

District Developments



Congregational Spotlight

As a pastor, I always appreciated reading District Developments and learning about the things happening in other congregations, especially the ways they were making a difference in their communities. I've tried to continue on Dave Bennett's track of highlighting things of which I have heard. I am delighted to say that the regional representatives of the district board have agreed to help with this endeavor, so the scope will broaden. Each month we will put the spotlight on one of the congregations, so we can learn from one another and be inspired by how the Spirit is at work within and among us.

If you have a ministry you would like to share, please feel free to reach out to your regional representative! We'd love to hear from you.

Ohio Jackie Pasquinelli
pts1040llc@gmail.com

Penn-Mar Bonnie Robertson
bonnie1227@gmail.com

Del Val Lauren Grady
lrndougherty@gmail.com

NY/Toronto Naomi Solomon
Souljourney2@gmail.com

LV North Tammy Lavoy
tjlavoy@gmail.com

LV South Linda Rapp
linlourapp@gmail.com

I'm grateful to Pastor John Wallace of First Moravian in Dover, OH and the friends mentioned in this month's Spotlight – for their ministry and for sharing their story; I'm also grateful to Jackie Pasquinelli for recognizing this unique and powerful way of sharing the Good News and asking them to share!

Blessings,

Melissa Johnson

Melissa Johnson
EDEB President

One Step at a Time

Sole Purpose has a simple motto: "Putting shoes on Kids feet". We have been fulfilling that mission calling since 2011 as a 501C (3) in the Tuscarawas Valley. God has seen this program grow from literally handing out a couple of dozen shoes in 2011 to an organization and ministry that today distributes 600, \$30 dollar shoe

vouchers, to children in grades K – 5, every year.

We have been blessed by the Lord, our church of 300, and the community for this local ministry. Standing on the shoulders of past leaders and organizers, our youth and their parents, have been instrumental in this project. As one Ryan Yoder, a junior said, Sole Purpose gives me a direct opportunity to make a difference in my community through the simple yet important term: shoes. Shoes give kids self-esteem, personality and confidence around their friends and family." Our fund raisers include our annual pancake breakfast in the spring and our "sock market" in the winter. We also have our youth speak at local civic groups and organizations to place this ministry on the minds and hearts of these community leaders and civic-minded organizations. Through those three financial streams and some unsolicited donations from friends of Sole Purpose, the program raises between 12,000 to 15,000 dollars yearly. That is a far cry from when our check book had a meager \$89.00 in 2011. Keep in mind that Sole Purpose will spend on average \$12,000 dollars on shoe vouchers for children every year. The program has expanded its base over the past 12 year.

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Today, Sole Purpose serves all 12 school districts in our county with voucher distribution as well as the annual “Share a Christmas” program. Another high school junior, Thomas Peveto said in a recent radio interview, “When we give out these vouchers for shoes, it makes me feel good because I know I am doing something right for some young kid and their parents. Thanks be to the Lord – who has seen this ministry expand and thrive.

Yoder, when asked why he does this ministry wrote, “I joined Sole Purpose as a way to reach out to my community alongside my fellow members of the church. I have been given the ability to serve and a desire to fulfill that gift. The result of service in my city and schools shows me the positive impact we are achieving. “Then Ryan went on to use, 1 Peter 4: 10, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in various forms.” This verse is one of many that calls us to put our faith into action.” Around 35 high school students over the past 12 years have put their faith into action through this ministry by putting shoes on kid’s feet. And to think, this whole idea began in 2011 when two high school sophomores, Emily, and Layne, came to the Board of Elders with an idea to put a new pair of shoes on children’s feet.

They pitched their dream to the board seeking their support and blessing. Twelve years later, and more than 5000 shoe vouchers later, Sole Purpose continues to bless and place shoes on God’s kids in this rural, Appalachian County in Ohio.



During Lent and Easter we celebrate the sufferings, dying, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As Jesus was raised in triumphal rebirth, so our baptism marks our spiritual rebirth into “new creatures”, saved by the Messiah’s blood. A reflection of this divine spiritual miracle is seen each Spring as we witness the natural rebirth of flowers, trees and gardens. We find new reasons to hope for a physical renewal that mirrors the spiritual renewal brought about by Jesus’ sacrifice.

In Central America, our Sisters and Brothers are experiencing a similar sense of hope and physical renewal. Last year, many families lost virtually all of their crops to floods. Rains and floods are increasingly unpredictable. In 2022, during the dry season months of February and March, unseasonable rains destroyed the bean crop. In May it was impossible to plant rice due to continued rains. Perennial crops such as cassava and bananas, along with fruit trees, were lost.

The Board of World Mission’s Moravian Disaster Response program has sent medicines and

food to help with recovery. A major effort has been to supply bean and vegetable seeds as families look with hope toward a bean harvest in March or April and a rice harvest in September. As they anticipate more than just the one daily meal that has characterized their existence for many months, there is hope for the future. As our Easter worship celebrates the spiritual rebirth that comes with Christ’s resurrection, we hope for physical rebirth with the planting of bean, rice, and vegetable seeds in Central America.



Prayer Concerns

You are invited to offer prayers for Br. Glenn Heintzelman, retired pastor living in Allentown, PA. Glenn called to report that he had been hospitalized with complications due to his severe neuropathy and is now recuperating at Phoebe Home in Allentown. In the midst of his many health challenges, he reported with joy that he and his wife Bonnie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January. Please be in prayer for Glenn as he grows

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stronger, with the goal of returning home in a few weeks. Pray for Bonnie and their family, who offer support on this journey.

You are invited to offer prayers for Sr. Rhonda Robinson, on the pastoral staff at Iglesia Esperanza for Bethlehem, in Bethlehem, PA. Rhonda is suffering from a serious infection that has gotten into her bloodstream. She is under a doctor's care and is at home completing her treatment. Please hold her in prayer, along with her husband Tracy, their family, and the congregation.

You are invited to offer prayers for Sr. Mandy Mastros, pastor of the Lancaster Moravian Church in Lancaster, PA. Her mother, Crystal Hess, had a stroke at the beginning of March and remains in the hospital. Please be in prayer for Crystal, her partner Russ, Mandy, and Mandy's sister, Jody at this time.

You are invited to offer continued prayers for Br. Steve Pasquinelli, President of the Larger Life Foundation and husband of Eastern District Board member Jackie Pasquinelli. Steve recently completed a round of treatment, and the results have shown some improvement. Please keep Steve, Jackie, and their family in your prayers.

You are invited to offer continued prayers for Sr. Audrey West, the Project Administrator for the Interprovincial Lilly Foundation's Thriving in Ministry Grant. Audrey is in California to provide care and support for her mother, (whose name is also Audrey), who, at 91 years old, is battling a significant

blood disorder that is severely impacting her platelet count and the many complications that creates. She is now at home, and Audrey continues to provide care for her.

Please Pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Canadian District:

Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta
Additionally: two congregations that are not in the call process but are currently without pastors: Edmonton Moravian and Heimtal Church, both in Edmonton, Alberta.

Eastern District:

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
Central (Associate Pastor), Bethlehem, PA
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY
Trinity, New Carrollton, MD

Western District:

Berea Moravian in St. Charles, Minnesota
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.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays

- 2 Mrs. Kathleen Pfeiffer
- 8 The Rev. Lance Fox
- 12 Mr. Michael Koenig
- 13 The Rev. Nancy Von Boeckmann
- 14 Mrs. Connie Bennett
- 17 The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kay Ward
- 18 Mrs. Julia Folk
- 21 The Rev. Daniel Michael

- Miller
- 24 Mrs. Pamela Thierolf
- 26 Mr. Jonathan Borger
- 27 The Rev. Allen Bergmann
- 28 Mr. Kevin Lippincott
- 30 The Rev. Dr. Reed Acheson

April Anniversaries

- 9 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Hermann Weinlick

Churches celebrating April anniversaries:

- 1 - 1888 - First, Easton, PA
- 10 - 1949 - Palmer Twsp., Easton, PA
- 13 - 1859 - Egg Harbor City, NJ
- 27 - 1852 - Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY

April 13, 1732 - The first Easter sunrise service of the Moravians was conducted in the Hutberg cemetery at Herrnhut, Germany

Tools for Trustees,



register by April 17

By Vince Holbrook

If you're serving on the Joint Board of a Moravian congregation, or are a past, present, or future Trustee, this one-hour online session is for

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you! Tools for Trustees is an introduction to the resources available to congregations through the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America. You'll learn how we can help you:

- Develop and support stewardship
- Facilitate giving
- Optimize planned giving
- Manage investments
- Apply for grant funding for ministry

There are two opportunities to join a one-hour session on **April 20**. At noon or at 7 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. (Both sessions are the same, so you only need to register for one).

Click below to register by **April 17** for a session on **April 20!**

[12 noon EDT on April 20](#)

[7 p.m. EDT on April 20](#)



Celebrating 300 Years of Herrnhut, Christian Gregor, and Beyond

A concert featuring the Uritas Chorale, a performing ensemble of MMF, in a program celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Herrnhut Congregation in Germany, birthplace of the Renewed

Moravian Church. Music selected will celebrate Herrnhut (founded 1722) and Christian Gregor (born 1723), known as the father of Moravian music. The Chorale is directed by Gwyneth Michel and accompanied by Luke DiGiacinto. Sunday, May 7, 2023, 4:00pm; Advent Moravian Church, 3730 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem, PA. <https://moravianmusic.org/unitas-chorale-concert-3/>

Reception to follow. No ticket required; free-will offering.

"We are delighted to offer community programs and events with something for everyone." - Dr. Bruce Earnest, Executive Director

The Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) announces its 2023 season of programming to engage, educate, and entertain. While the Foundation holds a collection of priceless musical treasures, it is also charged with sharing these treasures with the world. MMF presents concerts and recordings of Moravian music and provides education and outreach to bring its treasures to light. Most of the live events in Winston-Salem are recorded and shared on the [MMF YouTube Channel](#).

May 7 is also **Moravian Music Sunday**, a project of the Moravian Music Foundation. Resources, materials, and music made available [online](#).

New Dorp Seeking Organist & Music Director

New Dorp Moravian Church on Staten Island in New York City is

seeking a person to serve as both Organist and Music Director. This is a part-time position. Please see the Job Description for more information on the expectations for the position. Those applying for the position should include education credentials, work history relevant to the position, music skills, instruments played, and other information that demonstrates suitability of the person for the position. Salary will be dependent upon the qualifications of the candidate. Our budgeted salary had been found sufficient for well qualified musicians. The Job Description may be viewed here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fwjgJ1uD7LJAt0IQJ5OOSnHrFhQvc4nv/view>

Send letters of interest to Pastor@NewDorpMoravian.org.

IBOC April Highlights



This adorable plush lamb is perfect for Easter Baskets and gifts for the children in your life. Made by Gann Memorials, this 8" tall lamb includes the halo, staff, and banner. Price: \$22.50

To purchase, go to store.moravian.org

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Hope Conference and Renewal Center



A Christian outdoor ministry of the Moravian Church, Eastern District, providing programs and facilities for people of all ages to experience community and spiritual growth.

SPECIALIZED HELP NEEDED

Currently, we are working to **replace the floors in the sleeping areas of six cabins** and need specialized help in the area of **installing vinyl plank flooring.**

We are looking for a professional who would be willing to donate their time and expertise or to work at a greatly reduced rate.

If you are that person or know someone who may be, please contact:

PHONE: (908) 459-4435

ADDRESS:

15 Ridgeway Avenue
Blairstown, NJ 07825

EMAIL:

hopecenter@camphope.org

Adult Mission Camp

Help get camp ready to open for the 2023 season!

Experience the joy of working with others as you join in Christian



fellowship, sharing your God-given skills and talents while helping with needed projects at camp. Learn how to live your faith in service to others with fellow Moravians.

Food and lodging are provided. There will also be free time each afternoon to enjoy swimming, boating, fishing (bring your own equipment), or just relaxing. Campfires will be held as weather permits.

Mission Camp Details

Ages: Open to ALL ADULTS (18+)

Dates: May 16 - 21, 2023

Come for as many days
as you are able!

There will jobs for **all** abilities and skill levels! If you would like to help but aren't sure how, please email Suzanne (director@camphope.org) or give her a call (908-459-4435).

For planning purposes, we ask that you pre-register for the number of days you will be available: [Register for Mission Camp](#)

Cost: Thanks to generous support from the Board of World Mission, there is no cost to attend this camp.

Leadership:

- Led by Camp Hope's Property Team
- Chaplain, Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler, Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America, Director of Mission Engagement
- In cooperation with the Moravian Board of World Mission

2023 Camp Dates

June 25 - July 1 Jr. Lifeguarding (completed grades 5 - 8)
June 28 - July 1 Pre-Primary (completed grades 1 and 2)
July 9 - July 15 Grades 6, 7, and 8
July 16 - July 22 Grades 3, 4, and 5
July 23 - July 29 Musical Theater Camp (completed grades 5 - 9)
July 23 - July 29 Swim Camp (completed grades 3 - 6)
July 30 - August 5 Senior High (completed grades 9 - 12)

For more information and to register:

<https://www.camphope.org/summer-camps-2023>

Hiring Summer Staff

Summer Camp can't happen without a dedicated crew of kitchen staff, lifeguards, maintenance/housekeeping help, and groundskeepers. If you know someone aged 16 or older who would be a great addition to our staff, please encourage them to apply:

<https://www.camphope.org/now-hiring>