This Week at Central Church—March 15–21, 2020

Sun. 5:00 pm AA Benigna Auditorium
Tue. 7:00 pm Board of Trustees Nitschmann Hall
Thur. 10 am -12 pm Cynthia’s Boutique Church Office, LL
3:00 pm Investment Committee Office Conf. Room
Sat. 10 am - 12 pm Food Pantry/Cynthia’s Btq Dist Church Office, LL
5:00 pm AA Benigna Auditorium

Sunday, March 22, 2020

9:00 am Worship in the Chapel Hopeton Clennon
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary Hopeton Clennon

Congregational Care Ministry

Do you love to visit people, deliver flowers, have a wonderful conversation, offer deep listening? Then, the Congregational Care Committee (CCC) has an invitation for you! Traveling Mercies is a course offered in the Crossroads Lay Leadership Program of Moravian Theological Seminary, here in Bethlehem. The website includes this description of the class: Caring for each other is ultimately one of the most important aspects of our Christian faith. Learn how to listen, communicate, and focus on the other person. Topics include listening, spirituality, aging, substance abuse, suicidal ideations, homelessness, and setting up a caregiving network in your congregation.

CCC has secured funding to pay the cost of tuition and text for up to ten members of our congregation. The class will meet (8 total) Mondays & Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., May 7 - June 8, 2020 (Except May 25 & June 4). The instructor is Pastor Maggie Wellert.

If you have an inkling of interest and would like to know more, please speak to Mary Brown, Chair of CCC, Pastor Hopeton or Pastor Maggie. We invite your prayer around this invitation and the opportunity to expand our visitation ministry here at Central.

Save the Date


The Sunday Times

Central Moravian Church News
West Church and Main Streets, Bethlehem PA 18018-5821
610-866-5661 office@centralmoravianchurch.org
www.centralmoravianchurch.org
Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Closed for lunch 12-12:30 p.m.

Worship and Program Highlights
Sunday, March 15, 2020

Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome at Central Moravian Church. If you are a visitor and are comfortable doing so, please share your contact information with us. Fill out a Visitor Card, which you will find in the pew rack in the Sanctuary or at the end of the pew in the Chapel. Place it in the offering plate later on in the worship service. Activity bags are available for children in both the Chapel and Sanctuary.

The main restrooms in the Sanctuary are located on the lower level in the southwest corner of the church (closest to Main and Church Streets). Two additional restrooms are in the corridor behind the pulpit area, on the East side (Heckewelder Place). Chapel restrooms are located on the lower level.

Sunday School for children, youth and adults has been cancelled until further notice.

Welcoming Our Joint Board Members

The following are the names of the elected Elders and Trustees serving our congregation for 2020, along with the offices they hold. Elders: Diane Shaw (Vice President), Elissa Derbak (Secretary), Gene Allen, Peter Behrens, Don Brown, Ken Kodama, Pam Larimer, Jane Leposa, Priscilla Schueck, Mary Shields, Linda Wickmann, Kathy Williams. Trustees: Mary Catherine Tachovsky (President), Rob Phillips (Vice President), Joan Carson (Secretary), David Charrier (Treasurer), Mary Brown, Jan Cole, Steve Krawiec, Jeffrey Long, Camie Modjadidi, Jeff Mosebach, Ann Raines, Beth Schlener, Susan Trimble, Sharon Upton. We welcome your prayers for each of our elected leaders. They welcome your questions and comments on any aspect of the ministry and mission of our church.
Information Regarding COVID-19

The Trustees and Elders, together with our Pastors, are planning ahead for the possible impact of the virus on our Congregation. Prevention is the best preparation. Please turn to reliable sources for up to date information such as the Center for Disease Control and the Bethlehem Health Bureau. The Boards are relying on these sources as we plan for appropriate actions to keep our congregation safe. The following are our first steps in response to the evolving situation:

1. An Emergency Preparedness Committee is in place.
2. No physical greetings, such as hand shaking, etc. will occur on the Church Campus. The greeters at services will model by using verbal greetings.
3. Offering collections are modified. Offering plates will be stationed in areas in the Sanctuary and Chapel and guided by the Sacristans. Remember the options of mailing donations and electronic giving.
4. Follow universal guidelines for frequent hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers.
5. If you have an underlying health condition that makes you more vulnerable to the virus, you are encouraged to be safe and stay home from worship. We have the option of CD service ministry to offer to you.
6. Close communication and cooperation with our Campus partners is underway.
7. Central Church will follow recommendations of the Bethlehem Health Bureau, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the CDC if further actions become needed.
8. Reach out to the Church Office and Pastors if you have concerns or questions.

Church Activity Cancellations

In order to follow the Center for Disease Control recommendations of social distancing to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus, several events and activities are now cancelled, including the following:

- Art Classes with Gene Allen
- Choir rehearsals
- Christian Education Classes
- Various Fellowship Groups
- Fundraising Committee Luau
- Remaining two Lenten Dinners

Please remain alert to news regarding changes in activities in the next week.

Holy Week & Easter Worship

A time to worship with Scriptures, hymns, and prayers:

- **April 5, 6, 7** - Readings for Holy Week, 7 p.m. Chapel
- **April 8** - Readings for Holy Week 7 p.m. Sanctuary
- **April 9** - Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. Holy Communion, Sanctuary
- **April 10** - Good Friday - 10 a.m. Holy Communion, Chapel - 2:15 p.m. Crucifixion Service, Sanctuary
- **April 11** - Great Sabbath Lovefeast, 3 p.m. Sanctuary
- **April 12** - Easter Sunday - 6 a.m. Sunrise Service, Sanctuary - 9 a.m. Chapel Worship Service - 10 a.m. Egg Hunt, Chapel Green Easter activities in the C. E. bldg. - 11 a.m. Triumph Service, Sanctuary

Busy Workers’ Collection

If you have household items that are still in good condition, but that you no longer need, please consider donating them to the Busy Workers Plant and Attic Treasures Sale, scheduled for Sat., May 9 & 10 (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.) Donations may be brought to the C. E. building (lower level, NW corner) on the dates below. Contact Jacqueline Adams with questions 610-867-7463.

- **Tues., April 21 & Thur., April 23** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Sun., April 26 - 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
- **Tues., April 28 & Thur., April 30** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Sun., May 3 - 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Social Distancing

Instead of holding out a physical hand, pull it back. Instead of offering a comforting hug, keep your arms to your sides. Instead of meeting, stay at home. Social distancing seems to counter to who we are as Christians, as people who reach out, literally, to touch and be together.

However odd it may seem, social distancing after hand washing is one of the best ways we can take care of each other and help slow the spread of COVID-19. Being physically distant from each other, however, doesn’t mean we also have to be emotionally or spiritually distant. Here are some ways we can stay connected during these days of cancelled activities.

Make of list of the people you would normally see at the activities you won’t be attending. Visualize each person’s face and pray for them by name.

Pull out your journal or a piece of paper. Think about the group meeting you are missing. In your own words, write the purpose of that group and what you hope to do as a participant to serve God in the world.

Think about the students, mentors, old friends, neighbors, and relatives you don’t often get to see. Take some of your time at home to write, call, and reconnect.

Finally, let’s see our time at home as Sabbath time. Set aside a few minutes each day to clear your mind as you breathe deeply in and out. You might want to pick out a word or phrase to meditate on as you breathe. Use this time to rest and then reflect on what’s most important to you in your life and your relationship with God. And, of course, read and reflect on the Moravian Daily Texts each day.

Physical social distancing doesn’t have to mean emotional and spiritual distance from each other or from God. In these next few days, perhaps we’ll learn new and relearn old ways to be close to God and our neighbors.