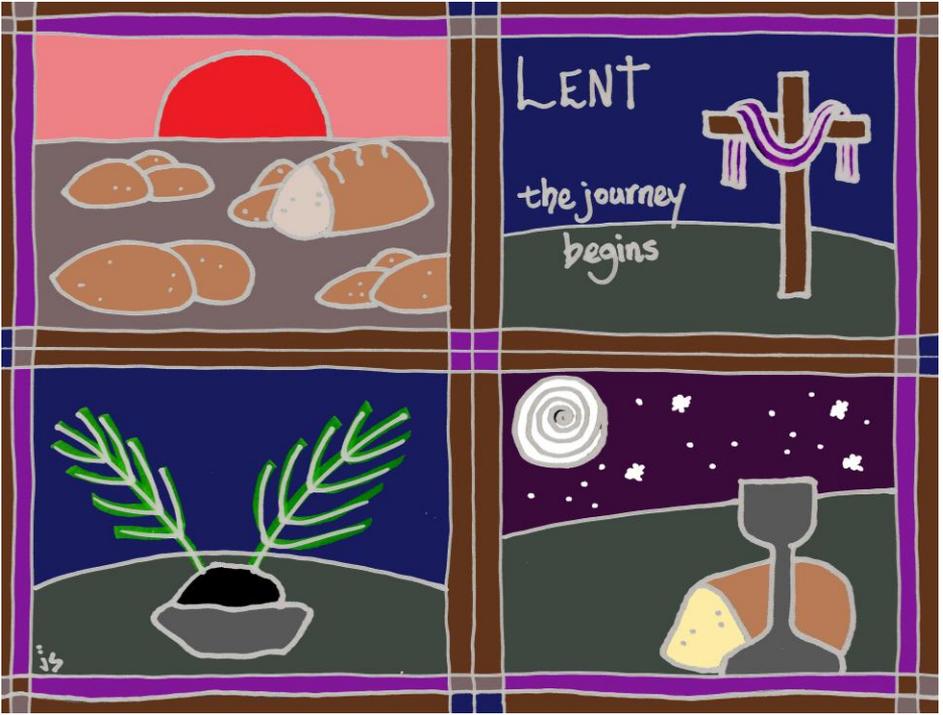


First Moravian Church



Vision Statement

United in Christ, reaching out in love, changing lives.

Watchword for 2026

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

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

11:00 am Worship

Rev. Barbara Styers, Pastor

Watchword for the Week

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy,
all you upright in heart. Psalm 32:11

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

- Prelude** *How Wonderous and Great* Johnson
- Welcome and Announcements** Meredith Cohoon
- Introit** *Chorale for Married Brethren* Tune, Johann Cruger
Text, Christian Gregor
- Call to Worship*** (*Based on Psalm 32:1-2*) Meredith Cohoon
- Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose
sin is covered.
- People:** Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- Leader: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to the Lord;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not
reach them.
- People:** Lord, you are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from
trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
Praise be to God!
- Liturgy*** Lent 2 (pp. 78-81) Lisa Salo
- Offering Our Prayers of Intercession** Meredith Cohoon
- A Time for Children** Meredith Cohoon

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

- Scripture** Rev. Barbara M. Styers
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11
- Homily** Rev. Barbara M. Styers

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- Offering Our Gifts** Rev. Barbara M. Styers
- Invitation to the Offering
- Offertory *Thou Knowest, Lord* Henry Purcell
- Doxology*
- Prayer of Dedication*
- Anthem** *O Sacred Banquet* Eugene Butler
- The Service for Holy Communion** Rev. Barbara Styers
In Celebration of the Atonement (p. 196)

WE CARRY GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

Benediction*

p.208

Postlude

Trumpet Tune

Stanley

**The congregation is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

FEBRUARY SUNDAY STAMPEDE: CHILDREN'S BOOKS

During February, the Mission Committee will collect children's books to benefit the Family Support Network of Central Carolina (FSNCC), a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide support, education, and caring connections to those who have a child with a disability, special healthcare needs, or who have experienced a NICU stay. First Moravian will support FSNCC by collecting donations for their "Books for Babies" program. FSNCC delivers books to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) families twice a month. Reading to babies, even at this young age, helps with bonding, comfort, increased vocabulary, cognitive stimulation, and more restful sleep! The benefits are endless, and parents are establishing an amazing habit that will nurture their child for years to come.

New children's books – especially board books for babies – are perfect donations. FSNCC is also happy to accept monetary donations to support the Books for Babies program and other services at www.fsncc.org. Please place books in the little red wheelbarrow in the narthex and cash donations in the collection cans in the narthex, or send a check to the church office, attention Gay Cass, and indicate in the memo line that the gift is for Joyful Noise/Children's Books.

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

LADIES, JOIN US FOR THE QUARTERLY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GENERAL MEETING!

All are invited to the quarterly general meeting of the Women's Fellowship on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room (NFH). We will be discussing and allocating funds from the 2025 Candle Tea. The meeting will also be available via Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83028298152>.

Questions: Please contact Libby Connery, Women's Fellowship President (email: lkc3med@gmail.com).

MARCH 1: UNITY PRAYER DAY AND OFFERING

March 1 marks the 569th anniversary of the founding of the Unitas Fratrum, the worldwide Moravian Church. We will offer prayer for the Unity and collect a special offering that day to support the Moravian Unity Heritage Foundation (MUCHF), which manages the Moravian UNESCO World Heritage sites (Bethlehem, Herrnhut, Christiansfeld (Denmark), and Gracehill (Northern Ireland)).

SPECIAL MUSIC – MARCH 8 DURING 11:00 WORSHIP

You don't want to miss the 11:00am worship service (music beginning at 10:45am) on March 8 when we will again be joined by pianist and oboist extraordinaire Martin Brinkley. You may remember when Martin blessed us with his music two years ago. He will be accompanying the choir's performance of John Rutter's *The Lord is My Shepherd*, and Justin's singing of "Qui tollis peccata mundi," ("You Take away the Sins of the World") from Johann Sebastian Bach's Mass in G Minor. The prelude (beginning at 10:45) and postlude will be the three movements of Mozart's Piano Sonata in D Major for four hands (with a surprise duet pianist). For his day job, Martin is a professor (and former Dean) of the UNC School of Law. His oboe instructor is Keisuke Wakao, oboist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

- Feb. 22 Sunday School (9:45am, Library)
Worship (11:00am, Sanctuary)
- Feb. 25 The Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer from noon to 1pm and 5pm to 6pm. A brief prayer liturgy led by Pastor Barbara will conclude each time of prayer.
- Feb. 25 Praise Band (6pm-7:30pm, OFH)
Choir Rehearsal (7:30pm)

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Holly Nuttall, 23rd Ron Lutz, 24th Melissa Mishler, 25th
Thomas McKinney, 28th Tweedle Sisk, 28th Heather Kopp, 29th

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH STAFF

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2026 CHURCH BOARD

Class of 2026
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Vince Holbrook
Beth Smith

Class of 2027
Charles McKinney
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Penny Wofford