

PROVINCIAL

TIES

May 2021



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

Moravian Music News

May 2021

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

Singing Our Faith

The Hymns of James Montgomery

(1771-1854)

On this day, set aside to acknowledge our Moravian musical heritage, we lift our hearts and our voices in praise and thanksgiving.

A Moravian Music Sunday service is easily planned with provided resources and materials ([available online](#)); a complete worship experience for your congregation.

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Focusing on the words in 2021:

We have planned a very different sort of Moravian Music Sunday [observance](#) this year. We are celebrating the hymns of James Montgomery (1771-1854), and we are not suggesting any specific choral or solo music. Nor are we recommending a spoken liturgy. Instead, we will reflect on the seasons of the church year using Montgomery's hymns.

If your congregation is singing, you may sing the hymns; if not, they are beautifully poetic to read. Recognizing that music is a means of proclaiming the Gospel, we celebrate Moravian Music Sunday on the fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021.

However, in light of current guidelines, you are free to consider your own date, whatever works for your congregation, for [Moravian Music Sunday](#)!

3 Webinars were presented by the Rev. Nola R. Knouse, Ph.D.

on Montgomery's hymns and their scriptural references.

Links to the videos of the webinars are [HERE](#).



The Moravian Music Foundation's 65th [anniversary](#) is on May 1st and to celebrate, we are adding some fun features on our [website](#).

Based on the gemstone for 65 years and the Moravian tradition of serenading friends and family on birthdays, anniversaries, etc., our celebration is called **Sapphire Serenade!**

On the website, you will find a [constituent survey](#), historical timeline, and [Birthday Book](#), where you can write a note to MMF, make a comment, share a story, etc.

Don't miss the many, many musical, informative, and fun posts throughout Friday and Saturday on [Facebook](#). Like our page, and also [sign up](#) for emails from MMF.

July 18-24, 2021, Online

Registration is open now!

Please make plans to connect and learn with Moravian and non-Moravian sisters and brothers, of all ages, from across the continent and around the world, as we share our love of the Savior, joy of music, in a variety of online and virtual musical and educational experiences during the week-long Moravian Music Festival. 2021 will use platforms

such as Zoom and YouTube to allow us to connect and share over the internet. The Festival this year will be focused on education and will have a wealth of concerts, devotions, preludes, recordings, videos, webinars, demonstrations, roundtables, collaborations, lessons, master classes, Zoom socials, interest groups, games... and much more!

www.moravianmusicfestival.org

REGISTRATION is required to participate in choral and band programs, other ensembles, sessions, and the children and youth programs.

All the information and links to registration at www.moravianmusicfestival.org



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Registrants may participate in:

- Virtual Chorus
- Virtual Band
- Concerts shared on YouTube and other platforms
- Educational opportunities: webinars, master classes, roundtables
- Zoom Discussions and Games
- Online Social opportunities
- Youth and Children’s programs – a musical named ACTS!

Submitted by Erik Salzwedel

Moravian Ministries Foundation in America

A conversation with Rev. Katie Van Der Linden

By Laura Watson



For our Steward Sparks session at 11:00 a.m. EDT on May 25, we’ll be joined by Rev. Katie Van Der Linden (Ebenezer Moravian, Ebenezer, WI). She has selected Matthew 25: 14-30 (the parable of the talents) for our discussion.

[Click here to register](#) on Zoom.

[Click here](#) to get to know Katie a little more before we meet in May!

Concerns and Celebrations

Death:

David Allen Marcus, Sr., father of David A. Marcus, Jr., joined the heavenly Church Triumphant on April 21, at the age of 81 years, after a period of declining health. A private graveside service was held in the Salem Moravian Graveyard (God’s Acre), officiated by Tony Hayworth, pastor at Fairview Moravian Church, where he was a member. Please hold in your prayers his wife of 56 years, Ann; their daughter, Elizabeth, and her family; and David and Lee Marcus and son, David Marcus III.

Ordination Anniversaries for May 2021

Matthew Allen.....23 years
Craig Atwood.....34 years
Ted Burcaw.....35 years
William Campbell.....59 years

Daniel Crews.....51 years
 Lehoma Goode.....31 years
 William Gramley.....59 years
 Samuel Gray.....25 years
 David Merritt.....39 years
 Robert Peek.....22 years
 Jon Peterson.....41 years
 Robert Sawyer.....54 years
 Richard Sides46 years
 Carl Southerland.....45 years
 Chaz Snider.....4 years

Congratulations and God Bless You!

For Your May Calendar

13 - PEC Meeting (video conference call)
 27 - PEC Meeting (video conference call)
 31 – Memorial Day – PEC Office Closed

BCM News for May 2021

Save the Date: Children's Festival and Lovefeast 2021

Sunday, August 15, 2021 | 4:00 PM ET



We are excited to share details about our second virtual Children’s Festival! This year, we will be introducing an interactive online experience for children and adults alike, to immerse themselves into the rich history of St. Philips Moravian Church. St. Philips is the oldest African American Moravian congregation in the United States, originally located within Salem.

In addition to the online experience, we will distribute “grab bags” for churches to share with each of the children in their congregation. We need your help to ensure enough bags for all – please let us know how many bags you will need for your congregation’s children. **Please [complete this short survey](#) to provide us with your contact info and the number of people participating in this year’s festival and lovefeast.**

More information will be available soon! If you have any questions, contact Beth Hayes.

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#BeMoravianStars Nomination Form

It is time to shine the light on love, again! The BCM is thrilled to be bringing back our #BeMoravianStars campaign, honoring those who are making a difference in their community through both small and big acts of kindness.



Do you know someone who is shining a light during this difficult time? Nominate the "Moravian Stars" in your life and we will "star" their yards to honor them for their generosity and love. Then, we will feature their good deeds on our social media and website.

[Click here](#) to nominate someone and view past honorees!

Submitted by Hanna Cheek Jackson



"What's Happening on the Mountain?"

We are a nearly half of the way through 2021, and over a year since the world shut down with COVID-19. With so many things behind us, what is there to look forward to? This is what we shared in our recent visit to Kernersville Moravian Church at one of their holy week gatherings. As we reflected during Holy Week, we know what we have to look forward to:



- Laurel Ridge is on pace to fill up this summer with the hopes of providing Summer Camp to nearly 300 campers of all ages. We are limited in space, so make sure you reserve your spot now.
- We have opened a second week of Middle High Camp in order to accommodate a larger group than we originally anticipated. What a great problem to have!
- Many individuals that missed their opportunity to visit Laurel Ridge in 2020 are making arrangements for 2021. If you are looking for a weekend retreat or a weekday get away, call our guest services coordinator, Karen, today.

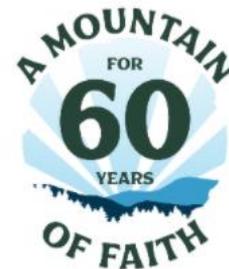
(guests@laurelridge.org or 336-359-2951)

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- We continue to look to the generosity of donors. Laurel Ridge was able to weather the storm and survive 2020. We look to donors like you for support in the good times, and difficult. We acknowledge that 2021 is possibly going to be even more trying financially than 2020, but we realistically hope that people will find their way back to the Mountain for rejuvenation and growth. The staff, board, and those that love Laurel Ridge are thankful for stakeholders that support the mission of this great place.

We have jumped head first into 2021 looking for every opportunity to grow the reach and impact of Laurel Ridge! We have a bumpy road ahead as we continue to face the effects of the pandemic.

- Operating Summer Camp in-person is a great leap, and comes with great responsibility. Laurel Ridge strives to create a unique and impactful experience, with appropriate precautions, in a COVID-19 atmosphere. New information comes out daily, changing how we are able to interact with groups and how they can take advantage of our facilities.
- Further efforts have been made to make Laurel Ridge accessible to more people. Our new website, laurelridge.org, is up and running. Go check out our facilities and find how we can best accommodate your group or family today! Keep an eye out for additional points of communication like postcards, e-newsletters, blog posts on our website, and all the latest news on your favorite social media platform.
- Celebrating 60 years of camping ministry was not possible in 2020, but in 2021 we look forward to three opportunities to raise our voices in gratitude!
 - *60+1 Celebration* at Laurel Ridge Summer Camp, July 24th, 1PM – 8PM
 - Kickoff for the public phase of the Capital Campaign, keep in the loop with the Provincial Ties, our website, and social media
 - Golf Tournament, Reynolds Park Golf Course, October 9th, shotgun start 8AM
 - 60+1 Lovefeast on the lawn at Friedland Moravian Church, October 10th, 4:30PM



We continue to be amazed by how people are affected by a visit to Laurel Ridge. Everyone is on an independent journey, and crossing paths on the mountain pushes people to new milestones, and towards greater relationships with new and old friends. We look forward to being the place where you build a foundation for the rest of your life! 2021 could be that year for you.

Submitted by Michael Sawtelle

PEC News May 2021

The Provincial Elders' Conference met April 8 and 22, via video conference, with all members participating. These meetings included sharing news and concerns from across the Province, and intercessory prayers for pastors, church educators and other leaders.

SYNOD / STRATEGIC DIRECTION

PEC received an update from the Synod Planning Committee, including suggestions for Synod co-chairs; discussed guidelines for the Nominations Committee, and a proposal from the Program Committee for Synod. PEC again reviewed materials provided by the Provincial Organization Core Team regarding a process to fulfill Synod Resolution 18, Reimagining Faith Communities.

CHURCHES AND LEADERS

PEC planned for remaining spring quadrennial reviews at Willow Hill, Grace, and with the Laurel Ridge Board of Directors; and agreed to conduct quadrennial reviews in FL, as well as those to be scheduled this fall for several NC churches. PEC took steps in call processes for: Christ, First Greensboro, Hope, Unity, and Union Cross; continued discussion of how to meet pastoral leadership needs in FL; reviewed policies regarding recognized and specialized ministries; met with one person at the beginning stages of the candidacy process for ordination; received a report on candidates from the Commission on Ministry, and began assignment of bishops for candidates. PEC extended a call which was accepted by Heather Vacek to serve as Vice President and Dean of Moravian Theological Seminary, beginning July 1; PEC reviewed a summary from the 26 Congregational Ministry Reports received thus far for 2020, and discussed how to utilize the information in these reports. PEC received the collated 2020 Worship Attendance statistics which show an increase of 339 over 2019, mostly due to "virtual" participation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

PEC approved a revised description for the PSSB Pension Committee and plans for additional members; and approved Bylaws changes for the FL-GA Regional Conference of Churches.

INTERPROVINCIAL, UNITY and ECUMENICAL

After requests from the Northern Province Eastern District and Western District Boards, PEC granted permission for each of those boards to consider one pastor for possible call. PEC noted that Moravian Theological Seminary has moved to provide a distance learning option for most of its degree programs. Guthrie provided PEC an update of activities in Cuba and Nicaragua, and of the Unity Executive Committee. As Andrew Craver prepares to conclude service as co-pastor of the Bethel Moravian Church, PEC received a letter from the congregation and the Alaska Provincial Board inviting partnership in securing another pastor from the Southern Province. Judy Knopf provided a summary of the recent ELCA Church Council (governing board) meeting which was a hybrid event (in-person and online). Guthrie accepted an invitation to participate in the NC ELCA Synod Assembly to be held online in early June.

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OTHER MATTERS

PEC published a memo with updated guidance for worship and other church gatherings during the pandemic, and agreed on a mechanism for an annual distribution from a perpetual fund held by the MMFA to be used in support the Ministerial Student Aid line item in the Provincial Budget. PEC began conversation about possible budget changes due to financial challenges, reduced income from congregations, and the continuing uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PEC meetings in May are scheduled for the 13th and 27th.

Submitted by David Guthrie, PEC President

Unity Women's Desk

Want to learn more about the Unity Women's Desk and how YOU or your church or community group can help us empower Moravian women for global change? Please join us for a tour of UWD programs and partnerships!

Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 12 PM EDT – 1:30 PM EDT

Julie Tomberlin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: UWD Stepping Up the Path

Time: Jun 17, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89310448256?pwd=L3V3L3M3K0NMRjJjUEdJRk5hTGpBUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 1044 8256

Passcode: UWD

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89310448256# US (Chicago)

Submitted by Julie Tomberlin

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