

Worship in December

9 a.m. in the Old Chapel

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

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary (with unstaffed nursery)

December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Ticket Distribution

Sermon: The Rev. Janel Rice

December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent - Communion

Children Choir at 11 a.m.

Sermon: The Rev. Janel Rice

December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Festival of Lessons and Carols Services

The Longest Night Service 7 p.m. Chapel Worship

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services *Tickets Required*

1:00 p.m. – Children’s Lovefeast and Candlelight

5:30 p.m. – Candlelight Vigils

8:00 p.m. – Candlelight Vigils

December 25 – Christmas Day 10 a.m. Worship Only

Sermon: The Very Rev. Anthony (Tony) Pompa

December 28 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

Sermon: Rebecca Lepore

December 31 – 11:30 p.m. New Year’s Eve Vigil

Sermon: The Rev. Janel Rice

From Pastor Janel

This Advent I am excited to use Sanctified Art’s series called “What do you fear” for Advent and Christmas prayers, candle lighting liturgies, and other social media resources to guide us in this holy season. This Advent series takes seriously the angels’ message and trusts that Christ’s birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. The resources look closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invite us to consider the

fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. Fear should not be minimized or brushed off – many of our fears, even if we magnify them, they are often still real.

But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?

What do you fear? Name it.

Where do you take your fear? We do not violently respond or internally struggle nor scapegoat others to justify our fears. This Advent and Christmas, we ask you to take your fears to Jesus and the stories of Scripture, and find peace, joy, love and HOPE in spite of and despite the fears we face. We send you into this sometimes wonderful and sometimes frightening world we live in with the benediction written for this series:

In a fearful world,
May you look for God’s spirit.
May you reach for each other’s hands.
May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember
that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls,
the one who sends, and the one who journeys with –
go in peace and **be not afraid**. Amen.

Save the Date: As we wish you a Merry Christmas, we invite the congregation to an open house at our house for Epiphany! Please join us from **3-7 p.m. on Sunday, January 4th** at our home at 3616 Lanark Rd., Coopersburg, for a time of food, conversation, and community. Our driveway is off Limeport Pike. We remind you that there is additional parking across the street in the Madle’s Ace Hardware store parking lot. And please note that we do have a cat for those who are allergic.

*A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
~Pastor Janel*

Busy Workers' Christmas Sale

Please join us in the Christian Education building, 40 W. Church Street, for the Busy Workers' sale on Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th from 9 a.m.– 4 p.m. Handmade crafts, Christmas ornaments, fresh green wreaths, paper Moravian stars, beeswax candles, delicious baked goods and Moravian Sugar Cake. If you have any questions, please contact Jacqueline Adams at crajva@rcn.com or 610-867-7463. Come early to purchase your Christmas gifts and wreaths. Benefits charities in Bethlehem, the Lehigh Valley and worldwide.

Unity Prayer Watch

Wednesday, December 10 is Central's Unity Prayer Watch day. Each Moravian Church, in all of the various Provinces, takes part in this year-long worship opportunity and is assigned one day. We pray in half-hour time allocations. Please see Cheryl Tubio to choose your prayer time period and to get a list of prayer concerns.

Join Us for Luminaria Night

Once again we will bring light to Bethlehem to celebrate the holidays as well as support the ministries and programs of New Bethany. Please join us for Luminaria Night on Saturday, December 13th, for preparation, lighting and a potluck supper in the Old Chapel. Come to the Church Office lower level (in parking lot behind the church office) at 4:45 p.m. to ready our luminarias and wagons and then help light up Main and Church Streets around the sanctuary. We will be joined by over 70,000 other luminarias in Bethlehem which raised close to \$125,000 last year. We can help alleviate poverty, hunger and homelessness in our community. Please email or text Connie Pierce for more info at 508-317-0826 or cpierce@taboracademy.org.

Help Needed to Construct Nativity Scene

Help the sacristans construct the Sanctuary Nativity Scene. on December 15th and 16th from 6:30 – 9 p.m. each evening to construct the display. On January 4th, following the 11 a.m. Communion Service, we will remove the display. We need folks with the ability to lift, carry, climb, and clean to help with this activity. Please let me know if you will commit to help on each of these dates. If you are committing to help, email Timothy.Brady@rcn.com or text 484-239-9729. Thank you in advance for helping to make this Advent season tradition happen.

~ Tim Brady

“The Longest Night: Do not Fear”

A worship experience for the Weary, the Worn, and the Fearful (and everyone in between):

On Sunday, December 21st at 7 p.m. in the Old Chapel we will hold a special service on the literal “longest night” of the year, the day with the most darkness. In the season of Advent and preparing for Christmas, this service remembers that it is also okay to mourn, pause, reflect and find stillness. We remember that we can take a moment to not match the expectations of the season, but to feed our spirit and our soul. In this unique service of poetry, song, art and the lighting of candles we take our collective community into the darkness of this night, and remember that we can all bring a bit of light to it. Thanks to the Mental Health team for leading this service!

Celebrate the New Year

Join us for our special New Year's Eve service at 11:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, a tradition since 1747 of welcoming in the new year while in prayer and worship. One favorite piece of the service has been the unique tradition of the Bethlehem Area Moravian Trombone Choir announcing the hour of midnight by interrupting the pastor's sermon – often in mid sentence with the strains of “Now Thank We All Our God.”

Welcome Andrew Miller New Financial Secretary

We are pleased to announce that through the good work of a small search committee and approved by Personnel, we have extended the offer of financial secretary to Andrew Miller, and he has started a new role as financial secretary on November 10th. Andrew has been graciously filling in as interim since Kris Wruble resigned. Andrew's new email is andrew@centralmoravianchurch.org

Andrew has a good accounting sense (and degree from Moravian University) but also brings thoughtfulness, experience of church leadership in his service on Trustees and Elders at Edgeboro Moravian Church, and a good sense of financial stewardship. He is a life-long member of the Edgeboro Moravian Church in Bethlehem. We look forward to welcoming him to our team – as you see him, please extend a welcome! And if Andrew looks familiar, it might be because he also sings with our 9 a.m. Chapel Choir, under the direction Richard Miller.

Christmas Putz & Star & Candle Shoppe

The holiday shopping season is upon us and the Moravian History Store has something for everyone on your list! This year, the History Store is once again partnering with Central Moravian Church to manage the Star and Candle Shoppe. Browse a dazzling array of holiday treasures, including, authentic Herrnhuter Moravian Stars, handcrafted ornaments and holiday décor, beautiful Moravian star jewelry, and themed glassware, tumblers, and more.

Our Christmas Putz is a treasured part of the season, celebrating its 88th year in Bethlehem and remembering a much older tradition of the Moravian community. We need your help in telling this story and welcoming visitors to our community. Please consider a 2-hour slot as a greeter (welcoming guests in the hallway) or host (welcoming guests and starting the putz). The putz runs every half hour. To volunteer, go to tinyurl.com/centralputz or talk with putz coordinator Sophie Rice to sign up: (ricesophie17@gmail.com).

Putz & Star & Candle Shoppe Hours:

Thursdays and Fridays: 1 – 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sundays: 1 – 5 p.m.
After Christmas, open daily 1 – 5 p.m.

Winter Zoom Book Group “Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting”

Join Karen Brady, Brenda Hoelman and Diane Kessler as they lead a four part Zoom book study, Sundays in the cold winter months at 4 – 5:30 p.m., starting January 11th. The dates will be Sundays (skipping MLK weekend), January 11th, January 25th, February 1st, and February 8th. Grab a hot drink and get in your cozy chair and join us by a click of the link which you will receive after signing up. Please prepare for the first group by reading pages 11 – 27 and answer the questions on pages 26 – 27 the best you can. We will discuss these in class.

For America, waiting presents an enormous challenge. We are impatient, “fix-it” kinds of people – and not all situations can be fixed. This book presents seven spiritual gifts that waiting can teach us: Patience, Loss of Control, Live in the Present, Compassion, Gratitude, Humility, and Trust in God. We will do two gifts each week. The book is \$11, available on Amazon or we will have some copies available for you in church starting December 28. Please contact Diane Kessler at dekessler5@gmail.com to sign up and for the zoom link.

Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for your generous contributions to the CROP Hunger Walk – \$1,633! 25% of this money funds hunger programs in Bethlehem and 75% through Church World Service.

Christmas Peace Pilgrimage

The 66th year of a Pilgrimage for Peace – a prayerful walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem takes place on Saturday, December 13th. Go to peacewalk.org for more information, Pilgrimage participants meet at the parking lot at 529 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem before 10:45 a.m., when buses depart promptly to Nazareth Moravian Church and the pilgrimage follows Rt. 191 back to Bethlehem to Christ UCC for a light supper and gathering.

Thanks Moravian Academy Middle School

We are proud to host one of the monthly community service outreach groups from Moravian Academy Middle School. Our site is called “Serving with Central” where the students are introduced to a variety of our ministries and service opportunities. Last month students helped with yard work around the Chapel and planting of mums.

There Was No Room At the Inn...

Since 1987, Moravian Open Door (MOD) has provided a temporary home for homeless adults in Manhattan, NYC. This ministry provides safe and affordable transitional housing for 40 homeless adults, currently 52 – 91 years old. MOD provides a healthful breakfast and supportive social services to rebuild our residents' lives. MOD helps them to obtain jobs and benefits, with the goal of finding permanent affordable housing and learning the life skills to maintain it.

Residents at Moravian Open Door pay a small monthly fee for their room and services (often much of their limited income); this covers only about 50% of the operating costs for the facility and its full-time staff of three. Moravian Open Door receives no government funds. Donations from individuals, congregations, and other private sources must cover the rest of operating expenses.

Your gift this Advent season can help the vital ministry of MOD, the only transitional housing ministry of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church. Please consider a generous financial gift to MOD (Moravian Open Door), 347 E. 18th St., New York, N.Y. 10003 (www.moravianhouse.org)

Musical Notes

Becky Lepore, Minister of Music
becky@centralmoravianchurch.org
QR Code for the Central Moravian Church Music Webpage →



Central Brass Ensemble will play for the 11 a.m. worship service on January 11th. If you are interested in playing with the Central Brass Ensemble, please contact Caitlin Heckman at caitlin.g.heckman@gmail.com for further information.

Sing in the Choir! If you are interested in singing with either (or both!!) the Church Choir or the Chapel Choir, you are welcome! Please contact either Richard Miller (Chapel Choir) or Becky Lepore (Church Choir) for additional information.

Sunday School Choir – Under the direction of Linda de Vries, the Sunday School Choir will sing for the both the 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 14th and for the Children's Christmas Eve Lovefeast Service at 1:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar:

Advent and Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 6th at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Welcome in the Advent and Christmas season with the Central Moravian Church Choir and the Mainstreet Brass. Sanctuary doors open at 1:00. Free-will offering. No tickets needed.

Christmas Contemplative Service

Monday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m.

During this busy season, embrace the invitation to ponder the wondrous gift of the Christ child in the quiet and peaceful candle-lit stillness of the historic Old Chapel while listening to contemplative arrangements of Christmas Carols. Free-will offering. No tickets needed.

A Super Bowl Sunday Concert

Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the Old Chapel.

Two Part Invention – Plus One! Join us for a delightful offering of chamber music featuring flute, violin, cello, and guitar. The concert will last one hour. Plenty of time to get home in time for the big game at 6:30 p.m.! No tickets required. Free-will offering.

Music Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
 Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Current Campaign Reaches Pledge Goal!

Last month, Jennifer Ceneviva shared exciting news about our campaign to upgrade the HVAC system in the church. We have reached our goal of \$1.6 million that many people thought was out of reach! We are grateful to the Trustees approval in **the forgiveness of \$200,000 of the internal loan** that was drawn from the Endowment Fund's cash account in order to complete the project.

Many thanks and congratulations to the congregation, community and friends of Central who have been a part of this project. We received generous support from the **Keystone Foundation and the Helen & R.K. Laros Foundation**. And our **children** reminded us how joyful generosity can be — with their ductwork donation box and their wonderful “Make a Joyful Noise” gifts.

We are especially grateful for the leadership of our Campaign Co-Chairs: Jennifer Ceneviva, Mary Catherine Tachovsky, Tom Tenges, and Barry Pell. Their dedication, organization, encouragement, and faith set the tone for this entire effort.

The campaign continues with pledges to be fulfilled in the coming years. We are grateful for every gift and there is time for those commitments to be honored. If you would like a brochure mailed to donors, please contact Martha in the church office.

End of Year Reminder

As we approach the end of 2025, we invite you to consider your final contributions to support the projects, missions, and ministries of Central Moravian Church. Your generosity sustains our work and strengthens our shared call to love and serve our community.

To ensure your gift is counted for this year's contributions, please note:

- **Mailed contributions** must be **postmarked by December 31st** (the date written on your check does not determine the year of credit).
- **Gifts from brokerage accounts, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), and Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)** may require extra processing time. If you plan to give through one of these sources, we encourage you to begin the process as soon as possible.

You may direct your gift to the **General Fund** or to a **specific ministry or project** that is meaningful to you.

Thank you for your continued support, your faithfulness, and your generosity. Together, we are nurturing hope and strengthening our church community.

News about Vanco Donations

It has been decided that we will no longer be using Vanco as an electronic processing system after the end of this year. Vanco charges fees to the church and to the donor. Other ways to consistently give to Central will enable the church to receive the full dollar amount of your gift.

1. You can give through your financial institution. Set up your giving through your bill pay option. The church will receive a check as often as you wish that to happen.
2. Another choice is PayPal. If you have a PayPal account you are familiar with their program. There are no fees charged when giving to a charity – Central fits that description.
3. Moravian Ministries Foundation offers a way to consistently give to your church and to safely make online donations. There are no fees for you or for the church to pay. Your total donation comes to Central. The donate page on the church website links you right away to the MMFA. The link is also here: tinyurl.com/donate2central. It is very easy to sign up and there is a text box so you can tell if your gift is for a special part of the church or envelope giving.

Special December Offering Envelope

Christmas Eve (December 24th): used to help with extra expenses incurred in our mission of the Advent and Christmas seasons. They include many things such as music, printing, extra utility expenses and the Advent and Christmas pulpit decorations such as the trees and straw we place in the Chancel for the Christmas Eve service.



2026 Mission Envelopes

January 4 – Nepali Outreach
 February 1 – Endowment Fund
 March 1 – Moravian Unity Offering
 March 29 – Sikonge Partnership
 April 5 – Easter Sunday
 May 3 – Maintenance of Church Campus
 June 7 – Seifert Fund for Christian Education
 July 5 – Preservation Fund
 August 2 – International Student Care
 September 6 – CROP Hunger Walk
 October 4 – Maintenance of Church Campus
 November 1 – Bethlehem Emergency Shelter
 November 29 – Preservation Fund
 December 24 – Christmas Eve

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; Use Less Plastic

1. Shop at the Busy Workers' Christmas Sale, always on the first Saturday of December (and the next Sunday, too). Unique handcrafted gifts, delicious baked goods, Moravian Sugar Cake, fresh green wreaths, and all profits go to charitable causes, from Bethlehem to Tanzania, and Nepal.
2. If you order holiday items on line, when all the boxes arrive, save and reuse the bubble wrap, mailing envelopes, package filler and cardboard boxes. If you can't reuse, then recycle!! Our TREX Plastic Challenge program recycles, bubble wrap, 'air pillows' and plastic mailing envelopes (with paper labels removed, please!). The Bethlehem Recycling Center on Illicks Mill Road takes cardboard boxes.
3. Turn off the 'tech' at night and do something that doesn't have to be 'plugged in' (read a book, do a puzzle, knit, exercise...). And go to bed early; we all could use more sleep!
4. Monitor your thermostat setting in the winter. At a setting of 68 degrees, you can see a difference of up to 3% in energy costs for every degree you raise or lower the setting.
5. "Vampire power" is the energy your appliances use when they are plugged in but not running. Cut back on wasted energy by unplugging cell phone chargers, coffee pots, and toasters when they are not in use. Keep larger electronics such as televisions and sound systems on a power strip and flip it off when you're not using them.

Thank you for your Support of Central's Food Pantry!

On Sunday, November 2nd, we received a record of over 2,000 lbs of food in our drop off delivery. And over the course of the week, Moravian Academy students added 500 lbs, as well as many other donations from local yoga studios, child care centers, and others! We are blessed to be supported as we fed over 80 family units on November 7th alone, and look to increased need until SNAP benefits are restored. Thank you for being a light for families facing food insecurity in our local community.

Please share the food pantries hours of distribution, first Friday, second and third Saturday, and fourth Friday (8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) with anyone in need. Our thanks to Cynthia's Boutique for offering an amazing array of clothing twice a month to our clients.



The Belfry

December 2025

Central Moravian Church
73 West Church Street
Bethlehem PA 18018-5821

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 550
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA

Phone: 610-866-5661

Email: office@centralmoravianchurch.org

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:

Janel Rice
Betsy Miller

Music Staff:

Rebecca Lepore
Richard Miller

Head Sacristan:

Tim Brady

Head Female Sacristans:

Beth Boyer and Ann Raines

Media Director:

Will Schwab

Senior Office Administrator:

Cindy Gibson

Financial Staff:

Martha Jones
Andrew Miller

Facilities Staff:

Michael Repsher
Tamera Ace

Children Ministries:

Linda de Vries



December Birthdays

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Rose Nehring | 11 Alicia McGinnis | 21 Brian Melito |
| 1 Johnna Ward | 12 Leslie Zavar | 21 Nancy Rutman |
| 1 Tammy Post | 12 Leigh Markovic | 21 Andrew Whymark |
| 1 Lillian Shields | 12 Larry Olejar | 21 Alonzo Gonzalez |
| 2 Andrew Hospador | 13 Carol Leferovich | 22 Bob Korutz |
| 3 Michael Berlin | 13 Aaron Robacker | 22 Alex Berlin Okonkwo |
| 3 Julia Charlton | 13 Aidan Newell | 22 Elliot Laubach |
| 3 Hudson Malishchak | 14 Natalie Zuk | 23 Timothy Gill |
| 3 Sophia Miller | 14 Nathaniel Barnes | 23 Greta Reifinger |
| 4 Larry Popowich | 14 Farrah Caldwell | 24 Bill Wisneski |
| 4 Holly Parkinson | 14 Maria Trent | 24 Michael Geho |
| 4 Barbara Nelson | 15 Suzanne Irvine | 25 Bill Sachs Jr |
| 4 Dave Jones III | 15 Jennifer Hill | 26 Deb Worrich |
| 5 Susan Barnes | 16 Barbara Newton | 27 Susan Jones |
| 5 Mary Shields | 16 Matthew Barnes | 28 Gail DeGruccio |
| 5 Timothy Sonier | 16 Devin Dubbs | 29 Michael Zuk |
| 5 Savannah Bechtold | 18 Arlene Clendenning | 29 Erig Frey |
| 6 Deborah Smull | 18 Karen Achey | 29 Lisa Silvius |
| 6 Averie Lewis | 19 Richard Hammond | 29 Mary Ann Kostenbader |
| 7 Pat Jani | 19 Melanie Sattler | 30 Mike Schlener |
| 8 Patricia Schaffer | 19 Aaron Robacker Jr | 30 Grace Hochella |
| 8 Bryan Gerhab | 20 Mary Joe Ferguson | 30 Wendy Borst |
| 8 Nathaniel DePalma | 20 Rita Schaffstall | 30 Everett Dean |
| 9 Christopher Bosch | 20 David Moll | 31 Karen Yeakel |
| 9 Karen DeBard | 20 Jennifer Ceneviva | 31 Douglas Caldwell Jr |
| 9 Benjamin Klokis | 20 Wyatt Achey | 31 Judson Frank |
| 11 Lorraine Lease | | |

Church Journal

Baptism

October 26 - Rafael Mateo Vicidomini

Birth

October 19 - Francesca Rose Sestito

In Memoriam

October 19 - Lois Powell

October 21 - Linda McCarthy