

Pastor John

Slinky Forward

Growing up as a kid in our house, we had a beautiful hardwood staircase that went up to the second floor of our two-bedroom home. I so enjoyed that staircase. I would play on it often. I loved to slide down the stairs on my fanny to much delight. I would often put my orange hot wheels track on the steps and send my racing cars careening down the bright orange track to fiery crashes at the bottom of the steps.

Get this, one time I took my green army men and we climbed the stairs structure as if we were reenacting the movie, The Guns of Navarone. The guns were in my dresser at the top of the stairs, sticking out of a drawer. You see, I did not have a bedroom growing up and slept on the pull-out bed in the den each night.

Hands down, one of my favorite toys to use on those red oak steps was to race my Slinkys up and down the stairs. I would start the Slinky at the top of the stairs, next to my clothes dresser, race to the bottom of the steps and watch and wait for Slinky's arrival. Grab the spring. Hop back up. Sprint up the steps, and line the Slinky up, and start all over.



I loved watching how the spring walked over itself as if it were doing a controlled somersault down the steps. And the sound it would make was so soothing. Sometimes, I would put things in the way - see what would happen. But mostly, I liked just watching and listening to this smooth little toy's flexibility going head over heels down the steps and her playful sound.

I share this story with you because by the end of this summer, as a church family, we must prepare for doing the very same. As I draw closer toward my retirement on Sept. 1st, the congregation will need to be most supportive, helpful, and flexible with the Joint Board. Major changes are coming. Therefore, more will be expected and needed of you as members. Like the Slinky, we want our congregation to keep moving forward, down the steps and leading others to the Lord. Things will change without an assigned pastor but the work of God's church should continue to pull forward.

As you read the rest of this newsletter, look at the information provided and volunteer for events that will help this church move through a time of transition. We will collectively embrace the changes coming in the future of this church. The ones we see now and the ones that are still over the horizon, which we still cannot see.

As Paul wrote: "building up of the Body of Christ" [Ephesians 4:15-16] remains one of our goals as a people of faith. Even if we do not have an official pastor at the helm. We still must be inviting others to "come and see" what the Lord offers here at the corner of Walnut and 4th.

Sisters and brothers, let us "Slinky" forward in a friendly fashion. PJ

May-June, 2024

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

www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org

2024 Congregational Watchword:

I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. Psalm 63:4

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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C H A N G E

Leadership Changes Are Coming with Retirement

One of the questions people have been asking me about is will I be a part of Dover First Moravian Church after I retire. The answer is no. The Bishops of the Moravian church have developed a protocol for a pastor leaving a congregation in 2005. Here is what they said.

PROTOCOL FOR LEAVING & ARRIVING AT A PARISH

Introduction: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 describes one of life's challenging rhythms. There is a time to plant and a time to pull up, a time to break down and a time to build up, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together. Such vivid imagery could be applied as an accurate analogy for the experience of a clergy person arriving to become the pastor of a congregation or in reference to a clergy person leaving his/her post as a pastor.

Principles involved:

- a. The servant ministry shall continue during the period of transition.
- b. The atmosphere for the establishment of the "ministry" must not be complicated by the continued "ministerial presence" of the former pastor.
- c. The need for personal relationships does not have to be abruptly interrupted, thus allowing the members of congregations and previous pastors to feel that these relationships are now on another footing. While friendships can continue, involvement in the ministry life of a former congregation is not appropriate.
- d. Artificial guidelines might give some comfort, but clearly give others reasons for concern. The return of a former pastor (after a period of time; one year at least) might be received with joy by some members of the congregation while being viewed with concern by other members of the congregation.

Methods of articulation:

- a. It is important for the outgoing pastor to clearly communicate additional guidelines. In bulletins, newsletters, and in personal one-on-one conversation, the clear message to be given is, "When I leave this parish, I will no longer be your pastor. This means I will not be coming back to officiate at weddings, funerals, or baptisms."
- b. This does not mean the separation of friendships or a change in the relationship with people who have been a "family" for a period of time. It is essential, however, to understand the difference between friendship and pastor/parishioner relationship.
- c. Consideration should be given to worship attendance immediately following the installation of the present pastor. Previous pastors who remain (or later return) as members of the congregation, should be participants only in church life. They should assist in worship, provide committee leadership, etc., only if initiated by the present pastor. Early in a pastorate might be a good time to consider connection to another congregation or to do some visiting of other-denominations-within-the-community. (*So when will we return as a family to worship with you at Dover First? After your new pastor has been at Dover for a year, plain and simple.*)

These are not rules, but rather guidelines. In recognition that all pastors have the best interests of the church in their hearts, it is assumed that all pastors will understand the importance of following these principles. However, it is the responsibility of the District Executive Boards to determine if and when problems exist and to address those problems from the perspective of "doing the best for the congregation."

Finally, God has called us to serve as ambassadors of Christ. As such, those who have been called to serve as pastors have an obligation to "build up the Body of Christ." This is the principle to which we are always bound. Will my actions and my behavior be complimentary to the Body of Christ or will it primarily benefit an individual or family? The answer to all such questions must be in favor of "building up of the Body of Christ." [Ephesians 4:15-16]

As you can read, there are reasons for these protocols being in place. I hope you will accept these guidelines and know that I will be adhering to them as our family finds a new Moravian church to worship with in our immediate future. Like the Slinky, we must learn to be springy and flexible in these coming months of the journey. Sincerely, Pastor John

Brushstrokes “In the Garden” Class

Date: Wednesday, June 19



Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: The Beautiful Zoar Gardens for some “outdoor” painting

Cost: \$10.00 which includes canvas, paint, brushes, and easel



Should the weather not permit the day in the field, we will gather in the social hall at church and paint a wonderful still life. We will still go out for lunch together.

I hope you can join us in the field with the opportunity to paint up the beauty of God’s creation! Let us splash on the paint with abandonment.

Pastor John

Thank you Note:

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank the congregation for their support during my recent procedure at the Cleveland Clinic. Surgeons implanted a defibrillator for my heart as a preventive step for my journey. Thank you for all the prayers, well wishes, cards, meals, and support during that week. Again, you have been ever so kind to me and my family. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Pastor John

Pentecost Holy Communion



What is the meaning of Pentecost communion?

The Day of Pentecost marks fifty days since Easter and brings the Easter season to an end. It is a major feast of the Church's year when Christians recall how God's Holy Spirit was given to the disciples after Jesus' ascension, empowering them to begin the work of making disciples of all nations.

Pentecost Holy Communion will be observed on **Sunday, May 19**, at the **10:00 a.m.** worship service. Please plan to attend.

Summer Series in June: What’s in Your Golf Bag?



In June, I am excited to share with you a sermon series entitled “What’s in Your Golf Bag?” In this series we will explore the course of leadership and volunteerism by looking at a round of golf on the links. (This is coming from a guy who does NOT golf.) 😊

The services will be practical, insightful, and delightful as we explore a coming time of transition for our church family.



Faith Formation

“Spring, Spring, Spring!” sang the frog. ‘Spring!’ said the groundhog. ‘Spring, Spring, Spring!’ sang the robin. It was Spring. The leaves burst out. The flowers burst out. And robins burst out of their eggs. It was Spring.”

This Little Golden Book was one of my favorites as a child, and still is. Garth Williams’ illustrations perfectly capture a soft, green spring day. And in “Home for a Bunny” author Margaret Wise Brown shares the story of a bunny visiting other creatures’ homes in search of “a home of his own.”

I hope as you read through the upcoming Faith Formation and Christian Education opportunities you find a home of your own. One of those familiar spring or summer events you enjoyed as a child and still do. Like church camp or Vacation Bible School, thanking our Sunday School teachers or celebrating with our graduates.

We will have some new adventures for sure (check out the “Flat Jesus” article!) but let each Sunday be a little homecoming as you return to your Dover First home – a place you will always belong.

In faith, love, and hope,
Carolyn

Thank You Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Volunteers!

Our final day of Sunday School before summer break is **May 19**.

Before we conclude, let’s recognize the faithful and loving service of our 2023-24 Sunday School teachers and nursery volunteers. Mark your calendar for **May 5**, when we will celebrate them during worship.



Teachers, save the date!



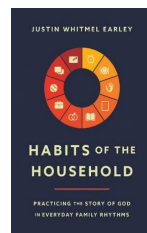
You will be receiving an invitation to a special reception after worship on **Sunday, May 5**. It will be a chance to reflect on the past year and share your hopes and dreams for future classes.
Please plan to attend.

Habits of the Household

Our final gathering will be Thursday, May 9.

To all of the volunteers who provided supper and childcare over the ten months of this program – thank you! We couldn’t have completed this study without your support.

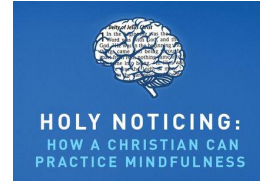
To the families who participated – well done! These times of learning, and sharing, and getting to know each other have been enlightening and hopefully faith-strengthening for your households.



Breakfast Book Club

Our book selection for May is “Holy Noticing” by Charles Stone.

Join us at Missions Café at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 18.



You may have heard about the benefits of mindfulness to both body and mind. Let’s get together to talk about what happens when we add our Christian faith to this practice by noticing, with a holy purpose, God and his handiwork.



Celebrating Our 2024 Graduates



Graduation will be here before we know it and we want to celebrate with all of our members graduating this spring!

Letters requesting graduation details were mailed the second week of April. If you haven’t heard from us and are graduating, please call the church office and let us know.

We will recognize all graduates on **Sunday, May 19**, during worship. After worship, the Christian Education Committee will host a special coffee hour in the social hall. We hope you can join us!

Summer Fun with Flat Jesus

Sunday School is ending for the summer but that doesn’t mean we’re leaving Jesus behind! As a reminder that he is always with us, we will make “Flat Jesus” figures to take along with us on summer adventures.

Whether it’s playtime in the backyard, a visit to the local park or library, or an out-of-town trip, take “Flat Jesus” with you and share your photos on the Social Hall bulletin board or on social media.

All materials and instructions will be available beginning May 26. Stop by the Social Hall before or after worship (9:00 a.m. to noon) to make your figure and find out more about sharing your adventures. All ages are welcome to participate! □



Chocolate Walk

Calling all chocolate lovers! **The Downtown Dover Chocolate Walk is Saturday, June 8, from 5-8:00 p.m.** Would you like to see Dover First as one of the 2024 "Sweet Spots?" If you're interested in leading or being part of a team to make that happen, contact Carolyn Menapace by Sunday, May 5. If there is enough interest, we will plan to meet later in May to make our plans.



Vacation Bible School Volunteers:



Contact Carolyn Menapace now to sign up for your favorite part of VBS!

We need leaders and helpers of all ages to share Jesus' love with the kids in our community.

Vacation Bible School 2024 Schedule of Events

Sun., June 2	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Decorating
Wed., June 5	6:00—7:00 p.m.	Volunteer Training
Sat., June 8	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Volunteer Training*
Mon., June 3	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Decorating
Tue., June 4	9:00 a.m. – Noon	Decorating
Wed., June 5	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Decorating
Sun., June 9	10:00 a.m. worship	Volunteer Commissioning
Mon., June 10	8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
Mon., June 10	9:00 a.m. - Noon	SCUBA – Dive into
Fri., June 14		friendship with God!
Sun., June 16	9:30 a.m.	Rehearse VBS songs
	10:00 a.m.	VBS Choir in worship
Mon., June 17	9:00 a.m. – Noon	VBS tear-down

***"Just as I have
loved you, you should
love each other."
(John 13:34)***

Summer Church Camps

Calling all campers and staff! Get ready for Tar Hollow and Bethany!

Camp Tar Hollow: July 21-27 (staff Day is July 20).

For campers who have completed 7th grade through age 21.

Camp Bethany: August 5-9 (staff Day is August 4).

For campers who have completed 2nd through 6th grade.

Watch for registration dates and costs, and Dover First scholarship information, coming soon!



Our Mission, Outreach, and Fellowship

Community Ecumenical Men's Breakfast



All men are invited...

Community Ecumenical Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 18, from 9-11:00 A.M.

Ragersville United Church of Christ

Plan to carpool...Don't miss the great food and fellowship!

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Armstrong.

The Replacements

11:30-1:00 PM

Friday, June 21

This "small group" ministry will gather for lunch at **Dutch Valley Restaurant**. 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, and titanium shoulders. New members are always welcome to join us.

The Replacement Mission Statement

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

We will commiserate together.

Other Items of Interest

Thank You Notes

Thank You!



The boys, Karl and I would like to thank you all for the cards, advice, thoughts and prayers. A couple didn't sign their names and another we couldn't make out lol - which is why the generalized thank you.

The boys greatly appreciated them and have the cards hung in their rooms. Zak took his to Florida to begin his University's baseball season!

Thank you & God Bless!

The Hoop Family

Jen, Karl, Zak, Blake, Jackson & Max

(A thank you received in response to the Valentine Lovefeast Heart Note Cards that were mailed in February.)

Dear Lin and Gene,

Thank you so much for the beautiful potted Easter lily you dropped off at the church office for me on Friday, March 22. Everyone who stopped by the church office was able to enjoy it as well. All the blooms reminded me of Spring, a sure sign of new beginnings! Thank you for thinking of me.

In Appreciation and Thanks,
Karen Baker, Administrative Assistant



Dear Marla,

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement that was delivered to the church office on Monday, March 25, for Pastor John and everyone to enjoy. It was beautiful and a sure sign of your thoughtfulness! Thank you for thinking of us.

In Appreciation and Thanks,
Karen Baker



Dover Family Tree News

Confirmation Class



New Members

On **Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024**, the following seventh and eighth grade Confirmation students confirmed their faith and were received into the membership of the First Moravian Church of Dover, Ohio:

Confirmation

Leah Faith Kutcher, daughter of Brian and Lori Kutcher
Text: Ephesians 4:2-3 NIV

Matthew Robert Peveto, son of Dan and Jennifer Peveto
Text: Genesis 32:24, 26-28 NIV

Tristan Michael Yackey, son of Brett and Brianne Yackey
Text: Luke 11:33 NIV

Please welcome these new church members the next time you see them.

Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers are extended...



...to **Robert "Daniel" & Jennifer Peveto and family** on the death of Dan's father, Daniel Bruce Peveto, age 75, who passed away on April 13, 2024. A private graveside service was held with Pastor John Wallace officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads Hospice Charitable Foundation, 10810 E. 45th Street, Suite 300, Tulsa, OK 74146.

...to the **Susan Walter Family**. Susie passed away on Wed., April 10, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held on June 24, at 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Moravian Church of Dover, Music Endowment Fund, 319 N. Walnut Street, Dover, OH 44622.

...to **Shirley Thompson and family** on the death of her son, Scott Thompson. Scott passed away on April 4, 2024. A service honoring Scott's life was held on Wednesday, April 17, at 11 a.m. in Serenity Funeral Home in Largo, Florida. Memorial contributions may be made in Scott's memory to the Greater Largo Library Foundation, Inc. <https://www.glf.org/donate-now>

New Addresses

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



A reminder if you misplace your Sunday bulletin or bi-monthly newsletter, just go to the church website [Doverfirstmoravianchurch.org](https://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org) There is a link on the Home page, just select what you would like to read.



Joint Board Meetings for 2024

Monday, May 6 & 20, Aug. 6 & Sept. 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

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.

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.

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	2023-2025 ~ 1st term	330.987.0144
Scott Minor	2024-2026 ~ 1st term	330.432.7036
Steve Rondinella	2021-2026 ~ 2nd term	330.827.4513

Trustees ~ Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:00 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.

Seth Corder	2022-2024 ~ 1st term	330.204.4820
Julie Williams, Pres., Fis. Off.	2019-2024 ~ 2nd term	330.933.9707
April Yoder, V-President	2019-2024 ~ 2nd term	330.401.2873
Karol Jones, Sec. & CEC Rep.	2020-2025 ~ 2nd term	330.343.8236
Gary Martin	11/2023-2025 ~ 1st term	330.204.1926
Greg Miller	2023-2025 ~ 1st term	330.340.3861
Bev Antonelli	2024-2026 ~ 1st term	330.340.2522
Brenda Crilow	7/2023-2026 ~ 2nd term	330.243.6682
Dan Yeager	2021-2026 ~ 2nd term	330.364.6951



Financial Secretary

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

Church Treasurer

Barbara Gennert, Treasurer 330.364.8831



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

Worship Services: Sept-May
Sundays ~ 10:00 a.m.

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

Web-Site: www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org

Coming Up...

Pentecost Holy Communion

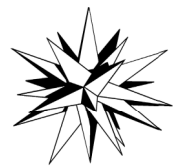


What is the meaning of Pentecost communion?

Checkout the answer inside this newsletter.

Pentecost Holy Communion will be observed on **Sunday, May 19**, at the **10:00 a.m.** worship service. Please plan to attend.

See you in church . . . real soon!



Change Service Requested

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