



FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH

# FIRST NEWS

Vol. 29, No. 3

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## The Holy Days Ahead

by The Rev. Dennis G. Rohn

We celebrated Holy Week and Easter on April 20, with all its liturgical wonders and extra services. It began with the hosannas of Palm Sunday with Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Then we gathered Monday through Friday for accounts of Jesus' last week on earth. We remembered the Last Supper through our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service.

Our congregation's Easter Sunday began with a gathering of Tuscarawas Moravian churches at the Schoenbrunn Village Cemetery to share the Easter Morning Liturgy. Later we gathered in the sanctuary and prayed the Easter Liturgy, heard about the empty tomb and the appearance of the risen Lord, and ended by singing the hallelujahs to praise the Lord.

All that is behind us, so what lies ahead. What is next on our journey through the Church year. The liturgical color for Easter is white, therefore, the pulpit and holy communion table will be adorned with the white paraments. The next leg of our journey will be Ascension Sunday when we celebrate Christ's ascension into heaven. This is a celebration which has sort of fallen by the wayside but is extremely important theologically. Jesus MUST ascend into heaven in order to complete his resurrection. This is different than Lazarus being raised from the dead because Lazarus will die again. But for Jesus to give us eternal life, he must ascend into heaven and send the Holy Spirit. Ascension Sunday is June 1, and a week later we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of **Pentecost**.

This is a celebration where God's Holy Spirit comes to dwell on earth and enable us to share the good news of the resurrection of Jesus. We honor this Sunday with **Holy Communion** during worship on **June 8**.

But we're not finished yet. On June 15, we celebrate the Trinity when we remember the three representations of the full Godhead. It's a time we recognize the presence of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We'll take a close look at the Trinity on Sunday, June 15. All this is followed by the Season of Pentecost which will lead us to the Season of Advent.

Please consider making this journey with us. You are invited to join us each Sunday at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. If, for some reason, you are unable to join us in the sanctuary, please join us live streamed on our website at <https://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.com> or turn into our YouTube channel during the week on our website. May you be enriched as we continue our journey of faith going forward.



May-June, 2025

First Moravian Church  
319 North Walnut St.  
Dover, OH 44622  
330.364.8831

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

### 2025 Congregational Watchword:

*We do not proclaim ourselves;  
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.  
2 Corinthians 4:5*

### 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.*

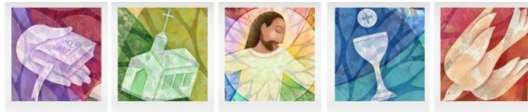
### Our Motto:

*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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## Faith Formation

'Tis the season for new growth! In spring everything feels new and fresh. The buds and blossoms and blooms are what many people wait for all winter. This past winter has been a time of waiting for us too. Waiting for a new pastor, waiting to see what new leadership emerges from within the congregation, waiting to see what this new season looks like for Dover First.

This month, let the gentle spring breeze and the breath of the Holy Spirit awaken you. Move from being that seed waiting underground to being a growing, flourishing part of the church. Is there something you need to let go of? Now is the time! Is there something new you want to try? Now is the time! Did you discover a spiritual gift during Lent? Nourish that gift and watch it grow!

Take advantage of our spring faith formation offerings: Sunday School, Zoom Bible Study, Wednesday evenings with the Old Testament, Breakfast Book Club. Join in the summer fun with Vacation Bible School or church camp. New growth in relationships happens in all of those places. When those relationships flourish, we find opportunities to share the love of Jesus with each other and our neighbors, and encourage new growth in our faith.

Have you heard the saying, "Bloom where you're planted?" Well, God has planted you here at Dover First, spring is here, and now is the time to bloom!

In faith, love, and hope,  
Carolyn

### Adult Sunday School

Our final classes of the 2024-25 school year:

**Seeds of Faith:** Room 215. Scott Minor will lead this class **April 27 – May 18.**

**Sunrise Sunday School:** Room 215 with Carolyn Menapace **at 8:00 a.m.**  
Bible Stories for Grownups: **April 27 – May 11.**

### All Youth Sunday School



All youth classes will combine on **Sunday, May 18**, as we gather in the Social Hall to kick off our summer project.

Come help us paint rocks with uplifting messages. We will "plant" them around town and anywhere our summer travels take us.

Let's see who finds them and how the messages inspire them!

## ***Thank You Sunday School Teachers and Nursery Volunteers!***

Our final day of Sunday School before summer break is **May 18**.

Before we conclude, let's recognize the faithful and loving service of our 2024-25 Sunday school teachers and nursery volunteers. Mark your calendar for **May 4**, when we will celebrate them during worship.



### **Sunday School Choir**

**Sunday, May 18**, during 10:00 a.m. worship, our **Sunday School Choir** will present **“One Big Family.”**

Let's hear this SCUBA VBS song one more time before we begin learning new songs for a new VBS!



### ***Celebrating our 2025 Graduates***



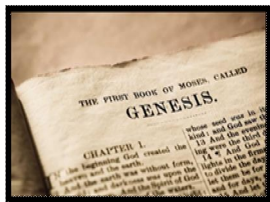
Graduation will be here before we know it and we want to celebrate with all of our members graduating this spring!

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 25**, during worship. After worship, the Christian Education Committee will host a special coffee hour in the social hall. We hope you can join us!

### **A Rapid Romp Through the Old Testament Looking for God**

Join member and retired Episcopal bishop Dan Edwards for this four-week study looking for God throughout the Old Testament. Perhaps “the God of the Old Testament” is not all judgment and wrath after all.



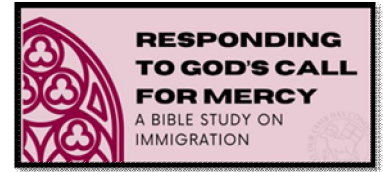
There will be 30 minutes of teaching followed by 30 minutes of discussion and Q&A.

**Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.**  
(April 30, May 7, 14, 21)

*Come experience the Old Testament in a new way!*

## Responding to God's Call for Mercy: A Bible Study on Immigration

The Moravian Church Northern Province Racial Justice Team has just announced a new resource for congregations entitled "Responding to God's Call for Mercy: A Bible Study on Immigration."



This new study includes scripture, excerpts from the Moravian Covenant for Christian Living, and MCNP Synod resolutions along with stories from immigrants and refugees, including one from Dover, OH.


You have two opportunities to be a part of this important and timely study:

- **Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Zoom.** Our weekly online Bible Study will use this 5-session resource from April 22 to May 20. (Contact Carolyn Menapace for help getting set up on Zoom, or for a practice Zoom session so you can get comfortable with the technology.)
- **Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at Dover First.** Join us in the second floor living room from May 28 to June 25.

Visit <https://www.moravian.org/northern/racialjustice/> for more information.

### Breakfast Book Club

Join the Breakfast Book Club for one more gathering before we take a break for summer. **"Mostly What God Does" by Savannah Guthrie** will be the topic of discussion on **May 17, at 8:00 a.m. at Missions Café.**

In these uncertain times, could  
believing in the *power of divine love*  
make the most sense? 

### Summer Church Camps

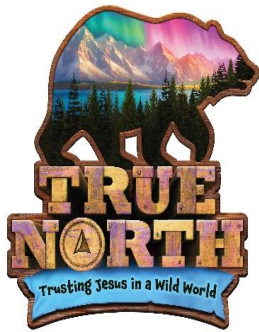
Calling all campers and staff!  
Get ready for Tar Hollow and Bethany!

**Camp Tar Hollow: July 20-26 (staff Day is July 19).**  
For campers who have completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade through age 21.

**Camp Bethany: August 4-8 (staff Day is August 3).**  
For campers who have completed 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.



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



## 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 2025

### Schedule of Events

Sun. June 1 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Decorating

Mon. June 2 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Decorating

Tue. June 3 9:00 a.m. – Noon Decorating

Sat. June 7 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Volunteer Training\*

Sun. June 8 10:00 a.m. worship Volunteer Commissioning

**Mon. June 9 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration**

**Mon. June 9 9:00 a.m. – Noon TRUE NORTH - Trusting**

**Fri. June 13 Jesus in a Wild World!**

Sun. June 15 9:30 a.m. Rehearse VBS songs

10:00 a.m. VBS Choir in worship

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. VBS tear-down

Mon. June 16 9:00 a.m. – Noon VBS tear-down & put away decorations

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

**When we need hope,  
we can trust Jesus!**



## ***Our Mission, Outreach, and Fellowship***



### **Annual Chalk Walk**

by Steve Rondinella, Elder Vice-Chair

**Tuesday, May 6, at 9:00 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 and volunteers to help the day of the event and to bake cookies on May 5.** Please deliver cookies or dough to the church kitchen **by 9:00 a.m. on May 5.**

Thanks to all for helping continue this outreach program.

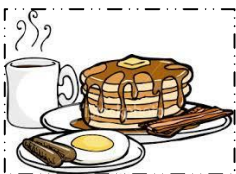
### **Community Ecumenical Men's Breakfast**

All men are invited...

**Saturday, May 17, 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.



### **The Replacements**

**Friday, June 20, at Mary Zifer's Pizza  
11:30-1:00 p.m.**



Our "small group" ministry will gather for lunch at Mary Zifer's Pizza in 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!**

**The T-County Mission Team** would like to **thank you** for **providing goodie bags with treats** for their recent Mission Trip April 4-13. They traveled to North Carolina to complete some mission work due to devastation in that area last year. Those who went included: **Jud Compton, David Yoder, Jack Sweitzer, Dan Yeager, Scott Jones, Sam Paden, Doug Edwards, Pastor Ben Lippert, John & Ruth Olivier, and Joseph & Jennifer Mathey.**

#### ***Thanks to Our Recent Church Volunteers!***



**Special thanks** to **Dan Yeager, Jud Compton, Terry Burrell, Steve Rondinella, and Dave Yoder** for putting the Pastor's office back in order – moving file cabinets, book shelves, and the large desk.

**A BIG Thank You** to **Don Richardson**, for countless hours of work at the parsonage and the church, most recently painting the pastor's office along with helping Sam.

Stop by and see the new color of the walls along with the new carpet.

Thanks, guys, for all your help!



#### **Dear Church Family,**

Thank you for the visits in and out of the hospital by Pastor Denny, the kind words and prayers, and the beautiful flowers!

Love,  
Cloey



A great **BIG Thank You** to those who helped paint or helped in any way at the Parsonage. Those who helped with a lot of the work included: **Don Richardson, Becky Mastin, and Sam Paden.** Other volunteers included: **Jud & Dawna Compton, Dave & April Yoder, Jean Richardson, Susan Paden, Libby Paden, Scott Jones, Greg & Janie Miller, Steve & Beth Rondinella, Brenda Crilow, and Julie Williams.** Many hands made light work!

**Dear First Moravian Church,**

We very much appreciate your generous donation of **\$983.50** to the **Friends of the Homeless Shelter of Tuscarawas County**. Your support of the shelter is vital to our mission of offering a hand up to our guests as they continue their journey to independent living. Thank you & God Bless.

Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County

*(Note: This donation of \$983.50 was one half of the Dover First 2024 Christmas Eve Offering.)*

**A Note from  
the Moravian Women**



After blessings from the Board of Elders, the Moravian Women undertook an eye-opening task. We were thrilled at the outpouring of support from the congregation. In total, four carloads of supplies were delivered to the Homeless Shelter. The Change Can Make a Difference Offering was **\$675.74** which the women will use to acquire items on the shelter's evolving wish list. Because of the love and generosity of the First Moravian Church of Dover, this mission was a heartwarming success.



**Sympathy**

Our sympathy and prayers are extended...



...to **Adrian and Carol Schaar and family, Randy and Nancy Gibbs and family, and Brenda Gordon and family** on the death of Treva Gaskill, who passed away on Sat., March 1. Treva was a cousin to Adrian and Randy, and an aunt to Brenda. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 4, in Addy Funeral Home in Newcomerstown. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery.

...to **Sue Ellen and Paul Hoffman and family** on the death of Sue's sister, Linda Gilliam. Linda passed away on Friday, February 28, and her service was Saturday, March 8. To read the full obituary, go to the website of Snyder-Rodman Funeral Home Center.

**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.

*Have a safe summer...Drive carefully!*



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## Joint Board Meetings for 2025

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.,  
in the social hall unless noted differently:**

**Mon., June 2, Tues., Sept. 2, & Mon., Dec. 1**

### Here is a complete list of Joint Board Members (Elders & Trustees)

**Elders** ~ Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month in Room 215 at 6:00 p.m.,  
except when Joint Board meets, then after Joint Board at 7 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.

|                              |                      |              |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 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, Vice-chair | 2021-2026 ~ 2nd term | 330.827.4513 |
| Bethanie Moser               | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term | 330.432.3814 |
| Leslie Seats                 | 2022-2027 ~ 2nd term | 937.479.4028 |
| Cheryl Stephens, Secretary   | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term | 330.987.3933 |

**Trustees** ~ Meetings are held the first Monday of the month in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m.,  
except when Joint Board meets, then after Joint Board at 7 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.

|                              |                         |              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Jodi Hillyer                 | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term    | 330.340.4785 |
| Rebecca Mastin, President    | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term    | 330.204.9520 |
| David Yoder, Vice-President  | 2025-2027 ~ 1st term    | 724.272.4822 |

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### Financial Secretary

Julie Williams, Fiscal 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:**  
Sundays ~ 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday School:**  
Sept.—May ~ 9:00 a.m.

**Part-time Pastor:**  
The Rev. Dennis G. Rohn  
610.216.7467 cell

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Karen Baker

**Director of Music:**  
G. Randall Gibbs

**Director of Faith Formation:**  
Carolyn Menapace

**Custodian:**  
Sam Paden

**Web-Site:** [www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org](http://www.doverfirstmoravianchurch.org)

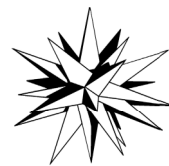
*Coming Up...*

## **Pentecost Holy Communion**



Pentecost Holy Communion will be observed on **Sunday, June 8,** 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**