



**COLLEGE HILL
MORAVIAN CHURCH**

*72 West Laurel Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
(610) 867-8291*

*church@collegehillmoravian.org
www.collegehillmoravian.org
Office hours: Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM*

Rev. Christine Johnson
Pastor

Ms. Gwyneth Michel
Minister of Music

Ms. Kelly Schmidt
Office Coordinator

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
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Permit No. 511

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2026



The Mission of College Hill Moravian Church
is to learn, share, live Christ's love!

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	Jul 31	1
CHRISTMAS IN JULY	AUG. BUILDER SUBMISSIONS DUE TO THE OFFICE	10:30 AM Book Club 5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi	9:00 AM August Newsletter Folding Team	PASTOR CHRIS' SABBATH 10:00 AM Tai Chi	12:00 PM PRIVATE EVENT
10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	10:00 AM Embroiderers Guild 5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	9:30 AM Kitchen Inspection – Corey Kuhn 5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi		PASTOR CHRIS' SABBATH 10:00 AM Tai Chi	NO VALLEY CONTRA DANCE
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi 4:30 PM St. Luke's Healing Arts 7:00 PM Trustees meeting		PASTOR CHRIS' SABBATH 10:00 AM Tai Chi	10:30 AM Taoism Study Group
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
August 13th Festival Communion	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous 7:00 PM Discipleship Team meeting	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Elders meeting		PASTOR CHRIS' SABBATH 10:00 AM Tai Chi	NO VALLEY CONTRA DANCE 2:00 PM Blankets & Beanies for Teenies
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	SEPT. BUILDER SUBMISSIONS DUE TO THE OFFICE 5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	NO BOOK CLUB TODAY 5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi	9:00 AM Sept. Newsletter Folding Team	PASTOR CHRIS' SABBATH 10:00 AM Tai Chi	
30	31	Notes				
10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous					

The Builder

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Published Monthly

August 2026

Road Construction and Detours

“No Parking” signs appeared on Loraine Avenue and Locust Street last Friday, and by this morning, Monday, enough construction equipment had been delivered to block the Strait of Hormuz. Cautionary yellow lights strobe atop excavators, dump trucks, asphalt millers, and steam rollers. Jaunty orange cones and “Road Closed” barriers seal off the neighborhood, and I’m contemplating how I’m going to cross over from the parsonage side to the church side of the divide this week. The three-year improvement project to shore up underground gas lines is finally in its concluding phase, and when it’s complete, the ultra-local infrastructure will be safer, smoother, and, no doubt, worth the on-again, off-again disruptions.

If you are accustomed to thinking of life as a journey, or a highway, or a long and winding road, you have likely already come to realize that the path is almost always under construction, and it is hardly ever a direct line from start to finish. The route meanders. It zigzags. It takes detours. Sometimes the detours are inconvenient. Sometimes they’re convoluted. Yet sometimes they lead to unexpected scenic vistas and unanticipated memorable destinations.

My household has come to a patch of road construction that’s causing my husband Darrell and I to explore a detour. Darrell has accepted the call to serve as the pastor of Sharon Moravian Church, located in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Please be joyful for him as this will allow him to finish up his ministry career in his home congregation where he will be physically close to family and lifelong friends. He will be able to spend time regularly with our oldest son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren as well as with his siblings who are approaching their nonagenarian years.

No doubt, you’re wondering how this development will affect me and the College Hill congregation. I will continue in full-time ministry at College Hill for the foreseeable future and until God calls me to serve in another capacity (most likely retirement). So, this is the tricky part where our family life is disrupted by a 400-mile stretch of *literal* roadway. We are determined to trust the detour God is showing us. Darrell’s call will be part-time, allowing him to spend one week a month here in Bethlehem. And from time to time, I’ll just have to tackle the mileage myself.

To everyone who faces road construction on your life’s journey, to everyone who encounters a detour, I pray you know that God travels the road with you. I hope you draw courage from understanding that Jesus doesn’t only know how to navigate the way. He *is* the way (John 14: 6).

Trusting,

Pastor Chris

UPCOMING EVENTS

AN INTERFAITH MOMENT AT MUSIKFEST

**Thursday, August 6, 4:00 PM
at Stadtplatz (Payrow Plaza)**

The Bethlehem Interfaith Group (B.I.G) invites all people of faith to join voices for "Faith in America: Together We Sing". The gathering will feature short, inspirational readings sprinkled throughout a sing-along format featuring familiar tunes of the folk and faith genres. Let's find hope and goodwill together during this season that marks the 250th birthday of our nation.

CELEBRATE 80 YEARS OF CAMP HOPE!



Join us for the Camp Hope 80th Anniversary Celebration on **Saturday, August 8, 2026**. Families, alumni, churches, and friends of Camp Hope are invited to celebrate 80 years of outdoor ministry through worship, fellowship, camp activities, and a community picnic.

Whether Camp Hope has been part of your story for years or you're experiencing it for the first time, everyone is welcome!

Event Highlights

- Outdoor Vespers worship
- Swimming, games, crafts, and family activities
- Live music and fellowship
- Community picnic dinner

Attendance is free. **Those planning to stay for dinner are asked to register in advance.** The cost of the meal is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Register at www.camphope.org.

NORTHERN PROVINCE SYNOD SYNOPSIS

*(This is a modified version
of the report offered verbally
in worship on July 12, 2026.)*

The 2026 Synod of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, took place June 24–26. Amy DeLong served as our congregation's elected delegate; Doug Kleintop attended in his role as a Bishop; and Dawn Fenner participated as an advisor to the Synod's Emerging Ministries Committee in her capacity as Executive Director of Essentials Café. I participated as the pastor of this congregation.

One remarkable thing about *this* particular Northern Provincial Synod—the highest Judicatory body short of the Unity Synod—is that it was held for the first time *ever* outside of Bethlehem. For folks residing in the Easternmost parts of the province, this was a shock to the system! (I'm not saying it was a *bad* shock; it just meant there were a lot of logistical considerations involved.) Our College Hill foursome enjoyed the wonders of air travel to Minnesota where the Synod was held in a conference center near the Minneapolis airport. Hotel accommodations were comfortable—far more so than previous traveling delegates ever experienced in a Moravian College dorm room. Meeting rooms and dining facilities were close at hand, and this made for an efficient operation. And that's a good thing because a tremendous amount of work was wedged into a shortened Synod schedule of just 43 hours.

(Continued on page 9)

COLLEGE HILL NEWS

LOOK UP...

And you'll notice new round disks with blue lights installed on the ceilings throughout the building. This

marks the completion of our new WiFi system — coverage is now available everywhere inside. To connect, simply scan the QR code posted near each room's entrance. *Please note that the old WiFi system will be turned off on August 1st.*

PREORDER YOUR 2027 MORAVIAN DAILY TEXTS

The Moravian Daily Texts is "the world's oldest daily devotional...that's new every morning!" Published in one form or another for more than 280 years, the Moravian Daily Texts provides Old Testament and New Testament verses, hymn texts, and heartfelt prayers written by Moravians across North America—one page for every day of the year.

By PREORDERING your Moravian Daily Texts 2027 now, you are eligible for a 10% discount, no PA state sales tax, and the assurance of product availability. Please note that we will NOT be maintaining extra inventory at College Hill. Moravian Daily Texts will still be available for purchase in 2027, however, the regular full pricing will apply.

Please return the form included at the back of this newsletter **ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT** (cash or a check made out to College Hill Moravian Church) to the church office to place your order.

Orders are due TO THE CHURCH OFFICE no later than Wednesday, August 12, 2026. *(Final orders are due to the IBOC by Thursday, August 13, so please get them to the church office by August 12.)*

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION IS MOVING

Coffee and Conversation is moving to lunch time!



We will meet on the third Tuesday of every month for lunch and conversation. This will begin the third Tuesday in September on the 15th at

12 Noon in Room 4. Due to many dietary restrictions, we ask that everyone bring their own bagged lunch and beverage of choice. Topics will vary from month to month, and all are welcome to attend. Please join us as we catch up and spend time learning and growing together.

COLLEGE HILL BOOK CLUB

The College Hill book group continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM. We meet in Room 4.

August 25 OFF

September 29 *Air Raid Book Club*
by Annie Lyons

All are welcome to join us! If you're interested in joining us or just reading along, contact Sue Youtz.
610-751-0654/syoutz@ptd.net

FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS NEEDED!

We are in need of hosts for our after-worship fellowship time. Hosting involves making coffee and providing snacks for our weekly fellowship time, and cleaning up afterwards. Coffee, cold beverage mix, and gluten-free snacks are provided (if you wish) by the church. A sign-up page is available on the food table for your convenience. Please sign up for a date that is convenient for you. Feel free to pair up with someone and share the gift of hospitality. The Welcoming Committee members are happy to answer any questions. Thank you very much.

NEW TO THE GROCERY GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Good News — we have added **Shop Rite** to our line-up of grocery gift cards! We now have gift cards in the amount of \$25, \$50 and \$100 from Shop Rite. Of course, this is in addition to Giant and Weis.

Remember to purchase your gift cards in advance of your next grocery

shopping day — for each card that we sell, the Church earns .5% of the sale price! This program is the one fundraiser that continues year-round in the life of our Church. The more cards purchased, the more our church budget is supported.

If you have any questions, or would like to purchase cards, please see either Caroline Pietkiewicz or Diane Abeles on Sunday mornings. Happy shopping!

2027 YOUNG ADULT CONVO

When: June 27 – July 6, 2027

Where: England and Ireland

Who: Moravians aged 18–25
at the time of the Convo

Join us for a 10-day journey “Across the Isles” through England and Ireland visiting the British Province of the Moravian Church and following the witness of Moravian communities that have shaped our faith for nearly 300 years. From London to Leeds and the historic settlement at Fulneck, to Belfast and Sunday worship at Gracehill, we'll explore the places where Moravian community took root and sent its witness into the world.

Registration is NOW OPEN! This event is first-come, first-served, with space for 40 participants. Additional registrants will be placed on a waitlist and notified if a spot opens.



CALLING ALL SINGERS! CALLING ALL RINGERS!

Our Choir and Handbell Choir members are currently enjoying a well-deserved summer break. Both ensembles will be back this fall when rehearsals begin again on **Thursday, September 10**.

Choir rehearsals are held in the Choir Room (Room 6) from **4:00 PM–5:30 PM on Thursday afternoons**. If you're

interested in singing, please contact Gwyn Michel at gwynmichel@aol.com —or simply show up!

Handbell rehearsals are held in the Bell Room (Room 10) **Thursday evenings from 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM**. If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Krysti Wallace at k.nappi1221@gmail.com.



COT HAPPENINGS

Our Christmas in July celebration may be over, but we continue to collect items for William Penn. All items can be placed on the COT table in Fellowship Hall or placed in the bins under the table.

Besides school supplies, the following items have also been requested: outside toys (jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, kickballs, footballs, etc.), tissues, hand sanitizer, and Lysol wipes. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our community school.

West Bethlehem Emergency Food Pantry

Thank you for so many donated items! Our gracious neighbors have helped fill our shelves for spring. Looking ahead, the West Bethlehem Emergency Food Pantry at Star of Bethlehem Lutheran would love to have more:

- Cereal/oatmeal/pancake mix/granola bars
- Shelf-stable milk
- Jelly
- Coffee/tea/powdered drink mixes
- Juice
- Canned tomato products: sauce/diced/crushed/paste
- Canned baked beans
- Canned kidney beans
- Canned corn
- Personal care items
- Toilet paper/paper towels

The Pantry also accepts items that are past the “expired” or “best by” date. Please place your donations on the COT table or in the grocery cart in Fellowship Hall. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

Essentials Café

Wooden Nickel Fundraiser

Would you like to honor someone with a gift that has an immediate impact? Consider purchasing a card that states a wooden nickel (or nickels) has been purchased in their honor. Each nickel costs \$12. The nickels are placed in a jar by the cash register in the cafe and can be used by anyone in need to “pay” for a meal. Our sincere thanks to everyone for helping to feed our neighbors!

Little Free Library

Our library is always in need of books, from board books to chapter books. Our library is geared to the children in the neighborhood, so no adult books please.

Donations can be placed in the baskets located in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. If you are interested in helping shelve and/or restock the library, please reach out to any member of the Community Outreach Ministry Team.

BLANKETS & BEANIES FOR TEENIES

**Calling all knitters, crocheters,
quilters, and sewers!**

How it works: Make blankets and beanies for our smallest citizens. On the fourth Saturday of the month, bring them to the parking lot of College Hill Moravian Church between 2 PM and 4 PM. All blankets and hats will be divided before being taken to hospitals in the Lehigh Valley area (LVHN and St. Luke’s locations).

For more information or to get involved, email Sarah Lathrop at sarah.lathrop97@gmail.com.

RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC!

(Just not at College Hill!)

Congratulations! As part of the BAM recycling program, our congregations have kept at least 11 tons of plastic out of the environment! GOOD JOB!

Do not stop recycling your plastic!!!

You will just take it to the grocery store instead of church. When you go to the grocery store, you will see cardboard containers near the entrance for your plastic recycling. They collect the same plastic items that we collected at church. Just drop your bags there instead of Fellowship Hall.

This change is motivated by our growing storage needs and changes in the TREX bench program.

I want to thank Kevin Harstine for faithfully helping me weigh and transport the plastic for the past six years. And the Confirmation cohorts who were very helpful in helping pack the plastic.

Thank you to the congregation for your efforts to recycle. **DON’T STOP!!!** You remembered to put your plastic in your car to take it to church; now, you just need to remember to take the plastic to the grocery store to continue protection of God’s wonderful earth.

Nena Asquith

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

TRUSTEES UPDATE

July 8, 2026

The Trustees met on Wednesday, July 8. We found our income from giving year to date is still not meeting our budget requirements. Our giving requirements were \$4,055.49 short to date based on the preliminary report. Please continue to prayerfully give and to participate however you can in future fundraisers. Blessings from the Board of Trustees.

FIVE WAYS TO GIVE

As a reminder, there are several different ways to provide your offerings:

1. Bring your offering to Sunday worship. Gifts can be offered whether you attend via “Parking Lot Worship” or worship in the pews.

2. Mail your offering to the church office at College Hill Moravian Church, 72 W. Laurel Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

3. Use your bank’s “bill pay” service. A one-time or recurring payment can be made by a bank on your behalf. Banks that offer this service typically cut a check and mail it to the church at no cost to you. Contact your bank for details.

4. Make an online payment through the **Moravian Giving Portal** at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>. Go to this link, click on our church’s name, and follow the instructions to make a one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift. Donations can be made by members and non-members via direct debit of a bank account or by credit card. All donation processing fees for portal gifts are now paid by the Moravian Ministries Foundation, so your full donation will be received by our church.

5. Make an online payment through Realm. Members can direct debit funds monthly from their bank account to the church’s bank account.

Realm charges a fee for processing the contribution, so users may wish to add 1% more to their offerings to offset this fee. Check out the Realm page on our church website for a video tutorial and instructions: <http://collegehillmoravian.org/realm/>

IN OUR COMMUNITY

LV PRIDE 2026

This year, we are once again organizing a presence at Lehigh Valley Pride, which will be on **August 30**

from 1 PM – 7 PM at ArtsQuest in Bethlehem, PA, with a clear and joyful mission: “To share the message that ‘no matter who you love or how you identify, you are embraced and affirmed by God’s expansive love’ with Lehigh Valley Pride attendees through celebration, service, and affirmation.”

Celebration:

Attend Pride 2026 with us! Bring a group from your congregation and experience the joy, color, and power of being present with our LGBTQIA+ neighbors.

This year, Bradbury Sullivan has introduced an entry fee for the event: 12 and under are free, 13–17 is \$3, and 18+ is \$5, *but the fee is waived with the donation of toiletries for New Bethany Ministries.*

After Pride, we encourage you to work with your pastor or leadership team to share reflections during a Sunday worship service. Testimonies about showing up for our community in this way can help your wider congregation understand the sacred impact of Pride.

Service:

Join our volunteer team during the event! One of our most beloved forms of service is distributing cold water bottles to Pride attendees. Remembering the words of Jesus and that when we give folks who are thirsty something to drink, we are indeed serving Christ, we invite all our service volunteers to go out to the crowds and hand out water as you participate in the greater event! This visible act of care gives us the opportunity to engage directly with people across the festival grounds. Volunteers should be comfortable with some walking and moving about — no booth confinement required!

Note: College Hill will be participating in Pride 2026 with other Moravian congregations, so we will need volunteers who can walk around and pass out water bottles to the attendees.

Affirmation:

Lastly, we are also seeking volunteers (especially clergy and lay pastors) to offer *glitter blessings* at our booth throughout the day. These small moments of personal affirmation are deeply meaningful to many attendees. All materials and a brief orientation will be provided — just bring your spirit of compassion and love.

Volunteer signups for both lay folks and clergy:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45ABAB29A1FAC25-64704102-lvpride>

We are also gratefully accepting donations of *canned* water to support our service efforts throughout the event.

We’d love to collaborate with you to make this witness of celebration, service, and affirmation as powerful and Spirit-filled as possible.

ST. LUKE’S HEALING ARTS

The St. Luke’s Healing Arts Program for cancer patients and their caregivers is so excited to have been welcomed by the College Hill Moravian Church.

Studies have shown that whether creating a simple drawing or collage, looking at art or talking about it, the arts can help you:

- * Express thoughts and emotions that can be hard to put into words
- * Lower stress and anxiety
- * Relax and feel calmer and happier
- * Connect with your deeper self, no matter what you are going through
- * Form new connections with others
- * Create something unique that gives you a sense of pleasure and accomplishment

Registration is required; if you would like more information, please see the flyers on the bulletin boards in the office or in Fellowship Hall.

Our next class will be held on **August 12, 2026** from **5:30 PM to 7:00 PM.**

ART FEST FOR KIDS AT FIRST MORAVIAN EASTON

This year’s Art Fest will meet on Thursday and Friday, **August 13 & 14 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.** Using the book *God’s Paintbrush* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illustrated by Annette Compton as our guiding story, children and youth will have an opportunity to paint God’s world in a variety of mediums — watercolors, pastels, tempera, and acrylics — and experiment with different techniques. We will even have the opportunity to paint upside down like Michelangelo!

Children aged three and up are invited to attend. Registration forms are available at First Moravian or by calling their church office at 610-258-6317. Please **register by Monday, August 10** so that they are sure to have sufficient supplies.

ICE CREAM FESTIVAL AT EDGEBORO MORAVIAN

Edgeboro Moravian Church’s Ice Cream Festival will be held **Monday, August 17 from 4:30 PM–7 PM**, rain or shine at the church (645 Hamilton Ave, Bethlehem). Come out and meet your friends and neighbors! Bring your coworkers!

Join in the fun and fellowship and enjoy salads, hot dogs, hamburgers, meatball sandwiches, turkey barbecue, fruit, baked goods, and (of course!) ice cream from The Dairy Store. Bring your family and friends for a great time!!!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY YARD SALES

Advent Moravian (3730 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA) will be holding a yard sale on **Saturday, August 22 from 8 AM – 2 PM.** Featuring live music, food and a basket raffle. If interested in participating in the basket raffle, call Sue Rice at 412-499-2309.

Visit the *East Hills Moravian Church Family Center* (1830 Butztown Road, Bethlehem, PA) on **Saturday, August**

29 from 9 AM – 2 PM for their indoor (air-conditioned!) yard sale to benefit children and youth ministries. There will also be a café with breakfast items, hot dogs, barbecue, and beverages, as well as a bake sale.

Come sell or shop! **Saturday September 12 from 8 AM – 12 NOON** at *West Side Moravian Church*, 402 Third Ave and Prospect. (This is an outdoor event; it will be held in the church parking lot)

Tables are free with a \$10.00 deposit per table; your deposit will be returned when the table is returned inside the church. **Limited space is available, so early registration is encouraged!**

Please note: We will not have volunteers available to move tables. Please plan on moving your own table.

NO SALE

OF THE FOLLOWING ALLOWED:

- Firearms, ammunition, or parts
- No mattresses
- No alcoholic or tobacco products
- Anything prohibited for resale by the State of PA

HOW TO REGISTER: Applications can be downloaded from www.westsidemoravian.org; or email/ call the West Side church office at westsidemoravian@gmail.com / 610-865-0256.

SENIORS AND FRIENDS

**West Side Moravian Church
402 3rd Ave, Bethlehem
September 3, 2026, 11:30 AM**

Make Your Own Glass Flower with “Glass Garden Art by Martha”

It all started with a glass “flower” that I saw in my chiropractor’s garden. That was summer 2021 and since then, I have made nearly one thousand glass garden creations!

Glass Garden Art is made from up-cycled materials purchased mainly at thrift stores and church yard sales. It gives me great joy to shop for items and to create these unique pieces! It

also provides an outlet for my compassionate spirit and desire to make an impact in my community.

Proceeds benefit local and global charities which have included the Essentials Café, Parkland Community Library, Aid to Ukraine (through Lutheran Disaster Relief), the Allentown School District Foundation, Community Music School, Ripple Church, CROP Walk, and the Monocacy Farm Project.

We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 to be used toward the cost of the supplies.

Bring a friend and a sandwich—
beverage and dessert
will be provided!

***The front door located on
3rd Avenue will be open
for easier access to our meetings.***

CHURCH OFFICE REMINDERS

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE: AUGUST 24

Please submit articles for the September 2026 edition of *The Builder* by **Monday, August 24** to church@collegehillmoravian.org. Please submit all Weekly Announcement articles by the Wednesday of that week.

PAYMENT REMINDER

If you are submitting a payment for something you have ordered, please specify what the payment is for on the memo line of your check (flowers, Daily Text order, etc.).

If you are paying in cash, please use one of the envelopes next to the lockbox and write it on the envelope. This will help the Counters and the Treasurer make sure the payment goes to the correct place. Thank you!

CONTACTING PASTOR CHRIS

Life is unpredictable, and so are office hours. That is why it is best to get in touch before popping in. Pastor Chris is easy to reach, especially if you are willing to **leave a message**. If your need is urgent, please say so!

Text or Call Her Mobile Phone

484-894-9077

Phone the Church Office

610-867-8291

Use EMAIL

moravianpastorchrism@gmail.com

Find her on Facebook and Messenger

Christine Sobania Johnson

Flexible Office Hours

9 AM – 11 AM Monday – Thursday
Pastor Chris keeps Sabbath
on **Fridays** (Day off)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 3 Warren & Faye Achey
George & Kathy
Kovalchick
August 4 Alyson & Keith Thomas



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 1 Nancy Harstine
August 3 Scott Meixell
August 5 Mary Fluck
August 6 Gwyn Michel
Jerry Yob
August 7 Michael Weiner
August 8 Sierra Meder Clark
Tyler Pietkiewicz
August 10 Sue Gonda
August 13 David Sheriff
August 14 Ashleigh Casassa
Alma Deutsch
Steve DiMenichi
August 17 Bonnie Stoltz
August 20 Kassandra DeLong
August 21 Declan Sullivan
August 22 Donald Furry
Rev. Christine Johnson
David Prosperi
August 24 Emma Derby
August 29 Kyla Suess

PRAYERS

**We express concern for dear ones
in our church family...**

- Milo Wallace
- Dawn Fenner
- David Danneberger
- Will Harstine
- Shirley Guth
- Debbie Zechman
- Warren Achey (homebound)
- Jane Gottwald (homebound)
- Mike Meixell (homebound)

We pray, as requested, for others...

- Sharon Bond (friend of Gwyn Michel)
- Dawn (dear to Terri & Rich Harney)
- Larry Goeppert (dear to Lorna Rossnagle)
- Bob (brother of Nancy Snyder)
- Steven and Marybeth (dear to Nancy Snyder)
- Tom Housenick (friend of David Sheriff)
- Gina (niece of Pastor Chris and Pastor Darrell)
- Lisa & Jeff (Nancy Beitel-Vessels' daughter & son-in-law)
- Betsy Bombick
- Evan Burkhart
- Patty (Mark Menges' cousin)
- Theresa (a neighbor)
- Brandon Stoltz (military)
- Lisa Johnson

To receive prayer requests and updates in the most relevant, timely way, consider joining the College Hill Moravian Church Prayer Chain. You may receive notifications by either email or phone. Contact the church office to get connected.

NORTHERN PROVINCE

SYNOD SYNOPSIS

(Continued from page 4)

For several months leading up to the physical Synod gathering, there were plenty of preparatory meetings held online. An initial worship service, committee work, and the PEC President's "State of the Church" address were all conducted in the digital domain, either in recorded messages or through live Zoom sessions.

A critical topic for committee discussion ahead of Synod was to understand a proposal generated by the PEC and affirmed by the 3 District Synods that met in 2024. The key piece of legislation called for bringing District and Provincial Synods into alignment so that they would be conducted jointly in the future. So, for us, the next Eastern District Synod set to take place in 2028 would happen immediately ahead of and in the same location as the 2028 Northern Province Synod. Our delegate (or delegates) would attend BOTH gatherings, one immediately after the other, rather than having staggered cycles resulting in it feeling like we are ALWAYS preparing for one Synod or another. The plan for District and Provincial JOINT Synods is meant to streamline how we get things accomplished, be more efficient, and allow for MORE programming to take place in the "off" years—conferences and retreats and so forth.

This legislation passed, giving rise to the necessity of electing a Provincial Elders Conference to serve only for the next 2 years rather than the typical 4. For this 2-year cycle that will bring things into alignment, the Synod elected David Bennett as PEC President. David has been serving as such since 2023 (another offbeat term because of catching up following Covid disturbances). The lay representatives of PEC are Ralph Wanamaker, Jr. and Keith Gohdes, both of whom are returning with a term of service each completed; and Blondell Jones-Grant and Tammy

Lavoy, both newly elected. Rounding out the PEC are Melissa Johnson, Eastern District President, and David Jones, Canadian District President.

Two new Bishops were prayerfully chosen to serve—The Rev. Brian Dixon (who lives and serves congregationally just down the road in Emmaus) and the Rev. Nasal Ephraim (who lives and serves congregationally just a little further away in Philadelphia at the Redeemer Moravian Church). Their service will bless us in the Northern Province, but not exclusively as the work of a Bishop serves the entire global Unity.

Other legislative highlights included the work of the Church & Society Committee with 12 pieces of endorsed proposals calling us to continue to pursue justice and healing in active and ever more informed ways along avenues that address racism, antisemitism, gender and human sexuality bias, hostility toward immigrants and refugees, and disregard for the careful care of Creation. To read the full content of any and all adopted pieces of legislation, you'll find it all in the Public Documents section at <https://portal.mcnp.org/>.

All in all, it was a jam-packed marathon that took its toll in exhaustion—but in a good way! Feel free to ask any of us who were present for our impressions and takeaways.

Moravian Daily Texts 2027 Pre-order Form

Order before August 13, 2026 and receive a 10% discount!

2027 DAILY TEXTS ORDERS begin shipping in November 2026.

Please use this form to order 2027 Moravian Daily Texts only. Other IBOC items should be ordered separately.

ITEM	PRE-ORDER PRICE (BEFORE 8/13/2026)	REGULAR PRICE (AFTER 8/13/2026)	QUANTITY	TOTAL (PRICE X QUANTITY)
Journal Edition Moravian Daily Text 2027	\$17.55	\$19.50		
Hardcover Edition Moravian Daily Text 2027	\$15.75	\$17.50		
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