

# 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 67, No. 2

March 2024

### *A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser:*

**"See, I am doing a new thing..." Isaiah 43:19**



Soon after their installation, the 2024 EHMC Joint Board met for our Joint Board Retreat in early February. We reviewed, assessed and celebrated last year's ministry and established ministry priorities for the new year. Below are some of the highlights of this year's ministry priorities. We invite your prayers, your support and your participation as we live our mission, "to Know Christ and to make Him known" and commit ourselves to the new thing God is doing in our midst!

**Board of Elders:** We seek to engage people (members of the church and others) in worship, study and action. We will continue developing worship services that praise God and inspire people in our life with Jesus, and to offer small group learning opportunities that help people grow in relationship to one another and God. We are exploring partnerships with Governor Wolf Elementary School, our neighbors, Bethlehem Parks program, Center for Humanistic Change, North Bethlehem Little League, and United Way Senior Hub programs, to establish relationships, help strengthen, nurture and care for the people and this area that is home for all of us, and so that East Hills becomes known and associated with what is good in the neighborhood! We plan to create a new digital pictorial directory as well, which will involve reaching out to all church members and asking you all to send us your photos! Watch for more information on this!

**Board of Trustees:** We have identified these priorities for the year ahead: to make progress on projects such as the courtyard, signage, exterior doors, upgrades to the lower level and main bathrooms in ways that leverage grants; to educate and encourage people regarding the Endowment Fund and opportunities to include EHMC in our estate planning; to address building security as relates to access (keys/keypad entry) and monitoring activity. We also recognize the tremendous recent growth of the Freezer Ministry and have established a team to review current structure, and to discern together the structure needed so that this ministry can continue to thrive into the future. Communication is another area our Trustees are working on to develop a modern strategy to effectively communicate to and with members of the church and beyond.

As we approach Holy Week this month, our hearts and minds are reminded of the pain and brokenness in our human lives. But we also know that's not how our story ends. We look to the Resurrection reality, our Risen Lord, and the new life that is possible in Him. It is, indeed, life that heals and transforms every kind of pain and brokenness. Isn't it quite incredible (and humbling) to see how God works through the church, through us, to help make that healing and transformation occur?

We offer thanks to all those who serve in the name of Jesus, and look ahead with anticipation of what God is up to in our world! Anticipating the new thing God is doing among us.

*In Christ, Pastor Linda*

**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/>



**VENMO at:**

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

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

Please check Channel 69 News Storm Center and/or East Hills Moravian Church Facebook Page for schedule changes and closings. The office staff will follow the Bethlehem Area School District decisions for closings and delayed openings.

**Refreshments:**

**Weekly worship refreshments**

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

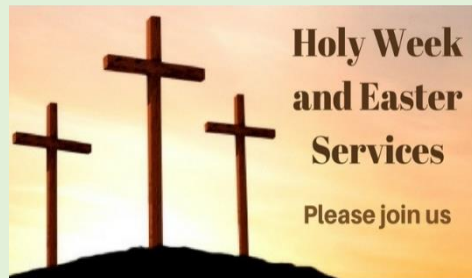


**Come join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 - In person, on ZOOM, or anytime on YouTube at:**

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

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858077423?pwd=UFIBRDl3cG5jTHNNaGNtakhnU05vdz09>

**Dial-in by phone:** Call 1-929-205-6099  
Meeting ID enter 838-5807-7423#  
Participant ID enter #  
Password enter 175584#



**Holy Week Services in March:**

**Palm Sunday Worship and Readings - Sunday, March 24th at 10:30 am**

**Holy Week Readings at 7 pm - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday March 25th, 26th, and 27th at 7pm**

**Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion – March 28th at 7 pm**

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service - March 29th at 7 pm**

**Easter Sunrise Service - March 31st at 6:30 m.**

Easter breakfast to follow at 7:15 am. No reservations or tickets needed.

A free-will donation is appreciated to help cover the costs.

**Easter Morning Service - March 31st at 10:30 am**








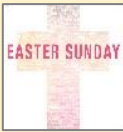
**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study - 9:30 am in the Church Lounge.**

Peter Diehl facilitating.

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

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

## What's Happening at East Hills...

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Women's Fellowship 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor <b>10:30 Worship, Joyful Noise Collection, Birthdays</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm – Women's Fellowship	<b>6</b> 6:00 supper and Lenten Service	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm - CEC	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>  9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor <b>10:30 Worship, Praise Service, Scout Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 supper and Lenten Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>  9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Spring Begins</b> 	<b>20</b> 6:00 supper and Lenten Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>  9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor <b>10:30 Worship</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Holy Week Reading	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Holy Week Reading	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Holy Week Reading  7:00 – Why Knots	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service, Holy Communion	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae service	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>  <b>6:30 am Sunrise service</b> 7:15 Easter breakfast 9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study <b>10:30 Worship</b>						

**\*New Inquirer's Class:** A group is now forming for people who want to know more about East Hills Moravian Church and/or who want to explore membership. Classes will be Wednesdays, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:15 pm at the church. We will receive new members April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please see pastor Linda or call the office to sign up.

**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.



**Why Knots** - members will be meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of January, and monthly throughout the New Year. If you are interested in joining in our effort to make items for donation to various community organizations, you are invited to contact Phyllis Kulp, Bobby Shimer, or Susan Kriebs for information.

**Women's Fellowship** is reading "Rolling with the Rock" by Rev. Jason Andersen. The March meetings will be **in-person on Sunday, March 3rd at 9:30 am** in the Board Room and **on ZOOM on Tuesday, March 5th at 7 pm**. We'll be discussing **Session 6** "Shoot First, Ask Questions Later" Matthew 26:33-40, Mark 14:43-50, Luke 22:47-54, John 18:1-12. Contact Lucy Thompson ([Lwt2@ptd.net](mailto:Lwt2@ptd.net)) for questions.

**Zoom Meetings are at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81049150487?pwd=d0luM01YaFVvTVRRd2ZvbG1sdmo1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 810 4915 0487

Passcode: 252978

**Cash Cards for Shopping and Gifting -**

Consider gift cards for gifts or for yourself. Every sale benefits EHMC! Giant, Gerrity's Valley Farm Market, and ShopRite cards are available every Sunday after worship. A full list of other retailers is available at RaiseRight.com or on the RaiseRight app. The East Hills enrollment code is 8897CBD34973. E-cards are available immediately after purchase. Physical card orders will be released in early March. To find out more or to place an order, contact Julie Del Priore (610/417-2071), Heather Frantz, or Lucy Thompson.

**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 or Karen Montgomery at 484-894-0604.

**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 Randy Emmons at [taperandy@gmail.com](mailto:taperandy@gmail.com) if you wish to participate in this ministry.

**Young Adult Ministry (YAM)** sends care packages to college-age youth attending school, in the military, or in the job force twice a year. If you are a young adult or know of a young adult (your child), please give his/her mailing address to Lucy Thompson (610-442-4619 or [lwt2@ptd.net](mailto:lwt2@ptd.net)) or Bobby Shimer (610-739-7665 or [barbara.shimer@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.shimer@gmail.com)). The young adult will be added to our list and receive a package from us this spring. The deadline for submitting addresses (new or a change) is **Sunday, March 31**. If you wish to give monetary contributions to cover mailing costs, please make checks payable to *East Hills Moravian Church, memo: YAM*. You may contact Lucy Thompson (610-442-4619 or [lwt2@ptd.net](mailto:lwt2@ptd.net)) or Bobby Shimer (610-739-7665 or [barbara.shimer@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.shimer@gmail.com)) if you have questions. Thanks for caring.



**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 need anything feel free to reach out to Pete Norman at [petewnorman@gmail.com](mailto:petewnorman@gmail.com) or Bob Wingrove at [bobandkathyw@rcn.com](mailto:bobandkathyw@rcn.com). We will try to assist you as best as we can.





**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 open to other games as well. Contact Jane Regina at 610-360-5672.

**The East Hills Moravian Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, April 30th at 7pm to discuss James McBride's "Heaven and Earth Grocery Store." Questions? Contact Amy Gross, [bartlet4pres@yahoo.com](mailto:bartlet4pres@yahoo.com)

**Girl Scout troop #830 Homemade Easter Candy Fundraiser**  
 ½ lb. Milk Chocolate Peanut Butter Eggs (about 8) for \$11  
 ½ lb. Dark Chocolate Coconut Cream Eggs (about 8) for \$11  
 Pastel Easter Shaped lollipops for \$2 each  
 Orders Due by **Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** to Sue Larson at [GSMom225@aol.com](mailto:GSMom225@aol.com)  
 Any question contact me at 610-737-0012 or [GSMom225@aol.com](mailto:GSMom225@aol.com)

**VBS 2024 IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER...SAVE THE DATE - July 8 – 12** from 9-12 each day. Registration forms can be found through the weekly announcements or in the church Narthex.



**DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**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!



**FEED THE HUNGRY**



**A CAN A WEEK/JOYFUL NOISE:** Your generous 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.

**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**



**TREX recycling:** The bagging dates are **Sunday, March 10th**. Barb Hendricks is the coordinator. (610-434-7305, E-mail: [bzhendricks@gmail.com](mailto:bzhendricks@gmail.com)).



**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.

## JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS

### MARCH

- 4 Rebecca Jensen
- 5 Kevin Moyzan, Sr.
- 6 Calvin Creswell,  
Richard Yanzsa
- 9 Caroline Hudock
- 12 Chere King
- 13 Laurie Latham
- 16 Christian Jancsarics,  
Alan Soska
- 18 Frieda Soska
- 19 Sarah Choi



- 20 Christopher Coole,  
Julie Ann DelPriore
- 23 John Kulp,  
Susan Sommers,  
Phil Turton,  
Kyra Zimmerman
- 24 Rebecca Bieber
- 25 Greg Adams,  
Scott Gross,  
Jim Riegel
- 30 Beth Jensen,  
Andrea Neith



*Congratulations to David and Ellie Kemmerer on the birth of their son, Owen, born on February 11th.*

*Congratulations to Alex and Abby (Cooke) Samsel on the birth of their son, Finnegan Arthur Samsel on February 15th, and to grandparents Steve and Jen Cooke.*

## Thank You's

### From Northeast Community Center:

- "To say we were blown away by your contribution to our Thanksgiving Distribution would be an understatement! Almost 800 cans of corn is truly an amazing feat. Your continued partnership with NECC means so much to not only us but those in our community. We are beyond grateful for you and all of your support!  
Thank you so much, NECC Staff"
- "Thank you for participating in our Annual Christmas Gift Distribution again this year! It truly means so much to us and makes such a huge difference in our community to have consistent and generous partners like yourself. We couldn't do it without you! Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year!  
NECC Staff"

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Thank you letters were received from the three recipients of an East Hills Moravian Church donation of \$1555.00 each. (the letters are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Alliance
- ShareCare Faith in Action
- Northeast Community Center

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**Bethlehem Area Moravian (BAM) Freezer Ministry and Garden Gatherers**  
(an Ecumenical / Community Program)

*Thank You*

We look forward to 2024 with great excitement - to so many new connections and the expansion of our Vegetable and Fruit Stands at 10 Bethlehem Area Community Schools and the prospects of providing 130,000 meals or meal equivalents by year end.

But first we must look back and say Thank You to so many great people.

**Individuals -**

- Those that prepare our meals to be shared - Cooks, choppers, dicers, ladlers, dishwashers and the labeling team.
- Those who distributed approximately 20,000 meals in 2023, from 1 to 100 at a time. Thanks for bringing more than food, but caring and friendship each time you deliver.
- Everyone who participated, either by helping, gathering orders, purchasing or attending, the Soup Sale in February and our Harvest Dinner in November. These are both very important events.
- Those who weathered the December elements to host Huts on Main. Who along with our Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering friends, shared our mission of fighting homelessness and hunger, and handed out Hot Chocolate, Coffee and Cookies to so many local and out of town visitors to Bethlehem during the Christmas season.
- Speaking of cookies – a big thank you to our cookie makers for supplying the Huts with over 4,000 cookies this year. Nothing makes people feel more welcome than a homemade cookie.
- The Musicians that donated their time and talent to perform at Huts on Main.
- The Presenters that spoke at both of the Freezer Ministry Gatherings and shared their knowledge and experiences.
- Pastors, Leaders and Administrators that help spread the word.
- Those that stand up and share the story, promote our mission and vision of a connected community.

Thank You

**Donors:**

- Bethlehem Area Moravian Corporate and Ministries
- Moravian Ministry Foundation
- Churches and Organizations
- Individuals

**Partnerships:**

- East Hills Moravian Church for sharing kitchen space for freezers and refrigerators and a place to prepare meals and transition tons of vegetable and fruit prior to delivery, along with a church family that supports the mission.
- Second Harvest Food Bank for the ability to receive food items at low or no cost and thus reducing the amount required to be purchased.
- Bethlehem Downtown Business Association and Chamber of Commerce for providing a Hut on Main for our use.

**To Garden Gatherer Program participants and donors:**

- The Bethlehem Area School Coordinators, along with administrators, volunteers and the United Way Representative.
- The vegetable and fruit pick-up and delivery team. It couldn't work without this.
- Individuals who donated vegetables.
- Wegmans for many donated cases of broccoli and being a great source of bananas
- Monocacy Farms for fresh vegetables
- Rodale Farms for nice organic zucchinis
- Azar Supermarket for working with us on pricing when we purchased vegetables and fruit.

For anyone that might have been missed in the list, Thanks for participating.

To quote a third grader who wrote us a Thank You for the vegetables and fruits –

**“That God sends you miracles”**

*Bob Wingrove*

BAM Freezer Ministry Coordinator





We thank you for your generous support during this year’s **Moravian Day of Giving!** The abundance of kindness and generosity witnessed during this day was truly remarkable. Moravians from all over the country came together to make unexpected gifts totaling more than \$268,000 to our beloved Moravian churches, organizations, and ministries! These donations were above and beyond regular tithes or pledges and will significantly impact the Moravian community.

Your efforts are a collective expression of gratitude and a commitment to positively impact our Moravian community, and they are truly inspiring.

Below, you will find more details about this year’s event. We want to congratulate the 5 Moravian churches/organizations with the highest individual donations.

1. Faith Moravian Church
2. Chaska Moravian Church
3. New Philadelphia Moravian Church
4. Common Grace
5. West Side Moravian Church

MMFA is proud to host this event that generates so much support, and we hope that you will continue to take part in future Moravian Days of Giving. Once again, thank you for your generosity!

**Day in Review:**

- Over \$268,000 donated
- Over \$96,000 donated to field of interest funds
- 932 individual donors
- 128 churches, organizations and ministries that received donations

