

FIRST NEWS

Vol. 28, No. 1

Published 6 times a year.



Pastor John

2024 Theme: "Traveling Lighter"

I so enjoyed having tea on Mondays this past Christmas Season. The book *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell was a delight. Informative, conversational, and a friendly spirit of grace around the table and through the pages. Thank you, Carolyn, for a wonderful study and implementation.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we are introduced to the Wisemen from the East, those starry-eyed gazers with style, knowledge, and adventure. Imagine. The size of the caravan with camels and servants, what a crew! Imagine. A journey that would take at least two years. Imagine. This regal crew trudging across the desert sands searching, following, seeking yonder star. Imagine. What a trip. What a story. What gifts they brought to a new toddler king.

As we enter this Epiphany Season for the final time together, I wonder if we, like the "kings", need to pack a little lighter for the coming year?

Way back in the day I used to go running. Well, jogging, because with these shorter legs of mine, I looked more like a warthog than a gazelle jogging on the savannah. People who run road races strip down to the bare essentials: a pair of shorts, a t-shirt, and the lightest pair of shoes they can find. People who hike carry the absolute essentials – light and sturdy items make up the contents of their backpack. And maybe, just maybe, Caspar left his royal satin blue smoking jacket back in Babylon for this road trip to the Roman region of Jerusalem.

Recall what the Hebrew writer said, "Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us" (Heb. 12:1 TLB).

Before we can follow the Morning Star, we need to discard the stuff of sin which weighs our spirits down. Take what we need. This idea leads us to our theme for 2024 called "Traveling Lighter".

That is how the Bible describes the Christian life of every believer, travel lighter and you will go farther. Our journey is not a sprint, or a 5K, or even a marathon, but a journey. Journeys take a lifetime to finish.

Just like three astronomers trekking across the wilderness in search of the Savior of the world, may we do the same. As we walk, run, waddle, crawl, wheel, hobble, hop or hike the journey that is set before us.

We need to let go of our own plans and surrender those ideas to God's purpose for our lives. For when we do that, we say in essence, here I am Lord, take me and I will follow you into my life's journey.

That is the first step to take when traveling lighter. *Pastor John*

January-February, 2024

First Moravian Church
319 North Walnut St.
Dover, OH 44622
330-364-8831

www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org

2024 Congregational Watchword:

Our Mission Statement:

- L - Lead all people to Jesus Christ.*
- O - Obey God's Commands.*
- V - Value and nurture spiritual growth.*
- E - Encourage Christian service.*

Our Motto:

- In Essentials: Unity;*
- In Non-Essentials: Liberty;*
- In All Things: Love.*

*Jesus makes my heart rejoice.
I'm His sheep and know His voice.
He's a shepherd, kind and gracious;
And His pastures are delicious.
Constant love to me He shows;
Yea, my very name He knows.*

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Congregation Annual Meeting

The annual **Church Council** meeting is slated for **January 28**, after the 10:00 A.M. worship service. We will be looking at the reports, answering questions, electing leadership for the Joint Board positions, Representatives, Provincial Synod Delegates and Alternates, and approving our 2024 budget.



Our annual meeting is a time to learn, communicate and understand more about the life and ministry of our congregation. I look forward to having you attend and participate in this helpful and valuable time together. Pastor John

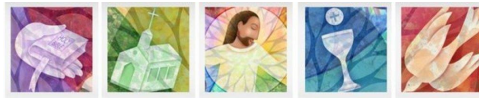
VISION 2024:

The Church Council will give direction for Vision 2024 and beyond by:

- ◆ Electing three Elders to the Board of Elders
- ◆ Electing three Trustees to the Board of Trustees
- ◆ Electing a member to the Christian Education Committee
- ◆ Electing a representative to the Sperling-Zimmerman Home Committee
- ◆ Electing three Delegates and three Alternate Delegates to Eastern District Synod in Bethlehem, PA (June 26-29, 2024)
- ◆ Receiving reports from all ministries
- ◆ Approving the ministry budget for 2024

Faith Formation ~ Christian Education

by Carolyn Menapace, Director of Faith Formation



Faith Formation

Happy New Year!

In December, Habits of the Household looked at Family devotions. Are devotions a part of your personal or household routine? Taking time each day or each week to spend time with God is one important way to grow spiritually.

From the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living: *“We realize that our Christian faith must be continually nourished if it is to remain living and vital. Therefore, we desire to grow in our Christian lives through **family devotions, personal prayer and study**, and the opportunities for spiritual development offered by the church.”*

If you are looking for a way to incorporate devotions, study, or prayer into your faith journey, let me recommend a few resources:

- ◆ **The Moravian Daily Texts** hard copies can be purchased online at store.moravian.org (also available for Kindle or Apple Books), sign up to receive it every morning via email at moravian.org/subscribe-to-the-daily-texts, like “Moravian Daily Texts” on Facebook, or listen for Pastor John’s daily One Call Now message.
- ◆ **Daily Prayers for Moravians**, found at moravian.org/daily-prayers-for-moravians, is a weekly blog created by Bishop Chris Giesler. It works equally well for individuals or a group.

(Continued on page 3)

(Cont. from Pg. 2)

- ◆ **Loving Hearts United** is a Moravian guide for family living, full of activities and music to explore over an entire year, or more. It's a great study and devotion guide for households with children. This is also available at store.moravian.org.
- ◆ **The Bible Recap** is a daily Bible reading plan and podcast many of us have used the last year or two. There will be no formal group in 2024 but it makes a wonderful personal devotion. Use the YouVersion Bible app plus The Bible Recap podcast, search for the Bible Recap videos on YouTube, or buy the book at thebiblerecap.com.

I am happy to answer any questions you have about these, and would love to hear about other resources you find helpful. There are many, many other options and the best devotion for the new year is the one you will use!

In faith, love, and hope,
Carolyn

Book Club

In January and February, we will finish the Bible study, "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs. All are welcome!



Join us Saturdays at Missions Café at 8:00 a.m.:

January 20: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7

February 17: Chapters 8, 9, 10, Conclusion

Moravian Bowling Bash

Sunday, January 14, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., join other Tuscarawas County Moravians and friends for our annual bowling bash at Wabash Lanes!

\$10.00 per bowler includes shoe rental, unlimited games, and snacks. Bring your friends and family!



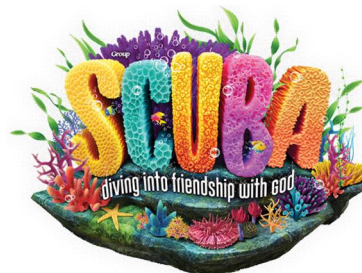
Vacation Bible School 2024

Need a little post-holiday pick-me-up? Let's dive into our VBS theme for 2024 and get a preview of what the week will be like!

Stop by the church anytime **between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, January 17** to check out the Bible stories, activities, decorations, and more. Bring your ideas and we'll make some plans to start preparing in February.

(Tentative date: February 18 after worship.)

Add VBS 2024 to your calendar now: June 10-14.



Mark Your Calendar

A few dates to remember in the new year:



Spring Rally: April 12-14

Vacation Bible School: June 10-14 ~ 9:00-Noon

Tar Hollow (completed 7th grade – age 21): **July 21-27**

Camp Bethany (completed 2nd – 6th grade): **August 5-9**

Prayer Heart Lovefeast



On **Sunday, February 4**, we will celebrate a “Prayer Heart” Lovefeast. Our youth will be serving the lovefeast during worship and you will be invited to take a “Prayer Heart” with the name of a young member of the congregation. Keep this heart and pray for them all month long.

Your “Prayer Heart” will come with a note, stamped and addressed to this young person, ready for you to send a hello, a blessing, a word of encouragement – something from your heart to theirs.

Mid-Winter Game Night

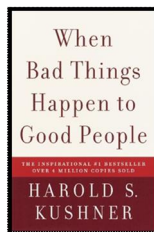
Bring your friends, bring your family, bring your favorite game! Let’s get together for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun.



CEC will host this event on **Friday, February 9**, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the **Social Hall**. Watch for more details!

Sunday School

January 7 through February 4, Sunrise Sunday School and Seeds of Faith will study the book **When Bad Things Happen to Good People** by Harold Kushner.



Rabbi Kushner wrote this straightforward, elegant contemplation of the doubts and fears that arise when tragedy strikes and shares his wisdom as a rabbi, a parent, a reader, and a human being.

Attend at either 8:00 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. in the second floor living room. Copies of the book will be available to borrow.

Congratulations Nathan!



Nathan Sean Pfeiffer, son of Julie and Eric Pfeiffer, has graduated from Kent State University with a major in Accounting and minor in Finance. He will begin his first official job in January as an accountant for Novogradac in Dover.

Congratulations and best wishes!

May God bless you on the journey ahead.

Colder weather and longer hours inside means...



more time for puzzles!!

Stop by the church's Puzzle Library (located in the lobby, to the left of the Social Hall doors) and pick out your next one.

If you live in the New Philadelphia or Dover area and would like one dropped off to you because you are homebound, sick, or the weather is just too wintry for you, call Susan Paden at 330-364-7101.

Our Mission, Outreach, and Fellowship



Sugar Cake Baking ~ Tuesday in February, March & April

February 20	March 19	April 16
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Price \$6.00 each

Place an order by calling **Susan Paden, 330-364-7101**. Free delivery is available with the purchase of four (4) or more cakes, if ordered prior to Tuesday's baking.



Soup and Sandwich Luncheons: No luncheons will be held in January or February. The Spring Luncheons will be held Friday, March 1, and April 5, 2024.

SOUP'S ON!



On **Sunday, January 21**, following the morning worship service, you will once again have the opportunity to **pick up your pre-ordered quarts of homemade soup** prepared by the Moravian Women. Soup choices are **cheesy broccoli, vegetable beef, chicken noodle, and stuffed pepper.**

Preorders will be taken December 31, January 7 and 14. The cost will be **\$7.00 per quart.** Proceeds from the soup sale will be used to support the ongoing funding of projects within our congregation, community and the world. Nothing tastes better than a warm bowl of soup on a cold wintry day!

With the monies raised from the above projects, the **Moravian Women** are able to continue their mission of reaching out to others at home and around the world. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to another wonderful year of serving the Lord together in ministry.



Save the Date!

Sole Purpose Pancake Breakfast



8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2, 2024

Cost: TBA

Menu includes: pancakes, sausage, beverages

You will have the option of carry-out or eat in the social hall.

Additional information will be in the Sunday bulletins.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Pfeiffer, 330-340-6494.

Thank you in advance for your support!

The Replacements

Friday, Feb. 9, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

at Grinders.



This “small group” ministry will gather for its annual 2024 budget meeting at **Grinders**. We will have the call to order and a prayer by Pastor John. Then we will look at the menu and, after an appropriate amount of time, we will order good food, tell wonderful stories, and laugh together because that’s good medicine. Come and join us with squeaky limbs, replaced knees, titanium shoulders and we will give you merriment and mercy – and oh yes - a slice of pie.

The Replacement Mission Statement

Give me your achy joints – your tired muscles – your bent limbs

We will commiserate together.

Blessings Flow, Water Filter Kits for Honduras

Greetings Friends:

This was an amazing weekend for me personally, the Board of World Mission, and certainly for the **people in Honduras** who will be receiving these **water filter kits**. Your total gift of **\$16,878.41** is an amazing amount of money that will supply an amazing amount of clean water to families in Pakwí and beyond. I cannot thank you enough for the hospitality extended to me for the weekend and the opportunity to preach both at Dover and then at the annual Advent Communion Service that brings together all of the Ohio Moravian Congregations.

I felt a true spirit of love and genuine support for not only the Blessings Flow project but also your commitment to serving our Chief Elder together. I look forward to future opportunities for us to unite in mission and make a difference in the world.

Peace in Christ,
Chris

The Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler
Director of Mission Engagement
The Moravian Board of World Mission in North America
1021 Center Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-868-1732



Please note: Dover First contributed \$7,098.02 of the total gift mentioned above. Our thanks to all who generously contributed to the Blessings Flow project.

Thank You Notes!

Special Thanks to the Volunteers

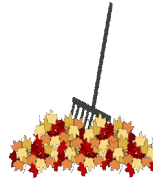
who helped **Sam** clean up the flower beds and church grounds recently.

Volunteers included:

Julie Williams,

Don Richardson, and

Tim Richardson.



Dear John and Friends of the Church,

Thank you all for spending your **Day of Service Sunday** here at Schoenbrunn! Your hard work really shows in the village and is appreciated by many! You are helping keep history alive and we thank you for that too!

Rachel



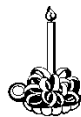
We Extend Our Thanks and Appreciation to Our Church Volunteers

We appreciate all our church volunteers and thank them for being willing volunteers throughout the year. If we were to list all the names, I am sure we would miss a few people. Therefore, we are thanking all our church volunteers. Your time commitment is deeply appreciated.

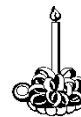


Hanging of the Greens

Many hands truly made light work when it came to decorating the church for Christmas this year! **Thank you to everyone who helped.**



Candle Dressing for Christmas Eve



A sincere 'Thank You' to all the folks who helped decorate Christmas Candles! With your diligent work and the candles left over from last year, we now have 600+ beautifully dressed beeswax candles for our Christmas Eve services.



Our **thanks** to those who volunteered to pray on **Monday, December 18,** by signing up for a 15-minute or 30-minute prayer segment for the **2023 Unity Prayer Watch**. Moravian congregations around the world take part in this annual Prayer Watch. Each day of the year is covered by one or more congregations throughout the Unity. We shared our assigned day with Fry's Valley, Gnadenhutten, Uhrichsville, and Church of the Redeemer. Prayer warriors included:

Pastor John Wallace, Cheryl Wallace, Karen Baker, Lin Sidel, Karen Armstrong, Tom Armstrong, Becky Mastin, Dan Yeager, Gary Martin, Steve Rondinella, Seth Corder, April Yoder, Linda Hayman, Karol Jones, Susan Paden, Jean Richardson, Cheryl Stephens, Julie Williams, Brenda Crilow, Brian Cronebach, Pam Duncan, Elizabeth Snider, Leslie Seats, and Sue Henriksen.

Special thanks to those who signed up for more than one 15-minute prayer segment. May God bless each of you.



Many Thanks to the

Moravian Door  *Dash Girls*



A Sincere Thank You to the ladies who prepared the delicious meals; and to any guys who helped deliver the meals this year to our more mature members and friends. May your kind thoughtfulness be returned to you.

Members and Friends of Dover First Moravian

Pastor John and Friends,

We want to thank all of you for the special cards, gifts, visits, and prayers over the past few months. It is truly a blessing to be part of such a wonderful church family. All your kindness and continued prayers are very much appreciated.

Love,
Sheila & Bonnie Auman



Dover Family Tree News

New Members...

The following new members were received on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

**Joshua & Tessa Compton
and daughters,
Louisa and Theodora**

Please welcome them the next time you see them.

New Baby...



Congratulations to Cole and Kendal Craddoc on the birth of a son, **Cain James**, born on Saturday, December 2, 2023, in Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital. Cain has a big sister, Clara Mae, who will be 2 on December 27.

Jill Craddoc is the proud grandmother.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended...



...to the **Sue Neiger family**. Sue passed away on Fri., Dec. 1. Pastor John Wallace officiated at her Memorial service on Fri., Dec. 8, in Linn-Hert-Geib Funeral Home in New Philadelphia. Burial was in East Avenue Cemetery in New Philadelphia.

...to the **Von Gordon family**. Von passed away on Mon., Nov. 27. Von's funeral service was Dec. 4, at Geib Funeral Center in Dover. Burial was in Sharon Moravian Church Cemetery.

...to **Marla Cappell** on the death of her niece, Terri Hartman, who passed away on Friday, Nov. 10. The funeral service was held on Tues., Nov. 21, at 5:00 p.m. in the Toland-Herzig Funeral Home at Strasburg.

...to the **Nancy Smith family** on the death of their mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother on October 28, 2023. Pastor John B. Wallace officiated at Nancy's Celebration of Life service at 11 a.m. on

New Addresses

Friendly Reminder:

Please keep the church office informed of new addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses.



Find Church Information on Website

A reminder: If you misplace your Sunday bulletin or bi-monthly newsletter, just go to the church website Doverfirstmoravianchurch.org There is a link on the Home page. Just select what you would like to read.



Here is a complete list of Joint Board Members (Elders & Trustees)

Elders ~ Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.; Joint Board meets at 7:00 p.m. several times a year.

By-Laws of the First Moravian Church of Dover: The duties of the Elders include overseeing the spiritual care and oversight of the congregation and its membership. Elders strive to secure faithful compliance with the enactments of the Unity, Provincial and District Synods, with “The Moravian Covenant for Christian Living,” the section on discipline in the Book of Order, and the established rules of the congregation. The members of the Board of Elders decide all applications for admission to membership and decide all cases of dismissal.

Steve Rondinella	2021-2023 ~ 1st term	330.827.4513
Sue Henriksen	2021-2023 ~ 1st term	330.447.6952
Jennifer Peveto	2022-2024 ~ 1st term	330.243.1493
Leslie Seats, Secretary	2022-2024 ~ 1st term	937.479.4028
Elizabeth Snider, Vice-chair	2022-2024 ~ 1st term	330.802.0822
Brian Cronebach	2020-2025 ~ 2nd term	330.340.5549
Pamela Duncan, CEC Rep.	2023-2025 ~ 1st term	330.340.7476
John Stubbins	2023 ~ 1 year term	330.987.0144

Trustees ~ Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. unless there is a Joint Board Meeting, then they meet at 8:00 p.m.

The duties of the Board of Trustees include overseeing the planning, development and maintenance of church properties. The trustees plan the budget of annual expenses associated with supporting the work of the congregation. The trustees review the monthly expenses against the budget and insure payment of the pastor’s salary, staff salaries, and provincial obligations. Requests for funds and purchases from the staff, congregational ministries, and external groups are reviewed. Reports from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary are monitored monthly to gage progress towards meeting all obligations.

Becky Mastin, President	2018-2023 ~ 2nd term	330.204.9520
Brenda Crilow ~ Remaining term of M. Stephens	2021-2023 ~ 1st term — Aug. 2023 to Jan. 2024	330.243.6682
Dan Yeager	2021-2023 ~ 1st term	330.364.6951
April Yoder, V-President	2019-2024 ~ 2nd term	330.401.2873
Julie Williams, Fiscal Officer	2019-2024 ~ 2nd term	330.933.9707
Seth Corder	2022-2024 ~ 1st term	330.204.4820
Karol Jones, Sec. & CEC Rep.	2020-2025 ~ 2nd term	330.343.8236
Gary Martin ~ Remaining term of M. Shuss	2023-2025 ~ 1st term — Nov. 2023-2025	330.204.1926
Greg Miller	2023-2025 ~ 1st term	330.340.3861



Financial Secretary

Church Treasurer

Julie Williams, Trustee Fis. Off. 330.933.9707
Jenny Shoup, Cooper Accounting 330.440.7434

Barbara Gennert, Treasurer 330.364.8831



Church Office & One Call Now:
330-364-8831

Worship Services:
Sundays ~ 10:00 a.m. and
Online

Sunday School:
Sept.-May ~ 9:00 a.m.

Pastor: John B. Wallace
Office: 330-364-8831
Home: 330-343-2719

Administrative Assistant:
Karen Baker

Director of Music:
G. Randall Gibbs

Director of Faith Formation:
Carolyn Menapace

Custodian:
Sam Paden

Church Office: 330-364-8831
Web-Site: www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org



Coming Up:

January 7 ~ Epiphany Holy Communion

January 28 ~ Church Council

Save the Date

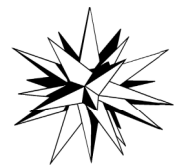
Saturday, March 2 ~ Sole Purpose Pancake Breakfast

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Additional information is in this newsletter...

...more details will be in future Sunday bulletins.

*Pastor John*



Change Service Requested

First Moravian Church  
319 North Walnut Street  
Dover OH 44622-2943