



FEBRUARY 2022

# THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

## THE THINGS WHICH ABIDE

Three thousand years ago the Greek philosopher Heraclitus made the observation that everything in life changes. Heraclitus put it this way, "No man ever steps into the same river twice..." The STORY is told about a 100 year old man being interviewed by a reporter. She said to him, "You must have seen many changes in your long life?" And he replied, "Yes, and I've been against them all..."

Sometimes I feel that way. It has been two long years of turmoil!

Is there anything in our world which isn't going to change?  
Is there anything which will remain the same?  
Is there anything upon which you and I can absolutely depend?

YES there are at least THREE things which will not change!

The FIRST thing which does not change is the Bible, the Word of God. The spiritual father of the Moravian Church, John Hus, wrote this hymn around 1400.

"The Word of God which ne'er shall cease  
Proclaims free pardon grace and peace."

Hus was not just writing poetry, but he was articulating the foundation of his life! Those of you who remember the story of Hus will recall that when he was about to be burned at the stake, he was offered the chance to recant and save his life. He answered that he would gladly take back everything that he had preached and taught if the Church would show him where he was wrong from the scriptures.

In the 18th century, the French philosopher, Voltaire, predicted that within a generation enlightened people would no longer believe in the myths and fairy tales contained in the Bible. Today the house where Voltaire made this prediction is the headquarters of the French Bible Society!

How is it that philosophers and movements and nations come and go but the Word of God, the Bible, remains a best seller year after year?

I believe it is because the Bible tells us the truth about ourselves and it tells us the truth about God. And neither human nature nor the character of God has changed in the last 3,000 years. In the 7th century B.C., the prophet Isaiah wrote, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God remains forever!"

This is the FIRST thing which abides!

The SECOND thing which remains the same is the nature of people. How is it that we can read the Psalms which were written 3,000 years ago and understand how the writer was feeling? Because human nature has not changed since King David wrote many of the Psalms!"How long, O Lord? How long...?"

How is it that the plays of Wm. Shakespeare are still studied and performed more than 400 years after they were written? Isn't it because the great themes in Shakespeare, human love, human jealousy, human ambition, human betrayal, human guilt - are still the themes which make great theater today! These are the same themes which we read about again and again throughout the pages of the Bible.

The Bible accurately teaches that human nature is a mixed bag. You are I were created in the image of God and have the potential for great good. Have you noticed that even bad people can do good things? But, the Bible also teaches that humanity is a fallen race with the potential for great wickedness and evil. Even the best among us have our hidden vices and our secret flaws and can sometimes do terrible things in the name of God! Mark Twain said, "People are like the moon. We all have a dark side..."

Please permit me to make a prediction about human nature in 2022: There will be some people who will disappoint you, and there will be others who will surprise and delight you... WHY is this true? Because that is the nature of people! The Bible teaches that human nature is a mixture of good and evil. That is the SECOND thing which will not change in 2022.

The THIRD thing which will not change is the character of God. In MALACHI 3:6, the Lord says, "I am the Lord; I do not change. Therefore you, oh man, are not consumed.". What if that were not true? What if God was merciful today, and he was vindictive tomorrow? What if God were just and righteous today and tomorrow was inconsistent and unjust? What if God grew weary of hearing our prayers and offering us forgiveness? What if God were capricious or fickle? What if we could not count on God?

In Psalm 103 we read, "As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him. For he knows our frame, he remembers that we are dust..." The Bible teaches that God is both merciful and just. I stake my life upon that!

A little girl was sitting with her mother in worship and she asked, "Mommy, what is that big plus sign doing on the communion table?" The Cross is God's great big plus sign for the whole human race! The cross reminds us that God hates sin but also loves sinful people. In the Cross of Jesus, God condemns sin as deserving death, and provides his Son, Jesus, in our place to pay the penalty for our sin so that we can be saved. Jesus said, "This is my blood, the blood of the New Testament, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins..."

## Elders and Trustees News

### Unified Board Meeting

The Unified Board met on January 17th via Zoom. Many items were discussed. Worship was reviewed favorably and planning for February services began. Preparations were made for the church council meeting on January 23rd. Painting on the parsonage will be started in February.

### **Total Income & Offerings from Sundays 01/02/2022 to 01/23/2022:**

General	\$6,190.00
Refurbishing	\$185.00
Flower Fund (Christmas Pointsettias)	\$348.00
Parking	\$150.00
Daily Text	\$45.00
Wellness Rebate Ck. (Moravian Church Northern Province)	\$679.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,597.52</b>

### Did you know...

We have an online giving portal! If you prefer to catch the service via Zoom you can send your offering online! Just go to

- [mmfa.info](http://mmfa.info)
- click Giving Portal at the top
- Click 'F' and select First Moravian Church - York, PA

If you prefer to mail your offering you can send it direct to:

Wanda Hendricks  
3715 Fox Chase Drive  
Dover, PA 17315

## February Birthdays

4 Jim Rabine  
7 Paul Shouck  
17 Cliff Rowell  
19 Rev. Norman Prochnau  
23 Joan Henkelmann  
24 Myla Robinson  
27 Jennifer Heffner

## February Anniversaries

12 Cameron & Sherry Campanella  
Timothy & Annette Tyson



## Prayer Concerns

Amy Ardison (Betsy Senft's sister)  
Pastor Jeff Coppage  
Ann Coppage  
Don Eckert  
Mary Jones  
Kathie Nicholas  
Karrie Rishel  
Cliff & Elaine Rowell  
Ruth & Clair Seiple

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\*

First Moravian Church  
39 North Duke Street  
York, PA 17401

717-843-2239

[www.yorkfirstmoravian.org](http://www.yorkfirstmoravian.org)



## **2022 Watchword**

“Happy is the one who trusts in you, O lord of hosts.”

Psalm 84:12