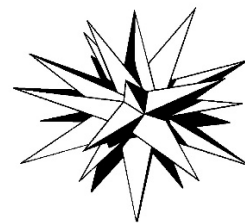


A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

1830 Butztown Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
610-868-6481



The Star

Volume 64, No. 2

February 2021



A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser

"A Work in Progress"

My family and I live in an old stone farmhouse that Matt and I purchased and renovated more than 25 years ago. It is lovely, but it seems there is always something that needs to be updated, fixed, replaced or restored. Let's just say it is a house with a lot of 'character'. Sometimes when I look at all the things our house 'needs', it helps to remember that just like our lives, our house is simply a work in progress. My life (and my house) will never be 'perfected' in this lifetime. If I were to get hung up on building perfection, or too focused on some end result, I would miss the joy of daily living.

We can frame our life with God in a similar way. Our faith lives will never be perfected in this lifetime, and if we focus on everything that is wrong with us or flawed in us, or in others, we miss the joy of life here and now. The season of Lent is not often associated with joy, but it is indeed a time that calls us to be present to God, who knows us and loves us even though we are imperfect people. Lent is the time for us to acknowledge our need for God's restoration and wholeness, and to receive God's grace. Our lives, our church, the reality of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven... these indeed are all works in progress, yet held in great love and attention within the heart of the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

Throughout the gospels we discover stories of nations and people and relationships where brokenness and injury of every kind is real. But we also see how Jesus heals, Jesus restores community, and Jesus makes the way for new life to begin...redemption made real. This is most profoundly experienced through the Lent, Holy Week and Easter narratives. In this newsletter and in the coming weeks' email news, please watch for details about the opportunities for us to gather as people of faith throughout the season of Lent.

We are all a work in progress, but God loves us anyway. So much, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes may have life...full, joyful, forever, eternal life. This is the Good News! Thanks be to God!

Ash Wednesday is February 17th 2021

Worship on Zoom, 7 p.m.

(pick up your ashes at the church Monday, Feb. 15th between 9 and 3

Or call the office to arrange delivery)

Blessings,

Pastor Linda



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





FEBRUARY 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.*

Feb. 7th –

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

Feb. 14th –

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

February 17th at 7 p.m. –

**Ash Wednesday worship service
(pick up ashes at the office on Monday, Feb. 15th between 9 and
3 or call to arrange delivery)**

Feb. 21st –

**First Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion
Please bring your own bread and juice to the screen.
Zoom Worship at 10:30 with live service.
YouTube Service also available.**

Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities



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.

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF67kjDFPgY>



Additional Fellowship Opportunities

A New Way of Being: From Confession to Hope

Wednesday Lenten Series 7 p.m. weekly

Featuring Moravian Stories and Racial Justice

The Provincial Racial Justice Team is pleased to announce a 2021 Lenten Series called “A New Way of Being: From Confession to Hope”. This series builds on the Advent material offered last year. Each session will include a reflection on the lectionary texts for the preceding Sunday, conversations among Moravians as they discuss their journey toward a growing awareness of racial justice and healing, and discussion questions.

**The series is offered on five Wednesday evenings in Lent,
starting after Ash Wednesday and concluding before Holy Week.**

All sessions begin at 7 pm ET/ 6 pm CT/ 5 pm MT/ 4 pm PT and will be led by:

February 24	Mark Breland and Betsy Miller
March 3	Bevon White and Frank Crouch
March 10	Rhonda and Tracy Robinson
March 17	Amy Gohdes-Luhman and Tim Berry
March 24	Bruce Nelson and Riddick Weber



Calling All Parents and Kids - Sunday Morning Children's Time

Beginning February 7th, we will be offering a Children's Message each week during our 10:30 a.m. Zoom worship service. The Children's Message will seek to connect our scripture and sermon for the day, and help you engage your kids in the Bible stories each week. So, invite your

kids to the screen at the start of the service... we look forward to seeing their bright smiles and hearing their inquisitive voices!

BAM Annual Meeting



2021 BAM Annual Meeting: Tuesday, February 16th @ 6:30 via Zoom.

*Login note: When parishioners log in, we will ask that each parishioner logs in with their name and then initials of the Church they represent. It will help us identify who is from where.

Central	CC
Advent	AD
East Hills	EH
Edgeboro	ED
College Hill	CH
West Side	WS

Joint Board 2021 Retreat



Zoom Meeting



Joint Board 2021 Retreat Highlights: On January 29th and 30th twenty members of East Hills gathered on Zoom for our Joint Board Leadership Retreat. Bishop Chris Giesler led us in worship and teaching, the structure of the Boards was organized for the year, and ministry priorities were established.

*Note: the pastor serves as Chair of the Joint Board and as President of the Board of Elders.

Our ministry priorities include ministry “inreach” (which is serving to and with our existing members, reopening the building, engaging Every Member, Every Month, working towards long term financial stability, and desire to re-engage members who have been disengaged), and ministry ‘outreach’ which includes making new neighborhood connections and support of existing outreach ministries. We look forward to a promising year ahead.



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.



Prayer Requests: Have a prayer request? Please email the new “**Detail Form**” to the church office at office@easthillsmc.org. Only first names will be mentioned during worship since the YouTube broadcast is literally available to the world.



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.

Mailing donations: 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.



Why Knots - We

have removed our sale inventory from the EHMC Facebook page, but we will be posting another album soon as we always offer our handmade items for sale. We will be posting a variety of quilts, baby clothing and accessories. For information about our products. Anyone interested in participating in our work is welcome to join our Zoom meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month.



EHMC Book Club: Everyone is invited to join the East Hills Moravian Church Book Club on **Monday, February 15th at 7pm** via Zoom to discuss “Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger.

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 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.





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”.



Women's Fellowship: On Tuesday, February 2, all women are invited to join in our ongoing discussion based on the book of Esther, with particular attention to Chapters 3 and 4. Contact Lucy Thompson for the Zoom link. We will be talking about Courage, as demonstrated by Esther's willingness to put her life on the line to save her people. Her uncle, Mordecai, had requested this help of young Esther, as the King had written a decree to kill all the Jewish people, men, women, and

children. In spite of her tremendous fear, she demonstrates great courage, and the people are spared. Have you taken risks because of your faith? Let's talk about it on Tuesday night.



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: Last week we had the joy of assisting in the delivery of a large donation of food from our local Giant on Easton Avenue to the NECC Foodbank. It is wonderful to see a neighborhood business provide much-needed assistance to the effort of feeding the hungry. We all miss the satisfaction of being able to provide A CAN A WEEK, but we can support this ministry through our prayers and financial contributions. Our EHMC group of foodbank volunteers looks forward to the day when we can safely return to our work on site, sorting, packing, and distributing food to the many people with food insecurity.

Drive-By Food Pantry - Help us restock our Food Pantry shelves at Central Moravian Church with much needed items for our next food distribution. Pull in front of our church office building at 73 West Church Street **between 1 and 3 p.m. on Feb. 7th (rain date 14th)**. Items needed are canned or dried beans, green beans, corn, boxed milk, canned soup, mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, ground coffee, tea, wrapped candy, soap & toilet paper.



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 February 2021:

	7- Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	28-Feb
Sacristans/Color	/Green	/Green	/Purple or Black	/ Purple or Black
Elders				
Liturgist in-person				
Liturgist online				
Ushers				
Counters				





Bethlehem Area Moravian and Partner Churches Freezer Ministry Present a Soup & Salad Meal for 2 – takeout style Friday & Saturday February 5 & 6, 4:00-6:00. Drive Thru Pick-up at East Hills Moravian Church.

Meal for 2 includes: Quart of Soup - Deluxe Tossed Salad for 2 with both Italian & Ranch Dressings - ½ Loaf of Fresh Baked Bread

SOUP SELECTIONS:

- Wedding
- Cream of Broccoli
- Chicken Noodle
- Ham & Bean
- Potato Dumpling
- Black Bean with Smoked Sausage

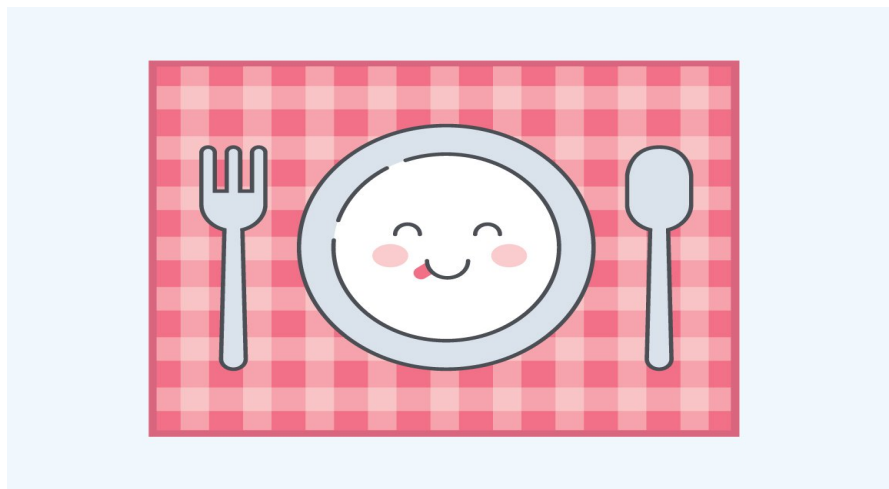
Soup will be fully cooked, chilled, and ready to heat and eat.

Dinner for 2 - \$15

Extra Qt. of Soup - \$ 7

Order as many as you want!!

- Please place order and select pick-up time slot in advance by contacting:
- Advance payments are appreciated and will speed up pick-up.



ADVENT MORAVIAN CHURCH MEATBALL SALE



As a safe alternative to our annual spaghetti dinner, we will be selling homemade meatballs and sauce for takeout. All proceeds will benefit the Northeast Community Center's food pantry. Meatballs are made fresh that day, so order extra to freeze!

Meatballs with sauce:

\$10 per quart (8 meatballs)

\$5 per pint (4 meatballs)

Extra Sauce: \$3 per pint

Order: <http://bit.ly/3itJM05> or call 610-866-1402 by Feb. 22nd

Pick-up: Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

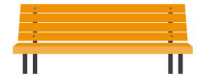
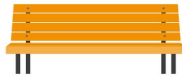
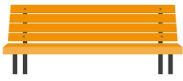
Advent Moravian Church

3730 Jacksonville Road Bethlehem, PA 18017

Drive through and your order will be brought to you!

Payment: At time of pick-up Cash or Checks (payable to Advent Moravian Church)

TREX Plastic Challenge Update – BAM Churches – 2020



Trex plastics collections: As of January, East Hills has met the goal of 500 pounds of recycled plastics and we are now eligible to receive a park bench for our campus! Collection accumulations will now accrue to West Side Moravian Church. When they have met their goal, the BAM churches participating in the Trex Plastic Challenge will have recycled plastics equivalent to the weight of a compact car!

IMPORTANT RECYCLING DROPOFF DATES: The plastics you have been accumulating at home during this shutdown period will be collected at church when you come to pick up your soup and salad dinners on **Friday and Saturday, February 5th and 6th between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm**. **During this shutdown, please do not drop off collections at any other time.**

Please recycle only acceptable materials!

To protect our continued eligibility for the program and the safety of the East Hills members who process the recycled materials, please observe the following criteria for acceptable goods: Look for the recycling symbols 2 or 4 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.

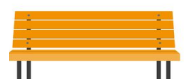
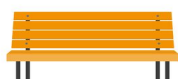
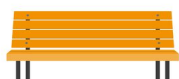
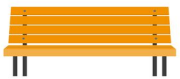
ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS

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. ****

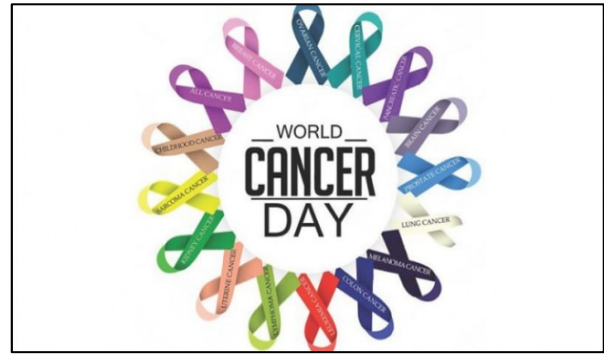


February Calendar Celebrations

Feb. 2nd – Groundhog Day



Feb. 4th – World Cancer Day



Feb. 7th – Super Bowl



Feb. 9th – National Pizza Day



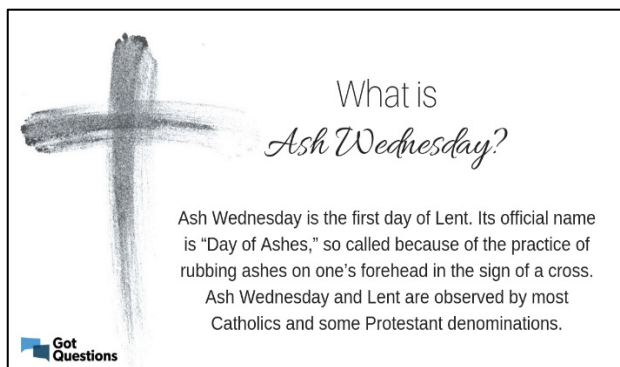
Feb. 14th – Valentine's Day



Feb. 15th – President's Day



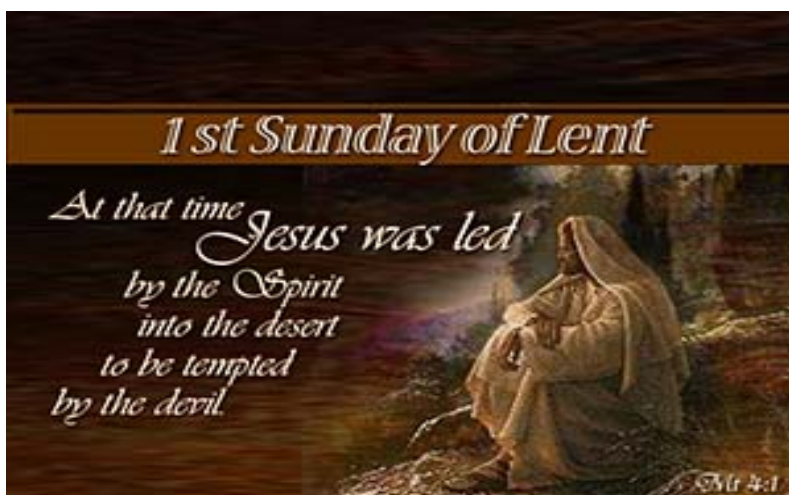
Feb. 17th – Ash Wednesday



Feb. 18th – National Drink Wine Day 🍷



Feb. 21st – First Sunday of Lent



Every Day...



EHMC 2021 WATCHWORD

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ dies for us. (Romans 5:8)
He left his Father's throne above –
so free, so infinite his grace –
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me! (773)



FEBRUARY

ALL FEBRUARY 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