



The Belfry

News of Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

January 2023

Worship in January

9 a.m. in the Chapel

10 a.m. Sunday School in the C. E. building

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

January 1 - Holy Communion for Epiphany

Sermon: Bishop Hopeton Clennon

January 8 - Mission Lovefeast

Sermon: Dr. William Hoffman

January 15 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: The Rev. Maggie Wellert

January 22 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Bishop Hopeton Clennon

January 29 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon: Bishop Hopeton Clennon

Church Council follows the 11 a.m. service

Sister Shelia joins me in wishing you a Happy New Year! We are thrilled to be partners with you through 2022, and look forward to what 2023 unfolds for our congregation. God is at work in our midst and we are finding such peace and joy in being attentive. The message we shared with pastors across our Province in December is the same message we share with you: "May you and yours feel embraced by the warm presence of God all year long."

Now for a bit of a challenge. What one new thing would you like to experience in the New Year? Maybe it's the ease and convenience of subscribing to the Central Moravian Church YouTube channel. It comes with alerts and reminders all year long. Maybe it's returning the pledge card for 2023. It assists church leaders in planning for the mission and ministry of our congregation. Maybe it's submitting handwritten notes for a memorial service to the church office. A carefully typed Lebenslauf is welcomed, too. Maybe it's exploring a new committee, ministry group, or church organization that is capturing your interests. In whatever way God is leading us, may we be attentive and responsive in the New Year.

— *Pastor Hopeton*

Nominating Committee Update

Annual Church Council convenes in the sanctuary following the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 29. This will be an important opportunity to celebrate the vital signs of mission and service locally and globally. We will review financial reports for 2022 and act on the proposed budget for 2023. Another feature of this annual gathering of members of Central Moravian Church is the election of lay leaders of the congregation.

Elders and Trustees serve our congregation for a three-year term. The nominees are:

Board of Elders – Anne Zug

Board of Trustees – Jeff Biro

The nominees for other positions we need to fill are:

President of Church Council – Barry Pell (one-year term)

Secretary of Church Council – Martha Jones (one-year term)

BAM Board of Directors – David Charrier (three-year term)

In addition, we look forward to electing delegates and alternate delegates to the upcoming Provincial Synod (June 22-25, 2023).

Annual Church Council

All members of Central Moravian Church are invited to participate in the Annual Church Council on Sunday, January 29 in the Sanctuary immediately following the 11 a.m. service. At Church Council, we review printed reports from our boards, committees and organization. We discuss and vote on our budget for the coming year. Names of nominees are brought forward for lay leadership positions.

We encourage our groups and committees to report on activities in 2022 and plans for 2023. Please submit reports (email or hard copy) to the church office by Friday, January 6, 2023.



Drive-By Drop-Off Donations

Volunteers will be at the Christian Education building parking lot off New Street on January 1st from 8:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. to receive your donations of food, fall and winter clothing, diapers (newborn through adults) for Cynthia's Boutique and plastics for the TREX challenge rain or shine, but not if Bethlehem is under a "snow emergency".

Food Pantry items especially needed include: flour, sugar, ground coffee, Mac n Cheese, canned vegetables of all kinds, ketchup, mustard, canned meats, toilet paper, soap bars. Any other items you wish to donate. These items supplement the food received from Second Harvest. We all have been impacted by supply chain issues, and your donations are appreciated by the Food Pantry Clients and go a long way towards moving clients forward in combating Food Insecurity.

Cynthia's Boutique

Thank you to all who supported us in 2022. Your generous gifts of goods and monies enabled us to help many. Our Filipino family in particular is benefiting. And, special thanks to The Busy Workers who donated beautiful Christmas ornaments after their sale and to the Central Santas for their gifts to the Filipino family's children.

With your help, we look forward to assisting more in 2023.

New Members' Winter Class

If you know of family or friends considering membership at Central, please encourage them to inform the church office. We are flexible with the scheduling of sessions and look forward to receiving next generations of Central members. Pastor Hopeton facilitates these sessions with invaluable help from the leaders of several ministry and mission endeavors in our congregation.

Create Deep in Me - Midweek Lent 2023



Psalm 51 is traditionally read as part of Ash Wednesday Worship, the beginning of Lent. In the Common English Bible, verse 10 reads, "Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!" These words serve as the anchor for our Midweek Lenten series, "Create Deep in Me."

On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we will begin our Lenten time together, by sharing a meal at 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 we will move to the Old Chapel to join in a traditional Ash Wednesday worship, including imposition of ashes.

Wednesday, March 1, after dinner, Dr. Micah Sadigh will share his thoughts in a presentation entitled, "Spirituality as a Source of Meaning and an Instrument for Healing." He will briefly explore contemplative prayer through the lens of The Cloud of Unknowing and its mode of "falling in love with God."

The following three Wednesdays, March 8th, 15th, and 22nd, we will share in a variety of spiritual practices to "put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me." These practices have been used in the church and Christian communities for centuries.

After our shared meal on March 29th we will bring our Lenten series to a close with a contemplative worship service in the Old Chapel, designed around the practices we've learned, designed to lead us into Holy Week.

Pastor Maggie Wellert, Jane Leposa, and Pam Larimer are coordinating this ministry. It is our prayer that God will guide our path as we stretch and grow together. If you'd like to be part of the planning team, please reach out to Pastor Maggie.

Central Santa - 2022

Thanks to so many of you - both Central members and "friends" - for participating in Central Santa again this year!



On Wednesday, December 14th, Christopher Moreno from Community Services for Children came to the Church Office to pick up our book donations. Thanks to all of you - and special thanks to Central member Jennifer Ceneviva and her

clients at Edward Jones in Bethlehem - we donated 576 books to Head Start and Early Head Start children in the Lehigh Valley. We also gave CSC a check for \$1,953.50 to be used to purchase more books, or to go toward other programs at CSC that benefit needy children and families.

After we loaded up the books in Chris' van, our committee members loaded up their own cars with gift bags for 50 children at Esperanza. Pastor Tracy Robinson was waiting for us at his church on the South Side. The gifts were placed around the Christmas tree in



the church; they'll be distributed to the children on Christmas Eve. Then Pastor Tracy gave us a tour of the basement where a kitchen and fellowship hall are taking shape.



We're delighted that so many of you participated in Central Santa; we thank you for your generous gifts - whether clothing or books or monetary donations - that will benefit many Lehigh Valley children.

The Social Action Committee hopes that you all had a very Merry Christmas!

Celebrating the Cherished Tradition of our Christmas Putz

With the most grateful hearts, we thank everyone who supported the restoration of our Community Christmas Putz. We are pleased to announce the very successful conclusion of the appeal for funding the critical rejuvenation of the infrastructure of this display. Your generosity ensured that the beloved Putz would be open in 2022. The last day for viewing the Putz is December 31. This date was also chosen as an appropriate time to close our appeal.

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, a celebration of this ministry to visitors will be part of our worship services. We will share details about the appeal and offer thanksgiving for the donors, volunteers, and all who work behind the scenes to make this tradition possible. Please come and be a part of this celebration.

Thank you from the Busy Workers

Our Christmas sale took place on December 3 and 4 of this year. The weather was not on our side again. We ended up moving our wreaths inside. Our members made an excellent decision. We did have an extraordinary turnout. The sale was successful thanks to members and friends of the Central Moravian Church congregation and the community. We had new feather flags this year and hoping that encouraged new customers to see us.

We sold many crafts, wreaths, baked goods and, most of all, Moravian sugar cake. If we are able to obtain sugar cake for our spring sale, we will take pre-orders. The sugar cakes, of course, sold within two hours.

Our apologies to the members that dropped off baked goods. We understand it was difficult to drop off your items because of all the vehicles parked at the Christian Education building. For our spring sale we will change our drop off location.

Because, with everyone's support, Busy Workers will be able to continue to contribute to church causes and charities from Bethlehem, to Tanzania, Nepal, Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Palestine, and Ukraine.

BAM TREX Plastic Film Recycling Challenge in 2022 – Looking Back & Looking Ahead

As we near the end of 2022, we are also approaching the end of the third cycle of Bethlehem Area Moravian (BAM) congregations collaborating in the TREX Plastic Film Challenge (completion anticipated in the first quarter of 2023). Each cycle represents the recycling of at least 3,000 pounds of plastic film (bags, overwraps, etc.). During 2022, Central alone collected 1,165 pounds. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this effort here at Central and in the entire BAM community.

In our last *Belfry* update on TREX we quoted the African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”. It appears that the BAM congregations are prepared to go far. All have committed to participating in the Challenge for a fourth cycle! We are looking forward to another year of rewarding collaboration.

Central has earned three benches. One of them, as already reported, was donated to Camp Hope. The other two are located behind the Church Office, close to the entry to the Food Pantry and Cynthia’s Boutique, providing a welcome place to rest for our clients. One of these benches carries a plaque with a dedication to our former Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Lynnette Delbridge, who was instrumental during the inception of this project and recommended it as a joint BAM effort. The dedication pays tribute to Pastor Lynnette’s passion for the care of our creation.

In the spirit of collaboration, 2023 will bring a change in the “administration” of the TREX project. During the last three cycles, Central has taken on the overall coordination of the project. Beginning with the fourth cycle, Audrey Wanamaker, the point person from West Side, has agreed to assume this task. Central’s “home team” will stay the same and would very much like to welcome new team members. If you have the time and inclination, please join us in this effort. For questions or to sign up to help with the plastic project, please contact Elke Rockwell (elr2@lehigh.edu) or Joan Carson (jec1@lehigh.edu).

We will continue to collaborate with the Food Pantry and Cynthia’s Boutique, collecting food donations, clothing and plastic on the first Sunday of every month in the parking lot adjacent to the Christian Education building. Items will be accepted between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

As a general reminder for us all, below is a list of the types of plastic that are acceptable and those that are not accept-

able per the TREX guidelines. Thank you for pre-sorting your plastic!

Acceptable Plastic Products (In general #2 and #4 stretchable, non-shiny, non-crinkly, **clean** and dry plastic film. No food residue, please): Plastic shopping bags, produce and bread bags, grocery bags, cereal box liners, ice bags, wood pellet bags, salt bags, Ziploc & other re-closable bags, case overwrap, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap & air pillows, pallet wrap and stretch film.

Common Plastic Items NOT Acceptable: Plastic bottles or other rigid plastic containers, degradable/compostable bags, pre-washed salad mix bags, frozen food bags, candy bar wrappers, chip bags, dried fruit and nut bags, six-pack plastic rings, pouch packaging, if material does not stretch easily, if material is shiny & crinkles or crunches.

Donate What You Can Open House for the Pay What You Can Essentials Café

With many practical essential logistics now falling into place for the opening of a new Moravian ministry, Essentials Café, we are moving on to another important essential. We want to connect with you, our friends and neighbors in the Lehigh Valley.

We want to share with you our excitement for this café where people, regardless of their ability to pay, will be able to get good food and eat in a warm space that encourages community and friendship.

Join us, then, for an open house on January 21st from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at 408 3rd Avenue Bethlehem, PA, the West Side Moravian Church parsonage.

Sample soups and desserts, get a feel for the space, see blueprints for the building renovations, and explore ways you can volunteer and participate.

We also invite you to “Donate What You Can” for our “Pay What You Can” café. Be a part of this new ministry by helping us add a ramp, make the bathroom handicap accessible, purchase kitchen equipment, and enliven the space with welcoming paint, tables and chairs.

If you cannot join us for the Open House, but would still like to donate what you can for Essentials Café, you can always send contributions to Essentials Café, 418 3rd Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Afghan Resettlement Update

“When God asks, he doesn’t ask whose son a person is.”
--Afghan proverb

Just last December our new resettlement ministry met Aziza Munji and Esmat Soroush, who fled Afghanistan with their newborn son Rayan when the Taliban seized Kabul. With a great deal of energy, courage, and unfailing cheerfulness, as well as all kinds of support from our committee, the family has achieved so much during their first year in the United States. Aziza, Esmat, and Rayan are entering 2023 economically independent with a lovely home and many new friends.

An outpouring of kindness and practical assistance helped make this transition possible. People from all BAM churches and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley helped with everything including finding, cleaning and setting up their new home; taking care of Rayan during his first times away from his parents and even setting up his first birthday party; supplying diapers, clothing and baby supplies; providing skilled English language tutoring for Esmat; assisting with driving, shopping and doctors’ visits; navigating the social services system; researching and enrolling Aziza in college and applying for aid; identifying daycare choices in a difficult market; preparing their first tax return; donating everything from an assortment of treats for their hotel room to a laptop and even a used car; and many, many other large and small acts of kindness and generosity. We’re especially grateful to the BAM Ministries Committee for granting seed money to cover six months’ rent, and to Sunny Modjadidi, who took the family under his wing as only a fellow Afghan could. We sincerely thank all who were involved.

With one-year-old Rayan now settled in daycare, Aziza is finishing classes needed to apply to a nursing program while Esmat puts his new commercial trucker’s license to work as a long-distance hauler. Aziza has asked us to share how much our ministry has meant to her and Esmat. She writes:
“We are deeply thanking Louisa Frey, Carol Grace Hicks, Sunny Modjadidi, Camie Modjadidi, Carole Schachter, Mike DiMenichi, Donna DiMenichi, Ray and Donna Holton, and everyone else who supported us during this one year which was the most critical period of our lives. Leaving your homeland, family, and friends and starting from zero in a new country is not easy and reaching here where we are now would be tough and even impossible without your supports and assistance. We are sending our love, courage and respect for all of you unique and kind souls. May God bless you all.”

This special family has changed our lives too, inspiring us with their courage, warming us with their hospitality (and many cups of tea!), and enriching us with their friendship. If this ministry appeals to you and you’d like to make a difference for another local refugee family, please reach out to Louisa Frey

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2

— Submitted by Co-chairs Louisa Frey (Central)
and Carol Grace Hicks (East Hills)

Green Weekly Texts for January

- Happy New Year! Here’s a resolution for you: select one ‘green’ idea from our list each month and try to implement it in your daily routine. Start with an easy one: keep your cloth bags handy, and turn down plastic bags when you shop.
- Once all the decorations have been removed, recycle your Christmas tree. Check your municipality for pickup, or find out where you can leave the tree for composting. Some Boy Scout troops also will arrange for pickup of your tree. And some Home Depot stores allow tree drop offs; check with your local store. And, if your tree lights need to be recycled, check out: <https://www.treehugger.com/how-to-recycle-christmas-lights-4867417>
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- It may seem early, but it’s time to contact your local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) to purchase a ‘share’ for the upcoming growing/harvesting season. <http://www.buylocalglv.org/csa/>
- Start the year off with a new toothbrush! Online retailers and your local Wegmans carry BAMBOO tooth brushes, another way to avoid the proliferation of plastics! company and choose a renewable energy supplier.

Stewardship One-Liner

God calls us to aim our economic lives at love of God and love of neighbor.

— Michael Rhodes & Robby Holt

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2023</h1>						
<p>1 9-1 Drive by Food Pantry, Clothing, & Plastic CE lot Epiphany Communion 10 Sunday School CE</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>	<p>2 Office Closed</p>	<p>3 9:30 Comenius CE CR 9:30 Sewing 73 W CR</p>	<p>4 7:15 Men Bible ZP 9:30 BW OC LL 7 Care for Creation Zoom</p>	<p>5 10 Cyn Btq. 73 W LL 6 Chapel Choir Rehearsal OC 7 Church Choir Rehearsal CS</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 9 Putz Deconstruction CE 5 AA, BA</p>
<p>8 Coffee Sales Epiphany Lovefeast 10 MW7 73 W Parlor 10 Sunday School CE 10 Stories for Life OC LL 10 Toddler Time BA 5 AA, BA</p>	<p>9 5 Personnel Zoom 7 History Zoom</p>	<p>10 Bach at Noon 7 Elders Zoom</p>	<p>11 7:15 Men Bible NH 9:30 BW OC LL 4:30 B&G Zoom</p>	<p>12 10 Cyn Btq. 73 W LL 6 Int'l Student Care Zoom 7 Church Choir Rehearsal CS</p>	<p>13 8:30-11:30 Food Pantry 73 W LL</p>	<p>14 5 AA, BA</p>
<p>15 10 Sunday School CE 10 Stories for Life OC LL</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>	<p>16 Office Closed - Martin Luther King Jr Day</p>	<p>17 9:30 Comenius CE CR 9:30 Sewing 73 W CR 7 CE Cmte Zoom</p>	<p>18 7:15 Men Bible NH 9:30 BW OC LL 12:30 Knitting 73 W CR 7 Trustees Zoom</p>	<p>19 10 Cyn Btq. 73 W LL 4 Fundraising Zoom 7 Church Choir Rehearsal CS</p>	<p>20 8:30-11:30 Food Pantry & Cyn Btq Dist 73 W LL 6 Friday Fun Night NH</p>	<p>21 8:30-11:30 Food Pantry & Cyn Btq Dist 73 W LL 5 AA, BA</p>
<p>22 10 Sunday School CE 10 Stories for Life OC LL</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>	<p>23 3 Investment Committee 73 W CR 7 Putz Committee Zoom</p>	<p>24 10-11:30 Awakened Hearts 7 SAC Zoom</p>	<p>25 7:15 Men Bible NH 9:30 BW OC LL</p>	<p>26 8:30-11:30 Food Pantry 73 W LL 10 Cyn Btq. 73 W LL 7 Church Choir Rehearsal CS</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 5 AA, BA</p>
<p>29 10 Sunday School CE 10 Stories for Life OC LL 12:15 Church Council CS</p> <p>5 AA, BA</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

Musical Notes

Rebecca Lepore, Minister of Music
becky@centralmoravianchurch.org

QR Code for the
Central Moravian
Church Music Webpage



The Chapel Choir and the Church Choir –

The Chapel Choir, under the direction of Richard Miller, rehearses several times per month on Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Old Chapel, and the Church Choir rehearses every Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary balcony. Please contact Richard Miller or Becky Lepore if you are interested in singing.

Central Brass Ensemble –

If you are interested in playing with the Central Brass Ensemble on Sunday, January 8, please contact Caitlin Heckman for further information at caitlin.g.heckman@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Old Chapel –

Two Part Invention – Plus One! Chamber Music concert featuring flute, cello, and guitar. The concert will last one hour. No tickets required. Free-will offering.

Music Committee Meeting – Tuesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Toddler Time - January 8

Toddler Time is open to infants through pre-kindergarten children and their parents. We gather once a month, on the second Sunday at 10 a.m., in the Christian Education building, nursery next to Benigna Auditorium. Gatherings are comprised of informal playtime, songs, stories and lots of time for our young people to interact and play. If you are not already on the email list or have any questions, feel free to contact Katie Royer at kroyer929@gmail.com.

a church mouse report

hello
and 2023 greetings
and our christ is born
and the new year begins
and epiphany season begins the 12th day after jesus is born
and that is when the three kings came to find jesus
and they believed he was the king of the jews
and wanted to worship one to their own
and why not he must be powerful he had his own star
and yet jesus was born in a lowly stable
and of humble parents
and lived a life in humility
and humbled himself in death
and even a cruel death on a cross for our sins
and what does the lord require of us
and in micah 6:8 god told us what is good
and that is to do justly
and to show constant love
and to walk humbly with thy god
and jesus loves a humble soul
and jesus loves you constantly
and so do i



Special January Offering Envelope

Preservation Fund (January 8): Gifts designated to the Preservation Fund are used for capital project expenses. These include major repairs and restorations to our buildings and outdoor structures. Recent examples include the installation of our new streaming capabilities, the plans to increase ventilation in response to the Covid-19 crisis, the building of a new storage room in the basement of the sanctuary, and the installation of overhangs over the three lower level doors of the Christian Education building. Expenses for an anticipated campus-wide energy audit will be paid from this Fund. We use the interest income from this Fund which is Board designated for capital projects only. Our long-term goal is to increase this fund, thereby increasing the income generated. More income means more monies available to perform the upkeep of our precious historic buildings.



Central Moravian Church
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

The Belfry

January 2023

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Bethlehem PA 18018-5821

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Website: www.centralmoravianchurch.org
facebook.com/centralmoravianchurch
youtube.com/c/CentralMoravianChurch
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday
Closed for Lunch 12-12:30 p.m.

Pastoral Staff:

Hopeton Clennon
Maggie Wellert

Music Staff:

Rebecca Lepore
Richard Miller

Head Sacristan:

Tim Brady

Media Director:

Will Schwab

Senior Office Administrator:

Cindy Gibson

Financial Staff:

Kristin Wruble
Kelly Knapp
Martha Jones

Facilities Staff:

Jeff Griffis
Tamera Ace

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January Birthdays



1 Jennifer Flowers	8 Steve Kozar III	17 Charlie Eisenhart	26 Edith Glass
2 Jack Weikert	9 Hank Barnette	18 Gordon Sommers	26 Laura Corcoran
3 Brigitte Stork	9 Robert Beitler	18 Jean Soloi	26 Alex Krasnansky
3 Phillip Richardson	9 Mary Ann Beatrice	18 Kathi Krasnansky	27 Caroline Wasielewski
3 Philip Corvino	9 Kelly Knapp	19 Sandi Gebhart	27 Paxton Conroy
3 Justin Gross	10 Barry Dubbs	19 Mike Hummel	28 Helen Woodbridge
4 J. Gerard Mead	10 Liam Thomas	19 Daniel Allen	28 Darcy Lettieri
4 Jill Greiner-Bohnenberger	11 James Gwynn	20 Gayle Dimmick	28 Dale Smith
4 Alexander Hierl	11 Susan Gross	20 Ryan Diehl	29 Patricia McAndrew
4 Oliver DePalma	11 Nicole Pearce	21 Johanna Bees	29 William Jones Jr
5 Mary Mowrer Gano	12 Maggie Wellert	22 Barbara Huth	30 Linda Norris-Fiegel
5 Rodney Freyman	12 Janelle Shimko	22 Hannah Paxton	30 Kendra King
5 Andy Meckstroth	12 Andrew Williams	23 Richard Ettwein	31 Helen Seifert
6 Bruce Haines	14 Ned Spitzig Jr	23 Kathleen Klokis	31 Jeanne Bednarik
6 Douglas Boyer	14 Catherine Meckstroth	23 Shannon Roman	
7 Judith Johnson	15 Lizabeth Paxton	24 Joe Bednarik Jr	
7 Hyerin Kim	15 Lisa Arnold	25 Tim Brady	
8 Chuck Welty	16 Nina Schaffer	25 Melissa Mennen	
8 David Shields	16 Valerie Bond	26 Eileen Biro	

The Belfry Deadline

Articles for the February *Belfry* are due by
January 6