9. The Lord your God has blessed you in all your undertakings. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
10. Sunday. Do as the occasion demands. God is with you. Pray for the Sutton's with WEC.
11. Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what He said. Pray for the Unity Women's Desk.
12. This is my prayer, that your love would overflow more and more. Pray for Star Mt Ministry, Palestine.
13. He knows what is in every human heart. Pray that food crops would reach those who need it.
14. Examine yourself to see if you are living in faith. Pray for the Moravian Church and Clinic in Honduras.
15. God will grant justice to His chosen ones who cry to Him day and night. Pray for those suffering the effects of natural disasters.
16. Heaven and earth will pass away but God's word will not. Pray for Mission Societies, leaders, and volunteers.
17. Sunday. May the Lord our God incline our hearts to Him. Pray for Adopt-A-Village in Tanzania.
18. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send, will teach you all things. Pray for State and Federal Authorities discerning times for reopening activities.
19. Turn back from your evil ways. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
20. The righteous know the rights of the poor. Pray for the growing church in Lima, Peru.
21. Ascension Day. You who love the Lord, Hate evil. Pray for churches/agencies ministering in new ways.
22. While the son was still far off, his father ran and put his arms around him. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS ministry.
23. The wrongdoer will be paid back for all he has done. Pray for Andrew and Jenna Craver in Bethel, Alaska.
24. Ascension Sunday. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive. Pray for Moravian Outreach in Nepal.
25. Pray in the Spirit at all times; in all prayer and supplication. Pray for the Armando Rusindo Foundation.
26. The Lord looks on humankind to see who seeks Him. Pray for Hayley Geis and Veterinarian Missions.
27. The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Pray for Charlie and Vickie Brent in Texas.
28. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
29. I will tell of your righteousness and praise you all day. Pray for the Raifords in Mexico.
30. I cannot go beyond the command of the Lord my God. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek-InterVarsity.
31. Sunday. Day of Pentecost. We were all baptized by one spirit to form one body. Pray for Heather and Brian Marx with MAF.

EASTER GREETINGS FROM STEVE AND ANN MARX



Ann and I recently saw a news headline that Easter is canceled; sadly no Easter bunny this year. We proclaimed, “No, Easter is not canceled; Jesus is risen and alive! He was crucified but did not stay in the tomb. Praise God!”

We are hunkered down here at home, but I am set up on the computer to remotely process any parts requests we receive at the office from our overseas bases. Our Shipping Department on a rotating basis is covering the need to ship overseas. A number of locations have no air freight flight options at this time but a few airlines continue to make cargo flights, who we are able to send shipments to some destinations.

Idaho officially considers MAF an essential service, since our flying overseas continues on a limited basis, providing flights for critical supplies and urgent medical needs. MAF is walking (flying?) a fine line between making critical flights while at the same time trying to protect remote interior re-

gions from spread of the virus.

Personally, somehow we have not been caught off-guard without TP and paper towels. I think it was a habit especially Ann learned while overseas in Ecuador—purchasing more in bulk when traveling to the big city. She continues to do this now that we live here in Idaho. We are very thankful for God’s provision.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support gifts, as you are able, especially during these difficult days of worldwide upheaval. We do appreciate your care for us and for MAF’s outreach in many countries, ministering to physical and spiritual needs. Your partnership is vital!

Praying for you, Steve and Ann

Steve and Ann Marx, Mission Aviation Fellowship, PO Box 47, Nampa, Idaho 83653 maf.org/smarx

ONWARD
500 S. Church St.
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336-773-1732

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