

The STAR – Volume 11, Issue No. 3

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ADVENT MORAVIAN CHURCH

3730 Jacksonville Road

Bethlehem, PA 18017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy Easter





Advent Moravian Church
3730 Jacksonville Road
Bethlehem, PA 18017
Phone: 610-866-1402



March 2024 STAR

Reverend John Fritts, Pastor

Lynn Rehrig, Office Administrator
Luke DiGiacinto, Music Director



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Church email: office@adventmoravianbethlehem.org
Church office: 610-866-1402
Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

2024 Leadership

ELDERS

Robert Boyd
Kathy Rohmann
Terri Boyd
Martha Schrempel
George Wilson
Marsha Venanzi
Ron Litner

TRUSTEES


Debra Fritz
Steve Weida
Sharon Donchez
Susan Engler
Brenda Dorward
Jack Boyd
Carl Rohmann

CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

Wendy Leap
Patricia Sporka

Ruth Chupella
Janet Dancs





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The STAR

Serve, Grow, and Embrace Love Through Christ at Advent Moravian Church

The Heart of Christ

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you. Ezekiel 36:24-26a

We are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a penitential season of the church. This means it is time for inward reflection and recognition of our sin not so that we are miserable, but so that we might look toward Christ as our true and only hope even more than we already do. As we enter the season of Lent, you will notice a common theme that keeps coming up – the human heart. Our heart is an interesting thing. I am not talking about the physical organ which pumps blood throughout the body, but the spiritual organ that pumps our desires and longings throughout our soul. The spiritual heart is fascinating; it has the capacity to be rock hard or it can be compassionate. Our spiritual heart can be unmoving or it can be gracious. Our spiritual heart can be unforgiving or it can be merciful.

By ourselves, by our own powers, our hearts would never change. They would remain hard, unmoving, and unforgiving our whole lives. But this is NOT your heart. The scripture passage above says that God will “give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.” This is a divine prophecy fulfilled when God switched out your hard heart and has given you Christ’s compassionate heart. God has switched out your unmoving heart and has given you Christ’s gracious heart. God has switched out your unforgiving heart and has given you Christ’s merciful heart.

God has truly made you a new person. God is not talking metaphorically above, or symbolically above or using some flowery language from a poem. In Christ, you really ARE a new people with new hearts – Christ’s heart.

As we travel through this season of Lent, I pray that it will be a time for our congregation to look honestly into the depths of our hearts and yearn more and more, every day, to be transformed by Christ’s compassion, graciousness and mercy toward ourselves and others. Amen.

Blessings for Our Journey Together,

Pastor John



3/24 Alan Greenberg & Martha Schrempel (25) 

3/02 Diane Chladni
Carol Faber
3/04 Tammy Miller
3/06 Scott Leap
3/07 Donald Kirts
3/09 Anthony Valdez
3/13 Charles Ludivico
3/15 Martha Schrempel
3/18 Dawn Hagenbuch
3/20 Terri Boyd
3/27 Ronald Litner
3/28 Michael Bright
3/31 Ted Fritz

If we missed your birthday or anniversary we sincerely apologize. Please let the office know when your special day is and we will be happy to add it.



Flowers for Worship

It is wonderful to decorate the worship space and our ZOOM screens with flowers. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers in honor or in memory of someone or a special occasion, there is a monthly sign-up sheet on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. The cost of the flower arrangement is \$50.00, and flowers may be taken home after the service.



Advent Moravian raised 1,683.00 to date from the 2nd mile donations in February which went toward Essentials Café

The 2nd mile for March will support Unity Prayer Day Offering 2024, Ukraine Refugees in Germany and Czech Republic



Spring Forward March 10th

The Women's Fellowship will meet on
Monday, March 11th at 10 a.m.
Please join us!
All women are invited!

FOOD DONATION

Food donations may be made at any time to
NECC by placing them in either of the plastic
tubs outside of the sanctuary.

Suggested food items are:

- *canned vegetables, especially corn and green beans, fruits, *pasta and rice (bagged or boxed), peanut butter, *spaghetti sauce (preferably plastic jars or cans)
- *canned pasta and hearty soups, *cereal, pancake mix and syrup.
- *Personal hygiene items and liquid dish soap are also needed.

Any questions please contact
Kathy Rohmann 610-392-1261

The Men's Breakfast will be held
on March 9th. Please come at
7 a.m. to help cook and 8 a.m. to
have breakfast.

The Garden Club will be
meeting in Christmas Hall on
Thursday, March 21st.

Welcome Back!

The Jacksonville Crew will meet
March 10th and March 24th
at 4 p.m.



Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Week Reading Services -

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

Easter Dawn Service at Central Moravian Church 6:15 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m.



First Day of Spring
March 19



ADVENT MORAVIAN CHURCH EASTER FLOWER ORDER 2024

Easter March 31, 2024

To celebrate our Risen Savior!



ACTION STEPS:

1. Fill out this form with all information, please print.
2. Total the amount due for plants and add any additional donation.
3. Indicate **P** for personal (take after Easter worship)
4. One Memorial dedication listed for each plant ordered (below).
5. Return completed form **with payment** in an envelope addressed to:

EASTER FLOWERS 2024

c/o Sharon Donchez

6. Complete all steps no later than **March 22th** **Thank you!**

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

		Qty.	\$Due	Use
6" Pot of Daffodils	@\$10.00	_____	_____	_____
6" Pot of Tulips, pink, white	@\$10.00	_____	_____	_____
8" Bowl of Pansies	@\$15.00	_____	_____	_____
Donation			_____	

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ _____

Checks payable to Advent Moravian Church

For listing in Easter Bulletin (one dedication per plant - name only)

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

March Greeters



March 3 - Carolyn Dancs

March 10 - Gail Brown

March 17 - Janet Dancs

March 24 - Marsha Venanzi

March 31 - Shirley Chiles



PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK BRUNCH

We will have a "Spring" into Holy Week Potluck Brunch following worship on March 24th, Palm Sunday. Please consider joining us for food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be on the table outside of the sanctuary. We'll provide ham and beverages. Please indicate your name, the number of people in your group, and what you will contribute to the meal (side dishes, salads, desserts, for example). Any and all contributions are welcome- homemade, or store bought!

Contact Kathy Rohmann with any questions, 610-392-1261 or krohmann@ptd.net

Our new florist is: *Gracegarden Florist*, the cost to sponsor altar flowers will be \$50.00.

To contact the florist please call 610-438-1272 or email: gracegardenflorist.com



Jacksonville Crew
COFFEE HOUSE EVENT

Sunday, March 10, 2024

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Advent Moravian Church

3730 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem

The Jacksonville Crew is an abled differently group of Christ-loving individuals. All are welcome to this fun evening of **Karaoke, games, live entertainment, lots of food, coffee, and an opportunity to socialize and meet new friends.**

This event is free and open to everyone.

RSVP by March 5th

Call 610-866-1402 or email: office@adventmoravianbethlehem.org

This past year, several members have made a concerted effort to get rid of unwanted and no longer used stuff around the church. Some of the disposal came at a considerable cost, especially electronics. While we understand these donations are left with the best intentions for the church to use, the reality is that we probably cannot use them. The Joint Board asks that everyone refrain from bringing stuff into the church without asking first. Please inquire through the church office to see if your material items can be left at the church. Thankyou!



Both Enslaved and Free: Men and Women of African Descent in Early Bethlehem

A Walking Tour Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14 beginning at 1:30 p.m. More than fifty people of African descent have been documented living in Bethlehem and its surrounding communities between 1740 and 1800. On this walking tour you will learn how these men and women came to be here, how they were treated, and how those who were enslaved became free. Please join us for a remarkable and enlightening story beginning in the Old Chapel.

Presented by Central Moravian Church's History Committee and Racial Justice task force.

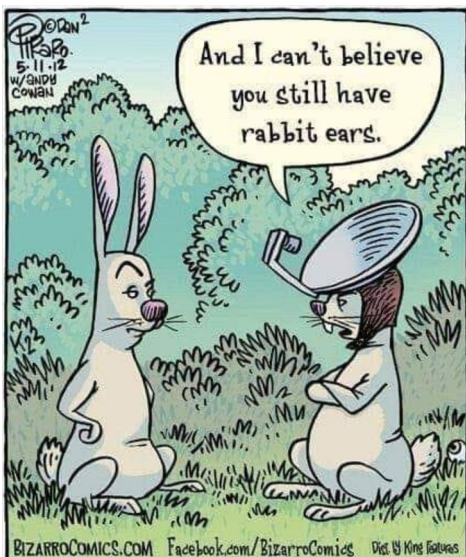
Please RSVP to office@centralmoravianchurch.org or call 610-866-5661. If tours are filled, a waiting list will be created with future dates scheduled. Free will offerings gratefully accepted.

Because Jesus said so



One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."



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MARCH 2024

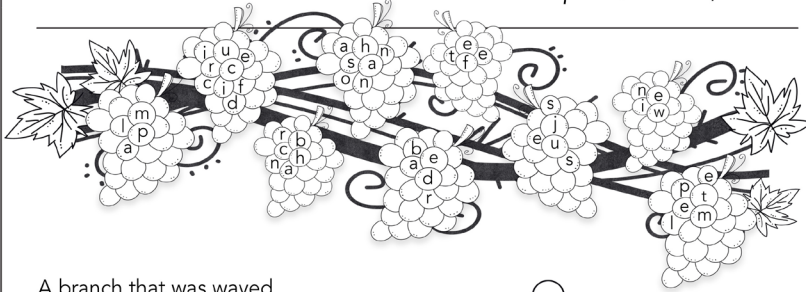
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10 a.m. – Noon AARP group 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	2 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
3 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i> Third Sunday in Lent	4 6:30 p.m. Scouts	5 6:30 p.m. Scouts 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	6 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 p.m. MORA 6:30 p.m. Scouts 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir	7	8 10 a.m. – Noon AARP group 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	9 Men's Breakfast 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
10 9:30 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Jacksonville Crew Coffee House Fourth Sunday in Lent	11 10 a.m. Women's Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Scouts 7 p.m. Elders meet	12 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	13 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 p.m. MORA 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir	14 10 a.m. Memory Café 6:30 p.m. Cubs 7 p.m. Trustees meet	15 10 a.m. – Noon AARP group 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous 6:30 p.m. Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet	16 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
17 9:30 a.m. Worship Hymn Sing Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 6:30 p.m. Scouts meet	19 6:30 p.m. Scouts meet 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous First Day of Spring	20 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 p.m. MORA 6:30 p.m. Bells 6:30 p.m. Scouts 7:30 p.m. Choir	21 Garden Club meets	22 10 a.m. – Noon AARP group 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous	23 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
24 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>Potluck Brunch</i> 7 p.m. Jacksonville Crew meets Palm Sunday	25 6:30 p.m. Scouts meet 7 p.m. Holy Week Reading	26 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Holy Week Reading	27 10 a.m. Bible Study 12 p.m. MORA 7 p.m. Holy Week Reading	28 10 a.m. Memory Café 6:30 p.m. Cubs 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service/ Communion	29 10 a.m. – Noon AARP group 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Tenebrae Service Good Friday (Office closed)	30 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
31 6:15 a.m. Sunrise service at Central Moravian 9:30 a.m. Easter Service					 He's Alive!	



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved — — — — —
- How Jesus was put to death — — — — —
- A stick attached to the vine — — — — —
- People shouted this to Jesus — — — — —
- Jesus washed these — — — — —
- This was broken and eaten — — — — —
- The Messiah — — — — —
- A drink from grapes — — — — —
- Jesus drove the money changers from here — — — — —

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

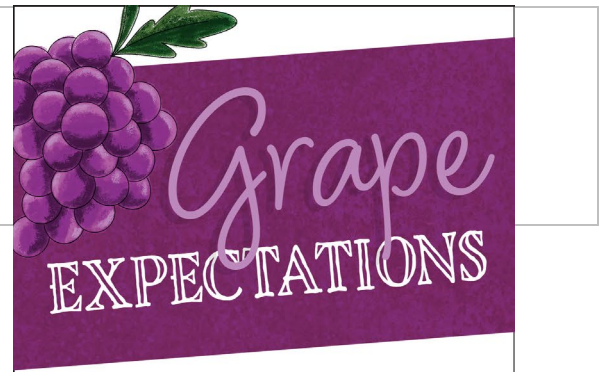
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit

Christian symbol



BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.



Try this chilly new
take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!

