



HOME MORAVIAN CHURCH

Welcome Home



HomeMoravian.org

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Founded 1771

Fulfilling Christ's call to love God, live in community, and serve our neighbor.

*"Let thine eye be opened toward this house night and day,
even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there."*

- Text for the day on which the Site of Salem was selected.

Salem Square
Winston-Salem, NC

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 4, 2026
MORNING WORSHIP – 10:00 A.M.**

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK: *Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.*

-Psalm 148:13

BAND CHORALES.....Art Sorensen, leader

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....The Rev. Ginny Hege Tobiassen

PRELUDE: *Fiat Lux*Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Hymn 320 – *The People Who in Darkness Walked*T. Azmon

The People Who in Darkness Walked 320

1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have
2 To hail your ris - ing, Sun of life, the
3 To us the prom - ised Child is born, to
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the

seen a glo - rious light; on them broke forth the
gath - 'ring na - tions come with joy, as when the
us the Son is giv'n; and on his shoul - der
Ev - er - last - ing Lord, the Won - der - ful, the

heav'n - ly dawn who dwelt in death and night.
reap - ers bear their har - vest trea - sures home.
ev - er rests all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
Coun - sel - or, the God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and power
shall over all extend;
on judgment and on justice based,
his reign shall have no end.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
and make us yours alone,
who with the Father ever are
and Holy Spirit, one.

TEXT: John Morison (1749-1798), alt.
TUNE: Arr. from Carl G. Gläser (1828) by Lowell Mason (1839)

C.M.
AZMON

LITURGY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2026



Home Moravian Church

Pastor: Hear these words from St. Paul: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are many different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all." (I Cor. 12:4-7)

New board members stand.

You have been elected to positions of trust and leadership in this congregation as members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Elders.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of Home Church. You are to be diligent in your specific area of service as trustee or elder, that by your working together, the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

New board members: Yes, by the help of God.

I now declare you installed as board members of Home Church. God bless you with the Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

All board members stand.

Recognizing the importance to be held mutually accountable to ways of living together that build up the Body of Christ, the Joint Board developed in the past "A Covenant for Christian Behavior," which has been affirmed by our entire church council. As pastor I ask you to recommit to this ongoing covenant before your brothers and sisters. Recognizing Christ as our Chief Elder, Savior and example, I charge you to seek his guidance each day as you take these steps toward becoming the loving, compassionate and active congregation he would have us to be.

Will you pray for each other alone and together?

Response by Board: Yes, by the help of God.

Will you talk with each other rather than about each other?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you respect and abide by the majority when making decisions?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you listen courteously to each other with an open, non-judgmental mind?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you share appropriate information and decisions freely, and in a timely manner, with the congregation?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you be persistent with issues, compassionate with persons?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you prayerfully seek to discern God's desire in your decision-making?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you recognize that sometimes conflict is inevitable and offers an opportunity for growth?

Yes, by the help of God.

Will you work for the good of the whole church rather than for your own personal agendas?

Yes, by the help of God.

Just as your forebears faced conflict and division in their time by joining in a Covenant for Christian Living, you now join in a covenant to address the concerns of our time. We pray God will help you as you strive to live according to this covenant.

The congregation stands.

Brothers and sisters of the congregation, I ask you: will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to us all as members of the Body of Christ?

Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.

May God Almighty bless our mutual work and guide us into the path of true servanthood of our Chief Elder, Jesus Christ, for the sake of the church and of his whole creation.

Amen.

Drawing on the principles of the *Moravian Covenant for Christian Unity*, the Joint Board developed the *Joint Board Covenant for Christian Behavior* in 2010. In 2022, the Church Council renamed the covenant as the *Congregational Covenant for Christian Behavior*.

LITURGY FOR EPIPHANY, pages 65-69 (omitting hymns)

All your creatures, Lord, will praise you, and all your people will give you thanks.

They will speak of the glory of your royal power and tell of your might.

Everyone will know your mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of your kingdom.

Your rule is eternal, and you are king forever.

You, Lord, are righteous in all you do, merciful in all your acts.

You are near to those who call to you, who call to you with sincerity.

65

EPIPHANY/WORLD MISSION

You supply the needs of all who honor you; you hear their cries and save them.

We will ever praise you, Lord; let all creation praise your holy name forever.

EPIPHANY/WORLD MISSION

(Kneeling or sitting)

With sincere hearts and open minds, let us now acknowledge the sin that entangles us and prevents us from doing God's will.

SILENT CONFSSION

Compassionate Lord, you call us to a higher standard than we have achieved. We therefore bow in honest confession of those thoughts, words, and deeds which have missed the mark. Within our families, we have loved imperfectly. Among sisters and brothers in the church, we have not fully walked in the light. Often our congregations have not reflected the rich diversity of people in our communities. In our witness to the world, our lives have not adequately testified to your redeeming power. Forgive us, gracious Lord, for permitting ourselves to be distracted from the goal of our discipleship. Heal the brokenness of our hearts and restore us to you, our first love.

There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus.
Hear the word of our Lord: I do not condemn you. Go, but do not sin again.

(Standing)

God created the heavens and stretched them out, fashioned the earth and all that lives there, and gave life and breath to all its people.

And now the Lord God says to his servant: I, the Lord, have called you and given you power to see that justice is done on earth. Through you I will make a covenant with all peoples.

EPIPHANY/WORLD MISSION

Through you I will bring light to the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind,

And set free those who sit in dark prisons.

God shows no partiality to race or culture. All who have reverence for him and do what is right are acceptable to God.

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.

Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son!

How great is the grace of God, which he gave to us in such large measure!

This is the good news: through Jesus' death and resurrection all people may participate in God's blessings.

We are members of the same body and share in the promise that God made through Christ Jesus.

There is no longer rich or poor, black or white, male or female; for we are all one in union with Christ Jesus.

EPIPHANY/WORLD MISSION

If we belong to Christ, then we are members of God's family and will receive what God has promised.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Ephesians 1:3-14

During the next hymn, children aged 3 through 3rd grade may follow Children's Worship leaders to continue worship in CE-106. Visitors can check in Godly Play guests using the QR code found in the pews.

HYMN 475 – *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*..... T. *Lux Prima*

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 475

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
 2 Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by you;
 3 Vis - it, then, this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of right-eous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy - less is the day's re - turn till your mer - cy's beams I view;
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

day - spring from on high, be near; day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes and warm my heart.
 more and more your - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day!

TEXT: Charles Wesley (1740), alt.
 TUNE: Charles F. Gounod (1872)

Alternate tune, *RATISBON*, hymn 347

7.7.7.7.7.

LUX PRIMA

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY INVITATION AND PRAYER.....Rev. Tobiassen

The offertory provides an opportunity to reflect on the many ways that we can express our gratitude in response to God: with time, treasure, talents, and testimony. For financial giving online: Use the Moravian Ministries Foundation giving portal at <https://mmfa.info/giving-portal/>. Click the DONATE tab on any page of the Home Church website. For more information, go to homemoravian.org/donate. You can make one-time or recurring gifts. Text HOME to 73256 on your phone.

ANTHEM: *O Living Bread from Heaven...* Gary Matheny (1987)

Home Church Choir

Text, John Rist (1606-1667) Translation by Catherine Winkworth

O, living bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest! The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest. O, wondrous food of blessing, O, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing, with praises overflows! My Lord, you have led me within your holiest place, and here yourself have fed me with treasures of your grace; for you have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die. You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy. And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown, and all my soul and spirit bow before your throne.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-18.....The Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood

MEDITATION: *The Word and the World*

HYMN 503 – *God's Word Alive and Active*.....T. Aurelia

503 God's Word Alive and Active

1 God's word a - live and ac - tive, pro - claimed through - out the years,
 2 God's word a - live and ac - tive, de - clared the whole world round,
 3 God's word a - live and ac - tive is of - fered free to all,
 4 God's word a - live and ac - tive is Je - sus Christ our Lord.

still com-forts us when hurt - ing and calms our hid - den fears.
 in tongues of man - y peo - ples and signed with-out a sound.
 in ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion so all will hear God's call
 God's gift of love in - car - nate that all might be re - stored.

God's word of truth and jus - tice sets wea - ry cap - tives free,
 This word of hope and free - dom speaks deep - ly to the soul
 to feed the hun - gry chil - dren, give drink to those who thirst,
 The whole cre - a - tion longs for the day when we're set free

and joins God's ho - ly peo - ple in new com - mu - ni - ty.
 of those who long for one - ness and yearn to be made whole.
 and serve the hu - man fam - 'ly by put - ting God's will first.
 to live as God in - tend - ed with sa - cred dig - ni - ty.

TEXT: Gladys G. Moore. © by American Bible Society
 TUNE: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1864)

7.6.7.6.D.
 AURELIA (151 L)

THE SCRIPTURES

5 God's word alive and active our song of songs will be;
 its message we will follow throughout eternity.
 And when the saints are gathered and death has ceased to be,
 we'll praise our wondrous Maker in songs of victory.

SERVICE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

IN CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S COMING, page 183

THE SERVICE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

In Celebration of Christ's Coming

[An ordained minister presides and consecrates the elements.]

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ,
be with you all.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

[Standing. The congregation gives the right hand of fellowship, signifying
oneness in Christ and the desire to be at peace with one another.]

WORSHIP (159 A)

We cov - e - nant with hand and heart to fol - low Christ, our Lord;
with world, and sin, and self to part, and to o - obey his word;
to love each oth - er heart - i - ly, in truth and with sin - cer - i - ty,
and un - der cross, re - proach, and shame, to glo - ri - fy his name.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(The Lord's Prayer may be used as a conclusion to this prayer.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

(Sitting. As the bread is served, the communicants stand to receive it.)

PICARDY

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand,
King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
pon-der noth-ing earth-ly mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
Lord of lords, in hu-man ves-ture - in the bod-y and the blood -
Christ our God to earth de-scend-ed, our full hom-age to de-mand.
he will give to all the faith-ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

SWABIA (582 K)

The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
 All glo - ry to the Son, who comes to set us free,
 come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
 takes on him - self the ser - vant's form to set his peo - ple free.
 with Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one through all e - ter - ni - ty.

DARWALL (342 D)

Lo, God, our God, has come; to us a Child is born,
 Re - joice! our God has come, in love and low - li - ness;
 We praise the Word made flesh, true God, true man is he;
 to us a Son is giv'n; bless, bless the bless - ed morn! O hap - py,
 the Son of God has come God's chil - dren all to bless; God with us
 we praise the Christ of God; to whom all glo - ry bel We praise the
 low - ly, loft - y birth! Now God, our God, has come to earth.
 now de - scends to dwell, God in our flesh, Im - man - u - el.
 Lamb that once was slain! We praise the King that comes to reign!

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

ADVENT (72 C)

Once he came in bless - ing all our sins re - dress - ing,
Still he comes with - in us; still his voice would win us

came in like - ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly,
from the sins that hurt us; would to truth con - vert us

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
from our fool - ish er - rors, ere he comes in ter - rors.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

SCHMÜCKE DICH

Now we join in cel-e-bra-tion at our Sav-ior's in-vi-Lord, as round this feast we gath-er, fill our hearts with ho-ly ta-tion, dressed no more in spir-it som-ber, rap-ture! For this bread and cup of bless-ing clothed in-stead in joy and won-der, for the Lord of all ex-are for us the sure pos-sess-ing of your lov-ing deed on is-tence, put-ting off di-vine tran-scen-dence, stoops a-Cal-vry, of your liv-ing self, our vic-t'ry, pledge of gain in love to meet us, with his ver-y life to feed us. your un-fail-ing pres-ence, fore-taste here of heav'n-ly glad-ness.

TEXT: © by Joel W. Lundein. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

(When the bread has been served, the communicants stand.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

(All partake together.)

SILENT PRAYER

By your divine presence,
By the holy sacraments,
By all the merits of your life, sufferings, death, and resurrection,

Bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God. Amen.

In the same way, after supper our Lord Jesus Christ took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

(Sitting. As the cup is served, the communicants stand to receive it.)

NICOLAI (228 A)

O Morn-ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own
Come, heav'n-ly bride-groom, light di-vine, and deep with-in our
Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls from
truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - - cy! Of
hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - - ing! In
God a - bove a ray of pu - rest plea - - sure. Your

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son, our Lord and mas - ter,
 your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
 Word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with

you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - supply - ing.
 heav'n - ly food. You are the dear - est trea - sure!

Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious,
 Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us
 Let your mer - cy warn and cheer us! O, draw near us!

rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 and dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 For you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.

TEXT: © by Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

DIX (581 H)

As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you our heav'n - ly King.

OMNI DIE

For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heav'n a -

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

HOLY LORD (119 A)

God with us, God with us, God made known in
human frame; in his name rejoice with gladness, since to save the
lost he came; none need sink in hopeless sadness, for Immanuel is now with us, God with us, God with us.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

PUER NOBIS

We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose

ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
ad - vent has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

(When the cup has been served, the communicants stand.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Drink from this, all of you. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

(All partake together.)

SILENT PRAYER

Christ, the Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Grant to us your peace. Amen.

HYMN TO JOY

Broth - ers, sis - ters, join in prais - ing Christ, the Son, In - car - nate Word,
join, with hearts and voic - es rais - ing, songs of thanks to Christ, our Lord.
God made flesh, who dwelt a - mong us giv - ing bread and wine as sign,
grant that now your love may, through us, in a world of dark - ness shine.

TEXT: © by Brian Henkelmann.

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death,

Until he comes.

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

(The congregation gives the right hand of fellowship, signifying renewed dedication and unity of purpose in the service of Christ.)

Unison

ASH GROVE

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the
people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is
end-ed. O, now be ex-tend-ed the fruits of this
ser-vice to all who be-lieve. The seed of his teach-ing, re-
cep-tive souls reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for

COMMUNION: CHRIST'S COMING

His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in common time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple, with mostly quarter and eighth notes.

TEXT: ©1964 by World Library Publications, a division of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc., Schiller Park, IL 60176
 TUNE: Setting ©1972 by *Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*.
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The Lord bless you and keep you;
 The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in common time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple, with mostly quarter and eighth notes.

[539 B]

SUNDAY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP, CE-106, 10:20 a.m. (ages 3 and up), Baby Jesus is Presented to God

BIBLE DISCUSSION, 11:15 a.m., Club Room and Zoom

EPIPHANY CLASS, 11:15 a.m., CE-101 and Zoom

CHILDREN'S POWER HOUR, 11:15 a.m., CE Building

YOUTH POWER HOUR, 11:15 a.m., CE Building

		Calendar
Sunday	- 10:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	- 8:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Men of Church Breakfast, Club Room Beginner Band, RB-5 Elders Meeting, CE-101 Chorale Band, RB-5
Wednesday	- 7:00 am 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Breakfast, Cagney's Restaurant Prayer Shawl Ministry, Parlor Relational Meeting Party, Green Street UMC
Thursday	- 3:45 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Wachovia Historical Society Board, Club Room Gregor BellChor Rehearsal, Bell Room Choir Rehearsal, RB-5
Friday	- 9:30 am	Needle Point Guild, Club Room Circle 6, Parlor
Next Sunday	- 10:00 am 11:15 am 5:00 pm	Worship Service Educational Programming Youth Pizza & Games, 3 rd floor, CE Building

Announcements

We extend a cordial welcome to all visitors this morning and invite you to join us again whenever possible. Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register, pass it both ways in your pew, and greet those near you. After the service, pick up a beverage in the serving room off the Sanctuary, and enjoy fellowship.

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today in loving memory of *Wilma and Pete Livengood* by Matt, Greg, and Adrienne Amos Livengood.

Contribute Your Holiday Décor and More! We are collecting gently used household items, Moravian-themed goods, holiday decorations, antiques, and other treasures for the annual “Stuff Sale.” Donations may be brought to the church during regular business hours. Please call the office before dropping off to ensure someone is available to assist you. With your support, we can make the 2026 sale another great success.

Wednesday Night Fellowship will resume on Wednesday, January 14 at 5:45 PM. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Regina Graham, principal of the Winston Salem Street School. Please join us!

Large print bulletins are available. See an usher for details.



Epiphany Sunday School Class

Begins Sunday, January 4 | 11:15AM | CE-101

Sponsored by the HMC World Missions Team, the class will feature a series of guest speakers addressing topics related to Moravian mission efforts around the world.

As the wise men once bore the radiant news of Christ's birth across distant lands, so we are called to carry that same light into every corner of the world.

Schedule:

- **January 4:** Sister Julie Tomberlin will be our speaker. She will share about the Unity Women's Desk and provide information regarding the upcoming consultation in Tanzania (February 1–5) with representatives from all Unity Provinces.
- **January 11:** Brother Evon Crooks of New Philadelphia Moravian Church will offer an update on the Board of World Missions' response to the recent disasters in Jamaica and Western North Carolina.
- **January 18:** The Rev. John D. Rights, retired Moravian minister, will speak about the work of Bread for the World, an agency dedicated to feeding people around the globe.
- **January 25:** HMC Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. Craig Atwood will present highlights from his recent trip to South Korea, where he lectured and preached.
- **February 1:** Brother David Holston, Executive Director of Sunnyside Ministry and HMC member, will lead a special discussion on hunger in the Winston-Salem area.

Classes will be available via ZOOM each week at:





Community Meeting Wednesday

January 7 | 6PM - 7:30 PM

You're invited to a "Relational Meeting Party"!

For more than two years, Home Church has been working with other churches and agencies to build an organization committed to improving lives in our county. This "Forsyth Sponsoring Committee" (temporary name) is currently focusing on Education, Homelessness, and Mental Health. In one-on-one conversations with our team members, Home Church members have prioritized the same concerns.

As part of this effort, Green Street Methodist has invited Home Church and three other institutions* to a "Relational Meeting Party" on **Wednesday, January 7, 6 – 7:30 PM** at Green Street Methodist, 639 S Green Street (very close to Christ Moravian Church). This event offers the chance to have one-on-one conversations with our neighbors, to learn about each other's stories and connections, and to consider how we might act together on shared interests. We'll share how we are connected to our own institutions and what interests us in being part of a larger community effort. How wonderful to start the New Year by meeting our neighbors!

Every Home Church member is invited to join us! Please RSVP by following [this RSVP link](#) (if viewing the bulletin online) or by calling Betsy Bombick at (336) 816-4609 or bbombick@gmail.com

**Also invited: Emanuel Baptist, the Shalom Project, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of WS*

MORAVIAN DAILY

TEXTS 2026

Pre-ordered copies of the 2026
Daily Texts have arrived!

- **Monday – Friday:** pick up in the church office during regular business hours.
- **Sunday Morning:** check the cart in the hallway outside the office.

Pay at time of pickup.

(Amount due is listed on your order.)

A few additional copies are available for purchase in the office during the week!



Happy New Year 2026!

Candle Tea 2025 was a great success! It is now time to submit suggestions for an agency, charity, or organization to be considered for receiving a gift from Candle Tea.

The submission deadline is January 10, 2026.

For new agencies, please include a brochure and any additional information for the committee's review. All suggestions must be presented in written form to be accepted for consideration.

Thank you and blessings to all.



2025 Disbursement Suggestion Form:

Name of Agency, Charity, or

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Contact Information: _____

Your Name: _____

Send suggestions to **Ada Vernon** at: avernon10@triad.rr.com
or mail to: 3370 Goslen Drive, Pfafftown, NC 27040



Nursery Assistants Needed

If you can assist in the nursery at Home Church one Sunday a month, please contact Becky Hodges at bhodges@homemoravian.org.



Youth News: I'm back, and we're making bird houses today out of dried gourds from Wachovia Garden, on the third floor of CE building!

Scripture Meditation 1/4/2026

“Yet you have made [humans] a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.” – Psalm 8:5-6

Some of the biblical passages that I struggle with the most are the ones that seem to establish a hierarchy between us and the rest of nature. I see the ways in which we have misused natural resources or hunted other species to extinction, and it doesn't sit well with me to think that God gave us the right to do those things. Adam was meant to tend to the garden for both his benefit and the benefit of the plants and animals there, not to bend nature to his will.

I like to consider the relationship the ancient Israelites had with the land. Those people farmed to survive and depended completely on the plants and animals in their care. There's a bond within that life that's been lost to us. Many, me included, don't know where our food comes from and don't have any involvement with it until we buy it at the grocery store. When we lose that closeness, we can forget our essential connection to nature. I think what God wants for us is to understand how interconnected we are with the plants and animals that keep us alive. We may have more capacity for complex thought, but we depend on the life and resources of our earth to survive. The people of the Old Testament knew that every day, when they woke up for a long day of taking care of livestock and tilling fields—but food on the table is an easy thing to take for granted in our time and place. If we're not grateful for that bounty, we can easily lose sight of how much we depend on our world for survival; we can easily lose sight of our responsibility to care for the earth and all that lives in it. – Philip

The 2026 Watchword for the Moravian Church Southern Province as selected by the Elders in Herrnhut is from Nov 14:



Time to Know Who Jesus Is

“He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him” (John 1:10–11).

“Everybody ought to know who Jesus is” are words from a chorus by Bill and Gloria Gaither. But even as we start 2026, do we really know who Jesus is? I give Jesus’ early followers a pass on many issues, because it was all so new to them. Unlike contemporary believers, who benefit from a plethora of options for accessing Scripture, they were learning entirely on the fly.

Today, while I appreciate the complexities and mysteries of our faith and the inherent challenges presented, I am still stingy in handing out free passes when we display an underdeveloped understanding of who Jesus is.

The chorus mentioned earlier calls Jesus “the lily of the valley, the brightest morning star, the fairest of ten thousand.” Not the most elucidatory Christology—not like Peter’s confession: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16)—but it speaks definitively as the writer’s experience and knowledge.

Unlike his Gospel-writing counterparts, John spared us much of the historical details, to highlight the essence of who Jesus is, establishing his connection with God, his role in creation and ultimately his becoming human while still being fully God and living among God’s people.

By now we should be confident in the knowledge that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, who called the church into being while providing a living presence, hope, grace, mercy, love, joy, peace, and the possibility of salvation by grace through faith for all who embrace him. Everybody ought to know! Do you? It’s time!

*Michael Johnson, bishop, pastor, John Hus Moravian Church,
Brooklyn, New York*

The Moravian Church Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026



Virginia Hege Tobiassen, *Pastor* Craig Atwood, *Associate Pastor*

Glenn Siebert, *Director of Music* Jonathan Williams, *Organist*

Becky Hodges, *Director of Christian Formation*

Philip Montgomery, *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

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(10 a.m. Morning Worship is broadcast on WSJS-AM 600