



JANUARY 2026

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

Happy
New Year!

Pastor's Message for January 2026

As we embark on a new year, it calls us to a time of reflection. I find it to be very helpful to reflect on things that have impacted me whether negatively or positively after I have gone through the experience. Some people call it Monday morning quarterbacking. However, it helps me to see a different perspective from the one that I had when affected by the joy or pain of the specific situation when I was going through them. It allows me to see persons more clearly and most importantly the hand of God in all aspects in my life.

A time of reflection at the ending of a year or the beginning of a new year, can lead us to old habits. Some can be helpful others not so much. On this note, I wish to speak on the practice of new year's resolutions.

New Year's resolutions are personal promises to improve oneself at the start of the year, often focusing on health (exercise, diet), finances (saving, budgeting), skills (learning new things), or relationships (family, kindness).

Common Resolution Ideas

- **Health & Wellness:** Exercise more, eat healthier, drink more water, improve sleep, practice mindfulness/meditation, reduce screen time, quit smoking/drinking.
- **Personal Growth:** Learn a new skill, read more books, volunteer, start a gratitude journal, explore new hobbies.
- **Finances:** Save more money, get out of debt, create a budget.
- **Relationships:** Spend more quality time with family/friends, call instead of text, perform random acts of kindness.
- **Career/Life:** Get organized, travel, start a business, improve work-life balance.

While these most time are done with the best intentions, many people find it hard to follow through as the year progresses.

I want to suggest to us brothers and sisters that as we embark on a new year that we do not treat it as a deadline to fix all the things that we believe need fixing in our lives, but rather to acknowledge the hand of God in our lives despite our imperfections and to be confident that he will be with us in the coming year. Do not allow the pressure of formulating a new year's resolution to become a burden to you. Rather, protect your peace of mind, and your mental health. The first of January is not an expiring deadline to fix you. Make incremental changes over the next year to improve your quality of life and relationships being directed by God and His will for you.

Be constant in prayer and allow God to order your steps.

Wishing for you all that the LOVE of God will lead you where the GRACE of God will sustain you in the PEACE of God for 2026 and beyond.

Shalom, Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall

Upcoming Events

Putz Dates - Showings through Sunday, January 4

Friday - 6:00 & 6:45 pm

Saturday - 10:00 & 10:45 am

Sunday - 3:00 & 3:45 pm

(No showings January 1st.)

Holy Communion in Celebration of Christ's Coming on Sunday, January 4.

Women's Fellowship Planning meeting for 2026 at 10:00 am at church in the annex conference room on Saturday, January 10.

Taking Down the Greens on Sunday, January 11 following worship.

Feeding the Hungry Downtown on Saturday, January 17.

(Meet at Covenant at 10:00 am.)

Church Council on Sunday, January 25 following worship.



Upcoming Meetings

Elders meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Trustees meeting on Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Powerhouse Prayer and Bible study normally held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom will resume after the new year.

ELDERS NEWS

The Elders met on Tuesday, December 9 at 11:00 am in person in the church annex conference room. Worship services were reviewed. Report on Outreach and Missions was given by Kevin. Feeding the Hungry downtown had to be cancelled due to an issue with the location. Covenant will give out food gift cards instead. Kevin said that as far as starting our own food pantry previously suggested by Keith, NENA suggested volunteering at food distributions. Another feeding location is not needed. Kevin feels we should attend another meeting to look for ways to help. Keith said he would attend and Kevin asked John if he would also attend. Maybe we could partner with them. Report on Ministry to Children and Youth was given by Jeannette in Kasi's absence. Kevin would like to have a Youth Service in May, on the 28th where the youth would participate in the service. He also suggested having a Youth activity to view the Putz and have hot cocoa and cookies afterwards. Also, to receive a gift from the church. Jeannette will check dates. Report on Women's Ministry was given by Jeannette. There was no meeting held on December. Women's Fellowship to lead worship services on the month's where there are five Sundays as long as there was nothing else planned on the church calendar. Worship and Sacristan reported by John. Kevin said we should invite visitors to see the Putz. Fellowship and Bible Study reported by Keith. A new bible study will be starting in the new year. Keith asked if we could have the scripture to read ahead of time. Kevin said that he may be doing a special bible study on Revelation at the end of the year. Pastoral Care was reported by Kevin. He and Cliff Bergstresser visited Mary Jones. She looked better than the last time he saw her. They visited Kathie and Steve Nicholas where they sang carols. Also, visited Jeff Rishel who seemed to be doing very well. Church Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 13 at 1:00 pm. Bring potluck and games are planned. Bring a gift for the "Now you have it, now you don't game". Christmas Eve Lovefeast service was planned. John has five people singing on the choir. They will be practicing Sunday after worship and next Saturday morning. The Youth will be singing "Morning Star". Need date set up for practice. Jeannette asking couples to serve lovefeast. Kevin will be going over Projections for 2026 at our January meeting. He said many things were started in 2025. Next year we should focus more on being evangelical. Be intentional. Hand out tracks? Decline in attendance is concerning. Also, leadership in the church. More Lay pastors are needed in churches. Church calendar of Events for 2026: Church 274th Anniversary March 23. Church picnic is Saturday, June 6. John said there is funds in the CEC to cover the \$250.00 rental for Musser's Grove but will not be able to buy the fried chicken. Everyone could just bring a potluck or take a collection to buy the chicken. Kevin thinks that Covenant may also be planning something that day for their anniversary. John will call them to check. Coming up there will be caroling on Sunday, December 21. Meeting at the church at 2:00 pm. We will be giving out care packages donated by Judy Martin. The church council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25.

The next Elder's meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.



TRUSTEES NEWS

The Trustees did not meet in December. A special meeting was held following the worship service on Sunday, December 28 to discuss payment of upcoming bills for the church. It was decided to withdraw \$5,000.00 from the Morgan/Stanley account to cover these costs.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 12/7/2025 - 12/31/2025**

\$ 5,543.00 GENERAL FUND

142.00 REFURBISHING FUND

120.00 SMITH BOOK PROJECT

18.00 FLOWER FUND (FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS)

\$ 5,823.00 OFFERING INCOME

\$ 5,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL CHECK
(FOR UPCOMING INVOICES)

520.83 COVENANT MORAVIAN CHECK (HOUSING
ALLOWANCE FOR DECEMBER)

50.00 DONATION FOR USE OF FELLOWSHIP HALL

36.95 TRUIST BANK VISA REWARDS CHECK

\$ 5,607.78 OTHER INCOME

\$11,430.78 TOTAL INCOME FOR DECEMBER

\$ 9,815.16 TOTAL EXPENSES FOR DECEMBER



January Birthdays

- 1 Jeffery Rishel
- 2 Chelsea Swartz*
Holly Sterner*
- 4 Sally Senft
- 5 Kayla Rishel*
- 7 Mary Jones*
- 8 Terry Zeigler
- 10 Stanley Senft
- 16 Aaren Downs*
- 25 Jasoni Kotek
- 31 Mona Kotchmar*



**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

January Anniversaries

- 1 Rev. David and Nancy Danneberger*



***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

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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