

NOVEMBER 2019



FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH • 39 NORTH DUKE STREET • YORK, PA 17401

The Lamplighter



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 27

10:30 am

Kick Off for Operation Christmas Child

Thursday, Oct. 31

Halloween

Sunday, Nov. 3

Daylight Savings

Time Ends—

Turn Clocks Back!



Sunday, Nov. 17

Last Day for Shoeboxes!
2:00 pm Moss Gathering

Sunday, Nov. 24

Harvest Home

Last week for Blessing Bags items
Putz Assembly after
Worship

Thursday, Nov. 28

Thanksgiving

Sunday, Dec. 1

10:30 am First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Greens following worship;
3:00 & 3:45 pm Putz Showings

Choose Thankful

It arrived today and I didn't get to the mailbox first. I thought since Toys R Us had gone out of business that we wouldn't have to worry about it coming. I was wrong! Target has its own: The Toy Wish Book. Pages and pages filled with the newest and latest toys. And it has started the "Can we please buy this", "I want this", and several cases of gimmie gimmies. The boys continue to pour over the pages.

In fact, Thaddeus was the one who got to the mail first. Even though it was pouring, he made a S.L.O.W. walk back to the house. When he finally got back in, his hair and clothes were soaked as was the Target Toy Book. But that didn't stop the boys from flipping and flipping through the pages asking for what feels like everything in the book!

Now I remember the Toys R Us Toy Book and I also remember the Sears Wishbook. I also remember drawing dark marker circles around the things I wanted. But now that I am a parent my take on those books has changed drastically! They are just one more thing vying for my kids' attention and tempting them to be greedy and selfish. The toy books are a concentrated version of the commercials they see on TV and the Internet.



The hard truth is that we adults are also guilty of having the gimmie gimmies and of having a list of wants. If it's hard for us as adults, imagine how hard it is for children and youth. But what I have found is that leading by example and having a discussion about contentment is the best way to go.

I choose to be thankful, even when I could list things I want. I choose to tell the boys, "I am thankful for —," instead of saying, "I wish we could get —," or "I wish we could have —." I choose to count my blessings. Every day. Not just in November. Choose to be thankful and find contentment in how God has provided for your needs.

Choose Thankful!

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

October 2019:

October 2018: 34.25

Offerings: Sept. 29—Oct. 20

General: \$5,765.55 Refurbishing Fund: \$288.00

Parking: \$200.00 Flowers: \$35.00

Memorials: \$75.00 Special: \$100.00

Elders Report

The Elders discussed: more about the pastor’s maternity leave, a proposed ministry plan for 2020 based on the work done by the Joint Board and Jill Peters with MissionInSite, Harvest Home, and Operation Christmas Child. We continue to work on the pulpit supply for maternity leave as Pastor Sayward’s due date approaches. We will have more information about who will be preaching, who will be on call and who will be making visits.

The proposed ministry plan contains many opportunities to get involved: Assistance Ministry: Blessing Bags and Clothing Drive for Crystal’s Place; Ministries to and for Children: Operation Christmas Child, Adopt a Family from Goode School, Parents’ Night Out, Snack Time with Sensory families, One Day VBS, Messy Church Service, Connections Party, Bike-a-Thon; Community Engagement: inviting police officers to Bike-a-Thon and Back to School Breakfast. Details about each event will be discussed in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, and during worship. Stay tuned! 2020 will be exciting!

Kidsfest

Volunteers are needed for one or two Sundays a month to lead a *Kidsfest* program during the worship hour. OR maybe someone would like to deliver a message one Sunday and then Pastor Sayward could lead the *Kidsfest* program! Please let Pastor Sayward know if your are interested in lending a hand with *Kidsfest*!

Moravian News Briefs

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

A REMINDER ... 2020 Moravian Daily Texts monies will be collected when the Texts arrive in early November.

Ongoing prayers for **Sr. Valerie Ferguson**, wife of **Br. Wellesley Ferguson**, pastor of the Vanderbilt and Fellowship Moravian Churches in New York. Valerie is being treated for a mass in her brain. She underwent her first surgery in June and had a second in early July.

Sr. Christine Johnson, who has been serving under appointment at the West Side Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA, has accepted the call to serve as the pastor of the College Hill Moravian Church in Bethlehem. She will be installed on December 1, 2019. Please keep Chris, her husband Darrell, and the West Side and College Hill congregations in your prayers in this time of transition.

Trustees Report

Food vouchers (\$10) are being purchased with the remaining Food Pantry funds and will be available from 10-11 AM at the church annex the 4th Saturday of every month. These vouchers can be used at the York County Food Bank to buy 50 lbs of food. Monetary donations to buy additional vouchers are welcome! See Linda Rishel if you wish to donate.

Harvest Home & Blessing Bags Collection

The Joint Board spent some time with Dr. Jill Peters from Moravian College and the Mission Insite Program through the Moravian Church Eastern District. The Program uses the demographics around the church to help determine ministry possibilities. Dr. Peters reminded the Joint Board to experiment and try little things.

We are starting with a new "little thing" since the closing of our Food Pantry. We have had several visitors to the church, many of whom have slept on the picnic table for a day or two before moving on. We will now be stocking the empty counter and cupboards of the Food Pantry with shelf-stable items for Blessing Bags. Our Blessing Bags will be given to anyone who may need one. Inside each bag we will also be placing a note of encouragement and a list of where to find free meals in the city.

Below is a list of donatable items for the Blessing Bags, many of which can be found at the Dollar Store, Family Dollar, Walmart, Aldi and Lidl.

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Beef Jerky | Bottled water | Instant heat packs |
| Dried fruit | Hard candy | Warm wool socks |
| Granola bars | Chewing gum | Gloves |
| Shelf-stable applesauce pouches | Mints | Knit hats |
| Shelf-stable yogurt pouches | Emergency poncho | Scarves |
| Shelf-stable chicken or tuna snack kits | Cleaning wipes | Comb |
| Crackers with cheese | Compact First-Aid kit | Chapstick |
| Shelf-stable milk or juice boxes | Emergency thermal Blankets | |

During the month of November, we will be collecting items to place in our Blessing Bags. Each week, we will concentrate on specific items:

- Nov. 3:** granola bars, jerky, juice boxes, emergency rain ponchos
- Nov. 10:** apple sauce pouches, shelf-stable yogurt pouches, dried fruit
- Nov. 17:** shelf-stable tuna or chicken cracker kits, shelf-stable milk boxes
- Nov. 24:** men's large thick socks, gloves and hats

Of course, any items from the above expanded list may be donated any time, not just during the month of November.

Be a Harvest of Blessings for those in our immediate community who have less for which to be thankful!!!

November Lectors

- Nov. 3 Christine Dobron
- Nov. 10 Heidi Robinson
- Nov. 17 Sharon Saylor
- Nov. 24 Cliff Rowell

November Children's Chat

- Nov. 3 Pastor Sayward
- Nov. 10 John Knokey
- Nov. 17 Pastor Sayward
- Nov. 24 Pastor Sayward

November Ushers

Volunteers welcome!

November Nursery Staff

As-needed basis

Diners' Club

Please consider joining our delightful little group — and **bring a friend or two** for some **quality mingling with fellow Christians!**

- November 23— Tokyo Diner
 - December 23—none scheduled due to Christmas holiday
- Let's start planning for next year!

November Gatekeepers

- Nov. 3 Gary Paules
- Nov. 10 Lance Sprenkle
- Nov. 17 Larry Sprenkle
- Nov. 24 Jeff Rishel



We are again collecting shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. The official Kick-Off will be Sunday, Oct 27th. You may choose a Boy or a Girl and select an age category. A full list of suggested items and other information will be available that Sunday. For those who have extra shoeboxes (the kid must be separate), please bring them in for those who don't have a shoebox. **The last day to collect boxes will be Sunday, Nov. 17th.**

This year there's an EXTRA incentive: A GIFT CARD GIVEAWAY! A raffle will be done each week of collecting, so the earlier you submit your shoebox, the more chances you will have of winning!

Fill a regular shoebox (one with a separate lid) with small toys, school supplies, and other items suggested in the provided information packets. They are requesting that we DO NOT INCLUDE any candy, toothpaste or any liquid form items due to customs stipulations. Also, DO NOT INCLUDE used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures, chocolate or food, seeds, fruit rolls or other fruit snacks, drink mixes (powdered or liquid), lotions, vitamins, or any breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers, and no aerosol sprays.

Please wrap your boxes with Christmas paper and remember the lids must be wrapped separately!

Judy Martin has volunteered to be a Personal Shopper for those individuals who cannot get out to the stores to pick up items.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has brought the joy of Christmas and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in over 100 countries. Help bring happiness to a child this Christmas; a child who has never received a gift before; a child who has yet to experience the love of Jesus Christ!



Pre-Holiday Events



Sunday, November 17th, Moss Gathering We will once again trek out into nature to gather moss and other natural décor for our Christmas Putz. We will meet at 2:00 pm. Details of our destination will be forthcoming ... look in your weekly bulletin for updates! This is also the **last Sunday for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.**

Putz Assembly is planned for **Sunday, November 24th** after worship. This is also **Harvest Home Sunday** and a special worship program, incorporating the use of prayer stations where we can focus on gratefulness and thanksgiving, is in the works.

Sunday, December 1st is the first Sunday of Advent. **Hanging of the Greens** is scheduled for after worship with the beginning of our **2019-2020 Christmas Putz Showings** at 3:00 and 3:45 pm. Please see John Knokey if you are interested in hosting again this year. A schedule will be posted on the church bulletin board.

From the Parsonage Table



Where does life happen at your house? Where does everything seem to happen? In the parsonage* that place is the kitchen. More specifically, the kitchen table. It is where we eat, where we talk about the ups and downs of the day, where we ask questions, where time outs take place, where art takes shape, where learning happens, where Legos congregate, and where I do my sermons, newsletter articles, and where my pastoral work gets done. I am sure I missed other things that take place at the kitchen table but you get the point. They say life may be created in the bedroom, but it is lived out in the kitchen.

Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen, author of *Kitchen Table Wisdom*, writes this in her introduction:

“Everybody is a story. When I was a child, people sat around the kitchen tables and told their stories. We don’t do that so much anymore. Sitting around the table telling stories is not just a way of passing time. It is the way the wisdom gets passed along. Despite the awesome powers of technology many of us still do not live very well. We may need to listen to one another’s stories again.”

It takes work to keep the kitchen table alive and well. From our table to yours, we encourage you to make space for time together. Make it the table another place where memories are made!

* *parsonage*: a house provided for a member of the clergy by the church.

SAYWARD:

I HAVE A HOLE HERE ... CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME INFO REGARDING PARENTS' NIGHT OUT & SENSORY ROOM PARTICIPATION?

November Birthdays

Nov. 1 Jeanne Barshinger
 Nov. 7 Linda Taylor
 Nov. 10 Julia Saylor
 Nov. 15 Gary Paules
 Nov. 17 Aaren Eckert

Nov. 19 Dynola Kotek
 Nov. 20 Olivia Downs
 Nov. 21 Lindsey Robinson
 Amy Shouck
 Nov. 30 Jacob Sprenkle

November Anniversaries

Nov. 5 Terry & Christine Downs

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

Directory Update

Bridgette Shenberger
 350 E. Philadelphia St., Apt. 207
 York, PA 17403



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YORK, PA 17401

Phone: 717.843.2239

Check out our **NEW** website!

www.yorkfirstmoravian.org

AFFIX
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NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

2019 Watchword

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation
from day to day.**

Psalm 96:2