

May-June, 2026

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

[www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org](http://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.*

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**ORGANIZATION...OR...SATISFACTION IN CHECKMARKS?!**



by Marie Coutts

I make lists. As a matter of fact, if I do something that isn't on the list, I'll write it on the list so I can check it off! A little over the top? Perhaps. Probably.

But organization can be a helpful thing. We have been working at putting into print the role and responsibilities for some of our ministries. The purpose of this is threefold: 1. The congregation will know who currently serves on the various committees and the responsibility of the group; 2. Those serving on the committees or agencies will better understand their responsibilities and tasks; and 3. When new members are invited to join the existing ministries, they will clearly understand the role they will serve. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a few of the ministry organizations we have addressed so far.

For each of us, however, while we are still in the Easter season and looking toward Pentecost, it might be a good time to explore the organization of our faith life.

God brought order out of chaos in the creation of the world. What might our faith life look like if it is wrapped in orderliness? Perhaps it could include beginning the day with the reading of the Moravian Daily Texts; prayers before each meal; participating in Bible studies; bedtime prayers; participating in Sunday School classes that help us grow in our faith; regular worship attendance... and the list goes on.

Of course, our relationship with Jesus is much more than lists and checkmarks, but when we begin by developing a structure for our daily walk with Christ, it soon becomes a part of us...second nature...a way of life.

Each day is a gift from God for new beginnings. What new structure / organization might you initiate in your faith life? I had a friend who told me his mother began each day with this prayer: "Good morning, Lord. What are you going to be up to today, and how can I be a part of it?" Certainly not a bad beginning!

So go ahead, make a list...and remember the words of the Apostle Paul: *I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6*

*And what do **they** do???*

Very few things in life “just happen.” It is not unusual for congregations to see the result of ministries yet never know who carried them out or how they came to be.

The Board of Elders recently took action to officially approve ministry descriptions and membership for a few of our ministries. To keep our congregation up to date, we share the following information:

### **Sacristan Corps**

A handbook has been developed outlining the responsibilities for the Sacristan Corps, as well as setting membership terms.

Basic responsibilities of the Sacristans are to prepare the sanctuary for worship. This includes changing the paraments according to the seasons of the church year; preparing for Holy Communion and baptisms; making sure the sanctuary is in good order, etc...

The Sacristan Corps consists of the following members:

**Sue Henriksen**, Head Sacristan **Sacristan Corps:** (term one year, renewable)

Jerica Shuss  
Susan Paden  
Chevelle Swartz  
Stacy Stubbins  
Beth Rondinella  
Cheryl Stephens

### **Usher Corps**

**Denny Rohn** is serving as coordinator of the Usher Corps. The primary responsibility of the Usher Corps is to distribute bulletins, assist people with seating as needed, and to present the offering during worship. Currently a list of 16 ushers has been secured, and he continues to add additional members.

### **Decorating Committee**

**Susan Corder** is the appointed chair of the Decorating Committee. The primary responsibility of the decorating committee is to decorate the sanctuary, lobby and front doors of the church according to the specific seasons of the church year. Additionally, all sanctuary appointments are the responsibility of the Decorating Committee.

**Decorating Committee Membership:**

Sandy and Gary Martin  
Becky and Larry Kutcher  
Susan and Sam Paden  
Terry Corder



# The First Moravian Church of Dover, Ohio

319 N. Walnut Street  
Office 330-364-8831

Dover, Ohio 44622  
[www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org](http://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org)

Dear fellow members,

Your Trustees feel it is our responsibility to keep you informed of church business, particularly in the area of our finances.

We find ourselves in the midst of a financial challenge due to a decrease in giving. As an example, for the first quarter of this year our income was \$90,665.81 and our expenses totaled \$86,422.30. We note that last year the giving income was significantly higher. Adding to our concern is the fact that the church will owe an extra \$5,000.00 above the grant from the Reeves Foundation for organ repair, and there is the potential for additional expenses for repairs to the parsonage after the damage from the wind storm in March.

We work hard to be good stewards of our money, but the reality is we really don't have any unnecessary expenses to cut, so we are inviting each member to prayerfully consider increasing your regular giving as you are able.

Please contact any member of the trustees if you would like more information or wish to share suggestions.

May God continue to bless our ministries.

## **Your Board of Trustees**

Bev Antonelli  
Brenda Gordon  
Sue Henriksen  
Jodi Hillyer  
Becky Mastin

Greg Miller  
Jean Richardson  
Dan Yeager  
Dave Yoder

+++++

*If you are interested in Electronic Giving  
you may use the following QR code,  
or contact the Church Office  
for an instruction sheet.*





## Faith Formation

### **All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Vacation Bible School**

You may remember this book title from the 1980's . . . and if your memory is good, you'll remember it was about Kindergarten, not Vacation Bible School! But maybe the two aren't so different.

We play, we learn, we share (most of the time), we make new friends, and at VBS we get to know Jesus. We hear Bible stories, we sing songs, and we enjoy snacks, crafts and games that all tie into a theme and teach us about Jesus and his love for us.

This year's theme is Celebrations! We're trying a new program and exploring new Bible stories. We'll hear about Miriam and the Israelites escaping Egypt, Esther saving her peoples' lives, Jesus' first miracle at a wedding, and Jesus' parables about a great banquet and a shepherd rejoicing over a lost sheep that is found – all reasons to celebrate!

Will you come and celebrate with us? June 8-12 in the mornings, we need station leaders, shepherds and more. If you want to help children know that Jesus loves them, and that Jesus wants us to love him and each other, you are qualified! Those are the most important things we need to know and we can all learn them at VBS. Sign up in the lobby or call me today to find out more about volunteer possibilities.

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 17.

Before we conclude, let's recognize the faithful and loving service of our 2025-26 Sunday School teachers and nursery volunteers. Mark your calendar for May 3 when we will celebrate them during worship.

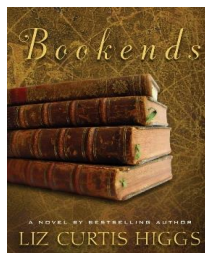


### **Sunday School Choir**

The Sunday School Choir will sing on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, during 10:00 a.m. worship.

*Come sing along with us!*

### **Breakfast Book Club**



Join the Breakfast Book Club for one more gathering before we take a break for summer. "**Bookends**" by **Liz Curtis Higgs** will be the topic of discussion on May 16, at 8:00 a.m. at Missions Café.

Borrow or buy a copy and discover this bestselling author's Moravian connection!

### **Prayground Sundays**

**May 17 and June 21 during 10:00 a.m. worship:**

Children of all ages are encouraged to join us in the sanctuary for worship.

After the Children's Moment we will move to the Prayground for a quiet activity. Then we will present our creation as part of our offering.



## Celebrating our 2026 Graduates



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

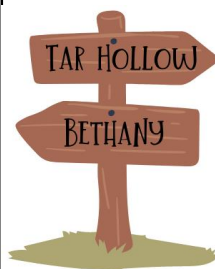


Letters requesting graduation details were mailed mid-April. If you haven't heard from us and are graduating (high school, college, or advanced degree), please call the church office and let us know.

We will recognize all graduates on **Sunday, May 24**, during worship. After worship, the Christian Education Committee will host a special coffee hour in the social hall. We hope

## Summer Church Camps

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



### Camp Tar Hollow: July 19-25 (staff Day is July 18).

For campers who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade through age 21.

### Camp Bethany: August 3-7 (staff Day is August 2).

For campers who have completed 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Visit [msync.weebly.com](http://msync.weebly.com) for more details.

Contact Carolyn Menapace for printed registration forms and scholarship information.

## Prayer Walk



This summer we will drive, eat, and walk! Come spend a Sunday afternoon with your church friends and family as we explore God's artistry at the Johnson Woods State Nature Preserve in Marshallville, Ohio.

**Sunday, June 28**, we will caravan from the church after worship, stop for lunch at Dravenstott's Restaurant in Orrville, then continue to Johnson Woods. The walk will be on a 1.4-mile wheelchair-accessible boardwalk.

## 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, June 8-12.

### 2026 Vacation Bible School Schedule of Events

Sun., May 31	11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Decorating
Mon., June 1	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Decorating
Tue., June 2	9:00 a.m. – Noon	Decorating
Sat., June 6	10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Volunteer Training*
Sun., June 7	10:00 a.m. worship	Volunteer Commissioning
Sun., June 7	11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Decorating
<b>Mon., June 8</b>	<b>8:30 – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>June 8-12</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. - Noon</b>	<b>CELEBRATIONS VBS!</b>
Sun., June 14	9:00 a.m.	Rehearse VBS songs
	10:00 a.m.	VBS Choir in worship
	11:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Celebrations Picnic Potluck
	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	VBS tear-down
Mon. June 15	9:00 a.m. – Noon	VBS tear-down



\*All VBS volunteers please plan to attend.  
Contact Carolyn Menapace if unable to attend.

## Our Mission, Outreach, and Fellowship



### Annual Chalk Walk

by Steve Rondinella

Thursday, May 7

(Rain date: Fri., May 8)

from 9:15 – 11 a.m.

First Moravian



Dover students in 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be participating in our church sponsored **Chalk Walk**. They will use their artistic talent to create unique designs on the sidewalks of downtown Dover.

**We are in need of cookies or cookie dough. Also, we need volunteers to help the day of the event and to bake cookies on May 5.** (Please **no nuts or peanut butter in the cookies.**) Please deliver cookies or dough to the church kitchen **by 9 a.m. on May 5.**

Thanks to all for helping continue this outreach program.

### Community Ecumenical Men's Breakfast

All men are invited...



Saturday, May 16, from 9-11:00 A.M.

St. John's United Church of Christ

409 N. Wooster Avenue, Dover

Plan to attend...Don't miss the great food and fellowship!  
If you have any questions, please contact Tom Armstrong.

### Chocolate Walk

Saturday, June 13

5-7:30 P.M.

Downtown Dover



The First Moravian Church of Dover, located at 319 N. Walnut Street, will once again be one of the stops along the way.

**Volunteers are Needed:**

Contact **Steve Rondinella, 330-827-4513**, if you can help.

You do not need to be here the entire time.

### The Replacements

Friday, June 19, at Pangrazio's

11:30-1:00 PM

Our "small group" ministry will gather for lunch at Pangrazio's located at 223 W. 3rd St., Dover. We will look at the menu and place our order for 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's / this & that*

#### **Thank You Notes!**

#### Thanks to Our Recent Church Volunteers!

##### Special thanks...

- ...to **The Board of Elders** for preparing and serving the Confirmation Breakfast; and to **Dave Trustdorf** for taking family photos of each confirmand. The last two years they have seen that the **Chalk Walk** and **Chocolate Walk** continue as outreach ministries to the community.
- ...to **The Board of Trustees** who oversee that the lights are on, the bills are paid, and much, much more.
- ...to the **Christian Education Committee** for providing all the different activities and events throughout the year for all ages. Many hands make light work. If you would like to volunteer to help them, please let Carolyn Menapace know. Vacation Bible School is just around the corner!
- ...to **Parker Boughner, Stacy Stubbins, and Courtney Wallace** for recording the worship services that are uploaded to the church website each week. If you are interested in volunteering for this task, training is available, please contact Marie Coutts, we can always use new volunteers.
- ...to **Michael Russell** for volunteering to help with some of our behind-the-scenes tasks. If you are interested in helping with small tasks or projects, please contact Marie Coutts, and your name will be added to our volunteer list.
- ...to **Jill Craddoc** for reading the Daily Texts each day for those who have selected this option to hear the Daily Texts through the One Call Now system.
- ...to **Sue Henriksen** for providing the One Call Now Prayer Requests throughout the year.
- ...to **Susan Paden, Lorrigan Booth, Jill Craddoc, Jud & Dawna Compton, Pam Duncan, Lori Smith, Becky Mastin, Chevelle Swartz, Steve & Beth Rondinella, Cheryl Stephens, Stacy Stubbins, and other volunteers** who provide snacks or treats after worship for Coffee Hour throughout the year.
- ...to **Susan Corder and the Decorating Committee** for decorating the church for the Easter season.
- ...to **our Sacristans: Chevelle Swartz, Beth Rondinella, Sue Henriksen, Susan Paden, Jerica Shuss, Cheryl Stephens, Stacy Stubbins, and other volunteers** who prepare the sanctuary each week for worship.
- ...to **all the Nursery volunteers** who graciously take care of the little ones during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We thank these volunteers for sharing their talent with our future leaders of the congregation.
- ...to **our Sunday morning Greeters**. It is always nice to see a smiling face from the greeters.
- ...to **our Sheepdogs (Front Door Security)** for providing security on Sunday mornings.
- ...to **Denny Rohn, our Usher Coordinator**, for securing ushers each week; and **thanks to all the ushers** who so graciously volunteer when asked.
- ...to **Shirley Thompson, our Greeter Coordinator**, for securing Greeters each week; and **thanks to all the greeters** for volunteering when asked. If you would like to volunteer for a Sunday, please give Shirley a call or talk to her at church on Sunday.
- ...to **Dan Yeager** for posting the bi-monthly newsletters and weekly bulletins to the church website.
- ...to the **One Call Now Sponsors** each week. The One Call Now ministry helps us stay connected to the congregational needs, church events, and the informational flow for our church family. **You can be a sponsor for just \$15 each week** to help us all stay connected to our church family. To sponsor a week or more, contact Karen in the church office, 330-364-8831, for dates available.

## Many Thanks...

### ...to our Kitchen Cleaning & Painting Crew



Spring was just around the corner and our volunteers got a jump on cleaning the church kitchen and doing some painting. Thanks to our church volunteers who did a fantastic job! Volunteers who helped Sam Paden included **Becky Mastin, Bev Antonelli, Susan Corder, Chevelle Swartz, Jen Wilson, Don Richardson, Larry Kutcher, Jud Compton, and Dave Yoder.** Many hands made light work! Thank you so much!

#### Dear First Moravian Church,

On behalf of all of us at **Safe Harbor Ohio**, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation to you for your recent donation on 3/20/2026 of **\$1,047.00** and your support.



Thank you for giving to this project. You are a vital part of the great exchange of beauty for ashes. You will never know this side of heaven the full impact you have made.

This receipt is for your records and serves as proof that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for your donation.

Thank you for paving the way for healing!

Sincerely,  
*Melissa Brown*  
Founder & CEO

Safe Harbor Ohio, Inc. is exempt from federal taxes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and donors can deduct contributions they make under IRC Section 170. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. EIN 92-1507176.



#### New Members

On **Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026**, the following Confirmation students were received into the membership of the First Moravian Church of Dover, Ohio:



##### Adult Baptism

**Trevor Jacob Shuss**, son of Mark & Jerica Shuss

**Text: Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV**

##### Confirmation

**Adelyne "Addey" Kathleen Erickson**, daughter of Rick & Jaclyn Erickson

**Text: Romans 15:13 NRSV**

**Landon James Kutcher**, son of Brian & Lori Kutcher

**Text: John 14:26 NRSV**

We will receive one Confirmation student on **Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026**, by **Adult Baptism** into the membership of the First Moravian Church of Dover, Ohio:

**Anja M. Seats**, daughter of Dylan & Leslie Seats

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

Our thanks to the members of our congregation who have agreed to be **mentors** for these students:

Anja Seats – **Tessa Compton**; Addey Erickson – **Sharyn Dusenberry**;

Landon Kutcher – **Gary Martin**; Trevor Shuss – **Denny Rohn**

## Our Deepest Sympathy



Our sympathy and prayers are extended...

**...to the family of Jacque Graef.** Jacque passed away on Thursday, April 9. Private family graveside services were held on Friday, April 17, with Pastor Marie Coutts officiating. (Monetary) donations in Jacque's name can be made to the First Moravian Church, 319 N. Walnut St, Dover, Ohio 44622, or [Ohio's Hospice](#) Truman House, 716 Commercial Ave SW, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663.

**One Call Now Sponsors** are needed. This ministry helps you stay connected to the congregational needs, church events, and the informational flow for our church family. **If you currently receive these messages, please consider sponsoring a week. The cost is \$15 per week.** For a list of dates available, please contact Karen Baker in the church office, 330-364-8831, to sign up for one week or multiple weeks.

### One Call Now

Dover First uses the "One Call Now" phone system as one way to communicate with members and friends.

If you would like to sign up to receive these automated phone messages, please contact Sue Henriksen at [sue.henriksen@yahoo.com](mailto:sue.henriksen@yahoo.com) or 330-447-6952.

**You may choose to sign up for any or all of these:**

- **Messages for the entire congregation** (*occasional important updates such as worship updates or church closure due to weather*)
- **Wednesday updates** (*weekly update with upcoming events and info for the following week*)
- **The Moravian Daily Texts** (*our daily Moravian devotional first printed in 1731*)
- **Prayer Chain Calls** (*as needed to share the concerns of members and friends*)

**FRIENDLY REMINDER:** Please contact the church office, **330-364-8831**, when members are hospitalized or need a special visit. This is important so we stay connected with our church family. Thank you.

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

**Church Office & One Call Now:**

330-364-8831

**Worship Services:**

Sundays ~ 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School:**

Sept.—May ~ 9:00 a.m.

**Licensed 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](http://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org)

*Coming Up...*

**Pentecost Holy Communion**



Pentecost Holy Communion will be observed on **Sunday, May 24,** at the **10:00 a.m.** worship service. Please plan to attend.

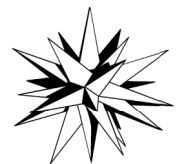
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*June 8-12 Vacation Bible School*

See information in this newsletter.

Bring your kids and you can volunteer to help!

*See you in church . . . real soon!*



Change Service Requested

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