

Opportunities at Emmaus Moravian Church

Study and Fellowship ~

Sunday School for Adults and children

Bible Studies

Christian Service ~

Various opportunities throughout the year ~

Request a current newsletter for up to date opportunities

Music Ministry ~ Sanctuary Choir,
Handbell Choir, Brass Choir

How EMC serves the community ~

Emmaus Moravian Preschool,

Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous,

Girl Scouts, various outreach throughout the year

The Emmaus Moravian Church supports the ministries of the Greater Moravian Church, which include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ The Eastern District Moravian Church Camp,
Camp Hope, located in Hope, NJ
- ❖ Moravian Open Door, Inc., a transitional housing unit for
homeless men and women in New York City
 - ❖ The Moravian Music Foundation
 - ❖ The Moravian Archives
- ❖ The Moravian Board of World Mission

For more information about the ministries at EMC,
please contact the church office.

Emmaus Moravian Church

Visitor and Information Booklet



Living in fellowship and growing in Christ
for over 275 years!

Est. 1747

EMMAUS MORAVIAN CHURCH

146 Main St. Emmaus PA 18049

Phone 610-965-6067

www.emmausmoravian.org

Office hours: Monday thru Friday 9am-3pm

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

Melissa Heckman, Secretary ~ secretary@emmausmoravian.org

Martha Cox Popichak, Minister of Music ~ popicox@rcn.com

Christopher Klump, Director of Brass Choir

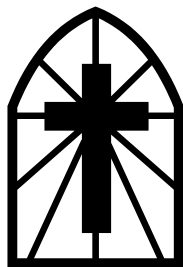
Al Kneller, Sexton

Worship Schedule

Sunday School for ages 2-adult ~ 9:00 am September-May

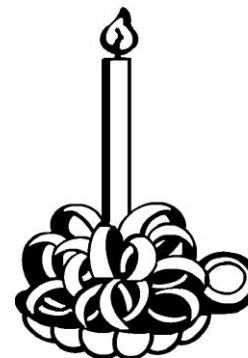
Worship Services September-May 10:30

Worship Services June-September 9:30



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

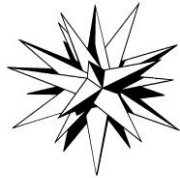
This beautiful service, now adopted in one form or another by many Christian denominations, originated in a Moravian children's service in Marienborn, Germany. During this service of song and scripture readings, handmade beeswax candles decorated with a red paper frill are distributed to each worshiper. The beeswax candles are said to symbolize the purity of Christ. The flame symbolizes Christ's light in a world of darkness, and the red frill represents the blood Christ has shed for all of humanity. The candles are lit while the worship space is darkened except for possibly a Christmas tree and a large illuminated Moravian Star. In many Moravian churches, we sing the antiphonal hymn, "Morning star, O Cheering Sight." This hymn is typically led by a child. In some congregations, after the last hymn, the worshipers carry their lighted candles out into the dark world. The tradition of having multitudes of congregants, young and old, holding lit candles on Christmas Eve is a sight to behold.



The History of the Lovefeast

Lovefeasts originated in the first gatherings of Christians after Pentecost. The early believers met and broke bread together, signifying their union and equality. Gradually the Lovefeasts lost their devotional character, and toward the end of the 4th century the church gave them up. The Lovefeast was reinstituted in the Moravian

Church in 1727 following a spiritual renewal when a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit was felt in the church. Doctrinal disputes and personal hostilities were laid aside, and a new spirit of love and fellowship prevailed. It has developed into a joyful service, whose message is primarily conveyed through the hymn texts. The meal is not consecrated as Communion. Children and members of any denomination may partake. The traditional Lovefeast consists of a sweetened bun and drink. There are many instances when Lovefeasts are served, including church anniversaries, Advent, Christmas Eve, or any occasion which there is a desire to stress the oneness and fellowship of God's followers.



History of the Moravian Star

The 26 pointed Moravian Advent Star, lit from within, is beloved by Moravians all over the world. The star stands as a symbol of awaiting the promised coming of Christ during the Advent season, and of Christ himself, the light of the world, dispeller of darkness! Originated as an exercise in geometry in the German Moravian boarding schools, the stars were first offered for sale at Peter Verbeek's bookstore in Herrnhut, Germany around 1880. These original stars were paper, and were assembled and disassembled each year in a sometimes vexing Moravian Christmas tradition. Now Moravian Stars are available in many different materials and sizes and are still available from the original Herrnhut location.

Welcome to Emmaus Moravian Church

We are delighted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves to you. Emmaus Moravian Church is a protestant congregation that emphasizes growing together and reaching out to our community and world in the spirit and love of Jesus Christ.

The information that follows is our introduction to our family of faith here at EMC. Please consider this to be your personal invitation to join with us in worship, fellowship and spiritual growth.

We thank you for your interest in our congregation and invite you to join us again soon. If you are not currently attending a church, or are searching for one, we invite you to consider making EMC your new church home. Feel free to contact our staff with any questions or concerns.

Our Mission Statement:

Living in Fellowship, Growing in Christ!
Activating our family of faith in unity by Christ's example of
Sharing, Caring, and Praying



Minister of Music

Who are the Moravians?

- We are a Protestant denomination that has been serving Christ around the world since 1457
- We are a Christ centered church focused on vibrant worship, caring fellowship, and service to the community
 - The Moravian Church is a warm, friendly, accepting atmosphere in which to grow in your relationship with God.
- We celebrate our heritage and ministry with over 1 million Moravians from across North America, Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa
- We have a down-to-earth approach to worship, faith, and life that seeks to emphasize God's love for all people, and our privilege to share that love

We strive to be a living witness to our motto:
**"In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty;
and in all things love."**



Martha Cox Popichak was born in New York City, lived in Princeton, NJ and moved to Bethlehem when she was nearly nine. She started piano lessons at a young age and eventually focused on the organ.

She had her first church job at age 14. After graduating from Moravian College with a degree in psychology, she became organist and choir director at College Hill Moravian Church where she remained for 33 years. After assisting at Central Moravian Church for 6 years, in 2008, Martha accepted the job as Minister of Music at Emmaus Moravian Church. Martha also worked as a music therapist at Vitalistic Therapeutic School for 28 years. In addition, Martha teaches piano and organ privately.

Favorite pastimes include singing in the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, gardening and dabbling in art projects. She is married to Andy and is the mother of two grown children.

"I am grateful to all those who contribute to the music ministry of the church. May God's gift of music speak to us as we come together in worship."



How the Emmaus Moravian Church began....

In 1740 families were established in the town then called "Maguntschi." These settlers were not Moravians. Two leaders of this community were Sebastian Knauss and Jacob Ehrenhardt. In 1741, after many spiritual struggles, Jacob and Sebastian heard of the Moravians and arranged a visit with the Moravian brethren, in particular with a leader within the church, Count Zinzendorf. He was known for his willingness to preach the Word of Life to all hungry souls wherever desired.

Soon after, it was petitioned that the Moravian church in Bethlehem take the Christians in Maguntschi under their spiritual supervision. In 1742, the people united in building a log church (at the site of God's acre). One hundred and two acres of land had been donated by Jacob and Sebastian for the church and cemetery. The year 1747 was characterized as being a time of blessing for the entire community. The people of Maguntschi had shown themselves receptive to the work of the Spirit, the teachings of Christ and the guiding hand of the church. They were led to closer fellowship with the Moravians. Already 10 people for Maguntschi had become Moravian.

It was evident to the Bishops and Elders in Bethlehem that it was time to bind together. On July 30th, 1747, all 44 people who had been appointed to organize the congregation assembled in Bethlehem. They joined in praise, and shared in a Lovefeast. That evening the newly formed congregation was seated in the middle of the church, surround by the Bethlehem congregation. The evening closed with Communion and songs of Thanksgiving.

Still today, the Emmaus Moravian Church celebrates its anniversary on the closest Sunday to July 30th with a lovefeast!

The timeline of the Emmaus Congregation

In 1742, a log church was built at the current site of God's Acre Cemetery (3rd and Adrian St.)

July 30th, 1747 the congregation in Emmaus was officially formed

In 1749, the log church was moved to the current church site

By 1758, the congregation village was established

April 1761, the name "Emmaus" was formally bestowed on the settlement by Bishop Joseph Spangenberg at a lovefeast service.

In 1834, a Gemeinhaus replaced the old church for worship and the present church was dedicated. The parsonage located in front of the church was also built that year.

In 1843, a Moravian School House was built. The building is currently owned and rented out by the church.

1835 was the year that home and land plots were sold to individuals outside of the church.

By 1859, Emmaus was organized into a borough of 200 acres with a population of 277.

In 1927, the church was enlarged to include an expanded nave and the Tuscan columned portico seen today.

In 2017, the picnic pavilion was added to the church grounds for worship and fellowship events.

Today, the church continues to uphold the theology of the greater Moravian Church. Its members are active in the community and many Moravian ministries while also using its resources into preserving the church's history and grounds.

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Brian Dixon was installed as our pastor March 3rd, 2019. Pastor Brian was born in South Dakota and grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland. His mother immigrated to the U.S. from Portugal when she met and married Brian's father, a Navy sailor from South Dakota. Brian and his wife, Lynn, met while studying at the University of Maryland (both English majors). They married in 1995.

A second-career pastor, Brian left public relations with a D.C. Area not-for-profit company to follow the calling to ordained ministry. He and his wife moved their family to Bethlehem and Brian graduated from Moravian Theological Seminary in 2005. Since his ordination, he has since served congregations in rural North Dakota and suburban Minneapolis. Brian has a pastor's heart and a way with words. His love for people of all ages, sense of humor, and thoughtfulness are comforting and encouraging. He inspires a sense of thankfulness for the many mercies and graces God shows us each day. Brian and Lynn are parents to two young-adult children. We are excited that the Dixons decided to call Emmaus Moravian Church and the Emmaus borough home!

You can connect with Brian on *Twitter*: @CrumbyPrayers and on *Instagram*: gladdening_light



Faith

The Moravian's belief emphasizes salvation through faith in Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior. The church is the resulting fellowship of believers who share this experience. Underlying in this faith is the Bible as the Word of God.

The true spirit of the Moravian Church is life-centered and maintains that the best evidence of a regenerated heart is Godly living.

Worship

The Moravian Church uses a variety of liturgies and observes the seasons of the church year ~ Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. Moravian churches are well known for their Christmas Candlelight, Easter Dawn and Lovefeast services.

Moravians practice infant baptism. Later in life, the individual confirms the baptismal vow in the rite of confirmation. Adults not baptized as infants are admitted to church membership by adult baptism. Persons transferring from other denominations are received by the right hand of fellowship after attending a brief time of classes. The church has a rich musical heritage and many of its chorales in origin and usage are distinctly Moravian.

The best way to begin the process of joining our congregation is to attend Sunday morning worship as regularly as possible and getting involved in one of the many ways we serve God. New members classes are typically held in fall and/or spring.