

WD News & Notes

The Newsletter of the
Moravian Church,
Western District
September 2020

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Bruce's

*Brothers and Sisters in
Christ:*

Babblings

What a difference a year makes! I was looking back at my babblings article for September of 2019 and I had shared with you that I had been in 7 different states within one month at this time last year. This year my travel has been significantly curtailed and I have been staying home quite a bit. However I am writing this from a hotel room while traveling.

I have said this before but it bears repeating I continue to be very impressed with the creativity and resourcefulness of our pastors as they continue to do pastoral ministry in these very difficult times. I am aware of parking lot worship, online worship, hybrid worship (some combination of in house and online worship), in house worship, and worship materials being sent to households who are not able to access online worship. And, I am probably forgetting some other things! I also have seen some meditative thoughts by pastors shared online. In addition I know churches and pastors are looking ahead to making plans for Sunday school and adult education in the fall as well as Advent and Christmas Eve planning.

There are so many things that have been different and it appears that there are more things that will be different in the coming weeks and months. There have been many new things that I have experienced over the first 8 months of 2020. Not all of them have been bad. I have three new grandchildren all born in 2020. What a blessing it is to watch my grown children nurture and love their children!!!

I am reminded of the words of Isaiah 43:19 which states, "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

I encourage you to be looking for what new things the Lord may be doing in your midst in the month of September as well as the days following.

Serving Christ with you,
Pastor Bruce J. Nelson,
President, Western District Executive Board

District Synod

The Western District Executive Board recently took the advice of the Western District Synod Planning Committee to postpone once again our Western District Synod. Synod had originally been scheduled for April, 2020 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. We postponed that meeting and rescheduled it for November 19-22 also at Mt. Morris. It has become clear that we cannot safely gather in November of this year as well. We have decided to postpone Western District Synod once again. We have rescheduled Western District Synod for **April 22-25, 2021**. We have Mt. Morris reserved for these dates but we are also exploring some sort of online synod if there is still not a Covid vaccine in place or if it is deemed that having an in-person synod would put people at risk of infection. We will share more information as it becomes available. In the meantime we would encourage your prayers for the Western District Synod Planning Committee as well as the Western District Executive Board.

Ordination Anniversaries

5 th	Peg Chamberlin	38 years
6 th	Christie Melby-Gibbons	11 years
7 th	Vicki Jens-Page	12 years
10 th	Olaf Andersen	53 years
12 th	Dave Glasser	38 years
15 th	Barry Lehman	45 years
24 th	Jane Gehler	14 years
29 th	Sharon Benson	23 years

Please hold the **Chaska, Berea,**
and **Veedom** congregations in
your prayers as they work in the
Call Process to seek pastoral
leadership.

The Call Process

The District Board continues to be grateful for the leadership of the Joint Boards of **Grace and Main Street** as they lead their congregations.

Church Anniversaries

5 th	Main Street	151 years
10 th	Daggett	109 years
11 th	Watertown	166 years

Clergy & Spouse Birthdays

13 th	Marian Boyle-Rohloff	22 nd	Jason Andersen
19 th	Wanda Veldman	27 th	Sharon Benson
21 st	Rita Andersen	27 th	Peg Chamberlin



BOARD OF WORLD MISSION

of the Moravian Church • North America



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact many different regions of the Moravian world. Here in North America, the BWM has provided grants to over 55 congregations and agencies to help with expenses in making transitions to online worship services and to assist with other communication tools as community gatherings have been curtailed.

As the pandemic continues to spread, Covid-19 is now impacting our Moravian brothers and sisters in Latin America as case counts are rapidly rising in a part of the world that does not have the healthcare infrastructure we take for granted in North America. We have already sent aid packages to Honduras, Peru, and Cuba, and the BWM is now evaluating several larger grant requests for medical and protective equipment, hygiene kits, and food. The pandemic will continue to require us to be attentive to needs and respond with aid for some time to come.

The need to provide significant financial assistance to these areas has begun to stress our Moravian Disaster Response Fund. We are asking for gifts, both large and small, to enable us to respond as generously as we can to help meet these needs. For more information on how to give, including a video about our Covid-19 appeal, please visit our website at www.moravianmission.org.

Covid-19 Resources

Both the Moravian Church, Northern Province and the Moravian Church, Southern Province have prepared an extensive list of resources for congregations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

These are resources for laity, pastors, Trustees, Elders, and church staff. There is also a listing of Moravian churches that are doing online worship.

Make sure to check them out at:

www.moravian.org/covid19resources
and www.moravian.org/bcm



Brothers and sisters can you spare just 10 minutes of your time to help the Moravian Ministries Foundation in America do an even better job for you next year? It's important that we know what's important to you and what you would like us to do next. Click the link below to take a quick survey about your passions, priorities, and intentions.

Or take a picture of this QR code with your phone. Thank you! www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8YB3DC

CROSSROADS UPCOMING CLASSES



MORAVIAN SEMINARY

Unpacking the Scriptures – Teaching

Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 pm Sep 10th – Oct 29th

Instructor: Rev. Roberta Kearney

Realtime Distance Learning via Zoom

Price: \$240 [Learn More and Register](#)

The Story of Christianity (History)

Mondays, 6:00 – 9:00 pm Sep 14th – Nov 2nd

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Bill Falla

Realtime Distance Learning via Zoom

Price: \$240 [Learn More and Register](#)

Plans are moving forward for next year's Interprovincial Moravian Ministers Convocation on **June 1st–4th, 2021**.

Minister's

Convocation

You will be receiving more information as the event approaches, but until then, here is what we'd like you to do ...

- What workshops might you like to lead? What do you do well that you can share with colleagues? (yoga, hymn-writing, creative worship planning, beading, crocheting, hiking, meditating, etc)
- What workshops might you like to attend?
- Please contact Nola at nknouse@mcsp.org with your ideas.

Covid-19 Equipping Series

Does COVID-19 Change Everything?

*How to turn challenge
into opportunity*

Join us for an ongoing series of conversations to explore how to take 'full advantage' of the COVID-19 pandemic as Brother Ben Ingebretson, Director of Church Planting and Emerging Ministries, shares some of his ideas and expertise about how to engage our congregations in new ways. Join as your interest and schedule permit. Each session is designed as presentation/conversation and will last no more than one hour.



Tuesday, October 6th at 1:00 pm CT

Real Time Discipleship:

How can COVID help us move people beyond "church attendance faith" into a deeper experience with Jesus?

No registration required. Just join via Zoom.

(Same link for all 4 sessions)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83169527221?pwd=RDFrZjlrFRWSm9UeHRjUm93cWh1QT09>

Meeting ID: 831 6952 7221 Password: 343466



Coming Soon!

The IBOC will be selling 2 different 100% cotton face masks later this month. Regular price is \$16.00 but the sale price is \$12.95 plus free shipping. To order, send an email to Jill Bruckart at jill@mcnp.org, or go to our website later in September:

store.moravian.org.

Racial Justice Pilgrimage

All active clergy in the Northern Province are asked to plan to attend 2021 Pilgrimage toward Racial Justice and Healing on **September 14-17, 2021** in Atlanta GA and Montgomery AL. As you mark your calendars, we expect that everyone will be able to fly to Atlanta on Tuesday and return home on Friday. The registration fee is only \$250.00 per person. All other costs will be covered by the PEC. To hear reflections from some participants from this year's January pilgrimage, watch this video produced by Mike Riess at IBOC: <https://vimeo.com/445028538/b77057068b>. In January, we will share a code for you to use to book your flight to Atlanta through Delta Airlines. Do not book your flight until we give you more details. Please be in prayer for our time together and all of the plans still unfolding.

With hope, The Racial Justice Team (Mark Breland, Marian Boyle-Rohloff, Amy Gohdes-Luhman, Sue Koenig, Betsy Miller, Bruce Nelson, Rhonda Robinson, and Bevon White)

Brother **Jason Andersen**, pastor of the Christian Faith Moravian Church in DeForest, WI and member of the Western District

Prayer Concerns

Executive Board, requests prayers for his entire family, including his parents, retired pastor Brother Olaf and Sister Rita Andersen. Jason writes:

My mom and dad's great grandson, Atticus, passed away unexpectedly on August 27th. He was 9 weeks old. He wasn't sick and showed no signs of illness, he just simply passed away; they're thinking it was SIDS or something like it. Prayers for his parents Matthew and Rosiland (my nephew and niece-in-law) and for his grandparents Jon and Jen (my brother and sister-in-law) as well as my parents and our extended family. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 5th in Green Bay, WI.

Brother **Reid Lauderman**, pastor of the West Salem Moravian Church in West Salem IL, requests prayers for his wife Sharon who is recuperating from a heart catheterization on August 6th in Evansville, IN.

Grant for Lay Ministry

The Western District recently received a generous bequest from the family of Rt. Rev. Wil and Ruth Behrend.

With some of this gift, your Western District Board has developed the **Behrend Memorial Grant for Lay Ministry**. We are encouraging churches to write requesting a grant for \$1,000 per congregation for use with an ongoing or a new **lay-led** ministry.

This grant is open to any congregation or emerging ministry in the Western District and the grant money will be distributed after the local congregation or emerging ministry has filled out the grant application and any other requested materials. Grant application forms have been sent to all congregations and emerging ministries in the Western District. Completed application forms should be sent directly to District President Bruce Nelson either via email (bruce@mcnp.org) or via snail mail at: Rev. Bruce J. Nelson, 221 East Mills Drive, Lake Mills WI, 53551.

For more information contact Marie Coutts, Director of Christian Education, Eastern District
mcouts@sbcglobal.net
cell: 330.401.1212

Advent and Christmas Resources

1. <https://www.illustratedministry.com>
Illustrated Ministry will soon be offering a Christmas Pageant that can be used in a variety of settings, including Zoom.

2. https://amplifymedia.com/the-promise-of-advent/worship-musicritual/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=advent&utm_campaign=1_followup

The Promise of Advent - A four-part webinar series offered by Adam Hamilton.

3. <https://www.flyawaybooks.com/for-beautiful-black-boys>

This timely book will soon be available for purchase and will have an accompanying study guide. A special webinar with the authors, is scheduled for September 20, 7:00 p.m. You must register to participate, and registrations are limited.

Coming Soon: Online teacher / CEC workshop with Advent - Christmas activities to share with your children and families, as well as ideas for Christmas Pageants. To join the email list for future resources and workshops, please contact Marie Coutts at mcouts@sbcglobal.net - with subject line: ADD MY NAME

MORAVIAN JUSTICE MINISTRY CONFERENCE PRESENTS:

RACIAL BIAS: WHAT IS IT? WHO HAS IT?

This free virtual workshop is open to the public and is designed to accomplish three objectives:

- Describe implicit bias and how it is represented in everyday interactions and media
- Define common bias concepts that people experience
- Identify and discuss strategies to address bias in ourselves as individuals, and in our living and working environments

Two Dates to Choose From

SEPTEMBER 22 @ 7:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 24 @ 12:00 P.M.



Christine M. Pribbenow, PhD, is a Senior Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As an educational researcher, she has studied interventions that enable and enhance the full participation of underrepresented minorities in K12 and higher education. Her most recent work involves the development of training's to teach about the effects of implicit racial bias and strategies to address it at the individual and institutional levels.

RSVP to Marian Boyle Rohloff at 920-499-4433 or pastor@wsmoraviangb.org

For more information contact Marie Coutts, Director of Christian Education, Eastern District
mcouts@sbcglobal.net cell: 330.401.1212

Christian Education Resources

1. <https://www.moraviancurriculum.org>

This site contains a video explaining the content and strengths of each of the Sunday School curriculum that can be ordered through the Southern Province Resource Center.

2. [https://mailchi.mp/pcusastore/2rap4ldyit-1141384?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/pcusastore/2rap4ldyit-1141384?e=[UNIQID])
Website for curriculum shared in the above video by Beth Hayes. Sunday School curriculum from Presbyterian Church USA.

3. <https://www.illustratedministry.com>
This site details Faith Formation / Sunday School programs with topics. (Click on "Formation Resources" to see selections)

4. <https://www.genonministries.org>
LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is an intergenerational online program. Families may use this Sunday mornings or any time of their choosing.

5. <https://www.reimaginesundayschool.com>
On this site are four recorded webinars from Cokesbury.

6. <https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/our-products-and-covid-19/>

This site identifies products they offer that meet curriculum needs during the pandemic.

7. <https://shinecurriculum.com/product-category/product-type/digital-products/>

This site shares information about Shine-at-Home Curriculum (for families to do at home).

8. <https://www.cokesbury.com/digital-curriculum>
Digital options available from Cokesbury.

9. Living Branches is a 13 - week Moravian Sunday School curriculum. Free download by contacting Marie Coutts (mcouts@sbcglobal.net) for link.