



SEPTEMBER 2026

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN



Pastor's Message for September 2026

The Cost of Discipleship

One of my favorite theologians while at Seminary was Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I was especially drawn to his famous book, *The Cost of Discipleship*. In his classic book, theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer contrasted **cheap grace** with **costly grace**.

Cheap grace is offering forgiveness and church membership without requiring repentance, personal change, or obedience.

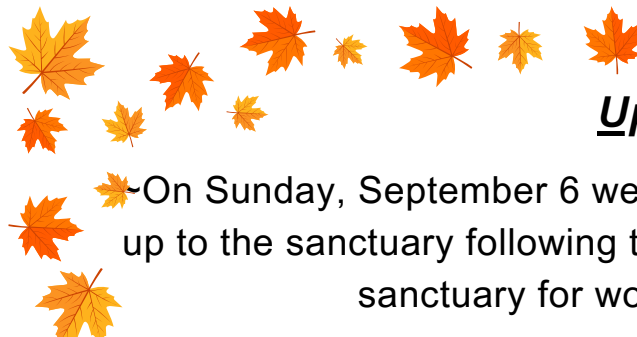
Costly grace demands everything because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ, yet it gives us true eternal life in return. As Bonhoeffer famously wrote, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die".

Bonhoeffer's text was an extended commentary on Luke 14: 25-35 in the Hitler era. In the text, Jesus explains that anyone who follows Him must evaluate the price, comparing it to building a tower or fighting a war. True discipleship requires loving God above earthly ties, even family relationships or one's own life. Believers must die to their own selfish desires and accept daily personal sacrifice.

These theological insights are still relevant to us today. We start by acknowledging that the Grace that we have received in Christ is costly. Jesus paid the price on Calvary with His life. The unmerited favor called Grace that we Christians receive should be responded to with life lived to honor God. A life in total surrender to Christ. A true disciple recognizes the cost of the grace they enjoy.

Are you a true disciple?

Shalom,
Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall



Upcoming Events

~On Sunday, September 6 we will be moving the video and sound equipment up to the sanctuary following the worship service. We will be returning to the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, September 13.

~Covenant is hosting Feeding the Hungry downtown on Saturday, August 19. Meet at the church at 10:30 am to make sandwiches. Head downtown for distribution at noon.

~Women's Fellowship monthly meeting on Sunday, September 20 following the worship service.

~Senior Social Gathering on Thursday, September 24 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.)

~Fall Workshop by the Eastern Regional Moravian Women's Fellowship to be held on Saturday, September 26 in Egg Harbor, NJ. Please let Donnaree know if you can go.

~Kids Fest on Sunday, September 27 during worship. Bible story, craft and snacks provided.

~A 275th Anniversary Committee is being formed. (A sign-up sheet is on the round table in Fellowship Hall.)

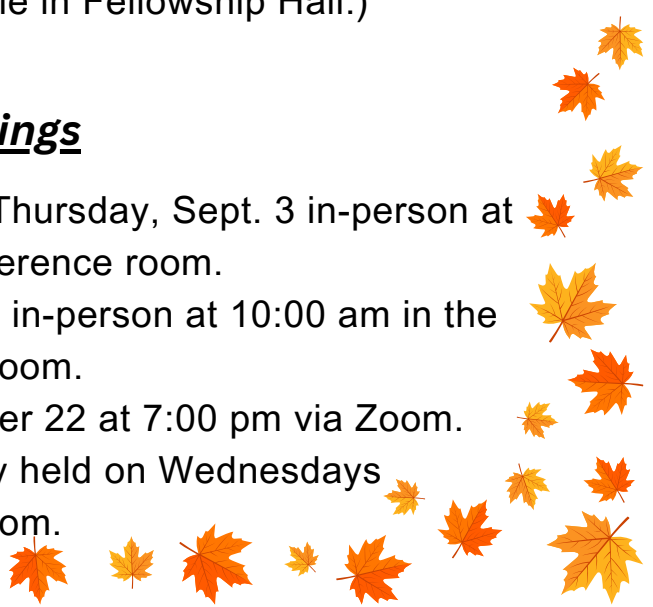
Upcoming Meetings

~Strategic Planning Committee meeting on Thursday, Sept. 3 in-person at 11:00 am in the annex conference room.

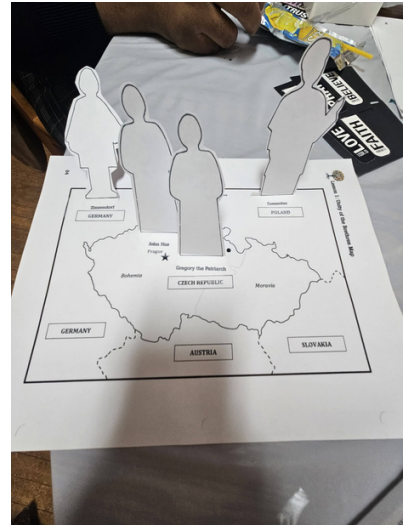
~Elder's meeting on Tuesday, September 8 in-person at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.

~Trustees meeting on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

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



Pictures from Blessing of the Backpacks and Kids Fest held on Sunday, August 23, 2026



Pictures from the Senior Social Gathering held on Thursday, August 27, 2026



Pictures from the Men's Fellowship BBQ held at the parsonage on Saturday, August 29, 2026



ELDERS MEETING

The Elder's met in-person on Tuesday, August 18 in the annex conference room. The worship services were reviewed. Keith said that the message this past Sunday was excellent. Heidi's trumpet playing and Idara's solo were very good. Idara heard the song at Camp Hope and wanted to share it. These were nice additions to worship. Kasi reported on Ministry to children and youth. She has created a poster with pictures from VBS week to share with the congregation. John said he will place it in the church for her. The Youth Group hike at Chickies Rock had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Blessing of the backpacks and Kids Fest is this Sunday. She has a gift to give each child/youth. Kasi said that Kids Fest is also doing well. We are continuing our study on Moravian history. Jeannette reported on the Women's Fellowship. Our monthly meeting was held after worship on Sunday, July 19. The Women's Circle meeting on Saturday, July 25 hosted by Kasi in the church annex conference room was very nice and good fellowship. It was a 250th USA birthday theme. We painted flowerpots in red, white, and blue, then filled them with beautiful arrangements of flowers. The Men's Fellowship also met following worship on Sunday, July 19. A BBQ at the parsonage was planned for Saturday, August 29 at noon. Candle making is coming up for candles to be used for Christmas Eve Candlelight and Lovefeast service. Kevin had a meeting with the District Men's group. We could partner with World Mission on projects to support their missions. Keith reported on Mission and Outreach. We are hosting Feeding the Hungry on Saturday, August 15. Our next one is in November. Kevin said that next year we may have to apply for the grant. Covenant's funding is running out at end of year. John reported on Worship and Sacristans. The next communion is October 4 and the communion assistant is Keith. He will need help in baking the Lovefeast buns this year. The Elder's agreed to help. Christmas Shoebox ministry will be having a meeting in September where they hand out shoeboxes to use. John, Keith and Kasi volunteered to go as well. He also reported that the Bible Study has been going very well. There have been 4-5 people attending. Jeannette said it has been very inspirational. Pastor Kevin reported on Pastoral Care. He didn't have time to do visitations in July but is going with Cliff Bergstresser on Friday, August 28. They will be visiting Jeff Rishel and Kathie Nicholas. John mentioned that attendance has really been low the last two weeks. How can we contact members who have not been in church for a while to see how they're doing? Jeannette said that Cliff Bergstresser called everyone when he was filling in three years ago. He did not hear back from anyone that he left messages with. The Strategic Planning Team will meet on Wednesday, August 19 at 9:00 am via Zoom. Kevin said that pulpit supply will be needed for August 30 and October 11. He will be at Covenant on both Sundays for events for their 60th Anniversary celebration. On October 11th we are invited to their outdoor worship at John Rudy Park at 9:30 am followed by lunch. The Crop Walk is at 12:30. For other business, Keith asked when the 275th Anniversary Committee is meeting? Kevin said before the end of year.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8 at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.

TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees met on Tuesday, August 25 via Zoom. Active projects for the parsonage, annex and church building were discussed as well as items that could be worked on at a later time. Regal will be doing the York Water Co. back flush annual testing by September 12. Due to wet floor in the annex basement, Regal was called to investigate. Old lead pipes need to be replaced which will require the siding to be removed. Regal can do the work but will need someone to remove the siding. Total work including removal of siding to be over \$5,000.00. The repointing of brick on the church building has been completed by Boben Masonry. We will receive a grant for half of the total cost of this project. Cliff to contact Brown's Glass for inspection of stained-glass window in the upstairs narthex. There are issues with the glass buckling. Wanda received building appraisal fees, and it was decided to go ahead with the appraisal of the annex. York City's appraisal of the building was very high which will make the insurance go up. Wanda gave the Treasurer's report with detail of income and expenses for the month.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.



**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 8/1/2026 - 8/29/2026**

\$ 3,691.00 GENERAL FUND
123.00 REFURBISHING FUND

\$ 3,814.00 OFFERING INCOME

\$29,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL (FOR MISC.
INVOICES/EXPENSES)
520.83 HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR AUGUST (FROM COVENANT
MORAVIAN)
50.00 "GENEALOGY RESEARCH" DONATION FROM WISDOM
FAMILY

\$29,570.83 OTHER INCOME

\$33,384.83 TOTAL "INCOME" FOR AUGUST

\$31,793.80 TOTAL "EXPENSES" FOR AUGUST

**** PLEASE NOTE, THE REPOINTING OF THE BRICK ON THE
CHURCH WAS COMPLETED AT A TOTAL COST OF \$32,725.00. WE
WERE APPROVED FOR A "GRANT" AND SHOULD BE RECEIVING
APPROX. \$16,362.50 TOWARDS THIS PROJECT.**



September Birthdays

1 Kristi (Zeigler) Miller
2 Dalton Neil*
7 Michael Rishel
10 Rev. David Danneberger
Rich Wurzbach
12 Christine Downs*
14 Tyler Sprenkle
17 Lance Sprenkle
Larry Sprenkle
20 Ruth Seiple
25 Doug McDannell*
Owen Senft
30 Maria Prochnau*



**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

September Anniversaries

9 Travis & Kayla Berkheimer*
11 Timothy & Betsy Senft
19 Richard & Lori Lehigh*
23 Lloyd & Meagan Purswell*
29 Kevin & Pastor Sayward Lippincott*
Dalton & Marcie Neil*



Prayer Concerns

KATHIE NICHOLAS

JEMON GRANT

IRELYN SPRENKLE

JEFF RISHEL

PAUL MINNICH

ERIC GREEN

AXEL LEH

SCOTT MURPHY

JOHN KNOKEY

STEVE NICHOLAS

JOHN ROHRER

DIANE SPRENKLE



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