

# THE LAMPLIGHTER YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

## THE HERE AND NOW

I WANT TO THANK MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO HAVE JOINED US HERE TODAY, BOTH HERE IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM. THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY INDEED FOR ME. I'M PRETTY SURE IF YOU ASKED ME THREE YEARS AGO WOULD I BE STANDING UP FRONT HERE BEING INSTALLED AS A LAY PASTOR, I WOULD SAY YOU ARE DAFFY. THAT SAID, ABOUT A YEAR AGO I TOLD MELISSA JOHNSON THAT IF THE FLEMMINGS TURNED US DOWN, I WOULD MAKE MYSELF AVAILABLE TO BE A PARTTIME LAY PASTOR FOR FIRST AND COVENANT MORAVIAN. SINCE I HAD BEEN PREACHING MONTHLY FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS AND WAS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE CROSSROAD PROGRAM, I WAS READY. THE NEXT DAY AFTER I TOLD MELISSA THIS, THE FLEMMINGS CONFIRMED THAT THEY ACCEPTED OUR CALL. IF I TOLD YOU I WAS A LITTLE RELIEVED AND ALSO DISAPPOINTED, WOULD THAT SURPRISE YOU? I AM AFTER ALL JUST AS HUMAN AS THE REST OF YOU, MAYBE JUST A LITTLE ANXIOUS. BUT GOD HAS A FUNNY WAY OF CALLING ME. SHORTLY AFTER THIS MELISSA APPROACHED ME ABOUT BEING WILLING TO BE A LAY PASTOR AT TRINITY MORAVIAN IN PG COUNTY MARYLAND. A FORTY-MILE DRIVE FROM DAMASCUS THROUGH WASHINGTON DC TRAFFIC. I SAID LET ME PRAY ON IT OVER THE WEEKEND AND THEN ASK MY WIFE. I'M NOT SURE WHY I HAD ANY DOUBTS ABOUT MY WIFE MJ BEING ON BOARD. I BELIEVE SHE SAID SHE SAW THIS COMING FOR MANY YEARS. THEN THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, ALL THOSE YEARS AS A LAY PERSON PRACTICING MY FAITH AND HOURS AND HOURS AWAY FROM HOME, SHE NEVER COMPLAINED. THANK YOU, MJ. THAT SAID, I HIT ANOTHER BUMP IN THE ROAD. WE HAD MET WITH TRINITY MORAVIAN'S JOINT BOARD AND I FELT THIS WAS A LOVING CONGREGATION AND I COULD DO THIS. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF THEM DECIDING WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO, THEY FOUND AN ORDAINED PASTOR. DEJA VU, ANOTHER FALSE START. LITTLE DID I EVER EXPECT THE FLEMMINGS TO LAST ONLY 60 DAYS AND GUESS WHAT, FOR A THIRD TIME I WAS IN THE RUNNING TO BECOME A LAY PASTOR. FOR ME, THIS HAS BEEN A LONG PATH IN MY FAITH JOURNEY TO BECOMING YOUR LAY PASTOR, AT LEAST THE LAST 25 YEARS. I FEEL VERY HONORED TO TAKE ON THIS ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY. I AM COMMITTED TO SEEING THIS THROUGH.

TODAY'S MESSAGE IS BASED ON WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY RECENTLY COMPLETED SEMESTER ON DISCIPLESHIP AT THE MORAVIAN SEMINARY CROSSROAD PROGRAM. THE SERMON TODAY IS CALLED "THE HERE AND NOW" OF DISCIPLESHIP. IN THAT THEME I WILL ADDRESS THESE THREE THINGS; **FEAR, WILLINGNESS TO TRANSFORM, AND WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.**

LET US PRAY.

DEAR GOD, PLEASE BE WITH ME TODAY AS I SHARE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST. MAY THE CONGREGATION HAVE OPEN EARS, HEARTS, AND MINDS AS WE EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO ACCEPT OUR CALLINGS. DURING THIS TIME IN LENT, WE SHOULD BE ENGAGED WITH SELF-EXAMINATION, REPENTANCE, AND RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FAITH. GIVE US THE STRENGTH TO SEE THAT THROUGH. IN JESUS LOVING NAME WE PRAY, AMEN.

### **MAIN THEME ONE: FEAR**

I WANT TO START WITH A JOKE. THERE WAS A MORAVIAN BISHOP, MORAVIAN ORDAINED PASTOR, AND MORAVIAN LAY PASTOR FISHING IN BOAT. AT ONE POINT THE BISHOP WANTED TO GET A DRINK OF WATER. AFTER SAYING A FEW PRAYERS, HE STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT AND WALKED ACROSS THE WATER. LATER HE RETURNED WALKING ACROSS THE WATER AND GOT BACK INTO THE BOAT. A SHORT TIME LATER THE ORDAINED PASTOR WAS ALSO THIRSTY, HE TOO SAID A FEW PRAYERS, GOT OUT OF THE BOAT AND WALKED ACROSS THE WATER. LATER HE ALSO RETURNED WALKING ACROSS THE WATER AND GOT BACK INTO THE BOAT. FINALLY, THE LAY PASTOR WAS ALSO THIRSTY AND AFTER WITNESSING THE BISHOP AND ORDAINED PASTOR, ALSO SAID A PRAYER AND STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT. IMMEDIATELY HE WENT UNDER, CLIMBING BACK INTO THE BOAT, HE PRAYED HARDER AND WHEN FINISHED STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT AND WENT UNDER AGAIN. FINALLY, THE LAY PASTOR PRAYED AS HARD AS HE COULD AND WHEN HE WENT OVER

GUNWALE, WENT UNDER A THIRD TIME. AS HE CLIMBED BACK INTO THE BOAT FEELING RATHER DEJECTED, THE BISHOP SAID TO THE ORDAINED PASTOR. DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD TELL HIM WHERE THE ROCKS ARE?

TODAY'S FIRST READING FROM MATTHEW IS THE STORY ABOUT PETER AND WALKING ON WATER. THERE IS A STORM AND JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER TOWARDS THE DISCIPLES. PETER CALLS OUT TO JESUS AND JESUS TELLS HIM TO WALK ON THE WATER TOWARDS HIM. PETER GETS OUT OF THE BOAT AND STARTS WALKING ON THE WATER, BUT QUICKLY REALIZES THERE IS A STORM, SELF-DOUBT KICKS IN, AND HE STARTS TO SINK. HE SINKS BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID. THAT FEAR GRIPPED HIM EVEN THOUGH THE LORD WAS THERE WITH HIM. AND SO IT IS WITH OURSELVES. WE FEAR THE UNKNOWN AND HAVE SELF-DOUBT, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH US. BACK ON MLK SUNDAY PASTOR MARION HAYNES-WELLER PREACHED TO US ABOUT "THE CALL". IF YOU RECALL, SHE TALKED ABOUT HAVING GONE THROUGH FOUR YEARS OF HER UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL AND THREE YEARS AT SEMINARY INCLUDING AN INTERNSHIP, AND HERE SHE WAS PREACHING HER FIRST SERMON AT HER NEW CHURCH AND HAVING SELF-DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER SHE HAD THE RIGHT STUFF. DOUBTING HERSELF ABOUT THE DECISION SHE MADE TO BE AN ORDAINED PASTOR. FEARFUL THAT SHE MAY MESS UP AND NOT BE VERY GOOD AT DELIVERING HER MESSAGE. THE GOOD NEWS IS SHE PERSEVERED AND PUT HER FAITH IN GOD TO GIVE HER THE STRENGTH TO GET THROUGH THIS. NOT UNLIKE MYSELF A FEW MINUTES AGO ASKING GOD TO GIVE ME THE SAME STRENGTHEN. SHE WAS REMINDING US TO PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD. THAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER, THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE, THAT GOD IS HERE FOR US. TO BE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST AND NOT LET FEAR GET IN THE WAY. YOU JUST NEED A LITTLE FAITH AS THE SAYING GOES. OR AS FDR FAMOUS QUOTE STATED, "NOTHING TO FEAR, BUT FEAR ITSELF".

**MAIN THEME TWO: WILLINGNESS TO BE TRANSFORMED**

OUR SECOND SCRIPTURE WAS FROM PAUL AND IS TITLED "SPIRITUAL GIFTS: UNITY IN DIVERSITY". AS ONLY PAUL CAN DO IT IN HIS RATHER POETIC MANNER, HE TALKS ABOUT WHAT IS DEFINED IN OUR CALLINGS. HE SAYS, IT IS THE SAME SPIRIT, JUST DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES. IT'S THE SAME LORD, BUT DIFFERENT TALENTS. THAT GOD GAVE US DIFFERENT GIFTS TO FULFILL HIS WILL. WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF DOING IT OR WHAT I CALL COMMITMENT. BUT THIS COMMITMENT OF GIFTS GOES FURTHER THAN THIS. TO BECOME THAT DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, YOU MUST BE WILLING TO BE TRANSFORMED TO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST. TO GIVE UP OUR WAY AND ACCEPT CHRIST'S WAY. I'M SURE YOU MAY HAVE SEEN THE GRAPH ON OUR WAY VS GOD'S WAY BEFORE. OUR WAY IN LIFE IS THE STRAIGHT AND LEVEL, EASY, NO CHALLENGES, THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE. GOD'S WAY HAS HILLS, PITS, RAVINES, AND BOULDERS. IT'S NOT AN EASY PATH AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT HARD. NO ONE SAID IT WOULD BE EASY, BUT GOD'S WAY DOES LEAD US TO HOPE, JOY, LOVE, AND ULTIMATELY SALVATION. TO TRANSFORM OURSELVES TO BE LIKE CHRIST. THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER HERE IS WE NEED TO BE WILLING, GOD WILL THEM MAKE THE TRANSFORMATION.

**MAIN THEME THREE: WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE**

THE FINAL SCRIPTURE IS ALSO FROM MATTHEW, AND IT'S CALLED THE GREAT COMMISSIONING. AS YOU HEARD THE READING TODAY, JESUS IS GIVING THE DISCIPLES THEIR LAST INSTRUCTIONS TO CREATE DISCIPLES, BAPTIZE THEM IN GOD THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, PLUS TEACH THEM ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. REMEMBER DISCIPLE MEANS STUDENT. AT THIS POINT THE DISCIPLES HAVE BECOME THE APOSTLES OR WHAT MEAN TEACHER. THEY HAVE TRANSITIONED FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER. MY LAST THEME IS BASED ON "WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE". THE DISCIPLES SPENT SEVERAL YEARS WITH HANDS ON EDUCATION WITH OUR SAVIOR. HE WAS PREPARING THEM FOR THE DAY WHEN THEY WOULD BECOME TEACHERS. THE SAME GOES FOR US. IN AMERICAN SOCIETY I HEAR THIS OFTEN ABOUT MY SPIRITUALITY AND THAT I DON'T NEED CHURCH. I'M SURE SOME OF YOU HAVE SEEN THIS PICTURE OF A FISHBOWL AND FISH OUTSIDE OF THE BOWL. THE FISH NO LONGER CONTAINED IN THE BOWL, BEING FREE TO THINK WHAT YOU WANT AND NOT HAVE THE CHURCH DEFINE FAITH. AND NOT JUST CHURCH, BUT THE BIBLE ALSO. THIS IS A LITTLE SCARY IF YOU ARE CHRISTIAN. HOW THEN DO YOU DEFINE YOUR FAITH? HOW DO YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU GOT IT RIGHT? DOES THE TERM LEARNING IN A VACUUM MEAN ANYTHING? FURTHERMORE, THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. CHURCH IS DEFINED IN MATTHEW AS "FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE HAVE GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME, I AM THERE IN THEIR MIDST." OR ALSO IN MATTHEW THAT JESUS SAID TO PETER "ON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD THE CHURCH". JESUS IS TELLING US WE NEED TO DO THIS TOGETHER.

A CHURCH THAT IS NOT ONLY A PLACE AS A SUPPORT GROUP FOR US ALL, BUT ALSO A PLACE FOR LEARNING, SHARING, AND INSPIRING. JUST IMAGE JESUS SENDING PETER OUT AS AN APOSTLE WHEN HE FIRST MET HIM. THE SAME PETER WHO CONSTANTLY GOT IT WRONG, FOR THOSE MANY YEARS WITH OUR LORD. I'M PRETTY SURE HE WOULD HAVE FAILED. BUT HE LEARNED AND GREW IN HIS FAITH AND, IN THE END, BECAME THAT ROCK OF THE CHURCH. TRANSITIONING FROM DISCIPLE TO APOSTLE. STUDENT TO TEACHER. JUST REMEMBER THAT IN THE CHURCH, IT'S OKAY FOR US TO DISAGREE. THAT SAID, IN THE ESSENTIALS, TO HAVE UNITY. THE NON-ESSENTIALS, TO HAVE LIBERTY, AND IN ALL THINGS LOVE.

IN THIS SEASON OF LENT, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE YOUR SELF-EXAMINATION, MAY YOU CONSIDER THAT YOU TAKE TO HEART THESE THEMES. THAT BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, A CALLING OF FAITH, NO MATTER WHAT GIFTS OR TALENTS, THAT YOU WILL ASK FOR GOD'S STRENGTH TO CONTROL YOUR FEAR, WILLINGNESS TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF, AND EMBRACE THAT WE CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. NOW YOU MAY BE ASKING WHAT ABOUT MY TITLE OF THE MESSAGE TODAY, THE HERE AND NOW. I LEFT THIS FOR THE END. LATELY MY WHOLE LIFE DIRECTION HAS BEEN ABOUT THE HERE AND NOW. WITH THE LOSS OF SOME OF MY FRIENDS RECENTLY, I REALIZE MY OWN IMMORTALITY HERE ON EARTH IS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR. NOW IS THE TIME TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS FAITH JOURNEY, THE TIME IS HERE AND NOW. DON'T PUSH IT TO TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY. AND EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT A SENIOR, THERE IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO BE THAT DISCIPLE OF CHRIST. LET US PRAY.

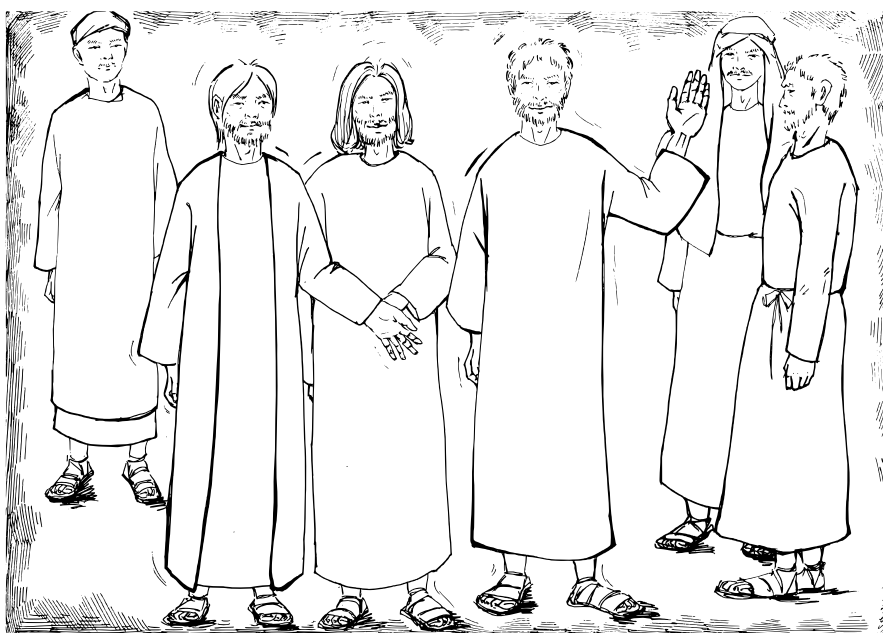
**A PRAYER FOR FAITHFUL DISCIPLESHIP:**

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE COME BEFORE YOU IN AWE AND ADORATION, PRAISING YOU FOR YOUR GLORY AND MAJESTY. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AND WE DESIRE TO SEE YOUR GLORY EXTEND ACROSS THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

LORD, WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE FALLEN SHORT OF YOUR STANDARD. WE HAVE FAILED TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. WE HAVE ALLOWED FEAR TO RULE US, TO DECIDE TO TAKE OUR PATH INSTEAD OF YOURS, AND FEEL WE KNOW IT ALL. FORGIVE US FOR OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND HELP US TO TRULY REPENT OUR SINS.

WE SURRENDER OURSELVES TO THE LEADING OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, ASKING FOR GUIDANCE, WISDOM, AND STRENGTH AS WE STRIVE TO FOLLOW YOUR WILL. IN JESUS' NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

BY CLIFF BERGSTRESSER  
INSTALLATION SUNDAY  
MARCH 3, 2024



## ELDERS NEWS

THE ELDERS MET ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 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. CLIFF WILL BE CONTACTING MEMBERS TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF AND CHECKING WITH PARENTS TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST IN FAITH FORMATION CLASSES FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH. CLIFF SPOKE WITH COVENANT ABOUT POSSIBLY HOLDING A VBS JOINTLY. THEY WILL LET US KNOW AFTER THEIR NEXT ELDERS MEETING. CLIFF LED A DISCUSSION ON IDEAS FOR OUR CHURCH TO DO TO REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY. PLEASE PRAY FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRST AND COVENANT AND FOR ALL CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 14 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.

## TRUSTEES NEWS

THE TRUSTEES MET ON TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 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. RECEIVING QUOTES FOR WINDOWS REPLACEMENT IN CHURCH AND QUOTES FOR LIGHTING REPLACEMENTS. WANDA REVIEWED THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH DETAILING INCOME AND EXPENSES. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 28 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.



Please pray for Irelyn Sprenkle who is 10 years old and was recently diagnosed with kidney cancer. She is the granddaughter of Lance and Diane Sprenkle and daughter of Kyle and Emily Sprenkle.

*Thank you for your prayers!*

**TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM  
SUNDAYS 3/31/2024 - 4/28/2024**

\$ 5,840.75 GENERAL FUND

185.00 REFURBISHING FUND

60.00 EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

11.75 FLOWER FUND (EASTER FLOWERS)

\$ 6,097.50 OFFERING INCOME

50.00 PARKING RENTAL

1,000.00 PARSONAGE RENTAL

400.00 PARSONAGE UTILITIES PAID INCOME

300.00 DONATION FOR USE OF FELLOWSHIP ON 4/20

27.50 TRUIST BANK VISA REWARDS CHECK

\$ 1,777.50 OTHER INCOME

\$ 7,875.00 **TOTAL "INCOME" FOR APRIL**

\$16,132.04 **TOTAL "EXPENSES" FOR APRIL \*\***

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE** - THERE WAS A WATER ISSUE AT THE PARSONAGE (DUE TO EXCESSIVE RAIN AND SUMP PUMP FAILURE). EXPENSES FOR WATER DAMAGE WERE \$7,459.36. ALSO, REAL ESTATE TAXES WERE PAID IN APRIL AMOUNTING TO \$2,560.40.





## May Birthdays

- 2 Melissa Wurzbach
- 10 Diane Sprengle
- 12 Mary Louise Fetrow\*
- 13 Brielle Saylor  
John Knokey
- 15 Rick Lehigh\*
- 17 Farrah Robinson
- 18 Paul Minnich
- 23 Brock Shealy
- 25 Terrence Downs\*  
David Rishel\*
- 26 Kyle Sprengle  
Kayden Rishel\*
- 29 Cody Martin  
Abigail Wurzbach



## May Anniversaries

- 18 Joseph & Mona Kotchmar\*
- 20 Lance & Diane Sprengle
- 21 Cody & Kathryn Martin



## Prayer Concerns

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

## For Pastoral needs, please contact:

**Cliff Bergstresser - 301-466-3775**

## or any of the Elders:

- 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

## May Schedule for Guest Pastors

- 5/5 - Rev. Carol Dague
- 5/12 - Rev. Terry Folk
- 5/19 - Lay Pastor Cliff Bergstresser  
(Communion for Pentecost)
- 5/26 - Rev. Terry Folk

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](http://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](http://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