



First Sunday in Advent

Watchword for the week from the Moravian Daily Text:

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Luke 21: 33

**November Joyful
Noise Collection:**

**Haiti Disaster
Relief**

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

from Rev. Steve Wilson

How do you know? How do you know you are saved? Jesus speaks of needing to be saved in John 3. He uses the word saved many times. It is a word non-believers struggle with as do many believers. Saved from what? And what does it mean? Is there a need to be saved? Sunday there will be scripture given and words shared that will help give meaning to these questions. The answers found in scripture can bring life and security which Jesus offers. I look forward to our time of worship. *Steve*

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus ([Matthew 2:1](#)), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist ([John 1:29](#)), and his first miracle at Cana ([John 2:1](#)). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels. May this knowledge add to your experience of Advent this season!

—excerpts taken from the article "What Is Advent?" by Justin Holcomb on Christianity.com

WORSHIP: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

ZOOM Meeting ID: 205 454 336

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/205454336>

Guest Worship Leader: Rev. Steve Wilson

Liturgist: Donna Royster

Liturgy: Advent (MBW, p.49)

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday, Nov. 28: Sunday School (9:45am)
Worship (11:00am)

Monday, Nov. 29: "The Story" Bible Study (7:15pm)
ZOOM Meeting ID: 833 2624 8816

Tuesday, Nov. 30: Candle Guild (7:00pm)

Wednesday, Dec. 1: Praise Band Rehearsal (6:00pm)
Chancel Choir (7:30pm)

WINTER JOURNEY AT LAUREL RIDGE

Have you been longing for an opportunity to return to Laurel Ridge? Find peace and join Moravian friends on the mountain for *Winter Journey*, held February 18-20, 2022 at Higgins Lodge. *Winter Journey* is a retreat which offers opportunities for spiritual formation and personal growth in what is often regarded as the dormant season of the year. Participants will share fellowship, meal, and worship as a large group while breaking into three smaller program tracks. The retreat schedule is balanced between programmed and unprogrammed time.

Program tracks include "Sing All: A Study on Worship and Congregational Song" (Rev. Mason Cantey/Rev. Maggie Cantey), "Forest Bathing" (Henry Fansler), and "Pastels and Creative Writing" (Rev. Bill Gramley); devotions and worship will be led by Rev. Linda Seippel. Freetime activities may include woodturning, crafts, board/card games, hiking, and trips to West Jefferson or the Thistle Meadow winery.

Meredith Cohoon is organizing a group to attend from First Moravian. For more information (including program details and food/lodging rates), pick up a *Winter Journey* brochure in the vestibule. Retreat registration is open now.

JOYFUL NOISE NOVEMBER: HAITI DISASTER RELIEF

During the month of November, our Joyful Noise collection each Sunday will support the disaster relief efforts in Haiti. On August 14, a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit southwestern Haiti. The death toll was over 2,200 persons with over 12,000 injured. Haiti is a Mission Area of the Moravian Church with a dozen congregations and is supervised jointly with Eastern West Indies and Jamaica Provinces. The Moravian church buildings in those villages are heavily damaged, and with many homes destroyed, most people have been sleeping in the streets or vacant properties. Please remember to bring your coins and cash to fill our buckets in the narthex each Sunday so that we can meet our goal of \$500. You may also forward donations to the church office.

DO YOU HAVE AN OLD BICYCLE TO DONATE?

New Philadelphia Moravian Church member, Billy Newsom, refurbishes bicycles to be given to children in need. If you have a bicycle to donate to Billy, he'll gladly take it off your hands and give it a tune-up to give to a child. You can drop any bikes you have by the FMC church office and we will get them to Billy. And if you know of a child who may love a bicycle, please contact Billy Newsom with the NPMC Bike Ministry at 336-414-9594. He will be glad to help!

FMC CANDLE TEA STORE IS OPEN FOR HOLIDAY ORDERS!

Our First Moravian Candle Tea will again be a virtual event this year, and we are now open for business! We will take orders from November 1st–30th through our virtual store: CandleTeaStore.com. Order pick-up will take place on Saturday, December 4th, from 10:00am-3:00pm in our church parking lot. Candle Tea "Pick-Up Day" will be a festive event with costumed greeters, music from our band, and a living nativity by our children on the lawn for our drive-thru guests.

ANNUAL CHURCH COUNCIL RESULTS

First Moravian held its Annual Church Council Meeting on Sunday, November 14th. Election results were as follows:

Board of Elders: Caroline Armijo, Jane McKinney

Board of Trustees: Dalton McLean, Carey Pahel

Synod Delegates: Meredith Cohoon, Nancy Jackson (Alternates: Jane McKinney, Donna Royster)

RCC Representatives: Beverly Lozano, Sam Post

Thank you to all who are serving and have agreed to serve our congregation in leadership roles in the coming year. May Christ, our Chief Elder, continue to guide and inspire the ministry of our church!

PRAYER CONCERNS

If you have a concern you would like added to our Prayer List, please email the Church Office (office@greensboromoravian.org).

CURRENT: The **WOFFORD FAMILY** (on the death of Penny's father, NORMAN JORDAN); **ADRIENNE JUD** (began chemotherapy last week for colon cancer); **VINCE HOLBROOK** (on the death of his mother, BEULAH BURTON HOLBROOK).

EXTENDED: **JANET and ALAN BUCHANAN** (JANET is in treatment for peritoneal cancer with surgery at the cancer center); **The family of MEREDITH BELL CLARK** (on birth of her son DAVIS CLARK, prematurely); **VICTORIA RAGLAND COOK** (Chip Cook's mother, whose cancer has resurfaced); **TOM HOISINGTON** (Chip Cook's father-in-law, who is undergoing a third bladder cancer treatment); **The family of JOYCE CRUMPACKER** (recovering from a broken leg and surgery that removed one of her kidneys); **MARY DILLON; GARRY COLLINS** (recovering at home from an extended hospital stay); **ZACK DUNN III** (recovering from a stroke at home); **JAN ELLISOR; MARY JEANNE FONES** (experiencing worsening dementia and inability to walk following recovery from fall and broken hip); **The REVEREND BILL GRAMLEY** (treatment for prostate cancer); **HUNTER JOHNSON; GEORGE KIROPES** (recovering at home with physical therapy); **RON LUTZ; KAREN MASHBURN** (recovering from a broken hip); **DAVID MCELVEEN** (suffering from ALS, son of REV. BILL & CAROL MCELVEEN); **CHARLES MEECE** (TERESA WALKER'S father, adjusting to new home at Spring Arbor); **LARRY MORSE** (Nancy Wall's neighbor, on the death of his wife, CLAIRE MORSE); **TREVOR NUTTALL** (recovering from reconstructive colon surgery); **LISA SALO** (recovering from knee surgery); **REV. SANDRA THIGPEN** (recovering at home with physical therapy twice a week), **AMY WILLIAMS** (recovering from multiple surgeries following an auto accident).

BEREAVEMENT: **THE family of JASON DEATON** (on death of his father; DON DEATON); **The family of TOMMY EDWARDS** (on his death); **The family of HELEN GODWIN** (on her death); **The extended family of DOT JACKSON** (on her death); **The family of KEN KIRK** (KAREN MASHBURN'S father, on his death); **REV. VICTORIA LASLEY** (on the death of her grandmother, Sister PEGGY HOLYFIELD); **CHARLES MCKINNEY and family** (on death of his mother, ELSIE MCKINNEY); **The family of NELLE PARLIER** (on death of her sister ELEANOR CARTER BARRETT, sister-in-law of MARIAN CARTER, first cousin of JANE MCKINNEY and TONI BURROUGHS); **GAY GORDON RAY** (cousin of MARJORIE SISK) **and her husband TRACY RAY** (on the death of their daughter); **REV. RAMONA SPENCER** (on death of her husband, ERIC SPENCER); **The family of TORI SMALL** (on death of her grandmother, CAROLYN WALDRON, great-grandmother of KIERAN and DAISY).

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Rowe Piper, 30 th	Adrienne Jud, 1 st	Jasmine Berry, 1 st	
Jill Petery, 1 st	Stuart Smith, 2 nd	Elizabeth Cook, 2 nd	Larry Weavil, 4 th

CALLING ALL CANDLE TEA VOLUNTEERS!

Thanksgiving is here, which means the time will soon be upon us... We need many volunteers to make our Virtual Candle Tea a success once again! We need help packing orders next week and folks to man the parking lot and greet customers in festive fashion on Candle Tea Distribution Day, Saturday, December 4th. Please sign up online so we know that all volunteer shifts are covered: <https://tinyurl.com/jmx5sy6k>.

The First Moravian Band will play at 10:00am on Saturday, December 4th to kick off our Distribution Day. Thank you to everyone for your help!



AND BE THANKFUL: A THANKSGIVING MEDITATION

What does God think of thanksgiving? He is blessed and honored by it because a life of thanksgiving is the mark of a saint who knows God's character and His position as God alone. The Lord is the giver of all good gifts and He is worthy of thanksgiving. Since God's qualities are not hidden, thanksgiving is not optional.

"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:20-21).

The absence of glory and thanksgiving ascribed to God leads to darkened hearts and futile thinking. May God's people receive wisdom as we glorify His eternal power and divine nature with praise and thanksgiving! God is Jehovah, the great I AM. He is El-Shaddai, the Almighty God. He is Jehovah-Jireh, God our Provider. *"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:16-18).* Everything we enjoy in the present and coming age is a gift from God worthy of thanksgiving.

But what if our life is a mess? What if our circumstances feel like anything but a gift from God? Circumstances may deceive us, but God's Word tells us: *"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).* God is at work for our good and His glory. Biblical thanksgiving does not focus on our circumstances, but on the character of God. Circumstances change; God does not.

In Psalms 73, David was perplexed at the prosperity of the wicked while the godly faced difficulties and trials. However, he reminded himself that God alone was His provision, counsel, strength, desire, and portion. He knew from God's Word the fate of those who are far from God and he remembered that it was good and right for him to be near God, his refuge -- offering thanksgiving for all God had done. Those who have the salvation of God through faith in Jesus Christ know the secret to peace is found in thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul, writing to the Philippians, said, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).*

By submitting our requests to God with a thankful heart, we receive peace that transcends all understanding. Thanksgiving is integral to a right relationship with God. It is the hallmark of a true follower of Jesus Christ because thanksgiving honors God, bringing glory to His name and blessings beyond measure. *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)*

-Dr. Michael Youssef (from *Leading the Way's* monthly magazine at crosswalk.com)



Casting Call:

Be A “Star” In The Moravian Christmas Reflections Advent Video Series!

Advent is a time set aside each year to prepare for and celebrate the coming of Christ into the world. There are many experiences Moravians in particular hold dear when it comes to the Advent and Christmas seasons. However, this year these beloved traditions will be taking shape in a different way. Through this year’s #MoravianChristmasReflections video series, the Board of Cooperative Ministries will be taking a look at what these traditions mean to you, how this year has changed these traditions, and what you are excited to see happen in the future!

All Moravians are invited to participate by recording a 60-90 second video in response to one of the suggested prompts. Video reflections will be shared on the BCM Facebook page throughout the Advent season! **Video submissions are due by Tuesday, November 30th.** For complete info and how to submit, visit:

<https://www.moravian.org/bcm/2020/09/10/christmas-reflections/>

Pray Every Day - December 2021 – Moravian Mission Society

1. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
2. The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his. Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
3. When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. Pray for the government leaders in our country.
4. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Pray for Safiatu Braima and Sierra Leone.
5. When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Pray for the Moravians in Peru.
6. But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Pray for Moravians in Cuba and the Armando Rusindo Foundation.
7. You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet. Pray for the Moravians in Honduras and Nicaragua.
8. My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya and Ray of Hope.
9. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
10. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
11. A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord.' Pray for the Unity Women's Desk.
12. Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
13. The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek Intersarsity.
14. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Pray for Alan and DeeDee lobst in France.
15. In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
16. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and people of every language worshipped him. Pray for Annie B Missions and Star Mountain.
17. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
18. See your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
19. The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
20. When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you. Pray for the medical personnel caring for Covid-19 patients.
21. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
22. For nothing is impossible with God. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
23. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! Pray for the Rajpur Foster Child Project.
24. Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Pray for PEC members, bishops and other church leaders.
25. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Pray for the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahaus.
26. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests. Pray for seminarians and candidates for ordination.

27. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. Pray for short term mission teams.
28. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. Pray for the Moravian churches in Haiti.
29. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Pray for disaster relief workers.
30. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Pray for firefighters and police officers.
31. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. Pray for Estamos Unidos Moravian Ministry.



2021 ADVENT CALENDAR

In support of the Clínica Evangélica
Morava in Ahuas, Honduras

Counting our blessings so that we may bless others.

This year, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Clínica Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, Honduras, we have created a new Advent calendar to encourage Moravians throughout the U.S. and Canada to allow their blessings to be a blessing to those receiving medical care through the Ahuas Clinic.

Follow along with the calendar by downloading the printable version (link below) or have the daily prompts sent through email or text. Follow the Board of World Mission on Facebook and Instagram for daily updates there, too!

To download the printable version:

Visit... <https://tinyurl.com/4dt6uxe5>

To receive daily email prompts:

Email sylvie@moravianmission.org and include "Advent calendar" in the subject line.

To receive daily text prompts:

Text +1 (920) 495-8995 and include "Advent calendar" in the text.

Find a jar to collect a penny or a nickel for each of these blessings, or if coins are in short supply, use the tally sheet included with the calendar. At the end of Advent, December 24, we will invite you to total up your blessing count and make that a donation to the Board of World Mission's work. We would count it a blessing to share your blessings with the medical team in Ahuas.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 19th: Lessons & Carols (11:00am). Join us as our Chancel Choir, led by Dr. Jane McKinney and accompanied by Ann Curtis (organist) and string ensemble, presents a special service of music and worship for the Advent season.

Sunday, December 19th: Congregational Christmas Lovefeast (7:00pm). Our FMC family will celebrate a traditional "Christmas Eve" Lovefeast on Sunday evening, December 19th. The service will be recorded and streamed for the public on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Lovefeast (7:00pm). Join First Moravian online with friends near and far as we stream our Christmas Eve Lovefeast on Zoom (Zoom ID: 205 454 336) and Facebook Live (@fmcgreensboro) at 7:00pm. For those local to the area, Lovefeast Kits (including bun, coffee, and candle) will be available on a first-come, first-served basis through the church office prior to Christmas Eve.

GUM HONOR CARDS AVAILABLE NOW

2021 Honor Cards benefiting Greensboro Urban Ministry are now available for purchase in the narthex for \$5.00 per card. You can honor a friend or loved one while helping to support those in need in our community. This year's card features artwork by local artist William Mangum. To purchase, please sign the form and place your cash or checks made out to Greensboro Urban Ministries in the large Honor Card envelope. (Cards have been restocked!)

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION NEWS

The Moravian Music Foundation has been fortunate to have had many core leaders among our directors who have guided the Foundation, brought vision to our musical world, and connected with our supporters and friends. The MMF **announces the upcoming retirement in August 2022** of two such exceptional leaders: **Rev. Dr. Nola Reed Knouse**, Director, and **Gwyneth Michel**, Assistant Director, who have served 30 years and 15 years, respectively. We congratulate them on the achievements of long and productive careers and wish them well as they transition to a well-deserved retirement. We have been blessed by the work they have done and the direction they have set for the Foundation. Please visit our website, moravianmusic.org/celebrating-excellence, for a more comprehensive overview of their amazing accomplishments.

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH STAFF

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm; (336) 272-2196; office@greensboromoravian.org

Pastor (Vacant): Contact Sam Post, Jr. (Elders) at (336) 392-4488 (c); spostjr@gmail.com or Mike Cockman (Trustees) at (336) 451-0501 (c); mcockman002@triad.rr.com

Meredith Cohoon, Director of Christian Education: dce@greensboromoravian.org

Gay Cass, Treasurer: treasurer@greensboromoravian.org

Dr. Jane McKinney, Director of Music: mckinneyj@greensboro.edu

Ann Curtis, Organist/Pianist: anncurtis321@gmail.com

Genny Wynn, Administrative Assistant: office@greensboromoravian.org

2021 Board of Elders

Sam Post, Jr. (Vice Chair)

Chip Cook (Secretary)

Gay Cass

Dru Fulcher

Nancy Jackson

Nancy Wall

2021 Board of Trustees

Mike Cockman (Chair)

Jesse Day

David Lozano

Charles McKinney

Chuck Royster

Russ Walker