



JULY 2026

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN



Pastor's Message for July 2026

On the 24th of June 2026 I traveled to Minneapolis for my first Synod in this Province (The Moravian Church in America Northern Province). I returned on Saturday June 27, 2026. In between those days I was engaged in an intense meeting of the church to discuss and prayerfully listen together as we sought to discern God's voice and leading for our beloved church. My conversation with you today is not so much to highlight all of the events, discussions and laws that were passed at this Synod, but rather share with you how a good understanding of our Synod and its actions can benefit the church as a province and in extension the Unity.

A synod is an official assembly of church leaders, clergy, and sometimes laity, convened to discuss and decide on matters of doctrine, administration, or church governance. The word derives from the ancient Greek *synodos*, meaning "meeting" or "walking together".

According to our Book of Order, "The Provincial Synod is the highest Judicatory in the province, with supreme legislative powers in all matters not committed to the Unity and shall consist of elected delegates and official members" (chapter ii: 103). "The Provincial Synod shall have power to ...elect a ... Provincial Elders Conference PEC, enact laws and regulations governing membership ...elect Bishops ; to regulate the organization of congregations; and to exercise general supervision over all church activity in the province." (chapter ii: 104)

Having served in another province and also attended a Unity Synod (as an observer), I would conclude that procedurally the synods look similar even though the issues being discussed are very different. The fundamental issue about Synod is that it affords and opportunity for all the voices of the church to meet in one place/space to endeavor to hear God together. It allows us to agree and/or disagree on issues regarding the church and our faith in a space that is open and transparent.

My concern regarding the Synod and its activities, is that many of the average members of the church feel far removed from it. I recommend that we listen to the report from the delegate of Synod when it is given and read the synod papers that will be made available/accessible to every member. The relationship between the congregations and the Synod should not be an us versus them, but rather, we are seeking the leading of God together.

Shalom,

Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall

Upcoming Events



~July 4th Saturday - Happy 250th Birthday USA!

~Holy Communion on Sunday, July 5 for John Hus Festival.

~Senior Social Gathering on Thursday, July 23 at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Bingo will be played with prizes! Please bring a potluck if you're able.
(A sign-up sheet is on the round table in Fellowship Hall.)

~Women's Fellowship monthly meeting day and time to be determined.

~Women's Fellowship Circle meeting on Saturday, July 25 at 11:00 am in the annex conference room.

~Kids Fest will be held on Sunday, July 26 during the worship service hour.
Please bring your children and grandchildren!
(Bible story, craft and snacks provided.)



Upcoming Meetings

~Elder's meeting on Tuesday, July 14 in-person at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.

~Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

~Powerhouse Prayer and Bible study held on Wednesdays
at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Pictures from Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship met at Gather 256 Cafe at noon on Saturday, June 27 at 256 West Philadelphia Street, York for a luncheon and time of fellowship. What a great time!



Pictures from First & Covenant's Joint VBS

VBS was held from June 29 - July 2 at Covenant Moravian Church from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. The theme was "Tropical Trek" (Jesus Comes to Seek and Save). Bible stories, crafts and snacks were served while the kids had fun learning how much Jesus loves them!



ELDERS MEETING

The Elder's met in-person on Tuesday, June 9 in the annex conference room. Worship services were reviewed from the previous month. The Women's Fellowship Anniversary service with snack and yak afterwards went very well. Participants in the Women's Fellowship are growing. The guest book will be brought down to Fellowship Hall for the summer. There were two visitors and a young man, Logan who came to our service. Also, put a note in the bulletin for the offering to bring to the front in plates so visitors know what to do. We need security but also need to have someone available to open the door for people arriving after the service starts. The Hymns of Appreciation are going well presented by John Knokey. It's very meaningful to hear the history of the hymns. Pastor Kevin would like to hear the choir sing these hymns since it's once a month. First is hosting Feeding the Hungry downtown this month on Saturday, the 20th meeting at the church at 10:30. We are also scheduled to do this sometime in the fall. Covenant received grants for purchasing the food for this ministry, but we may have to buy the food in the future. The grant is every two years. Kasi reported on Ministry to children and youth. She has bought the Moravian Curriculum for kids/youth which we will start using this month. Pastor Kevin said that Covenant held a Youth Sunday May 31 and all the children and youth participated. Rokeya gave the message for the service. Jeannette reported on the Women's Fellowship. It's good to see more ladies getting involved. We will be having a luncheon at Gather 256 Cafe, meeting at noon on Saturday, June 27. All women are welcome. The Men's Fellowship hasn't been able to meet due to schedules. John reported on Worship and Sacristans. There are two communion services coming up; July 5 for John Hus and August 16 for the August Thirteenth Festival. He also reported that the Bible Study has been going very well. Jeannette said that they have been very meaningful and inspirational. Pastor Kevin left John know that we are here for him as he goes for more tests. He is to let us know where we can help. Synod Report: Kevin will update the congregation on Synod the Sunday he is back. VBS will start end of June, the 29-July 2 to be held at Covenant from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Kasi and Jeannette to help with VBS. Kasi volunteered to be a member on the Strategic Planning Team and on the 275th Anniversary Committee. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14 at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.

TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees met on Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Active projects for the parsonage, annex and church were reviewed. The repointing and repair work for bricks at the church to begin this summer. Still delayed due to the weather. Cliff shared cost cutting ideas for the church. We will need a Trustee member to volunteer to be part of a team to do Kevin's evaluation by end of year. And a Trustee to volunteer to serve on the Strategic Planning committee. Wanda gave the Treasurer's report for the month of June. She went over income and expenses and upcoming bills to be paid. She also reported that we received an appraisal for the annex from York City and it was really high and would increase our taxes for the property. She asked permission to obtain appraisals for all of our properties. First, she'll check how much they would cost. The board approved. There is no meeting in July

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 5/31/2026 - 6/28/2026**

\$ 5,093.00 GENERAL FUND
179.00 REFURBISHING FUND
50.00 EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

\$ 5,322.00 OFFERING INCOME

\$ 9,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL CK.
(TO COVER EXPENSES)
520.83 HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR JUNE
(FROM COVENANT MORAVIAN)

\$ 9,520.83 OTHER INCOME

**\$14,842.83 TOTAL "INCOME" FOR JUNE
(INCLUDES OFFERING FROM SUNDAY, MAY 31ST).**

\$16,840.20 TOTAL "EXPENSES" FOR JUNE

Happy
4th of July

July Birthdays

1 Keith Rishel
5 Makenna Eckert
10 Rokeya Marshall
12 Annette Tyson
 Jeannette Sprenkle
14 Karrie (Earnst) Rishel*
15 Timothy Rishel
17 Nancy Danneberger*
18 Cheri Miley*
22 Stanley Martin*
23 Laura Shealy
24 Rev. Kevin Marshall
25 David Bailey
 Christopher Rishel



**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

July Anniversaries

1 Douglas & Kathy McDannell*
13 Rev. Norman & Maria Prochnau
30 Rev. Kevin and Donnaree Marshall



Prayer Concerns

KATHIE NICHOLAS
JEMON GRANT
IRELYN SPRENKLE
JEFF RISHEL
PAUL MINNICH
WANDA HENDRICKS
ERIC GREEN
AXEL LEH
SCOTT MURPHY
JOHN KNOKEY



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