

The Moravian Monthly

Official Newsletter of the Canadian, Eastern, and Western Districts
of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

February 2025

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Please contact
Sylvie Hauser at
sylvie@mcnp.org
or (920)495-8995
with any questions
or concerns about
this newsletter.

Reflection on the Western District Clergy Retreat

Rev. Jason Andersen, President of the Western District Executive Board

Pastors from around the Western District, both ordained and lay, currently serving a congregation and retired, Moravian and from other denominations, gathered for a time of fellowship, retreat, worship, and conversation at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center just outside of Wautoma, WI, on January 13-16, where we could enjoy Mt. Morris' wonderful hospitality and delicious food.



This annual gathering is organized and coordinated by our pastors. The current facilitator is Rev. Joel Russell, pastor of the Bethel and Goshen Moravian Churches in North Dakota. Our worship coordinator was Rev. Hermann Weinlick. The program this year was led by Rev. Rick Beck, a retired Moravian pastor who has served in all three districts of the Northern Province and who is a certified spiritual director. Brother Rick's program centered around the book "The Inner Work of Age: Shifting from Role to Soul" by Dr. Connie Zwiig and was entitled "Meaningful Aging." Program attendees had the opportunity to see that the focus wasn't about "getting old," but instead about the process of aging that happens to us all, regardless of our numerical age. Transitions occur throughout the life span and there are opportunities to examine and reexamine where we have grown emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually, whether we are 25, 55, or 85. Periodically, life circumstances bring us to a place of realization that concepts, ideals, and practices that worked for us before no longer work. Changes and adaptations are necessary. New paradigms are needed. The next stage of life and growth beckons.

Regardless of vocation, for us to be faithful and caring executors of our calling, it is necessary periodically to withdraw and retreat momentarily in order that we may evaluate and reevaluate the intention with which we are guiding our lives. It may be that after that period of evaluation, we conclude that we can continue the course on which we are travelling. Or we may come to see that changes are needed. In either case, we proceed confidently identifying the integrity with which we examined our lives, and grateful for the guiding hand of God to see us through all our days.

If you attend a Western District or Canadian District congregation, reach out to your pastor to ask them how their retreat experience was or, if they were unable to attend, what self-care steps they are taking to ensure they are observing this important work; the Canadian District Clergy Retreat was in September. If you attend an Eastern District congregation, encourage your pastors (ordained or lay, Moravian or ecumenical) to attend the upcoming retreat on March 31 – April 2 at Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriotsville, MD.

Provincewide Updates

Convo Registration is OPEN!

The next Moravian Youth Convo will be held in Miami, Florida, July 2-7, 2025 with the program being led by the Rev. Dan Miller, Board of World Mission Director of Mission Service. Registration is OPEN from now until May 23rd on the Convo webpage: MoravianMission.org/Convo/.

Please also plan to join us for a Convo info session on Monday, March 3rd at 7pm ET. The Zoom link can be found on the Convo webpage; the session will be recorded for those unable to attend.



Theme: MIA (Mission in Action)

Come and see how the Moravian Church has been a church with an active mission! Find out where the Church might be Missing In Action today and discover how we, individually and together, can put God's Mission Into Action.

As the event approaches, updates on travel logistics, event schedule, and more will be found on the Convo webpage and shared directly with registrants. Please fill out the contact form on the Convo webpage with any questions or concerns related to Convo 2025.



When & Where: July 2-7, 2025 in Miami, FL
Who: Youth completing grades 9-12 in 2025
Cost: \$800 (includes all lodging, meals, and program costs, but does not include travel to and from Miami)

Resources for Caring for Immigrant and Refugee Neighbors

In 2023, the Northern Province Synod affirmed “the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of immigrants, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and declare[d] its support for the humane treatment of any person coming across our borders, regardless of legal status.” Other resolutions encouraged the development of educational materials for congregations to better understand the issues around immigration; and encouraged the PEC’s advocacy for humane policies at our borders. The Synod reiterated earlier Synod’s action by going “on record as supporting those who, acting out of their faith and witness, provide sanctuary and asylum to those fleeing from persecution in their home lands.” The MCNP Racial Justice Team is providing initial educational and practical resources to care for the immigrant and refugee neighbors in your communities. We encourage you to review the resources available at MCNP.org (click “Racial Justice and Healing” under the Ministries tab), including guidelines from the ELCA and Episcopal Church about becoming a sanctuary church, resources compiled by the Board of World Mission, and printable Red Cards to be distributed widely.



Wednesday Morning Clergy Cluster

A weekly Zoom gathering for clergy to share conversation and prayer. The gathering begins at 9am Central Time and lasts one hour. Email Marian Boyle Rohloff at pastor@wsmoraviangb.org with questions.

Zoom Link:



A Note from the Finance Dept.

Standard mileage rates for 2025:
Self-employed & business: 70 cents/mile
Charities: 14 cents/mile
Medical: 21 cents/mile

World Interfaith Harmony Week: February 1-7

Br. David Jones, President of the Board of Elders Canadian District, has joined his ecumenical colleagues in Canada in a statement issued on Interfaith Harmony. Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and The Most Rev. Anne Germond, Archbishop and Acting Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada also signed the statement that reads, in part:

“From February 1 to 7, people all around the world mark World Interfaith Harmony Week. It’s an initiative that arose from the United Nations in 2010, based on the desire to see people draw on the resources of spirituality, faith and religious traditions in support of the common good, rather than allowing those things to be co-opted to sow seeds of rivalry and violence, as they so often are. The year 2025 is the 15th anniversary of the launch of this global cause for justice and peace.

“We are grateful that, in these days of World Interfaith Harmony Week, members of our churches across Canada, together with many others around the world, are already planning to take part in multifaith opportunities, with open and generous hearts. We encourage many more to find occasions for engagement in your context. The struggles and sorrows of our world are too great for people of faith to respond to alone. In this time, when there are so many forces and factors at work that want to drive people into greater distance and distrust because they think and look and believe and pray differently from one another, World Interfaith Harmony Week is a witness to another way – one that is so desperately needed.” Read the full statement by scanning the QR code and learn more at WorldInterfaithHarmonyWeek.com.



Racial Justice Team Calendar: February 2025

Black History Month: The Racial Justice Team offers several liturgies and other resources for congregations to use in observance of Black History Month.

February 17th: the anniversary of the lynching of Willie Earle

Recommended reading: “Who Lynched Willie Earle” by William Willimon. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes Luhman, member of the RJT, has provided a reflection on the book; find the reflection, as well as a bulletin insert, on the RJT Calendar webpage. An excerpt of the reflection is included below.

In 2017 William Willimon, retired bishop in The United Methodist Church, and former dean of the Chapel at Duke University, wrote a short and accessible book entitled, “Who Lynched Willie Earle?” It is a book about a South Carolina pastor who in 1947 preached a sermon against the mob lynching of a black man called Willie Earle who was accused of killing a white taxi driver. The white preacher was called Hawley Lynn and he preached an anti-racism sermon about white privilege to his white congregation in a town that had just had a lynching, which most good Christians didn’t want to talk about (though many churchgoers actively attended lynchings in their towns).

| FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 Lynching of Willie Earle (Read <i>Who Lynched Willie Earle</i> this month) |
| 20 World Day of Social Justice |
| 23 STN Ahmaud Arbery (2020) |
| 26 STN Trayvon Martin (2012) |



Read more, find the calendar, and access all RJT Resources at Moravian.org/Northern/RacialJustice/.

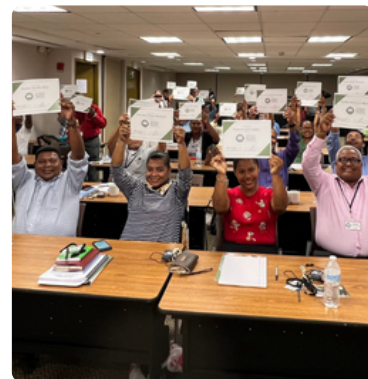
Music History: Online Course from the Moravian Music Foundation Baroque Period (4-Weeks): March 3 - 24, 2025; Mondays at noon (EST) via Zoom

For this course, we will be examining the music of the Baroque era. At one point derided for its excess and bombast, this period gave us the music of Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi. In addition to learning about some of the important composers of this era, we will also be exploring the birth of opera, the rise of instrumental music, and new ideas concerning the power of music and its ability to express emotions. MoravianMusic.org/Comenius-Music-Academy/

2025 Unity Prayer Day Offering: Common Moravian Theological Curriculum in Spanish

The Unity Prayer Day is normally held on the first Sunday in March. That means in 2025, the Unity Prayer Day Offering could be collected on **Sunday, March 2nd**. Please make a special effort to support this work!

Since our earliest days, the Unitas Fratrum has placed an emphasis on education, both vocational and theological. Today, there are Moravian seminaries and theological training centers across the world. These institutions are central to our ministry as a Church because they train the leaders of our Unity and give them the knowledge needed to serve our Chief Elder in their respective cultural and political contexts. Through this Unity Prayer Day Offering, the Board of World Mission (BWM) will work with the Unity Committee on Theology (UCOT) and Moravian leaders and educators worldwide to produce a common theological training curriculum that can be adapted and used throughout the Unity and starting specifically with our Spanish speaking partners. This curriculum will include training in the Bible and Biblical Languages, Theology and Church History, and Pastoral Theology.



Congregations in the United States should make their checks payable to the Moravian Church-Northern Province and forward it to the Finance Office, 1021 Center St., Bethlehem, PA 18018, with a note in the memo area indicating “Unity Offering.” Canadian congregations should forward their funds to the Canadian District treasurer. Please send all offerings no later than May 31 to ensure our being able to transmit all funds to the Unity for the current year’s project. You can also give through the MMFA Giving Portal. Learn more about the project and find links to give at MCNP.org.



SAVE THE DATE: 5 Years of Impactful Giving with the Moravian Day of Giving

Join us on **March 4, 2025**, for the 5th annual Moravian Day of Giving, a day dedicated to celebrating faith, hope, and generosity. Since 2021, this tradition has united Moravians across North America to support ministries and missions that make a lasting impact. This milestone year’s theme, “**Who Inspires You to Give?**” invites us to honor the people and values that fuel our generosity. Every gift to the Field of Interest Funds will unlock up to \$2,500 in matching contributions per fund, amplifying your impact on vital areas such as hunger, housing, health, and more. Plus, the five ministries with the highest number of individual donors will each receive \$2,500, showcasing the unity and collective spirit of the Moravian community.



We’d love to hear who inspires you! Share your story by contacting Hanna Jackson at hjackson@mmfa.com before March 1st. Your story could help build excitement and inspire others as we approach this milestone event. Together, we give—not just as individuals, but as a united community rooted in faith, love, and hope. **Mark your calendar, share your story, and stay tuned at mmfa.com.**

Racial Justice Pilgrimage Grants – 2025

The Racial Justice Team is offering Pilgrimage Grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to encourage MCNP congregations to plan and experience pilgrimages toward racial justice and healing in 2025. Congregations may also apply for grant funds to join a pilgrimage sponsored by another entity such as the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship or an ecumenical partner. Any site(s) or location of significance to/for the work of racial justice and the healing of relationships with Black, Indigenous, People of Color will be considered. A qualifying pilgrimage will occur before May 31, 2026. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2025.



Rev. Dr. C. Riddick Weber Promoted to Associate Dean *Bethlehem Campus, Moravian Seminary*



Moravian Seminary is pleased to announce the promotion of Rev. Dr. C. Riddick Weber as Associate Dean, Bethlehem Campus. The Moravian Seminary is located on the campus of Moravian University in Bethlehem, PA. The University also has a seminary campus at the Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA.

Dr. Weber, an esteemed theologian, educator, and liturgical scholar brings a wealth of experience and dedication to this role as he helps guide the Seminary through its evolving mission in theological education. “I am honored to be the Associate Dean, Bethlehem Campus for the Moravian University School of Theology,” said Dr. Weber. “I celebrate Moravian’s move from college to university status, our merger with Lancaster Theological Seminary, and the opportunities and resources these relationships afford us all. I am grateful to our Interim Vice President and Dean, the Very Rev. Dr. Katherine Ragsdale, for her trust in me.” ... Read more at MoravianSeminary.edu/News/Archive/.



Moravian Seminary's Crossroads Lay Leadership Program *Faith Journeys of the Old Testament*

Online, Mondays 2/3/25 to 3/24/25, 6–8:30 p.m.

A comprehensive study of the stories of events in the books of the Hebrew Bible and how God worked in the lives of characters through these events. Expect to gain a new understanding of some very familiar stories. Projects for this course include two papers that explore Old Testament stories and the characters in them. This is a great background for any participant.



Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry Presents *Ministerial Ethics and Professional Development*

Online, Tuesdays, 7–8:30pm ET; March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 and 8.

Rev. Dr. Lindwood Smith is Pastor at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church York, PA, and serves on the Board of the National Institute of Rural and Minority Health. This class provides an opportunity for leaders in congregations and Faith Based Organizations to consider how their purpose, personal experiences, perspectives and ethical guidelines provide a framework for ethical decision making. Participants will explore community and church guidelines in their ministerial context, identify ongoing professional supports, and develop self-care plans. Register Today!



Music on the Mountain

Relax, Refresh, and Remind Yourself of God’s Grace Through Music. Bring the whole family to Music on the Mountain! A Harmonious Retreat for band and choir, workshops, and children's music and activities. February 21–23, 2025; Higgins Lodge,

Laurel Ridge Camp, Conference & Retreat Center, Laurel Springs, NC. An opportunity to make music together, to worship, to learn, and to enjoy fellowship in a casual mountain setting with cozy accommodations (2 nights). Register (new, lower fees!), learn more, and view the daily schedule at MoravianMusic.org.



Moravian University School of Theology Hiring Assistant Professors

The School of Theology at Moravian University invites applications for three tenure-track positions at the Assistant Professor rank to start in July 2025. This cluster hire is intended to attract the best candidates from a diverse pool to join us in working to build and sustain inclusive excellence. Candidates will demonstrate innovation in teaching and scholarship, competence to teach in multiple disciplines, including interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary content, and flexibility and generosity in addressing the needs of the new School of Theology. Experience in academic leadership, accreditation and institutional research, and grant writing is desirable. These positions are for: Tenure Track appointments with needs for teaching in the areas of 1) Religious Education or 2) Pastoral Care/Clinical Counseling/Chaplaincy or 3) Ministerial Leadership. Scan the QR code to learn more and apply.



Support You Belong During Give Big Green Bay

In 2024, You Belong proudly served over 3,200 individuals through our ministries and programs in the greater Green Bay community. As we step into 2025, our goal is to impact more than 5,000 lives—and we need your help to make it happen! A critical part of our success this year depends on the Give Big Green Bay fundraiser, taking place from Noon CT on February 19 to Noon CT on February 20.

This special 24-hour online giving event, supported by over \$500,000 matching funds from the Green Bay Packers Foundation and the Greater Green Bay Foundation, offers a tremendous opportunity for You Belong. You Belong will earn a share of the matching funds based on the percentage of total donations raised by our organization among the 50 selected nonprofits. Additionally, You Belong has an opportunity to receive a \$5,000 bonus if we are able to receive the most individual donations. Last year we finished in second place in this category and would love to find our way all the way to #1 this year!

There's no better time to support our ministry! Scan the QR code to make an online donation during the event. If you prefer to give by check, please make checks payable to "The Greater Green Bay Foundation," dated February 19, 2025. Checks must arrive before February 15 to qualify. Checks can be mailed to: You Belong, 2960 Allied St, Suite 103, Green Bay, WI 54304. To learn more about You Belong or the Give Big Green Bay event, visit YouBelongWI.org. **Thank you for helping us make a difference!**



Join the BWM in the Door County Century Ride!

Sunday, September 7 | Door County, WI

You are invited to join the Board of World Mission in showing the world that we are in it for the long haul! As we consider the good work that has been made possible by forward-thinking Moravians' past investment in ministries around the world, we seek to show that same commitment. So, for

one day and one day only, the Board of World Mission is raising funds for the ministries that will be happening a CENTURY from now! And you can be part of it by spending a day of fun in beautiful Door County, Wisconsin, at the Door County Century Ride on September 7th, 2025! Train for a 30-, 50-, 70-, or 100-mile bike ride and raise funds for the Board of World Mission along the way... Together we'll pedal toward a future of lasting ministry and global outreach! MoravianMission.org/CenturyRide/.



Prayer Concerns

Sister Kathleen C. Pfeiffer died on January 4, 2025, at the age of 83. She was born April 2, 1941, to the late Walter and Emilia (Molter) Leyh in New York City. Sister Pfeiffer was united in marriage to William L. Pfeiffer Sr. on July 10, 1965, at Lyndhurst, N.J. Presbyterian Church. She served alongside her husband in pastorates in Tremont Terrace, Bronx, NY; First Moravian Church, Uhrichsville, OH; Coopersburg Moravian Church, Coopersburg, Pa.; Grace Moravian Church, Center Valley, PA; Castleton Hill Moravian Church, Staten Island, NY and Moravian Manor in Lititz, PA. Sr. Pfeiffer is survived by three sons: William Pfeiffer, Jr., Marc Pfeiffer, and Christopher Pfeiffer; five grandchildren and her sister, Judith Kilpatrick. She was predeceased by her husband, Rev. Dr. William L. Pfeiffer, Sr. and her parents. A celebration of life is being planned for April to be held in Georgetown, Delaware, with additional details to be distributed as they become available.

Please pray for the following churches who are in the call process or without pastors:

- Advent, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- Battle Hill, Union, New Jersey
- Castleton Hill, Staten Island, New York
- Christ, Calgary, Alberta
- Christian Faith, Deforest, Wisconsin
- Daggett, Michigan
- Faith of the Nation's Capital, Washington, DC
- First, Dover, Ohio
- First, New York, New York
- Heintal, Edmonton, Alberta
- St. Paul's, Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Tremont Terrace, Bronx, New York
- Veedum, Pittsville, Wisconsin
- Waconia, Minnesota

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Jill Bruckart
- 3 Tammie Rinker
- 8 Greg Bowden
- 9 Elizabeth Gillard
- 12 Jodie Harney
- 12 Margaret Smith
- 13 Gary Marsh
- 15 Nicholas Rohloff
- 18 Barbara Hoenig
- 19 Norman Prochnau
- 19 Amy Gohdes-Luhman
- 22 Mark Newman
- 22 Esther Richmond
- 25 Lynnette Delbridge
- 27 Gary Harke
- 28 Tammy Lavoy

Ordination Anniversaries

- 6 Peter Skelly (53 years)
- 10 Rhonda Robinson (12 years)
- 15 Jane Harberg (33 years)
- 24 Belfield Castello (40 years)
- 26 Kurt Liebenow (30 years)

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

- 2 Bethel, Leonard, North Dakota (134 years)
- 2 Trinity, New Carrollton, Maryland (61 years)
- 3 Morongo, Banning, California (68 years)
- 9 Lititz, Pennsylvania (276 years)
- 12 Covenant, York, Pennsylvania (47 years)
- 13 Unionville, Michigan (155 years)

Corrections

In the October 2024 edition of *The Moravian Monthly* it was announced that Rev. Dawn Volpe was granted permission to retire from active ministry, effective July 27, 2025. The following information was omitted from that announcement: Rev. Volpe was consecrated a Presbyterian on November 19, 1989, by Stanley Thomas, at Tremont Terrace Moravian Church. We apologize for this omission.

The Eastern District
Moravian Church in America
Northern Province



New Direction in Faith Formation for the Eastern District

The Eastern District will soon embark on a new venture to address leadership and support for congregational faith formation.

The Eastern District Executive Board approved a proposal from our current Director of Christian Education, Marie Coutts, outlining a program where the District will be divided into four areas and each area will be served by a Director of Faith Formation.

Each of the four areas will be served part-time by individuals hired and trained for the positions. The training of hired individuals will include a two-phase process and upon completion of phase two, the title of the position will change to “Accredited Director of Faith Formation.” Additionally, a Resource Director (Jami Vandock, a certified Church Educator in the Southern Province) has been hired part-time for resourcing and future training of the Area Directors. Her role will begin after individuals are hired and have completed phase one of the training.

While the positions will be accountable to the Eastern District Executive Board, the Eastern District Spiritual Formation Ministry Team will serve as the responsible agency for this newly created program. Plans call for implementation to begin July 2025.

Additional information and application forms for interested individuals will be sent to Eastern District congregations in the near future. For more information contact Marie Coutts, mcouts@sbcglobal.net – cell: 330.401.1212.

Pastors, don't forget to register for the upcoming Pastors' Retreat!

Finding Our Strength

Monday, March 31st – Wednesday, April 2nd

Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center, Marriottsville, MD (BonSecoursRCC.org)

For more information and to register, contact lea@mcnp.org



Western District Crossroads Lay Ministry Course Grants

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of the late Rt. Rev. Wil Behrend, the Western District Executive Board is pleased to offer \$300 grants to members of Western District congregations to take an online lay ministry course through the Crossroads Program of Moravian Theological Seminary. Grants will be distributed upon completion of requested course.

To apply, please fill out the application form (found by scanning the QR code here) and submit to Western District President Rev. Jason Andersen either by email to jason@mcnp.org or by mail to 6708 Wolf Hollow Road, Windsor WI, 53598. This grant cycle will run through the end of 2026.



Young Adult Retreat

The District **Young Adult Retreat** for those age 18-30(ish) will be held March 15-16 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. Scan the QR code to find registration and more information (available at sites.google.com/view/wdcamping/home/)



Two Feet of Justice Fun Run

Western District Justice Team

A two-mile walk, roll, or run to lift up the two feet of justice Christ calls us to share. Start your plans to hold a local event sometime over the first two weeks of May, either as a congregation or in a regional group.

Funds raised will be split between the Blessings Flow project organized by the Board of World Mission (highlighting justice through direct service) and the Immersion / Pilgrimage Grant Fund offered by the Northern Province Racial Justice Team (highlighting justice in social change). More details to come soon! Organized by the Western District Justice Team (wdjusticeteam@gmail.com).



Urgent Need at You Belong: Masonry Project

You Belong in Green Bay, WI is looking for someone with masonry skills to help them with a project on their building, completing brickwork around two doorways. Please contact Pastor Greg Behrend at greg@youbelongwi.org if you are able to help or if you know someone else who can.