



MARCH 2025

# THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

## Pastor's Message for March 2025

A member of the congregation asked me recently, how are the dates for Ash Wednesday and Easter decided for each year. His interest was sparked due to the fact that the dates differ from year to year. For example, Ash Wednesday for last year 2024 was on February 14, but for this year 2025 it will be on March 5. My conversation with you in this article will be an effort to give some clarity to this issue.

The date of Ash Wednesday is determined by the date of Easter. The first date to be set in relation to Ash Wednesday and Easter, is Easter. Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter. The time between Ash Wednesday and Easter is known as Lent. This is a commemoration of Jesus' length of time of 40 days spent in fasting in the wilderness. The accumulation of 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter are calculated as the days between the two dates excluding the 6 Sundays of Lent.

But how is Easter determined? Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the March equinox. (*A solar equinox is a moment in time when the sun crosses the earth's equator, which is to say, it appears directly above the equator, rather than north or south of the equator. On the day of the equinox, the sun appears to rise "due east" and sets "due west". This occurs twice each year, around March 20th and again September 23rd.*) Easter can fall any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent. Unlike Christmas, which falls on the same date every year, Ash Wednesday and Lent don't always fall on the same day or month.

Ash Wednesday which begins the season of Lent falls this year on March 5. The season of Lent is a very solemn and reflective one for the Christian community. As we reflect on the work and the passion of Christ, we also take time out to fast and to pray deepening our spiritual experience. The basis for the season or Lent being a time of fasting and praying is our response in honoring Jesus' example fasting for 40 days in the wilderness before He began His public ministry. This is the basis for which we celebrate Lent each year. Fasting is about denial. Jesus denied Himself food, human company, basic comforts of life for 40 days. In response and celebration of Lent we too deny ourselves some things in the season. Some people will take days of denying themselves of food, others will deny certain foods or beverages like coffee, others yet social media and so on. However, an important part of lent is praying. Jesus denied Himself all of the things He did to spend undistracted time with His Father. Time in Prayer and reflecting on the will of God and His Purpose. He was tested by the devil during this time, but He overcame the tempter. As a result of this experience, He came out the wilderness empowered and emboldened ready to begin His public ministry.

For us to get the maximum result out of this Lent journey we have to be prepared to fast (deny ourselves some things) in order to spend time in communication with God and being strengthened Spiritually.

I wish for you all a spiritual empowering journey for this Lent.

Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall

# Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday service at First at 7:00 pm.  
(Joint service with Covenant.)

Sunday, March 9 - First Sunday in Lent communion service.

Thursday, March 20 - First Day of Spring!

Saturday, March 22 - Feeding homeless downtown. Meet at Covenant at 10:00 am to make sandwiches and pack bags. Head downtown at 12:00 noon for distribution of food bags. Distribution is normally finished by 1:00-1:30 pm.

Sunday, March 23 - First's 273rd Anniversary

Sunday, March 23 - Bring your children or grandchildren to church Sunday. Activities planned for the children.

*\*Women's Fellowship to be re-scheduled sometime in March.*

HELLO  
SPRING

## **ELDERS NEWS**

THE ELDERS MET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM. THE ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR FOR ELDERS WAS HELD. JOHN KNOKEY WAS ELECTED AND HAS ACCEPTED THE POSTION OF VICE-CHAIR. STEVE NICHOLAS WAS THE FORMER VICE-CHAIR AND RESIGNED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR TO TAKE CARE OF KATHIE. PAST WORSHIP SERVICES WERE REVIEWED. WE WENT OVER UPCOMING EVENTS. UPDATES AND REPORTS WERE GIVEN FOR OUTREACH AND MISSIONS, MINISTRY TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH, WOMEN'S MINISTRY, MEN'S MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP/BIBLE STUDY. WE ARE PARTNERING WITH COVENANT THE 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH TO FEED HOMELESS DOWNTOWN. REQUESTING AT LEAST ONE PERSON FROM OUR CHURCH EACH MONTH TO REPRESENT FIRST. KEVIN AND HIS FAMILY ATTENDED LAST MONTH AND SAID THAT EVERYTHING WENT WELL. KEVIN AND CLIFF BERGSTRESSER ARE RESEARCHING THE POSSIBILITY OF EITHER AN ADULT DAYCARE OR PRESCHOOL FOR CHILDREN TO USE OUR BUILDING. KEVIN, JOHN AND CLIFF WILL BE MEETING WITH NENA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 6 TO DISCUSS WAYS OUR CHURCH CAN BE MORE INVOLVED WITH OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS. KEVIN AND CLIFF WILL BE MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT DAY CARE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 7. PLEASE PRAY FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP FOR ALL CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS. THE NEXT ELDER'S MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.

## **TRUSTEES NEWS**

THE TRUSTEES MET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM. ACTIVE PROJECTS FOR THE PARSONAGE, ANNEX AND CHURCH WERE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS ITEMS THAT CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF AT A LATER TIME. WINDOWS REPLACEMENT PROJECT IS UNDERWAY. THE DEPOSIT HAS BEEN MADE AND WINDOWS HAVE BEEN ORDERED. EXPECTED COMPLETION BY SPRING. CLIFF TO CALL TO CHECK ON PROGRESS. REPOINTING OF BRICKS AT THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE DONE. ESTIMATE RANGES FROM \$20,000 (PARTIAL) - \$100,000 (COMPLETE CHURCH). CLIFF WILL BE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT BEFORE MARCH 31. THE BOILER IN THE ANNEX HAS BEEN REPLACED. REGAL WAS CONTRACTED FOR \$20,000. ALSO, AN ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH REGAL WAS APPROVED. THE HEAT IN THE CHURCH WAS NOT WORKING. WALTON WAS CALLED TO INVESTIGATE AND COULD NOT FIND A PROBLE. WE WILL BE MONITORING THIS ISSUE. WANDA WENT OVER THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH. INCOME AND EXPENSES WERE GONE OVER IN DETAIL. THE NEXT TRUSTEES MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.



**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM  
SUNDAYS 2/2/2025 - 2/23/2025**

\$ 3,911.00 GENERAL FUND  
97.00 REFURBISHING FUND

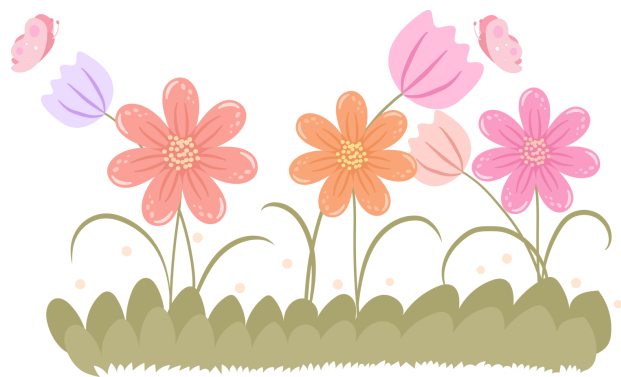
\$ 4,008.00 OFFERING INCOME

\$10,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL CHECK  
(TOWARDS NEW BOILER/FURNACE AT ANNEX)  
520.83 COVENANT MORAVIAN CHECK - HOUSING  
ALLOWANCE FOR FEBRUARY

\$10,520.83 OTHER INCOME

**\$14,528.83 TOTAL INCOME FOR FEBRUARY**

**\$21,587.71 TOTAL EXPENSES FOR FEBRUARY**



## March Birthdays

- 1 Wanda Hendricks
- 3 Sadie Wurzbach
- 5 River Robinson
- 7 Pastor Sayward Lippincott\*
- 10 Bob Taylor
- 11 Alianna Saylor
- 19 Hayley Teal
- 24 Chloe Senft
- 25 Sharon Saylor
- 26 Pyper Robinson
- 29 Jemon Grant\*
- 30 John Rohrer

**For Pastoral needs,  
please contact:**

**Rev. Kevin Marshall - 717-585-5846**

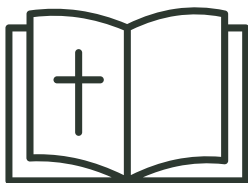
**or any of the Elders:**

John Knokey - 717-848-9220

Keith Rishel - 717-472-6793

Jeannette Sprenkle - 717-424-5636

Kasi Steinbrenner - 717-965-2032



## March Anniversaries

- 16 Samuel & Jaylynn Pauley
- 24 Clair & Ruth Seiple



## ***Prayer Concerns***

MARY JONES

KATHIE NICHOLAS

KARRIE RISHEL

RUTH & CLAIR SEIPLE

DEBBIE MILLER

JEMON GRANT

GARY PAULES

IRELYN SPRENKLE

JEFF RISHEL

TRUDY MOORE-KOTEK



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

First Moravian Church  
39 North Duke Street  
York, PA 17401

717-843-2239

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



## **2025 Watchword**

"For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord  
plans for welfare and not for evil  
to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11