

Remembering and Going Forward

by Marie Coutts



The date, March 1, has special significance for the Moravian Church both denominationally and locally.

March 1, 1457 traditionally marks the birthday of the Unitas Fratrum, or Unity of Brethren – the Moravian Church. Gregory the Patriarch, along with a group of friends and fellow Hussites established the community of Kunwald in the Czech Republic, as they sought to live in peace and love according to the teachings of Jesus – and the Moravian Church was born.

Another March 1 holds special significance for those in this church family. On March 1, 1992, the First Moravian Church of Dover held the Service of Consecration for this newly built House of God. I was blessed to be a part of that special time as I was serving as Parish Assistant.

I vividly remember the night before that special service. The building was filled with excited servants – working into the wee hours of the morning -- getting things ready for the following full-day of services: morning worship, afternoon consecration service, tours of our new facility, and an evening lovefeast service. On that consecration Sunday, the sanctuary was filled to capacity as the Rev. David Schattschneider delivered the message and a challenge as we were to begin dwelling in this sacred space. His challenge was this: "...as you worship 'inside' this beautiful church, remember that it is our Lord himself who 'invites the outside in'...all those who long for an experience of the heart."

Remembering is a gift – not a call to return to some former days, but rather a time to learn from the past as we go forward. My return to Dover First – now as your Licensed Lay Pastor -- is a special blessing in my life and one that has surfaced countless beautiful memories of "days gone by." But I only reflect on the past, as the exciting current ministries of this congregation keep my eyes focused on all that is – and all that can be as we continue to live into the challenge presented to us many years ago to, "invite the outside in."

I look forward to exploring -- together -- ministries that will do just that – inviting the outside in as we share the love of Jesus with those "longing for an experience of the heart."

Marie

March-April, 2026

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

www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org

2026 Congregational Watchword:

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

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.

Table of Contents

Remembering & Going Forward 1
Ash Wednesday 1
Lenten Season 2
Palm Sunday 2
Holy Week Schedule 2
Maundy Thursday Communion 2
Easter Sunrise Service 2
Easter Service 3
Faith Formation 3
Zoom Bible Study 3
Breakfast Book Club 3-4
Sunday School Choir 4
Lent Adult Sunday School 4
Lent Supper & Study 4
Easter EGG-Stravaganza 4
No Easter a.m. Sunday School 5
Sunrise Sunday School 5
Spring Rally 5
Racial Justice Pilgrimage 5
Dutch Valley Dinner/Show 5
Mission, Outreach, Fellowship 6-7
Men's Fellowship Breakfasts 6
Soup & Sandwich Luncheons 6
Sugar Cake Baking & Sales 7
Thank You's 7
Family Tree News 8
Sympathy 8
New Addresses 8
Website Reminder 8
Time Change Reminder 8
Calendars 9-10
Church Council Results & Boards 11

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
ASH WEDNESDAY – EASTER

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the sixth Wednesday before Easter and the first day in the season of Lent. The date of Ash Wednesday may fall anytime from Feb. 3 – March 10.



We gathered in the sanctuary on February 18, at 6:30 p.m. for our Ash Wednesday worship service.

(Continued on Page 2)

Lenten Season

The
Season
of
Lent



Lent is a season of preparation for the celebration of Easter. The season of Lent is 40 days – excluding Sundays because Sundays are celebrated as a “little Easter.” The period of 40 days was established by the church in 400 A.D. It is a time to develop spiritual self-disciplines – through Bible reading, study and prayer.

Each Wednesday, beginning February 25, we will gather in the social hall at 5:15 p.m. for a light meal, followed by a time of study of *Christ Through the Four Gospels*, led by the Rt. Rev. Dan Edwards.

Palm Sunday



The whole emphasis on Palm Sunday is one of joy and rejoicing, yet there is an awareness that the crowd shouting “hosanna” on Sunday will be screaming “crucify him” on Friday.

Palm Sunday worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and Adelyne (Addey) Erickson, Landon Kutcher, Anja Seats and Trevor Shuss will confirm their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Holy Week

The week before Easter is generally known as Holy Week. The Holy Week Readings began about the middle of the 18th century as Moravian congregations began to assemble in their places of worship each night of Holy Week to listen to the account of Christ’s sufferings and death in preparation for the celebration of Easter. Readings, first compiled by Count Zinzendorf in 1757, were published in their current form in 1768.

Readings will be held in the sanctuary Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings beginning at 6:30 p.m.

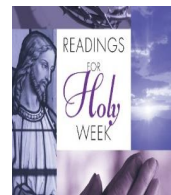
Services for Holy Week

We will gather in the **sanctuary each evening at 6:30 p.m.**, to share in our **Readings for Holy Week**, as we remember our Lord’s last week on earth.

Monday - March 30; Tuesday - March 31; Wednesday – April 1

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Friday, April 3 – Readings for Holy Week



Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Thursday of Holy Week recalls the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. Maundy is derived from the Latin word “Man datum” which means “commanded” – for Jesus gave us a new commandment on that night: “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” John 13:34

We are invited to the Lord’s Table in remembrance of Him as we share in the service of Holy Communion – 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our confirmands will receive Holy Communion on this evening.

Easter Sunrise



The idea of Easter Sunrise originated among the Moravians of Herrnhut in 1732. A group of young men, meeting for prayer on the preceding evening, decided that “as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week” they, like the disciples, would go to the place of burial. There they would sing their hymns of praise. The custom came to America by the early Moravian settlers. The liturgy for the Easter Dawn Service is one of the oldest of the Moravian liturgies and is looked upon as the Moravian Church’s profession of faith.

On **Easter Sunday, April 5**, we will gather **outside the Old Schoenbrunn Village church at 7:00 a.m.** for the start of this most moving service.

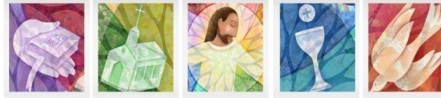
Easter Worship



Since 325 A.D. Easter has always fallen on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. It may, therefore, fall between March 22 and April 25. The followers of Jesus continued to observe every Sunday as a celebration of His resurrection, so each Sunday that we gather for worship is a “mini Easter.” Easter Sunday, of course, is a special day of rejoicing as we celebrate Christ’s victory over death.

Easter worship begins at Dover First at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord is risen, the Lord is risen indeed!



Faith Formation

We have lots of great opportunities coming up this spring for faith formation and fellowship! I hope you’ll choose one or two and join your Dover First family. Keep in mind that we welcome visitors to all of our classes, studies, and events. Sometimes an event outside of worship or even outside of the church building is a nice way to introduce someone new to our faith community.

One thing I’d like to highlight is the OMMC Racial Justice Pilgrimage. We were awarded a grant to offer a day trip to all Ohio Moravians and friends to the National Afro-America Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio. We don’t always associate civil rights with our work within the church, but as we learned in the Tuesday Zoom Bible Study on the Beatitudes, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matthew 5:6). Jesus told his followers that those who work for justice and peace are blessed, or greatly honored.

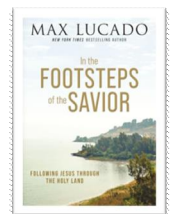
Doing that kind of work begins with learning. This one-day pilgrimage offers a chance to learn about people who have been and often still are denied justice and peace, and what important and valuable cultural contributions they make to our nation. And maybe even to be inspired to work for justice and peace in our own community. I hope you’ll sign up in March to join me on this trip!

In faith, love, and hope,
Carolyn

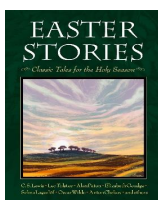
Zoom Bible Study

Join us on Zoom for Lent! Tuesdays through March 24, at 10:00 a.m. we will follow “In the Footsteps of the Savior.” Each week includes a video set in the Holy Land exploring places where Jesus walked: Capernaum, Galilee, Jerusalem, and more.

Contact Carolyn for help getting set up on Zoom, or for a practice Zoom session to get comfortable with the technology.



Breakfast Book Club



March: *Easter Stories: Classic Tales for the Holy Season* (compiled by Miriam LeBlanc) Saturday, March 21, at 8:00 a.m. at Missions Café

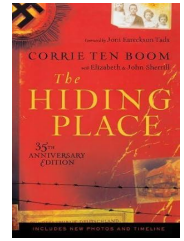
This thoughtfully curated collection of 27 short stories is perfect for the Easter season. Read one story, or read them all, and join us for breakfast and conversation!

(Continued on Page 4)

(Cont. from Page 3)

April: *The Hiding Place* (Corrie Ten Boom)
Saturday, April 18, at 8:00 a.m. at Missions Café

The author and her family sheltered Jews from the Nazis in her home during World War II. Arrested in 1944, she survived Ravensbrück concentration camp after her father and sister died. This memoir recounts her courage and faith.



Sunday School Choir

Sunday, March 1, during 10:00 a.m. worship,
our Sunday School Choir will present
“Deep and Wide.”

Don't miss this Sunday School classic!



Lent Sunday School for Adults

Join **Stacy Stubbins and the Seeds of Faith class** at **9:00 a.m.** in the **second-floor living room, February 22 through March 29.** Their Lenten study will be **“The Lord’s Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught”** by Adam Hamilton.



Lent Supper & Study

The entire church family, and friends, are invited to gather **Wednesdays in Lent** for a **soup-and-bread supper** and a **church-wide study.**

Sign up in the lobby to help provide soup or bread for a supper.

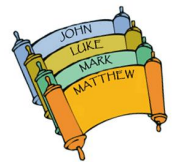
5:15-5:45 p.m.

Supper in the Social Hall



5:45-6:45 p.m.

The Right Reverend Dan Edwards will lead our study: “Four Gospels, Four Christs?” Over five weeks we will look at Jesus’ birth, teachings, death, resurrection, and the Great Commission through the perspective of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



During the study, kids will be invited to a playground in the **social hall.** Adult volunteers will help out so parents can participate in the study.

February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

Easter EGG-Stravaganza

Join us for a **special indoor Easter event**
for kids through 5th grade.
April 4, from 9:30-11:00 a.m.



There will be egg hunting plus other activities, crafts, and games. Bring your kids, grandkids, and invite some friends!

No Easter Morning Sunday School

Please Note!

This year, instead of Sunday School, **we encourage you to attend both the Sunrise Service at Schoenbrunn Village and worship here at Dover First.** These two worship services work together to help us celebrate our “Easter People” identity!

HE IS RISEN



A little breathing room in between will allow for breakfast, a change out of your outdoor clothes for the village, and maybe even time to hunt for your Easter basket!

Sunrise Sunday School

Our final study for the Sunday School year is **“Good Boundaries and Goodbyes: Loving Others Without Losing the Best of Who You Are”** by Lysa Terkeurst.



Join us Sunday morning at **8:00 a.m.** on **Sundays, April 12 through May 17.**

Spring Rally: April 10-12

Spring Rally 2026 will be held at the FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, IN. Youth in 6th grade through age 21 are invited!

Visit <https://msymc.weebly.com> for more details.

Registration will be due by **Tuesday, March 31.** Watch for more info soon!

To reserve a seat on the van leaving from Dover First, contact Carolyn Menapace at christian.edu@doverfirstmoravianchurch or 330-204-7089.

Cost is \$20 per rider, payable to First Moravian Church.



OMMC Racial Justice Pilgrimage



The Ohio Moravian Ministries Commission has received a Pilgrimage Grant from the Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team.

OMMC is planning a trip to the **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center** in Wilberforce, Ohio, on **Saturday, April 18.** The grant will pay for travel expenses and museum admission. This trip is open to all Ohio Moravians and friends. Watch for more information and **sign up by March 22!**

Dutch Valley Dinner and a Show

Save the date . . . and come with us to dinner and a show!

Thursday, September 17

Dinner at 5:00 pm ~ Show at 7:00 pm

Mark your calendar now. Reservations and payments will be due in August.



Our Mission, Outreach, and Fellowship

Unity Prayer Day Offering 2026

On March 1, an offering will be collected during the worship service to support the Moravian Unity Heritage Foundation. This offering will support preservation projects of historical buildings and other structures belonging to the Moravian Church around the Unity.

From the beginning, our Moravian forefathers erected buildings for worship and settlements and mission stations, in which Moravians dwelled and developed the Moravian way of life. The structures, many dating back to the 18th century, were tangible signs of the Moravian Church witness to the world. The Moravian building culture and Moravian architecture are part of the heritage of our faith.

This offering will assist in financially supporting the preservation of these historical structures.



Sole Purpose Needs a Leader



Do you enjoy making a difference in the community? **Sole Purpose** is looking for a new leader. Julie Pfeiffer has moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and is no longer able to lead the group. Any interest in leading Sole Purpose? If so, please contact Steve Rondinella, 330-827-4513; Becky Mastin, 330-204-9520; or Karen at the church office, 330-364-8831.

The **Sole Purpose Pancake Breakfast in March** has been **cancelled**.



Ohio Music Teachers Recital



April 12, at 3 P.M.
in our Sanctuary

Looking for an opportunity to listen to some great music selections? Come join us for an afternoon of music! A time of fellowship will follow in our social hall. Please join us. Bring your family and friends!

Ecumenical Men's Fellowship Breakfasts (Usually the 3rd Saturday of the month)



Sat., March 21, 9-11 a.m.
Ragersville Zion UCC

8831 Crooked Run Rd. SW Sugarcreek

Sat., April 18, 9-11 a.m.
Salvation Army

809 Emmett Avenue NW, New Philadelphia



These ecumenical breakfasts are for all men in the community. Men, please join us for delicious food and great fellowship! Bring a friend!

Community Soup & Sandwich Luncheons

by Marcia Harding and Julie Williams



Community Soup & Sandwich Luncheons will be held on **Friday, March 6 and April 10**, from **11:00-1:00 p.m.** These luncheons are **Dine-in or Carry-out** and **deliveries will be available to businesses with a minimum order of \$25 or more.** The **menu** will be **soups, sandwiches, and desserts.** Proceeds from our luncheons help the Moravian Women contribute to missionary efforts at home and around the world. We appreciate all your support in making our luncheons a success. If you can help work, please contact **Marcia Harding, 330-343-2104**, or **Julie Williams, 330-933-9707.**

Plan to help work, support the luncheon, and let your friends know they can dine-in or get carry-out!

Reminder: Items for Community Luncheons



If you donated items for the fall luncheons, please have your items for the spring luncheons to the church by **Wednesday, March 4, and April 8.** Pies need to be at the church on Friday, March 6, and April 10, by 9:00 a.m. If you do not remember what you brought, please contact Marcia at 330-204-2252. Thanks again for all your support.



Sugar Cake Baking

Only two more months to order a delicious sugar cake this spring...Place your orders early in March for Easter! The April baking is after Easter.



Price \$7.00 each
Tuesday

March	17
April	21

You can place an order by calling **Susan Paden, 330-364-7101**, and to offer your help with mixing and baking, please contact **Lorrigan Booth** at **330-340-4702** by calling or texting her. Thanks!

Free delivery is available with the purchase of four (4) or more cakes, if ordered prior to Tuesday's baking.

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.

Thank you's / this & that



Dear Elders of Dover First,

Thank you so much for gifting me with my very own copy of the Moravian Worship Hymnal book. Dover First ~ you've made me feel so supported and loved on my new Seminary journey!

In Peace and Love,
Tessa Compton

Thanks to those who work behind the scenes:

Special Thanks to the Moravian Door Dash Girls who prepared and delivered the delicious meals to our more mature members on Feb.10. Many hands helped to make this all happen. We are blessed by your kindness. Thank you so much.

Members and Friends of Dover First Moravian



Our **Thanks** to **Courtney Wallace** for preparing the hearts for the Prayer Heart Lovefeast on Feb. 1. Great job, Courtney! Thank you so much.



Thank you to all the members and friends who helped with Church Council this year. Many hands made light work, whether it was setting up, preparing food, clearing tables, putting chairs & tables away or cleaning up.

Special thanks...

...to **Gary Martin** for helping Sam recently to determine which door stops are needed as each door is different in height from the new floor.

...to **Dave Trustdorf** for helping with the roof leak.

...to **Becky Mastin, Bev Antonelli, and Gary Martin** for cleaning up after a recent funeral on Saturday, so the church was ready for Sunday while Sam was away for the weekend. Your help was deeply appreciated.

Our Deepest Sympathy



You are in our thoughts and prayers,
May the *love* of friends *comfort* you at this time.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended...

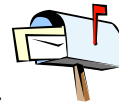
... **to Bev and Ed Luthy & family** on the death of Bev's brother, **Jake Hammond**, age 82, of Allentown, PA. Jake passed away on Feb. 4, 2026. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

...**to the family of Larry Sears.** Larry passed away on Jan. 29, 2026. Larry's Memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 14, with the Rev. Dennis Rohn officiating. The time will be announced closer to the service.

...**to the William Hunter family.** Bill, age 71, passed away on Jan. 9. He is the father of Erin (Aaron) Coutts. Memorials may be made to First Moravian Church of Dover, Ohio, or Ohio's Hospice Foundation at New Philadelphia, OH.

New Addresses

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



Just 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.



**Daylight Savings Time
begins Sunday, March 8.
Remember to set your clocks ahead
one hour on Saturday night,
March 7.**

Church Council Results

Elders (3-year terms): Three elected: Pam Duncan, John Stubbins, Courtney Wallace
Elder (Remaining 2-year term B. Moser): Ruth Anne Dingwell

Trustees (3-year terms): Three elected: Greg Miller, Brenda Gordon, Sue Henriksen
Trustee (Remaining 1-yr term B. Crilow): Jean Richardson

Christian Education Representative (Elected for a 3-year term): Stacy Stubbins

Sperling-Zimmerman Memorial Home Representative (1-year term): Sam Paden



~~~~~

**Licensed Lay Pastor: Marie Coutts ~ 330.401.1212 cell**

**Joint Board Meetings will be announced.**

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

**Elders** ~ Meetings are held the **first Tuesday** of the month in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m.,  
**except when Joint Board meets, then after Joint Board at 7 P.M.**

**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.

|                            |                        |              |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Pamela Duncan, CEC Rep.    | 2023-2028 ~ 2nd term   | 330.340.7476 |
| John Stubbins              | 2023-2028 ~ 2nd term   | 330.987.0144 |
| Courtney Wallace           | 2026-2028 ~ 1st term   | 952.807.8342 |
| Scott Minor, Vice-chair    | 2024-2026 ~ 1st term   | 330.432.7036 |
| Steve Rondinella           | 2021-2026 ~ 2nd term   | 330.827.4513 |
| Ruth Anne Dingwell         | 2026-2027 ~ 2 yr. term | 330.663.6784 |
| Leslie Seats               | 2022-2027 ~ 2nd term   | 937.479.4028 |
| Cheryl Stephens, Secretary | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term   | 330.987.3933 |

**Trustees** ~ Meetings are held the **second Tuesday** of the month in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m.,  
**except when Joint Board meets, then after Joint Board at 7 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.

|                             |                      |              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Brenda Gordon               | 2026-2028 ~ 1st term | 330.340.4204 |
| Sue Henriksen, CEC Rep.     | 2026-2028 ~ 1st term | 330.447.6952 |
| Greg Miller, Secretary      | 2023-2028 ~ 2nd term | 330.340.3861 |
| Bev Antonelli               | 2024-2026 ~ 1st term | 330.340.2522 |
| Jean Richardson             | 2026 ~ 1 yr. term    | 330.204.5664 |
| Dan Yeager                  | 2021-2026 ~ 2nd term | 330.364.6951 |
| Jodi Hillyer                | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term | 330.340.4785 |
| Rebecca Mastin, President   | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term | 330.204.9520 |
| David Yoder, Vice-President | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term | 724.272.4822 |

~~~~~

Financial Secretary / Treasurer

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

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

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

Sunday School:
Sept.—May ~ 9:00 a.m.

Licensed Lay Pastor:
Marie Coutts
330.401.1212 cell

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

Our Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29
9-9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship & Confirmation

Holy Week Readings
Monday - Wednesday, Mar. 30—Apr. 1

6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2
Holy Communion & HW Readings

6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3 ~ Holy Week Readings

6:30 p.m.

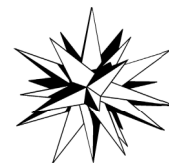
Easter Dawn Service, April 5

7:00 a.m. at Schoenbrunn Village

10:00 a.m. Easter Worship at Dover First



He's Risen!



Change Service Requested

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