

# The Moravian Monthly

Official Newsletter of the Canadian, Eastern, and Western Districts  
of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

## February 2026

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### NOTE ABOUT THE MORAVIAN MONTHLY

The Moravian Monthly is compiled each month. Please send contributions and questions about this newsletter to Shana at [shana@mcnp.org](mailto:shana@mcnp.org) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding distribution.

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### Manna : Coming Soon to the Lehigh Valley!

*Rev. Byrnese Craig*



A dinner church and community space, the mission of Manna is to help folks encounter God around the table through worship, fellowship, and service.

Scan the QR Code for more information!



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## Provincial Elders' Conference Affirms the Church's Call to Justice and Public Witness

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

In February of 2025, the Provincial Elders' Conference wrote a Statement and Letter to the Church, which came to be known as "The Compassion Statement." It was titled *Humbly and Boldly Following Christ in Our Ministries of Caring and Public Witness* and its purpose was to offer encouragement and prayers to the church in a very challenging and difficult time.

One year later we are writing again, this time having witnessed immense human suffering resulting from numerous orders and policies drafted by and enforced in the U.S. and around the world in inhumane and capricious ways. Such policies have impacted basic human needs including health care, food, shelter, and education. As is often the case, the most vulnerable have suffered most.

We are especially alarmed and grieved at the inhumane treatment of persons and their families who are immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and those who care for them. Many people in our congregations, communities, and nations now live with constant fear and terror, the trauma of which is known to cause deep and lasting wounds, particularly for children.

We have witnessed the devastating loss of life, and the cruel treatment of children, youth and adults in the processes of detainment, arrest, disappearance, confinement and deportation. We have witnessed the increasing acts of aggression, violence, and racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and in a growing number of cities and towns across the U.S. We join other people of faith in calling for the protection of human and civil rights of all persons; thorough and legitimate investigations of the deaths of Geraldo Lunam Campos, Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti; accountability; de-escalation; and prayers for all involved. We have also witnessed the rise of Christian nationalism and its active threat to democracy.

We reiterate resolutions from the 2023 Provincial Synod on immigration matters, joining the National Council of Churches (US) in its call:

*"for a comprehensive solution to our immigration challenges that respects the "Imago Dei" (the image of God) in all people, keeps our borders safe, and honors the diversity that makes our nation a great tapestry, and we affirm:  
the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of immigrants, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and declare support for the humane treatment of any person coming across our borders, regardless of legal status."*

As a province in two countries, we express our profound grief and disappointment in the threats and baseless negative comments directed at Canada by the United States. The U.S. has been privileged to enjoy a mutually beneficial and supportive relationship with Canada for many years, and it is being dramatically affected by those in the U.S. government pursuing an imperialistic agenda leading to a devastating loss of the longstanding cooperation of nations. Our siblings in Canada are searching for understanding and support as this stance by the U.S. creates fear and uncertainty in their lives. We call the church to prayer, to standing in solidarity with Canada, and to speaking out on their behalf. (Cont'd on Page 3)

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(Cont'd from page 2) We offer support for our clergy, ministers, church leaders, and congregations, and our ecumenical and interfaith partners, in their care, support and advocacy for immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers, and in their resettlement ministries for refugees. We call for adherence to court orders and to legal means for making program, policy, and funding changes and decisions. We continue to pray fervently for the protection of human and civil rights, respect for relationships with our nation's allies and sovereignty of nations, and adherence to international law.

We affirm the church's call to public witness and its prophetic tradition. In our liberty, some may discern Christ's call in this critical time as a call to recognize a higher loyalty to God and conscience, to protect and secure freedom and justice for all, and to preserve the democracy in which we are privileged to live [MCCL, ¶27]. In any discernment, we are called to do all things in love with the conviction that the day will come when truth and justice reigns. Even now, "Our Lamb has conquered. Let us follow him."

We abide in prayer for each of you and for all. May the church of Jesus, our Chief Elder and only Lord, be guided by love and mercy and unwavering hope in God's coming reign of justice and peace where all will live as one beloved community.

The Provincial Elders' Conference  
Moravian Church Northern Province  
January 27, 2026

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## Provincewide Updates

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### Board of World Mission Updates

The Board of World Mission is seeking applicants for their summer internship program. This is a 12-15 week, paid internship position. Interns have the opportunity to engage deeply with the ministries of the BWM and the wider church throughout the summer. Opportunities for engagement are flexible based on the intern's interests and availability, but may include supporting

BWM staff at in-person events such as mission camps and summer camps, as well as projects that can be completed remotely. The position may include international travel if the BWM summer calendar allows and the intern is interested.

Read about past internships and learn how to apply by scanning the QR code. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning February 15th until the position is filled. Please reach out to Amy Gohdes-Luhman at [amy@moravianmission.org](mailto:amy@moravianmission.org) with any questions about the position or the hiring process, and help us to share this posting with anyone you feel would be a good fit for the role.



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## 2026 Board of World Mission Service Camps

*For adults of all ages and abilities!*

The Board of World Mission, together with our Moravian camping ministries in Wisconsin and New Jersey, invites volunteers to join together in preparation for 2026 summer programming at our BWM service camps. There is no cost to attend either camp; meals and lodging (and lots of fun!) will be provided for the volunteers. Project details are not yet available, but in the past, groups have done everything from staining cabins, replacing roofing on pavilions, clearing brush, weeding, and more. Free time is casual and can be spent as you choose – you are sure to find others who will join you on a hike or sitting around the campfire.

### **Mt. Morris Service Camp**

Wautoma, Wisconsin | May 13–17, 2026

Register by May 1st

### **Camp Hope Service Camp**

Blairstown, New Jersey | June 16–20, 2026

Register by June 1st

Register at [MoravianMission.org/ServiceCamp/](https://MoravianMission.org/ServiceCamp/) and direct any questions to Director of Mission Service Dan Miller ([dan@moravianmission.org](mailto:dan@moravianmission.org)).

Want to experience another Moravian camp facility for the first time? We ask that in-area volunteers cover their own transportation to and from service camp, but if you are traveling from a long distance, exchange camping funds are available for travel assistance. Inquire with Dan!



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## **A Bishop's Musings: February 2026**

**Rev. Blair Couch**

[mblairc@aol.com](mailto:mblairc@aol.com)

I write this article hoping that many of you reading this are lay people.

I remember hearing young people in Edmonton say that they would not consider being a pastor because they knew how people in their families and congregations talked about the pastor over Sunday dinner.

As I preach in various churches I encourage people in congregations to notice those among them who might have gifts for ordained ministry. If you know of someone in your congregation who may have those gifts affirm them, pray for them and direct them to talk to your pastor and maybe a bishop.

This is a difficult time for many of us to have conversations about faith, especially if we are aware of differences among us in social and political leanings. It is also a difficult time for pastors who want to shepherd their congregations and also may want to speak honestly about what scripture is saying to them.

I hope the conversations around your Sunday dinner tables are positive about your pastor. I would encourage you to speak positively to your pastor and not grumble behind your pastor's back.

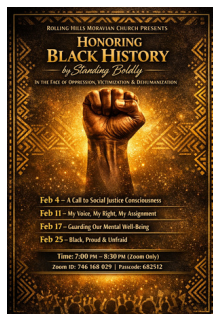
Our wonderful Moravian Church is feeling the effects of our season of virtual worship. If you have been attending virtually, I pray that you will make a point to attend in person. Renew those relationships that bind us together. Join with others to praise and pray as we follow our Lamb and Chief Elder Jesus Christ.

*In the Interprovincial Bishops' meeting at Central Moravian Church in 2024, under the leadership of the late Rt. Rev. C. Hopeton Clennon, the idea of Bishops contributing monthly articles to the Moravian Magazine was suggested. Only recently did the suggestion take wings with this being the first of "A Bishop's Musings."*

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## Resources for Black History Month

The Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team invites you to scan the QR code to link to liturgies and other resources for Black History Month.



In addition, the Moravian Team for Reconciliation (Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural) in the Southern Province has shared an opportunity for Black History Month from the Rolling Hills Moravian Church in Longwood, Florida. The series is, "Honoring Black History by Standing Boldly in the Face of Oppression, Victimization, and Dehumanization." It is a four-week series that will be held on February 4, 11, 17, 25, 2026, from 7pm-8:30pm ET. All sessions will be on Zoom. Anyone interested may join the sessions on Zoom: Meeting ID 746 168 029; Passcode 682512.



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## Racial Justice Team Calendar: February 2026

### *Racial Justice at Central Moravian Church*

The Cheryl C. Boots, a member of the Racial Justice Team at Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA, has provided a reflection for use this month. Find the reflection, as well as a bulletin insert, by scanning the QR code. An excerpt of the reflection is included below.

*Several Central Moravian Church members participated in Sacred Ground offered in 2023. Their Sacred Ground experience so moved Barry and Diane Kessler that they sought to create opportunities for interracial dialog. These "Caring Conversations" aimed to give Persons of Color and Whites a place and time to talk about their concerns leading to better understandings and healthier interactions.*

NOVEMBER  
NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN  
HISTORY MONTH (US)

23 STN Tamir Rice (2014)  
25 International Day for the  
Elimination of Violence Against  
Women  
27 Day of Mourning



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## Racial Justice Team Announces Pilgrimage Grants

The 2023 Synod of the MCNP encouraged pilgrimages toward racial justice and healing in light of the profound impact of the Provincial Pilgrimage toward Racial Justice and Healing to Montgomery, Alabama for clergy, appointed pastors, and candidates for ordination held in September 2022. The Racial Justice Team is offering Pilgrimage Grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to encourage MCNP congregations to plan and experience pilgrimages toward racial justice and healing in 2026. Congregations may also apply for grant funds to join a pilgrimage sponsored by another entity such as the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship or an ecumenical partner.

Any site(s) or location of significance to/for the work of racial justice and the healing of relationships with Black, Indigenous, People of Color will be considered. Pilgrimage sites may be local, regional, or longer distances. A qualifying pilgrimage will occur before May 31, 2027. Please see the grant application for additional details.

The deadline to apply for a 2026 Pilgrimage Grant from the MCNP Racial Justice Team is June 1, 2026. Grant applications will be reviewed by the Racial Justice Team by June 30, 2026. Please visit the MCNP Racial Justice Team website for an application by scanning the QR code.



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## Black Music and Media's Power to Drive Social Change Explored in Moravian University School of Theology Lecture

Free public forum at Lancaster Theological Seminary examines the prophetic voices of artists and activists in movements for justice

BETHLEHEM, PA, January 30, 2026 — How have Black musicians and media makers shaped the fight for justice in America? What can faith communities learn from their courageous witness? Moravian University School of Theology invites the community to explore these vital questions through “Cultivating Courageous Resisters: The Influence of Black Music and Media on Social Activism,” part of its Spring 2026 Lifelong Learning series, “Faith in the Public Sphere.” The free program will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at Lancaster Theological Seminary’s (LTS) Santee Chapel (555 West James St., Lancaster), and will also be broadcast on Zoom. [Registration for the event is available now](#) at the QR code Below.

The event features Dr. AnneMarie Mingo, Associate Professor of Ethics, Culture, and Moral Leadership at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary — whose groundbreaking research examines how Black women have wielded music and media as tools of socio-religious activism. From spirituals sung in secret to protest anthems that galvanize modern movements, Mingo traces the prophetic power of Black creative expression in the ongoing struggle for racial justice. “This isn’t just history — it’s about understanding the forces shaping our world today,” says Dr. Christian Rice, Dean of Moravian University School of Theology. “Dr. Mingo’s work on cultivating intergenerational activists offers both inspiration and practical wisdom for anyone committed to justice efforts.”

The lecture will be followed by a response from Rev. Dr. Catherine Williams, a professor at the School of Theology, creating space for rich dialogue and community engagement. This event is part of The Rt. Rev. Dr. Nathan D. Baxter Forum for African American Studies, honoring the distinguished bishop, seminary dean, and Lancaster Seminary alumnus (MDiv 1976, DMin 1984) who also served as Dean of the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. “Come as you are. We’d love to have you join our community,” Rice shares. “These conversations are designed for anyone seeking to deepen their faith and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.”

The Lifelong Learning series brings together distinguished scholars and ministry leaders to explore the intersection of faith, social justice, media literacy, and courageous discipleship — creating opportunities for reflection, dialogue, and spiritual growth.





### Music on the Mountain – A Harmonious Retreat!

*March 13-15, 2026 at Laurel Ridge*

A Harmonious Retreat for band and choir, and children's music and activities. March 13-15, 2026. Higgins Lodge, Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference & Retreat Center, Laurel Springs, NC. An opportunity to make music together, to worship, to learn, and to enjoy fellowship in a casual mountain setting with cozy accommodations (2 nights) and delicious meals. Learn more and register at [MoravianMusic.org](http://MoravianMusic.org)

An opportunity to make music together, to worship, to learn, and to enjoy fellowship in a casual mountain setting with cozy accommodations (2 nights). View the daily schedule at [www.moravianmusic.org](http://www.moravianmusic.org)

### Comenius Music Academy – Moravian Music Foundation

New Free Classes for Spring ! Simply sign up to receive the Zoom links and updates.

Music Theory 101

Five Class Series by Christopher Ogburn and the Lenten Journey by Darla Earnest

#### ONLINE

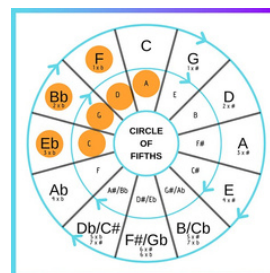
Tuesdays at noon (Chris Ogburn):

Western Art Music: Modernism (5-weeks)

Feb. 3 – March 3

Music Theory 101 (4 weeks)

April 14 – May 5



#### Lenten Musical Journey

Join Darla Earnest on Zoom for a 7-week musical devotion and prayer journey throughout Lent. Let's set the tone together for the Easter season... musically and spiritually!

12:00pm – 12:30pm

Wednesdays at Noon – Dates: Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18

Scan the QR code for the link for more information and sign up.



#### America 250

As we enter the 250th Anniversary Year (1776-2026) of America's declared independence, you may be interested in presenting the earliest string chamber music composed in America, written in Salem, NC, by Moravian pastor, administrator, and composer, Johann Friedrich Peter (1746-1813) in 1789. The quintets would have been composed for the Salem Collegium Musicum, but actually survive in the Philharmonic Society of Bethlehem (PA) Collection. Peter left no copy in Salem upon his departure in 1790. Six String Quintets | sheet music / score and parts | \$35 for each set of two quintets. MMF also publishes the first string chamber music composed by an American. The Three String Trios by John Antes, Moravian pastor, missionary, composer, and instrument maker, are available from MMF for \$35 per set at [MoravianMusic.org](http://MoravianMusic.org).

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## Mark Your Calendars for the 6<sup>th</sup> Moravian Day of Giving!



Save the date for the 6th annual Moravian Day of Giving on February 17, 2026. This special day brings Moravians together to support ministries across our Moravian community, and this year offers two exciting ways to increase your impact.

- **Maximize Your Gift!** When you give to Field of Interest Funds, you'll unlock up to \$2,026 in matching contributions per fund!
- **Rally Your Community!** The six ministries with the most individual donors will each receive \$2,026!

Mark your calendar and join us in strengthening ministry through shared generosity!

Learn more by visiting [MMFA.com](http://MMFA.com)!

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### Plan Faithfully for the Future

Looking ahead can feel overwhelming, but thoughtful preparation can bring peace of mind and lasting impact. The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is here to help you plan in ways that reflect your faith and values. MMFA offers free resources and personal support to help you:

**Want to support your church?**

Moravian Ministries Foundation can help!

- Make a tax-free gift
- Make a gift that pays you back
- Avoid taxation on your IRA
- Make a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime

MMFA.com | 336.725.2589 | 119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

- Establish gifts that provide income now and benefit ministry later
- Maximize tax advantages for you and your loved ones
- Transfer stock or retirement assets as charitable gifts
- Create a plan that reflects your values and faith

**To learn more, visit [MMFA.com](http://MMFA.com) and reach out to Chris Spaugh, MMFA President & CEO: [cspaugh@mmfa.com](mailto:cspaugh@mmfa.com).**

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## IBOC updates



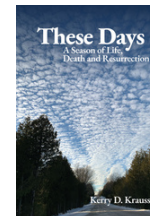
INTERPROVINCIAL BOARD  
OF COMMUNICATION

### Church Resources on [Moravian.org](http://Moravian.org)

The IBOC provides a number of resources on the [Moravian.org](http://Moravian.org) website to help make worship planning easier. In the Moravian Resources tab on the website, you will find the current year's lectionary; liturgies in both Word or PDF formats; and public domain hymns from the Moravian Book of Worship, including recordings and PDF or Word document files. All of these resources and more are available for free to all congregations.

### Good Books to Read

*These Days... A Season of Life, Death and Resurrection* by Kerry D. Krauss



Pastor Kerry D. Krauss uses humor and thought-provoking stories to share both current and past life experiences, bringing comfort and inspiration to all who read his book. *These Days*, is now available through the IBOC. \$16.95

*Compassionate Giving* by Judith M. Ganz



Drawing on extensive experience in mission work in the field and in administration, the Rev. Judy Ganz explores the church's past and present approaches to supporting missions. \$12.95 Sale \$9.95

See the entire selection of books in the IBOC store.  
Find it by scanning the QR code.



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## Expanded Grants for Lay Education



Have you been considering trying an online Compass course? All three districts now have \$300 grants available for each course. Please email your executive board president for more information. The scholarships will be granted on a first come, first served basis. Don't delay! Classes in Preaching and Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) begin in February. Now is the perfect time to give it a try.

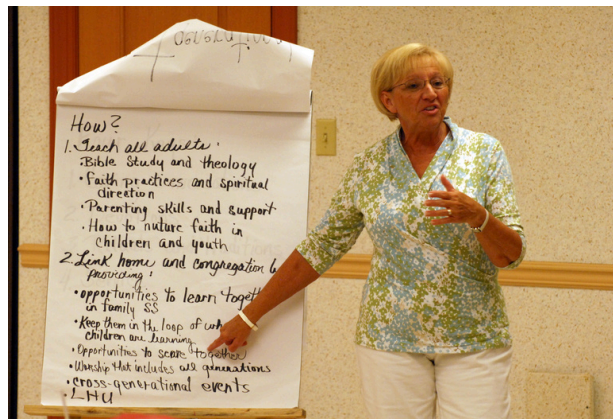
Canadian District – Dave Jones [davejones@mcnp.org](mailto:davejones@mcnp.org)

Eastern District – Melissa Johnson [melissa@mcnp.org](mailto:melissa@mcnp.org)

Western District – Jason Andersen [jason@mcnp.org](mailto:jason@mcnp.org)



## Celebrating the Ministry of Marie Coutts



At the close of 2025, the Eastern District marked the retirement of Sister Marie Coutts, who concluded twenty-one years of faithful service as Director of Christian Education on December 31, 2025. Throughout her ministry, Marie has been a steady and creative presence, equipping congregations, leaders, and educators to grow in faith, purpose, and confidence in their call to serve Christ.

Since 2004, Marie has supported congregations across the Eastern District by providing resources and training in Christian education, faith formation, and leadership development. Her work has included curriculum development, workshops and trainings, conference leadership, and ongoing encouragement of those engaged in educational ministry. She has been a tireless advocate for educators, a trusted partner to clergy and boards, and a gifted interpreter of Moravian identity and practice.

Marie's influence has extended well beyond the Eastern District. She has served the Northern Province and the wider Moravian Church in numerous capacities, including leadership in educational ministry, synod and conference planning, interprovincial initiatives, and the development of Moravian history and confirmation curricula. Her contributions include work on Loving Hearts United, Living Branches, Take the Ancestors with You, the companion piece to the New Catechism, and the Moravian history workshop, The Story of Us, as well as leadership within the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) and service as representative to the Ohio Council of Churches Governing Board.

Perhaps most enduring is Marie's commitment to lifting up the call of each individual to use their God-given gifts in service. Throughout her ministry, she has consistently elevated the importance of lay ministry while fostering strong, collaborative relationships with ordained leaders. This emphasis on partnership continues to shape the Eastern District's approach to ministry and leadership development.

As Marie enters into new forms of service within the Moravian Church, we give thank for her faithful witness, creative leadership, and deep love for Christ and the Church. Her legacy lives on in the countless educators, leaders, and congregations she has encouraged and equipped over more than four decades of ministry.

## Ordination Announcement

Your prayers and presence are invited to celebrate a service of ordination.

By the Grace of God, the Right Reverend M. Blair Couch, Bishop of the Moravian Unity, will ordain Byrnese Craig to service as a Deacon in the Moravian Church, Northern Province

March 7, 2026 at 3:00pm  
Moravian Theological Seminary  
60 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

Clergy and their families are invited to gather in Genadendal before the service.  
Reception to follow

RSVP or Questions to Byrnese Craig at [Byrnese.craig@gmail.com](mailto:Byrnese.craig@gmail.com)

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

### *Birthdays*

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Jill Bruckart      | 25 Lynette Delbridge |
| 3 Tammie Rinker      | 27 Gary Harke        |
| 8 Greg Bowden        | 28 Tammy Lavoy       |
| 9 Elizabeth Gillard  |                      |
| 12 Jodie Harney      |                      |
| 13 Gary Marsh        |                      |
| 15 Nicholas Rohloff  |                      |
| 18 Barbara Hoenig    |                      |
| 19 Norman Prochnau   |                      |
| 19 Amy Gohdes-Luhman |                      |
| 22 Mark Newman       |                      |
| 22 Esther Richmond   |                      |

### *Ordination Anniversaries*

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 6 Peter Skelly (54 years)       |
| 10 Rhonda Robinson (13 years)   |
| 15 Jane Harberg (34 years)      |
| 24 Belfield Castello (41 years) |
| 26 Kurt Liebenow (31 years)     |

### *Churches Celebrating Anniversaries*

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 2 Bethel, Leonard, ND (135 years)        | 9 Lititz, PA (277 years)      |
| 2 Trinity, New Carrollton, MD (62 years) | 13 Unionville, MI (156 years) |
| 3 Morongo, Banning, CA (69 years)        |                               |

## **Prayer Concerns**

### ***Obituaries***

It is with great sorrow, and yet comforted in faith, that I share the news that this morning Sister Gloria Reisinger entered into the more immediate presence of our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ. Gloria served for multiple decades as the Administrative Assistant for the Provincial Office of the Moravian Church, Northern Province. As was her wish, our dear sister, was able to find her rest within the comforts of home and had enjoyed the earlier presence of her daughter, Amy.

Amy shared that a private, family gathering will initially take place, followed this summer by a public celebration of Sister Gloria's life. She covets your prayers and expresses her appreciation for all those who reached out to Gloria in word, care, and visit over these last months.

***Please pray for the following churches who are in the call process or without pastors:***

- Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
- Canaan, Davenport, North Dakota
- Central, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- Chaska, Minnesota
- Christ, Calgary, Alberta
- Christian Faith, Deforest, Wisconsin
- Daggett, Michigan
- Ephraim, Wisconsin
- Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC
- First, Dover, Ohio
- First, New York, New York
- Great Kills, Staten Island, New York
- Heimtal, Edmonton, Alberta
- Lebanon, Pennsylvania
- Lititz, Pennsylvania
- Sharon, New Philadelphia, Ohio
- Shepherd of the Prairie, Fargo, North Dakota
- Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York
- Unionville, Michigan
- Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin



# Moravian Church in Canada

## Van Es Camp & Conference Centre Welcomes New Leadership and Opens Summer Registration

Van Es Camp & Conference Centre is excited to share that Aiden Lamb has stepped into the role of Executive Director as of June 2025. Under this new leadership, the camp has experienced tremendous growth, with strong bookings and exciting facility improvements underway. Our Retreat House renovations are expected to be completed by the spring and the Harmony Centre roof will be replaced when the snow melts.

Van Es Camp continues to serve as a vital retreat and conference facility, providing a beautiful space for spiritual renewal, community gathering, and connection with nature in the heart of Alberta.

Summer 2026 camp registration is now open! We invite families to secure spots soon for an unforgettable summer experience. Whether you're looking for a week of adventure for your children or seeking a peaceful retreat for your group, Van Es Camp offers something special for everyone.

For more information about summer camps, retreat bookings, or facility rentals, or if you would like to make a donation to support camp and our mission, visit [vanes.ca](https://vanes.ca) or contact us at [bookings@vanes.ca](mailto:bookings@vanes.ca).

We look forward to welcoming you to Van Es Camp in 2026!



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## **Congregational Spotlight**

### *St. Paul's Moravian Church: Sharing God's Love, One Table at a Time*

Written by Theresa Fisher, Lay Pastor of St. Paul's Moravian Church

Story shared by Bonnie Robertson, Eastern District Executive Board Member, Penn-Mar

St. Paul's Moravian Church has found meaningful and practical ways to live out its calling to hospitality and service through community outreach events such as a **Free Fish Fry**, a **Free Spaghetti Dinner**, **Clothes Give-Away** and **Free Pet Food Give-away**. These gatherings were about more than providing meals, clothes or pet food; they were living expressions of welcome, generosity, and relationship-building, rooted in our congregation's understanding of Christian mission.

The **Fish Fry** began as a simple idea grounded in a familiar Moravian value—bringing people together around the table. Our hope was to partner with the Marlton Community Homeowners Association (HOA) as a way to meet our neighbors and work together in shared mission. Unfortunately, the HOA was unavailable at the time due to internal challenges, including furloughs. Even so, St. Paul's continued forward, trusting that faithfulness often begins with small but intentional steps.

Volunteers from across the congregation prepared food, served meals, and greeted guests, creating an atmosphere that was warm, joyful, and intentionally inclusive. For many attendees, the Fish Fry was their first experience with St. Paul's Moravian Church. In that simple setting, they encountered a congregation committed to being present, accessible, and welcoming; a quiet but powerful witness to Christ's love lived out in community.

The **Spaghetti Dinner** outreach grew from a similar desire to meet people where they are. Free, family-friendly, and open to all, the dinner addressed a real need for fellowship and shared space in a world that often feels fragmented and rushed. Like the Fish Fry, it offered time for conversation, laughter, and mutual care. Guests were not treated as recipients of charity, but as neighbors and friends, reflecting Christ's gracious invitation to gather, belong, and be known.

All of our events have had a lasting impact on the congregation itself. Members who may not serve in traditional church roles discovered purpose and connection through cooking, serving, and hospitality. Following these events several families have attended our church services and shared that they met us at one of these events! These ministries strengthened relationships within the faith community while extending Christ's love beyond the church walls—faith put into action through simple acts of service.

Looking ahead, St. Paul's hopes these outreach programs will continue to grow and evolve, perhaps through new partnerships, expanded volunteer involvement, or additional community-focused initiatives, while remaining rooted in their original purpose: **sharing God's love, one table at a time.**





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## Moravian Music Foundation Eastern District Opportunities

**A German and English Moravian Singstunde** will be held this year at the Moravian Historical Society (Whitefield House) in Nazareth, PA, on the first Sunday in Advent, Nov. 30, 2025 at 2:00pm. It will be led by Kyle Johnston, Assoc. Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, and accompanied by the 1776 Tannenberg organ! The historic Singstunde, or singing hour, will celebrate the Advent and Christmas season, and will be sung in both English and German. The sing will take place in the Moravian Historical Society's museum Saal and is free to attend. Seating is limited in the museum; reservations are recommended. Learn more and reserve your seat at [MoravianMusic.org](https://MoravianMusic.org).

**Monday Morning Music:** a musical moment with Kyle Johnston at the keyboard – Mondays, 10am  
Start your week off with your favorite hymns! Join Kyle Johnston every Monday morning as he plays through a variety of hymns from multiple sources. Hear old favorites, discover new favorites, and relax to the sound of classic hymns at home, in your office, or on your commute. Recordings are available now on the MMF YouTube Channel.

**Monthly (South Side) Shape-Note Sing** (Lehigh Valley Shape-Note Singers) 6:00–8:00 (Every 4th Tuesday)  
Come join Kyle Johnston and the Lehigh Valley Shape Note Singers in learning to sing an authentic, historic American style of singing. Singers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Godfrey Daniels in Bethlehem.

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## Prayer & Lay Leadership: A Three-Part Educational Webinar Series

**Deepen your prayer life. Strengthen your leadership. Enrich your community.** Join us for an inspiring three-part online series designed to help lay leaders and church members explore how prayer shapes and sustains both personal faith and congregational life. Each interactive webinar offers a distinct perspective on prayer—its theology, creativity, and leadership in community—guided by gifted Moravian educators and leaders. **Participants are welcome to attend one session, two, or the entire series**—each webinar stands on its own while also building toward a fuller understanding of prayer in the life of the church

### Session 2: Preparing Meaningful Devotions | February 24, 7pm ET

Have you ever been asked to offer devotions at the start of a gathering? Do you lead a group and hope to offer spiritual grounding and guidance for your time together? Learn practical approaches and resources for creating meaningful moments of prayer and connection that begin meetings in a positive way—engaging both the senses and the spirit.

### Session 3: Prayers for Worship | March 25, 7pm ET

Have you wondered about the difference between a pastoral prayer, an intercessory prayer, and an invocation? What words might you use to craft an offertory prayer during worship? Join this session to explore the different types and purposes of prayer within the worship service. Consider practical ways to create and offer prayers that help people connect with God and one another in the worship setting.

- **Who Should Attend:** Lay leaders, worship assistants, educators, musicians, and anyone seeking to deepen their understanding and practice of prayer.
- **Format:** 90-minute live webinars via Zoom. Registration at [the QR code](#)
- **Hosted by:** The Eastern District Executive Board



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## **"Moravians & The Revolution," Talk by Scott Gordon**

***February 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.***

***Moravian Historical Society***

***214 East Center Street, Nazareth, PA***

The American Revolution put Pennsylvania's Moravians in a tough place. They wanted to remain neutral, but Patriots demanded that they choose a side and threatened to seize all their property if they didn't. When military forces—troops on the move, prisoners, injured soldiers—occupied Bethlehem ("engulfed" the small community, John Ettwein said), Moravians had no choice but to transform the way they lived. These communities did survive these dangerous times. But, as this talk will explore, the Revolution transformed Bethlehem permanently.

Scott Gordon is a professor and the Andrew W. Mellon Chair at Lehigh University. His current research focuses on slavery and other forms of unfreedom in early Bethlehem and, more generally, on religion, social ambition, and patriotism in colonial and revolutionary Pennsylvania.

Following the talk, guests are invited to attend the opening reception for the special exhibition, "Moravians and the Revolution: Caught in the Crossfire."



Seating is limited and advanced reservations are encouraged.  
Scan the QR Code for reservations.

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## **"Finding Your Way" Young Adult Retreat at Camp Hope**

***March 27-29, 2026***

***Ages 18-30***

Join us for a weekend retreat at Camp Hope as we worship, connect, explore and wonder together. Led by Moravian Pastor Jennika Eckhaus, Director of Moravian Church Relations at the Moravian School of Theology this retreat will be full of love, joy, and fellowship as we gather together in the beautiful New Jersey forests around Little Silver Lake.

Program cost is \$145 for the weekend, but we do not want cost to be a barrier for participation. Scholarships are available, please contact Jennika for financial assistance via email at [eckhausj@moravian.edu](mailto:eckhausj@moravian.edu)



Visit [camphope.org](http://camphope.org) or scan the QR code to register.