

District Developments

Congregational Spotlight

First Moravian Church of Uhrichsville, OH



Ladles of Love

The mission of First Moravian Church of Uhrichsville is serving Christ, Community and Congregation. After an after-school program was completed, members Linda Spring and Jeanne Carrothers sat down to see what could be done with the money they had left from the program. From this, in February 2019 the Ladles of Love program began providing free healthy and hearty meals to those with various needs in their community. Since opening their doors and hearts, on Tuesday nights twice a month, they have grown from serving 50 meals to approximately 185 meals to local people. This has been a much-needed service since Covid-19 had an economic impact in the rural Dennison-Uhrichsville area. If people cannot pick up their meal, a group of volunteers deliver them. They deliver to residents of Buckeye House, a low-income apartment complex, shut-ins and people in ill health, and also to second shift workers at the local hospital in appreciation of their commitment to the community.

Meals can vary from meatloaf, sloppy joes, chicken pot pies to many other delicious main dishes and always include a side, vegetable, roll and dessert. The majority of the congregation



volunteer in some capacity as well as members of the John Heckewelder Moravian Church and Fry's Valley Moravian Church and friends and

family.

All their financing comes from grants and donations. They have received some local grants as well as grants from the Larger Life Foundation. In 2023, they received \$9236.50 in grants and donations. The average cost per meal is \$1.55.

Matthew 25:35 says "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. The First Moravian Church of Uhrichsville lives out this verse twice a month with their program and many people are thankful for their commitment.



Thanks to Jacquie Pasquinelli (Ohio region rep. of the EDEB) for providing this article and to Linda Spring for sharing information on the program!

Board Member Spotlight



Linda Rapp Lay Representative to the EDEB For the Lehigh Valley South Region

I became a Moravian when I joined Easton First in the late 1990's as Linda Pensyl. I had been away from the church for several years and was determined to 'church shop' before making any commitments. On my initial visit to Easton First, I knew I had found where God wanted me to be. I quickly became involved in the life of the church, serving in various ways. Under the tutelage of Pastor Castello, I was offered the opportunity to lead worship and deliver sermons. In 2009, learning about the Crossroads Lay Leadership Program at Moravian Seminary, I became a member of the first group of students. I graduated in May 2012. In the summer of 2013, I was blessed to join Pastor David Geyer at College Hill Moravian Church, Bethlehem, as their Pastoral and Programming Assistant. In August of 2013, I married Bob Rapp. Sadly, due to some vision issues and impending eye surgeries, I felt the need to retire from my position at College Hill in 2016.

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After waiting for the appropriate amount of time to pass, I joined College Hill and served on the Board of Elders and chaired a few committees. I joined the EDEB in 2019. I have been blessed to provide supply preaching at several Moravian churches. In December 2022, after providing supply for Chestnut Hill UCC in Coopersburg, PA, I was called to serve as their 'worship leader' and this month I began my second year with this congregation.

Bob and I are now married 10 years and between us we have six adult children and a combined total of thirty grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We share our home with our dogs, Dixie and Randi and our cat, Shadow. May God bless you all as we enter this New Year.

Eastern District Synod
Save the Dates!!!
JUNE 26 - 29, 2024



This month's Mission Minute comes from the Rev. Sue Koenig, who serves on the Board of World Mission's board of directors. She is the Moravian Church Northern Province's Director of Racial Justice and Healing.

One of the ways the Board of World Mission is participating in the commitment to racial justice and healing is through its Mission Grant program. The goal of this program is "to walk with our partners as they disciple people in knowing and living out Christ in their lives; and promote sustainability within their church." Our global partners propose projects of their own determination that will benefit their communities, and complete a grant application process requesting funding to implement the project. If the grant is awarded, the BWM Outreach Committee subsequently meets with our partners to hear the inspiring stories of the impact these projects are having in the daily lives of individuals and communities. One example is a bakery in the Honduras Mission Province that was recently funded through a mission grant and is operated by a group of local women; this project provides food, employment, and economic stability in the village of Ahuas.

The Mission Grant program is grounded in the creation of just and equitable partnerships for mission and service and represents a step towards racial justice and healing, and the creation of God's beloved community.

For the past several years, our church has been reckoning with its heart-wrenching history of racism, slavery, colonialism, and segregation; a history we are learning through the recent research of Rev. Dr. Frank Crouch. In response, the church has committed to whole-heartedly seeking authentic ways of repentance and healing and working to build just and equitable relationships. A new liturgy for this year's Black History Month represents part of this process.

You can find this new liturgy and other Moravian resources for Black History Month at www.Moravian.org/Northern/BlackHistoryMonth/.

MMFA



Join Us for Moravian Day of Giving 2024!

Join us on February 13, 2024, for a day of impact and generosity during the 4th Annual Moravian Day of Giving! It's more than a date—it's an opportunity to embrace the spirit of our community, driven by shared values and a commitment to making a difference.

In celebration of MMFA's 25th anniversary, we have identified matching donors for all of our Moravian Field of Interest Funds, up to \$2,500 per fund. These sponsors are deeply committed to the specific service areas represented by the FOI Funds. We invite you to partner with us and donate to the field of interest funds on the Day of Giving. This will help us unlock the matching contributions of \$2,500 for each of the 8 FOI funds.

Additionally, MMFA will grant \$2,500 to the 5 Moravian organizations (churches, agencies, camps, etc.) with the most unique individual donors.

What could your ministry do with \$2,500?

How to Participate:

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- **Make a Donation:** Visit the [Moravian Giving Portal](#) to contribute to your congregation, ministry, or organization on Tuesday, February 13th.
- **Support Field of Interest Funds:** Contribute to our Field of Interest Funds, unlocking matching contributions of \$2,500 for each of the 8 funds. In honor of MMFA's 25th anniversary, we challenge everyone to donate at least \$25 to one of our FOI funds so that we can reach the matching contribution for each fund!
- **Spread the Spirit on Social Media:** Use #IGiveMoravian to share your reasons for giving and inspire others to join the day of generosity.

Let's come together on Tuesday, February 13th with open hearts and giving spirits! Visit [MMFA.com](#) for more information.

Give. Unite. INSPIRE!



Prayer Concerns

We invite you to offer prayers for the family of The Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon, who entered the more immediate presence of the Lord on January 7, 2024 after a sudden illness. Along with the family of Brother Clennon, please also hold the Central Moravian congregation, their staff, and the Rev. Janel Rice in your thoughts and prayers. As we mourn the loss of our dear brother, may we do so clinging to

the Gospel words which he spoke, the infectious smile which blessed us, the humor which reminded us to laugh at ourselves on a regular basis, the faithfulness to ministry which declared boldly that "the next generation



WILL know this sacred story of Christ." We are thankful for the gift of his presence in our lives and Church.

You are invited to offer prayers for the family of Brother Charlesworth Alford Sylvester Edwards has passed into the more immediate presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In his service to the Moravian Church, Rev. Edwards served in many different provinces and regions, including Antigua, Barbados, Tobago, St. Kitts, St. Croix, and the United Moravian Church here in the Northern Province. Let us hold his family in prayer during this time of sorrow.

The Rev. Sandra Thigpen joined the heavenly church triumphant on Monday, January 15, 2024. Sister Thigpen was educated at the University of Louisville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. After graduation she performed social work and was commissioned for prison ministry. In 1992, Sister Thigpen was ordained by the Rowan Baptist Association. She continued to serve our Lord through chaplaincy with the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries in Winston-Salem and served on short-term mission efforts to the Caribbean and Africa. Sister Thigpen served for one year as pastor of St. Philips Moravian

Church, Winston-Salem, NC in 2005. After serving at St. Philips, she then served as pastor at Grace Moravian Church in Queens, NY. After moving back to Winston-Salem, she served as interim pastor at St. Philips Moravian Church beginning 2013 until 2014. A memorial service will be held February 3, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Moravian, Winston-Salem, NC with burial in God's Acre, Winston-Salem, NC. Please remember Sandra's family and friends in prayer in the days and weeks to come.

Please Pray for the following churches who are without pastors:

Canadian District:

The following congregation is not in the call process but is currently without a pastor: Heimtal Church in Edmonton, Alberta.

Eastern District:

Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
Covenant, York, PA
Egg Harbor City, Egg Harbor City, NJ
First, York, PA
First New York, NY
Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY

Western District:

Freedom Moravian Church in Appleton, Wisconsin

Veedum Moravian in Pittsville, Wisconsin and Daggett Moravian in Daggett, Michigan are not in the call process but are currently without pastors.

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February Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

- 2 Mrs. Jill Bruckart
- 3 The Rev. Tammie Rinker
- 12 The Rev. Jodie Harney
- 13 The Rev. Gary Marsh
- 18 Mrs. Barbara Hoenig
- 19 The Rev. Norman Prochnau
- 21 Mr. Les Lavoy
- 22 Mrs. Esther Richmond
The Rev. Mark Newman
- 24 Mr. Steven Coutts
- 25 The Rev. Dr. Lynnette
Delbridge
- 27 The Rev. Gary Harke
- 28 Ms. Tammy Lavoy

Churches celebrating February
anniversaries:

- 2 - 1964 - Trinity, New
Carrollton, Maryland
- 9 - 1749 - Warwick, now Lititz,
Pennsylvania

Sunday School Teacher / Leaders Zoom Open Forum

On February 20 and 22, 7:00 – 8:30
p.m., Marie Coutts, Director of
Christian Education, will host a **Zoom
Open Forum** for Sunday School
teachers and Faith Formation
leaders. *(Both dates will contain the
same information but are being
offered with two date options in order
to meet various schedules.)* In these
gatherings we will share needs,
concerns, hopes and joys regarding
faith formation issues. A portion of
the time will be spent with Marie
sharing Easter ideas and VBS material
reviews. To register and receive the
Zoom link, email Marie at:

mcouts@sbcglobal.net

IBOC

As Lent approaches, the IBOC
offers *Readings for Holy Week on
Sale* for a limited time. This
book/CD set takes participants
through Jesus' final week before his
Crucifixion and
Resurrection. Music Edition sale
price is \$11.00; Large Print \$7.50;
5-CD set 24.95. Also available in a
bundle that includes CD set and
either book. To place an order
online visit store.moravian.org.

CAMP HOPE

LOOKING AHEAD:

Eastern District
Confirmation Retreat
Camp Hope
May 3-5, 2024

Primary Focus: History of Moravian
Missions; Moravian Customs and
Practices

More information coming soon.

Questions?

Contact Marie Coutts
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Cell: 330.401.1212