



PROVINCIAL

TIES

April 2023



— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

251st Easter Sunrise Service

The 251st Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, April 9, 2023, beginning at 6:15 a.m. and will be led by The Rev. Ginny Tobiassen, pastor of Home Moravian Church. Worshipers will gather in front of Home Moravian Church, 529 S. Church Street (at the corner of Academy Street and S. Church Street) in Winston-Salem to begin the service. In reverent procession, worship continues as participants assemble in God's Acre for the conclusion of the service.

Easter Worship: A Guide to Faith in Action

One of the things I love most about being Moravian is the centrality of Easter to our faith expression. During Holy Week, faith in action is modeled through the way we worship. Traditionally, congregations have offered more than ten occasions for corporate worship between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Designed to act out the faith statements of the Easter Morning Liturgy, these services are deepened even more for those playing in the Easter Band and singing in the choir. Not that members of the Salem Congregation churches do it better than other churches, there is a heightened impact for the collective expressions of the preparations to God's Acre in Salem, the Great Sabbath service led by a joint choir, and the Easter Sunrise service, which once attracted 40,000 attenders and a mass band of more than 500.

My faith journey was greatly impacted by growing up in a Salem Congregation church where I was encouraged to embrace the progression from Palm Sunday worship to Easter worship. Because of this, I intuited a weave of faith statements and faithful actions that fold into the observances of worship during Holy Week. The balance of listening to the Passion Story, singing the Moravian hymns of Holy Week, and showing up to various forms of worship helped form the primary tools upon which my faith journey continues to rely.

It has been nearly 50 years since I experienced confirmation into the adult membership of the Moravian Church, which took place on Palm Sunday, the first high mark of celebration in a week of worship. A year later, I joined the band which meant the beginning of a lifelong ritual of playing for Easter Sunrise services. It also meant playing with the band at the graveside for funerals for church members I had come to love and know well. The mixture of grief and hope found in both the Funeral Liturgy and Easter Liturgies quickly became engrained in me. Each funeral holding the hope of Easter faith, and each Sunrise Service providing a physical space to remember those who had joined the Church Triumphant.

Being a member of the adult choir by the time of high school also meant a commitment to attend most of the Holy Week Reading Services, especially on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Over time, the narrative of the Passion Story, became another key part of my understanding of the journey of faith. Becoming a pastor and leading these services, often on the heels of giving care to individuals and families grieving the recent passing of a loved one, has made the biggest impact on my soul. Something I could not have done without the formation I received from showing up at Easter to participate all these years.

This Easter marks my 33rd as a pastor. I am now old enough to know too many folks to count whose remains were laid to rest in God's Acre (or other cemeteries). Along the way, the process of Holy Week as worship leader, a pastoral caregiver, a band and choir member, and fellow Christian pilgrim, continues to center me in the story that centers our faith. *cont. on page 3*

While working with a dear friend, struggling deeply with grief after the sudden passing of his wife, I began to see that the themes of the Holy Week story provide vital markers for each soul, especially those overwhelmed with heartbreak. Early Moravians taught that we all pass through a spiritual process of maturation. God's Spirit seeks to guide each of us through the spiritual equivalent of infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle adulthood, and older adulthood. However, unlike growing older physically, we can allow ourselves to remain paused at any point along the way toward growing into full spiritual maturity - "the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

The principal themes of Holy Week reflect signposts for moving through betrayal, anger, abandonment, fear, and isolation toward a resurrection into a fuller understanding and experience of life in Christ. Stay tuned for more commentary on this in a future article.

For now, I invite you to consider the worship opportunities of Holy Week as vital engagements for you to act and engage the Easter story. From the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, to the intimacy of the Last Supper, through the terror and heartbreak of the trial and crucifixion, the isolation of the Great Sabbath, and the unspeakable promise of hope found in our Resurrection liturgy and hymns - engage this week of worship! Don't just go through the motions of reenacting historic rituals of worship from our ancestors. Seek the living presence of God. Trust that God seeks to connect with you personally. That God shows up in a special way in places where we choose to gather corporately in this week. See what God seeks to reveal to you. Be open to God's call to you to grow ever more into the fullness of spiritual maturity in Christ.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President, PEC



MMFA News for April 2023

Tools for Trustees, register by April 17

By Vince Holbrook

If you're serving on the Joint Board of a Moravian congregation, or are a past, present, or future Trustee, this one-hour online session is for you! Tools for Trustees is an introduction to the resources available to congregations through the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America. You'll learn how we can help you:

1. Develop and support stewardship
2. Facilitate giving
3. Optimize planned giving
4. Manage investments

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5. Apply for grant funding for ministry

There are two opportunities to join a one-hour session on **April 20**. At noon or at 7 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. (Both sessions are the same, so you only need to register for one).

Click below to register by **April 17** for a session on **April 20!**

[12 noon EDT on April 20](#)

[7 p.m. EDT on April 20](#)

Join Us for Upcoming Ecumenical Educators Gatherings!

We'll gather for these hybrid opportunities to share faith formation resources and support on:

May 4 from 12:30-2pm

in the Cedarhyrst conference room or via Zoom

May 4 from 7-8:30pm

via Zoom

June 1 from 12:30-2pm

in the Cedarhyrst conference room or via Zoom

June 1 from 7-8:30pm

via Zoom

We'll use the same Zoom Link for all meetings - [click here...](#)

Anyone working with Faith Formation or Educational Ministries are welcome to join in -

we're attempting to offer both a midday option and an evening option to give a wider variety of schedules the opportunity to take part!

Submitted by The Rev. Christy Clore

News from the PEC ***April 2023***

The PEC held two business meetings in March, a 90-min virtual session and a six hour in-person session. We also adopted a new effort to hold 45-minute virtual briefings with one another on Monday afternoons to keep our discussions and discernments moving forward.

The call-process for Grace Moravian Church has concluded with the announcement on March 26 of the Rev. Andrew Heil as the new pastor. He concludes his ministry at Home Moravian Church on May 7 and will be installed at Grace on June 4.

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Call process efforts continue for Ardmore, Calvary, Come & Worship, Kernersville, Moravia, and Raleigh.

The PEC revived its role of overseeing the pulpit supply list, especially for spaces where there is not a permanent pastor or Provincial Acolyte in place. Supply preachers must be on the approved supply list. Requests for preachers who are not on the list must be approved by the PEC before invitations to preach are made. Contact the PEC office for details.

During the Wednesdays of Lent, various members of the PEC staff have been featured as guest speakers for congregational programs at Mizpah and Rural Hall. These programs provided information on the present work of the PEC (presented by Routh), Commission on Congregational Development (presented by Craver), Commission on Ministry (Sapp), and stewardship presentations led by Laura Watson from the Moravian Ministries Foundation of America. Each presentation provided opportunities to listen and respond to questions related to how the ministries of the province can be more helpful to these specific congregations. If you would be interested in having a similar presentation(s) for your group or congregation, please contact the PEC office.

Routh attended the spring meeting of the Board of World Mission (March 2 and 3). The BWM is in the process of developing goals for the next several years of ministry. Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, the efforts of the BWM continue to prosper, especially in the area of Moravian Disaster Relief work. New discussions are underway for engaging more mission teams in short-term ministry through relief work and other outreach. This includes building communication tools and experiences to assist congregations and groups to form mission teams for endeavors locally, regionally, and abroad. Contact the Board of World Mission for more information.

March 19 marked the grand opening of the new location of the Dwelling - the Augsburg Community Center building (corner of Broad and 6th Streets in Winston-Salem). The celebration included leadership representatives from the local, state, and regional levels of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in addition to Routh from the PEC. The staff of the Dwelling, led by the Rev. Emily Norris (ELCA), led worship. It included Communion and the Baptism of the two newest members of the Dwelling. The Dwelling is a federated ministry of the MCSP and the ELCA. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer contact the Dwelling.

The PEC supported a request from the CCD to appoint the Rev. Dana Myers to a temporary part-time role within the CCD for the remainder of 2023. She will be helping a sub-committee of the CCD develop needed information and data to support the future Provincial Youth & Young Adult Ministry position (see Resolution #31 from the 2022 Synod). The goal will be to make a formal proposal to the PEC by the end of the year for the purpose and direction of this new position. Funding is being provided for Myer's part-time position from 2023 provincial share received and reserved for the new youth position. The main reason for taking the step to appoint Myers at this time is to ensure a clear proposal can be developed this year.

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The PEC spent much of March researching and addressing concerns related to how the MCSP and the Moravian Church in general has historically approached matters where politics and theology intersect. The theology of the Moravian Church has been mainly focused on “orthopraxy” - how we give witness to our faith through action. Historically “right action” has been focused on reflecting compassion and unconditional love. Many other Christian traditions have focused on “orthodoxy” - how to give witness through correct belief. Often the result of “orthopraxy” is placing the priority of relationships above issues. Sometimes the result of an emphasis on orthodoxy as “right belief” has been placing a higher priority on holding a particular passion for a given belief above relationships. The conflict between right action and right belief has long been the formula for divisions within Christianity since the time of the Apostle Paul.

A contemporary inspiration for many Moravian clergy and laity has been Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He has been one of the most inspiring figures for Christian witness in the last century because of his voice against the Third Reich. He was part of the twenty percent of Christians in Hitler’s Germany that opposed Hitler and the silence of the mainstream church. Not only was Bonhoeffer influenced by the Moravians, but his most famous work *The Cost of Discipleship* [WR1] has been described by some scholars of the ancient *Unitas Fratrum* (1450s-1600s) as snapshot of what they believed.

The PEC was invited to attend the latest meeting of the Concerned Moravians held at Bethabara Moravian Church on March 16. While the Concerned Moravians are a separate entity from the MCSP which does not speak for the Moravian Church, the PEC attended the presentation of Eric Metaxas and his interpretation of Dietrich Bonhoeffer to hear and experience for ourselves the event. While we were received with hospitality and the event remained cordial, the speaker attempted to make contemporary connections of US politics and hot button issues that Bonhoeffer would not have made. While we appreciate the ongoing study of Bonhoeffer and how he advocated for the church to effectively bring together orthodoxy and orthopraxy for the causes of compassion, unconditional love, and justice for the marginalized, Bonhoeffer advocated for a community that is centered in love.

It is foundational to the present Moravian Unity for congregations, laity, and clergy alike to grasp the significance of the Ground of the Unity statement which was adopted at the Unity Synod of 1957. Not only did the gathering mark the 500th anniversary of the *Unitas Fratrum*, but it was the first time that Germany Moravians who fought for the Third Reich of Hitler, and Germany Moravians, as well Moravians from other countries, that fought against it came together to sit at the same table. An overarching theme of the statement is keeping Christ at the center, while guarding against political passions that justify slander, hate, bigotry, and violence of any kind against anyone person or group. It calls upon compassion and unconditional love to be the outward witness of what we choose to do and say to one another and to the world.

Keeping in mind the call to support the peace of the place where we live and move and have our being together.

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The PEC seeks to uphold the importance of supporting the peace of the place where we live and move and having being while grappling with the intersection of politics and stated Moravian belief and practice found in the Ground of the Unity and the Covenant for Christian Living. As we continue to process what was learned and experienced from the March 16 event with the Concerned Moravians, we will be seeking ways to state more clearly the expectations for how members of the MCSP should engage the intersection between politics (especially political “hot buttons”) and our theology.

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President, PEC

Concerns and Celebrations

Pastoral Change: The Rev. **Andrew Heil** has accepted the call to be the pastor of Grace Moravian in Mount Airy, NC. He will conclude his ministry at Home Moravian on May 7 and will be installed at Grace on June 4.

Please support the Heil family and the Grace congregation with your prayers as they begin this new chapter. And please support the Home Moravian staff and congregation as they experience closure with the Heil family.

Ordination Anniversaries for April 2023

Phil Bauguess.....48 years
Wayne Byerly.....26 years
Cheryl Cottingham.....13 years
Richard Spaugh.....56 years
Riddick Weber.....21 years

Congratulations and God Bless You!



MCSA Advocacy & Justice Action Team

The MCSA Advocacy & Justice Action Team invites congregations to each send a team of participants to the May 6 Event: Bridges to Community: Listening To, Serving, & Loving Our Neighbors. It will be held at New Philadelphia Church from 9am to 3pm and includes lunch. This is for clergy, lay leaders, mission teams, youth groups, and anyone interested in helping their neighbors. Individuals are welcome and teams/groups are encouraged! We want these teams to come share what each congregation is doing in our communities to serve our neighbors and care for each other. We will celebrate the good work happening and connect with friend-travelers who are also engaged in this work. Registration is due by May 1.

Event info: <https://www.moravian.org/ccd/2022/10/14/bridges-to-community/>

Registration link: bit.ly/3Tpfluw

Questions: Contact AJAT Team Coordinator Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller at PastorSuzanneMiller@gmail.com or 919-815-7861.

Moravian Music Foundation April 2023



Thursday Talks

Live and Informative!

Thursdays at 12:30pm.

FREE and open to the public.

April 13 - The Moravian Music Foundation: A History Christopher Ogburn, Ph.D.

April 27 - Such a Scene of Industry...in So Small a Place: The Moravian Aesthetic in American Decorative Arts 1750-1830 Johanna Brown, Old Salem Museums & Gardens

May 11 - David Tannenberg and the American Organ [A precursor to the May 12 performance of the 1800 Tannenberg at the James A. Gray Auditorium, Old Salem Visitor Ctr]

As part of MMF's educational mission, informative lectures are offered, free to the public, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. MMF plans and presents the 2nd Thursday and the Moravian Archives plans and presents the 4th Thursday. Talks will cover a variety of research topics, spanning music

history, musicology, and biography or provide information about projects and programs.

Light refreshments provided.



Moravian Music Foundation SERENADES

The Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) announces its 2023 season of concerts to engage, inspire, and entertain the Winston-Salem

community. While the Foundation holds a collection of priceless musical treasures, it is also charged with sharing these treasures with the world. MMF presents concerts and recordings of Moravian music and provides education and outreach to bring its archival treasures to light. **Season Tickets** are available at moravianmusic.ticketspice.com

A Celebration of the Tannenberg Organ

Friday, May 12, 2023; 7:00pm, Old Salem Visitor Center, 900 Old Salem Rd., Winston-Salem, NC

featuring organ soloists, Susan Bates and Mary Louise Kapp Peeples; vocalist, Cristy Lynn Brown; and the Moramus Chorale, a performing ensemble of the Moravian Music Foundation, led by Drake Flynt. With generous support from Old Salem Museums & Gardens.

And...

1. American Roots, July 1, 2023
2. An Evening of Songs from the Heart, Sept. 15, 2023
3. The Long Eighteenth Century, Oct. 27, 2023
4. Night of Light Concert, Dec. 16, 2023 - Special VIP Concert during ChristmasFest

[More about all of the upcoming concerts in the series>>](#)

Season Tickets: \$35. Includes tickets to four concerts in the Winston-Salem area. Subscription guarantees a seat at the smaller venues. Single tickets, if available, will be offered at a later date.

VIP Season Tickets: \$75. Includes reserved seating at all five Winston-Salem events, 2 VIP Pre-Concert Receptions (*Songs from the Heart* and *Night of Light*), Special VIP **Night of Light** Concert during ChristmasFest

Moravian Music Sunday, a day of recognition and celebration

This year, we celebrate the 300th anniversary of Christian Gregor's birth 300 years ago in 1723. Recognizing that music is a means of proclaiming the Gospel, we celebrate Moravian Music Sunday on May 7, 2023. Materials designed to assist your worship planning team in preparation are available on the Moravian Music Foundation's website: order of worship, a bulletin insert, liturgy, and a statement to be read. All materials and details available at <https://moravianmusic.org/moravian-music-sunday-2023/>

Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel

For Your Address Book

Karen Allen, formerly Macon, new email address: kallen@mcsp.org
Karen is the new HR Administrator and Accounts Receivable Administrator



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