



**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

Deadline for articles and items
appearing in the newsletter is
due by the 15th of every month!

Material should be submitted
to the church office.

Non Profit Org.
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December 2025



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

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10:00 AM Embroiderers Guild	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi	4:00 PM Choir rehearsal	Pastor Chris' Sabbath	
10:00 AM ADVENT WORKSHOP DURING WORSHIP	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous		6:30 PM Elders meeting	6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	10:00 AM Tai Chi	
	6:00 PM Welcoming committee					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	Unity Prayer Watch 2025	10:00 AM Finance committee meeting	10:00 AM Tai Chi	3:00 PM MU Seminary Cohort	Pastor Chris' Sabbath	9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation
10:00 AM Worship	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	4:30 PM St. Luke's Healing Arts	4:00 PM Choir rehearsal	10:00 AM Tai Chi	3:30 PM 2025 Peace Pilgrimage
11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	6:30 PM Darts		7:15 PM Trustees meeting	6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal		
11:30 AM Nominating committee meeting						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
JOYFUL NOISE SUNDAY	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	1:00 PM AARP Tax Aide TRAINING	10:00 AM Tai Chi	4:00 PM Choir rehearsal	Pastor Chris' Sabbath	10:30 AM Taoism Study Group
10:00 AM Sunday School (during worship)	6:30 PM Darts	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	7:00 PM Joint Board meeting	6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	10:00 AM Tai Chi	
10:00 AM Worship						
11:00 AM Fellowship Hour						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 AM Worship	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	4:30 PM Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candlelight Worship	NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL	PASTOR CHRIS ON VACATION	
11:00 AM Fellowship Hour				NO CHOIR REHEARSAL	10:00 AM Tai Chi	
2:00 PM Setup for Birthday Party for Jesus				OFFICE CLOSED – MERRY CHRISTMAS!		
4:30 PM Birthday Party for Jesus						
28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3
PASTOR CHRIS ON VACATION						
10:00 AM Sunday School (during worship)	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	NO BOOK CLUB MEETING	10:00 AM Tai Chi	NO BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL	Pastor Chris' Sabbath	9:00 AM Sacristans Undecorating
10:00 AM Worship		5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous		NO CHOIR REHEARSAL		
11:00 AM Fellowship Hour				OFFICE CLOSED – HAPPY NEW YEAR!		
2:30 PM Labyrinth Walk						
4	5	Notes				
Communion – In Celebration of Christ's Coming	10:00 AM Embroiderers Guild					
10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Darts					
11:00 AM Fellowship Hour						

The Builder

72 West Laurel Street • Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018 • 610-867-8291 • Fax 610-865-3067

www.collegehillmoravian.org • email: church@collegehillmoravian.org

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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Beyond Decorations

I once crafted a cast of characters to populate a cheerful tabletop Nativity scene using colorful polymer clay. I made it as a gift for a youngster in my life, a former 5-year-old who is now a full-fledged grownup. I made it with the hope that the little guy and his family would display the putz each year and that it would become a cherished tradition in that household. And it did! The sweet, cartoonish, three-inch tall figurines have weathered 25 years of being bubble-wrapped for safe storage, unbubble-wrapped when Advent came around, and bubble-wrapped again when the calendar advanced to Epiphany.

I guess you could say that the tableau has become an heirloom. Knowing that brings about a sense of gratification. After all, putting that set together was not without effort! I stippled the clay bodies of all the small sheep to look fluffy. I shaped folds into the robes of the Magi to give them a fabric-like drape. I crisscrossed stacks of clay slivers into a mound of hay for the manger and rolled other slivers into tiny ringlets to fashion the angel's hair. I imagined it all in vivid detail.

And as I went about the project, molding each character into existence, I gave a lot of thought to the actual lives of the storied people the figures were meant to represent. I was a young parent myself back then and considered thoughtfully what it might have been like for Jesus' parents to endure the challenges of their inconvenient situation while yet having a heart full of hope for the infant Child of Promise. What would have Joseph been experiencing? Would he have been feeling panicked as Mary's water broke? Embarrassed that the accommodations were so rustic? Shameful that the baby wasn't "his?" Proud that he was "doing the right thing" in the odd situation? Nervous? Stoic? Loving? Nauseous?

And Mary? Was she startled by her labor pains? Was she frightened? Or was fear overshadowed by the misery factor of discomfort? Was she eager to get it over with? Was she determined to savor her role between contractions? Was she anxious about the baby's future? Was she confident that all would be well?

Pondering these questions right now stirs me even more than when I first held the malleable clay in my hands. That might be because I've experienced 25 more years of my own life since then. I've accumulated moments of elation, and moments of desolation, and the memories of all these moments influence my worldview in the present.

Will you be putting up a Nativity scene of your own in the coming days? Perhaps you have one that stirs your nostalgia or touches your heart. Whether you made it yourself and know the pieces full well, or whether the pieces arrived recently from Amazon, I invite you to make a spiritual practice of setting them out. Imagine the story for yourself in vivid detail. Reflect on what the characters mean to you. Reflect on what the story means to you today in contrast to what it may have meant to you in the past. Which aspects may have faded for you? Which have gained in potency?

My worldview these days is readjusted by all that I find disheartening in the current age—an age coated in gold-leafed greed and vulgar corruption bearing a resemblance to the age into which Jesus was born. In my more naïve days, I never grasped why it was so important that a Savior should arrive on the scene to lift anyone and everyone from despair. I think I get it now.

Christmas Blessings, My Dear Ones!

Pastor Chris

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER

December is here, and with it, all our very best efforts to prepare for and then rejoice in the wonder of our Savior's extraordinary entrance into our needful world.

Each Sunday at 10:00 AM in the ongoing season of Advent we'll engage in the traditions that help us to keep the days meaningful and sacred: the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath and the unique music and liturgies meant to convey hope, joy, peace, and love. Find a tingly mix of calm and anticipation in the beautifully decorated Sanctuary. Take respite from the frenzy that can so easily overwhelm what is holy. And then...

Christmas Eve

December 24, 4:30 PM

Lovefeast & Candlelight Worship

Honor the birth
of the Savior Jesus Christ!

Listen as the Christmas story is expressed in many ways through readings, carols, child-friendly moments and through the special music offered by both our handbell and vocal choirs.

Everyone is welcome
to this joyful celebration!

MOVE ON UP, PLEASE!

The Joint Board has noticed that, from an online worshiper's perspective, it sometimes looks as though the Sanctuary is empty! That's because the camera does not pick up all the wonderful worshipers who sit toward the back or toward the outer aisles. To help online worshipers know they are part of the community, the Joint Board requests that in-person worshipers move forward a pew (or two or three) and slide toward the center aisle. Consider it an act of gracious hospitality!

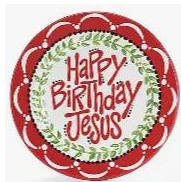
UPCOMING EVENTS

UNITY PRAYER WATCH

December 8, throughout the day

Be part of the Worldwide Moravian Church's constant, unbroken, 24/7 prayer chain by taking personal responsibility to pray for The World beginning at **12:01 AM on Monday, December 8**. This is THE ONE DAY assigned to our congregation in 2025. (We share it with the Nazareth and East Hills Moravian Churches.) Let's take our turn with compassion and conviction!

Sign up for a specific timeslot on the Unity Prayer Watch clipboard on the white table in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office. A Prayer Guide is attached to the electronic version of this newsletter and is also available on the white table in Fellowship Hall.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Birthday Party

for Jesus

December 21

4:30 PM-6:30 PM

The Christian Education and Family Ministry team is planning a joyful party for EVERYONE, and especially for kids and families to celebrate Jesus's birthday. Come for food, fellowship, games, crafts, and fun. Please sign up on the white table in Fellowship Hall so we can plan appropriately for your participation.

LABYRINTH WALKS FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

College Hill Moravian Church and the Lehigh Valley Labyrinth Project invite you to join us for a series of labyrinth walk at the church, 72 West Laurel Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

The final walk for 2025 will be a pre-New Year's walk on **Sunday, December 28**.

In these times of uncertainty, it is beneficial to gather in community to

be together for prayer and meditation. While walking the labyrinth is a very personal journey, it is a comfort to gather in community.

All are welcome. Peace to all as we gather. If you have any questions, please call Linda Toggart, Spiritual Director, at 610-217-1971.

YOUTH COHORT BOLO

Be on the lookout for December events being planned for and with young people in middle/high school. Keep your eyes open for texts, emails, and bulletin announcements. (And if anyone wants to help Pastor Chris do Insta, maybe you'll see stuff there, too!)

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Please plan to attend the **Annual Church Council Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026** immediately following worship. Leadership elections will take place, the 2026 church budget will be presented and voted on, and congregational business will be conducted. As in recent past years, a Zoom option will be made available for church members who are not able to participate in person. Details will follow closer to the event, but please be sure to mark your calendars now. Participation in the Annual Meeting is expected of all church members.

All reports are due to the office by **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**.

SAVE THE DATE – IT'S PARTY TIME!

The way we celebrate monthly birthdays is going old school! We will reinstitute the practice of a yearly birthday party celebrating all birthday months.

The birthday party will be held on **Sunday, February 15, 2026**, following Church. A potluck meal will also be included.

Mark your calendars now so that you don't miss out!



COLLEGE HILL NEWS

POINSETTIAS AVAILABLE FOR ORDER

The Poinsettias that will decorate our Sanctuary during the Christmas Eve service may be purchased and dedicated as memorials for loved ones, to honor someone special, or for blessings received.

An order form is included at the back of this newsletter; more are available on the white table in Fellowship Hall. Please return your form AND your payment of \$8 per poinsettia (cash or check written to College Hill Moravian Church with *Poinsettias* in the memo line) to the church by **Wednesday, December 3**. Forms and payment may be placed in the offering plate, in the lockbox in Fellowship Hall, or mailed to the church.

NOTE: You may not remove the poinsettias from the Sanctuary until after the 4:30 PM Christmas Eve service.

GREETERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Your help in welcoming people to worship is a meaningful way of sharing Christ's love with others. We would like to have at least 2 people to welcome people attending the Christmas Eve service. If you are willing to help out, please let Julie Illick know; 215-206-2892 or juliey889@gmail.com.

SAVE YOUR SHOEBOXES

They will be used as carryout boxes for the coleus flower sale in May. They can be put at the front of the stage. Great way to recycle them. Only looking for shoeboxes—not boot boxes (too big) Thank you.

Pam McNamee

BULLETIN BOARD PHOTOS

You're invited to choose one, two or as many photos as you like!! These 'photos have been on College Hill's

bulletin board and now we would like to share them with you!

As photos are replaced on the bulletin board the ones taken down will be placed on the table closest to the kitchen. Please enjoy these photos as you add to your photo collection.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Coffee and Conversation will meet in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, December 13 from 9 AM-10:30 AM**. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Toggart at 610-217-1971 by phone or text.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School will be held twice a month during our 10 AM Worship service. The children will start in the Sanctuary and then be dismissed to the Sunday School room where they will enjoy a Sunday School lesson, crafts, music, and treats. The last two Sunday School dates for 2025 are **December 14 and December 28**.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and bring your children, grandchildren, and their friends to share in the fun.

BOOK CLUB

Book club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall or Room 4 if the hall is being used.

December – We will plan to meet for lunch TBD

January 27 – *Elephant in my Kitchen* by Francoise Malby-Anthony

All our welcome to join us! Contact Sue Youtz for further updates. 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.

Lorna Rossnagle 610-248-9392
Rosemary Kleintop 610-730-5361

REFRESHING THE PRAYER LIST

With the start of a fresh new year, look for a reset of the Prayer List. Feel free to contact the church office after January 1 to add the names of people you would like to have included. Please remember to periodically update the office with changes.

GROCERY GIFT CARD PROGRAM — IMPORTANT REMINDER!

As you all know, we sell grocery gift cards for both Giant and Weis supermarkets. For each card that we sell, the Church earns .5% of the sale price. What you may not know is that this program is the one fundraiser that continues year-round in the life of our Church. We strive to have on hand an ample supply of cards for both stores. We are all aware of the budget deficit that we are currently facing. Why not help to offset that deficit by purchasing gift cards for your weekly grocery shopping. If you have any questions, or would like to purchase cards, please see either Caroline Pietkiewicz or Diane Abeles on Sunday. Happy shopping!

PAYMENTS, RECEIPTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

Please place all payments, receipts, and reimbursement forms in the Treasurer's mailbox in the office by **Friday, December 26**.

Reimbursement Forms are available in the office.

COMBINED JAN-FEB 2026 NEWSLETTER

For the start of the new year, we will be putting out a combined January-February *Builder*, so articles will be due to the office on **Monday, January 12, 2026.**

MUSIC NOTES



The Sanctuary will be resounding with Special Music throughout this Advent and Christmas season. The Choir will sing; Bells will ring, and Instrumentalists will abound on Christmas Eve. We are also looking forward to hearing the Women of our Choir participate in worship the Second Sunday in Advent. Come, join us in preparing for the birth of our Savior.

O Come, Let Us Adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!



WEST BETHLEHEM

EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

THANK YOU for your donations to the West Bethlehem Emergency Food Pantry. Current needs are:

- Cranberry sauce
- Stuffing
- Cereal/oatmeal/pancake mix/granola bars
- Jelly
- Coffee/tea/hot chocolate
- Potatoes: instant & canned
- Canned fruit
- Canned corn
- Personal care items
- Toilet paper/paper towels

The Pantry also has a table for 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 and will be delivered to the Pantry monthly. THANK YOU!

Let's Bring Christmas to William Penn!

Before we know it, Christmas will be here, so we are continuing to collect supplies for William Penn students and teachers. Visit the COT table in Fellowship Hall for a list of needed items (or see below). All donations can be placed in the bins on and under the table. Everything will be blessed and packed up at our annual Advent Workshop and delivered to the school. Let's make it a meaningful Christmas for our community school!



SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION REQUESTS FOR 2025 – 2026

**Brand-specific requested for quality and durability:*

- *Crayola crayons
- *Crayola colored pencils
- *Crayola markers – broad and fine-tip
- *Elmer glue sticks
- *Expo black dry-erase markers

Narrow pencil boxes or pouches
Dry-erase erasers
Pencil-top erasers
Construction paper
Small whiteboards
1" & 1.5" hard binders
Adult-size scissors
Headphones with wires (**NO EARBUDS**)
Backpacks
Individually wrapped snacks
(Goldfish, pretzels, popcorn, etc.)
Tissues
Hand sanitizer
Clorox wipes

FOR RECESS

Kickballs
Soccer balls
Adult-size basketballs
Sidewalk chalk

Essentials Café

Wooden Nickel Fundraiser:

Do you need a Christmas gift for a hard-to-buy-for person? If so, consider purchasing a card stating that a wooden nickel (or nickels) has been purchased in their honor. Each

wooden nickel costs \$12 and the money raised benefits the ongoing work of Essentials Café.

Our sincere thanks to everyone for helping to feed our neighbors!

Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library needs children's books, especially board books. Donations can be placed in the baskets in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in helping to shelve or restock books, please contact any member of the Community Outreach Team.

TREX Plastic Recycling

There is a very **significant reduction** in our plastic collections!

Thank you! You must be accumulating less plastic. You are using your own bags for your shopping! (Some merchants offer a small credit for using your own bags, or they are no longer using plastic bags.) That's great! It keeps that much more out of our landfills.

OH NO! Is this downturn because you are forgetting to recycle? We need to do better! Until last year, we were collecting about 40+ pounds of plastic each month. Now we are collecting only 10 to 12 pounds.

I am excited about keeping plastic out of the landfills and environment. The reward is the occasional free bench. Whatever the motivation, bring your #2 and #4 plastic bags to church for our recycling program.

TREX has doubled the amount needed to receive a bench to 1,000 pounds. The BAM churches are continuing to work together. We take the #2 and #4 plastic bags that the Recycling Center is unable to take. BAM began this program over 5 years ago. Thus far, the six churches each have received several free benches in exchange for over 22,000 pounds of plastic. And, we have kept that 11 tons of plastic from polluting the waterways and roadways of our world.

Thank you for your continued efforts and plastic contributions. Plastic for our donation needs to be clean and dry. I put my donations in a bag hanging from a hook, then tie it up and drop it at church. The collection point is under the table by the stage in Fellowship Hall that is closest to the kitchen.

Many thanks to all who bring their plastic, the young people who help pack it up, and Kevin Harstine who helps with weighing and transporting the plastic for delivery.

If you would like to help with the actual recycling effort (other than donating plastic), please speak with Nena Asquith.

Guidelines for #2 and #4 plastic collection:

Acceptable plastics:

- ✓ Plastic shopping bags
- ✓ Produce and bread bags
- ✓ Grocery bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Ice bags
- ✓ Ziploc & other recloseable bags
- ✓ Sandwich bags
- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap & air pillows
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Salt & wood pellet bags
- ✓ Pallet wrap & stretch film

Plastic NOT acceptable:

- ✓ Plastic bottles (water, soda, etc.)
- ✓ Degradable/compostable bags
- ✓ Prewashed salad mix bags
- ✓ Frozen food bags
- ✓ Candy bar wrappers
- ✓ Chip bags
- ✓ Dried fruit & nut bags
- ✓ Produce bags such as used for grapes
- ✓ Six-pack rings
- ✓ Pouch packaging
- ✓ If material easily is shiny & crinkles or crunches
- ✓ If material does not stretch easily

STARS OF BETHLEHEM HOLIDAY CONCERT

**Fundraiser for The Freezer
Ministry and Garden Gatherers
The Historic Chapel of Central
Moravian/Hotel Bethlehem
December 16, 2025
Tickets \$100**

NOTE: If you attend this event and mention Essentials Café, the café will receive a \$10 donation!

Concert #1 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Reception from 4:30 - 5:30 PM

- BASD Northeast Singers; Denise Parker, Director
- Kristen Morgenstern – Award-winning Lehigh Valley talent
- Bethlehem Trombone Choir – Amazing seasonal sounds

Concert #2 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Reception from 5:50 - 6:30 PM

- Mosaic Youth Chorus; Joy Hirokawa, Director
- The Valley Collective; Tom Remaley, Director
- Bethlehem Trombone Choir – Amazing seasonal sounds

Receptions will be held in the Mural Room and Veranda at Hotel Bethlehem – Hors d'oeuvres and beverages; music by Dolcetto

To purchase tickets, call 610 867-0537; **your \$100 ticket** includes concert and reception. Limited to 150 per concert.

Make checks payable to
East Hills Moravian Church
(footnote *FMGG Concert*)
Mail to 1830 Butztown Road,
Bethlehem, PA 18017



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

MISSION MINUTE: MEDICAL SUPPLIES REACH THE AHUAS CLINIC

In September, the Clínica Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, Honduras, received a long-awaited shipment of medical equipment and supplies that will strengthen its ability to care for

thousands of patients each year. The container, donated by Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach, arrived in the remote region of La Moskitia after months of coordination, preparation, and prayer.

Getting these supplies to Ahuas was no small feat. After crossing the country and clearing customs, the shipment still had to be ferried across the lagoon—a process that required four trips and three boatloads. The final load arrived around midnight and was unloaded by flashlight into the clinic.

Among the donations were dozens of hospital beds to replace unsafe, deteriorated equipment, as well as thousands of syringes and other essential items that will significantly reduce costs for the clinic. Each piece of equipment represents life-saving potential and renewed comfort for patients.

This effort was made possible through many hands and hearts. Deep thanks to Rick Nelson, who coordinated the shipment on behalf of the BWM and traveled to Honduras to support its delivery in person; to Hospital Sisters for their continued ministry of sharing medical resources worldwide; and to all of the people who donated to the BWM to make the transportation of these supplies possible. We trust that God will multiply these gifts for the health and wholeness of many.

THERE WAS NO ROOM AT THE INN...

Since 1987, MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR (MOD) has provided a temporary home for homeless adults in Manhattan, NYC.

This ministry provides safe and affordable transitional housing for 40 homeless adults. MOD provides a healthful breakfast and supportive social services to rebuild our residents' lives. MOD helps them to obtain jobs and benefits, with the goal of finding permanent affordable housing and learning the life skills to maintain it.

Residents at Moravian Open Door pay a small monthly fee for their room and services (often much of their limited income); this covers only about 50% of the operating costs for the facility and its full-time staff of three.

Moravian Open Door receives no government funds. Donations from individuals, congregations, and other private sources must cover the rest of operating expenses.

Your gift can help the vital ministry of MOD, the only transitional housing ministry of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church. Please consider a generous financial gift to MOD.

Moravian Open Door
347 E. 18th Street
New York, NY 10003

Gifts may also be made on the MOD website www.moravianhouse.org, or online via the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America Giving Portal <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>. On the MMFA Portal, scroll to the section GIVE NOW to a Specific organization or Ministry where Moravian Open Door has a tab. MMFA will absorb any fees for the donation.

FIVE WAYS TO GIVE

The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America has generously agreed to begin paying all processing fees charged for online gifts made through the Moravian Giving Portal. While the Foundation itself has never charged any kind of fee, the backend processor, Blackbaud Merchant Services, charged a processing fee like others who perform this service. Now, this processing fee will no longer be withheld, so our church will get the full balance of gifts given via the Moravian Giving Portal. 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/>

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

ELDERS UPDATE November 5, 2025

2025 Elders Watchword
*What is the kingdom of God like?
And to what should I compare it?
"It is like a mustard seed that someone
took and sowed in the garden;
it grew and became a tree,
and the birds made nests in its
branches. Luke 13: 18 & 19*

The Elders reviewed the ministries and activities of the church community for October. One of the new ministries that was well received was the Blessings of the Animals for the community.

We also reviewed the ministries and events for the Advent and Christmas

season. Building use was discussed and the various committees reported on outreaches and updates.

The Elders are blessed to receive an Elder's Tithe from the endowment fund of the church. A donation was made to the Board of World Mission disaster fund and the other half was given to the daily bread fund for assistance in the local community. Pastor Chris reported that there have been more people coming to the church asking for assistance for daily needs for their families.

The Board of Elders would like to wish you all a very merry and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with health and happiness.

Blessings and Peace,
The Board of Elders

IN OUR COMMUNITY

EDGEBORO MORAVIAN Christmas Putz & Christmas Room

This holiday season, visit the Edgeboro Moravian Christmas Putz and Christmas Room (645 Hamilton Avenue, Bethlehem) from **December 1 through December 22**.

Group tours are available Monday – Friday from 9 AM – 2 PM; call or email the Edgeboro church office to arrange your group's visit at 610-866-9793 or churchoffice@edgeboromoravian.org.

Walk-in visitors are welcome Thursday – Saturday from 6 PM – 8 PM and Sunday from 12 PM – 3 PM.

NEW WAY OF BEING ADVENT SERIES

The MCNP Racial Justice Team and the MCSP Moravian Team for Reconciliation (Racial, Cultural and Ethnic) are pleased to announce that they are jointly sponsoring this year's *New Way of Being* Advent Series, **"Come, Let Us Walk in the Way of Faith, Hope, and Love"** providing

suggestions for ways congregations and individuals may walk with our immigrant neighbors.

December 3 (The Rev. Angelica Regalado-Cieza, Pastor at Fries Memorial Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC)

December 10 (The Rev. Mikayla Sauerbrey, pastor of Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown, PA and Marcus Dip Silas of *Mending Together*)

December 17 (The Rev. Ben Lippert, pastor of the Schoenbrunn Moravian Congregation in New Philadelphia, Ohio)

All sessions will be offered on Zoom from 7:30 PM –8:30 PM ET.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839165887?pwd=s8XLLjLBmpVTrafqLitKwtJHYHhE5j.1>

Zoom Meeting ID 878 3916 5887;
Passcode 53405

Visit
<https://www.moravian.org/northern/2025/11/12/new-way-of-being-advent-series-2025/> for additional details.
Questions? Contact Rev. Sue Koenig at suekoenig@mcnp.org.

SENIORS AND FRIENDS December 4, 2025 at 11:30 AM West Side Moravian Church, 402 3rd Avenue, Bethlehem

Christmas Party!

Join us for guitar music and a sing-along with Bishop Chris Giesler! Please bring a gift to exchange, not exceeding \$10.00.

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.

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 **Wednesday, December 10**, from 5:30 PM–7:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS PEACE PILGRIMAGE

Saturday December 13, 2025

College Hill Moravian Church will be one of the stops on the 66th Annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem. For more information or to register visit www.peacewalk.org.

WINTER RETREAT AT CAMP HOPE

Camp Hope is now accepting registrations for the Senior High Winter Retreat that will be held from **Friday, January 16 to Sunday, January 18!** Registration information can be found at camphope.org, or call/email (908) 459-4435/ hopecenter@camphope.org.

CHURCH OFFICE REMINDERS

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!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JANUARY 12

Please submit articles for the combined January-February 2026 edition of *The Builder* by **Monday, January 12, 2026** to church@collegehillmoravian.org. Please submit all Weekly Announcement articles by the Wednesday of that week.

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
moravianpastorchrisc@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)



December 16

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Vince & Samantha
Hlavinka
Joshua & Angela
Knappenberger

December 18



December 1
December 2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rachel Stapleton
Cora Knappenberger
Mittie Merkle

December 3	Conrad Perry Rose Marie Feist Rodney Rothrock
December 4	Brandon Deutsch
December 6	Pam McNamee
December 10	Kathy Kovalchick Tommy Moran
December 13	Bradley Parker
December 14	Jack Thomas
December 15	Mike Beck Jacquie Jameson
December 17	Karly Diehl Alison Mohr
December 18	Tanya Furry
December 20	Ryan Meixell Kayla Rivera David Yob Colleen Markley Krysti Wallace
December 22	Hailey Molina
December 25	Keith Thomas
December 28	Thomas Markley Shawn Meder Caroline Pietkiewicz
December 29	Jennifer Williams Keglovics
December 30	Abby Bowman Erin Hock Amelia Olver

PRAYERS

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

- Gloria Reisinger
- Jack Thomas
- Debbie Zechman
- David Danneberger
- Gwyn Michel
- Joan Menges
- Carol Messina
- Nancy Beitel-Vessels
- Bonnie Stoltz
- Jerry Yob
- Will Harstine
- Joe Pietkiewicz
- Sherwood Kindred
- Kathy Powers
- Shirley Guth
- Jane Gottwald

- Tyler Pietkiewicz
- Larry Notaro
- Morris Vidaurre
- Sherwood Kindred (homebound)
- Warren Achey (homebound)
- Mike Meixell (homebound)

We pray, as requested, for others...

- The family of Gwen (family friend of Rich Harney), especially her son, Noah, and her mother, Lynne
- Danielle Serratore (daughter of Julie Illick)
- Ben Gehringer (son of Julie Illick)
- Mohan & his family (on the heart of Nancy Beitel-Vessels)
- Rev. James Heroux
- Lisa Johnson
- Sharon Bond
- Samantha and Emmeileine (granddaughter and great granddaughter of Nancy Beitel-Vessels)
- Mauricio Vidaurre
- Lee Sobania
- Barry Erb (cousin of Carol Messina)
- Lucy (granddaughter of Terri Harney)
- Regina, Cynthia, Victoria, Isabella, Anthony
- Chris Guth
- Caiden Nappi
- Cristin and Ricky Rivera
- Glenn Kranzley
- Doug Bauder
- Jürgen Nees
- Brandon Stoltz (military)

We pray for people in challenging circumstances...

- Those whose personal relationships are in crisis
- Folks impacted by mental health challenges and addictions
- Peace and security for siblings in Christ and nearby neighbors who come under threat: LGBTQ+ persons; immigrants; local Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers
- Our street neighbors

We pray for people and ministries we support in particular ways...

- Essentials Café—its staff, volunteers, and customers
- Students, staff, and families connected with our neighborhood school, William Penn Elementary
- The ongoing work of racial justice and healing
- The ever-ongoing work of the Moravian Board of World Mission

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.



Poinsettias 2025

The Poinsettias which will decorate our Sanctuary this year during the Christmas season may be purchased as memorials for loved ones, to honor someone special, or for blessings received. Please return this form **by Wednesday, December 3**. It may be placed in the offering plate, in the lockbox in Fellowship Hall, or mailed to the church. **PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY EACH ORDER.** Requests are processed in order and quantities are limited, so submit your order as soon as possible. Also, please note that Poinsettias may not be removed from the Sanctuary until after the 4:30 PM Christmas Eve service.

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS: _____ at **\$8.00** per plant

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

For Blessings Received:
