



The Riverside Moravian

May 2021



FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH

*"A Christ-Centered Protestant Church serving Riverside,
Delanco, Delran, and Neighboring Communities"*

Denomination Founded March 1, 1457

Congregation Organized December 31, 1865

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Rev. Rebecca Sisley, Pastor

856-461-6181 revrebeccasisley@outlook.net



Pastor's Page

At the 2018 Northern Province Synod, a resolution was passed by those gathered affirming a statement written by the Unity Synod addressing the Moravian Church's work in addressing racism. The Unity Synod has charged all Provinces and the church as a whole to declare that racism is a sin—a disobedience to the known will of God. The Unity Synod says very plainly "Racism then is sin, because it contradicts the teaching of Jesus and violates the known will of God." This statement continues to quote from the foundational documents of the Moravian Church *The Ground of the Unity* and *The Covenant for Christian Living* as well as the Bible itself lifting up passage after passage of God calling all people beloved, that God shows no partiality and we as followers of Christ are called to do the same.

The resolution continued and directed the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church to "begin the work of dismantling racism in all its forms." The PEC took this direction of Synod and created a Racial Justice Team which wrote and began implementing the Action Plan Toward Racial Justice and Healing. You can read the full plan in this newsletter. One of the parts of this action plan was education for the clergy of the Moravian Church.

In May 2020, my own in-depth education on racial justice began. It started with viewing *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, a PBS documentary created in 2003, with other clergy people across the Northern Province. From there, I sat with lay and clergy people listening to Dr. Timothy Berry from Metropolitan State University and the Interim Dean of Urban Education speak on racial justice and injustice in America. At the same time, I was in a reading group with Young Clergy Women International of Layla Saad's book *Me and White Supremacy*.

From there, the invitation went out to the congregation to begin our own work. In July 2020, a group gathered on Zoom to view *Race: The Power of an Illusion* and from there, the work has continued. It will be 10 months of consistent work on the topic of Racial Justice—of conversations that make you say "ouch," of tears, and of discomfort as we talk, engage, and challenge. In March, several of the members of the First Moravian Congregation who have been on this 10-month journey of reading, viewing and discussing decided the time had come to issue our own statement to ask the Joint Board to affirm the work that has been done and to continue it. At the April Joint Board Meeting, the leadership of the First Moravian Church of Riverside accepted the letter, affirmed the past work, and approved the continued work of the now, officially appointed, Racial Justice Team. You can read the full letter in the body of the newsletter.

All of this is to say this fact: The work is ongoing, necessary, and it will continue. There will opportunities for all members of our congregation to engage in these conversations and chances to learn and grow with one another. We invite you to join us on this journey together. No, it's not easy and yes there are challenges along the way. *And*, it is necessary.

Join us Tuesday nights on Zoom with Redeemer Moravian Church as we discuss Latasha Morrison's book *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation*.

Moravian Church Northern Province

Action Plan Toward Racial Justice and Healing

For decades, the Moravian Church Northern Province has made statements through synod legislation and pastoral letters naming racism as sin, opposing discrimination, affirming that all people are created in the

image of God and loved by God. Often these synod resolutions, statements, and letters were in response to specific incidents of racial injustice. Our foundational documents, including the *Ground of the Unity* and the

Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, condemn racism and discrimination based on color, gender, race, creed, or land of origin.

In 2018, the Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province directed us to begin the work of dismantling racism in all its forms. In response to this legislation, the Provincial Elders' Conference named a Racial Justice Team to assist in fulfilling this call to action. Since then, the province and the team have:

1. Listened to the stories and experiences of racism from the clergy of color currently serving in the Northern Province.
2. Planned a pilgrimage toward racial justice and healing for all clergy of the Northern Province for September 2020 that has been postponed to September 2021 due to COVID-19. Bishops, members of the PEC, and the Racial Justice Team journeyed to Montgomery, AL in January 2020 to prepare for the province-wide pilgrimage.
3. Offered "Race: The Power of an Illusion" to 50 clergy and others via an online platform and equipped local parish pastors to lead similar educational opportunities for their congregations.
4. Offered a workshop, "Road to Racial Justice" led by Dr. Timothy Berry, for sixty clergy and others in the province.
5. Distributed a bibliography of resources on racial justice for clergy to read or view and share with their congregations.
6. Curated stories of Moravians directly and negatively impacted by racism and white supremacy.

And the system of white supremacy in which we live. We will listen to the pain of our sisters and brothers, acknowledge our complicit or implicit role in this pain, seek a path forward toward reconciliation and healing, and claim the work of racial justice and healing as integral to our identity.

We will:

1. Educate our congregations about racism and racial injustice and offer hopeful, helpful ways for white people to be allies in the struggle for racial justice. We will accomplish this through workshops, book studies, and sharing resources available through our website and other media.
2. Extend this education on racial justice and healing to our Christian Education and Sunday School leaders, our professional and volunteer camping staff, and our commissions, committees, and board members who serve in our congregations and who represent us on various agencies and entities of our church. We will urge our District Boards to include training on racism and racial injustice as part of the initial activities of the call process.
3. Invite clergy to deepen their understanding of the injustices of racism through a pilgrimage toward racial justice and healing to Atlanta and Montgomery in September 2021, engage their congregations in prayer for the pilgrimage, and share their experiences when they return. Develop ongoing racial justice and healing pilgrimage opportunities for members throughout the province.
4. Teach the history of the Moravian Church in order to acknowledge and confront our role in slaveholding, racist practices, and our complicity in perpetuating racism. Make existing and new resources and lectures available through online platforms to our congregations and agencies.
5. Conduct a racial justice 'audit' at every level of our province toward becoming a racially inclusive and racially just and equitable church that works continuously toward racial justice and healing.
6. Examine provincial financial investment strategies and consider investing in businesses that are racially just, explore how to support businesses in communities that have been marginalized by racism, and encourage congregations, along with provincial and district organizations, to do the same.
7. Develop a deliberate and just plan to start more Moravian Churches and ministries in communities of color.
8. Recruit African Americans for ministry in the Moravian Church. (How is it possible that Mark Breland remains the only ordained African American Moravian clergy?)
9. Commit the funding – from Common Ministries Commitments and other identified funds – to work toward these goals.
10. Pray and urge the province to pray that the work of racial justice and healing takes root in our hearts and by the power of the Holy Spirit transforms our province, its members, congregations, and entities until we truly are beloved community.

The Provincial Elders' Conference

The Racial Justice Team

September 2020

David Bennett

Mark Breland

Ralph Wanamaker, Jr.

Susan Dreydoppel

Marian Boyle Rohloff

Betsy Miller

Betsy Miller

Nasel Ephraim

Greg Weir

Bruce Nelson

Amy Gohdes-Luhman

Bruce Nelson

Bruce Shoger

Desna enry Goulbourne

Rhonda Robinson

Valerie Wagner

Sue Koenig

April Joint Board

All the April Joint Board Meeting we had an extensive conversation about when it is safe to resume indoor worship. The Joint Board called on the Moving Forward Task Force (Sisters Kathy Shafer and Sharon Clauss, Elder Representatives, Sister Dane Schroeder and Brother Jason Pippin, Trustee Representatives) to come up with a plan and a path forward. We will be considering all variables in this next step including, but not limited to health of all members from age 0-100 and everyone in between, access to bathroom facilities what worship will consist of, and the cost of extra cleaning and sanitizing. We ask that you continue to hold this group and the Joint Board in your prayers as we seek consensus on these matters. The Moving Forward Task Force will be gathering Monday April 26th at 7M to have this conversation. Following that meeting, a survey will again be administered to the congregation both online and verbally to gather data. If you have any questions or concerns or ideas as to how we can make worship an inclusive experience for all people we ask that you contact a member of the Moving Forward Task Force or Pastor Rebecca.

Worship Services
In Person & On Zoom

Meeting ID 852 9437 9849
Password 285008

As we move towards warmer months, the Joint Board has approved the purchase of large canopy tents which will be set up in the green space behind Hahle Hall in order to provide shade and gathering places for outdoor worship and other activities. A decision will be made by the Friday before worship each week as to whether or not we will gather both in person (socially distanced with masks) as well as on Zoom.

If there is a prediction of inclement weather (rain, snow, or high winds) worship will only be on Zoom. We appreciate your patience and understandings as we continue to make the best decisions for our community.



Official Call for A Special Synod of the Moravian Church—Northern Province

July 10, 2021 11am—2pm ET Online Platform

The PEC is exercising its authority to place before the synod one question. “Shall the Provincial Synod Moravian Church Northern Province approve Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary combining with and entering into a relationship with Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA? We bring this question before the entire synod because the Book of Order states Paragraph 508(g): “Any proposed changes in the nature of the relationship between the Seminary and the College including inter alia, establishment of a separate seminary or its merger with another institution, must be approved by the Provincial Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America or its successors.”

Because of the timely nature of this Synod, the PEC has allowed for several options to appoint delegates, including allowing the Joint Board to appoint their congregation’s delegates and alternates. The Joint Board of the First Moravian Church has decided to take this option and is in the process of asking individuals who would be willing to serve as our delegate and alternate. Please be in prayer for this process.

reetings everyone this holiest of weeks.
The Lord Has Risen!

This week of all weeks we celebrate the life of Jesus Christ. The true Son of God who walked among us on this earth. I have been reflecting on that statement specifically over the past few days (and years) and I can't get out of my head that old phrase WWJD. For those of you not familiar, that is an acronym for; What Would Jesus Do? I grew up in the nineties and that was very popular in Christian circles and had a profound impact on my young Christian walk. For me it was so practical, so engaging and so thought provoking it showed me my first glimpse into discipleship. Some of you who read this may remember thinking it was so corny and a bit corporate at the time; so did I. But the words always come back to me.

Over the last year the world had to endure incredible hardship and loss. Eunice and I have been serving our village during quarantine and using the time to really dive into peoples lives. With everything shut down for months, we just had our friends in the village to comfort and serve, and as always, be comforted and served.

Eunice and I have always focused on the "doing" part of our ministry, trying to imitate Christ in all of our actions. When resources were limited this past year and communication to the outside world was almost non-existent, we truly found who we are as missionaries. We are the workers. Jesus did heal people and he did perform miracles for strangers, but he also worked alongside his closest friends, teaching, encouraging, preparing and giving purpose to those lost in the world. I have not performed a miracle for a stranger, but I can work. Our work over the last year has been giving purpose to our many friends who have lost their way financially (setting up small businesses). Purpose to those who have lost relationships by giving pride back to their life through love of life. During this time in the pandemic our more animistic friends felt the true fear of not being in control like they normally do, but now saw the entire world fall into hopelessness and despair that they are all too familiar with.

So many of you may be thinking, what does that actually look like. I will show you:

We started three small businesses for three young ladies named; Clio, Paty and Nayeli. They each learned to bake various items and sell them throughout the village. We mentored another young girl Soreli with her new business for months until it became the number one place to hang out in all Juquila. We gave purpose back to our friend Eric who has struggled since the death of his wife two years ago. He now has a steady job and a solid relationship with a women who cares for him and his family. We have mentored marriages for our friends Nacho and Godoberto. Eunice has shown the village patience and calm while wild rumors about the virus scared everyone. As the respected doctor she helped maintain order during the most strenuous times during the pandemic. We started an exercise program for those worried about their future and their health. We even began to sell food ourselves once a week to show others how to operate a business and to be able to empathize with the difficulties.

Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples. Much of those conversations we don't know what was said. But we can see the results. They were brave men and women, with purpose, love for others and a work ethic that glorified God and impressed man. Jesus prepared His disciples for this world and the next. A complete discipleship.

There are many times where Eunice and I did not know what to say, but how to work.

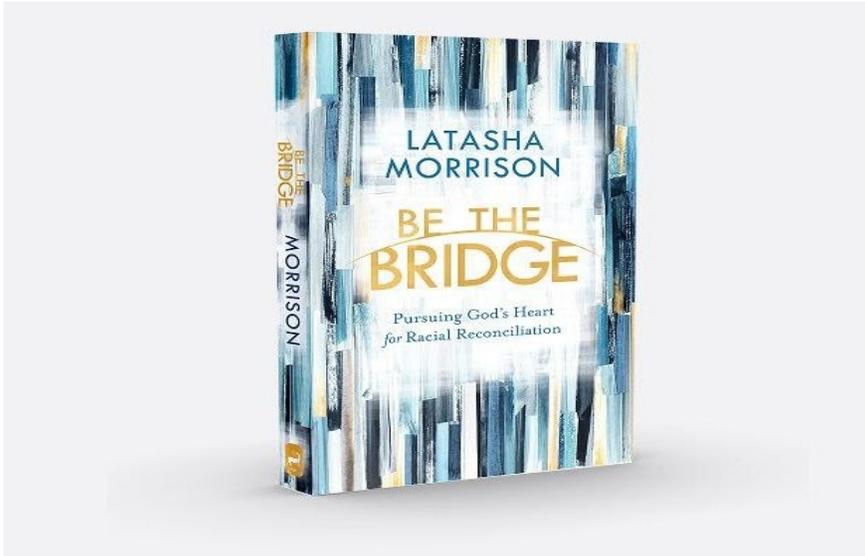
Finally, I leave you with the final story of a guy named Nahum. He is now my dear friend and we are working a ranch together as I mentor him on organization and basic business skills and he teaches me to mend fence and be a real man, haha. He came to me a few months ago and told me he wanted a mentor. That is quite unusual to be so direct in indigenous culture. He wanted someone to teach him about honesty, true friendship, motivation and ultimately about God. He has been an amazing gift from God as we both sharpen each other with wisdom.

Thank you for all your prayers and we have been praying for you as well. We are saved by the Grace of God and His Blood shed for us this day covers all our sin.

Now, let's get to Work!

Blessings and Happy Easter,
Phil, Eunice, Ian and Hannah

Phil and Eunice Raiford
Donate by mail:
Commission To Every Nation
PO Box 291307
Kerrville, TX 78029-1307



Join us for Be the Bridge Latasha Morrison small group with Redeemer Moravian Church on ZOOM!
We will meet every other Tuesday in the months of May and June from 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Chapters 1-3 May 4

Chapters 4-6 May 18

Chapters 7-9 June/1

Chapter 10 and "Next Steps" June/15

Contact Pastor Rebecca for a copy of the book.

Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID 846 4326 3019
Passcode 928747



Join Us for Youth Group Sunday May 2, 2021 3:00pm outside at Dobbins.

Make sure to bring a mask!



CONGRATULATIONS

Riverside Township Committee honors Elsa and Mel Lucas for all their hard work with the Pop-Up Food Pantry due to the Covid-19



Thank you to all the faithful soup makers who contributed to the soup sales for the past four months. We had a lot of variety and many good compliments on how good they were.

All monies made from the soups go to projects for our church.



Kathy Pippin has changed her phone number. It is 856-443-2402



Family Cabin Rentals at Camp Hope

Although we are disappointed that we are not having the well-loved overnight camps this summer, we are EXCITED to offer 8 weekends of IMPROVED Family Cabin Rentals. All of the details can be found on Camp Hope's website. <https://www.camphope.org/family-cabin-rentals>

As an added incentive, if you brings camp-aged kids to a weekend rental they will each get \$10 off of the registration cost for 2022, when we are planning to be back up and running for Camp Hope's 75th Anniversary celebration.

We hope to see YOU at camp this summer!!!



May

- 2 - William Probeck 9 - Charles Dae 21 - Matt Gillard
- 4 - Vince Sisley 10 - Kitty Franklin 22 - Jacki Probeck
- 6 - Anna Lucas 11 - Janie Dalton 25 - Tammy Majewski
- 6 - Bob Wallace 13 - Patti Farley 26 - Gordon Lucas
- 7 - Kristy Beohmer 15 - Ruth Duffy 27 - Nick Zataveski
- 7 - Linda Bolanos 15 - Danielle Moore 28 - Carrie Kershaw
- 7 - Paul McHenry 15 - Mike Sanderson 30 - Andrea DeFlaviis
- 8 - Carl Czarzasty 20 - Joe Langer 31 - Sharon Storm
- 8 - = Colton Wallace



- 2 - Randy & Tammy Selwood 25 - Bill & Reba Kohn
- 12 - Tina Lorenz & Rich Winans 29 - Rick & Jill Bruckart
- 22 - Carol & Larry Denne 30 - Kurt & Gloria Clauss

Please note: If you have additions or corrections to either list for future newsletters please call Ginny at the church office (856) 461-0132



For the **June 2021 Newsletter** is Friday, **May 16th**. Please submit articles to be included in the newsletter anytime during the month but no later than the above date. Articles received after the above date will be included in the July newsletter.

Board of Elders

Rev. Rebecca Sisley Pastor
Kathy Shaffer, Vice Chair [2020]
Hope Sanderson, Secretary (2023)
Dale Lucas, (2021)
Sharon Clauss, (2021)
Nick Zataveski (2023)

Board of Trustees

Jason Pippin, President [2023]
Rich Dreydoppel, Vice Pres. (2023)
Ben Lightfoot, Secretary (2021)
Andrea DeFlaviis [2021]
Diane Schroeder (2023)

*Kathy Shaffer, Treasurer
*Anne Wallace, Financial Secretary
*Not a member of the Board

Congregational Watchword for 2021

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline ourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. 1 Peter 1:13

From the Board of Trustees

During the first quarter of 2021, while congregational expenses are being met, this is due, in large part, to the approval of the second round of payroll protection loans that we received. Congregational giving is down for the year and it should be noted that the surplus of \$4,819.01 in our budget is due to outside sources and not congregational giving. If we took away the amount we received from the payroll protection loan, for the month of March we would be behind in our budget by \$5,111.00 and behind \$4013.00 year to date.

Currently there are numerous budget line items that are being stretched thin or have been over extended due to unforeseen expenses such as replacement of items related to the water heater in the parsonage and church as well as the replacement of a sewer pump in the addition to Hahle Hall. The Major Repair Fund and Facility Maintenance and Repair budget line items are significantly over budget at this time because of those expenses. And during the early part of the year, we exceeded our snow removal budget by over \$2,800.00

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be exploring the possibility of returning to indoor worship. As you may be aware, this is a process that involves many things. Among them, will be making sure that the sanctuary is cleaned and disinfected properly and that our air conditioning unit is working properly and can be used. Doing this could mean an additional expense to the congregation as we need to have the HVAC system checked by professionals and we need to obtain quotes for an initial cleaning of the church

While we have not been using our buildings over the course of the last year, there are still numerous expenses that need to be paid, including paying our employees and keeping up with regular maintenance on all three of our buildings.

First Moravian Church has been just as busy, if not busier than normal during the last year and The Board of Trustees asks that you give prayerful consideration and continue to support the budget that you voted for in January. Your approval of that budget signifies your willingness to support it throughout the year.

In Christ's Service

Jason Pippin

President, Board of Trustees

Please Remember in Prayer . . .

. . . . Those With Special Needs

Eleanor Barnes	Jackie Young	Carol Stamets
Madelynn	Bryanna	Susan Hackett
John Warner	Diane Renner	Celeste Taylor
Bill Koenig	Jeff Pippin	Rick Bulicki
Esther Flizak	Roger Stillman	Chris Shafer
Baby Beckett Williams	Mary	Pat Spangenberg
Justin Koenig	Laura Murphy	Bill Buzard
Joshua Gunn	Hale	Nello DeFlavis
Nancy Volkman	Tyler Kohn	Lois Wilkins
Maddie & family	John Parsons	Betsy Parsons
Cindy Lee	Bob Calhoun	Jean Markovitz
Dave Opperman	Bernard	Hale
Barbara Stanley	Mary	Tom Harding
Mark Zataveski	Lili Meyers	Ryan
State & County	Students of Delran	Family of Steve DeFlaviis
Employees of Target	Family of Barbara Swoyer	Ken Pippin & family
Baptist Home		

. . Our Home-Bound Friends

Joan Wright - Masonic Home

The Assembly of God Congregation

The Boards and Committees of The First Moravian Church, Riverside and the boards of the wider Moravian Church	The Eastern District Executive Board The Western District Executive Board
The Norther Province Provincial Elders Conference	The Canadian District Executive Board

To add, update, or remove a name from the Prayer List, please use a written slip from the back of the sanctuary. Names will be retained on the prayer list until the requester asks they be removed, or for 4 weeks after the last written update. received. Thanks for helping to keep the prayer list accurate and current.



Riverside Outdoor Yard sale

Saturday, June 5, 2021

(Rain Date June 12, 2021)

9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Riverside Moravian Church

228 E. Washington St.,

Riverside, NJ

Donations for selling soups, salads,
baked goods speak with Colleen Bruckart 856-787-9707

Paperback books & white elephant items needed
(donated items can be left at Hahle Hall on June 4th)

MASK REQUIRED

Table Rental-\$15.00

Call Sharon Clauss—856-461-7141

Donate

Baked Goods _____

Soup _____

Salad _____

Contact Sharon Clauss or Colleen Bruckart

Riverside Moravian Church

228 E Washington St.

Riverside, NJ 08075-3629

(Return Service requested)



First Class Mail

Time Sensitive