



THE SHARON MESSENGER: PROCLAIMING, GROWING, SHARING

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I greet you all in the name of Christ our Lord.

Please allow me at the very outset to say thank you for the privilege of serving with you here at Sharon for the past three years. I believe that God has blessed our partnership in many ways, and I look forward to what God will continue to accomplish in and through our ministry together.

With Labor Day and the unofficial end of summer fast approaching, under normal circumstances we would be getting ready to resume our regular fall routines. But even though we are living in a time that is anything but normal, we still move forward trusting God to guide us along the way.

Students in the Tuscarawas County have already started the new school year, and with the presence of COVID-19, the challenge to teach and to learn is immense. There is a great deal of emotions and anxieties not only among some teachers and students, but among parents who have to decide whether to send their children to school for in person learning. As a community of faith, I invite us to continue to pray for the safety of all who serve and learn in our education system.

As we look forward to the ministry opportunities for the fall, I remind you that September 20th will be Moravian Day of Service in the community. Very soon we will unveil the plans for the day and ask for your support and involvement.

Each year, as an outreach for our congregation, we raised funds to support the Indian Valley School Shoe Voucher Program for kids in need. And from what I have been told, many kids look forward to this program to get a new pair of shoes. This year the need may be even greater because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are currently in the process of raising funds for this outreach and we are asking for your kind contribution if you are able to give.

Friends, as we continue to serve Christ, we do so with the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is directing and guiding us as we serve. Let us ask God to enfold us in His love, instill in us the spirit of peace and unity, and keep us on the path He has set before us.

Please remember to keep our sick and home bound members in your prayers.

May God's blessings be upon us all.

Pastor Lloyd

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Dear Moravian Pastor,

I am delighted and feel truly honored to be asked to partner with the Moravian Church in providing Group Spiritual Companionship. Moravians have a rich heritage of this type of spiritual companionship. Maggie Wellert, a retired Moravian pastor and a graduate of Moravian's Spiritual Direction Training program notes that group spiritual direction/companionship is a practice familiar to the Moravian church. Maggie Wellert notes "that this spiritual companionship practice is akin to the work of Choir Helpers in meeting with individuals in the Choir to share in "Speakings," a monthly conversation that "focused on the state of each individual's body and soul... a conversation designed to invite individuals to reflect on their own spiritual and secular path." In explaining what spiritual direction is (sometimes called spiritual companionship), classic authors on spiritual direction, Barry and Connolly, share this explanation: "...help given by one Christian to another which enables that person to pay attention to God's personal communication to him or her, to respond to this personally communicating God, to grow in intimacy with this God, and live out the consequences of the relationship."

For those of you who are interested in exploring spiritual companionship in this format this fall, or, if you know of 1 – 2 of your parishioners whom you would like to invite to experience this offering, please have them contact me. This fall offering is being set up as a 'taste and see' experience, for key people in each church to have an opportunity to 'experience first hand' what Group Spiritual Companionship (GSC) is, so that they in turn can share what this means with others in their parish. In spring we hope to offer 1 - 2 GSC groups within many Moravian churches (led by myself or another trained spiritual director).

This fall we will gather together in groups of 4 – 6 people (via zoom, so folks from different churches may be joining together) in a monthly rhythm of prayerful listening. I will be leading these monthly GSC gatherings, and will be bringing my experience of four plus years of leading prayerful practices via zoom to our gatherings. This will not be 'just another zoom meeting', but rather a time for a deep spiritual pause, with embodied spiritual practices that I have found work quite well via zoom to ground ourselves in God, so that the connection of the spirit can be felt in profound and truly intimate ways despite geographic distance.

Logistically what this will mean:

- * a monthly 2 hour spiritual companionship/listening circle (September through December)
- * a willingness to open our spiritual lives to share with others (at the level of your choosing), and a willingness to hold sacred space for others as they share
- * a commitment to pray for each other in between meetings
- * a commitment to confidentiality

Each time we gather together we will listen for the 'still small voice of God' in the midst of the clamor, unknowing, and sea of change we are in. Anchoring in a God who is the 'same yesterday today and forever' we will listen with and for each other as to how God might be leading us to 'hold fast the hope' in both our individual lives and in the lives of our beloved communities.

As Alice Fryling says in her book Seeking God together: An introduction to group spiritual direction, "The purpose of Group Spiritual Direction is to provide a place where individuals can experience what it means to be listened to and loved by others, so that they can learn to listen more attentively to the Holy in their daily lives, and be loved by God/Mystery, becoming more available to spread grace and love throughout the world (p. 8)."

I am grateful for the vision of the Moravian Church that includes spiritual companionship as part of spiritual formation for the church. Group spiritual companionship has been called a form of listening others into speech. Together we will listen and explore what God's invitation is for us 'during such a time as this'. Clearly, we are in a new season; a season 'rich with God'...for, as we know from early scriptures, God is perfectly at home in chaos. Together we will steady ourselves with this regular prayer practice of listening to and for God with each other, learning new tools of spiritual deepening helpful in times of 'great change', and offer an oasis to 'pause and take stock' with God and trusted others.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have about this fall GSC Program or to clarify logistics with those who are interested in engaging this practice. Please let me know by September 4 if you or one - two of your parishioners would like to engage in this GSC practice (the Moravian Church will pay for this fall offering...no charge to you). I can be reached at marcellak2@aol.com or by phone at 717 413 7945. I look forward to this collaboration.

Sincerely,

Marcella Kraybill-Greggo

NEWS FROM THE BOARDS

Trustees' Meeting Summary

~Summary of the August 10, 2020 Trustees' Meeting~

All bills & common ministries commitments have been paid for the month of July.

Steeple fund was discussed.

Power wash of parsonage and Church has been scheduled. Once that is done, staining the deck can proceed.

New cemetery layout is continuing and benches for columbarium are scheduled for installation.

Getting estimate for tree removal in cemetery.

Elders' Meeting Summary

~Summary of the August 3, 2020 Elders' Meeting~

Holy Communion for Moravian Pentecost was discussed.

Virtual Tar Hollow Summer Camp was discussed.

Moravian Day of Service for September 20th was discussed.

Our support for the Indian Valley School Shoe Voucher program was discussed.

Ministry of Wednesday quilters was discussed.

Brief discussion about Christmas Eve began and will continue at next meeting.

Elder on duty update was discussed.



“Thank you for the ladies who made the beautiful quilt. Thank you also for your prayers & cards from the congregation following Jim’s death. A big thanks to Marie Abbuhl for delivering the quilt. God Bless. Barbara LaWarre”

“Thanks to all who sent me cards when I had my accident. I am doing much better and it is good to be back to church. Bobbie Shriver”

“Thank you so much to the congregation of the Sharon Moravian Church for the beautiful quilt. What a thoughtful gesture. God Bless! Georgia Johns”

“Dear Sharon Ladies, Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt. It will be a wonderful remembrance of my mother. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. Francis & Denise Picchetti.” “Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and kindness during this difficult time. From the family of Yolanda Ida Altier.”

Twin City Service Center



Our non-food donations to the Twin City Christian Service Center for September is baby food. They

will except your plastic grocery bags; however, the Twin City Service Center is in desperate need of the donation items of the month for the families in our community in need. Please place your donations in the box located beside the stairs at the parking lot entrance.



If you would like to receive the Sharon Messenger electronically through your email,

Please send us your email address at:

secretary@sharonmoravian.org



The October 2020 Women's Fall Retreat in Hope, Indiana has been rescheduled for 2021 in Hope.

Upcoming Lectionary Texts

September 6 – Psalm 149; Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20 **September 13 – Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Exodus 14:19-31; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18:21-35** **September 20 – Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Exodus 16:2-15; Phillippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16** **September 27 – Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Exodus 17:1-7; Phillippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32**

*Deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of Michael Schwendiman & James LaWarre who went to be with the more immediate presence of our Lord.
Deepest condolences to the family and friends.*



Prayers of Intercession:

For the following members and friends in need of continued prayers – Curt Quillen, Jessie Loveday, Dale Kollman, Cathy Williams, Georgia Johns, Gary Watkins, Keith Pretorius, Sharon Rauzi, Paul Feickert, Joe Link, Keith Noonan, Kim Warren, Lynn E. Reichman, Valeria Meek, Francis Picchetti, Marilyn Croskey, David Gruber, Bonnie Ray, Lela Garver, Beckie Demattio, Jill Hodge, Carl Kopp, Art Viola, Dorothy Hewitt, Kimberly Nichols, Ken Abbuhl Jr., Paul Melnichenko, David Ray, Lori McBeth, Clarice Yoder, Patricia Cole, Dan, Mel and Ava Winner, Kelly Lawver, Gary Abbuhl, Bob Abbuhl, Janet West, Anna Smith



**Please call the church office to update names on the prayer list.*

Address Service Requested

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2020 Newsletter