

The Riverside Moravian

October 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



This is probably the most “normal” church life has felt in the past 18 months. The kickoff of the Sunday school season, preparing for bible studies and small groups, confirmation classes up and running, it has all made me feel hopeful for the coming time. With the possibility of a vaccine for children on the way and the hope that at least one of my daughters can be vaccinated, I am, tentatively, hoping to sigh a slow, cautious, exhale. Slow... cautious... but with hope. I am hoping for healing in this world. I am hoping for healing in our community. I am hoping for healing in our congregation.

Who are we going to be on the other side of this journey? What is going to be the next part of our journey? It is going to be a slow, cautious, exhale of hope? I pray that it is. As Moravians, we hold to the story of August 13, 1727. This past year, someone told me about the fact that there was a great deal of work that went in to organizing the August 13 experience. Though we may want to hold to the fact that August 13 was a completely spontaneous moment in our history, we have to know that there was deep work that had been done in the midst of the brokenness of relationship. Elders visited church members and broke bread before the church service on the 13. Conversations were had and deep pains were brought forward. With the deep pain, came deep healing. The adoption of the Brotherly Agreement, now, the Covenant for Christian Living, was a renewal of the promises of what it means to be community.

We are at a point where we need to renew what it means to be a community and a congregation. What do we hold as important and are those important things stronger than what we do disagree on? Is healing possible? Is renewal possible? True, open and vulnerable conversations are hard. Yet, they are going to be needed moving forward. If we approach each other with Christian love, acceptance, peace, understanding and deep grace, we will be better suited to conversation with each other. I hold the whole congregation in prayer at this time asking God to lead us. Where God leads, we will follow.

Breathe in the new air outside. The crisp, fall air that brings change with it. I have seen an image circulating social media that says “the trees are about to show us just how lovely it is to let things go.” As the trees shed their leaves and make space for new experiences, I pray we take opportunities in front of us to let go of those things that no longer serve us. It is only through letting go of that which no longer serves us that we can create space for the new life that will bloom in the spring. The writer of Hebrews shares this from Chapter 12:1-2 and I leave you with these words that we may hold on to them as our prayer in our journey ahead:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

10/3 Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-15,4:10-17

10/10 Exodus 16:1-18

10/17 Samuel 3:1-21

10/24 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 51:10-14

10/31 Ezekiel 37

Beginning on October 5, from 10:30-11:30, Pastor Rebecca will begin hybrid in-person and Zoom bible study. The study will be on the scripture lessons for the upcoming week. Dive deeper into scripture and gain more understanding of the history, social structure and of God's word. Bring whatever bible translation you use in your devotional life.

September 6 began an independent reading program of "the Bible in a year." On Monday October 4, join together with fellow readers to discuss the the readings of the previous month. This group is about accountability and encouragement for staying with the program. We will discuss themes and the passages. This gathering will be held either in person or on Zoom on the first Monday of the month from 7:30-9pm. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rebecca.

Devotional yoga will begin again on Tuesday evenings at 8PM in the basement of Hahle Hall or on Zoom. We prayerfully move our bodies while meditating on a focus verse. Please bring a mat or towel. We do mask. These sessions are held by Pastor Rebecca, who is now a certified yoga instructor through YogaFit, as well as a registered yoga instructor with Yoga Alliance.

Let's get spooky! On Halloween, the Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Committee will be hosting a Trick-or-Treat/Trunk-or-Treat activity at First Moravian Church. Since we are in such a great trick-or-treating location, we decided to get into the spirit of community and interact with Riverside in this fun activity! For more details or to volunteer your time, energy, car, and candy, please contact Kathy Shaffer, Diane Schroeder or Karen Adams.

October 23, the Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Committee is hosting Pumpkinpalooza! This is a free event for the community and congregation geared towards youth and families. Starting at 5PM, bring your kiddos and yourselves for an evening of pumpkin decorating, s'mores and music. Please contact Hope Sanderson or Carrie Kershaw if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Not able to make Sunday School at 9am on Sunday mornings but want to connect your little ones to a faith formation program? Then join us on Wednesday nights on Zoom! 5:30-6PM join Pastor Rebecca and members of the Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Committee with a fun and interactive digital program. The program will begin on Wednesday October 13. To sign up, please contact Lori Zataveski. This program is designed for children grades K-5.



THE PROVINCIAL ELDERS' CONFERENCE

(EXECUTIVE BOARD)

1021 Center Street, P.O. Box 1245, Bethlehem, PA 18016-1245

Telephones: 610-867-7566 – Moravian Church Center
610-865-3137 – P.E.C. President
610-866-9223 – Fax

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH • Northern Province

To: Pastors of Moravian Congregations and Ministries of the Northern Province

Re: **Unity Prayer Watch – December 1-21, 2021**

The Unity Prayer Watch is a gift that Moravians offer the world. Not only do we pause during the busy month of December to lift up the concerns of the worldwide Unity, we also pray for a world – in need. As we continue to journey through COVID-times, we remember those who have suffered great tragedy, loss, and hardship at home and abroad. We pray for the unspoken toll that the pandemic has taken on mental health, life expectancy, and the comfort of gathering together and traveling afar. The Unity Prayer Watch is also a witness to the world. Moravians model for a watching world how to intercede without ceasing – lifting up joys and concerns to the God of our salvation.

This year, I invite you to take up the privilege of prayer in a powerful way as you join the prayers of Moravians in provinces across the globe. Prayer is a blessed gift from God that we offer for the sake of the world. The topics included in the prayer guide come from Moravian provinces. I invite you to also pray for all of the places *in between* these provinces – the places where God's people seek hope and healing. Pray for an end to this pandemic.

As in the past, we have the privilege of praying for the world during the month of December. The enclosed calendar assigns a specific day to your congregation; many of you share the day with another worshipping community. Please find ways to invite your flock to pray – silently or out loud – alone or in groups – in person or virtually – so that the offering of prayers uttered by Moravians remains constant and faithful.

This year, on December 1 we take over from Tanzania Southwest; we pass the privilege to the growing Mission Area of Peru on December 22, and on December 23, the Democratic Republic of the Congo will carry on.

Thank you for being part of the worldwide Unity – a gift to us from God. Thank you for praying for the souls within that Unity and beyond. Thank you for being the church.

Elizabeth D. Miller
Provincial Elders' Conference

EDM:glr
October 2021



Moravian Disaster Response Update on Haiti, Hurricane Ida Impacts, and Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement

September 16, 2021

The Moravian Board of World Mission continues to invite your prayers for the children of God worldwide that are suffering from hunger, natural disasters, war, and injustice. We would like to provide you with information on three areas of concern.



Haiti Earthquake and Hurricane Relief Efforts

The worst effects of the August 14 earthquake and the tropical storm that followed it are over. However, in Haiti, transportation is difficult, political tensions are high, and rival gangs control large areas of the country. Having spoken to leaders in Haiti, they are thankful that the \$17,500 already sent from the Board of World Mission is on its way, but they also tell us that this will be a long-term process and will take lots of prayer, patience, and persistence. People who lost their homes are still living in the streets, water and food are scarce, and medical care is hard to come by. Please pray for the Moravian Church leaders and their members.



Hurricane Ida Impact on the Gulf Coast & Northeast

Hurricane Ida was a major Category 4 hurricane when it made landfall in Louisiana, and damage assessments are high. Loss of life is now at 153, most of these occurring with the flooding in New Jersey and New York. We have continued discussions with our ecumenical partners are still evaluating how we can best be of assistance. At this time will be sending funds to help with emergency outreach and will begin to look towards long-term rebuilding efforts when we can send teams in safely.

Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement

The US and Canada continue to see rising numbers of Afghan refugees fleeing this war-torn country. We encourage congregations to follow the Biblical call to welcome to the foreigner by helping these families as they begin their new lives in North America. The BWM is partnering with Church World Service and Team Rubicon to support this complex effort. CWS has long been known for its work with refugee resettlement and Team Rubicon is well respected for its work with refugee families. They are currently assisting Afghan families who are being relocated to the following US military bases: Wisconsin at Volk Field & Fort McCoy, New Jersey at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Mexico at Dona Ana Range / Holloman Air Force Base, Texas at Fort Bliss, Virginia at Quantico & Fort Pickett, Indiana at Camp Atterbury. If your congregation happens to be near one of these bases, you can go to the Team Rubicon website at <https://teamrubiconusa.org/resettlement> for information. In these places, you can drop off things such as toiletries, clothing, food, and water. For assistance with establishing this outreach in your congregation, please email Jill Kolodziej at jill@moravianmission.org.

You can assist the BWM in all of our efforts to bring relief to those in need by sending your donations to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. You may also make your donation online at <http://moravianmission.org/give/> and click on the green "Donate Now" link at the top of the page. Please indicate that your gift is for "MDR". Your support changes lives

Important Dates

Sunday 3--Holy Communion--World Communion Sunday

Monday 4--A year through the Bible reading group discussion 7:30PM Location TBA

Tuesday 5-- Bible Study group 10:30AM-11:30AM on Zoom or in Person

Yoga 8PM

Wednesday 6-- Youth Group Dobbins United Methodist 6:30-8PM

Sunday 10-- Conversation After Worship with *In His Image* coordinators--Sex Trafficking

Tuesday 12-- Bible Study group 10:30AM-11:30AM on Zoom or in Person

Think Tank: Food Insecurity in Riverside Area

NO YOGA

Wednesday 13-- Youth Group Dobbins United Methodist 6:30-8:00PM

Saturday 16-- *In His Image* walk against Sex Trafficking

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

Sunday 17—Walk about after 11AM service

Tuesday-19- Bible Study group 10:30AM-11:30AM on Zoom or in Person

Yoga 8PM

Wednesday 20--Youth Group Dobbins United Methodist 6:30-8PM

Saturday 23--Pumpkin Palooza 5PM

Tuesday 26-- Bible Study group 10:30AM-11:30AM on Zoom or in Person

Yoga 8PM

Wednesday 27-- Youth Group Dobbins United Methodist 6:30-8PM

Sunday 31-- Trunk or Treat time TBA

Upcoming Dates

November 13—Campfire with skits and songs Time TBA

November 14– 156 th Anniversary

December 18– Drive in movie night Time TBA

Church Hours

Sunday School 9:00AM (Outside)

Outdoor Service 10:00AM

Indoor Service 11:00AM



DEADLINE

for the **November Newsletter** is Friday,
October 25th. 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 October newsletter.

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

(856) 461-0132

Board of Elders

Rev. Rebecca Sisley Pastor
Kathie Shaffer Vice Chair [2021]
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

Congregational Watchword for 2020

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity? For there the Lord ordained his blessing life for evermore. Psalm 133:1,3

Grants – 1 is for the basement of the church. The other is for the HVAC upgrades to Hahle Hall

Worship conversation

- Candles – Order candles motion by Jason, 2nd by Hope
- Anniversary – 4pm, Nov. 14 TBA

Nominating Committee – will meet Oct. 3.

Pastor's Sabbatical – 4 weeks in January 2022 with a vacation starting Dec. 26. Either George Richmond or Jeff VanOrden or a combination of the 2. Motion by Hope, 2nd by Diane.

Next month's meeting we will have Marcella Kreybo-Greggor who is a spiritual director with the AID program of the Eastern district. What are the next steps?

We are entering into mediation with the district board because of some of the growing tensions that are happening within the congregation as far as how we are worshipping. Should be in early Oct.

Hiring Committee – 2 people have been interviewed for the position of Church Administrator and 2 more will be interviewed later in the week. We would like to have the new Admin. Working by Oct. 10

Mildred Leonard – 8-26-21 balance was \$2996.73. We will Give \$500.00 to Ashley Dudley for the Borrowed Kitchen (a restaurant she lets her use after hours that was damaged in a car accident) to help feed people in need. Moved by Hope, 2nd by Diane.

Next month for outreach for Pumpkinpalooza possibly..

Confirmation – We will combine with Palmyra. We have 2 and they have 1 confirmand. Tammy

Hutchinson's kids will be invited to join the class.



The Outreach and Mission Committee thanks all of you who donated to our Tabbie Bags project and for making cards to send to Community Leaders to thank them for their service and offer support to those who serve in our communities. The bags and card making were part of the Moravian Day of Service to help raise awareness of the importance of mission work within the Moravian faith and to think of ways to make a difference in our communities. We packed 20 Tabbie Bags and made 15 cards to be mailed. The bags will be distributed to a homeless shelter in Burlington.

Church Council Reports

As we come closer to the end of 2021, we turn our attention to the 2022 Church Council meeting. Since we did not hold a full Church Council in January 2021, our work is larger and more in depth this year than ever. We ask that if you are the chair, organizer, secretary or treasurer of any church group or committee that you begin working on your reports from both 2020 as well as 2021. Both reports will be received by the Council for our meeting. The Nominating Committee will begin its work in September of 2020. If you feel called to serve on a Board or Committee for First Moravian Church, please reach out to a member of the Nominating Committee (Brother Dale Lucas, Elder Representative; Brother Jason Pippin, Trustee Representative; Sister Reba Kohn, Congregation Representative; The Rev. Rebecca Sisley, Pastor

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Church Hours

Sunday School Outside 9:00AM

Outside 10:00AM

Indoors 11:00AM

Worship Services On Zoom

Meeting ID 852 9437 9849



Updating Telephone Directory

Since things are opening up I would like to update our directory.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

NAMES AND AGES OF CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD:

BEST WAY TO BE CONTACTED:

Can be sent to church office via email: riversidemoravianchurch@gmail.com or put into the collection plate



Youth Group will be meeting Dobbins United Methodist Church in Delanco on Wednesday's at 6:30—8:00PM



October

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 - Edith Fyke | 20 - Brian McGee |
| 4 - Olivia Cox | 20 - Matthew Neamand |
| 7 - Zach Lucas | 21 - Tracie Brown |
| 7 - Cindy Moore | 23 - Ronald Bush, Sr. |
| 8 - Jordan Brown | 24 - Edgar Hasson IV |
| 11 - Rich Winans | 26 - Karl Brown |
| 12 - Angelina Corridori | 26 - Jacob Selwood |
| 13 - Nancy Krause | 27 - Samantha Howe |
| 13 - Jason Pippin | 28 - Doreen Mollineaux |
| 13 - Lois Wilkins | 29 - Linda Baumann |
| 20 - Gail Barta | 30 - Jeanne Beard |
| | 30 - Henry Franklin |



October

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Charles & Betty Dae | 19 - John & Linda Dreker |
| 1 - Rob & Joanne Smith | 19 - Bill & Miriam Tilden |

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

Please Remember in Prayer . . .

. . . . Those With Special Needs

Jennifer Allen	Jackie Young	Carol & Rich Stamets
Dolly Besegli	Bryanna	Matthew Lauderman
Rev. Richard Bruckart	Diane Renner	Rachael Wilson
Pat Chapman	Jeff Pippin	Susan Doline
Chris Shafer	Hank Franklin	Rev. Otto Dreydoppel, Jr.
Mary	Pamala McLaughlin	Tyler Kohn
Chrissy Lucas	Nello DeFlavis	Olga Olhovsky
Walter Simmons	Rick Jones	Rev. George Richmond
Jean Markovitz	Jackie Young	Mike Sanderson
Jim Libby	Bernard & Family	Hale
State & County	Students of Delran	Rose Anderson
Susan Mendoza	Sister Rhona Robinson	Joe Greenlee
Employees of Target	Ken Pippin & family	Family of Kevin/Becky Harney &
Baptist Home	Marggy Schoeneberger	Morgan Family J
Joint Boards	Rachael Wilson	John Warner

. . Our Home-Bound Friends

Joan Wright - Masonic Home

The Boards and Committees of The First Moravian Church,	The Eastern District Executive Board
Riverside and the boards of the wider Moravian Church	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.