

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	Apr 30	1	2	3
8:40 AM Learn & Grow ABS 10:00 AM Sunday School (during worship) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour 12:00 PM SETUP for Jazz Society Concert +2 more	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	PASTOR CHRIS OUT OF THE OFFICE 9:00 AM Palette Club 10:00 AM Fire Inspection (City of Bethlehem) 5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi	9:00 AM Newsletter Folding Team 4:00 PM Choir rehearsal 6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	10:00 AM Tai Chi	9:00 AM Coleus sale 2:00 PM Seminary Graduation
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:40 AM Learn & Grow ABS 10:00 AM Sunday School (during worship) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coleus Sale 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour 4:00 PM Unitas Concert	10:00 AM Embroiderers Guild 5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous 6:30 PM COT meeting	5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous 6:30 PM Wisdom Drum Circle	10:00 AM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Elders meeting	3:00 PM MU Seminary Cohort 4:00 PM Choir rehearsal 6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	Pastor Chris' Sabbath 10:00 AM Tai Chi	9:00 AM Coleus Sale 9:00 AM Coffee & Conversation 9:00 AM Cleanup Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Christian Family Lovefeast 8:40 AM Learn & Grow ABS 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coleus Sale	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	4:00 PM Choir rehearsal 6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	Pastor Chris' Sabbath 10:00 AM Tai Chi	10:30 AM Taoism Study Group
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Moravian Music Sunday 8:40 AM Learn & Grow ABS 10:00 AM Sunday School (during worship) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	ELECTION DAY OFFICE CLOSED FOR ELECTION DAY 5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi 4:00 PM Wildcats 4H Club 7:00 PM Joint Board meeting	4:00 PM Choir rehearsal 6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	Pastor Chris' Sabbath 10:00 AM Tai Chi	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:40 AM Learn & Grow ABS 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Fellowship Hour 2:30 PM Labyrinth Walk	5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	10:30 AM Book Club 5:30 PM Debtors Anonymous	10:00 AM Tai Chi	9:00 AM Newsletter Folding Team 4:00 PM Choir rehearsal 6:15 PM Bell Choir rehearsal	PASTOR CHRIS ON SABBATICAL 10:00 AM Tai Chi	
Jun 1	2	Notes				
PASTOR CHRIS ON SABBATICAL 8:40 AM Learn & Grow ABS 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC	10:00 AM Embroiderers Guild 5:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous					
						<div><div>April 2025</div><div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div></div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div></div><div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div></div><div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div></div><div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div></div><div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div><div>June 2025</div><div><div>S</div><div>M</div><div>T</div><div>W</div><div>T</div><div>F</div><div>S</div></div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div></div><div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div></div><div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div></div><div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div></div><div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div>

CHMC Calendar



**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

Director of Music

Ms. Kelly Schmidt

Office Coordinator

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

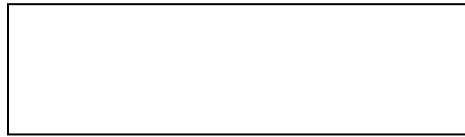
**Material should be submitted
to the church office.**

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE

PAID

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA
Permit No. 511

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



May 2025



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

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

Volume 27, No. 5

Published Monthly

May 2025

On Sanctuary and Care for All

I must have been 11 or 12 years old when I picked up a book from my grandmother's side table and soon found myself immersed in the anxiousness of *The Hiding Place*, Corrie Ten Boom's memoir of her family's involvement with the Dutch Resistance during WWII. When neighboring Germany's Third Reich invaded the Netherlands and reigned by terror, Corrie and her family came to assist as many as 800 Jewish people in escaping arrest and deportation to Nazi concentration and death camps. The Ten Booms built a secret room behind a false wall in their home—a hiding place—to harbor vulnerable ones. The name of the secret room and the book title were taken from Psalm 119:114—*You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.*

As people rooted deeply in their Christian faith, the Ten Booms could not turn away from sheltering their endangered neighbors. Motivated by their commitment to Christ, they felt compelled to risk their own lives to act righteously. When their resistance work was discovered, Corrie, her sister Betsie, and their father, Casper were taken into custody by the Gestapo and held in camps where Casper and Betsie perished. Corrie survived her imprisonment at Ravensbruck. For the rest of her life, she would speak of her release as being a Divine intervention. In the aftermath of the war, she learned that her release had been erroneous and that she had been destined for the gas chamber.

It's an inspiring tale. And a chilling one as well.

While I don't mean to imply a direct correlation between then and now, I'm aware of chilling news stories in our present era, especially when it comes to the treatment of undocumented people. With ultra-zealous responses from the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement Agency (ICE) toward non-citizens within our nation's borders, mistakes are being made. Compliant immigrants are being deported without due process, sometimes to notorious facilities outside of the United States where human rights are not given consideration. Today I learned that three young children who are U.S. citizens have been deported along with their non-citizen mothers who, upon arrest, were not given the opportunity to speak with their families or their lawyers. One of the children is a cancer patient now separated from medicine and medical care. This is heartless.

Jesus compels us to act with compassion toward the people on the margins (Matthew 25:40). You could make the connection that Jesus' teachings are based on earlier Godly precedents such as: *The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself...* (Leviticus 19:34).

It is with such imperatives in mind that our Board of Elders feels led to make a statement: *Since our Moravian motto ends with "in all things love," it is who we are and is a call to follow Jesus's example of caring for the least of these. We are called to welcome the stranger and to help those in need. In that love, we as fellow children of a Loving God, offer sanctuary and care to all who come to our community for help and safety. "In all things love" is more than a motto; it is a call to Peace and Justice as a church and as followers of Christ.*

May we continue on a compassionate path,

Pastor Chris

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

May 4

On the 3rd Sunday of Easter and 1st Sunday of a new month, join us as we recognize the folks who have May birthdays. Sunday School will be in session, and because of that, we'll take the opportunity to have the youngsters collect a Joyful Noise Offering.

May 10

For folks of all generations and all family configurations, we'll celebrate Christian Family Lovefeast.

May 18

Sing for joy! Through the existence of the Moravian Church, music has been a consistent way to convey expressions of faith and theology. Join us as we observe Moravian Music Sunday.

May 25

Start the summer with a seasonal blessing ahead of church camp, road trips, vacations and staycations!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT COLLEGE HILL

FOURTH ANNUAL COLEUS PLANT SALE

**25+ Varieties of Colorful
Shade-Loving Plants**

Through the generous cultivation by Larry McNamee, we will once again be offering Coleus plants for sale on these dates in Fellowship Hall:

Saturday, May 3 9 AM to Noon
Sunday, May 4 following worship

Saturday, May 10 9 AM to 11 AM
Sunday, May 11 following worship

The cost is \$5/plant or 5 plants for \$20.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

The Trustees ask that you come out on **Saturday, May 10, from 9 AM–noon** for our Spring Church Cleanup Day. There are many chores that need to be undertaken. Helping to tidy, clean and polish our church is important, enabling members and visitors to experience God in a welcoming environment. Our custodian takes care of the week-to-week cleaning and each year we ask for your help to attend to bigger clean-up tasks. We will be working inside and outside by weeding, trimming, washing, polishing, dusting, etc. Please come out for a few hours on this day. There are many rooms that have not had a good cleaning in several years.

LABYRINTH WALK FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

College Hill Moravian Church and the Lehigh Valley Labyrinth Project invite you to join us for a labyrinth walk at the church on **Sunday May 25, 2025 from 3 PM - 4:30 PM**. This walk will take place at 72 West Laurel Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. 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.

SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH PICNIC ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1



If you're nostalgic for the bygone days of fellowship, fun, and food, pine away no more! The Christian Education Committee is planning a **CHURCH PICNIC** for the first Sunday in June after worship.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or dessert and their own

(non-alcoholic!) beverage. **Look for sign-up sheets on the white table beginning May 4** so we can estimate how many folks will be attending.

COLLEGE HILL NEWS

WELCOME 2025 CONFIRMANDS

On April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday, College Hill celebrated six young people who had completed the Confirmation Program:

TANNER HAMPTON BROWN
KASSANDRA LORRAINE DELONG
BENJAMIN RYNE HARNEY
KASPIAN ELWOOD HLAVINKA
BRIA ELIZABETH PROSPERI
CORA MARY PROSPERI

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

Please help us identify members and friends who will be completing high school, trade school, or college this spring. The College Hill congregation would like to celebrate achievements and accomplishments with all soon-to-be graduates. We have an inkling of who might be on such a list, but we don't want to miss anyone! Please let Kelly in the church office know who's who. Provide the name, phone number, and email contact info of each graduate you're aware of.

IN MEMORIAM

Our brother in Christ, Ken DiMenichi, entered the Savior's nearer presence on Thursday, April 17. Please hold his family in your hearts, especially his sons and daughters: Mike (and Donna), Kathy, Sharlee (and Stefan), and Rick (and Stacey).

Services were held on Friday, April 25, at Connell Funeral Home in Bethlehem.

His obituary can be found at:
<https://www.connellfuneral.com/obituaries/kenneth-dimenichi>

SPRING 2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School will be held twice a month during the 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 remaining Sunday School dates for Spring 2025 are **May 4 & 18**.

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

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please contact Alan Bosch.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SIGNUPS

Pastor Chris continues to schedule worship assistants for the coming months. This time around, **a signup sheet has been posted on her office door**—so check your calendars and sign up for your preferred dates. And if you've never assisted and would like to, go ahead and sign up for a Sunday!

SANCTUARY FLOWER CHANGES

Over the last year or so, if you have sponsored flowers, you have noticed the price of fresh flowers has increased. When the first increase occurred, the price increased to \$40.00 a vase. Many of you made the decision not to sponsor flowers as often, due to the price. This January, the church received a letter from our florist that there would be another increase for our weekly flowers in February 2025. Our florist is losing money due to the increase cost of gas for delivery, labor and the cost of the flowers. Our florist has attempted to keep cost for churches down by providing flowers that are colorfully out of season or that they have on hand. (For example, you may have

noticed the pink and yellow flowers during Advent.) As of February 1, 2025 the price per vase of flowers will be **\$55.00 for Florist Color Choice** (\$50.00 for the flowers and \$5.00 for delivery) and **\$60.00 for Seasonal Colors** (\$55.00 for the flowers and \$5.00 for delivery). These prices are guaranteed for two years.

A conversation began to determine any alternatives we could offer to members who no longer want to pay the increased cost of flowers, but still want to be able to do something in memory or honor of a loved one. We did not want to take away the opportunity for families to order fresh flowers but we also felt there should be options for families to make a donation. You can make a \$25.00 donation in memory or in honor of a loved and you can choose one of the following areas to designate the funds to: Weekly Bulletins, Silk Flower Replenishing, Welcoming Ministry Team (Receptions, Visitor Bags, Children's Worship Bags), Technology and Fellowship Hall Refurbishing.

There is a new form for you to fill out and include with your payment for your choice of either Sanctuary Flowers or a designated donation. Your request and payment in full must be placed in the lock box in Fellowship Hall 4–6 weeks before the date requested. The forms will be available in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and the church office.

Carol Messina has been the voice on the other side of the phone asking if you would like to sponsor Sanctuary flowers for quite a while. Carol has decided to step aside from calling as with this venture there is no need to call. A very special thank you to Carol Messina for her time and effort in calling people to sponsor the Sanctuary flowers.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the board of Elders.

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT CAMP HOPE

Registrations are now being accepted at our beloved Moravian church camp in New Jersey, Camp Hope. Visit <https://www.camphope.org/camp> to learn more and sign up.

Please know that the College Hill congregation thoroughly supports young people who would like to attend a week of summer church camp programming, as does the Bethlehem Area Moravians (BAM) organization. For the second year in a row, College Hill is offering a pay-what-you-can option for church kids and friends. When registering for camp, simply cover as much of the cost as your family can reasonably handle. Once BAM scholarships are added in, the congregation will pay the amount leftover at the conclusion of the church camping season. Should anyone wish funding for a second session of camp, decisions will be made on availability of funds. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Chris.

Campership funds are made possible through the Joyful Noise Offering, investments like the Lisa Campbell Fund, and supplemented in other ways, including the proceeds of recycled aluminum collected in the "can trailer."

Here is the 2025 Camp Hope schedule:

Musical Theatre Camp: 6/29-7/5
\$550

Completed 5th-9th Grade this year

Primary Camp: 7/6-12
\$520

Completed 3rd or 4th Grade this year

Middler Camp: 7/13-7/19
\$520

Completed 5th or 6th Grade this year

Junior High Camp: 7/20-7/26
\$520

Completed 7th or 8th Grade this year

Senior High Camp: 7/27-8/2
\$550

Completed 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th this year

Swim Camp: 8/3-8/9

\$550

Completed 3rd - 6th Grade this year

Pre-Primary Camp: 8/3-8/6

\$345

Completed 1st or 2nd Grade this year

GOOGLE US! REVIEW US!

A simple thing you can do to help us raise our congregation's visibility and potentially attract visitors is to give College Hill Moravian Church a 5-star rating and write a positive Google Review. Better yet, share some pictures of our beautiful building and wonderful people! (For safety reasons, please avoid pics of children, though.) A quick media analysis shows we've been neglecting this free and easy way of spreading the news that College Hill Moravian Church is a warm and wonderful place to be. The Board of Trustees challenges us all to work on boosting our algorithmic performance immediately!

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.

Welcoming Committee

Lorna Rossnagle 610-248-9392

Rosemary Kleintop 610-419-8300/
610-730-5361

BOOK CLUB MEETING ON MAY 27

This month, the College Hill Book Club will meet on **Tuesday, May 27 at 10:30 AM**. If you would like to join us or are just interested in what we are

reading, please reach out to Linda Rapp at 610-462-7067 or linlourapp@gmail.com.

90 POSSIBILITIES FOR INSPIRATION

Please visit our church library sometime, located downstairs in the Parlor. There are comfortable sofas and chairs, and there are three bookshelves clearly visible up against the inner wall. Best of all, you will discover books on many topics, many of them religious.

Better yet—there are 90 books under the shelf labeled “Inspiration”. There has to be at least one that will truly stimulate your faith-inspired spiritual being. Just browse and borrow what you want, then sign the sheet before you leave.

For questions, contact Will Harstine at 610-861-10911. Happy reading!

TREX PLASTIC COLLECTION

It is time for a reminder about our TREX project. College Hill, along with the BAM churches, continues to support the environment through our Plastic Collections. Collect your clean and dry acceptable plastic in one of the bags you are recycling. Tie it up when it is full. Place it in one of the several large collection bags in Fellowship Hall under the table by the stage. The display of “YES” and “NO” plastics is for you to check your contribution. Black and white trash bags are NOT acceptable for donating your plastic.

We are counting on you to include only acceptable plastic so that our donation is not rejected. Everyone is doing a good job of sorting your plastic to make sure our donation is acceptable. The Bethlehem Area Moravians thus far have kept several tons of plastic from polluting the earth in the past 5 years! That is a LOT of plastic! With our churches working together, we have made an impact.

We received the benches by the Little Library and the parking lot for free through our donations. Your help and your donations are appreciated. If you have any questions, or wish to volunteer to help with this project, contact 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



THANK YOU!

Hosanna and Hallelujah! How wonderful it was to have both our Handbell and Senior Choirs participate in this year's Holy Week services! From the bells' triumphant "Peal on ELLACOMBE" on Palm

Sunday, to their beautiful reflective settings on Maundy Thursday—the torch was then expertly passed to our Senior Choir, who sang at the foot of the cross on Good Friday and welcomed our risen Savior with unbounded joy Easter morning—what a joyous celebration indeed! Thanks also to Tanner Brown, Franklin Niño, and Krysti Wallace for their beautiful additions to our Holy Week services, as well as to Carole Burkhardt and Kelly Schmidt, both of whom provided the perfect vocal bookends to our Tenebrae service on Friday evening.

Moravian Music Sunday will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 18**. The choir will be presenting a new Moravian work, composed by Brian Henkelmann in honor of one of our own, Chuck Stoltz. Please come out that day in support of College Hill's music ministry.

Organ Update: We are pleased to announce that work on our ailing organ is scheduled to commence in mid-May. At that point the old organ console will be taken out and replaced with the new, updated one. This portion of the project is expected to take about one month, during which time our worship services will be accompanied by piano.

Praise the Lord for the musical talents and instruments available to us!

UNITAS CHORALE

Unitas Chorale will present their spring concert, ***With One Accord***, on **Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 4:00 PM** at Advent Moravian Church (3730 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem). This will be Gwyn Michel's last concert with the chorale as its director, so please join us as we celebrate her ministry and the *many* gifts she has shared with us. A reception will follow.

No ticket is required; a free-will offering will be received.

HELP SUPPORT THESE MINISTRIES



NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The Community Outreach Team will be collecting donations for the West Bethlehem Emergency Food Pantry. The Pantry is located at Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, a neighbor and friend of Essentials Café on Third Avenue. This will be an ongoing collection of whatever items you would like to donate. Some suggestions include coffee, tea, oatmeal, pancake mix, cereal, rice, canned corn, jams and jellies, paper products, and toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothpaste). The food pantry will be letting us know of especially needed items, so **please check the weekly announcements for updates**.

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!**

Wm Penn Elementary School:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Because of your generosity, we labeled **1,142 granola bars** for the students to enjoy during their PSSA testing!

If you are looking for other ways to continue supporting the students, the school is always in need of the following items:

Jump ropes, games, sidewalk chalk, kickballs, footballs, tissues, hand sanitizer, & Lysol wipes.

A complete list of requested items can be found on the COT table in Fellowship Hall. All donations can be placed in the bins on the table. Thank you!

Essentials Café Wooden Nickel Fundraiser:

A jar of wooden nickels sits next to the cash register at the Essentials Café. These nickels may be used by patrons who need help paying for their meal—a nickel that has been gifted to pay for a breakfast or lunch. Our cards sell for \$12 and each one will purchase one nickel for the jar. These gift cards show that you have donated an Essentials Café meal "in honor of" the recipient. This is an ongoing project, and cards will be available for purchase in Fellowship Hall after church services. Our sincere thanks to everyone for helping to feed our neighbors!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Our **Little Free Library** is in need of children's books (especially chapter books, Dr. Seuss books, and board books for little kids). 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.



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

MISSION MINUTE: BWM WELCOMES

MORAVIAN CHURCH IN ZAMBIA AS A COVENANT PARTNER

The Board of World Mission (BWM) is excited to announce that the Moravian Church in Zambia is now a global partner! This covenant partnership strengthens the ministry already taking place in Zambia and offers opportunity for growth and collaboration.

The BWM has already supported several projects in Zambia, including the development of a vocational training center, a solar power installation at a Kindergarten, and church construction efforts. Looking ahead, we are eager to collaborate on theological education initiatives to further equip leaders for ministry.

We invite you to join us in prayer for the Moravian Church in Zambia and its leadership, especially Rev. John Sichilima, as they continue to grow and serve their communities leading to a Synod in August of this year.

Learn more about this partnership at MoravianMission.org/Zambia.

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, N.Y.
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 St., 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 <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

The Elders have been working to quietly support our church community and the community beyond the church. We have been updating committees and seeing how we can best support the spiritual lives of the church and beyond. Our discussions around the table in the past two months have focused on helping those in need. One of the ways we can support the church and community around us is to be a place of peace and refuge for people in need. One of the ways we felt called to do that is with a statement of love and peace for those in need, a place of sanctuary. To that end the following statement was crafted and approved by the Joint Board of College Hill Moravian Church.

Since our Moravian motto ends with "in all things love" it is who we are and is a call to follow Jesus's example of caring for the least of these. We are called to welcome the stranger and to help those in need. In that love, we as fellow children of a Loving God, offer sanctuary and care to all who come to our community for help and safety. In all things love is more than a motto; it is a call to Peace and Justice as a church and as followers of Christ.

This statement will be put into action pending approval of our insurance carrier.

The Elders are open to all questions and comments from the church community.

In All Things Love

—The Board of Elders

TRUSTEES UPDATE

April 8, 2025

The Board of Trustees met on April 8, 2025. Giving was up and we were able to catch up and meet our commitments year to date. The Peanut Butter Egg fundraiser was a success and we would like to thank all of those who participated and supports this event. As always, your support—financial and otherwise—is appreciated as we continue to serve God.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

BOOK SALE

AT THE ARCHIVES

This May, The Moravian Archives is hosting a big book and print sale in our reading room with new promotions each day! Browse new, used, German-language, and rare books on a wide variety of topics. Original and reproductions prints are also available for sale.

Thursday, May 15 – 9 AM–3 PM

\$3 sugar cake slices + free cup of Board of World Mission coffee! Proceeds from the sugar cake sales benefit Essentials Café, while supplies last.

Friday, May 16 – 9 AM–3 PM

Spend \$50, get a free tote bag or “Bridging Bethlehem” glass. Vault tours available: Check out rare books + prints from our collection!

Saturday, May 17 – 9 AM–1 PM

Bag Day! Fill a paper bag for just \$15 (select titles, excludes rare books)

The Moravian Archives is located at 41 West Locust Street in Bethlehem.

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 church office or in Fellowship Hall.

Our next class is on **Wednesday, May 14 from 5:30 PM–7:00 PM.**

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING PEACE DAY CAMP

Sponsored by the LEPOCO Peace Center, this day camp will be held **July 21–25, 2025 from 9 AM–noon** at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. Peace Camp is five mornings of fun activities focusing on peace and social justice: We sing and dance, do arts and crafts, play cooperative games, and work to build a peaceful community. We welcome campers who have finished kindergarten through 7th grade. Older students and adults may serve as volunteers. Pre-registration is required, so visit <https://lepoco.org/peace-camp/> or contact LEPOCO at 610-691-8730 or lepoco@fast.net to register or for more information.

CHURCH OFFICE REMINDERS

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE: JUNE 16

Please submit articles for the COMBINED June-July 2025 edition of *The Builder* by **Monday, June 16, 2025** 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
moravianpastorchr@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

May 6	Eric & Amy Deutsch
May 11	Bill & Sue Boehm Tyrone & Tiffany Miller
May 14	Seamus & Liz Sullivan
May 24	Tom & Lisa Mosser



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 2	Avery Miller Bryce Miller
May 4	Collin Sigman Zachary Bauer
May 6	Cora Prosperi
May 7	Hannah Dieterly
May 9	Ryan Snyder
May 11	Carol Meixell Lauren Bauer
May 12	Ryan Pietkiewicz Jodi Stepongzi
May 13	Gavin Meixell Jason Miller
May 16	Llewyn Thomas
May 19	Barbara Carreras
May 21	Jim Seagreaves
May 22	Jim Keim Stacy Moran
May 23	Justin Abeles
May 24	Nancy Meixell
May 29	Eric Deutsch Sophia Pulley

PRAYERS

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

- Bobbi James
- Gloria Reisinger
- Alan Bosch
- Joe Pietkiewicz
- Tom Markley
- Sherwood Kindred
- Debbie Zechman
- Chelsea & Andrew Seagreaves
- Joan Menges
- Jerry Yob
- Kathy Powers
- Shirley Guth
- Jane Gottwald
- Tyler Pietkiewicz
- Larry Notaro
- Morris Vidaurre

- Grace Titus (homebound)
- Sherwood Kindred (homebound)
- Warren Achey (homebound)
- Mike Meixell (homebound)

We pray, as requested, for others...

- Jordan (JJ), grandson of Pastor Chris
- Martha Cox Popichak
- Samantha and Emmaline (granddaughter & great granddaughter of Nancy Beitel Vessels)
- Evan Burkhart
- Steve Youtz (brother of Sue Youtz and Julie Illick)
- Roger Holtz (dear to Nena Asquith)
- Shayla (friend of Bria Prosperi)
- Jeffrey Harstine (son of Nancy & Will Harstine)
- Sharon Bond
- Sue Ann & John (dear to Linda Toggart)
- Mauricio Vidaurre
- Lee Sobania
- Barry Erb (cousin of Carol Messina)
- Lucy (granddaughter of Terri Harney)
- Regina, Cynthia, Victoria, Isabella, Anthony
- Chris Guth
- Gwen (family friend of Rich Harney)
- 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.

