

8 Church Square, Lititz, PA 17543  
Church Office: 717-626-8515  
office@lititzmoravian.org  
Website: www.lititzmoravian.org

Mission Statement:

*Growing Faith, Sharing Hope, Living Love!*

**June 28, 2026**  
**Independence Celebration Lovefeast**  
**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10:30 a.m.**

*Enter expectantly, pray reverently, greet each other warmly,  
listen thoughtfully, sing joyfully, and leave faithfully.*

Chief Elder and Head of the Church: Jesus Christ  
Pastors: Rev. Sayward E. G. Lippincott and Rev. Mandy M. Mastros  
Director of Music Ministries: Dr. Jeffrey S. Gemmell  
Trombone Choir & Handbell Choir Director: Marilyn Winfield  
Children's Ministry Coordinator: Allyson Miller  
Lay Ministry Assistant: Greg Bomberger  
Office Manager: Jaime Weik  
Sexton: Andy Weik  
Treasurer: Barbara McKenney  
Financial Secretary: Mary Sweger  
Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***\*Stand, if you are able.***

**Prelude:** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

American Folk Melody, arr. D. Bish

“Thanks Be to God” from *Dank sei Dir, Herr*

G. F. Handel, arr. H. Hopson

**Welcome, Announcements and Greeting**

*Please pass prayer request cards to the aisle for the ushers during the first hymn. **Please sign the Friendship Register and pass it through the pew.***

*If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to scan the QR code on the ‘Connect Card’ located inside the Friendship Register. We are so glad you are here! Please see an Usher or Sacristan if you would like: headphones to assist the hearing-impaired, large print bulletins, walker, wheelchair, or activity bags to help busy young children.*

**\*Liturgy for National Occasions: 139**

**Shared Joys and Concerns and Pastoral Prayer**

**Commissioning Prayer and Gift**

**Scripture:** Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**\*Hymn: 515**

*Highly Favored Congregation*

**Message: *Doing and/or Being***

Pastor Mandy M. Mastros

## The Offering of Tithes and Gifts and Joyful Noise

This month's Joyful Noise collection will be for Camp Hope.

**Offertory Anthem:** *Canon in D*

J. Pachelbel,  
arr. Carole Neuen-Rabinowitz

**\*Offertory Response:** 815

*Our Tithes and Off'rings, Lord, We Bring*

**Offertory Prayer**

### Independence Day Lovefeast

*Information regarding Moravian Lovefeasts can be found on page 10.*

*The Lovefeast is served during the following hymns.*

**Hymn:** *To the tune of Hymn 533.*

*Nun danket*

To Thee, O God, we raise our voice in choral singing;  
We come, with prayer and praise, our hearts' oblations bringing.  
Thou art our fathers' God, and ever shalt be ours;  
Our lips and lives shall laud Thy Name, with all our powers.

Lord God, we worship Thee, whose goodness reigneth o'er us;  
We praise Thy love and power in grateful, happy chorus.  
To heaven our song shall soar; forever shall it be  
Resounding o'er and o'er; Lord God, we worship Thee.

Lord God, we worship Thee, and pray Thee, who hast blessed us,  
That we may live in peace, and none hence-forth molest us,  
O crown us with Thy love, and our defender be;  
Thou, who hast heard our prayer, Lord God, we worship Thee.

**Hymn**

*Materna*

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

**Hymn:** *To the tune of Hymn 39.*

*Manoah*

Lord, while for humankind we pray of every clime and coast,  
O hear us for our native land, the land we love the most.

Unite us in the sacred love of knowledge, truth, and Thee,  
And let our hills and valleys chant the songs of liberty.

Thou Lord of nations, thus to Thee our country we commend;  
Be Thou her refuge and her trust, her everlasting friend.

**Hymn**

*America*

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;  
Land where my parents died, land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountain side let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our parents' God, to Thee, author of liberty to Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright with freedom's Holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.

*The Blessing is sung before partaking of the Lovefeast.*

**Blessing:** *To the tune of Hymn 553.*

*Herrnhut*

Jesus' mercies never fail, this we prove at every meal;  
Lord, we thank Thee for Thy grace, gladly join to sing Thy praise.  
Lord, the gifts Thou dost bestow can refresh and cheer us too;  
But no gift can to the heart be what Thou, our Saviour, art.

*Choir anthems are sung while enjoying the Lovefeast meal.*

## Choir Anthems:

Excerpts from *Freudenpsalm*

C. Gregor / J.F. Peter

“Chorale” and “Das ist ein Tag”

*Peace is with us! People of the Lord! Hear the joyful word!*

*Let it sound from shore to shore! Let it echo evermore!*

*Peace is with us! Peace, the gift of God!*

*This is the day which the Lord hath made;*

*Let us be joyful, let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

“Come Joyful Hallelujahs Raise”

Peter Wolle

*Come joyful Hallelujahs raise. The tribute bring of grateful praise.*

*Exalt, extol the wondrous love of Him who lives and reigns above.*

*His blessings and His mercies all, our songs of sweetest anthems call,  
The riches of His bounteous hand, still cheer and crown our favored land.*

*He is our God and our Defence in danger, He our confidence.*

*In happiness our Guard and Guide, He ever will provide.*

*His matchless goodness He displays, to brighten and to bless our days.  
Then let us join His name to sing and hallowed hymns harmonious bring.*

*O! tune thy harp and strike thy lay. America, Columbia!*

*The cups are collected during the following hymns.*

**Hymn:** *To the tune of Hymn 454.*

*Hyfrydol*

Not alone for mighty empire stretching far o'er land and sea,  
Not alone for bounteous harvests lift we up our hearts to Thee;  
Standing in the living present, memory and hope between,  
Lord, we would with deep thanksgiving  
Praise Thee most for things unseen.

God of justice, save the people from the clash of race and creed;  
From the strife of class and faction make our nation free indeed;  
Keep its faith in simple justice strong as when its life began,  
Till it find its full fruition by the guiding of your hand.

**Hymn: 449***Ar Hyd y Nos*

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For his gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,  
Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring  
For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**Hymn: 390***Sine Nomine*

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,  
Who to the world by faith their Lord confessed;  
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
You, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*Hymn:** 433

*Aurelia*

We come to You, Our Father, with thoughts of thanks and praise,  
For your abundant mercy, and all Your love and grace;  
We praise You for Your goodness and for Your loving care,  
For daily show'rs of blessing, for answers to our prayers.

O Lord how You have blessed us for lo, these many years.  
Our nation has known freedom through all its joys and tears.  
We join with those before us in gratitude and praise;  
To You the one who blesses those who walk in Your ways.

And now, O God, our Father, we pledge ourselves anew  
By work and prayer and worship to serve Your kingdom too.  
With grateful hearts we praise You and pray, O Lord, that we  
Who are Your church at present, may serve You faithfully.

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** *Now Thank We All Our God (Nun danket)*      Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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**Serving Today:**

**Sacristan:** Don Stoner

**Co-Sacristan:** Becky Turnbull

**Head Usher:** Tim Hartel

**Scripture Readers:** (8:00 a.m.) Tom Ruckel (10:30 a.m.) Chip Shelley

**Orchestra Personnel:** MaryLee Yerger, violin I; Michele Allen, violin II;

Jody Greve, viola; Laurie Lefever, cello; John Yerger, double bass

**Sound Booth Personnel:** Kevin Donnelly

## About Today's Moravian Anthems

The first Lovefeast anthem is a combination of two movements from *Freudenpsalm (Psalm of Joy)*, a cantata assembled for the first organized Independence Day/Peace Celebration of the Congregation in Salem, July 4, 1783 by Johann Friedrich Peter's (1746-1813). Karl Kroeger writes:

*On April 19, 1783, word reached Salem, N.C. that a treaty of peace ending the Revolutionary War had been agreed to in Paris....On June 18, 1783, Alexander Martin, Governor of the state, issued a proclamation, pursuant to a legislative resolution, declaring July 7, 1783 "a Day of Solemn Thanksgiving" for the end of the conflict. Governor Martin's proclamation gave the Moravians in Salem barely two weeks to organize an observance. Fortunately, there was living in Salem at this time a man who was probably the finest composer in America during his day: Johann Friedrich Peter. In the short time available Peter selected and assembled (but did not compose) the text and music for the celebration – a day-long affair with church services in the morning, afternoon, and evening.... In spite of Governor Martin's proclamation, no other community in the young country is known to have observed July 4th as early as this.*

The second anthem during the Lovefeast, composed by Peter Wolle (1792-1871), has a special connection to Lititz. Wolle was born on St. Thomas in the West Indies to Moravian missionary parents but was sent at age three to Pennsylvania for his education. In 1807, he became one of the first three students at Moravian Theological Seminary and later taught at Moravian schools in Nazareth (PA) and Salem (NC). He also served pastorates in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. While serving in Lititz (1838-1853), he was consecrated bishop in 1845. From 1853 to 1855, he served an interim pastorate in Dover (OH) and then served on the Provincial Board until his final retirement in 1861. He died in Bethlehem (PA).

In addition to composing anthems, he compiled the first Moravian tune book published in America (1836). His son, Theodore, also became a prominent and versatile musician and teacher; the most lasting musical achievement of the family, however, was made by John Frederick Wolle, nephew of Theodore, who became founder of the first Bach Festival in America (1900), which the Bach Choir of Bethlehem still presents each Spring.

“Come Joyful Hallelujahs Raise” was composed in 1815 for the celebration of 4<sup>th</sup> of July that year in Salem, North Carolina. Subsequent performances took place in Nazareth (1816) and Lititz (1843, 1876, and 1889). The text is probably by Wolle himself. One of the Soprano scores in the Lititz Collection has a note on the back that reads:

*Copied for use at Centennial Celebration of American Independence  
held in Lititz Church, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1876.*

*A hundred years from now, who'll say Americay, Columbi-ay!*

[Reference to pronunciation of “America” and “Columbia” to rhyme with “lay.”]

In a diary entry from July 4, 1843, Wolle describes the use of this anthem during the “illumination” of Lititz Springs Park:

*The first intimation of this national festival we received by being awakened with the tune of “Hail Columbia,” performed by the Band. Preparations had been set on foot to celebrate the day in a pleasant manner at the Spring, and all circumstances being favourable, we could not have spent the evening more delightfully. A considerable number of citizens, and some strangers, assembled at the Spring between 5 and 6 o'clock; precisely at 6, Mr. Beck, standing at the head of a long table, well furnished with refreshment, and lined on both sides by happy participants, mostly females, delivered a very appropriate address, and read the Declaration of Independence. We then partook of the meal before us. At about ¼ past 7, we performed the piece, “Come Joyful Hallelujahs Raise” with full orchestra, much to the satisfaction of the hearers, who desired its repetition. When it grew somewhat later, about 600 candles were lighted up along the fences, on pyramids, chandeliers, etc. – also a number of tar barrels were set fire to, fixed above the stream. The wind which had been high, abated in the evening, and it became quite calm. We did not leave the ground til ¼ past 9.*

# The Moravian Lovefeast

The Lovefeast became a cherished part of Moravian worship after the spiritual renewal of August 13, 1727. On that day, in the context of shared worship and meals, Moravians rediscovered a sense of Christian unity and fellowship, which had been threatened by personal hostilities and doctrinal disputes.

Though the meal has been simplified, Moravians and their guests still experience the blessings of Christian fellowship as they share hymns of praise over coffee and sweetened buns. Because the Lovefeast has no sacramental significance, it provides an ideal forum of celebrating Christian unity in a world where doctrinal disputes still fracture Christ's church.

## THE SERVING OF THE LOVEFEAST

The female dieners (servers) will bring a basket of sweet buns to each pew and hand deliver the bun to each person.

The male dieners (servers) will bring trays of beverages to each pew. There is a choice of decaffeinated coffee (unsweetened, with half and half) or chocolate milk. Inform the female diener your beverage choice. Beverages will also be hand delivered to each person.

Worshippers wait until all have been served and we have shared in the blessing. Thereafter, worshippers eat and drink the Lovefeast together while the choir provides the ministry of music.

Later, servers will return to collect the cups and napkins while the worship continues.

**Thank you to all those who helped in the preparation and serving of the lovefeast.**

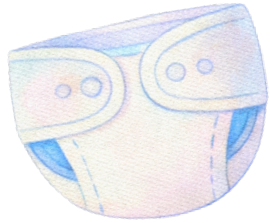
# Announcements

## June 28, 2026

### *A Wonderful Response... Let's Do It Again!*

Thank you to everyone who supported our Mother's Day collection for House of His Creation! The outpouring of generosity from our congregation was truly amazing, and your donations are making a meaningful difference for local families.

Because of your wonderful response, we're collecting again on Father's Day **through the end of June!** Join us in sharing God's love by donating requested items for House of His Creation during June worship services.



### **Current Needs Include:**

Diapers & Baby Wipes

New Baby Sleep Sets

Free & Clear Laundry Detergent (any brand)

Toilet Paper

Clorox Wipes

Mr. Clean or Lysol Floor Cleaner

Dr. Brown's Natural Flow Bottles & Replacement Nipples

Baby Lotion

Baby Wash

Diaper Rash Cream

Packages of Baby Hangers



Please place your donations in the collection box located in the Star Room. Thank you for continuing to be the hands and feet of Christ by caring for families in our community!

# Be Part of What's Happening at LMC!

## Join us for Vespers in the Park for Christmas in July!

Mark your calendars for  
**Sunday, July 26**  
**at 7:00 PM**  
at Lititz Springs Park  
for an evening of  
Christmas joy  
in the summer season.

Sing along with favorite  
Christmas carols  
accompanied by  
the Lititz Moravian  
Trombone Choir,  
enjoy cookies and  
chocolate milk,  
and visit with Mrs. Claus  
while writing letters to  
the North Pole.



A festive  
evening  
for all ages —  
we hope you  
will join us!



## Sunday School KICK OFF!

Kick off the 2026–2027  
**Sunday School** year with us on  
**Sunday, September 7!**

There's a place for everyone!  
We offer classes for children,  
youth, and adults, with several  
adult classes featuring a variety  
of topics and study styles to  
help you grow in your faith.

Whether you're returning or  
joining for the first time,  
we'd love to help you find the  
class that's right for you.

Come explore, connect,  
and grow with us on  
September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am.

## Kid's Night Out

**Kids' Night Out** is a fun-filled evening where children discover God's love through exciting science experiments, music, crafts, games, and interactive Bible lessons that help them apply God's Word to everyday life. It's a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, grow in faith, and have a blast—all in a safe, welcoming environment.

The event is FREE and open to the community! Watch for registration on our website and Facebook page for our next Kids' Night Out on Saturday, **September 12, from 6:00–8:00 PM**. We can't wait to see you there!

## Church Picnic

*Who doesn't love a picnic filled with delicious food, great fellowship, and fun for all ages?*

You're invited to the Lititz Moravian Church Picnic on **Sunday, September 20!** Join us for outdoor worship at 10:30 AM on Church Square (weather permitting), then stay for a picnic lunch, games, and fellowship in the area behind the church.

This also marks our second Invite-A-Friend Sunday of the year! Invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to worship with you and experience the warm welcome, rich traditions, and loving community that make Lititz Moravian Church such a special place.

Come hungry, bring a friend, and enjoy a wonderful day of faith, food, and fellowship!

From Beeswax to Brass:  
The Story Behind  
Moravian Christmas Vigils



### ***Behind the Scenes of Christmas Vigils***

Christmas Vigils is one of the most cherished traditions of the Moravian Church—a beautiful celebration of Christ's birth filled with candlelight, sacred music, Lovefeast, and the joy of the Christmas season. But have you ever wondered what it takes to prepare for this beloved tradition?

Join us for a special behind-the-scenes experience and discover the months of planning, preparation, and volunteer dedication that bring Christmas Vigils to life each year at Lititz Moravian Church.

Throughout this interactive event, you'll have the opportunity to experience hands-on demonstrations, including tying wicks for our hand-poured beeswax candles, learning how Fire Guards use their blankets during candlelight services, carrying a Lovefeast tray complete with a cinnamon roll and chocolate milk, and exploring many of the meaningful traditions that make Christmas Vigils so special.

Whether you've attended Christmas Vigils for years or are experiencing Moravian traditions for the first time, you'll leave with a new appreciation for the faith, history, and countless volunteers who make this treasured worship experience possible.

**Saturday, September 26**  
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

*Come discover the story behind the tradition... and become a part of it!* 13

# A Time of Renewal for Pastor Sayward

As a reminder, Pastor Sayward will begin her sabbatical on July 1 and return on September 1. This time of rest, renewal, and reflection is an important part of sustaining long-term ministry and caring for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of our pastors.

As a congregation, we give thanks for Pastor Sayward's faithful leadership, compassionate care, and dedication to Lititz Moravian Congregation over the past five years. This August, she will also celebrate 20 years of ordained ministry, a milestone worthy of gratitude and celebration.

On this final Sunday of June, we will offer a blessing as she begins this sacred time away. We invite you to keep Pastor Sayward and her family in your prayers throughout the summer.

During Pastor Sayward's sabbatical, Pastor Mandy will be available for all pastoral care needs, emergencies, hospital visits, and other ministry concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office if you are in need of pastoral support.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Sayward back in September, refreshed and renewed for the ministry ahead.

## ROMEOS

### **"Retired Old Moravians Eating Out"**

Looking for a chance to get out, enjoy a good meal, and spend time with other men from the congregation?

Join us for the **Men's Lunch Group on Wednesday, July 8, at 11:00 AM.**

We'll meet at LMC and travel by mini bus to a local restaurant for an afternoon of good food, great conversation, laughter, and fellowship. Whether you've attended before or are considering joining for the first time, **we'd love to have you along.**

*Please note:* Due to the holiday week, the lunch will be held on the second Wednesday of July rather than the first Wednesday as usual.

So why not try something different? Pull up a chair, make a new friend, reconnect with old ones, and enjoy a wonderful afternoon together!

# Faith In Action: Ways to Serve at LMC

A heartfelt thank you to the many **volunteers** who gave their time and energy to help place and adorn Church Square with American flags in honor of our nation's upcoming 250th anniversary celebration.

Because of your willingness to serve, Church Square has been transformed into a beautiful and patriotic display that honors the rich history of our community and the sacrifices of those who helped shape our nation. From marking the grounds to carefully placing each flag, your efforts created a meaningful tribute that will be enjoyed by countless visitors and residents alike.

Projects like this remind us of the power of many hands working together for a common purpose. Your dedication, fellowship, and community spirit are a true blessing to Lititz Moravian Congregation and to all who pass through Church Square.

Thank you for helping us celebrate our nation's heritage while continuing the tradition of service that makes our church community so special.



# Faith In Action: Ways to Serve at LMC

Lititz Moravian will be changing our church member database in the upcoming months.

As we begin transitioning to a new church database, we are working to ensure our contact information is accurate and up to date. Starting next week and over the coming weeks, you may receive a phone call from our church member intern, who will be helping us verify household information such as addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and family details.

*We appreciate your willingness to take a few minutes to speak with them when they call.*

Keeping our records current helps us stay connected as a church family and ensures that you receive important ministry updates, event information, and pastoral communications.

*Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we make this important transition!*

The **Lititz Moravian Funeral Luncheon Committee** is searching for a congregation member who is budget savvy and who is willing to handle the food responsibilities entailed with a funeral luncheon. The responsibilities would include the selection of the menu and order/delivery of the food to the church kitchens before funeral luncheons. Grieving families are so very appreciative of this service provided by our congregation. If you are interested in joining this mission, please contact Jaime in the Church Office at (717) 626-8515.



## Learn, Lead, Serve: Summer Courses for Lay Leaders

**Have you thought about taking an online course this summer? Two engaging 6-week classes begin in July** and are designed with congregational ministry in mind. Led by pastors, these courses are open to anyone looking to grow in faith, leadership, and learning.

**Each district will provide \$300 toward the cost of a course**, making the remaining student fee only \$40. If you're interested in registering for one or more classes, please email your district executive board president (listed below) before signing up.

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### Adaptive Leadership for Ministry

*Taught by the Rev. Dr. Mandy Mastros*

**Dates:** Mondays, July 13 – August 17 • **Time:** 7–8:30pm • **Via Zoom**

What are the basic leadership skills needed for parish ministry? This class focuses on pastoral authority, congregational systems, conflict, communication, change, and boundaries.

### Liturgy and Sacraments

*Taught by the Rev. Dr. Marty Kuchma*

**Dates:** Wednesdays, July 15 – August 19 • **Time:** 7–8:30pm • **Via Zoom**

How to preside over rituals of grace! Participants plan, prepare, and practice versions of rites and rituals tailored to their own denominational and cultural contexts, including leading Sunday worship, baptisms, child dedications, weddings/union services, as well as funeral/memorial/homegoing services.

### Register for Classes Today!

<https://learn.moravian.edu/browse/compass>

### District Executive Board Presidents

- Canadian District – Dave Jones, [davejones@mcnp.org](mailto:davejones@mcnp.org)
- Eastern District – Melissa Johnson, [melissa@mcnp.org](mailto:melissa@mcnp.org)
- Western District – Jason Andersen, [jason@mcnp.org](mailto:jason@mcnp.org)

**Congregational Watchword for 2026:  
Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch  
cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in  
the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.  
John 15:4**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember in your prayers this week all of our nursing home residents and shut-ins at home.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

*Serving our country in the military:*

*Lt. Col. Neal Miller, Army;*

*Sgt. Jason Stoner, Army Reserves;*

*Lt. Cdr. Dain Bomberger, US Navy;*

*Staff Sgt. Austin Heacock*

*Prayers of Healing for:*

*Meda Hostetter*

*Erelene Deist*

*Marilyn Diener*

*Susan Yeagley*

*Roger Groce*

*Melissa Hostetter*

*Greg Laubach*

*Marilyn Copenhaver*

*Charlene Van Brookhoven*

#### ***Pastoral Visitation:***

*Please contact*

*Pastor Sayward or Pastor Mandy*

*to schedule a*

*pastoral visit for yourself*

*or family members.*

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

#### **Completed Month of May 2026**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Tithes & Offerings	\$43,423	\$53,273
General Fund Other Income	\$5,309	\$1,367
General Fund Expenses	\$49,016	\$43,968
Net Income	\$(283)	\$10,672

#### **YTD Through the Month of May 2026**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Tithes & Offerings	\$255,439	\$269,939
General Fund Other Income	\$38,164	\$37,773
General Fund Expense	\$316,816	\$296,967
Net Income	\$(23,213)	\$10,745

# Walking Together This Week

## **Sunday, June 28, 2026 - Independence Day Lovefeast**

9:15 a.m. Keeping Holy Time - Eschbach Parlor

10:30 a.m. - Worship (only worship)

## **Monday, June 29, 2026**

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Community Band - Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday, June 30, 2026**

9:00 a.m. Quilting - Nursery

## **Wednesday, July 1, 2026**

8:30 a.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous - HDR

## **Thursday, July 2, 2026**

7:00 p.m. Yoga - Fellowship Hall

## **Friday, July 3, 2026**

The Church Office and all Church Activities are closed in observance of Independence Day

## **Saturday, July 4, 2026 - Independence Day**

## **Sunday, July 5, 2026 -**

8:00 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Keeping Holy Time - Eschbach Parlor

10:30 a.m. Worship

# Welcome

The Gospel reading today concludes Jesus' instructions to his disciples as they go out into the world to proclaim the good news that the "kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 10:7b). Jesus says to them, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me" (Matthew 10:40). It appears that Jesus is focused upon the other—the one giving welcome to the disciples.

But welcome is a two-way transaction. We cannot be welcomed unless we are also welcoming. We cannot be welcoming unless we give of ourselves to others in very real and meaningful ways. We must treat all people as persons deserving of compassion, mercy, and love. As Jesus' disciples, we are called to make real "the kingdom of heaven come near" through our actions and our words. Jesus makes this clear when he says, "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward" (Matthew 10:42).

As we look around this world, and we are made aware of violence, killing, racism, hatred, bigotry, and injustice, we can easily find the things that do not speak of peace and goodwill to all. But Jesus' command to welcome asks us to look more deeply into ourselves to be the people who should reflect God's mercy and compassion for us, to be the ones who give someone "even a cup of cold water" (Matthew 10:42), no matter where they come from or who they are.

*Scott Rainey, pastor, Unity Moravian Church, Lewisville, North Carolina*

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## The Moravian Church

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

