Central Moravian Church
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

The Belfry

News of Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania *April 2026*

Worship in April

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)

April 5 – Easter
6:15 a.m. Sunrise Service begins in Sanctuary
9 a.m. Chapel Worship
10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Workshop
11 a.m. Triumph Service, Sanctuary
Sermon: The Rev. Janel Rice

April 12 – Second Sunday of Easter
Sermon: The Rev. Janel Rice

April 19 – Third Sunday of Easter: Care for Creation
Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Heather Hartung

April 26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday at the 11 a.m. Worship Service
Sermon: The Rev. Janel Rice

From Pastor Janel

The month of April begins for us with the celebration of Easter. And, as hard as it can be for those who know how the story ends, imagine walking with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary back to the tomb where they laid Jesus, your friend and leader, just a few days before, and finding an empty tomb and a message of hope; Jesus lives! Emotions abound, and the translations of Matthew 28:8 show these women feeling this way; "afraid yet filled with joy" (NIV), "with fear and great joy" (NRSV), and "deep in wonder and full of joy" (The Message). New beginnings, especially ones where the path isn't scripted and the future unknown, are times of great joy but also times with a bit of fear and wonder built into the uncertainty that surrounds them. Owning these feelings, Mary Magdalene and the other Martha set off on the first step of a life-changing path to proclaim the nothing will defeat the love of God, not even death on a cross.

We hope you will worship with us on Easter. First, for Easter Dawn as we act out that place of darkness, grief and fear from a pre-dawn Sanctuary worship at 6:15 a.m., to a walk into the sunrise at God's Acre, as the Trombone Choir joyfully proclaims the Lord is Risen. And then at Easter worship at 9 a.m.(Chapel) or 11 a.m. (Sanctuary) and of course in between those services at 10 a.m. for the joyous chaos of the Easter Egg hunt and Easter Workshop.

I also hope you will join us for the "deep wonder and fullness of joy" that will come in worship in the following weeks. We are excited to celebrate baptisms on April 12th and April 19th and confirmations on April 26th. These special moments bring children (sacrament of baptism) and youth (rite of confirmation) into a deeper relationship with God and their church community, as their parents and they themselves, through confirmation,continue to walk in a new path along their faith journey. We pray that they will do so with deep wonder and the fullness of joy!

Likewise, we gather to remember the care for God's natural world, marking Earth Day and activities around Care for Creation on April 19th. We welcome the Rev. Dr. Heather Hartung to preach and a special intergenerational workshop at 10 a.m. (April 19) to remind us to grow in wonder and joy at the creation that surrounds us.

Gathering in joy is one of our main calls as a church community and we are thrilled to do so not only in worship but also in fun events like the Birthday Social on April 12th. Even though life presents uncertainty, and sometimes even fearful times, we are reminded by our Easter Scripture to find the paths we can walk with both fear and deep joy, and live in the resurrection hope.

Blessings,

Pastor Janel

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Sunday to Wednesday: 7 p.m. Readings for Holy Week
March 29, 30, 31 (Chapel)
April 1 (Sanctuary)

For those who may not want to go out at night and wish an alternate time, we are invited to attend Holy Week Readings on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with our siblings at the College Hill Moravian Church (72 W. Laurel St) at 1 p.m.

April 2 – Maundy Thursday (Sanctuary)
7 p.m. Readings for Holy Week & Communion

April 3 – Good Friday
10 a.m. Communion Service (Chapel)
2:15 p.m. Crucifixion Service (Sanctuary)
7 p.m. Seven Last Words (Chapel)

April 4 – Great Sabbath Lovefeast
2 p.m. (Sanctuary)

April 5 – Easter Sunday
6:15 a.m. Easter Dawn Service (Sanctuary/God's Acre)
9 a.m. Old Chapel
10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Workshop
11 a.m. Triumph Service – Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt and Workshop

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 5. Join us on the Old Chapel green as we hunt for eggs before the squirrels get them! Then come inside for refreshments, crafts and Easter fun for all ages in our Easter Workshop.

Tree Dedication

Central members and friends of Nancy Doyle are invited to attend the dedication of a newly planted tree and marker placed in loving memory of Nancy. The dedication will take place by the tree on the green near the Christian Education Building on Tuesday, April 7th (Nancy's birthday) at 12:30 p.m. A reception will follow in Nitschmann Hall. Please join us in honoring Nancy, who truly cared for creation – from mushrooms to birds to flowers and trees, and to those less fortunate in our community.

Birthday Card Shower

Central member Betty Klase will be celebrating her 101st birthday on April 23rd. A note or card would be nice to help her celebrate this very special day. Betty's address is: 5400 South Hills Point, Lecanto, FL 34461-7841.

Dining Out Group Event for April

The Dining Out Group is going to the One Third restaurant located at 3022 Linden Street, Bethlehem 18017, on Tuesday, April 7, at 6 p.m. One Third is known for their diverse Asian menu featuring Japanese, Chinese, and Thai food. They have vegan and vegetarian options. It's BYOB. For reservations, email Rose Warner at rosaliepwarner@gmail.com.

Join Us for Our Birthday Social

Did someone say cake? Everyone is invited to the Birthday Social in the Christian Education building on Sunday, April 12th after 11 a.m. service. We'll have 12 tables, one for each month, and every table will have a special cake and decorations. To balance out all the cake, the Church Family Life committee will supply sandwiches, veggies, and gluten free options! We hope you will attend our party on April 12th when we celebrate everyone's birthday with lots of cake.

Both Enslaved & Free: Men & Women of African Descent in Early Bethlehem A Walking Tour

More than 50 people of African descent have been documented living in Bethlehem and its surrounding communities between 1740 and 1800. On this walking tour you will learn how these men and women came to be here, how they were treated, and how those who were enslaved became free. Please join us at the Old Chapel on Saturday, April 25th at 1:30 p.m. for a remarkable and enlightening story.

If you would like to participate, please go to this link: https://forms.gle/kueLY4G83Vji8HUd7

Confirmation

The rite of confirmation confirms the covenant into which Moravians are baptized. Confirmation is often seen as a rite of passage and marks the spiritual maturity of the confirmands. Along with youth group activities, our confirmands have been developing their biblical literacy, learning about Moravian history, and participating in service activities. These events will culminate in their confirmation. Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, April 26th at the 11 a.m. worship service. Confirmads and short bios will follow in the May *Belfry.*

Welcome New Members

We were thrilled to welcome inquirers in March to learn more about the Moravian Church's history and theology, and our particular history and current ministries at Central Moravian Church. It was good to learn more about each other and where we all are on our journey of faith. On Sunday, March 22, five people joined Central Moravian Church. We welcome: Susan Harned, Janet Hepler, Greg Mertz, Elissa Waldron and Sharon Yeakel.

Thank You to Rose Warner

Central honored and thanked Rose Warner for her years (decades!) of dedication to our Church Family Life and hospitality (memorial service luncheons and other events) on March 22. Rose has elected to step down from these responsibilities; we thank her for her servant heart and faithful dedication. She continues to provide wonderful leadership for our Dining Group as well as other activities. Thank you Rose!

Central Joins MHS in Recognizing Scott Gordon

With our gratitude to the History Committee, Central is honored to sponsor a table at the Moravian Historical Society 19th Annual Share the Heritage Gala on April 11, 2026, as they recognize the achievements of Dr. Scott Gordon. A frequent lecturer at Central, Scott will receive the Heritage Award for his scholarly contributions to the history of the Moravians during the Revolutionary War era. Scott holds the Andrew W. Mellon Chair at Lehigh University, where he has chaired the English Department and the History Department. His book, *The Letters of Mary Penry: A Single Moravian Woman in Early America*, appeared in 2018 from Penn State University Press. He is currently completing a book titled *Slavery in Bethlehem*. Congratulations Scott!

COMPASS
Preparing leaders for ministry and service

New Educational Opportunities for Lay Leaders

Considering an online course? Two 6-week courses begin in April and are especially helpful for those serving in congregational ministry. These classes are taught by Moravian pastors and are open to anyone interested in deepening their learning.

Each district will contribute $300 toward course, leaving only a small fee for the student. Before registering, please email your district executive board president (listed below) to let them know you plan to take one or more classes.

Individual and Congregational Care

Taught by the Rev. Tammie Rinker
Dates: Wednesdays, April 15—May 20 • **Time:** 7–8:30pm
Develop skills for ministering to others through attentive listening, compassionate presence, appropriate referrals, and self-awareness. Explore practical ministry approaches for situations such as grief, illness, and addiction, with attention to healthy boundaries and trauma-informed, culturally aware care.

Faith Formation and Education

Taught by the Rev. Desna Henry Goulbourne
Dates: Thursdays, April 11—May 21 • **Time:** 7–8:30pm
Learn how to nurture lifelong faith formation through theological reflection, developmental insight, and practical ministry tools. Gain ideas for creating inclusive, intergenerational learning experiences that support spiritual growth in educational and ministry settings.

Register for Classes Today!
https://www.moravian.edu/school-theology/academics/compass

District Executive Board Presidents
- Canadian District – Dave Jones, davejones@mcnp.org
- Eastern District – Melissa Johnson, melissa@mcnp.org
- Western District – Jason Andersen, jason@mcnp.org

Central's Congregational Care Committee is looking to add to our list of lay visitors for our homebound members. The above 6 week program, *Individual and Congregational Care* is offered online and is taught by Rev Tammy Rinker of West Side Church. This class will provide an excellent basis for lay visitation. The Eastern District will cover $300 of the cost of the class. Additional scholarship money may be available through the Prime Fund of Central Moravian Church. Follow the directions to contact the Rev. Missy Johnson and also Beth Boyer at 610-442-8937 to let us know you are interested.

New Leadership

We are thrilled to welcome new leaders to both our Care for Creation and Social Action Committees this year. Kim Shively assumed leadership for our Social Action Committee and brings a good deal of interfaith expertise as well as a heart for engaged advocacy and justice work. Many thanks to Judy Williams and Brenda Hoelman for their dedicated leadership of SAC. Jocelyn Mattina took over for Joan Carson, who faithfully led Care for Creation for many years, bringing enthusiasm for native plants, as well as many other gifts to this committee. Jocelyn brings a passion for engaging members in activities that care for creation and foster a healthy environment.

Musical Notes

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

Sanctuary and Chapel Choirs – If you are interested in singing with either (or both!!) the Sanctuary or Chapel Choirs, we are always open to new members. Please contact Richard Miller (Chapel Choir director) or Becky Lepore.

Central Brass Ensemble – If you are interested in playing with the Central Brass Ensemble on the second Sunday of each month at the 11 a.m. service, please contact Caitlin Heckman at caitlin.g.heckman@gmail.com for further information.

Organ Concert – Saturday, June 20 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary, featuring Luke DiGiacinto, organist. No tickets required. Free-will offering.

Music Committee Meeting – Tuesday, May 5 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Vacation Bible School
An outreach of Advent, Central & East Hills Moravian Churches



June 22-26, 2026
9 am until Noon
Children in PreK to 5th grades are welcome to join in the fun at East Hills Moravian Church – 1830 Butztown Road, Bethlehem

Cost is $10 for 1st child
$5 for each additional child
(Pay with VENMO & note that payment is for VBS or mail check with note for VBS and registration form to East Hills Moravian Church at address above.)

venmo

REGISTER SOON!
Online VBS Registration
Or call the church office at 610-868-6481

Once again, an afternoon program (1-4 pm) is available for children who have attended the morning VBS session. It is an extension of our VBS program. There is a limited enrollment available for this program. More info to follow.



Help Us Celebrate Becky Lepore's Graduation!

You are invited to attend a series of events for Becky Lepore's graduation from the Moravian University's School of Theology on Friday, May 8, 2026.

There will be a **special blessing of the Moravian Church graduates, including Becky, on Friday, May 8th at 11 a.m.** in the Bahnson Center (Seminary) Saal, 60 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018, followed by a light lunch reception.

The Moravian University's School of Theology graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, May 8 at 4:30 p.m. at the Church of the Apostles, 1850 Maritta Avenue, Lancaster PA. (This is a different location since the School of Theology now includes both a Bethlehem and Lancaster campus). For those who wish to attend Becky's graduation in person (but not wanting to make the drive), Central is chartering a bus that will leave from the Bahnson Center, Moravian University at 1 p.m. to travel the Church of the Apostles in Lancaster for the graduation ceremony. The trip will include a dinner stop at Cracker Barrel on the way back to Bethlehem, the Bahnson Center location. The cost of the bus trip is $35 and does not include dinner at Cracker Barrel.

Please RSVP by **clicking here** https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0445A4A-72CA7F58-62801740-registration#/ or using the **QR code** for the Special Blessing and/or for Bus Transportation Registration form. If you have questions, contact Rose Warner at rosaliepwarner@gmail.com or 484-330-1340.

What is Great Sabbath? Why do we gather for a Lovefeast?

The last verse we read in Matthew's gospel (which is the gospel we follow this lectionary year A) on Good Friday evening, after the death of Jesus, is this: Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb (Matthew 27:61). Then we have the Sabbath day, followed by Matthew 28's account of the resurrection. This Sabbath day (Matthew 27:62-66), with only five verses, is often overlooked in many Christian traditions. But the Moravian Church has a historic connection to celebrating a Great Sabbath Lovefeast on the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday as an important part of our Holy Week worship.

Sabbath itself is a gift of God; the day of rest and also a day of gathering together. We are encouraged to take a regular Sabbath in our week; perhaps this is a day without work (however you define this – emails, housework, etc.). But on this Great Sabbath, we are encouraged to remember the actions of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, who appeared to be together in this moment of deep sadness and uncertainty following the death of Jesus. We too gather as we are reminded of the importance of community, worshipping, singing and eating together in such times through the act of a lovefeast. There is no sermon in this worship service that we celebrate on Saturday, April 4th at 2 p.m.; rather the music, lovefeast and gathering is a message in itself.

Our children and youth at Central have also long practiced the tradition of also gathering earlier on Great Sabbath to decorate God's Acre with hyacinths (12 p.m. this year), preparing our space for Easter Dawn. In the midst of our fearful or distressing times, we still gather – and with hope for our tomorrows, and symbolically we place flowers on graves. The significance of these actions that have become beloved traditions are beautiful to remember in this Easter season and beyond.

It's Spring-Cleaning Time
Busy Workers will help you to clean out your attic, closets, garage, & garden

If you have household items (books, toys, games, records, DVDs, Legos, kitchen utensils, garden equipment, pottery, china, glassware, sports equipment, small furniture items, lamps, **especially jewelry, even broken jewelry**, linens, knick-knacks, holiday decorations, etc.) that are still in good condition but that you no longer need or want, please consider donating them to Busy Workers for their annual **Plant and Attic Treasures Sale**, scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. and Sunday, May 10th from 9 a.m.– 2 p.m. They cannot accept clothing, text books, stuffed animals, encyclopedias, electronics,or large furniture. The sale will be held in the Christian Education building (plants will be sold outside the C. E. kitchen).

Your donated attic treasures may be brought to the C. E. building (lower level, NW corner room) on the dates below. If you have a question about an item you wish to donate, please contact Jacqueline Adams at 610-867-7463.

April 21 Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

April 23 Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

April 26 Sunday, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

April 28 Tuesday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

April 30 Thursday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

May 3 Sunday, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (last collection day)

Attention Gardeners

As you dig and divide this spring (prior to May 9 & 10), please consider sharing some of your "extras" with the Busy Workers. They're looking for: ferns, hosta, irises, primroses, peonies, perennial geraniums, monardas (bee balm), hellebores (Lenten rose), lilies-of-the-valley, bulbs (daffodil, snowdrop, tulip,), ornamental grasses, sedum, daisies, coneflowers, catmint, etc. If you have a question about plants, please call Joan Carson (610-346-8012). Plants should be brought to the CE bldg. on Friday, May 8, or call Joan Carson for options.

Bakers Wanted

Busy Workers are looking for bakers to make cookies, pies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, scones, bread, jams, jellies, candy, or your specialty, to sell at their sale. Your donations make this sale a success. If you have any questions, call Sallie Woodring at 610-746-5648 or Jacqueline Adams at 610-867-7463. They can be dropped off at the Christian Education building May 8 after 2 p.m. or call Jacqueline for other arrangements.

February & March Events at Central

Our Mental Health Team led a special intergenerational Sunday School event on Neurographic art to center us with this simple practice.



Thanks to our wonderful Children's choir led by Linda de Vries, Director of Children's Ministries





Thanks to the Lehigh Dialogue Center for putting together an Interfaith Ramadan dinner enjoyed by over 50 Central members and our Muslim friends.

We are incredibly grateful to our friends at the Lehigh Dialogue Center, a Muslim community in the Lehigh Valley, for extending the invitation to participate in an Interfaith Iftar on February 21st. Learning more about the month long fasting (during daylight hours) of Islam called Ramadan and its central call for Muslims to return to God at their center connected us to our Lenten practices of centering ourselves in God's presence during the Christian tradition of Lent, with 40 days before Easter. One particular reason to gather with people of another religion that is different from ours was explained by the leaders of the Dialogue Center, "It's hard to hate face to face." We pray that by learning more about Islam and meeting our Muslim brothers and sisters over a shared meal we both will grow to understand and appreciate our faiths on a deeper level.

With thanks to some of Central's young people and Diane Shaw and Charlene Donchez Mowers for an engaging "Famous Visitors to Old Chapel" Lenten program. Check it out on our YouTube channel!





April Special Offering Envelope

Easter Sunday (April 5) - special envelopes are used to cover extra expenses we have during the season of Lent and Easter. Expenses include many things such as palms for Palm Sunday, lilies for the Chancel cross, sugar cake for the Easter Dawn service, buns for the Great Sabbath Lovefeast, as well as additional utilities used during the extra services held during Lent and Holy Week.

On-line Donations

This message is important to those who are making on-line donations to the church. If you make those donations anonymously, there is no way for those donations to appear on your statement from the church. When your periodic statements arrive from the church, please take a few minutes to look them over. We appreciate your financial support of Central. Please contact Martha at the church office with any questions you may have about this.

Stewardship One-Liner

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1 John 5:11

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; Use Less Plastic

- Celebrate Earth Day/Month! Get involved in your local community's 'clean-up' day.
- And this is the month that municipalities provide collection of out-of-date/unused medications & prescription drugs. Be sure to dispose of them responsibly... don't wash them down the drain!!
- Don't microwave food/leftovers in plastic containers or bags. Microplastic particles can break off during the heating and wind up in your food... and your body!
- Check out Earth 911: https://earth911.com
- Search for places to recycle all kinds of items, based on your zip code.
- Do you have electronics or hazardous waste you wish to recycle? In Northampton County check this website: https://norcopa.gov/environmental-services
- In Lehigh County, check these websites: https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Solid-Waste-Management/Electronic-Waste https://www.lehighcounty.org/departments/solid-waste-management/household-hazardous-waste
- Write a letter or email, or make a phone call to your legislators (federal, state and local) to advocate for the environment and responsible climate change policies. Urge the City of Bethlehem to enact a single-use plastic bag ban!!
- Do your perennials need dividing? The Busy Workers will be glad to accept donations of hosta, iris, peonies, coneflowers, daisies, spring bulbs, houseplants, etc. for their plant sale in May. Check the Belfry and Constant Contact for details.

The Belfry

April 2026

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

Financial Staff:
Martha Jones
Andrew Miller

Facilities Staff:
Michael Repsher
Tammy Ace

Music Staff:
Becky Lepore
Richard Miller

Head Sacristan:
Tim Brady

Head Female Sacristans:
Beth Boyer
Ann Raines

Senior Office Administrator:
Cindy Gibson

Media Director:
Will Schwab

Media Assistant:
Paul de Vries

Children Ministries:
Linda de Vries



April Birthdays

1 Stuart Paxton
1 Cole Rampolla
2 Charles Stutzenberger
2 Llyena Boylan
3 Tina Macaulay
3 Emma Kantner
3 Madison Jezick
4 Marianne Allen
4 Michele Prichett
4 Jennifer Shields
5 Calvin Dean
6 Suzanne Boundy
6 Rose Warner
6 Barry Pell
6 Kenneth Nasatka
7 Christopher Getz
7 Steve Schlack
8 Eric Feather
8 Thomas Lantz
8 Gemma Schippang
9 Kathryn Anderson
10 Nancy Zaccone
10 Michael Brolly
10 Kirsten Anthony
10 Evan Klokis
11 Frank Boyer
11 Emmett Becker
11 Landon Becker
13 Sue Strouse
13 Zoe Jezick
13 Zane Silvius
15 Carol Gaal
16 William Eberman
16 Karen Sonier
16 Maria Williams
16 David Weikert
16 Benjamin Paxton
16 Blake Gross
18 Sarah Phillips
18 Maya Kret
19 Karen Naisby
19 Maryalice Vorwerk
19 Bradley Rogers
19 Justin Schippang
20 James McCarthy III
21 Rachel Holler
21 Anastasia Endress
22 Leslie Morneweck
22 Ronald Domen
22 Jessica Mosebach
23 Betty Klase
23 Helen Forasté
23 Kate Lamberton
24 Edward Pavlik
24 James Snyder
24 Ada Heckman
25 Hal Smith
25 Glory Lee Malsberger
25 John Zapf II
26 Gina Kelechava
26 Kathy Williams
26 Lynne Brolly
27 Harry Tachovsky
27 Tom Long
27 Wendy Goldman
28 Thomas Haupert
29 Diane Decker
29 Mary Berlin
29 Taylor Plinke
30 Patricia Early
30 Diane Freed
30 Becky Lepore

Church Journal

In Memoriam

February 17 - Kerwin Silfies

February 23 - Richard Ettwein