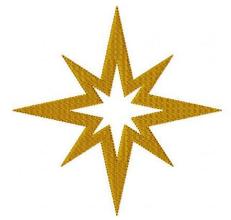




The Dover Moravian Messenger



Church Mailing Address:
319 N. Walnut Street, Dover, OH 44622
Church Website: doverfirstmoravianchurch.org
Church Office: 330-364-8831

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Watchword for the Week:

The Moravian Daily Texts

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Galatians 4:4, 5

2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ~ IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ENVELOPES THEY ARE AVAILABLE to pick up.

If your name is on a check or on a plain envelope, you are given credit for your giving. If you would like to give electronically, or update your electronic giving, a form is available in the church office. If you have any questions, (regarding electronic giving, envelopes or statements) please call or text me at 330-933-9707 or email at juliewill1411@gmail.com

All giving must be received by Tomorrow, December 28, to be counted toward your 2020 contributions.

From the Board of Trustees:

The Trustees would like to thank the congregation for their generosity throughout 2020 and this abnormal year. We were able to meet all our obligations, as well as tackle several projects along the way. These items will be summarized in the annual report.

The Trustees would also like to request some assistance regarding donations to the various missions of the church. If possible, a separate check for the following ministry areas assist us in maintaining the deposits more effectively. Checks can be made payable to First Moravian Church and you will be properly credited for your donation. The ministry areas that have separate bank accounts are:

- Helping Hand Fund
- Minister's Aid Society
- Sole Purpose
- Music Fund Endowment
- Memorial Fund Endowment

Hello Friends and Parents,

The church has provided "**Winter Kids' Kits**" for our children. You may pick one up for your child(ren). Each Kit contains a Bible-based fun activity/project for the child, tied to the theme of the day's service. Enjoy the time spent together with your little one(s) building a memory. *Pastor John*

One Call Now ~ 330-364-8831

Steve and Julie Williams are sponsoring our One Call Now this week.

If you have a prayer concern for yourself or a friend and would like it placed on the One Call Now system, please contact the church office. Thank you.



One Call Now Sponsors are needed for 2021.

If you would like to sponsor a week for **\$10.00**, please call Karen in the church office, 330-364-8831, to sign up.



Important information concerning the COVID-19 pandemic: The Board of Elders, at their meeting on December 1, 2020, made the decision to suspend all in-person worship services through January 3, 2021. This includes all Christmas Eve services. **Worship services will be reevaluated at the Board of Elders Meeting on January 5.** **Our Worship services can be viewed on our church website.** Group meetings/facility usage for meals, Bible Studies, projects, etc. will continue with existing safety protocols in place. **Wearing a face mask is required when entering the building – if you do not have a face mask, one will be provided.** **Communication is being made through the church’s website, the “One Call Now” system, letters, and through our Shepherd’s Phone Tree.**

Prayers for the People

We extend our **sympathy and prayers** to the **David R. Schooff family**. Dave passed away on Saturday, December 19, 2020, at Community Hospice Truman House in New Philadelphia. Private funeral services were held at the First Moravian Church of Dover on Wednesday, December 23, at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor John Wallace officiating. Interment was at Dover Burial Park. Toland-Herzig Funeral Home of Dover handled the arrangements.

Amberwood Manor: Laura Colvin; **Country Club Retmt. Center:** Larry Colvin; **Hennis Care** (Bolivar): Glo Jones; **Hennis Care** (Dover): Dawn Miller; **New Dawn:** Mary Lou Lahmers; **Park Village:** Earl Johnson.

Birthday and Anniversary Daily Prayer Support

Dec. 27	Lai Lonie Rees
Dec. 28	Anniv: Dan & Pam Smith
Dec. 29	Sara Holmes, Steve Williams
Dec. 30	Gracen Gerbig; Anniv: Jim & Sharyn Dusenberry, Jon C. & Joyce Stingel
Dec. 31	Richard Michel, Jr.
Jan. 1	Courtney Wallace
Jan. 2	Adrian Schaar, Brian Bullock, Ross Randazzo

Our Calendar for the Week

Sunday	Online worship is available each week on the church website: doverfirstmoravianchurch.org
	10:30 AM Adult Bible Study via Zoom
Monday	9:00 AM Staff Meeting ó Pastorø Office
	3:00 PM Counting ó Living Room
Tuesday	10-11:00 AM Bible Study via Zoom
Wednesday	6:30 PM öCreating Sundayø Worshipö ó Sanctuary
	6:30 PM Menø Bible Study ó Room 215
Sunday	Online worship is available on the church website.
	10:30 AM Adult Bible Study via Zoom

[Our Mission & Outreach Opportunities](#)



*A Christmas Season Special for you to enjoy...
On our church website...*

Jan. 3rd ~ Join us as we **"Canvas the Creche"** and share in **Holy Communion** for 2021.



Annual Church Council Reminder...

All reports are due in the church office **by 9:00 A.M. on Monday, January 4, 2021.**

The report should include a summary of what took place during the year, mention of membership, plans for the coming year, as well as a financial report. Financial reports should show both income and expenses. E-mail your report to: admin.assistant@firstmoravianchurch.org Your cooperation in meeting this deadline will be appreciated.

A Note of Thanks!

To My Church Family,

To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated:

Please accept my deepest thanks for all the thoughts, prayers, phone calls, cards, meals, flowers, etc. that were sent over the past several months while caring for my mother and through her passing.

Thank you Pastor John and Cheryl for dropping all you did to be with us the day Mom passed. Also for all the notes, cookies, flowers and treats. It makes my heart smile to feel so loved and supported during this difficult time.

Love,
Janet, Kristin and Kipp



Please stay safe and healthy . . .



Wear a face mask, social distance, and wash your hands often.

The Simeon Smile

In *our* faith tradition we present children to God through baptism. In Jesus' day Jewish babies were presented in the Temple with the offering of a sacrifice. In today's Gospel lesson, the presentation of Jesus was an ordinary occurrence, but for Simeon and Anna, this child was *anything* but ordinary. This child was the fulfillment of years of waiting and anticipation. In Sunday school, this story is usually accompanied by a picture of Simeon smiling at the baby—Simeon, whose smile exhibits joy, hope, and utter delight.

That is also the smile we demonstrate every time a baby is presented to the congregation in the service of baptism. Whenever a pastor holds that baptized baby up for the congregation to see, even the sternest face explodes into a smile of joy and hope. In that moment, the congregation embraces the promise we just made to accept that child and share in nurturing their faith.

So how are we doing at that? How are we, the “congregational parents,” nurturing the faith of those baptized babies and youth? Does our commitment include the development of a personal relationship with those children as they grow?

Look around your sanctuary today. How many children can you identify by name, and how many of those know *you* by name? Strive diligently to keep those relationships growing, because studies have shown that when a young person has a personal relationship with at least ten adults in a congregation, they are less likely to leave church membership.

Today we smile with Simeon as he sees hope fulfilled in the Christ child. Today and everyday may we also reflect the “Simeon smile” as we nurture the faith and deepen our relationships with the children and youth of our congregations.

*Marie Coutts, director of Christian education,
Moravian Church, Eastern District*

The Moravian Church

First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020

