

United in Christ, Reaching Out with Love, Changing Lives

2025 WATCHWORD

The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow. Psalm 146:9



SEPTEMBER 7 IS FAVORITE HYMNS SUNDAY!

There will be no sermon this Sunday. Instead, we will celebrate with a service of favorite hymns, along with some of the Scripture passages that inspired them. The hymns include *Immortal, Invisible; My Shepherd Will Supply My Need; Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice; Be Still, My Soul; Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing; Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You; and Sing Hallelujah Praise the Lord.*



FMC WORSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

Join us for a morning of music, worship, fellowship, and food! On Sunday, September 28th (10am-2pm), FMC will hold our worship service (led by the praise band), followed by a congregational picnic, at High Point City Lake Park (Shelter #8, Yellow Pine). Bring your camp chairs and chat, join in some outdoor games... You can even bring your fishing rod or take a relaxing boat tour around the lake!

Fried chicken will be provided; please sign up below to help us round out our lunch buffet by bringing a salad, side, bread, drinks, or dessert. Thank you!

Sign-Up Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C44AFA929A2FB6-58090907-fmccongregational>

SIGN UP ONLINE TO VOLUNTEER AT CANDLE TEA

September is here and that means Candle Tea is just three short months away! As always, we need everyone's help to share our Moravian heritage with the community during the Advent season and make this huge event a success.

There is a job for everyone at Candle Tea whether you are a veteran volunteer or interested visitor. You can see all the volunteer areas and time slots on the 2025 Candle Tea Master Volunteer Schedule. We especially need help in the early hours on Friday from 2:00-5:00pm. Have no fear: if you've never helped in a particular area, on-the-job training will be provided!

Use the online sign-up (also linked in the Friday email) to indicate where you can help. *Area Chairs: Please be sure you have signed up to work in your own area!*

2025 Candle Tea Master Volunteer Schedule: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C44AFA929A2FB6-57500750-2025>

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Annie Council by David, Nick, and Cindy Council.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Watchword for the Week: Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him. Deuteronomy 30:19,20

Liturgist: David Lozano

Liturgy: General Liturgy 1 (pp. 1-4)

September Joyful Noise: BWM Projects in Ahuas, Honduras

Sept 7 Usher Shirt Color: Hawaiian or Tropical

Sept 14 Usher Shirt Color: Blue

See page 7 for more upcoming shirt colors.

Zoom Meeting ID: 205 454 336

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

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sat, Sept 6 Chicken Pie Prep (7:00am, 11:00am, NFH)

Sun, Sept 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast (8:30am, NFH)
Sunday School (9:45am, Library)
Worship (11:00am, Sanctuary)
Chicken Pie Prep (12:30pm, NFH)

Tues, Sept 9 Friendship Circle (11:30am, OFH)

Wed, Sept 10 Praise Band (6:00pm, OFH)
Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm, Sanctuary)

Thurs, Sept 11 Finance Committee (7:00pm, Conf Rm)

Sat, Sept 13 Chicken Pie Prep (7:00am, 11:00am, NFH)

SEPTEMBER JOYFUL NOISE: BOARD OF WORLD MISSION PROJECTS IN AHUAS, HONDURAS

This month, the Mission Committee is sponsoring a fundraiser to support the Board of World Mission's projects at the medical clinic in Ahuas, Honduras. Please place your donations in the collection cans in the narthex or send donations to the church office.

Fill the Box: This month's emphasis is pickles. Place your donations in the One Step Further wooden food collection box in the narthex on Sunday.

MORAVIAN DAY OF SERVICE PROJECT: SEPTEMBER 14TH

Please plan to remain after church for a short period on Sept. 14 to help assemble school supply grab bags, which will be First Moravian's Day of Service project. The grab bags will be donated to Lindley Elementary School for students who may not be able to purchase all the items on their classroom's list. During the month of August, our congregation donated 50 boxes of colored pencils, 40 boxes of crayons, 145 glue sticks, 844 pencils and 91 pairs of scissors plus nearly \$200 in cash that will be used to purchase more supplies. Our goal is 100 grab bags.

APPLE DUMPLING WORKSHOP

All are welcome to join in on Thursday, October 2, as we make apple dumplings from 9:00am until noon. No experience is needed, and we always have lots of fellowship while we make these special treats for Candle Tea.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SOCIAL A SUCCESS

Our annual End-of-Summer Ice Cream Social yielded a buffet of fanciful flavors and other tasty treats! In addition to mint chocolate chip, butter pecan, cookies and cream, brown butter bourbon truffle, and amaretto cherry cordial, adventurous eaters sampled homemade pickle ice cream, as well as "Spicy Pepper Vanilla", made with fish peppers grown in our garden. The afternoon of food and fellowship made for a sweet finish to an all-too-short summer!



CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT LAUREL RIDGE: OCTOBER 24TH-26TH

The deadline to register and submit a deposit (\$50/room) was August 24th.

If extra rooms are available, we will let you know

Refunds will be available until September 24.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PERFORMING WITH FIRST MORAVIAN'S BELLCHOR?

We will be gathering to rehearse for Candle Tea performances soon. If you wish to participate and can commit to weekly rehearsals, please contact Sue Kiorpes at 336-458-7871 or Khaleigha Holdip at 336-307-0488.

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES Will PARTNER WITH AMERICA 250 TO COMMEMORATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

In 2026, the nation will be celebrating 250 years of American independence. Since 2024, the Forsyth County chapter of America 250 (america250.org) has been meeting to plan events, educational programming, and more to celebrate the semi-quincentennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Because Salem famously held the first official celebration of the Fourth of July, the Moravian Archives has been actively involved in this committee, including hosting meetings at the Archie K. Davis Center. With our abundance of collection materials related to the inception and history of the United States, the Moravian Archives Southern Province has committed to collaborating with several institutions to educate our posterity and ensure the democratic mission is continued. Assistant Director Sabrina Garity has spearheaded the involvement in the Forsyth 250 Committee and has engaged in the following projects:

- July 4th Parade and Event Planning in the Old Salem and Winston-Salem Area
- "Noncombatant but Not Neutral," a lecture on Moravian Involvement in the Revolutionary War at the Archives
- "Rivers, Ferries, and Fords: Discussing Revolutionary Mapmaking," a Lecture and Vault Tour at the Archives
- Transcribing and Digitizing Collection Materials for various Institutional Partnerships, Social Media Campaigns, and America 250's Web Presence.

We hope that you will consider supporting these efforts. Contributors may go to the Archives website to make an online contribution: www.moravianarchives.org/donate

Thank you for supporting our work during this important national celebration and throughout the year. It is our great privilege to keep and share your heritage now and in the future.

LAUREL RIDGE FALL FAMILY CAMP: SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2025

For Families of All Ages!

Adults \$65.00 ♦ Children (3+): \$40.00 ♦ Children under 3: FREE!

Register now at www.laurelridge.org

Volunteers are always welcome at Laurel Ridge! Visit <https://laurelridge.org/opportunities/> to learn more.

Blessing of the Backpacks



Sunday,
September 14th
11:00am

Candle Tea 2025

Candle Tea School Day

Wednesday, December 3rd, 8:00am-1:00pm

First Moravian Church Night

Thursday, December 4th, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Candle Tea

Friday, December 5th (2:00-8:00pm) and
Saturday, December 6th (10:00am-1:00pm)
Vendor Clean-up on Sunday, 1:00pm until finished



FALL CELEBRATION

Fall Celebration-Study Book Workshop

Sat. September 13, 2025 - 9am Registration & Coffee

Lunch will be served at 11:30am

Join us at Kernersville Moravian Church, 504 S. Main St,
Kernersville, NC 27284

Lunch Reservations:

Name: _____

Church: _____ Phone: _____

Number in your party: _____ X \$12 each= \$ _____ included.

Mail to PWB office before Wed. September 3, 2025 – Please list
other names below.

Pastor Evette J Campbell
will be reviewing her Bible
Study Book, Waiting on the
Lord.

*This is going to be an
awesome Bible Study,
please make plans to join
us!*

2026 PWB Budget

Quilt Raffle-to benefit the
PWB 100th Anniversary

News and Information from our
partner Agencies:

Unity Women's

Desk Sunnyside

Ministries

Laurel Ridge Camp

Prison Ministries

Registration & Coffee at
9am

Programing to begin at
9:30am

Provincial Women's Board

459 S Church St,
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

336-722-4911
pwbmcs@gmail.com

Pray Every Day September 2025

1. Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Pray for disaster relief workers and Moravian Disaster Response.
2. You see at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
3. So also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Pray for Joey Yokeley with Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
4. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
5. Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Pray for Anna Faircloth with YoungLife.
6. I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. Pray for short term mission teams.
7. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Pray for Safiatu Braima and Sierra Leone.
8. Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! Pray for seminarians and candidates for ordination.
9. I urge you, in view of Gods mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleased to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Pray for the Moravians in Peru.
10. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good. Pray for the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahaus.
11. As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God. Pray for Moravians in Cuba and the Armando Rusindo Foundation.
12. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for PEC members, bishops, and other church leaders.
13. No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. Pray for Moravians in Honduras and Nicaragua.
14. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. Pray for the Raipur Foster Child Project.
15. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. Pray for the Michael and Ceci in Kenya and Ray of Hope Orphanage.
16. And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
17. Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. Pray for The Dwelling and homeless shelters.
18. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Pray for Adopt-a-Village in Tanzania.
19. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! Pray for Moravians in Brazil and Bolivia.
20. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Pray for Vani and Shanti Pradhan in Nepal.
21. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Pray for the Unity Women's Desk.
22. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS ministry.
23. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. Pray for Michael and Naomi Woo with OMF International.
24. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
25. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Pray for Dusty and Christin Harrison with Greek Intervarsity.
26. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx with Mission Aviation Fellowship.
27. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Pray for Alan and DeeDee Iobst in France.
28. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Pray for Annie B Missions and Star Mountain.
29. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
30. Since then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Pray for Estamos Unidos Moravian Ministry.



REMEMBER TO KEEP TRASH OUT OF THE RECYCLING CANS

We received a notice from the city that they found non-recyclable materials in our recycling can for the third time. Failure to comply with the city's recycling guidelines may result in removal of our recycling carts by the city. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please be sure to place only approved items in the brown recycling carts. Greensboro residents can only recycle three types of items:

- Paper and Cardboard
- Metal food and drink cans
- Plastic bottles, tubs, and jugs

Items to **AVOID** placing in the recycling carts include: bagged materials; glass bottles and jars; disposable plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and wipes; plastic bags, wrap, and film.

SURVEY RESULTS

By the First Moravian Church Board

We thank the congregation for participating in the recent survey that ended July 14. Your willingness to let the Spirit speak through the flock is most helpful. The purpose of this article is simply to share the survey results, without interpretation or commentary.

Excellent Response Rate

We sent the survey to 152 communicant members over the age of 18 for whom we had contact information. We received 71 responses for a **response rate of 47%**.

"Anything above 30% is considered excellent," said Vivien Le Masson, Senior Director of Kantar in his June 26, 2025 article, "[The magic number: how to optimize and improve your survey response rate](#)," on the company's website. Kantar is the world's leading marketing data and analytics business and advisor to 96 of the world's 100 biggest advertisers.

In her June 6, 2025 article "[What is a good response rate for a survey?](#)" in *Survey Lab*, Kinga Edwards describes the following response rate categories:

- Generally Acceptable = 20% - 25%
- Acceptable for an Internal Survey = 10% - 30%,
- Average Survey Response Rate = 20% - 30%
- Average Online Survey Response Rate = 40%

Our response rate is above average when evaluated according to those industry standards. We very much appreciate all who completed the survey and believe the results are statistically significant and meaningful.

Reliability & Validity

Our survey used a number of standard techniques to check that survey responders understood the questions, took the time to read them, and maintained consistency of thought in responding – generally known as [reliability and validity](#).

For example, in our survey Question 1 and Question 2 were very similar. They differed in two ways: 1) one asks the question generally, the other asks within a specific context of a member of our congregation, and 2) the wording was reversed, so to answer the two questions with a consistent position you would need to "agree" on one and "disagree" on the other. In all cases, the responses to our survey affirmed the congregation understood the questions and responded with consistency of thought.

The Results Reveal a Consensus

We had strong, deeply-held opinions on both ends of the scale on all questions. But, the numbers were not spread evenly. On many questions, there was a clear majority (2/3 or more) – especially if you add the "Somewhat" and "Strongly" together for both "Agree" and "Disagree." Sixty-three percent of respondents said they would like to talk more about these topics. Question 4, the one that asked about allowing our facilities to be "for hire as long as it meets Greensboro's Community Standards" was the question that received the mostly evenly-divided responses.

Click [here](#) to view responses and graphs of the results. A summary of the results follows on the next page.

Question	Strongly or Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Strongly or Somewhat Agree
Q1. Our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and grounds should only be used as a venue for weddings and receptions that join one man and one woman in matrimony.	70%	10%	20%
Q2. Our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and grounds should be available as a venue for weddings and receptions joining any member of our congregation or a child of our congregation, regardless of sexual identity or orientation.	18%	4%	78%
Q3. Our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and grounds should be available to any couple our pastor agrees to marry, regardless of sexual identity or orientation.	27%	4%	69%
Q4. Our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and grounds are potential revenue-producing assets. They should be available for hire as a venue for any legal event acceptable under Greensboro's community standards.	31%	18%	51%
Q5. During any future call, our congregation should consider all candidates presented to us by the Provincial Elders' Conference (PEC) and qualified by them.	7%	7%	86%
Q6. During any future call, our congregation should limit its consideration of candidates to those who identify either as traditionally male or female and whose legal gender matches their gender assigned at birth.	62%	18%	20%
Q7. The unity of our congregation is more important than any specific decision about use of facilities or the call process.	30%	14%	56%
Q8. Would you like our congregation to discuss pastoral call criteria and/or criteria for weddings on our grounds?	<u>No</u> 37%	NA	<u>Yes</u> 63%

Table 1. A summary of the survey results.

Where Do We Go from Here?

- **The Church Board is not making policy changes or new decisions on these issues at this time.** Your Board is not going to suddenly change any policies as a result of this survey, as Nancy Jackson said from the lectern a few weeks ago. Nor are there requests before the Board at this time that require a decision. Your Board does, however, accept this information as an accurate reflection of the congregation's disposition at this time.
- **A majority of the congregation wants to talk about these issues. Therefore, your Board is planning to evaluate options for dialogue in early 2026.** Given that nearly two-thirds of respondents expressed interest in discussing these issues, coupled with the 2021 decision to hold congregational discussions that was announced by the Board of Elders but whose implementation was delayed, your Board will evaluate opportunities for congregation-wide discussions. After considering when and how to move forward, they will then share ideas with the congregation. Please contact any Board member if you would like to provide input or participate in planning these discussions.
- **Pray for one another and pray for discernment and understanding.** As we move forward, please be in prayer for our congregation, pastor, staff, and Board. If you have questions or would like to talk to the pastor or Board about the survey, results, or future plans, we invite you to contact us.

In All Things Love

These survey results will mean different things to different people. Moravians hold dear our unofficial motto, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love." The First Moravian Church Board believes that the congregation can find and agree on "unity in the essentials" while showing love toward all.

"The Unitas Fratrum takes part in the continual search for sound doctrine. In interpreting Scripture and in the communication of doctrine in the Church, we look to two millennia of ecumenical Christian tradition and the wisdom of our Moravian forebears in the faith to guide us as we pray for fuller understanding and ever clearer proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

--The Ground of the Unity

NEEDED: FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

Help create a welcoming and meaningful worship experience by volunteering to serve as an usher, greeter, liturgist, or nursery shepherd, or dedicating one or two floral arrangements for our Sunday morning service. Sign up by using the online form <https://forms.gle/uTGj7pz8fpm8LBuXA>, calling or emailing the office, or using the paper sign-up in the narthex. Children are welcome to assist an adult and middle-school-aged youth and older are welcome to serve on their own as a greeter, usher, or a liturgist with instruction. See Pastor Barbara if you have questions.

Flower arrangements are \$38 each, with two arrangement slots available each Sunday. You can order flowers through the online sign-up for volunteers. If you are unable to submit your request through the volunteer form, please call the church office. Checks should be made payable to FMC with the memo "Chancel Flowers." **If you do not receive an acknowledgment from the office that your request was received, please contact the office.**

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Kaitlyn Childes, 10th

EXTENDED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 6** Chicken Pie Making (NFH 7:00am, 11:00am)
- Sept 7** Men's Fellowship Breakfast (8:30am, NFH)
Chicken Pie Making (NFH 12:30pm, 1:30pm)
- Sept 13** Chicken Pie Making (NFH 7:00am, 11:00am)
- Sept 14** Day of Service (following worship)
Chicken Pie Making (NFH 12:30pm, 1:30pm)
Church Board Meeting (5:00pm, Conf. Rm)
- Sept 20** Chicken Pie Making (NFH 7:00am, 11:00am)
- Sept 21** Mission Committee Meeting (12:15pm, OFH)
Chicken Pie Making (NFH 12:30pm, 1:30pm)
- Sept 28** Congregational Picnic (High Point City Lake Park)
- Oct 2** Apple Dumpling Workshop (9:00am-12:00pm, NFH)

DO YOU NEED NURSERY CARE ON SUNDAY?

Contact the church office during the week, speak to an usher, or let Meredith know on Sunday morning!

SUMMER USHER SHIRT COLORS

- September 7** Hawaiian/Tropical
- September 14** Blue
- September 28** Back to regular attire

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH STAFF

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

Rev. Barbara Styers, Pastor: pastor@greensboromoravian.org

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

Margaret Stringer, Administrative Assistant: office@greensboromoravian.org

2025 CHURCH BOARD

Class of 2025
Nancy Jackson
Libby McCandless
Donna Royster
Lisa Salo

Class of 2026
Vince Holbrook
Beth Smith

Class of 2027
Charles McKinney
James Paul (*Vice Chair*)
Keegan Smith