

First Moravian Church

319 N. Walnut Street, Dover, Ohio 44622

November 23, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Part-time Pastor	Denny Rohn (610-216-7467 cell)
Nursery	Available if needed by a parent & child
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

WE GATHER

Call to Worship: *Chimes*

Watchword for the Week: In Unison *The Moravian Daily Texts*
Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10 Gabriel Corder

Welcome and Announcements Barrett Moser, Jayda Cope
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.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Prelude "Nun danket alle Gott" Travis

Reflection

Jeremiah 23:1-6 NRSVUE Cloey Colwell

*** Hymn** "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" H. 577

Psalms 46 ~ Psalms of Wonder Jase Perkowski, Braxton Moser

Hymn "Sanctuary"
Moravian Mid-States Songbook # 121
Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you. **(repeat 2x)**

Anthem "The Gift of Love" Hopson
Chancel Choir

Prayers for the Children of God Landon Kutcher
"The Lord's Prayer" H. 828

WE HEAR THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:11-20 NRSVUE

Luke 23:33-43 NRSVUE

Mia Seats

Trevor Shuss

*** Hymn** "Jesus Loves Me"

H. 726, verses 2 & 3 added

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago,

Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

(Refrain)

Jesus loves me he who died heaven's gate to open wide.

He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. (Refrain)

Prayer

Louisa Compton

Message: "The Oak Inside the Acorn"

by Max Lucado

Leah Kutcher, Matthew Peveto

WE RESPOND

Hymn "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" H. 797

*** Liturgy: Thanksgiving**

Pg. 159-160

Pg. 160-164

Emma Seats

Addey Erickson

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

*** Offertory Response – Hymn 819**

*For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your
own:*

*here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we
bring.*

Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.

Offertory Prayer

Anja Seats

Creator God, thank you for the gifts of this world. Help us to share our resources as good and faithful stewards. Keep us from idolizing money and material possessions. Make us compassionate in our concern for the needs of others. Amen.

*** Benediction**

Tucker Shuss

Postlude

"Jesus Loves Me"

Vandall

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.

Greeters: Vienna Wright, Noah Corder

Ushers (bulletins): Ryder Argento, Reagan Perkowski

Ushers (offering): M. J. Stubbins, Theodora Compton

Special thanks to the Youth who participated in the **Youth Sunday service.**

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



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



Elder: Bethanie Moser, 330.432.3814, is available after the service or call during the week if you have a joy, a concern, need prayer, or have a question.



Decorating the Church for the Christmas Season

If you would like to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season, we will decorate **Today**, from **Noon-5:00 p.m.** Extra hands would be appreciated.

There will be a **light lunch served at 11:15 a.m.** followed by decorating the church. Parents with small children are encouraged to bring your children for the **Kid's to decorate the Sunday School rooms**, while the parents help to decorate the church.



TODAY is the final day to complete your One Call Now Update.

Forms are available on the Offering stand as you enter the sanctuary. Completed forms can be placed in the basket or dropped off in the church office.

Flowers

The flowers are in memory of Dave Thompson, Scott Thompson, Chris Thompson, and Andy Gintz, given by Shirley Thompson and family.

One Call Now ~ 330-364-8831

Barbara Gennert is sponsoring our One Call Now this week.

One Call Now Sponsors are needed for the following weeks: **Jan. 18; Feb. 1, 8 & 15; and Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29.** If you desire to sponsor one week or more, please call Karen Baker in the church office, 330-364-8831. **Cost: \$15 per week.**

Stewardship Moment

Gratitude may move us to give, but giving may also lead us to a deeper sense of gratitude.

Mary Jo Leddy (1946 -), writer, speaker, theologian, social activist

Attendance from Last Sunday

Sunday School 33 Worship ~ 10 AM 88

Zollikon Choir Concert ~ 222

Prayers for the People

Our sympathy and prayers to the **Joshua Barr family**. Josh passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

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

Nov. 24 Anna Kimble, Linda Edwards, Sharyn Minor
Anniv: Gene & Lin Sidel ~ **53 years – Congratulations!**
Nov. 26 Madison Hisrich
Nov. 28 Adelia Hobart, Jon P. Stingel, Jacob Corder,
Emily Burrell; Anniv: Joe & Bev Antonelli
Nov. 29 Cade Miller
Nov. 30 Julia Geissinger

The Dover Moravian Messenger

Sunday	11:30-2:00 PM	Lunch ñ Social Hall Kidös Decorate Sunday School Rooms
	11:30-2:30 PM	Confirmation Class ñ Basement
	Noon-5:00 PM	Decorate the Church for Christmas
	3:00 PM	Reeves Bell Rehearsal ñ Sanctuary
Monday	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting ñ Church Office
	9:00 AM	Organ Tuning ñ Choir Loft & Sanctuary Counting ñ Living Room
	6:00 PM	Reeves Bell Rehearsal ñ Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	OMMC @ Sch. Mor. Church
Tuesday	10:00 AM	Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday	Church Office Closed	
	10:30 AM	<u>NO</u> Praying in Color
	6:00 PM	Menös Bible Study ñ Living Room
Thursday	<i>Happy Thanksgiving ~ Count Your Many Blessings!</i>	
Friday	Church Office Closed	
	Noon	Bible Study ñ Living Room
	Evening	Mixing S. Cakes ñ Kitchen & S. Hall
Saturday	8-1:00 PM	Baking S. Cakes ñ Kitchen & S. Hall
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday School ñ C.S. Rooms
	9:00 AM	Advent Lovefeast Rehearsal ñ Choir Loft
	10:00 AM	Worship & Advent Lovefeast – Sanctuary
4:00 PM		Advent Communion Rehearsal @ Sharon Moravian Church
5:00 PM		Light Supper
6:00 PM		Advent Communion @ Sharon Mor. Ch.

Monday, Dec. 1	9:00 AM	DEADLINE: Jan/Feb Newsletter Articles are due in the church office
	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting ñ Church Office Counting ñ Living Room
	10-11:15 AM	OMMC Advent Study on Zoom
	6:00 PM	Mor. Women Ex. Bd. Mtg. ñ L. Room

\$ Financial Giving \$

As we approach another year end, the Trustees would like to remind the congregation of some tips around church finances.

We are blessed to be able to support so many missions and projects in the life of our congregation and beyond. Some of these require separate bank accounts and reporting. Any support for **Sole Purpose, Memorial Fund, Music Memorial Fund, Helping Hand and Minister's Aid Society** should be given in a separate check if at all possible. Checks can be made out to "First Moravian Church" with the fund noted in the Memo line of the check. This allows more streamlined processing for the Trustees and Cooper Accounting.

We do want to report that envelope giving for 2025 as of October is currently 12% less versus 2024 envelope giving during the same period. While we are meeting our obligations, operational expenses continue to rise and we will soon be looking at the 2026 operational budget. We expect to have discussions around budget cuts that will be required. We ask that you prayerfully consider whether you can provide additional financial assistance.

The Trustees would also like to remind you of the opportunities for electronic giving. This not only ensures stability for the church finances, but it reduces costs and time required in preparing financial records. We partner with Vanco for a safe and reliable service for electronic church giving.

Thank you for your continued support at Dover First!

The Board of Trustees

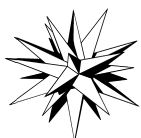
Our Worship Opportunities



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

Nov. 23 ~ Youth Sunday – The Youth will bring the message.

Next Sunday - First Sunday of Advent



Advent Begins

The Rev. Dennis G. Rohn will bring the messages during Advent and Christmas.

Nov. 30 ~ Worship & Advent Lovefeast ~ 10 A.M.



6:00 p.m. Advent Communion service @ Sharon Moravian Church.

This is our gathering of six Moravian Churches in the Valley coming together for worship and communion. What a real blessing. Don't miss this opportunity. Let's have a great turnout for this event as we praise the Lord and enhance your Advent walk, you will be enriched in the spirit.

Dec. 7 ~ Worship – Second Sunday of Advent ~ 10 A.M.

2:00 p.m. Christmas Lovefeast and Candlelight service at Historic Schoenbrunn Village ~

Dress warmly for this simple gathering of family and friends in worship. The service includes many Moravian traditions for the Advent/Christmas season and lots of carols to sing.



Bring your family and friends!

Our Music Opportunities



Advent Vespers

A Service of Lessons and Carols

St. Joseph's Catholic Church



The annual **Advent Vespers** will be presented at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church of Dover, Ohio**, on **Sunday, December 7**. A **prelude of music at 5:30 p.m.** will be performed by the **Reeves Bell Choir and a brass choir**. The service, beginning at **6 p.m.**, will include local church choirs, school choirs from St. Joseph's School, Legacy Christian School and other local musicians. Please accept this invitation to join us for a beautiful evening of **Lessons and Carols**.

Our Mission and Outreach Opportunities

Trimming of Candles

At our Christmas Eve services, each worshipper will receive a lighted beeswax candle with a red frill. Many volunteers are needed to place the frills on the **500+ candles**. We have scheduled one time for the **Trimming of Candles**. If you have never helped, plan to come and learn how to trim the candles on **Tuesday evening, December 9, from 6-9 p.m.** in the social hall. **Mark your calendars, everyone is invited to help, come, and bring a friend!**

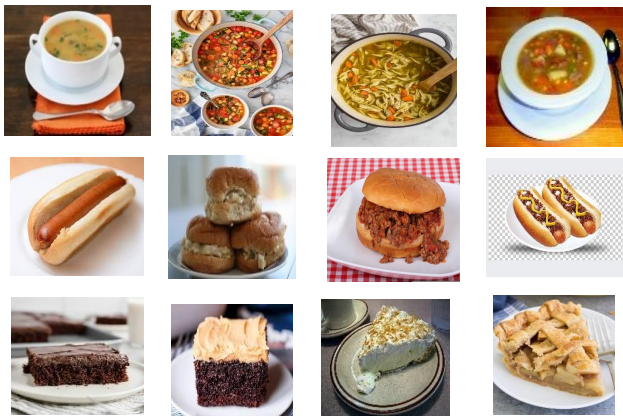


Moravian Women Christmas Party

All Moravian Women are invited to the Christmas Party on **Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Social Hall. We look forward to an enjoyable lovely evening of food, fellowship, and festivity in celebration of our Lord Jesus' birth. **Sign-up sheets** are in the lobby, so please let us know if you will attend.



Community Soup & Sandwich Luncheon



Dine-in or Carry-out available

Delivery is available to businesses with a minimum order of \$25.



Friday, December 5, from 11:00-1:00 p.m.

in the **Social Hall**

The luncheons have become a very special form of outreach from our congregation to folks throughout the county. Every person who walks through our doors and smells broccoli cheese soup cooking in the kitchen or unwraps a warm creamed chicken sandwich and enjoys a piece of homemade peanut butter pie is touched by your generosity and the Christian love that went in to preparing that food.

Proceeds from our luncheon will help the Moravian Women contribute to missionary efforts at home and around the world. We appreciate all your support in making our luncheon a success. If you can help work, please contact **Marcia Harding, 330-343-2104**, or **Julie Williams, 330-933-9707**. Plan to attend and bring your friends! We hope to see you on the 5th.



24-Hour Unity Prayer Watch Saturday, December 20



Each year we have the privilege to be in prayer for the Unity of the Moravian Church. These prayers stretch out over 27 provinces throughout the world. Our date for this year will be **Saturday, December 20**, which has been designated as Dover First's Day of Prayer. We will share these duties with our sisters and brothers in the Moravian walk from Fry's Valley, Gnadenhütten, Uhrichsville, and Church of the Redeemer in Columbus.

Our time slots for Dover First are as follows: **3-4 AM; 7-9 AM; 1-2 PM; 6-7 PM; 9-10 PM; and 11-Midnight**. These are really good time slots for the most part, so we should be able to fill all of them quite easily. **Sign-up sheets are on the clipboard in the lobby or you can call the church office to sign up.** Pick a time and spend some quality time away from all distractions and pray.

Information sheets are available near the sign-up sheets.

Christmas Gift-Giving Ideas



Sugar Cake Baking

**Tuesday & Thursday
December 16 & 18**

Price \$7.00 each

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

Place an order by calling Susan Paden, 330-364-7101.

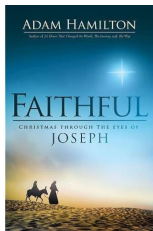


**Advent begins Nov. 30...
Christmas is just around the corner...**

**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



Seeds of Faith

"Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph"

Join the adult "Seeds of Faith" class for Advent!

Bev Antonelli will lead this unique look at Christmas from Joseph's perspective.

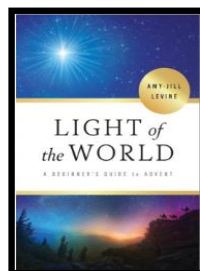
November 30, December 7, 14, & 21, at 9:00 a.m.
in the second floor living room.

Tuesday Zoom Bible Study

Join us for Advent! **December 2, 9, 16 and 23, at 10 a.m.** Our study is "Light of the World" by Amy-Jill Levine.

This is a gathering you can join from anywhere! It's a great chance to connect with members and friends near and far, from the comfort of your home.

Contact Carolyn for help getting set up on Zoom, or for a one-on-one Zoom session so you can get comfortable with the technology.



TUFF Bags Packing

Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m.



Sign up in the lobby to help pack bags of food for kids in Tuscarawas County. All ages are welcome to help. We will meet at the TUFF Bags warehouse and packing will take approximately one hour.

OMMC Advent Study

"I Give You a New Commandment...Love One Another"

The Northern Province Racial Justice Team's Advent Study Series. Each session includes scripture, theological reflection, a guest speaker/video presentation, and time for conversation.

Mondays on Zoom: 10:00-11:15 a.m. – Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22

Tues. at Sch. Moravian: 6:30-7:45 p.m. – Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23

Monday and Tuesday content each week will be the same – attend either session each week.

Sign up in the lobby to receive the Zoom link.



November
Leaving Our Gifts, Moving Towards Reconciliation
A Reflection from the Racial Justice Team's 2025 Calendar

In Matthew 5:21-26, Jesus speaks about the importance of living in right relationship with our sisters and brothers, that is, with all humanity. In these verses, Jesus speaks to the importance of practically and tangibly living out a faith that proclaims reconciliation: "If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." I would humbly add, "or if you have something against them, leave your gift and go be reconciled also."

I remember a sermon illustration that my father would often use. Say I go into a store and steal a candy bar. As I'm walking away from the store I have a change of heart. I realize that what I have done is wrong. I turn around, walk back into the store, walk up to the store owner, and say, "I was just in here. I stole this candy bar. It was wrong. I'm very sorry." Now say that the store owner sees my sincere apology and says, "That was honest and mature of you to own up to what you did wrong. I forgive you." My dad would pause with a grin and say, "I apologized. The owner forgave me. Do I have to give the candy bar back?"

Of course the answer is yes. That's what reconciliation means. It's not just a verbal concession of guilt. It's a commitment to changed behavior. Unless we set things right, our continued behavior demonstrates that we were never truly sorry in the first place – we were only sorry we got caught. "A man does not believe," Thomas Fuller said, "who does not live according to his belief."

This lesson applies not only to individual relationships, but to societal issues and historical sins as well. We must acknowledge that our world is still dealing with the sin of racism – not only in its present form that is often overt yet just as often insidiously subtle – but also in the loud echoes of its historical forms. The ways that institutionalized racism evolved from slavery into financial, legal, and cultural prejudicial and discriminatory practices such as redlining, forced assimilation, mass incarceration, manifest destiny, xenophobia, and the doctrine of discovery had and have far-reaching effects that have significant impacts today. Historically, the church at best did nothing to stop this and at worst was complicit in these racist and destructive ideas and actions.

As many sages and contemporary guides have reminded us, we as a church and as individual Christ followers must now take up the mantle and commit to the work that undoes these evils. This will and must involve a change in our lives. We must not worship comfort over compromise, relaxation over reparation, or past continuity over new community. Let us leave our gifts at the altar and go do the work of reconciliation.

The Rev. Jason Andersen is the President of the Western District Executive Board.

Find the full Racial Justice Calendar and other resources from the Northern Province Racial Justice Team by scanning the QR code (or go to Moravian.org/Northern/RacialJustice/).

