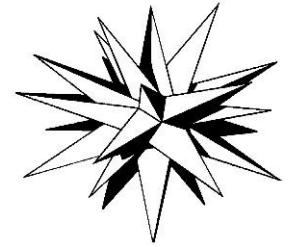


# A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

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



# The Star

Volume 65, No. 1

January 2022



## *A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser*



Who or what it is that guides you and helps you find your way on any given day? Ancient sailors used a lead line. Astronomers used an astrolabe. Scouts

use compasses. Modern day drivers use GPS (or paper maps or both). A long-standing practice of Moravian Christians is the use of watchwords as guide, an invitation to read scripture daily and to allow it 'speak' into our lives, as a compass and guide for daily life with God.

The Epiphany narrative in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 2:1-12) tells us that it was a star that guided the journey of the Magi to find the newborn King...God in the flesh! It's a fascinating Bible story that offers us much to ponder and question as we navigate our way into the new year. Wonder with me...

- \* The Magi made their first stop in the big city of Jerusalem. They assumed that they would find Jesus in a place of prominence and importance... What assumptions do we have about God that we might revisit this new year?
- \* They show up at the wrong place in their search for Jesus... do we look for our salvation in the wrong places? Is there an invitation in this text for us to reorient ourselves to Christ?
- \* When they arrive to Jesus, they present him with, what seems to us, unusual gifts. What unusual gift might you have to offer to God this year?
- \* The Magi came from different regions and made a difficult journey together for a common purpose. Is God calling us to do something with unexpected people in an unknown place this coming year?

\* The Magi showed up, they went to Jesus, they didn't send their gifts via UPS or Fed Ex or camel express... but they determined to show up and get close to Jesus rather than meet him at a distance. Have we been far off, keeping God at a distance? Perhaps God is saying, 'come closer'... 'you will seek me and find me when you search with all your heart'?

\* The wisemen left 'on a different route'. What might God be placing in your heart concerning an unexpected path, a new journey, a different road to travel?

Navigation is a tricky thing. And the terrain of this lifetime is not often easy to tread. But with God as our guide and God's word as a lamp to our feet and light for our path, we indeed can walk each day with a little more joy, confident that we are not lost, and certain that the way of God is the way of life that is truly life.

Pleased to navigate life together with you,  
Pastor Linda



[pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org](mailto:pastorlinda@easthillsmc.org)  
484-764-8629



The Moravian Daily Texts for 2021... a devotional guide for every day, offers scripture, hymn texts, and prayers that are read and prayed by Moravians around the globe each day. The texts are posted daily at [Moravian.org](http://Moravian.org), or you can subscribe for the complete version online, or if you prefer, purchase the actual book from the Interprovincial Board of Communication bookstore.



**Church Council meeting will be held on  
January 23<sup>rd</sup> after worship.**



## **JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**January 2 –  
10:30 worship service, Holy Communion,  
Birthday Sunday  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also available.**

**January 9 –  
10:30 worship service  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also available.**

**January 16 –  
10:30 worship service,  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also available.**

**January 23 -  
10:30 worship service  
Church Council Meeting following worship  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also available.**

**January 30 -  
10:30 worship service, Installation of Board Members  
ZOOM and YouTube Service also available.**

## Worship Information & Opportunities



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



The church office is open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 – 3:00.

610-868-6481

[office@easthillsmc.org](mailto:office@easthillsmc.org)

Please note that no one is checking voicemail or email outside of office hours.  
If there is an emergency, please contact Pastor Linda at 484-764-8629.

**The office will be closed on Monday, January 3rd for New Year's.**



### **ZOOM link -- Dial-in by phone -- YouTube recordings**

Weekly Worship will be available live on ZOOM **Sunday mornings at 10:30.**  
You may also dial in by phone or check YouTube for pre-recorded services  
and sermons each week.

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

Meeting ID: 838-5807-7423

Password: 175584

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

**Dial-in by phone:** For anyone without a computer, tablet, or smartphone, wishing to join the Church Service may do the following. This will be the audio only for landlines and cellphones.

1. Call 1-929-205-6099 (New York - other cities available on request)
2. At the prompt for the Meeting ID enter 838-5807-7423 followed by #
3. At the prompt for your Participant ID enter #
4. At the prompt for the Password enter 175584 followed by #

## Christian Learning 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.

**Every week on Sun. at 9:30 AM ET in person in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom.**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83108556340?pwd=aXNBVlltalp1ZjZtWFgvckVvaFJYUT09>

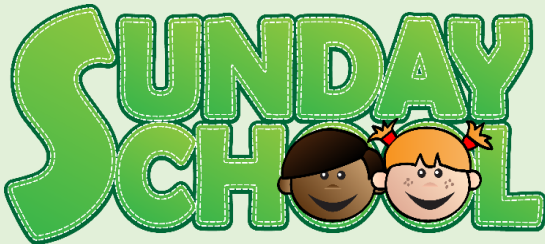
Meeting ID: 831 0855 6340

Passcode: 094254

Dial in for audio only: +1 929 205 6099

**Dial-in by phone:** For anyone without a computer, tablet, or smartphone, wishing to join the Church Service may do the following. This will be the audio only for landlines and cellphones.

1. Call 1-929-205-6099 (New York - other cities available on request)
2. At the prompt for the Meeting ID enter 831 0855 6340 followed by #
3. At the prompt for your Participant ID enter #
4. At the prompt for the Password enter 094254 followed by #



**Greetings, Sunday School families!**

**All children and youth are invited to join us in the Family Center at 9:30 December 5th.**

**Our focus:**

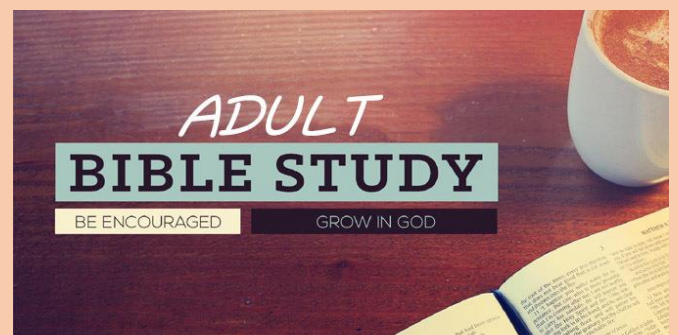
**Jesus is...**

**Jesus does...**

**Jesus promises...**

### **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study!**

Please join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge.** We will begin with looking into the unique Gospel of John. We hope to see you there!



## Additional Christian Fellowship News & Opportunities



### EHMC PUTZ Clean-up



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



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



OR



**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



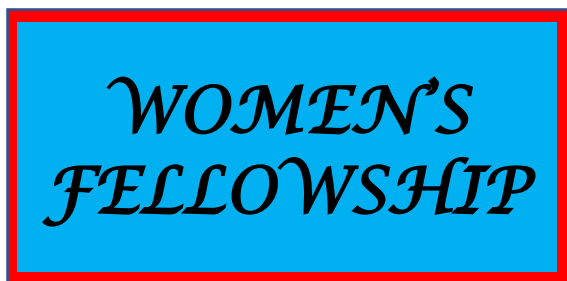
## Update: Bethlehem Area Moravians (BAM) Ministry Committee

There are some exciting things happening among the BAM churches! Two of the most recent ministries taking shape through the Ministry Committee are the resettlement efforts of a family from Afghanistan in the Bethlehem area, and the exploration of a 'pay as you can' cafe hospitality ministry.

The resettlement ministry is happening now. BAM churches are co-sponsoring a family with Bethany Christian Services and under the leadership of Carol Grace Hicks (East Hills MC) and Louisa Frey (Central MC), teams are now forming to assist the family in areas of financial planning, education, job search, housing, transportation, and more. If you are interested in getting involved, please call the office or be in touch with Carol Grace.

The Cafe ministry is still in the very early stages of gathering information and organization and planning. If this is something you might be interested in helping with... strategic planning, or later stages of involvement like development of this ministry, please talk with pastor Linda or be in touch directly with Rev. Tammie Rinker at West Side Moravian Church.

**Women's Fellowship** WHY KNOT members meet throughout the entire year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday evening each month, 7 pm, in the Parlor. We work on a variety of projects, some personal, some for sale, and others for donation to a variety of different community organizations. We are always looking for new ministry opportunities and always welcome new members into our group. For information, contact the church office.



**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. If you need anything feel free to reach out to the church office. We will try to assist you as best as we can. We hope you all stay safe in this uncertain time.



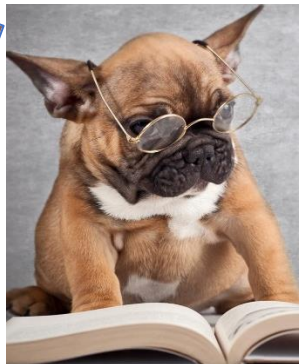
**Cash Cards** - [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) has cash cards for everyone. When you purchase physical cards or e-cards at face value, EHMC receives a percentage of that purchase. Consider retailers such as 1-800-FLOWERS, Shutterfly, eBay, Wayfair, Target, Walmart, L.L.Bean, Dick's Sporting Goods, Xbox, Sony PlayStation, Hulu, Uber, UberEATS, Instacart, or over 750 others for giving or your own shopping. Use enrollment code 8897CBD34973 to create an account at ShopWithScrip.com or on the RaiseRight app or contact the church office. Cards for Giant, Wegmans, and Valley Farm are available.



# BOOK CLUB



**EHMC Book Club**: East Hills Moravian Church's Book Club will meet at **7 pm on Monday, January 10th** to discuss Samantha Silva's "Mr. Dickens and His Carol." All are welcome to join the discussion. Each reader is asked to bring along a discussion question for the book talk.





**Northeast Community Center Thanks to EHMC** – “On behalf of the staff of Northeast Community Center, I’d like to extend my most sincere gratitude for collecting 200+ green bean cans for our Thanksgiving Distribution this year! You were an integral part of helping us to provide over 500 people in the Marvine-Pembroke community with a full Thanksgiving meal!



The holidays can be an incredibly stressful time for those living in a low-income household. At NECC we strive to lessen the burden the holidays can put on families, and we absolutely could not have done it without your generosity. Thank you again for your support, it truly makes a difference in the lives that we serve!

With Sincere Gratitude, Chrisdee Lawyer, Marketing and Development Director”

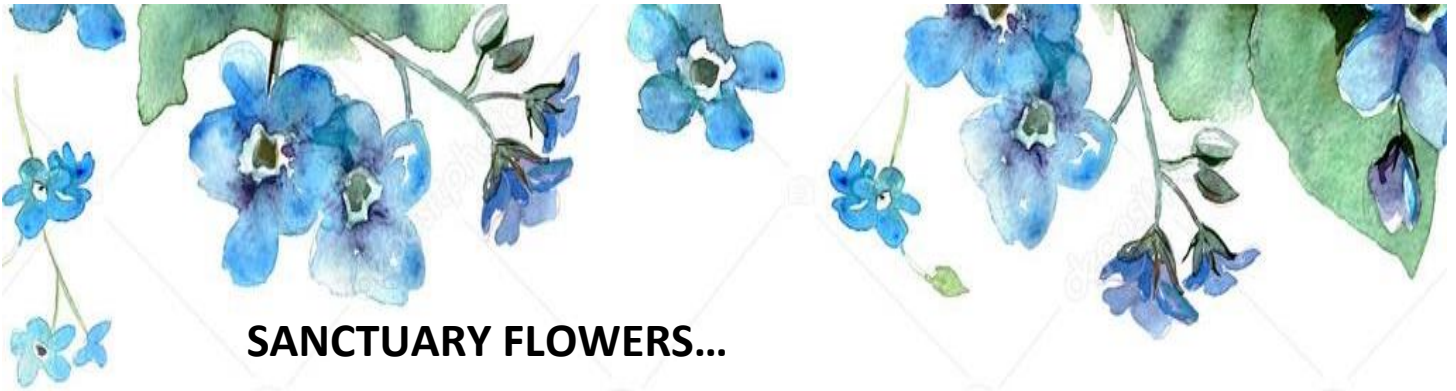


## **EHMC 2021 WATCHWORD. 2022 WATCHWORD COMING SOON!**

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)





## SANCTUARY FLOWERS...

➤ **Sanctuary Flowers are available again! Please note the new process for ordering:**

- 1) Enter your name on the Flower Chart (on the bulletin board in the Narthex) on your preferred week.
- 2) Call florist - **Mycalyn's - 610-759-9060** by the Tuesday prior to your requested date.
- 3) Order flowers, pay florist directly, and have them delivered to the church for the requested date.
- 4) Provide the church office with the date and dedication you would like printed in the bulletin by the Tuesday prior to your requested date. You can fill out the form on the bulletin board and leave it in the basket on the office door, email it, or call the office (610) 868-6481.
- 5) **Take the flowers with you after the service! Please DO NOT leave them in the church. Bring your own vases or wrap them in paper towels. DO NOT TAKE THE FLOWER INSERTS, THEY CANNOT BE REPLACED.** Thank you.

**Cost is: \$31.80 for one vase / \$58.30 for two vases**





**WHY KNOTS** – members are entering the New Year with a ready willingness to provide items for sale as well as for donation to community groups. Would you like to join us? We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, masked, in the Parlor at 7:00 pm. We are happy to share our skills and teach others, and we are also open to suggestions for future projects. For now, our leftover items remain available for purchase. Contact the church office for information.

That moment when you shout  
**NOOOOOOO**



because you made a mistake **three rows back** and no one else gets it.

Wool you just let me knit in peace?



Laugh, knit, eat, knit, sleep, knit, repeat from the start.



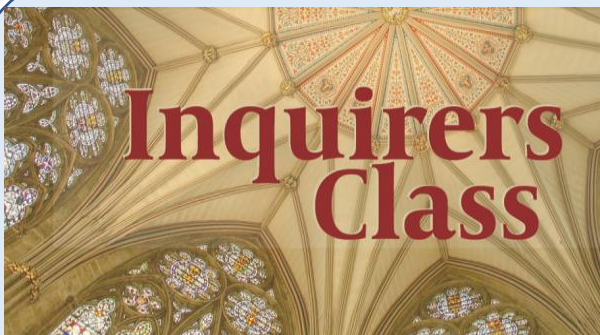
## East Hills Moravian Church Contextual Outreach UPDATES:



Dear Friends,

Hopefully by now you may have heard about our congregation's renewed desire to get to know our neighbors. One of the ways we are doing this is by making acquaintances with the families who walk past our building after school. In December we hosted a Children's Putz Open House for the students and families of Governor Wolf Elementary School, with 10 people including 7 children in attendance. We also distributed over 60 Holiday Surprise bags, which included an invitation to Christmas Eve worship, to the kids on their last day of school before Christmas break. We will plan another day to greet the kids after school in February or March with a 'winter' theme and invites for Easter. If you want to be part of the ministry of welcome and hospitality, please call the office or speak to Pastor Linda.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all of Santa's helpers who provided gifts for the children and youth at Northeast Community Center, Governor Wolf Elementary School, and the Jesus Saves Ministry. All total we were able to gift 50 local children and youth this Christmas because of your kindness and generosity!



### **Inquirer's Class Now Forming!**

If you or someone you know is curious about what it means to be a member of East Hills Moravian Church, or if you or someone you know would like to join the church, then Inquirer's Classes are for you! In 4 evening sessions, we will explore history of the Christian Church, highlights of Moravian history, what it means to be a follower of Jesus, how we nurture that through ministry and membership at East Hills. This class is interesting for both inquirers for membership or as a 'refresher' for current members of the congregation.

The dates are to be determined for these sessions, but our class is forming now. If you or someone you know is interested, please call the office. Registration is required so that books and materials may be provided.

# EHMC Support Team for December



**\*\* For EOD, go to Sign-up Genius @ [EHMC: Elder on Duty \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com) to add yourself.**

	Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan16	Jan 23	Jan 30
<b>Sacristans/ Color</b>					
<b>Elders</b>					
<b>Liturgist in person</b>					
<b>Liturgist online</b>					
<b>Ushers</b>					
<b>Counters</b>					

**Christmas Eve Thank-You's!** We want to say thank you for all who served in every way on Christmas Eve this year. Thank you to our staff who worked to prepare and plan and print the services, thanks to everyone who served in music ministry, thanks to our Morning Star soloists, thanks to our sacristans and substitute sacristans, thanks to our ushers and youth greeters, thank you to our lay readers, thanks to our audio and visual tech team, and to all who invited and welcomed and worshipped with us. It was a special evening, and it was good to be together on that holy night! We are grateful for all who made that possible.






**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EHMC  
THIS MONTH?**

<b>JANUARY 2022</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
26	27	28	29	30	31	<b>1</b> New Year's Day
2 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship - ZOOM	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b> 5-6:30 PM Jesus 7 PM Women's Fellowship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	8
9 9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Stewardship	<b>11</b> 5-6:30 PM Jesus 7:00 pm Worship & Music Com.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	15
16 9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship 6:30-8 pm Confirmation Class FH	<b>17</b> M L King Day	<b>18</b> 5-6:30 PM Jesus 7:00 Elders	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	22
23 9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship, 11:45 Church Council Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5-6:30 PM Jesus 7:00 Trustees	<b>26</b> 7:00 – Why Knots	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	29
30 9:30 Sunday Morning Coffee Class 9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship, Installation of Board Members 6:30-8 pm Confirmation Class FH	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 5-6:30 PM Jesus – Parlor	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	5



**DONATION OPPORTUNITIES**



**A Can A Week and Joyful Noise** – Both of these important ministries continue to provide much-needed support for the foodbank at the Northeast Community Center. Your monetary donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary, properly marked “Joyful Noise.” Collection bins for A Can A Week remain in the Narthex. Please watch the weekly announcements and the EPMC Facebook page for updates regarding the most needed items.



**Northeast Community Center: “Because He First Fed Us”** we respond with joy to feed others. In her book, Anita Hinkledey McVey writes that before God created us, “God created a garden. God was preparing a meal for us before we arrived.” Jesus demonstrates concern for the food needs of others in feeding the 5,000, and he reminds us that when we feed the least of these, we are feeding Him.

Now is a good time to establish the habit of feeding others by joining our effort to provide A CAN A WEEK. It’s simple to do. Put NECC on your shopping list and purchase just one can every time you shop. There are receptacle baskets in the Narthex which are emptied weekly, and your donations are taken to the foodbank for distribution just a few days later. To help fill the gaps in the most needed foods, watch our weekly announcement in the Thursday email blast or the updates on our EPMC Facebook page. At this time, the most-needed item is cold cereal, but there is always a need for toothpaste, dish liquid, and grocery bags (paper, plastic, and reusable).

Author McVey also says, “The way to make delicious food even better: share it.” We share what we have “Because He First Fed Us.”

[There is always a need for Food Pantry volunteers -](mailto:johnsonp@neccbethlehem.org) email Paula Johnson at [johnsonp@neccbethlehem.org](mailto:johnsonp@neccbethlehem.org)!



**Drive-By Food Pantry at Central Moravian Church** with much needed items for our next food distribution. The drive by is located in Central Moravian Christian Ed parking lot, access road between Kemmerer Museum & God’s Acre (follow signs) from **9:30 am - 1:00 PM January 2nd**. Items needed: Sweetened cereal, sugar, flour, soup of any kind, dried beans (1 lb. size) meal-in-a-can (spaghetti and meatballs/ravioli, beefaroni, etc.), shelf-stable milk (quart size), jelly, ground regular and decaf coffee (12-16 Oz size), tea, ketchup, mustard, cake mix, brownie mix, individual size wrapped candy,

toilet paper, infant diapers (size 2, 3, 4, 5). We are asking that donations come in paper bags (doubled) or cardboard boxes. Those can be recycled or repurposed. We will accept donations in any form, but believe plastic is not the best for our environment.

# Plastic Challenge Update – BAM Churches – 2022

## TREX information

Can you believe it? East Hills has already reached its goal of 500 pounds of recycled plastics with the help of our BAM partner churches. Look forward in the coming months to the second bench on our campus!

The Trex company has posted a clear graphic of recyclable materials on their website, along with a FAQ to answer some of your recycling questions. Check it out:

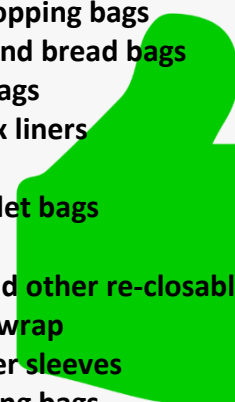
<https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate#materials1>



Please continue to be vigilant to recycle only acceptable materials. Your recyclables can be dropped off during normal Church Office hours and Sundays, before and after worship.

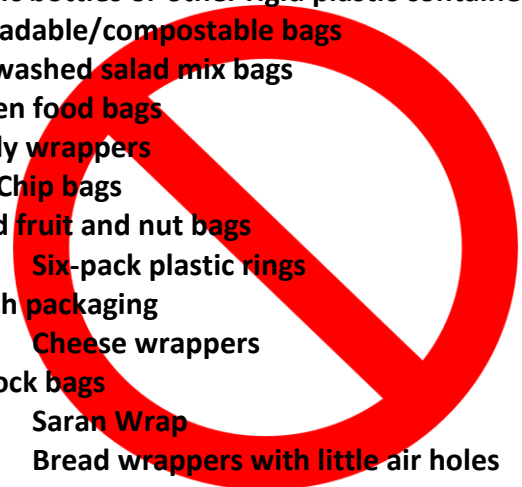
Keep Recycling!

### **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
- Any Chip bags
- Dried fruit and nut bags
- Six-pack plastic rings
- Pouch packaging
- Cheese wrappers
- Zip lock bags
- Saran Wrap
- Bread wrappers with little air holes
- Cellophane wrappers
- Bird seed or other bulk bags that are not #4
- If material does not stretch easily or is shiny & crinkles or crunches

**\*\* All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue. \*\***



# Serious and Silly Celebrations This Month

**Jan. 1st – New Year’s Day**



**Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> National Spaghetti Day**



**Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany of the Lord**



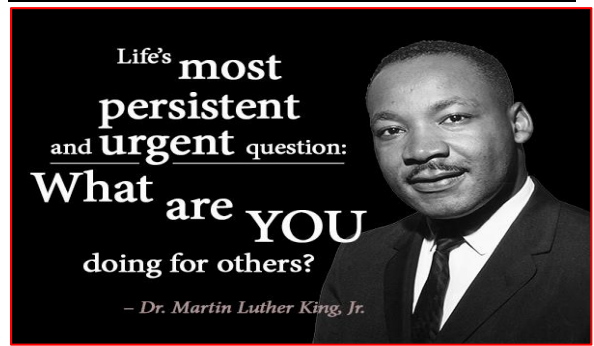
**Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> – National Hot Tea Day**



**Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – National Hat Day**



**Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



**Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Pie Day**



**Every day...**





Happy  
Birthday!



JANUARY

ALL JANUARY BORN!!!



Happy Birthday



\*Please contact the office if anyone is missing or needs to be removed. Thank you!