

First Moravian Church

319 N. Walnut Street, Dover, Ohio 44622

December 21, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Part-time Pastor	Denny Rohn (610-216-7467 cell)
Greeters	Gary & Sandy Martin
Nursery	Available if needed by a parent and child
Worship Leader	Pamela Duncan
Ushers	Seth, Jennifer, Gabriel & Noah Corder
Director of Music	G. Randall Gibbs
Director of Faith Formation	Carolyn Menapace
Custodian	Sam Paden
Administrative Assistant	Karen Baker Office: 330-364-8831
Web Site	www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org



The Children's Christmas Pageant

Call to Worship: Chimes

Watchword for the Week: In Unison *The Moravian Daily Texts*
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine,
that we may be saved. Psalm 80:19

Welcome and Announcements ~ We ask you to **sign and pass the register** in your row. **Visitors:** Please check the box marked "Visitor" and include your complete mailing address.

Prelude "Once in Royal David's City" arr. Hobby

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Josh, Tessa, Louisa & Theodora Compton

"People in Darkness Are Looking for Light" H. 266, vs. 1

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

"The ABC's of Christmas"

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	H. 282, vs. 1, 2 & 4
"The Friendly Beasts"	See page 3 of bulletin
"Away in a Manger"	H. 301
"Eternal Source, Whence All Did Spring"	H. 279, vs. 2
"Still, Still, Still"	Pages 3 & 4 of bulletin
"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"	See page 4 of bulletin

"What Child Is This?"

H. 305, vs. 1, 3

Hymn

"Softly the Night Is Sleeping"

H. 284

*** Liturgy for Advent 2**

Pages 54-57

Prayers of the People

"The Lord's Prayer"

H. 828

Holy Scriptures

Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

Page 158

Gospel Lesson: John 3:11-16

Page 96

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

*** Offertory Response – T. 280 Germany**

*Our tithes and off'rings, Lord, we bring;
 with grateful hearts to you we sing.*

*You are the source of ev'ry gift,
 to you our song of thanks we lift.*

Offertory Prayer

Hymn

"How Shall I Meet You, Jesus?"

H. 268, vs. 1

Message:

"Love Is an Active Verb"

The Rev. Dennis G. Rohn

Prayer

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Anthem

"It's So Still in Bethlehem"

arr. Schram

Chancel Choir

April Yoder & Ryan Yoder, Handchimes

Chimes

** Please stand if you are able.*

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Please note: If you have a cell phone, please turn it off during the worship service. If you would like to recycle your bulletin, place it in the box near the ushers' table at the back of the sanctuary.



The Offering Plate is located on the stand as you enter the sanctuary. Scan the QR code for online giving.



“The Friendly Beasts”

- All:** *Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood;
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.*
- Men:** *"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother uphill and down;
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.
I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.*
- All:** *"I," said the cow, all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him my hay to pillow his head.
I," said the, cow all white and red.*
- Solo:** *"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm;
he wore my coat on Christmas morn.
I," said the sheep with curly horn.*
- Women:** *"I," said the dove from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry;
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I.
I," said the dove from the rafters high.*
- All:** *Thus every beast by some good spell,
in the stable dark was glad to tell
how they gave their gift to Immanuel;
the gift they gave Immanuel.*

“Still, Still, Still”

vs. 1, 2

*Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, holy star, its vigil keeping.
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep
surround you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

All: *’Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters
heard the hymn:*

Refrain: *Jesus your king is born!
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria!*

All: *Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud
and high: [Refrain]*

Solo: *The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and
beaver
pelt. [Refrain]*

All: *O children of the forest free, O seed of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty,
peace, and joy. [Refrain]*

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Elder: Pam Duncan, 330.340.7476, is available after the service or call during the week if you have a joy, a concern, need prayer, or have a question.

The Children's Christmas Pageant

Title: "The ABC's of Christmas"

Directed by: Tessa Compton

Cast:

Ryder Argento, Louisa Compton, Theodora Compton, Omen Cope, Gabriel Corder, Noah Corder, Addey Erickson, Barrett Moser, Braxton Moser, Jase Perkowski, Reagan Perkowski, Matthew Peveto, Anja Seats, Emma Seats, Mia Seats, Trevor Shuss, Tucker Shuss, MJ Stubbins, and Vienna Wright

Our **thanks** to **all who helped with the service** by sharing their talent for the Lord and God's people today.



Flowers

The **two vases of red and white roses** are in honor of the Dover First Moravian Church Congregation, given by The Wallace Family – Pastor John, Cheryl, Dan, Courtney, Ben, Krysti, Milo, and Gideon Wallace.

There are 12 red poinsettias which will be available after the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, if you would like one.

A Special Thank You to **Marie Coutts** for sharing her time and talents with us by replacing, decorating and adding new candles to our Advent Wreath.

One Call Now ~ 330-364-8831

Terry and Susan Corder are sponsoring our One Call Now this week.

Stewardship Moment

Time cannot be packaged and ribboned and left under trees for Christmas morning. Time can't be given. But it can be shared. -Cecelia Ahern (1981–), novelist

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

Attendance from Last Sunday

Sunday School 15 Worship ~ 10 AM 50

Prayers for the People

Amberwood: Laura Colvin; **Green Meadows:** Steve Burgess; **Hennis** (Dover): Bonnie Auman; **Northwood:** Etta Grimm; **Park Village** (Dover): Joyce Brewer, Bill Cozart, Suzanne Rinderknecht; (New Phila.): Ron & Bette Kohl.

Birthday and Anniversary Daily Prayer Support

Dec. 22 Judy Jones, Joe Bell, Elizabeth Snider, Cole Craddoc
Anniv: Josh & Tessa Compton

Congratulations! ~ 62 yrs. Tom & Karen Armstrong;

Dec. 23 Anniv: Drew & Kimberly Yackey

Dec. 24 Terry Corder, Beth Rondinella; Anniv: Todd & Beverly Handrich

Dec. 25 Joyce Stingel

Dec. 27 Clara Mae Craddoc

Dec. 28 Anniv: Dan & Pam Smith

Did you know?

THE POINSETTIA

In the early part of the 19th century, an American, Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, was serving as an ambassador in Mexico. While there he admired a beautiful red flower that grew roof top high and bloomed at Christmas. The Mexican Christians told him that the flower was part of their celebration of the birth and life of Christ.

This is the story they told him. "The Bethlehem star shone over the manger where Jesus was born. Its light was so bright that the earth responded by receiving that star light, reflecting that star light, and mirroring that star light with a beautiful flower. That flower was star shaped, pure white with golden star centers. It grew on earth as a creation to glorify and commemorate that Holy Night. Then came the tragic day when Jesus died on the cross and the blossoms changed. Pure white petals remembered the sacrifice of the Christ born when the star was over Bethlehem. The blossoms then changed from white to blood red." In Mexico this flower is called "Flower of the Holy Night."

The Dover Moravian Messenger

Sunday, Dec. 21	10:00 AM	Worship & Children's Pageant ó Sanct.
Monday	9:00 AM 10-11:15 AM 1:00 PM	Staff Meeting ó Church Office OMMC Advent Study on Zoom Counting ó Living Room
Tuesday	10:00 AM 6:30 PM 6:30-7:45 PM	Zoom Bible Study <u>NO</u> Chancel Choir ó Choir Loft <u>NO</u> OMMC Advent Study @ Sch. Mor. Ch.
Wednesday	9:00 AM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Deliver Poinsettias <u>NO</u> Praying in Color Chancel Choir Rehearsal ó Loft Christmas Eve Service ó Sanct.



Thursday,
Dec. 25



Christmas Day – Church Office Closed

Friday, Dec. 26 ~ Church Office Closed

Noon Bible Study ó Living Room

Sunday,
Dec. 28

9:00 AM All Ages Sunday School ó Social Hall
10:00 AM Worship ó Sanctuary

Monday 9:00 AM Staff Meeting ó Church Office

Tuesday

The deadline for 2025 giving is Tuesday, December 30, at 9:00 AM.

Any offerings received after that will be credited to your 2026 contributions.

If you did not receive 2026 offering envelopes and would like to have them, please contact the church office or Julie Williams at 330-933-9707 or email her at juliewill1411@gmail.com.

1:00 PM Counting ó Living Room

Wednesday 6:00 PM Men's Bible Study ó Living Room

Thursday, Jan. 1 ~ *New Year's Day* ~ Church Office Closed

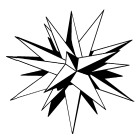
Friday,
Jan. 2

9:00 AM Deadline: Church Council Reports due in
Church Office

Our Worship Opportunities



Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dec. 21 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent – Worship ~ 10 a.m.

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Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve Services ~ 6:30 p.m.



Each worshipper will receive a beeswax candle with a red frill.

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Dec. 28 ~ Worship ~ 10:00 a.m.

Jan. 4 ~ Worship at 10:00 a.m. with Epiphany Holy Communion



Worship with Us...Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

Bring your family and friends!

Christmas Gift-Giving Ideas



Get your shopping done early by purchasing

Moravian Advent & Christmas Stars...

Great Gifts throughout the Year!



The white plastic electric **Advent stars** are available in two sizes (**21-inch ~ \$30; and 12-inch ~ \$25**) in the church office. **The 12-inch star is designed to be used as a tree topper or hanging star.** These stars make great gifts year-round: birthdays, weddings, showers, etc. Complete instructions for assembly are included.

Our Christian Education Opportunities

Upcoming CEC Events – Save the Dates!

All Ages Sunday School



Church members and friends of all ages are invited to one **Sunday School class** on **December 28**.

Join us in the **Social Hall** at **9:00 a.m.** as we conclude the theme of “All Creation Waits” from the Advent Playground!

- **The Chosen – Thursday evenings Jan. 8 – Feb. 26** we will watch an episode of *The Chosen*: Season 4 each week.

Join us in the living room from 6-7:30 pm. To watch an episode and read the scripture that inspired it. All ages are welcome – bring a friend!

All episodes are free to watch online if you miss a week or would like to enjoy them at home:

<https://watch.thechosen.tv>



- **Sun., Jan. 11, after worship to 1:00 p.m.**

VBS Team Meeting in the Social Hall

(all are welcome as we begin planning for VBS 2026!)

- **Sun., Jan. 18, from 6-8:30 p.m.**

Ohio Moravian Bowling Bash at Wabash Lanes
\$10.00 per bowler includes shoe rental, unlimited games, and snacks. Bring your friends and family!



- **Sun., Feb. 1, during 10:00 a.m. worship**

Prayer Heart Lovefeast

- **Sun., Feb. 15, after worship Soup-er Sunday in the S. Hall**

Potluck, chili cookoff, games, Boomwhackers, fleece blanket project, and more! All members and friends are encouraged to stay for lunch and fellowship.

- **Wed., Feb. 25, from 5:15-6:45 p.m.**

Lent supper and study begins. (Five Weds: Feb. 25-Mar. 25)

To Remind You



Annual Church Council Reminder...

All reports are due in the church office **by 9 A.M. on Friday, January 2, 2026.**

The report should include a summary of what took place during the year, mention of membership, plans for the coming year, as well as a financial report. Financial reports should show both income and expenses. E-mail your report to:

admin.assistant@firstmoravianchurch.org

Your cooperation in meeting this deadline will be appreciated in order to have the annual report packets ready for distribution on January 11. Thank you.

VISION 2026:

The Church Council will give direction for Vision 2026 and beyond by:

- Electing three (3 yr. term) Elders to the Board of Elders
- Electing one (2 yr. term) Elder to the Board of Elders
- Electing three (3 yr. term) Trustees to the Board of Trustees
- Electing a member to the Christian Education Committee
- Electing a representative to the Sperling-Zimmerman Home Committee
- Receiving reports from all ministries
- Approving the ministry budget for 2026



Our Mission and Outreach Opportunities

Coming in 2026...SOUP'S ON! On Sunday, February 1, you will

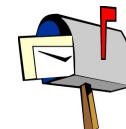


once again have the opportunity to purchase quarts of homemade soup prepared by the Moravian Women following the morning worship service.

Soup choices are **Cheesy Broccoli, Chicken Noodle, Stuffed Pepper, and Vegetable Beef.** **Preorders will be taken in the lobby on the following Sundays: January 11, 18 & 25.** The cost will be **\$8.00 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!

A Friendly Reminder:

- Please keep the church office informed of **new addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses.**
- If you would like to **receive the newsletter via email**, please notify the church office with your email address.



- If you would prefer to **receive the newsletter via the post office**, please let us know in the church office and your name will be added to our mailing list.
- If you **misplace your Sunday bulletin or bi-monthly newsletter**, just go directly to the church website doverfirstmoravianchurch.org and select what you would like to read. Information on the website is in color, so be sure to check it out!