

District Developments

Together in Service

On Sunday, October 8th, I had the privilege of participating in the Tuscarawas County, Ohio Moravian Day of Service. The day began with a joint worship service at historic Schoenbrunn Village.



It was chilly in the old church building, but hearts were warm as we sang, prayed, and were commissioned for service in the community. After worshipping to-



gether, we split into groups for service. Some of us went to the Schoenbrunn kitchen to make meatloaf and macaroni-n-cheese for the Ladles of Love community meal later that week.



Others went to Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center to assist with outdoor



maintenance and yard work. Pastor Ben Lippert commented, "It was an honor to be able to help Noah's Hope Child Advocacy Center. They do so much to serve the most vulnerable children in our area. Our Day of Service is a great way to get beyond our church walls and support community organizations that take the call of Matthew 25 seriously."

Pastor John Wallace describes the activity of the group who remained at Schoenbrunn Village:

"What an exciting time for the Historic Schoenbrunn Village staff to witness some 30 volunteers descend upon their historical site for our "Moravian Day of Service". Twenty volunteers seized the 19 cabins with brooms, paper towels, bottles of Windex, rags and buckets of water with either Mr. Clean or Pinesol in them. Just as Mary Poppins would say, "spit spot"

they had the cabins "spiffed up". Another 10 volunteers with rakes and leaf blowers spruced up the grounds around the cabins in the village. Moravians providing 2 and half hours of volunteer, loving labor made headway and brought much joy to the tiny permanent staff which watched the whole event as patrons came to visit the site. Schoenbrunn is celebrating its 250th anniversary of a Moravian Missionary presence in the wilds of Ohio. Even an old, historic mission out post needs a good deep cleaning every once and awhile."

And Pastor David Geyer shares these words about the last of the four groups:

The October 9th Moravian Day of Service also coincided with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Mission Station in Gnadenhutten, Ohio. The Village of Gnadenhutten administration had a vision for commemorating its 250th anniversary on the grounds of the original mission site, and approached the Moravians to see if we might assist with this.

With an attitude of "how can we help?", Moravians worked with the Village in developing its commemoration program and coordinated participation from each of the Gnadenhutten Village churches (Moravian, United Methodist, and Pentecostal). On the Day of Service, the

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Gnadenhutzen Moravian Church Women's Fellowship provided food for the Commemoration luncheon, and 30 Moravian Day of Service volunteers hauled chairs, served food, extended hospitality, and cleaned-up afterwards- helping however we could. At the center of the Commemoration ceremony, local Moravian Seth Angel shared the story of Mohican Moravian leader Joshua Sr. and the Mohican Moravians who founded the Gnadenhutzen mission station on this day in 1772. Seth interleaved the founding story with original Mohican Moravian hymns obtained through the Moravian Music Foundation, with Moravian volunteers reading selections from the original mission diaries.

By 'getting behind' the vision of the Village administration and helping in every way we could, Moravian Day of Service volunteers 'serving in the spirit of Christ' helped make the Gnadenhutzen 250th Anniversary a wonderful success.

I am grateful to the T-County congregations and their pastors for carrying out this vision. October 8th demonstrated deep partnerships that exist between these congregations all throughout the year when it comes to sharing the love of Christ with others. I was certainly blessed by their witness and hospitality.

Blessings,
Melissa Johnson



BOARD OF
WORLD MISSION
of the Moravian Church • North America

Conferencia de Recursos Moravos

In September, we were blessed to gather in person with representatives from all of our Spanish-speaking partners in Panama City, Panama. The Board of World Mission hosted a Conferencia de Recursos Moravos (Moravian Resources Conference), where participants discussed a variety of topics, including Unity structure, how to plan a Synod, financial administration in the church, leadership as servanthood, and more. We also distributed copies and provided guidance on how to use the Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum and Our Moravian Treasures, which we recently translated into Spanish for the first time ever. A group of 45 delegates and presenters spent four days studying these topics, worshiping together, and enjoying fellowship time, including a group tour of Casco Viejo and the Panama Canal's Miraflores Locks. Participants expressed their gratitude for this opportunity to build relationships, gain resources, and discuss current challenges with other Moravians in their region who may be experiencing similar joys and concerns.

Moravian delegates representing the Ahuas Clinic, the Costa Rican Province, the Cuban Province, the Honduras Unity Province, the Honduras Mission Province, the Nicaraguan Province, and the Mission Area of Peru were present, as well as guests from Brazil and Bolivia.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the presenters and planners who made this Conferencia de Recursos Moravos a meaningful experience for our delegates. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Jørgen Bøytler, Unity Business Administrator; Bishop Armando Rusindo; Bishop Sam Gray; Bishop Kingsley Lewis; Brother Rick Nelson; Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller,

President of the Northern Province PEC; Brother Leo Pixley, Chair of the Provincial Board in Costa Rica; Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher; and Sister Julie

Tomberlin, Unity Women's Desk Coordinator.



Board of World Mission Update Hurricanes Ian and Julia October 12, 2022

Hurricane Ian first made landfall in western Cuba on September 27, 2022, as a category 3 hurricane with winds of 125 miles per hour. The Board of World Mission was able to immediately send in \$5,000 to help with initial relief efforts. We are planning to make additional funds available to help with rebuilding efforts. We thank the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation for their assistance in this process.

Thankfully, our Moravian congregations in Florida reported minimal damage to either church facilities or members' homes. This includes the Moravian Fellowship in Tampa. The BWM will continue to assist these congregations as they seek to provide aid to their neighbors who were more severely impacted.

Hurricane Julia made landfall on October 9, 2022, on the southeast coast of Nicaragua near Pearl Lagoon with winds of 85 mph. Flooding rains and storm surge have severely impacted villages along the coast. Pastor Edgar Benneth of the Moravian Church in Pearl Lagoon reports that while they did not sustain a lot of damage there, towns such as Tasbapauni, Set Net Point, Raiti Pura, and Corn Island have. Many people have lost their homes, and farmers have lost their crops. There is a desperate need for food

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and clean water since wells were flooded with seawater and waste. The BWM is now seeking the best way to send funds to help with these initial needs.

For further information, go to www.moravianmission.org or contact the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler at chris@moravianmission.org. The best way to help is to send donations to the Moravian Disaster Response Fund. 100% of the money received in the MDR fund go directly to these relief efforts.

US citizens can send checks to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. You may also donate online at <http://moravianmission.org/give/> and click on the green "Give" button at the top of the page. Please indicate that your gift is for "MDR."

Canadians can send checks to: Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8. Interac e-Transfer donations may be sent to treasurer@moravian.ca. In the comments section, please mark this donation as "MDR" and include your name and address to receive a tax receipt.



Board of World Mission Update Hurricanes Ian and Julia October 17, 2022

Thanks to the generous donations we have received and in partnership with the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation, we have sent \$10,000 to Cuba, where they have seen thousands of homes destroyed and damage to many public buildings because of the winds and rain from Hurricane Ian. We are thankful that our Moravian Congregations in Florida were spared

severe damage from this storm, but we will endeavor to keep in touch with them as they reach out to their neighbors in need.

Last week, leaders from the Moravian Provincial Board in Nicaragua visited Laguna de Perlas, the region directly affected by Hurricane Julia. They are reporting devastation along the coast and inland because of flooding. Through them, we understand that many homes have been destroyed or have lost their roofs, fruit trees and other food sources have been destroyed, and families have lost their income and belongings. The immediate needs are drinking water and water purification systems, food and kitchen utensils, clothing and other linens, roofing materials, and medicines to fight off insect and water-borne diseases. We are currently working with the leaders in Nicaragua to provide them with the funds to purchase these supplies.

As we continue to receive direction from Provincial leaders in the areas hit by these storms, we will be distributing all the funds earmarked for Moravian Disaster Response to meet these urgent needs. We thank you for your help in saving lives and being the body of Christ to those who most need it right now.

For further information, pictures, and videos, go to www.moravianmission.org or contact the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler at chris@moravianmission.org.

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Prayer Concerns

You are invited to pray for Br. Steve Pasquinelli, President of the Larger Life Foundation and husband of Eastern District Board member Jackie Pasquinelli. Steve was recently diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer. He is undergoing aggressive medical treatment. Please keep Steve, Jackie, and their family in your prayers.

God of healing grace, we come before you with prayers for Br. Steve

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and his family. We claim your power to work through the medical team and in his body to bring complete healing. Cancer is a terrifying word; may your Spirit's presence bring hope where there is fear, and comfort where there is pain. Bless this family with the assurance of the prayers of the wider church and your peace that passes understanding.

Please Pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Canadian District:

Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta

Eastern District:

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
Central (Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA

Covenant, York, PA

York First, York, PA

New Dorp, Staten Island NY

Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY

Trinity, New Carrollton, MD

Western District:

Berea Moravian in St. Charles, Minnesota

West Salem, Illinois

Our Saviors Moravian in Altura, Minnesota

Additionally: two congregations that are not in the call process but are currently without pastors: Grace Moravian in Westland, Michigan and Daggett Moravian in Daggett, Michigan.

New Phone Number Contact Info for Brother Gary Straughan

Brother Gary Straughan from Greenbay, Wisconsin has a new phone number contact of 920-857-9404.

Gratitude for Beth Hayes years of service and well wishes on her retirement.

Beth Hayes recently retired after 38 years of service to the Moravian Church as Director of the Southern Province Resource Center.

Beth's knowledge and willingness to assist countless individuals and congregations needing guidance regarding resources and curriculum, as well as her unwavering support and encouragement of Christian educators, is known far beyond the Winston-Salem, North Carolina area. She has provided guidance and resources to many of our Northern Province churches as well.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays

- 1 The Rev. Percival Gordon
- 5 Mr. Warren Gericke
- 8 The Rev. Gary Straughan
- 12 The Rev. Carol Reifinger
The Rev. John Fritts
- 13 The Rev. David Wickmann
- 14 The Rev. Dr. Hermann Weinelick
Mrs. Anne Fritts
- 19 The Rev. Rowan Simmons
- 21 Mrs. Carole Freeman
- 22 Mr. Bill Hassler
- 24 The Rev. Glenn Heintzelman
- 26 The Rev. David Sommers
- 27 Mrs. Erin Petrella
Mrs. Dianne Newman
- 30 Ms. Katrina Lehman
The Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler

November Anniversaries

- 3 The Rev. & Mrs. Ron Rice
- 6 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. David Schwarz
- 14 The Rev. & Mrs. John Fritts
- 16 The Rev. Rebecca & Mr. Vince Sisley
- 19 The Rev. & Mrs. John Wallace
- 22 The Rev. & Mrs. Mark Breland
- 23 The Rev. Carol Reifinger & Mr. James Reifinger
- 29 The Rev. Daniel Michael Miller & Ms. Elizabeth Behrend

Churches celebrating November anniversaries:

- 9 - 1980 Grace, Queens, New York
- 13 - 1965 Covenant, York, PA
- 30 - 1746 Lancaster, PA

November 13, 1741 - Formal announcement to the congregations of the Moravian Church of the immediate Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ in his church on earth.

Eastern District Administrative Assistant Introduction of Sharon Hergenother

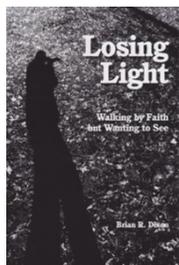


I am pleased to introduce myself as the Administrative Assistant to the Eastern District President. I live in Easton, PA and have 3 children. My oldest son and daughter are grown and live on their own. My youngest son is at home and a senior in high school. I enjoy the outdoors and various creative and artistic activities when I have the chance. I look forward to serving in this new position.

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IBOC November Highlights

- Brian Dixon's latest release, *Losing Light—Walking by Faith but Wanting to See*, is now available at the IBOC



store. *Losing Light* is part lament, part study and discussion, and a porchlight left on welcoming you home. 116 pages. \$12.95.

- Moravian Seal Ornaments handmade of folded fabric is a wonderful gift for pastors, musicians, family, and friends. 3". \$20.



- Moravian Star Café Mug are a dark red/brick color and holds 18 oz. of your favorite beverage.



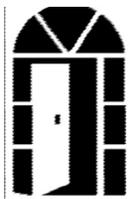
These are dishwasher and microwavable safe. 6". \$11.95.

- *What Good News the Angels Bring* is the latest Christmas music offering from the **Moravian Music Foundation** and the **Bach Festival Society of Winter Park, Florida**.



22 tracks. \$16.

For these and other great products, visit our store at store.moravian.org or call Jill at 610-867-0593 ext. 703.



Moravian Open Door celebrates 35 years of serving the homeless & helping them to regain their dignity and independence.

On Saturday November 5th, 2022 you are invited to join with the MOD Board of Directors, staff, and clients, as we gather to celebrate our 35th Anniversary in a Service of Worship which will be held at United Moravian Church, located at 200 E. 127th St. in New York City. Service will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. and will be immediately followed by a reception in the Church's Social hall.



Christmas at Camp Hope December 9 – 11, 2022

\$65 for the first person
in your cabin;
\$25 for each additional
person over age 4

Cost includes:

- **2 nights** in a heated cabin with attached bathroom (each cabin sleeps up to 12 on bunkbeds; each group will have its own cabin)

- **Soup and Salad Dinner** on Friday; other meals on your own (the Upper Lodge kitchen will be available if you would like to bring your own food to cook)
- **Tickets for Hope's Moravian Christmas Lantern Walking Tour** on Saturday evening (a \$20/person value!)

Optional Activities:

- Christmas Carol Sing-Along with **Mark Herr** (former organist and Youth Pastor at Nazareth Moravian Church)
- Cookie Swap
- Moravian Star Craft
- Wrap a Christmas Candle

For more information, call the Camp Hope office at

908-459-4435 or text
484-375-5878

To register, visit camphope.org/christmas-at-camp

