



MARCH 2024

THE LAMPLIGHTER

YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

WILL YOU TRUST ME NOW?

SOME OF OUR MEMBERS MAY REMEMBER ME PREACHING ABOUT THE CRISIS POINTS IN OUR LIVES WHEN I THOUGHT I HEARD THE LORD SAYING, "WILL YOU TRUST ME NOW, STEVE?" WHEN KATHIE SUFFERED A STROKE EARLIER THIS MONTH AND WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL WAS CERTAINLY A TIME FOR THIS QUESTION. I WAS FEARFUL AND ANXIOUS. MY MOTHER SUFFERED A STROKE AND SPENT THE LAST TEN YEARS OF HER LIFE IN A NURSING HOME. SHE WAS MISERABLE. YOU CAN PROBABLY IMAGINE WHAT WENT THROUGH MY MIND WHEN KATHIE RECEIVED THE SAME DIAGNOSIS. OH NO, STROKE! BUT, INSTEAD OF ASKING "WILL YOU TRUST ME NOW?" I THOUGHT THE LORD WAS SIMPLY SAYING, "YOU NEED TO TRUST ME, STEVE..."

I HAVE TRIED TO TRUST THE LORD TO LEAD, GUIDE, PROTECT AND PROVIDE MANY TIMES THROUGH THE YEARS BUT I'VE DISCOVERED THAT JUST BECAUSE I TRUSTED HIM TWENTY YEARS AGO, OR TRUSTED HIM LAST YEAR, DOESN'T MEAN I WILL AUTOMATICALLY TRUST HIM AGAIN THIS TIME. IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF YOU AND I MADE THIS DECISION AND IT WAS ONE AND DONE, IF WE COULD TRUST OUR LIVES TO THE LORD ONCE FOR ALL TIME AND THAT SETTLED IT, THAT WE NEVER HAD TO MAKE THE DECISION TO TRUST THE LORD AGAIN. BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS, AT LEAST FOR ME. TRUSTING GOD IS AN ACT WHICH NEEDS TO BE DONE OVER AND OVER AGAIN, EVERY SINGLE DAY. AND NOW I FIND THAT MY WORST FEARS HAVE NOT MATERIALIZED, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO KATHIE'S COMING HOME WITHIN A FEW DAYS. BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT SOMEDAY, SHE WILL NOT RETURN TO ME, OR I WILL NOT RETURN TO HER, BUT WE WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE FOR A MORE PERMANENT HOME. AND SOMEDAY (I HOPE IN THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE) OUR PRAYERS FOR HER HEALING, OR MY HEALING WILL BE ANSWERED BY THE LORD'S DECISION NOT TO HEAL FROM ILLNESS BUT TO CALL US HOME TO THE LORD. WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I HOPE I CAN STILL TRUST THE LORD.

I HOPE I WILL NOT BE LIKE THE FRIEND WHO CRIES OUT, "WHY GOD?" WHEN HER MUCH-LOVED HUSBAND, A GOOD CHRISTIAN MAN, IS TERRIBLY ILL. I REMEMBER STRUGGLING WITH THE SAME QUESTION YEARS AGO WHEN MY MOTHER HAD SO MANY PHYSICAL AILMENTS. WHY DO GOOD PEOPLE SUFFER? WHY DOESN'T GOD ONLY AFFLICT THE BAD ONES? IN SEMINARY I WROTE A ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-PAGE PAPER ABOUT THE QUESTION, "IS THERE A CHRISTIAN ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING?" JESUS ADDRESSED THIS IN MATTHEW 5:45, WHEN HE SAID, "FOR YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN MAKES THE SUN RISE ON THE EVIL AND THE GOOD AND SENDS RAIN ON THE JUST AND THE UNJUST." IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION TO CONSIDER IF IT RAINED ON THE FIELDS OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS, AND NOT ON THE FIELDS OF UNBELIEVERS, EVERY FARMER WOULD WANT TO BE CHRISTIAN, BUT FOR THE WRONG REASON.

THE LORD DOES NOT SPARE US FROM THE NORMAL PROBLEMS OF LIFE, BUT HE DOES TELL US THAT HE WILL NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US, AND THAT WHEN WE WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, HE WILL BE THERE AND COMFORT US. ST. PAUL WROTE TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO TO THE CHRISTIANS LIVING WITH PERSECUTION IN ROME, "*FOR I AM PERSUADED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR POWERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.*" (ROMANS 8:38-39) THIS IS OUR HOPE AS CHRISTIANS. THIS IS MY HOPE.

STEVE NICHOLAS JR.



LUKE 24:46

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

46 HE TOLD THEM, "THIS IS WHAT IS WRITTEN: THE MESSIAH WILL SUFFER
AND RISE FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY,

Happy Easter!

ELDERS NEWS

THE ELDERS MET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM. WORSHIP SERVICES WERE REVIEWED. THE SCHEDULE FOR GUEST PASTORS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH WAS DISCUSSED. PASTORAL CARE FOR OUR SHUT-INS WERE REVIEWED. A JOINT BOARD MEETING WAS HELD WITH REV. MELISSA JOHNSON ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT FIRST REGARDING POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR PASTOR. FINAL CONTRACT FOR CLIFF BERGSTRESSER TO BECOME A PART-TIME LAY PASTOR WAS APPROVED. REV. MELISSA JOHNSON WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR CLIFF ON SUNDAY, MARCH 3. CHURCH PICNIC AT MUSSERS GROVE WAS PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 1. THE COST FOR THE RENTAL AND CHICKEN WILL BE PAID FOR FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FUND. SAYWARD REQUESTED TO PURCHASE THE SENSORY ROOM EQUIPMENT FOR LITITZ. COST TO BE DISCUSSED. INSTALLATION OF THE BOARDS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10. PLEASE PRAY FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRST AND COVENANT AND FOR ALL CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.

TRUSTEES NEWS

THE TRUSTEES MET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM. ACTIVE PROJECTS FOR THE PARSONAGE, ANNEX, AND CHURCH WERE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS REPAIRS THAT CAN BE COMPLETED AT A LATER TIME. APPROVAL WAS GIVEN FOR LITITZ TO HAVE THE SENSORY ROOM EQUIPMENT AT NO COST SINCE IT WAS PAID FOR BY GRANTS. THEY JUST NEED TO PICK IT UP. WANDA REVIEWED THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH. THE NEXT WORKDAY WILL BE IN APRIL. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 26 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.



A SYNOD DELEGATE IS NEEDED TO REPRESENT YORK FIRST MORAVIAN AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT SYNOD ON JUNE 26TH - 29TH. CLIFF BERGSTRESSER WILL NOW BE IN ATTENDANCE AS PASTOR FOR FIRST. PLEASE LET CLIFF OR STEVE KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER AS DELEGATE FOR OUR CHURCH. THANK YOU.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- 3/24 - PALM SUNDAY AND CHURCH 272ND ANNIVERSARY LOVEFEAST**
- 3/28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AT FIRST**
- 3/31 - EASTER SUNDAY**

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM
SUNDAYS 2/4/2024 - 2/25/2024**

\$5,685.00 GENERAL FUND
197.00 REFURBISHING FUND
50.00 PARKING RENTAL
1,000.00 PARSONAGE RENTAL
306.19 PARSONAGE UTILITIES PAID INCOME

\$7,238.19 TOTAL INCOME FOR FEBRUARY

\$8,806.88 TOTAL EXPENSES FOR FEBRUARY



March Birthdays

- 1 Wanda Hendricks
- 3 Sadie Wurzbach
- 5 River Robinson
- 7 Pastor Sayward Lippincott*
- 10 Bob Taylor
- 11 Alianna Saylor
- 19 Hayley Teal
- 24 Chloe Senft
- 25 Sharon Saylor
- 26 Pyper Robinson
- 29 Jemon Grant*
- 30 John Rohrer



Please contact any of the Elders for Pastoral needs:

- Steve Nicholas - 717-755-7412
- John Knokey - 717-848-9220
- Keith Rishel - 717-472-6793
- Jeannette Sprengle - 717-424-5636
- Kasi Steinbrenner - 717-965-2032

March Anniversaries

- 16 Samuel & Jaylynn Pauley
- 24 Clair & Ruth Seiple



Prayer Concerns

- Mary Jones
- Kathie Nicholas
- Karrie Rishel
- Cliff Rowell
- Ruth & Clair Seiple
- Jemon Grant
- Gary Paules
- Elaine Patrick

March Schedule for Guest Pastors

- 3/3 - Cliff Bergstresser - Installation
Service for Cliff as Lay Pastor
- 3/10 - Rev. Terry Folk
- 3/17 - Rev. Carol Dague
- 3/24 - Rev. Steve Nicholas - Palm
Sunday & Anniversary Lovefeast
- 3/28 - Cliff Bergstresser - Maundy
Thursday Service Communion
- 3/31 - Rev. Terry Folk - Easter

Did you know...

We have an online giving portal! If you prefer to worship via Zoom you can send your offering online!

Just go to:

- mmfa.info
- click Giving Portal at the top
- Click 'F' and select First Moravian Church - York, PA

If you prefer to mail your offering, you can send it direct to:

Wanda Hendricks
3715 Fox Chase Drive
Dover, PA 17315

First Moravian Church
39 North Duke Street
York, PA 17401

717-843-2239

www.yorkfirstmoravian.org



2024 Watchword

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13