

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH

# FIRST NEWS

Vol. 28, No. 2

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## Marsh Songs of Spring

Every year when the winter days begin to subside, I wait for and look with anticipation for those first signs of spring. Spring bulbs bursting forth with colorful beauty, trees budding with snappy color and fragrance, and the sounds and calls of migratory birds passing through our area or retuning to and reestablishing their territory. One favorite bird comes to my sight for me and represents a sign of spring: Sargento Alirrojo. No. That is not some new spicy Sargento cheese stick in the dairy case. It is the Latin name for the more commonly known red-winged black bird.

Pairs build their nest in the protected marshes and ditches of the county. Among the sedges, weaving their protect nest to cradle their simple pale blue eggs – full of potential new life – which arrive in due time. A good sign of spring has arrived in the region. Sargent, Red Wing, stands guard, voicing his nasal call. He protects the eggs warding off much larger birds like blue jays, crows or hawks and even weasels. This sturdy, durable bird has the grit to do what he must to protect his nest and the new hatch on his watch. So, we do. Protect our own.



For me, this black, red and yellow striped interloper of the marsh and waterways comes back when the time is right for the land to reawaken. He calls us forth, to revive us in the blessings of spring and the passing of a very mild winter this year.

An early Easter, on March 31, is in store for us this year. Spring announces a time for our spiritual reawakening, new life, and the Savior's glorious resurrection.

As you read the remains of our newsletter, look for all the interesting, meaningful, and insightful opportunities available for you and your spring awakening of your spiritual journey. I am sure that something we do will help to revive, rekindle, recharge, or maybe resuscitate your journey of faith. You shall break forth from that chilly egg shell shelter and into the warmth and beauty of renewed life.

Harold Kohn writes: "An egg appears to be only a dead, naked shell, but then the miracle of life bursts through deceitful appearances, and a feathered morsel of vitality tumbles forth, like a soul loosened from the bonds of mortality." Blessed Easter to you, PJ



March-April, 2024

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

[www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org](http://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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## **Sole Purpose Pancake Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 2, from 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon**

**Dine-In or Carry-Out**

**Tickets are \$5.00 each** and are available in the church office.

**Children under Age 3 ~ Free**

Also, tickets will be available at the door.

### ***Lent and Easter Season***

This ***Lent and Easter Season***, we have a couple of new events for the congregation's participation as well as a couple of modifications for some of our traditional Lenten/Easter witness. Each event will bring a different and fresh approach to the study, the program, or the worship service.

### **Mark Sunday, March 17, for two new Inspiring Events**

We have slated two special events on **March 17. In the morning worship service**, we shall be conducting a very special **"Anointing and Healing" service**, and then in the afternoon a **Stations of the Cross walk in the Dover Park**.

Let me share some of the exciting details about the "anointing and healing" service and Carolyn has the details on the walk in Dover Park.

Read the story of Jesus's anointing in Mark chapter 14. The event took place in of all places - the home of get this, Simon the Leper. From the Gospel of Mark, *"Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>2</sup> "But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot."*

*<sup>3</sup> While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head."*

Our service of "Anointing and Healing" begins at 10:00 a.m. as usual, but it will have a whole different approach, mannerisms, and practice to the entire service.

The service centers on "anointing and healing" for others. Here we will have the opportunity to bring our weariness, our pains, our brokenness, and seek out the Holy Spirit's spiritual anointing and healing. We shall look to our Great Physician, Jesus, for our restoration. The service embraces quiet and calming piano music, special music from the choir on the sanctuary floor, three stations for anointing and healing throughout the sanctuary, prayers for healing by the elders and a very tender poignant message.

## Lenten Prayer Walk

Our first prayer walk of the year will have a Lenten theme as we experience the **Stations of the Cross**. This is a 14-step devotion, including images, based on Jesus Christ's last day on earth as a man.

Set aside an hour from **1:00-2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 17**

for this prayerful walk with Jesus.

We will meet at **Dover City Park**. Park at the end of the ball fields and we will set out on our walk from there. Dress for the weather.



## Holy Week Activities

One very busy week in the life of a Moravian church family is Holy Week. Across the world, there are multiple services, traditions and events that unfold during Holy Week. Here is what our week's walk to the cross, the grave and the glory of the resurrection looks like for us.

***Palm Sunday:*** Date: Sunday, March 24 ~ Time: 10:00 a.m.

On this day of palms and traditions, we shall celebrate with the Palm Sunday liturgy, distribution of the palms, the creating of the parade-like atmosphere, the welcoming of Jesus, the singing of the Hosanna Anthem, the confirmation of three young people: **Leah Kutcher, Matthew Peveto, and Tristin Yackey**. This service is your opportunity to start the holy week experience off on a better foot. Don't be shy – join us.



### ***Holy Week Readings Services:***

Dates: Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29 ~ Time: 6:30 p.m.

Once again, we will participate in this stayed tradition of reading from scripture and singing of songs during this Holy Walk through the stories and events of Holy Week. There are books provided for the participants in these simple reading services. Readers will include members of the church family and the pastors.

***Maundy Thursday Communion:*** Date: March 28 ~ Time: 6:30 p.m.

We shall share together in the blessing and ritual of Holy Communion. This year, communion will be **served at the table of grace**. This time, you will be asked to **come forward** to receive the precious elements of flat bread and grape juice. This will be the first time for communion for our three-confirmation students. (Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

### **Good Friday:**

We shall share in a shortened traditional reading portion of the Holy Week readings for Good Friday. But also take in and listen for the sounds of Good Friday. (A modified service we experienced once in 2010) as we reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for this Black Friday.



### **Holy Saturday:**

#### **Easter Egg-Stravaganza**



Join us for a special Easter Event for kids through 6th grade! Egg hunting plus other activities, crafts, and games. Bring your friends and family!

March 30, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.



### **Easter Sunrise Service:**

We will gather at the Schoenbrunn Village for the resurrection of the Lord at **7:00 a.m.** at the village. Easter Band players are needed. Interested? Let Brother Gibbs know.



### **Easter Sunday School:**

HE IS RISEN

Join us in the **Social Hall Easter morning** from **9-9:45 a.m.** as we make Resurrection Rolls – transforming marshmallows, butter, cinnamon, and dough into a sweet reminder that ***“The Lord is risen indeed!”***



**All ages are invited to stop by between the Easter Sunrise Service and 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship!**

### **Easter Morning Service:**

**10:00 Special Easter Morning service** organized by Brother Gibbs this year.



## **Brushstrokes Returns**

**Thursday, April 4 ~ Time: 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. ~ in Room 213**

**Class is limited to 10 people, so sign up early!**

Hello all you creative types. The artsy crew is gathering for another Brushstrokes art program with PJ. This time we will be painting a simple miniature on paper – sometimes “less is more”. Then we will be decorating and experimenting with framing. We will take a very simple wooden frame and “embellish” it for our special miniature we just fashioned. This event is good for anyone who has a passion for art and creativity.

Call the church office, 330-364-8831, to **sign up early!**

### **Earth Day Conversation and Walk in the Park**

On **Monday, April 22**, from **3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Join us as we walk the grounds of Deis Hill and discover the beauty of spring reawakening before our eyes. We will stop along the way and reflect on scripture and community this day set aside for the earth. We will be planting a handful of trees in the park as well. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes – for we will go “rain or shine” – “wet or dry”. PJ

### **Community Chalk Walk**

Don't forget our **13<sup>th</sup> Annual School “Chalk Walk”** will take place on

**Friday, May 17,**

from **9:10-10:20 a.m.**

**in downtown Dover.**

Rain Date is Tuesday, May 21. This

year will have some new “colors” of creativity to it.

Holy Week Readings are for kids . . . change my mind.

Have you ever seen one of those memes? A picture of a person behind a desk, often on a college campus, with a big sign and a big statement, inviting you to a debate.

I'm really not inviting you to a debate, but I am inviting you to consider this big statement. That Holy Week Readings are for kids, too. This very Moravian tradition is often only observed by adults. They are quiet, contemplative times of worship, but the shorter length and the alternating scripture readings and hymns can be helpful to those of us with shorter attention spans. If your child (or grandchild, or niece, or nephew) is ready to give it a try, I hope you'll consider bringing them this year. Older ones can follow along with the readings and hymns and younger ones can watch, and listen, and perhaps draw what they see and feel.

It is a commitment and might require giving something up that week. It's also a deeply meaningful journey from Palm Sunday to Easter. Many people find that after attending one year, they long to in future years because of the unique way the experience prepares them for a truly joyful Easter.

I will be there, with some coloring and drawing supplies, and I would be happy to sit with your family and share them with the kids . . . and the adults.

Holy week readings are for kids . . . I hope I changed your mind!

In faith, love, and hope,  
Carolyn



*Faith Formation*

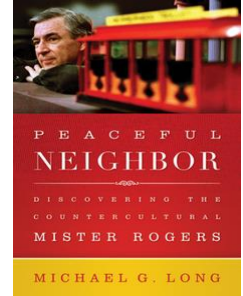
## Breakfast Book Club

Below are our spring selections. Join us **Saturdays at Missions Café at 8:00 a.m.** All are welcome!

March 16: Peaceful Neighbor (Michael G. Long)

April 20: Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography (Harold Ivan Smith) \*

May 18: Holy Noticing (Charles Stone)



**NATIONAL  
FIRST LADIES**  
LIBRARY ★ MUSEUM

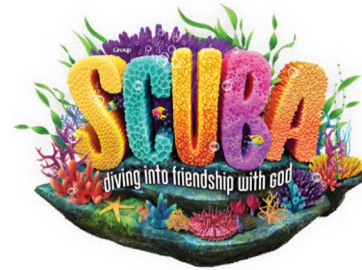
*\*We're planning a trip to the First Ladies National Historic Site in Canton, OH on **Saturday, April 13**, to coincide with our book about Eleanor Roosevelt.*

*Meet in the church parking lot at **8:30 a.m.** to carpool to Canton. The museum opens at 9:00 a.m. and there is no charge to explore it. We plan to take a tour of the Saxton-McKinley House at 10:00 a.m. and that cost is \$7.00 adults / \$6.00 seniors / \$5.00 under age 18 (tickets are first come, first served at the door).*

## Still Accepting VBS Donations!

- Pool Noodles
- Tissue Paper (colorful)
- Disposable Tablecloths
- White Tulle
- Strands of Beads

- Plastic Serving Bowls
- Crepe Paper (colorful)
- Batting
- Metallic Curling Ribbon
- Spray Paint (colorful)



***Used and Imperfect items are fine!***

*(Note: Items will not be returned)*

Join us after worship on **March 10** and **April 14**, as we turn these items into coral, jellyfish and more! We have crafts and tasks for all ages and abilities.

***Add SCUBA – Vacation Bible School 2024 to your calendar: June 10-14!***

## Spring Rally: April 12-14

Spring Rally 2024 will be held at the FFA Leadership Center in Trafalgar, IN. Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through age 21 are invited!

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

Registration packets will be available soon, and are due in the church office by **Sunday, March 17** (or direct to the registrar by Monday, March 25).



To reserve a seat on the van leaving from Dover First, contact

Carolyn Menapace by **Sunday, March 17**. Cost is \$20 per rider, payable to First Moravian Church.



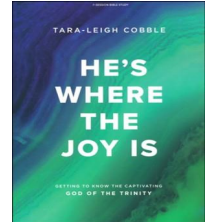
## Summer Church Camp Opportunities:

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

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

## Sunrise Sunday School

Those of you who completed Mile Markers in 2022 or listened to “The Bible Recap” in 2023 may have heard about the book “**He’s Where the Joy Is**” by Tara-Leigh Cobble. Sunrise Sunday School will use this Bible study on the Trinity to deepen our understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Join us **Sundays at 8:00 a.m., April 7 through May 19.**

## Sunday School Choir

On **April 28**, our Sunday School Choir will bless us once more with a song.

*Come praise the Lord with us during worship!*

*hallelujah*

## Our Mission, Outreach, and Fellowship

### Bowling for Missions



**Big Brothers – Big Sisters** bowling event is **Saturday, March 16**, at the **Boulevard Lanes** in Dover. The six Moravian churches in the Valley are sponsoring two teams this year for the “Bowl for Kids’ Sake” fundraiser. Proceeds from this event benefit “The Bigs and Littles” of our county. Come to the Boulevard Lanes! Support the teams as they look “oh soooo good on the lanes” guttering up the alleys with laughter and love. Our Moravian teams both bowl on the lanes from **Noon to 2:00 p.m.**

## From the Board of World Mission

In 2023, the Board of World Mission's Blessings Flow Project provided clean water to over 400 families in the La Moskitia region of Honduras through the distribution of household water filters. As the year came to a close, Moravian congregations and individuals went above and beyond to make the blessings overflow. Our goal was to provide five La Moskitia villages with clean water for over a decade, but your generosity blew that goal out of the water! The project is far from over, but at this point, we have raised over \$150,000 to share the blessing of safe, clean drinking water. Thanks be to God!

Filtration systems will be provided to over 2,500 households. We are moving toward clean water flowing for at least a decade in every home in 10+ communities. Most importantly, health and hope will be restored in an area where 100% of families experience symptoms of waterborne illness in any given two-week period.

Sisters and brothers, our church family contributed **over \$7,098.02** to this project alone.

Thank you for your support of the Board of World Mission!

## Moravian Women

### Let's Have Dessert!

### Pies for the Luncheon

**To all my dedicated cake and pie bakers and donors**, just want to say "**Thank You**" for contributing to the success of our luncheons!

Moving forward, I want to reach out to our entire Congregation and see **if anyone else would like to contribute by baking, buying a pie and or simply donating money for the purchase of one or two!**

Please contact me if you feel you would like to help.

Thank you,

**Bev Antonelli 330-340-2522**



## Community Soup & Sandwich Luncheons

by Marcia Harding and Julie Williams



**Community Soup & Sandwich Luncheons** will be held on **Friday, March 1 and April 5**, 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, February 28, and April 3.**

Pies need to be at the church on Friday, March 1, and April 5, 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 \$6.00 each  
Tuesday**

<b>March</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>16</b>

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.

***Other Items of Interest:***

***Thank you's / this & that***

***Pastor John and Dover 1<sup>st</sup> Congregation,***



***Thank you so much*** for the visits, cards, thoughts and prayers while I was recovering from an unexpected surgery. I feel so blessed with my Dover 1<sup>st</sup> family.

*Much Love,  
Teresa Swartzentruber*

***Thank You So Much!***

***Dear Church Members,***



***Thank you so much*** for remembering my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I cannot believe I made it to this age. I enjoyed the whole day with my family.

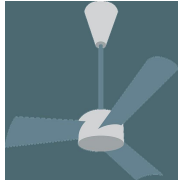
*God Bless,  
Etta Grimm*

## Thanks to those who work behind the scenes:

**Special Thanks to the Moravian Door Dash Girls & Guys** who prepared and/or delivered the delicious **meals** to our more mature members on February 16. 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 the following men for helping Sam recently with the scaffolding that was needed for the installation of the new fans in the church lobby:

**Jud Compton, Brian Cronebach, Seth Cronebach, Dave Yoder, Dylan Seats, Don Richardson, Josh Garvin, Michael Russell, and Scott Jones.**

The next time you are in the lobby, look up and check out the new fans the guys helped to install. Thanks, guys!

**Special thanks to Jim Gordon of Gor-Con Construction Inc.** for allowing us to borrow scaffolding for this project.



## 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...

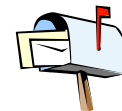
...to **Ben and Mary Jo Corder** on the death of Mary Jo's father, Daniel Fantin, age 77, who passed away on January 25. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, January 30, in the Linn-Hert-Geib Funeral Home chapel with Father Jeff Coning officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery at New Philadelphia.



**Congratulations...** to **Jessi and Josh Garvin** on the birth of a son, **Jameson Lincoln Garvin**, born on President's Day, February 19, 2024, in Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital at Dover, OH. Jameson has two older brothers, Jaxton and Jaiden. Proud grandparents are Jud and Dawna Compton.

## New Addresses:

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](http://Doverfirstmoravianchurch.org)  
There is a link on the Home page, just select what you would like to read.

## Church Council Results

**Elders (2 & 3-year terms):** Three elected: John Stubbins, 2-yr. term; Scott Minor & Steve Rondinella, 3 yr.

**Trustees (2 & 3-year terms):** Three elected: Gary Martin, 2-yr. term; Dan Yeager & Brenda Crilow, 3 yr.

**Christian Education Representative (Elected for a 3-year term):** Tessa Compton

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



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### First Joint Board Meeting for 2024

**Monday, March 4, 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, President, & Fis. Off.	2019-2024 ~ 2nd term	330.933.9707
April Yoder, V-President	2019-2024 ~ 2nd term	330.401.2873
Karol Jones, Secretary & 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

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#### 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

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**Church Office & One Call Now:**  
330-364-8831  
**Worship Services:**  
Sundays ~ 10:00 a.m. & 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](http://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org)

## *Our Holy Week Schedule*



**Palm Sunday, March 24**  
**9-9:45 a.m. Sunday School**  
**10:00 a.m. Worship & Confirmation**

**Holy Week Readings**  
**Monday – Wednesday, March 25 – 27**  
**6:30 p.m.**



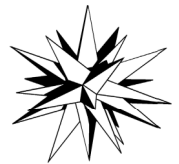
**Maundy Thursday, March 28**  
**Holy Communion & HW Readings**  
**6:30 p.m.**



**Good Friday, March 29 ~ Holy Week Readings**  
**6:30 p.m.**



**Easter Dawn Service, March 31**  
**7:00 a.m. at Schoenbrunn Village**  
**9-9:45 a.m. Sunday School in Social Hall @ Dover First**  
**10:00 a.m. Easter Worship at Dover First**



Change Service Requested

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