



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 5
Epiphany

10:30 am Worship with Communion

Sunday, Jan 12

Taking Down the Greens

Sunday, Jan. 19

Snack & Yak after worship

Sunday, Jan. 26

Annual Church Council after worship

Sun. Feb. 2

Groundhog Day



Friday, Feb. 14

Valentine's Day



Tuesday, Feb. 25

Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Ash Wednesday;
Season of Lent Begins

Sunday, Mar. 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins—Turn Clocks Ahead



Remember ... Repent ... Renew ... Rest

The calendar is flipping. The new year is coming. 2020! The start of a new decade!

The new year can be just another holiday or just another day in the hustle and bustle of life. It can also be a time for deep reflection of the year that is passing and of the potential of the year to come. Before the resolutions are made, take time to reflect and ponder those things on our hearts and spirits. Time is a gift from God and we have to choose how to best use that gift. One of the best ways to spend our time is with Jesus.

There are four ways to start the new year with Jesus: Remember. Repent. Renew. Rest.

Remember: Remember the promises of God. Remember the faithfulness of God. Review those promises, post those promises, print them in your memory.

Repent: Beginning the new year with repentance is to draw closer to Jesus. A fresh start is found in each confession; confession brings relief and joy. It is the gateway to greater intimacy with God.

Renew: New Year's should also be a time of renewing commitments, like marriage, family, and church. Begin by renewing the core commitments we already have. Those commitments can become stagnant and routine. By taking the time to restore those commitments, it gives them renewed significance.

Rest: We need to rest in Jesus. Jesus loves us despite our mistakes and mess-ups. And why not schedule rest just like we plan our days with work, meetings, and chores.

2020 is coming (it's here!) whether or not we want it to come. It will come with ups and downs. It will come with joys and heartaches. But Jesus remains the same! Start the year off right—start it with Jesus!

—Pastor Sayward

Worship Wednesday!

Check out First's Facebook page on Wednesdays!
Every Wednesday there will be a "mini" personal worship devotion to get you through the rest of the week!



Average Attendance in Worship

December 2019: 37.2
Christmas Eve 2019: 152
December 2018: 34.6

Offerings: Nov. 25—Dec. 29

General: \$9,016.35 Christmas Eve: \$1,354.00
Thanksgiving: \$65.00 Christmas: \$1,050.00
Dividends: \$3.06 Parking: \$150.00
Flowers: \$385.00 Daily Texts: \$124.00
Refurbishing Fund: \$293.00
Special: \$3,000.00 (for sound system)
Sunday School Donation: \$500.00
Friendly-Joybuilders Donation: \$500.00

Elders Report

The Pastor’s End of the Year Evaluation was discussed, and the Annual Report for the Northern Province and Eastern District was collected.

Pastor Sayward’s maternity is tentatively starting March 7, 2020. Pulpit supply is in process.

Maundy Thursday Communion will be at First during Holy Week. All other Holy Week services will be held at Covenant.

Both Steve Nicholas and Jeanne Barshinger go off the Board this year, but Steve is eligible for re-election and has agreed to serve for a second term.

Trustees Report

The parsonage inspection is done and the report was sent to the District. The radiator in the Pastor’s office was replaced and is working well. Two convectors were replaced in the men’s bathroom and in the kitchen.

Thank You

The Joint Board, as well as all of First Moravian Church, would like to thank the anonymous donor who helped to update and replace our sound system. Thank you for blessing First with the gift of high-quality sound that can be heard in all parts of the church!

Moravian News Briefs

The Moravian Church Center’s new address is as follows: 1021 Center St., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

As we are expecting the birth of **Pastor Sayward & Kevin Lippincott’s** baby girl in March 2020, we’ve also received word that **Br. Garrett and Sr. Sanette Fleming**, pastors at Schoeneck Moravian in Nazareth, PA, are also expecting a new addition to their family in April.

The **Lower Lodge at Camp Hope, NJ** will, by the end of 2019, be fully insulated, with new siding, a new roof, and air-conditioning! This project will now make the Lower Lodge usable year-round for rental groups that are too large for the Upper Lodge.

Br. Derek French, pastor of the East Hills Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA had recent hernia repair surgery.

Ecumenical Advocacy Days, will take place April 24th - 27th in Washington, DC. Ecumenical Advocacy Days is a movement of the ecumenical Christian community, and its recognized partners and allies, grounded in biblical witness and shared traditions of justice, peace and the integrity of creation. EAD 2020 will explore the intersection of climate change and economic injustice. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining a small group of Moravians who will attend Ecumenical Advocacy Days. Registration is open to all ages, with scholarships available for ages 18 to 35. For more information about Ecumenical Advocacy Days check out their web page at <https://advocacydays.org> or contact Rev. Cynthia Rader Geyer at cynthia@mcnp.org.

January 24-26, 2020 – Girls’ Retreat at Camp Hope. Girls in 3rd through 8th grade. Cost is \$95 which includes housing, food, many craft projects and fun. Registration & health forms are available by contacting: Rev. Jodie Harney at jlharney212@gmail.com or 610-838-9344.

Hope Conference Camp Season Kick off Dinners, February 22, 2020 – East Hills Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA & Saturday, March 7, 2020 – Palmyra Moravian Church, Cinnaminson, NJ. There will be a silent auction, a camp song sing-a-long, a sale of camp gear and more!

****INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY****

In the event of forecasted severe winter weather:

- ◆ Sundays: A notice will be placed on the Church’s homepage (www.yorkfirstmoravian.org), Facebook, 90.3 FM WJTL radio, and on the church phone greeting no later than 8:00 am Sunday morning.
- ◆ Weekdays: If all York Area schools are closed, the church office will be closed and all activities cancelled. If school starts on a delayed schedule, call the church office (717.843.2239), Pastor Sayward (717.880.8329), or check the website and Facebook for any schedule changes or cancellation of evening activities.

**January
Lectors**

- Jan. 5 Heidi Robinson
- Jan. 12 Sharon Saylor
- Jan. 19 Cliff Rowell
- Jan. 26 Christine Dobron

**January
Children’s Chat**

- Jan. 5 Pastor Sayward
- Jan. 12 John Knokey
- Jan. 19 Pastor Sayward
- Jan. 26 Pastor Sayward

2020 Church Council

The 2020 Church Council will be held on Sunday, January 26th following the worship service. A light lunch will be provided.

Let us continue to be good and faithful stewards for First Moravian by attending this meeting as there is much to plan and discuss for the coming year.

Our officers and boards need your guidance, your prayers, and your support in leading them to make the best decisions in the direction of the church and its administration.

**All committee and class reports are due to the
Church Office
NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 22nd.**

**January
Ushers**

Volunteers welcome!

Maternity Leave

Pastor Sayward’s maternity leave begins March 7, 2020. Pulpit supply is listed below. There is a great need for worship leaders for those Sundays noted. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of those Sundays. Resources are available online and also from Pastor Sayward to help guide you in leading worship. Emergency worship planning is in place if Pastor Sayward needs to start maternity leave earlier.

- March 8: Rev. Wanda Weidman, Christine Dobron, worship leader
- March 15: Rev. Ken Ross, Linda Rishel, worship leader
- March 22: Rev. Wanda Weidman, Christine Dobron, worship leader
- March 29: Rev. Carol Dague, WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED
- April 5 (Palm Sunday): Rev. Ken Ross, Linda Rishel, worship leader
- April 12 (Easter): Rev. Dr. Stephen Nicholas, WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED
- April 19: Rev. Wanda Weidman, Christine Dobron, worship leader
- April 26: Rev. Carol Dague, WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED
- May 3: Rev. Wanda Weidman, Christine Dobron, worship leader
- May 10: Rev. Ken Ross, Linda Rishel, worship leader
- May 17: Rev. Wanda Weidman, WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED
- May 24: STILL OPEN
- May 31: Rev. Carol Dague, WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED
- June 7: Rev. Ken Ross, Linda Rishel, worship leader

**December
Nursery Staff
As-needed basis**

**January
Gatekeepers**

- Jan. 5 Gary Paules
- Jan. 12 Lance Sprenkle
- Jan. 19 Larry Sprenkle
- Jan. 26 Jeff Rishel

February Lectors

- Feb. 2 Heidi Robinson
- Feb. 9 Christine Dobron
- Feb. 16 Cliff Rowell
- Feb. 26 Sharon Saylor

Sensory Play Group

Liz Jones, MS, OTR/L, Executive Director,
Connections Early Intervention and Supports



Lilly has been attending Sensory Play Group since August 2019. She lives at home with her Mom, Dad, and older brother. They enjoy going to the park and watching movies together as a family. In the evenings, they cherish family dinnertime and rough house play before bedtime.

Lilly’s Mom shared that Lilly gets excited for Sensory Play Group as soon as she sees the Church on Tuesday and Thursday mornings! As a Mom, she shared that this is wonderful to see her daughter so excited! Since starting the group, Lilly’s Mom feels she has made the most progress

socially. She is more interactive with others and more confident. Lilly’s Mom shared that it used to be difficult to go places and now that is much easier for their family.

Lilly’s Mom would like to share her gratitude to the members of First Moravian for partnering with Connections EIAS to offer this program. She shared, “when my older son was diagnosed, there was nothing like this around, and this would have been so helpful back then.”

February Children’s Chat

- Feb. 2 Pastor Sayward
 - Feb. 9 John Knokey
 - Feb. 16 Pastor Sayward*
 - Feb. 26 Pastor Sayward*
- *subject to change

February Ushers

Volunteers welcome!

February Nursery Staff

As-needed basis

February Gatekeepers

- Feb. 2 Gary Paules
- Feb. 9 Lance Sprenkle
- Feb. 16 Larry Sprenkle
- Feb. 26 Jeff Rishel

Diners’ Club

Please consider joining our delightful little group — and **bring a friend or two** for some **quality mingling with fellow Christians!** There will be no May or November Diner’s Club due to the holidays.

- January 26—Cheddar’s
- February 24— The Olive Garden
- March 23— Round the Clock East
- April 27— Longhorn Steakhouse
- May 25—Memorial Day—No Diner’s Club
- June 22— Fiesta Mexico
- July 27— Taj Mahal, Lancaster
- August 24— The Paddock
- September 28— Smokey Bones
- October 26— Tokyo Diner
- November 23—No Diner’s Club
- December 28— Logan’s

From the Parsonage Table

Christmas is over and the discussion of New Year's has started at the parsonage. The boys won't be staying up until midnight; truth be told, neither Kevin nor I will be staying up either. So how do you celebrate? For us, it starts with food. We have sparkling cider and each person chooses an appetizer that, when combined, will be our "special" meal for the night. It's fried pickles for Thaddeus, hot dogs wrapped in crescent rolls for me, and spinach and artichoke dip for Kevin. Spencer is in charge of picking an easy dessert since he is the sweet tooth of the family.

But I want to add something new and simple for our New Year's Eve. Nothing complicated and nothing too drawn out. But still something meaningful. So we are going to try to start the year with love and appreciation. We will go around the table and have each of us say what their favorite things were about the past year. Then we will ask what we appreciate about God, ourselves, about each other, and about our lives. The answers won't have to be wordy or deep to be unique.



Since this newsletter is combined, I did not want to miss chatting about Valentine's Day! Expressing love and appreciation for the people we love shouldn't happen just one day a year. It should be every day! It should reflect each person's love language. (For more information about love languages, visit <https://5lovelanguages.com/>)

Nowadays, the premise of Valentine's Day is simple to understand: February 14th is a time to show appreciation for friends, family, significant others, and anyone else you might love. Pinpointing the story of its namesake Saint Valentine, however, is more complicated. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdKZepHMFWE) for brief (5 minutes) history of Saint Valentine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdKZepHMFWE>

What can you do as a family to celebrate Valentine's Day? A fancy meal with tasty dishes? Eat chocolates and give roses? OR you could LOVE LIKE JESUS, a Family Night lesson from oneshetwoshe.com/jesus/

Lesson: One thing we know about Jesus is that He loves us. He loves every single person on Earth! He cares about what we do and how we feel. He wants us to be happy and successful. Many stories in the Bible demonstrate this divine love. We can follow Christ's example of showing love and increase happiness, peace, and love in our homes. Here are three categories of ways we can show love. Talk about them together as a family.

1. **Showing Love Through Service.** Jesus spent the majority of his adult life serving the people in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. He healed the sick, fed the multitudes, gave sight to the blind, washed the disciples' feet, and so much more. Through all these actions, Jesus demonstrated that he loved the people. He used his talents and gifts to bless the lives of others. We can do that too! Ask the question: what talents do you have that you could use to help others? How can you show love through service?
2. **Showing Love Through Words.** Remember the expression, "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me"? It is far from the truth. Words are powerful. They can hurt or they can uplift. Using words in a positive way can help make someone feel special and loved. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that he would never leave them alone when he said, "I am with you always, even until the end of time." (Matthew 28:20) Jesus also spoke his love plainly and freely when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 13:34) In John 14:26, he gave comfort, saying, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." There is no doubt that Jesus loves us. He said it over and over again with his words. When Jesus spoke to his people, he did it with love and respect. He was positive, encouraging, and uplifting. He gave people hope. We can also use words to be an influence for good and show our love. When we love somebody, it is so important to tell them! Ask the question: Can you remember a time when someone said something to you that made you feel happy or pleasant inside? Share that experience with the family. Do you remember a specific compliment that you have been given? How did it make you feel? Do words of affection and kindness make your love for a person increase? *(continued on next page)*

(continued from page 5)

3. **Showing Love Through Time.** When Jesus was on the Earth, he spent time with his followers. He told people to, "Come, follow me." He talked with them and taught them individually. Jesus asked for the little children to come to him. He surrounded himself with the small children to teach them and to bless them. Christ showed, through example, that to love someone, you need to spend time with them. When you spend time with a person, you get to know them. You learn their thoughts. You become friends, and your love for each other increases. Ask the question: What is your favorite thing we do together as a family?

We can follow the example of Jesus and show love to your family and friends through our actions, words, and time.

Activity: Cut paper hearts out of colored paper. Make sure to cut enough for each person in your family to have at least three hearts. Label the hearts with the three categories of love on them: Service, Words, Time. Then write a goal or activity on the heart that you could do that week to show love in that specific category. For example, to show love through time, Sister could read a story to Brother before bed. To show love through service, Sister could help Mom make dinner three nights that week. To show love through words, Sister could give one nice compliment per day to her friends at school. Hang the hearts up on a door or wall in your house when the tasks have been completed. Watch a visual representation of the love in your home grow with each new heart that is added to the wall.

Birthdays

Jan. 1	Jeff Rishel	Feb. 4	Jim Rabine
Jan. 4	Sally Senft	Feb. 7	Paul Shouck
Jan. 7	Mary Jones	Feb. 17	Cliff Rowell
Jan. 8	Terry Zeigler	Feb. 19	Rev. Norman Prochnau
Jan. 10	Stan Senft	Feb. 23	Joan Henkelmann
Jan. 16	Aaren Downs	Feb. 24	Myla Robinson
Jan. 25	Jasoni Kotek	Feb. 27	Jennifer (Lehigh) Heffner
Jan. 31	Mona Kotchmar		

Anniversaries

Feb. 12 Cameron & Sherry Campanella
 Feb. 12 Timothy & Annette Tyson
 Feb. 14 Jeffrey & Linda Rishel

Prayer Concerns

Members & Friends

Amy Ardison (Betsy Senft's sister)
 Jeanne Barshinger
 Miriam Boll
 Pastor Jeff Coppage
 Ann Coppage
 Don & Audris Eckert
 Marie Enterline

Mary Jones
 Peg & John Knaub
 John Knokey
 Glenn & Cheri Miley
 Kathie Nicholas
 Sam Pauley

Stanley Remley
 Karrie Rishel
 Cliff & Elaine Rowell
 Ruth & Clair Seiple
 Wes Senft
 Lewis Swartz

Shut-Ins

Jeanne Barshinger
 Miriam Boll

Marie Enterline
 Lewis Swartz

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH
39 NORTH DUKE STREET
YORK, PA 17401

Phone: 717.843.2239

Check out our **NEW** website!

www.yorkfirstmoravian.org

AFFIX
STAMP
HERE



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

2020 Watchword

O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek;
you will strengthen their heart,
you will incline your ear.

Psalm 10:17