



MAY 2023

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

JOY IN THE MORNING

When we retired, Kathie and I had all kinds of plans about what we would do. We planned to lease an RV and tour the country...then live in it until we bought a home. Two years before we retired our plans went up in smoke. Kathie was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, and it was not possible to do the things we planned...

When I complained about this to the Lord, my attention was directed to a verse from the book of Psalms. "WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING." This verse comes from PSALM 30:5.

So, I read the entire Psalm. It is the song of a man who has known physical illness,

The song of a man who has heard the taunts of human enemies,

The song of a man who was brought so low that he thought that
he was a GONER!

"Oh Lord, you have brought my soul up from the grave," cries David in PSALM 30:3.

King David is credited as the author of PSALM 30, and that makes sense to me. David loved God and David trusted God and God did many wonderful things for David. But, later in his life, David became soft and self-indulgent. Do you remember how he committed adultery with his neighbor, Bathsheba, and had her husband, Uriah, killed to cover it up? God was not pleased with David, and God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David with his sin and called upon David to repent.

David did repent and asked the Lord for forgiveness, but things in his family were NEVER the same. Two of David's children, Adonijah and Absalom, rebelled against David and each attempted to seize the kingdom for himself. As David is fleeing for his life from Absalom, some of his old enemies cursed him and threw stones at him. I can imagine that David felt he was a GONER! When David is saved through help from the Lord and his old friend, Joab I can see him writing the words of this Psalm,

"WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!"

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I believe that I understand something of what King David was writing about..... Two years ago, our doctor said, "I think Kathie has Alzheimer's disease. And, once again WE WERE IN THE NIGHT OF WEEPING! BUT we are living in a wonderful community with kind neighbors. Two of our children and our sister-in-law come every week, and Kathie and I enjoy being together. WE ARE NO LONGER IN THE NIGHT OF WEEPING! BUT we both know that someday (in the distant future), one of us will go to the hospital and not come home. BUT, even then, we know. THERE WILL BE A MORNING!

Brothers and sisters, I believe this verse would make a good motto for our lives as Christians. "WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING" If we live long enough, all of us will experience the night of weeping at some time in our lives, but, WHEN that night comes, I want you to remember, WEEPING MAY ENDURE... BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!

Wasn't that the way it was for the early Christians? When Peter denied Jesus, he went out and wept bitterly. When Jesus carried his cross to Mt. Calvary, the women who followed wept. When Mary Magdalene could not find the body of Jesus on Easter Sunday, she wept.

And all that time, God was SILENT! God said nothing and God did nothing; Not on Friday evening; Not on Saturday morning; Not on Saturday evening..... But, JOY CAME IN THE MORNING!

"Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph over his foes,
He arose a victor from the dark domain.
And he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose. He arose. Hallelujah! Christ arose."

Brothers and sisters, as Christians, this is our faith, and this is our hope. WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNING! Someone has said, "Christians are not those who suffer less, but they are those in whom the result is different." WHY is the result different? Because we know that NOTHING can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord! Because we know that we are part of a spiritual family which Loves us and cares for us. "If one suffers, all suffer..." Because even if we DIE, we have a home prepared for us. Because we KNOW that there will be a morning, either here or over there! THERE WILL BE A MORNING!

HOW do we know this? When I was twenty-three, I served for a year as student pastor of a church in a small town in rural Ohio. One of the only businesses was the local barber shop where men gathered to shoot the breeze. One morning I was there for a haircut and the conversation turned to a townsman who had just died. "I wonder where George is now?", Someone asked. "I wonder if he is in heaven. I wonder if there is a heaven?" "I don't reckon we can know because no one has ever come back and told us", replied Fischer the barber who was a skeptic. I mustered all of my young courage and declared, "Mr. Fischer, someone did come back...." The Apostle Peter wrote to the early Christians and affirmed, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (I PETER 1:3-4) Brothers and sisters, we Christians are a RESURRECTION people, and we serve a RESURRECTION God!

It is a cliché to say we are living in troubled and uncertain times on planet earth. I do not know what will happen next in Ukraine and I do not know what will happen in our country. I do not know when or where the next mass shooting will happen. I do not know what will happen with global warming. I do know what will happen in First Moravian Church when our new pastors come.... BUT there is one thing of which I am absolutely certain!

WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR THE NIGHT, BUT....

JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!
JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!
JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!

Rev. Steve Nicholas
April 9, 2023
EASTER



Elders News

The Elders met on April 19, 2023, along with the Trustees. Worship services were reviewed, and pulpit supply was planned for the upcoming month. Calls and visitations that were made to our shut-ins were shared. A subcommittee that was formed and has been in contact with a subcommittee from Covenant's boards gave an update regarding the arrival of the Pastors Fleming. The sub committees will be meeting with the Flemings on Tuesday, April 25 to discuss details. We would like to give them a gift card to a local grocery store when they move into the parsonage. A basket will be placed in the narthex for contributions, or you may mail your contribution to Wanda Hendricks at her address listed below. Contributions for the gift card will be accepted through Sunday, May 21. The Flemings will be moving into the Parsonage on Tuesday, May 23. The next Joint Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 8 at 7:00 pm (possibly in person or zoom).

Trustees News

The Trustees met on April 19, 2023, along with the Elders. Maintenance/repairs for the annex, church and parsonage were reviewed. Many items on the repair list have now been completed. There is a work date set for Monday, May 15 at the parsonage at 9:00 am. If anyone would like to help, please see Cliff Bergstresser or Lance Sprenkle for details. The Treasurer's report was given by Wanda Hendricks. Income and expenses for the month were reviewed. Wanda requested funds to be withdrawn from Morgan Stanley to help pay for expenses. Request was approved. The next Trustees meeting will be held at the parsonage during the work party on Monday, May 15. Jt. Bd. on May 8 at 7 pm.

Total Income & Offerings from Sundays 4/2/2023 - 4/23/2023

General	\$5,235.00
Refurbishing Fund	191.00
Flower Fund	34.50
Church Anniversary	15.00
Parking	50.00
Memorial Fund (In Memory of Elaine Rowell)	175.00
Easter	225.00
MCNP - Gap Rewards for 2022	113.00
Morgan Stanley withdrawal ck.	2,000.00

Total **INCOME** for April **\$8,038.50**

Total **EXPENSES** for April **\$11,658.04**

Upcoming Guest Pastors

April 30 - Rev. Carol Dague
May 7 - Rev. Carol Dague
May 14 - Mr. Cliff Bergstresser
May 21 - Mr. Lloyd Purswell
May 28 - Rev. Terry Folk

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Joint Installation Service with Covenant for the Flemings will be held on Sunday, June 18 at Rocky Ridge Park under the pavilion at 10:30 am with light refreshments to follow.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELAINE C. ROWELL



Elaine Coleman Rowell, age 83, born in York, PA December 21, 1939 to Robert and Helen Anstine Coleman passed away April 7, 2023, Good Friday, at 3:30am at the Rest Haven Nursing Home in York, PA. She resided with her husband Clifton Rowell for 43 years on Folkstone Way, York, PA. Cliff and Elaine were married July 30, 1980 at Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth on the rock bound coast of Maine. One of the most beautiful places on the planet. Elaine graduated class valedictorian from Kennard Dale High School in Fawn Grove in 1957 and resided and grew up in Stewartstown, PA. She served faithfully for 46 years as Director of Music at First Moravian Church in York. She played the organ and piano with great skill, directed the choirs, composing original music for choirs, organ, and solo voices. For 45 years Elaine happily taught piano and organ to hundreds of beloved students in her music studio at her home. Active as a homemaker interested in crocheting, crewel, and cross stitch embroidering all of which she incorporated into the decorating and design of her home. Elaine loved animals and enjoyed her shepherd dogs and her lovely cats. In her spare time she busied herself with crossword puzzles. Over the years she enjoyed with her husband Cliff many wonderful trips to the coast of Maine, Cape May, Ocean City, antiquing and art and craft shows. She loved nature and received such pleasure from her plants and gardens that surrounded her. Elaine with her husband Cliff we co-creators of the program, "Melodies to God," which was a combination of music and spoken word they offered to churches and various organizations in and outside of the local area. This was an outgrowth of their interest and participation in the ecumenical worship experiences. Elaine approached her work, her hobbies, her friends, and her family with tremendous passion and love. She was a treasure, a joy, and a fountain of blessing. Elaine leaves behind her husband Clifton Rowell, her son Todd Clay, her brother Robert Coleman, her stepdaughters Roxanne and her husband James Lear, and Catherine and her husband Dennis Leischner, as well as numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Relatives and friends are invited to her interment at Prospect Hill Cemetery on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 11:15am. The service will be held by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Nicholas, Jr. Arrangements made by the John W. Keffer Funeral Home. A memorial service to celebrate Elaine's life will be held at the First Moravian Church at a later date and time to be announced. Donations in memory of Elaine may be given to the First Moravian Church of York or the York County SPCA.

Please keep Cliff and family in your prayers.

There will be a Memorial service held for
Elaine on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at

First Moravian Church
39 North Duke Street
York, PA 17401
717-843-2239



CHURCH PICNIC

Tradition is certainly not unique to Moravians, but we may have a slightly tighter grasp on tradition than some. If a tradition serves a good purpose, then it is worth the effort to preserve it, and I believe most of you would agree that the tradition of our annual church picnic serves a good purpose.

Food, fun, the beauty of Musser's Grove, and most certainly the fellowship we share in God's good creation. This year's picnic will again be held at Musser's Grove in Manchester at 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 3. We will enjoy some games; bingo, the candy bar game, guessing games, cake walk ...

Hot dogs will be provided throughout the afternoon followed by dinner at 5:00 pm. We are returning to the pre-pandemic tradition of everyone bringing a dish or two to share buffet style. Broasted chicken and drink will be provided.

So, mark your calendar and plan to add to your storehouse of good cheer!

John Knokey



May Birthdays

- 2 Melissa Wurzbach
- 10 Diane Sprenkle
- 12 Mary Louise Fetrow*
- 13 Brielle Saylor
John Knokey
- 15 Rick Lehigh
- 17 Farrah Robinson
- 18 Paul Minnich
- 23 Brock Shealy
- 25 Terrence Downs
David Rishel
- 26 Kyle Sprenkle
Kayden Rishel*
- 29 Cody Martin
Abigail Wurzbach

For pastoral care until
our new Pastors are received,
please feel free to call any of the
three Elders listed below:

Jeannette Sprenkle 717-424-5636

John Knokey 717-848-9220

Steve Nicholas 717- 755-7412

*Please do not call Steve
on a Monday.

May Anniversaries

- 18 Joseph & Mona Kotchmar*
- 20 Lance & Diane Sprenkle
- 21 Cody & Kathryn Martin



Prayer Concerns

Amy Ardison (Betsy Senft's sister)
Pastor Jeff Coppage
Ann Coppage
Don Eckert
Mary Jones
Kathie Nicholas
Karrie Rishel
Cliff Rowell and Family
Ruth & Clair Seiple
Jemon Grant
Gary Paules

Did you know...

We have an online giving portal! If you prefer to worship via Zoom you can send your offering online!

Just go to:

- 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

First Moravian Church
39 North Duke Street
York, PA 17401

717-843-2239

www.yorkfirstmoravian.org



2023 Watchword

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7