



# THE LAMPLIGHTER

## YORK FIRST MORAVIAN

### EMBRACING THE HOLY SPIRIT

HELLO MY FELLOW MORAVIANS. WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE LONGEST SEASON IN THE CHURCH CALENDAR, PENTECOST. MAYBE I SHOULD SAY HAPPY PENTECOST. BEFORE I DIVE INTO MY MESSAGE TODAY, I WANT TO PICK UP ON WHAT CAROL PREACHED ABOUT A COUPLE SUNDAYS AGO. HER MESSAGE WAS ABOUT UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. I JUST COMPLETED MY SPRING SEMESTER AT THE CROSSROADS PROGRAM LEARNING ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT. IN CAROL'S MESSAGE SHE TALKED ABOUT THE SCRIBE TRYING TO TRIP JESUS UP WITH THE QUESTION ABOUT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT LAW. OF COURSE, JESUS SAYS TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. THE SCRIBE WAS NOT HAPPY FOR INDEED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THESE ARE DEFINED. DEUTERONOMY 10:12 "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT". AND IN LEVITICUS 19:18 YOU SHALL NOT TAKE VENGEANCE OR BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SONS OF YOUR OWN PEOPLE, BUT YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. WE ALL KNOW JESUS SAID THESE SAME THINGS BASICALLY REMINDING US THAT THESE ARE THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT LAWS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF THE TIMES SCRIBES, SADDUCEES, AND PHARISEES WERE NOT OBSERVING THESE TWO LAWS. JESUS CALLS THEM OUT AND CALLS THEM HYPOCRITES. TODAY MESSAGE ABOUT EMBRACING PENTECOST, WE WILL SEE THIS SAME THEME ABOUT LOVE. THAT SAID, IN A WORLD THAT THAT SEEMS TO BE COMING UNGLUED, IT REALLY NEEDS THAT LOVE. PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR HEARTS THE OPPRESSED LIKE THE COMMON PEOPLE IN GAZA, WHO ARE PAWNS IN THIS TERRIBLE WAR, THE VICTIMS IN THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, AND THE PEOPLE IN THE UKRAINE WHO ARE SUFFERING UNDER THE RUSSIA AGGRESSION. THE WORLD NEEDS MUCH MORE LOVE. LET US PRAY.

DEAR LORD, IN A WORLD THAT AT TIMES SEEMS INSANE, WE PRAY FOR SANITY. IN A WORLD THAT CONVEYS HATE, WE PRAY FOR LOVE. IN A WORLD THAT BEHAVES LIKE ENEMIES, BECOME FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES. WE ARE ALSO THANKFUL FOR YOUR SENDING THE ADVOCATE, THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HELPER, YOUR EVER PRESENTS IN OUR LIVES. MAY WE PICK UP YOUR CROSS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND STRIVE TO EMBRACE THIS SEASON OF PENTECOST. IN JESUS HOLY NAME WE PRAY, AMEN.

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WE HAVE MADE IT THROUGH THE FIRST HALF OF THE CHURCH YEAR. PENTECOST IS HERE SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME? WELL, THE FIRST THING YOU WILL NOTICE IS I'M WEARING RED TODAY. IF THIS WAS THE 1970S, I MIGHT HAVE HAD SOME RED PANTS TO GO WITH THE SHIRT. ALTHOUGH I DON'T RECALL MORAVIANS BEING INTO THE RED THING SO MUCH, THE METHODIST CHURCH I BELONGED TO WENT ALL OUT. SO WHY RED? WELL, MY RESEARCH STATES "THE TONGUES OF FIRE CAME TO REST ON THEIR HEADS, ALLOWING THEM TO SPEAK IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES". THIS IS TALKING IN TONGUES IN FROM ACTS. THE CATHOLICS STATE "BURNING CHARITY AND THE MARTYRS' GENEROUS SACRIFICE". IN OTHER WORDS, CHARITY MEANS LOVE, BURNING LOVE WITH MARTYRS WHO SACRIFICE

THEMSELVES FOR OTHERS. WE KNOW WHO THESE MARTYRS ARE. ELEVEN OUT OF TWELVE OF THEM DIED CRUEL DEATHS. PENTECOST, DERIVED FROM THE GREEK WORD PENTEKOSTOS WHICH MEANS FIFTY. IN OTHER WORDS, FIFTY DAYS AFTER HOLY WEEK. JUST LIKE ASCENSION IS 40 DAYS AFTER EASTER. ANOTHER THING ABOUT PENTECOST THAT HOLDS TRUE WITH ME IS GROWING UP IN THE MORAVIAN CHURCH, WE WERE TAUGHT THAT GOD IS WITH US ALWAYS, EVER IN OUR PRESENCE. THAT GOD IS THERE DURING THE GOOD TIMES AND BAD. THE COMFORT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MY BACKSIDE OR AS IN THE AIR FORCE WE WOULD SAY "GOT YOUR SIX". SIX MEANING YOUR BACKSIDE. SIMILAR TO THE BOOK "GOD IS MY COPILOT". COL. ROBERT L. SCOTT WAS A FIGHTER PILOT IN WWII. AS A FIGHTER PILOT, YOU TYPICALLY DON'T HAVE A COPILOT. GOD WAS HIS COPILOT COVERING HIS SIX JUST LIKE WE ALL ALWAYS HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH US.

TODAY'S READINGS FROM JOHN IS THE STORY OF JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT, JESUS FORE TELLS THE DISCIPLES OF HIS LEAVING AND IN HIS PLACE THERE WILL BE THE ADVOCATE, AKA THE HOLY SPIRIT. USING WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY CROSSROADS STUDIES, LET'S HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH THE TEXT. JESUS STARTS STATING FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND FOLLOW HIS COMMANDMENTS, HE WILL ASK GOD TO SEND A HELPER. SO, WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THIS HELPER. FIRST THE HELPER WILL BE WITH US FOREVER. THAT THE HELPER KNOWS THE TRUTH AND THAT ONLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE WILL BE ABLE TO EMBRACE HIM. HE WILL BE WITH US AND IN US. THAT JESUS WILL NOT ABANDON US LIKE AN ORPHAN BUT WILL BE IN US AS HE IS IN GOD. FURTHERMORE, JESUS LOVES GOD, GOD LOVES JESUS, JESUS LOVES US, WE LOVE HIM, AND GOD LOVES US. IT ALL REVOLVES AROUND THIS LOVE. THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE AND KEEP JESUS'S WORDS WILL BE REVEALED. THE HELPER, ADVOCATE, HOLY SPIRIT. DIFFERENT NAME, SAME SPIRIT.

JUMPING INTO ACT, THIS IS THE BIG REVEAL SO TO SPEAK. I HAD PURCHASED THE HISTORY CHANNEL SERIES ON THE BIBLE, TO USE IT WITH MY YOUTH GROUP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. ALTHOUGH IT'S THEIR IMPRESSION ABOUT MAIN STORIES FROM THE BIBLE AND NOT UNLIKE OTHER WORKS OF THEIR, NOT ALWAYS 100% ACCURATE, THINK OF MADE FOR TV OR TO ENTERTAIN. IT DOES GET THE MAIN POINTS AND GIVE YOU THAT VISUAL STORY OF EVENTS FROM THE BIBLE. I REALLY LIKE THE PENTECOST CHAPTER. NOW IF YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE, THERE IS THE DISCIPLES IN A ROOM TOGETHER, THEY ALL HAVE THE LOOK OF DESPAIR ON THEIR FACES. THEY ARE NOT IN THEIR HAPPY PLACE. THEY WITNESSED THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED; THEY ALL ABANDONED HIM IN HIS TIME OF NEED. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT SAVING THEIR OWN HIDE AND ARE CONFUSED AND TOTALLY LOST. SCARED BLANK LESS. I'LL LET YOU FILL IN THE BLANK. YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT A DARK PLACE. TO SAY THEY WERE DEPRESSED WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. REALLY COULD NOT FIND A MORE MISERABLE LOT. AND THEN IT HAPPENS.

THE WIND PICKS UP AND YOU WOULD THINK IT WAS A HURRICANE OR TORNADO. THE ROAR OF HOLY SPIRIT THAT LOOKS LIKE FIRE. AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, EACH ONE OF THEM STARTS TALKING IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. SOME CALL THIS TALKING IN TONGUES. THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES THEM WITH THE KNOWLEDGE TO SPEAK THESE OTHER LANGUAGES. I OFTEN THOUGHT THE REASON WHY OF TALKING IN TONGUES WOULD HELP THEM AS THEY WILL SPLIT UP AND TRAVEL TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE KNOWN WORLD, TELLING THE MIGHTY WORKS OF GOD. IN THE SHOW AFTER THE WIND DIES DOWN AND THEY STOP TALKING IN TONGUES, THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPELLING CHANGE IN THE DISCIPLES. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW ME WELL, I OFTEN LIKE USING THE PENDULUM ANALOGY.

IF PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE PENDULUM WOULD BE SWUNG ALL THE WAY TO ONE SIDE. AFTER THEY EMBRACED THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE PENDULUM HAS NOW SWUNG ALL THE WAY TO THE OTHER SIDE. THE DISCIPLES LOOK LIKE MEN FULL OF CONFIDENCE AND CONVICTION, 180 DEGREES DIFFERENT THAN WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE. THE DISCIPLES WHO NOW WERE READY TO BECOME THE APOSTLES. THEY NOW KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO AND PUT THEIR PLAN INTO MOTION.

LASTLY FROM THE SCRIPTURES TODAY LET'S LOOK AT "DAVID'S LAST WORDS" STORY. THIS POEM FROM SECOND SAMUEL TALKED ABOUT GOD'S SPIRIT SPEAKING THROUGH DAVID. OF COURSE, THE DEFINITION AROUND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A NEW TESTAMENT THING BUT I THINK IT'S WORTHWHILE TO USE DAVID AS AN EXAMPLE A FAITHFUL SERVANT INFLUENCED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD. HIS WILLINGNESS TO EMBRACE GOD'S SPIRIT. JUST AS WE MUST BE WILLING TO LOOK FOR AND EMBRACE THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SO, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US TODAY. HOW IS THIS APPLICABLE TO YOU AND ME. I WOULD SAY FOR STARTERS LOOK AT THESE THREE STORIES. JOHN'S STORY THAT CHRIST WILL NOT LEAVE US AND THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THE LOVE COMMANDMENT. THAT IF WE LOVE GOD AND GOD LOVES US, JESUS LOVES GOD AND GOD LOVE JESUS, AND JESUS LOVES US AND WE LOVE HIM. LOTS OF LOVE GOING AROUND. ONLY THROUGH THAT LOVE WILL THE HOLY SPIRIT BE PRESENTED. TO LOVE AND LIVE BY GOD'S WORD. LIKE THAT OLD CLICHÉ CHILDREN OF GOD, JUST LIKE PARENTS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN, GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN. AND IN THE ACTS STORY YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF. DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE THE DISCIPLES BEFORE THE HOLY SPIRIT OR AFTER THE HOLY SPIRIT. TO BE A DISTRESSED BUNCH OR FULL OF HOPE AND CONVICTION. YOU HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND THAT JESUS TOLD THEM WHAT THEIR FATE WOULD BE. THEY KNEW THAT THEY TOO WOULD SUFFER A TERRIBLE DEATH AND YET, THAT HOLY SPIRIT WOULD TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES AND MAKE THEM THE APOSTLES WHO WOULD BRING CHRIST'S SALVATION TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

AND JUST LIKE KING DAVID WHO EMBRACED GOD SPIRIT TO SPEAK THROUGH HIM, WE TOO NEED TO LET GOD SPEAK THROUGH US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS BRINGS US TO THE WHOLE POINT ABOUT PENTECOST. TO LET THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAK THROUGH US AS WE EVANGELIZE THE WORD OF OUR SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. EVANGELIZE MEANING TO CONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY OR TO PREACH THE CHRIST'S GOSPEL.

PEACE BE WITH YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTER AS WE EMBRACE THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TAKE ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT MISSION. TO EVANGELIZE JESUS'S LOVE AND WORD. AMEN.

BY LAY PASTOR CLIFF BERGSTRESSER  
PENTECOST SUNDAY  
MAY 19, 2024



## SUNDAY SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

DEAR FIRST MORAVIAN CONGREGATION,

AS YOUR LAY PASTOR, I HAVE AN INITIATIVE TO GET OUR FAITH FOUNDATION (SUNDAY SCHOOL, CONFIRMATION, AND VBS/VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL) KICK STARTED. IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE ALSO WANT TO GET OUR NURSEY BACK TO FUNCTIONING SO YOUNGER FAMILIES CAN HAVE QUALITY TIME AT CHURCH AND THEIR YOUNGSTERS OCCUPIED WITH PLAY TIME. SINCE WE HAVE A SMALL CHURCH, I HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT DOING A ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE. ONE CLASS FOR ELEMENTARY KIDS AND ONE FOR MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING MAKING THIS A JOINT EFFORT WITH COVENANT MORAVIAN. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, WE NEED COMMITMENT FROM THE CONGREGATION TO EMBRACE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND ATTENDANCE AT OUR SERVICES. TO HELP US TO UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL:

- WHEN TO HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL? BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER CHURCH? POSSIBLY ON A WEEKNIGHT OR SUNDAY EVENING?
- IF WE DID WEEKNIGHT OR SUNDAY EVENING, HAVE PIZZA AND DRINKS, SOMETHING MORE LIKE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP?
- WHEN AND WHERE TO HAVE VBS? DURING THE DAY OR EVENINGS. AT FIRST MORAVIAN OR COVENANT?
- IF YOU ARE OLDER, WOULD YOUR GRANDKIDS BE INTERESTED?
- WE NEED TWO TEACHERS / NURSEY ATTENDANTS (SAFE SANCTUARY), WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING?
- DO YOU HAVE A TEENAGER WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE CONFIRMED?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH ME, I CAN BE REACHED VIA MY EMAIL - [CBERGSTRESSER@VERIZON.NET](mailto:CBERGSTRESSER@VERIZON.NET) OR MY CELL PHONE 301-466-3775. YOU CAN ALSO SEND YOUR RESPONSE TO JEANNETTE. I HAVE TWENTY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND YOUTH LEADER.

MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL,  
CLIFF

CLIFF BERGSTRESSER  
LAY PASTOR



## **ELDERS NEWS**

THE ELDERS MET ON TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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. FAITH FORMATION FOR OUR CHILDREN, ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CONCEPT DISCUSSED. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CONGREGATION TO BE PLACED IN NEWSLETTER. UPDATE ON CALL PROCESS GIVEN. SYNOD TO BE HELD JUNE 26-29. KASI MADE FOOD BAGS FOR HOMELESS TO BE GIVEN OUT AS NEEDED. JOHN EXPLAINED WHAT THE EBENEZER WALL IS AND HOW WE CAN USE IT IN OUR CHURCH. SAMUEL ERECTED A STONE AND NAMED IT 'EBENEZER', WHICH MEANS "STONE OF HELP". IT WOULD SERVE AS A MEMORIAL OF THE DAY THE LORD DEFEATED ISRAEL'S ENEMIES. ANYONE PASSING BY WOULD BE REMINDED OF GOD'S POWER AND FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE. THE YORK FOOD BANK HAS A NEED TO RELOCATE OFFICES AND COULD WE OFFER ANY SPACE AT OUR CHURCH? PLEASE PRAY FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP FOR FIRST AND COVENANT AND FOR ALL CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 11 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM.

## **TRUSTEES NEWS**

THE TRUSTEES MET ON TUESDAY, MAY 28, 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. CHURCH PARKING LOT TO BE RESEALED. DISCUSSED FOOD BANK TO POSSIBLY USE SOME SPACE IN OUR CHURCH. OUR BOOKS TO BE AUDITED ON MAY 30 BY MARLIN BUPP FROM COVENANT. WANDA REVIEWED THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH DETAILING INCOME AND EXPENSES. WORKDAY ON FRIDAY, JUNE 14 AT CHURCH TO CLEAN WINDOWS AND REPAIR FLOOR ACCESS DOOR. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 25 AT 7:00 PM ON ZOOM.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES**

WE WILL GO TO OUR SUMMER SERVICE LOCATION (FELLOWSHIP HALL) STARTING SUNDAY, JUNE 2 AND THE LAST SUMMER SERVICE WILL BE SUNDAY, AUG 25. ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND, SUNDAY SEPT 1, WE WILL BE BACK IN THE SANCTUARY.

## **GRADUATION RECOGNITION**

GRADUATION RECOGNITION FOR JASANI KOTEK AND JACOB SPRENKLE WILL BE HELD DURING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH.



# ***Church Picnic on Saturday, June 1***

at Musser's Grove starting at 2:00 pm. Hotdogs, games and cake walk. Please don't forget to bring your favorite cake, cupcakes or pies for the cake walk.

Chicken will be provided and served at 5:00 pm. Please bring a side dish.

Always a fun time!



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## **TOTAL INCOME & OFFERINGS FROM SUNDAYS 5/5/2024 - 5/26/2024**

\$5,789.00 GENERAL FUND

181.00 REFURBISHING FUND

90.00 EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

**\$6,060.00 TOTAL OFFERING**

\$6,000.00 MORGAN STANLEY WITHDRAWAL CHECK

1,000.00 PARSONAGE RENT

118.31 PARSONAGE UTILITIES PAID INCOME

50.00 PARKING RENTAL

7,583.29 GUIDE ONE INSURANCE CHECK

(FOR PARSONAGE WATER DAMAGE)

**\$14,751.60 TOTAL OTHER INCOME**

**\$20,811.60 TOTAL INCOME FOR MAY**

**\$ 6,292.58 TOTAL EXPENSES FOR MAY**

## June Birthdays

- 7 Carol Zeigler
- 15 Kellie (Swartz) Ford
- 17 Kathie Nicholas
- 18 Carolyn Bailey  
Denise Eckert
- 19 Kasi (Tyson) Steinbrenner
- 21 Ronald Eckert
- 29 Heidi Robinson
- 30 Lloyd Purswell\*



**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 Sprenkle - 717-424-5636

Kasi Steinbrenner - 717-965-2032

## June Anniversaries

- 12 Terry & Carol Zeigler
- 14 David & Karrie Rishel
- 26 Rev. Terry & Julia Folk\*



## Prayer Concerns

MARY JONES	JEMON GRANT
KATHIE NICHOLAS	GARY PAULES
KARRIE RISHEL	ELAINE PATRICK
CLIFF ROWELL	IRELYN SPRENKLE
RUTH & CLAIR SEIPLE	JEFF RISHEL

## June Schedule for Guest Pastors

6/2 - Rev. Terry Folk

6/9 - Lay Pastor Cliff Bergstresser

6/16 - Lay Pastor Cliff Bergstresser

5/23 - Rev. Terry Folk

6/30 - Rev. Marion Haynes-Weller

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