



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

Mikayla Saurerbrey ~ Student Pastor ~ studentpastor@emmausmoravian.org

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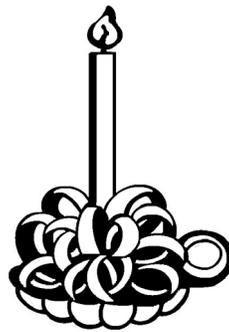
Martha Cox Popichak ~ Director of Music ~ popicox@rcn.com

Christopher Klump ~ Director of Brass Choir

Al Kneller ~ Sexton

Special Envelope for December

The Special Envelope for December (Christmas Eve envelope) assists Emmaus Moravian Church meet budget goals for the year. Emmaus Moravian supports many community groups such as AA, NA, Girl Scouts and Preschool. Through your generosity, EMC is hopeful to meet its budget so we can continue to support our community.



2022 Watchword:

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God.

Romans 8:28

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

All Wrapped Up (A Christmas Story)

“There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” Luke 2:36-38

God knows she didn’t need the money, but Maude didn’t know what she would do without the work. When her husband died the house was paid for so Social Security, a modest insurance policy, and his pension were more than enough. But the long nights, old mailing lists, and leftovers soon got to be too much. The bus stop was just a three-minute walk from her door with buses every 20. And the fancy department store her husband teased her about being a second home was hiring someone to wrap gifts.

For fifteen years Maude got dressed, double checked her hair and makeup in the mirror by the door and caught the 7:40 every morning to be at work by 9. At nearly eighty, she was by far the senior customer service associate and the only person people asked for by name to wrap their presents. In that time Maude had seen it all: every kind of gift, every sort of giver, the unseen strings with which things are sometimes tied, and ribbons like reasons, heart-shaped and true.

With the store closing, an era was now coming to an end. For the city, for the new friends she’d made, and for Maude, all the signs, sales and savings were bittersweet.

They seemed a bit out-of-place, this nervous young couple approaching the counter. Maude welcomed them exactly as she’d welcome anyone. With such an easy way about her Maude gathered people in, put them at ease and, before you knew it, you were friends.

The gift they wanted wrapped was an old baby-sized cathedral window quilt. It was the most beautiful thing Maude had ever seen. Its pattern, the fabric, and the stitching were immaculate. She was almost afraid to touch it. Cradling the cloth felt like holding a piece of living history or handling a priceless work of art. All of which it was.

“Oh, my!” Maude managed. “This is simply precious. We’re gonna have to wrap this up extra special!”

Her new friends, this lovely young couple, smiled and said, “It’s just a blanket. Wait till you meet the baby.”

In writing this for the Moravian Church Without Walls 2020 Christmas Loop, I based Maude on someone who worked and wrapped gifts at a Macy’s in southern Maryland over twenty years ago. The backstory is conjecture, but I wanted to imagine a modern-day Anna from Luke’s account of bringing Jesus to the temple. And these two women (about whom we know little) shared a space in my heart. I tried to tell some of Maude’s story because I wanted to hear more of Anna’s. What shapes this kind of faithfulness? What motivates our own prayers and our praises? And If “Christmas” was Anna getting to see Jesus, what do you call the 84 years Anna watched for the advent – for the arrival – of the Redeemer?

May this wondrous season bring you more than presents. May it be to you and breathe into your life the living presence and love of Jesus!

Mary Christmas, Pastor Brian

Worship Opportunities

There will be No Wednesday Nite Lite Services in December

Sunday, December 4th ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:30 Worship ~ 2nd Sunday in Advent
2:00 Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 11th ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:30 Worship ~
Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18th ~ 9:00 Sunday School; 10:30 Worship ~
Snow date for Children's Christmas Program

Saturday, December 24th ~ 2:00 Lovefeast and Candlelight; 4:30 Lovefeast and Candlelight;
7:00 Candlelight ~ no tickets required

Sunday, December 25th ~ 10:00 Worship

Sunday, January 1st ~ 10:30 Worship ~ Communion and Watchwords

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

Blue Christmas ~ The holidays can be a difficult time for many. And, it is a real struggle to reconcile those "tidings of comfort and joy," with sorrows and griefs that are just as real. Our Blue Christmas service is an invitation for any who are hurting and in need of peace and gentle encouragement for the Christmas season. All are welcome to attend Sunday, Dec. 4th at 2:00

Please remember those in need of our prayers ~

Rev. Diane Joseph, Danny Haus (nephew of Kurt & Lisa), Carol Campbell,
Ticia Herald, Dale Washburn, Barbara Giesler (mother of Pastor Chris),
our homebound members and 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.



Flower Sponsorships

December 4th ~

*In loving memory of Marshall & Judy Rau's anniversary on
December 4th, 1965 and In loving memory of Franklin & Shirley Reith
and Marjorie Gruber by Cathie & Paul Ingram*

December 11th ~ No flowers due to Children's Christmas Program

**December 18th ~ In honor of Ruth Ann & Leon Dries' 59th anniversary
on December 14th and**

loving memory of Tee Jay and Joanna, loving parents and grandparents



In

Blessing Box(es)!

All of your donations are greatly appreciated. The Blessing Boxes are used by many people and your donations help keep the boxes stocked. We are always grateful to have back up supplies!

The Blessing Box immediate needs are: Ready to eat foods for our homeless community, peanut butter, jelly, soup, baked beans, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned or individual cups of fruit or applesauce, pudding cups.

Non food items needed: shampoo, tissues, laundry pods or detergent, can openers, winter hats, winter gloves (kids or adults)



~ Thank you from Linda Rohrbach and Carol George (the fillers of the boxes)

Dear EMC,

I don't know who decides where the altar flowers should go, but please let them know how grateful and indebted I feel receiving such a lovely gift! God bless you all! Nan Stevens

Dear Emmaus Moravian Church Family,

Thank you for the kind messages, cards and calls since my recent surgery. Even though I can't respond to all of you, please know that I appreciate every thought and every prayer that has been sent my way! Rev. Diane Joseph

The Daily Texts have arrived!

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

Christmas Gifts for purchase!

EMC Souvenirs ~ Still available (limited quantities):

hand painted Christmas ornaments \$20.00; a puzzle of the church \$25.00; History Booklet \$5.00

Pastor Brian Dixon has authored 2 books that make great gifts as well!

Contact the office for purchase!

Offering Envelopes and Pictorial Directory

The 2023 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Comenius Room.

The directory is now being created and should be ready for pick up in a few days! They will be placed in the Comenius Room with the Offering Envelopes upon arrival.

Christian Education News

Thank you to the people stepped up to teach our children about God's love! We could always use more willing hands and loving hearts to help during Sunday School from 9am-10am. We especially need an assistant to help the Kindergarten- 5th grade teacher. You can help with one Sunday or more! You can Contact Karen Semet or Melissa Heckman in the office. A sign up genius has been created so you can sign up for dates that work for you! A link can be emailed to you!

Nursery during worship

If we are to open the nursery during worship, we need volunteers! If you feel led to give parents a break during worship, please reach out to the office. Until we have volunteers, the nursery will remain closed. If you are a parent and would like access to the nursery during worship, please see a sacristan.

Adult Sunday School Class ~ Session II: until December 4th

It isn't too late to join our Advent Study, "Mary Had a Baby: An Advent Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals" Written by Marilyn E. Thornton with material by Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, a small group look at Scripture, Song, and the Season of watching and awaiting the Savior of all.

Dec. 11th Adult Study 2022 Wrap Up



Christmas Program

Children's Christmas Program ~ The Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 11th (snow date December 18th). All children can participate. Practices will be held from 9:50-10:20 most Sundays. A dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 10-12. Contact Mikayla Sauerbrey if you have any questions. studentpastor@emmausmoravian.org

We will be hosting a Cookie Social after the Program on Sunday. If you would like to donate cookies, please contact the office.

Thank you for all the donations! We are excited to send more than 90 Christmas boxes to children all over the world! We also collected more than enough money to cover shipping costs for the boxes! Thank you for your continued support!



Sacristan Corp Help Needed!

It takes a village to organize and serve hundreds of worshippers for 3 services on Christmas Eve! We are in need of servers for the Lovefeast and Candlelight Services at 2:00 and 4:30 and Candle Servers for the 7:00 service. If we don't have enough servers, we may not be able to serve lovefeast. If you can help in any way, please contact Sue Adams at 610-751-0629 or jadams56@ptd.net



The EMC Book Club

The Book Club readers have made a new list for winter and early spring reading. All are welcome to join our zoom meeting by calling Judy Williamson or the office for information.

December 12 "Comfort and Joy" by Kristin Hannah
 January 9 "Take My Hand" by Dolen Perkins-Valdez
 February 13 "Three Sisters" by Heather Morris
 March 13 "Sea Nurses" by Kate Eastham
 April 10 "Keeping Lucy" by T. Greenwood
 May 8 "The Foundling" by Ann Leary



Cash Card Program Our cash card program can be used for gifts or your regular shopping! If you frequent a store or restaurant, you can purchase gift cards from the church and use them as cash! EMC gets a percentage of each gift card sale. We carry an inventory of over \$8,000 in 50 different cards for everyday shopping or gift giving! We have access to hundreds more we can order for you and have them in a week. Sales happen every Sunday before and after worship in the chapel lobby or in the office. Cash cards never expire!

Typically in stock: Amazon, Applebees, Arby's, Barnes & Noble, Bath & Body Works, Best Buy, Cabelas, CVS, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dominos, Dunkin, Gap, Giant, Holiday Hair, Home Depot, Itunes, 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



Community Happenings

The Emmaus Chorale

A Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 3 o'clock at Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus.

We will present Lessons and Carols, with guest harpist Benjamin Reber. Join us for this traditional festival of beloved Christmas carols, with piano and harp accompaniments, choral anthems and harp solos, interspersed with Biblical readings from the Old and New Testaments which depict the Christmas story.

The audience will be invited to sing a familiar carol with us after each reading. Composers for the choir selections include John Rutter, Benjamin Britten, Judith Poston, and Johann Sebastian Bach among others.

Tickets are not required. A free-will offering will be collected. A reception for all will immediately follow the service.

Knauss Homestead and 1803 House

You are invited to the Old Fashion Christmas Open Houses. The Knauss Homestead house will be open Thursday December 1st 4-7p, Friday December 2nd 4-7p, and Saturday 11a-4p. The 1803 House will be open Saturday December 3rd 10a-2p. We hope to see you there to not only celebrate Old Fashion Christmas but to witness what life was like in Colonial Days.

An Advent Season Gift for Moravian Open Door

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.

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. During the pandemic of COVID-19, MOD mourned the loss of some of its residents to the virus, and some other residents and even the staff were sickened by the disease and recovered. Keeping everyone safe with extra sanitizing of building areas, providing residents precautionary items such as masks and hand sanitizer, and providing extra food for residents who have lost income has put a great strain on MOD's budget.

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





Christmas Poinsettias

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

We offer families the opportunity to sponsor poinsettias used in decorating our Sanctuary. Return form with payment \$10.00 per plant (checks payable to Emmaus Moravian Church)

By Sunday, December 4th, 2022

Your Name and 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

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! It is great to always know what's happening in the life of your church!