



Moravian Minutes

July 26, 2026

First Moravian Church, 304 S. Elam Ave., Greensboro, NC 27403

www.greensboromoravian.org

United in Christ, Reaching Out with Love, Changing Lives

2026 WATCHWORD

My dwelling place shall be over them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Ezekiel 37:27

THIS SUNDAY

Join us this Sunday for a Caribbean-inspired worship service and lovefeast on Sunday, July 26 at 11:00am. Wear your brightest tropical/Hawaiian shirt and come enjoy a taste of the Islands! We'll serve a Caribbean-style lovefeast bun (thanks to Sr. Meredith) and a tropical punch (thanks to Sr. Lucille) for the lovefeast. We'll also practice the Antiguan tradition of sharing pieces of our buns with one another by pinching off a bit. Worship features hymns and liturgies come from the *Caribbean Moravian Praise Liturgy Book*.

The service represents some of the worship traditions from New Herrnhut Moravian Church on St. Thomas, in the US Virgin Islands. New Herrnhut, founded in 1737, is the oldest Moravian Church in the western hemisphere. It is the home church of the Petersen family.

Gracehill Moravian Church (founded 1791) on the island of Antigua, is the home church of Lucille Samuel.

The opening song of welcome is a modern tradition from Maranathakirk, founded 1944, on the island Curacao. Pastor Barbara visited the church last year during the Moravian Church Foundation's annual board meeting.

The Emancipation liturgy was chosen because it represents a liturgy original to the Caribbean and celebrates a holiday of great cultural significance in the islands. Also, it is an appropriate time of year to use the Emancipation liturgy, since the different "Emancipation Days" on the islands occur sometime in early July or August. Antigua celebrates emancipation on the first Monday in August, while Emancipation Day in the US Virgin Islands is an official public holiday observed July 3. The Dia di Emansipashon on Curacao is commemorated on July 1st, but is not an official public holiday, although there are many special activities around that date.

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Watchword for the Week: God, turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name. Psalm 119:132

Liturgy #1: Lucille Samuel, Canticle of Praise (insert)

Liturgy #2: Lauren Petersen and Evans Petersen III, Emancipation (insert)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6; Revelation 7:9-12

July Joyful Noise: Laurel Ridge's Campership Fund

Summer 2026 Ushers' Shirt Color: The shirt color for Sunday, July 26th is Hawaiian or Tropical.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday July 26	Sunday School (9:45am, Library) Island Style Worship (11am, Sanctuary)
Wednesday July 29	Candle Tea Crafters (2pm, NFH Craft Room) Praise Band Rehearsal (6:00 pm, OFH) Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm, Sanctuary)
Thursday July 30	Line Dancing (11am – 12:30pm, OFH) Endowment Committee (6:30pm, OFH+Zoom)

Zoom Meeting ID: 205 454 336

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

JOYFUL NOISE: LAUREL RIDGE'S CAMPSHIP FUND

Joyful Noise offering: During July, the Mission Committee is sponsoring a fundraiser for Laurel Ridge's Campership Fund, which subsidizes the cost of tuition to attend a session of camp. Attending summer camp at Laurel Ridge is an important part of many of our young people's lives and Christian development, and First Moravian offers 50 percent scholarships to our members to aid with the cost of camp. But the Campership Fund supports campers and their families beyond what their congregations may provide to make sure any young person who wishes to attend camp is able to do so. Be sure to drop your contributions in the collection can in the narthex on Sunday or send checks (with Laurel Ridge Campership Fund in the memo line) to the church office at other times.

Fill the box: This month's emphasis is rice. Place your donations in the SimpleWays Community Support and Nutrition Program wooden food collection box in the narthex on Sunday or in the plastic bin on the back porch of the Moravian House at other times.

CANDLE TEA UPDATES

- ✱ There will be a luncheon held for Area Chairs of Candle Tea on Sunday, August 2nd, after worship (12:15pm, OFH).
- ✱ This year Candle Tea will be held on Friday, December 4th, from 3pm-8pm and again on Saturday, December 5th, from 10am-2pm. Volunteers are also needed for clean up duties after the event on Saturday (from 2pm-4pm).
- ✱ The Crafters meet Wednesdays at 2:00pm in the Craft Room in the basement of NFH. Please join us as we work to prepare for the 2026 event. All levels are welcome. Bring your ideas, or we will have suggestions of crafts you can help us make. For information, call or text Penny Wofford at (336) 312-7500.

FMC NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK / SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

Grab your glove and join your First Moravian family for an evening of baseball as the Greensboro Grasshoppers take on the Hub City Spartanburgers on Saturday, August 29! Gates open at 6:00pm, with first pitch at 6:30pm.

It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a fun night of fellowship—and to invite friends and neighbors to come along. Stick around after the game for a spectacular fireworks show!

We've reserved the Party Deck, but tickets are limited, so sign up early. Adult tickets are \$20, and the church will cover half the cost of children and youth tickets, making their tickets just \$10. If cost is a concern, additional financial assistance is available.

- Contact Pastor Barbara or Greg Cohoon for more information
- Cost: \$20 (adult) / \$10 (child/youth)
- Sign-up: Contact the church office and/or fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/y9HzkDxJUFueQJpi6>



LINE DANCING CLASS

Join local dance and exercise instructor Lenna Sikes for a new line dancing class in Old Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings from 11:00am to 12:30pm. The cost is \$7/class, pay as you go. For more information or to let Lenna know you're interested, please contact her at (423) 748-3736 or lennalu@outlook.com. Lenna has previously taught this class at Senior Resource Center of Guilford County.

OTHER CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

(MORE INFORMATION TO COME)

- Congregational Worship and Picnic, Sept 27 at High Point City Lake Park.
- Church Anniversary Lovefeast during worship and Special Concert following worship, Oct 4.



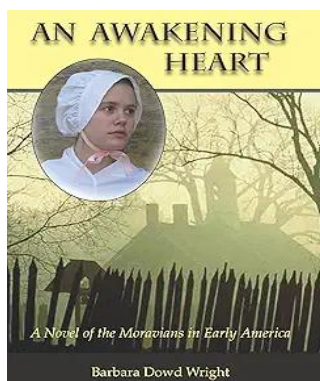
The Southern Province Moravian Church in America

On behalf of the Provincial Elders' Conference, you are invited to attend the **Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Nola Reed Knouse as a Bishop of the Moravian Unity at Home Moravian Church on Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 3 pm.** The Rt. Revs. Lane A. Sapp, D. Wayne Burkette and Michael Johnson will serve as Sr. Knouse's consecrating bishops. A band prelude will precede the service beginning at 2:30 pm on the church lawn. The clergy, educators, licensed lay pastors and their spouses will gather in the Home Church Saal beginning at 2:30 pm and process into the sanctuary together for the service. Immediately following the service of consecration there will be a reception honoring Sr. Knouse, in Fellowship Hall. Additionally, you are invited to attend the following consecrations:

- Br. Dion Christopher will be consecrated on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 3:00pm at Prince of Peace Moravian Church in Miami, Florida.
- Br. John D. Rights will be consecrated on Sunday, September 27 at 3:00pm at Konnoak Hills Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

On another note, a Celebration of Life Service for The Rev. Kevin Frack will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at Cornerstone Christian Church, 1585 NC Highway 801, Mocksville, NC 27028. The family will receive friends during a time of fellowship immediately following the service at the church. Please continue to remember Kevin's wife, Beth, and their children in your prayers during the days and weeks ahead. Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Neil Routh, President, Provincial Elders' Conference



THE FIRST MORAVIAN POP-UP BOOK CLUB MEETS AUGUST 3 TO DISCUSS AN AWAKENING HEART

Everyone—all ages, genders, members and non-members! – are invited to the “FMC Pop-Up Book Club” at 6:30pm on August 3. We'll meet in the NFH Conference Room to discuss *An Awakening Heart* by Barbara Dowd Wright. Those who cannot attend in person will be able to join by Zoom. “This lyrically written historical novel tells the true story of Christina Krause and Susannah Partsch who left Europe with husbands they hardly knew, to build a peaceful community in America's 18th Century American wilderness. Bound together by their common faith of the Moravian Church, each woman faced the war and chaos around her, while struggling with her own personal challenges”.



Save the Date!

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT LAUREL RIDGE: FRIDAY, OCT 23RD – SUNDAY, OCT 25TH

Set aside time for a relaxing weekend in the Blue Ridge Mountains this fall with friends from FMC. There's no agenda -- just time to relax, connect with one another, explore the mountain setting, and have fun! It's a great experience for all ages! Higgins Lodge check-in begins at 4pm on Friday, October 23rd, and scheduled retreat activities will begin with supper at 6:00 pm. Our retreat will conclude with morning worship on Sunday, October 25th. For more information, pick up a brochure posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Blessings of food to feed the body and soul.



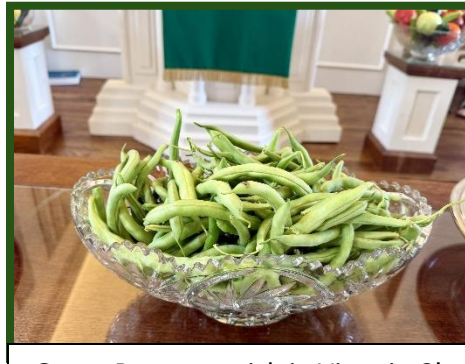
From the worship service celebrating our garden.



Fruits and gifts of the land.



One delivery to Urban Ministries.



Green Beans are rich in Vitamin C!



View of the garden.

PHOTOS (ABOVE) FROM THE JULY 19 WORSHIP SERVICE CELEBRATING THE FIRST MORAVIAN COMMUNITY GARDEN

A Prayer for the Garden

Holy God, who alone provides seed for the sower and bread for the eater, you have taught us to ask of you Our Daily Bread; bless the sowing of the seed, grant fertility to the soil, and strengthen the hands of the gardeners who till it, that through their labor your people may be nourished. Bless and protect our garden and all who keep it. Strengthen and uphold them in their labor, that these plants may be good fruit and our care for the earth may witness to your love and justice; we pray this through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen *(Based on a prayer from Episcopal Relief.)*

PRAY EVERY DAY: JULY 2026

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1:7 Pray for the leaders of Canada and the Moravian Church in Canada and Labrador.
2.You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21 Pray for the new resolutions at the Northern Province Synod to make us prosperous for works of God.
3. I am reminded of your sincere faith. 2 Timothy 1:5 Pray for the newly elected bishops of the Moravian Unity—Nasel Ephraim, Brian Dixon, Dion Christopher, Nola Reed Knouse, and John D. Rights.
4. And I said, Here am I; send me! Isaiah 6:8 Pray for the leaders of the U.S. A. and the Moravian Church in Alaska and on the mainland.
5. And since my mother bore me you have been my God. Psalm 22:10 Pray for the students and teachers at the Moravian school in Ukraine.
6. You must therefore be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you. Deuteronomy 5:32 Pray for all who are still following in the steps of Jan Hus, who was martyred on this day.
7. You brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God. Jonah 2:6 Pray for Christians in the warring regions of the Middle East, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon/Gaza, Ukraine, and Russia.
8. Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. John 13:34 Pray for the Southern Shores District, Southern Province, who is sharing the Gospel from Florida to Texas.
9. There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. Daniel 2:28 Pray for God's revelations to be known to those who are considering entering the ministry or seminary.
10.do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17 Pray for Moravian pastors, leaders, and missionaries.
11. Be still, and know that I am God! Psalm 46:10 On this day, pray for all Christians.
12. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress... Isaiah 25:4. Pray for the Dwelling, Sunnyside Ministries, Moravian Open Door, and Essentials Café.
13.I seek to do not my own will but the will of Him who sent me. John 5:30 Pray for the 80 years Clinica Evangelica Morava has served Ahaus, Honduras.
14. See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him. Isaiah 40:10 Pray for Moravians in Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.
15. For God so loved the world...John 3:16. Pray for school for disabled children in Elim, South Africa.
16. God is our refuge and strength... Psalm 46:1 Pray for Venezuela after two terrible earthquakes hit the country.
17. I want people everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. Pray for Moravians in Labrador.
18. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Pray for Morongo Moravian Church in California.
19. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
20. For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayer. Pray for Estamos Unidos Moravian Ministry.
21. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent serving in Croatia.
22. But we ought always to thank God for you, those loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. Pray for the Moravian mission area in Brazil and Peru.
23. Finally, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. Pray for the Moravian congregations in Alaska.
24. Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya as they continue ministries outside of Ray of Hope school.
25. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
26. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Pray for the work of the Moravian Unity Women's Desk.
27. I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. Pray for the Moravian women clergy in Tanzania.
28. Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Pray for the Moravian pastors and missionaries who are undergoing major health challenges.
29. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. Pray for the HIV/AIDS ministry in Tanzania, which the Hoffmans started.
30. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Pray for the Ray of Hope school in Kenya, near Shimba Hills.
31. Pray that you may not come into the time of trial. Luke 22:40 Pray for the work of the Lord in Sierra Leone.

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>, or calling or emailing the office. Children are welcome to assist and 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. 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

Ann Curtis, 29th

Geoff Cass, 30th

Randy Price, 30th

EXTENDED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun, Aug 2 Candle Tea Area Chairs Luncheon (12:15pm, OFH)
Mon, Aug 3 FMC Pop-Up Book Club (6:30pm, Conf. Room and Zoom).
Sat, Aug 29 Hoppers Baseball Game – Saturday, August 29th, 6:00-10:00pm.
Sun, Sept 13 Worship; Guest Preacher Craig Troutman (11am, Sanctuary)
Sun, Sept 20 Men's Fellowship Breakfast (8:30-9:45am, NFH)
Sun, Sept 27 Congregational Worship and Picnic (10 am) at High Point City Lake Park
Sun, Oct 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast (8:30-9:45am, NFH)
Church Anniversary Lovefeast during worship and Special Concert and Reception following worship.
Tues, Oct 13 Friendship Circle Meeting (11:30am, OFH)
Fri – Sun, Congregational Retreat, Laurel Ridge Camp and Conference Center. Brochures
Oct 23-25 available in the narthex. Sign up now!
Sun, Nov 1 Daylight Savings Time ends
Men's Fellowship Breakfast (8:30-9:45am, 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.

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

Treasurer: treasurer@greensboromoravian.org

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

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

Cathy Jansen, Interim Secretary: office@greensboromoravian.org

2026 CHURCH BOARD

Class of 2026

Mike Cockman
Vince Holbrook
Beth Smith

Class of 2027

Charles McKinney
James Paul
Keegan Smith, *vice chair*

Class of 2028

Bev Lozano
Lauren Petersen
Penny Wofford