

# District Developments

## Congregational Spotlight

### Community Outreach Ministry



### Graceham Moravian Church

#### Served with Grace

There are few human needs as basic as food. Further, there are few communities as central to our lives and cultures than the ones which gather around a table. We at Graceham Moravian Church, here in Thurmont, Maryland, prepare and serve a monthly dinner for anyone in the community who wishes to come and eat. The meal is offered completely free of charge, though some people insist on making a donation which we gratefully accept to help offset costs.

The Served with Grace meal started in the fall of 2012. Like most churches, we ceased preparing and serving food to the public in response to the COVID pandemic from April 2020 through November

of last year. But besides that exception, a meal has been lovingly prepared and served by church volunteers each month for all those years. And each month we typically serve between 100-120 meals. Now, having laid out some of the details, I'd like to talk briefly on why the church has taken on this ministry. Each month, I see this free, public dinner meeting three different needs.

First, and perhaps most basic, is a fight against hunger. Many companies are reporting record breaking profits while continuing to raise prices. Government assistance has been reduced such that single/widowed seniors in the community now report only receiving \$25 in food stamp assistance each month. These among other factors have led some people and families into a time of food scarcity. A consequence of this can be seen in the drastic uptick of people seeking help at our local food banks. So the Served with Grace ministry provides a hot, nutritious meal to some adults and children who might otherwise have to make do with something as meager as a packet of ramen noodles, if anything at all.

Second, nearly every month someone will express thanks for the meal as an opportunity to get out of the house and socialize. Some of the seniors who attend are alone with little family and few affordable opportunities for fun outside their own homes. Several have shared that they have made new friends at these meals and look forward to seeing one another each month at subsequent dinners.

A third opportunity afforded by these meals, is the opportunity for members of our congregation to meet and form relationships with people in the community we might not have otherwise had the opportunity to meet. I've been the pastor here at Graceham for going on two years, but since we just lifted our COVID restrictions and started serving these meals again last November, I've only been a part of seven of these events. Yet, in the span of just seven evenings, I've been learning the names and stories of a number of folks outside our church. Month over month I see growth in those relationships as an increasing number of people become more comfortable coming up to me to chitchat, or simply say hello. There have been a few occasions where I have been greeted by people I got to know at these dinners while in the grocery store or at a local diner. So all in all, it brings us tremendous joy knowing that for at least one evening a month, empty bellies are filled, friendships are being built, and people of our community are finding comfort and happiness around our table.

*Thanks to Bonnie Robertson  
(PennMar regional rep. of the EDEB)  
and Jay Petrella, Pastor at  
Graceham Moravian Church, for  
providing this article.*

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

### Camping Ministries Bring Opportunities for Connection

Many Moravians look back fondly on memories of time spent at summer camps – growing in relationship with God, learning from counselors, and building friendships that often last a lifetime. The Board of World Mission is blessed to be included in many of the camping ministries across North America and throughout the Unity. In May, we sponsored service camps at Mt. Morris and Camp Hope to help prepare the facilities for their summer programming. In June, we have the opportunity to participate in mission camp at Laurel Ridge. In July, we will have staff members present at multiple camps, including a summer camp in Cuba.

One of the greatest blessings made possible by our Moravian camps is the opportunity for our young people to connect with Moravians they had not met before. Last year, the Western District high school and post-high camp, Chetek, welcomed Southern Province campers to join them at Mt. Morris when Laurel Ridge's high school camp was canceled due to Covid. This year, we are looking forward to expanding that "exchange camper" program by inviting several campers from Moravian congregations in Costa Rica to join us at Chetek. Moravian camping ministries have always provided opportunities for campers to learn more about God, themselves, the Moravian Church, and each other. We are excited about the additional learning opportunities made possible by

connecting our young people across geographic and cultural backgrounds in a time of fellowship and fun.



### Prayer Concerns

You are invited to offer prayers for the family of Br. Glenn Heintzelman, retired pastor that was living in Allentown, PA, who entered the more immediate presence of our savior on May 3rd, 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.

You are invited to offer prayers for Br. Rick Bruckart, retired pastor living in Bethlehem, PA., and his spouse Sr. Jill Bruckart, on staff at the Interprovincial Board of Communication.

Rick writes:  
"After battling pancreatic cancer for almost two years, the point of diminishing returns has been reached, and chemotherapy is no longer proving effective. Rick will be entering home-based hospice care next week. Rick welcomes the prayers of the church for comfort and strength for his family and himself."

### 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  
Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA  
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY  
Trinity, New Carrollton, MD

#### Western District:

Glenwood Moravian Community  
Church in Madison, Wisconsin

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.

### June Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### June Birthdays

- 2 Mrs. Elizabeth Jurgen  
Mr. Ralph Wanamaker,  
Jr.  
Jackie Pasquinelli
- 4 The Rev. Dr. Willard  
Harstine
- 6 Mr. Daniel Joseph  
The Rev. Bill  
Rinderknecht
- 14 The Rev. Marlin  
Schaffstall
- 16 Mr. Frank Johnson

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- The Rev. Patricia Honszer  
17 Mrs. Kathleen Nicholas  
18 Mrs. Doris Wenger  
19 Mrs. Fay Thomas  
26 The Rev. Otto Dreydoppel, Jr.  
28 The Rev. Carol Dague  
Mrs. Eleanor Johnson  
29 The Rev. Kevin Henning  
Mrs. Francina Harewood

#### June Anniversaries

- 10 The Rev. & Mrs. R. Burke Johnson  
15 The Rev. & Mrs. Otto Dreydoppel, Jr.  
Mr. Daniel & Rev. Diane Joseph  
17 The Rev. Andy Meckstroth & The Rev. Dr. Lynette Delbridge  
19 The Rt. Rev. & Mrs. Douglas Kleintop  
22 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Willard Harstine  
The Rev. & Mrs. David Bennett  
Mr. Frank & the Rev. Melissa Johnson  
23 The Rev. & Mrs. John Fritts  
26 The Rev. & Mrs. Terry Folk  
27 The Rev. & Mrs. Dean Easton  
30 The Rt. Rev. & Mrs. Chris Giesler

#### Churches celebrating June anniversaries

- 9 - 1957 - East Hills, Bethlehem, PA  
11 -1857 - Fry's Valley, New Philadelphia, OH

- 12 -1955 - Battle Hill, Union, NJ  
25 -1742 - Central, Bethlehem, PA  
1747 - Nazareth, PA  
26- 1988 - Fellowship, Brooklyn, NY



#### Grant applications are due June 15

The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America's 2023 grant program is accepting applications until June 15. Grants from six different funds can help Moravian congregations or agencies with the costs of expanding existing ministries or introducing new ones.

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

Contact Ainsley Davis to schedule your consultation and receive an application



(adavis@mmfa.com or (336) 725-2589).

#### IBOC May Highlights



The IBOC introduces its latest offering, a hot/cold spill-proof tumbler! This double-walled travel mug includes a silicone hand grip and a flip-top AS plastic lid featuring a patented snap-locking closure. Vacuum insulated and copper-lined, this mug will keep your cold drinks cold for 12 hours and your hot drinks hot for over 8 hours.

- See website for further details.
- [store.moravian.org](https://store.moravian.org)

Check out the IBOC exhibit during Synod to purchase your new travel mug.