

The Riverside Moravian

June 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

228 E. Washington Street

Riverside, New Jersey 08075-3629

Office Telephone: (856) 461-0132

E-Mail: riversidemoravianchurch@gmail.com

Rebecca Sisley, Pastor

610-360-5444



The Provincial Elders Conference

May 18, 2021

Dear colleagues in ministry,

Grace and peace to you in name of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As before, the Provincial Elders' Conference affirms your faithful leadership of congregations before, during, and as we start to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. You have provided thoughtful guidelines, in consultation with your lay leaders, regarding when, where, and how you gather for worship and other activities. Thank you.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States issued new guidelines regarding mask wearing and other COVID mitigation protocols. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>. These guidelines only address behavior by those individuals who are fully vaccinated. In addition to the CDC recommendations, each state and province has established guidelines and regulations for wearing masks, social distancing, and the size of social gatherings, which may or may not be modified as the result of these new recommendations. While some might argue that churches are not required to observe those guidelines and regulations, common sense would suggest otherwise. While we rejoice in the progress toward vaccination that many regions of our province have enjoyed, we are aware that not everyone in our congregations has been vaccinated. Since we may never know who has – and has not – been vaccinated, or who may visit our worship or other gathering at any given time, the PEC encourages congregations to continue to exercise caution as you gather.

In his first Letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul likens the church to the Body of Christ. We are one body, and individually members of it. Paul writes, "21The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' 22On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect." (1 Cor 12:21-23). To offer a paraphrase, "The vaccinated cannot say to the unvaccinated, 'I have no need of you.'..." We believe that a powerful statement of care, welcome, and inclusion is for those who are vaccinated to exercise greater caution so that those who, for reasons medical or otherwise, are

not vaccinated. Therefore, we ask that congregations continue the protocols of wearing masks, keeping distance, and refraining from singing, sharing the Right Hand of Fellowship, and sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion by the pastor in the pew.

Sr. Nola Knouse, Executive Director of the Moravian Music Foundation, reiterates her caution against congregational singing. She cites a recent statement by the Ecumenical Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacramental Practices: "The latest CDC guidance for masks and social distancing is for what INDIVIDUALS CAN do-- not what CONGREGATIONS (in which both vaccinated and unvaccinated people gather together) SHOULD do. ... Many congregations include people who are unvaccinated, including children, older persons who have not yet been able to be vaccinated, and some who have refused vaccination. Unvaccinated people of any age can get the virus and spread it to others who are unvaccinated. When we are among those who may be unvaccinated, we recommend being as the unvaccinated for the sake of the unvaccinated-- for their safety, and to avoid stigmatizing them. We are one body in Christ, no more protected than the least protected among us. In concrete terms, whenever we gather in groups that may include non-vaccinated people, we continue to recommend that all wear masks, that households remain six feet apart, and that congregational and choral singing be avoided indoors."

Nola continues with her professional opinion: If everyone is vaccinated, and you can verify that without causing embarrassment to those who for WHATEVER reason are not (whether a medical condition or vaccine reluctance) then I suppose mask-less and singing may be OK. [However], our singing is not more important than someone else's health -- emotional or physical.

We acknowledge that each congregation exists in a specific context and that you have been making decisions based on the best information you have for your area. We ask that you continue to think of the most vulnerable as you go about discerning next steps and err on the side of caution. We trust you to do what is best for the people you love and serve.

Peace,

Elizabeth D. Miller
President

May 11, 2021

Dear Community Partner,

In March 2020, the First Moravian Church of Riverside may have closed its doors on in person activities but opened them wide for the community. Two members of the congregation recognized the need in our community to provide food for families as they anticipate layoffs from work, children being home from childcare and school, and any other number of reasons due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. With gratitude to the Riverside, Delran and Delanco communities and residents, the Riverside Elementary and High Schools, Cub Scouts of Delran and congregation member from multiple local churches, the Pop-Up Food Pantry has thrived. People have graciously given money to purchase food, gift cards for fresh meat, produce and eggs, and more canned goods and shelf stable items than we could ever count. God has truly show us amazing abundance in the face of fear and scarcity.

We give thanks for all the gifts we have received and that we are able to continue to give back to our neighbors. The hope was to keep the Pop-Up Pantry open for as long as it was needed and as long as we could get food. We do not receive any funds or items directly from the South Jersey Food Bank which allows us to give to all our neighbors without asking for identification or addresses. We have also seen an increase in the amount of people who come through our doors each week in need of food. In April 2021 102 families were given food.

The need in our town is increasing. Since March 2020, the Pop-Up pantry has served over 1300 families. We see this each time the doors to Hahle Hall open. In order to continue fulfilling the Christ's call to feed, clothe, give drink to, and be with those in need (Matthew 25:31-46) we hope to be able to sustain this ministry by asking for donations. If your business is willing to give funds, gift cards, food, personal care items, toiletries, or paper products, we would be grateful for your partnership. We are not able to collect clothing items, or household items but rather focus

Eastern District Synod for 2020 (moved to 2021)

The Joint Board extends their deepest gratitude to Sister Lorri Zataveski for being nominated and elected as delegate to the Eastern District Synod for 2020 (moved to 2021). We are also grateful for the election of alternates as well. Brother Jason Pippin will be our second delegate to the Eastern District Synod June 24-25. We pray for all delegates and representatives to the Synod as we carry out important work of the church in a new way and on a new platform.



Multilingual Worship Service

Join us on the 4th Tuesday of the month for June, July, August, and September for a multilingual worship service led by Pastors Waleska Trinidad (Dobbins Methodist Church), and the Rev. Rebecca Sisley (First Moravian Church). This will be open to all people not only in our congregations but in the Riverside, Delanco and Delran communities. There will be free food, activities for kids, prayers and discussion, and music. All activities will be held outdoors. Join us outdoors from 6pm—8 pm. Please bring chairs. Masks not required, but strongly recommended for love of neighbor and the most vulnerable. Check the webpage and Facebook page for weather updates.

From the Joint Board

Over the past several months, the Joint Board has been discussing, at length, how we might begin to open our sanctuary and begin the process of resuming indoor worship for the members of First Moravian Church. Make no mistake, this is and has been a process.

At our May Joint Board meeting, we made the decision to continue outdoor worship through June, revisiting our decision-making process again at our June Joint Board meeting. At the time, we were very aware that the guidelines and protocols set forth by the state of New Jersey were changing rapidly but we realized that while the climate surrounding Covid-19 was changing rapidly, we needed to follow our own guidelines and do what we believed was best for the members of First Moravian Church.

We understood that while the protocols have changed significantly since we met as a Joint Board on May 17, we were not prepared to simply open the sanctuary for indoor worship. And, we still aren't. There is much that needs to be done. First, as was described in the survey that was sent to the congregation last month, the HVAC systems in both the church and Hahle Hall need to be updated to meet the standards recommended by the state of New Jersey. The HVAC systems would most likely have needed to be serviced anyway as they have not been in some time, but with cleanliness and safety in mind, Wolfschmidt Plumbing and Heating was called to come and do an estimate for cleaning and upgrades to the HVAC system in the church. That estimate came back to us for \$2,475.00. This price includes new air purification in HVAC work, and new filters, as well as much needed cleaning. An estimate will also be needed for Hahle Hall but at this writing we are still waiting on a confirmation for a date and time to do this.

Second, the church would need to be disinfected. We received an estimate from Mac's Janitorial in Moorestown of \$1000.00, which would include deep cleaning all surfaces in the church as well as vacuuming all carpeted areas and cleaning all vents, registers and baseboards with hospital grade disinfectant. It was recommended that we perform this cleaning every 90 days.

The Joint Board also made its decision to remain outdoors for worship through the month of June based in large part to the response of the survey that was sent out in May to the congregation.

Since our last Joint Board meeting, we recognize that the Covid-19 guidelines set by the state of New Jersey have changed significantly. These changes do not mean that we are able to just open our doors, however. The Joint Board still needs to find a way to do the necessary upgrades to the HVAC system and consider how to accomplish the task of safely opening with limited resources such as time, manpower, considerations for those that have children and those that are not yet vaccinated, and most importantly, finances.

We have asked the Assembly of God to consider their role in reopening the sanctuary so that our congregations can worship in a safe environment for everyone and we have asked them to help us financially with this process. We are also applying for a grant through the Society for Promoting the Gospel that we are hoping can go toward some of these expenses. Pastor Rebecca is also working with the Moravian Ministries Foundation to see if there is any other grant funding available to us. And, The Fundraising Committee is designating any profits that come from the Spring Outdoor Yard Sale in June to the HVAC upgrades.

However, First Moravian Church can NOT rely solely on the Assembly of God or any other outside source to bring the church up to the standards that the Joint Board feels are necessary for our congregation to return to indoor worship.

So, the Joint Board is asking you, our members, to prayerfully consider your role in the eventual reopening of our sanctuary, both spiritually and financially. As the Joint Board continues to weigh the difficult decisions laid before us, we also ask you to consider making a donation toward the HVAC system or cleaning of the buildings. Please, keep us in your prayers as we weigh our options for reopening and continue to make the choices that we feel are best for our congregation.



Graduation Information Needed

On Sunday, June 13th we will recognize Graduates in our morning service. If you have a family member who is graduating from high school or a college graduate for the year 2021 please submit their name and school from which they will be graduating (degree, if college) to the church office as soon as possible.



Summer Hours

**Summer hours will begin on
June 6, 2021 at 10:00AM**

Worship time will change to 10:0am beginning on June 6. We will be worshipping outdoors through the month of June as decided by the Joint Board during the May meeting. The Joint Board will reassess on a monthly basis for the remainder of the summer. We will not require a mask while series are outdoors but do encourage people to wear one in protection of the most vulnerable in our congregation.

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 understanding as we continue to make the best decisions for our community.



Riverside Outdoor Yard sale

Saturday, June 5, 2021

9:00 am until 1:00 pm

(Raindate: June 12, 2021)

Riverside Moravian Church

228 E. Washington St.,
Riverside, NJ

Donations for selling soups, salads,
baked goods,

paperback books & white elephant items needed

(donated items can be left in the upstairs hall of Hahle Hall)

Table Rental-\$10.00

Call Sharon Clauss—856-461-7141

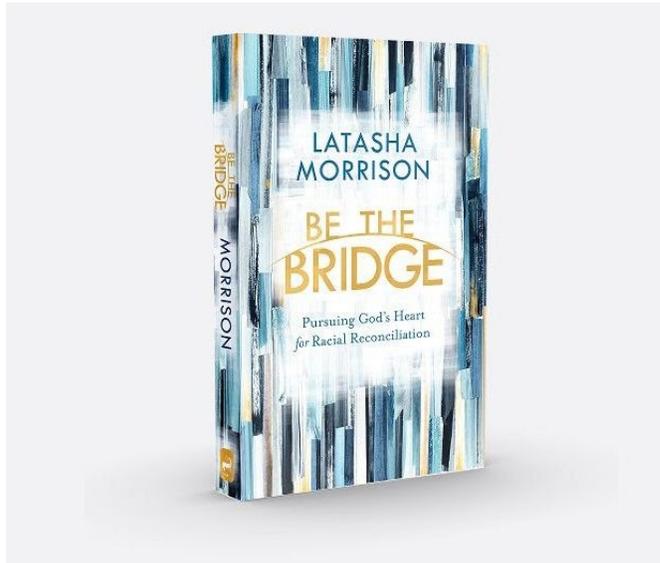
Donate

Baked Goods _____

Soup _____

Salad _____

Contact Sharon Clauss or Colleen Bruckart



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

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!! Please take note Youth Group will be changing to Wednesday nights from 6-7PM beginning Wednesday June 2nd. We will meet at Dobbins United Methodist Church in Delanco

Make sure to bring a mask!

Board of Elders

Rev. Rebecca Sisley Pastor
Kathie 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 President (2023)
Ben Lightfoot, Secretary (2021)
Andrea DeFlaviis [2021]
Diane Schroeder (2023)

*Kathy Shaffer, Treasurer

*Anne Wallace, Financial Secretary

*Not a member of the Board

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DEADLINE



for the **July/August 2021 Newsletter** is Friday, **June 18th**. 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 September newsletter.



Birthdays

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|--------------------|
| 3 - | Richard Fynan | 21- | Don Mollineaux |
| 6- | Tammy Selwood | 21- | Rob Smith, Sr. |
| 6- | Rik Valentine | 22- | Joshua Selwood |
| 8- | Kerryn Fynan | 22 - | Walt Zataveski |
| 10 - | Kelsey Fynan | 24- | Joan Swingle |
| 10- | Jill Fynan | 25- | Arthur Valentine |
| 10- | Ginny Lyon | 25 - | Emma Williams |
| 12- | Amanda Smith | 26- | Gabriele Heidemann |
| 14- | Kathie Pippin | 27 - | Gwyneth Fyke |
| 15- | Tommie Cathers | 28 - | Sherry Lallo |
| 15- | Keith Fynan | 30 - | Chase Kohn |
| 17 - | John Dreker | | |
| 17- | Jeremy Pippin | | |

Anniversary

- | | |
|------|---------------------|
| 3- | Karl & Tracie Brown |
| 12 - | Keith & Jill Fynan |
| 26- | Al & Kim Parente |

Please note: If you have additions or corrections to either list for future newsletters please call Ginny at the church office

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	Louis
Greg Coe	Corrine Murphy	Bill Buzard
Marge Henderson	Chrissy Lucas	Nello DeFlavis
Pamala McLaughlin	Tyler Kohn	Olga Olhovsky
Walter Simmons	Tyra Lyon	Rev. George Richmond
Wally Zataveski	Bob Calhoun	Jean Markovitz
Jim Libby	Bernard	Hale
Barbara Stanley	Jim Libby	Michael Hutchinson
Mark Zataveski	Lili Meyers	Ryan
State & County	Students of Delran	Rick Jones
Susan Mendoza	Dave Sanderson	Karen Adams
Donna Damalas	Christina DeFlece	Lisa Valentine
Employees of Target	Ken Pippin & family	Chloe, Isabella, Olivia,, Erin Valentine
Baptist Home	Family of Dorothy Rabb	Family of Joyce Bader
Tamika Fritz		

. . 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.***