

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
May 2023

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Bruce's Babblings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I have enjoyed seeing and hearing all things spring over the past few weeks. I love this time of the year. It is wonderful to see many of the birds back. It is glorious to see the buds on the trees and the differing colors of green on the different trees. I love seeing flowers and flowering trees.

I also enjoy listening to the birds in the spring and the many different songs that they sing. I find it amazing that one can hear so many different songs from birds.

In addition to all of the things spring that I mentioned above, my favorite thing about spring is that baseball is back. Baseball is by far my favorite game to watch. I love the pace of the game. There have been some changes in rules this year, which have sped the game up. Games are shorter than they have been in the past because of things like a pitch clock and some other things. I'm still not sure how I feel about the rule changes.

But, there is one thing I am certain of! Changes will always come. The people in power in baseball have some changes and are looking at more changes to try to attract more fans to baseball games. This makes me wonder. What have we done in our local churches, in our district, in our province, in our denomination to make changes to try to make our worship experiences or our ministries better, stronger, different? I actually believe many of our local churches have done much to try some new things or try to do some of the same things in a new way.

One of the changes that we will see in the Northern Province is a new PEC president. Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller is completing a third term (in fact she served 13 years) as the PEC president and will be stepping down. We will welcome a new PEC president during our Northern Provincial Synod to be held in June (less than 2 months away) of this year.

I have been praying for our Northern Provincial Synod. I have been praying for safe travel, for good fellowship, for respectful conversations, and for a spirit filled synod. I hope you have as well.

Baseball has changed. Northern Provincial leadership will change, but God is still with us and still in control. In the midst of change comes the constant: God's love and care for each and every one of us!!!

What a blessing it is to follow and serve God!!!

*Pastor Bruce J. Nelson
On behalf of the Western District Executive Board*

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

Friends of Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center!

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

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](#):

Service Camp is May 17 – 23. **Cost:** None
Come help prepare the camp grounds for the summer youth camps. Come as many days as you are able. All ages and abilities are welcome.

YOU BELONG



One of our biggest growing ministries at You Belong is our Saturday Respite Program. After hearing the need for weekend respite from families and organizations in our community our team at You Belong decided to set a goal to host 12 six hour respite events throughout 2023 (1 Saturday each month). The program focuses on building relationships between those living with and without disabilities while family members of our friends living with disabilities have a chance to rest and care for themselves. It has been an incredibly important ministry in our local community. If you're interested in learning more about our program to see if this is a ministry you might consider in your local context, reach out to Pastor Greg greg@youbelongwi.org. If you'd like to support our ministry, we invite you to consider a donation to You Belong. Checks made payable to You Belong can be mailed to 2960 Allied St, Suite 103, Green Bay, WI 54304 or you can make a gift online at youbelongwi.org

Join us @ the Plus 50 Retreat @ Mt. Morris for Everyone in the Over 50 Crowd

August 10 – 13, 2023

"Scrolling & Strolling"



Jesus was a rabbi on the move! Join us at beautiful Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center as we scroll through scripture to look at the strolls of Jesus. Take time to unwind, rest and consider your personal walk with Christ while renewing friendships or building new ones. You can expect great food, lots of singing, and plenty of free time to do as you would like. Come and see!

Fellowship, Faith, Food & Fun as we enjoy God's creation!

Registration begins @ 4 p.m. on Thursday followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. We end with breakfast and worship on Sunday. Cost per person is \$240 which includes all meals and 3 nights lodging in Black Oak Lodge. Reserve your spot now with a \$75 deposit* by July 1. Registration forms are available at your church.

Our registrar Dr. Debby Ford
drford920@yahoo.com or 920-262-9413
 Our program director Rev. Mary Lou Plummer
mlplummer01@gmail.com or 715-451-9992
 *Deposit is non-refundable

MORAVIAN
 Church
CAMP

MT. MORRIS CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

FAMILY CAMP	ALL AGES	JUNE 2ND-4TH
CHETEK	COMPLETED 9TH-AGE 21	JULY 16TH-22ND
WINMOR	COMPLETED 6TH-8TH	JULY 23RD-29TH
JR CAMP	COMPLETED 2ND-5TH	JULY 30TH-AUG 3RD

REGISTER AT: WDCAMPING.COM

IBOC May Highlights

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.

To purchase, go to store.moravian.org

Northern Province Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

Please pray for the following churches who are without pastors: Canadian District:

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: 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.

Church Anniversaries

May 22	Christ's Community	40 years
May 24	Goshen	145 years
May 25	West Salem	179 years
May 26	Ephraim	170 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

May 1	Christie Melby-Gibbons
May 10	David Melby-Gibbons
May 16	James Hillander
May 24	Lois Harke
May 27	Naomi Thomas

Ordination Anniversaries

May 9	Frank Jones (58 years)
May 19	Larry Christianson (43years)
May 24	Gregg Schafer (25 years)
May 25	Betsy Miller (38 years)
May 25	Jonathan Lee (16 years)
May 26	Bruce Nelson (32 years)

Call Updates

Br. T.C. Moore was received as a Deacon of the Moravian Church during a worship service at Roots Moravian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota on Sunday, April 23 with Bishop Kay Ward presiding. T.C. was ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church and has completed a thorough credentialing process for him to transfer his credentials and be received into the ordained ministry of the Moravian Church.

Br. T.C. Moore and his spouse **Sr. Osheta Moore** were installed as pastors of Roots Moravian Church on April 23. T.C. has accepted an appointment as pastor of Roots;

Osheta was installed as a Licensed Lay Pastor. She has undergone a thorough credentialing process. Br. Bruce Nelson, President of the Western District Executive Board, and Sr. Betsy Miller, President of the Provincial Elders' Conference, participated in this service of installation and celebration.

The Roots congregation voted to become Roots Moravian Church in February of this year.

Please keep T.C., Osheta and Roots Moravian Church in your prayers at this time of new beginnings.

Sr. Jamie Almqvist, a candidate for ordination in the Moravian Church, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Good Shepherd Moravian Church in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Jamie earned her MDiv from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado in 2021 and will complete a Certificate in Moravian Studies from Moravian Theological Seminary in May 2023. Jamie has been serving the Glenwood Moravian Church under appointment as she concluded her theological training.

Jamie will be ordained a Deacon of the Moravian Church at Glenwood Moravian Church in Madison, Wisconsin on Saturday, May 20 at 1 p.m., with Bishop Kay Ward presiding. She will begin her ministry at Good Shepherd when the immigration process permits.

Please be in prayer for Jamie and her loved ones, and the Glenwood and Good Shepherd congregations at this time of joy and transition.

Sr. Jodi Heim, a lay member of the Berea Moravian Church, has been appointed as the Licensed Lay Pastor of the Berea and Our Savior's congregations, both in Winona County, Minnesota. Jodi has undergone a thorough credentialing process and is continuing to pursue theological and pastoral training. She begins her ministry on June 1. Please keep Jodi, her loved ones, and both congregations in your prayers at this time.

Prayer Concerns

Br. Doug Bauder, former Moravian pastor and father of Western District Executive Board member, Courtney Bauder, suffered a stroke on Good Friday. He is recovering in a rehab unit near his home. Please keep Doug, his spouse Marty Siegel, and all their loved ones in your prayers. Pray for increased mobility, patience, and determination, along with the awareness of God's presence on this journey

Br. Glenn Heintzelman, retired pastor living in Allentown, PA. died May 3, of an apparent heart attack. Please keep his wife Bonnie, and their sons Aaron and Adam, in your prayers at this time of sudden loss.



BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America

The Board of World Mission Announces Partnership with the Moravian Church in Northern Tanzania

In March, the Board of World Mission and the Moravian Church in Northern Tanzania (MCNT) signed a covenant signifying the beginning of a new partnership between the BWM and the MCNT Provincial Board. This covenant signing took place over Zoom and was a joyful occasion, with representatives of the MCNT Provincial Board, North American Provincial Elders' Conferences, and Board of World Mission present. Through this partnership, we will work together to support and affirm building a Christian witness in each of our contexts. We hope to do this through collaboration, consultation, prayer, and information sharing.

Much of the preparation for this new covenant was completed during an in-person visit in November of 2022 to Arusha, Tanzania, located near Mt. Kilimanjaro. Justin Rabbach, Executive Director of the BWM, and the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler, Director of Mission Engagement, met with the MCNT Provincial Board, under the leadership of its president, the Rev. Isaac G. Siame.

As of 2021, MCNT had 26 congregations, 8 outstations, 34 ordained ministers, and a total membership of 5,482. They hope to elect their first bishop at their provincial synod in November of 2023. The BWM looks forward to many years of partnership that will bring God's grace and peace to the world.

The world is in need and God is calling you.



Time to talk about grants

Is God calling your community of faith to serve in a new way? Does your ministry need extra funding to make a difference in the world?

Your Moravian Ministries Foundation is excited to begin the 2023 grant cycle on May 15. These field of interest funds will be accepting applications:

- [Hunger & Thirst Field of Interest](#): Grants address food and/or water insecurity.
- [Housing & Shelter Field of Interest](#): For those providing safety, shelter, and housing to the vulnerable and unhoused.
- [Healing & Health Field of Interest](#): For those ministering to the ill or promoting health/wellness.
- [Prison Ministry Field of Interest](#): For ministry to the imprisoned and their families.
- [Clothing Field of Interest](#): For ministries that provide clothing to those in need.
- [Environmental Stewardship Field of Interest](#): For those looking to protect and restore God's creation.
- [Racial Awareness, Equity, & Reconciliation Field of Interest](#): For those who wish to promote racial awareness, racial equity, and racial reconciliation through advocacy, training, and ministry.

Visit [our website](#) to learn more about each fund, to read about past grant recipients, and for details on how to apply.

Please contact Laura Watson, Vice President/Director of Programs, if you have any grant-related questions (lwatson@mmfa.com or (336) 725-2589).

(MMFA's grant-making program is made possible by generous individuals like you who donate to our field of interest funds, and by a portion of MMFA's net income each year.)