

# First Moravian Church

319 N. Walnut Street, Dover, Ohio 44622

December 14, 2025

10:00 A.M.

<b>Part-time Pastor</b>	Denny Rohn (610-216-7467 cell)
<b>Greeters</b>	Dan & Marcia Harding
<b>Nursery</b>	Available if needed by a parent & child
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Pamela Duncan
<b>Usher</b>	Tony, Kelli & Ryder Argento
<b>Director of Music</b>	G. Randall Gibbs
<b>Director of Faith Formation</b>	Carolyn Menapace
<b>Custodian</b>	Sam Paden
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Karen Baker <b>Office:</b> 330-364-8831
<b>Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org">www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org</a>

## Call to Worship: Chimes

**Watchword for the Week: In Unison** *The Moravian Daily Texts*  
**Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.** Isaiah 35:4

**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* "Une jeune Pucelle" *Lochstampfor*  
"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"  
Ryan Yoder, Choir Chimes

\* **Hymn** "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" **H. 262**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

John, Stacy, MJ Stubbins & Parker Boughner

**"People in Darkness Are Looking for Light"** **H. 266, vs. 4**

\* **Liturgy for Advent** **Page 49**

## Prayers of the People

**"The Lord's Prayer"** **H. 828**

*Anthem* "Come, Messiah" *Larson*  
Chancel Choir

## Children's Moment

Carolyn Menapace

*During the singing, children are invited up for the Children's Moment.*

**Carol** "O Come Little Children"

*O come little children and learn even more,  
Your Jesus is coming your joy to restore.  
Now listen and learn as you work on your task,  
And Jesus will love you, there's no need to ask.*

**Hymn** "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" **H. 274**

## Holy Scriptures

**Epistle Lesson:** James 5:7-10 **Page 249**

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 11:1-11 **Page 11**

**Message:** "He Came, He Saw, He Healed"  
The Rev. Dennis G. Rohn

## Prayer

## Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

\* **Offertory Response – Hymn 454, vs. 3**

*Worship, honor, glory, blessing, Lord, we offer as our gift;  
young and old, your praise expressing, our glad songs to you  
we lift.  
All the saints in heav'n adore you; we would join their glad  
acclaim;  
as your angels serve before you, so on earth we praise your  
name.*

## Offertory Prayer

\* **Hymn** "Once He Came in Blessing" **H. 273**

## \* Benediction

*Postlude* "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" *arr. Bock*

## 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.

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: 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.**

## Flowers

The two vases of flowers are in memory of Doris Espenschied, given by her daughters, Holly, LaRene, and Melanie and their families.

### One Call Now ~ 330-364-8831

Don and Jean Richardson are sponsoring our One Call Now this week.

**One Call Now Sponsors** are needed for the following weeks: **March 22, April 5, 12, 19 & 26, May 3, 17, 24 & 31.** If you desire to sponsor one week or more, please call Karen Baker in the church office, 330-364-8831. **Cost: \$15 per week.**

### Lessons & Carols Livestreamed

If you were unable to attend *Lessons & Carols* at St. Joseph's Catholic Church last Sunday, go to their website: <https://stjosephdover.org> and scroll down to Lessons & Carols, to view the service.

### Attendance from Last Sunday

Sunday School 29 Worship ~ 10 AM 98  
Schoenbrunn Village Christmas Lovefeast Service 40

### 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. 14 Parker Boughner; Anniv: Steve & Jen Brown  
Dec. 16 Ashley Brown, Daniel Pfeiffer  
Anniv: Theron & Tricia Everett, Samuel & Ellie (Rondinella) Bernardo,  
**Congratulations!** Terry & Susan Corder – 53 yrs.;  
Rick & Peg Holmes – 41 yrs.  
Dec. 17 Linda Hayman, Kyle Gerber, Jenna Walter, Russ Kornis  
Dec. 18 Josh Miller, Theodora Compton  
Dec. 19 Rachel Pfeiffer, Josh Kimble  
Dec. 20 Laura Colvin, Deb Yeager  
Dec. 21 Scott Smith

**Congratulations!** Fred & Janet Foutz – 50 yrs.

## Did you know?

### THE NATIVITY

The first nativity scene originated in Italy in 1223 when St. Francis of Assisi asked a villager to create a live scene depicting the event of the Holy Birth. This was used to help people understand the Christmas story in its simple beauty. St. Francis performed the Christmas mass in front of this "live" nativity.

Out of that experience grew the practice of carving various nativity pieces to create the nativity scene. Nativity scenes were first used in churches in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

A unique Moravian custom is the building of "putz," (which means to decorate) and consists of various "scenes" surrounding the birth of Christ. Moravians brought this custom to America and built putzes in their homes. Children were taught to recite the Christmas story as the putz was shown. The sole purpose of the Moravian Christmas putz is to tell the story of the first Christmas.

When setting up a putz, Christ must always be in the center – the place he longs to occupy in our lives. And whenever we place a light in a nativity scene, the light should always be placed behind the Christ child, symbolizing that the light always comes FROM Christ.

### THE TREE LIGHTS

The symbol of light is central in the Christian message that "*Jesus is the Light of the World.*" As Isaiah 9:2 promises: "***The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.***"

It is told that one Christmas Eve, Martin Luther was outside looking at the heavens and became very moved by the beauty of the starry sky. Its brilliance and loveliness led him to reflect on the glory of the first Christmas Eve as seen in Bethlehem's radiant skies. He wanted to share the beauty of the starry sky with his wife and children, so he cut an evergreen from the forest, took it home and placed candles on it to represent the glorious starry heavens he had seen.

Advent is a time to remember that Jesus brought this powerful light into the world, and no amount of fear, or darkness, or misery can put that light out. Sometimes the light of Jesus is most evident in difficult times, just as the stars can only be seen in the dark of night.

A lighted star is often placed on top of Christmas trees, causing us to "look up" and see the star-light that led the wise men to the true light of the world – the Christ.

## \$ 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

## 2026 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are AVAILABLE to pick up.

If your name is on a check or on a plain envelope, you are given credit for your giving. If you would like to give electronically, or update your electronic giving, a form is available in the church office. If you have any questions, (regarding electronic giving, envelopes or statements) please call or text Julie Williams at 330-933-9707 or email at [juliewill1411@gmail.com](mailto:juliewill1411@gmail.com)



**All giving must be received by 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 30, to be counted toward your 2025 contributions.**

## The Dover Moravian Messenger

Sunday	11:30-12:30 PM	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal ó Bsmt/SH/Sanct.
Monday	8:00 AM	Sugar Cake Set-Up ó Kit. & S. Hall
	9:00 AM	Staff Meeting ó Church Office
	10-11:15 AM	OMMC Advent Study on Zoom
	1:00 PM	Counting ó Living Room
	4:00 PM	Sugar Cake Mixing ó Kit. & S. Hall
<b>Buckeye Adult Classes: M &amp; W – ESOL 6-9 PM – Basement</b>		
	6:30 PM	Joint Board Meeting ó Social Hall
	7:30 PM	Trustees Meeting ó Social Hall
	7:30 PM	Elders Meeting ó Room 215
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>All Day Sugar Cake Baking – Kit. &amp; Social Hall</b>	
	10:00 AM	Zoom Bible Study
	6:30-7:45 PM	OMMC Advent Study @ Sch. Mor. Ch.
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Sugar Cake Set-Up ó Kit. & S. Hall
	10:30 AM	Praying in Color ó Church Living Room
	4:00 PM	Sugar Cake Mixing ó Kit. & S. Hall
	6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study ó Living Room
	6:30 PM	Chancel Choir ó Choir Loft
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>All Day Sugar Cake Baking – Kit. &amp; Social Hall</b>	
	6:30 PM	Reeves Bell Rehearsal ó Sanctuary
Friday	Noon	Bible Study ó Living Room
Saturday	8:00 AM	Book Club @ Missions Café

## **Saturday 24-Hour Unity Prayer Watch** **Saturday, December 20**

The world could use some extra kindness and prayers. Today is our time to pray. Join us for the Unity Prayer Watch; take a blue sheet home, pray when you can.



9-11:00 AM	Men's Breakfast ó Kit. & Social Hall
10-Noon	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal ó Bsmt/SH/Sanct.
4-9:00 PM	Smith Family Gathering ó Kit. & S. Hall

Sunday	9:00 AM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal ó Loft
	9:00-9:45 AM	Children's Pageant Reh. ó Bsmt.
	9:00 AM	Adult Sunday School ó C.S. Rms.
	10:00 AM	Worship/Children's Pageant ó Sanct.



## **A Note of Thanks!**

**The Reeves Bell Choir wishes to thank the Tango and Gatti Company** for the loan of their trailer for the Advent Vespers service at St. Joseph's Church. It was indeed a blessing.



## Our Worship Opportunities



### *Third Sunday of Advent*

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



**Dec. 14 ~ Third Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**Dec. 21 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Christmas Pageant

**Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service**

**6:30 p.m. Only one service**



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



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

**Jan. 4 ~ Worship & Holy Communion ~ 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.

## **Calling All Sugar Cakers!!**



**Tues. & Thurs., Dec. 16 & 18 ~ Price \$7.00 each**  
**Place an order by calling Susan Paden, 330-364-7101.**

**Volunteers Needed:** We are blessed to have many orders in December. The Moravian Women are deeply grateful for everyone who volunteers to help with mixing and baking each month, and we are looking for a few extra hands to make the work a little lighter for everyone who is doing double duty this month.

If you have a morning to spare on either date, please call or text Lorrigan Booth at 330.340.4702 to volunteer. There are no set hours, but we could especially use some extra hands around 6:00 a.m. each day. Stay as long as you feel like helping, and leave when you feel ready. No previous experience is required!

## Our Mission, Fellowship, and Outreach Opportunities



### **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, Gnadenhutten, 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; 11-Midnight.**

**Please sign up today: Pick a time and spend some quality time away from all distractions and pray.** Information sheets with the sign-up sheet are available on the table located in the landing between the steps to the sanctuary.



### *Men's Fellowship Breakfast*

**Saturday, December 20, from 9-11 AM**

**First Moravian Church of Dover ~ Social Hall**

This ecumenical breakfast is for all men in the community.

Bring your appetite and enjoy a delicious breakfast!

There will be great food and fellowship!



## Our Christian Education Opportunities

### **Breakfast Book Club in Advent**

**Saturday, December 20 at 8:00 a.m.** at Missions Café.

**Dec. 20: The Women of Christmas (Liz Curtis Higgs)**



*Join us as we explore the biblical stories of Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna, experiencing the Christmas season through their faith and struggles.*

### **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. on Dec. 15 & 22**

**Tuesdays at Sch. Moravian: 6:30-7:45 p.m. ~ Dec. 16 & 23**

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

## **Thank You Volunteers**

...to everyone who helped with the **Hanging of the Greens**. **Many hands truly made light work** when it came to decorating the church for Christmas this year! **Thank you to everyone who helped:** Janet Zimmerman, April & Dave Yoder, Chevelle

Swartz, Jerica Shuss, Michael Russell, Jean & Don Richardson, Susan & Sam Paden, Abby Paden, Jane Newland, Becky Mastin, Sandy & Gary Martin, Nancy Gibbs, Melanie Espenschied, Susan & Terry Corder, and Seth Corder.

...to all the folks who helped **decorate Christmas Candles** on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, for Christmas Eve. With your diligent work and the candles left over from last year, we now have beautifully dressed beeswax candles for our Christmas Eve service. A sincere Thank You to all the folks who helped: **Jane Newland,**

**Bev Antonelli, Chevelle Swartz, Dave Goodard, Adelia Hobart, April & Dave Yoder, Becky Mastin, Beth & Steve Rondinella, Scott & Karol Jones, Susan Paden, and Susan Corder.**

### **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 Prayground!

## **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](mailto: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

