

March 2024 Newsletter

GOOD FRIDAY

In the cross of Christ God confronts the successful person with the sanctification of pain, sorrow, humility, failure, poverty, loneliness and despair.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

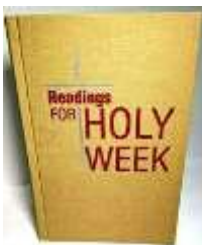


The cross we bear precedes the crown we wear. To be a Christian one must take up the cross, with all its difficulties and agonizing and tension-packed content and carry it until the very cross leaves its marks upon us and redeems us to that more excellent way which comes only through suffering.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

What remains incontestable is the fact that, in spite of what is reported about his curing the sick and raising the dead to life in Galilee and other places, Jesus displayed on the cross nothing but utter helplessness and weakness. Nowhere does the passion narrative depict Jesus except in this utterly powerless image. The reason is that love, in terms of this world's values, is forever vulnerable and helpless . . . Jesus, powerless on the cross, is the symbol of love—nay, the very incarnation of Love.

Shusaku Endo



On Friday, March 29, we will gather for worship at 2:15 pm in the sanctuary to share in a service of remembrance, using the Moravian Church's *Readings for Holy Week*. This is a service of scripture readings depicting the events of the week we name "Holy". The readings are interspersed with hymn verses responding to the texts read.

At 3:00 pm the service will conclude with the ringing of the church bell thirty-three times, after which worshipers may sit in silence and, when ready, leave the sanctuary in silence.

Jerry Harris

Greeting Messiah Family,

I have always enjoyed the changing of the seasons. Watching Mother Nature change four times a year is amazing and each year I enjoy them even more. Soon winter will leave us and spring with all its glory will be upon us.



With springtime, we also celebrate the glorious season of Easter. In the Moravian Church, there are a lot of traditions that are celebrated but the Sunrise Service at God's Acre is truly one of the most popular traditions bringing thousands of people to worship the resurrection of Christ as the day breaks with the rising of the sun. It is a special service that everyone should experience several times in their life to fully understand and appreciate what the service means.

The week before Easter we celebrate Palm Sunday with the front of the sanctuary covered with palm trees to symbolize the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. There will be Palm Crosses for everyone to wear as a reminder to welcome Jesus into our hearts and to be willing to follow him.

One of the most meaningful and emotional services we will have at Messiah during the Easter season is the Good Friday Service. The service consists of music and readings of the last days and hours in the life of Christ. Ending with the ringing of the church bell 33 times as a symbol of the age of Christ. If you have never attended this service, I highly recommend attending it.

There are some volunteer opportunities this month that are listed in this newsletter. If you are free and want to help, I am sure you will enjoy yourself. Lynne and I are in charge of coordinating these events and we always try to have fun while we do them.

Enjoy the birth of spring this month, even though winter has not left us.

Yours in Christ,

Dick Butler
Board Chair

Volunteer Opportunity - Second St. Philips Graveyard Decoration

As we've done in previous years, **on March 29 (Good Friday)**, Messiah will undertake decorating the gravestones at the St. Philips Second Graveyard, located adjacent to God's Acre on the corner of Cemetery Street and Salem Avenue.

If you are interested in helping, please contact James Goodwin at james.f.goodwin@gmail.com, or call or text 703-888-6775, so that we can coordinate. Thank you for your support! -Outreach and Social Concerns



No need to plan a meal on **Wednesday, March 13**. Drop in for a casual dinner at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall!

RSVP to Tracy please if you are planning to attend. As always, if you forget to RSVP or decide at the last minute that you can make it, you are welcome. (There is always plenty and we share well.) Email Michelle Lawrence if you plan to bring a dessert at : (mhopkins@alumni.princeton.edu).



March Worship Calendar

See below for a link to sign up for worship volunteers. The March worship calendar is below. As you can see, we are in need some nursery volunteers, Children's Message and Get Acquainted Time Hosts. If you want to volunteer by phone or email instead, please let me know and I will put you down. Thanks so much!! [Click Here for Google Sheet](#)

Date	Lay Reader	Children's Message	Sunday School	Adult Nursery	Youth and/or Adult Nursery	Get Acquainted
3-Mar	Larry Foltz	Francie Scott	Francie Scott	Barb Mory		Roma and Combs
10-Mar	Gray Wilson	Stuart Pungert	xxxxxxxxxxxx			Janelle Frazier
17-Mar	Cyndie Tomlin					Janelle Frazier
24-Mar Palm Sunday	James Goodwin	Dane Perry	xxxxxxxxxxxx			
31-Mar Easter Sunday	Bryan Scott		xxxxxxxxxxxx			



FAMILY FUN! LIVE MUSIC!
FOOD TRUCKS!
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION!

SATURDAY,
APRIL 20
10AM - 4PM
WS FAIRGROUNDS

FREE PARKING & BIKE VALET | RAIN OR SHINE

Board Approves New Fund

At the February meeting the Church Board-established a new Fund the Landscape and Grounds Reserve Fund. This Fund was approved to collect funds for future needs.

If you wish to contribute to this Fund, please direct your contribution to this Fund.



Looking for a new way to enhance your Lenten experience?

We invite you to join us for our
Annual Palm Cross Workshop
Thursday, March 21, 5:30 - 6:30PM

We will be making the palm crosses to be worn by all those
who attend Palm Sunday Worship

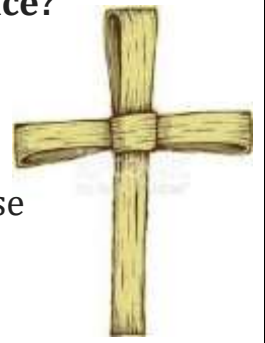
No experience required!!

Fun for all women, men and older youth!!

Bring a friend, if you like!

Questions? Call or email Lynne Hanley-Butler -
336-391-0782 lynnehanleybutler@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!!



Calling All Messiah Families!!!

Preparing for Easter at God's Acre

Please join us for a fun and meaningful Lenten experience!

What: Decorating Messiah's assigned gravestones at God's Acre for Easter Sunday

When: The Great Sabbath Saturday, March 30 at 9:00 AM

Where: God's Acre in Old Salem

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

If you want to clean gravestones, bring gloves, a stiff brush and shoes that don't mind getting a little wet! If you want to help decorate gravestones, bring gloves and a pair of shears/small clippers!

ALSO, as is our tradition we need everyone to bring flowers and/or greenery to either the church (grass area next to the kitchen) by Friday sunset or to God's Acre Saturday morning! If you do not have flowers, but would like to make a monetary donation, we would welcome cash (envelope labeled God's Acre Flowers) or check (made out to Messiah and put "God's Acre Flowers" on the memo line - either drop it in the offering plate during Sunday Morning Worship or the church office.

Questions? Call or email Lynne Hanley-Butler - 336-391-0782 lynnehanleybutler@gmail.com



Golf Fundraiser
Friday, April 19, 2024
2:00pm

Reynolds Park Golf Course
2391 Reynolds Park Rd,
Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Hosted by:
Bobby Jones, Hope Moravian
Former Owner of Hillcrest Golf Course
and
Art Sorensen, Home Moravian
Chair, Laurel Ridge Board

REGISTER BY APRIL 1, 2024
\$75/person -- \$300/team
Waiting list after first (paid) 26 teams/104 players

Registration Includes
18 holes of golf
Dinner by Mr. Barbecue
Goodie bags with prizes

Proceeds will benefit
Building COMMUNITY
Capital Campaign Projects

For more information:
Art Sorensen
asorensen1959@gmail.com
336-407-2192

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM!](#)



- Hole sponsors are \$300/each. If you would like to play the course, please register to play independently of your sponsorship.
- Please provide your own sign to ensure that you get the sign set up as you would like.

- The standard sign size is 18 x 24 with a wire stand.
- We will be able to store the signs for future use or we can return the sign to you after the outing.
- One option to obtain the sign is to contact Al Cheek at EXG Brands (336) 298-1206
- Dead line : April 1, 2-024

[CLICK HERE TO BE A HOLE SPONSOR!](#)



Volunteer Workday

April 13, 2024
9:00am - 3:00pm

RSVP - blair@laurelridge.org
or tres@laurelridge.org
for a project list and lunch
reservations.

All Women of the Southern Province are invited to a Spiritual Life Retreat!

ASK
LISTEN
MOVE

Ask, Listen, Move:

Following Jesus' Loving Lead to be Set In Motion by God
Friday, April 19, 2024 – Sunday, April 21, 2023

Retreat Facilitator: Rev. Christy Clore
Laurel Ridge Camp and Conference Center
Higgins Lodge

For further information please contact:
The Provincial Women's Board

336.722-4911 or pwbmcsp@gmail.com



We can always use volunteers at Laurel Ridge

Pick your skill set

Higgins Host – Greet guest as they arrive with a smiling face! Stay in the Host room, attend all meals, and make sure guest have what they need. If you are interested email Scarlett Dowdy, Program Manager scarlett@laurelridge.org.

Facilities Maintenance – Work with the Facilities Manager on jobs such as mowing, minor repairs or other jobs that fit your skill set. We also have a spring and fall workday that we advertise each year. You are welcome to come anytime however Blair will need to know ahead of time to have jobs available. If you are interested email Blair Osborne, Facilities Manager blair@laurelridge.org

Kitchen Volunteer – Work with the Food Services Coordinator or other full time/part time staff in the kitchen preparing, and serving meals. Cleaning up between meals. You can volunteer for Summer Camp or Higgins Lodge. If you are interested email Tres Fordham, Director tres@laurelridge.org or Scarlett Dowdy, Program Manager scarlett@laurelridge.org

House Keeping – Work with our Guests Services Coordinator cleaning rooms, common areas and meeting spaces. If you are interested email Karen Eagle, Guests Services Coordinator guests@laurelridge.org

Laurel Ridge is still in need of a camp Medical Professional

Junior 1 June 3 16-22, 2024

If you are a Nurse, P.A. or Doctor and would like to volunteer, please contact Scarlett Dowdy at scarlett@laurelridge.org



UNITY PRAYER DAY OFFERING 2024.

Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Germany and the Czech Republic

Germany

The Russian war of aggression triggered a large movement of refugees within Ukraine, but also to safe neighboring countries. More than 1.3 million refugees - mostly women with their children - arrived in Germany alone as of February 2022.

Partly through personal contacts, partly because of the proximity of various congregations to the border, the Moravian Church in Germany had already recognized the responsibility to provide active help at an early stage. The first women and children arrived at the Moravian guest house KOMENSKÝ at the beginning of March 2022 during the days of the Synod meeting. Spontaneously, an information and discussion session was arranged at Synod. In the following weeks, several rooms in the KOMENSKÝ were made available for refugees. Some moved on later, for others flats were sought in and around Herrnhut. There was a great readiness to help, within the congregation and also among many people in the surrounding area who donated necessary clothing or furniture.

Like Herrnhut, several other congregations helped immediately with the most necessary items. It soon became clear that housing, clothing, and food could only be the basics of support. From the beginning, personal relationships were also important. Parishioners who spoke Russian often volunteered to help with visits to offices and doctors or started German language courses. In Herrnhut, the "Café Odessa" was founded - a meeting place for newcomers and residents, which continues to open its doors once a week. In Cottbus, the "Haltestelle", a missionary project of the Moravian Church, invited refugee children to the "Ukrainian School". Here they could learn German in a playful way, but above all enjoy hours of levity after the often-traumatic experiences of the war. The Haltestelle is still an important anchor point for Ukrainian children and their parents.

Supporting children and young people also became a task for the Moravian schools. Ukrainian classes were established at both the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld and Herrnhut. The goal of integrating the children into the regular classes after intensive German language courses has been achieved in the meantime. The Königsfeld Zinzendorf School also provided cost-intensive accommodation for an unaccompanied Ukrainian girl in the boarding facilities.

In addition to helping refugees in the congregations and institutions, the Moravian Church also helped directly in Ukraine. Aid transports to the war-torn regions were supported. In cooperation with other Christian organizations, almost 10,000 copies of the Moravian Daily Watchwords in Ukrainian language have been distributed since the beginning of the war. The books were distributed by pastors and staff of local church congregations, mostly together with aid packages. The soldiers at the front received the Watchwords together with the food packages.

We will continue to distribute the Moravian Watchwords to sow hope with the word of God in a country where war has devastated so many places and landscapes, in a society where joy of life and confidence are hard to find at the moment.

Czech Republic

In February 2022, the war in Ukraine began. Due to the war situation, many residents were forced to flee Ukraine and look for a new home in various European countries. Over 500,000 Ukrainian refugees also received temporary protection in the Czech Republic. These are mainly women and children, possibly the elderly, as the men stayed in Ukraine to defend their country.

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The Moravian Church Unity Province also got involved in helping Ukrainians without hesitation: by providing accommodation, donating clothes and household items, offering opportunities for work and spending free time, practical help and support. Thanks to the cooperation with the Moravian Church Choir, the community united around the New Generation Christian elementary school in Kyiv, approx. 120 people, moved to Nová Paka - the Nová Paka choir, in cooperation with the region and other organizations, and with the support of donors from UF, managed to secure for them accommodation and spaces for teaching. During this year, some returned or moved to other countries, in the following school year the students from this school will be educated directly in our primary school.

We are still continuing this assistance: in some of our congregations, Ukrainian families continue to stay, or women with children, several women are even employed in our congregations. In our Christian schools and kindergartens, we not only provide education for registered Ukrainian pupils and students (Nová Paka, Hejnice, Liberec), but we also help them and their families, if possible, with solving their needs and the traumas that war brings, our congregations offer the possibility of leisure activities - participation of children in clubs, summer camps, involvement in various activities within the community (mothers' clubs, senior clubs), etc. If possible, Ukrainians participate in our services, which are adapted for them, a Ukrainian Christian group meets weekly in the premises of the Nová Paka church.

Jon Hus Class

If you are looking for an interesting and intriguing preparation for our Sunday worship services at Messiah, consider joining the Jon Hus Study Group. This long-running and eclectic collection of fellow searchers meets every Sunday at 9:30 in the Fidelas Room in the Fellowship Hall. No expertise is required. Our reading selections can be provided free of charge. All that is needed is a willingness to join. Currently, the members are reading Howard Thurman's classic book-length essay, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, a piercing vision of the American church that has, in large measure, failed the African American community in the church's essential task of spreading the message of Jesus of Nazareth. The core of the book is a review of what Thurman calls the "Three Hounds of Hell:" fear, deception, and hate. He concludes with a discussion of how the only appropriate response to the attacks of the three 'hounds' is love. Our next book will be a departure from the normal selections, *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, a German author. The book's subtle provides a glimpse into how trees feel and communicate. Maybe the fictional 'Ents' in J.R.R. Tolkien's "Ring" trilogy are not that far off the mark. _Marshall Marvelli



Day of Prayer Services for

March 13, 11:00 A.M. Fairview Moravian, Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Tom Shelton. The service will be in person and include communion. The service will be available on YouTube and Facebook.

March 20, 11:00 A.M. Konnoak Hills Moravian, Speaker: The Rev. Margaret Norris. Lovefeast. The service will be in person and online: <http://www.khmoravian.org/> Select "YouTube Channel" at the top of the page.



Prayer Requested for: Ruth Brandquist, Marilyn Stowers, Michael James, Bill Porter, Kim Shonzz (Randy Speas' girlfriend), Denise Calderwood (Cyndie Tomlin's sister), Sabrina Maksi, (Nancy Bramlett's niece), Jane Butler (Dick Butler's mother)

March Birthdays



2 Melissa Cauthen
6 Nicholas Pacula
8 Jeannette Norfleet
11 Kally Pungert
18 Carol Foltz
20 Roma Combs, Jr.
24 Ed Scott
26 Maxine Schwenn
27 Dean Riggs
28 Tim Davis
28 Mimi Davis
30 Nancy Bramlett
31 Sam Long



Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to remember or honor someone with sanctuary flowers, please contact the church office at 336-765-5961 or by email at:

messiah1401@gmail.com and call Daisy A Day at 336-723-1925 and they will deliver to the church the Saturday before.

On a side note: If you order flowers, please pick them up or let us know if you want us to donate them. You may return the vase if you do not need it.



BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America

This month's Mission Minute comes from the Rev. Sue Koenig, who serves on the Board of World Mission's board of directors. She is the Moravian Church Northern Province's Director of Racial Justice and Healing.

One of the ways the Board of World Mission is participating in the commitment to racial justice and healing is through its Mission Grant program. The goal of this program is "to walk with our partners as they disciple people in knowing and living out Christ in their lives; and promote sustainability within their church." Our global partners propose projects of their own determination that will benefit their communities, and complete a grant application process requesting funding to implement the project. If the grant is awarded, the BWM Outreach Committee subsequently meets with our partners to hear the inspiring stories of the impact these projects are having in the daily lives of individuals and communities. One example is a bakery in the Honduras Mission Province that was recently funded through a mission grant and is operated by a group of local women; this project provides food, employment, and economic stability in the village of Ahuas.

The Mission Grant program is grounded in the creation of just and equitable partnerships for mission and service and represents a step towards racial justice and healing, and the creation of God's beloved community.

For the past several years, our church has been reckoning with its heart-wrenching history of racism, slavery, colonialism, and segregation; a history we are learning through the recent research of Rev. Dr. Frank Crouch. In response, the church has committed to whole-heartedly seeking authentic ways of repentance and healing and working to build just and equitable relationships. A new liturgy for this year's Black History Month represents part of this process.

You can find this new liturgy and other Moravian resources for Black History Month at:

www.Moravian.org/Northern/BlackHistoryMonth/.

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.

I believe in God even when he is silent.

Written on a cellar wall during Holocaust