

The Envoy

February, 2017

Dear Edgeboro Friends and Family,

A few weeks ago, I attended a Senior and Post-High Retreat at Camp Hope along with a few others from Edgeboro. It was my first time at Camp Hope, and let me just say that I was very impressed with the dozens of young leaders that attended. Our focus was on peace, more specifically Jesus' words to the disciples in the upper room, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27). One might wonder how we spent an entire weekend on one verse, but when it comes to peace, there's a lot to unpack.

We talked about what we thought peace meant and we spent a long time discussing how to bring peace to our communities in hypothetical situations. By the end of the weekend, we were beginning to realize that peace can come in many shapes and sizes. To use the words of Fred Rogers (Yes, *that* Mr. Rogers), "Peace means far more than the opposite of war!"

We also realized that we *all* needed Christ's peace in our lives in many different situations. Yes, Christ gives peace to the world, but he also gives peace to each of us in very personal ways if we are receptive to it. Christ gives us peace of mind to do our best at school or work, calmness of heart when we're grieving a loss, purity of conscious to be able to forgive others, and more. Peace can exist in our daily lives. It's not just something we wait for. Mr. Rogers nails it again when he says, "I have long believed that the way to know a spiritual sense is to know it in our real life. I think the best way to understand about God and peace is to know about peace in our everyday lives."

I bring this up now because this is worth focusing on during Lent, which is just around the corner. By the time you read this, Lent will start in about a month (Ash Wednesday is March 1st). In my experience (as well as many others), Lent is a good time to check in with yourself and be intentionally mindful of how you're living as a follower of Christ. About Christ's peace, maybe you can ask yourself:

Do you feel Christ's peace in the world? In your life? When do you feel Christ's peace the most and how do you manifest it? Can others see it in you? How do you make it known to the world? Do you need to make a change to do this?

Lent isn't here yet, but this conversation about peace that started at the retreat reminded me that personal reflection can take a lot of energy, thought, prayer, and humility, and so maybe we should prepare ourselves for what lies ahead come March 1.

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

Seeking with you,

Pastor Dan

Important Notes

- It's time once again to send some love and cheer to our College Students! Please donate some fun items to send our students such as bubbles, playdoh, slinkys, candy, or other fun things. There will be a basket in the Narthex to collect donations labeled "study buster kits." If you aren't a shopper, monetary donations are always welcome to pay for supplies and shipping costs.

The kits will be put together during the Sunday school hour on **February 12th**. We have about 20 college students again this year. The list we have is Dan Bucchin, Liza Bucchin, Evan Pretti, Rachel Sine, Abeil Sine, Tayte Messman and Sasha Cheer. Please make sure you come to church to sign their cards and send them some love! And, if your son/ daughter is not on the list please call or text Jenny Minnich at 610-248-9250 or jejm98@gmail.com or contact the church office. We don't want to miss anyone!

- **Snow Tubing Trip – Fri Mar 3**

SAVE THE DATE - Snow Tubing at Blue Mountain with Bethlehem Area Moravians and friends on Friday March 3rd, 2017, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 pm.

Cost: \$21 + waiver by Sunday Feb. 26 ,(must be 36" tall). **To come and watch is \$2!!!!**

Hot dogs, soda, water, desserts are provided . Bring a favorite munchie to share.

Contact Blake Messman, 610-954-5173 or messmanblake@gmail.com

- We are putting out a new **Congregational Directory** in the beginning of February.. If anything has changed in 2016; **address, phone number (dropping or adding) or email address**, please let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

- **I.P.O. Listening Session**

The Identity, Purpose, and Organization (IPO) team was formed after the 2010 Northern Provincial synod to identify the ways in which the Moravian Church can better serve our communities in the 21st century. This effort has raised many interesting questions: Who were the Moravians? How did Moravians get to where they are today? What does it mean to be a Moravian now? What will the Moravian Church look like in the future? The IPO would like to hear from you! Come join in and offer your thoughts and experiences to this important conversation about the Moravian Church's identity, purpose, and organization. **Moravians across the Lehigh Valley are invited to a listening session that will be hosted at Advent Moravian Church on Saturday, March 4th from 9:00am-12:00pm. If you would like to know more, go to: <http://www.moravian.org/moravian-church-northern-province/ipo/> Please contact the church office by Thursday, February 23rd to RSVP for the event.**

- Please join friends of Northeast Ministry for a fundraiser breakfast **Sunday, February 12th**, 12:00 - 2:00 pm, hosted by East Hills Moravian Church. This year's breakfast will feature guest chefs including *FeFe* from the Iron Pigs and a Silent Auction of original artwork by the youth who attend the After School Homework Club program. Ticket prices are: adults-\$10/children-\$6 (6-12 yrs.)/children 5 and under-free. For information or to purchase tickets, please contact Northeast Ministry at 610-691-3355 or nembethlehem@gmail.com.
- Did you know that the Board of World Mission has a mission grant fund (Gifts of Change) that allows us to support our global partners in ways that will strengthen their churches and promote their sustainability through leadership development, mission and economic strengthening? Some of these areas of Global Mission are in Cuba, Peru, Nicaragua, Honduras and Western Tanzania. Please visit our website at <http://moravianmission.org/?s=gifts-of-change> to find out how you can "be the change" in the lives of our global partners.

- **Moravian Youth Convo 2017**

Who: Completed grades 9 through age 21

What: An interprovincial gathering of Moravian Youth for the purpose of building community, spiritual formation, mission engagement, and fellowship.

When: July 1-6, 2017

Where: Washington DC

Theme: *Witness*

Registration: By January 31st. Find more information and register at <http://www.moravian.org/?p=9031>

Cost: \$800 (\$300 deposit upon registration). Please contact the church office to inquire about financial assistance.

- **275th Anniversary Food Packing for Haiti**

As a way of celebrating our 275th anniversary in Bethlehem by honoring our past and ongoing call in mission work, the Bethlehem Area Moravian churches are coming together for an event to help feed those in need. Come help repackage large quantities of dried, non-perishable food for distribution in Haiti. (*This is similar to the event held at the Eastern District Synod in June 2016, where over 32,000 meals were repackaged.*) Our work time will also incorporate moments of worship and prayer and will be followed by dinner for all volunteers. This is an inter-generational event!

When: Sunday, March 19th, 2:00-6:00pm (Dinner served at 5:00pm)

Where: East Hills Moravian Church

RSVP to the church office by March 1 if you plan to stay for dinner.

- **Save the Date: Youth Lock-In**

Put Saturday, March 18th to Sunday, March 19th on your calendar. Plans for a possible junior and senior high youth lock-in are in the works to begin that Saturday evening and end with the 275th Anniversary Food Packing for Haiti (*see other announcement*) event on Sunday.

- There will be a **Benevolence breakfast** held on Sunday morning, **March 5th**.

- **Did you Know?**

- We host a yoga group (open to the public, all ability levels) on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.
- We welcomed four new members on January 22nd - Steve & Traci Millheim and Ali Lauderman by transfer of membership; Jackson Lauderman (Ali's son) by baptism.
- Financial assistance is available for youth going to camp or Convo this summer.
- We have a wide variety of hearty, frozen meals in the church freezer to use at our discretion. If you or some one you know needs a few microwaveable meals (whether it's for a member who just got out of the hospital, or a nonmember in between jobs needing to feed their family, or any need in between), *please* contact the church office and we can direct you/them to the church freezer.
- A few months ago, a few members from Edgeboro and other Bethlehem Moravian churches helped East Hills Moravian pack over 400 of these frozen meals in an afternoon. These meals were distributed among the churches represented. Another one of these food-packing days at East Hills is coming up within weeks and we are invited to come help again! (*More information to come very soon.*)

- The CEC will be meeting on Sunday, **February 19th** following Sunday School in the nursery.

- **Save the Date: Lenten Dinners & Services**

Our Wednesday night Lenten Dinners and Services are quickly approaching. Dinners will be served at 6:00pm by a different church group each week followed by a reflective and interactive worship service. This will take place on the following Wednesdays of Lent: March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5.

Edgeboro Moravian Church members,

Thank you for the generous gift of \$575.53 for Nepal during the year 2016. All donations to Nepali Moravian Outreach will be used to support the ministry of Shanti and Vani Pradhan as they share the Good News of Christ in Nepal. Their mission is to transform lives through the ministries of the Moravian Church and to educate and equip people to be leaders in their church and their communities.

In Christ,

Craig Mosebach

Dear Blake & Congregation of Edgeboro,

Thank you so much for generously adopting seven families from Northeast Ministry for Christmas this Year! We are always amazed and grateful for your kindness!

The families who received the gifts were very surprised and honored to receive the items. Your kindness has truly made a difference on these families, who often struggle with the financial burden of the holidays. We are so grateful for your support and partnership with our agency.

Thank you for supporting the work of Northeast Ministry! We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Paula Johnson

Assistant Executive Director