



THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN



Pastor's Message for February 2026

As we partner with Covenant in ministry, please receive this month's message as partnering with our sister congregation.

"Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry" (Luke 4:1-2) Ash Wednesday begins the commemoration of this event of Jesus's 40 days of fasting in the wilderness at the beginning of His earthly ministry. This year, Ash Wednesday will fall on February 18, 2026. As a part of our 60th Anniversary celebration, I invite you all to share in a time/day of fasting and prayer. This will be on February 18, 2026, we will meet in the sanctuary at Covenant Moravian Church for a time of prayer and reflection from 10 AM to 11 AM on the day. The religious event of Fasting is denying oneself food and other pleasures to intentionally spend time meditation and prayer. As such those who wish to participate in this day/time of fasting and prayer are asked as much as possible to refrain from eating until after the time of reflection and prayer at church. For those who must eat because of medical or other critical reason, you may still participate in this experience. I recommend that you do as recommended by you medical practitioner, and deny yourself other pleasures and attend the session at church. We anticipate this being a time of spiritual renewal as we lock into a time of praying and meditation.

Please see the remainder of the activities for the 60th Anniversary Celebrations below:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
❖ February 18, 2026 at 10 AM	Fasting and Prayer Service
❖ March 2026	Event to be decided
❖ April 5, 2026	Easter Egg Hunt with a difference
❖ May 17, 2026	Closing of Time Capsule and Ceremonial Tree planting
❖ June 6, 2026	Church Picnic
❖ July 2026	VBS with a difference
❖ August 2026	A Back-to-School event
❖ September 2026	Event to be decided
❖ October 11, 2026	Crop Walk
❖ November 13, 2026	Choirs in Praise
❖ November 14, 2026	Pot luck
❖ November 15, 2026	Closing Service

I remind you of the theme for our celebration: "THE FAITH JOURNEY: "Looking Back as We press Forward". Let us continue to build on the work of those who have gone before.

Shalom, Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall

Please keep Mary Jones' family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their Mother, Aunt, Grandmother and friend. Mary passed on Tuesday, January 20 at her care facility in Mechanicsburg. When Mary was able to come to church, she always asked for prayers for her church, her family, her community and for world peace. We will miss Mary.



Upcoming Events

Church Council on Sunday, February 1 following worship.
(Was postponed due to church cancellation on Sunday, January 25.)

Men's Fellowship will have a brief meeting for all men following the worship service on Sunday, February 8.

Ash Wednesday Fasting and Prayer service on Wednesday, February 18 at 10:00 am at Covenant.

Feeding the Hungry Downtown on Saturday, February 21.
(Meet at Covenant at 10:00 am.)

First Sunday in Lent on Sunday, February 22 (Holy Communion service)

The Women's Fellowship is having a Sub Sale. Orders and payment are due by Monday, February 16 and delivery date is Friday, February 27 at church-10:00 am.

Upcoming Meetings

Elders meeting in-person on Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.

Trustees meeting on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Powerhouse Prayer and Bible Study is back! Held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Led by John Knokey.

ELDERS NEWS

The Elders met on Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 pm via zoom. Worship services were reviewed. Report on Outreach and Missions was given by Kevin. Feeding the Hungry downtown is still having issues with location. Children and Youth Ministry report was given by Kasi. Special showing of the putz went very well with 19 (kids and parents) attending. Hot cocoa and cookies were served afterwards, and a gift was given to the children. There was no Kids Fest in December. Jeannette gave updates for the Women's Fellowship. The women will lead services on August 30, November 1 (Moravian Women's Sunday, NP) and on June 28 (Relaunch anniversary.) Men's Fellowship was reported by Keith. There will be an executive meeting on January 15 and on Sunday, January 18 will have a brief meeting for all men after the worship service. John reported on Worship and Sacristans. The Elder's will have the same dates as last year for Communion assistants. Fellowship and Bible Study was reported by John. He is waiting to hear from Musser's Grove for rental of picnic grove. CEC funds can cover the rental expense. He asked for the board's approval to go ahead. All approved. Kevin said that Covenant may want to partner with us this year as part of their anniversary celebration. They will pay half if they do this. John left the board know that he can no longer take charge of the entire picnic as usual as it has become too much for him. But he will reserve the grove. Kevin thanked John for everything he has done in the past for preparations for the picnic. Kevin said that Covenant can take charge of this year's picnic because of their 60th Anniversary celebration. Pastoral Care was reported by Kevin. He and Cliff Bergstresser visited Jeff Rishel and Mary Jones. He also said thank you to all who attended the Pastor's Christmas dinner. John said that caroling went well. There were five carolers. They saw Jamen Grant, Paul Shouck, Kathie Nicholas and Jeff Rishel. For 2026 Kevin would like to see attendance / membership improve. This year our church will celebrate 274 years! Our anniversary service will be held on Sunday, March 22 (actual date is the 23rd). He suggested having a yearlong celebration for our 275th anniversary next year. Also, have a special service planned for the evening where we can invite other churches. Kevin would like to have our members who are interested, and Elders participate in a Worship Leaders training and also training to be able to preach. Churches need more Worship Leaders. He will check with Melissa Johnson first. For the Senior Citizen's Club Kevin will check with members at Church Council about this. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18th and he suggested a Fasting/Prayer service at 10:00 am. First Sunday in Lent is Feb. 22nd (communion). John said for the Putz offerings, we have been giving 75% to LifePath. The board approved doing the same this year. John said the amount would be \$468.00. The balance of the contributions is used for any expenses for the Putz. Kevin added that we are a small congregation but do a lot.

The next Elder's meeting will be an in-person meeting held on Tuesday, January 10 at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.



TRUSTEES NEWS

The Trustees met on Tuesday, January 27 via zoom. The board discussed active projects are the parsonage, annex and church. Also, projects that can be done at a later time. Boiler in the annex needed a couple of upgrades in order to pass State inspection. Regal came to take care of the issues. Ausherman will be coming in the spring to paint the exterior trim on the North and West side windows and the stone windowsills. Boben Masonry will be doing repointing and brick repair work on the church starting in the spring. Church roof will need resealing in the spring. Wanda gave her financial report for the month. The board approved withdrawing \$7,000 to pay for upcoming bills/commitments.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 1/4/2026 - 1/25/2026**

\$ 3,892.45 GENERAL FUNDS
195.00 REFURBISHING FUNDS
70.00 EMERGENCY FUNDS

\$ 4,157.45 OFFERING INCOME

\$ 520.83 HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR JANUARY
(FROM COVENANT MORAVIAN)
60.00 DONATION FOR USE OF FELLOWSHIP HALL
IN DECEMBER
300.00 WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR 2025 REBATE CHECK
FROM MCNP

\$ 880.83 OTHER INCOME

\$ 5,038.28 TOTAL "INCOME" FOR JANUARY

\$13,082.85 TOTAL "EXPENSES" FOR JANUARY

**NOTE: NO OFFERINGS FOR JAN. 18TH AND JAN. 25 DUE TO
CHURCH SERVICES CANCELLED (SNOW). ZOOM ONLY.**



February Birthdays

2 Idara Marshall
7 Paul Shouck
9 Presley Shealy
17 Cliff Rowell
19 Rev. Norman Prochnau
22 Hadessah Lippincot*
23 Joan Henkelmann
24 Myla Robinson
27 Jennifer Heffner*



**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

February Anniversaries

12 Cameron & Sherry Campanella
Timothy & Annette Tyson



Prayer Concerns

KATHIE NICHOLAS

JEMON GRANT

IRELYN SPRENKLE

JEFF RISHEL

TRUDY MOORE-KOTEK

PAUL MINNICH

DEVON GREEN

DONNAREE MARSHALL

WANDA HENDRICKS

JOHN ROHRER

ERIC GREEN



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



2026 Watchword

"because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Luke 1:78-79