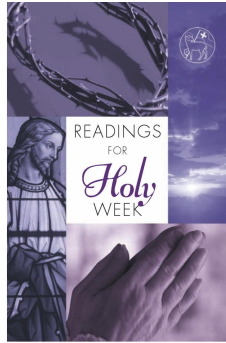


# District Developments

The Newsletter of  
The Eastern District  
Moravian Church  
April 2018  
David E. Bennett,  
President



## Sacred Stories- The Gift of Holy Week Readings

There is something about the Holy Week readings that pace my life for this sacred season. Holding that small book in my hand and following along on the stories of Jesus' journey toward cross and tomb....singing the hymns intertwined so meaningfully...it all helps attune my life to the contemplations of this holiest of all weeks. It is something that many Moravians find essential to their Easter experience as a whole. I would argue that it's more than a tradition for us really -- it's actually a spiritual discipline that is an integral part of our faith DNA.

Here in the office, Johanna (the Eastern District Administrative Assistant), shared a personal Holy Week story with me that warmed my heart. When she first began attending the Edgeboro Moravian congregation, she decided to attend one of the evening Holy Week services. As a newcomer, she made her way into the sanctuary and, as is so often the case when you are feeling your way into a new faith community, she found a seat off to the side where she sat by herself. As she sat alone reflecting upon the soon to begin service, a gentleman approached her with a smile and wel-

come....and one more thing. He offered her a Holy Week manual to follow along with the service's readings. As the service came to a conclusion, she looked around until she found the gentleman so that she could return his book. To her surprise, he responded by saying, "No, I want you to keep it....it's yours now." She was delighted and touched by such an unexpected gift. Interestingly, she shared further that there was something in that gift which drew her to attend all of the other Holy Week reading nights....her new Holy Week manual in hand.

Always the consummate Christian educator, our own Marie Coutts has a similar practice in the spirit of this Holy Week. Each year she purchases extra Holy Week manuals and when she sees a young child or youth at one of the Holy Week readings, she gifts them with their own book. You can imagine their delight, as well, at such an unexpected and timely gift. With a smile, Marie explains, "You would be surprised at how many parents tell me that their kids were the ones who insisted they go the next night so they could read from their own book!"

As we gather together this Holy week to hear these sacred stories once again....as we open that small book and read of the One who walked in our shoes...who healed and hoped....who dined with the least of these....who fed both bodies and souls....who loved us to the cross....and surprised us from a tomb....let us consider that "the gift" is actually more than that small book. It's a gift of faith heritage...where pausing life to gather quietly with kin in faith to hear those sacred stories is

more than something we do...it's part of who we are as Moravians. That truly is a gift worth giving!



## Eternity

By Vince Holbrook

Our earthly blessings last only for a time. But, especially at this time of year, we affirm our belief in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Our obedience to God, service, and joyful communion with Him do not end.

Many members of Moravian congregations look for creative ways to support their churches and other ministries they love into perpetuity. They want the fruit of their labor during life, the joy of giving, their insights, discernment, and support for God's work to continue until He comes.

The Moravian Ministries Foundation in America (MMFA) can help both individuals and congregations use the tools of philanthropy to continue their response to Christ's love. [Click here](#) to learn more about how Perpetual Funds, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Donor Advised Funds and other tools can help maximize the impact of stewardship and continue God's work.



**Prayer Concerns**

**Br. George Richmond**, retired pastor living in Philadelphia, PA has been hospitalized for cardiovascular issues. Please keep Br. Richmond, his wife Esther and their family in your prayers.

Your ongoing prayers are invited for **Sr. Susan Weinlick**, wife of Br. Hermann Weinlick, retired pastor living in Minneapolis, MN. Susan has been hospitalized and anticipates moving to a care facility. She has been in the hospital over a month, and has a long recovery ahead.

**Br. Michael Johnson**, pastor of John Hus Moravian Church in Brooklyn, NY, was recently hospitalized for internal bleeding. Please keep Brother Johnson, his wife Sister Carole and his family in your prayers as he recovers.

**Br. Bob Steirer**, father-in-law to Br. Duane Ullrich, pastor of the New Dorp Moravian Church on Staten Island, NY, has been hospitalized with internal bleeding. Please pray for Bob, Duane and Susan, and their family.

**Sr. Mavis Gordon**, wife of Br. Percival Gordon, retired pastor living in Florida, has been hospitalized in Port Saint Lucie, FL. Please be in prayer for her and the family, and the medical staff who is working to address her condition

**Br. Denny Gordon**, father of Sr. Laura Gordon, pastor of the Advent Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA was recently hospitalized for pulmonary embolisms. Please pray for his continued healing and restored health.



**BOARD OF WORLD MISSION**  
of the Moravian Church • North America



The Board of World Mission works to promote leadership development, mission outreach and economic strengthening for our global partners. One way to do this is through our mission grant program. These grants support items like scholarships in Honduras, stewardship workshops in Tanzania, and income generating projects in Peru. These grants are meant to act as seeds, the beginnings of new ministries that can grow and prosper. Help support these ministries by donating at [MoravianMission.org/MissionMeals](http://MoravianMission.org/MissionMeals).



As a thank you for a \$5 donation, you can receive a "plantable bookmark". Yes, a bookmark with some seeds you can plant this spring as a reminder of the way you have helped a new and beautiful thing, grow!

**Unitas Chorale Concert Announced**

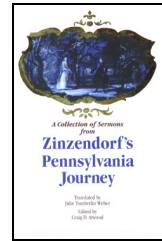


Now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of Moravian music-making, the Unitas Chorale is poised to hold its annual spring concert on Sunday afternoon, **April 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Advent Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA.** The concert is entitled "Singing With the Spirit: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs." The concert promises to be a joyous celebration of God's many blessings. The Unitas Chorale of the Northern Province is a performing arm of the Moravian Music Foundation with Gwyneth Michel, Director and Donna Ambler, Accompanist.

Visit [www.moravianmusic.org](http://www.moravianmusic.org) for information. See also Facebook for details. The concert is free; donations appreciated.



**On Sale Now!**



Zinzendorf's Pennsylvania Journey, A Collection of Sermons is on sale for 33% off! Regularly \$14.95 on sale for \$10.

<https://store.moravian.org/product/a-collection-of-sermons-from-zinzendorfs-pennsylvania-journey/>



The Moravian Daily Texts are being offered at a 15% discount. It's not too late to start the day with words from God, which are "new every day". Regular edition \$10.50 on Sale \$8.93. Other editions on sale too. To access sale page: [store.moravian.org](http://store.moravian.org)

**Change of Address**

**New Mailing Address:**  
Bill & Nancy Rinderknecht  
151 W Indian St  
PO Box 312  
Gnadenhutten, OH 44629

**Pastoral Change**

Sr. Melissa Johnson, currently pastor of the Palmer Moravian Church in Easton, PA, has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Advent Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA. She will be installed at Advent on June 17, 2018.

Please keep Melissa, her family, and both congregations in your prayers at this time of transition.



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**April Birthdays**

- 2 Mrs. Kathleen Pfeiffer
- 8 The Rev. Lance Fox
- 12 Mr. Michael Koenig
- 13 The Rev. Nancy Von Boeckmann
- 14 Mrs. Connie Bennett
- 17 The Rev. Kay Ward
- 18 The Rev. Dr. William Pfeiffer  
Mrs. Julia Folk
- 20 Mrs. Valarie Ferguson
- 21 The Rev. Daniel Michael Miller
- 23 The Rev. Dr. Darryl Bell
- 24 Mrs. Pamela Thierolf
- 26 Mr. Jonathan Borger
- 27 Mrs. Grace Lindenmuth  
The Rev. Allen Bergmann
- 28 Mr. Kevin Lippincott
- 30 The Rev. Dr. Reed Acheson

**April Anniversaries**

- 3 The Rev. Nancy Von Boeckmann & Mr. Thomas Von Boeckmann
- 6 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. James Highlander
- 9 The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Hermann Weinlick
- 14 Mr. Ralford Watson & The Rev. Valrey Watson

Churches celebrating April anniversaries:

- 1 - 1888 - First, Easton, PA

- 10 -1949 - Palmer Twsp. Easton, PA
- 13 - 1859 - Egg Harbor City, NJ
- 27 - 1852 - Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY

April 13, 1732 - The first Easter sunrise service of the Moravians was conducted in the Hutberg cemetery at Herrnhut, Germany.



**"Camp Hope"**

**Needs Your Help!**

The lower camp needs to be cleaned and prepared by mid-April for the Moravian Confirmation Retreat and other rental groups. Can you give a few hours to help?

No experience or skills are necessary. We have jobs for everyone, including:

- spring clean cabins and lodges, top to bottom
- wash windows
- pick up sticks and branches left by winter storms
- minor plumbing and electrical repairs

Weekday assistance is preferred; some weekend hours may be possible. If you can help, contact Sue at 908 459-4435 or [hopecenter@camphope.org](mailto:hopecenter@camphope.org) to discuss.

**Eastern Region Confirmation Retreat  
Registration Deadline April 23rd**

The 2018 Moravian Church Eastern Region Confirmation Retreat will be held May 4-6, 2018 at the Hope Conference and Renewal Center. Registration begins on Friday evening from

7:00 – 8:00 pm and the retreat will end on Sunday at 10:00 am.

This year's program will focus on the history of Moravian missions as well as one's personal sense of mission.

For more information please contact your pastor. Advance registration is required with a deadline for registration of April 23, 2018.

**North East Moravian Disaster  
Response Presents: An Introduction to  
Mission at Camp Hope**



Listen to your call to mission. Experience the joy of being and working with others as we join together in Christian fellowship, sharing our God-given skills and talents while helping with needed projects at Camp Hope. Hear stories of how responding to the call to mission has changed lives. Take advantage of this close-at hand mission opportunity to live your faith in service to others with fellow Moravians. Tools and instruction will be provided by NEMDR.

Come join the fun on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The cost is \$10.00 each day or \$15.00 for the weekend. Meals and overnight accommodations provided. For information and reservations, call John Egerton at 610-217-0514 or Mike Rampulla at 610-462-7401. Become the person God knows you can be!