



DECEMBER 2023

# THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

***"LOOK UP... "***

"I CONFESS....I CRINGED WHEN I WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR. IT WAS MID-OCTOBER THIS YEAR WHEN I ENTERED A BIG BOX HARDWARE STORE IN OUR AREA....AND THERE THEY WERE -- CHRISTMAS TREES OF EVERY SIZE AND COLOR, AS WELL AS BLOW UP DECORATIONS BEYOND THE IMAGINATION AND ROWS OF BLINKING, DANCING, AND COLOR-CHANGING LIGHT STRANDS. DESPITE MY OWN SENSE OF IMMEDIATE REPULSION, I'M PRETTY SURE I WAS IN THE MINORITY ON THIS ONE. A YOUNG FAMILY WAS MEANDERING THROUGH THIS FOREST OF LIT CHRISTMAS TREES AND THEY STOPPED AT ONE OF THE TALLEST TREES AND LOOKED UP.....AND TOOK A MOMENT TO GAZE UPON THE BEAUTIFUL STAR ON ITS VERY TOP. THAT'S WHEN I HEARD THE WORDS FROM A TINY YOUNG GIRL SAY, "MOM...I JUST CAN'T WAIT....I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL CHRISTMAS FINALLY GETS HERE AGAIN!"

"I JUST CAN'T WAIT!" I WAS TORN. THERE WAS A PART OF ME THAT SAID, "IT'S NOT YET TIME TO WAIT....IT'S ONLY OCTOBER!" YET SOMETHING STIRRED ME ABOUT THIS YOUNG ONE'S WORDS. "I JUST CAN'T WAIT!" SHE HAD ALREADY BEGUN TO WATCH....TO PREPARE....TO ANTICIPATE....TO LOOK FORWARD TO THAT SACRED DAY. IT WOULD BE EASY TO BE SKEPTICAL AND SURMISE THAT WHAT SHE WAS ANTICIPATING HAD MORE TO DO MORE WITH SWEETS AND GIFTS AND SHINING DECORATIONS. REGARDLESS, SHE HAD BEGUN THE "WAIT." MAYBE IT WAS A FEW WEEKS EARLY...OR MAYBE NOT EARLY AT ALL. ADVENT HAD BEGUN IN HER HEART AND THERE WAS A PART OF ME THAT ENDED UP FEELING A LITTLE JEALOUS.

WE LIVE CURRENTLY IN A DAY WHEN IT IS NO SMALL ACT OF LABOR TO BE HOPEFUL. THE HORRIFIC EVENTS HAPPENING DAILY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE REOCCURRING TRAGEDIES OF GUN VIOLENCE AND MASS SHOOTINGS, THE NATURAL TRAGEDIES FROM EARTHQUAKE, FIRE, AND FLOOD CAN TAX ONE'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY. YET THIS SACRED SEASON OF ADVENT IS NOW UPON US. WE ARE THOSE WHOSE FAITH CALLS US TO LOOK ABOVE THE SEEMINGLY IMPENETRABLE HOPELESSNESS, THE WARRING TIMES, THE HATE WHICH DIVIDES, AND THE DESPAIR WHICH CONSUMES....AND PROCLAIM SOME QUITE SIMPLE WORDS OF FAITH. "I CAN'T WAIT!....I WON'T WAIT!....FOR EMMANUEL, TRULY KNOWS NO SEASON!"

CONSIDER THESE WORDS FROM ONE WHO KNEW THE STRUGGLES OF ADVENT....

“LOOK UP, YOU WHOSE GAZE IS FIXED ON THIS EARTH, WHO ARE SPELLBOUND BY THE LITTLE EVENTS AND CHANGES ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. LOOK UP TO THESE WORDS, YOU WHO HAVE TURNED AWAY FROM HEAVEN DISAPPOINTED. LOOK UP, YOU WHOSE EYES ARE HEAVY WITH TEARS AND WHO ARE HEAVY AND WHO ARE CRYING OVER THE FACT THAT THE EARTH HAS GRACELESSLY TORN US AWAY. LOOK UP, YOU WHO, BURDENED WITH GUILT, CANNOT LIFT YOUR EYES. LOOK UP, YOUR REDEMPTION IS DRAWING NEAR. SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SEE DAILY WILL HAPPEN. JUST BE AWARE, BE WATCHFUL, WAIT JUST ANOTHER SHORT MOMENT. WAIT AND SOMETHING QUITE NEW WILL BREAK OVER YOU: GOD WILL COME.”

– DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, GOD IS IN THE MANGER

“I CAN’T WAIT.....LOOK UP!” MAY SUCH A SMALL PRACTICE AND DISCIPLINE OF ADVENT GUIDE US...MAYBE EVEN INSPIRE US...UPON OUR OWN ADVENT JOURNEY.

– REV. DAVE BENNETT  
PROVINCIAL ELDERS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/3 - HANGING OF THE GREENS  
(SNAK & YAK FOLLOWING WORSHIP)
- 12/9 - CHRISTMAS PARTY AT 1:00 PM (COVERED DISH)  
*\*PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE FROM 5:00 TO 1:00 PM.*
- 12/10 - PUTZ ASSEMBLY FOLLOWING WORSHIP
- 12/12 - UNITY PRAYER WATCH
- 12/17 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT 2:00 PM
- 12/24 - CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT/LOVEFEAST SERICE AT 7:00 PM  
*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORNING SERVICE.*

## **ELDERS NEWS**

THE ELDERS MET ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM ALONG WITH THE TRUSTEES VIA ZOOM. THE WORSHIP SERVICES HELD IN THE LAST MONTH WERE REVIEWED. THE SCHEDULE FOR GUEST PASTORS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS WAS DISCUSSED. THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT/LOVEFEAST SERVICE WAS PLANNED. THE SHUT-IN LIST WAS REVIEWED FOR THE MEMBERS WHO THE CAROLERS WILL BE VISITING. THE CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME WAS CHANGED TO 1:00 PM INSTEAD OF 5:00 PM DUE TO CONCERNS FOR SOME MEMBERS HAVING TO DRIVE AT NIGHT. IT WAS DECIDED TO HAVE SNAK & YAK BEFORE HANGING OF THE GREENS. THE MEETING WITH MELISSA JOHNSON WAS DISCUSSED. THE PEC WILL APPROVE CLIFF BERGSTRESSER'S TRAINING TO BECOME A PART-TIME LAY PASTOR. THEN THE EDB WILL NEED TO APPROVE HIM. THE ELDERS WILL BE KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR SHUT-INS DURING THE INTERIM. STEVE HAS VOLUNTEERED TO FILL OUT THE END OF YEAR PASTOR'S REPORT TO BETHLEHEM. HE HAS ASKED JOHN, WANDA AND CLIFF TO HELP WITH CERTAIN AREAS OF THE REPORT. PLEASE PRAY FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRST AND COVENANT CHURCHES. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.

WE ARE SEEKING A DELEGATE AND AN ALTERNATE FOR EASTERN DISTRICT SYNOD 2024 WHICH WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 26 - 29. PLEASE CONTACT STEVE NICHOLAS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. SAINTNIC1967@GMAIL.COM OR 717-755-7412



## **TRUSTEES NEWS**

THE TRUSTEES MET ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM ALONG WITH HE ELDERS VIA ZOOM. PARSONAGE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE WERE DISCUSSED. THE REPAIRS FOR THE ANNEX AND CHURCH WERE DISCUSSED. THERE ARE POSSIBLE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE EASTERN DISTRICT AND NORTHERN PROVINCE THAT WE COULD OBTAIN FOR THE WINDOWS THAT NEED REPLACED AND ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE CHURCH. WANDA HENDRICKS WENT OVER THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH. INCOME AND EXPENSES WERE DISCUSSED. WE WILL BE WITHDRAWING \$13,000.00 FROM MORGAN STANLEY TO PAY BETHLEHEM IN NOVEMBER. NEXT WORKDAY WILL BE SOMETIME IN APRIL. THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH HAS A NEED FOR A MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE TRUSTEE BOARD. IT IS A THREE-YEAR COMMITMENT, AND WE MEET ONCE A MONTH, USUALLY VIA ZOOM, THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00 PM. I TRY TO KEEP THE MEETING TO ONE HOUR. WE HAVE ABOUT SIX WORKDAYS A YEAR, BUT THEY TYPICALLY ARE NOT ALL-DAY AFFAIRS. PLEASE CONTACT CLIFF BERGSTRESSER WITH YOUR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. CBERGSTRESSER@VERIZON.NET OR 301-466-3775 CELL.

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM  
SUNDAYS 10/29/2023 - 11/28/2023**

\$5,843.00 GENERAL FUND

85.00 THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

186.00 REFURBISHING FUND

95.00 EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

**\$6,209.00 *INCOME FROM DONATIONS***

50.00 PARKING RENTAL

135.58 DAILY TEXT ORDERS FOR 2024

96.58 DIVIDENDS

1,000.00 PARSONAGE RENTAL PAID FOR NOV.

110.17 PARSONAGE UTILITIES PAID FOR NOV.

25.00 TRUIST BANK VISA REWARDS CHECK

13,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL CHECK

**\$14,417.33 *INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES***

**\$20,626.33 *TOTAL INCOME FOR NOVEMBER***

**\$18,107.33 *TOTAL EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER***



## December Birthdays

- 2 Kira Austin-Dumaine\*  
Glenn Miley\*
- 10 Mark Madoushek\*  
Timothy Senft
- 11 Wesley Senft
- 21 Karly Miller (Sprenkle)
- 25 Thaddeus Lippincott\*
- 26 Richard Rishel
- 27 Bryan Bailey
- 28 Keith Swartz
- 30 Trudy Moore-Kotek
- 31 Clair Seiple



## Please contact any of the Elders for Pastoral needs:

Steve Nicholas - 717-755-7412  
John Knokey - 717-848-9220  
Keith Rishel - 717-472-6793  
Jeannette Sprenkle - 717-424-5636  
Lindsey Robinson - 717-965-5552

## December Anniversaries

- 3 Andrew & Lindsey Robinson
- 12 Jesse and Karly Miller
- 17 Robert & Linda Taylor



## Prayer Concerns

Mary Jones  
Kathie Nicholas  
Karrie Rishel  
Cliff Rowell  
Ruth & Clair Seiple  
Jemon Grant  
Gary Paules

## December Schedule for Guest Pastors

- 12/3 - Bishop Doug Kleintop
- 12/10 - Rev. Terry Folk
- 12/17 - Rev. Terry Folk
- 12/24 - **No morning service**
- 12/24 - Rev. Steve Nicholas  
(Christmas Eve Service)
- 12/31 - Cliff Bergstresser

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](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





If you would like to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas by sponsoring poinsettias, we have pre-ordered 16 red and 8 white poinsettias. The cost is \$9.00 each.

Please indicate your wishes below:

\_\_\_\_\_ wish to  
sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ red  
\_\_\_\_\_ white  
In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

At \$9.00 my total cost is \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to First Moravian Church and give to John Knokey or put in the offering indicating this is for poinsettias.

You can also mail your check 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](http://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