

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
February 2024

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Bruce's Babblings

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We flip the page over to February; specifically February of 2024. I looked back at my article for the News and Notes from February of 2023 and was reflecting on my almost 6 years as the president of the Western District Executive Board. What was interesting is that it wasn't almost 6 years. It was almost 7 years. And now it is almost 8 years.

February is the shortest month but it is a very important month. It is during the month of February when we celebrate Valentine's Day! It is during the month of February when pitchers and catchers report for spring training baseball. But, perhaps most importantly, it is during the month of February that our Lenten journey begins. Lent begins this year ironically on February 14 – the same date as Valentine's Day.

I am told that Valentine's Day "originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine and through later folk traditions, it has also become a



significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world." I find it more than a bit ironic that we celebrate Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on the same day as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day celebrates one kind of love. Lent celebrates a different, much deeper type of unconditional love.

For me, I have often thought of Lent as a time to seek to grow deeper in my relationship with my Lord. I realize that I perhaps should have that focus all year but I have always thought that should be our focus especially during Lent. I have been around long enough to know the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and of Easter but every year I continue to be amazed at what our Lord did (and continues to do) for us.

We all are busy. We all have things that are clamoring for our time and attention. I look at parents with smaller children and wonder how they are able to get everything done. Then I remember that my wife and I did the same thing when we had younger children and we lived through it.

As you begin your Lenten journey this year, I encourage you to support the ministries going on in your local church setting. I encourage you to pause long enough to take in all that the Lenten season means.

Serving Christ with you,
Bruce J. Nelson

A Friendly Reminder

Let this serve as a friendly reminder that it is now time to register your delegates for Western District Synod. In addition to delegates, youth representative from churches should also register as well as guests. The form to register can be found on the Western District Synod website: www.wdsynod24.com. Synod registration forms are open through February 15. Please register now!

Camp Dates for 2024

Chetek: July 14-20 (Mt. Morris)

Tar Hollow: July 21-27

Winmor: July 21-27 (Mt. Morris)

Junior: July 28-Aug. 1

Camp Bethany (Michigan and Ohio
2nd grade through 6th grade): August 5-9

Common Ministries Resources

The Northern Province has produced several resources to help individuals and congregations learn about the work that is made possible through our Common Ministries commitment system. You will find a narrative budget, presentation slides, bulletin inserts, and a short video at www.Moravian.org/Northern/Common-Ministries/

Church Anniversaries

Feb. 2	Bethel	133 years
Feb. 3	Morongo	67 years
Feb. 13	Unionville	153 years

Ordination Anniversaries

Feb. 15	Jane Harberg	31 years
Feb. 26	Kurt Liebenow	28 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

Feb. 15	Rebecca McDonald
Feb. 19	Amy Gohdes-Luhman
Feb. 26	Olaf Andersen

Churches in the Call Process or Without Pastors

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, York, PA
First New York, NY
Schoeneck, Nazareth, PA
Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY

Western District:

Freedom Moravian Church near Appleton, Wisconsin

Veedum Moravian Church in Pittsville, Wisconsin and
Daggett Moravian Church in Daggett, Michigan are not in the call process but is currently without a pastor.

MCNP Racial Justice Team Announces Pilgrimage Grants

The 2023 Synod of the MCNP encouraged pilgrimages toward racial justice and healing in light of the profound impact of the Provincial Pilgrimage toward Racial Justice and Healing to Montgomery, Alabama for clergy, appointed pastors, and candidates for ordination held in September 2022. The Racial Justice Team is offering Pilgrimage Grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to encourage MCNP congregations to plan and experience pilgrimages toward racial justice and healing in 2024. (Those clergy, appointed pastors, and candidates for ordination who were eligible but unable to attend the September 2022 Pilgrimage may also apply for a grant

up to \$500 to participate in a pilgrimage sponsored by another entity.)

Any site(s) or location of significance to/for the work of racial justice and the healing of relationships with Black, Indigenous, People of Color will be considered. Pilgrimage sites may be local, regional, or longer distances. Please see the grant application for additional details.

The deadline to apply for a 2024 Pilgrimage Grant from the MCNP Racial Justice Team is March 29, 2024. Grant applications will be reviewed by the Racial Justice Team by April 15, 2024. Please visit the MCNP Racial Justice Team website for an application:
<https://www.moravian.org/northern/category/racial-justice-and-healing/>.

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:

- **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!



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

2023 Ted Wilde Service Awards



At a special worship service in October at West Side Moravian Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin, the Board of World Mission awarded both the Rev. Marian Boyle-Rohloff and Br. Ed Winney with the Ted Wilde Mission Service Award.

Each year, we honor the memory of Ted Wilde, former BWM Executive Director and lifelong servant of Jesus Christ, by recognizing individuals who have been willing to take up the great commandment and the great commission by learning from our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ, and then responding to God's call to mission in our worldwide parish, keeping in mind that the world starts just outside our door. This description of service fits the humble ministry of both Ed Winney and Marian Boyle-Rohloff, as they consistently and passionately commit their lives to ministry toward those at the margins of society.

Brother Ed Winney has spent almost 40 years volunteering in prison and jail ministries, from serving those currently incarcerated to supporting

prison aftercare efforts, and tirelessly advocating for local and statewide legal system reform as part of West Side's congregational justice ministries. In addition to his service to those in prison, Ed has also served as a chaplain in one of the local seasonal homeless shelters, treating those without homes with respect and dignity, and honoring them as valued members of the community. Throughout all aspects of his ministry, Ed offers a humanizing approach to everyone he encounters. Knowing that a group can be more effective than a single person, Ed has always sought to connect more people from within the West Side congregation to this ministry. He is a well-respected spiritual leader and voice for "the least of these" mentioned in Matthew 25, where Jesus says, "I was sick and in prison, and you visited me."

Sister Marian Boyle-Rohloff has worked tirelessly for social and racial justice. She serves on the Northern Province Racial Justice Team, organizing and helping to promote the pastoral pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama. On the local level, Marian holds a leadership role in the Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action (JOSHUA), where local congregations join together to work for social justice by lobbying state legislators. Within her congregation, Pastor Marian also started a Racial Justice and Equity team, which works to bring to light areas of injustice in the local community and educate others about the role systemic racism plays in maintaining equality. Through all of her involvement with countless committees, she leads with compassion in such a way that others are inspired to join in, always offering opportunities that match the passions and abilities of those who would like to serve. Marian has been the Light of Christ by dedicating her time to Christ's work and by encouraging others to be the Light of Christ with her.

With deep appreciation for these servants' generosity - through their time, treasure, and exceptional talents - we are honored to present Ed Winney and Rev. Marian Boyle-Rohloff with the Ted Wilde Mission Service Award.