



2025

## EMMAUS MORAVIAN CHURCH

146 Main Street, Emmaus, Pa. 18049

Phone 610-965-6067

[www.emmausmoravian.org](http://www.emmausmoravian.org)

**Office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm**

**Rev. Brian Dixon** ~ Pastor ~ [pastor@emmausmoravian.org](mailto:pastor@emmausmoravian.org)

**Byrnese Craig** ~ Student Pastor and Coordinator of Member Engagement and Outreach  
~ [studentpastor@emmausmoravian.org](mailto:studentpastor@emmausmoravian.org)

**Melissa Heckman** ~ Secretary ~ [secretary@emmausmoravian.org](mailto:secretary@emmausmoravian.org)

**Martha Cox Popichak** ~ Director of Music ~ [popicox@rcn.com](mailto:popicox@rcn.com)

**Christopher Klump** ~ Director of Brass Choir

**Al Kneller** ~ Sexton

### Special Envelope for February

Emmaus Community Assistance Fund- This fund was created to help members of the church and community in times of need. This fund is used at the discretion of the pastor and office staff.

In the past it has helped single people, families and community members facing financial difficulty due to job loss, medical issues and other life changing events. Gift cards for grocery stores are given to those in need. This fund also helps stock the Blessing Boxes when supplies run low. Funds are available if you or someone in the church or community is in need.

Please reach out to the office for help.



### **2025 Watchword:**

God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness. Psalm 57:3

### **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!

## Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:30 Worship**

**Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:00 Sunday School; **Worship 10:00; Church Council to follow****

**Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:00 Fellowship Days; 10:30 Worship**

**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:30 Worship**

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:30 Worship ~ Sunday School Choir singing**

All services are available live via zoom and 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

**The nursery will be open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. Children ages 6 and under are welcome to play in the nursery during worship.**



Our annual church council meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9th.

The schedule for Feb. 9th is as follows: **9:00 Sunday School; Worship 10:00; Church Council will begin around 11:00.** Zoom will be available for the meeting.

Our annual church council meeting provides members with important information regarding events that happened in 2024, last year's actual budget and this year's projected budget, nominations for boards and committees, and information about the year ahead. Every church member should attend this meeting so you know what is happening in YOUR church!

### Please remember those in need of our prayers ~

Gail Galasso (aunt of Kurt Haus),

Mary (mother of Diane Joseph), Rev. Diane Joseph,

Connie Renner (daughter-in-law of Howard & Judy),  
our homebound, assisted living & 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.



### *In Our Congregation*

*On January 26th, Gail Yeakel entered her eternal home.  
Please keep her husband Alan, children Timothy and Audrey  
and Gail's family in your prayers at this difficult time.  
Service information will be available at a later date.*



## A Message from Pastor Brian

### **When the Saints**

It is interesting so many people end the year and start a new one with who are arguably the three most well-known Saints of the Church: *Saints Nicholas, Valentine, and Patrick.*

Nicholas was bishop in 4<sup>th</sup> Century Turkey. As the story goes, upon learning of three girls who were to be sold into slavery by their dad, Nicholas tossed three bags of the church's gold through the family's window, ransoming their lives.

Valentine was a 1<sup>st</sup> Century Roman priest executed for helping people under imperial persecution. Two charges against Valentine were that he illegally performed weddings and attempted to convert the Emperor.

Patrick was kidnapped from Britain at the age of sixteen and trafficked to Ireland where he was enslaved for six years before escaping. He became a priest, before feeling a divine call to return to Ireland to seek reconciliation and share his faith.

What isn't remarkable and should not surprise us about these amazing people, is just that – they were people. I am certain none of them did what they did because they hoped to start a holiday or wanted a parade. What makes them saints, is what makes you and I saints. That this is literally what we are called: in the letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Evidently, this is how God sees us.

In the greetings of those letters, the community is reminded – we are reminded – that we are beloved of God and called to be holy; that we are sanctified by the Anointed One Jesus (a literal translation of 'Jesus Christ') and called "holy ones" a.k.a. saints. In the letter to the Colossians, "holy and faithful in the Anointed" is added. How do we learn to see each other and learn to see ourselves in this way?

Continuing the New Year, as you pick out cards, candy, and roll out the pink and green carpet for Valentine's and St. Patrick's, be encouraged by this thought: *These days are holy-days.* More than just opportunities to send flowers or wear green. These are celebrations of the calling and courage, the service and sacrifice, the burden and great blessing of knowing and being known by a loving and holy God: "But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, 'You must be holy because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15,16 referencing Leviticus 1, 19 and 20)

I can't think of anyone who doesn't like singing, "O, Lord I want to be in that number!" Next time you do, just remember that you are, and I think I hear that number now.

Marching In,  
Pastor Brian

### Message from Byrnese Craig

Byrnese has returned this semester as our Student Pastor (her last semester before graduation) and is our new Coordinator of Member Engagement and Outreach

Student Pastor Thoughts ~

This past Sunday during our children's chat I referenced a favorite book at our house, Sam McBratney's 'Guess How Much I Love You.' In the book, Little Nutbrown Hare and Big Nutbrown Hare explore their world together while finding new ways to tell each other, again and again, just how much love they each have for the other. In the end, Little Nutbrown Hare is tucked safely into their bed, comfortable and safe in the knowledge of Big Nutbrown Hare's love for them that stretches "all the way up to the moon and back."

In the weeks since I have returned to my role as student pastor at Emmaus, I have been so blessed by all the ways you have shared your love and welcome with me. Thank you all for the kind greetings and warm welcome, I feel loved all the way to the moon and back! This spring, I'm hoping to connect with as many folks as possible, whether you're new to the Emmaus congregation or if you've been here for decades. If you're open to conversation, or sharing a cup of coffee, I would love to spend time with you! More of an outdoorsy type? Let's meet up at a park, or roam around the Hartzell Grove together. Simply let me know personally or reach out to the office and we can set up a time for a visit.

In all things love, Byrnese

### Upcoming Community Groups Information

Coming this Lent: Community Groups at Emmaus Moravian Church

In the spirit of the Moravian choir system, we are starting a new Community Group program, and everyone is invited to join! Community Groups will begin meeting during Lent and will gather once per week for the Lenten season, with the invitation and hope to continue meeting together as a group going forward. But what is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small groups of people who will meet together to practice our mission of Living in Fellowship - Growing in Christ!

In Community Groups, we will have opportunities to learn through Bible study, serve our community through mission projects, and get to know one another, supporting each other through prayer, and fellowship.

Curious and want to learn more? Stay tuned for information and resources coming soon as we prepare to hold group signups in the coming weeks.

Interested in being a community group leader? Leaders will be fully supported by Byrnese, who is available to serve as a co-leader for anyone interested in hosting a group who might not feel comfortable doing so on their own. Leaders will receive training, resources and preparation, all created just for their groups and people here at EMC.

Please reach out to Byrnese at [Byrnese.craig@gmail.com](mailto:Byrnese.craig@gmail.com) for more information, if you have any questions, or if you are interested in serving as a group leader or volunteer. We cannot wait to spend time in fellowship with you!



*Living in Fellowship, Growing in Christ!*



**Inclement Weather** ~ In the event that there is snow or ice on a Sunday morning, please refer to our Website ([www.emmausmoravian.org](http://www.emmausmoravian.org)) or our Facebook page for cancellations. On occasion, we might cancel Sunday School but still have worship. This allows time for our parking lot and sidewalks to be cleared. Even if the roads are in good condition, there are times when the parking lot and sidewalks are not safe. Zoom may still be offered if in person worship is cancelled. Thank you for your understanding as we endure this winter season!

### **Book Club**

We would love for you to join all of our meetings! Discussions are informal, all opinions welcome. Our reading list is short, please bring suggestions to add to our spring and summer reading list. We meet at 7pm in the Comenius Room. Zoom is available, contact Judy Williamson or the office for the zoom link.



February 10th "The Housemaid" by Freda McFadden  
 March 10th "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain  
 April 14th "James" by Percival Everett

### **Spaghetti Dinner benefitting East Penn Neighbors Helping Neighbors**



The EPNHN will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on **Saturday, February 8th at Emmaus Moravian Church**. There will be 2 seatings (5:00 & 7:00) and take out tickets are available. Dinner includes salad, rolls, spaghetti with meatballs, desserts, drinks. \$10.00 advance sales, \$15.00 at the door (kids under 2 are free). Tickets are available in our office or from Griffin Harold.

### **First Responders Dinner**

We are proud to serve our local 1<sup>st</sup> Responders!

**All 1<sup>st</sup> responders invited on February 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00.**

Following is a list of grocery items that we will need donated for our next dinner which will be chicken pot pie & fixins! Please drop donations off in the kitchen with a note either after church on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> or by 3pm on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Please TEXT or call with questions/selections Trell Miller 610-570-3552.

Thank you so much for your donations!

Chicken breast 8 lbs. / Bow tie noodles 3 bags/ Carrots 2 lbs./  
 Red potatoes 2 lbs./ Onions 2 large/ Ready made biscuits 30/  
 Salad items: romaine lettuce, shredded carrots, cucumber,  
 cherry tomatoes, croutons, Ranch dressing, Italian dressing

Apple butter-small jar/ Desserts!

Monetary donations always appreciated; we also stock their cabinets at the station when able.





### The Chosen

“The Chosen,” is a series based on the ministry years of Jesus, following the backstories of many well-known figures from the New Testament. This historical drama provides a fresh and faithful perspective on the life and times of Jesus in an entertaining and thought provoking way.

We began watching the series in January, but you can join in whenever you are able without watching previous episodes. Our next watch party will be on

**January 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 - 8 p.m.** We will gather in the chapel to watch episodes 2 & 3. Feel free to bring a comfy chair, blankets, drinks and snacks (even dinner)! We will have water bottles and some snacks available as well. There will be a chance for discussion afterwards. The tentative dates to watch at our church will be: 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11



### Preschool Open House

Take a tour of the rooms, meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum on Thursday, February 20th from 6:30-7:30.  
(inclement weather date February 27th)

Application forms for the 2025/2026 school year will be available (a \$50 fee must accompany all applications ).

Preschool is for children ages 3-5.

Classes available Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm.  
Children can attend 2, 3, or 4 days a week.

In our preschool classes, students learn gross and fine motor skills, social skills, independence, moral values, self confidence, creativity, age appropriate academics and Kindergarten preparation.

### It's Time for our Lego Block Party!

Join us on Saturday, March 1st from 6:00-8:00.  
Legos will be provided or you can bring your own kit to work on.

At the end of the night, you are welcome to take your creations home.

Snacks & water provided, or you can bring your own.

This event is open to kids, adults and families.

We are excited to see the creations we can build!



### Craftivism Announcement

Coming Soon: A Craftivism Group at Emmaus Moravian Church! Rooted in the belief that by connecting our heads, our hearts, and our hands we can truly make a difference, and open to all whether you simply want to spend a few hours in shared crafting and conversation or want to develop your own practice of gentle protest, Byrnese will be hosting a Craftivism group starting this spring. In preparation, she is looking for donations of hand-me-down craft supplies to share.

In particular, she is looking for any of the following:

Craft Skill Books (embroidery stitch dictionary, learning to crochet, knit, etc type resource books)

Embroidery Hoops, Floss & Needles

Knitting Needles & Crochet Hooks

Coloring Supplies (colored pencils, pens, markers, pastels, etc)

Small plastic containers for organization

Ink Pads, Stamps, Paper, Cardstock, Sketchbooks

Felt, Ribbon

Glue, Scrapbooking Supplies

Scissors

Paint, Canvases or Canvas Board

Thread, Fabric

We can take a small amount of yarn with a preference for warm, masculine or gender neutral colors, and easy care fibers for making hats and mittens to share with unhoused neighbors.

And a few bigger items if anyone has them sitting around unused:

A dye cutter (sizzix, cuttlebug, etc), A sewing machine, Darning Loom (like a speedweave)

A note from Byrnese: "I have a strong preference for leftovers and reclaiming what isn't already being used over purchasing new, but if you want to support this project through financial or other resource donations, you're welcome to reach out directly by emailing me at [byrnese.craig@gmail.com](mailto:byrnese.craig@gmail.com) and we can make plans together!"

### Looking Ahead

Reserve these dates!

**New Member Classes** will be held this spring!

Watch for more information!

**Rummage Sale** – Saturday, March 29th

**Camp Firelight VBS** is happening July 14-18 this year.

Join camp counselor Sam and Lu the lightning bug as they learn to face their fears while trusting in God. See you there!

Kay Marushak and Pat Honszer

**Fall Craft Show**– Saturday, November 1st

**Camp Hope Retreat**– Friday November 7th –  
Sunday, November 9th



## Blessing Boxes

Thank you for the awesome response to our Advent Project supporting our Blessing Boxes! Donations are accepted all year round! If you would like to give a monetary donation, we ask that you donate to the Community Assistance Fund (February's Special Envelope). This fund allows us to help church and community members with grocery cards, utility bills, rent assistance, and blessing box purchases.

### **Food items most needed for January ~**

Canned carrots, canned peas, individual fruit or applesauce, cereal bars, snacks, and ready to eat foods for our homeless community.

These are only suggestions, we accept all shelf stable food!

### **Nonfood most needed for January ~**

tissues, toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry pods, soap, hats and gloves

~ Thanks from Linda Rohrbach & Carol George, the fillers of the boxes



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Helping



COMMUNITY DINNER

The purpose of the Community Dinners is to provide a place for people in the church and community to share a meal, enjoy fellowship and feel welcomed, and to share God's love with all.

I would say that in the past 8 dinners, we have met our goal! Every month we have many community members enjoy the warmth of our church, they have felt welcomed into our church home, and they have been fed, not only with food but with hospitality and care.

The church members that attend the dinners have enjoyed seeing our fellowship hall filled with love and laughter. As a member of EMC, we ask that if you are in attendance, you welcome those who you do not recognize, start a conversation with people you don't know if you are comfortable and welcome them to our table and meet someone new!

**Our February dinner will be held on Friday, February 21st from 6:00-7:30.**

Guests can arrive anytime between 6:00 and 7:30.

We will be having a baked potato bar, chili and soup.

Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.

**The meal is always free.**

**Donations will go towards the next meal or EMC's Outreach Fund.**

**Donations of desserts from our congregation are appreciated!**

We could always use help! Set up typically occurs the evening before the dinner and set up and clean up help the day of the dinner is always appreciated. Contact Melissa in the office for details!



### Trex Recycling Program Update

Our church has been participating in the NexTrex Recycling Program since May. In that time, we have collected 1,000 pounds of plastic recycling! We have met our goal! We will be working with Trex on the next steps to receive our bench (made out of recycled plastic of course)!



It has been decided to continue the recycling program for another year. We can not submit any more plastic until June, but we will still be collecting plastic and storing it on site. Collection boxes are located in the chapel lobby, the family living area (by the preschool) and the office.

All plastic is inspected and sorted and made sure it meets Trex's standards.

**It can not be stressed enough that all plastic needs to be clean, dry and free of food residue. Noone wants to go through plastic with food waste!**

#### **Items that can be recycled:**

produce bags, store bags, ice bags, Ziploc and reclosable bags, cereal box liners, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, drycleaning bags, bubble wrap, pellet bags, wrap that surrounds water bottles, toilet paper & other supplies, plastic mailers (please remove address label)

~ these items usually can't be throw in your recycling bin at home!

**Pet food bags are not accepted!**

Thank you! If you have any questions, please reach out to Melissa in the office.



### Moravian Sugar Cake and Lovefeast Bun Order Form

Pick up Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 9am-11am

You can email your order to [secretary@emmausmoravian.org](mailto:secretary@emmausmoravian.org) or call 610-965-6067

All sugar cake sale profits go to our Camp Hope Scholarship Fund. This fund helps pay the cost of camp for summer programs and retreats.

Name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Sugar Cakes @ \$8.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lovefeast Buns @ \$8.00 per dz. \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount due \_\_\_\_\_

## Available in the Church Office

### Daily Texts

Large Print texts still available at \$14.00

With the opening of each new year, many Moravians begin reading the Daily Text. The custom of the daily text can be traced to Herrnhut and to Count Zinzendorf. He usually held evening devotionals and in 1728, he began reading a watchword from Scripture for the people to remember the following day. As the congregation grew, not all members were able to attend the evening service. Someone was appointed to go to each home in the morning and announce the text for the day. In 1730, he wrote the texts in advance for 1731, and they were printed in the first text book.

This method has been followed ever since. After the death of Count Zinzendorf the texts were arranged by a committee. By reading the text each day, you are uniting with other Moravians and Christians around the world. The text is printed in over 50 languages. Get your copy today, and begin a new tradition in your part of the world!

**“Losing Light, Walking by Faith but Wanting to See,”** is a book written by the Rev. Brian Dixon.

In the book, Pastor Brian invites readers on a similar journey through shadow and light. With a seeker’s questions and a pastor’s heart, he encourages us to “come and see” the fullness of life with God even if (and when) our vision is clouded or the way is unclear. The collection is divided into 6 sections of approximately 20 pages each, with the stories, poems and prayers in each section reflecting a slightly different theme related to light. ~ excerpt from Moravian Magazine , issue 4, 2022.

The book, along with the previous book written by Pastor Brian, **“Keeping Time, Dances to the Beat of a Different Drummer,”** costs \$10.00 each.

**“These Days, A Season of Life, Death and Resurrection”** is a newly published book by a son of the congregation, Rev. Kerry D. Krauss. The description reads: “I never set out to write a book. As Covid forced lockdowns, isolations, and quarantines, I simply wanted to offer something comforting, dare I say pastoral, in a season of deep sighs and much unknowing. In the mad scramble of March 2020, we grabbed for anything. I sought to offer my congregation something to hold on to while we waited. Admittedly, I did not know what I was doing, but it felt right to sit in the evening and express myself. Even this far removed, I hope to offer something comforting, something pastoral. These Days are significantly different from Those Days. The seasons have changed many times over. Our need for depth, comfort insight, and inspiration have not. Kerry’s book costs \$18.00.

We also have the **Moravian Book of Worship** (blue hymnals) in stock. This worship companion is helpful if you worship via zoom. The cost is \$18.00.

**All these books are available in the church office.** If you are looking for more publications from the Moravian Church, you can visit [www.moravian.org](http://www.moravian.org). Click on the “Book Store” tab.



## Camp Hope

Camp Hope has been a meaningful place to many youth and adults. There has certainly been some rough patches, but we are hopeful the board is working on improvements. A property manager has been hired. Micah Henning now serves as the year round, on premises Property Manager. Micah is passionate about improving camp and has awesome memories from his own camping experiences. His love of camp is sincere and he wants kids and adults to have the opportunity to experience the joys of camp this summer. We will share more news as we receive it!

Camp dates are now available. If your child completed 1st grade, they are eligible to attend camp. 1st and 2nd graders attend for 3 nights while typical campers attend for 6 nights. Musical Theater Camp and Swim Camp are offered this year besides the typical age group camps. Emmaus Moravian Church has funding to pay for at least half the cost for Emmaus Moravian Church campers. Email the office for more details!

Go to [www.camphope.org](http://www.camphope.org)



## Convo

Convo is a tradition that youth and young adults in the Moravian Church have enjoyed since 1957. Held every 2 years, Convo traditionally rotates between a gathering here in North America for high schoolers and a gathering elsewhere in the Moravian Unity for young adults. The Board of World Mission is honored to be taking on the role of planning and implementing these gatherings on behalf of the Moravian Church in North America.

Please save the date for this Convo and spread the word to any Moravians who are currently in 9th -12th grade. Convo 2025 will be held July 2nd – 7th at the Florida International University in Miami. Registration and more info will be available at [MoravianMission.org/Convo](http://MoravianMission.org/Convo).

A zoom information session will be held on March 3rd at 7:00. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending the meeting.





### **Mission Minute: BWM 2025 Watchword**

In early December, the Board of World Mission staff gathered for a working retreat in Black Oak Lodge at Mt. Morris Camp in Wisconsin. The snowflakes were falling, the fire was crackling in the fireplace and the staff were gathered in comfy chairs under quilts on day two of our meetings. Our opening task for the day was to choose the BWM watchword for the coming year. To our surprise, the day that was randomly chosen was August 13th, a Moravian High Holy Day. The text for that day is **John 3:21** and it comes to us from Jesus' midnight conversation with the inquisitive and troubled Pharisee, Nicodemus, who was desperately trying to understand the truth about Jesus' identity.

Truth, *aletheia* (in the Greek), is debated and explored in the Gospel of John. Most famously Jesus claims to be the truth, as well as the way and the life (John 14:6). In his face to face meeting with Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, Jesus states that his reason for being born is to testify to the truth. Pilate sputters out his frustrated response: What is truth??? (John 18:37-38)

We join in line with Pilate and Nicodemus, wanting to know the truth. In John 3:21 we get a hint: **“Those who do what is true (*aletheia*) come to the light so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”**

In the BWM Advent Calendar this past December, we were asked daily: When have we seen you a stranger, or sick, or hungry or thirsty? And fed you, cared for you, and welcomed you? Enacting compassion and love for humanity is the truth that Jesus lived and taught. When the BWM, the church and y'all come to the light this Epiphany season, doing deeds of care and compassion in God, then we have found the TRUTH (and the way and the life).

### **Seniors and Friends at West Side Moravian**

February 6- 11:30 AM

BRING a Friend & a Sandwich

Beverage and Dessert will be Provided!

Presentation by Martha Capwell-Fox from the National Canal Museum

The Lehigh Navigation:

How a waterway changed the Lehigh Valley and the Nation The Lehigh Navigation began as a way to deliver anthracite coal from Carbon County to Philadelphia. The waterway ingeniously incorporated the Lehigh River and canal sections dug into its banks. This new commerce and transportation route in the Lehigh Valley not only pushed the closed Moravian society of Bethlehem to open up, it ignited the American Industrial Revolution which had its birth in the Lehigh Valley and ultimately led to the development of Bethlehem Steel.

West Side Moravian Church

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