

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
March 2023

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Bruce's Babblings

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I greet you today from sunny, warm Florida where I am in the midst of a few days away. My wife and I try to take about a week away every winter to go to a warmer place for some rest, relaxation, and an escape from the winter weather.

This year we are in Florida and we are enjoying our time here. My wife has been to the beach every day we have been here. I will have enjoyed two spring training baseball games before we leave Florida.

I believe relaxation and vacation are important for people. I realize how lucky I am to be able to make the trip to Florida. Not everyone is able to do that sort of thing. Not everyone can get away and/or not everyone has the means to be able to leave the area where they live. I do not take this or any trip for granted. I realize I am blessed and I am thankful for many of the opportunities that I have.

Being on vacation means seeing some of the Moravian services online. Years ago that would not have been an option but I am glad that I can worship from afar with some of my Moravian brothers and sisters.

We find ourselves currently in the midst of the Lenten season, which often means mid-week services and perhaps an increased awareness of our relationship with Christ. Some folks talk about giving something up for Lent. Others talk about taking something on for Lent.

Whatever it is that you may be doing for Lent, I hope that you are mindful of what this season means and the fact that we must journey through the season of Lent to fully appreciate the joy of Easter.

Walking with you on this journey,

Rev. Bruce J. Nelson

Northern Province Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

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
Our Savior's Moravian in Altura, Minnesota
Berea Moravian Church in St. Charles, Minnesota
West Salem Moravian in West Salem, Illinois
Good Shepherd in Calgary, Alberta

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

Camp Dates for 2023

Chetek: July 16-22 (Mt. Morris)

Tar Hollow: July 16-22

Winmor: July 23-29 (Mt. Morris)

Illiana: July 24 - 28

Junior: July 30-August 3

Camp Bethany (Michigan and Ohio 2nd grade through 6th grade): July 31 - August 4

Church Anniversary

March 28

Lakeview

68 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

March 1	Norma Christianson
March 2	Debbie Propsom
March 3	Joel Russell
March 4	James Hicks
March 10	Kathy Liebenow
March 11	David Glasser
March 13	Eric Renner
March 18	Frank Jones
March 18	Kurt Liebenow
March 19	Reeder Herrick
March 21	Barb Herrick
March 24	Andy Kilps

Friends of Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center!

We wanted to make you aware of two upcoming events at Mt. Morris Camp.

#1. Our Men's Retreat is coming up May 5-7. Rev Kurt Liebenow will be leading our discussions and worship surrounding our theme - "reNOVAtion". We will be discussing all the ways Jesus is changing and molding us to think and act in a new way. This is a great weekend for all guys (21 and older) to relax, laugh, and have a great weekend together. For more info and to register, click [HERE](#):

#2. Our Family Fun Weekend is June 2-4. We will celebrate the arrival of summer while enjoying a ton of great outdoor activities like swimming, creek walking, games, and relaxing! Rev Jason Anderson will be leading our devotions and worship. Join us for great food (s'mores), great friends and great times! For more info and to register online, click [HERE](#):

We look forward to seeing you here at camp!

Dan Scharnhorst
Camp Director



**BOARD OF
WORLD MISSION**
of the Moravian Church • North America

Just as Northern Province Moravians here in North America are preparing for a synod this summer, our partners in Cuba and Peru are holding their own provincial synods this February and August, respectively, and our brothers and sisters throughout the world are organizing Unity Synod in the fall. Representatives from our Spanish-speaking partner areas began sharing resources and learning Synod-planning best practices from presenters and fellow participants at our 2022 Moravian Resources Conference. Since that

conference, the BWM has held a series of pre-synod workshops with Cuba and Peru in preparation for their 2023 synods. These workshops share information about synodal processes and elections, as well as financial reporting and presenting provincial budgets. Provincial leaders and area pastors are invited to participate; leaders have the opportunity to ask questions about the Book of Order and normal procedures of synod. We will continue to prepare leadership within these areas as they move forward with the preparations and at their synod. We invite your prayers for wisdom, creativity, unity, peace, and joy as many of our church leaders prepare for these important gatherings

Crossroads 2023 Spring Courses

Note: All courses are in person for those who are able AND also real time on Zoom.

Traveling Mercies - Congregational Care with Dr. Jill Peters, Greg Krausz and Diane Kareha

Mondays, 6-9 pm, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27, (Not meeting Holy Week 4/3), Apr 10, 17, 24, May 1
Texts: TBA. Zoom Option is always available for real time distance learning.

Traditions - World Religions and Protestant Denominations with Rev. Dr. Bill Falla

Thursdays, 6-9 pm, Mar 9, 16, 23, 30, (Not meeting Holy Week 4/6), Apr 13, 20, 27, May 4
Texts: TBA. Zoom Option is always available for real time distance learning.

As a preview for next year:

Fall 2023/Winter 2024 Projected Courses: The following courses will probably be offered next academic year: Compass, Creative Worship, Missional Leadership, Road Hazards - Congregational Ethics, Discipleship, Teaching and Contextual Outreach.

For more information, Contact Jill Peters at petersj2@moravian.edu or go on the website at www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads

March IBOC Highlights

Enjoy 15% off the 2023 The Moravian Daily Texts! Further your spiritual journey with the Moravian Church's world-renowned daily devotional or share with relatives, friends and new/prospective church members. Sale prices through March 30: Paperback \$11.50 \$9.75; Hardcover \$16.75 \$14.25; Journal \$18.00 \$15.30; and large print \$14.50 \$12.30.

HOLY WEEK will soon be upon us. • Are you hoping to meet in person to share the Reading for Holy Week, but you don't have someone to play the hymns? • Are you

unable to get to church because of illness or other circumstances but don't want to miss this meaningful experience? • Do you have a loved one hospitalized or in a care facility with whom you would wish to share Jesus' last week with readings and songs?

Readings for Holy Week CD edition brings this much-loved tradition to life in an audio format ideal for use by small groups, congregations, or those who may not be able to attend local services in their congregation because of distance, infirmity, conflicts in schedule, etc. This five-CD set includes the complete narration and hymns that make up the printed editions of Readings for Holy Week. Each narration section and hymn appear on separate tracks to allow listeners to access them in a variety of ways. A booklet is provided to make finding the page number that matches the narration or hymn track a simple process. Order yours today! Store.moravian.org. 5-CD set 24.95. Also available in a bundle that includes CD set and either book.

Printed editions of the Reading for Holy Week book are now on sale through March 28. Music Edition sale price is \$10.50 (reg. \$13.95); Large Print \$7.50 (reg. \$11.95)

Kay Ward Complete Bundle: Purchase Bishop Kay Ward's Park Benches, her latest book of stories and reflections, and receive her other 3 books for free! Bundle includes Park Benches, Of Seasons and Sparrows, Heading Home and Hoping for Spring. \$12.95 for all 4 books. Bulk purchase discount for churches and women's groups: buy 5 or more sets for \$10 each. Contact jill@mcnp.org to place your church or group order.

Rev. Brian Dixon's latest book filled with prayers, poems and parable, Losing Light-Walking by Faith but Wanting More is available through the IBOC. Read his latest book that completes his moving pictures duology that started with his first book, Keeping Time: Dances to the Beat of a Different Drummer. Cost: \$12.95.

Log onto store.moravian.org to order.

Possibilities realized

We challenged the faithful to "Imagine the possibilities!" this year on February 21, the Moravian Day of Giving. And you did not disappoint! Participation was remarkably high in key areas. We wish we could reward every congregation who went the extra mile! We commend the creativity that led several congregations to host on-site technical support sessions for members who needed it. Others created their own videos. Nine

congregations exceeded 100% participation. And these three congregations receive the cash incentives:

- **Common Grace** (formerly Lakeview), Madison, WI achieved 189% participation and receives \$10,000.00.
- **Chaska Moravian Church**, Chaska, MN achieved 163% participation and receives \$5,000.00.
- **First Moravian Church**, Easton, PA achieved 152% participation and receives \$2,500.00.

Congratulations! Honorable mentions to these congregations who also exceeded 100% participation: Christian Faith, DeForest, WI; West Side, Green Bay, WI; Newfoundland, Newfoundland, PA; Bethabara, Winston-Salem, NC; New Philadelphia, Winston-Salem, NC; and Faith Moravian Church of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC.

Thank you for bearing with us as we discovered some technical "fraud prevention" limitations imposed by the card issuers and processing infrastructure. Some of you were stopped from making many sequential gifts from the same IP address or on the same card. While we understand the need to prevent fraud, we were saddened to learn that these measures curtailed legitimate giving for some. We had not encountered these barriers in the first two years of the Moravian Day of Giving. And we are left with the challenge to better anticipate and advise you next year.

Field of Interest Funds that received matching dollars

- Housing & Shelter = \$3,915.00
- Hunger & Thirst = \$3,385.00
- Environmental Stewardship = \$1,450.00
- Prevention of Violence Against Women = \$1,300.00
- Racial Awareness, Equity & Reconciliation = \$1,500.00
- Healing & Health = \$1,150.00
- Prison Ministry = \$690.00

Vince Holbrook



Roots Congregation Votes to Become a Moravian Church

After more than a year of exploration and prayerful discernment, along with extensive conversations with the Western District Executive Board and Provincial Elders' Conference, a congregation worshipping in St. Paul, MN has formally voted to become the Roots Moravian Church. Led by the pastoral team of T.C. and Osheta Moore, this congregation, which had been affiliated with the Evangelical Covenant Church, was searching for a denominational home that would be in line with their expansive The content will be the same; pick the time that works best for your schedule. Delegates will be sent the Zoom link for the webinar. welcome of all persons. They found such a home with the Moravian Church Northern Province and have spent a year learning about our life and witness, our history, practices, and polity. T.C. and Osheta have met (via Zoom) with the WDEB and PEC, and have asked thoughtful, respectful questions to help in their discernment. They have been warmly and enthusiastically received by all they have met. Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller shared that it has been "a delight to walk with T.C., Osheta, and the congregation in their discernment process. Their curiosity and interest in joining with us is bringing fresh energy and excitement to who God is calling us to be." Both Sr. Betsy Miller and Br. Bruce Nelson have worshiped with the congregation and answered members' questions in preparation for the Town Hall vote that unanimously approved becoming a Moravian congregation. "Roots is community of 'misfits'—people who have felt left out, pushed aside, too much, or not enough in other Christian spaces," T.C. and Osheta shared. "Though we come from a wide variety of different backgrounds and have diverse identities, we're united in our love for God, one another, and our neighbors in the Twin Cities. We're overjoyed to join the Moravian family of churches because it feels like a home filled with both meaningful traditions and space for our misfit-ness. Let's follow the victorious Lamb together!"

We invite your prayers for Roots Moravian Church as they finalize their Charter and Bylaws and as T.C., ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church, and his wife Osheta, on their pastoral staff, complete the credentialing process to be received onto the Roster of the Moravian Church.

Celebrating 300 Years of Herrnhut, Christian Gregor, and Beyond

A concert featuring the Unitas 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. 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](#).