



The Star

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April 2020

“The Lord is Risen!”

There is no service of worship more characteristically “Moravian” than those based upon our Easter Morning Liturgy. Indeed, so central is it that Moravians often self-identify as “Easter people,” not because they believe they have any special claim to the promise of resurrection, but rather because celebration of God’s raising of Jesus from the dead embodies the core of our faith and hope. How stirring it is to be among a congregation when the pastor’s profession: “The Lord is risen!” is answered by massed voices responding “The Lord is risen indeed!” I cherish childhood memories of Easter Dawn services outside of Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC where over ten thousand persons voiced those words.

Yet as moving as such collective affirmations of faith are, they are no substitute for our individual experience of relationship with God through the risen Christ. An account of an exchange between Moravian Bishop August Spangenberg and a young John Wesley during the height of a violent storm at sea on the voyage to America brings the matter into sharp focus. Spangenberg asked Wesley, “Do you know Jesus Christ?” Wesley replied, “I know he is Savior of the world.” “True,” said Spangenberg, “but do you know that he has saved you?” It is one thing to profess the Lord is risen in a crowd on Easter morning; it is quite another to profess it at home with just as much hope, joy, and faith in the midst of this present storm. Yet that is the challenge – and the gift – of these times. Alone or in small family groups we have the time to ponder what we really believe and to make it our own.

It is worth remembering that according to the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene was alone when the miracle of the Resurrection was revealed to her. Though she testified to the other disciples regarding what she had seen, they had to go and see for themselves. Though we traditionally celebrate Easter together, the truth at its heart must be discovered and owned by each of us individually. That truth – that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it; that the power of death, sin, and separation has been broken by God; that hope shall prevail over despair – is not diminished by our inability to gather together. Rather it becomes all the more necessary and compelling.

As I write, the flowers spring from the ground, the trees bud and bloom, and life in the natural world goes on. So too, Easter will come. We will celebrate the best we can on the day of Resurrection – remote from one another in body yet close in spirit and heart. Even if there is no one else to hear it, even if unuttered, I invite you to lift your heart to God on Easter morning and know that the Lord is risen indeed!

Easter Blessing to You All,
Pastor Derek



April Worship Schedule

East Hills Moravian has cancelled all in person worship and fellowship gatherings through April 30th or until we receive further guidance from government sources. Please join us online if you are able.

Prayer Requests: Have a prayer request? Please email 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. We soon will have a new prayer list which will contain the information normally present in the Sunday morning bulletin insert.

Pastoral Care: Contact Pastor Derek via email at pastorfrench@easthillsmc.org, via text message or through Facebook messenger. His personal and cell number are available to members in the East Hills Moravian Church directory. If you do not have one, please contact the office and we will send you a pdf copy.

Online Giving: All Moravian congregations and fellowships in the Northern and Southern Provinces in the United States have online giving enabled through the Giving Portal at <https://mmfa.info/givingportal/> . The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is happy to do its part to help Moravians support the ministries of their local churches and worship God with their tithes and offerings from the safety of home. Answers to frequently asked questions are available at: <https://files.constantcontact.com/4979844f601/4ee20b1b-d3a0-4f5a-ac32-c1846e2e30f4.pdf>

Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities

REMOTE PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Weekly Worship will be available live on YouTube Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as long as conditions permit. Otherwise check YouTube for pre-recorded services and sermons.

Link: https://youtu.be/S_IPqr4a4N4

Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

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 (610-691-2708 or slmicro@ptd.net) or Bobby Shimer (610-739-7665 or barbara.shimer@gmail.com). The young adult will be added to our list and receive a package from us in mid-April. Many of the young adults receiving a box are thrilled to receive it and enjoy the food and fun contained inside. We also need bakers to supply two dozen baked items, individually wrapped; or individually wrapped candy; or small fun activities (age does not matter) for these youth. The deadline for contributions is Sunday, April 12. If you wish to give monetary contributions to cover mailing costs, please make checks payable to East Hills Moravian Church, memo: YAM. If you have questions, you may contact Lucy Thompson (610-691-2708 or slmicro@ptd.net) or Bobby Shimer (610-868-0179 or barbara.shimer@gmail.com). Thanks for caring.

EHMC Book Club

All are invited to join the **East Hills Moravian Church book club** on Monday, April 27th at 7pm where we will discuss "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson. Please contact Amy Frantz Gross at bartlet4pres@yahoo.com for details about how this will be done.

Cash Cards

We still have cash cards! We have Giant, Valley Farm and Wegman cards on hand. I can order and send via email Amazon, CVS and Wal-Mart to name just a few. If you would like a grocery card, just email or call me and tell me what you would like and about when you like to swing by (I am over by the community college) and pick it up. I will put an envelope with your cards and your name on it clipped to my front door, you come take your cards and leave the check made out to EHMC on the clip. If you like any of the email cards let me know what you like and you can drop off a check on my front door and then I will order it and send it to you via email. Every little bit helps the church. Any questions please contact me. Sue Larson at 610-737-0012 or GSMom225@aol.com

A Can A Week and Joyful Noise

Please hold those with food shortages in your thoughts and prayers as changes at both the Northeast Community Center Foodbank and Second Harvest take place. We will not be collecting canned foods at this time, but if you'd like to continue to help with this effort, please mail a check in any amount to the church at 1830 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Please note "A Can a Week" on the memo line. Cash cards will be purchased to help meet the needs of the hungry at this time of stress and uncertainty.

Drive By Food Donation at Central Moravian - April 5, 2020; rain date April 19, 2020, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Help restock the Food Pantry shelves at Central Moravian with much needed non-perishable food items for our April distribution. We invite you to drive down Church Street, pull in the no-parking zone in front of the Church Office building at 73 West Church Street, drop your grocery bags off in the wagons by the curb, and be on your way. We especially need the following items: coffee, tea, canned chicken, dried or canned beans, canned peas, canned corn, rice, candy kids would enjoy, and soap of any kind. We might not be in the same room together, but we can still serve others together!

EHMC Sunday Morning Coffee Class

EHMC is inviting you to the following scheduled Zoom meetings. 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: Mar 29, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Every week on Sun, until May 31, 2020, 10 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/574827436>

Meeting ID: 574 827 436

Dial in for audio only (not recommended)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Calling all East Hills Musicians! Pastor Derek and the Worship Committee are looking for special music to include in the Sunday morning recorded services. Feel free to record 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:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wcrvjrngiEepRUUe9>

Contact Laura Kemmerer (laura.noel@gmail.com, 610-504-5114) if you have any questions.

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.



Preschool News

Mary Kay Brezinsky

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year has begun. We ask you to promote us to your family, friends and neighbors. We are offering; Three-Year-Old Program, Mon./Wed./Fri. 9:00am-11:45am, Pre-K 4 Day Program M/T/Th/F and a Pre-K 5 Day Program M-F 9:00am-11:45am and the first Wednesday of the month 9:00am-1:00pm for lunch. Our Creative Playgroup Program will be 11:45- 1:00pm or 11:45am – 3:00pm M/W/F. We want to help serve your preschool needs. Please contact us, take a tour and tell us what your needs are 610-868-6242. Reserve your spot ASAP! Don't miss out!

EHMC Preschool Fundraiser: Ongoing fundraiser with Primary.com which sells quality children's clothing at affordable prices. Please visit our school's special URL at primary.com/school/easthills and use the code EASTHILLS when checking out after shopping. Information to register for Primary.com is available on the table in the church.



Happy Easter

Awake, thou wintry earth
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!
Christ is risen
Thomas Blackburn

DM



APRIL

- 2 Charlene Trux
- 3 Janet Droney, Blair Mielnik, Louise Snyder, Katie Thomas
- 7 Dwight Taylor
- 9 Matthew Gribbon, Eileen Mera
- 10 Walter Hoffert
- 11 Tori Toth
- 12 Jean Skillman
- 13 Nancy Costa
- 14 Annmarie Soska
- 15 Ellen DeStasio
- 16 Rachel McFarland, Kelly Torcivia
- 17 Kevin Marsh
- 18 Vicki Ozimek
- 19 Audrey Yuhas, Lydia Yuhas
- 20 Steve Thompson, Millicent Zeitner
- 22 Bruce Dague, Adam Evans, Jenni Kuhns, Cameron Sauers
- 24 Alexis VanBilliard
- 25 Phyllis Kulp
- 26 Rich Kriebs
- 28 Jim Knerr, Art Mack
- 29 Wendy Lutz, Helen Sinko, Mike Taylor

Congregational Watchword 2020

God has destined us not for wrath
but for obtaining salvation
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:9

They who Jesus' mercy know
Are from wrath and envy freed;
Love unto our neighbor shows
That we are his flock indeed;
Thus we may in all our ways
Show forth our Redeemer's praise.

All Things Moravian And Other Community Events

Moravian Historical Society has the book *Nazareth*, by Sarah F. Ellis with the Moravian Historical Society, available for online purchase.

You can order your book here: www.moravianhistory.org/shop. All book orders will be signed by the author and shipped as soon as possible.

The book shares the history of our town from the first arrival of the Moravians and how they founded Nazareth to the more recent history including the C.F. Martin Company and the Andretti Family. Readers will discover the history of the renowned school for boys, Nazareth Hall, and will learn about some of the early industries including textile production, cement production, and farming innovations.

Published by Arcadia Press in its Images of America series, the book is a fantastic history of Nazareth told through more than 200 historic images. Most of the images are from the Moravian Historical Society's collection and many have never been published before. We hope readers will enjoy seeing these views of our past, including images of buildings and businesses that are no longer in existence.

Please receive this message from Laura Watson at the Moravian Ministries Foundation.

In John, chapter 13, Jesus sets an example for us to follow. He washes his disciples' feet, an incredible act of humility, service, and love; in verse 15 he says, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." We are to follow his lead and serve one another.

Over the past few weeks, as the world has entered a time unlike we've ever known or could have imagined, more and more people are physically separate from one another. However, our ability to serve one another, to "wash one another's feet," thankfully remains the same, even as it takes much different forms.

To me Jesus' washing of his disciples' feet is a beautiful act of stewardship. He uses his time to care for them, to remind them that no one person is greater than another. The stewardship of relationships is both a foundation of Jesus' ministry and an important part of our lives with one another.

To read more, please visit the Moravian Ministries Foundation's website [here](#). We want to hear stories of how your community of faith is continuing to be faithful stewards during this time, to serve and to wash others' feet, as we would like to share those with one another as a source of encouragement, inspiration, and hope. If you have a story you'd like to share, please [email](#) or give me a call.

I find peace and comfort knowing we are in this together and that God is always with us. Peace and comfort to you today and every day.

Laura Sides Watson
Director of Stewardship
Moravian Ministries Foundation in America
119 Brookstown Ave. Ste. 305
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
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www.mmfa.info

Moravian Seminary has been a place of teaching and learning for over two centuries and, in that time, has carried out its mission in the face of many difficulties. We have decided to shift our focus from a Day of Giving to a Time of Caring in order to reflect an ongoing campaign to care for our community as needs arise.

This crisis has underscored that in order to be student-focused, we need to stay on the cutting edge of technology and make our programs as affordable as possible. We invite you to support our current students, and those who will enroll in the future, by making a [gift to the Seeds of Hope Fund](https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/MTSGiveDay) (<https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/MTSGiveDay>). **This newly-established fund will provide support to the Seminary, allowing us to be immediately responsive to our students in the ways they have come to expect and deserve.** As we move through this period of change your gifts enable us to upgrade our technology, support our students, and allocate money where needs arise, as they arise.