

A Publication of East Hills Moravian Church

1830 Butztown Road

Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-868-6481 or office@easthillsmc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday - Office is open 9:00-3:00

***Pastor Linda is off on Mondays.**

The Star



Volume 66, No. 10

November 2023



A Word from Pastor Linda Wisser:

Happy New Year!????

The holiday season is here. It's Halloween today, but Christmas has already arrived in Bethlehem... the mini evergreens are already affixed on street lights downtown, shops are decorating, and plans are in the works for the Main Street huts (including one for the Freezer Ministry and Bethlehem Emergency Shelter). I, myself, want to shout out to the world, "hey, wait a minute...what about Thanksgiving????"

But instead, today I write, to say, "Happy New Year!!!" That's right, because in just a few short weeks, the Christian Church year comes to an end and we begin the New Year with the season of Advent. As the world's year ends, the Christian year begins.

In his book, "Heaven and Earth...Advent and the Incarnation", Will Willimon describes how in December, "the world wearily plods toward the termination of another year. Days grow shorter, nights get longer. Welcome 2024!" And that's about as exciting as "Welcome 2014, or 2004... One year comes, another goes. What's changed? Who cares? We're still stuck with things as they are, which too closely resemble things as they always have been." Willimon poses the question and suggests,

"is it possible that God might show up and disrupt, intervene, shake up, and take time for us? It's not within our power to make a fresh start. If we're going to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our own devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a Creator who is not aloof from our time. We need a God who not only cares about us but who is willing to show up among us and do something with us here and now. Good news!...that's just the sort of God we've got!"

Join us on Wednesday's in December at 7 p.m. or on Thursday's in December at noon for 'lunch and learn' (bring a bagged lunch). This is a time to explore Willimon's book and to re-discover God who is "not confined to heaven, God who stoops toward us, intervening and showing up when least expected and in ways that surprise!"

Willimon writes, "Advent is God taking time from us by making time for us. It's Advent. You've got four weeks to adjust to the jolt of God taking time for us. So brace yourself to welcome the God you didn't expect...Ready or not, God is on the way."

Purchase the book on your own and read chapter 1 "Meanwhile" before our first class. But *please note*, if you are not a reader, come to the class anyway...guided discussion and Good News for all!!!!

[Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation by William H. Willimon, Paperback | Barnes & Noble® \(barnesandnoble.com\)](#)

[Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation: William H. Willimon: 9781791029036 - Christianbook.com](#)

Also available at Amazon.com

Wednesdays December 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th at 7 p.m. OR Thursdays, December 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th at noon

Blessings, Pastor Linda

Pastoral Care: Contact Pastor Linda via email at 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/> - OR-
VENMO at:



OR ---

Mail: You can mail pledges to the office at the church at: 1830 Butztown Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18017.

Refreshments:

Weekly worship refreshments

schedule: Please contact Louise to schedule your donation of refreshments for after worship. Please know that all donations are appreciated! Thank you for helping Louise keep things organized! Contact the office for assistance.



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>

Meeting ID: 838-5807-7423

Password: 175584

Dial-in by phone: Call 1-929-205-6099 (New York - other cities available on request)

Meeting ID enter 838-5807-7423#

Participant ID enter #

Password enter 175584#



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



Sanctuary flowers: If you wish to provide sanctuary flowers on Sunday:

- 1) **Enter your name on the Flower Chart** on your preferred week.
- 2) **Call florist - MyCalyn's - 610-759-9060** to place order by the Tuesday prior to your requested date. Pay the florist directly.
- 3) **Provide the church office with the date and dedication** you would like printed in the bulletin by the Tuesday prior to your requested date.
- 4) **Take the flowers with you after the service!** Please **DO NOT** leave them in the church for someone else to deal with. Bring your own vases or wrap them in paper towels.
- 5) **PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE FLOWER INSERTS, THEY CANNOT BE REPLACED.** Thank you.

Stewardship – Pledges and Giving



**Encore Performance
IN OUR SANCTUARY**

STEWARDSHIP

THE LIFE THAT IS TRULY LIFE.

October 22 – November 12, 2023

Returning Cast: The congregation of East Hills Moravian Church

Featuring: Time / Talent / Treasure

Back by popular demand: Legacy

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

Repeat performances by: The Stewardship Committee

Pastor Linda Wissler

Jeff

Greg

Ellen

Jay



TIME

THE PHYSICAL BEING AND EFFORT GOD GIVES,
THAT WE CAN BRING.

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16



TALENT

THE SPIRIT, CREATIVITY, AND INGENUITY GOD GIVES,
THAT WE CAN BRING.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12: 6-8



TREASURE

THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER PHYSICAL RESOURCES
GOD GIVES, THAT WE CAN BRING.

And Jesus told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'" "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12: 16-21



LEGACY

THE BLESSINGS THAT ENDURE AND GIFTS
GOD GIVES THAT ARE OF LASTING VALUE.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Making a Financial Pledge to EHMC...

... not only helps the church plan, but it helps you grow in your faith commitment to the church and to God. We believe:

- All we have belongs to God. Our blessings are gifts from God, our generous Creator.
- We are lifelong stewards of the gifts with which God has blessed us.
- God expects us to practice stewardship in ways that glorify God and that strengthen His earthly Kingdom.
- Our stewardship decisions reveal the relative importance of God in our lives. Stewardship greatly impacts the depth of our relationships with God and the quality of our earthly lives.
- As good stewards, we should use our gifts of time, talent, treasure, and legacy in those places that best further God's Kingdom.
- East Hills Moravian Church is a conduit through which God works.
- The practice of pledging changes hearts and strengthens relationships with God. Pledging is a tie that binds us to God.

Grace permeates our lives, and pledging to East Hills Moravian Church allows us to practice gratefully responding to that grace. It is the first step in cultivating a broader practice of generous living, shaping not only how we use our financial resources but also how we share our gifts of time, talent, and legacy with others. As we continue to invest in our faith community, we strengthen our personal relationship with God.

Financial Commitment Card

Pledging is important because it helps the church plan. Please consider taking a step toward contributing a specific percentage of your income with the goal of tithing.

I/we intend to contribute \$_____ per week per month per year
to support our shared ministries at East Hills Moravian Church.

Name(s) _____ Date ____/____/____

Please fill out and return this card to East Hills Moravian Church by mail or by placing it in the collection plate. Or visit easthillsmc.org/online-giving to sign up for or change your secure electronic funds transfer.



Please fill out and return the commitment card to East Hills Moravian Church by mail or by placing it in the collection plate. Or visit easthillsmc.org/online-giving to sign up for secure electronic funds transfer (EFT). Please contact the Financial Secretary if you would like to change your EFT.



Want to support your church?

Moravian Ministries Foundation can help!

- Make a tax-free gift
- Make a gift that pays you back
- Avoid taxation on your IRA
- Make a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime

MMFA.com | 336.725.2589 | 119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Looking ahead and preparing for the future can be a daunting task. With the uncertainty of what tomorrow might hold, taking the first step in planning might be nerve-wracking. MMFA is here to help!

Moravian Ministries Foundation in America is a valuable partner and a free resource for Moravians seeking to contribute to the church in a tax-efficient and effective manner. Our online “Legacy

Planning” tool allows you to draft your will, healthcare directives, and powers of attorney, all at no cost! This wonderful resource enables anyone to initiate their preparations for the future while simultaneously ensuring continued support for Moravian ministries for years to come.

We understand that this might be a confusing and time-consuming process, so we are here to help walk you through each step.

Beyond our "Legacy Planning" tool, MMFA offers additional support to help you:

- Establish gifts to provide an income stream that will eventually benefit your church and/or favorite ministries,
- Maximize tax advantages for both you and your beneficiaries,
- Transfer stock or retirement assets as a generous gift to your church or favorite Moravian ministry,
- And more!

Contact Chris Spaugh, MMFA President & CEO, for guidance or with questions.

Let MMFA be your partner in planning for the future. Let’s move ministries forward, together.

Moravian Ministries Foundation in America
Chris Spaugh, President & CEO
119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 305 | Winston-Salem, NC 27101
336.725.2589 | CSpaugh@MMFA.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT EHMC:

November 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 All Saints Day	2 All Souls Day 7:00 CEC	3 National Sandwich Day	4
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends – Turn Clocks back 1 hour 9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 9:30 Women’s Fellowship 10:30 Worship	6	7 Election Day 1:00 pm Care Team mtg. 7:00 pm Women’s Fellowship	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12 9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship, Baptism, Pledge card dedication, Holy Communion Festival of Jesus Christ as Chief Elder	13 World Kindness Day 7 p.m. – Joint Board Meeting	14 7:00 pm Trustees 7:00 Elders	15	16 National Fast Food Day	17 National Take A Hike Day	18
19 9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship, Baptism	20	21	22 7:00 pm Why Knots Sandy - vacation	23 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving 	24 Black Friday	25 Small Business Saturday
26 National Cake Day 9:30 Coffee & Conversation Group 9:30 Children and Youth Sunday School 9:30 Adult Bible Study in Parlor 10:30 Worship Hanging of the Greens Pastor’s vacation 11/26-12/2	27 Cyber Monday	28 Giving Tuesday 7:00 pm Worship & Music Com.	29	30		

Mark Your Calendar! Dec. 3rd is our Church Council Meeting immediately following worship. Church Council meetings include all confirmed, communicant members of East Hills Moravian Church. At this meeting we will hear brief updates from Elders and Trustees about 2023 ministry and mission. Our primary focus will be to receive the budget, ask questions, and vote to adopt it. We will also receive the names of 2024 Eastern District synod delegates and affirm them to that ministry. Please plan to join us either in person or Zoom in and participate!

Young Adult Ministry: Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Hanging of the Greens: Come and join us on

Special Thanks - Thank you to our Stewardship Ministry Team and to all who shared the series with us! Thanks to Jay (Team Chairperson), Jeff, Greg, Ellen, and pastor Linda for their thoughtful planning to bring us Stewardship, "The Life that Truly Is Life", a series that helps us celebrate that our Time, Talent, Treasure, and Legacy are gifts from God. We hope this series has been thought-provoking and inspiring as we begin the new church year and continue to grow in our discipleship!

office at 610-868-6481. Thanks for caring.



share time together! For more information, please contact the office at 610-868-6481.

Unity Prayer Watch – EHMC date is December 6th –

Please contact the church office to schedule your desired half hour for prayer. We share the day with College Hill and Nazareth MCs. The hours we will cover are 2:00-4:00 am and pm and 8:00-10:00 am and pm.

"December 1-22, 2023 is 'A never-ending prayer.' It's easy for us as Moravians to take for granted this ancient practice of our faith. Joining together with our world-wide Moravian family, we are able to be in conversation with God not only every day of the year, but literally every hour and minute. It's humbling to think, that at any given moment, whether it be one of blessing or sorrow, someone from our faith family is in prayer for the world and all of us within it. It's actually a gift we give not only to the world, but an honor given to our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ!" - Rev. David E. Bennett President Provincial Elders' Conference



Visitation Care Team One of the priorities of our Board of Elders is to be sure that our members are well cared for through visits. When members and/or loved ones are sick, grieving, lonely, recovering, and/or struggling in matters of faith, a visit can help us to know we do not struggle alone. It is such an important ministry, that several folks have been trained to serve in partnership with the pastor in our visitation ministry. The East Hills Moravian Church Visitation Team is currently: Janice, Phyllis, Debbie, Karen, Jane, and Pastor Linda. To request a visit, EHMC members can call the church office to be scheduled with someone from our Visitation Ministry.

NEW Ministry - Literacy Program with Governor Wolf Elementary

School - We will soon begin working with staff and students at Governor Wolf Elementary School, serving by reading to and with the children at the school in the morning. More details will be provided in the next week or two, (watch the Thursday news!). 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.

Huts on Main: Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Christmas Huts on Main Street again this year. Once again, one hut is dedicated to the BAM Freezer Ministry and the Bethlehem Area Emergency Shelter. **Volunteers are needed for cookie making, hut setup, serving and information sharing.** Contact Bob Wingrove at Robert.wingrove@rcn.com

Cash Cards for Shopping and Gifting -

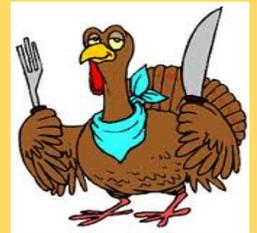
Consider small denomination gift cards as gifts for others or for yourself! Available cards include large retailers like Amazon and Walmart, streaming and gaming sites such as Sling TV and Xbox, restaurants, coffee shops, and gas stations. A full list of retailers is available at ShopWithScrip.com. For questions, contact the office at 610-868-6481.



WHY KNOTS will be holding a sale on **Sunday, November 19**, before and after worship! We will have a variety of items including quilts, winter hats and scarves for all ages, baby items, dish cloths and scrubbies, quilted potholder sets, stuffed snowmen, and tiny fidget toys. There will be donations from two church family artists: beautiful cloth bowls from Peggy and primitive wooden Bethlehem stars from. Proceeds are donated back to EHMC.

Harvest Dinner

Benefits - Bethlehem Area Moravian Freezer Ministry
At - East Hills Moravian Church
1830 Butztown Road – Bethlehem, PA



Saturday Nov. 11, 2023 4:30 – 6:00 PM Buffet Open

In-House Seating or Fill a Provided Container and Take Your Dinner Home

Cost:	Adults	\$15	Silver Sponsor	\$25
	Children 6-12	\$ 6	Gold Sponsor	\$50
	Children 5 & under	No Charge		

Advanced reservations are required. Deadline Fri. Nov. 3, 2023

Call Bob or Kathy Wingrove @ 610-867-0537

If you cannot attend the dinner, but would like to donate, please make checks out to East Hills Moravian Church, marked for the Freezer Ministry

Pick An Angel: We will be participating in Pick an Angel project again this year. Watch the Thursday announcements for information!



A Shepherd's Journey - Sunday, December 17th – during Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Take your children on an exciting journey back in time to the streets of Bethlehem on the night that Jesus was born!



The East Hills Moravian Church Putz will be open to the public **December 1st - December 30th**

Fridays

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays

3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

3 versions: Adult, Child, & Spanish

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 the office at 610-868-6481 if you wish to participate in this ministry.

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

2023 Watchword: Keep my statutes, and observe them; I am the Lord; I sanctify you. - Leviticus 20:8

While we your past dealings
Gratefully review,
We're assured your mercies
Are each morning new;
Pardon our transgressions,
Hear our earnest cry;
Us in soul and body
Heal and sanctify. (770)

Fellowship Opportunities:

Women's Fellowship is reading "Rolling with the Rock" by Rev. Jason Andersen. Meeting on **Nov. 5th** at 9:30 am in the board room and on ZOOM on **Nov. 7th** at 7 pm to discuss Session 2 "A Personal Invitation by Name". Contact the office at 610-868-6481.

The December meetings will be Sunday, Dec. 3rd at 9:30 am and on ZOOM on Tuesday, Dec. 5th at 7 pm which will be on Session 3 "In a Fog".

Zoom Meetings are at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81049150487?pwd=d0luM01YaFVvTVRRd2ZvbG1sdmo1Zz09>
Meeting ID: 810 4915 0487
Passcode: 252978



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 the office at 610-868-6481.

Adult Fellowship: If you're a Generation Jones member or part of our Adult Fellowship community, stay tuned for information on the 2024 adventures!



Family fun night watching hockey?: East Hills is checking your interest in a Family Fun Night to see the Lehigh Valley Phantoms play hockey. We need minimum of 10 people for the discount. The pricing for lower level seating (closer to the ice) is \$23-25 and upper level seating is \$18-20. **Please contact the office at 610-868-6481 if you are interested in doing this** and we will get a date locked in for us.

Why Knots - WHY KNOT members meet year-round on the 4th Wednesday of each month. We work on both personal and donation projects, and enjoy the fellowship and support we provide for one another. If you want to join our efforts, or you know of a special need, contact the office at 610-868-6481. You are always welcome to become a part of our group. **WHY KNOT SALE** will be held on **Sunday, November 19th** in Fellowship Hall before and after worship. Perfect timing for Holiday shopping!

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 petenorman@gmail.com or Bob Wingrove at bobandkathyw@rcn.com. We will try to assist you as best as we can.



ESSENTIALS CAFÉ OPENING! – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - It has taken some time but now a "Soft Opening" for the Essentials Café is in the near future! **Tentative dry runs are planned for Nov. 8th & 9th with a "Soft Opening" date scheduled for Friday Nov. 10th.** That means we are finally ready to schedule you, our VOLUNTEERS!

To view the various volunteer positions and time slots available (AM & Lunch), please visit our website at <https://www.essentialscafe.org/signup>. You will be able to sign up there for training days (Nov. 2nd or 4th) and for volunteer shifts. You will receive an email that we received your response.

Once we compile responses and create a schedule based on information received, we will forward a completed schedule to all for final confirmation of schedule. Our volunteers are key to the success of Essentials Café!

GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS:

Poinsettias

ORDER FORM



We are offering poinsettias for purchase to place in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. They may be taken home after the last service Christmas Eve.

Please order by completing this form and returning it with payment to East Hills Moravian Church with a memo for poinsettias. **Order deadline is Saturday, November 26th, 2023**

\$10.00 each

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

PRESENTED BY: _____

PHONE # _____

This is how it will appear in the bulletin:

Fill in the line you wish to have included in the bulletin:

In Honor of _____

In Loving Memory of _____

For Blessings Received _____

Please make checks payable to East Hills Moravian Church or EHMC.

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

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

[Drive-By Food Pantry at Central Moravian Church](#) – located in Central Moravian Christian Ed parking lot, access road between Kemmerer Museum & God’s Acre (follow signs). **Sunday, November 5, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. - 1 pm** . Volunteers will be there to receive your donations rain, or shine. We are asking that donations come in paper bags (doubled) or cardboard boxes. Those can be recycled or repurposed.

RECYCLING:

Pill containers: Unfortunately our pill recycling campaign is being discontinued. Thank you for your participation however, we respectfully request that you do not bring any additional bottles to the church.

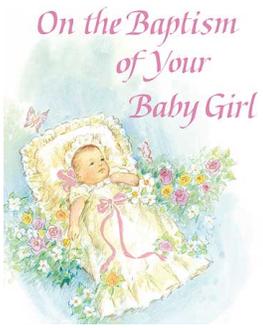
TREX recycling: The bagging dates are **Sundays, November 12th and 26th**.

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:





CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME! We Welcome Cecilia, daughter of Kelly and Philip who was baptized on October 8th.