



OCTOBER 2026

THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

Pastor's Message for October 2026



TRUE GROWTH IN THE FAITH

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8) The prophet Micah wrote this in the 8th century BCE to the people of Israel and Judah. The people were offering massive religious sacrifices and going through outward motions of worship. At the same time, they were cheating others and acting dishonestly in daily life. Micah explained that God does not want rituals if your heart is cruel or unfair. Instead, faith must show in everyday actions.

This conversation is very relevant to us today as Christians in the 21st century in York, Pennsylvania, USA. The name Micah means "Who is like the Lord?" and that was the mission of the prophet: to compare the actions of the people of Israel and Judah (the Southern and Northern Kingdoms) to those of Yahweh.

For us who are called by the name of Christ (Christians), our actions are now being compared to those of Jesus the Christ. What did Jesus do in a similar situation? Or what would Jesus do in this situation? This is a stage of development in our Christian walk that moves us from merely being shepherded to becoming disciples. Being shepherded is very important in the life of the believer, as we depend on Christ the Good Shepherd to lead, guide, protect, and feed us, spiritually and otherwise. The focus is on what is being done for us and to us. However, when we transition to becoming disciples of Christ, the focus is on reflecting Christ life we live.

Micah's instruction to us then is: God has shown us the way to live as followers of Christ, and now requires of us to live as His disciples, to live righteous lives. A sheep receives and absorbs God's love, while a disciple demonstrates God's love while being shepherded.

Shalom,

Rev. Dr. Kevin Marshall



Upcoming Events

~Covenant is hosting Feeding the Hungry downtown on Saturday, October 17
Meet at the church at 10:30 am to make sandwiches.

Head downtown for distribution at noon.

~Women's Fellowship meeting on Monday, October 5 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

~Senior Social Gathering on Thursday, October 22 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 in the narthex.)

~Women's Fellowship Circle meeting to be held on Saturday, October 24 at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Hosted by Missy Wurzbach.

~Men's Fellowship gathering on Saturday, October 24 from 10:00 am -2:00pm at Cliff Bergstresser's home in East Berlin. For those with a fishing license, you can fish from the dock. The boat will be available for rides. Yard games like corn hole. Hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided.

Please bring a side dish to share.

~Kids Fest on Sunday, October 25 during worship.

Lesson on the history of the Moravian Church, craft and snacks provided.

~A 275th Anniversary Committee is being formed.

(A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.)

Upcoming Meetings



~Strategic Planning Committee meeting date to be determined for early October via Zoom.

~Elder's meeting on Tuesday, October 13 in-person at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.

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

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

ELDERS MEETING

The Elders met in-person on Tuesday, September 8 in the annex conference room. The worship services were reviewed. Reports were given on Youth ministry, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Mission and Outreach, Sacristans, Bible Study and Pastoral Care. The Strategic Planning Committee also met today. Questionnaire is being formed for members and friends of the church. Distribution planned for end of September. Pastor Kevin will be attending Covenant's 60th Anniversary celebration outdoor service on Sunday, October 11. Cliff Bergstresser will be filling in for Kevin for First's worship service. Guest organists, Kathryn Smeltzer and Barb Wagner both from Covenant Moravian church will be filling in for John while he is not feeling well. Pastor Kevin will be out of the office September 14-19 attending a conference in South Dakota. Anniversary Committee volunteers needed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13 at 10:00 am in the annex conference room.



TRUSTEES MEETING

The Trustees met on Tuesday, September 22 via Zoom. Active projects for the parsonage, annex and church building were reviewed as well as items that could be worked on at a later time. Old lead pipes were replaced in the annex, and the siding will be put back up the end of September. Regal will pay for the removal of the siding and replacing as the cost to install pipe was less than originally quoted. The repointing of brick on the church building has been completed, and Boben Masonry will be back to fix a couple of areas that were missed. We will receive a grant for half of the total cost of this project. Brown's Glass inspected stained-glass window in the upstairs narthex. They found that part of the stained glass had fallen out and they can repair it. Will send quote. We will obtain a quote from Susan Paul for cleaning annex and church while John is ill. Covenant gave her name to Cliff as she cleans their church. Wanda gave the Treasurer's report with detail of income and expenses for the month. Received full amount from grant for the cost to repoint the brick on the church instead of just half as originally thought. It was decided to use the extra income to pay for the Bethlehem proportionments due by the end of the year. Still funds will be available from the grant so we could rebuild Refurbishment fund and Camp Hope fund. (\$1,000.00 each) Check with Elders on this.

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

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 8/30/2026 - 9/27/2026**

\$ 4,480.00 GENERAL FUND

205.00 REFURBISHING FUND

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

\$ 4,885.00 OFFERING INCOME

30.25 DAILY TEXT ORDER FOR 2027 PAID

520.83 SEPT. HOUSING ALLOWANCE (FROM COVENANT MORAVIAN)

12,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL (FOR MISC. INVOICES DUE)

29,750.00 "GRANT" CHECK RECEIVED FROM UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH
IN STATEN ISLAND, NY.

\$42,301.08 OTHER INCOME

\$47,186.08 TOTAL "INCOME" FOR SEPTEMBER (INCLUDES AUG. 30TH)

\$32,197.76 TOTAL "EXPENSES" FOR SEPTEMBER

PLEASE NOTE: SINCE WE GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED MORE "GRANT" MONEY FOR THE REPOINTING OF THE CHURCH BUILDING THAN EXPECTED, WE WERE ABLE TO PAY OUR COMMITMENTS TO BETHLEHEM IN FULL FOR THE YEAR.

THANK YOU,
WANDA HENDRICKS
TREASURER



October Birthdays

6 Lindsey Messersmith
9 Stephanie Bish
Kody Niel*
11 Mary Wurzbach
19 Donnaree Bailey Marshall
24 Betsy Senft
Terri Zeigler



**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

October Anniversaries

8 Timothy & Georgia Rishel
12 David & Carolyn Bailey
Richard & Melissa Wurzbach



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