Moravian Minutes November 15, 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

Sunday Preview:

We welcome Rev. Margaret Norris to FMC for worship on Sunday. Margaret grew up and was nurtured in faith at Raleigh Moravian Church. She spent her professional life working as a Director of Christian Education, a Montessori teacher, a homeschool parent and a pastor. Margaret received a Bachelor of Music Education from UNC – CH, a Master of Arts in Christian Education from what is now Union Presbyterian Seminary, and a certification for Montessori instruction from the NC Center for Montessori Teacher Education. After further study at Union Presbyterian Seminary and Moravian Theological Seminary, Margaret was ordained as a Moravian minister in 2022. Margaret especially enjoys spending time with her family (husband Keith Stirewalt and their children and grandchildren) and nurturing her small and relatively unproductive garden.

Please sign up!



Final Congregational Meal for Greensboro Urban Ministry

Please join us as we make plans to help provide our final night shelter meal of the year on November 23 for our neighbors in crisis. That meal will involve the entire congregation, as we need several voluntters to prepare a pot of chili or a pan of cornbread and leave it in the New Fellowship Hall kitchen on Sunday, November 22. We will also need four to five volunteers on the afternoon of Monday, November 23 to heat up the meal, dish up the meal and clean afterward. Please contact Beth Smith if you can help with preparing or serving.

Matthew 25:35

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Sunday, November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Watchword for the Week: So, teach us, O Lord, to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. (Psalm 90:12)

Liturgist: Beth Smith

Liturgy: General Liturgy 1 with Shorter Church Litany (pp. 1-4, 10-12)

Scripture: Psalm 90:1-8,12; Matthew 24:14-30

November Joyful Noise: Collecting donations to purchase Christmas gifts for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program

Fill the Box: Oatmeal

Happening This Week

Nov., 15	Sunday School (9:45am, Library) Worship in Greensboro, Rev. Margaret Norris (11:00am, Sanctuary) Chicken Pie Assembly (1:30)
Nov., 18	Praise Band Rehearsal (6:00pm, OFH) Choir Practice (7:30pm, Sanctuary)
Nov., 19	Line Dancing

Zoom Meeting ID: 205 454 336

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

November Joyful Noise Angel Tree Collection

Joyful Noise offering: Please help the Mission Committee bring joy to local children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project. During November, we ask you to contribute loose change, paper money or checks to the collection cans in the narthex (or send contributions to the church office) to help us reach our $500 goal. Members of Mission Committee will then take the money to purchase gifts for children whose Christmas wishes are recorded and distributed to sponsors like First Moravian Church. The gifts will be distributed by the Salvation Army to the families or caregivers of the children, allowing them to place the toys and clothing under the Christmas tree while preserving dignity. Please give generously this month.

November collection for the Angel Tree: $396.18 to date.

Fill the box: This month's emphasis is **oatmeal**. 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.

The Mission Committee's Upcoming Plans

For years, the Mission Committee has met in January, May, and September to plan how our congregation can support agencies throughout Guilford County and around the world. On alternating months, we sponsor the Joyful Noise offering (we contribute money, making a "joyful noise" in the act of giving) or Sunday Staple Stampede (where we purchase items to be donated, filling up the little red wheelbarrow that resides in the narthex).

Here is a list of our upcoming projects. Please keep these in mind as you are shopping or as you make plans for charitable contributions throughout the year.

- December Sunday Staple Stampede – We will collect blankets, as well as socks, hats, gloves, etc., for the Interactive Resource Center, a supportive community for people facing the risks of homelessness.
- January Joyful Noise- We will collect money (goal is $500 or more) for TROSA, a multi-year residential program that helps people with substance-use disorders with treatment, vocational training, education and continuing care. TROSA has campuses and thrift stores in Durham and Winston-Salem.
- February Sunday Staple Stampede – We will collect pens and composition notebooks (the kind with black and white covers, not spiral notebooks) to ship to the Moravian high school in Sierra Leone, a country on the coast of West Africa.

Special Performance at FMC: NCA&T's Opera Workshop, Sunday, Nov 22

First Moravian is excited to host a special performance by NCA&T's Opera Workshop on Sunday, November 22, at 4:00pm in our sanctuary. Dr. Van Anthony Hall will direct a performance of Gian-Carlo Menotti's 'The Telephone' with FMC choir member Hannah Albright as guest soloist, as well as selected arias performed by A&T students, Khaleigha Holdip and Justin McKinney. Don't miss this opportunity to support our talented First Moravian singers in this free community performance!

The last harvest from the garden for this year! It has been a remarkably good year for the garden despite the drought, thanks to the irrigation system. The garden volunteers look forward to another great year in 2027 and ask more congregation members to consider joining them next spring.

Church Board Meeting Summary
November 1, 2026

- Treasurer Mary Elen Kollman submitted financial reports showing we have income totaling $196,107, year to date, and expenses totaling $213,668, year to date, leaving us with an operating deficit of $17,561 at the end of October.
- Pastor Barbara reported she will be away from First Moravian as she attends the Moravian Church Foundation meeting and takes a week of vacation. Bob Albritton will preach on Nov. 8, and Margaret Norris will preach and officiate at communion for Christ our Chief Elder on Nov. 15. On Nov. 22, we will have a serve-yourself Thanksgiving lovefeast.
- A group of about 15 people enjoyed the fine weather and great views during our church retreat at Laurel Ridge Oct. 23-25. Meredith Cohoon plans a poll about options for food, housing and programs and what would encourage more people to participate in the retreat in future years.
- Meredith Cohoon is working with Crowe After-School Program and Greensboro New School leaders to ensure they are cooperating with the Safe Sanctuary policy required by the Southern Province. The Safe Sanctuary policy was presented to the congregation at Church Council on Nov. 1.
- New shrubbery has been planted between OFH and NFH, a project of the Beautification Committee, chaired by Beth McLean.
- The bulk of work has been done on repairing tree damage to the roof of the Candle Hut. Some work on siding and soffits remains to be done. A railing on the steps leading down to the Candle Hut that was damaged when building supplies were delivered will be removed and will be repaired later.
- N.C. A&T students will present a musical performance in the sanctuary at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22. They will be assisted by vocalists Hannah Albright, Khaleigha Holdip, and Justin McKinney, and accompanist Ann Curtis.
- Men's Fellowship is heading up a project to replace the hot water heater in the OFH kitchen.
- The church board is considering a quote from Resolute Elevator to replace our lift. The project will require additional construction work to prepare the shaft for the new elevator. We hope to schedule the work during summer months and hope to seek a grant from the Staten Island Fund to help cover costs.
- Mike Cockman, Bev Lozano and Jane McKinney were appointed to a committee to brainstorm strategies for evangelization and welcoming people to the church. They will report to the church board at the Jan. 10 meeting.
- Men's Fellowship will sell tickets for a First Moravian trip to the Greensboro Gargoyles hockey game. The game is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31.
- Meredith Cohoon and Russ Walker are investigating updates to our WiFi coverage and phone system that should improve coverage and hopefully cut costs.



Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

We are entering the time of year where celebrating our Savior's birth and the miracle of the Christ child is extraordinary. Our church delightfully invests time and energy into the preparation for a memorable celebration. We enter the season with great anticipation of sharing the joy and traditions with one another and with our community. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29, 2026.

Candle Tea News

2026 Schedule

Candle Tea School Day, Dec 2 (8am-1pm)

First Moravian Church Night
Thursday, December 3rd (7:00pm)

Candle Tea
Friday, December 4th (3:00pm–8:00pm)
Saturday, December 5th (10am–2:00pm)

We need YOU and There Is a Job for Everyone

Candle tea is about three weeks away! We need everyone to help make this huge community event a success! There are costume positions available, and NON-costume jobs available. There will be on the job training. Participants can plan to enjoy highlighting the Moravian Church traditions for the community. Please access the online sign-up link below:

https://tinyurl.com/candle-tea

Current Candle Tea Needs/ Opportunities

Costumes: If you need a Candle Tea costume, Candle Tea Costumes are located in the basement of OFH in the Costume Room. Launder and return any costume you are not using or wish to donate.

Tavern Donations: Help stock our Tavern (and our pantry for Christmas Eve Lovefeast services)! We need large canisters of decaf Folgers or Maxwell House coffee, Country Time Lemonade mix, and bags of granulated white sugar. Please place donations in the bin marked "Candle Tea" in the narthex. Thank you!

Baked Goods: Help fill our baked goods table with delicious goodies for the Candle Tea! Items should be labeled with price and ingredients and dropped off in NFH at First Church Night (12/3) or earlier, if they can be frozen (contact Susan Holbrook to arrange.)







Pray Every Day: November 2026

1. If anyone came after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Pray for the Worldwide Church.
2. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Pray for short term mission teams, for disaster relief workers, and for Moravian Disaster Response.
3. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Pray for our newly elected government leaders and unity in our country.
4. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Pray for Joey Yokeley with Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
5. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
6. As you go, preach this message: "The kingdom of heaven is near." Pray for Michael and Naomi Woo with OMF International.
7. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Pray for Safiatu & Jeneba Braima, the Moravian schools in Sierra Leone, and Sierra Leone.
8. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
9. Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. Pray for seminarians and candidates for ordination.
10. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. Pray for the Moravians in Peru and Brazil.
11. It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Pray for the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahaus, Honduras.
12. I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Pray for Moravians in Cuba and the Armando Rusindo Foundation.
13. 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. Pray for our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ.
14. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Pray for Moravians in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica and their congregations.
15. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Pray for the Raipur Foster Child Project.
16. The kingdom of God is nearby. Repent and believe the good news! Pray for the missionary work with Ukrainian refugees and the war in Ukraine.
17. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all you mind. Pray for Phil and Eunice Raiford in Mexico.
18. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Pray for The Dwelling and local homeless shelters.
19. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Pray for Adopt-a-Village in Tanzania.
20. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Pray for the Blessings Flow project and other water filtering projects that Moravians are spreading throughout their provinces.
21. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Pray for the Unity Women's Desk and their scholarship recipients.
22. I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. Pray for the HIV/AIDS ministry in Tanzania that the Hoffmans began.
23. That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Pray for Sunnyside Ministry and other crisis agencies.
24. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
25. As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God. Pray for Dusty and Christin Harrison with Greek Intervarsity.
26. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. Pray for Alan and DeeDee Iobst in France.
27. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. Pray for Annie B Missions and Star Mountain and their Palestine students.
28. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
29. Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. Pray for Estamos Unidos Moravian Ministry.
30. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Pray for Ray of Hope Orphanage, Moravian congregations in Kenya, Samuel, John, Michael and Ceci Tesh and their ministries in Kenya.

Dedicate a Floral Arrangement for Sunday Worship

Consider giving one or two floral arrangements in honor or memory of someone dear to you, in thanksgiving for a blessing, or to mark an anniversary, birthday, or milestone in your life. Your gift will be acknowledged in the bulletin on the Sunday the flowers are displayed. To sign up, use the online form or call or email the office https://tinyurl.com/fmc-servants. Flower arrangements are $38 each. Checks should be made payable to FMC with the memo "Chancel Flowers." If you do not receive any acknowledgment from the office that your request was received, please contact the office.

Seeking 2027 Volunteers for Sunday Servants

FMC is seeking volunteers to participate as ushers, greeters, and liturgists, during Sunday morning worship. Currently we are seeking volunteers for first quarter of 2027. If you have a Sunday that you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office or sign up online at https://tinyurl.com/fmc-servants. In order to utilize as many members as possible, please sign up for only one Sunday per month. We greatly appreciate the congregation's participation.

Birthdays this Week

Margie Godwin, 16th	Gray Styers, 16th	Mike Cockman, 16th
Jesse Mashburn, 17th	Ashley Newton Morrison, 18th	Wyn Hrdlicka, 20th
Mandy Wall, 20th	Erika Powell, 21st	Zack Dunn III, 21st

Extended Calendar of Events

Sun, Nov 22	NC A&T's Opera Workshop, (4:00pm Sanctuary) This is a free event.
Wed, Nov 25	Praise Band Practice, (6pm OFH) Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm Sanctuary)
Thu/Fri, Nov 26-27	FMC Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Wed, Dec 2	Candle Tea School Day (8am-1:00pm)
Thus, Dec 3	FMC Candle Tea "First Church Night" (7:00pm; OFH)
Fri/Sat Dec 4-5	Candle Tea (3:00-8:00pm Friday and 10:00am-2:00pm Saturday)
Tues, Dec 8	Friendship Circle (11:30-1:00pm OFH)
Tue, Dec 8	Women's Fellowship – Candle Trimming (7:00-9:00pm NFH)
Sun, Dec 13	Church Board (2:00-3:00pm, Conference Room)-
Thu, Dec 24	Christmas Even Lovefeast in Sanctuary (3:00pm Children's Service, 5:30pm Traditional Service)
Thu/Fri Dec 24-25	Office Closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
Fri, Jan 1, 2027	Office Closed for New Year's Day

First Moravian Church Staff

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-1:00pm; (336) 272-2196:
Rev. Barbara Styers, Pastor: pastor@greensboromoravian.org
Meredith Cohoon, Director of Christian Education: dce@greensboromoravian.org
Mary Elen Kollman, Treasurer: treasurer@greensboromoravian.org
Dr. Jane McKinney, Director of Music: mckinneyj@greensboro.edu
Ann Curtis, Organist/Pianist: anncurtis321@gmail.com
Kathryn Harris, Administrative Assistant: office@greensboromoravian.org

2026 Church Board

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Mike Cockman	Charles McKinney	Bev Lozano
Vince Holbrook	James Paul	Lauren Petersen
Beth Smith	Keegan Smith, *vice chair*	Penny Wofford