



NOVEMBER 2021

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

WILL YOU TRUST ME NOW?

My world was turned upside down when I was ten. My pastor announced he was leaving to serve another Moravian Church. My first reaction was to start crying...My pastor's son was my best friend; my pastor's wife was my piano teacher; our families went camping together in the summer. My ten year old worldview did not understand that it was not unusual for a pastor to move. Most adults understand changes happen and mature people adjust when that happens. BUT, I was a child....

My parents, who had more life experience, tried to comfort me by assuring me that we would still see Uncle Eddie and his family every summer, and they assured told me that the Lord would send us a fine, new pastor. But, I refused to be comforted....

Our new pastor was much different than Uncle Eddie. I did not love our new pastor like Uncle Eddie, but I respected him. I was awed and a little afraid of him. I thought he was the smartest man I had ever met. His sermons were amazing! They opened my eyes. Looking back, although they were each different, I believe I learned something from every pastor I had.

Our scripture lesson from the book of Joshua in the Old Testament is an example of a time in the life of the children of Israel when their world was turned upside down! Our lesson from Joshua 1:1-9, begins, "My servant, Moses, is dead." Think of all that Moses had done for the people of Israel:

Boldly confronted Pharaoh, and called down ten plagues on Egypt
Led them to the edge of the Red Sea, and through the sea,
Led them through the wilderness to Mt. Sinai, and gave them the ten commandments,
When they had no water, he gave them water from a rock in the wilderness
When they had no food, he called down manna and quails for them to eat....

Listen to what God says about Moses in DEUTERONOMY 34:10. "But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face."

Now Moses is dead and the people of Israel who have followed Moses for forty years stand at the border of a new and unfamiliar land! What does the Lord have to say to Joshua and to the whole nation during this time of transition and crisis? And, what can we discover here which will help us in our own time of transition at First Moravian?

The FIRST thing -BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! The Lord says this THREE times within nine verses, so it must be important. In these words I hear the Lord saying, grow up and act like a MAN! Today, we would say, "Act like an adult!" How many of you know it is characteristic of children to be afraid. When I was a child I was afraid to be alone; I was afraid of the dark and went to sleep with covers over my head....What is the human reaction when we are faced with change and uncertainty? Isn't it to withdraw and retreat back into the familiar and safe?"Moses my servant is dead....therefore arise!"

(v. 2) Our God calls you and me to grow up, to mature, to become more than we were before! To learn, to think, and act in every situation like Christ would think and act. This is God's purpose for you and me as Paul spells it out in EPHESIANS 4:14-15, "that we should no longer be children...but speaking the truth in love we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - into Christ." Brothers and sisters, our Lord wants us to be strong and courageous. Don't wimp out, don't wallow in despair. Don't pull the covers over your head...This is the FIRST thing that the Lord says to Joshua and the people of Israel - and to you and me.

The SECOND thing God says is found in v. 7-8, "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, to do according to all that is written in it...for then you will have good success." When I was in scouting, we had the Boy Scout handbook, in the Moravian Church, we have the Book of Order and the Covenant for Christian Living. In the United States, we have the Constitution. These are the fundamental principles on which we stand. In our lesson, the Lord is saying to Israel, "you have a Constitution, you have a Handbook, you have a Book of Order!" If you faithfully follow the teaching I have given you through my servant, Moses, you will be successful and prosperous in this strange new land....

How many built models? Do you remember there was always a picture on the front of the box. If I followed the instructions, they would turn out right! Have you ever baked a box cake? The promise was that if you followed the instructions, the cake would look like the picture on the box. Brothers and sisters, in the Church, we have a set of instructions, a handbook and a Constitution! Our constitution is the Holy Bible. John Hus, the spiritual father of the Moravian church, wrote these words:

"The Word of God which ne'er shall cease - proclaims free pardon, grace and peace - Salvation shows in Christ alone - The perfect will of God makes known."

When he wrote these words, Hus was not just writing pretty poetry, but he was articulating the foundation of his life? When he was on trial for his life at the Council of Constance, he said that he would gladly take back everything he taught if he could be corrected from the Holy Scriptures. Now, pastors may come and go. The words of our Liturgies may change. The way we take communion may change, but the promises of God in the Bible will never change. It is "The Word of God which never shall cease!" Therefore, brothers and sisters, during this time of transition we need to hold onto the promises of God.

The THIRD thing the Lord says during this time of crisis, is found in v. 5; and to make certain the people GOT IT, the Lord concludes with these words from v. 9, "Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." What would make the difference for Joshua and the people after Moses was dead and gone?. "I will be with you. I will never leave you or forsake you.!" Where have we heard these words before? We read them in our New Testament lesson from ROMANS 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!" Maybe you remember the old hymn with these appropriate words which proclaim, "If Jesus goes with me, I'll go - ANYWHERE!" Moses was gone, and he was not coming back - BUT, the Lord God was with them still!

When I was a young pastor I had a friend named Morris Williams, who had been a pastor for almost forty years and told this wonderful story. At every crossroads and in every crisis of his life, when he enlisted in the Navy, when we felt called to the ministry, when he got married and had children, when he was contemplating retirement and had no place to live. He thought he heard the Lord each time saying, "Will you trust me now, Morris?" And he found that, indeed, the Lord could be trusted. In fifty years of ministry, I have heard the same question, and found the same answer over and over again....

'I will be with you. I will never leave you, or forsake you!' And through all the ups and downs of life I've discovered the one indispensable condition for dealing with anything is to know that the Lord is there and he can be trusted! I first learned this lesson during the difficult initial four years of our time at Lebanon Moravian Church.

One Saturday evening as I was working on my sermon the front doorbell rang. I opened the door to greet one of our church elders who handed me an envelope. "Pastor," she said, "I know that you are going through a hard time right now and I just wanted to stop and give you this." After she left, I opened the envelope to find a fifty dollar bill, and this poem, which I have shared many times during a funeral service.

"THIS I KNOW"

I do not know what next may come
Across my pilgrim way.
I do not know tomorrow's road
Nor see beyond today.
BUT THIS I KNOW - My Savior knows
The path I cannot see,
And I can trust His wounded hand
To guide and care for me.

I do not know what may befall
Of sunshine or of rain.
I do not know what may be mine
Of pleasure or of pain.
BUT THIS I KNOW - my Savior knows,
And whatsoever it be
Still I can trust His love to give
What will be best for me.

I do not know what still awaits
Or what the morrow brings,
But with the glad salute of faith
I hail its opening wings!
FOR THIS I KNOW - that in My Lord
Shall all my needs be met,
And I can trust the heart of Him,
Who has not failed me yet.

At the border of a strange new land, Moses, the servant of God who had led the people of Israel for more than forty years, dies, and for a period of thirty days, the people mourn for Moses. During all that time the Lord remains silent... Then, at the end of the thirty days, in a time of crisis for this new nation, when their world has been turned upside down, the Lord speaks to Joshua and to the whole nation. What did the Lord tell them? What did he call them to do? What did he want them to remember? What does the Lord want us to remember?

Brothers and sisters, I see THREE things the Lord wants Israel, and us, to know:

Be strong and courageous, don't wimp out!

Build your lives upon my promises which I gave you through Moses,

Remember that no matter what happens, I the Lord will never leave you nor forsake you - Moses may be dead and gone, but I THE LORD, am with you still!

Pastor Sayward may be gone to Lititz, but the Lord God is with us still!

Brothers and sisters, this is the message the Lord has laid on my heart for us this day, when Pastor Sayward has gone to Lititz. Be strong and courageous. My brothers and sisters, STAND UP! Remember that we still have a foundation, we have the promises of God, we have the Word of God which ne'er shall cease....After ten years serving as a pastor on Staten Island I announced I was leaving to serve another Moravian Church. A young man who had come to faith in Christ at our coffee house, been baptized, and recently joined the church objected. "How can the shepherd leave the sheep?" he cried. "Billy," I replied, "I am not your shepherd. Jesus is your shepherd, I'm only his under-shepherd. He will send someone else." I believe Pastor Sayward would tell us the same thing. She calls herself a "sheepdog" for the shepherd.

Brothers and sisters, who is our shepherd? Will you trust him now?

Rev. Steve Nicholas
Sunday, September 12, 2021

**Sayward & Kevin's New Address:
770 Rosemont Drive
Lititz, PA 17543**

Elders and Trustees News

Unified Board Meeting

The Unified Board met on Oct 18th via zoom. We are currently gathering information for our next meeting with board President, Melissa Johnson. Survey's have been sent via email to all congregation members to complete. If you have not received the survey please reach out to Lindsey Robinson. Members of Elders will reach out to our shut ins to check in. Repairs for the parsonage are still under discussion - Gabe from 360 has been contacted for quotes. Tim Rishel has also volunteered to help with snow removal. The painting at the annex has been completed and paid. Please see the list of important dates below for upcoming events/activities.

Total Income & Offerings from Sundays 10/2/2021 to 10/29/2021:

General	\$3,800.00
Refurbishing	\$180.00
Parking	\$50.00
Special Donation (Private donation to help with refurbishing the parsonage.)	\$2,000.00
TOTAL	\$5,452.00



Important Dates and Information

November 14 - Putz moss gathering. Meet at Lance & Diane Sprenkle's house.

November 21 - Assemble the Putz.

November 28 - First Sunday of Advent, Hanging of the Greens following worship, and the first Putz showing for the 2021-2022 season.

Operation Christmas Child

For the most part, we are very fortunate people. For the most part we have decent homes, regular meals, people who love us, and a Loving Heavenly Father who watches over us. Except for the part of the Loving Heavenly Father, many people of the world are not nearly so blessed as we. Once again you have the opportunity to be an agent of the Lord through Operation Christmas Child, where you can pack a shoe box with expressions of love and good will for some needy children. Our "One great act of sharing" will begin on Sunday October 31, and conclude on Sunday November 21. Please consider being a part in proclaiming God's Love to the least of these. Packing labels are available on the display in the gathering room. If you need additional information contact John Knokey - 717-848-9220.



Daily Texts

Daily Texts are now available to order. Please call (717-965-5552) or email (lindsey.firstmoravian@yahoo.com) your order to Lindsey by December 1st. We have been informed that due to supply issues there may be a delay in delivery. Payments can be sent directly to Wanda at the church. Thank you!

2022 Moravian Church Directory & Statistics - \$8.50

2022 Moravian Daily Texts - Hardcover Edition - \$16.00

2022 Moravian Daily Texts Journal Edition - \$17.00

2022 Moravian Daily Texts Large Print Edition - \$14.00

2022 Moravian Daily Texts Paperback Edition - \$11.50

2022 Moravian Church Desk Calendar and Plan Book - \$8.00

November Birthdays

7 Linda Taylor
10 Julia Saylor
15 Gary Paules
17 Aaron Eckert
19 Dynola Kotek
20 Olivia Downs
21 Lindsey Robinson
30 Jacob Sprenkle

For pastoral care until
our new Pastor is received,
please feel free to call any of the
3 elders listed below.

Jeannette Sprenkle 717-225-4304

John Knokey 717-848-9220

Steve Nicholas 717- 755-7412

***Please do not call Steve
on a Monday***

November Anniversaries

5 Terrence & Christine Downs



Prayer Concerns

Amy Ardison (Betsy Senft's sister)
Pastor Jeff Coppage
Ann Coppage
Don Eckert
Mary Jones
Peg & John Knaub
Glenn & Cheri Miley
Kathie Nicholas
Sam Pauley
Stanley Remley
Karrie Rishel
Cliff & Elaine Rowell
Ruth & Clair Seiple
Wes Senft
Jim Rabine



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2021 Watchword

Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, the Lord spread his wings and caught his people, he carried them on his pinions. - Deuteronomy 32:11