



# PROVINCIAL TIES

March 2024



## 2024 Watchword

Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. *Isaiah 51:4 NIV*

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—LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS—

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## Happiness

Consider the significance of happiness. Is it important in the atmosphere of a congregation or ministry setting? When you pause to reflect on the key features of belonging to a spiritual community, does happiness make

the list? The presence of happiness and joy is a feature that has often been noted by observers about Moravian communities and leaders dating back through our history. Why is this so?

Happiness is one of the things that stands across the many parts of the Moravian world. Moravians are a happy people. A core part of the ministry they share with one another and the communities where they exist is a deep sense of joy that is rooted in their spiritual understanding of the world.

Most recently, my travels took me to two different places. One was a memorial celebration for the life and ministry of The Rt. Rev. Hopeton Clennon (Bethlehem, PA) and the other was the consecration of The Rt. Rev. Obed Martinez Lima (Cuba). While one might think that these would be radically different occasions, they shared many features. At the heart of both was a deep, joyful appreciation for the presence of God in the life of the person the community gathered to celebrate. Both included heartfelt singing and laughter. Both included tears of joy. And both exuded a deep sense of God's presence moving through happiness to touch each person in the audience.

In *The Spirit of the Moravian Church* by The Rt. Rev. Clarence H. Shawe, 1957 edited and revised by The Rt. Rev. Edwin Kortz, 1979, happiness is noted as the second significant characteristic of the Moravian Church after simplicity. Perhaps you heard the story that John Wesley reported of his voyage from England to Georgia in 1735. It is not clear from Wesley's diary if the ship encountered three terrible storms, or the same storm three times. All aboard were terrified! A rogue wave snapped the mainsail, the passengers and crew thought the ship was sinking. Meanwhile, the Moravians sang hymns in a spirit of calm assurance. Not exactly happiness, but something rooted in the calm assurance of God's presence to give hope. Moravians are notably aglow with a hope clearly connected to the joy of salvation.

Shawe notes this was a significant difference between the Moravians and other Pietists in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. "The Pietist has sin in the foreground and looks at the wounds of Jesus; the Moravian has the wounds in the foreground and looks from them upon his sin." (page 9). Moravians are aware they are sinners, yet remain happy thanks to the forgiveness of Jesus.

"To the Moravians, Lent and Good Friday were not meant to be a sorrowful time; not a fast but a feast," or at any rate a festival season (11). Shawe continues: "Zinzendorf often declared it a mistake to turn the sufferings of Jesus into a tragedy... Certainly, our emotions should be stirred, but not so much for pity... but with a sense of gratitude... for the astonishing love of God." Shawe reminds us that during the heart of our renewal period (1740s - 1760s) "Passiontide was not a time of mourning but of rejoicing in a great salvation and of dedication to that Savior who has done so much for us."

The challenge today is not the lack of joy and happiness among Moravians. It can be readily found wherever we gather. But connecting to Christ in such a way for the joy of our salvation to flow into the places we serve one another and the communities around us. To reclaim what Zinzendorf meant when he wrote:

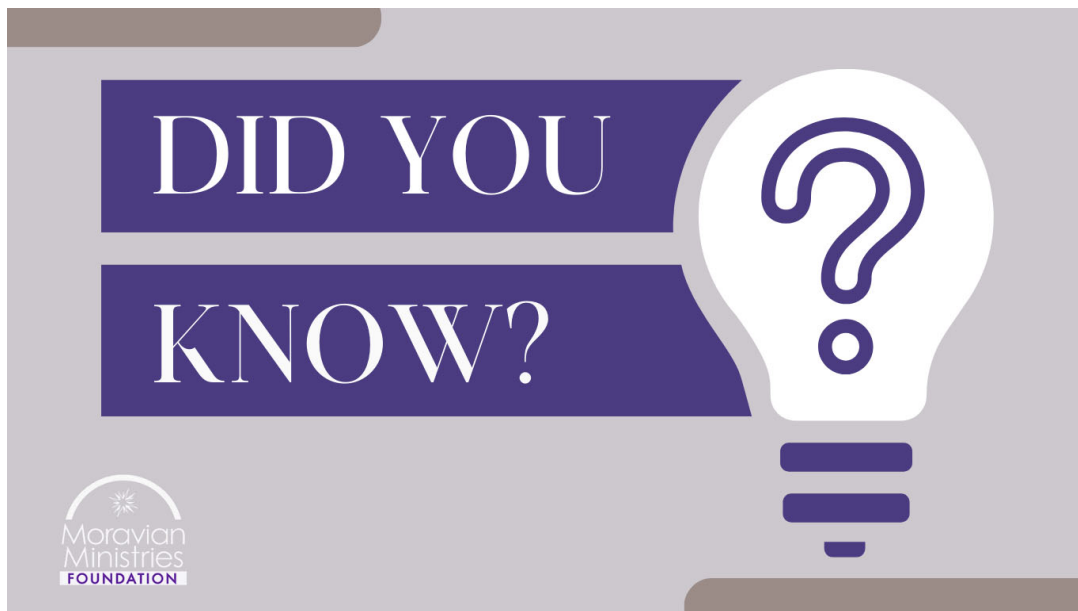
Lamb of God, you shall remain forever  
Of our songs the only theme;  
For your boundless love, your grace and favor,  
We will praise your saving name;  
That for our transgressions you were wounded  
Shall by us in nobler strains be sounded,  
When we, perfected in love,  
Once shall join the church above.

Stay tuned. Next month we will explore “unintrusiveness” - the third of four features Shawe notes about the worldwide Moravian Church.

Coming soon a weblink to a copy of *The Spirit of the Moravian Church*, by Clarence H. Shawe.

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

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## Did you know?

Moravian Ministries Foundation covers the cost of all processing fees of donations made through the [Moravian Giving Portal](#). This means 100% of the donation is passed through to your Moravian church, organization, or ministry!

Did you know that MMFA manages cash? Our stable fund earned a yield of 5.41%, as of 1/31/24. If your church would like to earn more on cash, contact Chris today ([cspaugh@mmfa.com](mailto:cspaugh@mmfa.com) or 336.725.2589).

Did you know MMFA has a tool for you to complete your will, durable power of attorney, healthcare power of attorney, and your living will for free.

Visit our Legacy Planner tool on [MMFA.com](https://www.mmfa.com) today.

*Submitted by Hanna Jackson for the Moravian Ministries Foundation of America*

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## March 2024 Mission Minute

Greetings from the Board of World Mission,

We are grateful for the overwhelming support Moravian congregations and individuals have shown through our Blessings Flow Project. Thanks to many generous contributions, the blessings overflow and we are now working toward a goal of providing a decade of clean water to 10+ communities. This month's mission minute provides an update on this project.

Please [click here for a Word document](#) and [click here for a PDF](#).

*Submitted by Sylvie Hauser for the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church of North America*

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## Day of Prayer Services for 2024

**March 6**, 11:00 A.M. Bethania Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. Russ May. Coffee served at 10:00 A.M. This service will be in person only.

**March 13**, 11:00 A.M. Fairview Moravian, Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Tom Shelton. The service will be in person and include communion. The service will be available on YouTube and Facebook.

**March 20**, 11:00 A.M. Konnoak Hills Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. Margaret Norris. Lovefeast. The service will be in person and online: <http://www.khmoravian.org/> Select "YouTube Channel" at the top of the page.

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## 252nd Easter Sunrise Service

The 252nd Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, March 31, 2024, beginning at 6:15 a.m. and will be led by The Rev. Reed Lawson, pastor of Christ 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.

All Moravian Pastors are welcomed to lead the procession from Salem Square to "God's Acre." Please contact the Salem Congregation office for more information (336) 722-6504.

*Submitted by Bridget Smith for the Salem Congregation*

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## **New Staff at the Southern Province Office**



**Charles Drake** joined the provincial office team as Payroll/Accounts Receivable Administrator. He will be working with Robyn Glance on payroll and accounting matters.

Charles is born and raised in Lexington, North Carolina. He has always had a fascination with history and especially Old Salem and has visited often his entire life. He is very excited to begin his work at Cedarhyrst. Please join us in welcoming him.

Contact Charles via email at [payroll@mcsp.org](mailto:payroll@mcsp.org) [cdrake@mcsp.org](mailto:cdrake@mcsp.org) or via phone at 336-531-0025

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## **2023 Church Audits**

Church Audits are due April 15th. Instructions for performing the 2023 "audits" of churches were emailed to all Church Treasurers and Trustee Chairs/Vice Chairs on February 12th and 13th. The form and instructions are also on the MCSP.org website. Please be sure these instructions are given to your Church's "Audit Committee." Please contact Robyn Glance, CFO if you have any questions.

No audit will ever detect every potential misstatement, but an annual audit goes a long way to ensuring the financial health of your congregation.

*Submitted by Robyn Glance, CFO*

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## **Save the Date for Provincial Men's Retreat**





**Tentative Schedule:**

Friday, June 28 4-6pm - Registration & Evening Worship

Sat, June 29 All Day- Worship, Fellowship, & Free Time

Sunday, June 30 11am - Morning Worship & Depart

**Registration Fee (Includes Meals):**

\$317/Single Occupancy

\$192/Double Occupancy

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**Weber Lecture: "Pastoral Theology  
in Healthcare Settings"**

**RT. REV. DR.  
EMMANUEL LARTEY**

Candler Professor of Pastoral Theology & Spiritual Care,  
Candler School of Theology & Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University

**WEBER LECTURE:  
"Pastoral Theology in Healthcare Settings"**

**Friday, March 15 at 1pm**  
Zoom and Bahnson Center  
<https://tinyurl.com/WeberLecture>



**WHO:** International author, scholar and educator The Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Y. Larty presents Moravian Theological Seminary's 2024 Weber Lecture, "Pastoral Theology in Health Care Settings." With recent data

showing a significant increase in mental health diagnoses in the United States, Dr. Larty's talk will include the importance of pastoral care provided in health care settings especially those for individuals being treated for mental health conditions.

A native of Ghana, Dr. Larty is the bishop of the Ghanaian North American Methodist Churches, comprised of 38 churches in the U.S. and Canada. He is professor of Pastoral Theology and Spiritual Care at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta. In addition to authoring numerous articles and several books, he is co-editor of the 2022 book *Postcolonial Practices of Care: A Project of Togetherness during Covid-19 and Racial Violence*. Dr. Larty's lecture is free and open to the public.

The Weber Lecture, established in 1950, is named in memory of the Rev. Christian Otto and Dorothy Pfohl Weber. The lectures are given by theological leaders on the practical aspects of Christian ministry: counseling, evangelism, administration, preaching, mission work.

**WHEN/WHERE:**

**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2024

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**Location:** Online on Zoom and in the Bahnson Center, Moravian Theological Seminary, 60 West Locust St., Bethlehem, PA 18018

[Register Here](#)

*Submitted by Meg Graham for the Moravian Theological Seminary/Lancaster Theological Seminary*

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## **Introduction to the Renaissance Lecture Series**



A free 4-week music history class is being offered, for youth and adults, by **Christopher Ogburn, Ph.D., Resident Musicologist**, as part of the Comenius Music Academy, Moravian Music Foundation.

Thursdays (1:00pm) Archie K. Davis Center, 457 S Church St. Winston Salem, NC. March 14 - April 11 (no class March 28) *Consciously looking back to the Classical world, while simultaneously rejecting art of the medieval period, the Renaissance opened new pathways for music.* All are welcome; there are no prerequisites.

Simply sign-up using the [form](#) on the MMF [website](#). Questions: 336-725 0651 or [christopher@moravianmusic.org](mailto:christopher@moravianmusic.org)

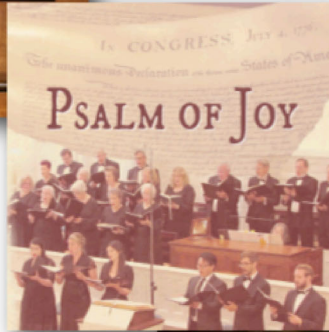
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# Moravian Music Foundation Serenades Concert Series



Johannes Berger



The Moravian Music Foundation (MMF) announces its 2024 season of **Serenade 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.

Season Subscriptions are available now.

Concerts: May 10, 7:00pm ; June 29, 3:00pm ; Oct. 25, 7:00pm ; Oct. 26, 7:00pm (tent.)

\$35 for four concerts

\$75 for the special VIP subscription, including a special **Night Of Light** concert (the evening of *ChristmasFest*) and two special receptions.

[Get Season Subscriptions Here](#)

*Submitted by Erik J. Salzwedel for the Moravian Music Foundation*

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—Concerns and Celebrations—

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Please hold The Rt. Rev. **John Wilson** (Miami, FL) in your thoughts and prayers. He has suffered serious injuries from a fall and is in critical condition in a Miami Hospital. Brother Wilson was consecrated a Bishop of the Unity in Nicaragua where he served for much of his ministry before retiring to South Florida where he provided pastoral leadership in Moravian congregations in the South Florida area.

The Reverends **Dion and Eulencine Christopher** will be attending to the Wilson family. As updates on Brother Wilson's health become available, we will make them available.

The Rev. **Rusty Rushing** was consecrated a Presbyter on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Little Church on the Lane Moravian Church, Charlotte, NC with The Rt. Rev. Dr. Wayne Burkette officiating. Rusty was ordained a deacon in the Moravian Church on November 19, 2017 at Little Church on the Lane Moravian Church with The Rt. Rev. Dr. Graham Rights officiating.

The Rev. **Adam Goodrich** was consecrated a Presbyter on Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Union Cross Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC with The Rt. Rev. Sam Gray officiating. Adam was ordained a deacon in the Moravian Church on September 24, 2017 at Olivet Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC with The Rt. Rev. Sam Gray officiating.

The Rev. **Joe Moore** has accepted the call to be the Pastor of Ardmore Moravian Church. His present ministry as the Pastor of Bethania Moravian Church will conclude on April 7. His first Sunday with Ardmore Moravian will be April 21. Please keep Joe, The Rev. Kelly Moore, and Zach in your prayers as they move through this time of transition in ministry. Also hold the Bethania and Ardmore congregations in your prayers.

The Rev. **James Demby** has accepted a call to Provincial Service. His present ministry as the Pastor of Pine Chapel Moravian Church will conclude on March 31. Please keep James and the Pine Chapel congregation in your prayers during this transition.

### **Ordination Anniversaries for March 2024**

Margaret Leinbach.....20 years  
Zachary Dease.....11 years  
Leslie Venable.....37 years

**Congratulations and God Bless You!**

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**The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President**

**SamLevi Sizemore, Communications Coordinator**

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[www.moravian.org/southern](http://www.moravian.org/southern)

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