



2023

EMMAUS MORAVIAN CHURCH

146 Main Street, Emmaus, Pa. 18049

Phone 610-965-6067

www.emmausmoravian.org

Office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm

Rev. Brian Dixon ~ Pastor ~ pastor@emmausmoravian.org

Byrnese Craig ~ Student Pastor ~ studentpastor@emmausmoravian.org

Melissa Heckman ~ Secretary ~ secretary@emmausmoravian.org

Martha Cox Popichak ~ Director of Music ~ popicox@rcn.com

Christopher Klump ~ Director of Brass Choir

Al Kneller ~ Sexton

Special Envelope for November

Groceries PLUS is an Emergency Food Pantry serving the Emmaus Community and hosted by Bethel Bible Fellowship Church. We operate under the direction of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania. The PLUS stands for Prayer, Love, Understanding, and Support, all of which are available to our clients. Please call the church office at 610-965-2682 for additional information, or if you wish to volunteer.



2023 Watchword:

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. Isaiah 63:7

Emmaus Moravian Church's Mission Statement:

Living in Fellowship, Growing in Christ!

The Moravian Motto:

In essentials unity; In non-essentials liberty; and in all things love!

A Message from Pastor Brian

TO OUR FUTURE SELVES

One Sunday for Confirmation, we looked through photos in old church directories dating back to the 70s. Yes, we saw the wide collars, the big hair, and bellbottomed slacks. We also saw many nice pictures of this beautiful building we call "Church." But, more importantly, our youth recognized a living fellowship of people related not just by genealogy or geography – but a family of faith enjoying one another's company and working together to share Good News.

We asked two questions: *What has changed over the years?*

As I mentioned: fashion, hairstyles, ages, typeface, color printing and fancy paper.

It was the second question that moved us from style to substance, from fashion to function, from nostalgia to the new creation we are in Christ: *What has not changed?*

To be an active participant in the life and work of a 276-year-old church (*which, by the way, is what we promise to help each other do at every baptism*) is to know something about *both change and constancy*. What the confirmands noticed had not changed much over a 50-year span, is that faith is a kind of fun that we get to share; a kind of help that we are blessed to share; a way of life and a love that we are called to share with God and our neighbors. *May that not ever change!*

Hymn #694 in our Book of Worship puts it: *"The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead."* There is tension in this. Always has been. Always will be. Between: *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow."*

Hebrews 13:8 and *"Behold, I am making all things new!"* Revelation 21:5

This dynamic showed up in notes we invited the class to write to the EMC of the future. Admittedly, we goofed and giggled over comments like: *"Don't trust AI."* and *"Delete all social media!"* But, I hope you hear the spirit and care of this young church for all our future selves:

"Dear Emmaus Moravian Church,

*"I am from the past so you probably don't know me... My favorite bible verse is Psalm 37:5
Commit your future to the Lord. Trust in him, and he will act on your behalf.*

*"Dear EMC of the future, The certain thing is change. Styles, people, favorite hymns,
all these things all change. The choice is yours, will you embrace change, or resist?"*

*"Dear Emmaus Moravian Church of the future... I hope that you still enjoy a Moravian Christmas
with lovefeast buns and sing Morning Star with beeswax candles. It is 2023 and I hope that you all
still appreciate God in your own ways. Is there a cure for cancer? Bye <3"*

*"Dear EMC of the future... Writing this in 2023 saying thank you for helping me get closer to God.
And I hope you still celebrate all traditions we did in 2023."*

*"Where we're going, we don't need roads,"
Pastor Brian*

By Our Love

When I was a little girl I remember singing the song 'They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love' in chapel classes and at summer camp. Written in the 1960's by a Catholic priest named Peter Scholtes, the song has remained popular for decades thanks in part to its simple and powerful lyrics. The words echo those of Jesus who, having washed the disciples feet at the Last Supper, began to speak to them saying, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35 NRSV)

In Jesus' last moments with the disciples before his betrayal this is the thing he really wants them to know, that it's not the miraculous healings or the multiplying loaves and fishes that people will recognize them for, it's their love. The love that they have for one another is meant to be the most otherworldly part of their community, the calling card for the people who follow Jesus.

They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

What's our calling card? Is the most recognizable attribute of our community at Emmaus Moravian our love for one another? In my first few months here at EMC I have been so honored to be received as a sister to you all, and I have witnessed the love that you have for one another. Whether it's seen over coffee on Fellowship Days, around a table in discussion, in service through volunteering to teach nursery, supporting the rummage sale and trunk or treat, or in any other way, it's been a delight to witness the love you have shared with each other and with me.

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come; And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. They'll know we are Christians by our love.*

In God's love, Byrnes Craig, Student Pastor

REJOICE
ALWAYS,
PRAY
CONTINUALLY,
GIVE THANKS
IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

Please remember those in need of our prayers ~

Kathy Rinker, Rev. Diane Joseph,
James Silvius (son of Jean Brendlinger),
Donna Leffler (daughter of Betty Hertzog),
Connie Renner (daughter-in-law of Howard & Judy),
our homebound & nursing home residents

Please uphold these church members and friends in your prayers.

Contact the office whenever a visit is needed or to inform us about any family situation. We will only post names on our prayer list if we have permission from the person in need of prayer, or their immediate family.

Membership News

On October 11th, Dr. John Heid passed away. Please keep his wife, Pat and their daughters Rebecca and Kelly and their family and friends in your prayers at this difficult time.

Dear Church Family, We want to say thank you to all who have asked about me (Kathy) and my recovery. Thanks to Pastor Brian for his visit, and for the flowers. Also, thank you for the card that was signed by the preschoolers. I sure brought a smile to our faces!

In Christian Love, Kathy Rinker and Barb

Dear Emmaus Moravian Church,

You have no idea how much the flower delivery means to us. Thank you.

Ann and James Siluius (son to member Jean Brendlinger)

*On October 22nd, we welcomed **Jeptha Mitchell Barbour** into our congregation through baptism. Congratulations to parents Jeptha & Lauren and big sister, Hannah!*



Worship Opportunities

Wednesday, November 1st ~ no Wednesday Nite Lite

**Sunday, November 5th ~ Daylight Savings Time ends (turn clocks back one hour),
Sunday School 9:00, Worship 10:30**

Wednesday, November 8th ~ Wednesday Nite Lite 7:00 in the chapel

**Sunday, November 12th ~ Sunday School 9:00, Worship 10:30 ~ Chief Elder Holy Communion
~ Children's Choir singing**

Wednesday, November 15th ~ Wednesday Nite Lite 7:00 in the chapel

**Sunday, November 19th ~ Sunday School 9:00; Worship 10:30 ~ Reception of New Members
~ PA Chamber Brass will take part in our service**

Wednesday, November 22nd ~ Wednesday Nite Lite 7:00

**Sunday, November 26th ~ Sunday School 9:00; Worship 10:30
~ Candle Trimming 6:00pm**

Wednesday, November 29th ~ Wednesday Nite Lite 7:00 in the chapel

**Sunday, December 3rd ~ 1st Sunday in Advent ~ Sunday School 9:00; Worship 10:30 ~
Advent Lovefeast; Morning Star Auditions 11:45 in the balcony**

All services are available live via zoom and available later in the day on Facebook.
[Go to www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), Click on "Join a meeting" Enter meeting ID: 442 948 9211

Upcoming Events

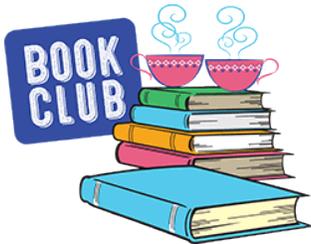
Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair

Join us on Saturday, November 4th from 9:00-2:00 for our annual Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair. Light Lunch available for purchase. If you are available to help, please reach out to Amanda Stoeckel at emccraftshow@gmail.com, or you can come and shop! Reach out to your friends and enjoy the day with us!
Detailed flyer at the end of the newsletter!



First Responder's Dinner

We will host our First Responders Dinner on Thursday, November 9th. At this time, the only donations needed are desserts! Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. We are always accepting monetary donations so we can continue to provide meals. If you have any questions, please reach out to Trell Miller at trellz@rcn.com



The EMC Book Club

The Book Club meets in the Comenius Room at 7pm the second Monday of the month. If you prefer zoom, contact the office or Judy Williamson. We welcome new members! We also bring our spare change to buy grocery cards for local community members.

November 13th *The Children's Blizzard* by Melanie Benjamin
December 11th *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg

String Art

Join us on Sunday, Nov 19 from 1-4pm in Fellowship Hall for our next string Art Event! \$38 cash due on the date of event. No down payment. Choose your board on Facebook event link if possible. (Take home kits available for class members for \$20, but must message Lisa the organizer ahead of time to order). You may also give Trell your selection verbally, or text/call 610-570-3552 for board selections or your choice.



For Your Information

Fellowship Days

Fellowship Days has returned! FD occurs typically once a month from 10:00-10:30. It is a time of fellowship and food between Sunday School and Worship. Kurt and Lisa Haus do an amazing job decorating the chapel to look just right, prepping the amazing food and preparing the delectable drinks! But, they can't do it alone! They need people to donate specific food items and they need helpers to set up tables, prep food and transport food from the kitchen to the chapel. And of course, clean up. If people don't reach out to help with set up and donations, this tradition may not happen much longer. Please reach out the office for Kurt and Lisa's information if you can help.



Remaining FD dates for 2023: Nov. 19th, Dec. 17th (following Blue Christmas Service at 2:00)

Daily Texts will soon be here!

The Daily Texts grew out of a spiritual renewal of the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) that dates back to Aug. 13, 1727. The texts were first published in 1731 in Herrnhut, Germany. Today, the Daily Texts continues its promise of "a daily message from God that is new every morning." Contact the office to purchase!
 Paperback: \$10.00, Large Print: \$14.00, Journal: \$17.00

Also available for purchase in the office: EMC Souvenirs ~ (limited quantities):
 hand painted Christmas ornaments \$20.00; puzzle of the church \$25.00;
 History Booklet \$5.00

Girl Scout Trip

Girl Scout Troop 640 is planning a trip to Belize in June 2024! Troop 640 meets monthly at the Emmaus Moravian Church. Two scouts, Nora C. and Avalon R. are members at EMC. The troop has been fundraising through fall nut & candy sales and cookie sales. We are also planning a Holiday themed karaoke and movie night for younger troops in the service unit. Last year the scouts volunteered at the Hotel Bethlehem coat check to earn funds. All scouts earned their first aid and babysitter badges last winter and are actively babysitting to help raise funds as well. If you are interested in supporting the troop, any donations can be submitted to the church office via check made payable to Girl Scout Troop 640. We appreciate your consideration in helping these wonderful scouts have an adventure of a lifetime!

Connect with EMC in various ways

How do you receive the newsletter? If you receive it via email and would like a printed copy (instead of or in addition), let the office know. Do you have a friend that is interested in our activities? They can receive the newsletter as well. Have you visited our website lately? Once in a while, check it out! You may learn something new! Are you on our email list? As a member, you can receive updates about worship and any important notices about the congregation. And don't forget about Facebook. Most events are advertised via Facebook. Help the church by sharing their posts! We are an active congregation and it's always great to know what's happening in the life of your church!



Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for all your support throughout the year! We were able to pack 134 shoeboxes to send to children throughout the world! We wouldn't be able to do it without you! Monetary donations are always accepted to help defray shipping costs. Thank you!

Diane Lint

Volunteers Requested

The Board of Elders is requesting 3-4 volunteers to help develop a Ministry Booklet. The booklet will outline and describe all of the ministries (e.g. worship, Christian Education, First Responders dinner, Senior care, etc.) of the Emmaus Moravian Church. The ministry booklet will be used to enhance how the church communicates ministry activities to ourselves and to those outside the congregation (e.g. visitors, members of the community, and prospective new members). If you are interested, please reach out to Griffin Harold (ffirrh@gmail or 484-264-5609)



Blessing Boxes ~ Our Blessing Boxes are used by many people and we are always grateful to have back up supplies! We could use help getting our shelves stocked! If you would like to give a monetary donation, we ask that you donate to the Community Assistance Fund. This fund allows us to help church and community members with grocery cards, utility bills, rent assistance, and purchase items for the blessing box.

The Blessing Box immediate needs are:

Food items: soup, spaghettios, pasta, tomato sauce, canned or individual cups of fruit and snacks, tuna, canned veggies. Coffee and hot chocolate mix are great treats ~ these are suggestions, we accept any shelf stable donations.

Non food items most needed: shampoo, tissues, toothbrushes, laundry pods or detergent, toilet paper, deoderant

~ Thank you from Linda Rohrbach & Carol George, the fillers of the boxes!



We are preparing for Christmas! Christmas is a big deal at EMC and we have many activities for you to participate in. Christmas isn't always the "most wonderful time of the year," for everyone, and our hope is that we provide worship experiences and fellowship opportunities that make this season meaningful for everyone. Maybe this is the year you help decorate the church. Maybe you want to help with lovefeast baking. Maybe you feel a desire to attend the Blue Christmas service and pet a therapy dog. Whatever you do, may it be a blessing to you this Christmas.

- * **November 26th – Candle Trimming at 6:00** - Every year we pass out several hundred hand made beeswax candles to worshippers on Christmas Eve. We lovingly trim the candles with red frill. Even if you don't know how to trim a candle, please come and learn, or just enjoy the fellowship! We have a kid's activity available as well.
- * **December 2nd – Lovefeast Bun Baking**- the mixers start at 7:00, and the bakers come in around 9:30 to start the process of forming the buns and baking them. If you want to help, please reach out to the office.

The sacristans will be decorating the church at 9:30 on the 2nd. Please come to the sanctuary at that time if you would like to help!

- * **December 3rd is the first Sunday in Advent.**

Pastor Brian will lead a class in the Moravian Room at 9:00 on December 3rd that will explore the meaning of Advent.

A traditional lovefeast will be served during the 10:30 worship service on the 3rd.

Morning Star auditions will be held on Dec. 3rd after worship. Morning Star Auditions are for all children in grades 3-7. If music is needed for this beloved Christmas Eve hymn, please contact Martha (popicox@rcn.com or 610-442-2633) if you have any questions.

- * **December 10th will be our Children's Christmas Program.** All children ages 2 and up are invited to participate. Rehearsals will begin during the Sunday School hours. There will be a rehearsal in the morning on December 9th for all participants. The snow date is on the 17th. After the program, there will be a cookie social in fellowship hall. Please contact the office if you would like to donate cookies.
- * **On December 17th, the Mainstreet Brass** will join us at our 10:30 Worship service. See information about the group on page 11 of the newsletter.
- * **Our Blue Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00.** This service is for any person feeling loss of any kind. This is a service of healing for those in need.
- * **Our Christmas Eve services** will be held on Sunday, December 24th ~
4th Sunday in Advent worship service at 10:30.
Lovefeast & Candlelight services will be held at 2:00 and 4:30.
Our Candlelight service will be held at 7:00.
If you would like to help serve on Christmas Eve, contact Sue Adams at jadams56@ptd.net.

Cash Card Program Termination

The Gift Card Fundraiser will terminate at the end of this year. The current inventory (\$7,0450) will be drawn down with office and Sunday sales (through the end of the year). Christmas orders will be honored, but other than that, no additional cards will be ordered. Christmas orders need to be paid for in advance. Any cards remaining after the end of the year will be turned over to the office for Community Outreach and inventory sales. We will update the bulletin to reflect what cards we have in stock.



It has been our pleasure to conduct this fund raiser for the past several years, but ever decreasing customers, sales and profits suggest it is time to terminate the program. Neill and Kate Dekker

Typically in stock: Amazon, Applebees, Arby's, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy, CVS, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dominos, Dunkin, Gap, Giant, Holiday Hair, Home Depot, JCPenney, Kohl's, Land's End, Limited, L.L. Bean, Olive Garden, Outback, Panera, Petsmart, Red Lobster, Target, Texas Road House, Walmart, Walgreens, Wawa, Weis, Wendy's

Sugar Cake Sale Supporting Emmaus Moravian Camp Hope Scholarship Fund

All of our sugar cake sales support Camp Hope. Most of the funds are used for EMC kids to attend Camp Hope in the summer. Typically we pay half of the fee (most camps cost \$470.00 to attend). Our goal is to introduce kids to Camp Hope, and create a life long love for Camp. In the past, we have also used the funds to purchase new life jackets, air conditioners, and new picnic tables. Camp always has many needs and would love your support.

Moravian Sugar Cake and Lovefeast Bun Order Form

Pick up Saturday, November 11th, 2023 9am-11am

You can email your order to secretary@emmausmoravian.org or call 610-965-6067

Name and phone number _____

Number of Sugar cakes @ \$7.00 each _____

Number of Lovefeast buns @ \$7.00 per dz. _____

Total amount due _____

Northern Province Synod Delegate Report by Michael Henry

It was an honor to represent Emmaus at the 2023 Northern Province Synod.

One thing that interested me about Synod was the opportunity to learn about what the Province, District and other congregations were doing to spread the good news and God's love in new and different ways. I learned a lot about "Emerging Ministries" (the term that describes paths for sharing Christ's love in new ways), including new Moravian ministries like the Tricklebee Café in Milwaukee and the Essentials Café in Bethlehem, each a "pay what you can" program to address food insecurity and build community relations, and the You Belong Faith Community in Green Bay, a unique Moravian congregation serving individuals with disabilities and their families and caregivers.

Examples of other neighborhood ministries that Moravian congregation have performed include things like partnering with community centers of other faiths; monthly dinners for neighbors who have no one else to share a meal with; hosting the neighborhood for music, or a movie, or children's games and activities; or inviting the neighborhood to enjoy a free ice cream truck.

Emmaus is blessed with adequate resources to reach outside traditional congregational ministry. We have a good start with things like the backpack ministry and recognition of first responders but let's make it Emmaus' goal to even more serve outside our doors to share Christ's love in new ways.

As individuals we can also help now by supporting some denominational causes. One is the "Debt Jubilee Project" that relieves individuals from the pressure of crushing medical debt. The Project serves US counties with a Moravian presence and the Moravian clinic in Honduras. Contributions should be designated as Debt Jubilee Project and sent to Moravian Ministries Foundation, 119 Brookstown Avenue, Suite 305, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. A second is the Blessings Flow clean water project that supports making and distributing simple but effective filters to lessen the risk of waterborne illness in the area of Moravian missions in Honduras. Contributions should be designated as Blessings Flow and sent to Moravian Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Please give some prayerful support as Emmaus works toward expanding its service to share God's love in new and different ways.

Yours in Christ, Michael Henry



Each Advent season, we are reminded of the family long ago who was homeless, had no room at the inn, and not even a crib for their expected infant. Yet, they were provided for. Moravian Open Door (MOD) is a Moravian ministry in New York City that provides a safe, clean, temporary home for up to 40 homeless men and women aged 50 years and older since 1987. While the facility (called Moravian House) provides accommodation in single and double rooms, the staff provides supportive services to rebuild lives and help residents move to affordable permanent housing.

As New York City struggles in dealing with the effects of repeated and extreme flooding, so also, MOD struggles to provide that safe and secure facility in an area of the city prone to flooding.

The safety of our residents depends on us.

MOD receives no government funding at all.

MOD needs the financial support of Moravian congregations to continue its important service to the homeless.

Please respond generously with your "No Room at the Inn" gift. www.moravianhouse.org

Mainstreet Brass

Mainstreet Brass will perform at our church during the December 17th worship service at 10:30. Formed in 1986, inspired by a musical camaraderie, a passion for brass quintet literature and performance, and a goal to present interesting and entertaining music to its audiences. Described by the International Trumpet Guild Journal as “a unique and talented quintet that is willing to take risks,” the ensemble has performed for enthusiastic crowds at concert series throughout the Midwest, East Coast and in the United Kingdom.

An MSR Classics recording artist, Mainstreet Brass is in residence at the historic Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, a National Landmark of Music, serves as the brass ensemble for the Bethlehem Bach Festival, and performs throughout the year for academic ceremonies at Lehigh University.

The group actively commissions and publishes arrangements and new literature from established and emerging composers to enhance its own concert programs and expand the brass quintet repertoire.

Members are Kevin Long and Ed Hirschman, trumpets; Shari Gleason-Mayrhofer, horn; Bryan Hay, trombone; Allen Frank, tuba; and Steve Mathiesen, percussion.



Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas Eve will soon be here along with the smell of burning beeswax in the air!

The sanctuary is decorated with a beautiful tree adorned with delicate handmade stars, set aglow by white lights, topped with a majestic Moravian star and surrounded by the deep red of the poinsettias.

All the visual beauty is but a backdrop for the true beauty of the season, the birth of our Savior!

Each year, we offer families the opportunity to sponsor poinsettias used in decorating our Sanctuary. Sponsorships will appear in all Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please return form with payment \$10.00 per plant (checks payable to Emmaus Moravian Church)

Orders due by Sunday, December 3rd, 2023

Your Name and Phone Number _____

In memory or in honor of: _____

By: _____

Please use a separate form for multiple orders!

____ I will pick up the poinsettia after the 8pm Candlelight Service or

____ Please deliver my poinsettia to a shut-in