

# A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

1830 Butztown Road

Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-868-6481 or [office@easthillsmc.org](mailto:office@easthillsmc.org)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday - Thursday - Office is open 9:00-3:00

\*Pastor Linda is off on Mondays.

## The Star



Volume 66, No. 10

November 2023



*Pastor's  
Page*

*A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser:*

Advent is here... a holy season that differs from any other time of year. Here at the church, there are all kinds of signs that show us that this is a holy season. The putz is constructed and ready to be experienced, the greens are hung, Lovefeast is shared, Shepherd's Journey plans are in the works. These kinds of things signal that something special is happening. This is no longer "ordinary time" in the church.

So let me ask you, does it seem like a 'special' time...does it feel like an EXTRAordinary time? Or have we become de-sensitized or anesthetized not only to the season, but to what God has done, is doing, and will do?

I am particularly drawn to the readings from the book of Isaiah this season... readings that give voice to God's people then, who cried out saying 'this is not the world we hoped for!'. These readings give us the voices of people at the end of their patience, people wondering when God will act, and people even at times accusing God, not only of failing to fix the mess, but of causing the mess in the first place. "How long, O Lord", the prophet asks... "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down", (Isaiah 64). If you, like many, are looking at the world, our nation, or events in your personal life and are thinking 'this is not the world we hoped for', or maybe, "this is not the life we hoped for", then I want to encourage you this season, to enter the season of Advent with us, or perhaps more appropriately, allow Advent to enter you. Because something special is indeed happening. God is doing something EXTRAordinary and the season of Advent would have us awaken and prepare to experience it!

The pages ahead are filled with news about ways for us to journey together into this holy season, to encourage one another and be strengthened in faith. Come and hear the stories of how God appears in the most unexpected, unpredictable ways for the sake of the world God loves. If God appeared then, to ordinary people and in ordinary places, who knows where God will appear next...maybe even to you and me?!

Join us on Sundays this season to be renewed, refreshed, restored in the sure and certain promises of God! We hope to see you very soon.

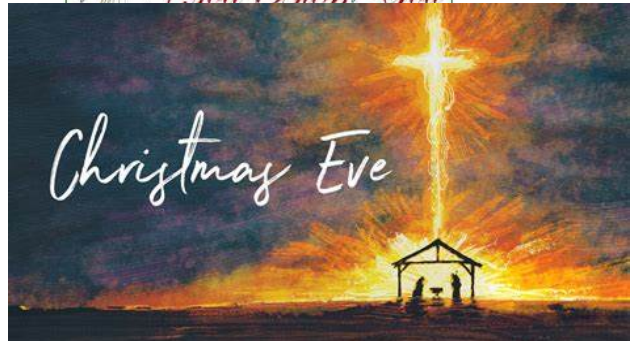
Blessings,  
Pastor Linda



**Our Christmas Activities:**



**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Pastor Linda will be hosting an Advent Bible Study on **Wednesdays at 7 pm -OR- Thursdays at noon (bring a bag lunch) in December.** We will be studying "Heaven and Earth...Advent and the Incarnation", by Will Willimon. Books can be purchased on Amazon or Barnes and Noble.



**Christmas Eve is on Sunday this year!**

Worship Services will be held at:

- 10:30 am** – a putz service  
(available on ZOOM and will be posted on YouTube)
- 4:00 pm** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lovefeast  
(available on ZOOM)
- 7:30 pm** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Lovefeast  
(available on ZOOM)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858077423?pwd=UFIBRDI3cG5jTHNNaGNtakhnU05vdz09>

Please join us for one or all the services to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

**A Shepherd's Journey - Sunday, December 17th – during Sunday School at 9:30 am.**



Take your children on an exciting journey back in time to the streets of Bethlehem on the night that Jesus was born!



**The East Hills Moravian Church Putz** will be open to the public **December 1st - December 30th**

**Fridays**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

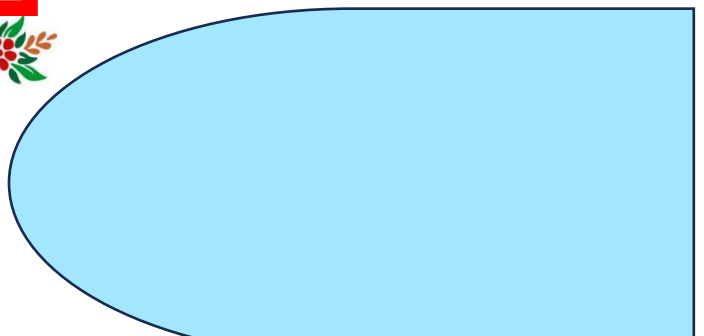
**Saturdays & Sundays**

**3:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

3 versions: Adult, Child, & Spanish



*\*Volunteers are still needed to run the putz. See sign-up sheet on bulletin board near the office or contact the office.*



**Huts on Main:** Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Christmas Huts on Main Street again this year. Once again, one hut is dedicated to the BAM Freezer Ministry and the Bethlehem Area Emergency Shelter. Volunteers are needed for serving and information sharing. Contact Bob Wingrove at [Robert.wingrove@rcn.com](mailto:Robert.wingrove@rcn.com)



**Pick An Angel:** Thank you to those who picked an angel! When you return your wrapped gift, please cross your name off the list. Make sure you attach the angel or a gift tag with the angel number. **All gifts are due Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>!**

**Pastoral Care:** Contact Pastor Linda via email at [pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org](mailto:pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org), via phone or text message at 484-764-8629.

**Prayer Requests:** Have a prayer request? Please contact the church office or fill out a prayer card in Sunday worship.

### Giving:

#### Online Giving:

<http://www.easthillsmc.org/online-giving/> - OR-  
VENMO at:



OR ---

**Mail:** You can mail pledges to the office at the church at: 1830 Butztown Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18017.

### Refreshments:

#### Weekly worship refreshments

**schedule:** Please contact Louise Snyder to schedule your donation of refreshments for after worship. Please know that all donations are appreciated! Thank you for helping Louise keep things organized! Contact Louise at 610-554-4381 (text), 610-865-4110 (voice) or [louise369@rcn.com](mailto:louise369@rcn.com).



**Come join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 - In person, on ZOOM, or anytime on YouTube at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EastHillsMoravian/videos>

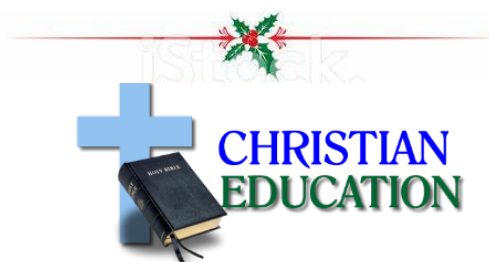
**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858077423?pwd=UFIBRD13cG5jTHNNaGNtakhnU05vdz09>

**Dial-in by phone:** Call 1-929-205-6099 (New York - other cities available on request)

Meeting ID enter 838-5807-7423#

Participant ID enter #

Password enter 175584#



**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study - 9:30 am in the Church Lounge.**

Peter Diehl facilitating.

**Sunday Coffee & Conversation Group – 9:30 am**

**Sunday School for Children and Youth – 9:30 am**



**Sanctuary flowers:** If you wish to provide sanctuary flowers on Sunday:

- 1) Enter your name on the Flower Chart on your preferred week.
- 2) Call florist - **Mycalyn's - 610-759-9060** to place order by the Tuesday prior to your requested date. Pay the florist directly.
- 3) Provide the church office with the date and dedication you would like printed in the bulletin by the Tuesday prior



**What's Happening at East Hills:**

| December 2023  |   |   |  |  |     |     |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----|-----|
| Sun  | Mon                                       | Tue                                       | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat |
|  |   |   |  |  | 1   | 2   |
| <b>3</b><br><b>Advent Begins</b><br>9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group<br>9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School<br>9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor<br>9:30 Women's Fellowship<br>10:30 Worship, First Sunday of Advent, Lovefeast<br>Church Council Meeting | <b>4</b><br><b>Cookie Day</b><br>7:00 CEC | <b>5</b><br>7:00 pm<br>Women's Fellowship | <b>6</b><br><b>Unity Prayer Day</b><br>7:00 pm - Mid Week Advent Bible Study | <b>7</b><br><b>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</b><br>12:00 pm - Advent Lunch and Learn Bible Study | 8   | 9   |
| <b>10</b><br>9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group<br>9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School<br>9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor<br>10:30 Worship, Holy Communion  | 11  | <b>12</b><br>5:00 pm<br>Trustees          | <b>13</b><br><b>Cocoa Day</b><br>7:00 pm - Mid Week Advent Bible Study       | <b>14</b><br>12:00 pm - Advent Lunch and Learn Bible Study                                       | 15  | 16  |
| <b>17</b><br>9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group<br>9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School<br>9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor<br>10:30 Worship, Christmas Praise Service  | 18  | 19  | <b>20</b><br>7:00 pm - Mid Week Advent Bible Study                           | <b>21</b><br><b>Winter Begins</b><br>12:00 pm - Advent Lunch and Learn Bible Study               | 22  | 23  |

## December 2023

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                               | Wed   | Thu  | Fri       | Sat       |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>24</b><br><b>Christmas Eve</b><br>9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group<br>9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor<br>10:30 Worship, Putz Service<br>4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service with Lovefeast<br>7:30 pm - Christmas Eve Service with Lovefeast | <b>25</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><b>Christmas Day</b> | <b>26</b><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> | <b>27</b><br>7:00 pm Why Knots<br>7:00 pm - Mid Week Advent Bible Study | <b>28</b><br>12:00 pm - Advent Lunch and Learn Bible Study | <b>29</b> | <b>30</b> |
| <b>31</b><br><b>New Year's Eve</b><br>9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group<br>9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor<br>10:30 Worship  |   |                                   |   |  |           |           |

**Unity Prayer Watch – EHMC date is December 6<sup>th</sup> –**

Please contact the church office to schedule your desired half hour for prayer. We share the day with College Hill and Nazareth MCs. The hours we will cover are 2:00-4:00 am and pm and 8:00-10:00 am and pm.

“December 1-22, 2023 is ‘A never-ending prayer.’ It’s easy for us as Moravians to take for granted this ancient practice of our faith. Joining together with our world-wide Moravian family, we are able to be in conversation with God not only every day of the year, but literally every hour and minute. It’s humbling to think, that at any given moment, whether it be one of blessing or sorrow, someone from our faith family is in prayer for the world and all of us within it. It’s actually a gift we give not only to the world, but an honor given to our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ!” - Rev. David E. Bennett President Provincial Elders’ Conference



**Visitation Care Team** One of the priorities of our Board of Elders is to be sure that our members are well cared for through visits. When members and/or loved ones are sick, grieving, lonely, recovering, and/or struggling in matters of faith, a visit can help us to know we do not struggle alone. It is such an important ministry, that several folks have been trained to serve in partnership with the pastor in our visitation ministry. To request a visit, EHMC members can call the church office to be scheduled with someone from our Visitation Ministry.



**NEW Ministry - Book Buddies – A Literacy Program with Governor Wolf Elementary School**

- We began working with staff and students at Governor Wolf Elementary School twice a week, serving by reading to and with the children at the school in the morning. For now, if you are willing to serve once a month or once a week as a reader with kids, please call the office or speak with Pastor Linda.

**Cash Cards for Shopping and Gifting -**

Consider small denomination gift cards as gifts for others or for yourself! Available cards include large retailers like Amazon and Walmart, streaming and gaming sites such as Sling TV and Xbox, restaurants, coffee shops, and gas stations. A full list of retailers is available at ShopWithScrip.com. To find out more, contact the church office.



**CROP Walk Thanks East Hills**

Thank You to all who helped with the CROP Walk this year – our Sunday School Hour walkers, those who elected to walk downtown, and all our donors. East Hills has been with CROP Walk since its beginning in Bethlehem. CROP fights hunger, provides clean water and self-help projects around the world.



**Medical equipment loaner closet:**

Church and community members have contributed so generously to the closet that further acceptance of donations (except for knee scooters and travel wheelchairs) has been suspended for now. We can currently offer shower seats with and without backs and side handles, tub transfer benches, wheeled walkers, crutches, commodes, raised toilet seats, travel wheelchair with footrest and one without footrests, bed assist rails, a suction grab bar and sock aide. Please continue to encourage anyone in need to use it. At this time, we are not accepting any additional equipment donations. Call the church office for needs.

**Victory House:** East Hills will be providing a dinner on second Tuesday of each month, for the men of Victory House again in 2024. We are in need of volunteers for the tasks of shopping, kitchen prep, and serving at the shelter. Please contact the church office if you wish to participate in this ministry.

**2023 Watchword:** Keep my statutes, and observe them; I am the Lord; I sanctify you. - Leviticus 20:8

While we your past dealings  
Gratefully review,  
We're assured your mercies  
Are each morning new;  
Pardon our transgressions,  
Hear our earnest cry;  
Us in soul and body  
Heal and sanctify. (770)

**Women's Fellowship** is reading "Rolling with the Rock" by Rev. Jason Andersen. The December meetings will be **Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am** and on **ZOOM on Tuesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** which will be on Session 3 "In a Fog".

**Zoom** Meetings are at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81049150487?pwd=d0luM01YaFVvTVRRd2ZvbG1sdmo1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 4915 0487  
Passcode: 252978



**Family fun night watching live hockey?:** East Hills is checking your interest in a Family Fun Night to see the Lehigh Valley Phantoms play hockey. We need minimum of 10 people for the discount. The pricing for lower level seating (closer to the ice) is \$23-25 and upper level seating is \$18-20. **Please contact the church office if you are interested in doing this.**



**Why Knots** - WHY KNOT members will **NOT** be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of January,



**Enjoy playing cards?** Come join a fun group every **Wednesday from 1-3 pm** at the church. Come when you can. Most times Pinochle is our game but

**Men's Fellowship:** 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. If you



**Adult Fellowship:** If you're a Generation Jones member or part of our Adult Fellowship community, stay tuned for information on the 2024 adventures! contact the church office.



**ESSENTIALS CAFÉ** – Check out all the information at: [Essential Cafe \(essentialscafe.org\)](https://www.essentialscafe.org)

**VOLUNTEER** - view various volunteer positions and time slots available (AM & Lunch), please visit our website at <https://www.essentialscafe.org/signup>. Our volunteers are key to the success of Essentials Café!

**Northeast Community Center:** We have had a close relationship with the foodbank at Northeast Community Center for many years. Two of our current ministries provide an opportunity for each one of us to get involved. A CAN A WEEK provides a weekly opportunity for each one of us to shop for those in need and bring our donations to our special collection bins in the Narthex. We can watch announcements for the most-needed items and then add those items to our shopping list. JOYFUL NOISE is a special collection held on the first Sunday each month, but you can donate any time! The funds are used on a regular basis to fill in the gaps at the foodbank. Our ongoing support of both of these ministries is always greatly appreciated by clients and staff at NECC. Thanks for your help!



support of this ministry is greatly needed at this time when the NECC foodbank is experiencing food shortages. Please join in our effort to have full participation in A CAN A WEEK this Sunday, Dec. 3rd!

**JOYFUL NOISE** is collected in our "cow cans" on the first Sunday each month, but donations are welcome at any time. Send a check to the church office or place an earmarked donation in the offering at any time. Let's all get on board with our ongoing ministries in support of the Foodbank at the Northeast Community Center. A CAN A WEEK was designed to provide each one of us with the perfect opportunity to follow Jesus' command to feed the hungry. Please join our effort by adding A CAN A WEEK to your regular shopping list, and watch our weekly announcements and Facebook posts regarding the most-needed items.



## RECYCLING:



### **Pill containers: Reminder...the pill bottle collection has stopped.**

Unfortunately we had to discontinue our pill recycling campaign. Thank you for your participation however, we respectfully request that you do not bring any additional bottles to the church.



**TREX recycling:** The bagging dates are **Sundays, December 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.**



**Used printer cartridges:** The Boy Scouts continue to collect used printer cartridges in the box in Fellowship Hall. They are recycled and the proceeds benefit the Boy Scout troops and EHMC.

## Making a Financial Pledge to EHMC...

... not only helps the church plan, but it helps you grow in your faith commitment to the church and to God. We believe:

- All we have belongs to God. Our blessings are gifts from God, our generous Creator.
- We are lifelong stewards of the gifts with which God has blessed us.
- God expects us to practice stewardship in ways that glorify God and that strengthen His earthly Kingdom.
- Our stewardship decisions reveal the relative importance of God in our lives. Stewardship greatly impacts the depth of our relationships with God and the quality of our earthly lives.
- As good stewards, we should use our gifts of time, talent, treasure, and legacy in those places that best further God's Kingdom.
- East Hills Moravian Church is a conduit through which God works.
- The practice of pledging changes hearts and strengthens relationships with God. Pledging is a tie that binds us to God.

Grace permeates our lives, and pledging to East Hills Moravian Church allows us to practice gratefully responding to that grace. It is the first step in cultivating a broader practice of generous living, shaping not



only how we use our financial resources but also how we share our gifts of time, talent, and legacy with others. As we continue to invest in our faith community, we strengthen our personal relationship with God.

## Financial Commitment Card

Pledging is important because it helps the church plan. Please consider taking a step toward contributing a specific percentage of your income with the goal of tithing.

I/we intend to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_  per week  per month  per year  
to support our shared ministries at East Hills Moravian Church.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Please fill out and return this card to East Hills Moravian Church by mail or by placing it in the collection plate. Or visit [easthillsmc.org/online-giving](http://easthillsmc.org/online-giving) to sign up for or change your secure electronic funds transfer.

*Thank you for your continued support.*



**EAST HILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

If you haven't already...Please fill out and return the commitment card to East Hills Moravian Church by mail or by placing it in the collection plate. Or visit [easthillsmc.org/online-giving](http://easthillsmc.org/online-giving) to sign up for secure electronic funds transfer (EFT). Please contact the Financial Secretary if you would like to change your EFT.

Stewardship Team  
East Hills Moravian Church



### JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS:

**DEBT JUBILEE PROJECT SUCCESS:** This summer, generous Moravians came together to offer grace and hope through the forgiveness of medical debt, both here in the United States and at the Moravian medical ministry in Ahuas, Honduras. The Debt Jubilee Project: For the Healing of the World was a collaborative effort of several Moravian agencies based on our biblical call to care for the sick and our belief that healthcare is a fundamental human right. We are pleased to share that this project is making a huge impact around the world and at home.

**Total Amount Received: \$102,424.47 (More than double our goal!)**

Total sent to the Ahuas Clinic in Honduras: \$25,606.12

Total sent to abolish medical debt in the U.S.: \$76,818.35.

Total debt abolished in the U.S.: \$10,965,390.60.

People impacted: 13,441 individuals / families in 37 counties across 15 states where Moravian congregations / entities are located.

**Local Impact: \$2,172,360.22** medical debt was eliminated in Pennsylvania. 2,478 families and individuals right here in our state recently received a letter notifying them that their debt was forgiven, with no further action required. Putting this in perspective: When all is said and done, the number of people impacted by the Debt Jubilee Project will be equivalent to one in every five people living in Bethlehem (75,624). A huge success!

