

REDEEMER MORAVIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

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This Advent season begins in a time that has many feelings less settled – less certain.

The year 2025 began with the inauguration of our 47th president who initiated swift policy changes that led to layoffs of federal workforce, increased enforcement against illegal immigration, rising tariff wars, and decreased funding and support of mental resources for LGBTQ+ teens. This year has also brought rising tensions between Iran and Israel, escalation of gun violence in our schools and communities, and collective protests in cities around the world. There have been wildfires in Southern California, a massive earthquake in Myanmar, severe flooding in Texas, West Virginia, and Uttarakhand (India), Tsunamis in Alaska, and devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean.

There is a reason Advent corresponds, at least in our region, with the withdrawal of light. We enter Advent with increasing shadows and signs of uncertainty. In the darkest season of the year, we are invited to gather, to remember prophecies of challenge and change, to peer into the night with anticipation. We begin this season by showing up for one another and seeking to come alongside those who are struggling with food insecurity, lack of housing, unemployment, grief, depression, or uncertain health. Our collective waiting bears witness to our longing - our hope- for all that is to come in Christ. This season begins in darkness so that we remember to look for and become the light that fills the whole world with joy and unending hope.

Advent begins with an unlit wreath, a simple tree, an unlit star, and an empty manger.

Perhaps it helps us more fully appreciate and find joy in the simplicity of that first advent candle and then another and another until there are four. Then, gathered around a circle of light and with faces aglow on Christmas Eve we are invited to reorient our lives anew, or for the first time, around the central light of Christ.

We may begin this season in shadow and uncertainty but as we carry the light and proclamation of God's love in Christ to others this season the circle of light and hope expands. One way we can share this light is with a symbol of warmth (hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves) to our giving tree or a gift to our 40th anniversary challenge in partnership with Smoky Row Food Pantry (see following page). You may place outerwear on the giving tree located by the front door or place food donations in basket by the fireplace. Financial gifts to our 40th anniversary Above and Beyond challenge, in any amount, will strengthen our congregation's focus on serving as witnesses to the ever-increasing light, hope, and love of Christ in the new year and beyond.

In Peace,
Pastor Tracy



REVIEW of 40th YEAR CHALLENGE

1. FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

November 70 Cans of Ravioli!

GOAL – 40 items each month

R - Ravioli – 70 items!!
E - **Elbow Macaroni**
D - Diapers/Deodorant
E E - Egg Noodles
M - Mac & Cheese
E - Energy Bars (granola bars)
R - Ramen

C - Canned Meat or Beans
H - Hand Soap or Hand Sanitizer
U - Unsweetened Applesauce
R - Rice
C - Canned Veggies or Fruit
H - Hot Cake Mix (pancake mix)

DECEMBER'S COLLECTION – Elbow Macaroni

2. NEW VISITORS

November = 7

40th year GOAL – 40

3. ABOVE and BEYOND FUND

November = \$8000

40th year GOAL = \$40,000

NOVEMBER BOARD REPORT

Pastor's report was given.

Financial report approved.

Discussed the following:

- Service planning and pulpit supply in Tracy's absence
- Advent Decorating – November 23 (pizza lunch will be shared as we decorate)
- Church Council – November 16 after worship
- Advent Wreath lightning schedule
- 40th year Challenge
- Maintenance updates
- Financial status of Redeemer discussed

CHURCH BOARDS

Members serving on the Joint Boards for 2025 are:

Elders:

Dee Brooke
Gail Dufford – Jt. Brd. Secretary
Jenny Hammond
Susan Heeter
Karen Jackson
Vicki Minard - Vice Chair

Trustees:

Carl Dufford
Don Gerbig
Marcie Hoffman
Tom Hoffman - Chair
Dan Minard - Vice Chair
Keith Schneider



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult Sunday School class has begun. "Story-Tellers, Poets, and Prophets" is a study of the Bible.

You are welcome to join us any time at **9:30 am** for coffee/tea and conversation... bring a friend and your favorite Bible (or borrow one from the library if you forget).

ESL CLASSES

Classes are on Wednesdays at 7:00 in the church library. To register email the church office or pick up a registration form from our community service bulletin board.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Tracy's mom, Fran's mom, Gloria Reisinger, New ESL students, Gloria Reisinger family, Vicki's co-worker Amber, Karen's sister-in-law Lori, Keith Schneider, Jenifer Russell, John Hammond, ESL students and teachers, Tracy's friend (recovering from surgery), Vicki's mother Mitzi, Lance Fox's in-laws and family, Susan's brother and his wife, Keith's friend, Karen's friend Kathy, Joshua Dufford (job), Joan Daley, Marsha's family, Mike (cancer), Joe and Judy (tumor and blood disorder), Elizabeth Rendi (transplant list), all healthcare staff, Ukrainians, the Middle East

PRAISE: ESL students and program. those who give freely to assist in the church, diverse people gathering together, those who serve faithfully



GLOVES, MITTENS, HATS, SOCKS, (and more)

Decorate the tree inside the church doors with warm gloves, mittens, hats and socks.

We will give these to the Smoky Row food pantry to distribute to those in need this winter.

Smoky Row Brethren Church is also collecting blankets and crossword puzzle books to give to those who stop in to get food supplies. You may put those items under our tree, too.



UNITY PRAYER WATCH – December 20, 2025

Each year we join the greater Moravian Church in prayer for this 24-hour day of continual intercession. Take a half hour of your life and serve God on Saturday, December 20, as we pray for the world in a whole lot of hurt. Each year we have the privilege to be in prayer for the Unity of the Moravian church. These prayers stretch out over 27 provinces throughout the world.

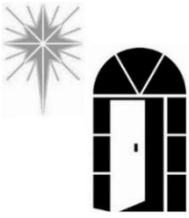
Our date for this year will be Saturday, December 20. We share these duties with our sisters and brothers in the Moravian walk from Fry's Valley, Gnadenuhnten, Uhrichsville, and Dover First.

If you need topics for prayer, Gail can email you a list.

Our time slots for Redeemer are as follows:

Midnight-1am, 5-6am, 3-4pm, 8-9pm Sign up on the bulletin board.





MORAVIAN OPEN DOOR

Our Christmas Eve offering is designated to support Moravian Open Door.

Each Advent season, we are reminded of the family long ago who was homeless, had no room at the inn, and not even a crib for their expected infant. Yet, they were provided for.

Moravian Open Door (MOD) is a Moravian ministry in New York City that provides a safer, clean, temporary home for up to 40 homeless men and women aged 50 years and older since 1987. While the facility (called Moravian House) provides accommodation in single and double rooms, the staff provides supportive services to rebuild lives and help residents move to affordable permanent housing.

MOD receives no government funding at all.

MOD needs the financial support of Moravian congregations to continue its important service to the homeless.



SPACE AVAILABLE

The Church of the Redeemer has space available for groups or organizations to rent on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. We welcome non-profits who are looking for a place to gather for meetings and/or services, whose beliefs and standards align with ours, and are a helpful institution by nature. The Sanctuary, Sunday School classrooms and Fellowship Hall are spaces available on certain days and times. Rental rates are listed in our Fee Schedule which can be given to those who inquire.

Inquires can be made by calling the church and leaving a message at (614)766-5030 or by email at info@redeemermoravain.org.

**If you know of someone looking for space,
please share this information with them or have them contact the church**

FOOD PANTRY



Redeemer has an ongoing collection for food pantry items. We continuously give to the Smoky Row Food Pantry. Your donations are always appreciated.

Any nonperishable, unopened, unexpired items will be accepted.

Monetary donations also accepted, payable to Smoky Row Food Pantry.

You can drop your items off at the church.



CALENDAR

DECEMBER

1 Sunday Worship 10:30
 The Rev. Lesley Davies

3 Wednesday ESL 7:00

4 Thursday Choir 7:00

7 Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 10:30, Communion

9 Tuesday Hanamizuki 12:30-3:00

9 Tuesday Joint Board 5:30 Siam Orchid

10 Wednesday ESL 7:00

11 Thursday Choir 7:00

14 Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 10:30

17 Wednesday ESL 7:00

18 Thursday Choir 7:00

20 Friday Unity Prayer Watch

21 Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 10:30

24 Wednesday Christmas Eve Lovefeast and
 Candlelight Service 7:30

25 Thursday MERRY CHRISTMAS!

28 Sunday Adult Sunday School 9:30
 Worship 10:30

31 Wednesday New Year's Eve



EARTH and CUP

a nonprofit 501c3 ministry co-founded by Pastor Tracy and Mike with a holistic approach to healing and transformation

To find out what classes are being offered please go to <http://earthandcup.com/>

You can sign up to participate in Earth and Cup classes by emailing

earthandcup@gmail.com.

When you sign up Mike or Tracy will send you a zoom link to the class in which you are interested.

