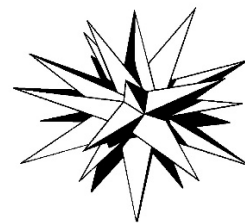


A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

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Bethlehem, PA 18017
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The Star

Volume 64, No. 1

January 2021



A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser

Each year following Christmas, we enter into the church season of Epiphany when we recall the journey of the Wisemen (also called “Magi”, “astrologers”, and “we 3 Kings”). In the gospel of Matthew, these men anticipated the birth of Jesus, they watched for a sign of his arrival, they followed a starlit path, and they presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Some have said that the gifts of the Magi were symbolic or prophetic concerning the life and death of Jesus. Others have written (rather humorously) about how the very human child, Jesus, was more interested in playing with the boxes than the gifts themselves! Either view of the gifts says something about who Jesus is... both human and divine, God made manifest!

As 2020 comes to a close at East Hills Moravian Church, we look ahead to the new year and our Church Council meeting. At this meeting, we will take time to review ministry reports and the activity of our congregation in 2020. These reports say something about who we are and how God’s love is visible, tangible, and made manifest in and through us.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 17th, following our 10:30 a.m. Worship service on Zoom. We will hear and affirm the good work that God is doing through the church and her members. We will review and approve the budget which tells the story of our intentions for

ministry in the new year. We will affirm new ministry leaders who have accepted nominations to serve on our Boards, and we will say, 'thank you' for those who are completing their terms.

I look forward, with great hope, to this new year as we seek to embody the healing, life-giving, liberating love of Jesus in our daily lives and in our shared ministry!


Grateful to share the journey with all of you.

Epiphany Blessings,

Pastor Linda

Pastor Linda





*Those who trust in the Lord
will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40:31

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JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Decisions to hold in-person services are currently made on a week-to-week basis. Please watch your Thursday email blast and Saturday YouTube emails to see if in-person services will be held that week.*

Jan. 3rd –

Holy Communion – please bring your own bread and juice to the screen.

**Zoom Worship at 10:30 with live service.
YouTube Service also available.**

Jan. 10th –

**Zoom Worship at 10:30 with live service.
YouTube Service also available.**

Jan. 17th –

**Zoom Worship at 10:30 with live service.
YouTube Service also available.**

Jan. 24th –

**Installation of Newly Elected Board Members
Zoom Worship at 10:30 with live service.
YouTube Service also available.**

Jan. 31st –

**Zoom Worship at 10:30 with live service.
YouTube Service also available.**

Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities



Church Council meeting Sunday, January 17th on Zoom following worship.



The church office is open on Mondays from 9:00 – 3:00. Remote office hours are in effect for Tuesday-Thursday. Phone messages are checked daily. Please call the office or email as needed.



Remote Worship Opportunities

ZOOM link -- Dial-in by phone -- YouTube recordings

Weekly Worship will be available live on ZOOM **Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.** You may also dial in by phone or check YouTube for pre-recorded services and sermons each week.

Pre-recorded weekly worship is available on the East Hills Moravian Church YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHillsMoravian>.

Additional Worship and Mission Opportunities



EHMC Sunday Morning Coffee Class - EHMC is inviting you join us via ZOOM. Please use the URL below to join the meeting with your computer, tablet or phone with a microphone and webcam. If you need to download the app, please approve it and join the meeting with computer audio.

Time: Every week on Sun. at 9:30 AM Eastern Time



Prayer Requests: Have a prayer request? Please email the new “**Detail Form**” to the church office at office@easthillsmc.org. We will not be mentioning persons by other than first name during worship or delving too deeply into individual circumstances since the YouTube broadcast is literally available to the world.



Pastoral Care: Contact Pastor Linda via email at pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org, via phone or text message at 484-764-8629.



Online Giving: Please visit our website for online giving at <http://www.easthillsmc.org/online-giving/>. You can donate using your checking or savings account, debit card from your financial institution, or Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express credit card. If you're donating for the first time, you'll be asked to set up a profile with your email address and financial information. Then you can schedule a one-time donation or weekly or monthly recurring donation. Your financial information is completely secure.



You may also send pledges to the office at the church. The mail is being checked daily so that no money or checks are sitting in the mailbox for long. 1830 Butztown Rd., Bethlehem, 18017



Cash Cards - Choose from over 750 retailers for giving or for your own shopping. Create your own online account at ShopWithScrip.com using enrollment code 8897CBD34973 or contact Julie Del Priore, Heather Frantz, or Lucy Thompson with your request. Cards for Giant, Wegmans, and Valley Farm are available.



While living, most of us take pride in having the means to be able to give back. To establish a legacy of service and selflessness. Shouldn't your Estate Plan reflect your values?

MAKE SURE YOU'VE THOUGHT ABOUT CHARITABLE GIFTS

Estate Planning and an Invitation: We shared in recent newsletters a celebration that a husband and wife who were also long-time members of East Hills included the Church in their estate distribution plans. This was a gesture of their love of this Church and its members who were among their closest friends. Even more so, it was an expression of a desire to continue to serve the Lord and provide for our shared ministries beyond their deaths.

The Joint Board and Stewardship Committee have been in conversation with the Moravian Ministries Foundation (MMF) to assist us in a goal of inviting members of East Hills to include the Church in their estate distribution plans. MMF will provide leadership and educational resources for individuals and families. We have come to understand such a “legacy gift” to East Hills is of special interest to many, especially those who have been members of East Hills for a number of years. MMF will begin to guide us in this process when we are able to come together again for corporate worship; we pray soon. Until then, we invite you to pray about this idea. The primary ministries we hope to fund through these legacy gifts include “Mission and Ministries” and “Building and Grounds”.



EHMC Book Club: Everyone is invited to join the East Hills Moravian Church Book Club on Monday, January 4th at 7pm via Zoom to discuss “Christmas in London” by Anita Hughes. Enjoy your leftover Christmas treats while we discuss the book.

The Book Club has decided the second book of 2021 will be “Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger (a date for this discussion has not been set).



Women’s Fellowship: We meet the first Tuesday of each month. We’ll meet via Zoom at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 5th.



Men's Fellowship: As we continue to open areas of the church and our lives, the Men's Fellowship Group wants to let you know we are still here. Many of our fundraising events were canceled and we had to scale back our donations to causes that we earmarked funds for. Men's Fellowship is available to assist members whenever possible. We have an email chain setup so that if a member needs some sort of assistance, an email can be sent out looking for the proper assistance. For example, if a member becomes ill and needs some temporary jobs/outside chores completed he/she can let one of us know and we can try to find a volunteer to help accommodate that need. As of now, social distance and safety guidelines need to be met to safeguard each of us.



A Can A Week and Joyful Noise - Due to the ongoing increase in COVID-19 cases in our area, A CAN A WEEK is being suspended until further notice. Monetary donations for JOYFUL NOISE and A CAN A WEEK will continue to be used and are greatly appreciated. Thanks for your ongoing support.



Northeast Community Center is continuing to try to meet the needs of the surrounding community and can always use donations.

Drive-By Food Pantry - The drive-by is this Sunday, January 3, 1-3 PM. Things we need are cereal (not Corn Flakes), soup-chicken noodle, tuna, beans (black, red, white), instant rice, evaporated milk, candy, soap, toilet paper, and anything else you might like to donate.



BES Shelter Volunteering - FOOD SERVERS NEEDED FOR BETHLEHEM EMERGENCY

SHELTER - We need 3 people each month to serve the 6:30 seating at BES on 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, and 4/10. One person should be there at @ 5:30 the others at 6:00. No interaction with guests, prepare trays the same and push them through a partition. After the meal, pack food into quart containers and return them to the church, take some home or to someone in need. Sanitize table tops and chairs, take out trash. NO DISHWASHING as everything will be disposable. You must be 18 or older to volunteer. Gather a crew for one month, or multiple months.



Calling all East Hills Musicians!

Pastor Linda and the Worship Committee are looking for special music to include in the Sunday morning recorded services. Feel free to record singing or instrumentals as an individual, a family, etc., within our current safe guidelines for social distancing, of course. Videos of any performance can be uploaded to the Google album below:

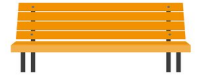
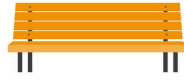
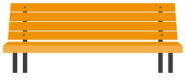
Music can be a powerful tool to unite the community in this potentially stressful time. We appreciate our musicians' contributions to our East Hills community, now and always.

Worship Support for January 2021:

	3- Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan
Sacristans/Color	/White	/Green	/Green	/Green	/Green
Elders					
Liturgist in-person					
Liturgist online					
Ushers					
Counters					



TREX Plastic Challenge Update – BAM Churches – 2020



Trex plastics collections:

Although we have suspended Trex plastics collections at the church for the time being, we encourage you to continue to collect your recyclable plastics at home until we can restore our collection program at church.

2, 4; Do More!

Let's hear a Cheer for Trex Challenge plastics recycling! Repeat it three times LOUDLY to solidify in your mind those plastics that can be recycled through our Trex Challenge! Please look for the recycling symbols 2 or 4 where printed on the packaging. Please limit other recycling to items on the following list. The plastics MUST NOT be contaminated with any foreign material or chemicals. The only exception is small paper labels.

Bring your recyclables to church at these times:

- Sundays when we have in-person worship. Deposit your collected plastics in the bin in the vestibule.
- Mondays, 9-3 – observe COVID-19 protocols. Ring the front doorbell to be permitted into the building. Please wear your mask and maintain social distancing. Deposit your collected plastics in the bin staged in the Narthex.

In addition to Lucy Thompson and John Kulp, we welcome Deb Spinney to the TREX Plastics Challenge volunteers. If you are interested in this limited commitment project, contact Barb Hendricks for details about how you might support this effort. In the meantime, continue to collect and bring to church the plastics that will help us reach our goal!

ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS

Plastic shopping bags
Produce and bread bags
Grocery bags
Cereal box liners
Ice bags
Wood pellet bags
Salt bags
Ziplock and other re-closable bags
Case overwrap
Newspaper sleeves
Dry cleaning bags
Bubble wrap & air pillows
Pallet wrap and stretch film

NOT ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS

Plastic bottles or other rigid plastic containers
Degradable/compostable bags
Pre-washed salad mix bags
Frozen food bags
Candy wrappers
Chip bags
Dried fruit and nut bags
Six-pack plastic rings
Pouch packaging
If material does not stretch easily
If material is shiny & crinkles or crunches

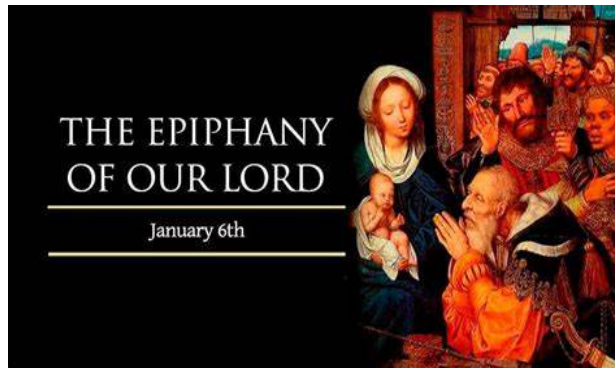
***** All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue. *****

January Calendar Celebrations

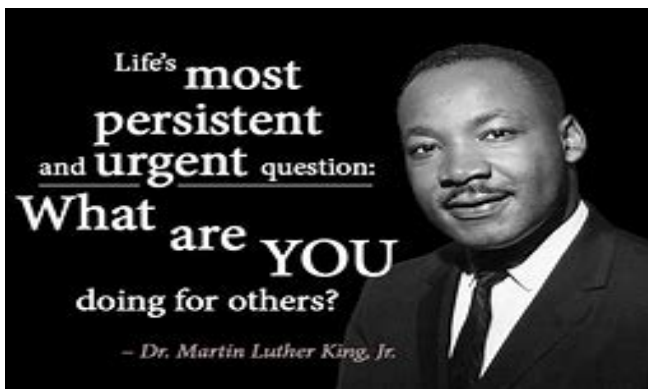
Jan. 1st – New Year’s Day



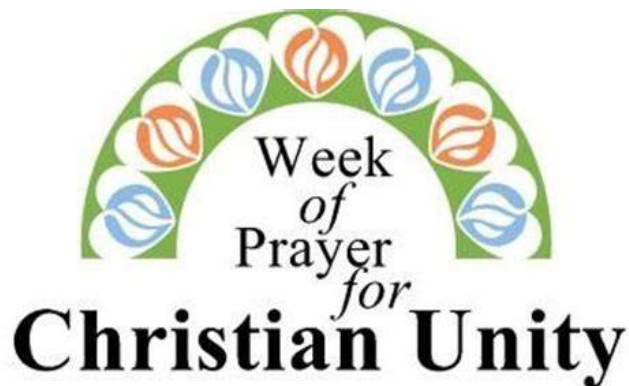
Jan. 6th – Epiphany of the Lord



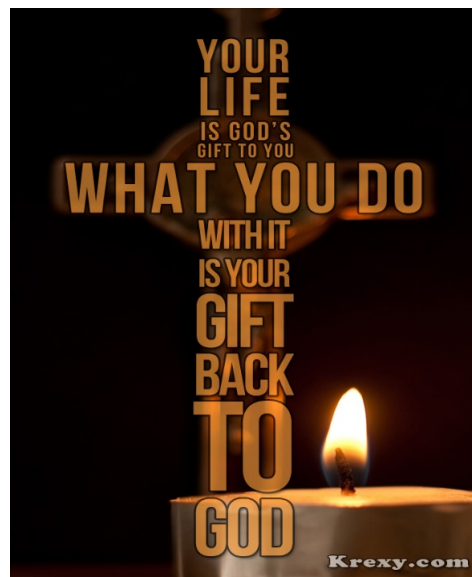
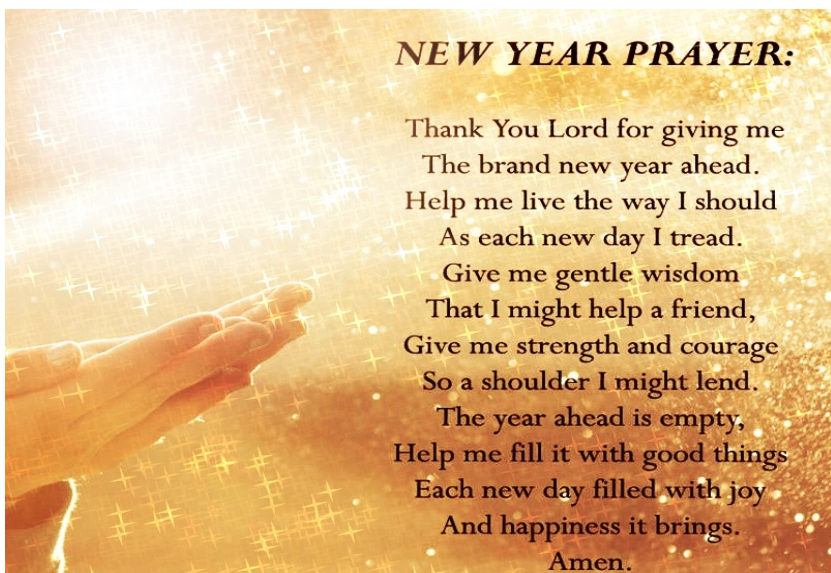
Jan. 18th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 25)



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-



Every Day...





JANUARY

ALL JANUARY BIRTHDAYS! WISHING YOU THE BEST!!

- Please contact the office if anyone is missing or needs to be removed. Thank you!



DETAIL FORM

ANNOUNCEMENTS / NEWSLETTER / EMAIL BLAST / PRAYER LIST

(CIRCLE ALL APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR REQUEST)

(All must complete this section)

CONTACT NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

START DATE:

END DATE:

ANNOUNCEMENT / NEWSLETTER / EMAIL BLAST CONTENT:

PRAYERS FOR?

WHY?

MEMBER?

MEMBER'S FAMILY?

MEMBER'S FRIEND?

OTHER?

****If you need something extended or updated, please contact the office. ****

EHMC Office email address: office@easthillsmc.org

EHMC phone: 610-868-6481