

October 2, 2017

Dear Edgeboro Friends and Family,

I am writing to let you know that we have kicked off our *Percentage Living* worship series at Edgeboro Moravian Church. In addition to this letter, you will be receiving another letter toward the end of this series summarizing all of our worship experiences and learnings through these five weeks.

Sunday, September 24th was the first Sunday and we learned about giving to God a percentage of our **day** through **devotional prayer**.

To go along with our *Percentage Living* theme, each week a member of the congregation will speak on their own experience when it comes to the topic of the day during a moment in worship called “Receiving a Fair Share.” Tom Shafer spoke about his personal experience with prayer. He spoke of how important he thought it was to center himself at the beginning of each day with prayer. Tom also mentioned that God speaks the loudest to him in silence and that God knows what he needs before he even asks – and he knows this because he has witnessed answered prayers before he even voiced them.

After Tom was done, I showed a short video put out by *National Geographic* called “7 Billion: Are You Typical?” (<https://goo.gl/eRK3wN>). In this video, it used different international averages (height, income, nationality, etc.) to come up with what a “typical” person in this world might look like. The video describes all of this in a much more interesting way, but it is safe to say that *you* probably do not match the description given of a typical person. Therefore, *you* are not typical! All of this is to say that since we are not typical people, we are all different, meaning that our relationships with God will look different than someone else’s. So when it comes to prayer, or any of the other topics this series will cover, no one is telling anyone what to do. Instead, we hope to encourage one another to do something that will enhance their faith.

Tom speaking of how God speaks in the quiet fit exceedingly well with the scripture passage for that Sunday – Psalm 46. In my message, I focused on verse ten in particular, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Often, this verse is a call for quiet, stillness, and silence. If you read Psalm 46, you will notice that this is being mentioned in a time that is anything but quiet – wars, earthquakes and storms! With this, the psalmist is telling us that God is in both the loud and quiet times in life.

As proof of that, we looked at pictures of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in downtown Los Angeles, California. Behind the altar is a banner with a map of the city with a verse from Revelation 21:3, “See, God’s dwelling is among mortals. God will dwell with them. They will be God’s people and God will be with them.” Here, in the heart of one of the loudest cities in the world is a quiet place where God resides.

This led to a challenging question for all of us – “If God is speaking to *me*, an atypical child of God, in the loud and in the quiet of life, what am I going to do about it?” We took this question with us when we left with the hopes that this would lead us to thinking what we need to change about our prayer lives so that we may listen to God even better in all times in our lives. Maybe this means adjusting our normal times of prayer, or maybe it means we need an additional resource like a devotional or a journal to better structure our prayer time. In any case, this will look different for everyone.

Sunday, October 1st was the second Sunday and we learned about giving God a percentage of our **Sabbath** through engaging in **worship and learning experiences**.

Cheryl Kindt was a guest speaker during the “Receiving a Fair Share” moment. From her years of experience in Christian education at Edgeboro, she spoke of many of the classes she was involved in, activities she led, and books she read. She certainly emphasized how important it was for her to always take the time to learn about and recall all the things God has done throughout history – her own history and throughout the Bible. She said that even if she were to read the Bible cover to cover over and over again, there would *still* be more things she would learn. What a testament to how much God is still acting in our lives today!

Our scripture passage was Psalm 99. The psalmist speaks of God’s activity – how God listens, answers, forgives, and keeps people accountable – and then calls people to worship God as a response. Giving God a percentage of our Sabbath, something that we are commanded to do, is all about making the time to identify and respond to all of the ways in which God is active in our lives.

I showed the video “How the U.S. Public Became Less Religious” (<https://goo.gl/TiAppQ>). This video was put out by the Pew Research Center a few years ago and it outlines certain statistics about how many people believe in God, attend worship, pray regularly, and so on. It led us to wonder, “As those who are a part of a faith community who choose to attend worship, why are we here?” Worship should not be an obligation and we should not be worshipping to make someone happy, or even to make God happy. We worship God to respond to all the signs we have been shown that God is still with us and active in our lives. We worship to *remember*. In word and song, we remember. We left wondering about other signs of God that we need to remember, recognize, and respond to in worship.

How appropriate it was to talk about remembering that which God has done for us just before we heard the words, “Do this, in remembrance of me,” as we partook in Holy Communion together on World Communion Sunday. On this special day in the worldwide church, we were blessed to have Joshua Pradhan, nephew of Vani and Shanti Pradhan and current student at Moravian College, share with us about Moravians in Nepal. We held a Joyful Noise offering for the Nepal Ministry.

As you can see, there has been a lot happening on worship over the past two Sundays, and there is more coming up (*see the following announcement pages*)! Join us as we continue through this worship series as we encourage each other to give God even more of our lives!

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Dan

The Envoy

Edgeboro Moravian Congregation

October, 2017

- On Sunday, **October 8th** we will be participating in the **Annual Crop Walk**. We will meet at 1:15PM under the Hill to Hill Bridge. Join your friends from Edgeboro as we work together to support this important cause. If you can't do the walk, think about sponsoring one of our walkers. If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with Paul Messman.
- Sunday, **October 22nd** is the Runner's Half Marathon. Please check this website for the race's course because some of you may have to find a different route to come to church that day. <https://rw.runnersworld.com/rwhalf/course.html>
- Sunday **October 22nd** is our **Anniversary Sunday!** That day we will have **one** worship service at 10:00 a.m. and a Pot luck lunch following the service. We will celebrate with an Anniversary Lovefeast at the 10:00 a.m. Worship.
- Edgeboro Moravian Church **Annual Halloween Open House** is Friday, **October 27th**, 5:30-8PM. Come for 10 minutes or all 3 hours. All ages are welcome. Food includes: hotdogs, chips, carrots and milk. There will cookie decoration and crafts. Free will offering. Feel free to bring candy to hand out to the Trick or Treaters. We also need food servers, craft helpers, greeters and clean up help. Please call Blake Messman, church office or sign up at church.
- We have set the date for **mossing for the Putz**. The date is Saturday **October 28th** at 8:30AM. Lunch will be provided in the woods. Come enjoy a beautiful setting, great friends and fun. The rain/snow date is Nov 4th. Please feel free to get in touch with Blake or Paul Messman with any questions at messmanblake@gmail.com or 610-954-5173.
- Don't forget our **Church Council meeting** is Wednesday **November 8th** at 7PM. Watch for the Envoy to arrive at your house the end of October with biographies of those nominated for Elders and Trustees plus a copy of the proposed budget for 2017. **Committee and Board leaders, please have your annual reports into the office no later than November 1st !**
- The Putz committee is again asking for **white Moravian stars** to give to the school children when they visit the Putz during the Advent season. Please string the stars with green or gold thread so they are ready to hang.
- Moravian Sugar Cakes are being made on **Friday, October 13th**. Please get your order in to the office by Tuesday, October 10th. The cost of the Sugar cakes is \$6.00. You can pick up the Sugar cakes on Friday, October 13th from 7-8PM or Sunday, October 15th after Church. Thank you!
- **Moravian Mints!** We need stirrers, pourers, meal makers and those amazing ribbon tiers to make it happen. We need an earnest commitment from those wanting to keep this great tradition alive. If you can commit to any amount of time please let Marcia Horning know through a phone call or email. Without a commitment from enough helpers, it cannot happen. Please prayerfully consider helping out to make it an amazing year for mints!

Marcia Horning home phone [610.691.3209](tel:610.691.3209) or cell phone [610.657.0207](tel:610.657.0207) or by email mdhorning@rcn.com

Commitment Dates for 2017

MAKING 1-9PM

Mon. Oct 30
Tues. Oct. 31
Wed. Nov 1
Thurs. Nov 2

PACKING 9-11AM

Tues. Oct. 31
Wed. Nov 1
Thurs. Nov 2
Fri. Nov 3

- Come anytime to help prepare and package pre-cooked meals on **Tuesday, October 10th, from 1-4pm at East Hills Moravian Church**. All ranges of kitchen experience welcome. These meals will be distributed among the Bethlehem Moravian churches as a part of our shared Freezer Food Ministry.
- Did you know that we have pre-cooked frozen microwave-ready meals ready to go in our freezer? It is for anyone feeling overly stressed in their finances, time, health, and/or emotions. These stressful seasons in life happen, and this is a small way to show our support for you. If this might be you, or if you know someone who might need it, talk to an Elder or Pastor Dan and we will take a trip to the freezer together.

Coffee Class

- Are you looking for fellowship during the Sunday school hour? A new informal, adult discussion group, organized by Scott Pretti, called **Coffee Class** will begin meeting in the nursery room. This is not a formal class, but a chance to chat and share a cup of coffee or tea together. It is a perfect opportunity for parents whose children are in Sunday school or anyone else looking to get to know other church members. First gathering is on October 8th at 10:15am. Pass on the news!

- Putz Christmas Room Alert !

DATE REMINDERS:

1. Attic treasure donations on stage and labelled by 10/31.
2. Donations of individual wrapped candies (ie. Hershey kisses, hard candies, etc.) left on stage and labelled.
3. Donations of newspapers (no shiny ads) left on stage.
4. Putz Raising day Sat. 11/11...Hand Crafted items due.
5. Putz Raising day 10am/lunch at 1pm.

PUTZ RAISING PEOPLE and ITEMS NEEDED:

Soda, chips, cookies

Adults and children to make crafts for Christmas Room

Adults and children to help set up Fellowship Hall, Christmas Room, and Putz!

A BIG thank you in advance for all Edgeboro volunteers for this wonderful Christmas experience!! "Many hands make light work!" We look forward to seeing you on 11/11 for the Putz Raising!

- Upcoming "Percentage Living" Worship Opportunities

October 8th – Giving God a Percentage of My Time (*Serving, Witnessing, Inviting*)

Guest Speaker: Art Sergent

October 15th – Giving God a Percentage of My Income (*Generosity*)

October 22nd – Glorifying God in What I Earn (*Percentage Saving & Spending, God at Work*)

One Service 10:00am – We will pledge together to give to God more of our Day, Sabbath, Time, Income, and Earnings. We will also celebrate Edgeboro's 103rd Anniversary with a Lovefeast and a Potluck lunch.