

***The Riverside Moravian***  
***September 2021***



**FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH**

*“A Christ-Centered Protestant Church serving Riverside,  
Delanco, Delran, and Neighboring Communities”*

Denomination Founded March 1, 1457

Congregation Organized December 31, 1865

228 E. Washington Street

Riverside, New Jersey 08075-3629

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*Rebecca Sisley, Pastor*

610-360-5444



## Greeting Congregation

Friday August 13, 2021: I find myself sitting on my couch with two very cranky kids trying to figure out what it is they need. Neither one really seems to feel like talking. Both are screaming for some reason and both are insisting on doing it either in my lap or directly next to me. Nothing seems to be working. They neither wish to be held or left alone. They do not want food or a drink. They seem to want me to guess what it is that they need but everything that is being offered is met with screaming. So what am I doing? Attempting to write a newsletter article. Yeah... that makes sense. As I see both my kids losing their minds

and unable to tell me what is wrong I find myself thinking: This is life right now. It doesn't feel like we know what we need. We all can tell what we *want*—normalcy, stability, security. Yet it doesn't feel like we know how this is going to happen. Variables, variants, varying ideas of how to proceed. It has me feeling like I want to sit with my girls and cry because *I* don't know how to proceed. Again, I know how I *want* to proceed, but is that what we *should* do?

August 13, 1727: the day that is called the Moravian Pentecost and a day of Spiritual Renewal. The day that the Moravian Church re-dedicated itself to mission work across the world. We traveled through Europe, through the Americas, and through island nations spreading the word of Jesus Christ to all. Despite the racial difficulties that we are uncovering, I believe that the people who went truly went because they had the love of God in their hearts and wanted to share that with others. We will discuss the racial difficulties at another time, promise.

I wonder how many people, prior to August 13, 1727 found themselves not knowing if they needed to be held or left alone? Did they need a hug? We tell the story of division within the Unitas Fratrum and how the Spirit came among the worshipping community and began to heal the divided community. They found this healing through bringing the word of God to others and by allowing themselves to be used as agents of God's work and love in the communities near them and far away.

There are two new items in our newsletter this month. One is about Moravian Missions Near and Far.

Sister Andrea Peart DeFlaviis was recently elected as the lay Eastern District Representative to the Board of World Mission. As the Board of World Mission meets, Sister Andrea will bring us the news of these meetings and our partners across the Unity. This month, we are introducing a new fundraiser for the Board of World Mission and the work that they do. Who wants to get their morning java jolt while also providing funds for missions across the world?

Locally, we know that we have many projects in which we are involved. Loads of Love, Fishes and Loaves, efforts of feeding, clothing and giving school supplies and presents to area kids are just a few of the items Sister Elsa Lucas works with for local mission opportunities. I give thanks that Sister Elsa and Brother Mel work and dedicate themselves to local missions and coordinating us to support the Riverside community. This year, Sister Elsa will be working on the Moravian Day of Service for our congregation. Sunday, September 19 we will be engaging in local mission experiences during our worship. Please see the mission page inside to read more about the Moravian Day of Service and our plans.

As we move through this still rocky and changing time, we know that the Holy Spirit continues to call us to step outside of ourselves and to serve others in God's name—through love. As we all figure out what we may need—hug, food, drink, community, or solitude—please know that we continue to move in faith, hope and love, with Christ at the center and as our foundation. Peace to you, beloveds in Christ. As you discern what you need, know people are praying for you and holding you in God's light. May we continue to journey together. **Amen.**

## Moravian Day of Service

The Moravian Day of Service helps raise awareness of the importance of mission work to the Moravian faith, encourage congregations to think of new ways to make a difference in their communities, and demonstrate our ability to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

This year's Moravian Day of Service is scheduled for **September 19, 2021**. We realize that because of Covid-19, whatever you do will need to be adapted to adjust to our new reality. Even in these difficult days, it does not take long to see the need for us to be serving one another and in our communities. You can schedule your actual service day whenever it is most convenient to you and the service site with whom you are working. But we do ask that you focus on mission and serving others in your worship services on this day.

The idea for the Moravian Day of Service sprang from the 2018 Synods of the Northern and Southern Provinces. The Synods recognized that coordinated efforts of Moravians can help engage others in service and ministry and raise awareness of the Gospel message; that Moravians have always celebrated their faith through service and mission work locally, regionally, and globally; and that Moravians derive a sense of common unity and identity from serving together and with others.

Synods resolved to set aside a day, every year, for individuals and congregations to get involved in mission work in their communities, and share their work across the Moravian Church in North America. Working in consultation with the Board of World Mission, the PECs of the Northern and Southern Provinces designated September 15, 2019, as the date for the inaugural Moravian Day of Service; the 2021 Day of Service will occur on Sunday, Sept. 19.

The Day of Service isn't a one-time thing but an annual event. It is not to replace the great local mission work already going on in our congregations. The Day of Service offers a chance to rethink how your congregation interacts with your community, and encourage you to make local missions an enduring part of your congregation's identity.

We have decided to participate in this program by packing Tabbie Bags and making cards to distribute to shut ins, a local Residential Caring Center or members of our congregation that we may have lost contact with during the pandemic.

In December 2018 we were able to answer Gods call by packing 40 bags to be distributed to the homeless in our area. If you have forgotten what a Tabbie Bag is, the information is included. Gallon plastic bags are needed for packing articles.

We will start collecting items on Sunday September 5 and prepare the bags during the 10:00am outdoor worship service on September 19 and making cards'. The cards will also be made during the 11:00am inside worship service.

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Rebecca or Elsa Lucas (609) 220-3269 or email [elsajolucas@yahoo.com](mailto:elsajolucas@yahoo.com). We can also make arrangements to pick up any items that you have.

"And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God."

## What is a TABBIE BAGS

We have decided to participate in this program by packing Tabbie Bags and making cards to distribute to shut ins, a local Residential Caring Center or members of our congregation that we may have lost contact with during the pandemic. In December 2018 we were able to answer God's call by packing 40 bags to be distributed to the homeless in our area. If you have forgotten what a *Tabbie Bag* is, the information is included. Gallon plastic bags are needed for packing articles. We will start collecting items on Sunday, September 5 and prepare the bags during the 10:00 a.m. outdoor worship service on September 19 and making cards. The cards will also be made during the 11:00 a.m. inside worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rebecca or Elsa Lucas (609-220-3269) or email [elsajolucas@yahoo.com](mailto:elsajolucas@yahoo.com). We can also make arrangements to pick up any items that you have.

*"And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.*

*These are the sacrifices that please God."*

Hebrews 13:16

Pop Up Pantry

AUGUST18, 2021

TO: CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS

FROM: Elsa and Mel Lucas and Outreach and Mission Committee

In March 2020 we set up a temporary food source during the Covid pandemic. Hahle Hall Foyer was designated as the area we could use during this crisis.

In September when schools reopen and, hopefully, we return to a "normal" schedule, Hahle Hall will return to regular use with Sunday School, VBS, Girl Scouts/Brownies, Hospitality Breakfast, Narcotics Anonymous, Tabby Bag preparation and distribution and other functions that have taken place before the Covid outbreak. Revenue has been lost by not being able to "rent out" HH. We can offer the use of Hahle Hall to the community for special occasions. We are very thankful for those members of our congregation who have kept us going by their support, donation of food, money and SR gift cards. Without their generosity and members of the community, Riverside School and local churches we could not exist. We cannot expect people to continue with this support if we were to be permanent; especially, our members who have gone above and beyond. It is with the Boards approval the Pop Up Pantry will close on Friday, September 3, 2021.

The regular daily clients come mainly for certain items (ie, rice, snacks, cereal, juice and fresh fruits and veggies when we have them and baby wipes). There are so many that are grateful for whatever we have. The idea that they get to select from a variety of food is a big plus. Some who do use other sources where boxes are just given out, return to us what they don't want and then choose goods they will use from the pantry.. We have made many friends over the past 16 months.

We have spoken with a few of our congregation who have been donors and supporters about staying open on a regular basis. They all feel that we have been here during the crisis and served many but Hahle Hall Foyer can no longer be used as permanent area for the distribution. There is no room for storing items. The steps and elevator area need to be cleared of any obstructions. Mel and I have to agree. Our mission has filled a temporary need for many. The church basement is no longer available to set up a two time a week pantry or even once a week.

The Outreach and Mission Committee with the support of our congregation does serve our community. For many years we have supported the Adopt A Village Program sponsored by the Board of World Missions of the Moravian Church. We serve our community with the Back to School Program for Riverside students, collect gifts/cards at Christmas with our Give a Christmas Tree (in 2020 we had a mitten/hat/scarf tree), VBS, Hospitality Breakfast, Loads of Love once a month at the local laundromat. We worked with Riverside School to help distribute free lunches for children. Although it did not pan out as well as we hoped, we tried. This past summer we held a Community Get Together on Wed. evenings once a month.

If we don't try new and maybe "off the wall" programs, we have already failed. So, let's brainstorm, NOW! We are asking for the congregational support for ideas on how to expand our outreach mission. At one time there was an active Pastoral Ministerium in our tri-city community. A discretionary fund was established to help those in a crisis be it with food, rent, paying bills, etc. That group does not exist at this time. How can we set up a life-line between our churches to notify a designated congregation/person when there is a need? Where will the funds come from to support such a project? Should we have a few boxes of non-perishable food and toilet articles available for emergency situations? Who would be responsible? Do we ask for donations of certain items? Are you available to sit in on a brain storming session? If not, we encourage you to jot down some ideas and submit to the committee.

THE MISSION FIELD IS OPEN.

WHERE?

HELLO! RIGHT HERE IN OUR BACKYARD. LET'S DO IT!

# **Board of WORLD MISSION**

## **Of the Moravian—North America**

### **Greetings from the Board of World Mission**

As we continue to prioritize directly funding specific needs and ministries as identified by our global partners, the Board of World Mission is excited to announce a brand new way for North American congregations and individuals to support our Mission Grants program. Moravian Mission Coffee is now available for preorder at [MoravianMissionCoffee.org](http://MoravianMissionCoffee.org), with each purchase supporting Mission Grants to Moravians around the world.

How can you help?

The attached “Mission Minute” for September helps individuals and congregations to learn more about how they can contribute to BWM Mission Grants just by switching their morning coffee of choice. This small change can make a big difference to improve the lives of our Moravian Brothers and Sisters in our partner provinces and mission areas.

Moravian Disaster Response to Earthquake Victims in Haiti

Board of World Mission Moravian Church

## Job Description—Church Office Administrator

### Company description

First Moravian Church Riverside, NJ

### Job Description

Office Administrator, part time (20 hours/week)

Pay: \$13—\$18/hour based on qualifications and experience

This position is both in person as well as remote.

The ideal candidate would be a person who is technically inclined and able to quickly pick up on software and hardware. An eye for design, details and a want to work on crafting new documents and communications is key for this position. Keeping confidence of individuals is required as the Church Administrator will be answering phone calls, scheduling pastoral visits and handling church documents and meeting minutes. This position is for a person who can work both on their own as well as on a team. We hope to hire a new administrator for a start date in October 2021. For a full job description or to submit your resume, please contact Colleen Lightfoot at 856-495-2093 or by via email at [peepsdriver1966@yahoo.com](mailto:peepsdriver1966@yahoo.com). All resumes must be received prior to September 13, 2021.

Rev. Rebecca J. Sisley

Pastor First Moravian Church o Riverside

Office: (856) 461-0132



Join Us For Rally Day  
September 12th, 2021  
9:00AM



Pancake/Waffle Bar & Fun Activities!!

Join us for the kick off of the Sunday School seson learning about lving a Compassionate Chrstian and our Moravian lifestyle and principles. (What is an essential? How do we know what is a ministerial? Can we really show love to all?)

Sunday school is open for Children of God of ages (0—99)

Questions?

Please Contact Lori Zataveski

(609)560-5315 or Karen Adams

(609) 440-0019



Have you ever wanted to read the Bible through in a year, but didn't know where to start or how to proceed? Here's an opportunity for you! Read through the Bible with individuals across the world in order to grow your Biblical literacy. Monday-Saturday, there are prescribed passages for your reading, about 6 chapters a day. Read it in a hard copy, or on your tablet, or listen to it on your phone or a podcast! However you wish to consume these words, go for it. Then, let's talk about it! A group of us will gather on the last Monday of the month to talk about what we have read that month and give encouragement and accountability to one another in our readings. Or, read it on your own! Either way, let's grow together in our biblical knowledge and understanding as we learn the scope of this sacred text. Readings begin on Monday September 6. Check your emails for video readings of the scriptures and a brief synopsis and grounding of information as we dive into a new book or section. Check out <https://biblereading.christkirk.com/> for complete details and other supports to help you through this challenge.

MON 6	Psalms 119
TUE 7	Genesis 1-3, John 1-3
WED 8	Genesis 4-7, John 4-5
THU 9	Genesis 8-11, John 6-7
FRI 10	Genesis 12-16, John 8-9
SAT 11	Genesis 17-20, John 10-11
MON 13	Genesis 21-24, John 12-13
TUE 14	Genesis 25-28, John 14-16
WED 15	Genesis 29-32, John 17
THU 16	Genesis 33-36, John 18-19
FRI 17	Genesis 37-41, John 20-21
SAT 18	Genesis 42-47
MON 20	Genesis 48-50, Psalm 31
TUE 21	Catch-Up Day (optional: 1 Corinthians 10, Acts 7, Hebrews 11)
WED 22	Leviticus 1-6
THU 23	Exodus 1-6
FRI 24	Exodus 7-13
SAT 25	Exodus 14-18, Psalm 90
MON 27	Exodus 19-21, Matthew 5-7
TUE 28	Exodus 22-25, Psalms 6, 146
WED 29	Exodus 26-32
THU 30	Exodus 33-38

I'm adding these into the list so that people can (if they want to) read ahead or read in between or whatever God tells them to do.

Sep 5	James 1:17-27
Sep 12	James 3:1-12
Sep 19	James 2:14-18, Matthew 25:31-40
Sep 26	TBD—The Rev. Jeff Van Orden preaching

## **Important Dates**

Sunday September 5      Baptism 9:00AM Service

Monday September 6      Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday September 7      DVCMC Meeting 7:00PM @ Riverside Moravian Church

Wednesday September 8 Youth Group @ Dobbins Methodist 6:30-8:00PM

Sunday September 12      Rally Day and Sunday School Kick off 9:00AM

Monday September 13      Christian Education Meeting 7:00PM

Tuesday-Friday September 14-17    Rebecca in Atlanta for Racial Justice Pilgrimage

Wednesday September 15 Youth Group @ Dobbins Methodist 6:30-8:00PM

Sunday September 19      Walk about after church

Monday September 20      Joint Board Meeting 7:00PM

Tuesday September 21      Yoga 8:00PM

Wednesday September 22 Youth Group @ Dobbins Methodist 6:30-8:00PM

Saturday September 25      Riverside Community Day 1:00-5:00PM

Tuesday September 28      Yoga 8:00PM

Wednesday September 29 Together We Build Community Event 6:00-8:00PM

Once the Joint Board meets on the 16th we will have a better game plan for what worship is going to look like for the fall as well as meetings and gatherings. This is just information that I know will happen and we will move from there. I will have information about Bible readings and studies, how to pray for the Racial Justice Pilgrimage to you this week.

### Board of Elders

Rev. Rebecca Sisley Pastor  
Kathie Shaffer Vice Chair [2021]  
Hope Sanderson, Secretary (2023)  
Dale Lucas (2021)  
Sharon Clauss (2021)  
Nick Zataveski (2023)

### Board of Trustees

Jason Pippin, President [2023]  
Rich Dreydoppel, Vice President (2023)  
Ben Lightfoot, Secretary (2021)  
Andrea DeFlaviis [2021]  
Diane Schroeder (2023)

\*Kathy Shaffer, Treasurer

\*Anne Wallace, Financial Secretary

\*Not a member of the Board

### Congregational Watchword for 2020

***How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity? For there the Lord ordained his blessing life for evermore. Psalm 133:1,3***

The Joint Board of First Moravian Church has the following updates for our congregation based on our August 17th meeting:

>As is our custom for Rally Day and the kick-off of the program year, Sunday School will begin in person outdoors at 9:00AM. An outdoor service will be held at 10AM, followed by indoor service at 11AM. At this time, we will continue to encourage masking for all people, regardless of vaccine status, for the indoor service with limited congregational singing. The church's nursery will not be available during services. Children should stay with their designated childcare provider and all children over 2 should be masked. Zoom worship will still be available for those who are unable to gather in person. Services can also be found on our webpage. Starting August 29, we will also be streaming both services directly to Facebook Live on the First Moravian account.

>Because of concerns of the Delta Variant, we are not permitting outside groups to utilize our spaces. This includes, but is not limited to, the Girl Scouts and Narcotics Anonymous. We also will not be allowing the use of the buildings for outside events such as baby showers, bridal showers or other parties.

>Small groups directly connected to First Moravian Church, or the Assembly of God congregation, are permitted to use both Hahle Hall as well as the sanctuary building. We recommend that no more than 20 people at a time gather in the basement of Hahle Hall and that physical distancing and masking is observed at all times. On days that the weather is not favorable, Sunday School will meet in the basement of Hahle Hall instead of outside. Zoom will be available for those who do not feel comfortable gathering indoors. Pastor Rebecca will continue to have devotional yoga in the basement of Hahle Hall and small group Bible studies and book studies will be offered in person and on Zoom.

>As we prepare for the use of Hahle Hall for small groups, the Pop-Up Pantry led by Mel and Elsa Luas and supported by the generosity of many members will be disbanding. We look for ways to continue to support individuals experiencing food insecurity and will continue to explore these options. The hospitality breakfast connected to the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry will be open and running in the fall and winter to provide warm meals for members of our community.

The Joint Board will continue to take the ever changing information on a month to month basis as we are aware that information changes quickly. On August 6 2021, the Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, President of the Provincial Elders Conference, wrote in a letter to the Northern Province congregations this:

*I pray that each of us—and all of us—adopt a similar posture of patient, prayerful work as we continue our journey through the ever-evolving situation with COVID-19. I had hoped that my May 18 letter would be the last one I would have to write about COVID guidelines. Sadly, the surge of new infections and hospitalizations due to the delta variant means that we are not yet able to Move into a post-COVID world. While I hope it will not be necessary, it is quite possible that I will be writing yet another letter with the guidance that you cease in-person worship and gatherings. I am aware that many (if not all) of you are exhausted by the need to make decisions and protocols on gathering for worship and other activities because of the ever-changing situation with COVID. I am confident, however, that you and the leaders of your congregations are so committed to the health and wellbeing of the whole community that you will remain patient and prayerful in your work in this area. Thank you. In the midst of all that we are urged not to do, I invite you to be grateful for what we can do. It has been a joy to be with people in person and worship in community with brothers and sisters in Christ*

May we continue in patient, prayerful, perseverance in this time. May grace abound and may we show God's constant love to all. May we support one another and uphold each other in prayer as we are called to do by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One day we will return to something that feels more "normal" but at this time, we wait patiently until that can be done for all.

In Christian Partnership and Care,

The Joint Board



# **Fall Hours**

**Sunday School September 12, 2021 Outside**

**Indoors September 12, 2021 11:00AM**

**Outside 10:00AM**

**Worship Services On Zoom**

**Meeting ID 852 9437 9849**

**Password 285008**



## **Updating Telephone Directory**

Since things are opening up I would like to update our directory.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

NAMES AND AGES OF CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD:

BEST WAY TO BE CONTACTED:

Can be sent to church office via email: [riversidemoravianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:riversidemoravianchurch@gmail.com) or put into the collection plate



Youth Group will be meeting Dobbins United Methodist Church in Delanco on Wednesday's at 6:30—8:00PM



## September

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 - Kurt Clauss      | 20 - Mark Clauss        |
| 4 - Shivonne Roney   | 20 - Kimberly Clauss    |
| 6 - Joan Wright      | 22 - Danielle Bush      |
| 8 - Daniel McGee     | 22 - Taylor McGee       |
| 14 - Peggy Shinn     | 23 - Sharon Clauss      |
| 15 - Chad Czarzasty  | 23 - Rob Smith, Jr.     |
| 15 - Reba Kohn       | 27 - Harry Buzard       |
| 15 - Jim Mollineaux  | 27 - Kimberly Neely     |
| 15 - Chris Valentine | 28 - Ariel Szymanski    |
| 17 - Maggie McGee    | 28 - Alex Sisley        |
| 18 - Brandon McGee   | 30 - Benjamin Lightfoot |



- Sep. 23 Mike & Hope Sanderson  
Sep 30 Jim & Doreen Mollineaux

*Please note: If you have additions or corrections to either list for future newsletters please call Ginny at the church office (856) 461-0132*

**Please Remember in Prayer . . .**

**. . . . Those With Special Needs**

Eleanor Barnes	Jackie Young	Carol Stamets
Dolly Besegli	Bryanna	Susan Hackett
Rev. Richard Bruckart	Diane Renner	Celeste Taylor
Pat Chapman	Jeff Pippin	Rick Bulicki
Esther Flizak	Roger Stillman	Chris Shafer
Baby Beckett Williams	Mary	Louis
Greg Coe	Corrine Murphy	Bill Buzard
Marge Henderson	Chrissy Lucas	Nello DeFlavis
Pamala McLaughlin	Tyler Kohn	Olga Olhovsky
Walter Simmons	Family of Tyra Lyon	Rev. George Richmond
Wally Zataveski	Bob Calhoun	Jean Markovitz
Jim Libby	Bernard & Family	Hale
Barbara Stanley	Jim Libby	Michael Hutchinson
Mark Zataveski	Lili Meyers	Ryan
State & County	Students of Delran	Rick Jones
Susan Mendoza	Fallon George	Karen Adams
Donna Damalas	Christina DeFlece	Lisa Valentine
Employees of Target	Ken Pippin & family	Family of Kevin/Becky Harney & Morgan Family
Baptist Home	Family of Dorothy Rabb	Family of Joyce Brader
Tamika Fritz	Marggy Schoeneberger	Joint Boards
Mike Sanderson	Terry LoStracco	Bill McGrady

**. . Our Home-Bound Friends**

Joan Wright - Masonic Home

The Boards and Committees of The First Moravian Church, Riverside and the boards of the wider Moravian Church	The Eastern District Executive Board
The Norther Province Provincial Elders Conference	The Western District Executive Board
	The Canadian District Executive Board

***To add, update, or remove a name from the Prayer List, please use a written slip from the back of the sanctuary. Names will be retained on the prayer list until the requester asks they be removed, or for 4 weeks after the last written update. received.  
Thanks for helping to keep the prayer list accurate and current.***