



DECEMBER 2025

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN



Pastor's Message for December 2025

The month of December welcomes one of the Church's most solemn and reflective season, Advent. Interestingly, Advent began on November 30th this year. Advent is significant to the Church because it is a season of preparation, reflection, and hope for the coming of Christ, marking the beginning of the liturgical year. It involves celebrating the past coming of Jesus at Christmas and anticipating his future second coming. Through practices like lighting Advent wreaths, the Church focuses on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love to guide the faithful as they wait for both the celebration of Christ's birth and His final return.

Advent marks a time of "ardent desire" for Christ's arrival, echoing the ancient expectancy of the Messiah. It's a season of holding onto hope and faith, especially during challenging times. It is a period of spiritual preparation, inviting us to make room for Jesus in our lives and hearts, particularly amidst the busyness of the holiday season. It encourages reflection on the meaning of Christ's incarnation, reminding believers of God's love and the hope that He brings. Advent has a dual focus: it commemorates Christ's first coming as a baby in Bethlehem and also looks forward to His second coming in glory. It serves as a reminder of the Christian identity and calls believers to live in a way that reflects their faith, encouraging "Kingdom ethics" and faithful stewardship between the times of Christ's comings.

A circular wreath with candles is a common symbol of Advent, where one candle is lit each of the four Sundays to represent the progression of the season and the light of Christ entering the world. Purple is the traditional liturgical color for Advent, symbolizing a time of penance and preparation. The four weeks of Advent often correspond to the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, guiding the reflection and spiritual preparation of the faithful.

For us as Moravians we reflect on the season of Advent and Specifically Christmas in the sharing in the Love Feast and the watching of the Putz. This year separately from our Christmas eve's Love Feast, we will be having a community Love Feast at Covenant on December 14, 2025. Please invite friends and community members to share in this experience. Please also invite your friends to share in the viewing of the Putz at First from December 14, 2025 to January 4, 2026, times vary and special arrangement can be made for groups.

As we celebrate and reflect for the season of Advent and Christmas, let us be deliberate and intentional in sharing our faith with our families and friends with the intention of leading them into a personal relationship with Christ.

Shalom, Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall

Upcoming Events

Putz Dates - Sunday, December 14 thru Sunday, January 4

Friday - 6:00 & 6:45 pm

Saturday - 10:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday - 3:00 & 3:45 pm

Special showing following the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candlelight service.
(No showings December 25th or January 1st.)

Unity Prayer Watch - Sunday, December 14. Sign-up sheet to be posted.

Saturday, December 6 - Pastor's Appreciation dinner for First and Covenant from 2-4 pm
to be held at Covenant.

Saturday, December 13 - Christmas Party at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall with potluck and
games. Bring a gift for the "Now you Have it, Now you don't game".

Saturday, December 20 - Feeding the Hungry downtown. Meet at Covenant at 10:00 am.

Sunday, December 21 - Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins. Meet at church at 2:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Lovefeast & Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm.



Looking Ahead

Saturday, January 10 - Women's Fellowship Planning meeting at 11:00 am at church in
the annex conference room.

Sunday, January 11 - Taking Down the Greens

ELDERS NEWS

The Elders met on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Worship services were reviewed from the previous month. Kid's Fest is going well. Bible stories continue on the Miracles of Jesus. Men's Fellowship-Kevin would like to meet soon and to do more structure. It was decided to set up the next meeting on Saturday, November 22 at 9:00 am to make more candles. The Women's Fellowship has been meeting monthly. They have requested leading worship the 5th Sunday during the month's that have five weeks. Kevin would like to have an in-person December meeting to discuss the 2026 church calendar. We can give an answer to the Women's Fellowship after this meeting. John said that we will be using the Lighting of Advent wreath Liturgy for candle lighting this year. He will be asking families to do the reading. Kevin suggested asking the children as well. The Bible Study held on Wednesdays will start again after the new year. Kevin said the church topics from the Province that Keith had inquired about last month could be discussed as a group as other people were interested also. Pastoral care to our shut-ins was reviewed. Kevin visited Mary Jones in Mechanicsburg on Sunday. She is not doing well. Her niece said they were removing her tubes today. He also visited Jeff Rishel along with Tim and Georgia Rishel and gave communion. Will be visiting Kathie Nicholas. John said that the Church Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm with Potluck and games. John volunteered to bake the sugar cakes for Christmas Eve lovefeast. We will need four couples to serve. Jeannette will coordinate servers. Unity Prayer Watch will be held on Sunday, December 14. John has the time schedule and will post ahead of time for members to sign up. He also asked for suggestions on advertising for the Putz this year. Last year's ad on the restaurant placemats was expensive. He will send letters to surrounding churches. Kevin said print brochures to hand out. John will have them printed in two weeks. Jeannette said to also put on Facebook and Instagram.

The next Elder's meeting will be held in-person on Tuesday, December 9 at 11:00 am at church.



TRUSTEES NEWS

The Trustees met on Tuesday, November 25 via Zoom. The meeting started with guest speaker, Devon Jones representing JMR Masonry. Devon went over quote submitted for repointing brick work on North and South side of church. Total price is \$54,000. A second guest speaker spoke later in the meeting, Kevin Boben from Boben Masonry. He went over the work they would do and quoted \$32,725 total. After much discussion, a vote was taken, and the majority voted to award the contract to Boben Masonry. A grant previously applied for was approved for \$15,000. The work will begin in the spring of 2026. Repairs and updates were discussed for the parsonage, annex and church. Ausherman quote of \$14,210 to paint exterior trim North and West side windows (19 qty.) and stone sills stripped of paint will be readdressed in the spring and we will obtain a second quote. Sanctuary right side dimmer switch is now fixed. Church roof needs resealing in the spring 2026. Employees COL was approved for 2.5% increase. Wanda gave the Treasurer's report with detail of income and expenses for the month. She will need to withdraw \$16,000 from Morgan/Stanley to cover Bethlehem's apportionments and upcoming expenses. The board approved the withdrawal. The next workday to be determined.

There will be no meeting in December.

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 11/2/2025 - 11/30/2025**

\$5,305.07 GENERAL FUND

132.00 REFURBISHING FUND

500.00 MEMORIAL FUND (IN MEMORY OF JOHN & EMMA
KNOKEY)

323.40 FLOWER FUND (FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS)

87.50 WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FUND (TO REIMBURSE KASI
FOR BANNER PURCHASED)

\$6,347.97 OFFERING INCOME

\$16,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL CHECK (FOR
BENEVOLENCES TO BETHLEHEM AND UPCOMING INVOICES)

520.83 COVENANT MORAVIAN CHECK (HOUSING ALLOWANCE
FOR NOVEMBER)

126.25 DAILY TEXT ORDER FOR 2026

\$16,647.08 OTHER INCOME

\$22,995.05 TOTAL INCOME FOR NOVEMBER

\$21,770.06 TOTAL EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER



December Birthdays

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



**For Pastoral needs,
please contact:**

Rev. Kevin Marshall - 717-585-5846

or any of the Elders:

John Knokey, Vice-Chair - 717-848-9220

Keith Rishel - 717-472-6793

Jeannette Sprenkle - 717-424-5636

Kasi Steinbrenner - 717-965-2032

December Anniversaries

- 12 Jesse & Karly (Sprenkle) Miller
17 Robert & Linda Taylor



***New address for Mary Jones:
120 S. Filbert Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

Prayer Concerns

MARY JONES

KATHIE NICHOLAS

JEMON GRANT

IRELYN SPRENKLE

JEFF RISHEL

TRUDY MOORE-KOTEK

PAUL MINNICH

DEVON GREEN

DONNAREE MARSHALL

WANDA HENDRICKS

JOHN ROHRER

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

****Notice from the Moravian Ministries Foundation starting the month in May 2025, the "online" giving payouts to churches will occur only once a month. If people want to make sure their donations are paid and received by our church sooner, they might want to send their donation/check directly to Wanda Hendricks at her home address shown below. (Especially at years end).***

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



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