


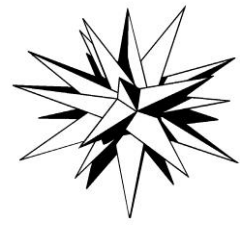


EAST HILLS MORAVIAN CHURCH EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb 10: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for March Star News • Deadline for ordering Phantoms Tickets 		Trustees and Elders meeting times TBA			1	2 
3 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Handbells	4	5 7:00 pm CEC Meeting 7:00 pm Women's Group	6 10:00 am Women's Group 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	7 5:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:15 pm Senior Choir	8	9 5:00 pm Camp Hope Dinner
10 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Handbells	11 7:30 pm Worship Cmte.	12 7:00 pm Preschool Board	13 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	14 Valentine's Day  5:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:15 pm Senior Choir	15	16
17 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Handbells	18  Presidents' Day	19	20 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	21 5:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:15 pm Senior Choir	22	23
24 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Handbells	25	26	27 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Why Knots	28 5:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:15 pm Senior Choir		



The Star

Volume 62, No. 1

February 2019

“Faith and Finance”

North Americans live in the most highly individualistic society the world has ever seen. Here, personal liberty and self-determination reign supreme; so it quite likely rankles when others presume to tell us how to live our lives. That’s a challenge for those of us who wish to follow Jesus, for authentic Christianity consists of a comprehensive way of life rather than an à la carte menu of beliefs, behaviors, and practices.

Christian faith should inform all aspects of our lives, from how we interact with others to how we spend our time, energy, and yes – money. While many 21st century North American believers are uncomfortable with that last topic, the Bible does not shy away from it. In fact, by some counts, there are 2000+ verses of scripture in the Old and New Testaments that specifically focus on the relationship of faith to personal finance.

Perhaps discussion of finances in the context of faith is a stumbling block for so many because of our familiarity with stories like the one of Jesus overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple, or warnings against greed. For many, the take-away is that finances are unspiritual and that money itself is evil. This is not true.

Money is only a tool, a convenient way to preserve the fruits of our labors or access one’s resources. What troubles Jesus, Paul, and others in the Bible is not money itself, but what happens when our relationship with money compromises our relationships with God and others. Christ turned over the tables of the money changers not because they were making money, but because the money exchange fees they were charging represented a significant barrier for poor persons who came to purchase doves and other animals for sacrifice. In 1 Timothy 6:10, Paul’s concern is not to condemn the use of money, but rather the spiritual well-being of believers who have embraced an idolatry of wealth.¹ Again, the problem is not money itself, but the danger of placing more effort into gaining, preserving, or enjoying wealth than in following Christ.

Like it or not, where and how we spend our money is a reflection of our faith and personal values. This is especially true of discretionary income.

When I was growing up and stores first began opening on Sunday, I knew persons who refused to patronize these stores because they believed that by doing so they would be making it difficult for workers at those stores to observe the Sabbath. They feared that this was the start of a trend that would decrease family time and hurt the church in the long run. In hindsight, I believe they were correct. Similarly, when I served at Lititz Moravian Church in Lancaster County, I was surrounded by Old Order Amish who refused to run electricity into their homes because it meant that someone would have to manage the power plant on a Sunday. Though they failed to influence the larger society, both groups of Christians were faithful in thinking about finances through the lens of faith. I might not come to the same conclusions as they did, but their witness challenged me to be more spiritually mindful of money.

The Apostle Paul writes of those whose “... destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.” In other words, they are ruled by their desires and appetites. As I write this, I am drinking a latte I picked up on the way to work. Many of you know that I have quite the appetite for coffee of any kind. This latte was a rare treat and cost

about four times the single dollar I used to put in the church offering plate as a child (ouch!). Were I still contributing at my childhood level and consistently chose lattes over an offering, Paul's words would give me significant pause and I would have to ask: "Is coffee really more important to me than the work of Christ?" Where the cup meets my lips, the world of faith and finance intersect.

1 (For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.)

Derek French

Congregational Watchword 2019

Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." John 15:5

Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain, an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain! (341)

Preschool News

Mary Kay Brezinsky



We arrived back at school after holiday time to a beautiful new sanctuary! Our hallways, gym, and classroom were freshly painted and the new carpet was complete. We are grateful to the church for providing us with a beautiful school.

Love is in the air during the month of February at EPMC Preschool. Our classes celebrate St. Valentine's Day by learning about friendship, caring, and sharing. There will be giggles and smiles as the children sort through their Valentine goodies and play friendship games. February is a busy month; we will also be learning about our founding fathers for Presidents' Day and our dental health.

Mark your calendars for our annual Bunny Breakfast on **Saturday, April 13**, with two seatings in the morning. More information will be coming soon! This is a fun morning for church and school members.



Thank you for your financial and spiritual support regarding my most recent trip to Haiti. Your donations made it possible for our team of seven to build a number of picnic tables and benches as well as distribute many first aid supplies in the poorer regions of Haiti. We focused our efforts on growing the small orphanage, Grace for Orphans Ministry, as they continue to find their role in the community. If you would like to hear more about the trip or see pictures, feel free to reach out to me at mSPIES1117@gmail.com. Wishing you a happy new year from Ohio! ~ Matthew Spies

Thank you to everyone for your prayers on the death of my uncle. Your prayers meant a lot to my family, aunt, and cousins. Kat Lehman

Thank you to all for your prayers and cards; they have been a blessing to me. Faith Newhall

Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities

Women's Fellowship: Attention ALL women of East Hills – you are ALL members of Women's Fellowship if you attend or do not attend meetings or activities. All of you are welcome at the meetings and as the saying goes, "the more the merrier". We are studying "Our Guiding Light" by Bishop Kay Ward which is an excellent study guide. Please join us the first Tuesday of the month, **February 5 at 7:00 pm at the church.** Please let hostess, Nancy Kichline know if you will be attending at 610-381-8040. There is also a meeting on Wednesday morning, **February 6 at 10:00 am at the church.** Please let Jean Bennett know if you will be attending at 484-893-6529. Hope to see you all!

Star Newsletter

The deadline for all information for the **next issue of the Star will be February 10** for the March issue.

EHMC Book Club

Monday, March 4 @ 7:00 pm (location to be announced). We will be discussing Chanel Cleeteon's Next Year in Havana. All are welcome. Contact Amy Frantz Gross at bartlet4pres@yahoo.com or 610-217-6008.

Phantoms Hockey Game – A Family Event

Join East Hillers and other members of the faith community at Faith Night for the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (our own hockey team) at the PPL Center on Friday, March 15, 2019 beginning at 7:05pm. Phantom games are fun for the whole family – join us as we cheer as a group. Parking is easy and downtown Allentown is safe at night. **The deadline to order tickets is Sunday, February 10** (they need a month's lead time for group tickets). Tickets are \$23 per person (in the attack zone – the good seats) and payment is due by the order deadline. Please contact Bobby Shimer in church on Sundays or at barbara.shimer@gmail.com or 610-868-0179 (home) or 610-739-7665 (cell) (use the answering machines if there is no answer, you will get a callback) to order tickets or with questions.

Magazine And Gift Sales With 40% Profit To Our Church

Over 1,000 Gift Ideas including: magazines, sport team gifts, jewelry, seasonal decorations, baby/children's gifts, woven treasures, gourmet grocery items, personalized stoneware, and much more! **Easy shopping for you and 40% of each order goes to our church.** Please follow the directions below and our church will receive **40%** of each order!

Go to **STORE.GAFUNDRAISING.COM**

Our Church ID: **2768554**

Follow the easy steps outlined below to order **magazines and gifts:**

1. Register your name and password
2. Click on "Shop Now!"
3. Under 'School or organization online ID' write: **2768554** (that is our church ID)
4. Under 'Support student of your choice' write: **Your First and Last Name**

5. For magazines:

Renew your existing magazine subscriptions, order a new title, or give the gift of reading with 102 print and/or digital subscriptions available. Download onto your e-readers or I-Pads. To view our digital offerings, follow steps 1-3 listed above, then click on "Digital Magazines," under the Easy Access Tabs on the left side of the page.

6. Select your magazine and pay by credit card. Please print a copy of your order.
 - You will receive a quarterly statement in the mail showing the amount of your donation to East Hills Moravian Church. (This can be used for taxes.)
 - Shop online 24-7, pay by credit card, and save 4-6 weeks delivery time
 - If you do not have a computer and want to order magazines, gifts, or if you have any other questions, contact: Denise Kohn-Lesko at dkohnlesko@gmail.com or phone 610-867-8467.



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★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

FEBRUARY

- 4 Eric Evans
- 6 Nancy Gross, Grace Taylor
- 7 Gavin Stellato, Deborah Turton
- 8 Greg Bowden, Paul Lutz, Marcia Mielnik
- 9 Christine Trux
- 10 Tanamarie Williams
- 11 Nathan Bowden, Bob Wingrove
- 12 Peter Diehl
- 13 Jeff Adams, Gary Marsh
- 14 Alexandra Gaugler
- 15 Earl Jackson
- 18 Mikayla Bowden, Karen Davison
- 19 Chris Creswell, Francis Goyanes, Brandon Koehler
- 20 Patti Grube, Joshua Kemmerer, Mark Toth
- 23 Ellen Choi, Walker Levan
- 24 Joyce Eckerd, Matison Piripavel
- 25 Daniel Hull
- 26 Sandra Gichiengo, Sarah Soska
- 27 Jonah Ortwein, Elaine Riegel, Nancy Walz
- 28 Deborah Spinney, David Thompson
- 29 Christopher Beamer

Capital Campaign Update

Campaign Goal = \$330,000

Pledged Amount = \$276,028 (as of 12/31/18)

Amount Received = \$170,371 (as of 12/31/18)

We have a ways to go, but together we can do it!



February Worship Schedule

In case of inclement weather please check Channel 69 News Storm Center and/or East Hills Moravian Church Facebook Page for schedule changes and closings.

February 3 - TWO SERVICES: 8:30 AND 10:30 AM/SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM

Sacristans-Bob Hauck/Eileen Ackerman

Elder-(8:30) Mike Taylor (10:30) David Sommers

Liturgist-(8:30) Eileen Mera (10:30) Todd Heft

Ushers-(8:30) Jon Burcaw/Michael Clem (10:30) Boy Scouts

Counters-Nancy Costa/Randy Emmons

Flowers-Heft/Bartholomew-Gaugler

Nursery-Debbie Matz/Eileen Mera

February 10 - TWO SERVICES: 8:30 AND 10:30 AM/SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM

Sacristans-Jim & Lucia Knerr

Elder-(8:30) Ellen DeStasio (10:30) Jay Larson

Liturgist-(8:30) Bob Hauck (10:30) David Sommers

Ushers-(8:30) Peter Diehl/Heather Frantz (10:30) Steve & Lucy Thompson

Counters- Nancy Costa/Randy Emmons

Flowers-Bieber

Nursery-Sarah Creswell/Lisa Mixon

February 17 - TWO SERVICES: 8:30 AND 10:30 AM/SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM

Sacristans-Jim & Anna Koehler

Elder-(8:30)Mike Taylor (10:30) Bob Wingrove

Liturgist-(8:30) Jeff Adams (10:30) Karen Davison

Ushers-(8:30) Bob Hauck/Rob Sauers (10:30) Sandy Gribbin/Charmayne Stauffer

Counters-Nancy Costa/Deb Spinney

Flowers-Jackson

Nursery-Lucy Thompson/Lisa Mixon

February 24 - TWO SERVICES: 8:30 AND 10:30 AM/SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM

Sacristans- Jim & Anna Koehler

Elder-(8:30) Jeff Adams (10:30) Laura Kemmerer

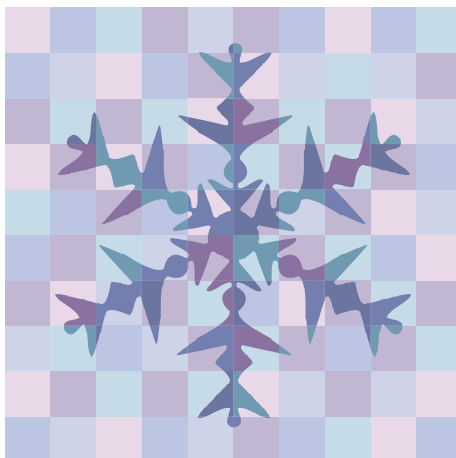
Liturgist-(8:30) Bruce Montgomery (10:30) Jean Skillman

Ushers-(8:30) Joe & Frieda Soska (10:30) Greg Costa/Jim Eckerd

Counters- Nancy Costa/Deb Spinney

Flowers-Gichiengo

Nursery-Lisa Mixon/





All Things Moravian And Other Community Events

Super Bowl Spaghetti Supper

Saturday, February 2; 5-7:00 pm @ Advent Moravian Church, 3730 Jacksonville Rd., Bethlehem.

(Snow Date – Saturday, February 9) Cost: \$9/adult (\$8 for advance sale ticket) and \$4/children-10 yrs. & under which includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll, beverage, and dessert. Takeout available.

Snow Tubing @ Blue Mountain

Friday February 8, from 5-9 pm. Cost \$15 (cost defrayed by BAM); snow tubing waiver must be filled out in advance; online at www.skiblument.com on snow tubing FAQ page. Must be 36' tall. Hot dogs, soda, and desserts provided; please bring a snack to share (\$2 to come & watch). Contact: Blake Messman (member at Edgeboro); messmanblake@gmail.com or 610-954-5173. **Deadline to register:**

Sunday, February 3.

2019 Camp Hope Season Kick-Off Dinner

Saturday, February 9; 5:00 pm @ East Hills Moravian Church. Enjoy dinner, silent auction, sales of camp gear, music, and much more. Cost: \$15/person or \$10/ages 2-10 yrs. Tickets available at the door or call Hope Center at 908-459-4435 to reserve yours. Become a sponsor which includes the meal, donation to the camp, and a gift for you. Sponsor Levels: \$25/Jr. Counselor, \$50/Counselor/\$100/Dean. Mail check to Hope Conference Center; PO Box 165; Hope, NJ 07844 or phone 908-459-4435 with credit card information. All proceeds benefit Camp Hope.

Hope Conference and Renewal Center

Wisdom Weekend Retreat – March 1-3

Age 18 and up, Limited to 24 people - \$110

Prepare your spirit, mind and body for the upcoming Lenten journey! Explore the ancient Christian Wisdom practices of prayer and work. Led by Rev. Laura Gordon (Palmyra Moravian Church), Rev. Cynthia Geyer (Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Eastern District) and Linda Toggart (Spiritual Director).

NEMDR Intro to Mission – May 10 and 11

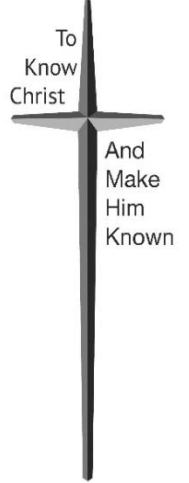
For more information on all of the above or to register:

Call 908-459-4435

E-mail hopecenter@camphope.org

www.camphope.org

East Hills Moravian Church



A Note from Your Treasurer

As your Treasurer, I hope the members of our church realize that the 2019 Operating Fund budget that was approved by Church Council last Sunday is not sustainable. A deficit of \$32,570 combined with an Operating Fund balance of only \$36,425 and an understanding of the way in which income and expenses cycle over the course of the year, I am concerned that as early as October of this year we will not have sufficient funds to pay the bills or our employees.

As an Elder, I was surprised that the Church Council approved the deficit budget without any questions or challenges. Perhaps the congregation has full confidence in the Joint Board on this issue when I said that they were aware of the situation and would be working on solutions. But realistically, the only options are increased member contributions and income from building rentals, cash cards and other fundraising. There do not seem to be any significant cost reduction options that have not already been put in place by the Trustees.

As a member of the church, when I got home and thought about it I realized that I did not need to wait for the Joint Board to send me a call to action. I already knew what needed to be done. Therefore, after prayerfully considering it with my wife Sue, we sent the Financial Secretary, Scott Gross an email asking him to increase our 2019 pledge by 10%. We hope others also recognize the significance of the budget that was approved at Church Council, that it is not sustainable, and prayerfully consider what they can do to respond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours in Christ,

Jay Larson
EHMC Treasurer
January 24, 2019

**1830 Butztown Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017
610.868.6481**

**www.easthillsmc.org
office@easthillsmc.org**

East Hills Moravian Church



January 23, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By now you may know that the following motion was proposed by the Joint Board to the Church Council of East Hills Moravian Church on Sunday, but was not approved.

“To affirm the work of the EHMC Pre-school Task Force, support the recommendation of the Joint Board and, for mission focus and financial health reasons, discontinue the EHMC Pre-school program at the conclusion of the 2018/2019 school year.”

The decision by the Joint Board to make such a proposal followed a period of intensive study and prayerful consideration.

Please be aware that the proposal was made in clear knowledge of the positive impact the school has had on hundreds of appreciative children and their families. We, as representatives of the congregation, also appreciate the commitment to the school and to the children in the care provided. School benefit from their professionalism and kindness, and will always look back fondly at their time at East Hills.

Please know that we did what we thought was best given the sensitive nature of what was being considered. We regret that this may have caused hurt feelings or resentment.

Please also know that the lack of an approval of the Joint Board’s proposal does not assure the future of the Pre-school. The continued decline in enrollment remains a critical issue that threatens the Pre-school’s viability.

We trust that all who voted in support of the continuing operation of the Pre-school will actively engage to identify and implement effective solutions. Those so inclined should please make themselves known to the Joint Board.

Yours in Christ and together in ministry,

Dwight Taylor

President, Board of Trustees

Jeff Adams

Vice Chair, Elders



1830 Butztown Road, Bethlehem, PA
610.868.6481

www.easthillsmc.org
office@easthillsmc.org